

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.

29th December 2024



WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES TODAY

Today's services will be taken by Rev Calum MacDonald. Our 12.00 noon service is livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **12.00 noon service**, the Scripture reading will be from James 4. The sermon will focus on verse 14 and is entitled *What is Your Life?*

At the **6.00pm service in the Church Hall**, the Scripture reading will be from Psalm 139. The sermon will focus on verse 4 and is entitled *Deep, Deep is the Knowledge of God*

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Ps 102(ii):11-16	Scottish Psalter	Ps 36:1-7	Sing Psalms
2	Ps 31: 9-15	Sing Psalms	Ps 139(a):1-10	Sing Psalms
3	Ps 39:3-8	Sing Psalms	Ps 139(a):11-16	Sing Psalms
4	Ps 116:13-19	Scottish Psalter	Ps 100(i) All	Scottish Psalter

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School this week due to the school holiday.

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

The **New Year's Day service on 1st January 2025**, will be taken by Rev Calum Macdonald. The service will commence at 12pm and will be in the **Church Hall**.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The Services next Lord's Day (5th January 2025) will be taken by Rev Thomas Davies. Please remember the morning service **will commence at 11:00am**. The evening service will remain at 6pm and will be in the Church Hall.

GAELIC SERVICE

The Gaelic service in Bragar **next Lord's Day (5th January 2025) at 6pm**, will be taken by Mr Murdo Martin (Elder, Kenneth Street).

PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

There will be **no** prayer meeting and bible study on **Wednesday 1st January or Saturday 4th January**.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

The Kirk Session has agreed to run a Christianity Explored course starting in the **second week of February**. To book a place or for more information, please speak to one of the Elders. The course is suitable **for anyone** looking to explore the Christian faith, who Jesus is and why he matters. To find out more about the course visit this link [Christianity Explored](#). Please remember this item in prayer.

PREACHING SUPPLY SCHEDULE

The Interim Moderator has made provisional arrangements for preaching supply for the period January – June 2025. The schedule, which is subject to change, can viewed on the congregation website in the [NEWS](#) section. For those not able to go online, some hard copies can be collected at the main door.

A YEAR'S END PRAYER

Arthur Bennett (1915-1994) was an English minister and tutor who compiled and edited Puritan prayers into the modern classic devotional, *The Valley of Vision*. This prayer for the end of a year poignantly expresses the cry of a believer's heart as we reflect on the year past and look forward to the year ahead (DV). May these Puritan thoughts direct your heart to greater God-ward devotion as you look forward to 2025.

O Love beyond Compare,
Thou art good when thou givest,
when thou takest away,
when the sun shines upon me,
when night gathers over me.
Thou hast loved me before the foundation of the world,
and in love didst redeem my soul;
Thou dost love me still,
in spite of my hard heart, ingratitude, distrust.
Thy goodness has been with me another year,
leading me through a twisting wilderness,
in retreat helping me to advance,
when beaten back making sure headway.
Thy goodness will be with me in the year ahead;
I hoist sail and draw up anchor,
With thee as the blessed pilot of my future as of my past.
I bless thee that thou hast veiled my eyes to the waters ahead.
If thou hast appointed storms of tribulation,
thou wilt be with me in them;
If I have to pass through tempests of persecution and temptation,
I shall not drown;
If I am to die,
I shall see thy face the sooner;
If a painful end is to be my lot,
grant me grace that my faith fail not;
If I am to be cast aside from the service I love,
I can make no stipulation;
Only glorify thyself in me whether in comfort or trial,
as a chosen vessel meet always for thy use.

THE LARGER CATECHISM

Q. 24. What is sin?

A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, any law of God, given as a rule to the reasonable creature.

[1 John 3:4; Gal. 3:10, 12.](#)

Q. 25. Wherein consisteth the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

A. The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consisteth in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of that righteousness wherein he was created, and the corruption of his nature, whereby he is utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite unto all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all evil, and that continually; which is commonly called Original Sin, and from which do proceed all actual transgressions.

[Rom. 5:12, 19; Rom. 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 5:6; Rom. 8:7-8; Gen. 6:5; Jas. 1:14-15; Matt. 15:19.](#)

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR REV. CALLUM MACLEOD

A Christmas message from our former Minister and current Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev Callum Macleod, can be found on the Free Church website or by clicking this link: [Highlights from the Birth of Jesus at Christmas – Free Church of Scotland](#)