



Parish Profile

Dalriada Mid Argyll Parish Church

Contents

Welcome

History

Community

Worship life

Pastoral care

Christian Education

Ecumenical Context

Stewardship and Finance

Staffing



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in our Parish Profile!

Due to retirement, we are seeking a new Minister to strengthen and build our team and lead us forward into a new and exciting era for the recently amalgamated parish of Dalriada Mid Argyll.

This post is located in the cradle of Christianity in Scotland, the ancient kingdom of Dalriada, where St Columba travelled and preached the gospel over 1400 years ago.

Our mission is to continue this legacy, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of Mid Argyll.

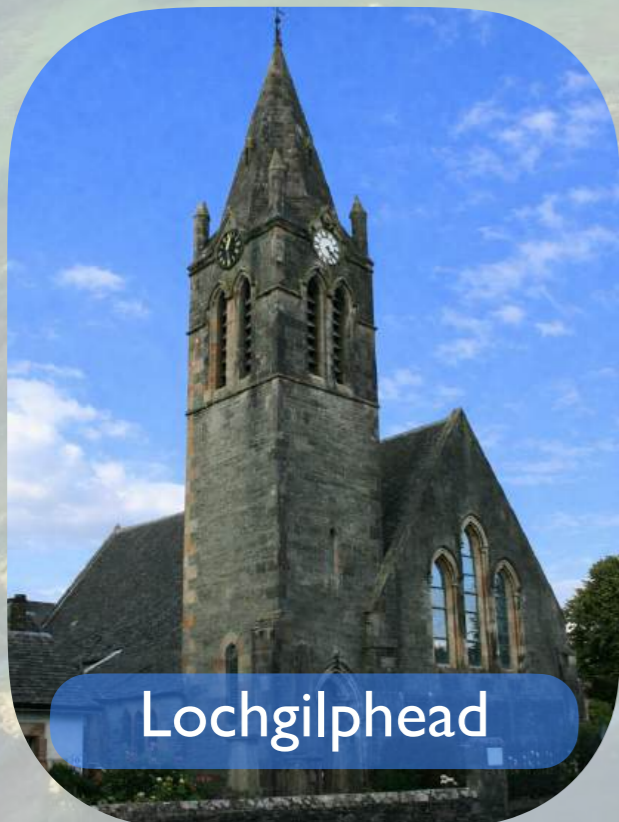
In Mid Argyll and within each of our places of worship you'll find the opportunity to enjoy not only the dramatic beauty of God's Creation but God himself.

History of the Charge

The congregation of Dalriada Mid Argyll Church of Scotland came into being on 1st July 2023 as a result of the union of the congregations of Ardrishaig, Glassary Kilmartin and Ford, Lochgilphead, North Knapdale and South Knapdale. The new parish extends from Ford in the north to Achahoish in the south. Our parish benefits from 5 places of worship located in distinct and beautiful villages throughout Mid Argyll, which are all used for our services. These are Achahoish, Ardrishaig, Kilmartin, Lochgilphead and Tayvallich.

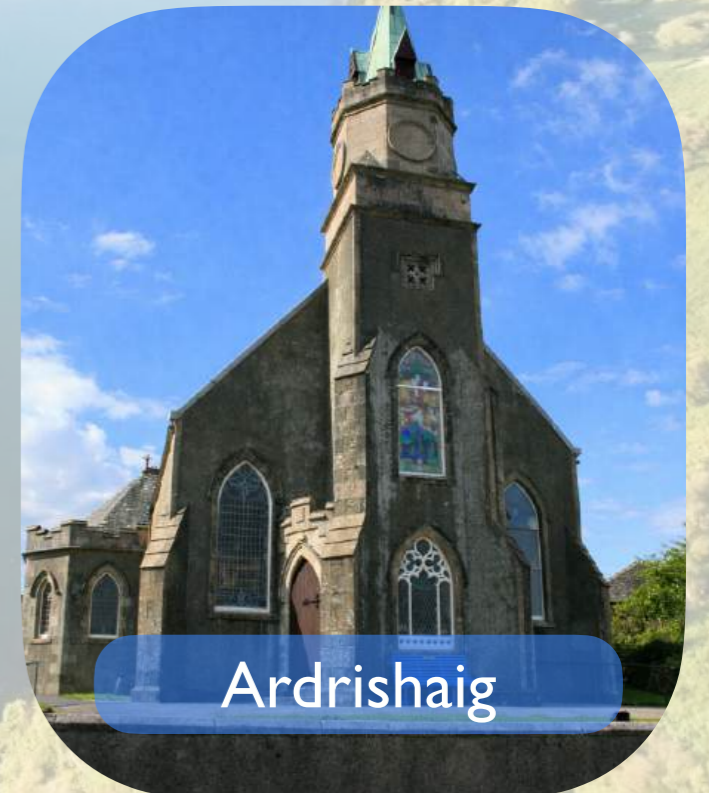
Our most significant challenge since our union, has been finding a pattern of worship that serves the need of the dispersed congregation. Yet during this time our congregation has seen young families joining and new avenues of outreach for our Mission Group.

