





THE VISION OF THE
FREE CHURCH OF
SCOTLAND IS

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





CHURCH BULLETIN

SUNDAY 29th January 2023

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 services today will be taken by Rev Kenneth I Macleod. For the **12.00noon service**, the reading is from Acts Chapter 12 with a focus on Verse 5. The sermon is entitled "*Prison and Prayer*".

At the **6.00pm service**, the reading will be from Joshua Chapter 2. The sermon is entitled "*Faith in the Most Unlikely Place*"

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	Ps 34 v1-9	Sing Psalms	Ps 107 v1-8	Psalter
2	Ps 102 (ii) v13-20	Psalter	Ps 26 v4-end	Sing Psalms
3	Ps 118 v16-25	Sing Psalms	Ps 116 v1-7	Psalter
4	Ps 138 v5-8	Psalter	-----	-----

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](#).

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will meet as usual this Lord's Day. We continue to seek God's blessing on this aspect of our gospel ministry.

MINISTER UPDATE

We are pleased and thankful to note some slight improvement in the Minister's condition. Further tests are planned for Monday with a possible return home to the island towards the middle of the week. We continue to remember Callum, Catherine and the wider family in our prayers.

BEREAVEMENT

We note with sadness the sudden passing of Dolly Anne MacArthur, South Shawbost. We extend our condolences to the family and especially remember Angus, Calum, Norman, Chrissie, Alastair, Ian, Morag and the wider family in prayer.

PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

The Prayer and Bible Study Meeting will take place on Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 7.00pm in the Church Hall.

SATURDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study in Bragar Meeting Hall every second Saturday has resumed. The group is currently studying the gospel of John. The next meeting is 4th February 2023 at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed in the congregation on Lord's Day 26th February 2023. The programme of services will be as follows:

Day	Service	Location
Friday Evening	English Service	Church
	Gaelic Service	Bragar
Saturday Morning	English Service	Church
Sunday Morning	English Service	Church
Sunday Evening	English Service	Church

The English services will be taken by Rev. Andrew Macleod, Assistant Minister at Tain and Fearn. The arrangements for the Gaelic service in Bragar on Friday evening have still to be confirmed.

PETITION TO THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Rev Stephen Allison, Free Church of Scotland Public Engagement Co-ordinator, is bringing to congregations' attention details of a petition to the Scottish Parliament regarding withdrawing the 'Supporting transgender young people in schools' guidance from Scottish schools.

Safeguarding Our Schools Scotland has written to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Shirley Anne Somerville, to highlight their concerns and ask that guidance be withdrawn. The organization has now launched a petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to withdraw the 'Supporting transgender young people in schools: guidance for Scottish schools' resource and await the outcome of the Cass Review before developing a new resource.

The petition is open for signatures until 2 February 2023.

Please take a look at the link for more details about the petition and promote it where appropriate. <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2001>

SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION (SGA)

The SGA have posted on its website a collection of news stories from across Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Far East Russia. <https://projects.sga.org.uk/the-inside-story/>. These stories provide an insight into the work SGA engage in and they also serve as encouragement and a reminder of the way God can open doors in the spread of the Gospel.

COMFORT INTERNATIONAL

The latest news update for January can read at the following link: <https://comfortinternational.org/blog/>

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

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

Monday 30th January

Badenoch

Please give thanks for a number of people who have become part of our congregation on a regular or occasional basis in the past year or two. We are thankful for opportunities to grow in friendship and fellowship and to encourage one another as we are able. We are thankful for the contributions made by so many to the life of the congregation.

Tuesday 31st January

Peru

Please pray for Peru in the turmoil following the impeachment of President Pedro Castillo in December. Over 50 people have died in violent clashes between protestors and police. Pray for an end to the riots and for long-term solutions to the ongoing issues of endemic corruption, deep inequality and political instability.

Wednesday 1st February

Grace Church Kilmacolm

Give thanks for excellent regular preaching & for welcoming new people to the fellowship.

Thursday 2nd February

Peru

Pray for the Peruvian church to be peace-makers amid this time of polarization and conflict. May they unite together in prayer and action to demonstrate reconciliation and justice. Thank God for the many believers who have been impacted by ministries associated with the Free Church over many years. Pray they will be faithful and bold examples of integrity and righteousness.

Friday 3rd February

Badenoch

Please pray for opportunities to make meaningful connections with those in our community who have little or no connection with a Christian church. Give thanks for some good opportunities in recent weeks to speak frankly about Jesus and please pray that such conversations would lead to spiritual transformation.

Saturday 4th February

Grace Church Kilmacolm

Prayer would be appreciated for faithful witness and ongoing outreach opportunities in our community.

Sunday 5th February

Peru

Pray for organisations such as MISIUR and Operación San Andrés which minister to children and young people in poor communities. Pray God would rebalance the economy in favour of the poor and marginalised, bringing dignity and opportunity especially to the many living in rural poverty.

C.H. SPURGEON DAILY READING - 29 JANUARY

"The things which are not seen." 2 Corinthians 4:18

In our Christian pilgrimage it is well, for the most part, to be looking forward. Forward lies the crown, and onward is the goal. Whether it be for hope, for joy, for consolation, or for the inspiring of our love, the future must, after all, be the grand object of the eye of faith. Looking into the future we see sin cast out, the body of sin and death destroyed, the soul made perfect, and fit to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light. Looking further yet, the believer's enlightened eye can see death's river passed, the gloomy stream forded, and the hills of light attained on which standeth the celestial city; he seeth himself enter within the pearly gates, hailed as more than conqueror, crowned by the hand of Christ, embraced in the arms of Jesus, glorified with him, and made to sit together with him on his throne, even as he has overcome and has sat down with the Father on his throne. The thought of this future may well relieve the darkness of the past and the gloom of the present. The joys of heaven will surely compensate for the sorrows of earth. Hush, hush, my doubts! death is but a narrow stream, and thou shalt soon have forded it. Time, how short--eternity, how long! Death, how brief--immortality, how endless! Methinks I even now eat of Eshcol's clusters, and sip of the well which is within the gate. The road is so, so short! I shall soon be there.

"When the world my heart is rending
With its heaviest storm of care,
My glad thoughts to heaven ascending,
Find a refuge from despair.
Faith's bright vision shall sustain me
Till life's pilgrimage is past;
Fears may vex and troubles pain me,
I shall reach my home at last."