



Iona Abbey

A Blessing of the Refurbished Community
& Living Spaces

Monday 7th June 2021

A Blessing at the Wild Goose Canopy

Leader God our creator, who in Christ
crossed the threshold of time to open the door to eternity,
bless this house and those who inhabit it.

All Make it a place which welcomes warmly and gives gladly,

Leader a place of helpful listening and gracious speaking,

All a place of fond debate and deep delight,

Leader a place of finding and of keeping.

**All Here may the Holy Spirit, midwife of creation,
reveal truth and inspire hope,**

Leader deepen faith, illuminate doubt,
unveil beauty and wean potential.

**All God bless the builders, the keepers, the sustainers
of this house where all belong.
Amen.**

A bell is rung

A Blessing in the Residents' Quarters

Leader God our protector, who in Christ
befriended the poor, the marginalised, the suspected
and delighted in their company as they did in his,
bless the hospitality of this house.

All Let there be inclusion for those who have been ignored,

Leader let there be company for those who have known loneliness
and laughter for those who have only known too many tears.

**All May the gifts of the poor be cherished
and the voice of the hesitant be heard.**

Leader And may those who have known little by way of happiness
find joy and love which lasts.

**All God bless the hosts, the carers, the cleaners
of this house where all belong.
Amen.**

A bell is rung

A Blessing in the Refectory

Leader God our provider, who in Christ
was for ever found sharing food and nurturing good company
bless the nourishment of this house.

**All Here may the produce of the soil and the work of human hands
be enjoyed.**

Leader Here may the fruitfulness and the frailty of the earth
be respected.

**All Here may companionship grow whenever people meet to eat
and entrust themselves to each other.**

Leader Here may the diverse flavours of food complement the diversity
of those who share it.

**All God bless the cooks, the companions, the conversations
in this house where all belong.
Amen**

A bell is rung

A blessing in the Common Room

Leader God, our sure foundation,
nearer are you than breathing,
closer than hands and feet.
Ours are the eyes with which you, in the mystery,
look out with compassion on the world.

**All So we bless you for this place,
for your directing of us,
your redeeming of us,
your presence among us.**

Leader Take us outside, O Christ, outside holiness,
out to where nations clash at the crossroads of the world.

**All So shall this building continue to be justified;
and your people find cause to bless your name.
Amen.**

A bell is rung

Bagpipes play

A Blessing in the Cloisters

Leader God, our redeemer, who out of the chaos before creation
shaped this peaceful place, and who through Columba and his successors
married peace to piety and justice to prayer,
preserve the sanctity of this island and the wellbeing of those who live here.

All Save it from sentimentalism which denies its ruggedness.

Leader Save it from commercialism which spoils its beauty
and belittles its people.

All May the grass be ever green and the human footprint ever light.

Leader May those who are born here wear their identity with pride
and those who visit here carry it home in their hearts.

**All May your kingdom come here, your will be done here,
in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

A bell is rung

The Abbey Church

Leader Unless the Lord builds the house,
All the labourers' work is worthless.

Leader Unless the Lord guards the city,
All the lookouts watch in vain.

Leader Our help is in the name of the Lord,
All the God of heaven and earth.

Song God bless this hallowed, ancient place
Tune: Vulpius

God bless this hallowed, ancient place
where heaven and earth meet and embrace.
and life and faith come face to face.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Here may we find and prize our worth
and be made servants of your earth
affirming all you bring to birth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Then send us out keen to increase
passion for justice, joy and peace,
and filled with love which shall not cease.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The Story

Iona School My name is Finlay MacInnes, and I am Millie Tindal.
We represent the past, present and future of Iona. Our people have populated
this land for thousands of years. The oldest building recorded is preserved in
concrete under our new nursery at the school, dated 5,000 BC.

- Reader 1 We are where many have been before us.
Centuries separate this gathering from those who came from Ireland and established the first monastic settlement on this site under the leadership of Columba.
This may have been a place of worship for longer still.
- Iona School Columba arrived in 563AD to a busy, bustling community – our island already a place of pilgrimage and tourism for the local population.
- Reader 1 The Columban monks lived in modest, primitive buildings.
They made of this island a centre for mission which married convictions about God with commitments to care for the world and its people.
- Iona School In 795, we had our next visitors – the Vikings. They didn't visit often, however it is recorded 83 monks were slaughtered.
St Oran's chapel was built in 1180 and this Abbey was founded in 1200.
- Reader 2 Over the centuries, this sanctuary was enlarged and the Abbey - the living and work quarters for the monks - was built in typical form around open cloisters.

Between the tenth and fifteenth centuries, the buildings were regularly ransacked.
But what was razed to the ground was always raised up again by the Benedictines, until the time of the Calvinist reformation in the mid 16th century.

In the centuries following the reformation, the ruins attracted famous people including Mendelssohn and Johnson, neither of whom would have foreseen that one day, these buildings would stand again in their pre-reformation glory.
- Iona School Our school opened its doors in 1774.
In 1846 we were hit by the potato famine and rents were raised by 50%. 100 people left our island for America, 52 for Canada and 31 for Australia.
In 1847, the royal cruise comes to Iona. Prince Albert landed but Queen Victoria stayed on the boat.
In 1881 the last New Year's Day Shinty match was played on the Machair.
- Reader 3 At the end of the 19th century, the then Duke of Argyll, who owned the island, decided that this place of worship should be rebuilt.

