

# PARISH OF RAMSEY & THE NORTH-EAST

Diocese of Sodor and Man

# SHARE YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE WITH US.



WE ARE A FORWARD-LOOKING PARISH  
SEEKING A LEADER READY TO TAKE ON A  
NEW CHALLENGE ON A BEAUTIFUL ISLAND

PARISH PROFILE



FIVE CHURCHES

TOGETHER MAKING CHRIST VISIBLE

ONE PARISH





Douglas is the port of entry for the Isle of Man

# ***Are you up for a new challenge on our beautiful Island?***

THE Bishop of Sodor and Man wishes to appoint a Rector to the Parish of Ramsey and the North-East in the Isle of Man.

### ***What we are looking for in our new Rector –***

The Parish would welcome a person of prayer and discernment, who is also able to demonstrate:

- experience as a team leader with the ability to build a strong and united leadership and identify and develop gifts, leadership and vocations across the parish.
- experience and ability to help us renew and develop our vision and grow our congregations, leading us well through the changes ahead.
- ability to help us share our faith and deepen our care for our communities – especially with children, young people and their families.
- a collaborative approach to ministry, which empowers others to use their gifts in ministry and outreach.
- an ability to share the Gospel in a credible and engaging manner with people of varying backgrounds and traditions.
- natural pastoral qualities, with an ability to engage both with Christian and non-Christian people.

- a heart for ecumenism, with a keenness to work as closely as possible with other local Christians from a range of traditions, as well as with local authorities and community groups.
- a willingness to act as a trustee for charitable and church trusts and chair the three Parish Burial Authorities.

We also see competence with Information Technology, engagement with social media and holding a full driving licence as essential to the role of the new Rector.

### ***What we can offer!***

- congregations who are looking forward to welcoming a new Rector
- a Ministry Team which is growing in strength and ready to share the load, supporting all aspects of ministry and pastoral outreach
- mutual friendship, support and a helping hand in settling into our parish life
- a willingness to evolve and change as we adapt to new ways of delivering the Christian message.

We hope God is calling you to take on a new challenge, on a beautiful Island, amongst a flock who would really value a leader who can inspire and work with us to make God's presence felt in our communities...



Ramsey Bay

# ***Could you inspire us to work together more closely?***

THE Parish came into being on 1 January 2023 with the amalgamation of the former parishes of Bride, Lezayre & North Ramsey and Maughold & South Ramsey. This resulted in a new Parish blessed with five parish churches serving a diverse community ranging from small villages to the Island's second largest town. Styles of worship vary slightly but all churches are open to exploring ways in which we can make the Christian message more accessible to our communities.

Over the last eighteen months we have been learning how to work together more closely and the current interregnum has helped to strengthen this process. We now have an established pattern of all-Parish services on the first Sunday of each month, rotating around each of the five churches, as well as joint services for key celebrations such as Ascension Day and All Souls' Day. The popularity of these services is growing, and they are increasingly well attended. Mid-week services in the two town churches also continue to be well supported.

As part of our community outreach we run a weekly drop-in Café in Ramsey, as well as a very successful monthly community lunch. In addition, there are regular social events and we promote a range of annual fixtures such as the highly successful TT Teas at Bride and St Maughold's Week, celebrating the Island's patron saint. Our church halls are a real community asset: they are all widely used and St Paul's Hall, in particular, is used almost every day for activities

ranging from Covid vaccinations to Tea Dances, Art and almost everything in between.

The Parish finances are gradually being amalgamated and we expect that process to be virtually complete by the end of 2024. This has enabled us all to better understand the financial challenges we face! Whilst the 2023 Parish Share was met in full, and should be again in the current year, we are currently relying too much on reserves. To meet this challenge we need to achieve a significant growth in congregations over the coming years.

Plans are in place to create a parish office in one of the town churches and, once an incumbent is in place, we will be advertising for a part time administrator to support their ministry. Funding for this post has been identified for at least the first three years.

Communication between our churches and with the community is supported by the weekly Bulletin, which is widely circulated electronically: there are also various Facebook pages. This is an area in need of further development so that we can make more use of electronic media as we move forward.

## ***Our Ministry Team***

DURING the current Interregnum our Ministry Team has risen to the challenge of maintaining services across our churches. The team, which is a real strength of our Parish, consists of two Associate Priests, both retired clergy, three Readers (one of whom leads on pastoral



work and another who is only available part of the year) and four Liturgical Assistants (Authorised Lay Ministers). In addition, other local retired clergy are available on an *ad hoc* basis. The ordained members of the team meet regularly to ensure clear and consistent communication and the whole team meets for Morning Prayer and a working breakfast on the first Friday of each month, as well as for a planning meeting every three months.

The group would welcome the guidance and leadership of a new incumbent who could discern and develop their individual skills and gifts to enable them to flourish in ministry. In turn, they look forward to being able to support that person in his or her own ministry.

### Our Vision

As a new Parish with a history of recent disruption, we are still formulating a vision for the future. The Ministry Team has done much to help us see the way ahead, but we hope our new Rector will play a key role in helping us to clarify our thinking and leading us towards making it a reality.

What we already know is that:

- we work best when we work together, whether that is on the more mundane or on the greater task of spreading the Christian message within our communities.
- change can be very positive and although we value our traditions, we are increasingly open to accepting that things can be done differently.
- we must find ways of making our churches more attractive to a younger congregation.

At present, we are, in many ways, a blank piece of paper. Finding ways to fill that space in a way that honours our traditions but helps us to grasp the opportunities for spreading the Christian message in new and exciting ways is what we are all hoping and praying for.

