

Services at St Peter's

Holy Communion:	BCP Each Sunday	9.00 am
	CW 1 st , 3 rd & 5 th	11.00 am
	BCP 4 th Sunday	6.30 pm
	Wednesday	10.30 am
	Holy Days (as announced)	
Morning Prayer:	CW 2 nd Sunday	11.00 am
Family Service:	4 th Sunday of each month	11.00 am
Evening Prayer:	BCP 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd & 5 th Sundays	6.30 pm
Midweek Service with Ministry of Healing:	<i>Every two months (Sept, Nov, Jan, March, May & July) date as advertised on noticeboard</i>	7.30 pm

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals – By arrangement.

Vicar:

The Revd Canon Malcolm Convery

The Vicarage

Church Road

Onchan IM3 1BF

Telephone No: 675797

Licensed Readers:

Nigel Cretney

Telephone Nos: 851060/496109 (mobile)

Carole Bairstow

Telephone No: 628629

Parish Clerk: Mrs Jane Cretney

Parish Office

Office Hours

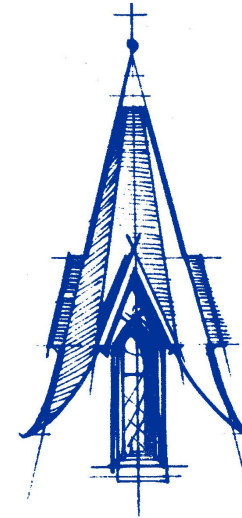
Mon - Fri 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Telephone No. 675797

e-mail: enquiries@stpeterschurch.org.im

website: <http://www.stpeterschurch.org.im>

Monthly Review January, 2010



*St. Peter's Parish Church
Kirk Onchan*

To be central to the life of Onchan,
Providing a Christian Witness,
Worship and Welcome to all.



Dear Friends,

In mid-January every year we engage in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which usually involves an interdenominational service.

Here in Onchan we will be holding such a service (*see advert*).

There are other occasions in the year when we join with Christians from our neighbouring Churches: at Lent for example, at the Pentecost Open-air service and at Rogation tide.

The success of the Lent meetings led to a request to do a similar set of meetings in Advent which we have done. Over 70 people joined in each Advent meeting.

By meeting together we learn from each other and discover that we have many things in common. At the very heart of what we have in common is our belief in and desire to follow Jesus.

We have received the mark of Jesus in baptism and we are members of his family, able to call God our Father and each other as brothers and sisters. We are united in Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit but like most families we have disagreements. Sometimes we agree to disagree and do not allow this to affect the family unity but at other times the unity is fractured.

Sadly many fractures have appeared in God's family the Church since its birth and today we are splintered into 1,000's of denominations. There are different reasons for the fractures: different interpretations of scripture, disagreements over doctrine, different ways of structuring the church, variety in worship.

Our diversity is as much as a gift from God as is our unity. Our unity is grounded in diversity.

As individual Christians we have different gifts and personalities and likewise churches are different. Our differences can be a strength rather than a dividing wall.

Before his death Jesus prayed that we his followers may be one and so be witnesses to the reconciling power of Jesus.

After all Jesus died to break down the dividing walls.

