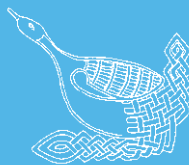


All about our Residential Centres

ABBAY • MACLEOD CENTRE • CAMAS



the iona community

A week at the Abbey
or MacLeod Centre on Iona,
or Camas on Mull, can be a
transforming experience,
for our centres are places
of many dimensions
welcome
and **prayer,**
acceptance
and **challenge,**
risk taking
and **vision.**

We invite you to come and
share our life in community.



the iona community

The Iona Community is an ecumenical Christian movement, founded during the depression in 1938 by George MacLeod, then a parish minister in Govan, Glasgow. Young ministers in training and unemployed men were brought together from the 1930s to the 1960s to rebuild the monastic quarters of Iona Abbey, and in doing so discovered a common life together.

As in its beginning, the Community seeks 'new ways to touch the hearts of all,' in response to the continuing missionary task of communicating and living the gospel in today's world.

The Community seeks to pursue its purpose through its residential centres on Iona and Mull, alongside the activities of the members in their own situations and the work of the mainland staff, details of which are also included in this brochure.



OUR CONCERNS AND PURPOSE

The Community today remains committed to 'rebuilding the common life' through working for social, economic and political justice, striving for the renewal of the church with an ecumenical emphasis, and exploring new, more inclusive approaches to worship, all based on the bringing together of spirituality and action. The Iona Community has particular interest in the following areas: youth; justice, peace and the environment; poverty and social exclusion; overcoming racism; ecumenical and interfaith relations and human sexuality. We have a series of working groups that express some of our concerns as a community.

MEMBERS

The members of the Iona Community (of whom there are around 270) come from many Christian traditions across the UK and beyond. After a two-year membership programme, men and women are hallowed into the community and follow a common rule of daily prayer and reading the bible, accounting for use of resources including time and money, meeting together, and action for justice and peace.

ASSOCIATES

Associates of the Iona Community (of whom there are around 1500) are committed to keeping the rule of prayer. Associates meet regularly in regional groups in the UK and further afield. Wherever you are there are probably people in your area who have also had an experience of Iona and have formalised their relationship through an associate group.

YOUTH ASSOCIATES

Our Youth Associates are people between 18 and 30 who have shared the Iona experience in some form and want to maintain links with the Iona Community and other like minded young people. Youth Associates have built up a forum that allows them to take an active role within the community and to present a young person's perspective. Being a Youth Associate empowers young people to speak out about things they believe in (particularly peace and justice issues and social action) and to influence decision-making.

FRIENDS

The Friends of the Community around the world (around 1400 people) give their support and encouragement to the Community through an annual subscription and receive the Community's magazine: Coracle.



Our Centres: Iona - The Abbey a

THE ABBEY

The essence of a week at the Abbey is engaging with new friends, and for a week becoming a Christian community. This centres on praying, working and eating together, and sharing our hopes for the world.

The Abbey living quarters, rebuilt by community members, have space for up to 45 guests. Accommodation in the Abbey is in bunk bedded rooms for 2,3,4 and 5 people. We have a limited number of twin bedded rooms, and 3 ground floor single rooms, which are kept mainly for people with disabilities.

Access is, however, severely limited – we have no lift, for instance, to the first floor where we eat our meals together. All our rooms are built to medieval proportions and therefore we do not have en-suite facilities, or much storage space.



nd 'Mac'

Weeks at the MacLeod Centre are lively and vibrant, welcoming guests from a range of ages, backgrounds and abilities. Weeks here focus on experiencing life, faith and our journeys, in creative and participatory ways, and learning from life in a diverse community.

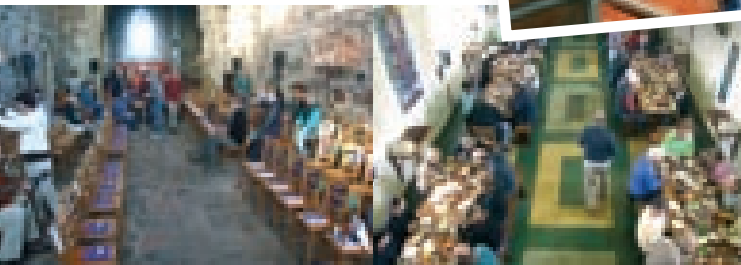
The MacLeod Centre, opened in 1988, has space for up to 48 guests. Accommodation is in comfortable and spacious family or single sex rooms for 5 and 7 people with 1 top bunk in each room. The centre was built with mobility access in mind, although one part of the drive up to the centre is quite steep. We have shared shower, bath and toilet facilities and due to the nature of the rooms it is unlikely that partners will be able to share an exclusive room, unless as part of a family room.

