

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**PARISH OF MAROWN, FOXDALE &  
BALDWIN**

**March 2026**

**REPORTS**

**(for period: April 2025 – March 2026)**

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## **Electoral Roll Report**

The Revision Notice for the Electoral Roll was displayed on the three church notice boards for the statutory two-week period ending 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. During the past year, there has been one addition to the roll and two deletions. Consequently, the Electoral Roll now contains 40 names.

I would like to thank those who notified me of changes to their details over the past twelve months, ensuring our records remain accurate.

Karen Hunter, Electoral Roll Officer

## **Annual Report on The Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council**

During the period April 2025 to March 2026, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) met six times, all with good attendance. Throughout this year, the PCC has complied with their duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults), with appropriate guidance from the Parish's and Diocesan's Safeguarding Officers.

At the first meeting of the new PCC on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2025, a Standing Committee was elected comprising: Vice Chair - Malcolm Clague; Electoral Roll Officer - Karen Hunter; PCC Standing Committee - Vicar & PCC secretary, two church wardens (Sue Waring, Malcolm Clague), Chrissie Carter and Paul Everett.

As well as regular updates on service, mission and the finances of the Parish, other business of the PCC meetings has focussed on up-keep of the Churches (see individual reports). The hard work of the PCC in this latter area is highlighted by the council's agreement for nine Faculty applications:

- Whorral Bench installation at St Paul's Churchyard;
- Moving altar and frontals from St Paul's Church Foxdale to St Luke's Church Baldwin & removing a shelf from the sanctuary of St Luke's Church;
- Remove a chandelier from St Luke's Church Baldwin to Old St Runius and reposition a chandelier already installed in the Old Church;
- Removal of the damaged shed in the burial ground at St Paul's Church, Foxdale;
- The 'Memorial Scroll' / 'Roll of Honour' becomes the property and responsibility of the Trustees of the Foxdale Heritage Centre;
- To replace the current oil-fired heating system in Marown Church with infrared heaters;
- The external envelop and bell cote of the East gable end of St Luke's, Baldwin are renovated; and the timber-framed windows to the nave and back room of St Luke's, Baldwin, are replaced to match existing; and
- To renovate the exterior and interior of Old St Runius, re-pointing with lime mortar, renovating the porch steps, installing rainwater goods and a bench, removing the lampstands and renovating the interior with lime wash.

Many of these Faculties have received approval and the work completed; the applications for the major projects at each of the three churches are currently under review.

Beyond our Parish, PCC members have participated in regular Western Mission Partnership and Synod meetings. The valuable contributions of all members of the PCC are acknowledged: Chrissie Carter, Malcolm Clague, Nancy Clague, Simon Dunn, Paul Everett, Nicholas Poole-Wilson, Sue Sayle, Sarah Spenser, David Ward, Revd. Canon Janice Ward (Chair), Sue Waring (Treasurer).

Rosemary M Gibson, PCC Secretary

## Financial Report

I am pleased to present the 2025 accounts for the Parish of Marown, Foxdale and Baldwin.

Briefly:- The total income shows an increase of £6,660. Please note this is due to receipt of an insurance claim made in 2024, and is exceptional. Planned giving at the same time has reduced and can never be consistent. Our main fundraising income comes from TT and MGP. However, events held in church (church activities) have brought in a significant increase. Expenditure is slightly down even though our Shared Ministry Fund was increased and unfortunately this has been increased again for 2026. Otherwise, expenditure is in line with previous years.

At the Annual Meeting, should anyone wish to discuss any aspect or requires more detailed information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sue Waring, Parish Treasurer

## Annual Safeguarding Report

Promoting a safe environment is a duty shared by every member of our congregation. We are all responsible for the safety and well-being of the children and adults in our church community.

As the Safeguarding Officer for Marown Parish, I am the primary point of contact for volunteers and church members to report disclosures or protection concerns. When necessary, I escalate these matters to the Diocesan Safeguarding team, including:

Lisa Morris (Diocesan Safeguarding Support Officer) 07624 494688

[lisa.morris@sodorandman.im](mailto:lisa.morris@sodorandman.im)

Abbey Clephane-Wilson (Safeguarding Advisor and Coordinator) 07436 589606

[safeguarding@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@manchester.anglican.org)

Safeguarding training is up to date, and all relevant individuals are either trained or currently undergoing appropriate training. To maintain high standards, we use the 'Parish Safeguarding Dashboard,' which allows the PCC and me to track our progress and manage safeguarding requirements effectively.

Karen Hunter, Parish Safeguarding Officer

## Annual Report on Fabric, Goods & Ornaments of Marown Church

### Fabric and Maintenance

**New Heating Project:** This remains our primary focus. Following our application to the Boiler Hardship Fund 2030, a Faculty has been submitted. We anticipate that work will commence after TT, during which time the church will be closed to allow the project to be completed safely.

