



Presbytery of Argyll

Parish Profile for the triple linkage of:



Jura



Kildalton and Oa



Kilarrow

This is an unrestricted call

Charge of Jura (linked with) Kilarrow (linked with) Kildalton & Oa is an unrestricted call.

It consists of three separate congregations.

Jura Church is in Craighouse village on the Isle of Jura

Kilarrow is the medieval name for the parish served by Bowmore Church, Islay and is more often known as "The Round Church"

Kildalton & the Oa is the medieval name for the parish served today by St John's Church, Port Ellen, Islay

Contents

1. Ministry on Islay and Jura
2. Parish of Jura
3. Parish of Kilarrow
4. Parish of Kildalton and Oa
5. Additional Information
6. Contact Details

1. Ministry on Islay and Jura

Jura Parish Church is the only church on the island, and it serves 200 inhabitants. The villages of Bowmore and Port Ellen are the two population centres on Islay, although both parishes also serve some small communities and farms – a population total of around 2000. Presbytery provides financial support to cover pulpit supply for 52 weeks of the year.

There are three other Church of Scotland parishes on Islay, a three-way linkage in the north and west of the island. A part-time Youth Officer has been appointed, covering Islay and Jura as well as part of the Argyll mainland.

There is a Baptist Church in both Port Ellen and Bowmore, with a morning service in one and an evening service in the other. There is also a small Episcopal Church, at the moment without clergy. There is a Eucharistic Minister serving the small Roman Catholic congregation in Islay, which uses the Episcopal Church for a monthly service, and a small Quaker group on Islay.

Gaelic services, Thinking Day, Christingle and World Day of Prayer services are held in different churches across Islay.

Bowmore and Port Ellen churches linked in 2008, and Jura joined the linkage in 2012. We wish to develop and strengthen the linkage and create opportunities to work together – and worship together - as much as possible. The Presbytery Plan foresees this linkage and the other linkage on Islay remaining as at present.

Our congregations are not large, but our churches serve their whole communities. Members of our community volunteer free support in the maintenance and small works involved in keeping our churches in good order. With the help of the Holy Spirit we aim to nurture and take forward the close relationship that our churches have with our communities. We hope and pray that the new minister will help and lead us to do this.

The Manse



The Manse

The Islay Manse is a 1960s 4 bedroom detached house located in Bowmore and is a comfortable, well appointed family home. It enjoys a modern kitchen and utility room with a full range of white goods. Central heating is oil fired and both lounge and study have coal/wood fires. There are extensive landscaped gardens to front and rear of the property and it enjoys stunning views over Loch Indaal.



The view across Loch Indaal to the Paps of Jura from the Manse

Isle of Jura



The village of Craighouse

Jura has one hotel, one bistro, one shop and one distillery in the only village on the island. Jura is described as being one of Scotland's last wildernesses with its 200 or so inhabitants being outnumbered by over 3,500 red deer.

There is one primary school on the island and Jura has its own local doctor. The Jura Progressive Care Centre provides accommodation for members of the community who require residential nursing care allowing them to remain as close to their homes and families as possible.

The main types of employment in the parish are farm crofting, hospitality, deer farming and whisky distilling, and the island is divided into 7 estates.

The Paps of Jura stand behind the village of Craighouse and are one of the main reasons for visitors to the island. The Jura Fell Race takes place each May and sees competitors from all over the world descending on the island to participate. Fans of Traditional music flock to Jura in September for the Jura Music Festival which has been nominated 3 times as event of the year at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards.

Jura can be reached from Port Askaig on Islay by a small passenger ferry, with the crossing only lasting around 10 minutes.

Isle of Islay



Bluebells in Bridgend woods – 3 miles from Bowmore

Islay is known as the Ban-rìgh Innse Gall which means Queen of the Hebrides in Gaelic.

This stunning island has around 3200 inhabitants and is probably most famous for its 8 whisky distilleries.

There are four Primary Schools on Islay with Bowmore Primary home to the Gaelic Medium Unit. Bowmore is home to Islay High School which serves secondary pupils from both islands.