THE MACLEOD CENTRE



What will a week be like?

Come and share our life in Community. During your week with us you will join in our pattern of worship, conversation, work, and shared meals. Most of the weeks during the season are 'Gathering Place' weeks when, in addition to life in community we can offer workshops/sessions as diverse as Justice and Peace, spirituality – Celtic and contemporary, art and craft, music and singing, gardening, getting out and about on the island, biblical themes, and many others. We also offer certain weeks for certain groups and on specific themes. Details of these are found in the programme for the year.



WHAT WILL A WEEK BE LIKE?

Whatever week you come for, regular elements of the programme include:

- Pilgrimages around the island (usually on a Tuesday), an off-road hike and a gentler on-road pilgrimage are offered. Both visit places of historic and religious significance;
- Boat trips, for an extra charge, to the Island of Staffa;
- A Ceilidh (dance and song) on Monday nights in the village Hall;
- A grand concert on Wednesday nights, with guests taking the lead role;
- An extensive craft room, so come in and experiment and explore your creative side;
- Regular sessions including those on the Iona Community and on its Healing Ministry.
- Music, and especially song. These are central parts of the Community's life, and there are many opportunities to participate, both within and outside the Abbey services.



It is important to remember that we are not a retreat centre - although there are always spaces to be quiet. We are not a conference centre - although we hope that the specific programme sessions will prove challenging and helpful. And we are not a hotel - you will be expected to do work which helps the running of the centres. What we are is a place where people can experience and experiment with life in community.

Our Centres: Camas

CAMAS

Camas is off the road and by the sea, and welcomes groups and individuals to explore and enjoy this unique setting. Based in former quarrymen's cottages in a beautiful and isolated

bay on the neighbouring island of Mull, the centre offers a variety of activities which can include abseiling, kayaking, raft-building, walks, games, arts and crafts, a trip to Iona, camping, gardening and lots of informal chat and fun.

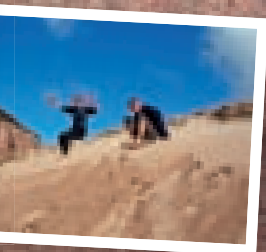
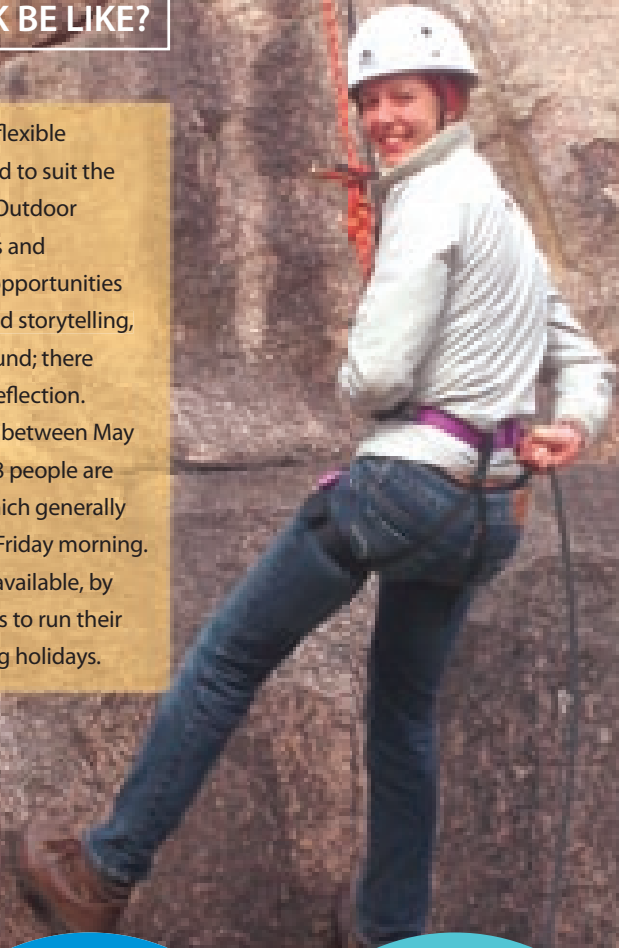
With no mains electricity, the centre relies on the power of the wind and the sun as well as wood burning stoves and lanterns for heat and light. Living in close contact with nature and using freshly grown produce from the garden, guests appreciate the challenges and rewards of living a simple lifestyle in tune with the local environment.

