



Barra



Church of Scotland is looking for a minister



A unique opportunity to work with an active congregation comprising of children, young families, adults and recycled teenagers. We would like an exuberant person to build on our strengths and take us forward to the future.

- Very active Sunday school
- Large modern manse
- Beautiful natural environment
- Good community spirit among all
- Christian denominations
- Focal point for visitors in the summer

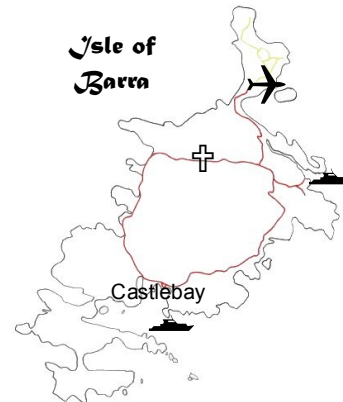


Outer Hebrides

Isle of Barra

The Isle of Barra is situated at the base of the Western Isles, 80 miles North West of Oban. It has a population of approximately 1200, the majority of which are Roman Catholic. There has always been however, a great tradition on the Island of co-operation between all the Christian communities.

Barra is 5 miles across and 8 miles long with one main road all the way round. The main town is Castlebay in the south of the island. Barra is blessed with beautiful beaches and an amazing variety of wild plants. If you think it is a sleepy little island you will be very much mistaken. There is always something to take part in – walks, ceilidhs, evening classes, water sports. Every year there is Feis Bharraigh which is the Gaelic festival. The weekly paper – the Guth Bharraigh - lets everyone know what is happening.



Everyone on the island speaks English, however for a large proportion of people Gaelic is their first language. Traditionally, the main employment would have been crofting and fishing. Although there is still a lot of employment in these areas there are also many other opportunities for employment today. There are also plenty opportunities for getting involved and volunteering in the local community.



Facilities



We are very lucky with the amount of facilities we have on the island. These include:-

- Secondary school and two primary schools including Gaelic medium
- Two doctors
- NHS Dentist
- Cottage hospital and residential care home
- Cobhair Bharraigh (dementia care and day centre) and other voluntary groups for disadvantaged people in the community
- Royal Bank of Scotland
- Post Office, 3 food shops, 2 general stores and 4 hotels
- Village halls in Castlebay, Vatersay and Northbay
- Youth club and youth café – many other activities during the week for the youngsters such as playschemes, windsurfing, feis and sailing
- Playgroup and Gaelic playgroup, mothers and toddlers
- Swimming pool, new fitness suite, golf course and other sports facilities

Transport links to and from the island are also very frequent.

- Aeroplane daily (Mon-Sat) to and from Glasgow. Flight time 1 hour. In summer, two Glasgow flights on a Thurs, Fri, Sat and Mon.
- Aeroplane daily (Mon-Fri) to and from Benbecula. Flight time about 10 minutes.
- Ferries several times a day to and from Eriskay. Eriskay is connected to the Uists by causeway.
- In the summer ferries are daily to and from Oban and 3 times a week in the winter months.

There is also a regular bus service around the island.

The Church



The church at Cuithir was built around 1820 during the time of Roderick the Gentle, the 40th Chief of Barra. He was the first Protestant chief of the Clan MacNeil in Barra and he granted land so that a church could be built.

Today, the church is the only Church of Scotland parish on the island and has a congregation of 55, with about 40 attending church regularly. In the summer months holiday visitors from around the world and from many different denominations increase the number of worshippers. The church also covers the spiritual needs of the protestant people on the island of Vatersay.

The congregation varies greatly in age and background. There is also a good number of children attached to the church.

Services

Services are on Sunday at 11:30 am. There is a family service the first Sunday of every month. After every service there is tea and coffee.

Sunday School

Every Sunday during the second half of the service. There are 15 regular attendees.



New Annex

The annex for the church has just been completed. This provides the church with two toilets, kitchen and a general purpose room which is used for Sunday school, meetings and functions.



Livewires

This is a Sunday group open to all youngsters (age 3 to primary 7) of all denominations on the island. Great attendance.

The Church



The Manse

The manse is a modern spacious bungalow with great views and a large garden. It was built in 1978 and is situated next door to the church. It also has a garage.

The church and the manse are 5 miles from Castlebay.

Presbytery

Presbytery meetings are held on the neighbouring group of islands called the Uists. This is an excellent chance to meet with fellow ministers and elders from throughout the presbytery area.



Thrift Shop

The church hall, called the 'Fisherman's Rest', is in Castlebay. At present it is 'rented' to the Women's Work Party who run it as a Thrift Shop. It is run as a separate entity and the proceeds going back into the local community and for overseas relief.

View from the top of Heaval



Isle of Barra

And finally

We hope you found this information useful and that it has given you a flavour of what the island has to offer.

If you have any further questions or require more information then do not hesitate to contact the clerk of the Nominating Committee, Sarah MacLean, in writing or email.

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Village of the Year
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