

Time for a change?

AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY
IN THE SMALLEST DIOCESE
IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

(arguably the most beautiful one, too!)



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



THE DIOCESE OF
SODOR AND MAN

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Some background

We're a vibrant nation in the middle of the Irish Sea -221 square miles, which is home to around 86,000 people - with air and sea links to the adjacent island of England. England is 'the adjacent island' because the Isle of Man is a self-governing British Crown Dependency and we're justly proud of both our independence and of our rich Celtic heritage.

There's a wealth of information on line about the Isle of Man, which is a great way to get a sense of where the Diocese of Sodor and Man lies - so, if you've not already done so, take a few moments to **click these links and browse the sites:**

<https://www.visitisleofman.com/> (have your sound on!)

'A Church Near You' gives a good snapshot of the locations of the five churches making up the Parish of the Northern Plain:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/36-001CP/>

Here's a direct link to our **Parish Facebook** page :

<https://www.facebook.com/andreasballaughjurbysulby>

And you'll want to look at the **Diocese of Sodor and Man website** - the Diocesan Blog is a good place to start:

<https://www.sodorandman.im/diocesan-blog/>

There's a website dedicated to helping people to **relocate to the Isle of Man**. Much of it won't be applicable to you, but it might answer some questions:

<https://www.locate.im/relocating>

The Island is rich in opportunities for pilgrimage and is steeped in Celtic heritage - these sites will give you just a taste of what we have to offer :

<https://pilgrimageisleofman.im/>

<https://prayingthekeeills.org/>

The Isle of Man is the only 'entire nation' UNESCO Biosphere. There's more information here : **<https://www.biosphere.im/>**

But this is just the background - we have so much more to tell you

The Parish of the Northern Plain - at a glance!

KIRK ANDREAS - Spacious building with seating/eating & kitchen adjoining worship area + good AV

We reach out to local families through village school and hosting a popular LEGO club. Amazing Celtic crosses and important war graves attract visitors - BUT ideas wanted here for much more engagement with families!

SULBY - small, cosy church in village with fascinating history & genuine link to designer Archibald Knox. Flourishing weekly social club - monthly Taizé worship - working well with neighbouring newly-modernised Methodist Church - which has good links to village school and outreach to families. We're keen to work together, to reach even more of our village families.

JURBY - landmark white church at northern tip of Island - Important history - from War Graves to ancient Celtic stones. Friends of Jurby Church raise funds for its upkeep and renovations - Home of famous Jurby Mice - and delicious home made preserves!

BALLAUGH Parish Church - well cared-for building with glorious stained glass, and well-researched graveyard attracts many visitors - kitchen and integral rooms used for socials and regular community lunches - we've got good links with village school and local families via annual Village Nativity, Carol Service, and fun days at Easter and Christmas - will YOU helps us do more?

BALLAUGH OLD CHURCH - Steeped in Manx history - an Island landmark with its leaning gateposts! Tiny church, ancient graveyard - a true heritage gem imaginatively cared for by Friends of Ballaugh Old Church - Outreach at Christmas & other seasons brings families from all over the Island. No regular worship - could these popular heritage experiences be developed - to reach more non-church folk ?

Our Parish - and the Diocese

The Parish of the Northern Plain has five churches and serves four villages in the north-west of the Island - Andreas, Ballaugh, Jurby and Sulby.

The parish is semi-rural - largely flat farm land, with much land which once formed part of larger farms having been given over to housing. Although all our churches are only a few hundred years old, three of them have Christian worship roots going back to Celtic times.

SOME (VERY BASIC!) BACKGROUND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Sodor and Man is the smallest Church of England Diocese.

There are 14 parishes and 33 churches; 17 clergy; 26 PTO clergy; 5 readers; 19 PTO readers; 3 licensed lay ministers. The parishes are grouped into 4 Mission Partnerships – North, South, East and West – a variation on the Deanery structure.

We have one Bishop (The Rt Rev'd Tricia Hillas) and one Archdeacon (The Venerable Irene Cowell).

The Bishop's office is in the Bishop's house in the capital - Douglas - and is the venue for meetings of all kinds - from Diocesan board meetings to informal chats about parish or pastoral matters.

