



A Message from Bishop Tricia Hillas

It is a joy to commend to you this parish profile for the Northern Plain; a place where the wide Manx landscape holds stories of both ancient and contemporary faith, the riches of community and the promise of hope, given in Jesus Christ.

This Island is a unique and special place; blessed with natural riches, deep connections to faith and a forward-looking national identity. Here the Church finds itself in a season of renewal: deeply rooted in an ancient Christian heritage, which we treasure and are seeking to know authentically, yet called afresh to speak good news with clarity, imagination and humble confidence. It is our prayer that the Holy Spirit will be calling the next person to serve the people and parish of the Northern Plain, just as the saints which came before us were called. Thank you for being willing to share in discerning whether this might be you.

The Northern Plain is blessed with a rich tapestry of church life and community relationships. Parishioners, civic leaders, and local organisations work well together, and the church is held in high regard. I hope to appoint a leader who will nurture the life and the strengths which already exist, who will enable people of the churches to grow in faith and their own encounter with God, while helping the parish look outward with renewed expectation. We believe that this is a time to explore and to embrace the gentle, deep opportunities for encounter, proclamation, and evangelism for all ages.

Tradition, heritage and landscape are not merely decorative features here; they form part of the Island's spiritual vocabulary. Whether through the influence of Archibald Knox, whose artistry draws people into a sense of beauty and transcendence; the lives of the saints of the past who followed Christ so radically; or the commitment to playing our part in shaping the Island's status as a UNESCO registered Biosphere, ministry in the Northern Plain offers abundant pathways into conversations about hope, meaning, reconciliation, and the Gospel. We seek someone who can hold all these treasures old and new, with reverence and creativity, enabling them all to become bridges to Christ for those who are unsure where faith fits in their lives.

At the diocesan level, we are also building on the past whilst seeking to respond to God's call or the future. One of the joys intrinsic to the scale of the Diocese is that we ought to truly know and be known to one another. I and others in the Senior Staff team would hope to get to know the incumbent of the Northern Plain well, hoping to be joined by a colleague who will welcome the opportunity to share in and to shape the wider life of the Diocese.

We would particularly be keen to explore whether the person appointed might take up some co-ordinating responsibility for our communications strategy. Whilst this is desirable, it is not a prerequisite and we would encourage all who feel they may be called to the parish to apply. For those interested, this would mean working with a newly formed and lively

Communications Group. We recognise that whilst some candidates may come with this experience and background not all will, and we would encourage applications from those willing to develop such an interest. We are looking for a priest who can help us articulate the story of God's work in Sodor and Man with warmth, accuracy, and vision — someone who can help us speak to the Island in ways that are contemporary yet grounded, imaginative yet faithful. With this element to the role your voice and leadership would influence not only parish life but the wider mission of the Church across the Diocese.

If your heart is stirred by the prospect of mission grounded in tradition, of community engagement that leads naturally into discipleship and honest faith, and of helping shape the future of the Church in a unique and beautiful place, I encourage you to read on and to pray. The Northern Plain is waiting for a priest who will see its fields, coastal nature reserves, farms, historic sites, new developments and villages with the eyes of faith and the courage of hope. Perhaps that priest is you.

With prayer and good wishes as you discern God's calling as you take this next step in your ministry.

+ Tricia

Rt Revd. Patricia Hillas

Bishop of Sodor and Man