DIARY for January, 2010

1 st	Fri		
2 nd	Sat		
3 rd	Sun	11.00 am	Youth Service
		6.30 pm	Epiphany Celebration & Licensing of Lay Eucharistic Ministers Preacher: Bishop Robert
4 th	Mon		
5 th	Tue	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union – Parish Hall
		7.30 pm	Everybody Welcome (3) - Church
6 th	Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion - Church
		8.00 pm	Ladies Fellowship – Parish Hall
7 th	Thurs	8.00 pm	Sunday School Team Meeting
8 th	Fri	7.30 pm	HomeGroupFour – 76 King Edward Road
9 th	Sat		
10 th	Sun	11.00 am	FISS – Parish Hall
11 th	Mon	10.00 am	Pastoral Visitors – Vicarage
		7.30 pm	Vicar & Wardens Meeting – Parish Office
12 th	Tue		
13 th	Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion - Church
		7.30 pm	PCC meeting – Parish Office
		7.30 pm	HomeGroupFour – 76 King Edward Road
14 th	Thurs		
15 th	Fri		
16 th	Sat	4.15 pm	Baptisms: Emily Claire Kirk & Zoe Susanne Kirk
17 th	Sun	2.00 pm	Baptisms: Edward Douglas Coole, Benjamin David Coole & Lena Amalie Coole
		6.30 pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service – Onchan Elim Church. Preacher: Rev Canon Malcolm Convery
18 th	Mon		
19 th	Tue	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union – Parish Hall
20 th	Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion - Church
		8.00 pm	Ladies Fellowship – Parish Hall
21 st	Thurs	7.30 pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service – St. Anthony's Church. Preacher: Rev John Powell
22 nd	Fri		
23 rd	Sat	11.00 am	Footsteps Social Walking Group (see advert)
24 th	Sun	2.00 pm	Baptism: Cameron Mark Williams
25 th	Mon		
26 th	Tue		
27 th	Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion - Church
28 th	Thurs	7.30 pm	Everybody Welcome (4) - Church
29 th	Fri		
30 th	Sat	7.30 pm	Parish Dinner – Masonic Hall, Dgls (see advert)
31 st	Sun	2.00 pm	Baptism: Imogen Ande Smart



The flower rota for January, 2010 is as follows:

3 rd		Mrs S. Reid
10 th		Mrs M. Burrows
17 th		Mrs J. Cretney
24 th		Mrs C. Sanders
31 st		Mr E. Roberts



**PRAYER DIARY
JANUARY, 2010**

3 rd	The Vicar	Alberta Drive, Kerrocoar Drive, Kerrocoar Close, Royal Avenue, Auburn Road
10 th	The Licensed Readers	Royal Avenue West, Royal Court, Royal Terrace
17 th	The Sunday School	Royal Drive, Belgravia Road, Imperial Terrace
24 th	The Other Churches in Onchan	Bay View Road, Hague Crescent, Port Jack
31 st	The Sexton	Strathallan Park, Strathallan Road

PLEASE NOTE:

**THE PARISH OFFICE
will be closed
24th December to 4th January incl.
Urgent enquiries to The Vicarage**

Paul wrote: There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3: 28)

One of the joys of ministry has been sharing with my colleagues from other denominations and also the times when we have worshipped with Christians in other Churches.

Among the saddest times have been in Communion Services where we have not been able to receive the bread and wine or where a colleague has not received with me because he opposes the ordination of women. I respect such a person's view but I am sad that we cannot share together.

It is important that we understand the reasons for coming together. As I mentioned earlier our unity is a witness to the world as well as increasing our understanding of each other. But our coming together should also involve working together in the spread of the gospel. There is much we can do together in mission beyond the walls of the Church.

Our meeting together should strengthen our resolve to proclaim the good news to all the world and to live out the gospel message in our own lives.

At the recent Advent meetings it was good to look around and see so many diverse Christians in one place and these were not all the Christians from our Churches. We have the potential to be a formidable body in Onchan in the service of the Lord. God can change ordinary people's lives through you and I, regardless of our denomination.

Let us respect our differences and work together for the sake of the gospel and may we continue with the opportunities to worship and pray together.

Yours sincerely in Jesus' Name,

Malcolm Convery

Vicar

THANK YOU

Malcolm and Valerie would like to thank all those who sent them Christmas cards and gifts. They are much appreciated.

MOTHERS' UNION



The EMU's were entertained at their last meeting by Wendy Allen who spoke of her tales about being a landlady.