A Methodist Minister, who led us in prayer and reflection before we prepared this Profile, said:

*'There is much to be hopeful about, despite the challenges. The spirit of our conversation together was honest, amicable, forward looking and uplifting, with a desire to be faithful to whatever God might be calling us to in the future'.*

We hope that as you reflect on our Profile those words might resonate with you.

### Parish data

Data For Last 12 Months (May 2023 – May 2024)						
	St Paul's	St Olave's	Maughold	Bride	Dhoon	Totals
Electoral Roll	28	46	32	21	26	153
Av. Sunday Attendance	19	21	23	9	11	83
Av. Joint Service Attendance	38	36	36	32	30	
Baptisms *	3	1	5	0	0	9
Weddings*	2	0	2	0	1	5
Funerals	21	2	7	8	1	39

- \* Bookings for weddings are buoyant with 3 booked for summer 24 and a further 3 already booked for the following year.  
 ° 90% of the baptisms have taken place in the last six months and there are a further six booked.

## Service Rota for the Parish of Ramsey and the North-East, 2024

JUNE ROTA 2024 <i>Week beginning Liturgical colour</i>	Sunday NRSV readings	Kirk Maughold 9.30	St Olave's 9.45	St Paul's 11.00	Dhoon 11.15	Bride 11.15	TUESDAY St Paul's Euch, 19.00	WEDNESDAY St Olave's Euch/MP, 10.00	THURSDAY St Paul's Compline, 18.45 Bible study, 19.30
Proper 4/T1 2 June <i>Green</i> <i>Jo away</i> <i>Mad Sunday</i>	1 Sam. 3.1–10 [11–20] Ps. 139.1–5, 12–18 2 Cor. 4.5–12 Mk. 2.23 – 3.6	+++++	+++++	ALL PARISH SERVICE 10.30, Ian	+++++	+++++	Brian	[Morning Prayer] David	Brian
Proper 5/T2 9 June <i>Green</i> <i>Jo away</i>	1 Sam. 8.4–11 [12–15] Psalm 138 2 Cor. 4.13 – 5.1 Mk. 3.20–35	[Matins] Sue	[Eucharist] Ian	[Eucharist] Ian	[Service of the Word] Viv	<i>Joint with St Olave's or St Paul's</i>	Ian	[Eucharist] Ian	Brian
Proper 6/T3 16 June <i>Green</i>	1 Sam. 15.34 – 16.13 Psalm 20 2 Cor. 5.6–10 [11–13] 14–17 Mk. 4.26–34	[Eucharist] Ian	[Eucharist] Jo	<i>Joint Methodist</i>	[Eucharist] Ian	[Morning Prayer] Tim	Jo	[Morning Prayer] David	Brian
WEDDING 22 June						ACC & SJW 12.30pm Ian			
Proper 7/T4 23 June <i>Green</i>	1 Sam. 17.57 – 18.5, 10–16 Psalm 133 2 Cor. 6.1–13 Mk. 4.35–41	[Eucharist] Jo	[Morning Prayer] Tim	[Eucharist] Ian	[Service of the Word] Jo	[Morning Prayer] Jacqui	Brian	[Eucharist] Ian	Brian
Proper 8/T5 30 June <i>Green</i>	2 Sam. 1.1, 17–27 Psalm 130 2 Cor. 8.7–15 MK. 5.21–43	[Eucharist] Ian	[Morning Prayer] David	[Eucharist] Jo	<i>No morning service 18.30 Mariners' Service, Jo/Ian</i>	[Eucharist] Ian	+++++	+++++	+++++



The spacious interior  
Below: packing them in for a special baptism...

## ***We're open to new ideas!***

ST PAUL'S is the largest of the five churches in the Parish. It is situated in central Ramsey and has excellent parking nearby. Although primarily a Eucharistic church, we are open to new ideas, as demonstrated by our growing relationship with the Methodist/URC Alliance. After selling their buildings, they now worship in our hall and, once a month, we share worship together, taking it in turns to host.



When they join us, we have a Service of the Word, which is a new departure for St Paul's and a joyous and uplifting opportunity for being together and making new friends.

The church is well used during the week. We have a Tuesday evening communion service and on Thursday there is Compline followed by Bible study. This is led by one of our priests, together with the priest from the nearby Catholic Church – yet another example of how working with other denominations enriches our experience. There is also a weekly midday prayer meeting. Two of our congregation are licensed as Liturgical Assistants and they lead worship across the Parish.

The church building has many strengths, including its stained glass, its excellent organ and basic structural integrity. It attracts many visitors who often comment







Above: the Nativity window; the chancel; the Broughton Boys' Choir sing Evensong. Below: celebrating our bi-centenary with a hog roast and a special cake; a busy antiques fair in the Hall



on the calm they feel in the building. Much work has been needed to maintain it over recent years, involving the raising of significant funds, and that work is ongoing. With seating for nearly 300 people, it is easily able to host concerts. Recently we hosted the Ramsey Choral Society and Manx Concert Brass. On our musical Island, there is undoubtedly potential to expand the use of the church in this way.

Our adjoining hall complex has a large main hall, a coffee lounge and kitchen, as well as toilets and storage space. In recent years the hall has been significantly upgraded with new toilets and the creation of a disabled toilet and a new main roof and ceiling. In daily use by a range of organisations, it makes a significant contribution to Parish finances

In 2022 we celebrated our bicentenary. This was a wonderful event involving the wider community. We held a hog roast (below) and there was a beautiful array of floral displays in church, plus exhibitions of photos and other artefacts related to our history. In the hall a number of events helped to engage children. All of this created a special opportunity for the people of the Parish to come together and have fun – and three previous incumbents returned to join in the celebrations.