The Archdeacon's house is both her home and her office, and she is also Parish Priest of a city centre church (St George's) known as the 'Government Church' due to the Archdeacon's role as Chaplain to the House of Keys, and the proximity of the church to the main Government offices.

Due to these arrangements, and the scale of the Diocese, interaction with 'our Archdeacon' and 'our Bishop' is not difficult and is de facto interaction with the Diocese - and it really does make us feel as if we are working together as part of one family.

Our Parish ... on the move!

Since the retirement of our previous incumbent, we've been wonderfully served by retired ministers - and by our Worship Team of two Lay Readers and two Licensed Worship Assistants. Our services are Common Worship Morning Prayer and Holy Communion; at the moment our singing is hymns rather than worship songs.

So - we're in reasonably good shape - but VERY ready to welcome the person whom God is calling to help us to discern and develop the next stage in the life of our parish.

As a parish family, we're happy, hard-working, excited by challenges and willing to embrace change where necessary.

The individual churches in the parish regularly unite for worship (on the first Sunday of every month) and fund-raise together, whilst at the same time preserving their individual character.

Right now, our congregations are largely made up of older folk, who have given years of faithful service to their particular church and who value more traditional forms of worship and the supportive friendships found in their church community. But we also have older folk who long to discover new ways to worship! And above all, we want to grow - in our personal faith and in our Christian work and witness in our community.

So, we're looking for someone who will :

- **Enjoy ministry in a semi-rural parish**
- **Be confident and comfortable introducing a variety of worship styles**
- **Have energy and sensitivity to implement change appropriately**
- **Be keen to work collaboratively with parishioners and with the wider community**
- **Be willing to lead Bible study groups -
to teach and help us grow in our personal faith**
- **Be keen to be part of the broader work of the Diocese
by involvement in particular area(s) of interest
(see opportunities later in this profile)**
- **Help us to discern God's priorities for us as we move forward together**

Our Parish...still on the move!

We want to increase the impact our churches have in the local community, by developing new forms of outreach. Lots of scope to be inventive here, as this will be different for each church, according to their local needs.

We're searching for an energetic minister who will look with fresh eyes for the opportunities we're missing, and will help us to plan and launch new ways to reach out beyond the walls of our churches.

We're looking for someone who is good at motivating others and - like us - enjoys working ecumenically.

In small communities, we can be short of people-power and don't always have all the skills and resources we need. **Working across denominations, and actively involving people with no church connection - can really expand what we do.**

We also need help to identify the new leaders - people excited to begin and maintain the new things. New ventures cannot rest on the tired shoulders of the faithful few!

***A SENSE OF FUN
and a pair
of Marigolds
WOULD BE
USEFUL TOO!***



The Parish of the Northern Plain

A LOOK AT OUR CHURCHES IN MORE DETAIL



Kirk Andreas

Andreas village is in the civic Parish of Andreas and, aside from the church, the main community features are a small Primary School, a busy pub, an even busier village store, the (civic) Parish Hall, and a sports field.

There is massive potential here to devise and develop outreaches to local families and young people, and communicate via the existing hubs of village life, who are already supportive of church-based events. The extensive re-ordering of the church (see below) means that we are now well placed to host anything - from a cosy coffee club to a full band concert!

The church is on the south side of Andreas village, surrounded by open fields and a graveyard. It is spacious with attractive stained glass, a high ceiling and good acoustics. It has a pipe organ, and an A/V system, so all services etc are presented on screens.

The church was re-ordered in 2020 which included laying a new level floor and creating - at the West end of the church - a useful community space with seating and a modest well-equipped kitchen, ideal for everything from post-service refreshments to a warm spot for a small service on a chilly day!

History and heritage draws visitors to Andreas village, and to the church. There are World War II graves in the burial grounds, and a fine collection of Manx Crosses inside. Knock-e-Dhooney is nearby - where a Christian keeill (small chapel) from the 4th or 5th century, and a Christian carved stone cross have been found.