We all enjoyed a splendid 'in house' Christmas lunch in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 15th December. Thanks to the Vicar and Nigel for 'waiting on' they looked resplendent in their long aprons and Santa hats.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Valerie Convery, Branch Leader

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

I must first thank all those who made up boxes for the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

We had a good night on the 2nd December wrapping up our £1 parcels for the Christmas Fayre and then we enjoyed a fish and chip supper.

Our next get together was on Wednesday 16th when we all brought along a contribution to a buffet supper which was enjoyed by all after having great fun doing 4 quizzes, a couple of games of Bingo and a Roald Dahl's interpretation of Cinderella read by Sandy Goldsmith who was magnificent in her pink fairy costume.

Our next meeting is on 6th January at 8 pm in the Parish Hall when we will learn the History of the Children's Centre and fund raising.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Hazel Johnson

FROM THE REGISTERS



29th November, 2009

Chloe Elizabeth Dawn Moffitt

13th December, 2009

Hannah Rose Scambler

Funerals

Gladys Watterson, Ronald Victor Albert Rhodes,
Marian Boon, Charles Semark Collins



The offertory for November totalled £6,253.69 and was made up of £4,304.00 pledged giving and £1,949.69 of loose plate giving.

Thank you.

DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR STAMPS:

The One World Centre are working in conjunction with the Leprosy Mission to help coordinate their annual appeal for people to save the postage stamps from Christmas cards and gifts. Last year the leprosy mission raised over £65, 000 alone from recycled stamps!



They are hoping to create a network of collecting points across the Island that are easily accessible and you will be able to bring your used postage stamps to church where we will have a collecting box.

**The collection will run from:
1st December, 2009 until 31st January, 2010**

THE FOOTSTEPS
SOCIAL WALKING GROUP
the January and February Walks



.....follow in the footsteps of many others as we walk the highways and byways of our beautiful Island home.

What better way to walk-off the 'Christmas Indulgence' than a gentle stroll in the Manx countryside but oops both our January and February walks include a slurp and something to eat – just to keep the chill out, of course and you can just have tea or coffee! Well you can always go to the gym or volunteer as a bell ringer!! **THE JANUARY WALK - SATURDAY 23rd**. **Assemble at St. Peter's Church car park at 11 am.** We're heading to the west of the Island and the Creek Inn – their 'Sausage and Mash Fest' will be in full swing but they will be doing other meals as well. Don't know whether we'll stop for lunch or simply indulge ourselves afterwards. Come along and see!

Don't be put off if you don't have transport – book in with Nigel (496109), Elaine (416669) or Peter (496395). Hopefully there'll be spare car seats. If you have a car and a spare seat or two please let Nigel, Elaine or Peter know – *Thank you.*

THEN THE FEBRUARY WALK - SATURDAY 20th – in and around Ballaugh and Kirk Michael (*postponed from November when the heavens opened*). Definitely lunch this time stopping off either at the Mitre or the Raven. **Again assemble at St. Peter's Church car park at 11 am.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER – *if in doubt check with Nigel, Elaine or Peter.*

REMEMBER THE KEY WORDS

'SOCIAL AND ENJOY' – *Why not bring a friend or two!*

REPORT ON PCC MEETING Thursday 19th November

The Vicar opened a very busy meeting by reading an article by Colorado Pastor Jeff Lucas on fishing (for souls), and with prayer.

We had many cards and letters of thanks for Harvest parcels, and Elaine Cory made an appeal for more help with the distribution next year please.

We had a request from the Methodist Church to help with stewarding during next year's Flower Festival, which will be from 4th to 10th July. Agreed. Appeal for stewards to be made.

The Vicar then reported on the last two Synod meetings; one on 26th September, at which the Bishop's recommendations for the diocese were discussed and gained general agreement. Nigel Cretney was elected Vice President of Synod, and Peter Cory was elected to the Diocesan Board of Finance; and the second on 5th November, at which a number of officers were elected, and the 2010 budget was discussed.

