



North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd

Company No 287343 Charity No. SCO37336

Vat Registration Number 976 552671

Reviving Ulva's Telford Church for Community Use

Restoring Ulva's historic Telford church to create a flexible community hub and cultural heritage centre for island residents and visitors.

1. What do you want to do?

North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMCWC) proposes to stabilise, conserve, and begin phased restoration of the Telford-designed church on the Isle of Ulva. This simple but striking building holds architectural, cultural, and emotional value. Currently derelict, it is at critical risk due to water ingress, vegetation, and structural instability.

The project's first phase will secure the structure: clearing vegetation, stabilising masonry, carrying out emergency roof repairs, and installing temporary protection. Alongside this, NWMCWC will work with the community and partners to co-design a long-term plan for restoration and reuse.

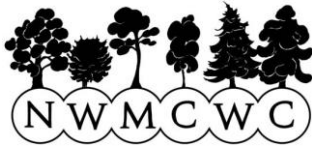
Built in the 1820s as part of the Parliamentary Church programme led by Thomas Telford, the church marked a turning point in the Hebrides' civic and spiritual landscape. Today, it stands as a symbol of Ulva's past and a potential cornerstone for its future.

Currently, one resident voluntarily maintains the building by cleaning and emptying containers catching rainwater. Without intervention, the building may become unsafe and unusable.

With careful restoration, the church could serve as:

- A gathering space for residents, visitors, and groups.
- A venue for community fundraising, traditional music, and events.
- A place for quiet reflection, honouring its spiritual origins.
- A showcase for local crafts, heritage, and culture.
- A family and local history resource, using books rescued from Ulva House.
- A children's corner with wildlife books and hands-on learning.

"The church has great potential to become a true community hub — a welcoming space for gatherings, events, and local initiatives, while still preserving its original purpose as a place of quiet reflection."



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“It could serve as a venue for artists and crafters, an information point for visitors, and a resource for those researching local history. A sympathetic restoration could help preserve its quiet dignity while giving it renewed purpose.”

Partner organisations will include conservation specialists, heritage bodies, and local community groups. Input will also be sought from Argyll and Bute Council, Historic Environment Scotland, and the Churches Trust to ensure appropriate and effective works.

As one resident said:

“The church is an iconic building on Ulva with real historical significance. If it could be restored, it would benefit both residents and visitors and hopefully become a community hub.”

By investing now, this project seeks to protect a historic asset, unlock its community potential, and anchor it within Ulva’s wider regeneration.

2. Why is your project needed?

The Isle of Ulva has no dedicated community building. The church—the last original civic structure—has sat unused for decades and is now deteriorating rapidly. Without intervention, it risks being lost entirely.

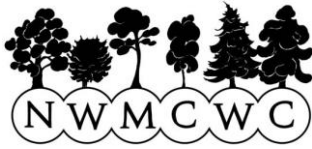
Since the 2018 community buyout, Ulva’s population has grown, with a young family and working-age residents now living on the island. Community activity is increasing—but there is no indoor space for meetings or events. Groups must gather informally in homes or travel to Mull, limiting participation and accessibility.

The church also holds significant cultural and architectural importance. Despite its heritage value, it remains overlooked and underfunded, with no interpretation on site.

There is a clear need for a neutral shared space to support community cohesion, learning, and well-being. With over 8,000 visitors annually, Ulva also needs improved infrastructure and heritage experiences. This project addresses both.

3. What positive changes will your project bring about?

- **Social connection:** The church will offer an inclusive, accessible space for residents to gather, support local events, and strengthen community bonds.
- **Heritage & cultural value:** Restoration will safeguard an irreplaceable historic asset and enable learning, storytelling, and pride in place.



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- Visitor infrastructure: As Ulva grows as a heritage and nature destination, the church will act as a cultural anchor, enriching experiences and helping manage footfall.
- Economic resilience: The project supports sustainable economic activity through heritage-led regeneration and complements nearby investments like Ulva House.
- Youth and education: The church can host intergenerational events and provide creative learning opportunities for children living on Ulva or attending nearby schools.
- Well-being & accessibility: A warm, dry, indoor public space will improve quality of life and practical resilience in a remote setting.

4. How long will your project run for?

Duration: 24 months

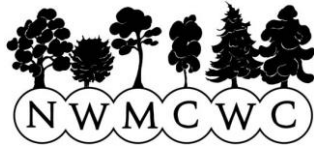
Estimated start date: subject to funding and planning consents

Year 1: Emergency stabilisation, roof repairs, and design development with community consultation.

Year 2: Interior refurbishment, interpretation installation, and launch of community programming and events.

Photos of the Asset





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Ulva Church Exterior



Ulva Church Interior



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Monument outside the Church

