

CHURCH BULLETIN

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

23rd November 2025



WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES TODAY

Today's services will be taken by Rev Colin Macleod (11am) and Mr Joe MacPhee (6pm)

At the **11.00am** service, the Scripture reading will be Hebrews 10, and the sermon is entitled *Be Encouraged*.

At the **6.00pm** service, the Scripture reading/text will be Luke 16:19-31.

	11.00am Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalm 111:1-4	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 18:25-32	Scottish Psalter
2	Psalm 34:1-9	Sing Psalms	Psalm 9:14-20	Scottish Psalter
3	Psalm 103:12-17	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 84:7-12	Scottish Psalter
4	Psalm 9a:7-11	Sing Psalms		

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will meet in the Hall as usual, and the children will go to their classes during the second item of praise. Please remember the teachers and children in prayer.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Mr Ian Murdo Macleod (Elder, Stornoway).

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Each year, we set aside a day to pray for our nation and the work of our denomination in sharing the gospel. There will be a prayer meeting at the Church Hall on **Wednesday 26th November commencing at 11am**. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend. In preparation for the day of prayer, please make use of the [NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 2025 - RESOURCES](#) which can also be found on the congregation website. As part of the resources, there is a helpful short article on prayer and fasting, written by our former minister and 2024 Moderator, Rev Callum Macleod, and this is provided overleaf.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The annual harvest thanksgiving service will take place on **Wednesday 26th November at 7pm** in the Church Hall and the service will be taken by Rev Calum MacDonald.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

The Christianity Explored course will begin on **Thursday 4th December in the Church Hall at 7.30pm**. The course is suitable **for anyone** looking to explore the Christian faith, who Jesus is and why he matters. To find out more about the course visit this link [Christianity Explored](#). The course is usually held in the Church Hall in a relaxed and informal setting. Please be encouraged to attend – you don't have to speak unless you wish to, and you can simply listen in to the discussion.

LADIES NIGHT

The next Ladies Night will be on **Thursday 27th November at 7pm** in the Manse. Shona Macleod from the Stornoway Foodbank will be the speaker.

A woman once asked G. Campbell Morgan, "Do you think we should pray about the little things in our lives, or just the big things?" He retorted, "Madam, can you think of anything in your life that is big to God"

Christ bore the wrath that was ours, that we might wear the righteousness that is His
John Murray

PRAYER AND FASTING

Prayer is direct conversation and communion with God, whether spoken or silent, planned or spontaneous, individual or corporate. This conversation with God involves expressing gratitude, asking for grace or guidance, asking for help in our time of need, or seeking a renewed sense of fellowship with God as our heavenly Father.

Personal prayer is the heartbeat of Christian experience. It is a mark of our devotion and intimacy with God. Our personal prayer life is rooted in our relationship with God as our Father. We pray because we are God's children, through faith in the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, and with the Spirit of God in our hearts. An active prayer life arises from our sense of dependence upon God; the motivation for our prayer arises from the promises of God; and we pray with the expectation that God will answer our prayers.

Corporate prayer is rooted in our relationship with other believers in Christ. It arises out of our understanding of the church as the body of Christ and our shared Christian experience. It is central to the life and worship of the church. Corporate prayer connects us around the common purpose of seeking God's heart, seeking His blessing on His church as a body of believers, and crying out to Him for His presence, His power, and His peace in our world. There is a special sense of unity, togetherness, agreement and affirmation in corporate prayer. God is glorified when His people are united in prayer.

Corporate prayer in the Word of God is often accompanied by fasting. We live in the fast lane of life in this world – the world of work, the world of leisure, and even the world of the church. We need regular periods of fasting because too often the space that belongs to God in our lives is filled with other things. A fast is about humbling our hearts before God. It is about giving up the things in which we seek our satisfaction to rediscover our satisfaction in God. In the words of John Piper, 'The birthplace of Christian fasting is homesickness for God.'

Our appetites dictate the direction of our lives. But fasting means more than giving up things. Fasting, according to the Bible, means to voluntarily reduce or eliminate your intake of food for the purpose of seeking a deeper, more intimate and fruitful relationship with God. We need food for our nourishment and survival. Fasting, abstaining from food for a period, shows that our appetite for God is of greater importance than for our appetite everything else, even for the food which is essential for our survival. If you have any medical conditions, do seek medical advice first to ensure you have an appropriate plan in place.

PREACHING PATHWAY WORKSHOPS

Preaching Pathway Workshops - The next meeting of the Preaching Pathway will be on **Monday 24th November from 7pm – 9pm** upstairs in the M.A. Hall, Kenneth St, Stornoway. These workshops are for all men currently involved, or interested in becoming involved, in preaching. All are welcome, even if you were unable to attend previous workshops. (Future workshop dates are scheduled to be held, 26/1/26, 2/3/26, 20/4/26.)

There were no crown bearers in heaven that were not cross bearers here below
CH Spurgeon

Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I've experienced His presence in the deepest darkest hell that man can create. I have tested the promises of the Bible, and believe me, you can count on them.
Corrie ten Boom