

BISHOP'S HOUSE



2017

Staff information pack

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Bishop's House

A BIT ABOUT OUR HISTORY... AND WHO WE ARE...

Welcome to Bishop's House. Firstly, thank you for your interest. Bishop's House is able to provide the service it does only because of its dedicated staff.

Bishop's House was founded in 1894 by Alexander Chinnery-Haldane (the then Bishop of Argyll and the Isles) as a place of **Prayer, Study** and **Eucharist** (ie Communion). This is still our purpose today. Chinnery-Haldane hoped that both staff and guests would enter into the spirit of this House. Our Bishop, Kevin Pearson, puts it like this:

“Argyll is a place where people come from all over the world, and it's important that when people walk into our churches they should feel at home. They should be able to see that there are people here who respect the sacraments.”

This is our work at Bishops House: to welcome people; to make them feel at home; to provide them (and ourselves) with a place of respect for God and others. Our work is vital to this. We may not all be preachers, teachers or members of clergy, but our cooking, cleaning and hospitality allows a deep and meaningful time with God for all those who come to be our guests at Bishop's House.

THE HOUSE

Bishop's House sleeps 23 guests in 8 twin rooms and 7 single rooms. The guests have their own dining room, lounge and use of the library. We rarely offer led weeks for the guests but instead allow the groups to make up their programme depending on their own needs.

LIFE – AND WORSHIP – AT BISHOP’S HOUSE

As the staff of Bishop’s House we all have a part in making guests of the house and visitors to the chapel welcome. Our hospitality is the key to our ministry. This is a ministry of space, giving guests and visitors the opportunity of quiet, time and space to reflect. As a result the routine at Bishops House is fixed only by service and meal times. There is space in the day for guests and staff to find space for themselves and God.

“Once a guest has been announced, the superior and the community are to meet the guest with all the courtesy of love”

The rule of Saint Benedict. 53:3

We are not bound to the rule of Saint Benedict, but this principal of meeting all guests with the courtesy of love sets the tone of our welcome. Guests are here on retreat and they often enjoy being on Iona without seeing the problems; we are to show care for them through our work regardless of how unappreciative or difficult this may be.

As we also host volunteers, who are fully participating members of the staff team, it is also essential that we extend this hospitality to them. Part of their experience at Bishop’s House is the daily family style meals and coffee breaks.

Prayer underpins our activity, giving all our work, worship and relaxation over to God. It is not our job to make everyone happy at all times or give them all they need, this is God’s work and we perform only a part in that; giving the rest over to God.

To work at Bishop’s Houses it is not necessary for you to share our beliefs, but it is absolutely vital that you’re able to fully respect our Christian ethos.

On most working days, we will share an informal time of worship as a team; this lasts around 15 minutes and offers a valuable ‘pause for thought’ in the working day. It is an inclusive, and relaxed opportunity for you to engage with God or just enjoy the ‘breathing space’ it gives.

EXPECTED BEHAVIOUR

Bishop's House is a Christian retreat house and the staff are expected to demonstrate behaviour in line with its ethos as a place of prayer, study and Eucharist. Here are some simple ground rules:

- Be polite. Treat others (guests, staff and visitors) with courtesy and respect.
- No grumbling about the guests or fellow staff members. Grumbling does not resolve problems and makes our lives miserable. Concerns and complaints should be raised with the Warden in accordance with the grievance procedure.
- Respect private space: remember the staff dining room is for all staff, the guest lounge is for the guests and bedrooms are for their occupants. Do not enter private spaces without permission.
- Respect the property of others and the House. If it's not yours do not move it. If you break something do not worry, but let the Warden or Assistant Warden know.
- Respect the worship conducted in the House. You are not obliged to participate in any of the services, although you are most welcome. You must demonstrate respect for the Chapel and its occupants, particularly by keeping noise levels down at service times.
- Enjoy yourself: Iona is a very special place, make the most of your time here!

