

### Services at St Peter's

Holy Communion:	BCP Each Sunday	9.00 am
	CW 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am
	BCP 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	6.30 pm
	Wednesday	10.30 am
	Holy Days (as announced)	
Morning Prayer:	CW 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	11.00 am
Family Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month	11.00 am
Evening Prayer:	BCP 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays	6.30 pm
Midweek Service with Ministry of Healing:	<i>Every two months (Sept, Nov, Jan, March, May &amp; July) date as advertised on noticeboard</i>	7.30 pm
All Age Worship:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month (in the Parish Hall, Royal Avenue)	4.00 pm

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals – By arrangement.

#### Vicar:

*The Revd Canon Malcolm Convery*

*The Vicarage*

*Church Road*

*Onchan*

*IM3 1BF*

*Telephone No: 675797*

#### Licensed Reader:

*Nigel Cretney*

*Telephone Nos: 851060/496109 (mobile)*

#### Parish Clerk:

*Mrs Jane Cretney*

*Parish Office*

*Office Hours*

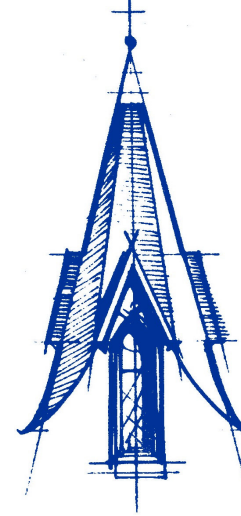
*Mon – Fri 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.*

*Telephone No. 675797*

*e-mail: [enquiries@stpeterschurch.org.im](mailto:enquiries@stpeterschurch.org.im)*

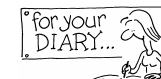
website: <http://www.stpeterschurch.org.im>

# Monthly Review December 2006



*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,

Preparations to celebrate Christmas seem to begin earlier each year.

Christmas displays arrive in our shops in October (September in some cases) and the decorations appear in mid-November.

Quite naturally businesses are eager to cash in on the festival that generates a large proportion of the annual revenue.

Then we have a flurry of activity – Carol Services, Christmas Fayres, Shopping trips, etc. so that by the time we reach December 25<sup>th</sup> we are exhausted and traumatised.

Perhaps you saw that article in the Daily Mail recently headed: The 13 days of Christmas. The mail order catalogue firm Kaleidoscope had surveyed 3000 women on how many hours they spent preparing for Christmas – the average mother spends 13 whole days in preparation! No wonder she is exhausted by the end.

How many of us will spend the next month standing on a rapidly moving conveyor belt wondering how we are going to get off. All of a sudden it stops and we end up crashing to the ground.

I don't want to be labelled a Scrooge. There is much to enjoy about Christmas. For the Christian the very heart of Christmas is Jesus – he is the reason for our celebration.

The revelation of God through Jesus and the working out of his plan of salvation is a remarkable fact of history.

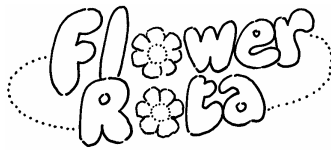
That God should choose to reveal himself in human form is difficult to grasp but when we realise that the Christ child is God's son, born of a virgin and conceived by the Holy Spirit, and that he was born to be Saviour of the world – my Saviour – then we have something to celebrate of divine and eternal significance.

There is a danger that in all our busyness amidst the dazzle of Christmas and the frantic spending spree that Jesus is relegated to the fringe of our lives.

If we bring him back into the centre he will make a noticeable difference to our Christmas celebrations and our lives.

