

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 21st November 2021



SUNDAY SERVICES

We gather for public worship this Lord's Day 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 proceed into our study of *The Son of Man Discourses in Matthew*. We will look at Matthew 9:1-9 and the subject of 'The Son of Man & The Power of Forgiveness'.

At the 6.00pm service we will continue our study of *The Warning Passages in Hebrews*. We will look at Hebrews 6:1-8 and the subject of 'Faith & The Danger of Spiritual Immaturity.'

Psalm Singing

The praise will be led by our precentor and the Psalms for this Lord's Day are as follows:

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalm 103:1-11	Sing Psalms (135)	Psalm 18:28-35	Psalter (221)
2	Psalm 32:1-4	Psalter (243)	Psalm 85:8-13	Psalter (340)
3	Psalm 86:10-13	Psalter (341)		

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

A pre-recorded video service conducted in Gaelic from the same passage as the 12.00noon English service 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 on the Twilio service, accessed by dialling 0131 510 2471.

Please note that the Minister will be on holiday on Sunday 28th November 2021 and there will be no Gaelic Service available for the above arrangements on that date.

COVID Restrictions

We 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. We will also continue the practice of taking a register of all those attending our services.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will meet this Lord's Day with young people joining the Service as usual at 12.00noon and moving to the Church Hall for the Sunday School at 12.15pm.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Harvest Thanksgiving

The Presbytery has appointed Harvest Thanksgiving for the midweek meetings around Thursday 25th November 2021. Following our practice in recent years, the Harvest Thanksgiving Service will take place this Wednesday, 24th November, at 7.00pm in the Church. We encourage a good attendance at the service as we reflect on the goodness of God even during a pandemic crisis.

National Day of Prayer

The Church's Mission Board has appointed the National Day of Prayer to take place on Wednesday 24th November 2021. The General Assembly instructed the Mission Board to arrange for a National Day of Prayer annually.

The Kirk Session has agreed that there will be an hour of prayer in the Church on Wednesday 24th November from 12.00noon until 1.00pm. We recommend that time be devoted to a period of private prayer during the day with time allocated at the beginning of the day for this purpose. More information on the Day of Prayer, including resources with helpful prayer points, is available on the Free Church website [here](#).

MINISTER'S DIARY

The Minister will be on holiday for a week commencing Thursday 25th November 2021. The services on Sunday 28th November will be taken by Mr Donald Macleod, Park (Gravir). The Minister will attend the Mission Board meeting in Edinburgh on Thursday 2nd December and will, therefore, not be available for the midweek Prayer Meeting on 1st December 2021.

CONGREGATIONAL WEBSITE

The [Weekly Bulletin](#) is available under the News item on the Main Menu bar of the Website. The Lord's Day services can also be accessed on the Website. A Donations & Givings option has been added to the Main Menu to give contributors and donors options and facilities for supporting the work of the Congregation.

CENTRAL OFFICE VACANCIES

Due to changes in the existing staff team in the Central Office, and with a desire to strengthen our communications function (in line with the Communication Strategy considered at the General Assembly), the Church is currently advertising for two members of staff.

The Church is seeking to strengthen its communications function. We are looking for a capable **Communications Manager** to join our team of committed staff in the Church Offices to help with internal and external communication throughout the denomination. More information on the post and the application process is found on the Free Church website [here](#).

The Church also has a vacancy for an Operations Manager. We are looking for a capable person to join our team of committed staff in the Church Offices to help with the smooth and efficient running of the organisation. Supporting the work of the Board of Trustees in managing property, compliance and risk management, the role holder will model and promote good practice throughout the denomination. The post holder will be highly organised and self-motivated and will have prior experience of managing staff and/or property. More information on this post and the application process is found on the Free Church website [here](#).

CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE WEEK OF PRAYER

The Christian Institute have a week of focussed prayer which runs from Sunday 21st November until Saturday 27th November. The prayer focus for Sunday 21st November is Praying for our Leaders based on 1 Timothy 2:2. The prayer points are: (1) pray for the Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Government ministers; (2) pray for First Ministers Nicola Sturgeon, Paul Givan, and Mark Drakeford; (3) pray for MSPs, MPs, Peers and all elected representatives, that they would be wise and promote what is good and restrain evil; (4) pray that believers working in public service will act as salt and light. Details of the prayer focus for the rest of the week are available on the Christian Institute website [here](#).

MISSIONARY SLOT – MYANMAR APPEAL

The [Buccleuch Free Church](#) congregation have been partnering with Christians in Myanmar (also known as Burma) since 2017. Links have been developed with two Chin churches, one Presbyterian and the other Protestant Reformed. On 1st February 2021, the newly elected democratic government were to convene their second term in office. However, the Burmese military staged a coup to oust the elected National League for Democracy (NLD) government and arrested the party's main leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi. Since then, the country has faced both political and humanitarian crises. Many people are now in desperate need of basic support including food and health care.

Burma had been experiencing 10 years of reforms that saw significant foreign investment in the country and positive changes to life and wellbeing. This had come after 50 years of oppressive military dictatorship following the 1962 coup. In February the military, known as the Tatmadaw, declared a state of emergency and took control citing that the November election had been fraudulent, despite there being no evidence to support this. Since then, they have killed over 1300 citizens, including 75 children, and over 8000 have been detained, many of whom have died in custody. The people have reacted by starting a civil disobedience movement which has effectively created a nationwide strike with most schools, universities, banks, health care and government offices being closed. An alternative government, the National Unity Government (NUG) and People's Defence Forces have emerged to oppose the military.

The conflict shows no sign of coming to a rapid conclusion. The situation has been exasperated by the widespread impact of Covid. Many of our Chin Christian friends in Myanmar are suffering due to the fighting and civil disobedience action. Buccleuch recently set up an appeal to support Christian brothers and sisters in Burma at this time of extreme suffering.

Further information on the Myanmar crisis is available on the Free Church website [here](#).

Donations can be made via the Buccleuch website at buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk/give and by selecting Burma Appeal from the drop-down menu.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Wick & Keiss

Minister: Vacant

Interim Moderator: Rev. Howard Stone

The congregation is based in Wick, on the east coast of Caithness, over 100 miles north of Inverness. The town does have deprived areas, with serious alcohol and drug addiction problems. The congregation is small and has been vacant for over a decade. However, a man has recently been identified to be minister there who, along with his wife, will work with the 20Schemes organisation to seek to revitalise the Church.

Prayer Points:

1. Pray that God would give the Spirit of wisdom and revelation that we may know him better and that the eyes of our understanding may be opened that we may know the hope to which he has called us and his incomparably great power for us who believe.
2. Pray for the ongoing training, equipping, and calling of all those involved in the plant, and that the Lord's people would all be increasingly effective in sharing the good news of Jesus.

Grace Church Leith

Minister: Rev. Athole Rennie

Grace Church Leith was planted ten years ago in the North of the City of Edinburgh.

Prayer Points:

1. Give thanks for the provision of a new church building in the heart of our community and for the opportunities this is already opening up.
2. Pray for our new weekly toddler group. Give thanks for opportunities to connect with new families.

Lochs

Minister: Rev. Calum Iain Macleod

Our congregation covers five villages in the district of North Lochs - Leurbost, Crossbost, Ranish, Grimshader, and to the end of Lochganvich. Our neighbouring congregations in the Lochs area are Kinloch and Pairc (Gravir). Our membership covers ages from the 20s through to the 80s, and we are blessed to have a core of young families, with children from pre-school age to secondary age, who have all grown up in the church from preschool through to secondary school. There are two Sunday school classes and a Bible class for the older group, including up to S5s. Covid has halted much of our participation in and hosting of various community events, so we look forward to being able to integrate and reach out as restrictions ease.

Prayer Points

1. Please pray for our leaders and people to have deepened, broadened and sustained vision, faith and wisdom and as we emerge into and adapt to the new normal.
2. Please pray for the young growing up in the congregation, that they come to know the Lord, and be set ablaze to serve him in their generation.