Above: the magnificent doorway and chancel  
Below: One of the busy community lunches in the Hall

## ***We have growth potential!***

ST OLAVE'S is a Victorian gem, built during the 1860's. The fabric is in good condition and the interior largely unchanged since its construction, notwithstanding additions such as the beautiful chancel screen – commemorating those who died in the Great War – and the magnificent cast iron coronet chandelier that adorns the chancel. We have a number of distinctive stained-glass windows celebrating saints with a local connection, including St. Olave and St. Maughold.

The church occupies a prominent position opposite Ramsey Cottage Hospital and serves the north of the town. The congregation is enthusiastic and loyal but largely reflects the older demographic of the







Above: no lack of treats on offer at the community lunches! Below: some of the congregation; windows commemorating St Olave, St Maughold and St Nicholas; the Morgan & Pollard organ; Christmas magic

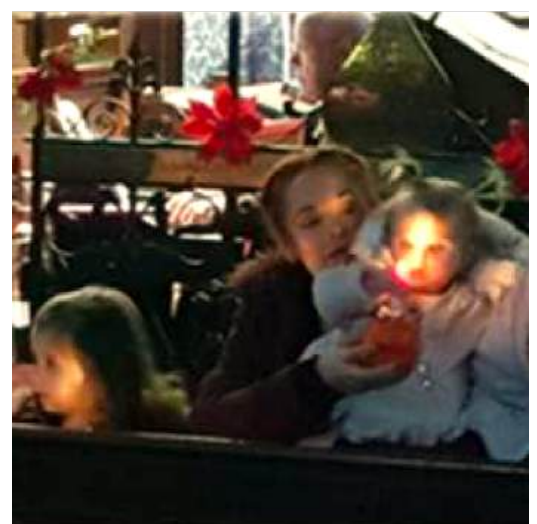
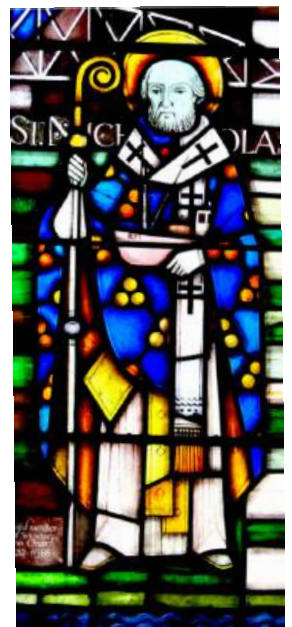
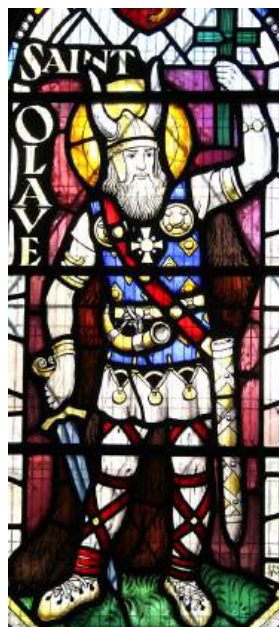
surrounding area. We would welcome opportunities for growth, especially amongst the younger members of our community and through the possibility of extending links with the hospital.

Historically, we have participated in events such as the Isle of Man Flower Festival, as well as hosting occasional concerts and special services.

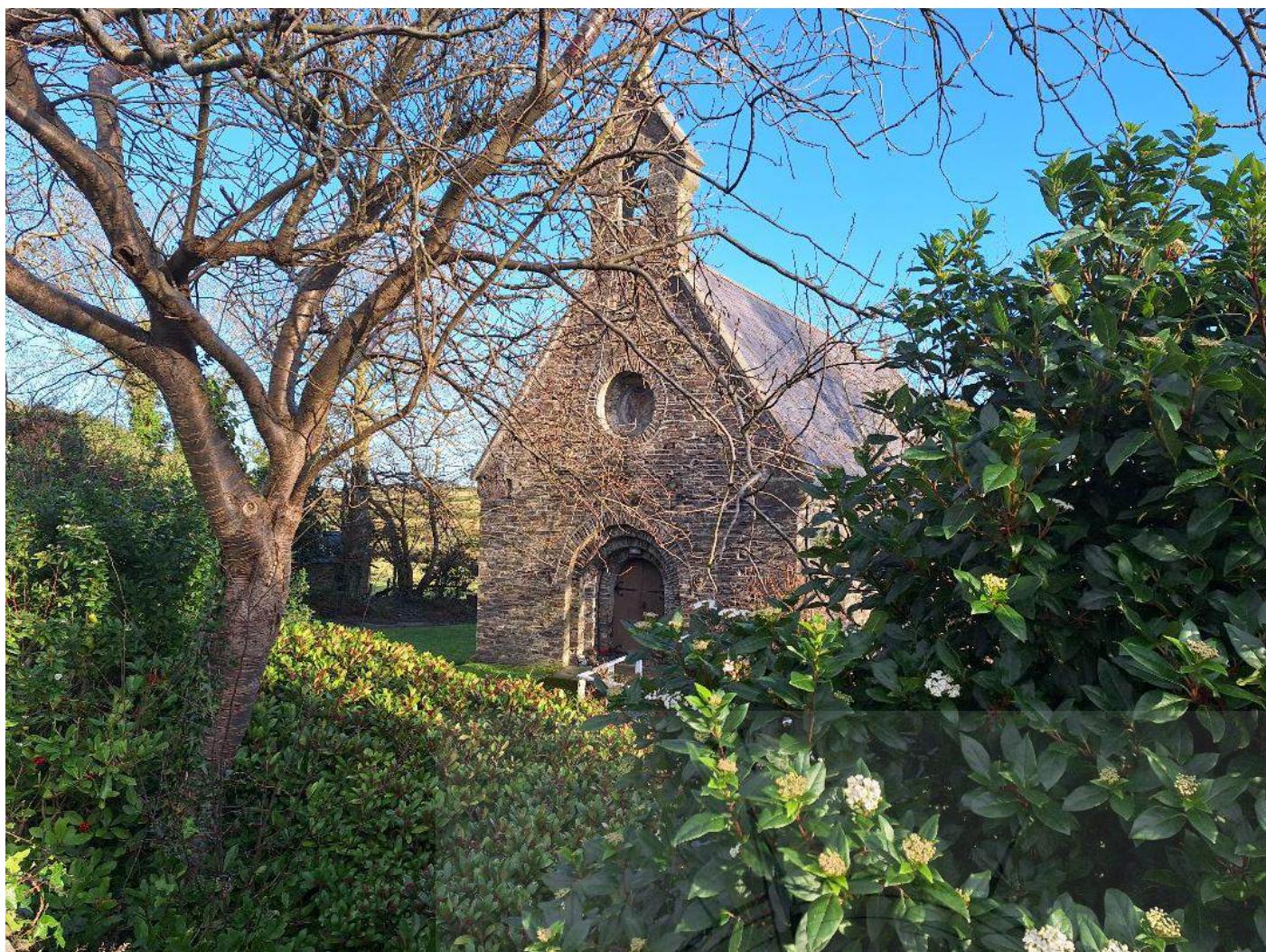
St Olave's has a well-maintained Morgan & Pollard organ, with a regular organist who plays on Sunday mornings. The building enjoys good acoustics, and the congregation is keen to develop the musical dimension of its worship, although we do not currently have a choir. Whilst the musical tastes of the congregation are relatively traditional, we are open to broadening our horizons.

