

Barvas linked with Cross, Ness Church of Scotland joint Parish Profiles

Barvas Parish Church linked with Cross, Ness Parish Church is a new charge that was formed on 1st Jan 2026 in accordance with the Presbytery of Lewis Presbytery Mission Plan.

The linked parishes are on the northwest coast of the Isle of Lewis and are home to over 2,500 people spread across a series of crofting villages, bounded to the east by the extensive Barvas moor and to the west by the mighty Atlantic Ocean.

The two long established congregations are Bible-believing and have a desire to reach the people in their communities with the Gospel. They hold to the traditional stance of the Church of Scotland. The attached parish profiles give details of both congregations.

We seek an Evangelical minister who will:

- Have a passion for preaching and teaching the Word of God
- Deliver Christ-centred Biblical teaching
- Conduct morning and evening Sunday Services and mid-week prayer meetings
- Have strong relational skills and be resolutely committed to regular, pastoral work in the congregation and the community
- Work together with the congregations to fulfil the Five Marks of Mission of the Church of Scotland.

The following Parish Profiles give an overview for each congregation. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like any further information. Contacts details can be found in the attached separate parish profiles.



Barvas Church of Scotland

Parish Profile



About Us

Barvas Church of Scotland is a long-established congregation serving a number of villages on the north west coast of the Isle of Lewis.

From 1st January 2026, the congregation is in linkage with that of Cross, Ness which is the adjoining congregation to the north. Over the years we have supported each other in gospel endeavour and we look forward to working in partnership together with a new minister.

We are seeking an Evangelical minister who will:

- * Have a passion for preaching and teaching the Word of God.
- * Deliver Christ-centred Biblical teaching.
- * Conduct Morning and Evening Sunday Services and Mid-Week prayer fellowship.

* Have strong relational skills and be resolutely committed to regular, systematic pastoral work in the congregation and the community.

The congregation of Barvas is an allage fellowship committed to worship, service and discipleship. We meet regularly to pray for God’s work at home and abroad and for those within the congregation and community in special need of prayer. We see this as a vital part of our life and witness.



Fellowship in the church Vestry



Meeting in the church

Our Vision

As we look back with thankfulness, we look forward with expectancy, praying for a further visitation of the Spirit touching our communities and building up the Church. At the centre of the congregation’s life is the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ- the message of God’s love and forgiveness and promise of a new life to those who put their trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Since God has made known this good news of a full and free salvation in the Bible – His inspired, infallible, living and life-giving word – the preaching of the Biblical message and its relevance to our day is central to our worship.

“But these things I plan won’t happen right away.

Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled.

If it seems slow, wait patiently, for it will surely take place.

It will not be delayed. ” Habakkuk 2.3

Location and Parish

Barvas Church of Scotland was built as a United Free Church of Scotland in 1904 and became a Church of Scotland in 1929. It is situated by the main road in the village of Barvas, on the west coast of Lewis, 12 miles from the town of Stornoway. The Church is part of the Presbytery of Lewis. It is located in a parish of around 1000 residents within bounds extending from the village of Bragar in the south to the villages of Galson in the north. Neighbouring parishes are Carloway to the south and Cross, Ness to the north.

Barvas Church of Scotland entered into a linkage with Cross, Ness Church of Scotland on 1st January 2026, remaining as two separate congregations but now becoming one charge.

In common with the rest of Scotland, Lewis saw a number of church splits and regroupings over the past two centuries. There is a large Free Church congregation in Barvas, with which whom we work constructively. A Pentecostal fellowship also meets within the parish.

As a result of Scottish church history, the parish contains two former manses, a former church, several former mission houses, a village-owned church in Borve in which services are occasionally still held and traces of ecclesiastical buildings from many centuries ago.

The local primary school, Sgoil an Taobh Siar, offers the option of education through the medium of Gaelic and is housed in recently built premises beside the Barvas and Brue Community Centre. Pre-school provision is also provided in the school. The island secondary school, The Nicolson Institute, is in the town of Stornoway. The University of the Highlands and Islands have a campus in Stornoway and provide a range of degree and other courses.



