

St Luke's, Baldwin



Facilitating Encounters with God and Caring for His Creation



Who we are

St Luke's is an Anglican Church in the parish of Marown, Foxdale and Baldwin. We have the privilege of being the custodians of the current building and its Churchyard in this special location.

Current incumbent:

Rev Canon Janice Ward

(email: janice.ward@sodorandman.im tel : 01624 851378)

Current wardens :

Sue Sayle

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Chrissie Carter

Our Vision Statement for St Luke's, Baldwin

Facilitating Encounters with God and Caring for His Creation

Our Mission Statement for St Luke's, Baldwin

- Provide a safe, inviting, inclusive and comfortable environment and strive to provide access for all
- Provide facilities and resources for the physical and spiritual refreshment of all visitors
- Conserve and honour the historical features and use of the Church and surroundings
- Maintain and improve the fabric and interior of the Church, to be fit for mission in line with the Diocesan Creation Care policy
- Nurture and improve the graveyard in line with the Diocesan Land and Nature Strategy
- Actively engage with the local communities and with others who share an interest in St Luke's and promote Creation Care principals
- Actively engage with other groups and organisations to provide a facility for their use and cultivate relationships



Where We Are

St Luke's is located at the geographical heart of the Island. The OS benchmark carved into a window cill on the East elevation is 171m above sea level.

The Church sits on a ridge between the valleys of East and West Baldwin.

Post Code IM4 5EU

Grid Reference: SC 360822

What 3 Words: ///fell.obtain.gracious





Ancient History Of The Site

The use of this special site closely reflects the historical ears of the Island.

During the Fourth Century the native population were Celts. They had close associations with Ireland and Scotland with a similar language and pagan traditions. The Celts were crofters and the Island was sparsely populated. This meant the Island was a perfect location in 444 AD for St Patrick to send out both St Maughold and St Germanus to establish monasteries on the Island as places of being “set apart”. And so early Christianity was introduced to the Island.

In the Eighth Century when the Vikings invaded the Island, they had a policy of settling with and ruling over the natives. They had their own beliefs and traditions, but they tolerated the Celt’s Christian beliefs. This is evident in the plentiful crosses and stones with a mix of Celtic and Viking symbols that support this.

The Vikings separated the Island in to 6 administrative areas know as Sheadings. Each Sheading was then sub-divided into Quarterlands (that is made up of 4 farms) known as Treens; and generally each Treen had its own Keeill. A Keeill was a place where a holy man from one of the abbeys would reside, produce copies of the Bible and administer to the local population. It is thought that, as a site on a ridge between 2 of the Treens (Baldall Cristen and Baldall Reynylt) that they shared the Keeill here and dedicated it to St Abban; who was originally from Ireland and was a disciple of St Brandon at Kirk Braddan. The current building incorporates a medieval cross carved into sandstone from the original Keeill building.

(why did the keeils decline?)

Current Building

In the 1800’s the valley was The current building was commissioned by Bishop Ward and was consecrated in 1836. It was one of 3 of a similar layouts (along with St James’ in Dalby and St Stephen’s in Sulby before a nave was rebuilt) and were designed to incorporate a nave and sanctuary, and 2 school rooms with sliding partitions separating them.

The Architect for these and other prominent buildings at the time (including the Tower of Refuge and King William’s College) was *. St Luke’s is a Registered Building as it is a good example of the Victorian Gothic architectural design.

This location was chosen to serve the 70 odd families of the mining and farming communities of East and West Baldwin. The existing foundations of the derelict Keeill were incorporated into the construction, and are distinguishable under the section of the sanctuary wall closest to the pulpit.

The building is of solid Manx Slate stone walling with sandstone coping stones and cills. The roof is of cut-rafter construction with a slate tile covering. On the East elevation the gable is extended up to form a bell-cote which incorporates Manx cast bell, which is still in use today.



The Church is connected to the mains electrical supply. In the 1980s an extension was built on the North elevation to provide toilet facilities and incorporates a tank to collect rainwater from the roof, as it is not connected to the mains water supply.



Current Use of the Building, and Sustainable Future Use

The building is used for a weekly Church service, and it is from this congregation that the resources to maintain and run the Church on are drawn. The Church congregation also contributes to and relies on funding from the Parish of Marown, Foxdale and Marown.

In addition to the usual rota of weekly services we hold a number of special services when guests are invited to participate, groups with which we have affiliations are accommodated, and Church festivals are celebrated.

The Friends of St Luke's are an independent group of our wider community who share our love of the location, building, history and personal associations with St Luke's. This group are an essential source of funding as well as personal support, entertaining events and spreading the sense of ownership to more like minded people.

The Nave and toilets are always open, and a very important use of the Church during the week is by visitors from far and wide – a truly international community. The Church is special for very personal reasons to each visitor, with its unique location and history being prime attractions. Some come on a daily or weekly basis, whereas others come from abroad on an occasional basis.

It is to this growing group of people that we have firmly in mind when considering the future use of St Luke's – including providing

- An inviting welcome
- A safe comfortable internal and external space
- A clean well maintained building with easy access
- Facilities and resources to help visitors make the most of their visit and to help facilitate their encounters with God
- An external space which encourages wildlife and an internal space which is dry and requires no carbon emitting heating systems and is electrically efficient
- Information of the ecology and history of the local environment
- A multifunctional space in the School Room with good facilities which can be used by a variety of different groups