

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 25th April 2021



LORD'S DAY SERVICES – CHURCH RE-OPENING

We are thankful to gather in the Church this Lord's Day, 25th April 2021, for the public worship of God. We meet at 12.00noon and the Service will be conducted in English by Rev Paul Murray. The Bible reading will be Revelation 14:1-13.

We welcome the announcement of the Scottish Government that the whole of Scotland will move into Protection Level 3 of COVID-19 restrictions. The cap of 50 people attending a Church service is to be removed and replaced by a capacity limit. The capacity limit will be determined for each individual building, based on the 2-metre physical distancing rules and other current restrictions and controls. This will enable larger buildings, with greater floor area and seating capacity, to accommodate more while still maintaining the 2-metre physical distancing. The numbers permitted to attend funerals and wedding services is also to be increased to a maximum of 50 from 26th April.

Church Attendance

The introduction of a capacity limit instead of the cap of 50 people attending Church services is unlikely to affect the maximum number we can accommodate in the Church until such time as the upstairs is opened for use. Seats will, therefore, continue to be allocated according to household groups on a first come first served basis until such time as we reach the limit of fifty. Mr Donald MacPhail, Deacon, is the Seating Coordinator for the Church services and enquiries regarding attendance should in the first place be directed to him.

Ongoing Registration

The arrangements for registering your intention to attend the services, and to complete the relevant documentation, have been set up on the Congregational Website [here](#). The following option for registering your intention to attend the services is available to those who do not have access to internet services - please contact Mr Donald MacPhail or the Minister as follows – Donald MacPhail on 710328 or dan.macphail@icloud.com or the Minister on 710216 or cmacleod@freechurch.org. If you are unable to return the Data Collection Form electronically, provision is made for you to deposit it at the Church door as you enter for the Service.

The deadline for submission of the names of those who wish to attend the service will be 12.00noon on Friday. Seats will be reserved on a weekly basis and you should, therefore, follow the same procedure for every Lord's Day service.

LIVE STREAMING OF SERVICES

The live stream of the 12.00noon service this Lord's Day, 25th April 2021, will be available on the Shawbost Free Church of Scotland YouTube channel by clicking [here](#). We will continue to use the Sermon Audio site for audio recordings and, once the live stream equipment setup is fully functional, we will use the Sermon Audio Webcast function to live stream the services to both platforms.

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

The [Weekly Bulletin](#) is available under the News item on the Main Menu bar of the website. Updates and news items of local interest, missionary news, etc., will be added to the News section from time to time as required. The [Minister's Blog](#) will be updated on a monthly basis. The Lord's Day services are available on the [Listen to the Latest Sermon](#) and the [Watch the Latest Sermon](#) buttons on the Home Page.

LORD'S DAY SERVICES – 25th APRIL 2021

Sunday Services

This Lord's Day we will be considering the words of Revelation 14:1-13 and *Dying in the Lord*

Availability of Services

An audio recording of the English service in the Church will be available on Sermon Audio at 2.00pm. The service in Gaelic has been pre-recorded and will be available on Sermon Audio at 12.00noon. Services are accessed on the [Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio](#) by simply clicking or tapping on Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio underlined above from your phone, tablet, laptop, etc., to take you directly to the site.

The pre-recorded Gaelic Service will also be available on the Twilio service, which we have been using since March 2020, and which can 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 meet at 11.00am and will continue in the meantime using the Zoom audio-visual technology. The arrangement for the Sunday School will now come under review in the light of changes to attendance at places of worship, capacity in the Church Hall, and all children being back at School.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Youth Fellowship will meet tonight (Sunday 25th April 2021) at 7.30pm using the Zoom audio-visual platform. The group will look at the story of Ruth in the Old Testament and 'Being Loyal'. We encourage our young people to note the meeting and to ensure that they have the details. Further information is available from Lynn Hebditch on Mobile 07557 123808.

MINISTER ON LEAVE

The Minister will be on leave for two weeks commencing Monday 19th April 2021. The service next Lord's Day (2nd May 2021) will be taken by Rev. Donald A. Macdonald, retired. We are thankful to Mr Murray and Mr Macdonald for their willingness to help.

We remember Catherine and the Minister at this time as well as others connected to the congregation and within our community who are similarly undergoing treatment or who are unwell.

WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study (PBS) Group will continue this Wednesday, 28th April 2021, at 7.00pm using Zoom audio-visual technology. The meeting will be led by one of the Office-bearers in the Minister's absence.

The PBS Group is an open group and please be encouraged to join with us for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. You can join the group on Zoom using a mobile phone, tablet or computer and the meeting details below. The Zoom Meeting ID is - 811 1884 3263. The ongoing Meeting Password is issued separately by contacting the Minister.

PASTORAL VISITATION

The announcement of the Scottish Government that the whole of Scotland will move into Protection Level 3 of COVID-19 restrictions on 26th April 2021, and the relaxing of some of the restrictions on socialising outdoors, states that the rules on indoor socialising will not change on that date. This means that pastoral visitation in homes is still not permissible. In the meantime, 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

THE RECORD

The latest edition of *The Record* is available in PDF format on the Congregational Website [here](#). Please note that the previous online versions of *The Record* from April 2020 onwards can now be downloaded from our website: <https://freechurch.org/resources/magazines>

PRESBYTERY PRAYER TIME

The Bible passage and prayer points for Monday 26th April 2021 have been chosen by **Rev. Mark Macleod**, minister of the South Harris congregation.

Bible Reading: Colossians 2: 6-7

Prayer Points:

1. Give thanks for the salvation that is ours in Christ and pray that in response to that we would be enabled to walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him.
2. Pray for a spirit of repentance and that we would daily remember the Lord's mercy to us.

3. Pray that as we open the doors of our Churches more and more that the Lord would open the windows of heaven and rain down His reviving power on us.
4. Pray for Gordon Macleod in his work as Presbytery Youth and Discipleship Support Worker as he continues his role during a difficult time of restrictions. Gordon has organized and leads a new monthly training programme designed to train and equip the Youth Leaders of our Presbytery to disciple our young people.
5. Pray for the young people in our Islands, that at a time where many struggle with various mental health problems and where anxiety is so common, that they would find rest and security in the Lord.
6. Pray for those of all ages who continue to find themselves isolated, that the Lord would be their helper, and pray that we as the Lord's people would be more mindful of one another, to look out for one another and share one another's burdens.

Please feel free to pass the above on to anyone you think will be interested in setting time aside for prayer on Monday 26th April at 8.00pm.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

25th April 2021

Shawbost

Minister: Rev Callum Macleod

Shawbost Free Church is located on the West Side of the Isle of Lewis. We are situated in the heart of a weaving and crofting community with a population of around 500. We are the only Church in the area covering the villages of Shawbost, Bragar and Arnol. Our Church activities include creche, Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, and Congregational Fellowship, as well as the regular Sunday services and Weekly Prayer and Bible Study meeting, all of which are currently suspended or restricted due to COVID-19. We are currently installing equipment in the Church for the live streaming of our services which we pray will be a blessing to our community and beyond.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray that God will be pleased to return to us to bless us and revive as we return once more to the public worship of God. Pray that God will connect with the homes and families of the community by His Word and Spirit at a time when so many are disconnected from the fellowship of the gospel.
2. Pray for the health and wellbeing of those who have been more extremely affected by the COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions of the past year. Pray for the Kirk Session and the congregation as they work through the development of a strategy for local mission and evangelism.

Brora (Clyne)

Minister: Vacant **Interim Moderator :** Rev Roddy MacRae

Brora, a congregation in East of Sutherland. The community has about 1400 people in the wider community. Brora Free Church are a congregation of over 40 people and many young people and older people.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the leadership of the congregation as they seek to find a minister.
2. Pray for the witness of the congregation to the wider community.

Oban

Minister: James Beaton (Vacant from 30th April 2021) **Interim Moderator:** Rev Iain MacAskill

Oban is one of the largest towns in Argyll with a population of c.9000. It is a busy hub port serving many of the islands off the west coast. It is very much a tourist destination & this past year has had a considerable impact on the local economy. The congregation look forward to welcoming visitors back but expect to continue with online

meetings as well. Folks within the congregation continue to be actively involved in community life & seek to be channels of God's grace & truth.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for Rev Iain MacAskill, the local leadership, & the whole congregation as they enter a time of vacancy. Pray for continued unity & that it wouldn't be too long before a new minister is settled.
2. Pray that the congregation would maintain its work & witness in the community, & that new people would be attracted to the fellowship both from the local community & others relocating to the area.