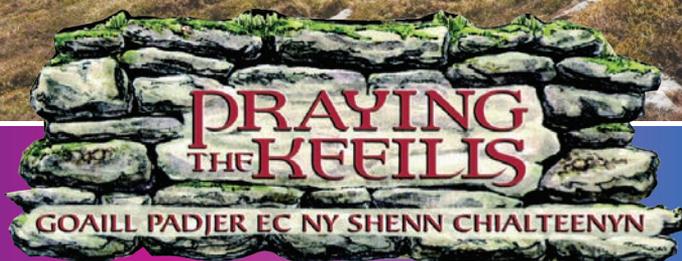


# Praying the Keeills Week

## 19th - 26th May 2018



Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'

*Isaiah 30:21*

Welcome to the 13th year of **Praying the Keeills**, a week-long programme of events designed to celebrate our Celtic heritage and take some time out to visit the tiny ancient chapels known as keeills which dot the Manx countryside.

We give thanks for the life of Rev Leslie Guthrie, who chaired our team for many years with calm devotion and effective leadership. His love of the keeills was profound; a place to meet with God.

This year our broad theme is 'Awakening', which resonates with the Methodist Modern Art Collection currently being exhibited on the island. You'll see that some of our walks and events allow opportunities to view these thought-provoking paintings.

As usual, our programme offers a variety of walks as well as a coach tour and an illustrated lecture. Except for the coach tour, all are free and you don't need to book. In Leslie's words from last year's programme: 'Simply come to the starting point and we will be pleased to welcome you'.

**Praying the Keeills Group**



[www.prayingthekeeills.org](http://www.prayingthekeeills.org)

# Programme of Events for 2018

## Praying the Keeills Week

### 19 – 26 May 2018

#### Theme: *AWAKENING*



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 19 May

**10:00am** Service of welcome at **St Stephen's Church**, Sulby, IM7 2HP (Map ref SC 382 944) at the beginning of Praying the Keeills week. Open to all – not only for those walking! Park at Sulby school or St Stephen's.

Following the service, all day walk from Sulby, through Sulby Claddaghs up the steep slope to Sky Hill and Sky Hill Keeill then follow the Millennium Way back to Milntown and return by bus to Sulby (or continue to Ramsey).

Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Walking mostly on country roads and footpaths. (Distance from Sulby to Milntown 12 km / 7.5 miles; about 5.5 hours including stops). Please note this is a linear walk starting in Sulby and finishing near Milntown.

### Sunday 20 May

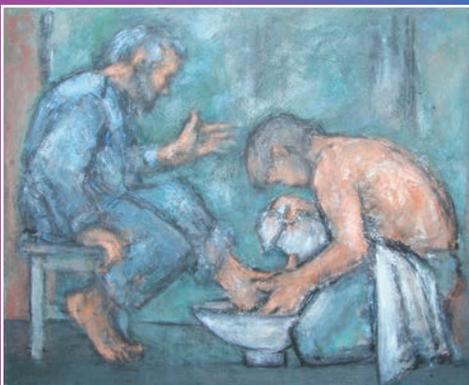
**3:00pm** An afternoon for all ages through two linked events!! Keeills Messy Church and Godly Play at **\*Ballagarey Methodist Chapel** IM9 3AH (Map ref SC 295 738).

### Monday 21 May

**10:30am** Meet at Kirk Maughold, IM7 1AS (Map ref SC 493 917) to explore the crosses and the Church then travel by car to **\*Ramsey Methodist Church**, Waterloo Road IM8 1DS (Map ref SC 452 942) for lunch (£6 per head).

**7:30pm** Illustrated talk at **\*Promenade Methodist Church**, Douglas, IM1 2EQ (Map ref SC 382 756) by Dave Martin on "New Light on our Keeills and Crosses".

\* denotes the display location for artwork from the **Methodist Art Collection** display on the Isle of Man '*Awakening*' [www.methodist.org.im/awakening.html](http://www.methodist.org.im/awakening.html)



Ghislaine Howard - *The Washing of the Feet*

### Tuesday 22 May

**6:30pm** Evening walk to Keeill Pherick, Marown and Cabbal Druight, Glenlough. Meet at **Union Mills Methodist Church**, Strang Road, Union Mills, IM4 4NL. (Map ref SC 353 778). Please bring packed supper to have before the walk; tea and coffee available. (Distance 6.5km / 4 miles; about 3 hours). A limited car shuttle service will be available.

### Wednesday 23 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. Tour will include a visit to see the art collection at **\*Colby**. Cost £14.00 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 24 May

**2:00pm** An afternoon exploration of Peel Cathedral Gardens. Meet in **\*St German's Cathedral**, Derby Road, Peel IM5 1HH (Map ref SC 246 839) for prayer, to explore the gardens and return to the Cathedral for light refreshments. (Walking less than 1 km. Fully accessible).

### Friday 25 May

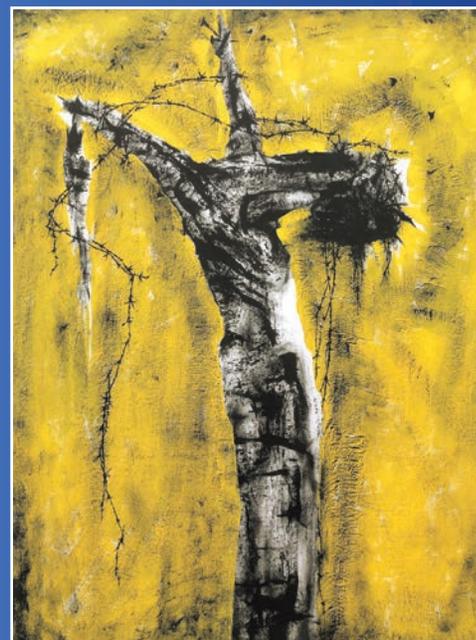
**7:00pm** Meet at **St James'**, Dalby, IM5 3BQ (Map ref SC 220 783) for supper: donations welcome. Then walk to White Beach for those who wish and all meet at Niarbyl Beach (Map ref SC 211 776) for service. Walking 4 km / 2.5miles (including return on road to St James')

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

### Saturday 26 May

**10:00am** Day walk from Rushen Abbey to the coast and back via Ballawoods Keeill and Hango Hill. Meet in the **Abbey Church, Ballasalla** IM9 3DB (Map ref SC 278 702).

Walking on footpaths and country roads. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. (Circular walk distance 11.5 km / 7 miles; 4-5 hrs with lunch stop): opportunity to catch bus back to Rushen Abbey from King William's College. Please note that there will be racing on the Billown circuit this day.



Theyre Lee-Elliott - *Crucified tree form – the agony*



**Richard Bavin** - *The Empty Tomb*

## **We may ask ourselves ‘Why am I here? Where am I going? What is my destination?’**

These are essentially spiritual questions to which we are all seeking answers.

We are so very small; we are at the foothills in our understanding of God and His world. But it is good that we should be at the foothills; that keeps us humble. Eventually we shall get to the top of the mountain. We shall then see the full vision.

**Cardinal Basil Hume**

## **Prayer**

Be thou a bright flame before me,  
Be thou a guiding star above me,  
Be thou a smooth path below me,  
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today - tonight - and forever.

**St Columba**



## **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, organised by local churches, is an opportunity to step aside from the busy-ness of life, and rediscover what we may have lost.

For information and picture gallery go to: [www.prayingthekeeills.org](http://www.prayingthekeeills.org)

