

## Parish Profile 2020



### **Bride, Lezayre & North Ramsey**

The churches of:

**St. Bridget, Bride**

&

**St. Olave, North Ramsey**

## An Invitation



The Isle of Man is a nation with a long and proud cultural heritage. In recent decades it has seen significant change, becoming more ethnically and economically diverse.

On behalf of the congregations and people of the parish of Bride, Lezayre and North Ramsey, the churchwardens extend a warm welcome to individuals considering ministry in this locality.

The parish is looking for a priest who will lead us in demonstrating the reality and relevance of the Good News in a constantly changing context. You will need to build on the parish's strengths in order to deepen and broaden our life as a community centred on the love of God in Christ. You will be a person of prayer, committed to loving the flock and the community and able to work with (and develop the gifts of) people from a range of Christian perspectives. You will seek to help us grow in the church's ministry of word and sacrament.

With the appointment goes a willingness to be active in wider circles: the Northern Mission Partnership, the diocese, and the ecumenical scene, as well as the local community.

We are looking forward to what God has in store and believe that this post offers a challenging and strategic opportunity to serve.

## Parish of Bride, Lezayre & North Ramsey

The parish was formed by the merger of the parishes of Bride and North Ramsey in 1981, with Lezayre (whose churches have since both closed) being added around 2010. It encompasses rural and urban areas.

The village of Bride is the most northerly on the island where agriculture accounts for most of the land use, although there is a large nature reserve along the northern coast. There are a number of other scattered hamlets and farms, and at the southern end of the parish is the community of Glen Auldyn, just outside Ramsey.



The urban part of the parish comprises the northern half of Ramsey, a town of over 7,000 people with excellent facilities. Whilst some work in the town, many people from Ramsey and the villages further north commute to Douglas. The northern half of Ramsey has a population approaching 4,000, and St Olave's is the only church building in this part of the town. The civil parish of Bride counts about 400; a number of other hamlets and farms are part of the parish of Lezayre. About 50% of the population on the Island were Manx-born; 5% were from EU countries, and another 3.5% from elsewhere in the world, the rest being from Britain and Ireland.



## Parish of Bride, Lezayre & North Ramsey (cont...)

The parish has three readers:

- ◇ One (approaching her century) has a ministry of intercession;
- ◇ Another (with permission to officiate) takes services regularly when visiting the island, being involved in healing ministry in her church in Birmingham; and
- ◇ The third combines reader ministry with being a Methodist local preacher and secretary of an international ecumenical dialogue with the Orthodox churches.



There are two active churches in the parish:

St. Bridget, Bride & St. Olave, Ramsey.

St. Bridget's is very much a village church, sitting at the heart of the Bride community.

St. Olave's serves the northern half of the town of Ramsey.

The two Churches work very closely together, with a joint parish eucharist on 5th Sundays, usually followed by lunch.

Both congregations are fairly mixed, with attenders from a variety of religious backgrounds, especially at St Olave's.



The parish forms part of the Northern Mission Partnership, the island's equivalent of a rural deanery. This serves an area to the north of the hilly centre of the island, which is marked by a distinct identity (and, some would argue, sunnier weather!).

The partnership is seeking to expand its activities as its component parishes develop a closer working relationship, always with a focus on sharing in God's mission.



## Bride: St Bridget

The original church dates back to the 12th Century and stood in the oldest part of the churchyard.

In 1866 the decision was taken to build a new church and a site was acquired and the foundation stone was laid by Lady Loch on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1869.



Whilst not fully completed the church was licensed for worship and formally opened on the 4th February 1872. The tower was finally completed in 1875 and the church was consecrated by Bishop Selwyn of Lichfield on the 8th September 1876.

The Parish of Kirk Bride is a quiet, pleasant unpolluted land abounding in cultural richness. There are no public houses, but many wells of pure water. One of these wells is called 'Chibbyr Feeyney' (the wine well), from which was drawn the water for the baptismal font in Bride Old Church.

To this land Christian Missionaries came early in the Seventh Century under the influence of St. Patrick, St. Bridget and other leaders of the Celtic church. They built little churches of Keeills all over the Isle of Man to serve the numerous scattered communities, 107 in all. One of these Keeills was built under the weeping elm in the old churchyard adjacent to this church and dedicated to St. Bridget, who was Abbess of Kildare, and one of the great saints of the golden age of Celtic Christianity.



The Church has a rich history in ancient cross slabs dating back to Viking times and hosts a display set up by the Manx Museum in 1981.

In the twelfth Century the Celtic Church, having survived the Viking Invaders of the Ninth Century, came under the Latin influence of the great Cistercian Abbey of Furness in Lancashire.

The parish system was introduced into Man and the little Keeill became the Parish Church of the new parish of Kirk Bride.

## Bride: St Bridget's (cont...)



The windows include one dedicated to St. Bridget, Patroness, always shown with a burning flame, and as patron saint of dairy maids, a number of black cows are shown behind her. The oystercatcher is shown below—called locally 'St. Bridget's bird' because of its black and white colouring.



The east window, depicts Christ on the Cross of Calvary, with his mother and St. John

The dynamic of St. Bridget's depends upon the time of year. When motorcycles are enjoying the TT Races or the Festival of Motorcycling, for which the Island is famous, the Church takes to its Church Hall where for over 25 years TT Teas have been served with "You haven't TT'd until you've TT'd Teas" being our catchphrase. This is a very busy time but provides our Church with one of the most wonderful methods of outreach to visitors from the Island and across the world. Another special occasion is at Christmas when Bride's pews are full for its Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols.