Barvas and Brue Community Centre houses the Post Office on a Tuesday and Friday afternoon. The village and surrounding area provide various facilities. The local shop, Welcome Inn Filling Station, is open from 7am to 8pm six days a week. It also provides a hot food takeaway. West Side Football team have their ground by the Barvas and Brue Community Hall. The Hall provides a venue for Weddings and Fundraising Events.

Sporting, musical, educational and community events are regularly held in the Hall. A number of industrial units housing different services, and there are several local garages. The

parish is one of crofting villages. There is a variety of accommodation for the holiday rental market is available. Harris Tweed is woven by several in the district. Most of the working age population commute daily to Stornoway. Gaelic is still in daily use but English is universally understood and spoken.

The village of Borve has a shop, an hotel with a popular restaurant and takeaway and The Clan



MacQuarrie Community Hall which regularly hosts a variety of events. A doctor's surgery is located in Borve.

There are areas of historic and scenic interest throughout the parish with the machair lands by the shore in Barvas a popular area for walks.

The local lodge provides permits to fish for trout and salmon in the river and loch. The historical sites of Clach an Truiseil and Steinacleit are situated in the

village of Shader as are three community owned wind turbines. The Blackhouse in Arnol draws many visitors and tourists.

Congregational Life

Services are held on Sundays at 12.00pm and 6.00 pm, with typically around 50 attending worship in the morning and 30 at the evening service. The Bible Class, Sunday school and Creche attend the first part of the morning service before leaving for their own Bible based activities. The Safeguarding co-ordinator ensures that all who require have a PVG.

A congregational fellowship is held on the first Sunday of the month after the evening service.

The Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study is usually minister led with a regular attendance of around 30. The elders lead the meeting in the absence of the minister. Once a month the focus of prayer is mission.

Praise items consist of a mixture of Psalms, hymns and choruses, usually led by a precentor. An occasionally psalm is sung in Gaelic. A Gaelic evening service is conducted monthly by visiting local preachers. Communion is held on the 3rd Sunday of March and the 3rd Sunday of September, starting with a service and fellowship on Friday evening and ending with a service and fellowship on Sunday evening. The current number of communicant members is 61, with approximately 100 adherents. The Kirk Session consists of 8 elders.

The Deacon's Court consists of the Kirk Session and 4 deacons. Both the Session Clerk and the Treasurer are elders.

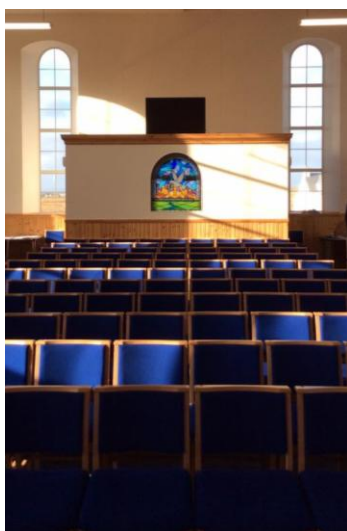
Finance & Stewardship

Members and adherents maintain a good level of giving and also respond generously to any special appeals and fund-raising events. This was evident in the funds raised for the major internal and external refurbishment of the church and the manse, plus voluntary work done by qualified tradesmen and assistants in the congregation. There was no outstanding debt when the work was complete.

The Congregation continues to meet its full commitment to the National Church and donates regularly to missionaries and external causes from retiring offerings given on the last Sunday of every month. The Vacancy Schedule, detailing the financial commitments from both congregations in the linkage, is available on request.

The church owns a large Glebe, currently let out for grazing.

The Church Building



The Church building underwent extensive external and internal renovation in 2013/14. The roof was re-slatted and the walls reharled. The grounds were improved and disabled facilities upgraded with wheelchair friendly access and disabled parking spaces. The car park was enlarged and external lighting fitted. The Church was rewired, stripped and relined.

