

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.

30th June 2024



WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE TODAY

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

At the **12:00 noon service**, the Scripture reading will be from Matthew 7:7-29. The sermon will focus on verses 13 and 14 and is entitled *A Distinctive Way*.

At the **6.00pm service**, the Scripture reading will be from Judges 16:10 - 31. The sermon will focus on verse 22 and is entitled *A Natural Occurrence*.

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalm 25(i):4-9	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 89:5-8	Scottish Psalter
2	Psalm 1(a)	Sing Psalms	Psalm 51:7-12	Scottish Psalter
3	Psalm 119:1-8	Sing Psalms	Psalm 103:8-14	Sing Psalms
4	Psalm 37:3-7	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 17:5-9	Scottish Psalter

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School today due to the school holidays.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Rev Roddy John Campbell.

GAELIC SERVICE

The Gaelic service in **Bragar next Lord's Day (7th July) at 6pm** will be taken by Mr Murdo Martin (Elder, Stornoway).

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

There will be a congregational fellowship immediately following the evening service **tonight**. The speaker will be Tam MacLennan.

PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

The prayer meeting and bible study will take place on **Wednesday 3rd July at 7pm** in **Bragar**. Everyone is 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.

PRAYER POINTS 1st July – 7th July 2024

Monday 1st July - Livingston

Give thanks for all areas of the life of the church, including the weekly worship, and gathering for men and women's groups which meet regularly. Please pray that these times would strengthen and encourage the congregation and build up believers in the faith.

Tuesday 2nd July - Dumisani

Pray for a breakthrough for Dumisani's principal Wilbert Chipenyu and his visa renewal for South Africa. The applying lawyer has died and this has complicated the application for renewal. May a new way forward be found.

Wednesday 3rd July - Sashko, Poland

Please pray for our Ukrainian Children's Ministry: We're preparing to host two week-long summer projects for displaced Ukrainian children and teenagers (July). Please pray for the preparations and that we can minister effectively to these young people.

Thursday 4th July - Free Church Youth Camps

Please pray for Oswestry Senior 1, which heads to camp today, and pray for Renfrew Kids which head to camp on Saturday. Pray that travel and logistics would go smoothly for each camp, and pray that leaders would be a strong witness for Christ in both these camps. Pray that the Spirit would be at work in the lives of our young people.

Friday 5th July - Dumisani

Pray for Dumisani students who are now between terms and busy in local ministries. May the Lord bless their ministries and this time with family and reconnecting to churches.

Saturday 6th July - Sashko, Poland

Please pray for our Family News: We're about two months away from welcoming our baby girl into the world. Please pray for a safe delivery and a smooth transition for our family into the new reality.

Sunday 7th July - Livingston

Pray for opportunities within Livingston to witness to and glorify Christ. Pray that the church would be outward looking to those who do not yet know Christ and sharing His good news with all in the community.

THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS: ST JEROME (347-420)

Humility and Pride

Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. (1 Peter 5:5-6)

While the disciples were squabbling about who was greatest, our Lord, the Teacher of humility, took a little child and said: "Unless you are converted and become as little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3). In case He might seem to preach more than He practised, He obeyed His own command in His own life. He washed His disciples' feet; He welcomed the betrayer Judas with a kiss; He spoke freely with the Samaritan woman; He taught about the kingdom of heaven as Mary sat at His feet; and when He rose from the dead, He revealed Himself first of all to some lowly women.

Pride is the opposite of humility. It was through pride that Satan lost his exalted position as an archangel. It was through pride that the Jewish people perished; while they were claiming the foremost seats and respectful greetings in the market place, they were passed over in favour of the Gentiles, who up until then had been reckoned as a mere drop in a bucket (Isa. 40:15). Two insignificant fishermen, Peter and James, were sent out to challenge the false reasoners and wise men of the world. As Scripture says: "God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble" (1 Pet. 5:5). Think, my brother, what a terrible sin it must be which has God Himself as its Enemy! In the Gospel, God casts aside the Pharisee because of his pride, but embraces the tax-collector because of his humility (Luke 18:10-14).