To the rear of the church, we have an excellent hall which was built in the 1980s and benefits from a recently refurbished kitchen. We hold numerous events there, including our regular community lunches to which all are welcome. It is also available for use by the wider community, proving very popular for children's parties and other activities.

The Church is open daily to visitors, and after Sunday services we have communal fellowship with coffee, tea and cake for all, including congregation and people visiting family at the hospital. The pattern of Sunday services currently alternates between Eucharist and Morning Prayer, as do those on Wednesday mornings.







Christ Church, Dhoon, in its 'rustic' setting  
Below: Good luck to the bride and groom

***We offer a warm,  
ecumenical welcome...***

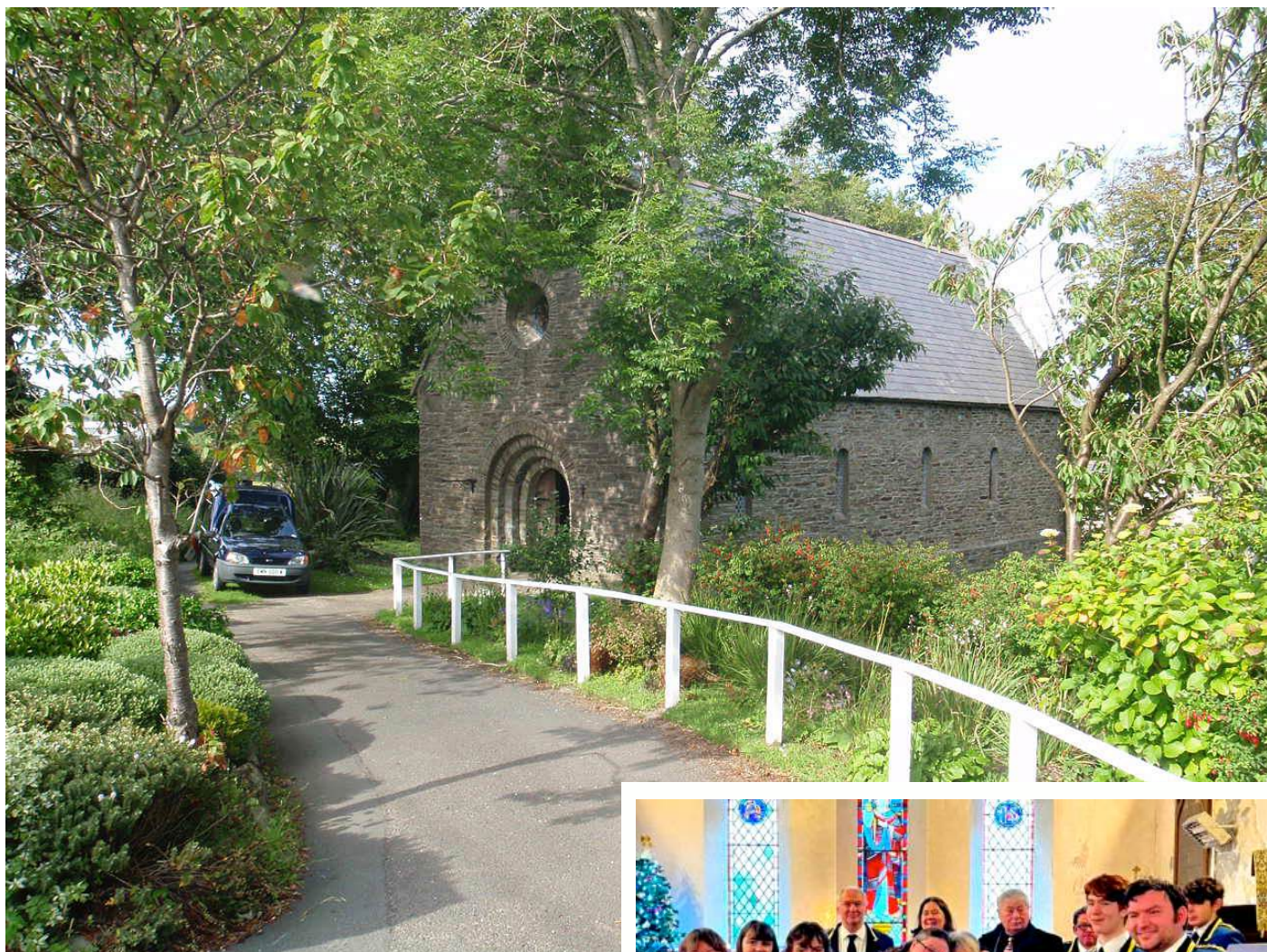


CHRIST Church, in Glen Mona, is a rustic Anglican church offering an ecumenical welcome. It is in a beautiful setting, making it a popular choice for weddings and christenings.