Pews were removed and replaced with individual seating for greater flexibility. The Church is equipped with large screens, a PA system with induction loop, CD recording equipment and fibre-optic broadband. Sunday services are live streamed. Sunday and midweek services are accessible to the housebound via Zoom and telephone link.

Attached to the church is a small vestry with disabled access, adjoining kitchen and toilets. Prayer meetings, evening services and fellowships are held in the vestry.

Team of volunteers, carrying out work on the church building during refurbishment.



The Manse

The manse and garage, immediately adjacent to the church, are modern and well maintained, having been built in the 1960's and regularly updated.

The manse ground floor comprises of lounge, dining room, kitchen with all white goods and a large gas stove, small utility room, office, double bedroom, full bathroom with shower above the bath. The first floor comprises of a shower room, walk in linen store, two double bedrooms, and a single bedroom.

The manse is heated by an oil fired boiler with radiators in each room. The manse is double glazed throughout.



There is a small garden to the front and side, with a large garden and a drying green to the rear of the manse.

Mission and Outreach

Barvas Church of Scotland has a long tradition of supporting the wider work of the Church. We support organisations such as Highland Theological College, Open Doors and overseas missionaries, some with a direct link to the congregation.

The Sunday School also support children in Kamalpurin, India by raising money.

A number of young people from the Church attend Summer Camps run by the Free Church and the Faith Mission.

The Minister is involved in visits to the local primary school for Assemblies.

Home visits to parishioners and the sick and housebound, including those in hospital and care homes, are an important part of the work of the church with elders and members providing support to the minister in this service.

Revival History

In the past the area was blessed with at least two major revivals, one in 1939 and another in 1949. These revivals were not confined to the Church of Scotland, but were a powerful spiritual awakening which was the means of bringing many converts into all the denominations. In 1949, Reverend Duncan Campbell, a pilgrim with the Faith Mission, was sent to minister at a series of Gospel meetings which flourished into what became known as the 1949 revival. This awakening spread throughout the island.

These movements of God's Spirit were diligently prayed for in private and in house prayer meetings where people would gather from far and wide. This was the reason the Rev Duncan Campbell made the statement that this revival had already begun when he arrived in the Island of Lewis.

It is a feature of congregational life that visitors from many Christian traditions come regularly to the area to worship in Barvas church and seek more information about these periods of revival.

Who to contact:

Informal enquiries can be made to the Interim Moderator

Rev Murdo Campbell

Tel: 07342 981139

e-mail: MCampbell@churchofscotland.org

*Applications and recommendations to be submitted to the Clerk to the
Nominating Committee:*

Eve Crawford

Tel: 07847 274504

e-mail: evieo.c2003@gmail.com



CROSSNESS

Church of Scotland

We are a friendly and supportive congregation with a desire to see the Kingdom of God grow in our area. We have many talented people in our midst with a longing for more to come to know the Lord in a deeper, personal way and for lives to be changed.



The parish of Cross Ness is situated in the north of the the Isle of Lewis. Ness is home to just over 1000 people; Lewis and Harris are the most populous of all the Scottish islands, with a population of around 20,500. There are another three Presbyterian churches and a Scottish Episcopal church in the area, with whom we have good relations. Ness benefits from being a close-knit community with a very low crime rate and safe environment for families.

Our church is located in the village of Cross and was built in 1909 (see history section). The manse is in the adjoining village of Swainbost. Both buildings are in a good state of repair. The modern church hall, built in 2006, is used for prayer meetings, Sunday School, praise nights and other activities. Our vacant manse has recently been used for men's breakfasts, conversation evenings and praise and prayer fellowships.

Cross Ness Church of Scotland is an evangelical Christian congregation. We are a bible-focused and bible-believing congregation. All those in the leadership of the congregation know the transforming and renewing power of God the Holy Spirit in their lives and have a deep desire that others may know God in this way too.



We believe there is only one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe that God the Father in His love has sent Jesus Christ, His Son, into the world to save us from our sins by dying for us and rising to life again.

