

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 23rd May 2021



ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY SERVICES

We are thankful to gather in the Church this Lord's Day, 23rd May 2021, for the public worship of God. We meet at 12.00noon and the Service will be conducted in English. We encourage all our people to join with us in the worship of God each Lord's Day.

Coronavirus Protection Level I

We are thankful to the Lord that in the Western Isles we are in Level I of Scottish Government COVID-19. The restrictions for attendance at church services remains as per the changes introduced on 26th April with the movement towards a building capacity limit while observing the 2-metre physical distancing rules. The move into Level I also means that there is a capacity limit of 100 for funerals and weddings provided the venue's capacity allows for 2 metre physical distancing.

Ongoing Registration

The introduction of a capacity limit instead of the cap of 50 people attending Church services is unlikely to affect the maximum number we can accommodate in the Church until such time as the upstairs is opened for use. Seats will, therefore, continue to be allocated according to household groups on a first come first served basis until such time as we reach the limit of fifty. The arrangements for registering your intention to attend the services, and to complete the relevant documentation, have been set up on the Congregational Website [here](#).

Mr Donald MacPhail, Deacon, is the Seating Coordinator for the Church services and enquiries regarding attendance should, in the first place, be directed to him on 710328 or dan.macphail@icloud.com. Alternatively, you may contact the Minister on 710216 or cmacleod@freechurch.org. If you are unable to use the online registration process, please contact Mr MacPhail or the Minister to register your intention to attend the service.

The deadline for submission of the names of those who wish to attend the service will be 12.00noon on Friday. Seats will be reserved on a weekly basis and you should, therefore, follow the same procedure for every Lord's Day service.

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

The [Weekly Bulletin](#) is available under the News item on the Main Menu bar of the Website. The Lord's Day services are available on the [Listen to the Latest Sermon](#) and the [Watch the Latest Sermon](#) buttons on the Home Page. The May edition of *The Record* is available in PDF format on the Website [here](#).

LORD'S DAY SERVICES – 23rd MAY 2021

The Minister is on holiday this week. We are thankful to Mr Iain A. Macdonald for his willingness to take the service today. Mr Macdonald will preach from Titus Chapter 2 and message is entitled 'We have a Great Saviour.'

Availability of Services

The English service in the Church at 12.00noon will be live streamed and will be available on the Shawbost Free Church of Scotland **YouTube Channel** by clicking [here](#). An audio-only recording of the English service will be available on Sermon Audio at 2.00pm and can be accessed on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

Sunday Services – 30th May 2021

The Minister will be back from holiday on Thursday 27th May. The normal arrangements for the availability of Sunday services will resume on Sunday 30th May 2021.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will meet this Lord's Day, Sunday 23rd May, at 11.00am, and will continue in the meantime using the Zoom audio-visual technology.

WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group will continue this Wednesday, 26th May 2021, at 7.00pm using Zoom. The Minister is on holiday until Thursday and arrangements for the PBS Group will be up to the Office-bearers. The PBS Group is an open group and please be encouraged to join with us for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. The Zoom Meeting ID is - 811 1884 3263. The ongoing Meeting Password is issued separately by contacting the Minister or any member of the group.

KIRK SESSION

The Kirk Session will meet on Tuesday 8th June at 7.00pm. Mr Gordon Macleod, Presbytery Youth and Discipleship Support Worker, will join the meeting to discuss the Vision for Discipleship document approved by the Presbytery and recommended to Kirk Sessions as a basis of their own vision for discipleship within their congregations. The meeting will be held in-person in the Church so that all members of the Kirk Session can attend.

PASTORAL VISITATION

The announcement of the Scottish Government that the Western Isles will move into Protection Level 1 of COVID-19 restrictions on Monday 17th May 2021 brings about welcome changes in the rules regarding socialising and mixing with family and friends. We can meet socially in groups of up to 6 people from 3 households in your home or theirs.

This means that limited pastoral visitation in homes is now possible. Pastoral visits will be carried out by the Minister and the Elders at their own discretion and subject to family and household arrangements as required. 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

PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME

The Bible passage and prayer points for Monday 24th May 2021 have been chosen by Rev. Murdo Campbell, Minister of the Barvas congregation. The **Bible Passage** is **Matthew 9:35-39** and the following are the prayer points.

Prayer points:

1. Pray that we would all possess and practice a Christlike character, by showing care and compassion towards those who are harassed and helpless, like sheep without a Shepherd.
2. Pray that we would all have a missionary vision, which sees the fields are white and ready for harvest.
3. In response to the command of Jesus, pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He would send out more labourers into the harvest field.
4. Pray for our ministers and the message they proclaim each week, that it will be blessed to the hearts and lives of those who hear it both in God's House and at home.
5. Pray for the vacancy in Back Free Church and the congregations across our denomination, that the Lord would direct congregations to a man after His own heart, in His own timing.
6. Pray for Mr Donald Macleod (Student), as he undertakes a placement at Back Free Church, that both he and the congregation would be encouraged under the ministry of God's Word.
7. Pray for Rev. Kenneth I. Macleod & Rev. Roddy John Campbell as their ministries draw to a close, giving thanks for their faithful service over many years.
8. Pray for Mr Scott Macleod as he begins a Training for Pastoral Ministry Scheme in the Presbytery.
9. Pray that all the decisions made at the General Assembly this past week will be to the glory of God and the furtherance of His Kingdom.
10. As we are exhorted and encouraged to do in Psalm 122, pray for peace in Israel.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

23rd May 2021

Rosskeen

Minister: Rev. Calum Macmillan

Rosskeen serves the towns of Alness and Invergordon. Before the pandemic we held services in Rosskeen church at Achmagarron off the A9 and the Capstone Centre in Alness with around 100 attending. Contact with the wider

community included parent and toddler groups, lunch club for senior citizens, Road to Recovery group, Ladies Meeting and Afternoon fellowship as well as good contact with local schools. Our Sunday service, prayer meetings and fellowship moved online, although in-person services have restarted. Following a recent study in Revelation, looking at the church in Sardis, we have been praying for the presence of the Spirit in our gatherings and his leading in our work.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the Road to Recovery meetings that we are hoping to restart in May. Several new people have expressed an interest in attending, pray that they would come and that the LORD will grant them help, hope and deliverance. Pray that those who were coming along before will resume and continue to find support and help through the meetings.
2. We have been very conscious of the number of bereavements in the congregation and community over the past few months. We are hoping to run the Trauma healing course from the Scottish Bible Society. Pray for the facilitators as they will be trained in the next couple of months.

Livonia (Michigan)

Minister: Vacant

The church was built by immigrants from Scotland and opened in Detroit in 1951. The church moved to Livonia in 1977 and is located in a neighbourhood setting. We are evangelical relying entirely on the Word of God only. We are mostly an older congregation and are spread out geographically with almost none of us living near the church. This makes our evangelistic efforts in the area difficult.

Prayer Points:

1. Please pray that our church will be able to develop some sort of outreach program that would work with our current small number of members, and that we will be able to bring the gospel to lost souls.
2. Pray for the congregation, which is now vacant, as it plans for the future.