## DIARY for December

1 <sup>st</sup>	Fri	1.30 pm	Mums & Tots – Parish Hall
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sat	2.00 pm	Christmas Fayre – Parish Hall
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	6.30 pm	Sharing the Light Service
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
4 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	10.15 am	Peter Bear Club – Parish Hall
		7.45 pm	Key Group – 2 Wentworth Close
5 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	6.30 pm	Torchlight Procession
		7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Island Advent Service - Church
		7.30 pm	Key Group 2 – 21 Wybourn Drive
6 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion
		7.30 pm	Key Group
		8.00 pm	Ladies Fellowship – Parish Hall
7 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs	7.00 pm	Carol Singing – Heywood Court
		8.00 pm	Carol Singing – Springfield Court
8 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	1.30 pm	Mums & Tots – Parish Hall
		7.30 pm	Onchan Band Concert – Parish Hall
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	11.00 am	Carol Singing – Onchan Shoprite
		1.00 pm	Wedding: Jamie Hanley & Kareena Purvis
		3.30 pm	Sunday School Nativity Rehearsal - Church
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11.00 am	Sunday School Nativity Service
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	7.45 pm	Key Group – 2 Wentworth Close
12 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	12 noon	Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch - Hilton
		7.00 pm	Labyrinth – Church
		7.30 pm	Key Group 2 – 59 Windermere Drive
13 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion
		2.00 pm	Onchan Primary School Concert – Church
		6.00 pm	Onchan Primary School Concert – Church
14 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs	7.30 pm	Manx Christmas Star - Church
15 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	1.30 pm	Mums & Tots Nativity & Party – Church
		7.30 pm	EMU Christmas Night Out – Welbeck Hotel
		7.30 pm	An Evening of Christmas Music – Parish Hall
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	9.00 am	Decorate church for Christmas
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	6.30 pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	10.15 am	Peter Bear Club - Church
		2.00 pm	Onchan Ladies Choir Christmas Concert
		7.00 pm	Labyrinth – Church
19 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	7.30 pm	Key Group 2 – 42 Groudle Road
20 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion
		2.00 pm	Ashley Hill School Concert - Church
		7.00 pm	Ashley Hill School Concert - Church
21 <sup>st</sup>	Thurs	7.30 pm	Alternativity Service – Christian Aid - Church
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fri		
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sat	3.00 pm	Make Christingles - Church
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	5.00 pm	Christingle Service – Church
		11.30 pm	Christmas Communion - Church
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	10.00 am	Family Communion - Church
26 <sup>th</sup>	Tue		
27 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	10.30 am	Holy Communion
28 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs		
29 <sup>th</sup>	Fri		
30 <sup>th</sup>	Sat		
31 <sup>st</sup>	Sun		



The flower rota for December is as follows:

3 <sup>rd</sup>		Mrs A. Cox
10 <sup>th</sup>		Mrs I. Morrison
17 <sup>th</sup>		Mrs J. Nivison
24 <sup>th</sup>		Mothers' Union
31 <sup>st</sup>		Mrs E. Cory



**PRAYER DIARY  
DECEMBER 2006**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Youth Organisations within Onchan	Hawthorne Close, Poplar Close, Sycamore Close
10 <sup>th</sup>	Hospital & Hospice esp. Doctors, Nurses & Health Visitors	Glen View Road, Snaefell Crescent
17 <sup>th</sup>	The Sidesmen	Members of the Church who live outside the Parish
24 <sup>th</sup>	The Mothers & Toddler Groups	Friends who worshipped at St. Peter's but have since moved away.
31 <sup>st</sup>	The Parish Clerk	Wybourn Drive, Wybourn Grove, Wybourn View

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**THE PARISH OFFICE**  
will be closed 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> December incl.  
and 25<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> January incl.  
Urgent enquiries to The Vicarage

Make some space this Advent to reflect on what we believe.

Focus on the Christmas story.

Plan to be in Church for the Advent and Christmas Services.

To help you we plan to have an Advent Labyrinth in Church (see separate article).

Give time to the Lord and he will give you time to do what needs to be done.

More importantly he will help us to get our priorities right and discover the joy of a Christ – centred Christmas.

My prayer is that the Lord's presence may be experienced in our churches, and our homes and our hearts this Christmas time.

May you experience the love of God in a fresh and deeper way as you ponder the scene in the stable and may all our lives reflect the glory of God in the dark corners of the world.

Yours sincerely in Jesus' Name,

**THE MANX CHRISTMAS STAR**

What were the heavens like above the Isle of Man at Jesus' birth?  
Howard Parkin (Chairman of the Isle of Man Astronomical Society) will answer this question in an illustrated talk on:

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
at 7.30 pm  
in St. Peter's Parish Church**

**Tickets £2 (or pay on the door)  
includes light refreshments.  
Proceeds to the Children of the Bible Lands**

**PLEASE NOTE CLOSING DATE**

**FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN NEXT REVIEW**

***2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2007***



**PETER BEAR CLUB**

We meet on Mondays 10.15 to 11.15 am (fortnightly)  
4<sup>th</sup> December in the Parish Hall, Royal Avenue  
and  
18<sup>th</sup> December in St. Peter's Parish Church

**ALL WELCOME**

**CAROL SINGING**

Tuesday Key Group (1) have arranged to go Carol Singing on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December – 7 pm Heywood Court and 8 pm Springfield Court and outside Onchan Shoprite on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December between 11am and 2pm. They will distribute leaflets highlighting the Christmas Services at St. Peter's Parish Church.