**Storm Damage:** We are still addressing the effects of the storm in December 2024. The inner roof above the upper room (north-west corner) has decaying timbers requiring attention. We are awaiting Clawsons to carry out repairs, though further work may be necessary in the future.

**Redecoration:** Once the roof is watertight, the mezzanine and upper room will require redecoration. As these spaces are currently unused, this is not an urgent priority, but will need to be addressed in the future.

**Churchyard:** Church wardens continue to care for the churchyard and thanks should be given to Steve Taylor who has worked hard to maintain it this year.

### Worship and Liturgy

**Rotas:** The reading rota for Sunday and major services is vital for encouraging active participation and ensuring the smooth running of worship. I would also like to offer our sincere gratitude to our flower arrangers; your work is a wonderful act of witness that enhances the church's atmosphere. Following our 'thank you tea', we have encouraged the use of eco-friendly materials and Fairtrade flowers to better care for our environment.

**Preparation:** During the cold weather of Spring '26, Dave and I have prepared the South Transept for worship. Ongoing duties include lighting candles, displaying hymn numbers, setting out orders of service and hymn books, and preparing the Clavinova and sound system. We also remain responsible for counting the collection after services. I'd also like to offer our thanks to those who prepare refreshments for the end of the service. I know how much we all enjoy this time of fellowship together.

### Community and Governance

**TT/MGP Catering:** I would like to extend a huge thank you to all our volunteers: you are an essential part of the Marown team during the racing periods. It should also be noted that a significant amount of work goes into preparing for the TT, from the initial shopping for groceries, drinks and milk, to the cooking of pasties, bacon and sausage rolls, and the preparation of soups, curries, chilli, and baked potatoes, as well as the baking of cakes and scones. Your hard work is greatly appreciated. We had many compliments from our guests last year, thanking us for the wonderful food and our warm welcome.

**Archdeacon's Visitation:** Canon Janice and the Churchwardens are currently preparing for this year's Visitation by completing the required paperwork and ensuring all parish documents are fully up to date.

**Marown Burial Authority:** Churchwardens continue to serve on the Burial Authority, overseeing the management of the cemetery to ensure it remains a respectful place for the community.

**Looking Ahead:** As we look to the coming year, we warmly invite anyone who feels called to help to join our catering team or the flower and reading rotas. Your contribution, however small, helps our church remain a vibrant and welcoming place for all.

Karen Hunter, Church Warden

## Annual Report on Fabric, Goods & Ornaments of St Runius (Old) Church

The old church continues to provide a place of interest and sanctuary to Island residents and visitors alike. From the comments in the Visitors' Book, the church is valued and enjoyed for its simplicity and peace in an increasingly chaotic world. All of the activities at the old Church are promoted through an occasional newsletter or social media posts, which I prepare.

**Services:** We held some lovely and well attended services at OSR over the past year. On Easter Saturday (19<sup>th</sup> April) , there was a baptism of a baby from Foxdale; the family decorated the church so beautifully for this special occasion and the church was packed with young families. On 24<sup>th</sup> May, we hosted a service for Praying the Keeills week, providing refreshments afterwards, which were much appreciated. Then we had the usual Harvest Festival (12<sup>th</sup> October) and Christmas morning services, both well attended. These services provide important out-reach to a different congregation to that which worships regularly in the new parish church. For all of these services, particularly Harvest Festival and Christmas, the church was beautifully decorated.

**Graveyard:** We have continued to manage St Runius' graveyard in an environmentally-friendly way. Last year, Steve Taylor started to cut all of the grass more often (wherever possible collecting the cuttings), just reserving one or two areas as wild-flower meadow; these areas are not being cut between Easter and July to allow summer wild-flowers to bloom and set seed. Most recently, he has done a lot of work to tidy the enclosed graves, removing invasive saplings and brambles. He has also cleared the area around the old sign at the entrance. This is to make way for our beautiful new sign, with the same information as the old one, created by the talented sign-writers Sneaky Weasel from Peel; this will hopefully be erected in the next few weeks.

The wych elm tree saplings, kindly donated by Vivien Roworth and planted by David Ward and Doug Chalk, are mostly doing well in the NW area of the graveyard.

**Conservation works:** Following discussions with experts including the Diocesan Surveyor, Registered Buildings Officer and an expert from MNH, we have submitted paperwork to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches and applied for Registered Buildings Permission to renovate the exterior of the church. The works will involve:

- Installation of a small eco-drain along the N- and W- facing walls to collect water that runs off the higher ground, and re-direct it to a soakaway installed between the porch and the old south entrance to the graveyard;
- Installation of discrete cast iron guttering along the N and S walls to protect the masonry and ground next to the church from the heavy downpours we now experience. The water will be directed into the eco-drain and soakaway;
- Raking out the old cementitious mortar from S- and W-facing walls and porch steps (thoroughly removing all vegetation first), then re-pointing these walls and any cracks in bell tower with lime mortar;
- Redecorating the interior.