Despite serving a very small community it is a respected part of village life. The church hall and the adjacent Glebe field are used for local parties and the latter is the venue for a popular bonfire and fireworks display in November.

The church has historical links with Dhoon School but these have been strengthened in recent years with our Open the Book team. The clergy regularly lead assemblies, members of the congregation work with pupils to prepare Christingles for a service held in school and we host the choir for a Christmas Carol service. The church is a drop off point for donations





Above: the church among the trees  
Below: Onchan Silver Band at the annual Advent Carol Service;  
Christ the King window; lighting the Easter candle on Mothering Sunday; and  
the amazing Dhoon Pie Night in 2024.

to the Isle of Man Foodbank and at Harvest time we join together to support that charity. Our Facebook page posts two or three times a week, promoting our activities as well village and Island information.

We are lucky to have some fabulous cooks in our midst and we showcase their talents at our TT café, Strawberry Tea afternoons, as well as community and Harvest suppers. A highlight is our annual lunch, enjoyed by the congregation and members of Onchan Silver Band, a 40-year tradition.

Our church, hall and the Glebe field lie in the heart of Glen Mona and the field has been designated as Open Space in the new Area Plan. There have been discussions with the local authority over developing the field by adding a car park and play area. There has also been consideration given to selling the hall to enable a kitchen and toilets to be added to the church.

Our vision is to provide a community space for all, to use our assets in a sustainable way and work with the local authority and other interested parties. We need someone who can share our ambitions and inspire us to share our faith, leading us in mission and service to our neighbours. We see the future as exciting.







Ancient & Modern – Kirk Maughold from the north  
Below: a visit by Andreas School to learn more about St Maughold

# ***We have exciting opportunities for telling our Christian story to a new generation***

THIS ancient church, once a cathedral, was founded in about 450 AD and is dedicated to St Maughold, Patron Saint of the Isle of Man. It is now known as “the cradle of Manx Christianity” and stands in a large churchyard, the site of a Celtic monastery and a thriving pilgrimage centre. The whole area is rich in archaeology and history, providing exciting opportunities for telling the Christian story to a new generation. The church and churchyard are visited by approximately 60 people per week in winter and at least double that number in summer. Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Maughold in Ramsey makes an annual walking pilgrimage and we are hoping to build on this relationship in the future. Bookings for pilgrim groups in 2024 and 2025 provide strong signs of a revival of organised pilgrimage.

Although the building was renovated in 1900, many of the original mediaeval features are still visible and the fabric is in good order. There is dedicated funding for







Above: one of the church's special chasubles, with a design based on the Maughold Cross; inducting a new server; taking a service in a keeill. Opposite: Garden teas during St Maughold's Week; and a place for a good start in life

its maintenance. Primarily a Eucharistic church, we have an aumbry, a set of bespoke vestments and a well-maintained pipe organ. There is a tradition of Sung Matins and Sung Eucharist. The beautiful and spiritual setting make it a popular venue for weddings, christenings and funerals.

The church hall acts as a focus for community events but is in need of repair and restoration. It has been proposed as a new location for the significant collection of Celtic and Norse crosses, currently on display in the churchyard, but no definite plans have yet been made.

The churchyard and nearby "new" burial ground are managed in an environmentally sensitive way by the two wardens and an experienced cemetery clerk.

### Our aims:

**Heritage – Protecting** our Christian heritage and using our historic site and unique collection of Christian Celtic and Norse cross slabs as tools to further our mission.

**Hospitality – Practising** our living faith by welcoming local and international visitors, student groups and modern-day pilgrims. We offer a variety of styles of worship, from traditional liturgy and music to bespoke services for special events and celebrations for the local community or interest groups. Generous refreshments are a key element at all services and events. The annual St Maughold's Week at the end of July provides us with an opportunity for engagement with the wider public.