They hope that other 'carollers' will join them – please let Mildred (625349) or Elaine (624910) know – hope you can join us.



**BURNS NIGHT SUPPER**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2007  
in  
Onchan Parish Hall  
at 7.30 pm**



**Tickets: Adults £6.00 Children £2.00**

**Piper – Food – Raffle - Dance**

**NOTICES FROM THE VICAR**

- Phil Craine of CHRISTIAN AID is organising a special Christmas Service (as he did last year) at St. Peter's Parish Church on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30 pm, called

**ALTERNATIVITY**

All welcome

- We will welcome the Bishop and Lady Haddacks to St. Peter's Parish Church on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm for the Mothers' Union Advent Carol Service. This is Valerie's last official engagement as Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union.

**A LABYRINTH**

Why not try our Advent Labyrinth.

A labyrinth creates a symbolic journey giving participants a chance to unwind and to spend time with God.

A chance to 'chill out' in the busy lead up to Christmas.

All are welcome to take part and visit a series of activity stations en-route, each giving time for reflection.

The labyrinth will be set up in Church each day from 9am – 4pm from Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December to Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December (except Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons). It will also be available on two evenings: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 7 pm to 8.30 pm and Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 7 pm to 8.30 pm

Escape the busyness of the Christmas preparations for a while.

Enjoy some quietness and reflection.

Make space for God.

It will be worth your while.

## ALPHA

ALPHA changes lives. It has changed the lives of a significant proportion of the people in our congregation. It has helped to bring many thousands of people to know Jesus Christ and we are starting again to bring the good news of Jesus to our Parish through an ALPHA course. The course which ran in March through June this year was very successful and a CELL Group has been formed by many who attended that course.

It starts with a supper on **10 January 2007** and will then run every Wednesday until the end of March, with one Saturday set aside for the spiritual study. Many found that day the most uplifting part of the course.

Now, *we are asking you* and to think of a friend or neighbour or relative who you want to bring to know Jesus Christ. *Your mission* is to bring the good news of ALPHA to them and encourage them to come along to the supper on 10 January 2007. Bring them along, as we invite you also to come to this first evening when we will tell everyone about the course and also bear witness to them of the good news of the Bible.

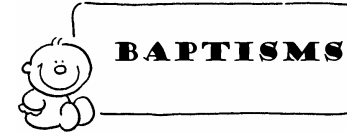
The course will be run on *Wednesday evenings starting 17 January 2007, from 7.30pm at the Archibald Knox Public House, in the specially built meeting room*. It will help create a relaxed atmosphere in which people can watch the videos, discuss the issues and also, if they wish, enjoy a meal before the sessions start.

When you find someone or more than one please let the Vicar know or Ray Platt (Tel: 626539) or Colin Clague (Tel: 626573). We already have a list of names and are looking to you to add to it.

*Remember, we have a duty as Christians to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to as many people as possible. The ALPHA course is one way you can fulfil that duty.*



## FROM THE REGISTERS



*29<sup>th</sup> October, 2006*

Harry James Price

*18<sup>th</sup> November, 2006*

Barnabas James Kimberley

*19<sup>th</sup> November, 2006*

Olivia Grace Corran

## Funerals

Mary Jane Cowley  
Gerald Hugh Reynolds  
Joan Stevens  
Irene May McGrath



The offertory for October totalled £6,550.27 and was made up of £5,301.73 pledged giving and £1,248.54 of loose plate giving.

Thank you.

## SHOE BOX APPEAL

16 shoe boxes were delivered to Ramsey and are now en-route to the children in Belarus for Christmas. Thank you.

## LADIES FELLOWSHIP

We heard a few of the Vicar's memories on 1<sup>st</sup> November, some of which jogged a few of our own memories. It was a pity a few more members didn't brave the elements to attend our second November meeting when Joan Wilson put on a truly marvellous show and talk on Chinese Kites. The kites were beautiful and she fully explained how to fly them – a new hobby for someone!

