

Weekly Church Bulletin

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

Sunday 28th March 2021



LORD'S DAY SERVICES – RETURN TO CHURCH

We are thankful that Churches are now able to reopen for public worship with an attendance limit of fifty where there is space for social distancing. The Kirk Session met on Tuesday 16th March 2021 and considered this development and agreed to **re-open the Church for public worship on Sunday 4th April 2021** for the 12.00noon English service only.

Church Attendance

The attendance at all Church services of public worship is limited to fifty due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Seats will be allocated according to household groups on a first come first served basis until such time as we reach the limit of fifty.

The arrangements for registering your intention to attend the services, and to complete the relevant documentation, have been set up on the Congregational Website [here](#). The following option for registering your intention to attend the services is available to those who do not have access to internet services - please contact Mr Donald MacPhail or the Minister as follows – Donald MacPhail on 710328 or dan.macphail@icloud.com or the Minister on 710216 or cmacleod@freechurch.org

The deadline for submission of the names of those who wish to attend the service will be 12.00noon on Friday. Seats will be reserved on a weekly basis and you should, therefore, follow the same procedure for every Lord's Day service.

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

The [Weekly Bulletin](#) is available under the News item on the Main Menu bar of the website. Updates and news items of local interest, missionary news, etc., will be added to the News section from time to time as required. The [Minister's Blog](#) will be updated on a monthly basis. The Lord's Day services are available on the [Listen to the Latest Sermon](#) button on the Home Page.

LORD'S DAY SERVICES – 28th MARCH 2021

Sunday Services

This Lord's Day we will continue our study of *The Titles of Christ in the Epistle to the Hebrews* by looking at Hebrews 12:1-2 and *Jesus – The Pioneer of Faith*.

Availability of Services

The Sunday Service in Gaelic and English conducted by the Minister will be available on the [Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio](#) page as from 12.00noon on Sunday. Simply click or tap on Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio underlined above from your phone, tablet, laptop, etc., to take you directly to the site where you can access the services.

The **Sunday Service in Gaelic** can also be **accessed from landline / home telephone** by dialling the number **0131 510 2471**. Please note that there is **a delay of approximately 35 seconds** from the time at which the call is answered until the service commences.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School for the next three weeks due to the School Holidays. The Sunday School will resume on Sunday 18th April 2021. We are thankful for the ongoing commitment of children and parents to the Sunday School during COVID-19 restrictions. We trust and pray that the children will stay safe and that families will enjoy the break. We also pray that the Sunday School teachers will be refreshed during the Easter holiday break.

WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group will continue this Wednesday, 31st March 2021, at 7.00pm using Zoom audio-visual technology. The Minister is unable to be present this week due to other commitments. One of the Office-bearers will lead the meeting in his absence. We will return to our study the book entitled '*Gentle and Lowly – The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*' by Dane Ortlund on Wednesday 6th April, DV.

The PBS Group is an open group and please be encouraged to join with us for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. You can join the group on Zoom using a mobile phone, tablet or computer and the meeting details below. The Zoom Meeting ID is - 811 1884 3263. The ongoing Meeting Password is issued separately by contacting the Minister.

PASTORAL VISITATION

Pastoral visitation in homes is not permissible under the Level 4 COVID-19 restrictions in the Western Isles announced by the Scottish Government First Minister on Friday 29th January 2021. Please keep the Minister, and the Elders, informed of new situations where pastoral support is required. The Minister can be contacted on 710216 or via email at cmacleod@freechurch.org. We are prayerfully mindful at this time of those who are in Care Homes and in Hospital along with their families during times of highly restricted visiting. Those who are going through a period of serious illness at this time are also close to our hearts in prayer.

WOMEN FOR MISSION

The Women for Mission (WfM) was established over 100 years ago to promote the growth of the Christian faith by encouraging interest in mission as well as giving practical support to the Church's mission work in Scotland and around the globe. WfM seeks to do this in three ways: (1) by raising funds for mission projects which seek to offer help in areas of health, education, poverty and disaster around the world; (2) by encouraging women of all ages in the Free Church of Scotland to use their gifts to support mission; (3) by facilitating prayer and support for home and international mission.