He put the church and the abbey ruins into the hands of a trust with the wish that they would never belong to one denomination but be used for Christian worship by any tradition.

- Iona School In 1909 Archie MacArthur and Janet MacNiven celebrated the first wedding in the restored Abbey Church.
- Reader 3 In 1938, George MacLeod started the Iona Community. He had known of the ruins of Iona Abbey since childhood and felt summoned by God to reconstruct the monastic building on the north side of the church
- With a team of trainee ministers and unemployed tradesmen, MacLeod initiated a process of restoration. Over twenty-five summers, people came from all over the world to work voluntarily on the project, which was financed in the main by donations.
- MacLeod determined to make this a place of meeting, conference and renewal, open to people of all faiths and none.
- Iona School In 1956, we had a visit from the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Margaret. In 1961 the last working horse was put out to graze.
- Reader 4 The Iona Community was founded to develop patterns of belief and living which emphasised commitment to prayer, politics, reconciliation and renewal.
- Magnificent as the rebuilt Abbey was in 1963, it was built according to the standards of the time, with shared living accommodation, sometimes in small cramped rooms, no access for people with limited mobility, little by way of heating and sanitation, and certainly no en suite or mezzanines.
- It became clear a decade ago that major renovation was required, and, with the consent of Historic Environment Scotland, plans were made and fund raising began.
- The major areas of refurbishment were identified as accessible accommodation and sustainable energy use, including insulation, an efficient heating system, a lift, reduced water consumption, sensor-activated lighting and energy-saving light bulbs throughout the building.
- In 2016 the Iona Abbey Capital Appeal was launched. Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, graciously agreed to be patron.
- Iona School In 2020 we survived a global pandemic and Iona fell silent.
- Reader 4 The refurbishment was finally completed in August of 2020 and the living spaces opened to residential guests just over a week ago.
- Iona School In 2021 The Iona Community brought the accommodation of the Abbey into the 21st Century and the Princess Royal is visiting the island today.

We have long lasting connections to this island. Our ancestors lie with the ancient kings of Scotland. We are proud members of the community of Iona. And you are all most welcome to our home.

SONG

What purpose have you, Lord, for us today?

Tune: Woodlands

What purpose Lord, have you for us today -
to praise the evidence of human skill,
to marvel at prayer answered, money raised,
or is there more in keeping with your will?

We both revere the past that now is gone
and celebrate the future of this site;
we praise you for its mark on history
and pray that what's to come is real and right.

Keep this an ever Pentecostal place,
a space which nurtures rich diversity,
where people meet and eagerly pursue
dynamic faith, hope, love and unity.

Leader Listen now in the reading of scripture
for the word and wisdom of God

READING

Luke 9. 1 – 6

Leader For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

All Thanks be to God

SERMON

Ruth Harvey, Leader of the Iona Community

ADDRESS

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal

SIGNING

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, signs the Book of Donors, which is then carried to the Communion Table

AFFIRMATION

Leader We now share words of affirmation
from participants at an Iona Community youth festival.

Because the Kingdom of God is open to all,

**All this must be a space, a place
where all can feel safe and welcome.**

Leader Because the voice of God is beautiful and creative,

**All the words we speak within these walls
must affirm, encourage and enliven all who meet here.**

Leader Because God loves and values people,
**All the relationships built and nurtured here
must be rich in acceptance and appreciation.**

Leader Because God has created a world of plenty,
**All this place must challenge inequality,
serve the marginalised
and encourage reverence for creation.**

Leader Because Jesus spoke of abundant life
and showed how it should be lived,
**All may all who live and work here,
and all who visit here,
discover and show in word and action,
the love, the justice and the joy
of God's kingdom.**

LIGHT The illuminated rose window in the north transept is switched on.

BLESSING

Leader God bless this house
and safeguard its future
as a sanctuary and a light.
All Amen

Leader God bless those who care for this house
and grant them patience, passion,
open heartedness and good faith,
all in good measure.
All Amen

Leader God bless those who will visit this house
that it may be for them a place of insight and renewal,
and an incentive to act justly, love kindly and walk humbly with their God.
All Amen

Leader And now
may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
rest on and remain with you,
now and always.
All Amen

Song

With warm thanks to everyone contributing to the service today:

Blessings in the living spaces: Walter Dunlop, Chris Mercer,,Christine Jones, Alby Page, Jenny Earl

Pipers: Cameron MacInnes, Anna Poynter, Finn Ruhemann,

Music: John Bell, Wild Goose Resource Group, Jerry Akehurst, Musician

The Story: Finlay MacInnes and Millie Tindal, Iona Primary School, Kathy Galloway and Christian Maclean, former Leaders of the Iona Community, Mary MacLeod, for the MacLeod family, Walter Dunlop, who, with Raymond Young, oversaw the refurbishment project

Reader: Lesley Orr, for the late Peter MacDonald

Leader/Preacher: Ruth Harvey, Leader of the Iona Community

Address: HRH The Princess Royal, Patron of the Capital Appeal

The Book of Donors: Bénédicte Scholefield and Isabel Sarle, Capital Appeal Team

Music/Affirmation: Martin Scott, Convener of Council, Iona Community

Blessing: Jenny Earl, Minister, Iona Parish Church, Joyce Watson, Chaplain, Bishop's House, Iona and Jane Kindeln, Chaplain, Catholic House of Prayer, Iona, Christine Jones, Capital Appeal

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