



**St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church and  
St Moluag's Scottish Episcopal Church  
Isle of Lewis  
(SC005332)**



St Peter's East Window

## Profile

### WHO WE ARE

The congregation of St. Peter's is a scattered community, with members coming from all over the island. We have a communicant congregation of around 35 each Sunday and 10 midweek and the approximate figures (for the past year) were:

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Communicants           | 74 |
| Total membership       | 83 |
| Baptisms               | 1  |
| Weddings               | 1  |
| Funerals               | 3  |
| House / Sick Communion | 9  |

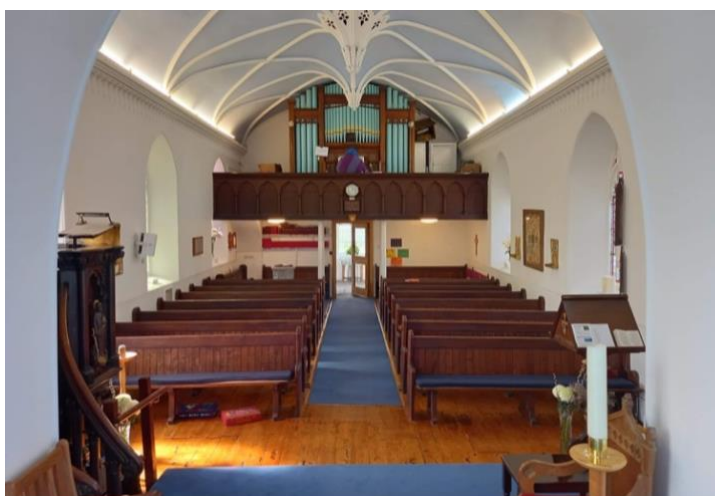
The people of St. Peter's form a lively and diverse group from all walks of life, including some from other denominations. Many are not indigenous to the Western Isles, although some are life-long members. St. Peter's is an open and welcoming spiritual community reaching out into the community near and far, through the prayer, work, and loving service of our members: a safe place, open to all, from which God's offer of new life in Christ may be discovered. Congregation numbers have remained constant over the last year, with a few younger adults and children now forming part of the regular worshipping body.



St Peter's, Stornoway

### WORSHIP AND CHURCH LIFE AT ST PETER'S & ST MOLUAG'S

We hold two services on Sunday at St Peter's; an 11:00 am Sung Eucharist using the 1982 liturgy; and a 6:30 pm Evening Prayer using the 1929 Scottish Prayer



St Peter's interior (looking west)

Book. An all-age Eucharist is held monthly. In addition, a midweek Communion service is held on Wednesdays at 11:00 am.

St. Peter's has a fine and well-maintained organ by Bevington and Sons which is used regularly in worship. There is a regular organist for the 11 am Sunday Eucharist. A small, but very able, instrumental group plays at the monthly all-age Eucharist. A small choir

(sometimes augmented from others beyond the congregation) is gathered for the major festivals. There are two congregational settings of the Eucharist in regular use, alongside the most recent edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. We are looking to slowly grow our range of hymns and songs.

Members of the congregation participate in the life of the church, and we have rotas for altar servers, readers, intercessors, flower arranging, after-church refreshments and cleaning. We have on-going

fundraising with the sale of postcards. In recent years fundraising has also taken the form of a ceilidh, a sponsored walk, a sponsored swim, weekly “soup stops”, plant sales, Christmas card sales incorporating photos of church stained glass windows, cream teas and summer fairs.



St Moluag's, Eoropaidh

candlelit Christingle/Carol Service at St Moluag's attracts a large congregation from all denominations and none.

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT

St Peter's has a gathered congregation, with some members travelling up to 35 miles in each direction to attend worship. This inevitably affects the shape of congregational life and the scope of mission and makes the two principal gatherings for worship (Sunday and Wednesday mornings) valuable occasions for the fostering of fellowship and community. Some members are lifelong Episcopalians / Anglicans, but others have joined St Peter's from other denominations. There have been five adult confirmations in the past five years. The congregation has grown steadily in size in recent years, and in age profile.

The congregation appreciates biblical preaching, that is also applied to life today and there is a healthy tradition of theological discussion and engagement with Scripture. A significant nucleus of the congregation has enjoyed participation in theological reflection and Bible study groups, and in seasonal quiet days.