Each week offers both guests and staff a true experience of community, encouraged by the remote location, hospitality and shared living.



WHAT WILL A WEEK BE LIKE?

The centre offers a holistic and flexible programme that can be adapted to suit the particular needs of our guests. Outdoor activities, as well as creative arts and environmental activities, offer opportunities for fun and learning. Singing and storytelling, conversation and laughter abound; there is also time for discussion and reflection. During the main Camas season between May and October, groups of up to 28 people are welcomed for a programme which generally runs from Saturday evening to Friday morning. Outwith this time the centre is available, by arrangement, for smaller groups to run their own programme or self-catering holidays.



YOUNG PEOPLE

A safe place where groups can relax, have fun and face challenges together; Camas is ideal for work with young people and vulnerable people of all ages. Groups who have benefited include youth groups, schools, social work organisations and voluntary groups.

ADULTS

A few weeks each year are made available to individuals. Often with a focus on creative and recreational activities these weeks follow themes of interest to the Iona Community. For details see this year's programme leaflet or the website.

Staffing & Volunteering

Or for those considering staying with us for longer...

The Resident Group on Iona comprises 23 people who have come together for between one and three years, to sustain the ministry of worship and hospitality that we offer on Iona. Each has a specific job to do, but all share in the common life.

We also have a volunteer programme, which at any one time during the season welcomes up to 30 people from all over the world to participate in the life and worship of the Iona Community, for

periods of 6 weeks to 6 months. Details of both can be found on the web site or sought through the Staffing Office.



THE IONA COMMUNITY SHOP

The Iona Community Shop is found on the North Road between the Abbey and MacLeod Centre. The shop stocks a wide range of arts and crafts, music and books reflecting the concerns of the Iona Community. Goods are sourced ethically where possible; bought locally, from fair trade organisations, and small producers.

IONA IS A
'FAIRTRADE'
ISLAND



Worship



Worship surrounds our day on Iona; services are held at 9am each day (8.15am on Friday, and Holy Communion at 10.30am on Sunday), and at 9pm each evening.

Our evening services follow a weekly pattern, based around a common theme of Space. As a Community we believe that we encounter God in all aspects of our life; that when we come together for corporate worship we do so not just through finding the right words but by embracing the space we inhabit, the space of the Abbey Church, the space between us as people, the space God gives us in the created world. Each day we embrace that space and the people who gather, and approach God in a different way. In this way our services blend the familiar and the innovative, encouraging participation, using everyday language and experience, and drawing widely on the music and prayers of the world Church and the folk traditions of Scotland.

Saturday	Gathering Space	<i>a liturgy of hospitality</i>
Sunday	Quiet Space	<i>a mostly silent service</i>
Monday	World Space	<i>reflecting the needs and concerns of our world</i>
Tuesday	Healing Space	<i>prayers for healing with laying on of hands</i>
Wednesday	Creative Space	<i>a service led by guests and staff</i>
Thursday	Table Space	<i>we gather for communion</i>
Friday	Inner Space	<i>a more reflective service</i>

From May to September we have afternoon prayers for Justice and Peace. At Camas the days are framed by morning and evening reflection time.



General Information

ANIMALS

While guide and hearing dogs are most welcome, we cannot accommodate any other pets in our centres.

CHILDREN

All are welcome. For the Easter programme, Christmas House Party and for July and August, our Children's Programme offers an exciting range of activities for children between the ages of 4-12. During Holiday Weeks many sessions will be planned with all ages in mind. The Community's Child Protection Policy is available on request.

CHORES/WORK TEAMS

Guests are expected to share in the daily housekeeping tasks; from helping with meals and chopping vegetables to cleaning bathrooms, you help us to maintain the centres.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Groups and individuals whose first language is not English should be aware that almost all our services and sessions are in English and you should make your own arrangements for translation. We also ask that during shared times (around the table and in debate) we use English.

INTERNET ACCESS

We regret that we do not have the facilities to provide internet access for our guests, but these are available for a small charge within the St Columba Hotel, next to the Abbey.



General information about staying in our centres

ISLANDS ACCESS FUND

For UK residents there is an Islands Access Fund to assist financially with visiting our centres. From the linked subsidy fund direct allocations are made to help cover the costs of those who would otherwise be unable to come to the island (low income, on benefits). Applications to the subsidy fund should be made to the Booking Secretaries giving brief details about circumstances of the individuals concerned.

