

THE ISLE OF ARRAN PARISH 2023

PARISH PROFILE

LOCHRANZA

BRODICK



SHISKINE

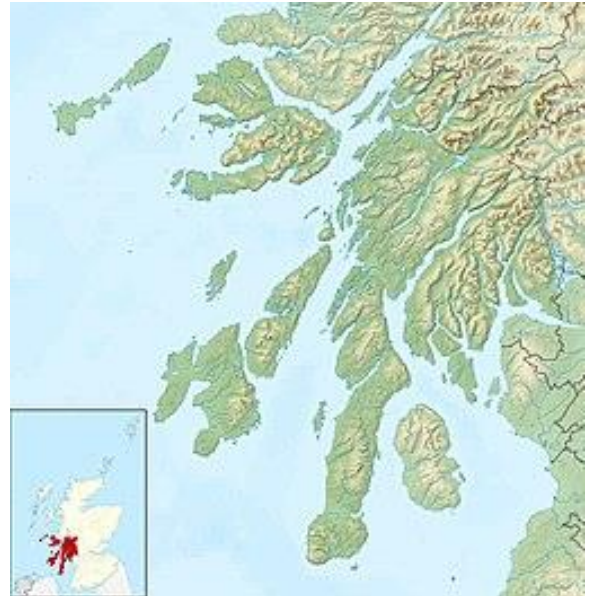
WHITING BAY

ARRAN

Arran is known as "Scotland in miniature" and a "geologists paradise."

The island lies in the Firth of Clyde between Ayr, Ardrossan, and Kintyre. It has an area of 167 square miles with the highest elevation of Goat Fell at 2867 feet.

The island includes miles of coastal pathways, numerous hills and mountains, forested areas, rivers, small lochs and beaches.



The latest figure for population size is from the census of 2011 and stands at 4629. There are seven primary schools and one high school on the island.

Arran has several villages, mainly around the shoreline. Brodick (Old Norse: 'broad bay') is the site of the ferry terminal, several hotels, and the majority of shops. Other villages include Lamlash, Lochranza, Pirnmill, Corrie, Blackwaterfoot, Kilmory, Kildonan and Whiting Bay.

Arran is connected to the Scottish mainland by two ferry routes operated by Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac). The Brodick to Ardrossan service is provided by MV Caledonian Isles, with additional summer sailings by MV Isle of Arran (currently MV Alfred). A service to Lochranza is provided by MV Catriona from Claonaig in summer and from Tarbert in winter.

There are three main roads on the island. The 90 km (56 mi) coast road circumnavigates the island. The other two roads run across from the east to the west side of the island. The main cross-island road is the 19 km (12 mi) B880 from Brodick to Blackwaterfoot, called "The String". About 10 kilometres (6 mi) from Brodick, a minor road branches off to the right to Machrie (Machrie Moor road). The single-track road "The Ross" runs 15 kilometres (9 mi) from Lamlash to Lagg and Slidery via Glen Scorrodale.

The island has a public bus service operated by Stagecoach. The main bus terminal on the island is in Brodick at the Ferry Terminal.

The main industry on the island is tourism, with outdoor activities such as walking, cycling and wildlife watching being especially popular. Popular walking routes include climbing to the summit of Goat Fell, and the Arran Coastal Way, a 107 km (66 mi) trail that goes around the coastline the island.

The island has a number of golf courses including the 12 hole Shiskine links course which was founded in 1896.

Farming and forestry are other important industries.

Isle of Arran Brewery is a microbrewery founded in March 2000 in Cladach, near Brodick. It makes eight regular cask and bottled beers.

Other businesses include Arran Aromatics, which produces a range of luxury toiletries, perfumes and candles, Arran Dairies, Arran Cheese Shop, James's Chocolates, Wooleys (Bakery) of Arran.

Red deer are numerous on the northern hills, and there are populations of red squirrel, badger, otter, adder and common lizard. Offshore there are harbour porpoises, basking sharks and various species of dolphin.

