

Salisbury Diocese Pilgrimage to Iona 19th-26th October 2021 Led by Bishop Karen and Revd Louise Ellis



Where is Iona?

Iona is a tiny and beautiful island off the southwest coast of Mull in the Inner Hebrides. It is only 1.5 miles wide by 3 miles long.

Why do people pilgrimage to Iona?

Iona is often referred to as the cradle of Christianity in Scotland. In 563AD the Irish monk Columba established a monastic settlement that evangelised large parts of Scotland and the north of England and became an important centre of European Christianity. In the Middle Ages it became the site of a Benedictine abbey, and over the centuries it has attracted many thousands of people on their own pilgrim journeys.

Today Iona Abbey is home to the Iona Community. The Iona Community was founded in Glasgow and Iona in 1938 by George MacLeod, minister, visionary and prophetic witness for peace, in the context of the poverty and despair of the Depression. From a dockland parish in Govan, Glasgow, he took unemployed skilled craftsmen and young trainee clergy to Iona to rebuild both the monastic quarters of the mediaeval abbey and the common life by working and living together, sharing skills and effort as well as joys and achievement. That original task became a sign of hopeful rebuilding of community in Scotland and beyond. The experience shaped – and continues to shape – the practice and principles of the Iona Community.



What will we do?

Alongside the daily pattern of Iona Abbey prayer we will offer an optional programme of led sessions, talks and reflections. These will be programmed to fit around the daily services at Iona Abbey which are at 9:00 am and 9:00 pm, except for a Sunday when the morning service is replaced by a Eucharist at 10:00 am.

We will offer sessions each day after the morning service and another one before dinner. These will take place in the hotel. That will leave several hours free for walking, quiet reflection, visiting the historical sites, relaxing in the peace and tranquillity of Iona and perhaps even enjoying a cream tea! We will also lead a pilgrimage around the Island and weather permitting organize a boat trip to Staffa.



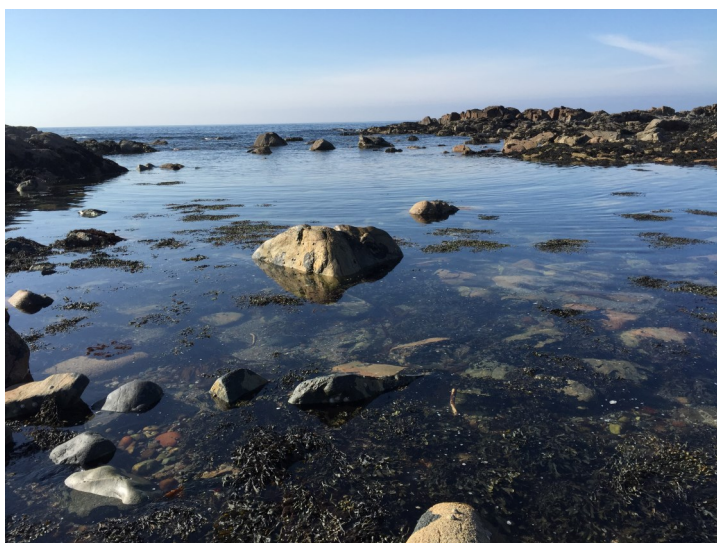
How will we get there?

It is a long and varied journey to get to Iona! We will meet Glasgow where we will have an overnight stop. The next day we will travel by coach from Glasgow to Oban where we will get a ferry across to Mull. Then back on the coach to travel across Mull and then a passenger ferry across to Iona. We should arrive on Iona mid afternoon. We will do the same in reverse on the way home!

Where will we be staying?

We will be staying in the Hotel Columba (www.stcolumba-hotel.co.uk) which is just a couple of minutes walk from the Abbey. The price includes a cooked breakfast and a three course evening meal. These will be at set times and we will eat together as a group. For lunch people can choose to buy sandwiches at the local shop or eat at the hotel.

We will also stay overnight in Glasgow on the journey there and back.



How much will it cost?

We will spend 5 nights at the St Columba hotel on Iona. The Price per person per night ranges from £100 - £135 depending on room type. This price includes a cooked breakfast and 3 course evening meal. There are 9 single rooms and the rest are twins or doubles. A single sea view is the most expensive and twin back view the least expensive.

It is not possible to give an exact figure yet for the travel cost from Glasgow to Iona but based on previous experience it should come in at just under £100 return. We will book a Premier Inn in Glasgow for the overnight stopovers and the cost of this is likely to be in the region of £80 per room per night. On the last day we will arrive back in Glasgow at around 6pm.

Please note, Clergy may use their CMD money towards the cost.

A deposit of £150 will be required.

**To reserve a place please email The Revd Louise Ellis on
Vicar.lilliput@gmail.com**