

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 20th March 2022



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. More details on the Congregation and our ministry are available on our website [here](#).

Services this Sunday

At the 12.00noon service we will return to our study of 'The Son of Man Passages in the Gospel of Matthew.' The sermon will be based on Matthew 24:36-44. The subject of the sermon will be 'The Son of Man & Preparing for the Breaking of the Day.'

At the 6.00pm service, we will return to our study on *The Life of Samson*. The Sermon will be based on Judges 15:1-20. The subject of the sermon will be 'The Crisis of Conflict & Compromise.'

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 102:13-22 (LM)	Psalter (368)	Psalm 42:1-5	Psalter (262)
2	Psalm 130:1-8	Sing Psalms (173)	Psalm 78:16-20	Psalter (325)
3	Psalm 118:19-23	Psalter (220)	Psalm 110:4-7	Sing Psalms (149)

Audio-visual Equipment

We are still running with our interim arrangements for live streaming as we await the repair of our ATEM live stream switch. The switch has a 3-year repair warranty, and it has been returned to the supplier. We await an update on the repair.

English Services

The English services in the Church at 12.00noon and 6.00pm will be live streamed on our **YouTube Channel** [here](#). An audio recording of both services will be available on Sermon Audio as soon as possible after the services end. The services can be accessed on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

Gaelic Service

A pre-recorded 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. The video recording of the Gaelic service will not be available until our equipment is repaired and back in place.

COVID RESTRICTIONS

We continue to observe the one-metre physical distancing in our services to help allay people's anxieties in public gatherings in the light of the ongoing presence of the COVID-19. We noted last week the revision of the Scottish Government guidelines due to come into effect on Monday 21st March 2022. The First Minister announced this week that there is to be a delay in lifting the regulations on face coverings due to the current spike in COVID case numbers. The indicative date has therefore been put back by 2 weeks, from Monday 21 March to Monday 4 April, with an announcement due to be made on Tuesday 29 March regarding changes to the regulations.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will meet this Lord's Day as usual. We continue to pray for our children and our families under the teaching of the Word of God and at home and in school life.

PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study meeting will be in Bragar on Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 7.00pm. We will resume the study of the letter of James by focussing on James 4:13-17 and 'The Test of Wealth.'

CONDOLENCES

We note with sadness the passing of **Donald A. Mitchell**, formerly of 50 North Shawbost, and more recently resident in Blàr Buidhe Care Home. We remember his sons, Neil and Donald, and their respective families as they mourn their father's loss. We also remember Donald's siblings, George, Angus, Kenneth, and Dina, as they mourn over their brother's passing. It is expected that the funeral service will take place on Thursday 24th March in the Church with the service commencing at 11.30am.

We also note with sadness the passing of **Christine MacNeil**, wife of John MacNeil, whose Shawbost address is at *Rubha Ghlas*, South Shawbost. Christine passed away in Glasgow earlier last week after a long illness. We remember John and the family as they mourn her passing. It is expected that the funeral service will take place in the Church at Shawbost on Tuesday 29th March 2022 with the service commencing at 11.30am and the interment to follow at Dalmore.

NEW MINISTER FOR TROTTERNISH

An unusually long vacancy of five and a half years came to a happy end on Saturday 12th March 2022 when Rev. Nigel Anderson was inducted to the congregation of Trotternish in the north of Skye. Trotternish is a picturesque parish forming the east wing of the Misty Isle. It is home to the famous Quiraing, an iconic rock formation which forms part of the Trotternish ridge. There are churches in Uig, Kilmuir and Staffin. The service was conducted by Rev. David Meredith, Mission Director who preached from Acts 8, specifically the passage of Philip's call to minister to the Ethiopian eunuch. We give thanks to God for this vacancy being filled and pray for Nigel and congregation as they commence this new chapter in the work of the gospel. A more detailed account of the induction is available on the Free Church website [here](#).

NEW CHURCH BUILDING FOR PORTREE

A turf-cutting ceremony has been held to mark the start of a long-awaited new church building for Portree & Bracadale Free Church. The church community met to celebrate the momentous occasion. It follows numerous delays and setbacks to the project including rising building costs due to the pandemic.

The new build, which will be on a housing estate, is intended to be a real hub for the community. The plans to build a church go back about 20 years but really took off when the church bought a 1.8-acre plot of land on a housing estate in 2012. Around £1.75 million has been raised including a substantial loan from the Board of Trustees several years ago, money from the sale of the manse in Bracadale Parish after the parishes merged in 2016, and through many generous donations. Unfortunately, the unprecedented rise in building costs throughout 2021 means the congregation still needs to raise £350,000, taking the final total to £2.1 million.

We pray the congregation as they embark on this massive building project. We continue to pray for their Minister, Rev. Donnie G. MacDonald, who is laid of work through ill-health and undergoing treatment. More details of this event are available on the Free Church website [here](#). If you wish to donate to their building project fund you can do so on the Portree & Bracadale Congregational Website [here](#).

BLYTHSWOOD CARE – UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL

We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine in the ongoing invasion of Russia and the war situation that has developed. The atrocities brought to our attention daily in the media is but a small percentage of the ongoing suffering and loss and the displacement of so many Ukrainians to other countries for refuge.

Further news, updates on the ongoing situation in Ukraine, and options for making donations are available on the following links - <https://blythswood.org/donate-to-ukraine-appeal/>; <https://www.sga.org.uk/ukraine-crisis/>; www.moldovagroup.org; <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/ukraine-crisis>

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY – BIBLES FOR UKRAINE

The Scottish Bible Society (SBS) have received an urgent request for Bibles from their partners in Ukraine. General Secretary of the Bible Society of Ukraine, Oleksandr Babychuk said: "I am writing to you today with a special request for solidarity to help our Bible Society meet the spiritual need in our nation by providing access to the Bible at this time of fear and uncertainty.

The SBS is working with their brothers and sisters in the Bible Society of Ukraine as they look to provide Bibles to a nation overwhelmed by fear. You can read more on this appeal and information on how you can help by clicking [here](#).

STORNOWAY STREET PASTORS

Stornoway Street Pastors will be taking on new Street Pastors this year. If you are interested in becoming a Street Pastor or would like more information then please email the Coordinator, Janis Brand, in order to obtain

an application form: stornoway@streetpastors.org.uk. All application forms must be submitted by 1 May 2022. Training will begin later in the year.

PFOA – PRAYER POINTS

The following are prayer points issued by the Mission Board under the Praying For One Another Scheme (PFOA) in the past week.

Abbeygreen

Our Youth Fellowship is having its annual March weekend conference away at the Atholl Centre in Pitlochry. The speaker will be the Rev Allan Shearer from Dunblane. Do pray the Lord's unction on Allan, as he handles the word of God, and his blessing on the leaders and members of the Youth Fellowship, as they sit under the exposition of scripture. May the weekend away enrich the fellowship of our young folk and advance the work of grace in their lives. We will soon be involved in the process of adding to the number of our elders. Prayers would be appreciated as we seek the Lord's leading to the gifted and exemplary men of his choice.

Free Church Youth Conference

The Youth Conference is taking place in Lendrick Muir this weekend. Please pray for the committee, the speakers and all those who are attending, that it would be a fun and encouraging weekend for all involved.

Healthy Gospel Church

Pray that God will move us by his Holy Spirit, that we might be growing in our own relationship with God, and that as churches we would be helping others grow in spiritual health.

Fort William & Kilmonivaig

Give thanks and pray for the continued refurbishment of the building in Fort William. The building will be much more user friendly at the end of the process.