



*Profile for*  
**ORPHIR and STENNESS**  
*Church of Scotland*  
*linked with*  
*Flotta, Hoy and Walls*



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## Introduction

Orphir and Stenness Parish Church of Scotland became vacant in June, 2013 when the Rev Alison Burnside moved to Kingussie Parish church. The congregations are thankful for the ministry of Alison Burnside and are looking forward to new opportunities in the future with the appointment of our next minister. The churches of Orphir and Stenness were united as one church in 2011 after 47 years as a linked charge. At that time the now united Orphir and Stenness Parish church was linked with Hoy, Walls and Flotta.

## The Orkney Islands

The Orkney islands are located off the northern tip of Scotland where the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean meet. Orkney is an archipelago of 69 islands, 19 of which are inhabited. The total population is around 21,500. Most people live on the biggest island (Mainland). There are excellent ferry and air connections between the islands and from Orkney to the Scottish mainland. Orkney has its own local authority. It has very good health care, education and sports facilities. The main town is Kirkwall (population 7000), which is the centre of island administration. The islands' hospital is also there. Stromness is the other main town (population 2000) and is situated at the west side of the mainland. As well as many local shops throughout the islands, there are three supermarkets in Kirkwall, with mini supermarkets in both Stromness and Dounby.

Orkney often ranks highly in surveys which monitor longevity, health care, education results, low crime rates, employment, etc.

The islands are famous for their archaeological sites and attract great numbers of visitors. They also come to enjoy the beautiful scenery, the natural history and the many festivals held every year, these include Folk, Science, Blues, Jazz and Drama. Perhaps the most celebrated is the St Magnus Festival, held in June.

## The Geographic Parishes of Orphir and Stenness

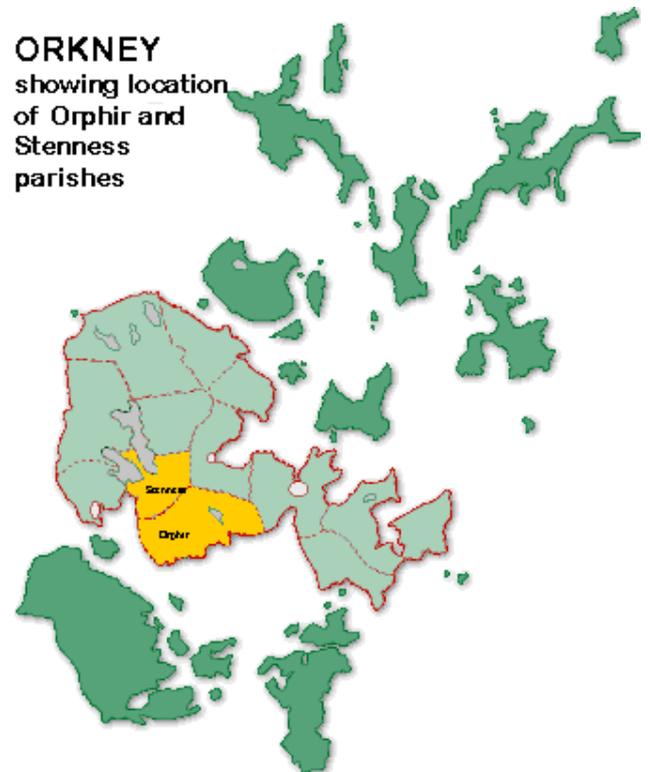
The parishes of Orphir and Stenness are contiguous and form part of what is commonly known as the West Mainland of Orkney. The main industry in both parishes is agriculture. There is a mix of large and small farms with a few associated businesses.

Another very important industry is tourism with many self catering holiday homes throughout the parishes and Bed and Breakfast accommodation offered in several homes. Both parishes are within easy commuting distance of the main centres of population and many of the residents commute each day to work in either Kirkwall or Stromness. The population of each parish is between 450 and 500.

Both Orphir and Stenness have a small village in which is situated their respective local community schools. Orphir Community School, built in 1997, is a three teacher school with a roll of approximately 45 children. Stenness Primary School, built in 1994, is a two teacher school with a roll of approximately 30. Both schools have associated pre-school classes.

Orphir School is in the catchment area for Kirkwall Grammar School whilst Stenness is in the Stromness Academy catchment area. There is one head teacher for both Orphir and Stenness schools. It is felt important that the minister should continue to engage with both schools on a regular basis.

Both parishes are popular places to live with a wealth of community activities taking place on a regular basis in each community centre. A strong sense of community is something we are proud to share, yet each parish retains its own identity.



## The Manse

The manse is situated approximately 1.5Km from Stenness village, 0.5Km from the main Kirkwall/Stromness road and is roughly 16Km from Kirkwall and 8Km from Stromness. There is a regular bus service between the towns.