Our next meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December is our Christmas Evening and Faith Supper.

Hazel Johnson



## MOTHERS' UNION

We enjoyed welcoming Mrs Jacqy Frear to our last meeting in October. Mrs Frear kept us entertained with stories of life as a clergy wife and mother.

Our first meeting in November was again a clergy wife but this time it was Ruth Solomon who spoke to us about the time she was the Principal of a Women's College in Australia. We also entertained our friends from the Methodist Church and the Roman Catholic Church to this meeting and they stayed to join us for a cream tea.

The EMU's are meeting for a craft evening this month and to plan their stall for the Christmas Fayre. Both groups are looking forward to the Island Advent Service on the 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm when we welcome to St. Peter's members of MU branch's from across the Island, the Lord Bishop and Lady Haddacks.

Valerie Convery, Branch Leader

## *The Funny Side of Life!*

*A very dirty little fellow came in from playing outside and asked his mother, "Who am I?" Ready to play the game, she said, "I don't know! Who are you?" "Wow!" cried the child. "Mrs Jones was right! She said I was so dirty, even my own mummy wouldn't recognize me!"*

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*A Sunday School teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go back into church, "Now remind me – why is it necessary for us to be quiet in church?" Little Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping."*

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*A police recruit was asked during an exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your mother?" His reply was, "Call for backup."*

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*A wise school teacher sent notes to all parents on the first day of term saying, "If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens in school, I'll promise not to believe everything he says happens at home."*

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*A 3 year old girl was asked to draw something to do with Christmas. After being busy with crayons she showed it to her mum saying, "It's rhubarb." Mum looked on confused, then the girl said, "You know Rhubarb the red nosed reindeer."*

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*A little girl seeing her sister writing to Santa Claus, asked her dad to write for her. "What do you want to say he asked?" "Dear Father Christmas," "That's good now what:" said dad. "Hurry up!" she said.*

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*A 4 year old girl was rehearsing the Nativity play and one morning she came brandishing an imaginary weapon and standing defensively in front of the crib saying "I'm protecting Mary and Jesus from the Three Wild Men!"*

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The four stages of life for modern man

*You believe in Santa Claus.  
You don't believe in Santa Claus.  
You are Santa Claus.  
You look like Santa Claus.*



## THE BISHOP WRITES.....December 2006

The Christmas season brings to mind for me the terrible memory of “thank you” letters! My mother was a stickler for the writing of these forms of youthful torture. The day after Boxing Day I knew she would direct me to the dining room where the pad of writing paper would be produced from the bureau. The ever temperamental fountain pen would be freshly charged with ink and at that moment my mind would become a complete blank! I longed to be able to write fulsome epistles praising the gift of a postal order or extolling the quality of the socks or handkerchiefs received. All I ever managed were the formulaic expressions of thanks followed by good wishes for the New Year!

The idea of a gift is an interesting one. Out of love we present to those close to us some article which we hope or even, with luck, know they will appreciate or want. We search the shops for something appropriate, something that speaks of the likes or interests of the recipient. Sometimes this is a “fun” process, but sometimes it becomes a chore. What do you buy the person who has everything? The action of giving should express our love. It should be given without the expectation of thanks or a gift in return.

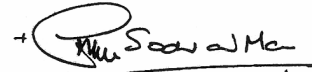
It might seem odd to quote a hymn we usually sing in Lent just before Christmas, but I think that Isaac Watts’ words help us with understanding the gift that we celebrate as Christians at this time of year:

*Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That were a present far too small:  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

If we are thinking of the “thank you” that is appropriate as a response to the gift of the Christ Child, then Watts says that even the whole of creation would not be enough! The love that backs God’s gift to us is so amazing it surpasses all we can imagine. A gift that brings with it the promise of new birth, of resurrection and of eternal life is beyond price. But this gift comes from God without the demand for a “thank you”. It is freely given, to be accepted or rejected as we will. Isaac Watts’ response, though, is to suggest that the gift is so special that it demands the most we can offer in return. This is the human reaction. “I wonder what he expects in return?” or “Have you written your thank you letters?” The

unconditional nature of God’s gift to us is truly **amazing** and obviously **divine**. If we accept the gift, if we allow its generosity to enter our hearts, then out of the love we experience we will by nature, not by a sense of obligation, respond by offering “my soul, my life, my all”.