Over 250 species of bird have been recorded on Arran, including black guillemot, eider, peregrine falcon, golden eagle, short-eared owl, red-breasted merganser and black-throated diver.

The 'Isle of Arran' Churches

The Isle of Arran Church of Scotland Parish came into existence on 1 September 2023. As such, we are still in the process of organizing this very new parish which is an amazing opportunity for the person who would very much enjoy being in at the start.



The Union was celebrated on the 1st of October with a special communion service, lunch and cake!



There are four worship centres in the parish, situated in the north (Lochranza), south (Whiting Bay), east (Brodick) and west (Shiskine) of the island.

PA systems are installed in all the buildings, but it is hoped in time to upgrade to multimedia systems.

Whiting Bay, Brodick and Shiskine have their own hall, kitchen, and toilet facilities. Lochranza has toilet facilities. Shiskine has its own parking area while Lochranza, Brodick and Whiting Bay have parking available at the roadside.

Photos of the outside and inside of each worship centre are at Appendix A.

The Church in the Community

The minister and MDS worker will have the opportunity to visit the seven primary schools at the invitation of the Head Teachers and conducts special end-of-term services for the pupils in the associated churches.

A number of coffee mornings take place in the churches around the island, either once a month or weekly. These are well attended by all sections of the community and is an opportunity for outreach.

The island's Food Bank is in Brodick church which is open 24/7. It is managed by volunteers from Brodick church, with contributions coming from every church, other organisations and individual members of the community. In addition, the churches or their halls host Food Share and Zero Waste for the villages.

Photo Whiting Bay church has had a long association with the Scripture Union Mission and its campers over the summer and welcomes the Boys Brigade campers every July.



The organisation 'Arran Churches Together' (ACT) brings together all the denominations represented on the island, including Roman Catholic, Baptist and Quaker. Special services are organised, such as Songs of Praise, Easter Walk of Witness and World Day of Prayer.

Other local religious organisations are the Sannox Christian Centre and the Buddhist retreats; one on the Holy Isle and the other at Glen Scorrodale.

The Manse

The manse is situated in Brodick, a few minutes' walk from the ferry. It is a brand new, purpose-built house which fully meets the requirements laid down for a manse. It was completed during the Covid pandemic. However, by then there was no minister, and so it has not been occupied to date. In addition to being a state-of-the-art building, it offers spectacular views across Brodick Bay to the castle and Goat Fell.

A selection of photos is available at Appendix B.

Presbytery

The Isle of Arran Parish is in the newly created Presbytery of South-West Scotland. The presbytery plan has allocated one Minister of Word and Sacrament and one MDS worker or deacon to our parish.

Departure from Church of Scotland Practice in Relation to Human Sexuality

TBC

Statistics

NAME	DATE FIRST OPENED	COMMUNION ROLL	ADHERENTS ROLL	AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	AGE PROFILE	NUMBER OF FUNERALS IN LAST 5 YEARS
Brodick St Brides	1910	100	19	30	Over 50	38
Lochranza St Brides	1712	44	10	16	55-95	25
St Molios	1889	43	8	20	16-24 0 25-44 1 45-64 7 64-84 22 85+ 13	24
Whiting Bay St Donans	1968	56	2	20-30	60-90	175 (Incl Lamlash & Kilmory)

Staff

The church buildings either have an employed cleaner or operate a Rota of volunteers from the congregation.

Organizations

There are no Sunday Schools at this moment in time. Youth work is most obvious in Whiting Bay during the summer when there is a large Scripture Union Camp which gets involved in the church activities. There is also a Boys Brigade camp every year which is involved with the church.

There are many activities which happen in some or all the churches:

- There are regular Coffee Mornings or Afternoons and a St Molios Garden party has been well attended over several years.
- Messy Church is proving popular as is the Warm Room initiative and Café church.



