



Praying The Keeills Week 21st – 28th May 2016

During this week, there will be opportunities to visit some of the ancient keeill sites on the Island. Many are in places which are lonely and peaceful. There we can, in the words of Psalm 46, "Be still and know that I am God."

2016 sees the eleventh successive year of Praying the Keeills. Inside the leaflet you will find the programme for the Week. Included are whole day walks on the Saturdays, shorter walks, a coach outing, visits to some of the keeills and an illustrated talk by Andrew Johnson, of Manx National Heritage, on the Manx keeills.

You will be welcome at any of the events on the programme. There is only one for which you require to buy a ticket in advance and that is the coach outing on the Wednesday evening. Otherwise, all the 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

"Be still
and know
that I
am God"

Psalm 46:10



www.prayingthekeeills.org

Praying The Keeills Programme

21st – 28th May 2016

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 21 May

10:00am Service of welcome at Kirk Michael Church (Map ref SC 317 908) at the beginning of Praying the Keeills week. Open to all – not only for those walking! Following the service, all day walk from Kirk Michael.

Walk on to Glen Mooar, Cabbal Pherick & Spooyt Vane, Keeill Pheric-a-Dromma, Ballahimmin Keeill, Barregarrow and back to Kirk Michael.

Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Bring a packed lunch. Walking mostly on country roads and footpaths. (Distance 18 km / 11 miles; about 7 hours including stops, so estimated return to Kirk Michael at 6pm). Car and public transport will be available at various points along the way for those who do not wish to walk the whole route.

Sunday 22 May

3:00pm A time for music, drumming, singing and reflection in St John's (in the open air if fine). Meet at the National Arboretum car park (Map ref SC 279 819) and bring any drums or other instruments with you!

Monday 23 May

10:30am Meet at Ard Jerkyll (Map ref SC 292 781) then car share for visit to view Renshent keeill (Map ref SC 297 770) and return to Ard Jerkyll for lunch.

7:30pm Illustrated talk at Promenade Methodist Church, Douglas (Map ref SC 382 756) by Andrew Johnson, Manx National Heritage 'Manx Keeills: Reassessing the Physical Remains of Medieval Chapels on the Isle of Man'.

Tuesday 24 May

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

Meet at Smeale Farm (Map ref NX 419 020). Please bring packed supper. Drinks provided by the Martin family at Smeale Farm then walk to the keeill and ship burial and back. (Distance 5 km / 3.5 miles; about 2.5 – 3 hours). A limited car shuttle service will be available.

Wednesday 25 May

7:00pm Coach trip.

Depart from Promenade Methodist Church, Douglas (Map ref SC 382 756) and then finishing with light supper at St Olave's, Ramsey.

Cost £12.50 to include supper. Limited numbers so booking essential.

Tickets can be purchased direct from the Churches' Bookshop, Douglas or by post by sending a cheque payable to 'Promenade Methodist Church', and a stamped addressed envelope to 'Praying the Keeills coach trip, The Churches Bookshop, Howard Street, Douglas, IM1 2EQ'.

Thursday 26 May

2:00pm An afternoon walk at Cringle Reservoir and Ballyelse Keeill (Cabbal Drem Ruy).

Meet and park at Cringle reservoir (Map ref SC 252 744). Walk to Bayr ny Skeddan, Wesley's preaching place, the Round Table and then down the Colby Glen Road to Ballayelse Keeill (Map ref SC 251 738) and back to Cringle. (8 km/5 miles; 3 hours)

For those who want a shorter walk, a stroll around Cringle Reservoir & Plantation is available and then all join at Ballyelse Keeill (Map ref SC 251 738: max 3 km / 2 miles)

Friday 27 May

7:00pm Meet at Sulby Methodist Church (Map ref SC 380 943) for supper and then drive to Sulby Reservoir (Map ref SC 373 890) for walk to Corrody Keeill and the walk-in well. (3 km / 2 miles). Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather.

For the adventurous continue on a torch-lit night walk till late! Bring your own torches or head torches.

Saturday 28 May

09:40 electric tram from Douglas / 10:35 tram from Cornaa Halt: Full day walk in Maughold with service at Maughold Church (Map ref SC 493 917).

Catch the 09:40 electric tram from Douglas or meet at Ballaglass Glen car park (Map ref SC 466 897) then take the 10:35 electric tram from Cornaa Halt halt to Lewaigue Halt (Jack's Lane) and walk via Port e Vullen and Maughold Brooghs to Maughold Church (Map ref SC 493 917) for a service and picnic lunch at 13:00. Then continue via Port Mooar, Ballafayle and back to Ballaglass for car parking or 16:22 electric tram back to Douglas.

Walking on mainly country roads and coastal footpath. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Bring a packed lunch. (Distance 10 km / 6.5 miles).





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

Lord, be with us this day.
Within us to purify us;
Above us to draw us up;
Beneath us to sustain us;
Before us to lead us;
Behind us to restrain us;
Around us to protect us.

St. Patrick

