



St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church

(SC005332)

Stornoway

Isle of Lewis



Profile

WHO WE ARE

The congregation of St. Peter's is a scattered community, with members coming from all over the island. We have a communicant congregation of around 35-40 each Sunday and the membership figures (for the past year) were:-

Communicants	60
Adherents	139
Baptisms	2
Weddings	3
Funerals	5
House / Sick Communions	4

The people of St. Peter's form a lively and diverse group from all walks of life, including some from other denominations. Many are not indigenous to the Western Isles, although some are life-long members. There has been a growth in numbers in the past few years. St. Peter's is an open and welcoming spiritual community reaching out into the community near and far, through the prayer, work and loving service of our members.

WORSHIP AND CHURCH LIFE

We hold three worship services each Sunday: an 8:30 am communion service (suspended during the interregnum) using the 1970 liturgy; an 11:00 am Sung Eucharist using the 1982 liturgy; and a 7:00 pm Evening Prayer using the 1929 Scottish Prayer Book. Previously there was a midweek 10 am Communion service, but this was discontinued last year; however, the major Festivals and red letter days are observed on weekdays. St. Peter's has a fine and well maintained organ which is used regularly in worship. There is a regular organist for the 11 am Sunday Eucharist, occasionally supplemented by others in her absence.

The Eucharist is celebrated from Easter to September at St. Moluag's Church at Eoropaidh



in the north of the island with music usually being provided by means of a battery-powered keyboard.

Members of the congregation actively participate in the life of the church and we have rotas for altar servers, readers, intercessors, flower arranging, after-church refreshments and cleaning. We occasionally have Sunday Fellowship Lunches, which provide an opportunity for members to spend social time together. We have on-going fundraising with the sale of calendars and greetings cards.

St Peter's is fortunate in being able to call on the services of two retired priests who can offer cover for days off and holidays.

Recently, a variety of services has been held, including a Jazz Vespers, a Healing Services, an All Souls Service, a Lenten Quiet Day, a Blessing of Animals on the Feast Day of St. Francis, and a Blue Christmas Service for those who find the season difficult.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

A significant nucleus of the congregation is able to engage in theological reflection. A weekly lay-led Bible study group, open to all - including those not members of St. Peter's - is set to resume in the autumn. Advent and Lent book study groups feature at appropriate times. It is proposed that further studies and workshops will be held to assist with congregational education and faith development. A local Christian meditation group meets monthly and provides another element of faith development to the congregation and wider community.

The Isle of Lewis is also blessed to have a small Benedictine community located at Carmel in Gress. This house of prayer offers daily worship through Divine Office, meditation workshops, and various other seminars.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

The people of St. Peter's seek to express mission through the 'Five Marks of Mission':

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

As part of the world-wide Anglican Communion, we reach out into our community in a way that is relevant and engaging yet honours the rich heritage and tradition from where we come. We strive to make our church an open and loving place where all are welcome.



St. Peter's is open every single day of the week. This fact alone represents an important element of how we offer ministry to the community. St. Peter's provides a place of peace, respite, prayer and contemplation used by members of the local community, visitors and tourists. Our visitors' book reflects their experience of the tranquillity and sacredness found within the church. One distinguished visitor was the former Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend George Carey.

Our 'Prayer Shawl Ministry' meets weekly. Knitters from all over the community join together in making shawls for local charities such as MacMillan Cancer and the local hospice. St. Peter's is very proud of this ministry as it provides an opportunity for those from different denominations or none to meet together in a joint venture, and we see this as a way of spreading the Good News of God's Kingdom.

St. Peter's is on a rota with other local churches to do a Sunday afternoon Ecumenical service at a local housing trust which attracts about twenty people

DIOCESAN MISSION STRATEGY

The Diocesan mission strategy, *Building the Vision*, is successfully underway in the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles. Instigated by our Bishop, The Right Reverend Kevin Pearson, this is now in its fourth year of five. This has seen the congregation of St. Peter's joining with those of Christ Church, Harris, and the former St Moluag's participating in workshops in order to formulate a clear vision of our strengths, gifts, and hopes for the future.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE IN THE ISLANDS

The Isle of Lewis is predominantly Protestant and the main denominations can be located within the conservative Reformed Presbyterian tradition. A large proportion of indigenous islanders are members/adherents of the Free Church of Scotland or the Church of Scotland. Smaller offshoots of the former (the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, the Associated Presbyterian Church, the Free Church Continuing and the Reformed Presbyterian Church) make up the Reformed Presbyterian majority. In all of these churches, other than the three Churches of Scotland in Stornoway, services are conducted without the use of instrumental music, or any song other than the metrical Psalms.