**Hope – Promoting** worship and mission by:

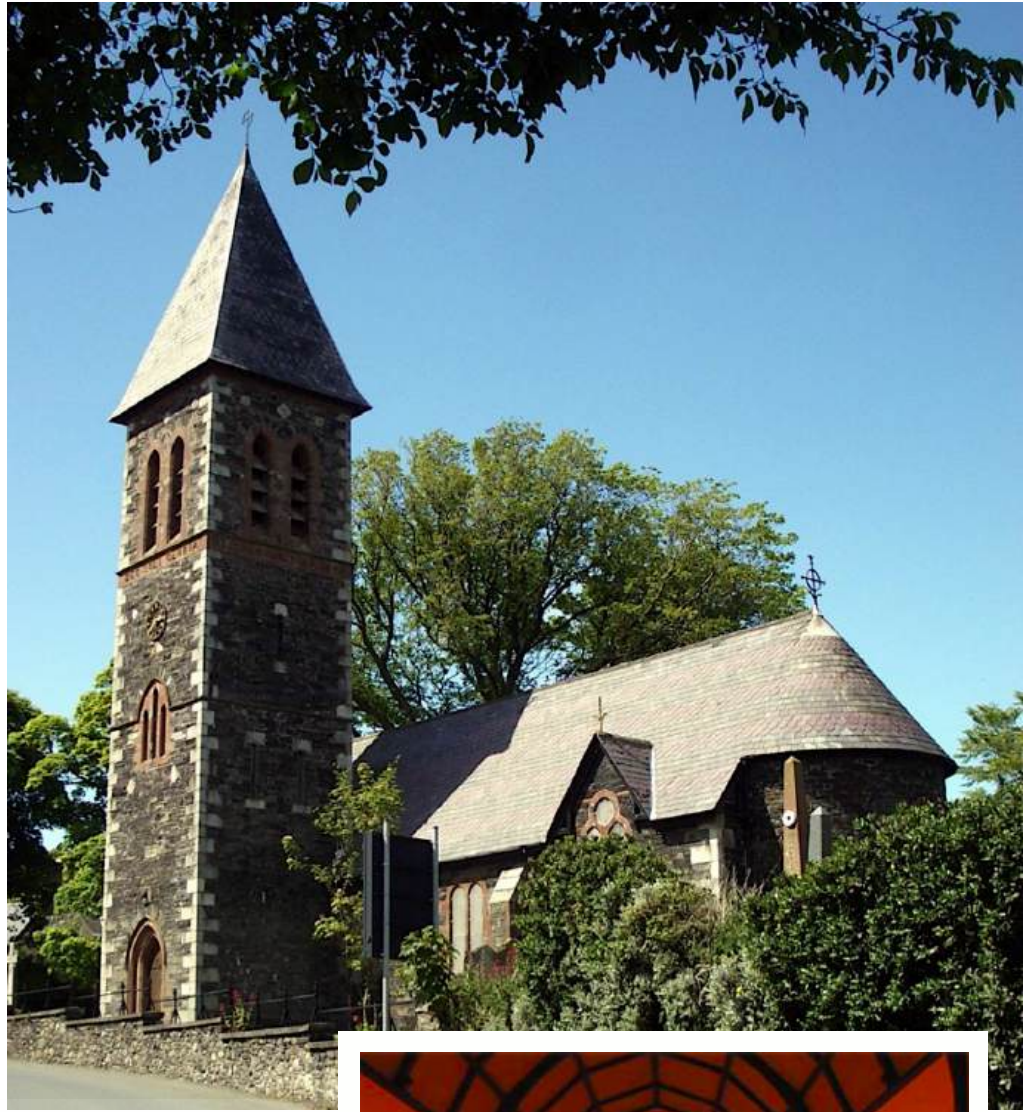
- building awareness of Christianity as an active,



living faith

- encouraging pilgrimage and faith tourism
- increasing knowledge of God through greater church engagement with the wider community and especially with parents of recently baptised children and former Sunday School pupils
- encouraging prayer and spiritual development in the congregation and the community at large
- honouring God's creation by managing our resources responsibly





## ***We have ‘special relationships’ with the TT and the Methodists***

DATING back over 1,300 years, a keeill (or little church) was built under the weeping elm adjacent to the present church and dedicated to St. Bridget, Abbess of Kildare, one of the great saints of Celtic Christianity. In the twelfth century, the Church came under the influence of the Cistercian Abbey of Furness in Lancashire, resulting in the the keeill becoming the Parish Church of Kirk Bride.

In 1870, the new church was built, using the ancient stones as a foundation. It was designed by Ewan Christian of London, in the Lombardic style with an



St Bridget with her church at Bride. Below: Carols by candlelight

apse and tower, which is visible for many miles. The bell also comes from the old church, as does the font and holy water stoup. Several ancient cross slabs dating from Viking times are amongst the church's treasures. The great missionary, George Selwyn, first bishop of New Zealand, consecrated the building in 1876. Today it sits in the very centre of the village, with roads leading from Ramsey to Jurby and the Point of Ayre.

St. Bridget is the patron saint of dairy maids and is portrayed in one of the windows with a burning flame





The congregation comes out in force to provide hospitality for riders and visitors during the annual TT and MGP Races – while the grave of Norman Wisdom is a constant draw

and black cows behind her on the green fields of Bride. The oyster catcher is also known as St. Bridget's bird and the symbol of Bride because of its black and white plumage.

We have a 'special relationship' with the nearby Methodist Church (also in the centre of the village) and the two congregations frequently come together – for Harvest, Christmas Carols, and special events such as the Mariner's Service. On Remembrance Sunday we jointly honour the dead of both World Wars at the cenotaph situated at the front of the church.

The highlight of the fundraising year is our famous TT Teas held over the TT Race period. Under the leadership of Mrs. Pam Kinrade, the event has been entirely staffed and maintained by volunteers for over 30 years. Visitors come year after year and it is always the "go to" venue for bikers and locals alike. The Church Hall has the benefit of the Millennium Field at the rear and in good weather, tables are erected there – a very popular feature, especially for the bikers.

The graveyard holds many interesting memories, but the grave which currently attracts the most attention is that of Norman Wisdom, who lived locally in his later years.

Sunday services are held at 11.15, except on the first Sunday of the month when there is an all-Parish service. One of our churchwardens undertakes the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer as well as producing the weekly Parish Bulletin.







The Mooragh Park is a key amenity area

# ***We are at the centre of a thriving community***

RAMSEY, with a population of around 8000 people, is the largest town on the Island (after the City of Douglas). Originally a fishing community, it expanded rapidly in the Victorian period to accommodate the thousands of tourists who flooded into the town from the ferries that docked at the Queen's Pier. It was during this period of growth that the Mooragh Park came into being. Today this is a key amenity for the town with a mix of manicured gardens, boating lake, play areas and bowling club. With two long promenades and beaches, as well as easy access to country walks and a Nature Reserve, Ramsey is a walker's paradise.

