

## 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

God who called Abraham to journey into the unknown,  
Who led him, protected him, and loved him,  
be known to us on our journey through life.  
May our eyes see you in all we meet,  
May we learn to laugh in your presence:  
To rejoice in you and your faithfulness to us, for as you blessed  
Abraham we are blessed by you.  
You are our Father, we are your children.

With you we are on our way to a promised land...

Sourced from 'The Awesome Journey – Life's pilgrimage'

David Adam (1936-2020)



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

# PRAYING THE KEEILLS WEEK

## 20TH - 27TH MAY 2023



*'For surely I know the plans  
I have for you, says the Lord,  
plans for your welfare  
and not for harm,  
to give you a future with hope.'*

*Jeremiah 29 v11*

*Whether you live on the island or across the water, we offer you a warm welcome to Praying the Keeills Week 2023 - our eighteenth successive year. Failt erriu!*

*We hope our programme offers opportunities to visit a few of our keeills - the simple ruins of ancient chapels which are scattered across the countryside of our beautiful island. Time spent in nature can calm and re-boot our busy minds - and may allow us a glimpse of the divine.*

*This year we have chosen 'Moving On' as our loose theme; do look out for it during the week. Most of our events involve walks of varied distances, but for non-walkers we hope the 'Armchair Pilgrimage' event will provide a new opportunity to join in, as well as the usual coach trip and evening lecture. Except for the coach trip and Armchair Pilgrimage at Thie dy Vea, no booking is required and all events are free, although donations for any refreshments would be appreciated.*

*Bannaghtyn/Blessings*

*Praying the Keeills Team*



# PRAYING THE KEEILLS WEEK 20 – 27 MAY 2023

## THEME: MOVING ON.....

All walkers take part at their own risk. Please wear footwear with a good grip and clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. Some routes may be wet and muddy. Dogs must always be kept on leads and kept well away from farm animals.

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

### SATURDAY 20TH MAY

**10:00am** Beach arrival: Service of welcome for the beginning of Praying the Keeills week at **Fenella Beach**, IM5 1TB (Map ref SC 241 844). (If stormy on Fenella Beach meet on south end of Peel Beach). Following the service, walk to St John's via Peel Headlands, The Lynague, Keeill Pheric a Dromma then back to Peel along the Triskelion Way.

Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Walking mostly on country roads and footpaths. Some may be wet and muddy. Wear stout footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Distance 14 km/9 miles, about 5 hours walking.

### SUNDAY 21ST MAY

**2:30pm – 4:30pm** “A lifelong journey” at **\*Thie dy Vea Retreat House\***, Peel, IM5 1JP (Map ref SC 247 837). Join us for a self-guided mini-pilgrimage in the walled garden at Thie dy Vea, that will provide refreshment for body, mind and soul.

An opportunity to journey, reflect and wonder: leading to a time of shared thanksgiving to close. Some on-site parking available.

### MONDAY 22ND MAY

**11:00am** Meet at **Rushen Abbey**, IM9 3DB (Map ref SC 278 701) for open air worship in Manx and English within the ancient foundations of Rushen Abbey. Explore the gardens and the story of the Abbey. Bring a packed lunch to join us for refreshments at the **\*Abbey Church hall, Ballasalla\***.

**7:30pm** Evening talk by Rev Ian Faulds - “St Maughold: the Isle of Man's forgotten patron saint.” Exploring the story of the once internationally-renowned, fifth-century saint who inspired generations of pilgrims. Meet at **\*St Anthony's Pastoral Centre\***, Ridgeway Road, Onchan IM3 1HT (Map ref SC 397 775).

### TUESDAY 23RD MAY

**7:00pm** Evening circular walk from Glen Mooar to Spooyt Vane, Cabbal Pheric and return via Glen Wyllin and the beach. Please bring torches or head torches.

Meet at **Glen Mooar car park** IM6 1HL (Map ref SC 304 893). Distance 7 km/4 miles. 2.5 – 3 hours.

### WEDNESDAY 24TH 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 at Colby Methodist Church. Cost £18.00 to include supper and tip for driver. 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 Droghadfadyle Road, Port Erin, IM9 6EN. (Tel 833154). Tickets will be posted out during the first week of May.

### THURSDAY 25TH MAY

**2:00pm** Afternoon walk in Maughold. Meet at **\*Kirk Maughold Church\*** IM7 1AS (Map ref SC 493 917) for a service, a walk along Maughold Brooghs and back to Kirk Maughold for refreshments at the end of the walk. Stout footwear recommended. Uneven surfaces and steep gradients in places. Circular walking route of 5 km/3 miles: about 1.5 hours including stops along the way.

**7:30pm – 9:00pm** ‘Armchair Pilgrimage’ at **\*Thie dy Vea Retreat House\***, Peel, IM5 1JP (Map ref SC 247 837). A virtual keeills walk that will engage the senses and lift the spirit. Places limited, booking essential directly with Thie dy Vea via e-mail - [welcome@retreathouse.im](mailto:welcome@retreathouse.im)

### FRIDAY 26TH MAY

**6:30pm** Evening circular walk from **Old Kirk Braddan**. Meet in the layby at Old Kirk Braddan IM4 4LB (Map ref SC 364 768). Parking also available at New Kirk Braddan Church car park. Walk along the old railway line, through the Nunnery Grounds to **\*St Matthew's\*** for a talk on “The Emerald Vernicle” by Rev Dr Michael Brydon and then return on foot or by bus. Circular route on foot of 6.5 km/4 miles (or 3 km/2 miles if returning by bus from Douglas); about 3 hours including stops.

### SATURDAY 27TH MAY

**10:00am** Meet at **\*Crosby Methodist Chapel Hall\***, IM4 2HA (Map ref SC 326 793) for light refreshments. Walk from Crosby along the Heritage Railway line, then ascend to Cornelly Mine, Archallagan Plantation, Old St Runius for service at approx 2:00pm and back to Crosby.

Circular walk of 12.5km/8 miles; 5 hours with stops for lunch and reflection. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Walking on footpaths and minor roads.