



Presbytery of Argyll

ARDCHATTAN linked with **COLL**
linked with **CONNEL**



**St. Oran's Church
Connel**



**St. Modan's Church
Benderloch**



Coll Church



Dunbeg Church

Parish Profile

Introduction

We are a newly created linkage with permission from the Presbytery of Argyll to call a new minister. It is an unrestricted call. The Presbytery plan allows for ministry support of, either an OLM or 26wks pulpit supply

The charge is located in an area of natural beauty in North Argyll, and while it would be described as rural, it is only a short distance from the town of Oban and the amenities it provides.



The Isle of Coll is one of the most beautiful, peaceful islands of the Inner Hebrides a 2 hour 40 minute Caledonian MacBrayne ferry journey from Oban. There is also an aeroplane service from Connel Airport provided by Hebridean Air Services.

The linked parish is made up of seven villages. On the mainland to the north are

Barcaldine, Benderloch, North Connel and Bonawe, linked by a bridge over the Falls of Lora to Connel and Dunbeg in the south. On Coll the main settlement is at Arinagour. In addition, there are many crofting/farming lands which connect the settlements.

Each parish has its own character.

Ardchattan is a popular holiday destination, there are five caravan and camping sites in the parish, all serving to swell the summertime population. There is also a site for travellers within its parish bounds and the airport.

At **Dunbeg** there is the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) with a new Marine Technical Development Park built opposite their campus.

Coll is well known for its 23 golden sandy beaches, wildlife, birdlife, botany and sealife. The Island has been granted Dark Skies Status and starlit nights and the Aurora Borealis are seen regularly. The RSPB has a reserve at the West End of the island.

The parishes also have many similarities, each contain both housing association houses and private, primary schools, sheltered housing and independent shops.



The link between the parishes of Coll and Connel has worked well and there are already links between the people of Connel and Ardchattan, shared parish activities such as Bible study, Guild, World Day of Prayer and worship during Holy Week. We are beginning to merge our Children's Holiday Club activities and look forward to exploring other ways we can share ideas and work together.

Our Vision

Our ongoing ambition is to be parishes where people meet to be with and worship God. To this end we seek a minister who will preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ incorporating traditional and contemporary styles of worship.

Further we seek someone who will help us: -

- To maintain visible centres of Christian worship for residents and visitors to our parishes.
- To provide welcoming and supportive places for recharging our Spiritual batteries.
- To support the Kirk Sessions in the running of the Churches both spiritually and practically.
- To strengthen our Christian community through sharing and spreading the love of Jesus.
- To encourage younger members of the community to join in with the Church and help others.
- To help people take their next step towards Christ together.



Our Pledge

Our minister will receive support and encouragement from our kirk sessions and the whole church family. We are firmly committed to reaching out and caring for our congregations and our communities, responding to their individual needs and working closely together to meet the new opportunities and challenges of 21st Century living.



Ardchattan

Although there is evidence to suggest there was an earlier place of worship in the parish, the earliest written evidence is of the union of two parishes Balevedan and Kilespickeral (Ardchattan and Muckairn) in 1637 when John McIlverie was appointed the first minister to minister to the United charge.



St Modan's Church, Benderloch was built as a Mission Church and opened in 1905. The style is described as typically Norman, with its thick walls, deepset round headed windows and conical roofed apse. The Church is noted for its fine wooden ceiling and the memorial windows which were installed in 1906 and 1914. The bell in the Scottish Baronial bell tower was donated and hung by Arrol's of Glasgow who built

Connel Bridge. Still with its original pews, the Church is able to seat approximately 120 people.

Worship

All age worship is held at 11am every Sunday. CH4, Mission Praise and Junior Praise are our usual musical resources with an organ providing musical accompaniment. We have recently introduced the use of multi media during services. The children leave mid-service for their own worship run by a team of adults on a rota basis in the Church Hall. Presently we have 4-6 young people attending Church.

