

WHAT IS A KEEILL?

Keeills are the Christian chapels built on the Isle of Man between the 8th and 12th centuries.

The earliest keeills were built of sods of earth and typically 3 metres by 5 metres internally.

Some of the keeills were more substantial – bigger, and built of stone. There may have been almost 200 of them, of which about 35 now have remains that can be seen.



Keeills served a variety of purposes - family chapels, wayside shrines, places of retreat and hermitage. A walled graveyard surrounded some of the keeills and a well may be nearby. Memorial crosses and other decorated stones which were found at some of the keeills have been moved to the present parish churches.

Our Celtic forebears would have described the keeills as “thin places” where we can draw close to God. Prayer and meditation were important to those who worshipped in or around the keeills, as they can be to us. Praying the Keeills Week, organised by local churches, is an opportunity to step aside from the busy-ness of life, and rediscover what we may have lost.

PRAYER

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
may we, being dead to sin,
be alive to you through Jesus Christ,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and forever. Amen.

Based upon the Collect for Easter Day



FOR MORE INFO, EVENTS, PICTURES AND CONTACT GO TO: WWW.PRAYINGTHEKEEILLS.ORG

PRAYING THE KEEILLS WEEK

21ST - 28TH MAY 2022



*I saw a new heaven and
a new earth; for the first heaven
and first earth had passed away.
And the one seated on the
throne said, See,
I am making all things new.
Rev 21 verses 1 & 5*

2022 marks our seventeenth year of Praying the Keeills Week, and we bid you welcome.

We hope our events, spread over eight days, offer something for everyone. They are based around our Island's keeills: the ancient, ruined chapels which are still dotted around our countryside. Time spent visiting such places may open up space to clear the mind and catch a glimpse of the holy - as well as a chance for fellowship and cake!

Our theme this year is 'Restoring, Re-imagining, Renewing', hoping to look beyond the sadness and restrictions of the past couple of years to explore what a 'new normal' might mean for us. This leaflet describes our events - a wide range of walks, a coach tour, and an evening talk & visit. Apart from the coach trip, there's no need to book and events are free: just turn up for a warm welcome... although donations for any refreshments will be appreciated. For the coach trip please see the booking and payment arrangements for Wednesday evening.

Bannaghtyn/Blessings

Praying the Keeills Team

PRAYING THE KEEILLS WEEK 21 – 28 MAY 2022

THEME: RESTORING, RE-IMAGINING, RENEWING

All walkers take part at their own risk. Dogs must always be kept on leads and kept well away from farm animals. Sorry – no dogs on Saturday 28 May.

**At events marked with an asterisk* local church groups will be providing refreshments. Cash donations would be welcome as you are able.*

SATURDAY 21ST MAY

10:00am Service of welcome for the beginning of Praying the Keeills week at **Christ Church, Laxey**, IM4 7AX (Map ref SC 433 844). Following the service, walk from Laxey to **Agneash Chapel***, King Orry's Grave, Cabbal Niglus, Laxey Promenade and back to Christ Church.

Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Walking mostly on country roads and footpaths and some may be wet and muddy. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Circular route of 8 km/5 miles; about 5 hours including stops at Agneash, King Orry's Grave and Laxey Promenade.

SUNDAY 22ND MAY

2:30pm – 4:30pm "Ancient practices for renewal" at **Thie dy Vea Retreat House, Peel**, IM5 1JP (Map ref SC 247 837).

Join us in the walled garden at Thie dy Vea. We'll use the natural resources around us and ancient Christian practices to help us to slow down, unwind and find moments of refreshment. We'll close with Celtic-themed prayer and then refreshments. Suitable for ages 5 and above. Some on-site parking available. Inside the house if wet.

MONDAY 23RD MAY

10:30am Meet at **Kirk Michael Parish Church**, IM6 1AB (Map ref SC 317 908) for welcome and prayers. Explore the church, crosses and memorials, graveyard and bishops' graves and the immediate village. Bring a packed lunch to enjoy after the walk.

7:30pm Join local historian Charles Guard for a chance to hear about the history of **St Thomas' Church** in Douglas, including a guide to John Miller Nicholson's unique murals. Charles will also be demonstrating the Island's biggest church organ and taking you underneath the church to see the extraordinary hidden machinery that once powered this great instrument. Meet at St Thomas' Church*, Finch Road, Douglas, IM1 2PL (Map ref SC 381 760).

TUESDAY 24TH MAY

6:30pm/7:00pm Evening walk from Smeale Farm to Knock-e-Dooney keeill and Viking ship burial.

Meet at Smeale Farm IM7 3EB (Map ref NX 419 020). From 6:30 you are welcome to bring a packed supper. Drinks provided by the Martin family at Smeale Farm, leaving at 7:00 to walk to the keeill for prayers, followed by the ship burial site and back to Smeale Farm. (Distance 5 km/3.5 miles; about 2.5 – 3 hours). A limited car shuttle service will be available. Bring your own torches or head torches.

WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY

7:00pm prompt departure Coach trip.

Depart from **Promenade Methodist Church**, Douglas, IM1 2EQ (Map ref SC 382 756) and finishing with light supper. Cost £16.00 to include supper and tip for driver. Limited numbers so booking essential. Please send cheque, payable to 'Promenade Methodist Church', and a stamped self-addressed envelope, to 'Praying the Keeills Week' c/o Foxon, 39 Droghadfayle Road, Port Erin, IM9 6EN. (Tel 833154). Tickets will be posted out during the first week of May.

THURSDAY 26TH MAY

2:00pm Meet at **Fenella Beach car park**, Peel (Map ref SC 241 843) and walk up Peel Hill to Corrin's Tower, then through Knockaloe Mooar Farm, to Holy Trinity Church Patrick* and back to Peel on the old railway line. Stout footwear recommended. Circular route of 8 km/5 miles; about 3.5 hours including stops.

FRIDAY 27TH MAY

7:00pm Meet at St James', Dalby, IM5 3BQ (Map ref SC 220 783) for supper to be provided*. Then walk to White Beach for those who wish, and all meet at Niarbyl Beach (Map ref SC 211 776) for service. Walking 4 km/2.5miles (including return on road to St James'). Bring your own torches or head torches.

SATURDAY 29TH MAY

10.00am. Day walk on Langness. Meet at the car park at the end of the minor road on the west side of Langness peninsula (Map ref SC 284 660). Bring your binoculars!

We shall walk along the coast looking particularly at the prolific birdlife, before crossing to St Michael's Isle with its keeill. After lunch we shall walk the east coast to the lighthouse, mindful of the many shipwrecks here, including the Racehorse in 1822. Circular walk of 9km / 6 miles; 5 hours with stops for lunch and reflection.

No dogs on this walk please. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Walking on footpaths, minor roads and pastureland. No shelter if wet so please bring clothing appropriate to the weather