Warm room photo

café church photo

- The Guild holds monthly meetings, often with guest speakers from the various projects they support. It also organizes several fund-raising events throughout the year. Particularly popular is the annual BBQ.



- Over many years a highly successful Christian Aid week was organized involving many volunteers who collected around the island. This had to be discontinued during Covid and now a Coffee Morning and a Sunday offering is dedicated to raising funds for Christian Aid.
- There are regular meetings of a bible study group which is open to all.

Worship

Sunday morning worship

There are 4 services each Sunday. Presently the locum and one pulpit supply person each conduct two services, between Lochranza/Shiskine and Whiting Bay/Brodick. There are 4 Readers on the island who have participated, not only in worship, but in many other tasks including funerals. This is a bonus to the future ministry on the island since they could offer support in different ways and supply, for example when the minister/MDS are on annual leave.

A service is recorded fortnightly and then uploaded to YouTube with links on the web sites. This recording is watched by islanders who are unable to get to a service and by former Arran residents in such countries as Australia, New Zealand and Spain.

On the last Sunday of each month there is a third service in the Care Home in Brodick (Montrose House).

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated quarterly.

Other worship

The churches are involved in many other services:

- The villages which have a war memorial have an Act of Remembrance which is conducted by the minister.



- There is an annual HMS Dasher service held every year at their memorial at the ferry terminal.
- The annual Clachan service is held in the original church for Shiskine, attended by all denominations and members of the wider community.
- There is a Preaching Cave service – held in what was the preaching cave on the shoreline near Blackwaterfoot, also attended by all denominations on the island.
- A local farmer hosted a Blessing of the Lambs service.
- Taize service is held once a month which is open to all.
- Prayers for Health and Healing are also held each month.
- There are services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day across the island.
- A Christingle service is often held in several worship centres during December.



The Kirk Session

The newly formed Isle of Arran Kirk Session has been set up and has the potential to introduce new practices and to encourage an island-wide ethos. It is moderated/advised by the Interim Moderator, Rev Tom Macintyre.

There are presently ?? elders (?? Male and ?? female).

New appointments have been made including Session Clerk, Depute Session Clerk, Property Team Leader and Treasurer. It is envisaged that the members of the Kirk Session will work in teams, as they identify the areas of mission and practical tasks required in a new setting. The opportunity will be given to elders to play to their particular strengths. With the Unitary Constitution in place, there is potential for former board members and church members to increase the working capacity of the Kirk Session.

Mission Statement

The Isle of Arran Parish is a friendly, warm welcoming and all-inclusive congregation striving to serve God and the community in worship, faith, fellowship and action. It is a place where people know they are accepted, valued, loved and cared for by God's grace.

In collaboration with the Minister, we would like to use the talents and energy of the congregation to reach out and serve the wider community and within this, work towards achieving the 5 Marks of Mission. We are keen to facilitate this through working in partnership with all organisations and individuals on the island who are willing to share their talents, envisaging that this will allow the congregation to thrive for years to come.

Financial Review

With the approval of OSCR a new bank account has been set up. There is a team of past treasurers for the individual churches who are already working well in partnership.

Outlook

Since Covid our income has fallen, numbers attending church have not returned to pre-Covid levels. The Kirk Session will need to address this, with encouragement from our new Minister. We hope more may return to church and play a part in our mission to the communities in which we are placed.

Thought needs to be given by the Kirk Session to the approach during the current economic situation and it is acknowledged that there is pressure on church finances

due to high inflation. For future major expenditure, we need to plan fundraising and have funding in place prior to implementation.

Additional Information

The links below provide more information about the churches:

<http://stmoliosshiskine.org.uk/>

<http://lochranzachurch.org.uk/>

<http://brodickchurch.org/>

Appendix A

BRODICK



WHITING BAY



SHISKINE



LOCHRANZA



Appendix B

THE MANSE



