

Jesus said: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I"

†Graeme, Lord Bishop of Sodor and Mann, writes... Keeill sites and remains of keeills are at the heart of the Manx landscape, representing a tangible link with our Christian heritage. By waterfalls, on the cliff tops and in the wooded stillness of the glens, holy men built their keeills as the focus of lives dedicated to prayer and contemplation. We need to rediscover something of that life of prayer and contemplation. We need to rediscover stillness as we wait to hear the voice of God in the clamour of our world.

From Saturday 20th May until Saturday 27th May, we aim to reconnect with our "praying" past, and elsewhere on this leaflet, you'll find details of the special activities organised for this week.

We've also created a website where you'll find much more information, including simple forms of daily prayer, and an inspiring collection of poems, songs and reflections - these can be used anywhere - at home, in the workplace, in churches and chapels - but above all, they can be used as you make your 'pilgrimage' - either alone or in a group - to the site or the remains of a keeill. PRAYING THE KEEILLS week is simply a beginning - it's a "kick start" for us to re-focus our lives around daily prayer offered to the God who loved us so much that he gave his Son so that we might have life.

For those who have never prayed - discover the joy of a prayerful relationship!

For those whose prayer life has become stale - be refreshed and renewed!

For those who find prayer just too hard to handle alone - come and discover the strength and comfort of prayer in groups.

"Be still and know that I am God"

PRAYER is the channel of communication and relationship with the true and living God. It is one of the greatest resources that we have in life. It is God's gift to be enjoyed. In prayer we praise God for who He is and what He does; we bring to Him our concerns for ourselves and others and we confess our failure to live as He would have us live. In prayer we also give space to listen to God. We must therefore be willing to still ourselves and hear what God is trying to do in our lives.

In recent years there has been a renewal of interest in the prayers of the ancient Celtic church. Many of these prayers have a profound simplicity in which much is expressed in few words, but perhaps their overriding appeal is that they reveal an understanding of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - whose presence is to be known, enjoyed and depended upon in all experiences and circumstances of life.

Praying the Keeills Week Programme of Events

Each event will include a time of prayer and reflection.
No need to book (except for Friday youth event) Just turn up!

Saturday 20 May

11am - 4pm - WALK to Keeill Woirrey (John the Priest's keeill) - 6 miles of stunning scenery, taking in Cornaa valley and slopes of North Barrule. Steep terrain in places; walking boots recommended. Bring a packed lunch. Meet in the car park by Glen Mona hotel (OS Map ref 453887).

Sunday 21 May

3pm - MAUGHOLD CHURCHYARD KEEILLS. Celtic worship in a Maughold churchyard keeill, followed by a talk on Manx keeills and crosses by local historian Frank Cowin. Optional short walk to holy well and lighthouse. Refreshments in church hall.

Sunday 21 May

3.30pm - ONCHAN PARISH ROGATION SERVICE. Join Onchan parish in their rogation service at Ballakilmartin keeill. Meet at Ballakilmartin Farm - OS Map ref 405793; turn off Whitebridge Hill. Very short walk to the keeill - bring a picnic.

Monday 22 May

2pm - AFTERNOON VISIT TO MAROWN KEEILLS. Meet at Marown Parish Church, then to Old St Runius church (OS Map ref 322787), and on to St Patrick's Chair and Eyreton keeills, with refreshments at St Luke's Church, Baldwin.

Monday 22 May

7pm - WALK - ST PATRICK'S KEEILL. A magnificent 4 mile glen and beach walk, taking in St Patrick's keeill, Spooyt Vane waterfall, Cooil Dharry nature reserve, and Glen Wyllin. Meet in the car park by Glen Moar beach (OS Map ref 310906)

Tuesday 23 May

10.30am - SHORT PRAYER WALK IN GLEN MOOAR. Meet at glen entrance on the coast road (OS Map ref 314902). Visit St Patrick's keeill and Spooyt Vane waterfall.

Wednesday 24 May

7.30pm - EVENING SERVICE AT AGNEASH CHAPEL - Site of Ballayalgane Keeill adjoins the Methodist Chapel in this tranquil countryside.

Thursday 25 May

2.30pm - AFTERNOON VISIT TO SOUTHERN KEEILLS. Meet in cars at Ballasalla car park - behind Whitestone hotel. Explore the important Balladoole site and St Michael's Isle with superb sea views. Tea at Ballasalla Abbey church hall.

Friday 26 May

7.30pm - EARY CUSHLIN SLEEPOVER. Youth event (13+). Meet at Eary Cushlin centre (OS Map ref 224758). Sunset walk to keeill at Lag ny Keeilley, then climb Cronk ny Irree Laa. Dormitory accommodation. Depart after breakfast at 9am on Saturday 27th. Cost £5 per person. Ring the Bishop's Office on 622108 to book.