We believe that He has called us to live by faith in Jesus Christ through the power of His Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Our standards of belief are to be found in the scriptures of the Bible. We hold to the Westminster Confession of Faith, the subordinate standard of doctrine in the Church of Scotland. We believe the Apostles' Creed gives a very good summary of our faith. We remain, as a congregation, committed to the Church of Scotland as members of the Covenant Fellowship.

What we believe...

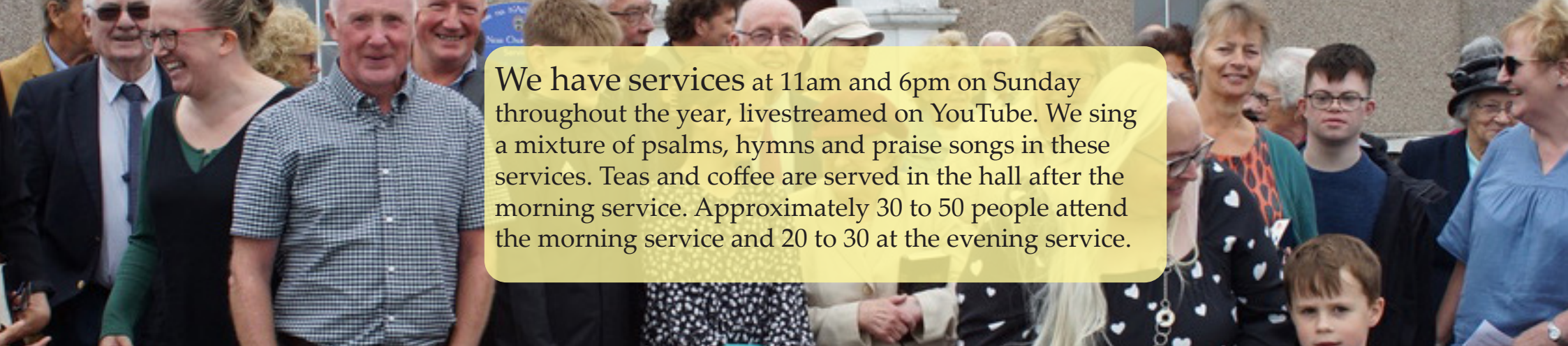
Church history

The church was built in 1909 by the Stornoway firm of Ross & Mackenzie. On 29th September 1909 a service of dedication was conducted by the famous Rev Donald John Martin minister of what is now known as Martin's Memorial Church of Scotland. The church was built for the United Free Church of Scotland.

In 1900, when the national majority of the Free Church united with the United Presbyterian Church to become the United Free Church of Scotland. Rev Donald Macdonald (*An Domhnallach*), the Free Church minister in Ness since 1893, along with a minority of the Free Church congregation joined that union and established a 'United Free' congregation in Ness.



In 1929, as part of the national trend within the United Free Church the congregation unanimously agreed to unite with the newly disestablished "Established" Church of Scotland to become the "Church of Scotland." This union took effect 2nd October 1929 and continues to this day. In practice this union meant that there were two Church of Scotland congregations in Ness – the Church of Scotland, Ness (formerly the United Free) and the Church of Scotland, Cross (Eaglais Mhicphail). This situation continued until 27th May 1935 when the two congregations came together to form the present Church of Scotland parish of "Cross-Ness."



We have services at 11am and 6pm on Sunday throughout the year, livestreamed on YouTube. We sing a mixture of psalms, hymns and praise songs in these services. Teas and coffee are served in the hall after the morning service. Approximately 30 to 50 people attend the morning service and 20 to 30 at the evening service.

Church services...



WEDNESDAY
EVENING
PRAYER
MEETING

A weekly prayer meeting takes place on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, which includes a short bible study. The first prayer meeting of the month focuses on our missionary partners.

Regular praise and prayer meetings are held throughout the year. These often occur in the church hall, but occasionally in the manse.

