

1. **Evening Service** The service this evening will be in English at 6.00pm, in the church. The sermon will be from John 5:1-9, the fourth study in the series on "The Signs in John's Gospel", entitled "*Christ the Restorer*".

2. **Prayer Meetings:**

Wednesday, 7.30pm - meeting for prayer and Bible teaching **at Bayble**. This meeting is for prayer and Bible teaching and apart from a Gaelic singing, and sometimes a Gaelic prayer, the meeting is in English.

Saturday, 7.30pm - Please note that there will be no English Prayer meeting in the hall during the communion season in the island and will resume after our own communion in April.

3. **Services next Lord's Day:**

10.30am - English service in the hall - Sunday School will also meet at this time.

12 noon - Gaelic Service in the hall

6.00pm - English Service in the church

4. **Creche** The creche next week will be supervised by **Kristine Finlayson, Sarah Finlayson and Hayley Macaskill**. We have had to increase the number of supervisors from 2 to 3 seeing there has been a substantial increase in the number of children in the creche over the past three weeks. This is a happy problem to have when it is caused by growth rather than decline! There will likely be some Sundays when three supervisors are not required but it's better to list three for each week. A revised list will be made up and will be available on the shelf in the hall and at the main door. Also the creche from today will be in the side room of the church on the Aird side (the one with the comfy couches!) as the vestry is too small. One of the Sunday School classes will use the vestry instead.

Prayer: please give thanks for the continuing growth we are seeing as new families and individuals join the congregation. Pray that we may continue to know the blessing of unity as well as growth and that others may also come to join our fellowship in the gospel. Continue to pray for the Sunday School and the important work done there, that the children and teachers will know more of God's blessing in the days ahead

5. **Sunday School Collection** Over the past few weeks the Sunday School children have put their collection towards helping the Haiti Appeal, so they were doing without their sweets and chocolates! Hard for the teachers! They have collected a total of £71 which is a wonderful sum. So well done to them all!

6. **Parent and Toddler** The next meeting will be next Thursday from 1.30-3.00pm in the side room of the church. It is good to see substantial numbers gathering together for the P & T sessions.

Prayer: please pray for all the mothers and children who come to the P & T meetings and for their families. Give thanks too for those of the congregation who take an active and leading role in running the P & T, especially Donella, Sandra, and Donna.

7. **Next WFM Meeting** The next meeting of the WFM itself will be next Tuesday 23rd February when the speaker will be Donna Parkes, Garrabost, who will speak about child adoption. Last week's intimations wrongly stated 23rd March for this meeting. There will also, however, be a WFM meeting on 23rd March when Peggy Macleman and others will speak about their visit to India recently. Curry night perhaps??

Prayer: please continue to remember the work of the women in WFM both in our own congregation and throughout the church. Their aim is not only to raise funds for mission projects but also to help us all keep a focus on the importance of mission. Pray for Donna Parkes who will speak this week.

8. **Bereavements** This last week again saw two bereavements connected with the congregation. Greta Murray's mother passed away on Wednesday, the same day that Greta herself underwent

surgery. We condole with Greta and Norman, and their family Gordon, David and Marina, and are thankful that Greta is recovering well from her operation. There will be a wake in Carloway Free Church tonight (Sunday) at 9.00pm and the funeral service will be from the Free Church at Tolsta Chaolais on Monday at 11.00am. We also extend our sympathy to our elder Ian Macleod who received news on Wednesday that his brother Duncan, the youngest of the family, had passed away. Duncan lived in Fife. Again we remember Ian and his brother Donnie Murdo and sister Sandra along with Duncan's wife and their son and daughter at this sad time.

Prayer: please pray for these families and for others who still grieve over the deaths of loved ones in recent weeks.

- 9. Visitation** A few years ago we had an organised visitation scheme in which a number of the women in the congregation carried out visits to the housebound in teams of three. While it is the case that women in the congregation do visit homes on their own initiative, which is of course welcome, there seems to be a need for a more organised scheme again, particularly as a number of those who are housebound are women who live on their own and would welcome a visit on an afternoon just to have someone to talk to over a cup of tea. One of those visited by the minister this past week had not seen anyone from the congregation for many weeks. One of the benefits of the scheme is that it ensures that none of those living on their own is left unvisited, as might easily be the case, however unintentionally, if there is no such scheme in place. This is not meant to be a substitute for the minister's visits or those of the elders but supplementary to these and it is one of those areas of ministry in which women can and should be actively involved.

If you can spare an afternoon, even once a month, and would like to help with this please put your name on the sheet available in the hall today. There is no need to be a communicant member and all volunteers will be welcome.

- 10. Brochure and Magazines** Copies of the following are available today:

Mission - this is a brochure produced jointly by the Home Missions Board and the International Missions Board of the Free Church. It explains how under the new financial scheme these two Boards are required to raise some of the finance for their various mission projects. Inside the brochure is a leaflet giving information about the new financial arrangements. This does not mean any change in the way you contribute your financial support. It is hoped that the new scheme will make it clearer to all who contribute financially how your money is used. Please take a copy of the brochure and leaflet with you.

Barnabas Aid - articles on the churches in Nigeria facing the advances of Islam. Nigeria has one of the largest Christian communities in the world but persecution of the church by Islam is acute.