Argyll College which is part of the University of the Highlands and Islands and Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile (The Columba Centre), a centre promoting the Gaelic language and culture, are also in Bowmore.

The main employers on Islay are the local authority and health board followed by the tourism and hospitality industry, distilleries, local traders, fishing and farming.

During the month of May the Festival of Malt and Music, formerly and still referred to by locals as Feis Ile week, takes place. As the name suggests, this week long festival celebrates Islay's most famous export with open days taking place at each of the distilleries and musical events every night. Music plays a big part of the culture on Islay and other festivals including Cantilena (chamber music) and Islay Jazz Festival take place during the year.

Islay is home to the famous Machrie Golf Course but if fishing is more your style there are excellent angling activities (both sea and loch) to be enjoyed.

Transport links

Both Islay and Jura are served by good links to the mainland. Presently we have up to four sailings to the mainland (Kennacraig in West Loch Tarbert) most days departing from the ports of Port Ellen and Port Askaig. There are also two sailings a week to Oban in the summer and one in the winter. Citylink bus services operate connecting links from Kennacraig to Glasgow and Kennacraig to Campbeltown for most sailings. The short ferry crossing from Islay to Jura (approx 10 minutes duration) operates regularly Monday to Saturday with a reduced service on Sundays.

There is also a twice daily air service (duration 30 minutes) from Islay to Glasgow. Islay airport is halfway between Port Ellen and Bowmore. A twice weekly service from Islay to Oban is operated by Hebridean Air Services. There is a regular bus service throughout Islay during daytime hours and there are several local taxi firms and car hire firms available



Islay Airport

For more information about Islay and Jura please visit:

www.islayinfo.com/

<http://isleofjura.scot/>

2. The Parish of JURA

Our Vision for the Church

We live on one of the most beautiful and tranquil islands off the west coast of Scotland and believe that we are looking for a minister who, along with a small team of office-bearers and an ageing congregation, can take the Gospel message to the two hundred people on the island who have no other means of hearing it.

“The church has been commissioned to take the Gospel message into the world.”

(Matthew 28 verse 18)

The Church on Jura has been witnessing for hundreds of years and it now finds itself at a crucial stage in its life

A small Sunday School has been formed this year.

We are looking for a minister with vision, courage and commitment to take up the challenge and to lead us in our work and witness within our community.

Charge of Jura

Jura Parish Church stands on the inland side of the main road of the island's only village, Craighouse. It is an attractive church whose interior has a warm and welcoming feel.



Worship

Worship is held at 11.30 am each Sunday morning. We have a regular attendance of between 12 and 25 most Sunday mornings with our numbers increasing during the summer months.

Accommodation on Jura

The respite flat in the care home can be made available for use by the minister as required and is within walking distance from the Church.

3. The Parish of Kilarrow

Worship



The parish of Kilarrow covers an area of approximately 102 square miles and is in the centre of the island. The Church is situated at the top of the main street and is also known as the Round Church due to its design.

In the Round Church we follow the unitary constitution and have 14 elders. Currently we enjoy a service of worship at 10am each Sunday. Following this service the Minister then travels the 10 miles to Port Ellen for the 11.30am service.

We are a committed and enthusiastic group of worshippers and our services are accompanied every week by an organist on a modern digital organ. In addition, there is a sound system and laptop presentation can be projected onto the back wall above the pulpit.



Congregational life

At present there is a Sunday School with 3 teachers and 10 children. In addition to this there is an after-school club on a Thursday held in Bowmore Primary and is currently run by the Baptist Minister.

We have a fundraising team who organise regular coffee mornings which run from April to December and every March a Daffodil Tea is held. These events are held in the Bowmore Village Hall.

Our Community

The population of the local community is approximately 1100.

There is a Co-operative food shop and a small Spar, a Tourist Information Centre, the MacTaggart Leisure Centre which has a swimming pool, gym and sauna, a Post Office, charity shop, gift shops, a pharmacy, a few eating establishments, a filling station, medical surgery and an Accident and Emergency Department within the local Hospital.

There are a number of self-catering holiday homes, B&Bs and hotels in Bowmore, a harbour and a whisky distillery. Tourism is very important and we welcome all visitors and their presence to the Round Church.