The worshipping body includes a significant number from non-Anglican / SEC backgrounds, some of whom have found the open, theologically curious approach of St Peter's to be helpful.



St Peter's interior (looking east)

The Eucharist is celebrated monthly throughout the year at St. Moluag's Church at Eoropaidh in the north of the island with music usually being provided by means of a battery-powered keyboard. Compline with prayers for the sick is held once a month. Prayer requests are pinned onto a Prayer Tree. An annual

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

The people of St. Peter's seek to express mission through the 'Five Marks of Mission':

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

As part of the world-wide Anglican Communion, we reach out into our community in a way that is relevant and engaging yet honours the rich heritage and tradition from which we come. We strive to make our church an open and loving place where all are welcome. St. Peter's is open every day of the week. This fact alone represents an important element of how we offer ministry to the community. St. Peter's provides a place of peace, respite, prayer, and contemplation used by members of the local community, visitors, and tourists. Our visitors' book reflects their experience of the tranquillity and sacredness found within the church.

Our Sunday Eucharist is recorded every week and posted on our St Peter's Church Facebook page, with plans to livestream services in the near future after our new sound system has been installed. We also have plans to develop a website.

A significant proportion of the congregation is involved in the support of others within the community (e.g. work with Syrian and Afghan refugees, Samaritans, the Gambia Partnership, Eilean Siar Foodbank, Fàilte Centre, Men's Parliament, Cancer Charities, Befriending, Hospital Chaplaincy, Street Pastors etc).

Two knitting and craft groups from within and out-with the congregation meet weekly in the church hall. Finished items are periodically donated to local charities and organisations.

Godly Play was launched early in 2022 and currently has a team of trained Godly Play leaders of whom four regularly lead weekly term-time sessions in a local school on a rota basis. There are plans to introduce Godly Play to residents in the Care Home in Stornoway.

The last incumbent was a member of the ecumenical chaplaincy team at two schools, one in Stornoway and one in Ness, leading occasional assemblies.

## THE DIOCESE

St Peter's is within the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles. [www.argyll.anglican.org](http://www.argyll.anglican.org) This is a geographically large, but numerically small, diocese, with only seven full-time clergy and around twenty congregations. Clergy meet regularly online for discussion and support, fortnightly morning prayer and as a group in person four times a year including an annual retreat on Iona. The nearest priests in the Diocese are in Portree, Skye and the Isle of Raasay, Berneray and in the Moray Diocese, at Ullapool.

The Diocesan Bishop (David) and Office are situated in Oban, where the annual Diocesan Synod and Conference are held in March each year. Mission is supported

by the Canon Missioner as the diocese follows a five-year vision of us understanding ourselves as a 'Pilgrim People'. Lay members of the charge take a full part in Diocesan and Provincial structures, serving on the Faith and Order Board and on General Synod. With fewer clergy, the Diocese offers opportunities for strategic and diocesan wide roles that may be less accessible in a larger diocese. The diocese is a warm and close family in many ways.

## RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE IN THE ISLANDS

The Isle of Lewis is predominantly Protestant, and the main denominations can be located within the conservative Reformed Presbyterian tradition. A large proportion of indigenous islanders are members/adherents of the Free Church of Scotland or the Church of Scotland, both of which operate within more conservative parameters than would be found on the mainland. Smaller offshoots of the former (the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, the Associated Presbyterian Church, the Free Church Continuing and the Reformed Presbyterian Church) make up the Reformed Presbyterian majority. In all these churches, other than the three Churches of Scotland in Stornoway, services are conducted without the use of any instrumental music, or any song other than the metrical Psalms.

Alongside St. Peter's, other minority Christian denominations in Lewis are Roman Catholic, Orthodox, New Wine Pentecostal, Salvation Army, Baptist, Brethren, Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. There are very small Muslim and Bahai communities and a mosque has recently opened in Stornoway. Of the remaining islands in the Outer Hebrides, Harris and North Uist are predominantly Protestant and Presbyterian, while Benbecula, South Uist and Barra are predominantly Roman Catholic.

A significant feature of Lewis's theological and cultural tradition is the close adherence to Sabbath observance, which can be a very sensitive issue for many clergy and people due to ongoing pressure for social change.