The Treasurer having sent her apologies, a budget sheet that she had prepared was circulated, discussed and agreed. We then discussed our Charity giving for the year, which had unfortunately had to be reduced, and amounts were distributed between Christian and local charities. The possibility of sharing a Youth Worker with other churches in the village or diocese were discussed and it was agreed to investigate further. Funding agreed.

Our policy on Communion before Confirmation to submit to the Bishop was agreed; the dates for our Ecumenical Advent course were confirmed; and our joint Christmas Services cards with the Methodist church are on their way. There has been a meeting of our Wardens and the Methodist Stewards to discuss the possibility of shared facilities and joint services/events. A further meeting is planned for next April.

The Lent 2010 course will be hosted by St. Peter's, and will be a series of talks, by 5 different speakers, on the subject of "Christ Within".

There was a discussion on the PCC Away-Day, with agreement that it had been beneficial to all; the Vicar will forward our comments and thanks to Gill Poole, who led us.

It was agreed that Freda Black should be allowed to try a “Fairtrade” stall at the back of church once a month, we’ll see how it goes.

The Vicar spoke of our vision for the future, with ideas that had come out of the Away-day, and were coming from the “Everybody Welcome” course, and reminded us that the new Vicar will be the Lord’s choice, plus our own discernment.

Nigel reported that the organ had now been tuned, and better lighting fitted. The insurance claim for the storm damage to the roof had been paid and meetings had begun for planning during the interregnum. The Warden’s also proposed that the names of Peter Cory and Elaine Litherland should be submitted to the Bishop for licensing as Lay Eucharistic Ministers at the evening service of Epiphany Celebration, on Sunday 3rd January – Agreed. Training to be given by the Vicar; and that there was a need for more Pastoral Visitors – Agreed. Training to be given by the Vicar and Nigel in the New Year.

The title of ‘Child Protection Officer’, a post held by Elaine Litherland, was changed to ‘Safeguarding Officer’ with the role now extended to include vulnerable adults. Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and Pastoral Visitors, on the advice of the Bishop’s Office, to undergo Police Checks – Agreed.

Carole Bairstow

Charity/Mission Giving 2009

Mannifest	100
Sudan (balance paid)	94
Church Mission Society	800
Bible Society	250
Gideons	250
Barnabus Fund	250
Naaman Trust (St. George's Baghdad)	250
MAFF (Mission Aviation)	250
Church Urban Fund	250
Crossroads Caring for Carers	250
Samaritans	250
Alcohol Advisory Service	250
Leonard Cheshire	250
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	£3494

PARISH DINNER

‘Farewell to Malcolm and Valerie’

on

SATURDAY 30th JANUARY, 2010

at the

**MASONIC HALL, WOODBOURNE ROAD,
DOUGLAS**

7 pm for 7.30 pm

Menu

Manx Broth

Served with homemade Bonnag

Served from the Carvery

*Roast Rump of Beef with a rich roast gravy
and homemade Yorkshire Puddings*

or

Poached Salmon with a Prawn Sauce

served with

Roast & mashed potatoes

Seasonal Vegetables

(Vegetarian option available)

please request when buying your ticket)

Manx Cranachan with Raspberries

or

Crème Brûlée

Tea or Coffee

served with mints

TICKETS £20

*Tickets available from Jane at the Parish Office (675797)
Please have your choice of menu ready when buying your tickets.*

WEEK OF PRAYER
FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICES

DOUGLAS/ONCHAN CHURCHES

on
SUNDAY 17th JANUARY
at 6.30 pm

in
Onchan Elim Church
(Second Avenue)

Preacher: Rev. Canon Malcolm Convery

&
ONCHAN CHURCHES

on
THURSDAY 21st JANUARY
at 7.30 pm

in
St. Anthony's Church

Preacher: Rev John Powell (Onchan Elim Church)

THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE raised £1,652.60 (just a shade more than last year). The proceeds were divided between the Hyperbaric Chamber and St. Peter's Parish Church. Many thanks to all who contributed to the Fayre.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY final figures show that just over 80,000 'new' people attended church that day (53,000 in Church of England Churches); and the average increase in each church on that day was 19.

