

## Weekly Church Bulletin

We are a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland. We gather together each Lord's Day to praise and worship the only true and living God.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021



### LORD'S DAY SERVICES – CHURCH CLOSED

We are thankful for the announcement made by the First Minister on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 that 'should progress suppressing the virus continue, the Scottish Government intends to reopen places of worship from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March with attendance limits increased from 20 to 50 where there is space for social distancing.'

The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and considered this development. We agreed to re-open the Church for public worship on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021 for the 12.00noon English service only. We are thankful to the Lord for this new opportunity to gather together for the public worship of God on what will be Easter Sunday and we trust and pray that He will bless us with the resurrection power of the Lord when the time comes.

The arrangements for registering your intention to attend the services, and to complete the relevant documentation, has been set up on the Congregational Website [here](#). The option of registering using the telephone will also be available those who do not have access to internet services. Details will be included in the bulletin for 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

The [Weekly Bulletin](#) is available under the News item on the Main Menu bar of the website. Updates and news items of local interest, missionary news, etc., will be added to the News section from time to time as required. The [Minister's Blog](#) will be updated on a monthly basis. The Lord's Day services are available on the [Listen to the Latest Sermon](#) button on the Home Page.

### LORD'S DAY SERVICES – 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

#### Sunday Services

This Lord's Day we will continue our study of *The Titles of Christ in the Epistle to the Hebrews* by looking at Hebrews 9:11-15 and *Jesus – The Mediator*.

#### Availability of Services

The Sunday Service in Gaelic and English conducted by the Minister will be available on the [Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio](#) page as from 12.00noon on Sunday. Simply click or tap on Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio underlined above from your phone, tablet, laptop, etc., to take you directly to the site where you can access the services.

The **Sunday Service in Gaelic** can also be **accessed from landline / home telephone** by dialling the number **0131 510 2471**. Please note that there is **a delay of approximately 35 seconds** from the time at which the call is answered until the service commences.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will meet today, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021, at 11.00am using the Zoom audio-visual technology. The Sunday School will continue to meet in this way until the current COVID-19 restrictions on children attending School have been lifted.

### YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Youth Fellowship will meet this evening, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021, at 7.30pm using the Zoom audio-visual platform. The speaker for the event is Anne MacDonald, Youth Worker at Bon Accord Free Church, Aberdeen. Anne will speak on the topic *Life during COVID-19 Restrictions*. We encourage our young people to note the meeting and to ensure that they have the details. Further information is available from Lynn Hebditch on Mobile 07557 123808.

### WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group will continue this Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021, at 7.00pm using Zoom audio-visual technology. We will study Chapter 7 of the book entitled '*Gentle and Lowly – The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*' by Dane Ortlund this week. The Chapter title is 'What Our Sins Evoke' and is based on Hosea 11:8.

The PBS Group is an open group and please be encouraged to join with us for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. You can join the group on Zoom using a mobile phone, tablet or computer and the meeting details below. The Zoom Meeting ID is - 811 1884 3263. The ongoing Meeting Password is issued separately by contacting the Minister.

## PASTORAL VISITATION

Pastoral visitation in homes is not permissible under the Level 4 COVID-19 restrictions in the Western Isles announced by the Scottish Government First Minister on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Please keep the Minister, and the Elders, informed of new situations where pastoral support is required. The Minister can be contacted on 710216 or via email at [cmacleod@freechurch.org](mailto:cmacleod@freechurch.org). We are prayerfully mindful at this time of those who are in Care Homes and in Hospital along with their families during times of highly restricted visiting. Those who are going through a period of serious illness at this time are also close to our hearts in prayer.

## THE RECORD

The March 2021 of the Free Church magazine *The Record* is now available. As has been the case throughout the current coronavirus situation, and the disruptions with distributing the magazine, this month's issue is available to the public online and free of charge. You can read the March 2021 issue on the News section of our congregational website [here](#).

## SGA

The latest issue of the Slavic Gospel Association's *The Inside Story*, a collection of news stories from across Eastern Europe, Central Asia & Far East Russia, is available on the SGA website [here](#) for your information.

## PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME

The Bible passage and prayer points for Monday 8th March 2021 have been chosen by the **Rev. Calum Macdonald**, Minister at Callanish. The Bible Passage is **Joel 2:12-14** and the following are the prayer points.

### Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is THE God of Mercy & Grace - *Lamentations 3:21-22*
2. Give thanks that God is both meat & drink to the needy soul - *Lamentations 3:23*
3. Give thanks that God hears and answers prayer - *Lamentations 3:24-25*
4. Give thanks that Jesus Saves and that any and all who look to Him with patient expectation will know that salvation - *Lamentations 3:26*
5. Give thanks that God supplies every Good and Perfect gift - *James 1.17*
6. Give thanks that God indeed is the Good Physician - *Psalms 103:1-5*

## PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### Cornerstone

**Minister: Rev. Neil MacMillan**

Cornerstone is a new congregation in Morningside, Edinburgh. We were planted by St Columba's Free Church in 2015. We have a great spread of ages and ethnicities in the church. Our minister dedicates two days a week to his new role as Church Planting Director for the Free Church.

Prayer Points:

1. Give thanks for the provisions made during the refurbishment process and pray for a smooth transition as we make plans for moving back into the building (the Old Schoolhouse).
2. Pray that the church leaders would be given wisdom in how to disciple the various groups of people within the congregations. Pray for our ministry interns, that they would continue to learn and grow. Give thanks and pray for Colin Ross, who is taking on more responsibilities in Cornerstone, and for Neil as he dedicates time to the wider denomination as Church Planting Director.

**Back**

**Minister: Vacant**

**Interim Moderator: Rev. Ewen Matheson**

The relatively large congregation of Back is located towards the east side of the island of Lewis and takes in the villages of Tong, Upper Coll, Coll, Back, Vatisker and Gress.

**Prayer Points:**

1. Pray for the Congregation and their interim moderator, Rev. Ewen Matheson, as they look for a pastor to lead them in their worship and witness. Like most congregations it has found the past year to be extremely challenging but has been greatly encouraged by the number of people in the community that have engaged with online services and Zoom Prayer Meetings, during a time when meeting together is not possible.
2. Pray that the congregation would be united in fellowship and pray especially that those unable to access online facilities would not feel spiritually isolated or any less part of the church family despite the obvious limitations on fellowship opportunities.