



**SHAWBOST
FREE CHURCH**



THE VISION OF THE
FREE CHURCH OF
SCOTLAND IS



**A Healthy
Gospel Church
for Every Community
in Scotland**



CHURCH BULLETIN

SUNDAY 22nd January 2023

INTRODUCTION

We are a congregation of the [Free Church of Scotland](#). We gather for public worship on the Lord's Day at 12.00noon and at 6.00pm. We use the [ESV version of the Bible](#) in the public worship of God. We use both the [Scottish Psalter](#) and [Sing Psalms](#) versions of the Psalms for the praise items in our public worship. More details on the Congregation and our ministry are available on our website [here](#).

MINISTER ABSENCE

Following a short period of feeling unwell during the early part of last week our Minister, Callum, was admitted to Western Isles Hospital and subsequently transferred by air ambulance to Glasgow's Queen Elizabeth II Hospital last Friday (20th January) for further examination and tests. Please remember Callum, Catherine and the wider family at this anxious time and pray the Lord's healing hand to be upon our Minister, and ultimately a speedy return to health, strength and congregational life.

SUNDAY SERVICES

The services today will be taken by Rev Thomas Davies (12 noon) and Mr Phil Pickett, Minister in Training, (6pm). For the **12.00noon service**, the sermon is entitled "*The Wrong Way to Think About God*" and will be based on Psalm 77.

At the **6.00pm service**, the readings will be from John 5. The sermon will be based on John 5:30-47 and entitled "*Faith on Trial*".

The praise will be led by our precentor and the Psalms for this Lord's Day are as follows:

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Ps. 100 All	Psalter	Ps. 95:1-7	Sing Psalms
2	Ps 139:1-8	Psalter	Ps. 40:1-4	Psalter
3	Ps 48a:9-14	Sing Psalms	Ps. 67 All	Sing Psalms
4	Ps 77:10-15	Sing Psalms	-----	-----

English Services

The English services in the Church at 12.00noon and 6.00pm will be live streamed on our **YouTube Channel** [here](#). An audio recording of both services will be available on Sermon Audio as soon as possible after the services end. The services can be accessed on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will meet as usual this Lord's Day. We continue to seek God's blessing on this aspect of our gospel ministry.

PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

The Prayer and Bible Study Meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th January 2023 at 7.00pm in the Bragar Meeting House.

SATURDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study in Bragar Meeting Hall every second Saturday has resumed. The group is currently studying the gospel of John. The next meeting is 4th February 2023 at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

PROTECTING VURNERABLE GROUPS (PVG) COORDINATORS

The Kirk Session wishes to acknowledge and record its thanks to the PVG Coordinators, Mrs Maletta MacPhail and Miss Catherine Macleod for organising the recent training and for their ongoing work and commitment in this important area.

NAVIGATING CHRISTIAN PARENTHOOD

Being a parent is hard, but a joyous responsibility given by God. Rev. Peter Turnbull shares some thoughts on navigating through various aspects of parenthood. Read the article [here](#).

PETITION TO THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Rev Stephen Allison, Free Church of Scotland Public Engagement Co-ordinator, is bringing to congregations' attention details of a petition to the Scottish Parliament regarding withdrawing the 'Supporting transgender young people in schools' guidance from Scottish schools.

Safeguarding Our Schools Scotland has written to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Shirley Anne Somerville, to highlight their concerns and ask that guidance be withdrawn. The organization has now launched a petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to withdraw the 'Supporting transgender young people in schools: guidance for Scottish schools' resource and await the outcome of the Cass Review before developing a new resource.

The petition is open for signatures until 2 February 2023.

Please take a look at the link for more details about the petition and promote it where appropriate. <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2001>

PRAYERS FOR LIFE PRAYER CONFERENCE

Barvas Church of Scotland is pleased to announce that they will be holding 'Lord, teach us to pray' – A teaching conference on prayer from the Psalms. The Speaker is Dr Jamie Grant (HTC, Dingwall) Co-author of Psalms, Volume 2 (The NIV Application Commentary) and many more books. The Conference will take place in Barvas Church of Scotland on Friday 3rd to Saturday 4th February 2023. Details on the Conference and how to book a place are available on the Prayers for Life Conference website [here](#). There is a limited number of Leaflets available at the door today.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

The following are prayer points issued by the Mission Board under the Praying For One Another Scheme (PFOA) in the coming week.

Monday 23rd January Galashiels

We're thankful for how the Lord has used the preparatory year before we moved down in the summer. This meant we could hit the ground running with making friends and networks and also running an informal service for those who were waiting for us to come. We have been holding 'afternoon worship' in a local community centre since September and have been encouraged at the number of people who have come. The afternoon time is there so folk can 'suss us out' while attending their regular church, before we hopefully change to morning and evening next year. Please pray that households will begin to commit to the church plant. A handful have already committed but we're praying for others to count the cost and commit or to make clear if they won't be sticking with us.

Tuesday 24th January Leverburgh, South Harris

Pray for our weekly Church Café, that it would be a means of building relationships with the local community and that it might be a means of opening up gospel opportunities with the people who come along.

Wednesday 25th January
Healthy Gospel Church: Global Mission

Give thanks for national churches in South Africa, Peru and India who have all become independent of the Scottish founding church.

Thursday 26th January
Matt and Maria, Athens

We are asking God that the seed of his word would send down deep roots and find good soil in the single mother who has chosen to follow Christ, and lead to much fruit in her life, and that her daughter too would choose to follow Jesus.

Friday 27th January
Galashiels

Please pray for people to be saved early in the new year. We will grow through Christians leaving their current churches, but we primarily want to grow through the lost being saved.

Saturday 28th January
Leverburgh, South Harris

Pray that our Discipleship Explored course, which is running this month, would be a means of enabling the Lord's people to grow in their faith as we study and discuss Paul's letter to the Philippians

Sunday 29th January
Matt and Maria, Athens

Thank God for all he has done and continues to do, both in his wonderful plans for all his people, and in the ministries here over the last 10 ½ months. God is Good.

C.H. SPURGEON DAILY READING - 22 JANUARY

"Son of man, What is the vine tree more than any tree, or than a branch which is among the trees of the forest?" (Ezekiel 15:2)

"These words are for the humbling of God's people; they are called God's vine, but what are they by nature more than others? They, by God's goodness, have become fruitful, having been planted in a good soil; the Lord hath trained them upon the walls of the sanctuary, and they bring forth fruit to his glory; but what are they without their God? What are they without the continual influence of the Spirit, begetting fruitfulness in them? O believer, learn to reject pride, seeing that thou hast no ground for it. Whatever thou art, thou hast nothing to make thee proud. The more thou hast, the more thou art in debt to God; and thou shouldst not be proud of that which renders thee a debtor. Consider thine origin; look back to what thou wast. Consider what thou wouldst have been but for divine grace. Look upon thyself as thou art now. Doth not thy conscience reproach thee? Do not thy thousand wanderings stand before thee, and tell thee that thou art unworthy to be called his son? And if he hath made thee anything, art thou not taught thereby that it is grace which hath made thee to differ? Great believer, thou wouldst have been a great sinner if God had not made thee to differ. O thou who art valiant for truth, thou wouldst have been as valiant for error if grace had not laid hold upon thee. Therefore, be not proud, though thou hast a large estate—a wide domain of grace, thou hadst not once a single thing to call thine own except thy sin and misery. Oh! strange infatuation, that thou, who hast borrowed everything, shouldst think of exalting thyself; a poor dependent pensioner upon the bounty of thy Saviour, one who hath a life which dies without fresh streams of life from Jesus, and yet proud! Fie on thee, O silly heart!"