Following these applications, the Manx Independent newspaper ran a delightful piece "Historic church set to receive makeover", which was enjoyed by many readers and attracted lots of positive comments online.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who helps at the old church – whether cleaning before services, decorating it for Harvest Festival / Christmas, serving refreshments or supporting our efforts behind the scenes.

Rosemary M Gibson, Church Warden

## Annual Report on Fabric, Goods & Ornaments of St Luke's Church, Baldwin

Over the last 12 months we have taken great strides forward, with the foundation being the development of our Vision and Mission Statements. With this clear purpose and direction, we have been able to focus and prioritise our purpose, energies and tasks.

**Vision Statement for St Luke's, Baldwin:** Facilitating Encounters with God and Caring for His Creation

**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

**Highlights of the year:**

With the above in mind we have had a number of standout events.

- Welcoming a number of speakers at our Guest Services from local environmental and wildlife organisations, including the Manx Wildlife Trust, Manx Birdlife Trust and the Peat Preservation Group. All gave an engaging presentation about the work they are currently involved in, and what we can be doing as a Church and as individuals.
- Hosting Rev Alex Brown as he performed his vibrant presentation of the Gospel of St Luke.
- Welcoming the Mariner's Choir. This is always a wonderful evening and is well supported. We are grateful to the choir's annual return (as they are grateful for the amazing supper – aka tab nabs - which many people contribute towards). They will be joining us this year on 5<sup>th</sup> July.
- Joining up with Abbeylands Methodist Chapel. The congregation have been very welcoming and have joined us for a number of special services, as we have also joined them. This all started with a walk from St Luke's to Abbeylands, a special service and wonderful refreshments, and a return walk to St Luke's concluding with a service of Evening Prayer. I hope this was the first of many such joint events. The walk was led by Phil Craine who guided us in some mindfulness and prayer along the way.
- The Friends of St Luke's organised a concert, supper and auction of local goods at harvest time. "Mine's a Shanty" provided wonderful entertainment and the evening was a successful fund raiser.
- Christmas is always a highlight. The Church was beautifully decorated for the Manx Footpath Conservation Group who join us every year for their Lessons and Carol Service. It is always good to welcome such a friendly group. Manx Voices choir joined us for St Luke's carol service which was very atmospheric and appreciated by the congregation. They enjoyed it so much that they have included it in their diary for this coming Christmas!

**190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans:** We will be celebrating the 190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the consecration of St Luke's Church with 2 special events. These are to tie in with the year of the Manx language.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May Caarjyn Cooidjagh choir will be performing a concert for us followed by refreshments. This multi-talented choir have performed for us before, and even sang up at the stone circle at the site of the Old Tynwald. This will be a wonderful evening.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May the Bishop will be joining us for an Evening Prayer service which will be bi-lingual. The Psalm and Readings will be in Manx (with the translation in the Orders of Service).

We are looking forward to these events being a worthy celebration of the Church's recent and more ancient history.

**Upcoming Works:** There are a number of issues relating to the fabric and contents of the building which require attention this year. These include the removal of the pipe organ, the replacement of the windows in the Nave and Back Room, extensive work to the internal and external faces of the East wall and bellcote and works to several circuits of the electrical installation. These will all come at a considerable cost, and we are gearing up for more fundraising events.

We are looking at alternative sources of renewable energy for St Luke's. The boiler is nearing the end of its serviceable life which gives us the opportunity to look into net zero carbon alternatives

**Eco-Church:** We are enthusiastic about being involved in the T25 initiative. As a rural Church we are ideally placed for several of the categories. We hope that more guest speakers over the coming year will help us to champion the various endangered species.

**In Conclusion:** It is going to be a year of positive works as we move forward with our Vision and Mission. Although a little daunting at times, I feel inspired by the support from many different people and organisations. Even the comments left in the Visitors Book are a joy.

On a personal note I would like to thank all those who are involved with St Luke's. I think we make a great team, and I always feel that everyone does all that they can for this special fellowship in lots of different ways.

Sue Sayle, Church Warden

## **Eco Report**

We had two eco guest services at St Luke's in 2025:

Sarah Hickey from the Manx Peat Partnership gave us an excellent talk on the work being done to restore areas of peat on the Manx uplands.

Sebastian Swithinbank of the Manx Wildlife Trust gave us a really interesting account of his work as warden of the two rewilding nature reserves in the Baldwin valleys. The trust are using these areas to recreate the temperate rainforest that covered most of the island in the past.

Marown church has been developing its plans for a low emissions replacement for its heating system and we hope that we be able to install this in 2026.

