

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.

31st March 2024



WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE TODAY

Today's services will be taken by Rev Paul Murray, (Kinloch). Our services are livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **12:00 noon service** the Scripture reading will be from Mark 2 with a focus on verse 5. At the **6.00pm service**, the Scripture reading will be from Matthew 24:29-51 with a focus on verse 44.

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalm 95:1-6	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 97:1-7	Scottish Psalter
2	Psalm 32:1-6	Sing Psalms	Psalm 87	Sing Psalms
3	Psalm 51:1-6	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 96:9-13	Scottish Psalter
4	Psalm 51:7-10	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 119:57-60	Scottish Psalter

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There is no Sunday School today due to the school holidays.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Mr Joe MacPhee, Stornoway (12pm) and Mr Calum Maclean, Back (6pm).

GAELIC SERVICE

The Gaelic service in Bragar next Lord's Day (**7th April**) at **6pm** will be taken by Mr Joe MacPhee.

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

The weekly prayer meeting and Bible study on **Wednesday 3rd April at 7pm** will take place in **Bragar**. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend.

LADIES GROUP

All ladies of the congregation are warmly invited to a ladies evening in the Shawbost Manse on Thursday **11th April @7.00pm**. A time to build friendships and share skills. Leaflets are available at the door.

CONGRGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP (14TH APRIL 2024)

There will be a congregational fellowship in the hall immediately following the evening service on **14th April**. Tea and biscuits will be served. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

SOLAS - FRIDAY 19TH APRIL - CAFE NIGHTS WITH SOLAS SPEAKERS.

Andy Bannister and Steve Osmond from SOLAS Centre for Public Christianity will be the speakers at these two events, both on Friday 19th April in Stornoway, God willing.

1. **Youth Cafe Night** for S1-S6 in Kopi Java, 7:30-9:00pm. Free entry and refreshments. Short talk on 'Can God and Science Coexist?' followed by opportunity for questions. Booking essential - <https://forms.office.com/r/WFH8qsix0N>

2. **Cafe Night** for over 18s in the Woodlands Centre, 7:30-9:00pm. Free entry and refreshments. Short talk on 'Did Jesus actually rise from the dead? A historical examination.' No booking required.

Flyers for both events are attached. Please share.

For more information please contact Rev Colin Macleod - padre1872@gmail.com or Mairianne Campbell - stornowayfreechurch@outlook.com

Schedule of Communion Services: 5th - 7th April 2024

Garrabost Free Church			
Friday 5 th April	School Road: 7.30 pm	English	Rev Hugh Ferrier
Saturday 6 th April	Main Road: 7.00 pm	English	Rev Hugh Ferrier
Lords Day 7 th April	Main Road: 11.00 am	English	Rev Hugh Ferrier
	School Road: 6.00 pm	English	Rev Hugh Ferrier
There will be a short prayer meeting after the evening service, followed by a fellowship in the Main Rd hall.			

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER - Prayer Points 25th March - 31st March 2024

Monday 1st April - Easter Monday - Please give thanks for all the events and church services inviting many to consider why Christians celebrate Easter. Please pray that God will reveal himself to those who attended, and pray for churches for wisdom and guidance as they follow up with those they have connected with.

Tuesday 2nd April - Cumbernauld - Give thanks for the recent induction of Rev Thomas Penman to the congregation. Please pray that he and his family will settle in well to life and ministry in Cumbernauld.

Wednesday 3rd April - Dumisani - Please pray that the Dumisani 45th Anniversary Year Project for Male Accommodations will see sufficient funds raised to move forward by year end, DV. This is a high priority as it will advance leadership for the future.

Thursday 4th April - In A Big Country - Pray for the In A Big Country Rural Conference taking place on the 20th of April. Please pray that many will come and be encouraged and equipped for ministry in a rural context. Give thanks for the main speakers Rev Ivor MacDonald and Rev Peter Turnbull, and all those giving seminars.

Friday 5th April - Lennoxton - Pray for the congregation, that they would be equipped by the word for works of service in their community. Give thanks for the gospel witness of the church in Lennoxton.

Saturday 6th of April - Dumisani - Pray for Dr Patrick Diniso who is serving at two colleges presently. He is helping out at Dumisani In King Williams Town in Honours and is also acting principal at Gatyana Bible College, (Transkei). Pray that the Lord will bless his labours at each.

Sunday 7th April - Cumbernauld - Please pray that the congregation would be built up through the weekly preaching of the word. Please pray that the Lord would be at work by His spirit, revealing Himself through His word.

THE DELAY OF UNANSWERED PRAYERS

I called him, but he gave no answer. (Song of Songs 5:6)

Prayer sometimes lingers, like a petitioner at the gate, until the King comes with the blessings that she seeks. The Lord, when He has given great faith, has been known to test it by long delays. He has allowed His servants' voices to echo in their ears as if the heavens were brass. They have knocked at the golden gate, but it has remained immovable, as though it were rusted upon its hinges. Like Jeremiah, they have cried, "You have wrapped yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can pass through." (Lamentations 3:44)

In this manner true saints have continued to wait patiently without a reply, not because their prayers were not strong, nor because they were unaccepted, but because it so pleased Him who is a Sovereign and who gives according to His own pleasure. If it pleases Him to test our patience, shall He not do as He wishes with His children? Beggars must not be choosers either as to time, place, or form.

But we must be careful not to take delays in prayer for denials. God's postdated checks will be punctually honored; we must not allow Satan to shake our confidence in the God of truth by pointing to our unanswered prayers. Unanswered petitions are not unheard. God keeps a file for our prayers—they are not blown away by the wind; they are treasured in the King's archives. This is a registry in the court of heaven in which every prayer is recorded.

Struggling believer, your Lord has as it were a tear-bottle in which the costly drops of your sacred grief are put away, and a book in which your holy groanings are numbered. By-and-by your case shall prevail. Can you not be content to wait a little? Will the Lord's time not be better than yours? By-and-by He will comfortably appear, to your soul's joy, and will cause you to put away the sackcloth and ashes of long waiting and put on the scarlet and fine linen of full fruition.

Daily Devotional from Truth For Life