The population of the village is 1,400 of which almost 700 are employed.
Average weekly attendance at Sunday service - 20

Kirk Andreas

The church is also the home of the historic Andreas Benevolent Society which was founded on Ascension Day in 1812, to provide financial support for families in need - long before the existence of the welfare state. Thankfully that support is no longer needed but the historic significance of the Society (which is very important to the village community) is preserved through a parade, a service in Kirk Andreas and a special dinner, all held annually on the evening of Ascension Day, in which the incumbent plays a central role!

The local LEGO CLUB meets regularly in the church, which is also used for social events, concerts etc as it is so spacious, with good level access and plenty of parking in the church grounds.

Kirk Andreas also has good relationship with local housing provision for older people - Cooil Ny Chibbyr - holding a couple of Lenten lunches there each year - a popular and well-supported outreach.

In addition to Sunday worship, which is weekly at 10:30am, the church is the village focus for the key celebrations and commemorations - Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance.



BALLAUGH

St Mary de Ballaugh

Newly-glazed internal doors enable visitors to look in and feel welcome to come and explore this spacious church with its glorious stained glass



The village of Ballaugh has a Primary School, a pub, a very busy shop and a well-supported Bowls Club which, alongside its primary purpose, also hosts village socials.

There is also a Parish Hall which is owned by The Walker Trust but leased to Ballaugh Commissioners at a peppercorn rent, with concessions enabling it to be used for church purposes, **the most important of which is the hugely popular TT Cafe open during the famous TT Races - a wonderful outreach to both visiting bikers and the local community.** Parishioners from all our churches plus friends and non-church members work together on this - cooking, serving and donating exotic cakes!

A totally different but equally important outreach is **the traditional Hollantide Fair in late autumn** - organised by church members with **entertainment from Ballaugh schoolchildren.**

There's also a Village Nativity in the church, and church members run events for village families at Christmas (with Father Christmas of course) and Easter (with a bunny!)

St Mary de Ballaugh is on the main road through the village, close to the school and the general store, and is surrounded by a well-kept burial ground. It was created in 1800s to be nearer the heart of the village and has been carefully maintained and beautifully decorated, with rich woodwork and glorious stained glass windows.

The church is open every day during daylight hours, and attracts a steady number of visitors - some to admire the church but many want to trace family history in the graveyard. Grave records are good, and help is always available if needed. There has been a marked increase in donations from visitors since the installation of a SumUp machine.

In the lobby area at the back of the church there is a modern kitchen and two multi-purpose rooms - ideal for the popular monthly 3-course community lunch - served with no set charge.

By removing some pews, an open area with comfortable seating has been created at the back of the nave - perfect for after-service refreshments and children's activities.

Sunday worship in Ballaugh is weekly at 10:30am - either Holy Communion or Morning Prayer. Average congregation size - 20

The population of Ballaugh is 1041 of which 513 are employed

EXTRA INFORMATION FROM AROUND THE PARISH

A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY TEAM LEADS THE **WEDNESDAY ASSEMBLY** IN **JURBY COMMUNITY SCHOOL** ONCE A MONTH.

*MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH ARE PART OF AN **OPEN THE BOOK** TEAM WHICH REGULARLY VISITS LOCAL SCHOOLS.*

At key times - eg Lent and Advent - **we share a WEEKLY STUDY GROUP** for the whole Parish, and usually led by the incumbent.

ANDREAS, BALLAUGH AND SULBY always fundraise together - in addition to the TT Cafe, there are concerts, seasonal coffee mornings with entertainment, Open Gardens, Harvest Supper and the Hollantide Fair. Community outreach includes Christingle, Santa's Grotto and the Easter Bunny trail,

***COMMUNICATION** is excellent via a weekly newsletter circulated electronically with hard copy in all churches. Includes Sunday readings and parish news and is posted on the parish Facebook page.*

BALLAUGH Old Church



Ballaugh Old Church, with its distinctive slanting gate pillars, is on the edge of Ballaugh village. A parish church existed in Ballaugh as long ago as the year 1231 - almost certainly on this exact site - and the present building is steeped in Manx history and legend. Services are no longer held here, and care of the church has been taken over by the self-funding [Friends of Old Ballaugh Church](#) - a group of almost exclusively non-churchgoing people who hold the church in great affection and who are carefully renovating/repairing, including re-wilding the ancient graveyard which surrounds the church, and interpreting the story of this landmark using video, drama and music.