The buildings in the centre of town form part of our Victorian heritage, although the area behind St Paul's Church was redeveloped in the late 1960's and is a considerable contrast. Outside the town centre the buildings are mainly housing and range from converted Victorian guest houses to new development. There is a good stock of public sector housing in the town and much of this has been built or modernised over the last twenty years. There is also a mix of private and public sector sheltered accommodation for those who require support in order to continue living on their own – and there are also several nursing homes.

The town is well served by a range of local shops from butcher and fishmonger to hardware and clothes. In

addition, there are four supermarkets – two Tesco and two Co-op – and two petrol stations. There is also a dentist, a GP surgery, and the Cottage Hospital provides a walk-in Minor Injuries Unit. The harbour is still worked commercially, with fishing trawlers and freight vessels being the main users. Yachts and other leisure vessels can also be seen and beyond the Victorian swing bridge there is a working shipyard.

To the North of Ramsey is the village of Bride, a small farming community of around 350 people. Here the church is very much the focal point of the village. Nowadays it has no shops, school or similar facilities, although it does boast a popular Tea Room.

To the East of Ramsey lies the civil Parish of Maughold, formerly including most of the town. Today this Parish still covers a relatively large area, taking in a number of small settlements including Port Lewaigue, Glen Mona and Maughold village, which is home to the ancient site on which Kirk Maughold is built. Traditionally, this is a farming and fishing community but these days many residents commute to work in Douglas or Ramsey. Kirk Maughold draws in visitors who come to see the ancient crosses or enjoy its sense of tranquillity and spirituality. Christ Church Dhoon was built in Victorian times to serve the community which had grown up at Glen Mona and today the area has no shops or other facilities but does have an excellent modern school, with which the church has strong links.





Part of Ramsey Grammar School

# ***We have a positive relationship with schools***

THERE are two primary schools in the Parish and one secondary school. Although our education system is separate from that in the UK, it is broadly aligned with England and Wales, with a similar curriculum which includes GCSE, A Level and a range of vocational qualifications for students in Years 10-13. The key difference is that the Island does not use SAT's and is not currently subject to Ofsted. This leads to a broader and more balanced curriculum where qualities such as resilience and the ability to reflect and be resourceful are valued.

The primary school in Ramsey is a recent new build, with excellent facilities including extensive grounds. It is almost immediately opposite Ramsey Grammar School (RGS), which serves both the town and the surrounding area. Despite its name it is a fully comprehensive school and was the first such school in the British Isles catering for all 11–18 year-olds. At 18 many young people go to university in Britain and beyond but they can also undertake a wide range of Further Education courses at University College Man in Douglas. Increasingly, this is able to offer a range of full degree courses. The other primary school in the Parish is Dhoon School, located close to Dhoon Church.

The Church has always enjoyed a positive relationship with schools on the Isle of Man, with Rectors and Vicars from our Parish welcomed to lead assemblies and other activities. Sadly, this privilege has not been as much utilised as it might have been in recent years, although one of our clergy currently takes regular assemblies at Dhoon School. This is a real opportunity for a new incumbent to seize and explore.

We have an active Open the Book team working in Dhoon School, and children there take part in services at the church, especially at Christmas. In addition an ecumenical Open the Book team, of which we are part, works with the Ramsey Primary School. RGS holds a very popular Community Carol Service in St Paul's Church each December. With over 1500 children and young people in the Parish there is significant scope for expanding our outreach to them.

### **School Details**

Dhoon School - <https://dhoon.sch.im>

Bunscoill Rhumsaa (Ramsey Primary School) - <https://rhumsaa.sch.im>

Ramsey Grammar School - <https://rgs.sch.im>



## THE RECTORY



Above: the imposing new Rectory. Below: view from the front; the kitchen; view from the back; and annex over garage

# Bag yourself a Nature Reserve!

THE Rectory is a modern 5-bedroomed house situated at the edge of Ramsey on a small development close to the Sulby River and overlooking a Nature Reserve.

Briefly, the accommodation comprises –

### Ground Floor

Kitchen/Utility Room (recently re-fitted to a high standard with new AEG appliances)

Dining Room

Large Living Room

Study/Office

Downstairs WC

### First Floor

Large Master Bedroom with fitted wardrobes and ensuite

3 Double Bedrooms, one with ensuite

Single Bedroom

Family Bathroom

### Outside

Double Garage with Studio Apartment above

Parking for at least 6 cars

Extensive gardens laid to grass







A corner of Parliament Square, Ramsey  
Below: a detail from one of the Manx Crosses at Maughold

# ***You could be enjoying Island life***

SITUATED in the Irish Sea, the Island, which is a self-governing British Crown Dependency, has sea and air links to the UK and Ireland. Its parliament, Tynwald, consists of an elected lower house, the House of Keys, and an upper house, the Legislative Assembly, which is elected by the Keys. As Head of State, King Charles III holds the title 'Lord of Man' and is represented by the Lieutenant Governor.

### **Living on the island**

All public services are controlled directly by the Isle of Man Government and are independent of the UK. Towns and most villages have public sector housing and there is no history of sale to sitting tenants. Although many sections of the Island community would be considered affluent, there are pockets of significant social deprivation. Law and order are prioritised, and all reported crime is investigated. As a result, crime levels are low, although we are not immune to issues such as drug and alcohol abuse. Many parents express the view that the Island is a safe and stimulating place for their children to grow up.

### **Health**

Healthcare is provided via a public health scheme through the Department of Health and Social Care. There is a main hospital in Douglas and a Cottage Hospital in Ramsey, which is adjacent to one of our

churches. Healthcare is reciprocal between the Island and the UK.

### **Economy**

The Manx economy is bolstered by its status as a low tax jurisdiction. Insurance and E-Gaming each generate 17% of GNP, followed by Information Technology and banking, with 9% each.