MEALS

All of our meals are eaten communally. We offer a simple diet of breakfast cereal with toast; lunchtime soup, bread and fruit; an evening meal of a cooked main course (mainly vegetarian) and dessert option. We endeavour to cater for medical dietary requirements.

MOBILITY/ACCESS ISSUES

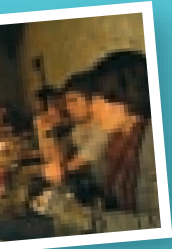
Provision is made in the Abbey Church for people with mobility problems, and there is an induction loop system. We have one mobility buggy (shared between two centres). As this is a shared resource please check upon arrival for availability, or better still, let us know in advance if you might require this. See previous pages for more specific details about our two centres on Iona. Although access in the Camas centre is good, access to the centre is via a 1.5 mile walk over a moorland track. The centre can be accessed by boat with prior arrangement and weather permitting.

PUBLIC TELEPHONES

There are public telephones in the Abbey (01681 700343) and the MacLeod Centre (01681 700565).

SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

There is a no smoking policy within all centres. We try to offer a safe place for all people, and therefore the centres are alcohol free; illegal drugs are of course forbidden.



*Guests are expected to share
in the daily housekeeping tasks*

Mainland Work & Interests

CORACLE

The Coracle is a magazine published by the Iona Community and is sent to all Members, Associates and Friends, with a readership of 5000 people. Through its pages the community seeks the exchange of thoughts and ideas as a basis for finding common ground; through news, poetry, resources, reviews, prayer, liturgy and in-depth articles.



THE WILD GOOSE RESOURCE GROUP

The WGRG is an expression of the commitment of the Iona Community to the renewal of worship in the Christian Church. The Resource Group engages with the public through the creative

participation of its members in conferences and events throughout the UK and abroad, through the enabling of specific events, and through the production of worship materials. Its Resource Workers, John Bell and Graham Maule, are also used on a consultative basis by local congregations and Christian organisations.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The youth team works extensively in the central belt of Scotland and beyond to bring the commitment and concerns of the Iona Community into the lives of young people. It enables vulnerable young people to meet, have their self-worth increased, and be equipped with skills to enter training and/or employment.



The youth team develops links and connections with various groups who work in areas of disadvantage and poverty, and enables young people to build networks and work together to learn more about social and environmental justice, both nationally and internationally.



WILD GOOSE PUBLICATIONS

The publishing house of the Iona Community produces books, videos & DVDs, tapes and CDs on holistic spirituality, social justice, political and peace issues, healing, innovative approaches to worship, songs and other music, and material for meditation and reflection. They can be contacted at: Wild Goose Publications, 4th Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3DH. Telephone 0141 332 6292 Or online at www.ionabooks.com



THE IONA PRAYER CIRCLE

The Iona Prayer Circle is composed of over 300 people around the world, who act as intercessors, and receive regular Prayer Lists. Sponsors write to us regularly about people or situations that need prayer. Intercessions are brought together each Tuesday evening at the service of Prayers for Healing in

the Abbey Church, when intercessors from all around the world join us in prayer. Requests for prayer or further information should be addressed to the

Iona Prayer Circle Co-ordinator c/o Iona Abbey, Isle of Iona, Argyll, PA76 6SN.

Find out more about the Iona Community and its work on Mull, Iona and elsewhere through our web-site

www.iona.org.uk

Other Information



Iona has many other exciting and interesting things to do; two hotels, a bar/restaurant, a heritage centre, general stores and craft shops, historic buildings, boat trips, unbelievably clear water and unsurpassed natural beauty. Find out more information on the website www.isle-of-iona.com



CONTACT US

GLASGOW

Iona Community,
4th Floor Savoy House,
140 Sauchiehall Street,
Glasgow G2 3DH,
Scotland, UK.

t: 0141 332 6343

f: 0141 332 1090

e: admin@iona.org.uk

IONA

Iona Community,
Abbey & MacLeod Centres,
Isle of Iona,
Argyll, PA76 6SN,
Scotland, UK

t: 01681 700404

f: 01681 700460

e: ionacomm@iona.org.uk

CAMAS

Camas Centre,
Ardfenaig,
Bunessan,
Isle of Mull, PA67 6DX,
Scotland, UK

t: 01681 700367

e: camas@iona.org.uk

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