



**SHAWBOST  
FREE CHURCH**



THE VISION OF THE  
FREE CHURCH OF  
SCOTLAND IS



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



**CHURCH BULLETIN**

**SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

## 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](#).

## SUNDAY SERVICES

The **12.00noon service today** will be taken by the Minister. We will continue our series of sermons on some of the promises of the coming of the Son of God into the world and how these promises unfold in the New Testament. The title of the series is *The Unfolding of God's Promises in the Life of Jesus*.

Today we will study Isaiah 11:1-5 and look at the birth of Jesus and the way in which he was prepared and equipped to fulfil the mission of God. The sermon title is *'The Promise of a King & The Mission of God.'*

The **6.00pm service** today will be taken by Rev. Thomas Davis. The message will be from John 1:1-18. The title of the sermon is *'Was. With. Became.'*

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	Psalm 21:1-6	Psalter (225)	Psalm 95:1-6	Psalter (357)
2	Psalm 89:35-39	Psalter (347)	Psalm 85:8-13	Sing Psalms (340)
3	Psalm 132:12-18	Sing Psalms (174)	Psalm 103:12-22	Sing Psalms (135)
4	Psalm 45(a):6-9	Sing Psalms (57)	-----	-----

## 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](#).

## Twilio Telephone Services

The availability of a sermon on the Twilio dial-up line each Lord's Day will be discontinued on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. We are thankful to God for those who have been blessed through this service. We trust and pray that those who have used it up until now will get access to our services through our Sermon Audio page.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School during the school holidays. We thank our parents and children for their support of the Sunday School during the year. We pray the Lord's blessing on them and their wider families at this time of year.

## PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

The Prayer and Bible Study Meeting will take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.00pm in the Bragar Meeting Hall.

## LOCAL BEREAVEMENTS

We note with sadness the following bereavements connected with the community. **Murdina Campbell** (formerly of 43 South Bragar and Newmarket) passed away peacefully in her daughter Peigi's home in Kennedy Terrace on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022. We remember her own family, and her sister Kenag Mackay, South Bragar, and her niece Peigi Mairi, North Shawbost in her prayers.

**Dolina McCulloch**, originally of 56 South Shawbost, passed away peacefully in Blàr Buidhe Care Home on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022. We remember her son Ian with his wife Sandra and their son Andrew with his wife Lorraine. We remember her daughter Catriona with her husband Peter. We also remember her sister Kate Anne with her husband Dr Cunningham and their family.

We trust and pray that all will know the comforting presence of the Lord at this time of sorrow and loss.

## CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE

To finalise the financial accounts for the end of the year, contributors are requested to hand in all 2022 Envelopes and Magazine Subscription this Lord's Day. The subscription for The Record is £2.00 per issue. The Record moved on to bi-monthly editions from June onwards with the bi-monthly as the same price of £2.00. The total subscription for 2022 comes to £18.00. Please hand in your subscription for The Record in an envelope clearly marked 'The Record' and with your FWO envelope number.

The Deacons Court is in the process of aligning the twelve-month period covered by contributors' envelopes with the twelve-month period of the financial accounts – January to December. The new Free Will Offering Envelopes will be distributed by the end of the month to replace all existing contributors' envelopes. The new envelopes should be used as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. Contributors are reminded to ensure that they discard all old envelopes to avoid confusion in the financial records and accounting systems of the congregation.

The Deacons Court wishes to thank all contributors for their faithful and unstinting financial support of the congregation and of the work of the gospel in the community.

## MINISTER'S DIARY

The Minister's Diary for the January 2023 weeks includes the following meetings:

Date		Event	Location
Tue	10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Board of Trustees - PMG	Zoom
Sun	16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Holiday	
Tue	24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Presbytery Meeting	In person
Wed	25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Shawbost School Assembly	In person
Thu	26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Board of Trustees	Zoom

## GOD IS GOD & YOU ARE YOU

Christian Focus have published a book written by Rev. Thomas Davis (Carloway) entitled 'God is God & You are You' with the subtitle 'Finding Confidence for Sharing our Faith.' It is a book about personal evangelism and the 'tidal wave of theology' and the 'two truths that we must never forget' which back us up in personal evangelism and sharing your faith. The published price is £9.99 per copy but it is available at the Church Door for £7.00. There are ten copies available today and more copies can be ordered through the Church on demand.

Please be encouraged to purchase a copy of this helpful book. There is a list at the door on which you can place your name and address with a note as to whether you have paid for your copy or not. If we run out of copies, please simply add your name to the same list and a copy will be available for you to pick up next Lord's Day.

## ANNUAL LDOS PRAYER MEETING

The Annual LDOS/Day One Prayer Meeting will take place at the Stornoway APC on Lord's Day 8<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30pm. All are warmly invited to attend.

## SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

The latest issue of the Slavic Gospel Association (SGA) newsletter Frontline is available at the Church door today. Full details of the scope and nature of the ministries undertaken by SGA are available on their website [here](#).

## PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

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

### Monday - Stirling Free Church

Thanks for togetherness as a new ministry has begun. Grateful for the venue we have for Sunday services at Bannockburn High School. Nonetheless, we are seeking a building of our own from which to reach out to the city of Stirling, and in which we may grow in faith and fellowship.

**Tuesday - Turkey**

If they think about the holiday at all, Turks usually associate Christmas with Santa Claus and shopping. Pray for Turkish television channels which will show Christian films at this time of year, and for churches and ministries in the country trying to spread the Good News about Christ's coming into the world.

**Wednesday - Scalpay (Harris)**

Pray for God's blessing on the seed sown during the Christianity Explored course held in November & December. All of those helping as "leaders" have themselves come to faith in the past decade, about half of them through previous Christianity Explored courses.

**Thursday - Richard and Barbara, a European City**

The large island community here, and elsewhere in the diaspora, generally does not mix much with others. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send workers into this harvest field. May islanders come into meaningful contact with true Christians; may churches and Christians be motivated to share with their island neighbours.

**Friday - Turkey**

It has become more difficult for foreigners to obtain residence permits in Turkey. Pray for foreign Christians who are involved in ministries in the country, that it would be possible for them to continue to live there.

**Saturday - Scalpay (Harris)**

Scalpay is engaged in the process of buying its own building, which will then need considerable refurbishment. Pray that these property matters would progress smoothly and successfully, and that the hoped-for refurbishment would become a means of involving others who may be on the fringe of the congregation.

**Sunday - Christmas Day**

Pray that as believers come and remember Christ's birth this Christmas, that the light of the gospel will shine to unbelievers about the true meaning of Christmas. Give thanks to God for giving His Son, to be born on earth as fully man and fully God who is our Saviour.