Holy Communion services are held four times a year, and following Easter and Harvest services. Special services are held for Remembrance, Harvest, Holy Week, Watch-night, Christmas and Thinking day. The worship group organise 'extra' services, generally in the evenings, such as 'Songs of Praise'.

There is a monthly service of worship in Ford Spence Court (Sheltered Housing) and a communion service there when this can be arranged.

This is supported by members of the congregation who make use of the opportunity to chat with residents after the service. The World day of Prayer is also held at this venue as well as a Carol Service and an afternoon tea during Advent. Services are held in the Etive House Care home in Benderloch on request.



Kirk Session

There are nine Elders with an age profile varying between forty and eighty. We recently adopted the Unitary Constitution and former board members will either be invited to become elders or co-opted on to sub-committees. There are various sub-groups including Worship, Welcome, Pastoral Care, Stewardship and Property.

All leaders are recruited according to safe recruitment procedures and all groups and organisations operate under the oversight of the Kirk Session.

There are presently 95 on the Communion role and 28 on the Supplementary role, average weekly attendance is 34. There have been 22 baptisms since 2013. There were 11 funerals in 2018 and 12 in 2017



The congregation has participated in stewardship campaigns over many years, following a three year cycle addressing Time, Talents and Money. This is the focus of worship during October when there are relevant displays in the church and church hall, a leaflet distributed asking people to reflect on their contribution to the life of the church, and a parish social event to bring everyone in the community together.

Church Hall (The Campbell Memorial Hall):-

The Church Hall lies adjacent to St. Modan's Church and is used by the Sunday School and for tea and fellowship following Sunday worship. Our Kirk Session meetings are also held in the Hall.

While the hall is considered to be in fair condition, consideration is presently being given to upgrading the roof.

Lets are managed by the Halls Convenor. Regular weekly users include the Bible Study Group, Rythmic Rascals, a Yoga Group and an Art and Crafts Group. Club Nan Caraidean (Club of friends) meets fortnightly (Sept. to April) and is very well attended by mainly senior citizens of the Parish.

World Church

We have a World Mission Representative (World Mission Council)

Retiring collections following Holy Communion & other special services are taken for World Mission, the Barnabas Trust, the Scottish Bible Society and Christian Aid.

Occasional special fund-raising events are held (e.g. a soup lunch for the East African Crisis appeal).

There are also many active groups operating from both Benderloch and North Connel village halls. These include a preschool music group, yoga class, Guides and Scouts, craft groups, children's badminton club, chanter and drumming classes, bowling clubs, and Scottish country dancing.



Coll

Coll Parish Church, built in 1907, is the only church on the island. It is situated in Arinagour. The building is in Gothic Style, with buttresses and square bell tower designed by Robert Robertson. It has a herringbone patterned timber ceiling which is a rare design and of high quality. The windows are handmade wood framed with clear glass giving spectacular views out to Mull and the Treshnish Isles.



The church has oil fired central heating and we are currently looking into installing a loop/PA system.

At the front of the church is a raised area with the pulpit to the right, communion table and font. The vestry is to the right of the pulpit. Seating is traditional pews.

In 2007, the congregation celebrated their centenary and opened a Centenary Restoration Fund. Work was carried out on the back wall, tower and the bell was refurbished and rehung. Redecoration of the interior was completed.

Coll Parish Church door is open 24/7 to welcome everyone to a place of peace for contemplation and prayer.

Worship

The preaching calendar is organised by the minister. It includes preachers from various denominations from across the UK who come for a holiday, stay in the manse for a donation, and conduct worship on the Sunday at 11:30. This calendar is open all year and is well supported from April to mid October. There are 2 elders who will conduct services if there are no visiting preachers. In winter services are monthly. The numbers attending worship varies from 6 to 25 and at special services can be over 75.

