

Dear sisters and brothers

This comes with my prayers and warm greetings. It also comes in the hope of sharing a round-up of news and forthcoming events across the Diocese with you and asking that you will share them with others.

Dates and Events for the Diary

Diocesan Events

Thursday 18th June - Service to launch the Diocesan Safeguarding Vision and Strategy

Everyone is invited to a launch service to be held at the Cathedral on 18th June at 7.30pm. I will be preaching and there shall also be opportunity to hear from and to meet Abbey Clephane-Wilson, our Diocesan safeguarding lead and to thank Tony Connell for way he has served us over the past decade. This will be the Continuing Ministerial Development session for June but is open to all. We will pray for our continuing call to be a church which is safe for all.

Sunday 21st June - Service for Prison Sunday.

To be held in Jurby Church at 2pm, followed by delicious refreshments, this service aims to encourage prayer and awareness of the needs of prisoners and their families, of victims of offenders, prison staff and all those who care. It is open to all across the Diocese and you are encouraged to share in it and to show your support. Come and be inspired by the words of Jesus who said 'When I was in prison you visited me'.

Other Events which may be of interest

Friday 8th May

The Well, Broadway Baptist Church, Douglas. Beginning at 5pm for a light buffet tea ending by 7.30pm. An opportunity to meet with Rev. Prof. Chris Cook, Emeritus Professor in Spirituality, Theology and Health at Durham University. This will be different to his presentation at ISN. More a chance for Q & A, to receive practical advice and further our knowledge and understanding of mental health and to engage with others on the Island who share our interest. The organisers would be grateful to have an idea of numbers for catering so please email Kath Prior on kathprior@suremail.im

Praying the Keeills Week - Saturday 16th - Saturday 23rd May 2026

I look forward to attending the opening worship service and joining the walk on the first day of Praying the Keeills Week. You can find out more about the week and the whole programme of events on their website: <https://prayingthekeeills.org>

News and Information

Bereavement Journey Course

At the recent Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD) session we were introduced to the Bereavement Journey Course, an award-winning series of films and discussion that gently guides adults bereaved at any time, through the varied ways grief and bereavement can be experienced, enabling them to process the implications for themselves and discern next steps.

Provided by the charity [AtaLoss](#), and run by churches for their communities, it uniquely offers holistic support including accompanying signposting and a final session on faith questions in bereavement from a Christian perspective.

Rosemary Clarke, who ably led the introductory and taster session writes: 'Following the CMD session about the Bereavement Journey course that was held on Saturday, I'd like to see how we can take forward the idea of supporting those who've been bereaved in our communities as part of our demonstration of God's love and care. Whether or not you were able to come to CMD, please could you let me know if you would be interested in exploring this theme? This would enable a group of us to plan a way forward.'

Please contact Rosemary on education@cathedral.im

Safeguarding Sunday in July

As we roll out our Diocesan Safeguarding Vision Statement and as an opportunity to thank those involved in safeguarding locally I encourage each of our churches to mark one Sunday in July as Safeguarding Sunday. It is hoped that the service held in the Cathedral in June might provide inspiration and resources which you could use locally at your own Safe-caring Sunday service. You could also find further resources on the Safeguarding Sunday website: <https://safeguardingsunday.org>

Please can you let me know, via Lorna at the Bishop's Office, which Sunday you plan to designate as safe-caring Sunday in your locality. It will be good to gather this picture together.

General Synod elections and young adults

If you are, or know a church member aged 18-25 who is interested in Church life and leadership it may be of interest to know that elections for the next General Synod will take place this autumn. If you'd like to hear a little more do join an online session, 'Inside synod: Highlights, Hopes and next Steps' on Wednesday 22nd July at 7pm. The event link is available at linktr.ee/generalsynodyoungvoices

The Cathedral and the Parish of the West Coast

I have already shared an important update regarding the leadership of our Cathedral and the Parish of the West Coast, outlining that the present Dean, the Very Reverend Nigel Godfrey, who had been due to retire at the end of April, has graciously agreed to continue in his ministry for a further period. This will ensure continuity and stability as we begin the process of discerning and appointing his successor, allow for the embedding of the work which Nigel had begun on implementing the Cathedral's Measure and enable Nigel to guide the Cathedral through the important safeguarding audit scheduled for September. I am deeply grateful for Nigel's willingness to remain in post during this important time in the life of the Diocese. His continued leadership will be a great blessing to us all.

In the coming months, there will be opportunities for consultation and for you to contribute to the prayerful discernment of Nigel's successor. Please do watch for further communications about how you can be involved.

Thank you, as always, for your faithful ministry in parishes, chaplaincies, and communities across the Diocese. Our shared life and worship of our faithful God is sustained week by week through your care, prayer, and service. As we ahead to the great feast of Pentecost, may the life-giving Holy Spirit breathe renewal into us and enable us to know God's presence afresh.