

Weekly 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.

Sunday 12th September 2021



SUNDAY SERVICES

We are thankful to gather in the Church this Lord's Day for the public worship of God. We meet at 12.00noon and at 6.00pm. Both the services will be conducted in English and taken by the Minister.

Services this Sunday

At the 12.00noon service we will continue in a short study of *Lessons from the Return from Exile* in the Old Testament. The focus of the service this Lord's Day will be on Nehemiah 1:1-11 under the title *The Need to Rebuild Kingdom Life*. The focus of the service at 6.00pm will be on Psalm 106:1-5 under the title *A Prayer for Covenant Blessing*.

Psalm Singing

We have been blessed with the use of technology to assist us with our Psalm singing in our Sunday services since public worship was resumed after the COVID-19 lockdown. The Kirk Session has agreed to resume the practice of having the praise led by a Precentor and to discontinue the use of pre-recorded Psalm singing. The practice of the praise being led by a Precentor will be re-introduced on Sunday 19th September 2021.

English Services

The English services in the Church at 12.00noon and 6.00pm will be live streamed and will be available on the Shawbost Free Church of Scotland **YouTube Channel** by clicking [here](#). An audio-only recording of the English services will be available on Sermon Audio at 2.00pm for the 12.00noon service and at 8.00pm for the 6.00pm service. The services can be accessed on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

Gaelic Service

The pre-recorded video of the 12.00noon service in Gaelic will be available on our YouTube Channel at 10.30am on Sunday. The audio-only recording of the Gaelic service will be available at 12.00noon on Sunday on the Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio Page. The audio-only recording of the Gaelic Service will also be available as usual on the **Twilio service**, which can be **accessed from landline / home telephone** by dialling the number **0131 510 2471**.

COVID Restrictions

There is now no legal requirement for physical distancing in church services. However, we will continue to observe the one-metre physical distancing in our services in the meantime to help allay people's anxieties in public gatherings in the light of the ongoing presence of the COVID-19. People attending church services are still required to wear face coverings except for children under the age of 12. In accordance with the revised guidance and recommendations issued on Friday 27th August 2021, we will continue the practice of taking a register of all those attending our services.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will meet in person in the Hall again this Lord's Day. According to the normal practice, the young people will be in the Church service from 12.00noon until leaving the service for the Sunday School at approximately 12.15pm. The teachers will ensure that all relevant COVID-19 guidance is observed.

We note the concerns over COVID-19 in the School this week and the need for some of our young people to isolate. We expect, therefore, to have a limited number in Sunday School today but arrangements are in place so that those who are isolating at home can join the Sunday School on Zoom. We assure parents and young people that we will be vigilant in the observance of all COVID-19 restrictions and public health guidelines. We pray for all our young people, and for all School staff, that they will all be kept at this time.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Kirk Session met on Wednesday 8th September to review the provisional appointment of Sunday 25th September 2021 for in-house Communion and the observance of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Having noted the current rise on COVID-19 cases, the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, and the relatively low attendance on the Lord's Day, it was agreed to postpone the Communion arrangements and to review the matter next month. We regret that we were not able to observe the Sacrament on Sunday 5th September as we would have

done according to our normal programme. We trust and pray that the way will be clear for us to sit at the Lord's Table as the people of God in the near future.

WEEKLY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study meeting will take place in the Church at 7.00pm this Wednesday, 15th September 2021. Those who wish to attend are reminded that Bibles and Psalms Books will not be available at the door during the current COVID-19 restrictions. A register of those attending the meeting will be taken at the door. The Minister is due to be in Edinburgh from Wednesday to Friday this week to attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees, and to attend to other duties, and will, therefore, not be present at the Prayer Meeting.

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

The [Weekly Bulletin](#) is available under the News item on the Main Menu bar of the Website. 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.

WOMEN FOR MISSION CONFERENCE

The Women for Mission (WfM) Conference will take place this coming Saturday, 18th September 2021. The topic of the Conference is *Salt & Light: Distinctive Christian Living in a Hostile World*. The guest speaker is Ann Allen. The Conference is live streamed and will be freely available to watch online via the YouTube link on our website - womenformission.org/salt-and-light-conference. There is no cost, but we would be delighted if those attending would consider making a donation to support this year's projects. Please pray for the Conference that it will be stimulating, challenging and an encouragement to all those who attend.

SATURDAY PART-TIME COURSES 2021-2022

The new session of the Saturday Part-time Courses at ETS begins on Saturday 18 September 2021. It is hoped that as many as possible will sign up for this new set of lectures, details of which can be found on the ETS Website - www.ets.ac.uk. The **Online Registration Form** is available on the ETS website – www.ets.ac.uk.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

12th September 2021

Helmsdale & Kinbrace

Minister: Rev. Roddy MacRae

Helmsdale is a small village in the east of Sutherland. There are about 750 people living in the village and the surrounding area.

Prayer Points:

1. Give thanks for the development and growth of ministries specific to men and women in the congregation. Pray that these ministries would continue to grow and bear fruit.
2. Pray for opportunities to reach out into the surrounding community and for wisdom in pursuing these opportunities given the current situation of emerging from lockdown.

Ayr & Kilwinning

Minister: Vacant

Interim Moderator: Rev. Kenny Boyd

Ayr and Kilwinning are two congregations in different parts of Ayrshire, some 18 miles apart. Though linked for about 10 years, they have to function a bit differently since they serve distinct communities. Both have their own morning service at 11 a.m. on Sundays, while currently the evening services and the midweek prayer meetings are shared on Zoom.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for the Interim Moderator and the elders as they seek to give direction to both parts of the congregation after 18 months of a vacancy which has been impacted by the various lockdowns.
2. Give thanks that Gillian Moyo, Community Worker at Kilwinning, has largely recovered from long-Covid. Pray for her as she pursues initiatives old and new in the months ahead, especially resuming Bible Alive in Pennyburn Primary School, and setting up a Mother and Toddler group for the Pennyburn community.