Old St Runius and St Luke's churchyards are both being managed for nature. The Diocese has launched an initiative, T25, where all churches are being encouraged to choose two areas of conservation. It will be great if each of our churches picks two areas that can be encouraged within our churchyards.

Simon Dunn, Parish Eco Church Rep

## **Diocesan Synod Report**

As is the custom in our diocese, there have been three meetings of the Diocesan Synod over the past year.

In July 2025, Bishop Mark Davies presided since Bishop Tricia was on compassionate leave following the death of her husband Andrew. The main items of business for the meeting were an update on the financial position of the diocese (needing to draw on reserves) and the Archdeacon (Ven Irene Cowell) outlining grant submissions by the diocese for funding of Mission and Ministry initiatives across the diocese from the Central Church.

At the meeting in November 2025, Bishop Tricia presided over the meeting and thanked everyone for their support and prayers over recent months. The main items of business were reflections and discussion on the theme of communications which were to be fed back to the Diocesan Communication Group with a view to making communication across the diocese easier and more effective.

Bishop Tricia presided again at the recent March 2026 meeting, and spoke on the theme of 'Manx faith, identity and culture' in this the year of the Manx language. The Dean of the cathedral (Very Revd Nigel Godfrey) introduced the 'Spiritual Tourism Strategy' an ecumenical paper aimed at encouraging tourism to our cultural and spiritual places of interest across the island. The other main item was the presentation of the 'Creation Care Policy' by Louise Whitelegg, the Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Officer. This policy was received by the Synod with some minor revisions to be done.

Revd Canon Janice Ward

## Vicar's Annual Report

Another year has rolled by with its accompanying joys and some sorrows, its successes and challenges.

Frustratingly, as I write this report, we are still waiting to hear about the Church of England grant for our heating project at Marown Church. This is crucial to us maintaining a warm and welcoming space for worship and community activities.

As I noted in last year's report, we need, as a Church family, to consider how we serve the wider, non-Church, community, those people across our parish who seldom, if ever, come to worship of any kind. We need appropriate atmospheres in our churches to be able to do this for future mission and outreach.

There are also works needed to the fabric of St Luke's Church, Baldwin and Old St Runius; both are much loved by visitors so it vital we maintain them and keep them as welcoming places too. The ultimate benefit of all these projects will be to continue to provide sacred, spiritual and peaceful places for individual and corporate worship, places of refuge and retreat from a busy world, havens for wildlife and humans, as well as hubs for civic and family occasions. I continue to hope you will feel able to support them.

As always, I wish to express my sincerest thanks to everyone who contributes to the life of our parish. Our Churchwardens and PCC members make a significant contribution to the smooth running of the parish and we would not be able to function without them; as ever I am hugely appreciative of their efforts and support. Our Readers, Heather Paisley and Nancy Clague, continue to offer valuable gifts of ministry and preaching which enrich our worship, as do our organists, Don Roworth (now moved to Ramsey) and Kath Blackburn, along with a small army of other people who make our churches welcoming, safe and comfortable.

Every blessing

Revd Canon Janice Ward

## Annual Report from Marown Mothers' Union Branch

Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Sodor and Man continues to search for ways of spreading our message of help and support for families, here on the Isle of Man as well as world-wide and Marown branch is part of that effort. We support these initiatives wherever it is possible, either financially or with our presence, as we do with the prison work. We continue to participate in all MU Diocesan activities such as the Advent service and Quiet Evening.

Branch numbers are diminished this year by the loss of two members, Mrs. Eileen Speers and Mrs. Ann Williams. They were both active and lively members of the branch and are much missed. We now number only seven active members with Mrs. Tanya Thompson now an indoor member as she is unable to attend our meetings, having moved to residential care in Peel.

Our meetings are generally held at our leader, May Corlett's house as this is the most suitable venue for her, with her reduced mobility, though we meet at church if that is the better option. We continue to meet regularly between September and April/May but have reduced our meetings to monthly rather than twice-monthly. We don't generally have a speaker but enjoy the chance to get together and feel this provides a valuable help for our members. We are very grateful for Canon Janice's membership, as she continues to offer support and participation in our activities.

We have enjoyed some social afternoons, including a Christmas lunch with partners at the Hawthorn Inn in December and a splendid afternoon tea in Church in January, provided by Canon Janice and David. We are looking forward to our Festival in April and to celebrating Mothers' Union's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary later this year, where we will join with our sisters in other IOM branches.

We have recently joined with Braddan branch for a couple of their meetings as they still are able to book speakers, having slightly larger numbers to call on. We have enjoyed being able to support them and are considering the possibility of joining our branch to theirs. This would have to be agreed by all our members at our AGM in April or May.

In September, subject to this decision, we will reaffirm our membership of the branch and the Diocesan Federation for the coming 2026/7 session with a Holy Communion service.

Liz McGirr, Branch Secretary