

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.

31st December 2023



SUNDAY SERVICES

Both services today will be taken by Rev Roddy John Campbell. Our services are livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **12.00noon service** the Scripture reading will be taken from John Chapter 20 and the sermon will focus on verses 1-2 of the chapter.

At the **6.00pm service** the Scripture reading will be Hebrews Chapter 9 and the sermon will focus on verses 24-28 of the chapter.

The praise will be led by our precentor(s) and the Psalms for this Lord's Day are as follows:

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalms 146: 1-7	Psalter	Psalms 93	Psalter
2	Psalms 16:8-11	Psalter	Psalms 96:8-13	Psalter
3	Psalms 68:17-20	Psalter	Psalms 2:8-12	Psalter
4	Psalms 24: 7-10	Psalter		

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

NEW YEARS DAY SERVICE

There will be a service on **Monday 1st January 2024 at 12noon**. The service will be in the **Church Hall** and will be taken by Mr Donald M Mackinnon (North Tolsta).

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Donald Morrison, Elder (12pm) and Scott Macleod, Minister in Training, (6pm).

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The weekly prayer meeting and Bible study on **Wednesday 3rd January at 7pm** will take place in Bragar. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend.

GAELIC SERVICE

The 6pm Gaelic service in **Bragar on 7th January 2024** will be taken by Mr Murdo Martin (Stornoway).

LDOS/DAY ONE – ANNUAL PRAYER MEETING

This meeting will be at **9pm on Sunday 7th January 2024**, in the APC Church, Keith St, Stornoway. All are very welcome and encouraged to attend.

THE ISLANDS STUDY CONFERENCE

The Islands Study Conference relaunches on the weekend of **2nd - 4th February 2024**. The lectures will be held in the North Harris Free Church to which all are welcome to attend. No pre booking is required for lectures. There is a residential option available in the Harris Hotel for the duration of the Conference. The speakers are **Rev John Macleod (Allander Evangelical Church)** and **Rev David Court (Christ Church, Edinburgh)**. For further information or to book accommodation or meals please contact: ischotelbookings@yahoo.com

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER - Prayer Points 1st January - 7th January 2024

Monday 1st January - New Years Day

Pray for our denomination as we reflect on the past year, and the year ahead, that we would be thankful for all God has done and that He would be glorified above all.

Tuesday 2nd January - Badenoch

Give thanks for encouragements in the past year, including spiritual and numerical growth in the congregation; the first wedding in the congregation for decades (!), with another coming soon; opportunities to minister to campers at four different Free Church camps during the summer; opportunities to speak to pupils at our local High School both during visits to our church building and at assemblies in the school.

Wednesday 3rd January - Dumisani

Continue to pray for the leadership of Dumisani Theological Institute, Eastern Cape Province, SA as they discuss the need for more student housing. May the right way to handle this come in due time.

Thursday 4th January - Badenoch

Pray for those in the congregation who have faced a hard year and who need the Lord's comfort in a particular way at this time of year.

Friday 5th January - Callanish

Pray for Callanish, as they begin a new year, that the Seed of God's Word which is sown would bear fruit to the glory of God.

Saturday 6th January - New City Church, Dunfermline

Provision of a building is an issue in the congregation in the medium future, pray for God's leading in terms of location and provision in finance.

Sunday 7th January - Badenoch

Give thanks for serious and honest conversations among Christians and those who are not yet Christians at a Saturday discussion group. Pray that we may live out faithful Christian witness in our communities and that people will meet Jesus.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Length of days does not profit me

Except the days are passed in Thy presence, in Thy service to Thy glory.

Give me a grace that precedes, follows, guides, sustains

Sanctifies, aids every hour,

That I might not be one moment apart from Thee,

But may rely on thy Spirit

To supply every thought,

Speak every word,

Direct every step,

Prosper every work,

Build up every mote of faith,

And give me a desire

To show forth Thy praise,

Testify Thy love,

Advance Thy kingdom.

I launch my bark on the unknown waters of this year,

With Thee, O Father, as my harbour,

Thee O Son, at my helm,

Thee O Holy Spirit, filling my sails.

Guide me to heaven with my loins girt,

My lamp burning,

My ear open to thy calls,

My heart full of love, my soul free.

Give me Thy grace to sanctify me,

Thy comforts to cheer me,

Thy wisdom to teach,

Thy right hand to guide,

Thy counsel to instruct,

Thy law to judge,

Thy presence to stabilize.

May Thy fear I be my awe,

Thy triumphs my joy.

Taken from Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions, by Arthur Bennet.