The theological conservatism in the island's Churches of Scotland can be illustrated by the fact that a female minister has never been called to the Church of Scotland in Lewis, although the Church of Scotland has been ordaining female clergy since 1964. This is further reflected in the small number of female elders and deacons serving in Lewis churches. The remaining denominations outlined above do not accept a biblical basis for female clergy, nor have they ever appointed deacons or elders in Lewis or elsewhere.

There is a small Episcopal congregation of Christ Church in Harris with a non-stipendiary priest, and St Peter's has a close link with this congregation.

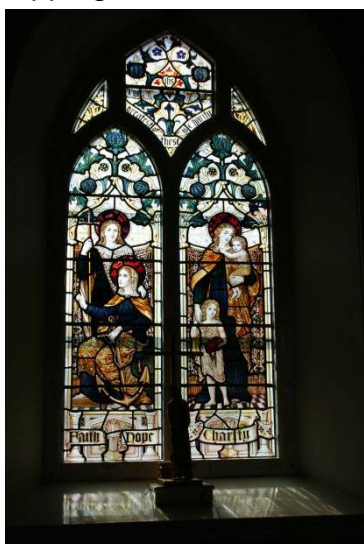
Alongside St. Peter's and Christ Church SEC, other minority Christian denominations are Roman Catholic, New Wine Pentecostal, Baptist, Brethren, Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. There are very small Muslim and Bahai communities. Of the remaining islands in the Outer Hebrides, Harris and North Uist are predominantly Protestant and Presbyterian, while Benbecula, South Uist and Barra are predominantly Roman Catholic.

A significant feature of Lewis's theological and cultural tradition is the close adherence to Sabbath observance, which can be a very sensitive issue for many clergy and people due to ongoing pressure for social change. A useful snapshot can be found at www.isle-of-lewis.com by clicking on "Sundays on the Isle of Lewis". Some observers might see the relative paucity of ecumenical relations or of inter-denominational co-operation as another significant feature of Lewis's theological and cultural tradition, although village house-groups are becoming more established.

THE BUILDINGS

St. Peter's Church

This was built in 1838 and consecrated in 1898. The chancel was added in 1954. We are the second oldest church in Stornoway and the only church in the town to have a graveyard within its grounds which also include a quiet garden. The church is located in a central position within the town of Stornoway, within a short walk from the main amenities and shopping area of the town.



The Church has a stained glass window in memory of Lady Matheson, an important historical benefactor of St. Peter's. Made by James Powell, a notable Arts and Crafts stained glass company in the 19th century, it is included in the Victoria and Albert Museum catalogue as a very fine example. The window has recently been extensively repaired.

A small hall attached to the Church was built in 2008, after substantial fundraising by the congregation, and has made a significant difference to the life and witness of the people.



St Moluag's Church



The historically significant church of St Moluag is a 12th century listed building that was extensively restored in 1912, largely due to the efforts of Canon Meaden, the incumbent of St Peter's at that time. It is located in the centre of a croft, approximately a hundred yards from the road, and has no electricity or water supply. In recent years it has become a popular venue for weddings and baptisms, and a candlelit carol service is held annually.

The Rectory

Situated in Springfield Road, within a ten-minute walk of St Peter's, this is a three-bedroomed detached property which is in a good state of repair and decoration.



Newton Hall

This property has as recently been transferred to St Peter's by the Diocese. It consists of the "Boathouse", a small building which was originally used as a sea cadet hall and until recently accommodated the local community radio station. To the rear there are prefabricated premises which are rented to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (the local authority) as a training facility with the rent now being paid to St Peter's. Recently the boathouse has been used for a "pop-up" art exhibition and workshop but it is hoped to find a more permanent tenant.

Tong premises

This former post office was owned and used as a place of worship by the congregation of St Moluag's, which was established by The Right Reverend Douglas Cameron (then Bishop of Argyll & The Isles) in 1994 from within the membership of St. Peter's. This congregation is no longer extant, the members having re-joined St Peter's in 2011. These premises have recently been let for use as a community shop on a five year lease with the rent being paid to St Peter's.

The quinquennial property report was completed in February 2013. There are a number of issues to be addressed over the next few years, and the vestry has identified and prioritised urgent items.

FINANCIAL POSITION

St Peter's Church is currently in a sound financial position, although it does not enjoy the financial strengths of a larger urban church.

St Peter's has been able to cover its costs over the past few years using a variety of sources. The church receives a provincial support for ministry grant and also benefits from the Mackenzie Trust.

The trust was set up under the will of William Mackenzie, the last member of a local family with a long association with St Peter's. The Trust makes grants to individuals in need who reside in the of the old parish of Stornoway who cannot access funds from other agencies. Any residual balance of each year's income reverting to the vestry of St Peter's. The amounts can vary significantly year on year and 2013/14 is the first year since the trust was established in which St Peter's has not benefited. In the longer run, therefore, it is hoped to reduce reliance on the Trust. The incumbent priest of St Peter's acts as one of three Trustees to the Mackenzie Trust.