### **Culture**

The Isle of Man is influenced by its Celtic and Norse origins. Proximity to the UK, popularity as a UK tourist destination in earlier times, and immigration from Britain have all meant that the cultures of the UK have been absorbed. In the present century the Island has become significantly more multi-cultural, welcoming people from across the world particularly to support the IT and health and care sectors.

The Gaiety Theatre in Douglas is adjacent to the Villa Marina, which hosts conferences and







concerts featuring well known artists from Britain and beyond. It is also home to the Manx Music Festival (The Guild), the Island's popular music and arts competition.

### Music

The music of the Isle of Man reflects its Celtic and Norse past, with other influences from within the British Isles. A wide range of music is performed, such as rock, blues, jazz and pop. Classical concerts are popular and there are choirs and music groups in most Manx communities.

Manx traditional folk music and dance has undergone a revival since the 1970s, starting with a music festival called Yn Chruinnaght in Ramsey. This is part of a general revival of Manx language, history and culture over the last fifty years.

### Sport

There are many and varied sporting opportunities. Although the Island boasts a number of world class athletes and cyclists, it is probably best known for the annual TT motorcycle races, which sees the population swell by at least 50%.

### Jewel in the Crown

The rugged and vibrant beauty of the island is perhaps the 'Jewel in the Crown', attracting visitors throughout the year. With eight picturesque harbours, four sailing clubs, and marinas in both Peel and Douglas, there is no shortage of venues for sea and beach sports. Evidence of Celtic Christianity, dating back to the 5th century, not least at Maughold and Bride, as well as various Viking forts and burial grounds, provide a rich variety of interest especially for those who enjoy serious walking and hiking.



Above: walking on the Calf of Man; the annual Tynwald Day ceremony.  
Below: the steam railway and karting in Onchan.





## OUR DIOCESE



The re-ordered Cathedral of St German in Peel



### A Diocesan Profile <http://www.sodorandman.im>

The Diocese of Sodor and Man was originally much larger, but now covers just the Isle of Man and its adjacent islets. Today, the Bishop's office is in Douglas and the cathedral is in Peel.

**Bishop-Designate:** The Ven Patricia Hillas

**Archdeacon:** The Ven Irene Cowell, Archdeacon of Man

**Cathedral:** St German's Cathedral, Peel

**Churches:** 43

**Parishes:** 15 (in 14 benefices)

Although the Isle of Man is not part of England, the Diocese of Sodor and Man is a diocese of the Church of England and is part of the Province of York. It is the smallest of all dioceses, and for this reason is exceptional in that it has its own bishop. It is also unique because the Bishop of Sodor and Man is an *ex officio* member of the Legislative Council of Tynwald – the Manx parliament.

The Island is divided into clusters of parishes which make up Mission Partnerships and an incumbent in each area is the Mission Partnership Team Leader.

Join the Rev. Simon Archer to share his experience of relocating to Sodor and Man. To find out more about life and ministry in the diocese, click on the link below –

<https://youtu.be/XTxcjyRBK30?si=igdHAeuR37UjvbRw>



Moving to the Isle of Man



Moving to the Isle of Man - Diocese of Sodor and Man

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Some reflections and observations on the joys and challenges of moving to the Isle of Man to take a post as an ordained minister. ...more

### Useful Web Addresses

Diocesan website - <https://www.sodorandman.im>

St Paul's Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsRamsey/>

Kirk Maughold Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/KirkMaughold/>

Dhoon Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/dhoonchurch>

Bride Church Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BrideTTEas/>

Manx National Heritage - [www.manxnationalheritage.im](http://www.manxnationalheritage.im)

IOM Government - [www.gov.im](http://www.gov.im)

Tynwald - <http://www.tynwald.org.im>

Locate IOM for information about moving – <https://www.locate.im>

Culture Vannin - <https://culturevannin.im>





**The Diocese of Sodor and Man**  
*Together Making Christ Visible*

From the Archdeacon of Man  
The Venerable Irene Cowell  
St George's Vicarage,  
16 Devonshire Road  
Douglas,  
Isle of Man IM2 3RB  
01624 675430  
07624 428716

*Archdeacon Irene writes:*

I am very pleased to invite applications for the post of Rector of the Parish of Ramsey and the North-East.

Sodor and Man is by far the smallest diocese in the Church of England, and we very much value the shared and collegiate nature of our ministry alongside the frequent contact that we have with each other at (for example) monthly Continuing Ministerial Development sessions and social gatherings. There is also a supportive team of ministerial colleagues who meet regularly for prayer and support.

If successful in your application, you will be joining us at a pivotal time in our diocese as we prepare to welcome our new Bishop, Tricia Hillas. With exciting opportunities on the horizon, we are currently in the process of applying to the Strategic Mission and Ministry Board (SMMIB) for a grant to assist in facilitating new initiatives to address church growth and the missing generations.

The Parish of Ramsey and the North-East has been through a period of significant change in the last few years, with the amalgamation of two parishes into one benefice. It has a dedicated team of lay people who are supported by two retired SSM licensed associate priests. Like many parishes, Ramsey and the NE faces a number of challenges; aging congregations, finances and buildings, but also many opportunities for mission and ministry.

The parish is looking for a new incumbent with vision and energy who will help them make the most of these challenges and opportunities and who will encourage spiritual growth and discipleship. Could you be that person?

For my part, I commend your application, together with the people of Ramsey and the NE, to my continuing prayers. Please be in contact if you would like to have a discussion on any aspect of the role.

In Christ.

*Irene Cowell*

Ven Irene Cowell

Archdeacon of Man

! 01624 675430

[Archdeacon@sodorandman.im](mailto:Archdeacon@sodorandman.im)