

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 24th April 2022



SUNDAY SERVICES

We gather for public worship on the Lord's Day at 12.00noon and at 6.00pm. More details on the Congregation and our ministry are available on our website [here](#).

Services this Sunday

The services this Lord's Day will be taken by the Minister. At the 12.00noon service the sermon will be based on 1 Peter 1:3-5. The subject of the sermon will be '*The Resurrection & The Assurance of Faith*.'

At the 6.00pm service, we will commence a short study on '*The Paraclete Passages John*'. The Paraclete Passages are found in the message of John Chapters 14-16 where Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to his disciples. The first part of the study is based on John 14:15-17. The subject of the sermon will be '*The Holy Spirit as the Other Helper*.'

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 106:1-7	Psalter (378)	Psalm 21:1-6	Psalter (225)
2	Psalm 41:10-13	Psalter (262)	Psalm 20:1-6	Psalter (224)
3	Psalm 72:16-19	Psalter (314)	Psalm 28:6-9	Psalter (222)

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 repaired switch has now arrived and we hope to have it set up this coming week.

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 exercise care as we seek to provide a safe environment for all our Church services. We continue, therefore, to observe the one-metre physical distancing in our services.

Although regulatory requirements to wear face coverings in places of worship was removed from 4th April, the Scottish Government's guidance still strongly encourages the use of protective measures to reduce risk, including wearing of face coverings where appropriate to help keep each other safe. We therefore recommend that those who are attending our services wear a face covering while entering the Church building and then take advantage of the change in the legal requirement by removing your face covering once you are seated if you wish.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will resume this Lord's Day with the usual arrangements. We welcome the children back after their holidays and pray for them and for their parents as they continue under the ministry of the Gospel.

PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study Meeting will be in the Church on Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 7.00pm. The Minister will be attending the meeting of Presbytery in Pairc for the licensing of Mr Donald Macleod (see below) on the successful completion of the Presbytery's examination process. The meeting in Church on Wednesday will, therefore, be taken by the Elders.

SLAVIC GOSPEL ASSOCIATION

The [Slavic Gospel Association](#) (SGA) is resuming the annual visit of representatives to the Western Isles on the first week of May this year. We are delighted that Rev. John Birnie, Director of Field Ministries with SGA, will be with us for the 12.00noon service on Sunday 1st May 2022. Mr Birnie will preach at the service and will also give an update on the work of SGA with particular focus this year on events in Ukraine.

It has been our practice to have a collection for missionary organisations when representatives visit the congregation. There will therefore be a collection taken for SGA on Sunday 1st May at the 12.00noon service. To avoid any possible confusion, the door collection taken on entrance to the service and the door collection taken on leaving the service will be in aid of SGA funds.

WESTERN ISLES WfM – LADIES ANNUAL EVENT

The Western Isles branch of the Women for Mission (WfM) Group will hold its Annual Event on Friday 20th May 2022 in the Cabarfèidh Hotel, Stornoway. Booking Forms are now available for the Event. Any ladies interested in attending the Event should inform Catherine at the Manse on 710216. The closing date for the submission of booking forms is 30th April. There are only 150 seats available as the capacity has been reduced for safety and comfort. Donations of baking, jams, marmalades, crafts, rhubarb, and plants would be gratefully accepted to sell at the event. All money raised will go to this year's WfM Fundraising Project – Hope for the Hurting projects – which is raising funds for safe families Scotland, Lakhnadon Christian Hospital in India, and Community House Damaris in Greece. More information on the Project and on WfM is available on their website [here](#).

LICENSING OF MR DONALD M. MACLEOD FOR THE MINISTRY

The Presbytery is due to meet in the Rev. M. A. Macleod Memorial Hall on Tuesday 26th April at 10.30am. At this meeting Mr Donald M. Macleod, Pairc, will undergo as "trials for licence", a Presbytery examination which takes place before a person is licensed to preach the gospel.

On the successful completion of his examination, Mr Macleod will be licensed to preach the gospel at a public service to be held in Pairc Free Church on Wednesday 27th April at 7.30pm. The service will be conducted by Rev. Malcolm Macdonald, and everyone is warmly invited to attend.

The Presbytery is thankful to the Lord for all who are all involved in training our future ministers and encourages prayerful remembrance of Mr Macleod as he prepares for his trials for licensing and his future public ministry.

As a congregation, we are thankful to Donald for his willingness to help in the ministry of the gospel when the Minister is absent. We remember him in our prayers as he prepares for his trials for licence and trust that God will continue to strengthen at this time and in the days to come.

'IN A BIG COUNTRY' RURAL CONFERENCE

The Mission Board is organising a Rural Conference 'In a Big Country' to be held in Dingwall Free Church on Saturday 18th June 2022. This is the second of the 'In a Big Country' conferences and provides an opportunity for congregations to study God's Word, to hear what He is doing in and around rural Scotland and to encourage each other.

For updates about the event, keep an eye on the Free Church website: www.freechurch.org



NEW CENTRAL STAFF APPOINTMENTS

The Church is delighted to announce that we have successfully appointed an Executive Assistant and an Operations Manager to strengthen our central office team.

Fiona MacKenzie will be joining us part-time as Executive Assistant to the CEO. Fiona is currently working as the Finance and Administration Officer for a small charity. Before that she was the Administrator for Chalmers Church in Edinburgh, where she and her husband are still actively involved.

Robert Wilson will be working with us three days a week as Operations Manager. Robert worked for many years in senior management roles with a major UK bank. He was particularly involved in helping the bank with their operations and incident management. Robert took early retirement a few years ago and has been enjoying life in the Scottish Borders since then, working for an organic box delivery company. He is an Elder in a church in Peebles. More details on the [Free Church website](#).

