

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.

28th April 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 Joshua 24.

At the **6.00pm service**, the Scripture reading will be from Revelation 19.

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalm 89:10-15	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 34:1-10	Scottish Psalter
2	Psalm 94:17-23	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 34:11-17	Scottish Psalter
3	Psalm 97:1-8	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 34:18-22	Scottish Psalter
4	Psalm 98:1-4	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 125	Scottish Psalter

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There is no Sunday School today due to the school holiday weekend.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Rev Donald A MacDonald (Retired).

GAELIC SERVICE

Rev James MacDonald will be taking the Gaelic service in **Bragar, 5th May at 6pm**.

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The weekly prayer meeting and Bible study on **Wednesday 1st May at 7pm** will take place in **Bragar**. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend.

SATURDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING

All are warmly welcome to an informal prayer meeting in the **Manse on Saturday evenings at 7pm**. Please access the Manse via the rear door.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held on **Wednesday 8th May** after the weekly prayer meeting (scheduled to be in the Church Hall) for the purpose of appointing Property Trustees on behalf of the congregation. The proposal is to appoint the members of the Deacon's Court and their successors in office.

CHURCH EQUIPPING EVENT: LEARNING DISABILITIES

Prospects Across Scotland exists to encourage, inspire and resource churches to welcome people with learning disabilities and autism and tell them about Jesus. Stornoway Free Church have invited Hilary Lacroix, Mission Development Coordinator, to deliver some training around this topic and would like to invite others from across the presbytery to join also. Details are as follows: Saturday 11th May, 10:30am-12:30pm, 'Introduction to Learning Disabilities', Rev MA Memorial Hall, Kenneth St, Stornoway. For more information <https://www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk>

LEWIS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (LCEA): 'CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EXPLAINED'

The talk entitled 'Christian Education Explained' given by Rev Kenneth Stewart on 19th April at a public meeting in the Stornoway Town Hall can be heard [here](#) or on the Church website at <https://shawbostfreechurch.org/christian-education-explained/>

PRAYER POINTS 29TH APRIL - 5TH MAY 2024

Monday 29th April - South Uist and Benbecula

Give thanks that God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

Tuesday 30th April - Dumisani

Term Two has Thinus Hermann from Pretoria teaching at Dumisani Theological Institute. Please remember Thinus in prayer this second term. Thanks be to the Lord for all who are teaching at Dumisani in Term Two.

Wednesday 1st May - Healthy Gospel Church

Give thanks to the Lord for the church plants that are taking place in communities across Scotland. Pray for the vision for 30 new churches by 2030 and the vision for a healthy gospel church for every community in that God will make the paths straight and preparations will run smoothly. Give thanks for the 16 churches which have already been or are in the process of being planted as part of the 30x30 vision.

Thursday 2nd May - Oban

Please pray for the congregation in Oban. Pray that members would be strengthened by the spirit.

Friday 3rd May - South Uist and Benbecula

Pray for wisdom, sensitivity and confidence to share the good news of the gospel throughout our scattered communities.

Saturday 4th May - Oban

Pray that there would be opportunity in individuals lives and in the work of the church for one-to-one evangelism in the community. Pray that individuals would have boldness and faith to share the gospel with those in their life who do not know the Lord.

Sunday 5th May - Dumisani

Pray for Principal Chipenyu as he considers a possible third level of accreditation for Dumisani. Dumisani currently has two levels of accreditation. Pray for Dr Chipenyu and that he will be led to communicate with key people about this.

THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS: ST CYPRIAN OF CARTHAGE

UNION WITH CHRIST IN THE LORD'S PRAYER

He that doeth the will of God abideth forever | John 2:17

He who gave us life also taught us prayer, with the same kindness by which He humbled Himself to bestow all other things. He did this that we might speak to the Father in that very prayer and petition the Son has taught us, and thus be more readily heard. He foretold the coming hour "when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23). He then accomplished His promise, that by His teaching we might worship truly and spiritually, having received the Spirit and truth by His sanctifying work. Can there be a more spiritual prayer than the one given us by Christ, who also gave us the Holy Spirit? Can any prayer to the Father be more truthful than the prayer given us by the Son who is the Truth, straight out of His own mouth? To pray otherwise than Christ taught isn't just ignorance; it is sin. For He Himself affirmed: "You reject the commandments of God, that you may keep your own traditions" (Mark 7:8).

Let us therefore, beloved brothers and sisters, pray in the way God our Teacher has taught us. It's a loving and friendly prayer to entreat God with His own words, to speak into His ears with Christ's prayer. The Father will acknowledge the words of His Son when we pray thus; the Spirit who dwells within our hearts will also dwell in our voice. Since we have Christ as an Advocate with the Father for our sins, let's make use of our Advocate's words when, as sinners, we pray for forgiveness. He says, "whatever we ask of the Father in His name, He will give us" (John 16:23). How much more effectively we gain what we seek in Christ's name, if we seek it in His own prayer!