Our Communion Season occurs in Ness in March and October, where fellowship is deepened within the congregation and with visitors from elsewhere over the course of a long weekend. Visiting ministers usually take each service, and the weekend includes a lunch in the church hall, and a praise and testimony night.

We also have an informal communion service around tables in the hall on the Thursday of Easter week. This is an intimate time of worship, and is usually followed by a time of praise and prayer.



Mens' ministry

The men of Cross Ness Church of Scotland meet up for various events throughout the year. These have included a Mens Retreat to the Scaladale Outdoor Centre in Harris, annual Christmas meals, and monthly Mens Breakfasts during the winter months.



Womens' ministry

A weekly women's bible study meets in the church hall on Wednesday mornings and is led by one of the women present. Between 8 and 13 ladies attend the bible study regularly.

An annual womens' conference is held in Ness and organized between ourselves and the Free Church, with up to 100 women attending on the day.

Mission Fellowship

Our Mission Fellowship is committed to supporting missionary partners in prayer and financial support. Collections for this work are usually taken at the Mission Prayer Meeting, which is the first prayer meeting of every month.

Martin & Joyce Campbell, WEC International
Slavic Gospel Association
Mission Africa
Steadfast Global
Rose of Sharon Ministries
India Village Ministries
Faith Mission
Mission Africa (Child sponsorship)



Youth Ministry



The Ness Youth Group meets in our hall every Friday evening at 7.30 during the winter months. This is attended by about 15 teenagers, who enjoy playing games such as table tennis, air hockey and the X box. Hot chocolate and sweets are shared.



We have had a large Sunday School in the past, but over the last 5 years this has dwindled. We long and pray for new families and children to come to church, so we would once again see a vibrant Sunday School!

A parent/carer and toddler group meets every Thursday morning, from 10am to midday, in the church hall. 8 mums/carers and 10 babies and toddlers have attended since the club started in November 2025. There are lots of toys, books and drawing materials for the children to play with, a baby changing area, soft mats on the floor and colourful blankets on the chairs to make this a safe and happy environment for the wee ones to play, and for the adults to relax and enjoy a cuppa and tasty home baking. The group is led by a team of three ladies from the church, with others in reserve for cover when needed, and is covered in prayer before the beginning of each session.



Tea & Chat

The group meets once a month on a Tuesday in the Church Hall between 2pm-4pm. It is open to all those who are unable to go out on their own or feel isolated and in need of company for a couple of hours. On average six people attend, who all enjoyed tea, baking, and a chat. The group close by singing a number of Psalms and Hymns.



The Flower Ministry

is funded and run by the Ladies Bible Study. They buy flowers for those in our community who are needing support in difficult times.



Bible Study

A fortnightly bible study meets every second Monday night at 7:30pm. The study uses various bible study guides to inform discussion and teaching. The study has been working through the book of Ephesians, and the Sermon on the Mount.

On average between 7 and 9 men and women attend and are greatly built up together in the Word.

about Ness...

Leisure and recreation

There are a wide variety of recreational activities in Ness including a community owned and run sports centre, Spors Nis, with the only ten-pin bowling facility on the island, as well as offices, a multi-gym, sauna and sports hall. A local fortnightly newspaper, Fios, is produced from an office in the centre.

The stunning, unspoilt beaches and wild, rugged coastline play host to a number of nature and adventure-based activities, including fishing, surfing and walking. A birdwatching hide is situated adjacent to the Loch Stiapabhat Local Nature Reserve.

There are also various craft-based industries and cafe facilities in Ness, as well as an award winning museum and local history centre (Comunn Eachdraidh Nis), which has its own cafe and shop selling local crafts and a wide range of books on the local history of the area. A music and arts centre, Taigh Dhonnchaidh (Duncan's House) is used for music and dancing classes and is highly prized by the younger members of the Ness community. They also hold an annual Feis, or music festival.