Our congregation has actively engaged with the local community in outreach events such as the ecumenical Easter event, 'Journey to the Cross' and our Mission Group has been present at community Gala days throughout the summer. We have a thriving Craft Club with participants from the congregation and those that do not attend church. They are present at community events selling items made at the club under the banner of the church, with money raised going to local charities.



Lochgilphead

We have a core of committed Christians in the congregation who are actively seeking to deepen their relationship with Christ through prayer and to identify their gifts for service to Him. We are fortunate to have a number of Readers and Worship Leaders among our congregation with one member undertaking training to lead worship and one to conduct funerals.



Ardrishaig

History of the Charge

Tayvallich



Kilmartin



Achahoish



As it stands, our current congregational roll is 311, consisting of 244 on the communion roll and 67 on the adherents roll. This was reviewed in 2024-25. At our weekly services we have approximately 70 in attendance over 2 services or combined at our joint services. Our congregation ranges from young families through to the elderly. Since our union in 2023, approximately 10-15 people have joined regular worship.

Our Kirk Session is made up of 25 elders with our last admission taking place in December 2024. The demographic of the Kirk Session is mainly older people.

The congregation operates under the unitary constitution. Kirk Session has decided to depart from the current and historical doctrine of the Church of Scotland in terms of Section 3 of the Ministers and Deacons in Same Sex Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriages Act.

Groups which report to the Kirk Session include: Mission Group, Property Committee, Stewardship and Finance, Safeguarding Team, Eco Congregation Group and Junior Church.

We currently have a Planning Group in place to produce a plan for the retention of Lochgilphead Church building with details of how its retention will aid mission in the community. The plan is to be delivered to Presbytery before March 2028.

Our Mission

Our mission is to encourage and strengthen the faith of the congregation and exhibit that faith in the community. We seek to introduce people to the Gospel of Christ and to encourage life in the Kingdom of Heaven, by words, by actions, by living our faith.

We are seeking to engage members of our congregation more fully in all aspects of church life, in order to sustain and further develop our missional activity. While we are encouraged by the presence of a small number of young families, the majority of our regular attendees are older members. This demographic profile has presented some limitations in available resources, and we are therefore eager to explore new ways of equipping and involving the wider membership in outreach and mission.

Two essential aspects of Mission for Dalriada Mid Argyll are prayer and bringing the members together as one congregation from the five previous parishes.

The Mission Group was formed by the Session to explore and initiate ways of reaching into our communities with the Christian Faith with a view to assisting people outside the church to find faith in Jesus Christ. The group adopted the following paragraph as the initial purpose:

What is Mission? To introduce people to the Gospel of Christ.

Why? To encourage living in the Kingdom of Heaven, by words, by actions, by living our faith.

To nudge people from rejection of Christ towards living in faith in Jesus and be part of God's Kingdom of Heaven.

The group aims to encourage all in the congregation to be part of and pray for 'mission' throughout our communities.



Community

Dalriada or Dal Riata was a Gaelic kingdom that encompassed the western seaboard of Scotland and north-eastern Ireland and was at its height in the late 6th century and early 7th century. Its capital was the hill fort of Dunadd which overlooks the estuary of the River Add.

Both lie within our parish. Our parish includes many early Christian landmarks including:

