



Praying the Keeills Week

18th - 25th May 2019



PRAYING
THE KEEILLS

*'Come,' my
heart says, 'seek
his face!'*

*Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Do not hide your face
from me.*

Psalms 27 v 8,9

To both Islanders and those from further afield, we extend a warm welcome to **Praying the Keeills 2019** – our 14th year.

Our week-long schedule of events offers opportunities to visit our tiny but well-loved ancient chapels known as keeills. These are scattered across the Manx countryside as witnesses to our rich Celtic heritage, and today offer a chance to meet with friends old and new... to drop down a gear or two... and perhaps in the beauty of nature to encounter God.

This year's theme draws on St Patrick, whose legacy can be found not only in our place-names but also in Archibald Knox's fine work of calligraphic art based on 'The Deer's Cry'.

We hope our programme offers something for everyone – a wide range of walks, a coach tour, and an evening lecture. Apart from the coach trip, all are free and there's no need to book. We look forward to meeting you!

Bannaghtyn (Blessings)

Praying the Keeills Team



www.prayingthekeeills.org

Programme of Events for 2019

Praying the Keeills Week

18th – 25th May 2019



Theme: *St Patrick's Breastplate - The Deer's Cry*

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 Friday 24 or Saturday 25 May.

Saturday 18th May

10:00am Service of Welcome for the beginning of Praying the Keeills week at **Ballaugh New Church**, Station Road, Ballaugh, IM7 5AQ (Map ref SC 344 939). Following the service, all day walk from Ballaugh School via Orrisdale, the coastal footpath and to **St Nicholas' Chapel**, Bishops court, Kirk Michael, IM6 2EZ (Map ref SC 328 923) for a service at **2:00pm**. Return to Ballaugh. Both services open to all – not only for those walking!

Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Walking mostly on country roads and footpaths. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Circular walk of 9.5 km/6 miles; about 4.5 hours including stops.

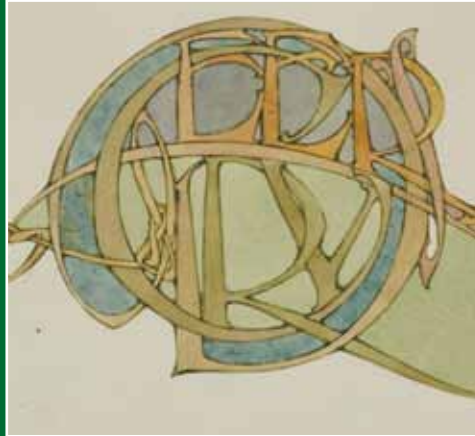
Sunday 19th May

3:00pm An afternoon for all ages through two linked events!! **Keeills Family Day: Messy Church** and **Godly Play** at **Sulby Methodist Church**, IM7 2HR (Map ref SC 380 943).

Monday 20th May

10:30am Meet at **St Adamnan's**, Lonan IM4 6AQ (Map ref SC 424 793) and following visit travel by car to **Agneash Methodist Chapel** and on to the **Salmon Lake Centre** IM4 7NL (Map ref SC 431 851) for lunch at about **1:00pm**.

7:30pm talk at **Promenade Methodist Church**, Douglas, IM1 2EQ (Map ref SC 382 756) by author **Rev. Prof. Ian Bradley** on "Myths of Celtic Spirituality, and their relevance to the 21st century".



The Deer's Cry...

Tuesday 21st May

6:30pm Meet at **Sulby Reservoir** car park (Map ref SC 373 890). Bring own food; hot drinks will be available. Evening walk to **Corrody well** and **keeill**. Distance 3 km/2 miles.

Wednesday 22nd 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 **St Mary's RC Church, Castletown**. Cost £14.00 to include supper at **Port St Mary Methodist Church** (Mount Tabor). 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 Droghadfaule Road, Port Erin, IM9 6EN. (Tel 833154). Tickets will be posted out during the first week of May.

Thursday 23rd May

2:00pm Afternoon walk. Meet at **Glen Mooar** car park (Map ref SC 304 893) and walk to **Spooyt Vane** and **Cabbal Pherick/St Patrick's Chapel** for prayer and reflection then return via Glen Wyllin to Glen Mooar. Distance 7 km/4 miles.

Friday 24th May

7:00pm Meet at **Glen Maye Methodist Chapel** IM5 3BB (Map ref SC 236 798) for refreshments: cash donations towards these welcome. **No dogs on this walk please by request from a landowner.** Walk to Raby Farm and the site of Raby keeill. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Distance 3.5 km/2 miles (up and down a steepish track).

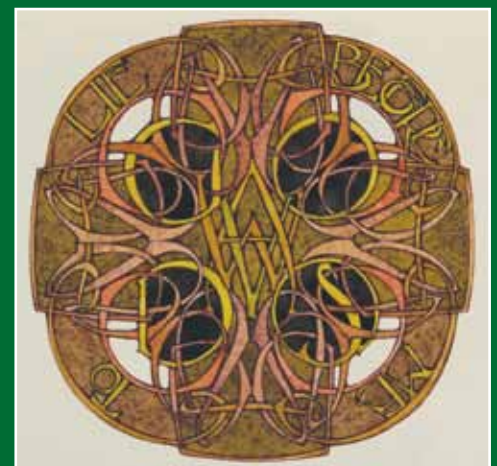
About **10:00pm** opportunity for those who wish to continue walking till late. Bring your own torches or head torches.

Saturday 25th May

10:00am All day walk to the **Braaid, Old St Runius** and **St Patrick's Chair**. Meet at **Chibbanagh Plantation** car park (Map ref SC 324 763).

Walk to the Braaid Celtic and Norse site, Old St Runius about **12 noon** for reflection and a lunch break, St Patrick's Chair and back to Chibbanagh Plantation.

No dogs on this walk please by request from a landowner. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Walking on footpaths and country roads. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Circular walk distance 11.5 km/7 miles; 4-5 hrs with lunch stop. Please note that there will be racing on the Billown circuit this day.



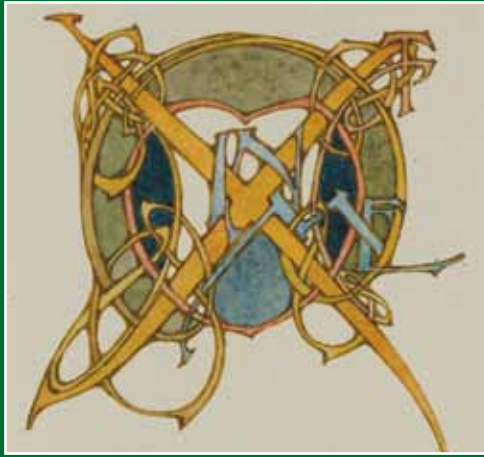
God's way to lie before me...



God's shield to protect me...



I bind myself to today to...



Christ in me...

St Patrick's Breastplate – or the Deer's Cry – is an old Irish prayer of protection attributed to St Patrick. The Manx-born and world-renowned artist Archibald Knox took lines of the prayer and created them into individual illuminated pages which together might be described as the modern Manx 'Book of Kells' such is the skill and inspiration of the work. He worked on it over a period of about 20 years but it was not completed at the time of his death in 1933.

Images courtesy of Manx National Heritage, 1958-0202

Prayer

I arise today

Through God's strength to pilot me;

God's might to uphold me,

God's wisdom to guide me,

God's hand to guard me,

God's way to lie before me.

**From 'The Deer's Cry',
attributed to St Patrick**



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 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.



For information, events, pictures and contact go to: www.prayingthekeeills.org