CMS BOXES raised £203.60. Thank you to those who contributed. If you would like to support CMS in this way please ask the Vicar or Treasurer (Heather Reynolds) for a box.

EVERYBODY WELCOME COURSE continues this month at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 5th January and on Thursday 28th January. The first two sessions have been very illuminating.

The first session looked at how to make the church more visible and at ways we can attract people. The second session considered ways in which we could make the Church building more attractive and user friendly. By the end of the course we hope to train a group of Church welcomers and also put into practice some of the suggestions that came out of the study.

If you haven't been to any of the sessions yet it would still be valuable to come along even if only for one session.

SUNDAY 3rd JANUARY

11.00 am Family Youth Service
(led by BUZZ & LAZER)

6.30 pm An Epiphany Celebration
and licensing of Lay Eucharistic Ministers
Preacher: Bishop Robert

So its farewell from Malcolm and its farewell from Valerie.

A shared ministry which has seen them offer comfort, hope, a warm welcome to many, spiritual guidance and humour. Let's not forget humour! A ministry for all whether young, not so young or old. A ministry in which they have put the people of Onchan before themselves doing God's work in this place.

And if you would like to contribute to a farewell gift then please give your contribution to Jane, our Parish Clerk, or send a cheque (made out to St. Peter's Parish Church) to Jane at the Parish Office. Thank you.

The Churchwardens

A SINCERE THANK YOU!

A 'Night at the Musicals'. What a show and not a 'stooge' sorry a Churchwarden (past or present) in sight-at least on the stage. Wasn't it great to see the kids and teenagers from Stage One Drama and Rachel Wild enjoying themselves so much and weren't they fantastic. What talent. Such stage presence and such superb voices – a real treat and one which we hope will be repeated!!!

Not forgetting all the other top artistes from around the Island who always give so generously of their time and their truly superb voices to help the hall. And of course Wendy McDowell who so marvellously organises everything. A big thank you to you all – you were all quite simply fantastic.

A big thank you also to those who provided raffle prizes, and also helped sell the tickets, to Elsa Bridson for her prints and original paintings and of course to everyone who supported the concert.

Thank you all.

Nigel Cretney, Chairman, Parish Hall Committee

IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY ALL IS SECURE

Twas the night before Christmas
he lived all alone
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone
I had come down the chimney with presents to give
and to see just who in this home did live

I looked all about a strange sight I did see
no tinsel no presents not even a tree
no stocking by the mantle just boots filled with sand
on the wall hung pictures of far distant lands
with medals and badges awards of all kinds
a sober thought came through my mind
for this house was different it was dark and dreary
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly
the soldier lay sleeping silent alone
curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home

The face was so gentle the room in such disorder
not how I pictured a lone British soldier
was this the hero of whom I'd just read
curled up on a poncho the floor for a bed

I realised the families that I saw this night
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight
soon round the world the children would play
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day

They all enjoy freedom each month of the year
because of the soldiers like the one lying here
I couldn't help wonder how many alone
on a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home

The very thought brought a tear to my eye
I dropped to my knees and started to cry
the soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice
'Santa don't cry this life is my choice
I fight for freedom I don't ask for more
my life is my god, my country. My corps'

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep
I couldn't control it I continued to weep

I kept watch for hours so silent and still
and we both sat and shivered from the cold nights chill
I didn't want to leave on that cold dark night
this guardian of honour so willing to fight

Then the soldier rolled over with a voice soft and pure
whispered 'carry on Santa its Christmas day all is secure'
one look at my watch and I knew he was right
'Merry Christmas my friend and to all a good night'

This poem was written by a peace keeping soldier stationed overseas.

**Christmas is here and some credit is due to our British servicemen and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities.
Please keep them in your prayers.**