Columba's Cave

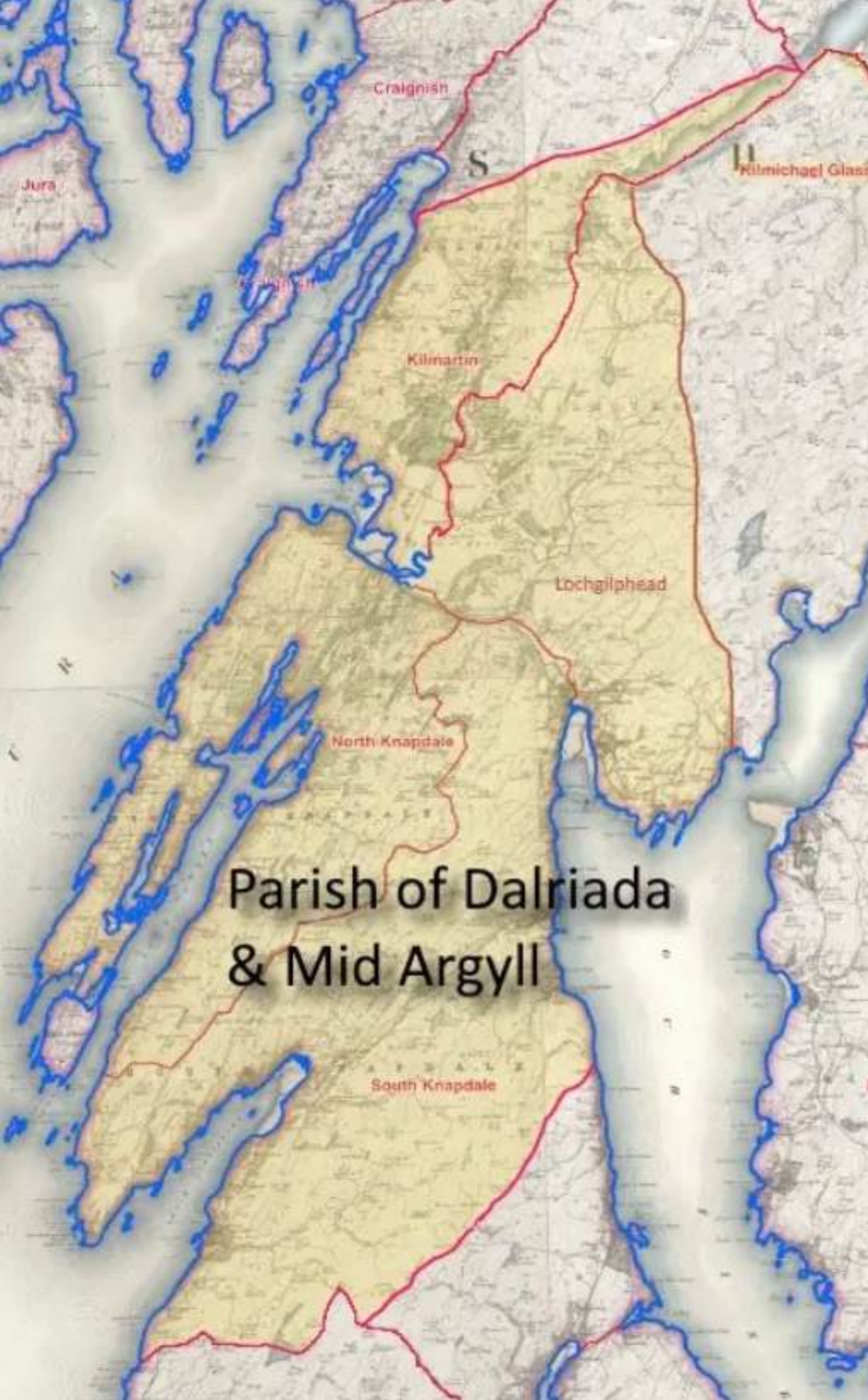
Keills Chapel

Kilmory Knap Chapel

Kilneuair Chapel

The area of Mid Argyll in which our parish sits is made up of urban, rural and remote rural areas. The largest town, Lochgilphead, sits at the heart of the parish, with a population of around 2300.

There is a small modern GP led hospital in Lochgilphead. This includes a small dementia care unit and mental health unit. There is also an Elderly Care Home in Ardrishaig. Lochgilphead has a small Community Centre with Library. There is also the Dochas Centre providing support for Carers and the Snowdrop Centre which provides a range of support services. There are very active Community Halls in Ardrishaig, Ford, Ormsary, Achnamara and Tayvallich as well as the Church Halls in Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig. Kilmartin Church, which is a modern building also serves as a Community Hall, hosting a wide range of community groups and a youth club.



Community

Argyll overall has an age profile tending towards an elderly majority and our congregation mirrors this. There are no designated areas of social deprivation but there are areas of hardship both in our urban and rural populations. The main employers are the Council and the Health and Social Care partnership, with a number of small and mid size building firms. Tourism, retail and service industry are also employers, with many being self employed. There is also forestry, farming and some fishing.

The community serves one high school, Lochgilphead High School, with 6 feeder primary schools in Achahoish, Ardrishaig, Glassary, Kilmartin, Lochgilphead and Tayvallich.

School Chaplaincy has recently been reintroduced into the high school, with weekly drop ins for staff and pupils. Local primary schools have been known to invite chaplains in when required. Last year our Eco Congregation Group visited Ardrishaig Primary School to plant seeds with the children.



Worship Life

Since our union, our pattern of weekly worship has been adapted to best meet the needs of the congregation. At present, worship takes place across two of our locations each Sunday morning, with a joint service held every three weeks, bringing the whole congregation together.

Further details regarding our 2026 Worship Schedule can be found on our website.

