

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.

7th April 2024



WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE TODAY

Today's services will be taken by Mr Joe MacPhee, Stonroway (12 Noon) and Mr Calum Maclean, Back (6pm). Our services are livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **12:00 noon service** the Scripture readings will be from Matthew 27:45-56, Hebrews 9:1-15 and Hebrews 10:11-22.

At the **6.00pm service**, the Scripture reading will be from Luke 8:40-56.

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalm 25:4-11	Sing Psalms	Psalm 118:1-6	Scottish Psalter
2	Psalm 30:1-4	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 34:15-22	Sing Psalms
3	Psalm 24:7-10	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 102(i)17-21	Scottish Psalter
4	Psalm 85:8-13	Sing Psalms	Psalm 130	Sing Psalms

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There is no Sunday School today due to the school holidays.

GAELIC SERVICE

The Gaelic service in Bragar **tonight at 6pm** will be taken by Mr Joe MacPhee.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Mr Alex MacRitchie, Back, (12pm) and Mr Donald MacKinnon, North Tolsta (6pm).

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The weekly prayer meeting and Bible study on **Wednesday 10th April at 7pm** will take place **in the Church Hall**. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend.

LADIES GROUP

All ladies of the congregation are warmly invited to a ladies evening in the Shawbost Manse on Thursday **11th April @7.00pm**. A time to build friendships and share skills. Leaflets are available at the door.

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.

CONGRGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP (14TH APRIL 2024)

There will be a congregational fellowship in the hall immediately following the evening service on **14th April**. Tea and biscuits will be served. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

LCEA PUBLIC MEETING: 'CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EXPLAINED'

To commemorate 25 years since Providence Christian School opened its doors, the Lewis Christian Education Association (LCEA) are holding a public meeting in the Stornoway Town Hall on Friday 19th April at 7.30pm, at which Rev Kenneth Stewart will give a talk entitled 'Christian Education Explained.' A warm invitation is extended to all who have an interest in Christian education in any form. The LCEA will hold its AGM in a separate room in the Town Hall at 6.30pm, and this meeting is also open to all.

SOLAS - FRIDAY 19TH APRIL AND SATURDAY 20TH APRIL

Andy Bannister and Steve Osmond from SOLAS Centre for Public Christianity will be the speakers at these two events, both **on Friday 19th April in** Stornoway, God willing.

1. **Youth Cafe Night** for S1-S6 in Kopi Java, 7:30-9:00pm. Free entry and refreshments. Short talk on 'Can God and Science Coexist?' followed by opportunity for questions. Booking essential - <https://forms.office.com/r/WFH8qsix0N>

2. **Cafe Night** for over 18s in the Woodlands Centre, 7:30-9:00pm. Free entry and refreshments. Short talk on 'Did Jesus actually rise from the dead? A historical examination.' No booking required.

Flyers for both events are attached. Please share. For more information please contact Rev Colin Macleod - padre1872@gmail.com or Mairianne Campbell - stornowayfreechurch@outlook.com

On **Saturday 20th April** there are two events running that are open to everyone and you are very much encouraged to attend.

In Back Church Hall beginning at 2.30pm there will be two presentations:

1. Sharing your faith with those who are disinterested.
2. Living for God while in Babylon.

On Saturday evening in Sandwick Hall at 7.30pm there will be a further presentation:

1. Finding Hope in a world of chaos.

Both events are open to all. The evening event is particularly geared to inviting non-Christian friends. This is a great opportunity for outreach. For any further info please contact-

Rev Colin Macleod padre1872@gmail.com

Rev Hugh Ferrier h121ferrier@googlemail.com

PAIRC COMMUNION SCHEDULE - APRIL 2024

Friday 12th April - 7.30pm

Rev Iain Murdo Campbell (Kinloch C of S)

Saturday 13th April - 7pm

Rev Murdo Macleod (Nairn Free Church)

Lord's Day 14th April - 11.30am

Rev Murdo Macleod (Nairn Free Church)

- 6.00pm

Rev Murdo Macleod (Nairn Free Church)

There will be a testimony fellowship in the church hall following the Sunday evening service.

THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS: ST CYPRIAN OF CARTHAGE (ON HIS CONVERSION)

One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. (John 9:25)

Lying in a dark, dismal night, utterly indecisive, tossed on this proud world's waves, unsure of my direction, ignorant of my real life, far from truth's light, I thought it hard – particularly for myself as I then was – that someone should be "born again". God's mercy had proclaimed this saving truth to me. Yet how could someone, given new life in the cleansing of salvation's waters, put off his former life, changed in heart and soul though his body stayed the same? How, I asked, is such conversion possible? Can we suddenly and swiftly strip ourselves of all that's inborn within us, and has grown so hard through our sensual nature's corruption? How can we discard habits that have become chronic by long custom and practice? ...I myself was enslaved by my life's countless errors. I didn't believe I could possibly be liberated. So I was inclined to surrender to my clinging vices. Despairing of anything better, I gratified my sins as if they were actually parts of me, belonging to my very self.

But my former years' stain was cleansed away, by the gift of the washing of new birth. A light from heaven, peaceful and pure, was poured into my heart, now reconciled with God. By the Spirit's power breathed on me from heaven, I was born again, restored as a new man! In an amazing way, things I'd doubted began at once to become clear and certain; things I'd found dark were bathed with light; what had once seemed difficult began to seem practical; what I'd thought impossible now looked capable of being achieved. I was enabled to recognise that previously, born of the flesh, I'd been living as a sinner, entirely earthly-minded; but now I'd begun to belong to God, and was alive through the Spirit of holiness!