Every year, WfM organises a fundraising project that everyone in the Church can get involved in. Through the funds raised, we are able to provide direct support to a wide range of mission work both at home and abroad. The theme for 2020/2021 is *Embracing the World with the Touch of the Gospel*. The focus of the fundraising this year is on The Leprosy Mission in India, Scripture Union Scotland, Moldova Support Group, and WfM Disaster and Relief Fund.

Many churches and individuals have already done a fantastic and very creative job in raising money towards the WfM projects in the midst of these challenging circumstances. However, at present our funds are lower than they would normally be in previous years. Information on the 2020/2021 Project and ways of donating to the work of WfM are available on their website - <https://womenformission.org>

THE RECORD

The March 2021 of the Free Church magazine *The Record* is now available. As has been the case throughout the current coronavirus situation, and the disruptions with distributing the magazine, this month's issue is available to the public online and free of charge. You can read the March 2021 issue on the News section of our congregational website [here](#).

OPERATION MOBILISATION

Operation Mobilisation (OM) continues to serve the gospel through its variety of missionary activities and initiatives during the coronavirus pandemic. Philip Rose, OM Church Support Officer for Scotland, has maintained contact with churches across Scotland during the challenges of missionary activities in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions. General news and updates are available on the OM website - <https://www.uk.om.org>. We pray for the work of OM and the different workers involved in their missionary activities.

OM UK has produced a series of short videos for young children entitled Church Street Crew which are available on the following link - <https://www.uk.om.org/Pages/Category/church-street-crew>

PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME

The Bible passage and prayer points for Monday 29th March 2021 have been chosen by the **Rev. Kenneth I. Macleod**, Assistant Minister at Stornoway. The Bible Passage is **Psalm 33:10-12** and the following are the prayer points.

We have just completed a year of lockdown. Along the way there have been false dawns and the dashing of returning hope, but God has remained ever the same, and faithful to all His promises and His people. Let us read, reflect and pray with Psalm 33 verses 10-22.

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that the counsel of the Lord stands forever (verse 11).
2. Give thanks that nothing is hidden from the eyes of God who sees and judges all things (verses 13-14).

3. Pray that our leaders will discover that we are not ultimately saved and delivered by human resources and powers, but by the hand of God (verses 16-17).
4. However, let us give thanks for the wisdom God has given to science and medicine, not only for the vaccines, but also for the treatments that have taken the worst out of Covid for many.
5. Pray for all who have lost loved ones throughout the last year.
6. Give thanks for God's steadfast love and care of those who fear and hope in Him (verse 18).
7. Give thanks for God feeding us the way He has over this last year, even although the churches for the most part have been closed (verse 19).
8. Pray that we will always have the grace to wait for and on the Lord (verses 20-22).

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

28th March 2021

Lennoxtown

Minister: Rev. Alick Stewart

We are a small fellowship, with a mix of couples, small families, elderly and youth. Alick Stewart became minister of the congregation in 2020 after having worked as a church worker in the congregation since 2015.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the ongoing work among the community around us and pray that new connections might be made, even during these days of the pandemic.
2. Pray that more churches might be planted across the central belt.

Fort William & Kilmonivaig

Minister: Vacant

Interim Moderator: Rev. Gordon Martin

This congregation is currently vacant and is based just off the high street in Fort William. The congregation is small and ageing but friendly with some very committed people. There is a desire to see the Lord's work prosper in the town but personnel who are able to lead such work are in short supply. The congregation is grateful to all who assist them at present.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for guidance and wisdom as the congregation is currently without a minister. Give thanks for all those who continue to support the congregation during this vacancy. Pray for unity while the congregation is unable to meet in person due to the ongoing pandemic.
2. Pray that God would provide resources, people and vision to reach out and connect with the community of Fort William, especially during this time of COVID and lockdown.