MEALS

The team eats meals in the staff dining room. You are welcome to have a 'carry out' – eg take your meal to your room on your days off. Breakfast foods can be found in the staff dining room. Meal breaks do not count as your working hours, but a ten minute coffee break is included in shifts longer than 4 hrs, in line with legislation.

If you have special dietary requirements, do please let us know before your arrival so we can ensure that you can be catered for.

MEAL TIMES (MAY VARY IN COMING 2017 SEASON)

Lunch: Mon – Sun 1.00 pm

Dinner: Mon – Sun 6.00 pm

SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

In the interests of fire safety smoking is not permitted in Bishop's House. You are welcome to smoke in the gardens, however please respect the property by placing all cigarette butts in the bins provided.

Alcohol is permitted in Bishop's House, but please demonstrate respect for others and the ethos of the house by drinking in moderation. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted while working.

The possession and use of illegal substances (drugs) in Bishop's House is strictly prohibited. Any member of staff found in possession of or under the influence of illegal substances will be immediately dismissed.

THE CHAPEL

There are daily services in St Columba's chapel which is at the heart of Bishop's House. All services are open to the public as well as to guests staying with us. You are welcome to use the chapel or the prayer gallery at any time for private prayer. All are welcome at Bishop's House, regardless of their beliefs. NB Service times may alter slightly in 2017. 'Eucharist' is what some might call 'communion' or 'holy communion'.

ST COLUMBA'S SERVICE TIMES

Monday	Eucharist	8.00am	Compline	8.15pm
Tuesday	Eucharist	8.00am	Compline	8.15pm
Wednesday	Eucharist	8.00am		
	Eucharist	2.30pm	Compline	8.15pm
Thursday	Eucharist	8.00am	Compline	8.15pm
Friday	Eucharist	8.00am	Compline	8.15pm
Saturday	Eucharist	8.00am	Compline	8.15pm
Sunday	Eucharist	8.00am	Evensong	8.15pm

SUNDAY SERVICES

A number of Sunday services are held on the island, all are open to the public. There can be variations in time or location depending on availability of clergy.

Episcopalian Eucharist	8.00am	Bishop's House
Roman Catholic Mass	9.30am	Michael Chapel
Iona Community Communion	10.30am	Iona Abbey
Church of Scotland Sunday Service	12.00pm	Iona Parish Church
Evensong	8.15pm	Bishop's House
Quiet Service	9.00pm	Iona Abbey

GETTING TO IONA

Iona is a small island close to the far south west of the island of Mull, accessible by ferry and coach from Oban, which is the recommended port of departure for all travellers.

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO OBAN

Trains run regularly from Glasgow's Queen Street station, see the ScotRail website for timetables and prices. Oban can also be reached by coach, departing from Glasgow's Buchanan Street bus station, see the CityLink website for timetables and prices.

BY CAR TO OBAN

Oban is two hours drive from Glasgow, or three hours from Edinburgh (via Stirling). Drivers may find a route planner helpful.

FROM OBAN

Ferries run regularly from Oban to Craignure on the isle of Mull, see the Caledonian–MacBrayne website for timetables and prices. The Ferry Terminal is a two minute walk from both coach and train stations. Car drivers who are bringing their car to Mull are recommended to book in advance.

AT CRAIGNURE

Coaches run regularly from the Ferry Terminal at Craignure to Fionnphort, the village from which you catch the ferry to Iona. See the West Coast Motors website for timetable and prices. Car drivers follow the signs for Fionnphort. Travel time is about one hour.

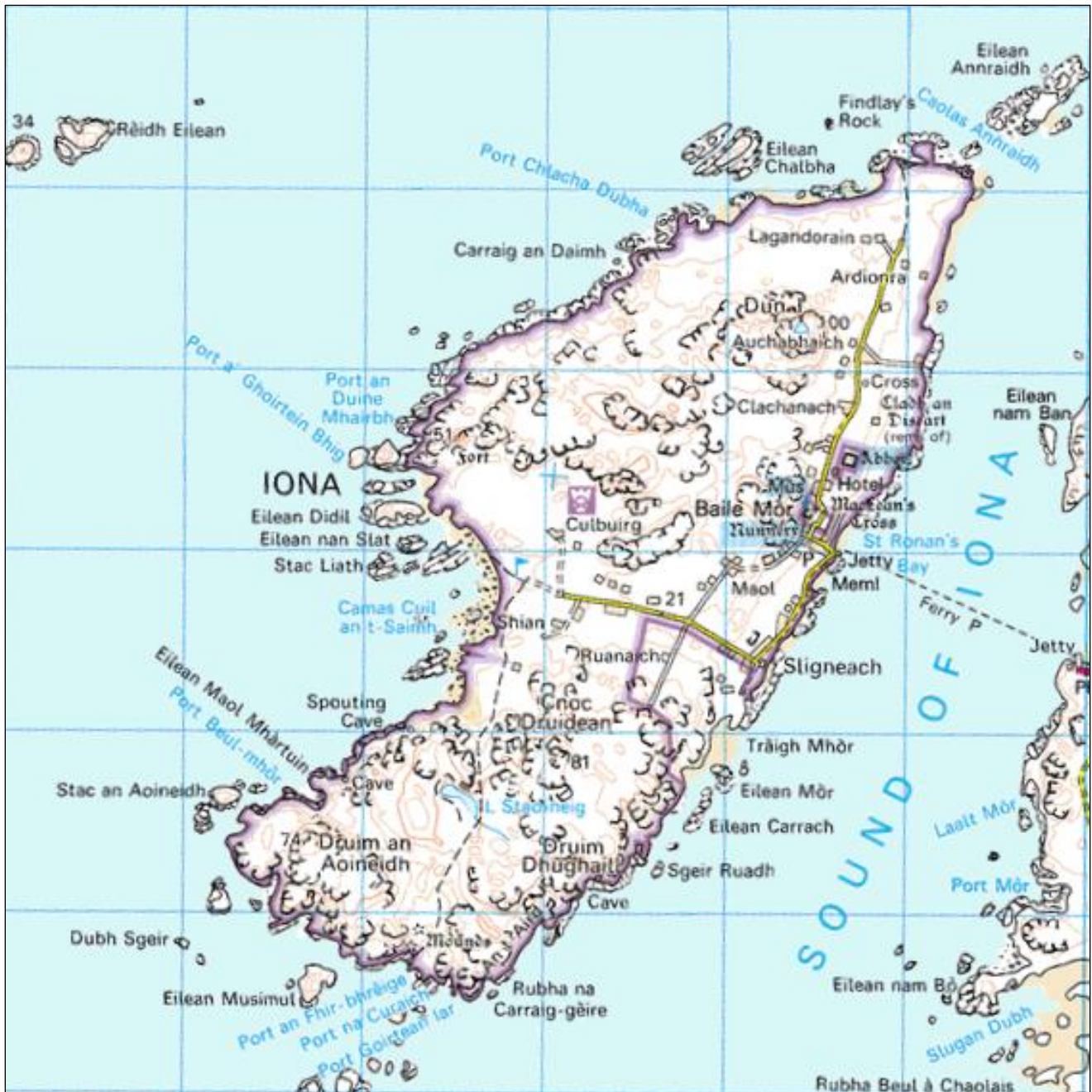
AT FIONNPHORT

Visitors are not permitted to bring their vehicles onto Iona, but a free long stay carpark is provided in Fionnphort. If you are mobility impaired and have a blue badge you can get a permit to bring your car onto the island, please contact Bishop's House for advice.

UPON IONA

Bishop's House is the last building on the village street. Coming off the ferry head up the hill, take the first right turn, go past the post office, and keep going until you reach Bishop's House.

MAP OF IONA



For your own safety when walking by yourself, please inform a fellow member of staff of where you're intending to walk.

Additional maps are displayed by the back door.