The charge offers a distinctive Episcopalian presence within the prevailing culture of conservative Presbyterianism. A respectful appreciation of the unique Christian heritage of this island can go hand in hand with a valuing of what a balanced and confident Anglican approach to faith and mission can bring. There is a real opportunity for the right person to grow a ministry among people of sincere faith who are looking for a safe space to explore what it means to follow Jesus today.



Good Friday Ecumenical Procession

Ecumenical possibilities on the Isle of Lewis are perhaps more limited than in many places. In recent years, good links have been forged with some of the local clergy – in particular those of the Roman Catholic Church, Church of Scotland, Free Church, and Salvation Army. The local Orthodox Community have met in St Peter's Church from time to time and the Roman Catholic community use St. Moluag's Church on occasions. There is now established

ecumenical cooperation in Holy Week (with the

Roman Catholic Church and the Salvation Army). St Peter's hosting the annual commissioning service for Stornoway Street Pastors in 2023 was a significant step forward in building trust with Free Church and Church of Scotland congregations.

Many churches in Stornoway, including St Peter's, take part in the annual World Day of Prayer.

## THE BUILDINGS

### St. Peter's Church

This B-listed building was built in 1838 and consecrated in 1898. The chancel was added in 1954. We are the second oldest church in Stornoway and the only church in the town to have a graveyard within its grounds which also include a quiet garden. The church is located within a conservation area in a central position within the town of Stornoway and a short walk from the main amenities and shopping area.

Members of the congregation have a great love of the church building and care for it well, giving generously of their time, energy, and expertise. The past year has seen significant investment in the fabric of St Peter's, with the re-pointing of the tower and the repair of the ancient bell. The church and vestry were redecorated 5 years ago, and a new carpet was fitted in 2020.



St Peter's grounds



Church hall exterior



Lady Matheson's Window

The Church has a stained-glass window in memory of Lady Matheson, an important historical benefactor of St. Peter's. Made by James Powell, a notable stained-glass company in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is included in the Victoria and Albert Museum catalogue as a very fine example of the Arts and Crafts movement. The window has recently been extensively repaired.

A small hall attached to the Church was built in 2008, after substantial fundraising by the congregation, and has made a significant difference to the life and witness of the people.

## St Moluag's Church



St Moluag's east window at dawn on Easter Sunday

The historically significant church of St Moluag is a medieval building that was extensively restored in 1912, largely due to the efforts of Canon Meaden, the incumbent of St Peter's at that time. It is located in the centre of a croft, approximately two hundred and fifty yards from the road, and has no electricity or water supply. It is visited by many cruise ship passengers and other tourists, many of whom sign the Visitors' Book. In recent years it has become a popular venue for weddings and baptisms, and a Christingle service is held annually.

## The Rectory

Situated in Churchill Drive, within a ten-minute walk of St Peter's, this is a five-bedroomed detached property which meets the guidelines for an SEC rectory. Generally in a good state of repair and decoration, work was carried out in the previous vacancy, including internal insulation.



St Peter's House



St Peter's House – rear garden

## Former Boat House and Newton Hall

St Peter's benefits from rental income generated by these properties which consist of the "Boathouse", with prefabricated premises, known as the Newton Hall, and land to the rear. The Boathouse is a small building which was originally used as a sea cadet hall. It has recently been extensively refurbished and is currently let to a monumental mason. The remainder of the premises are currently occupied by other tenants, namely a Dog Grooming salon and a storeroom used by the local Macmillan Cancer Support Fundraising Group.

## Quinquennial Property Reports

These were completed in June 2023. There are a number of issues to be addressed over the next few years, and the Vestry is in the process of identifying and prioritising urgent items. This is initially the responsibility of the Buildings Committee (a sub-committee of the Vestry).

## **FINANCIAL POSITION**

St Peter's Church is currently in a sound financial position, although it does not enjoy the financial strengths of larger urban churches.

St Peter's has been able to cover its costs over the past few years using a variety of sources. The church receives a provincial support for ministry grant and also benefits from the Mackenzie Trust.

The trust was set up under the will of William Mackenzie, the last member of a local family with a long association with St Peter's. The Trust makes grants to individuals in need who reside in the HS1 postcode of Stornoway and who cannot access funds from other agencies. Any residual balance of each year's income reverts to the vestry of St Peter's. The amounts can significantly vary year on year, and it is hoped that we can reduce reliance on the Trust in the future. The Bishop currently acts as one of three Trustees to the Mackenzie Trust.