From time to time other grants and donations have been received. The congregation also fundraises to support the costs of maintaining the fabric of the church and in the past decade raised sufficient money to fund the building of a small extension to the church to provide a hall and pantry.

The stipend for this office is the standard full time stipend of approximately £24,000 plus a non-contributory pension. Travel expenses for parish and diocesan business are also payable, as is the council tax for the rectory.

The audited accounts for the year ended 30 September 2013 will be made available to short-leeted candidates.

GEOGRAPHIC AND CULTURAL LOCATION

St. Peter's Episcopal Church is located in Stornoway, the main administrative centre for the Outer Hebrides (Western Isles). The main islands are Lewis, Harris, the Uists and Barra, which are connected by roads, causeways and ferries. The Western Isles has its own MP at Westminster, one MSP and a shared MEP. The population of Lewis is approximately 18,500, Stornoway 8,000, and the total of the Outer Hebrides (Lewis and Harris, The Uists, and Barra) 27,500. Stornoway is the largest town in the Outer Hebrides with a well-serviced hospital, Council offices, Arts Centre, and Health Board. There are a number of primary schools, and the main secondary school for the island is also situated here.



Inner Harbour



Outer Harbour

There is a domestic airport which connects the island to all major cities on the mainland of Scotland. The ferry terminal with twice-daily crossings (once on Sundays) connects Stornoway to Ullapool, and there are other inter-island ferry services from Tarbert and Leverburgh in the Isle of Harris. (Further information about facilities and services can be found in the free app “Hebrides Life”).

Over 40% of the working population is employed by the public sector, mainly Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (the local authority) and the NHS Western Isles Health Board. Tourism is important economically, bringing in over £45 million a year in revenue to the islands. The town of Stornoway is also home to a further education college, Lews Castle College, which is part of the University of the Highlands and Islands. Five hundred students of various nationalities are currently enrolled in full-time courses run by the college, with a further 1500 students undertaking part-time studies. The College recently received a glowing report from inspectors, and is focused on Stornoway becoming a university town within the next 10 years.



Lews Castle itself, dating from the 19th century, is currently undergoing renovation to convert it into a museum and hotel. The Outer Hebrides is characterised by the richness of its creative and cultural content and products, inspired by the ‘sense of place’, encompassing environment, community, Gaelic language and cultural heritage.

The area hosts renowned events, festivals and galleries which build on its cultural and creative base. Creative products, particularly Harris Tweed, are being exported from the Outer Hebrides to an international customer base.

The islands have been inhabited for thousands of years and there are a number of very important historical sites on Lewis, such as the Callanish standing stones, which are second only in importance to Stonehenge and in fact 1000 years older (dating from 4000 BC). St Columba’s medieval church at Ui, Aignish, is just one of many ancient chapels of great interest to archaeologists, historians and pilgrims.



The Hebridean culture is rich in the arts, with many fine artists, writers, musicians and poets living on the Isle of Lewis. BBC Alba is located in the town of Stornoway. The Outer Hebrides is home to the greatest concentration of Gaelic speakers in Scotland.

Job Description

- To be our priest, leading worship to God, celebrating the Eucharist, preaching and teaching of scriptures and pastoral ministry
- To bear witness to Christ in the local communities with energy and vision
- To provide pastoral and sacramental care to the sick and housebound
- To chair regular Vestry meetings
- To manage the growth and development of the charge through initiatives such as *Building the Vision*
- With the Vestry, to ensure compliance with Canon Law and other legal requirements such as Health and Safety and the Protection of Vulnerable Groups
- To take an active part in Diocesan life
- To develop mission and ecumenical outreach, including the representation of the Scottish Episcopal Church at local ecumenical activities and in the wider community
- To organise seasonal workshops
- To develop ministry to the north of the island
- To serve as a Trustee of the MacKenzie Trust

Person Profile

Listed below are the qualities that we are looking for in our new Priest:

Essential Qualities

- Priest ordained in the Scottish Episcopal Church or the wider Anglican Communion
- Engaging preaching & teaching
- Enthusiastic and effective communicator
- Leadership qualities
- Current driving licence, preferably with own vehicle
- Prepared to travel, including overnight stays due to island logistics, and to accommodate ministry to far-flung congregation
- Sensitivity to island ethos
- Sense of humour

Desirable Qualities

- Trained in theology or divinity to degree level or equivalent
- Competent in IT
- Commitment: looking for a long-term relationship with the congregation
- Awareness of history, tradition and liturgy of the Scottish Episcopal Church
- Post-ordination experience
- Resourceful & imaginative
- Ability to speak Gaelic
- Willingness to work with members of the congregation involved in lay ministry and to utilise people's gifts and talents
- Able and willing to engage with a literate and theologically competent congregation