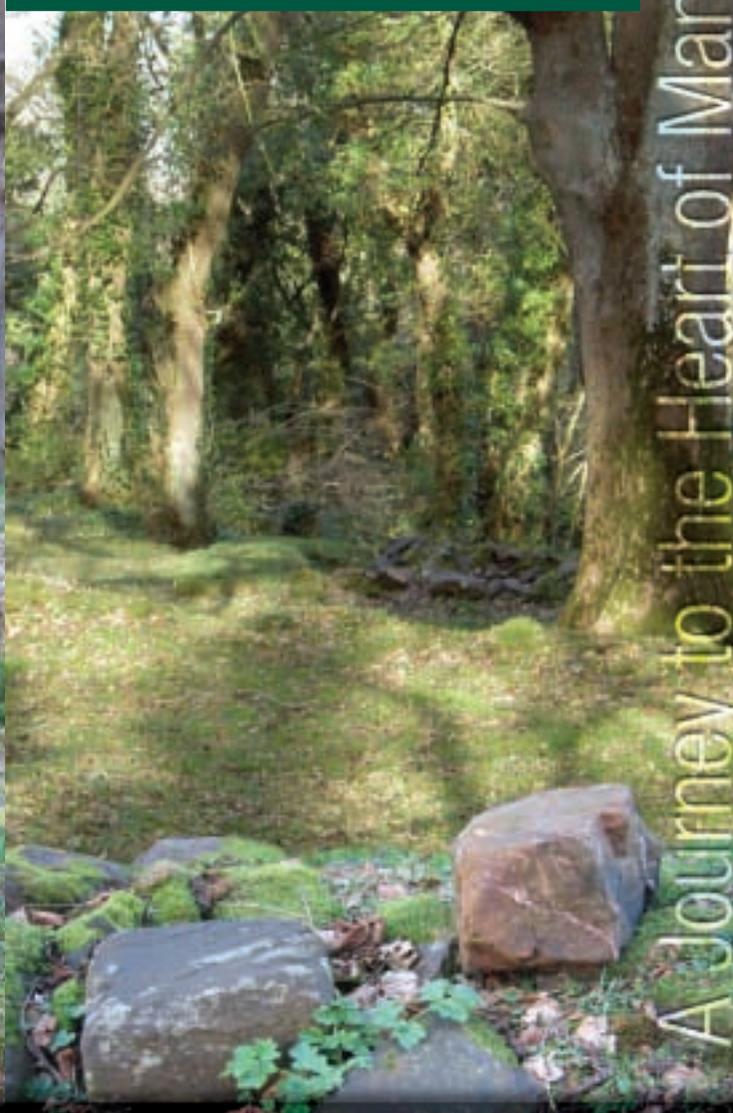
Saturday 27 May

2pm - LONAN OLD CHURCH - WALK AND TRAM. Meet at Derby Castle for the 14:10 electric railway to Baldrine, then a 4 mile walk via Garwick, Clay Head, Ballannette wetlands. Fine crosses to be seen at St Adamnan's church before rejoining the MER to take us back to Derby Castle by 6pm.

For more information on these events, ring the Bishop's Office on 622108 or visit our website.



20th - 27th MAY 2006



A Journey to the Heart of Mann

A Journey to the Heart of Mann



PRAYING THE KEEILLS

20th - 27th
MAY 2006

What is a Keeill?

Keeills served a variety of purposes – family chapels, wayside shrines, places of retreat and hermitage. There have perhaps been as many as 250, but remains, or known sites, survive for less than half this number.

The keeills were small buildings of earth and stone, about 2 metres by 3 metres internally, and now survive to a height of less than a metre.

None of the remains can be shown to be older than the eighth century, despite Christianity having arrived in Mann during the life of St Patrick, early in the fifth century.

They are often on a mound, surrounded by a circular burial ground, and in general are the places where the wonderful series of Cross Slabs – which are some of the Island's treasures - were found. Not all the crosses, however, are grave markers – some (including the Calf Crucifixion Scene) are the upright front stone of the altar of the keeill.

Many keeills are associated with pre-Christian sites and some were even built over or into Bronze Age Cairns.

They are what our Celtic forefathers would have described as being “thin places” where we can draw closer to God.

Prayer and meditation were very important to those who worshipped in or around keeills, as they should be to us.

PRAYING THE KEEILLS, organised by local Churches, gives an opportunity to step aside from the business of life, and rediscover what so many have lost.

Visit our website for extensive
information on this unique event

WWW.PRAYINGTHEKEEILLS.ORG