




**THE VISION OF THE
FREE CHURCH OF
SCOTLAND IS**

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



CHURCH BULLETIN
SUNDAY 5th NOVEMBER 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](#). Our services are livestreamed and available on our [You Tube channel](#).

LORD'S DAY SERVICES

The services today will be taken by Rev Calum Macdonald (12.00 noon) and Rev Thomas Davies (6pm). We thank both preachers for their willingness to take the services.

At the **12.00 noon service**, the Scripture reading will be Luke 12:13 - 40 and the sermon entitled *Do Not Be Anxious* will focus on verse 32 of the chapter.

At the **6.00pm service**, the Scripture reading will be taken from Mark 2:13- Mark 3:12 and the sermon will focus on Mark 3:1-6

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	Psalm 80:1-4	Psalter	Psalm 145(ii):1-7	Psalter
2	Psalm 78:1-4	Psalter	Psalm 25(i):4-9	Psalter
3	Psalm 46: 1-7	Psalter	Psalm 116:1-9	Sing Psalms
4	Psalm 23	Psalter		

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children will go to their classes in the Church Hall as normal during the second item of praise.

GAELIC SERVICE

The Gaelic Service in Bragar **this evening at 6.00pm** will be taken by Mr Joe Macphee, Stornoway.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The Remembrance Service will take place at the West Side War Memorial on Sunday 12th November at 10.45am and will be taken by Rev Donald A MacDonald (Kinloch, Retired). The Kirk Session has also agreed that the morning English service will take place in the Bragar Meeting House immediately following the Remembrance Service at 11.30am. A collection will be taken at both services next Lord's Day to help with the upkeep of the War memorial.

There will be no Sunday School next Lord's Day.

The **6.00pm evening service**, in the Church, will also be taken by Rev Donald A MacDonald.

PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The Prayer and Bible Study Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.00pm in the Church Hall**. Everyone is encouraged to attend the midweek prayer meeting and bible study.

KIRK SESSION MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Kirk Session on Wednesday 8th November 2023 after the prayer meeting.

MINISTER'S RETIREMENT – THANKS FROM THE MANSE

Callum and Catherine wish to sincerely thank the congregation and the community for the kindness shown to them to mark Callum's retirement from the pastoral ministry. A special thanks for the Retirement Event held in The Old School Centre, Shawbost, on Friday 27th October 2023. The evening was marked by a real sense of fellowship and friendship. The different speakers added their own perspective of the ministry that was now coming to an end. The sumptuous spread provided by the catering team was superb. The MC, Rev. Calum Macdonald, added his own unique blend of humour and storytelling. All in all, it was an evening which was full of emotion and joy, and which will live long with us. Thank you!

BLYTHSWOOD CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023 - LEWIS AND HARRIS

Over 1200 shoeboxes left the Island plus a pallet full of knitting. Many thanks to all who contributed.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER (6th– 12th NOVEMBER 2023)

Monday 6th November

Greyfriars Inverness

Our congregation will become vacant on 5th November 2023, follow the retirement of Rev Malcolm Maclean. Please pray for our Interim Moderator Rev Rory Stott.

Tuesday 7th November

Kirkcaldy

Please remember our "Meal with a Message" event on Saturday the 18th of November. This is a 2 course meal with some live music and testimony from Fergus Munro between the courses. Pray that our church family would be emboldened to invite many to come and that the Lord would use this event to bring people to faith in Jesus.

Wednesday 8th November

Free Church Day of Prayer

Please pray for the Day of Prayer taking place on Wednesday 29th of November. Pray for God's help to be a church who call upon God, to make us a people who are faithful, consistent, and persistent in prayer.

Thursday 9th November

Sashko, Poland

After 13 years of fruitful ministry with the European Christian Mission, Ania and I have made the difficult decision to leave ECM and join Mission to the World (MTW), the mission agency of the Presbyterian Church in America. Over the past year, two other MTW missionary couples have formed a new team. As we all minister in the same city, it makes sense for us to unite under one mission agency. As we build relationships within MTW, we humbly ask for your continued prayers and support. Ania and I are so grateful for ECM's care and partnership over the years. This next chapter with MTW is filled with expectancy as we walk in faith together.

Friday 10th November

Greyfriars, Inverness

Please pray for the congregation, that there will be a sense of unity and togetherness during the vacancy.

Saturday 11th November

Vision Conference

Please pray for the Generation Vision Conference taking place today. Pray that many come along. Pray for Dan Strange as he speaks, that many will be encouraged and equipped in their own evangelism.

Sunday 12th November

Kirkcaldy

The Underwoods (Josh, Ashley, Elihuand Gabriel) are an MTW family who are currently fundraising in order to come to help the Kirkcaldy congregation for an initial period of 3 years. Please ask for the Lord's favour upon all their fundraising efforts.

“Faith is to the soul what life is to the body. Prayer is to faith what breath is to life. How a man can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a man can believe and not pray is past my comprehension too.”

— J.C. Ryle (1816-1900), *A Call to Prayer*

DEVOTIONAL READING – 2nd NOVEMBER

“Unaffected by Change”

For I the Lord do not change. Malachi 3:6

It is just as well for us that in all the variableness of life there is One whom change cannot affect, One whose heart can never alter, and on whose brow inconsistency can make no furrows.

All other things have changed—all things are changing. The sun grows dim with age; the world is growing old; the final chapter of the worn-out vesture has begun; the heavens and earth must soon pass away; they will perish—they shall grow old like a garment. But there is One who only has immortality, of whose years there is no end, and in whose person there is no change.

The delight that the sailor feels when, having been tossed about on the waves, he steps again upon the solid shore is the satisfaction of a Christian when, in all the changes of this distressing life, he rests the foot of his faith upon this truth—“I the LORD do not change.”

The stability that the anchor gives the ship when it has at last obtained a solid hold is like that which the Christian's hope provides him when it fixes itself upon this glorious truth. With God "there is no variation or shadow due to change."¹

Whatever His attributes were in the past, they are now; His power, His wisdom, His justice, His truth are unchanged. He has forever been the refuge of His people, their stronghold in the day of trouble, and He is still their sure Helper.

He is unchanged in His love. He has loved His people with "an everlasting love";² He loves them now as much as ever He did, and when the creation itself is set free from its bondage to decay, His love will still endure.

Precious is the assurance that He does not change! The wheel of providence revolves, but its axle is eternal love.

Death and change are busy ever,
Man decays, and ages move;
But His mercy waneth never;
God is wisdom, God is love.

¹ - James 1:17

² - Jeremiah 31:3

*Devotional material is taken from Morning and Evening, written by C. H. Spurgeon, revised and updated by Alistair Begg.
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