May we therefore be open to the precious gift that God offers us this Christmastide. May we accept it joyously. May we cherish it. May the love that it reveals find some expression in our daily lives.

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## PARISH HALL

SPELLBINDING CONCERT – It seemed as if a fairy spell had been cast over Onchan Parish Hall as it resounded to the sights and sounds of a 'Good Old Days' style Victorian Music Hall – and what a concert it proved to be raising over £600 towards the Hall. And what a good laugh it was too! Did you see the 'fairy's' legs?

With the concert so marvellously organised by Wendy McDowell and featuring some of the Island's top artistes – Allan Wilcox, Amanda Litherland, Matthew Gallagher-McBrier, Kath Blackburn, Simon Bampton, Helen Prescott, Jim Caine, Carole Bairstow and Master of Ceremonies Arthur Bawden, not forgetting our very own 'Fairies' – it couldn't fail could it. And they didn't disappoint.

Thank you to everyone who supported the concert, the artistes, to Wendy, to those who provided raffle prizes and especially to everyone who made the effort to dress for the occasion. Not forgetting the award winning scrumptious ice cream.

Ideal Christmas presents. We still have some CD's (£10) left and don't forget the Norman Sayle prints (£35) – leave your shopping worries behind you – visit the Parish Office for one stop shopping! Open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm (tel: 675797).

*A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
from the Parish Hall Committees,  
and a big thank you to everyone who has supported  
the Appeal.*

## DECORATING CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS



The ladies decorate the Church for Christmas on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9am. Any donations of flowers/greenery to assist would be much appreciated - buckets will be placed in the porch on Friday morning 15<sup>th</sup> December for any flowers. Thank you.



## THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS or Too much of a Good Thing?

On the first day of Christmas, my true love said to me,  
I'm glad I've bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas Tree.  
On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard,  
as we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.  
On the third day of Christmas we'd people from next door,  
the turkey tasted just as good as it did the day before.  
Day four relations came to stay, poor Gran is looking old,  
we finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.  
On the fifth day of Christmas outside the snow flakes flurried,  
but we were nice and warm inside – we had the turkey curried.  
On the sixth day I must admit the turkey spirit died,  
the children fought and bickered – we eat the turkey fried.  
On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave a wince,  
when we sat down at table and was offered turkey mince.  
Day eight our nerves were getting frayed, the dog had run for shelter,  
I served up turkey pancakes with a glass of Alka Seltzer.  
Day nine our cat left home and Dad began to cry,  
he said he couldn't face the thought of eating turkey pie.  
Day ten all the cake had gone and the chocolate Yule Log too,  
as if that wasn't bad enough we suffered turkey stew.  
On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting,  
the mince pies were hard as rock and the turkey was revolting.  
On the twelfth day of Christmas at last Dad smacked his lips,  
the guests had gone, the turkey too ..... we dined on fish and chips.

## *ST. PETER'S PARISH CHURCH*

### *Christmas Services*

|                                   |                                                      |                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>    | <b>9.00am<br/>11.00 am<br/>6.30 pm</b>               | <b>Holy Communion<br/>Sunday School Nativity<br/>Evening Prayer</b>              |
| <b>Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>    | <b>9.00 am<br/>11.00 am<br/>6.30 pm</b>              | <b>Holy Communion<br/>Holy Communion<br/>Nine Lessons &amp; Carols</b>           |
| <b>Christmas Eve</b>              | <b>9.00 am<br/>11.00 am<br/>5.00 pm<br/>11.30 pm</b> | <b>Holy Communion<br/>Holy Communion<br/>Christingle<br/>Christmas Communion</b> |
| <b>Christmas Day</b>              | <b>10.00 am</b>                                      | <b>Family Communion</b>                                                          |
| <b>Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>    | <b>9.00 am<br/>11.00 am<br/>6.30 pm</b>              | <b>Holy Communion<br/>Holy Communion<br/>No Service</b>                          |
| <b>Sun 7<sup>th</sup> January</b> | <b>9.00 am<br/>11.00 am<br/>6.30 pm</b>              | <b>Holy Communion<br/>Holy Communion<br/>Epiphany Praise Service</b>             |

