

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 30th May 2021



ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY SERVICES

We are thankful to gather in the Church this Lord's Day for the public worship of God. We meet at 12.00noon and the Service will be conducted in English. We encourage all our people to join with us in the worship of God each Lord's Day.

Coronavirus Protection Level I

We are thankful to the Lord that in the Western Isles we move into Level I of Scottish Government COVID-19 restrictions from Monday 17th May 2021. The capacity limit, determined by the size of the building and the observance of the 2-metre physical distancing rules, still applies regarding attendance at Church services. From **Monday 31st May congregational singing can resume** for those areas in Levels I-0. The move into Level I also means that there is a capacity limit of 100 for funerals and weddings provided the venue's capacity allows for 2 metre physical distancing.

Ongoing Registration

Registration for attendance at services in the Church on the Lord's Day is necessary under Scottish Government COVID-19 guidelines. 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 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 Sunday service.

Mr Donald MacPhail, Deacon, is the Seating Coordinator for the Church services and enquiries regarding attendance should, in the first place, be directed to him on 710328 or dan.macphail@icloud.com. Alternatively, you may contact the Minister on 710216 or cmacleod@freechurch.org. If you are unable to use the online registration process, please contact Mr MacPhail or the Minister to register your intention to attend the service.

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

The [Weekly Bulletin](#) is available under the News item on the Main Menu bar of the Website. The Lord's Day services are available on the [Listen to the Latest Sermon](#) and the [Watch the Latest Sermon](#) buttons on the Home Page. The May edition of *The Record* is available in PDF format on the Website [here](#).

LORD'S DAY SERVICES – 30th MAY 2021

This Lord's Day we continue with our study of *The Christian's Experience of Grace* as a follow up on our study of *How we become Christians in the Gospel of John* earlier in the year. The study for this Lord's Day is from I Corinthians 2:6-13 and focussing on *The Christian's Experience of Grace* and *The Indispensable Spirit*.

Availability of Services

The English service in the Church at 12.00noon will be live streamed and will be available on the Shawbost Free Church of Scotland **YouTube Channel** by clicking [here](#). An audio-only recording of the English service will be available on Sermon Audio at 2.00pm and can be accessed on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

The pre-recorded video of the Gaelic Service will be available on our YouTube Channel at 10.30am on Sunday 30th May 2021.

The audio-only recording of the Gaelic service will be available at 12.00noon on Sunday 30th May 2021 on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

The audio-only recording of the Gaelic Service will also be available as usual on the Twilio service, which can be **accessed from landline / home telephone** by dialling the number **0131 510 2471**. Please continue to 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

The Sunday School will meet this Lord's Day, Sunday 30th May, at 11.00am, and will continue in the meantime using the Zoom audio-visual technology.

WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group will continue this Wednesday, 2nd June 2021, at 7.00pm using Zoom audio-visual technology. We will continue our study of the book entitled 'Gentle and Lowly – The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers' by Dane Ortlund by looking at Chapter 12, A Tender Friend, based on Matthew 11:19.

The Zoom Meeting ID is - 811 1884 3263. The ongoing Meeting Password is issued separately by contacting the Minister or any member of the group.

PASTORAL VISITATION

The movement in the Western Isles into Protection Level 1 of the Scottish Government's COVID-19 restrictions has brought about welcome changes in the rules regarding socialising and mixing with family and friends. We can meet socially in groups of up to 6 people from 3 households in your home or theirs.

Limited pastoral visitation in homes is now possible. Pastoral visits will be carried out by the Minister and the Elders at their own discretion and subject to family and household arrangements as required. 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

BEREAVEMENTS

It was with a great sense of sadness and loss that we learned of the passing of Mrs Christina MacLennan, 5 North Bragar, on Friday 28th May 2021. We are thankful for her faith, her devotion to the Lord, and her fellowship in the Gospel. We remember Anne, and her family, in our prayers as they mourn the loss of a loving mother, grandmother, and mother-in-law. We remember Christina's sister, Johnina, as she mourns the loss of her sister. We also remember the wider family as they mourn the loss of an Auntie. Details of the funeral arrangements will be made available at the beginning of the week.

We continue to remember Donald and Rena Campbell (51A South Bragar), and the family, in our prayers as they mourn the loss of their daughter Kate on Saturday 22nd May 2021.

MISSIONARY VARIOUS

The latest issue of the **Christian Prison Trust's Daylight Newsletter** is now available. You can read the Newsletter on the Congregational Website [here](#). Missions for Tribes and Nations has issued an update on the **COVID Crisis in Nepal**. You can find details on the crisis and how you can help on the Congregational Website [here](#).

