



Praying The Keeills Week 20th - 27th May 2017

Welcome to the programme for the twelfth successive year of Praying the Keeills. Inside this leaflet are the details of what is happening on each day.

"Pilgrimage Trails" is the theme selected for our programme. Some of our walks follow the old trails on the Island. There are longer and shorter walks, which will visit some of the old keeills, a coach outing, and an illustrated talk by Katie Newton and Nicola Curphey on their "Keeills and Cake" adventures.

You will be welcome at any (or all) of the events on the programme. There is only one for which you need to buy a ticket in advance and that is the coach outing on the Wednesday evening. All the other events are without charge. Simply come to the starting point and we will be pleased to welcome you.

Rev'd Leslie Guthrie
Chairman – Praying the Keeills Group

*Jesus said,
"I am the way,
the truth, and
the life."
John 14:6*



For information and picture gallery go to: www.prayingthekeeills.org

Praying The Keeills Programme

PILGRIMAGE TRAILS

20th – 27th May 2017

All walkers take part at their own risk. Dogs must be kept on leads at all times, and kept well away from farm animals.



Saturday 20 May

10:00am Service of welcome at St Patrick's RC Church, Patrick Street, Peel, IM5 1BR (Map ref SC 242 840) at the beginning of Praying the Keeills week. Open to all – not only for those walking!

Following the service, full day walk from Peel to Kirk Michael following the Triskelion Way via Keeill Pheric a Dromma and Spooyt Vane, then we explore Kirk Michael's crosses and the bishops' graves. (Kirk Michael Messy Church will be taking place from 5 - 7pm in the church: all welcome!)

Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Walking mostly on country roads and footpaths. (Distance 14.5 km / 9 miles; about 6 hours including stops). Please note this is a linear walk starting in Peel and finishing in Kirk Michael. Opportunity to take a bus back to Peel: times to be confirmed.

Sunday 21 May

3:00pm A time for music and singing at Ballafesson Methodist chapel, IM9 6QG (Map ref SC 207 698). Bring musical instruments with you.

Monday 22 May

10:30am Meet at Bride car park IM7 4AT (Map ref NX 449 011) to explore Kirk Bride and car share to visit Kirk Andreas. Return to Bride for lunch at Bride Tea Rooms.

7:30pm Illustrated talk at Promenade Methodist Church, Douglas, IM1 2EQ (Map ref SC 382 756) by Katie Newton and Nicola Curphey 'Keeills and Cakes!'. See www.manxkeeills.wordpress.com.

Tuesday 23 May

6:30pm Evening walk to Keeill Vreeshey, Marown and St Trinian's Chapel. Meet at the hall next to Crosby Methodist Chapel, IM4 2HA. (Map ref 326 794). Please bring packed supper. (Distance 5km / 3 miles; about 2.5 – 3 hours). A limited car shuttle service will be available.

Wednesday 24 May

7:00pm prompt departure Coach trip. Depart from Promenade Methodist Church, Douglas, IM1 2EQ (Map ref SC 382 756) and then finishing with light supper at Ballagarey Methodist Chapel.

Cost £13.50 to include supper. 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 Droghadfaile Road, Port Erin, IM9 6EN. (Tel 833154). Tickets will be posted out during the first week of May.

Thursday 25 May

1:40pm prompt departure on Manx Electric Railway, Douglas

An afternoon walk around Lonan. Meet at Derby Castle terminus IM2 4NR (Map ref SC 394 773). Take 1:40pm Manx Electric Railway from Douglas to Groudle and walk across Groudle Glen to Old Kirk Lonan and then on to Ballanette and Baldrine for return to Douglas by 6pm on the MER from Baldrine. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. (Walking 8 km / 5 miles; 3.5 hrs).

Friday 26 May

8:00pm Meet at Maughold Village hall, IM7 1AS (Map ref SC 491 917) for supper: cash donations welcome. Then walk to Maughold Churchyard and Church. Walking 2 km / 1 mile; 1.5 – 2 hours)

About **10:00pm** for the adventurous continue on a torch-lit night walk till late! Bring your own torches or head torches. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather.

Saturday 27 May

10:00am Day walk from Rushen Abbey to Round Table and return on foot or by car shuttle. Meet in the Abbey Church, Ballasalla IM9 3DB (Map ref SC 278 702) and follow the Triskelion Way via Kerrowkeel Methodist Chapel to the Round Table.

Walking on footpaths and country roads. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Bring a packed lunch. (Distance from Rushen Abbey to the Round Table 7.5 km / 4.5 miles; 3 – 3.5 hrs with lunch stop)



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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 rarely larger than three metres by five 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, organised by local churches, is an opportunity to step aside from the business of life, and rediscover what we may have lost.



The Keeill

When I was younger,
I was visited daily by monks.
Now I am older,
The brothers have long since departed.
Other keeills nearby have fallen into decay,
I stand firmly and welcome those who pray.

I dwell in a place of beauty,
The sun shines upon my broken stones.
The fragrance of flowers all around me.
Still, I am an inspiration
For those searching for God.

*By Adele Harris
from “Hope Springing in the
Heart of Mann”*



Prayer

May the wisdom of God guide you,
May the strength of God uphold you,
May the peace of God possess you,
May the love of God enfold you,
Now and to the end of days.

(Ascribed to St. Columba)



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