JURBY - St Patrick's Church

St Patrick is another landmark church and is outside the residential area of Jurby. It sits high on the coast and is visible from as far away as Peel, a distance of some 13 miles.

This is a cherished building because of its association with those who served at the WW2 RAF base in Jurby and many come from around the world to visit the War Graves.

The Friends of Jurby Church work hard to raise funds for restoration and repair work and necessary improvements - both structural and decorative. As in Kirk Andreas, there is a permanent display of Manx crosses inside the church, and special events and exhibitions take place throughout the year.

Jurby has recently transitioned out of Bishop's Mission Order status, back into the parish framework and now has a monthly service - on the 3rd Sunday of each month - with an average congregation of 13

The Friends of Jurby Church raise funds for their own maintenance and major development works, and do not contribute to the general parish funds or support parish fundraising.

The church is open every day during daylight hours and has a steady flow of visitors.



JURBY St Patrick's Church



JURBY, close to the coast, has a former WW2 airfield which now houses the Isle of Man Motor Museum, a (motor cycle) race track which is popular at weekends, Jurby Transport Museum, and an industrial estate.

Jurby Parish Hall (civic), built by the RAF as a gymnasium and church, is today the base for the Parish Commissioners and for community activities.

The Isle of Man Prison - opened in 2008 - is also in JURBY. St Patrick's Church has a good relationship with the prison, as indeed do a number of churches in the North, as decorating/general building repairs are among the jobs which prisoners are encouraged to do, as part of their rehabilitation programmes. Jurby church hosts a Prisoners Service each year - an important means by which prison staff and prison inmates are welcomed and recognised as part of our wider community

JURBY HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE is a modern building with excellent facilities and much unused space - an ideal place for the church to engage with existing users, and also to listen to local families, in order to discover - and provide - the kind of outreach they need/would support..

The population of Jurby is 780 of which 318 are employed



St Stephen's Church SULBY

SULBY is a ribbon village, with a mix of modern housing and Manx cottages lining the main road, where there is also a large high-quality Primary School, and two popular pubs - one at each end of the village. Sulby population is roughly 400.

St Stephen's Church is on the main road, close to the school and to the Methodist Church which has just undergone a major refurbishment and now offers a well-resourced flexible space for worship, concerts etc., plus a modern well-equipped kitchen. St Stephen's has an excellent (informal - no LEP) relationship with Sulby Methodists, resulting in shared services and special events and joint fundraising.

St Stephen's was one of the first dual purpose churches built on the Isle of Man - in the 19th century - incorporating a school room to provide easier access to education for children in the surrounding farms. Alterations were done after a separate school was built next door, creating the church that we have now, which seats around 80 people, with a small hall attached. The church is cosy and well maintained, and has an excellent PA system, a pipe organ and an electric piano.

For the benefit of the whole parish (and beyond!) St Stephen's offers a mid-week service of Holy Communion each Wednesday morning at 10am, and a service of Taizé worship at 7pm on the last Friday of each month. **Sunday worship in St Stephen's is weekly at 10:30am** - either Holy Communion or Morning Prayer.

The small adjoining hall would need major alterations to access, and renovation of its toilets and very modest kitchen, if it were to be used/rented out for social events, but as it stands, it is ideal for PCC meetings, after-service refreshments, and Bible study groups. There is a small car park immediately outside.

BUT it could also be very easily made into a Parish Office which would be a good, accessible presence in the heart of the Parish

St Stephen's Church - SULBY

In addition to the Methodist Church, whose facilities are always available to St Stephen's, there is a larger modern Community Hall in Sulby village (a short walk from St Stephen's) which is ideal for larger social events, concerts etc.

