

## 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.

27<sup>th</sup> October 2024



### WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE TODAY

Today's services will be taken by Rev Murdo Campbell. Our services are livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **12.00 noon service**, the Scripture reading will be from Hosea 3. The sermon is entitled *The Greatest Chapter in the Old Testament*.

At the **6.00pm service**, the Scripture reading will be from Romans 8. The sermon is entitled *The Greatest Chapter in the New Testament*.

	12:00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Ps 107:1-8	Scottish Psalter	Ps 71:1-5	Scottish Psalter
2	Ps 103:1-5	Scottish Psalter	Ps 130	Scottish Psalter
3	Ps 130	Sing Psalms	Ps 25:1-7	Sing Psalms

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School resumes following the school holiday. Please remember the teachers and children in prayer.

### SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Rev Calum MacDonald.

### GAELIC SERVICE

Rev Kenneth Ferguson will be taking the Gaelic service in Bragar on **3rd November at 6pm**.

### PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The prayer meeting and Bible study will take place on **Wednesday 30th October at 7pm in the Church Hall**. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend.

### LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group will meet **at the Manse on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 7pm**. The group will look at the meaning of different numbers in the Bible. All welcome.

### VACANCY COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting of the Vacancy Committee on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm** in the Church Hall.

### DAYONE/LDOS PRAYER MEETING

Following the recent sad announcement of Tesco Stornoway's plans to open on the Lord's Day, the Lewis branch of the LDOS have organised a special prayer meeting to take place on **Lord's Day 3rd November at 9.00pm (APC Church)** God willing. At such a time it is imperative that the Lord's people unite in prayer to seek His help and intervention.

### PRAYER POINTS 28th OCTOBER – 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

#### Monday 28th October - Kiltarlity

As a congregation we raised funds to employ a full time female Community and Family Worker for our congregation. There are many opportunities to connect with families and others in our community. However, to date we have been unable to find someone to take on this role. Please pray that God would place it on the heart of a woman to apply for this role.

#### Tuesday 29th October - Osamu and Mairi, Japan

On 8th November a Harp concert is to be held in a room in Tagajo Cultural Center. Wec. missionary, Katherine Porter is playing Harp. The room's capacity is 70. Please pray that 2100 leaflets distributed to be used and many will come to it. Closing message also to be used for people to think about Jesus.

### Wednesday 30th October - Matt and Maria, Greece

Please continue to pray for Maria and baby's continued health, and an easy birth (next time we write will likely be when the little one has arrived!)

### Thursday 31st October - Kiltarlity

One of our elders has recently moved and as a congregation we are seeking to elect new elders (we only have two elders). Pray that God would raise up future leaders for the congregation.

### Friday 1st November - Osamu and Mairi, Japan

On 1st November we plan to have our fist drop-in-cafe time in our church. Times are 10 am~12:00 and 2 pm ~4:00 pm. Please pray that people will come in and relax and chat with us. Twice a month we plan to have 'drop-in cafe.'

**Saturday 2nd November - Generation Vision Conference** - Please pray for the Generation Vision Conference happening in Edinburgh on Saturday the 9th of November. Please pray that many will attend and be encouraged and equipped by what is shared by Michael Keller on speaking the gospel into the post atheist moment and Elliot Cherry on how we live on mission amidst the challenges of an anxious generation.

### Sunday 3rd November - Matt and Maria, Greece

Please pray for Y and the younger people who've been coming to the ministries

### LDOS/DAYONE STATEMENT

We read the statement from Tesco announcing their decision to open for trading on Sundays with almost as much surprise as sadness. Although they allude to the expressions of support which they received for their proposal (none of were visible to us), they make no allusion whatsoever to the unprecedented depth and breadth of opposition, across the island and elsewhere, to this decision – as evidenced in the press and other media.

As a committee, we have been thankful for the number of people with little or no church connection who have voiced their deeply held convictions on this matter simply because they value the distinctive nature and countless benefits of a common day of rest for themselves, their families, their communities, and for workers generally – as well as valuing what is effectively a cultural unique selling point for the whole community.

Although some shoppers have already 'voted with their feet', many have chosen to continue shopping in Tesco until the proposal became a decision. Sadly, this has now happened, and a much larger number will now take their custom elsewhere. It should be noted, too, that they will do so at possible financial cost to themselves – something which, clearly, is of little concern to Tesco, who are well aware that they are driving many people, some of whom are quite poor, into more expensive places. Is that not a cause for shame?

And, in the same vein, it is interesting to note in their statement that Tesco has chosen not to answer why, from all the options open to them for improving the customer shopping experience, they are choosing the only option which deeply wounds a large number of their customers?

Tesco still claims that this decision is 'respectful' of local traditions and culture. However, after all that has been said from a variety of sources in opposition to this proposal - which we assume Tesco has considered? - such a claim looks like a foolish attempt to gaslight the island population. If it is not that, then at least it shows everyone how hopelessly out of touch they are with the very traditions and culture they claim to respect.

For now, we wish to make plain that our opposition to this decision is not at all over. If Tesco believes it has ridden a brief storm, they are mistaken. Indeed, we propose to step up our opposition, as will many others who are not in our organization, to avert a spiritual and cultural disaster.

However, the deed has not yet been done and we still appeal to Tesco to listen carefully to the depth and breadth of the opposition, and out of care for the whole community, to respect those who are deeply grieving, and reverse their decision.

### THE PULPIT OF GOD'S LOVE

Augustine reputedly said, **"The cross was a pulpit in which Christ preached His love to the world."** If Jesus gave His life on the cross in order to convey such love to us, then we must seek to fully understand it.