

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.

8th December 2024



WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES TODAY

Today's services will be taken by Rev Donald M Macleod. Our services are livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **12.00 noon service**, the Scripture reading will be from Matthew 11 and the sermon will focus on verses 28-30.

At the **6.00pm service in the Church Hall**, the Scripture reading will be from Romans 5 with a focus on verses 6-11.

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Ps 16:8-11	Sing Psalms	Ps 103:1-4	Scottish Psalter
2	Ps 23	Sing Psalms	Ps 103:5-10	Scottish Psalter
3	Ps 133	Sing Psalms	Ps 103:11-16	Scottish Psalter
4	-	-	-	-

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be at the usual time today and the children will go to their classes during the second item of praise.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The Services next Lord's Day will be taken by Rev Kenneth Ferguson.

PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The prayer meeting and bible study will take place on **Wednesday 11th December at 7pm in Bragar**. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend.

SATURDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING

All are welcome to an informal prayer meeting in the Manse at **7pm on Saturday evenings**.

KIRK SESSION

There will be a meeting of the Kirk Session on **Monday 9th December at 7pm in the Church Hall**.

DEACONS' COURT

There will be a meeting of the Deacons' Court immediately following the prayer meeting on **Wednesday 11th December**.

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

There will be a congregational fellowship on **Lord's Day evening 22 December**, immediately following the 6pm service. The speaker will be Rev Murdo Campbell.

LORD'S DAY EVENING SERVICES

Until further notice, all Lord's Day Evening services will take place in the Church Hall. These services will not be livestreamed.

NOON SERVICE – CHANGE OF TIME

The Kirk Session met recently and agreed as from **Sunday 5th January 2025**, Lord's Day morning services **will commence at 11.00am** (a change from 12noon). The time of the evening service will remain unchanged (6.00pm) and, as noted above, will be in Church Hall until further notice.

THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS: ST ATHANASIUS THE GREAT (296-373)

Creation's Orderliness Reveals the One God

The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all (Psalm 103:19)

The harmony we find in the organisation of the world, and the peaceful balance of all things, shows that the Word, The Master and Ruler of creation, isn't many but One. If there were more than one Ruler of the universe, this cosmic harmony wouldn't be kept; everything would fall into chaos because of the multitude of rulers, each bending the world to his own will, struggling with the others. We said that a belief in many gods was as bad as atheism; and by the same token it follows that the rule of many is the rule of none. Each would bring to nothing the rule of the other, and none would stand forth as true ruler; there would be universal chaos. Where there is no ruler, chaos naturally results.

On the contrary, the harmonious order and peace of many different things show that the Ruler is One. Suppose we heard a distant harp, made of many different strings. Suppose we were amazed at the harmony of its symphony, since its sound wasn't just made up of low, high, or middle tones alone, but all of these blending in equal measure. We would understand from this that the harp wasn't playing itself, nor even being plucked by many people, but that there was a single musician (even if we didn't see him), who by his skill was blending the sound of each string into melodious symphony. Likewise, the order of the whole world is flawlessly well balanced, and there is no struggle of higher elements against lower, nor lower against higher, but all things blend together into a single organised whole. It's in keeping with this to think that the leader and Sovereign of the universe is One, not many, and that by His own light He enlightens and enlivens all.

THE LARGER CATECHISM

Q. 19. What is God's providence toward the angels?

A. God by his providence permitted some of the angels, willfully and irrecoverably, to fall into sin and damnation, limiting and ordering that, and all their sins, to his own glory; and established the rest in holiness and happiness; employing them all, at his pleasure, in the administrations of his power, mercy, and justice.

[Jude 1:6](#); [2 Pet. 2:4](#); [Heb. 2:16](#); [John 8:44](#); [Job 1:12](#); [Matt. 8:31](#); [1 Tim. 5:21](#); [Mark 8:38](#); [Heb. 12:22](#); [Ps. 104:4](#); [2 Kings 19:35](#); [Heb. 1:14](#).

Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.
(John Bunyan)

Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; Where your treasure is, there is your heart; where your heart is, there is your happiness.
(Augustine)

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose
(Jim Elliot, martyred missionary to Ecuador)

EVERY GROAN OF YOUR WOUNDED HEART! (Thomas Guthrie, 1803-1873)

If Jesus was only a man then how could He guard the interests, and manage all the affairs of all His redeemed people scattered far and wide over the face of the habitable globe? What heart were large enough to embrace them all? What eyes could see them all? What ears could hear them all?

Think of the ten thousand prayers pronounced in a hundred different tongues that go up at once, and all together, to His ear! Yet there is no confusion; none are lost; none are missed in the crowd. Nor are they heard by Him as, standing on yonder lofty crag, we hear the din of the city that lies stretched out far beneath us, with all its separate sounds of cries, and rumbling wheels, and human voices, mixed up into one deep, confused, hollow roar like the boom of the sea's distant breakers.

No! Every believer may feel as if he were alone with Jesus-enjoying a private audience of the King in His presence-chamber! Be of good cheer. Every groan of your wounded heart, your every sigh, and cry, and prayer-falls as distinctly on Jesus' ear as if you stood beside His throne; or, nearer still, lay with John on His bosom, and felt the beating of His heart against your own. How full of encouragement and comfort is this to those, like us, who have sins to confess, sorrows to tell Him, and many a heavy care to cast upon His sympathy and kindness.

Believer, let Him sustain your cares. Your case cannot be too difficult, nor can your burden be too heavy for the One who guides the rolling planets on their course, and bears on His unwearied arm the weight of the universe.