We use CH3 and Songs of God's People for praise and have an organist who plays when she is available, otherwise we sing unaccompanied.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is held twice a year but can be up to 4 times a year if visiting preachers offer a communion service when they are over.

Recent practice has been that the minister spends one week on the island 4 times a year. This allows the minister to carry out pastoral duties, visit the school, hold session meetings and take the service on the Sunday. A Remembrance service is held at the War Memorial in Arinagour at 11:00 and continued at the Church thereafter. It is usually conducted locally if our minister is not available to be on the island

Christmas Services are conducted locally.

The minister conducts baptisms, funerals and weddings when they are requested.

Kirk Session

We are a unitary constitution, with 3 elders and a treasurer attending meetings when the minister visits. The elders act as trustees of the church. 2 elders take on the rolls of Session Clerk/Safeguarding Convenor, Property Convenor and Presbytery Elder. The treasurer, a former board member, was co-opted to our meetings when we became a unitary constitution.



Church Life

Congregational meetings are arranged as required.

The church newsletter and Christmas and Easter cards are shared with Connel/Dunbeg, sent over to us for distribution.

A collection box, for anyone visiting the church to leave donations is positioned on the table inside the church. These generous donations are placed in the Restoration Fund Account for the upkeep and repairs of the church and manse. The collection on Remembrance Sunday is donated to various Armed Forces charities, a different one each year.

The Manse is a three bedroomed detached house in Arinagour. On the ground floor there is an entrance hall, livingroom, kitchen and another large room which can be used for dining, study or playroom. The kitchen has a full range of white goods, electric cooker, fridge freezer and microwave. Crockery, cutlery etc, are all provided. The kitchen, livingroom and hallway have all been recently decorated. Central heating and hot water are from the boiler at the back of coal fire in the livingroom and an immersion heater in the kitchen will top up the hot water supply. Coal is supplied. The bathroom and bedrooms are all upstairs.

There is a telephone and television provided. Mobile phone access is provided by Vodafone and EE from a mast at Grishipol. Some areas in Coll have black spots where there is no signal. Free wi-fi can be accessed at the Coll Hotel and Island Café. All linen is supplied.

The garden is wrap around style and laid to grass. Car parking is across the road opposite the house.



Connel & Dunbeg

St Oran's Church was built in Connel in 1888. Prior to that services were held in the railway station waiting room then the Scout Hall and led by the minister from St. Columba's Church in Oban. In 1910, St. Oran's Parish was created as a stand-alone parish. The church is designed in the likeness of Iona Abbey. It is of granite construction with a central bell tower containing a single bell. It is noted for its beautiful stained glass windows. Approximately 30 to 40 people attend the Sunday service with worshippers sitting on modern chairs.

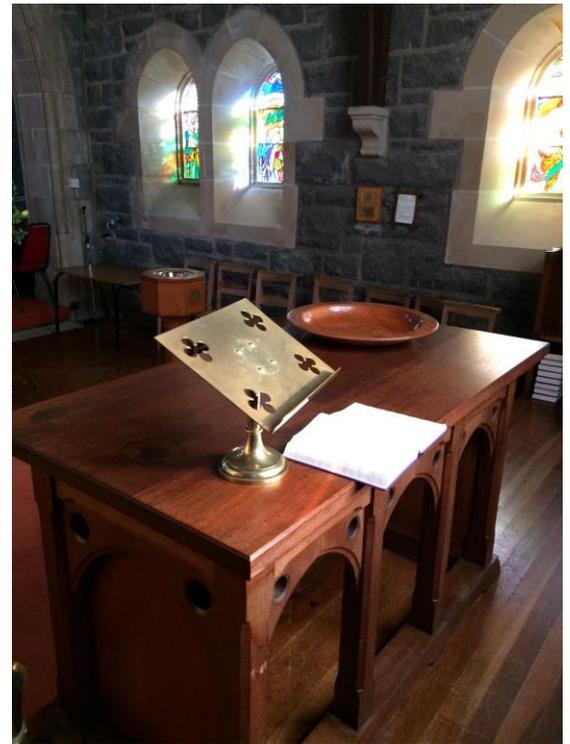
In the forward part of the church there is a raised platform with a pulpit, lectern, communion table and font. The vestry is located to one side and outside is a separate building housing a small kitchen, toilet and a store.