From time-to-time other grants and donations have been received. The congregation also fundraises to support the costs of maintaining the fabric of the church and over the past few years raised sufficient money to redecorate the church and to undertake significant repair work.

The Vestry have recently installed QR giving codes in both St Peter's and St Moluag's church buildings which are already earning an income from visitors to either of the church buildings. The QR system is really only suited to the more IT able visitor and we have currently invested in an electronic card reader that will collect donations from credit cards when they are presented. Both systems are also acceptable by the Inland Revenue for Gift Aid donations. As St Moluag's has no power, the reader has only been installed in St Peter's. We are currently pursuing alternative digital methods of generating income.

The stipend for this office is the standard full-time stipend of £36,381, as from 1st January 2026 plus a non-contributory pension (SEC Pension Scheme). Working expenses (including travel) for parish and diocesan business are reimbursed in full. Council Tax, water, landline, and broadband charges for the rectory are paid in full.

The audited accounts for the most recent year will be made available to short-listed candidates.

## **GEOGRAPHIC AND CULTURAL LOCATION**

St. Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church is located in Stornoway, the main administrative centre for the Outer Hebrides (Western Isles). The main islands are Lewis, Harris, North Uist, South Uist and Barra, which are connected primarily by roads and causeways.

The Western Isles constituency is represented by one MP at Westminster, and one MSP at the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh. The population of Lewis is 18,500 (2021 census), Stornoway is approximately 8,000, and the total of the Outer Hebrides (Lewis and Harris, The Uists, and Barra) is 27,684. Stornoway is the largest town in the Outer Hebrides with a well-serviced hospital, well stocked library, Council offices, Arts Centre, and Health Board. There is a primary school in the town itself and

another large one on the outskirts. The main secondary school for the island is also situated in Stornoway.

Stornoway airport connects Lewis and Harris to Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Inverness on the mainland of Scotland. There remains one inter-island flight between Stornoway and Benbecula. The ferry terminal with twice-daily crossings (once on Sundays) connects Stornoway to Ullapool, and there are other inter-island ferry services from Tarbert and Leverburgh in the Isle of Harris. (Further information about facilities and services can be found in the free app “Hebrides Life”).



**Stornoway inner harbour**

Over 40% of the working population is employed by the public sector, mainly Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (the local authority) and the NHS Western Isles Health Board. Tourism is important economically, bringing in over £45 million a year in revenue to the islands. The town of Stornoway is also home to a further and higher education college, [UHI North, West and Hebrides](#), part of the University of the Highlands and Islands, a combination of nineteen campuses and centres across the North and West Highlands, Skye and Outer Hebrides, with a total of 600 staff members and 9,000 students.



**Lewis Castle**



**Callanish stones**

The Outer Hebrides is characterised by the richness of its creative and cultural content and products, inspired by the ‘sense of place’, encompassing environment, community, Gaelic language, and cultural heritage. The Outer Hebrides is home to the largest concentration of Gaelic speakers in Scotland. Gaelic TV channel, BBC Alba, is located in Stornoway.

The area hosts renowned events, festivals and galleries which build on its cultural and creative base. Creative products, particularly Harris Tweed, and various food products, are being exported regularly from the Outer Hebrides to an international customer base. Hebridean culture is rich in the arts, with many fine artists, writers, musicians and poets living on the island.

## **Priest-in-Charge Profile**

This appointment is envisaged as suiting a person and any dependent family who expects to stay on the island and become integrated into the way of life.

St. Peter's and St. Moluag's SEC have been part of life and worship on the Isle of Lewis for many years. This charge, like any other, has an extensive history and is situated in a group of islands known for their distinctive religious and cultural history.

The appointment would particularly suit a person prepared to commit themselves to becoming part of the public face of the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) with sensitivity and integrity within that larger history, in addition to offering the following qualities and requirements:

- To be our priest, leading worship of God, celebrating the Eucharist weekly, preaching and teaching the scriptures and providing a compassionate pastoral ministry at all opportunities
- To be a witness to Christ in the local communities with energy and vision
- To organise and participate in opportunities for formation and growth, through Bible study, theological reflection, and devotional events
- To organise and provide pastoral and sacramental care to the sick and housebound developing all available resources
- To develop mission with the help and support of the Diocesan Missioner
- To develop, with churchwardens and Lay Leaders, ministry to the whole island
- To organise and chair regular Vestry meetings and any other associated committees
- To demonstrate a commitment to the growth and development of the charge through Diocesan initiatives and including ministry among children and young people. Knowledge of Godly Play would be an advantage
- To discharge the required duties of service, administration and making returns to the Diocese as well as leading the provision of spiritual and practical support to those in need
- With the Vestry, to ensure compliance with Canon Law and other legal requirements such as Health and Safety and the Protection of Vulnerable Groups and Individuals; GDPR, OSCR etc
- To take an active part in Diocesan life, including regular attendance at both General and Diocesan Synods
- To develop ecumenical outreach, including the representation of the Scottish Episcopal Church at local ecumenical activities and in the wider community.