STORNOWAY CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

The Stornoway Christian Bookshop has issued the following notice to promote new books now available.

Some of you may be aware of this latest publication from Ettrick Press - 'Worship and Witness in Crisis: Has the Church failed the Covid Test.' Local ministers Rev. Paul Murray, Kinloch Free Church, and Rev. Iain Smith, retired Free Church Continuing, have both contributed to the book along with others. It is extremely interesting as there are many examples of times in the past where diseases, plagues and natural disasters affected the church and how the church responded.

This book ...'does not set out to criticise the church. Instead, it seeks to analyse the questions Covid has posed to the church, from a biblical and historical perspective, with the aim of equipping the church for the future'.

We are also promoting 'Do thyself no harm' - John MacDonald of Ferintosh, published by Reformation Press which contains some not previously published materials.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of either of these books, call at the Shop or phone us on 703334. You may also find it on the shop website at www.stornowaychristianbookshop.co.uk

PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME

The Bible passage and prayer points for Monday 31st May 2021 have been chosen by Rev. Andrew Coghill, Minister of the Scalpay congregation. The **Bible Passage** is **Romans 8:31-39** and the following are the prayer points.

Prayer Points:

1. Give thanks to the Lord for the opportunity to be able to sing again in Church. Pray that it will be a blessing to many and an encouragement to some, still absent, to now "come back".
2. Pray for those who may be discouraged that even now being at "Level 1" there still seem to be as many restrictions as ever. Help us to have a sense of perspective, and remember people in places like India, where there is so much death and suffering because of Covid.
3. Pray for the Presbytery's RSHP Committee as they seek to research and recommend wholesome and positive educational materials for schools to counter the more sinister and agenda-driven material recommended by Government. Pray for guidance, strength, and stamina in this long-haul work.
4. Pray for our vacant Congregations: for Carloway as they look forward to a settlement, for Back in their ongoing vacancy, and for the soon-to-be-vacant congregation in North Tolsta. Remember the people of each district and pray for their Interim Moderators and the particular responsibilities they bear.
5. Pray for those who are in hospital. We rightly pray regularly for our NHS staff, but pray too for the patients themselves, especially for any who may be lonely, and allowed hardly any visitors because of Covid restrictions. Pray for their days to be filled and their hearts to be comforted, whatever their physical ailments might be.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

30th May 2021

St Peter's Dundee

Minister: Rev. Andy Pearson

St Peter's is situated in the West End of Dundee and draws its congregation from the City and surrounding areas. The congregation is diverse with all age groups well represented. The emphasis in worship is to glorify God in praise, prayer, and in the reading and preaching of Holy Scripture. Services have continued during the COVID-19 pandemic with live-streaming and, when allowed, with limited numbers in attendance. There is normally a thriving Sunday School and an active ministry to students at Dundee and Abertay Universities. Midweek Pastoral/Homegroups and prayer meetings have continued via video-link technology during the pandemic. during the past year

Prayer Points:

1. Please pray for Andy Pearson who was inducted as our new minister on 26th March. Pray for the office bearers - elders and deacons - as they support Andy in establishing his ministry in Dundee. Pray also for Andy's wife, Catherine, and their three children as they settle in to their new surroundings.
2. As restrictions start to be lifted, please pray for a safe return to "normal" worship in the church building and successful re-connection with any who may have lost touch with the Church, especially children, students, and those who have become isolated through lack of access to internet technology and have been unable to participate in on-line services.

Kilmallie & Ardnamurchan

Minister: Rev. Euan Dodds

Last summer Euan Dodds was called to be the minister of Kilmallie and Ardnamurchan Free Church. The Kilmallie building is in a residential area, just outside of Fort William. The Acharacle building is within the West Highland Peninsulas (collectively referred to as Ardnamurchan, though that is the name of the most-Westerly one). There are a few thousand people spread over a few hundred square miles - a geographical challenge. The Acharacle building is fully an hour's drive from that in Kilmallie. Pray for creative and faithful ways for the congregation to build up believers and reach out to others in these different contexts.

Prayer Points:

1. Lockdown has been a trial for many in the church and community. At the same time, we have had many evidences of the Lord's faithfulness and kindness - not least time to enjoy the wonderful scenery! We have advanced in our use of technology (YouTube/Zoom/Twilio) and trust this will continue in the future as we think of those who live a considerable distance from the churches.
2. As we move toward blended/in-person services, please pray that we will be ready to welcome any who have come/come back to the Lord during this past year and that we might be wise in looking out for those who have struggled spiritually. While the online work with teenagers and students has been an encouragement to many, please pray that the in-person work with pre- and primary school aged children would be able to recommence soon.