Music is played on an electronic organ or electric piano.

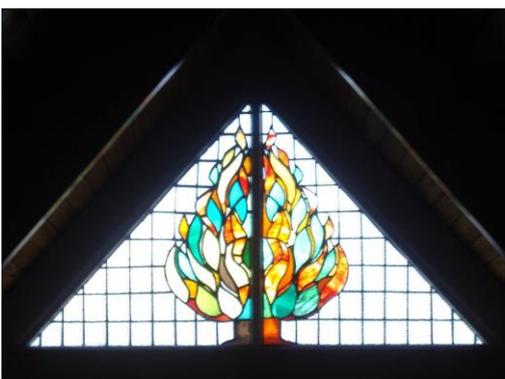
A PA system is installed with a range of microphones, a T-loop system and recording facilities.

A short tarmac road leads up to the church through a well laid out garden to parking space for a few cars, the remainder parking on the road.

The church doors are open during daylight hours to allow people to come into a place of peace for contemplation and prayer. A prayer book within St Oran's offers members and visitors the opportunity to request prayers which are included by church members in their private prayers.



Dunbeg Church was built by the congregation and dedicated in 1981, prior to which services were held in a Nissan hut. It is an A-frame building with white rendered gables. Built primarily as a place of worship it is also used for meetings. A raised platform at the front has a communion table with lectern and font. Behind the communion table is a wooden cross and a stained glass depiction of the Burning Bush. Approximately 20 -25 people attend Sunday worship sitting in modern chairs.



Music is supplied by a small electronic organ and a piano is also available. The church PA is a portable amplifier

with remote microphone.

On each side of the platform there is a small multi purpose room and inside the front door there are kitchen and toilet facilities.

Both churches are in good repair and grounds are well maintained.

Worship

At present Sunday worship at St. Orans is at 10.30 and Dunbeg at 12 noon. The format for morning service is the same at both congregations. Members of the congregation usually participate by reading the Bible and sometimes by leading prayers. Mid-service the children leave for their own worship in the church hall. They are encouraged to take part in the Connel Christmas Family Service. We join together quarterly to celebrate Holy Communion during morning worship and on Maundy Thursday evening. Themed services include Good Friday and a Watchnight service of Carols & Readings. Armistice is marked in both churches. The Brownies, wearing their uniforms, attend the Remembrance Service in St Oran's and Dunbeg Primary School holds a Remembrance Service in the Dunbeg church. Worship is held 4 times a year in the sheltered housing complex at MacCallum Court, Dunbeg.

Baptisms takes place during the Sunday service, weddings and funerals as required.

Kirk Session

Our church follows a Unitary Constitution. The Kirk Session has 17 elders and meets 6 times a year for regular business. Elders and members of the congregation take responsibility for roles of Session Clerk, Treasurer, Property and Safeguarding Convenors, Presbytery Elder and on committees for Finance, Property and Safeguarding. The Kirk Session also acts as Trustees for the Church.

Those with responsibility for young people and vulnerable adults attend Safeguarding training and are PVG checked.



Church life

A house group meets in Connel fortnightly from September to Easter. A Bible study & prayer group meets weekly in Dunbeg.

The Guild, incorporating members of Ardchattan Guild, meet monthly in Dunbeg Church.

Hospitality is offered at monthly soup lunches held in Connel church hall.

Older parishioners meet fortnightly at the Etive Club in Connel church hall.

A craft group meet and sell their wares to support

the church and the Mary's Meals Kitchen we sponsor in Malawi. We hold a Flower Show and a Christmas Fayre in the village hall.

