

St Mary's Scottish Episcopal Church, Stromness, Orkney House for Duty Priest – Particulars and Application details

Orkney

St Mary's is situated at the heart of Stromness in the beautiful Islands of Orkney - consistently voted as one of the UK's best places to live.

Orkney is a wonderful and safe place, with excellent schools and recreational facilities, and strong musical, literary and artistic traditions.

If you have not visited before, Orkney's location may suggest a far-flung isolation. In fact, the islands boast a high standard of living with some of the best social, medical and care facilities in the UK.

Orkney is thriving with virtually full employment, a growing visitor economy and specialist economies in agriculture, fisheries, and environmental protection. Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education are strong and there are excellent communication links to mainland UK.

The archaeological environment is simply astounding with some of the most significant pre-historic sites in Europe. Music, visual art, writing and poetry are an important dimension of life; as are several national and international festivals and Stromness's superb gallery of c20th art.

St Mary's

Although established in 1885, in recent years, St Mary's had dwindled to a tiny number of regular attenders and almost closed. In the last five years, however, under the leadership of The Revd Canon Tom Miller, the church has seen something of a resurgence including a growing community of worshippers, a beautiful renovated and redecorated church, a new organ and financial stability.

Before coming to Stromness, Tom, who has now retired, was Canon for Liturgy and the Arts at The Cathedral Church of St John The Divine, New York. Tom found himself deeply involved in the artistic and literary life of Stromness. We would like to continue and build on that involvement by offering such an opportunity to a priest with a passion for God and a vocation to creative art.

We are a small but diverse and growing congregation – both in terms of numbers and in faith – and we embrace all that this offers.

Worship at St Mary's is liturgical, contemplative, and innovative. The church is supportive of a number of activities including creative writing, composition, musical performances and visual arts.

The current ministry team of priests and lay-readers, together with members of other churches in Orkney, is developing St Mary's as a base for quiet days and retreats.

We are open to the widest interpretation of artistic expression, be it writing, painting, sculpture, composition, and so on.

We offer...

A newly refurbished house for duty (including utilities and council tax) plus reasonable expenses to support pastoral and outreach duties, and an allowance to cover one annual return trip to mainland UK for our Priest and, if applicable, partner and children.

We will also offer grants to support our priest's creative ministry in their chosen field.

We are privileged to have amongst our congregation a number of retired clergy and Readers each of whom is willing and able to fulfil occasional duties. We anticipate that this will allow our new priest to lead the ministry of the church whilst engaging with the local community. The priest may also choose to undertake paid work complementary to regular duties.

You will ...

- be ordained in the Anglican Communion, or in a denomination in full communion with the Scottish Episcopal Church.
- express a passion for God and God's world through your worship, prayer-life, and commitment to creativity.
- offer relevant preaching and teaching to a broken and divided world.
- be sensitive in your pastoral ministry.
- be a caring and compassionate spiritual guide - able to relate to those who seek faith or are in doubt, as well as those who are confident in their beliefs.
- be ecumenical in outlook and willing to develop links with other local churches as well as the wider Orkney community.

Application and Interview arrangements and an opportunity for informal conversation

We appreciate that, for most people, Orkney might seem remote and inaccessible. What is it really like to live and work here?

To help you find out more about us and about Orkney and to answer any questions that you may have, we would like to offer you the opportunity for an informal conversation – either by Skype or Facetime - prior to any formal application – to guide you towards deciding whether or not this wonderful place might be right for you. Alternatively, you might wish to pay us an informal visit?

If you would like to take up the offer of conversation, and/or would like us to send you an application form, please e-mail us no later than 3rd April 2020 at:

vestry.stmarysstromness@gmail.com

attaching a letter giving a brief biography and a description of your recent/current ministry.

(interested candidates should please note that, if called for interview, they will be invited to spend three days in Orkney from 15th May 2020 and should allow a day on either side for travel to/from Orkney)

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Timetable

3rd April 2020	Latest date for submission of expressions of interest
Week commencing 13th April 2020	Informal conversation (optional)
20th April 2020	Application forms will be sent to those who have confirmed an interest in making a formal application
30th April 2020	Latest date for submission of formal applications
8th May 2020	Invitations to successful candidates will be sent out
14th-18th May 2020	*Visit to Orkney N. B. These are arrival and departure dates.

**Inter alia*, this will comprise: interview with +Anne, Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, an interview with three representatives of the Vestry Committee, participation at Sunday Eucharist on 17th May, an opportunity to meet congregation and representatives from the Stromness Community, viewings of our Priest's home in Stromness, and, not least, some sightseeing!

N. B. Local accommodation and travel arrangements will be made by us. We will be happy to arrange flights/ferries to/from Orkney and/or to reimburse all reasonable travel expenses.