Our worship style is predominantly formal, complemented by moments of informality. The priorities in worship life are a balance of hymns, prayer, preaching, and teaching, offering opportunities for both praise and devotion to God. The Sacrament of Communion is celebrated five times each year, ensuring that it is shared in each of our church buildings. Musical leadership is provided by a small team of musicians, led primarily by organ or piano. Printed orders of service are available at every service and data projection is used in a number of our church buildings.

During 2025, the congregation celebrated three baptisms, alongside special services marking Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas, which continue to be significant moments in our shared life of worship.

Children are a valued and welcomed presence within our worshipping community, and most services include a dedicated children's time.

Worship preparation is undertaken by the minister, supported by a group of trained and committed worship leaders who are available to assist as needed. This team are currently leading our services in the interim. There is a willingness among these leaders to develop a more collaborative, team-based approach to worship planning and leadership in the future

As we continue to discern how best to serve the communities within our parish, our pattern of worship remains open to development and growth.



Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is an important part of our worshipping community. As our local communities are small, pastoral care is provided informally, with people looking out for each other. Due to our relatively small congregation, the needs of others are drawn to the attention of the minister, confidentially, when appropriate.

The congregation have the interests of their minister at heart, and although there is no formal 'Manse Elder', there is always support available.

Christian Education

Due to the arrival of several young families to the congregation, a volunteer Children's and Family worker was appointed to develop the Junior Church programme. The team has additional volunteers who assist with the Junior Church, during both Sunday services and family outreach events. We currently have 7 children in our Junior Church who take part in our services regularly.

Our churches and buildings host numerous local organisations. Two Youth Groups meet in the church halls of Ardrishaig and Kilmartin and despite not being run by the church, provide invaluable links.

For the adults, we have a lively Book Club, currently using the Immerse series to read the bible together on a weekly basis. We also have a House Group that meets to discuss a range of topics.



Ecumenical Context

Within the parish, there are 5 other denominations consisting of a Catholic Church, a Scottish Episcopal Church, a Baptist Church, a Free Church and Quakers. There is no local clergy grouping but relations between Dalriada Mid Argyll and the other denominations are good.

We have had occasional joint services with the Episcopal Church, such as during Christian Aid week, and advertise special services and events which they plan to hold. We join with other denominations for World Day of Prayer. We have also worked together on local outreach events such as the Bible Road Show and the immersive experience 'Journey to the Cross'.

The Episcopal Church joins us at our stand at the annual Lochgilphead Celtic and Pictish Festival.

We actively support Moving On Mid Argyll (MOMA) which is an ecumenical charity started by local churches. We work together to provide starter packs for those moving into their first accommodation from homelessness.

We now work together on the Food Share Hub, the food bank for Mid Argyll.

Journey to the Cross



Craft Club



MOMA Christmas Appeal





World Church

As a congregation, we support the church on a larger, global scale. We no longer have mission partners but continuously support the work of organisations such as Christian Aid, Tearfund, Wateraid and Blythswood Trust through their Shoe Box appeal. We have supported the Toilet Twinning initiative for several years. Some of our recent fundraising events have been :- Christian Aid Week, Wateraid Harvest Appeal and Tearfund's Big Quiz Night.

Currently, we are not a 'Fairtrade Church' but use Fairtrade items where possible. We support Transform Trade.

Stewardship and Finance

Since our union, our Treasurer and other volunteers have been integrating the finances of the 5 uniting congregations. There have been some delays with this but we are hopeful that things will be resolved in the not too distant future. Having recently sold two church properties, our financial position remains stable. Our 2024 accounts are available on request.

We are not currently participating in the National Stewardship Campaign however once all accounts are up to date we plan to address stewardship in a more active manner.

We have a thriving Eco Group who have committed us to the Eco- Congregation programme.



Staffing

At Dalriada Mid Argyll we have no paid staff outwith the post of minister. All additional work is done on a voluntary basis by members of our congregation and we are extremely grateful for the time and energy given to keep our church running efficiently.

We are currently seeking a paid part-time Administrative Assistant.

Maintenance and cleaning is done by a mixture of volunteers and contract work.

We are aware of the presbytery roles.

Church, Manse and Halls

We have recently acquired a beautiful, modern Manse which we hope will provide a comfortable and welcoming home for our new Minister (and any family they may have). Nestled in the the largest town in our parish, Lochgilphead, it has an energy efficiency rating of C with a garage and manageable garden. Further details are available on request.

As mentioned previously, due to our union, we have 5 church buildings, 2 of which (Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead) have separate halls, fully equipped with kitchens. Kilmartin Church is a modern purpose built church with excellent facilities including accessible toilet and modern kitchen. Upstairs is a separate hall and private vestry. There are no major issues with any of the buildings, both churches and halls.

All the church halls are frequently used by the congregation and numerous external organisations including Scouting organisations, local choirs, dance classes and music groups.

