

St Peter's, Onchan, and Lonan & Laxey: Bishop's Introductory Narrative

Dear Friend,

Thank you for considering this exciting appointment at a significant moment for the life of the Church on the Isle of Man.

I am looking for a Team Rector to lead a United Benefice of two parishes, and, working with the Team Vicar in Lonan & Laxey, to bring gifts of leadership and partnership in renewing the life of God's people. You will see from the Profile that the congregation of St Peter's are looking and hoping for spiritual renewal, within the open Evangelical tradition of the parish. The Interim Minister has already provided new beginnings upon which the new Team Rector can build, and the ability to discern next steps, in partnership with the Team Vicar, will be decisive in enabling a continuing mission and ministry of growth.

As stated in the Profile, I am hoping that the priest whom I appoint to this new parish might be the Team Leader of the Eastern Mission Partnership. This is our equivalent of a Rural Dean, but with less formal authority and far less bureaucracy involved. While this aspect of the appointment is clearly dependent upon experience, it would suit a priest (possibly senior, or possibly bringing strong pastoral experience to a first incumbency) with the ability to encourage others in working together for the Kingdom of God in this part of our diocese, sharing in mission and sharing generously in fellowship and prayer.

As stated above, this is a vital moment in the life of our diocese. We have just published our *Diocesan Strategy for Church Buildings*, which is available on our website: <https://www.sodorandman.im> Clearly, this is likely to mean change for a number of our parishes, and we embark upon it in the hope that it will bring significant opportunity for renewal of mission.

I join my prayers with those of the congregations and my diocesan team as we seek the priest whom the Lord is calling to this ministry in our beautiful island and diocese.

With prayers for you and with greetings in Christ,

✠ *Peter Sodor as Mannin*

**The Rt Revd PA Eagles
Bishop of Sodor and Man**