It is a substantial, stone built, two storey house dating from 1913. On the ground floor

there is a utility room and kitchen, a study/living room, toilet, and a large lounge/public room near the porch which leads to the front door. The main bathroom is halfway up the stairs. There are four bedrooms on the first floor.

The house has central heating provided by an oil fired boiler situated in the Kitchen. The manse has recently been refurbished, redecorated and carpeted ready for occupancy. There is a garage and storage area at the rear and a walled garden to the front and back. The glebe land surrounding the manse consists of 23 acres of grassland.



The Manse

## The Church

The Church is situated in the heart of Orphir village. The church is approximately 12 Km from the manse. The church building has been well maintained. It has electric central heating and a loop system as well as a digital projector and screen.



Orphir and Stenness Parish Church

## The life of the Church

The service, including Sunday School begins at 10.45am. There is an enthusiastic choir. We sing from CH4 and Junior Praise and read mainly from the Good News Bible although service takers use other versions ranging from the King James to the NIV. The Sunday Link is issued each week with intimations and other relevant information printed on the back.

On the retiral of Rev Tom Clark, the congregation undertook responsibility for leading their own worship. This was greeted with warmth and enthusiasm by the congregation. To support this a Presbytery course on *Leading Worship* was delivered by Rev Graham Brown.

When Rev Alison Burnside became minister for the triple linkage services continued to be the responsibility of the congregation each alternate week, when Rev Burnside took services on the island parishes.

The congregation enjoy the variety of service takers and are keen to continue this model. We have been led to believe that the approach to worship taken by our church has been widely admired and commended.

Holy Communion is celebrated three times a year. Special services are held for Guild dedication day, World Day of Prayer, Harvest Thanksgiving, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas eve.

Fellowship is strengthened when the congregation meets informally in the church hall after Sunday service over tea/coffee, juice and home bakes.

Traidcraft goods can be purchased at this time and during the Community Cafe which takes place every Thursday morning in the Church Hall where the local paper may also be purchased. This has proved to be a very popular outreach and is a great addition to the activities of the church attracting both parishioners and visitors. The Guild meets once a month throughout the winter. The congregation takes a short service at St Peter's House, a Residential Home in Stromness, on the first Sunday of each alternate month. A quarterly church magazine, Kirk Chat, is issued to parishioners and is available at several local outlets. The congregation holds fund raising events during the year. There is a fellowship group which meets every Tues-

day evening over winter to share fellowship over a cup of tea and informally discuss selected topics. A messy church is also run monthly during the school term time. Another example of Kirk in the community is the book group, based in the church hall, which meets monthly to discuss the book of the month.

### How we see ourselves:-

- A strong core of committed Christians with a wealth of talent and an ongoing commitment to contribute to the life of the church
- A resourceful congregation who work well together
- A strong feeling of community identity
- A 'can do' attitude with the skills to 'get it done'



A view of the Hoy Hills from Orphir

## **Our Minister :-**

### **We would very much like our new minister to:-**

- provide ministry and guidance
- provide pastoral care and outreach within our communities
- enable, encourage and foster existing skills and talents
- work with and guide us in our journey of faith
- integrate with the wider community, e.g. Schools, clubs, etc
- engage with all ages of the local community

### **Our minister can expect us to give:-**

- a warm and genuine welcome into our homes and community
- Christian fellowship and friendship
- our commitment, enthusiasm and support
- the use of our gifts and talents
- support by continuing to take services when you are preaching in our linked parishes

## **Useful Websites:-**

### **www.orkney.com**

An invaluable website telling you all you need to know about Orkney.

### **www.orkney.gov.uk**

The official website of Orkney Islands Council.

### **www.orkneycommunities.co.uk**

The website for youth and community groups, with over 50 members.

### **www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/orphirandsterness**

The website for Orphir and Sterness church.

### **www.visitorkney.com**

The official tourist information site.

### **www.orcadian.co.uk**

Orkney's main weekly newspaper—with daily updates.

### **www.orkneyislands.info**

A complete visitors guide to Orkney.

### **Radio Orkney Facebook page**

### **[http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/ShowTopic-g186563-i2335-k833204-Relocating\\_to\\_Orkney-Orkney\\_Islands\\_Scotland.html](http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/ShowTopic-g186563-i2335-k833204-Relocating_to_Orkney-Orkney_Islands_Scotland.html)**

A good source of information and useful websites.

### **<http://www.schoolswebdirectory.co.uk/leasearch.php?lea=Orkney%20Islands&submit=go>**

Website addresses for all Orkney schools.



View of Orphir looking East from Midhill. Most of Orphir lies on the North side of Scapa Flow



View of part of Stenness and the Stenness Loch from the top of Gruff Hill.