A newsletter is prepared by a member of the Congregation, printed using the church photocopier and distributed quarterly. Congregational cards for Easter and Christmas are distributed to every household in Connel and Coll Parishes. A website and Facebook page maintained by members of the congregation carry information about the parish.

Welcome packs have been produced for people moving into the area, newly weds, and new parents.

Collections are taken to contribute to the work of Christian Aid, Water Aid, Erskine Hospital and world crises as they arise.

Connel Church Hall

The Victorian building was a Free Church that was given to St Orans Church when the congregations united. It is a stone building with a slate roof situated in grounds on Connel main street. The hall has an entrance lobby, hall area with high wooden ceiling, kitchen and toilet. It's general condition is good, with ongoing maintenance keeping it operational.

A number of groups use it for Brownies, Rainbows, dancing, choir practice, yoga and for a playgroup. It is also used for private meetings and parties.

The Manses

Ardchattan Manse is a detached four bedroomed house, situated on the road from North Connel to Bonawe. It is currently let and the new linked congregations decided that St Oran's manse would be adopted as the manse of first choice.

St Oran's Manse is situated back from the main Oban Road in Connel village, with a view out over the lower part of the Falls of Lora. It is a granite and sandstone Victorian villa with slate roof and a rendered brick extension to the rear. The windows have uPVC double-glazing. A tarmac drive leads up to a wooden garage and gravel parking space for two cars. The garden at front and rear is laid out in grass.



The ground floor consists of an entrance lobby to hall with study and living room to the front. A passage to the rear leads into an open-plan kitchen-dining area, larder, utility cupboard and toilet. A back door provides access to the car-parking area.

The stair ascends to a half-landing off which is the rear bedroom with w.c. and linen cupboard and another bedroom/study, bathroom with separate shower and storage cupboard. From the half-landing, the stair continues to the upper floor where there are two bedrooms, a third bedroom/workroom and a large walk-in cupboard.

There is oil-fired central heating, the oil tank located to the rear of the property. Additional electric fires are provided in the livingroom and study. Hot water is provided from a hotwater tank in the rear bedroom. All sanitary-ware is modern and in good order.

The manse is in excellent condition, it has been maintained on a regular basis, minor upgrading work carried out and a survey has been made. Decor and carpets in public rooms and passageways will be agreed with the new minister prior to moving in.

Useful Information

Adjacent Churches & Other Denominations

No other mainstream Christian denominations have premises within the parishes. The Parish of Muckairn in Taynuilt lies to the East and the Parish of Oban to the South. Catholic, Free, Congregational, Episcopalian, Baptist and Salvation Army all have churches in Oban. The local Jehovah's Witnesses meet in the Kingdom Hall next to Dunbeg Church.

Schools & Higher Education

As mentioned previously there are Primary schools in each parish. Senior schooling is provided in Oban at the High School. Spiritual care for students there is ably provided by Hope to Oban (H2O), an organisation with full-time staff funded by local churches .

Further Education in Oban

Argyll College (part of the University of the Highlands and Islands) provides a range of courses to provide skills applicable in the area including Information Technology, Engineering and Building Skills, Performing Arts, Agriculture, Languages, etc. University of the 3rd Age (U3A) is an active organisation in Oban, holding a wide range of courses for the older generation.

Health

In Connel, a local surgery staffed by doctors, practice and district nurses covers an area more extensive than the local parish. The surgery also has a cafe and hairdresser. Oban and Lorn Hospital provides A&E cover and longer term medical care. Simpler operations are performed there by both resident and visiting doctors. More complex operations are carried out in one of the more specialised Glasgow hospitals. For planned appointments and operations to these hospitals and others in the area, NHS transport is available in a bus run by the ambulance service. Emergency transport is either by ambulance or helicopter. Osteopathy, physiotherapy, a number of dental surgeries and a range of alternative therapies are available in Oban.

