



CHURCH BULLETIN

SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER 2023

INTRODUCTION

We are a congregation of the [Free Church of Scotland](#). We gather for public worship on the Lord's Day at 12.00noon and at 6.00pm. We use the [ESV version of the Bible](#) in the public worship of God. We use both the [Scottish Psalter](#) and [Sing Psalms](#) versions of the Psalms for the praise items in our public worship. More details on the Congregation and our ministry are available on our website [here](#). Our services are livestreamed and available on our [You Tube channel](#).

LORD'S DAY SERVICES

The services today will be taken by the Minister.

At the **12.00noon service** we will complete our series on 'Parting Counsel from the Words of Paul.' We will study I Thessalonians 5:23-24. The sermon title is '**A Parting Prayer for God-given Perfection.**'

At the 6.00pm service we will study the words of what is called the Aaronic Blessing in Numbers 6:24-26. The sermon title is '**A Parting Prayer for a Future Blessed by God.**'

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

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalms 72:1-10	Sing Psalms, Pg 92	Psalms 112:1-9	Psalter, Pg 416
2	Psalms 50(i):3-6	Psalter, Pg 276	Psalms 80(a):1-9	Sing Psalms, Pg 106
3	Psalms 4:3-8	Sing Psalms, Pg 4	Psalms 67(i):1-7	Psalter, Pg 300
4	Psalms 45(i):14-17	Psalter, Pg 268		

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children will go to their classes in the Church Hall as normal during the second item of praise.

MINISTER'S LAST DAY

This Lord's Day is the last day the Minister will take the services. He will then be on three weeks of holidays before retiring from the pastoral ministry on 31st October 2023. As this chapter in the congregation's life draws to a close, it is natural for there to be an element of sadness and despondency. However, there is also cause for much thankfulness, not least for 23 years of diligent service and consistently edifying preaching and teaching of God's Word. There is also cause to give thanks for a ministry which served as a pillar and a constant within the wider Shawbost and Bragar communities over many years impacting the lives of many. As a congregation we extend our love and best wishes to Callum, Catherine and the wider family and pray for them as they approach a new chapter in their own lives.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

Pulpit supply has been arranged for both the services next Lord's Day.

PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The Prayer and Bible Study Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7.00pm in the Church Hall.**

MINISTER'S RETIREMENT COLLECTION

A collection will be taken at **both Lord's Day services on 15th and 22nd October 2023.** Donations can be placed in an envelope and marked "**Minister's Retirement**". For those unable to attend services and those within the wider community who may wish to contribute, donations can be placed in envelopes as above and passed to a friend or neighbour attending the above services, or they can be handed to office bearers no later than **24th October 2023.** Office bearer details for the various districts can be found on the congregation website on the [About Us](#) page. Please share this information with friends and neighbours as appropriate.

In connection with the above, there will be a Retirement Presentation at **The Old School Centre, Shawbost,** on **Friday 27th October 2023** to which everyone is invited and most welcome to attend. Further details to be advised in the coming weeks.

MODERATOR-DESIGNATE

The Minister was appointed Moderator-Designate of the 2024 General Assembly by the Commission of Assembly which met on Tuesday 3rd October. You can read more about this at <https://freechurch.org/2024-moderator-designate-announced/>. This is a fitting tribute for someone who has dutifully served the wider Church in various capacities over the last 23 years and a great privilege, not just for the Minister and Catherine, but also for the

congregation. We give thanks to God and seek His blessing upon the Minister as he prepares to commence his duties as Moderator.

THE RECORD | TRIBUTE - DONALD MACLEOD, SHAWBOST

The latest issue of The Record is available now. This month's issue includes a tribute for the late Mr Donald Macleod (Elder) written by the Minister. The tribute is also available on the congregational website [HERE](#).

MARSALI'S MUSINGS – SEPTEMBER 2023

The latest newsletter from Marsali Campbell, currently updating from Boliva, is available on the congregational website [HERE](#).

PRESBYTERY YOUTH CAMP - SAVE THE DATE!

