

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.

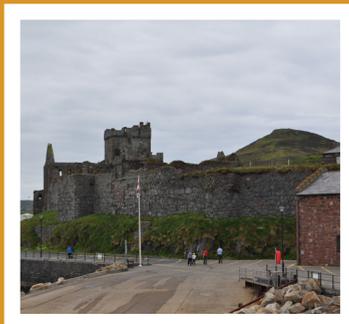
Our Celtic forebears would have described the keeills as “thin places” where we can draw close to God.

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

*Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You.*

From St. Brendan's prayer



FOR MORE INFO, EVENTS, PICTURES AND CONTACT GO TO: WWW.PRAYINGTHEKEEILLS.ORG

PRAYING THE KEEILLS WEEK

18TH - 25TH MAY 2024



*'Your path led through the sea,
your way through the
mighty waters,
though your footprints were
not seen.'*

Psalm 77 v19

2024 marks our nineteenth year of Praying the Keeills, to which you are warmly welcomed. Over the eight days we aim to provide opportunities for everyone to visit some of the island's keeills - the ruined but sacred early chapels which dot our Manx landscape.

We firmly believe that time spent in creation and with each other is good for the soul and opens up possibilities for holy encounters. Non - churchgoers are especially welcome!

Our chosen theme this year is 'The Sea', so you may pick up one or two maritime references in our routes and talks. As usual we are offering a range of walks, both shorter and longer, together with a coach trip and an evening lecture.

Apart from the coach trip and evening at Thie dy Vea, there's no need to book and all events are free, although donations for any refreshments would be appreciated.

Bannaghtyn/Blessings

Praying the Keeills Team

PRAYING THE KEEILLS WEEK 18 – 25 MAY 2024

THEME: THE SEA

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 18TH MAY

10:00am - Welcome: Service of welcome for the beginning of Praying the Keeills week at ***St. Sanctain's Church/Kirk Santan***, IM4 1EZ (Map ref SC 310 711). Following the service and refreshments, walk through Glen Grenaugh, along the coast on the Raad ny Foillan and inland near Arragon House.

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 9 km/6 miles, about 4 hours walking.

SUNDAY 19TH MAY

4:30pm – 9:00pm Meet at **Marown Primary School car park**, Glen Darragh Road, Glen Vine IM4 4RD (Map ref SC 333 786) for walk along Heritage Trail to Glen Lough keeill. Return to ***St Runius' Parish Church***, Peel Road, Marown IM4 4BQ (Map ref SC 331 789) to join the Mariners' Choir Service being hosted there at 6:30pm followed by refreshments. Distance 5 km/3 miles.

MONDAY 20TH MAY

10:30am Meet at **St Paul's Square, Ramsey**, beside St Paul's Church IM8 1LA (Map ref SC 453 943) to explore Ramsey harbour, quayside and town finishing at the Bethel Chapel about 12:30. About 1.5km/1mile.

7:30pm Evening talk by Peter Kelly - "Here come the Romans". Meet at ***St Anthony's Pastoral Centre***, Ridgeway Road, Onchan IM3 1HT (Map ref SC 397 775)

TUESDAY 21ST MAY

7:00pm Evening visit to ***St Patrick's Church, Jurby*** and churchyard with a walk to Keeill Kickle. Music by Caarjyn Coidjagh. Meet at St Patrick's, Church Road, Jurby IM7 3AY (Map ref SC 350 985). Please bring a packed supper for yourself. Hot drinks and cake available. Total walk is 3km / 2 miles. Note - part of this walk is across agricultural land.

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 at Maughold village hall. Intended return time to Douglas c.10:00pm. Cost £20.00 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 Droghadfaile 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 on Scarlett head. Meet at **St Mary's on the Harbour, Hope St, Castletown** IM9 1AS (Map ref SC 264 676) for service, then walk around Scarlett Head on the Raad ny Foillan to Keeill Vael (St Michael's chapel) on Chapel Hill, Balladoole. Return to Castletown via Poyllvaish Farm and inland paths on Scarlett Head. Stout footwear recommended. Uneven surfaces and muddy paths in places. Circular walking route of 8.5 km/5 miles: about 3.5 hours including stops along the way.

7:30 – 9:00pm Armchair Pilgrimage at ***Thie dy Vea Retreat House***, Peel, IM5 1JP (Map ref SC 247 837). Celebrating Brendan the Navigator, an evening of story, song and prayer. Places limited, booking essential directly with Thie dy Vea via e-mail - welcome@retreathouse.im or by telephone (0) +44 1624 609299.

FRIDAY 24TH MAY

7:00pm Evening stroll in Peel. Meet at **Peel RNLi station, West Quay, Peel** IM5 1TG (Map ref SC 242 846) and visit the lifeboat station. Walk to Peel Castle and explore the religious heritage of St Patrick's Isle with words and music. If the weather is kind.....we'll watch the sun set on Sunset City (9:31pm). Max. 1.5 km/1 mile. Uneven and steep ground on St Patrick's Isle; steep steps into Peel Castle.

SATURDAY 25TH MAY

10:00am Meet at ***St Catherine's Church***, Church Road, Port Erin IM9 6AR (Map ref SC 196 691) for service and light refreshments then walk to St Catherine's Well, St Mary's Road, Truggan Road, Howe Road, Glenchass, Kallow Point, catwalk and to St Mary's Well, Port St Mary.

Linear walk of 6 km/4 miles if stopping in Port St Mary; full circular walk of 8 km/5 miles if returning on foot to Port Erin. About 5 hours with stops for lunch and reflection. Bring a packed lunch and drinks. Walking on minor roads and footpaths.