Education

Sgoil Lionail (Lionel School) is a primary school with a reputation for quality education, while retaining a sense of family. This is augmented by a pre-school facility on site. Both English and Gaelic medium language education are available. Secondary education is at the Nicolson Institute in Stornoway, the main town on the island 25 miles away, and transport is provided for the children on a daily basis. All island children of secondary age attend the one school.

The University of the Highlands and Islands has a campus in Stornoway offering undergraduate and post-graduate facilities in a number of subjects.



Business and economy

Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (Galson Estate Trust) is entrusted with the management of the 56,000 acre community owned estate in the northwest of the Isle of Lewis, of which Ness is the northernmost part. There are two grocery shops, one of which is also a petrol station, and two arts and crafts outlets, as well as two Post Offices. A voluntary run charity shop, Carthannas Nis and laundrette are situated next to Cross Stores. The nearest supermarkets are in Stornoway, 25 miles to the south.

Employment in the public sector is with the local council and NHS, and private sector employment is within the building trade, complimented by craft-producers and crofting. Ness has a number of self-employed businesses including a car mechanic, electrical, plumbing and carpentry businesses. In the summer tourism provides additional income in the self-catering and B&B sector, and a variety of cultural and historical local events attract visitors from far and wide.

Super high speed broadband is present throughout the district.



Ness would be considered by many to be in the enviable position of retaining a community feel. The population consists of many who have grown up on the island, and those who have chosen to come to a place of relative quiet, putting their own roots down and helping to further enrich the culture.



Travel to and from the Western Isles is either by ferry or air:

Ferries

The Outer Hebrides are linked to the mainland by ferries sailing the following routes:

Ullapool to Stornoway

Uig (Skye) to Tarbert (Harris)

Uig (Skye) to Lochmaddy (North Uist)

Oban to Castlebay and Lochmaddy

For timetable details or to make a booking go to www.calmac.co.uk or phone 0800 066 5400

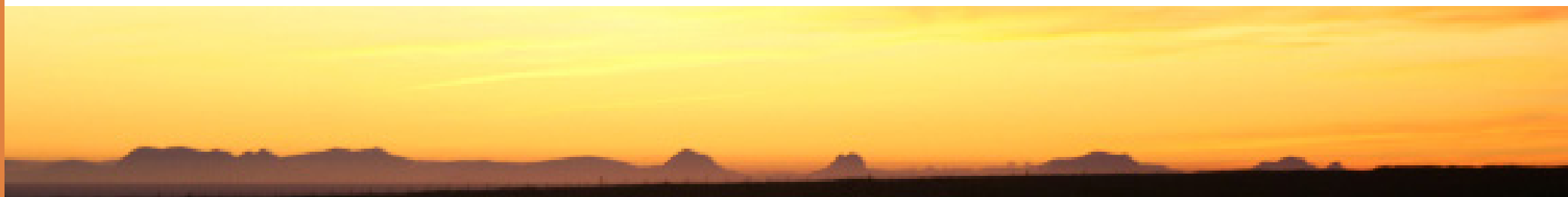
Flights

The main airport for the Outer Hebrides is located just outside Stornoway. Flights depart and land seven days a week.

Loganair, operates flights to and from Stornoway airport. An Air Discount Scheme operates for all islanders, reducing airfares significantly.

Bus Services

The bus service in Lewis runs either directly to Stornoway or offers connections to and from Stornoway. Most services run Monday to Saturday and fares are inexpensive. Our area is particularly well served with local companies providing an excellent service. The main provider is Lochs Motors Limited with an ancillary service provided by Hebridean Minibuses, serving the villages which are off the main bus routes.



Further information



If you would like any further information, our website is at www.crossnesschurch.com

Our FaceBook page is at www.facebook.com/people/Cross-Ness-Church-of-Scotland
Our YouTube channel is www.youtube.com/@crossnesschurchofscotland1521

A copy of this Parish Profile is available on the website at www.crossnesschurch/parish-profile. If you require a printed copy, this can be sent out to you, please contact Eve Crawford or Chris Barrowman (details below). We look forward to hearing from you!

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