

## Weekly Church Bulletin

We are a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland. We gather together each Lord's Day to praise and worship the only true and living God.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**



### LORD'S DAY SERVICES – CHURCH CLOSED

There is no change regarding Scottish Government's COVID-19 restrictions for Western Isles. This means we are still in Level 4 and there is a legal requirement for places of worship located within an area having Level 4 restrictions to close for communal worship and individual prayer. This, of course, means that we will not be able to meet for public worship in the Church until there is a relaxation in the COVID-19 restrictions.

#### The Lord's Supper

It is with a sense of sadness and regret we note that, in normal circumstances, we would have our Communion Services this weekend and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper would be observed on the Lord's Day. The elements of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper represent and exhibit Christ as the spiritual nourishment of our souls. The words of the Larger Catechism 169 give a concise and precise statement of what the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is – 'The Lord's supper is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine according to the appointment of Jesus Christ, his death is showed forth; and they that worthily communicate feed upon his body and blood, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace; have their union and communion with him confirmed; testify and renew their thankfulness, and engagement to God, and their mutual love and fellowship each with other, as members of the same mystical body.'

To reflect on what the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper means, as it was instituted by the Lord Jesus in His Word, highlights how great our loss is when we are unable to gather around Word and Sacrament and be encouraged in the Lord. Our prayer is that in such lockdown times, when we are unable to gather for public worship, and unable to sit at the Lord's Table for communion, that the Lord will bless us and strengthen our faith through the alternative means available to us at this time.

### LORD'S DAY SERVICES – 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

#### Sunday Services

This Lord's Day we will continue our study of *The Titles of Christ in the Epistle to the Hebrews* by looking at Hebrews 4:14-5:6 and *Jesus – Sympathetic High Priest*.

#### Availability of Services

The Sunday Service in Gaelic and English conducted by the Minister will be available on the [Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio](#) page as from 12.00noon on Sunday. Simply click or tap on Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio underlined above from your phone, tablet, laptop, etc., to take you directly to the site where you can access the services.

The **Sunday Service in Gaelic** can also be **accessed from landline / home telephone** by dialling the number **0131 510 2471**. Please note that there is **a delay of approximately 35 seconds** from the time at which the call is answered until the service commences.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will resume today, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021, at 11.00am using the Zoom audio-visual technology. The Sunday School will continue to meet in this way until the current COVID-19 restrictions on children attending School have been lifted.

### WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The Minister will be attending the Commission of Assembly this Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, and will not be available for the weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group. The Group will resume the study of the book *Gentle and Lowly – The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers* by Dane Ortlund on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March. The next chapter is Chapter 5 – He Can Deal Gently based on Hebrews 5:2.

### PASTORAL VISITATION

Pastoral visitation in homes is not permissible under the Level 4 COVID-19 restrictions in the Western Isles announced by the Scottish Government First Minister on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Please keep the Minister, and the Elders, informed of new situations where pastoral support is required. The Minister can be contacted on 710216 or via email at [cmacleod@freechurch.org](mailto:cmacleod@freechurch.org). We are prayerfully mindful at this time of those who are in

Care Homes and in Hospital along with their families during times of highly restricted visiting. Those who are going through a period of serious illness at this time are also close to our hearts in prayer.

## **PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME**

The Presbytery has introduced a rota system for Ministers to offer prayer points for the allocated prayer time from 8.00-9.00pm on Monday. The Bible passage **Isaiah 45:7** and the **following prayer points** for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 have been forwarded by Rev. Ewen Matheson, Minister of the Lochs congregation.

### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that God is sovereign.
2. Pray that the Lord would grant us the discernment to learn the spiritual lessons from our current providence.
3. Pray that the Lord would bless those who are unwell, receiving treatments, grieving, struggling with addictions and all who are finding the isolation particularly difficult.
4. Give thanks for, and pray for the safety of, health care workers, care givers, key workers, and emergency services personnel.

## **PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER**

**28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **Dingwall & Strathpeffer**

**Minister: Vacant**

**Interim Moderator: Rev. Calum Iain Macleod**

Dingwall & Strathpeffer Free Church covers one of the largest Geographic parishes in the denomination and extends from Dingwall on the Cromarty Firth through Strathpeffer, Contin, Garve, Lochluichart over to Achnasheen in the West. The congregation, under normal circumstances gathers in Dingwall with 6 home groups which gather throughout the congregation. We now gather on Zoom. Our congregation represents about 1% of the overall parish population. Dingwall is the political centre of the district with a population of under 6,000.

Prayer Points:

1. That everyone in our congregation puts God first in their hearts and mind and that the Holy Spirit will use us in effectively introducing the young and old in our communities to Jesus.
2. That we can equip every everyone in our congregation, young and old, with the knowledge, ability and confidence in God, to share what the Bible teaches of the hope we have in Jesus with family friends and neighbours in our community.

### **Charleston Community Church**

**Minister: Andy Robertson**

Charleston Community Church is a plant of St Peter's Free Church in Dundee. The church is situated in Charleston's old Post Office, making it a noticeable and valuable part of the community. Charleston is a scheme riddled with issues such as drug abuse, violence, and poverty, but the biggest issue is a lack of Gospel witness in the community. Summer 2021 will mark three years for the small but growing plant.

Prayer Points:

1. Please pray for the planting team, specifically Andy and Caireen, as they seek to share the gospel in Charleston and encounter the difficulties of ministry in a scheme context, especially during these days of lockdown.
2. Please pray for the church as it looks towards the future. Pray that God will save many through the work of Charleston Community Church, and that by this He will allow the church to continue as a gospel witness in Charleston.

### **Covenant Church, Newmilns**

**Minister: Rev. Benjamin Wilks**

Newmilns is in East Ayrshire, about half an hour South of Glasgow. Covenant Church was formed in 2013 and joined the Free Church in May 2015. Our minister, Benj, has been here since graduating from ETS in 2017. The congregation has a spread of ages, including a good number of both Primary and Secondary age children. We meet in the Morton Hall on the Main Street.

#### Prayer Points:

1. Making the most of opportunities. It's hard responding to ever changing restrictions, especially quickly enough to do something before it shifts. Pray for wisdom, for example, deciding whether to run another online Christianity Explored course, or wait to meet in person.
2. We have put in an offer to buy an old supermarket building. At time of writing our bid is under consideration. Please pray it would be looked upon favourably, and that wherever we meet our focus will be on proclaiming Christ to our needy community — not on the building.

#### Dr Carl Trueman to Deliver Annual ETS Church History Lecture

Dr Carl Trueman will deliver this year's Annual Church History Lecture organised by Edinburgh Theological Seminary (ETS) on **Thursday 4 March at 2:30pm**. The title of Dr Trueman's lecture will be "*The Other Genevan: Rousseau and the Rise of the Modern Mind*". This year's lecture will take a detour from its regular Scottish theme and make use of the opportunity that technology affords within current Covid19 restrictions, to focus on the link between past and modern thought.

Carl R. Trueman is a graduate of the Universities of Cambridge (MA, Classics) and Aberdeen (PhD, Church History). Originally a Reformation specialist, his most recent work has been in the areas of modernity, selfhood, and identity politics. He currently serves as professor of Biblical and Religious Studies at Grove City College, PA. He is the author or editor of over a dozen books, most recently *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self* (Crossway) and the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Calvin and Calvinism* (co-edited with Bruce Gordon).

He also writes for *First Things* and *Public Discourse*. He is married to Catriona and has two adult children.

**This lecture will be open to the public and streamed live on the [ETS Lectures Online channel](#) on YouTube. It will also be possible to ask questions via Pigeonhole – details will be announced nearer the time.**