Employment

SAMS at Dunstaffnage is the only large employer in Connel and Dunbeg. Various research companies based on marine products are housed in a new Marine Technical Development Park built opposite the SAMS campus. Fishing and aquaculture provides some work in the area as does forestry. In Barcaldine, Fusion manufactures fish cages that are exported internationally. Many residents work in Oban or further afield in the shipping and oil industry. Some self-employed specialists and tradespeople work from home. Each parish contains shops, hotels with bars and various B&B accommodation which provide work opportunities for the community. In Oban, there are a range of employers that include the local authority, hotels, B&B, restaurants, shops, charity shops, ferry operators, a distillery, legal and education establishments, hospital, builders and maintenance companies.

Oban is a busy harbour for commercial and leisure vessels as well as ferry traffic to the islands. Northern Lighthouse Board operate from their base in Oban to maintain navigational marks on the West Coast. The lifeboat station provides safety cover for the waters from Fort William to Jura and, in emergency, ferries patients from the islands. A large quarry operation at Glensanda (situated on Morven) is serviced from Loch Creran with rock products exported by sea. Bonawe Quarry is situated up Loch Etive and supplies road-building material to the area that is carried by lorry and inshore vessels.

Transport Links

Oban is the centre for road, rail and marine transport in the area. This makes it popular with tourists.

Road links are good in this area - north to Fort William, south-east to Perth, Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh and south to Lochgilphead and Kintyre.

There is a regular bus service and rail link to Glasgow.

CalMac's ferry operations provide transport to Mull and other islands including Coll, Tiree, Colonsay and the outer islands.

Oban Airport in North Connel has flights to Coll, Tiree, Colonsay and Islay but no connecting flights to Glasgow. The airport is mainly used as a refuelling stop for commercial and military planes, helicopters and private aircraft. In summer, aeroplane flights are provided for tourists.

Leisure

Oban has a leisure centre with gym, 25m swimming pool and outdoor tennis courts.

Clubs in Oban include Rotary and Inner Wheel, bridge, golf, bowls, martial arts, rugby, shinty, sailing and photography.

Outdoor activities such as rambling, climbing and skiing are easily accessible from Connel. A range of watersports is available including sailing (dinghy and larger boats), kayaking, diving, and waterskiing. Wildlife watching of both birds and marine life is popular.

Many tourist attractions are available in the area. In Dunbeg, the historic Dunstaffnage Castle with its ruined chapel is popular. Oban has two museums and a variety of high quality restaurants.

Around the area, there are numerous locations of interest including St. Conan's Church, Castle Stalker, the ancient Kilmartin area with its church, standing stones, ancient grave-stones and museum. Within easy reach, for a day out, are Ben Nevis, Glencoe, Mull, and the Caledonian and Crinan Canals.

Useful Web Links

<http://www.ardchattanchurch.org.uk>

<http://ardchattan.org.uk>

<http://www.benderloch.com>

<http://www.community-council.org.uk/ardchattan/>

<http://www.community-council.org.uk/ConnelCommunityCouncil/>

<http://connelchurch.co.uk> (currently being updated)

<http://www.calmac.co.uk>

<http://www.hebrideanair.co.uk>

<http://www.visitcoll.co.uk>
<http://atlantisleisure.co.uk>

Presbytery of Argyll

The Presbytery of Argyll meets four times a year for ordinary business. Meetings are held at various locations and during the day to allow as many island based Presbyters as possible to attend without having to spend a night on the mainland. Much of the regular business is conducted by standing committees under delegated powers using e-mail and telephone. There is ample scope for ministers to contribute to the work of the committees.

Applications

Formal applications for the position of the Parish Minister should include a covering letter and the applicant's CV. Two References would be appreciated that can be followed up at a later date. These should be sent to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee. Requests for further information or for assistance with informal enquiries should be addressed to either the Interim Moderator or Clerk to the Nominating Committee.

Interim Moderator -

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