St. Bridget's also has a cemetery that serves the community with the church being open daily throughout the year for worshipers and visitors. The Church village hall, as well as being used for the TT Teas, is a meeting venue for Bride Commissioners and hosts many other events such as whist drives, harvest suppers and joint parish lunches.



Bride has its own Mother's Union branch which meet with The Dhoon Church and are proud to have its banner on display which is paraded at each Mother's Union festival.

Like its sister Church, Bride also partakes in the Isle of Man Flower Festival and enjoys close links with the Methodist Church, only a few yards away.

Bride is a close community that works together with others - not least the local branch of the Women's Institute who can always be called upon.



## North Ramsey—St Olave's



The church building occupies a prominent position on a road junction adjoining the Ramsey Cottage Hospital.

It was built during the 1860s, to serve a newly developed area to the north of the bridge over the river which bisects the town of Ramsey.

The area now has a relatively high proportion of older people, and like many churches this is the demographic of our congregation. It has a reputation as a welcoming congregation to all age-groups, however, and we hope to grow younger!

The church participates in events such as the Isle of Man Flower Festival that is held annually in July, as well as occasional concerts and events such as the Mariners' Services.

We are also exploring new possibilities, such as a 'Come and Sing Gospel Music Night'.



To the rear of the church building, a hall which was built in the 1980s benefits from a recently refurbished kitchen. We host regular community lunches to which all are welcome, as well as other events.

The facilities are also used by a Brownie pack and 'Tiddlers', a church-linked toddler group, and available for hire by individuals and societies.

## North Ramsey—St Olave's (cont...)



The Church has a number of very distinctive stained glass windows celebrating a number of saints with a local connection including:

St. Olave;  
St. Maughold;  
St. Nicholas; and,  
St. Wenceslas

We have a fortnightly Sunday evening prayer (BCP) and a weekly compline on Thursday evenings.

There is also a Thursday evening inter-church Bible study group with which some from the church are involved.

We are also beginning an occasional Sunday afternoon service of prayer for healing.

Our regular services on Sunday mornings alternate between eucharist and morning prayer, as do those on Wednesday mornings during the present vacancy.



The building enjoys very good acoustics, and we have a two-manual pipe organ which is regularly maintained, as well as a keyboard which is used for smaller services.

The Church is open daily to visitors, and we open the Church hall every Saturday afternoon from 2-4pm offering tea and cake to all comers, including members of the congregation and people visiting family at the Ramsey Cottage Hospital which is situated directly across from the Church.



# Music



In 1898, Morgan and Pollard supplied St Olave's with one of their earliest Instruments.

It is the only Morgan to include a tower in the case design, which, with the mid-oak timber and decorated case pipes (now gently faded) makes this one of their most successful instruments.

St Olave's has a resident organist who plays on Sunday mornings, and another who plays on Sunday evenings. 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 both congregations are relatively traditional, they are not exclusively so, and we are open to broadening our horizons. But whatever we sing, we would like to do so well!

Bride has a small pipe organ which was built by H. W. Hewitt of Liverpool and was extensively refurbished in early 1990.

Bride has a good musical tradition with two local organists and hosts an annual organ recital and a festal evensong on the first weekend of August, and benefits from a fund established to support the church's musical life.



## Patterns of Worship



St Bridget, Bride	11.15 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Morning Prayer (Common Worship) 11.15 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays – Eucharist (Common Worship)
St Olave, Ramsey	9.45 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday – Eucharist (BCP) 9.45 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays – Morning Prayer (Common Worship) 9.45 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Eucharist (Common Worship) 6.30 (summer time), 4.00 (winter) 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays – Evening Prayer (BCP) 10.00 Wednesdays – Eucharist (BCP) / Morning Prayer (Common Worship) 6.30 Thursdays – Compline

More detailed information as to the type and times of the Services that are available within the extended Parish are on display on the Church notice boards and can be found in the Parish Magazine as are details of Parish Events and Special and Seasonal Services.

Bride Methodist Church notes also featured in the magazine as our close involvement with our friends at Bride Methodist Chapel is important to us.

The Parish Magazine is compiled and distributed on a monthly basis and is available in both printed and digital (PDF) format which can be sent direct by email.

## Community Engagement & Events



### Bride TT Teas

St Bridget's at Bride began serving TT Teas to visiting bikers on June 1, 1992 and the annual event has gone from strength to strength ever since. Many bikers from all over the world regularly visit the Church during their 2 weeks stay on the island.



### Flower Festival -St. Bridget & St. Olave's

The Churches take it in turns to participate in the Isle of Man Flower Festival, an annual week long community event encompassing floral art in any medium, predominantly fresh flowers but also including arts & crafts.



### St. Olaves - Community Lunches

On the second Wednesday of every month St. Olaves hosts a community lunch which has been held regularly over the last 18 months and is always well attended.



## Community Engagement & Events (cont...)



**St. Olave's:  
Christingle Service**  
Annual service with  
carols sung and  
Christingles given out  
to the children.



**St. Olave's:  
Carols & Lessons Service**  
Traditional service that is held mid-  
December and is always well attended with  
both local parishioners attending and a  
number of visitors who are on-island  
visiting family during the festive period.

**St. Bridget's:  
'Candlelit' Service of Lessons and Carols**

This service is extremely popular with locals and visitors alike with the pews always being full.

We would always recommend arriving at the Church early for this service to make sure you get a seat!





# Applications

**The churchwardens of Bride, Lezayre & North Ramsey  
look forward to welcoming you to our Parish**



**For further information please contact:**

The Venerable Andrew Brown

16 Devonshire Road

Douglas

Isle of Man

IM2 3RB

Telephone: +44 1624 675430

e-mail: [archdeacon@sodorandman.im](mailto:archdeacon@sodorandman.im)