The Monday Club meets here – a relaxed, weekly social gathering for anyone who has some spare time on a Monday - an outreach organised by one of St Stephen's Church Wardens and attended by people from around the north of the island. Monday Club also visits restaurants and heritage sites. **Some of the Club members with no previous church connection, now attend St Stephen's, proving the missional potential of the Club.**

THE KNOX CONNECTION

The influential Manx-born designer Archibald Knox lived in Sulby for about 3 years, working on his beautiful designs for Liberty & Co - blending the Arts and Crafts Movement, Art Nouveau and Celtic Revival into his distinctive style. There is a 'Knox Trail' which draws together the places that tell the story of Knox's life in Sulby village and we have a beautiful Communion plate designed by Knox and presented by him to St Stephen's Church. It is currently on display in the Manx Museum



SPECIAL NOTE - St Jude's Church is in the small hamlet of St Jude's, near Andreas, but is not part of the ecclesial parish. Under a Memorandum of Understanding the Friends of St Jude's made with the Diocese some 15 years ago, services in St Jude's are organised independently by the Friends. Under the memorandum the building is maintained and managed by the Friends and it functions as a public communal facility.

The Friends of St Jude's organise events to raise funds for the upkeep of the church, and whilst services in St Jude's are organised separately by the Friends, and are not part of the ecclesial parish commitment, all residents of St Jude's hamlet naturally remain entitled to pastoral care from the incumbent of the Parish.

What can we add to YOUR ministry ?

We expect our new incumbent to want to be engaged in the life of the wider Diocese - and our small Diocese offers both variety and accessibility. We'll encourage you to use your gifts for the benefit of the whole Diocese. There's always a place for a good team player who enjoys the prospect of getting involved in areas of ecumenical mission and ministry which may be new to you - but which offer great outreach opportunities!

VALUABLE PARTNERSHIPS CAN COME FROM ACCEPTING INVITATIONS TO COMPERE CONCERTS, ENTER THE LOCAL FRUIT AND VEG SHOW, HELP WITH A HOLIDAY CLUB OR BECOME A VOLUNTEER, RE-BUILDING THE VICTORIAN PIER IN RAMSEY!

GROWING OLD GRACE-FULLY DO YOU FEEL CALLED TO HELP TO DEVELOP AND DELIVER VERY SPECIFIC PASTORAL CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND FOR THOSE WITH DEMENTIA?

OUR LITTLE ISLAND IS HOME TO PEOPLE FROM 143 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES! - ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE DEEPER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES THIS OFFERS?

ARE YOU KEEN ON COMMUNICATIONS? OUR NATIONAL BROADCASTER - MANX RADIO - STILL INCLUDES A WEEKLY CHRISTIAN ISSUES PROGRAMME IN ITS SUNDAY SCHEDULE AND WE HAVE AN EXPERIENCED TEAM DEVELOPING GOOD COMMUNICATION, EFFECTIVE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ETC IN THE DIOCESE - IS THIS WHERE YOU FIT IN ?

PRISON MINISTRY

An ecumenical team supports inmates and staff, and a programme of skills training and working in the community is in place - but what MORE could be done ?

RURAL MINISTRY - WE HAVE A BIG FARMING COMMUNITY IN NEED OF SUPPORT THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES - COULD THIS BE YOUR CALLING?

YOUR MINISTRY IN THE PARISH OF THE NORTHERN PLAIN - AND BEYOND!

Does Hospital Chaplaincy interest you? We have two Hospitals, a Hospice caring for adults and another for children.

Island-wide work with YOUNG PEOPLE - Scripture Union Ministries Trust runs programmes for Primary and Secondary School ages - and the famous BEACH MISSION in Port St Mary - and are always looking to expand their team - and the activities they offer!

The Rectory



The Rectory is a substantial detached 4-bedroom house surrounded by mature gardens, with off road parking, garage etc. It has been well-maintained, and is in excellent general condition. It conforms to The Green Book in all respects.

It stands among other residential properties on a small loop road off the main Ramsey-Sulby road. There is a redundant church nearby which passed into private ownership some years ago, and is now used as an arts and music venue. Next door to The Rectory is a small privately-owned day nursery. The Rectory is not actually inside the Parish of the Northern Plain - it's in Lezayre - so still within easy reach of all the PotNP Churches - and it sits directly on the famous TT Course!