

# Isle of Mull Parish Churches

Unrestricted Call

**One Charge**

**Four Congregations**

meeting in

Dervaig, Tobermory, Salen and Craignure.



## **The Church of Scotland on Mull**

The Isle of Mull is divided into two separate linked charges. The Isle of Mull Parishes, which cover the northern and central part of Mull, and Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon linked with Iona, covering the Ross of Mull to the south, and the island of Iona. By far, the greater part of the population of the island live within the bounds of the Isle of Mull Parishes. The main centres of habitation on Mull are to be found around the coast of the island, while the 'inland' area of Mull is largely uninhabited. The total population of the island is 3100 (and increasing), and the population of the Isle of Mull parishes is 2300.

## **The Isle of Mull Parishes**

The Isle of Mull Parishes consist of four linked parishes : Kilninian & Kilmore, Salen & Ulva, Tobermory, and Torosay & Kinlochspelve.

## **Conduct of Public Worship:**

Under current arrangements, the Parish Minister conducts two services each Sunday. On one Sunday he/she conducts a service in Tobermory at 11 am and in Dervaig at 2 pm, and on the other Sunday a service in Salen at 10.15 am and Craignure at 12 noon. Pulpit Supply and Worship Leaders allow the other two services to be conducted each Sunday. Worship is adaptable and community orientated.

## **Mission Statement**

The aim and purpose of the Isle of Mull Parishes is:

- to offer ministry of the word and sacrament;
- to provide weekly worship in all its churches;
- to be an authentic part of the community life on Mull;
- to exhibit care in the community and support for community projects;
- to be available to all parishioners, whether church members or not;
- to present an ever open door to all.

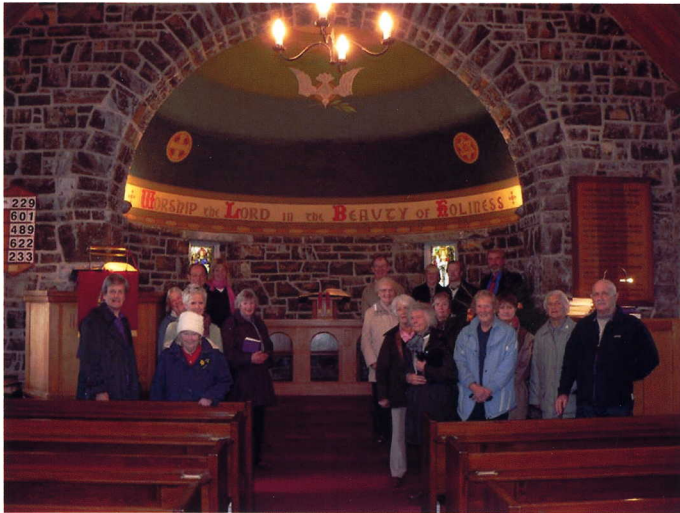
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## Dervaig

*Kilninian and Kilmore*



Kilmore Church, in the village of Dervaig, serves the widespread community of the north-west corner of Mull. The largest concentration of residents is in and around this lively village. There is a thriving shop/post-office, a small hotel, a primary school, a well-attended mums and toddlers group, and many other community activities taking place on a regular basis either in the church hall or the village hall. The Church Hall is in use every weekday and on a number of evenings.

Employment is based mainly on fishing, agriculture, the building trade and tourism, with the internet playing a large part in facilitating small businesses. The regular church congregation is frequently increased by visitors at all times of year, many of whom are regular visitors and worshippers who have become well-known friends.

The church, built at the beginning of the 20th century on the site of a previous church, underwent a complete restoration of its fabric in 2003/4. A new 3-manual Phoenix organ was installed in 2005 and recitals, particularly on Good Friday, have drawn in friends and strangers alike.

Members of the congregation are involved in many of the village community's activities. There is a weekly afternoon bible study group. This brings together local ladies from various church fellowships.

There is a 2pm Sunday service every week and the church is open all day, every day. Many people visit it to admire the rare stained glass windows and decorative Arts and Crafts style, but also they find a special place to step aside and take time for peaceful reflection and/or prayer.

Members 26 Adherents 10

## Tobermory



Tobermory church sits at the top of the town overlooking the bay - probably one of the best views from a church door anywhere in Scotland. The church was built in 1897 on the site of a former Telford church and is presently undergoing extensive renovations.

The Kirk Session are supported by an army of volunteers who attend to everything from the collection to coffee, from flower arranging to floor sweeping, and this adds to the general feeling of fellowship throughout the year. The attendance in summer is increased by visitors, including yachtsmen using Tobermory's excellent harbour facilities.

Morning Worship is held each Sunday, with the Sunday School joining the first part of the service before going to their own newly decorated room for other activities. During the vacancy, members of the congregation have occasionally taken part in delivering a prepared service. Music and singing are vital parts of any service, and Tobermory has a remarkably fine 4-manual digital Phoenix draw-stop organ, which provides majestic music to enhance Sunday services, and for recital purposes. The church is popular concert and wedding venue and seats over 250.

