

## 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.

7<sup>th</sup> January 2024



### SUNDAY SERVICES

The noon service will be taken by Mr Donald Morrison, Elder. The evening service will be taken by Mr Scott Macleod. Our services are livestreamed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **12.00noon service** the Scripture reading will be taken from Psalm 46 and the sermon will consider the whole of the chapter,

At the **6.00pm service** the Scripture readings are Psalm 71:1-24 and Philippians 3:12-4:1, The sermon will focus on verses 1-11 of Psalm 71 and is entitled *The Faithful Focus*.

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 46:1-6	Psalter	Psalm 57:1-5	Psalter
2	Psalm 46:7-11	Psalter	Psalm 143(ii) 6-8	Psalter
3	Psalm 18:1-6	Sing Psalms	Psalm 61:1-4	Psalter
4	Psalm 71:1-5	Psalter	Psalm 86:6-10	Psalter

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School resumes today following the school holiday. The children will go to their classes in the hall during the second item of praise.

### GAELIC SERVICE

The 6pm Gaelic service in **Bragar tonight** will be taken by Mr Murdo Martin (Stornoway).

### SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Rev Kenneth I Macleod.

### LDOS/DAY ONE – ANNUAL PRAYER MEETING

This meeting will be **tonight** in the APC Church, Keith St, Stornoway. All are very welcome and encouraged to attend.

### WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

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

### KIRK SESSION MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Kirk Session in the Church Hall following the prayer meeting on Wednesday 10th January.

### 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](mailto:ischotelbookings@yahoo.com)

### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

The next scheduled online training sessions are **16th January and 22nd February**. Participants require to register online seven days in advance of the chosen date. Register at <https://freechurch.org/safeguarding->

### PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRAYER MEETING

All are warmly invited to a prayer meeting at Providence Christian School on Monday 15th January at 7.30pm. There will be a time of fellowship afterwards over a cup of tea. For those unable to join in person, a Teams option is available through [office@providencechristian.school](mailto:office@providencechristian.school).

### PRAYER POINTS 8TH JANUARY - 14TH JANUARY 2024

#### Monday 8th January

Grace Church Montrose

We are working through a series in Ezekiel over the first few months of this year. Pray for us that we would behold the holiness of God and our own holiness would grow.

#### Tuesday 9th January

Carlway

Please give thanks for the recent renovation work that has been done on our church building. We are so thankful to God for his provision. Please pray that we would use our building to its full potential for discipleship and evangelism.

#### Wednesday 10th January

Healthy Gospel Church

Pray that God will move us by his Holy Spirit, that we might be growing in our own relationship with God, and that as churches we would be helping others grow in spiritual health.

#### Thursday 11th January

OMF, Southeast Asia

Pray that Christian families living in Muslim communities will demonstrate loving relationships where men and women, elderly and children can all thrive.

#### Friday 12th January

Grace Church Montrose

Just 15 minutes' drive from here is Brechin which has a population of over 7,000 people. Yet there is no evangelical church. Join with us as we pray for a healthy gospel church to be established there.

#### Saturday 13th January

Carlway

Please give thanks for our partnership with Carlway Church of Scotland. We have a joint Sunday school and several joint events throughout the year. Please pray for Rev Duncan Macaskill and our brothers and sisters in Carlway CofS and pray too that our partnership would be a powerful witness to our community.

#### Sunday 14th January

OMF, Southeast Asia

Give thanks for the people God calls to go and work in the Muslim communities of Southeast Asia. We pray that they can build good relationships where they live and for good cross-cultural communication.

### JOHN CALVIN: COMMENTARY ON ROMANS (Extract - Romans 11:33)

*33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*

“Here first the Apostle bursts into an exclamation, which arose spontaneously from a devout consideration of God's dealings with the faithful; then in passing he checks the boldness of impiety, which is wont to clamor against the judgments of God. When therefore we hear, Oh! the depth, this expression of wonder ought greatly to avail to the beating down of the presumption of our flesh; for after having spoken from the word and by the Spirit of the Lord, being at length overcome by the sublimity of so great a mystery, he could not do otherwise than wonder and exclaim, that, the riches of God's wisdom are deeper than our reason can penetrate to. Whenever then we enter on a discourse respecting the eternal counsels of God, let a bride be always set on our thoughts and tongue, so that after having spoken soberly and within the limits of God's word, our reasoning may at last end in admiration. Nor ought we to be ashamed, that if we are not wiser than he, who, having been taken into the third heaven, saw mysteries to man ineffable, and who yet could find in this instance no other end designed but that he should thus humble himself.”