

## CARSHALTON METHODIST CHURCH | IONA PILGRIMAGE 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

led by Revs Rosemary & Philip Richter

### IONA

We are running a pilgrimage tour to the lovely Isle of Iona in September 2020. You are invited to join us and **bookings have now opened**. Places are limited, so we suggest you act quickly - please see the booking information and form at the end of this flyer.

Iona is a small Scottish island in the Inner Hebrides (just 1½ miles wide and 3 miles long), just off the Isle of Mull. Known as the 'Cradle of Scottish Christianity', Iona has been a site of Christian worship since St Columba came there in AD 563. The world-famous *Book of Kells* was probably crafted there. The Abbey Church (13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries) is at the heart of the 'Iona Community' – a Christian ecumenical community with members all over the world, 'working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship'.

The island is blissfully car-free (except for the few residents) and, once the last ferry has left, tourist-free. You will find tranquillity and time to rediscover yourself... turquoise sea and white sandy beaches... easy or more strenuous walking... a very special quality of light by day and at night the chance to see the stars in all their glory... historic sites, including where



the renowned Iona Marble was quarried... dolphins, seals and whales just off the coast... beautiful morning and evening worship in the Abbey Church, with a Celtic feel (come to as much or as little as you wish)... and, of course, a coffee shop, whenever you need it!

A pilgrimage is a journey, as an individual or group, to a special sacred place. Our destination will be the Isle of Iona, but the journey will itself be part of the pilgrimage experience, as we travel by private coach and ferry to Iona. During our pilgrimage, Revs Rosemary and Philip Richter will organise a range of different activities to help you get the most out of the tour - you will be free to be involved as much or as little as you choose. We will also provide you with a detailed itinerary nearer the time.

### ITINERARY

It will be a six-day (five-night) pilgrimage (22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2020). Here is an outline of the itinerary:

**DAY 1** – Travel independently to Glasgow, where the pilgrimage will begin. Optional walking tour before dinner. We are staying at the stylish, centrally-located, 4-star Jurys Inn hotel (within easy walking distance of Glasgow Central Station). *Dinner, bed & breakfast (DBB)*

**DAY 2** – We enjoy a beautifully scenic coach ride along Loch Lomond and Loch Awe to Oban, where we embark for our short sea crossing (50 minutes) to Mull. After more fabulous scenery on our coach journey across Mull we take the ferry (ten minutes) to Iona. Then it's a short walk to the St Columba Hotel (your luggage will be transported for you). *DBB*

DAYS 3 & 4 – We now have two full days on Iona, to enjoy this very special place. Or you may even decide to join a boat trip to Staffa and Fingal’s Cave (weather permitting, not included in pilgrimage price). *DBB*

DAY 5 – After a leisurely start, we return to Glasgow and the Jurys Inn hotel. Glasgow, Scotland’s biggest city, is renowned for its Art Nouveau and Victorian architecture, as well as its vibrant modern-day arts and culture. It’s been voted as one of the friendliest cities in the world. *DBB*

DAY 6 – A chance to explore Glasgow and maybe attend worship at the Cathedral at 11 am. Built in the 1100s and dedicated to St Mungo, the cathedral was an important pilgrimage venue in the Middle Ages and it’s the oldest building in the city and part of the Church of Scotland. Mid-afternoon: travel back home independently or you may choose to spend a few more days in lovely Scotland.

### **COST**

The cost will vary according to the room you select at the St Columba Hotel (all the rooms in Iona & Glasgow are en suite with bath and/or shower):

Single back view	Single sea view	Twin back view	Twin sea view	Family room with back view (twin occupancy)
£741	£816	£596	£677	£596
<i>This is the total cost for the Pilgrimage, per person, beginning &amp; ending in Glasgow. The cost could be up to £35 less when we confirm numbers.</i>				

Payable in 3 instalments (per person):

- 1. Initial (non-refundable) deposit by 20/9/19: £85**
- 2. Interim payment by 20/3/20: £100** (if place cancelled more than eight weeks prior to arrival date, this payment will be refunded by up to £90 if the hotel successfully re-lets the room)
- 3. Final balance by 3/7/20: £ variable** according to original Iona room choices

### **HOW TO BOOK**

All bookings (including a cheque or direct bank transfer/BACS payment for the initial deposit) must be received by the Church Office by 20 September 2019. Booking will be restricted to members of Carshalton Methodist Church and their friends until the end of August. In September booking will be opened more widely for any remaining places, so you are advised to book as soon as possible. You are strongly recommended to take out your own travel insurance. We have a limited allocation of single rooms. If you are travelling singly you might prefer to save money and arrange to share a twin room – just let us know that you want to book a twin room in both names and let us have both deposits.

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Please make **cheques** payable to 'Carshalton Methodist Church'.

Alternatively, you may pay by **direct bank transfer/BACS**:

Carshalton Methodist Church

CAF Bank Ltd

Account number: 00030729

Sort code: 40-52-40

Please include the following reference: 'IONA & *your name*'

## BOOKING FORM:

NAME(S)	Any food allergies or intolerance	Special requests

NUMBER OF <b>ROOMS</b> REQUESTED				
Single back view	Single sea view	Twin back view	Twin sea view	Family room with back view (twin occupancy)

Please pay your deposit(s) **now** for each person, by cheque or direct bank transfer/BACS (if your preferred room type is unavailable we will consult with you and, if necessary, return your deposit; otherwise the initial deposit is non-refundable).

I enclose cheque(s) for deposit(s) totalling £ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

I have paid deposit(s) totalling £ \_\_\_\_\_ by direct bank transfer/BACS

**Please return this form to the Church Office by 20/9/19:**

Carshalton Methodist Church, Ruskin Road, Carshalton, SM5 3DE