A Presbytery Youth Camp is being planned for the S3-S6 age group at **Scaladale 24th – 27th November 2023**. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

BLYTHSWOOD CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2023 - LEWIS AND HARRIS

Bring joy at Christmas! Each shoebox is an expression of your care and kindness towards a stranger in need. Filled with small, practical items, the individually-wrapped boxes have been distributed in schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes, and to households in very low income communities. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Blythswood Shoebox **Leaflets** are available for collection from the Blythswood Shop, Ness and Balallan, Nicolson's Newsagents, some schools, and churches. They are also available [online](#).

The Appeal Centre will be at Woodys, Rigs Road in Stornoway, in one of the units at the back and will be open on the following days to receive shoeboxes:

- **Thursday 26th October** 4pm – 6.30 pm
 - **Friday 27th October**, 4pm - 6.30 pm
 - **Saturday 28th October**, 10 am – 12 noon
- The APPEAL will CLOSE on Saturday 28th OCTOBER at 12 noon.

Please adhere to the above times.

Further information can be sought from Blythswood Care on Facebook or from the Lewis and Harris Blythswood Support Group, contacts below:

Jackie Keddie - Tel: 07908207267
Nana Maclean - Tel: 07818861637
Catherine Maciver - Tel: 01851 703187
Anne Blyth - Tel: 07733441017
Mairianne Campbell - Tel: 07876202073
DJ Macleod - Tel: 07730377137
Charlie Nicolson - Tel: 07717816476
James Muir - Tel: 07527501005
Sam Murray - Tel:07484106715

Thank you.

PAIRC FREE CHURCH COMMUNION TIMETABLE

Friday 13 th October	7.30 pm	English	Rev Paul Murray - Kinloch
Saturday 14 th October	7.00 pm	English	Rev Iain Thomson - Garrabost
Sunday 15 th October	11.30 am	English	Rev Iain Thomson - Garrabost
	6.00 pm	English	Rev Iain Thomson - Garrabost
<i>There will be a testimony fellowship in the church hall following the evening service.</i>			

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER (9TH- 15TH OCTOBER 2023)

Monday 9th October Haddington

Give thanks for being granted Fully Sanctioned Charge status, and pray for the practicalities of working that out in the life of the church moving forward.

Tuesday 10th October

Board of Ministry

Please pray for the Board of Ministry as they meet today. Please pray for wisdom and guidance and give thanks for the work they do to serve the wider denomination.

Wednesday 11th October

Thurso and North Coast

Give thanks for rekindled and newly formed relationships with local primary schools, with lunchtime SU groups starting in Halkirk and Melvich. Also, for increased engagement with high school-aged young people on the Lord's Day and through a regular 'Connect' group

Thursday 12th October

Haddington

Pray for wisdom to connect more with our community at a congregational level and in individual relationships, and that this we give opportunities to share the gospel with those around us.

Friday 13th October

Morocco

Please pray for Morocco which was hit by an earthquake last month. Pray as disaster and relief efforts continue, that those who need medical aid will receive it, and that the Lord would be a comfort to those who need it.

Saturday 14th October

Thurso and North Coast

We're thankful for the opportunity to meet monthly in Bettyhill and are seeking to multiply our ministry on the north coast. Please pray for us as we establish a weekly midweek meeting in Bettyhill and seek the Lord's wisdom on the pace and nature of ministry development.

Sunday 15th October

Libya

Pray for Libya as it recovers from great flooding. Pray that rebuilding work would commence and that those in need of aid will receive it. Pray the Lord will bring comfort and healing, and that many would know and draw near to Him.

A SERMON BY CH SPURGEON – “THE MINISTER'S FAREWELL”

Delivered on Sabbath Morning, December 11th, 1859, by the REV. C. H. Spurgeon at the Music Hall, Royal Surrey Gardens, Upon the last occasion of his preaching in that place.

"Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." [Acts 20:26-27](#) .

“WHEN Paul was parting from his Ephesian friends, who had come to bid him farewell at Miletus, he did not request of them a commendation of his ability; he did not request of them a recommendation for his fervid eloquence, his profound learning, his comprehensive thought, or his penetrating judgment. He knew right well that he might have credit for all these, and yet be found a castaway at last. He required a witness which would be valid in the court of heaven, and of value in a dying hour. His one most solemn adjuration is: "I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." In the apostle this utterance was no egotism; it was a fact that he had, without courting the smiles or fearing the frowns of any, preached the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as it had been taught to him by the Holy Spirit, and as he had received it in his own heart. O that all ministers of Christ could honestly challenge the like witness!”