Church activities include fundraising for the church and for other good causes, and outreach to the school and to the Glen Iosal sheltered housing complex. The school hold their Christmas and Easter services in the church, led by the Session Clerk. A quarterly newsletter keeps people informed, and is personally delivered to members unable to come to church on Sunday. The Hall is used by groups including the Brownies and Rainbows and the Gaelic toddler group, and is available for hire.

Members 68 Adherents 34



## Salen

*Salen and Ulva*



Salen and Ulva Church is a forward looking congregation at the heart of the communities of Salen and of Ulva Ferry. Involvement with all aspects of community life is one of the high priorities through regular use of the premises by a variety of community groups, and strengthening links with the local schools. A quarterly newsletter is delivered to every home in the parish.

The premises have been developed with both community and church use in mind. The church is a multi-purpose space, with a modern sound system, for both secular and worship activities enhanced by a new extension (2009) which provides meeting rooms and disabled access to all areas.

Worship, supported by local worship leaders, takes place each Sunday morning. In addition there is a monthly Sunday evening informal service of praise and prayer suitable for all ages. A growing Sunday school meets each week and a weekly after-school Club for all primary age children, held at the local school.

A thriving youth club for P6-S2 with 24 members meets weekly. A new Scripture Union summer holiday club for P1-7 was organised in conjunction with the churches in Tobermory. Regular pre-church breakfasts on Sunday mornings followed by an all-age service are open to everyone in the parish. A mother and toddler group commences in November 2011.

Good links to the Isle of Ulva and the Ulva Ferry community and school have been nurtured through Easter and Harvest services on Ulva.

Members 39 Adherents 17

## Craignure

*Torosay and Kinlochspelve*



Torosay & Kinlochspelve Church, a well maintained building which was originally built in 1783, stands in Craignure, about 300 yards from the ferry terminal, overlooking the Sound of Mull. The Church door is always unlocked and visitors are welcome to meditate in the Church.

The Parish of Torosay and Kinlochspelve lies between Craig in Glen More, through to Fishnish, near Salen. Also branching off are the roads leading to Lochbuie, Croggan, Grasspoint, Gorten, and Duart. The population is roughly 350. Craignure is central for buses departing and arriving from Tobermory and Fionnphort, for the ferry to Oban. There is a general shop, with petrol pumps, tourist office, Caledonian MacBrayne ticket office, a hotel with a swimming pool & spa, a golf course, a modern community hall, a tearoom, and ideal meeting place.

We have services every Sunday, conducted by lay preachers, retired ministers, visiting ministers, and worship leaders. We are a loyal and active congregation in the community. At present there are 4 children who attend the Sunday School. Also the young adults are encouraged to help out at the Advent activities.

With the other three Parishes we are involved with the Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal, World Day of Prayer, Christian Aid, and also Advent events which invite the community to take part. There is also a connection with Malawi.

The church has a good relationship with the local primary school, Lochdonhead Primary, with visits to the school, and there are services in the Church for Christmas, Easter and end of school year, with the children taking part in these services. Also the children sing at the Senior Citizen's Lunch, which is organised by the Church.

Members 24



# **The Isle of Mull, rural but not remote**

The Isle of Mull, situated on the west coast of Scotland in the county of Argyll, is reached by a ferry journey of 45 minutes from the mainland port of Oban. In the summer the car ferry runs frequently between Oban and Craignure. The winter service is less frequent, but still generous. There is an alternative route to the island via a smaller car ferry from Lochaline to Fishnish (some four miles north of Craignure). Mull is far from inaccessible!

People who have recently come to Mull to work have chosen to do so because they see it as family orientated with a great sense of community. It provides childhood experiences for families long gone in many parts of the mainland. The five primary schools in the parish, and Tobermory High School, have small classes and excellent results. There are so many things to do away from work - leisure and sporting activities, scenery and wildlife, and a sense of freedom, yet part of a welcoming and active community. Reliable broadband connection keeps everyone in touch and excellent medical and dental services give peace of mind.



## **The Manse**

The Manse is located in the village of Salen, right in the middle of the island. Built in 2006-7 it consists of three public rooms, a study, four bedrooms, and three bathrooms - as an estate agent might say, "viewing recommended."

## **Finances**

The financial position of the congregations remains secure, with positive bank balances and productive investment portfolios.



The parish is scattered and distances may look daunting on a map, but one Mull resident who drives all over the island regularly as part of her work, up to 150 miles in a day, says she never tires of it, and gets just as excited when she sees an otter or an eagle now, as she did the first time. She enjoys a friendly wave from everyone she passes and knows that, should she break down in a remote spot, the next car to come along will stop and help.



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