

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.

24th March 2024



WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE TODAY

Today's services will be taken by Mr Donald MacAulay (Carloway). Our services are livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **12:00 noon service** the Scripture readings will be from Exodus 33. At the **6.00pm service**, the Scripture reading will be from 2 Corinthians 2.

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalm 19:1-6	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 109:1-7	Scottish Psalter
2	Psalm 29:1-5	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 38:14-22	Scottish Psalter
3	Psalm 89:13-17	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 51:7-14	Scottish Psalter
4	Psalm 24:7-10	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 106:43-48	Scottish Psalter

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children will go to their classes in the Church Hall during the second item of praise.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Rev Paul Murray (Kinloch).

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The weekly prayer meeting and Bible study on **Wednesday 27th March at 7pm** will take place **in the Church Hall**. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend.

SOLAS

SOLAS are making a return trip to Lewis on **19th-21st April** when we will welcome two speakers to the Island. On Friday 19th April there are two youth-focused events in Stornoway (more details to follow). On Saturday 20th April there are two events scheduled; Back congregation are hosting a Confident Christianity event in their Church hall at 2pm and an evening event is being hosted by the High Free in Sandwick Hall at 7.30pm. On Sunday 21st April the SOLAS speakers will be preaching in Back & Point in the morning services and in the evening at High Free and North Harris.

SAFEGUARDING

Further dates for Free Church Safeguarding Training have recently been intimated: Monday 25 March; Tuesday 23 April; Wednesday 22 May (Youth work and Camps); Thursday 20 June (Safeguarding Coordinators). All sessions are at 7.30pm. Sign-up is at <https://freechurch.org/safeguarding-training/> and, as before, this will become unavailable 7 days before each event. Anyone who is due to take part in the three yearly refresher course is encouraged to do so.

CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE VIDEO PLEA FOR WESTERN ISLES TO RESPOND TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CONVERSION PRACTICES

The link below is to a video where Nigel Kenny, Scotland Officer for The Christian Institute is making a heartfelt plea for us, individually and collectively, in the Western Isles to respond to the Scottish Government's Public Consultation on a Conversion Practices ban. The closing date for responses is 2nd April 2024. Please share and raise awareness of this as far and wide as possible - as you will see and hear in the video, we are facing the greatest threat to gospel freedom in our times.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owFe6wPgVmc>

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER - Prayer Points 25th March - 31st March 2024

Monday 25th March - Grace Church Kilmacolm

Please join us in giving thanks for the folks coming along to our recent ventures, including the Friday Bible Explorers Club for teenagers and Sunday afternoon services in a local residential home. Please pray that both would be used to encourage and challenge and that people, young and old, would be excited about the saving love of Jesus.

Tuesday 26th March - Matt and Maria, Greece

Please ask The Lord to give Matt conciseness and clarity of language in communicating what Christ did for us to the children at the night school over Easter.

Wednesday 27th March - Hope Church, Blackwood & Kirkmuirhill

Please pray for the congregation that they would be strengthened by the word through the weekly preaching of it.

Thursday 28th March - Free Church Youth Camps

Pray for the Leaders and Cooks training day which is taking place on the 27th of April. Pray that it will be a time of equipping and preparation for leaders and cooks, and ask that the Lord would give wisdom to those speaking and those leading the day. Give thanks for the work of the Camps Co-Ordinator Mairi, and Camps Supervisor Donald in all they do to organise and run the camp programme.

Friday 29th March - Grace Church Kilmacolm

We have an outreach service on Good Friday, 29th March to which we are inviting neighbours, friends and everyone else. We also seek guidance for future plans in reaching our communities.

Saturday 30th March - Matt and Maria, Greece

Please pray for A that God would give us wisdom to communicate The Gospel as clearly as possible to Him and that He may grasp it and respond to it, and that He would soon get a job.

Sunday 31st March - Hope Church, Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill

Please pray that individuals in the congregation would have opportunity and willing hearts to share the gospel in their community.

THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS – ST GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN (330-90)

He is Sweetness Itself and the Soul's Full Desire

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2)

Sinners call Him a Samaritan and demon-possessed. Yet He, the true Samaritan, saves sinners who "came down from Jerusalem and fell among thieves". The demons confess Him, as He expels them, drowning legions of unclean spirits in the sea, seeing the Prince of demons fall like lightning. They cast stones at Him, yet He isn't taken. He prays, yet hears prayer. He weeps tears, yet makes tears cease. As Man, He asks where Lazarus was laid; as God, He raises Lazarus. He is sold, very cheaply too, for a mere thirty bits of silver; yet He buys the world's freedom, at boundless cost, for the price was His blood. As a sheep, He is led to slaughter; yet He Himself is Israel's Shepherd, and now Shepherd of the whole earth too. As a Lamb He is dumb; yet He is the Word, preached by the voice of one crying in the wilderness. He is bruised and wounded, yet He heals every illness and infirmity. He is lifted up, pierced with nails to the tree; yet by that Tree of Life, He brings us back to Paradise. Behold, He saves even the thief crucified with Him, draping the world in darkness as He dies!

They give Him vinegar mingled with gall to drink. To whom do they give it? He who turned water into wine! He is the destroyer of death's bitter taste, for He is sweetness itself and the soul's full desire. He lays down His life, yet He has power to take it up again. The temple's veil is rent asunder, for the mystic portals of heaven are opened. The rocks are ripped asunder, and the dead rise up. He dies, yet gives life, and by His death He destroys death. He is buried, but bursts forth again!