4. The Parish of Kildalton & Oa

Worship



There is a service of worship in St. John's Church, Port Ellen on Sunday mornings at 11.30am.

We follow the model constitution of Kirk Session and Congregational Board. Our Kirk Session consists of 15 elders with 4 additional Congregational Board members.



We are a committed and enthusiastic group of worshippers whose excellent singing is accompanied by a modern Allen digital organ. Several members of the congregation participate on our rota of readers. On occasions the elders have conducted services of worship.

Congregational life

Like the Round Church we have a small Sunday School of around 10 children run by 3 teachers and the children's artwork is displayed around the church. Scripture Union, supported by local Churches, ran a very well attended week-long Summer Mission culminating in a joint family service in St. John's and we are pleased that this will be taking place again this year. The fellowship group meet on Sunday evenings and a group of Parents with young children meet every few weeks in the church.

Our church is adorned by glorious floral arrangements generously donated each week by members of the church and local community. These are then delivered as part of our outreach to people in the community who have experienced bereavement, illness or who would appreciate a friendly chat.

We have a very strong fundraising team who are well supported by the local community. We run a weekly lunch club in our church hall during the summer months which is well supported by locals and visitors alike. Our team are also busy at other times of the year catering at many varied events at local venues e.g. Islay Show, Feis Ile, Islay Book Festival and private functions.

Our Hall

Our Church Hall (St. Columba Hall), has been seen by all as a central part of the community and as such is used daily by many groups including youth groups, Scottish country dancing, line dancing, Tai-chi, fitness club, various committee meetings. There are local arts & crafts markets weekly throughout the summer and family ceilidhs throughout the year.

We are very fortunate and excited to be embarking on a massive project in partnership with South Islay Development, Ardbeg Distillery and North Highland Initiative to create a Community Hub for use by the whole community. This will involve demolishing the old building and creating a purpose built Hall.

Our Community

The population of the local community is approx. 1100. In our village we have an award winning Primary School with an all-weather games pitch, three food stores, a post office, a local charity shop and medical surgery. The community-led South Islay Development recently took ownership of Port Ellen Filling Station.

There is a community run Playing Fields complex with bowling green, football pitch, putting, pitch & putt and tennis court. There are two beautiful sandy beaches in the village, one of which hosts an annual invitational 7-aside rugby tournament and there are many more beaches along the coasts of our parish enjoyed by locals and tourists alike.

There are many self-catering holiday homes and B&Bs in Kildalton & Oa along with two hotels, an Inn and a Bistro in Port Ellen.

There is also an impressive Marina which caters for local craft and visiting yachts. We have three distilleries in the area. Tourism makes a very important contribution to the life of Kildalton & Oa. We welcome all visitors and their presence in St. John's greatly enriches our worship.

Many local events are closely connected to our Church e.g. Community Christmas Carol Singing in our church hall; Flower Festival; Festival of the

Sea with a 'Service of the Sea' in St. John's; Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial; Primary School Carols by Candlelight or Nativity and end of term services in Church.



St. John's Church Port Ellen



Kildalton Cross with the Northern Lights

5. Additional Information

Triple linkage

Pulpit supply is available for every Sunday - financial assistance is available from Presbytery so the minister has cover for the service he/she can't attend – 52 weeks of the year.

Members on Communion Roll

As of December 2015 the numbers (with adherents in addition to this) are as follows:

Jura – 24

Killarow – 46

Kildalton and Oa – 86

6. Contact Details

For any further information please do not hesitate to contact us using the details below:

Interim Moderator Committee

Rev Valerie Watson
The Manse
Port Charlotte
Islay
Argyll and Bute
PA29 6SX
Tel : 01496 850 241
Email vgcwatson@btinternet.com

Clerk to the Nominating

Andrew Jackson
The Bowmore House
Shore Street
Bowmore
Islay
Argyll and Bute
PA43 7LB
Email: andrew@thebowmorehouse.co.uk

Applications

We ask that ministers who feel called to apply for this vacancy send their CV with a covering letter and the names and addresses of 2 referees to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee.