

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

## PRAYER

Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation  
and especially for our Brother Sun,  
who brings us the day and the light.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,  
and for the stars which you have set shining in the heavens.

Be praised, my Lord, for our Brothers Wind and Air  
and every kind of weather by which you, Lord,  
uphold life.

*From the Canticle of Creation by St Francis of Assisi*



FOR MORE INFO, EVENTS, PICTURES AND CONTACT GO TO: [WWW.PRAYINGTHEKEEILLS.ORG](http://WWW.PRAYINGTHEKEEILLS.ORG)



# PRAYING THE KEEILLS WEEK

22 – 29 MAY 2021



*The world and all  
that is in it belongs  
to the Lord; the earth  
and all who live  
on it are his.  
Psalm 24 verse 1*

Once again, we extend a warm welcome to **Praying the Keeills Week**. 2021 marks our *16th year*.

We hope our programme of events offers opportunities to visit a selection of keeills - the tiny ancient chapels which dot the Manx countryside. They link us with our forebears who built them in faith perhaps over a thousand years ago. Such visits allow us time out to pray and ponder, just as they did before us.

This year's theme centres on creation, encouraging us to appreciate the splendour of God's gifts in nature, as well as to reflect on how we can sometimes mess things up. As well as a wide range of walks, a coach tour and a public lecture are also offered. Apart from the coach trip, all events are free with no requirement to book. We look forward to seeing you!

Bannaghtyn (Blessings)

*Praying the Keeills Team*

*All events are subject to COVID-19 restrictions. For confirmation of the final programme go to [www.prayingthekeeills.org](http://www.prayingthekeeills.org)*

## PRAYING THE KEEILLS WEEK 22 – 29 MAY 2021

### THEME: MANN AND CREATION

*All events are subject to COVID-19 restrictions. For confirmation of the final programme go to [www.prayingthekeeills.org](http://www.prayingthekeeills.org)*

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 Saturday 29 May.

*\*At events marked with an asterisk\* local church groups will be providing refreshments. Cash donations would be welcome as you are able.*

### SATURDAY 22ND MAY

**10:00am** Service of welcome for the beginning of Praying the Keeills week at the **Royal Chapel of St John's\***, IM4 3NA (Map ref SC 279 818). The service is open to all – not only for those walking! Following the service, walk from St John's to Gleneedle, Keeill Woirrey (Kerrowdhoo), Cross Vein, (possibly Dixon's Vein) and back to St John's. A limited return shuttle service will be available.

*Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Walking mostly on country roads and footpaths and some may be wet and muddy. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Circular route of 13 km/8 miles; about 6 hours including stops.*

### SUNDAY 23RD MAY

**2:30pm** Creation for all ages at **Ballagarey Methodist Chapel**, IM9 3AH (Map ref SC 295 738) led by the Pioneer Church. Families with children welcome. Use the quiet of this lovely place to allow ancient texts to speak to you in an interactive, personally guided labyrinth of scripture exploring the theme of Creation. Then talk and pray in a way you feel safe. Informal opt-in communion at the end, with a community meal provided\*. Expected finish at 5:30pm.

### MONDAY 24TH MAY

**10:30am** Explore the Cathedral Gardens and labyrinth at **St. German's Cathedral, Peel** IM5 1HH (Map ref SC 246 840). Lunch at the Big Table\* at 12:30pm in the Corrin Hall and optional walk in Peel.

**7:30pm** talk at **Promenade Methodist Church\***, Douglas, IM1 2EQ (Map ref SC 382 756). Talk by Dr Henry Uniacke, Diocesan Environmental Officer on "One small step. A giant leap for humanity."

### TUESDAY 25TH MAY

**7:00pm** Evening visit to **St Patrick's Church, Jurby** and walk to the coast at Sartfield. Meet at Jurby Church (St Patrick's) (Map ref SC 350 985). Please bring packed supper. Hot drinks and cake available\*. Walk along road and footpaths to the coast at Sartfield (Map ref SC 353 997) for reflection and (if the skies are clear) sunset at 9:32pm. (Total walk 3km / 2 miles). A limited shuttle service will be available from Jurby Church to the car parking area at Sartfield.

### WEDNESDAY 26TH MAY

**7:00pm** prompt departure Coach trip.

Depart from **north side of Sea Terminal, Douglas**, IM1 2BY (Map ref SC 385 753) and finishing with light supper. Cost £15.00 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 27TH MAY

**2:00pm** Meet at **Millennium Oakwood car park, off Ballafletcher Farm Road, Douglas** IM4 4QJ (Map ref SC 368 778) and walk to Cronkbourne village, Castleward, Camlork, Thie Bee (at the hospital) and Millennium Oakwood. Circular route of 9 km/6 miles; about 3.5 hours including stops.

### FRIDAY 28TH MAY

**8:00pm** Meet at **St Luke's Church, Baldwin** IM4 5ES (Map ref SC 360 822) for hot drinks\*. Walk along the Millennium Way to the site commemorating the Old Tynwald meeting place for worship. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Distance 2 km/1.5 miles (up and down a steepish uneven track).

*If the skies are clear, we shall watch the sunset (about 9:30pm). About 10:00pm opportunity for those who wish to continue walking till late. Bring your own torches or head torches.*

### SATURDAY 29TH MAY

**10:00am** Day walk to the Barony and Cornaa. Meet at **Christ Church, The Dhoon, Glen Mona**, IM7 1HD (Map ref SC 453 888). Parking available on roadside by the Dhoon School. Walk to the Barony Keeill Vael, Port Cornaa, Ballaglass Glen, Cashtal yn Ard and back to Glen Mona. Circular walk distance 9 km/5.5 miles; 5 hrs with lunch and reflection stops.

*No dogs on this walk please. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Walking on footpaths, country roads and pastureland. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather.*