## **Person Profile**

St. Peter's current congregation is a diverse body of people, comprising the retired, younger adults and children, many of whom are actively involved in both the church and wider community. It is a congregation keen to be challenged and grow in their spiritual lives and to be engaged with the person appointed through conversation, prayer, discussion groups, in developing the life and outreach of the church.

St. Peter's congregation are mainly retired folk, many of whom are actively committed to working hard to sustain the different aspects of the work of the Church. There is a mix of 'new' islanders, some of whom have lived on Lewis for over 30 years and a few indigenous islanders, as well as some younger adults and children.

Listed below are the qualities that we are looking for in our new Priest:

### ***Essential***

- Priest ordained in the Scottish Episcopal Church or the wider Anglican Communion
- Bible-based preaching, teaching and prayerfulness which enables congregational development and growth
- Trained in theology or divinity to degree level or equivalent
- A high level of Biblical literacy
- Enthusiastic and effective communicator
- Leadership qualities, including enabling others, and ensuring an inclusive approach
- Able and willing to share and explore together a deepening understanding of God's purposes
- Willingness to work with members of the congregation and wider community to enable and develop people's gifts and talents
- Knowledge and sensitivity to island theological traditions
- Current driving licence, preferably with own vehicle
- Prepared to travel, including overnight stays due to island logistics, and to accommodate ministry to a far-flung congregation

### ***Desirable***

- Able to communicate using a range of different media
- Commitment: looking for a long-term relationship with the congregation
- Awareness of history, tradition, and liturgy of the Scottish Episcopal Church
- Experience of ministry elsewhere, including in the UK
- Resourceful & imaginative in ministry
- Appreciation of the role of the Gaelic language in Episcopal worship
- Sense of humour

## **APPENDIX 1. CONSULTATION**

In preparing this profile, all members of the congregation were asked to contribute by sharing their understanding of the characteristics of St. Peter's and St. Moluag's. They were also encouraged to identify the main elements of the person profile and the position which they judged to be important.

The following four points were highlighted as most significant from the person profile.

1. Enthusiastic and effective communicator
2. Priest ordained in the Scottish Episcopal Church or the wider Anglican Communion
3. Leadership qualities, including enabling others, and ensuring an inclusive approach
4. Sense of humour.

Similarly, from the Priest-in-Charge profile, the following were identified as priorities in our search.

1. To be our priest, leading worship of God, celebrating the Eucharist weekly, preaching and teaching the scriptures and providing a compassionate pastoral ministry at all opportunities
2. To organise and provide pastoral and sacramental care to the sick and housebound developing all available resources
3. To be a witness to Christ in the local communities with energy and vision
4. To demonstrate a commitment to the growth and development of the charge through Diocesan initiatives and including ministry among children and young people.

## APPENDIX 2. MISSION AND VISION

### Vision Statement:

To live as Christ lived, loving everyone!

### Mission Statement:

- St. Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church and St. Moluag's Scottish Episcopal Church, on the Isle of Lewis are committed to nurturing the communities.
- We strive to be a beacon of hope, connecting islanders and visitors to God and to each other through the love of Christ.
- Our mission is to foster spiritual growth, build deep communal bonds and serve as stewards of the island, whilst preserving its unique heritage and culture.



St. Peter's Morning Service. August 2026

### APPENDIX 3. AROUND THE CONGREGATION. PHOTOS FROM AUGUST 2026.



Bible Study. Westside



Wednesday Holy Communion



Men's Parliament



St. Moluag's



On the path to St. Moluag's



Coffee after our Sunday morning

## APPENDIX 4. WORD ‘CLOUD’

The 'Word Cloud' image below was created using the feedback provided by members of the congregation during our consultation regarding 'the characteristics of our Church'.

