

# Stirling Free Church 21/02/21

## ZOOM ALERT.

With effect from the Sunday morning service on 28 February the Zoom access details will change. If you have not already got these details from our weekly notices email please contact us at [stirlingfreechurch@gmail.com](mailto:atstirlingfreechurch@gmail.com) Please continue to use the existing details for all meetings until Saturday 27 February.

When joining us by Zoom instead of going directly to the service you will be held in a 'waiting room' until you are let in. This is sadly a necessary precaution following a recent incident when we were infiltrated by a number of people who subjected us to abusive comments.

All activities are conducted online via Zoom. Zoom access details are available below

Sunday 21 Feb - 11:00 am Rev Iain MacAskill continues the series on Elijah.

21 Feb - 7:00 pm Kenneth and Angela MacKenzie will speak on "The impact of Bible Translation in the Amazon Jungle."

## Midweek Activities

### Prayer for the City

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 2:00pm

**House groups** are suspended for the duration of the current period of lockdown.

### Lockdown Prayer Time

We will meet for prayer each evening from 7:30- 8:00pm during the period of lockdown. Please feel free to pass our Zoom details to anyone you feel might wish to join us.

### Coffee and Chat each Wednesday at 11:00AM

Join us for an informal time of fellowship.

### Amazon Smile

Amazon has a scheme where, if you register a charity, it will contribute 0.5% of the value of your purchases excluding VAT to a charity of your choice. As a registered charity SFC is entitled to benefit from this

scheme. In order to participate all you have to do is login in to **smile.amazon.co.uk** and register Stirling Free Church as your preferred charity and all subsequent purchases will generate a contribution to the church at no extra cost to you.

## OPEN DOORS

### WORLD WATCH LIST:

Open Doors have asked for prayer for the persecuted church each week, based on their world watch list, taking one country each week.

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/>

Pakistan is in fifth place on the list. There are around 4 Million believers in Pakistan who face extreme persecution in every area of their lives. Believers, who have converted from Islam, face the greatest levels of persecution, but all Christians are considered second-class citizens in this strongly Islamic country. Christians, particularly Christian men, are given jobs perceived as low, dirty and dishonourable, and can be victims of bonded labour. There are some Christians among the middle classes, but they are still considered inferior to their Muslim counterparts and often face severe workplace discrimination. Christian girls are at risk of abduction and rape, and are often forced to marry their attackers and coerced into converting to Islam. Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws are used to target Christians, and Islamic extremist groups vehemently 'defend' these laws, including attacking or killing those believed to have contravened them. Often these are used to target Christians after a dispute relating to work or tenancy, rather than genuine cases.

Christian churches do exist, but those that are active in outreach face severe persecution from society.