

Retreat to Iona

Pilgrimage, Reflection & Prayer

Led by

The Revd Joyce Watson

Resident Episcopal Priest, Isle of Iona

17th - 21st July 2017



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Retreat Pilgrimage to Iona

Day 1 - Monday 17th July **Starting our Pilgrimage**

Our pilgrimage begins in Glasgow where we are asked to check-in no later than 6:30pm. Please ensure you make your own arrangements for your return journey to Glasgow by train, coach or plane. Overnight stay in central Glasgow.

Day 2 - Tuesday 18th July **Glasgow to Iona**

This morning, after an early breakfast, we board our train for the beautiful journey from Glasgow to Oban via the banks of Loch Lomond. On arrival in Oban we will board a ferry to take us to the Isle of Mull. From here a stunning coach ride across this beautiful island brings us to the ferry port of Fionnphort where we will board another ferry to sail on to the sacred island of Iona in the Scottish Hebrides. On arrival we will make our way to our accommodation. After settling in and an introductory session we have our first talk on the nature of the holy places, like Iona, the “thin places of the world”, where the Divine often seems very close indeed. We then enjoy dinner together.



Day 3 - Wednesday 19th July **Iona - Celtic Quiet Day**

After breakfast, Morning Prayer and Address, we will share a day of peace and reflection with scope for informal reflection and discussion and time to read, pray or walk. We will celebrate

Communion just before lunch. After Evening Prayer we will dine together.



Day 4 - Thursday 20th July **Iona - Iona's Saints**

After breakfast, Morning Prayer and Address, we will share a day of peace and reflection with scope for informal reflection and discussion and time to read, pray or walk. We will celebrate Communion before lunch. The rest of the afternoon will be free for reflection and prayer. We will finish the day with Evening Prayer and Address followed by a farewell dinner together.



Day 5 - Friday 21st July **Iona - Journey home**

After a very early breakfast and Morning Prayer, we travel by ferry, coach and train back to Glasgow, (arriving at around 4pm), where we bid each other farewell, refreshed in the spirit of Iona.



Iona

The prestige of Iona began in AD 563 when the Celtic bishop Columba and his twelve companions sailed from Ireland to found a monastery here and used it as a base from which to convert the Picts to Christianity.

The monastery was attacked and burned six times by Vikings and was eventually abandoned in favour of Kells in Ireland.

Iona was occupied again in 1203 as a Benedictine monastery, but it fell into ruin during the Reformation when symbols of the Roman Catholic faith came under attack.

The oldest surviving building is St Oran's chapel (c. 1080), and the ornately carved St Martin's Cross (10th century) stands outside the cathedral.

Today Iona is a sacred place visited by thousands of pilgrims every year.

Please note this complex touring programme may be subject to minor local amendments

The Revd Joyce Watson



I was born in a village in East Yorkshire in 1946, enjoying a country childhood which instilled in me a lifelong passion for the beauty of creation. For several years I was a teacher (Home Economics) before moving into catering, and worked for four years at St.Ninian's Centre in Crieff, Perthshire (a centre for lay training and mission) There faith came alive for me and I also discovered Iona, where, after several holiday visits, I spent most of the 1980's as Warden of Bishop's House, the Retreat House of the Scottish Episcopal (Anglican) Church.

After 9 years back in Yorkshire, caring for my elderly mother and also training to be a Reader, I returned to Iona in 1998, making this my permanent home. The call to priesthood followed, and I was ordained in 1980, to an ecumenical ministry of availability and pastoral care for islanders and visitors. I am actively involved in the Parish Church (Presbyterian) and at Bishop's House, helping with leading worship and retreats.

In my spare time I enjoy walking and photography, and have a particular interest in the ever-changing beauty of the island through the seasons, and Iona's wildlife and abundant wild flowers.



INCLUSIVE COST - £495

- ✓ **3 nights stay in a retreat house on Iona**
- ✓ **1 nights stay in hotel in Glasgow**
- ✓ **Breakfast throughout**
- ✓ **Return travel by coach, train & ferry between Glasgow & Iona**
- ✓ **All lectures and visits**

The only items not included:

Optional dinner supplement (*highly recommended*) - £94, Single room supplement (if available) - £138, gratuities & gifts to churches - £20, lunches, travel Insurance, drinks any items of a personal nature and travel between your home and Glasgow. **

Accommodation

Three nights accommodation is of a retreat house standard with bathrooms provided close to clean and comfortable bedrooms (some en-suite rooms are available) and one night in Glasgow. Accommodation is on a bed & breakfast basis with the option of a subsidised dinner supplement which we recommend (£94 for four dinners).

Getting to Glasgow **

Please note that travel to and from Glasgow is not included. Advance cheap fares to Glasgow are widely available three months prior to departure by rail, coach and airlines.

Trains: www.thetrainline.com

Coaches: www.nationalexpress.com

Flights: www.expedia.co.uk

When booking your return travel please make sure you book it after 16:30 (4:30pm).

Booking your place

All you need do to book a place on this tour is to send a non-refundable deposit of £100 together with the completed booking form to:-

Lightline Pilgrimages Ltd
Unit 10, Coopersale Hall Farm,
Epping, CM167PE
☎ 01992 579697
info@livingthegospel.co.uk

Please make your cheques payable to:
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