

# **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PARISH OF MALEW AND SANTAN**

## **The Diocese of Sodor and Man**

**2025**



Welcome to this report in which we try to share a flavour of the life and work of the parish, in 2025, with its great joys and sometimes its challenges.

Thank you to every person who gives to this cause- be it their time, their presence, their caring, their prayers, sharing of talents or finances- you are appreciated and God sees your heart.

I repeat the prayer I shared in last year's report, from "Leading your church into growth" which helps us focus on our calling and reason for being, and is very apt for the forthcoming season of Pentecost:

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to YOUR Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.

Help our churches to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you and in service to our local communities, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Revd Ruth Walker, Vicar of The Parish of Malew and Santan

(from February 2026; previously Priest in Charge)

### **Safeguarding, Health & Safety Annual Report 2025**

Safeguarding continued to be applied throughout our Parish with very little to report. All training is due to commence in 2026 as it will be three years since the last sessions were completed.

Safeguarding is an important part of Church for us all as we seek to protect both the young and vulnerable adults.

We have new members of the church to be added to the training list in 2026 and these will also be required to undertake DBS applications.

The Dioceses has set up e-mail addresses for each Safeguarding officer so that issues and concerns can be reported separate from their private e-mail addresses, and to reinforce confidentiality. For our Parish the e-mail address is [psomalewandsanton@sodorandman.im](mailto:psomalewandsanton@sodorandman.im)

These details can now be found on posters hanging in each of the 4 churches of the Parish.

Ellen Halliwell, Parish Safeguarding Officer

### **Kirk Malew Annual Report 01.01.2025 – 31.12.2025**

- ***The repaired stained glass window*** was replaced at the end of January and signed off by Guy Thompson.
- ***The church and burial ground graveyard*** continue to attract many visitors from across the world. It is interesting to read in our Visitors' book who has visited, from where and why.
- ***The rodents*** are no longer evident so we continue to be careful not to leave foodstuff or wax candles in the church.
- ***WW1&2 Memorial Book*** - Roy Storrs did a tremendous amount of work on this. We hope to complete it before Remembrance Day 2026.
- ***Both the Malew Burial ground and the Malew Graveyard Trust*** is the responsibility of the Burial Authority.

### **To be completed:**

- ***The windows and doors by the font*** are in a poor state of repair and await repair. However, one window has been removed and the gap boarded up.
- ***The vault outside the West entrance*** has been investigated and initial plans were drawn up. However, more preparatory work is required before we can apply for Registered Building Consent and a faculty. A Public Notice was displayed from 19 November 2023 and there were no recorded objections. We still have the £500 donated by the film company towards repairing the vault.
- ***Repair the entrance gateway.***
- ***Prepare notices to inform visitors*** about the church and graveyard.
- ***Paint inside the West entrance*** and renew the notice boards.
- ***Update the Terrier***, purchase more pew cushions and planters for the West Entrance.

### **Serv ices, Mission and Events**

- ***Christingle service*** – was an enjoyable event with candles in oranges for the entire congregation.
- ***Illiam Dhone Service*** was cancelled by the organisers.
- ***The Candlemas service*** was enhanced by the delightful Peree Bane Dancers and musicians, and appreciated by performers, visitors and the entire congregation.
- ***Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday*** services went well
- ***Sunday service*** followed by an Easter Egg Hunt was enjoyed by the children.
- ***In April, we were pleased to welcome the Bishop.*** She led the service to confirm Mateusz, commission Pat Tattersall as a Liturgical Assistant, and to bless both the Processional Cross and the repaired window. It was an enjoyable and meaningful service. The organ music was wonderful and the church beautifully decorated. We were delighted that the Bishop and her husband stayed to chat to the participants and congregation over the delicious refreshments. We hope the Bishop will visit us again.

- ***The Flower Festival at the end of June*** – again the church was beautifully decorated with the racing bike display being a great attraction to the numerous visitors.
- ***The S100 Bikers' service and kiosk*** in July were tremendous successes with all the visiting spectators both local and from elsewhere. The kiosk raised over three thousand pounds thanks to Pat and her many helpers. However, it was exhausting so the organisation will be reviewed for next year.
- ***Harvest service in October*** was another opportunity to have the benefit of the lovely Perree Bane ***The Easter*** dancers and musicians.
- ***Remembrance Day service*** - Rev. Peter Upton-Jones led this moving service with Clive playing suitable organ music as we did not have a Standard Bearer or a Bugler.
- ***Carols by Candlelight*** was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. It was led by Revd Ruth with readers and soloists, and beautifully accompanied by Castletown Metropolitan Band, the Manx Choir, and Clive at the organ. We were grateful to Angus for our lovely Christmas tree and for decorating it again this year. The festive refreshments and the donated wine and soft drinks were great successes.
- ***The congregation is declining*** so, whilst the last three services were successful, it was a lot of work for very few people to organise and publicise the services, arrange refreshments and decorate the church each time.
- ***The Christmas Day service*** was cancelled most of the congregation were away.

## Outreach

As Castletown was the ancient capital of the island, the church and graveyard are important spiritually, architecturally and historically to the Manx nation. The Tourist Board arrange trips that stop at Malew so visitors can see the so called 'Vampire Grave'. However, we want to encourage these visitors to explore the church and graveyard. To do this we would like to provide information notices, inside and outside the church. The church continues to attract many other visitors to admire the Church, Manx Cross, Carved Stones and the items on display in the cabinet. Kirk Malew receives many visitors from the UK and from across the world whose ancestors were married or are buried here.

As far as possible, we keep in touch with those who are ill or were members of our congregation.

**Jo Storrs 26.03.2026**

## Abbey Church January-December 2025

The Abbey church has been continuing to evolve under the guidance of Rev Ruth's management. We have continued to maintain our existing congregation with some added new faces. There are regularly two, sometimes three, children attending services and more when there are special Sunday services.

Special services for 2025 started with The Mariners Service in February. As always this was well attended and a good supper provided by The Abbey Church caterers. In March the Commissioners Civic service was attended by a full congregation in the Abbey Church. We

were treated again to the wonderful sound of the Glenfaba Chorale and then with a buffet provided in the Village Hall by the Commissioners.

Our Easter services in April commenced with, Maundy Thursday in the evening, remembering the Lords last supper. On Good Friday morning, in the Abbey Church Hall, there were Children's activities and in the afternoon was a vigil service. Our Easter Sunday service was also well attended with an Easter egg hunt for the children in the church grounds afterwards.

In October there was a beautiful Harvest service with the Church filled with harvest flowers, fruit and veg. Ballasalla school came along mid-week and provided us with a delightful day of singing and joy.

In November, the Remembrance service, as always, was well attended including the addition of the Guides, Brownies, Scouts and the British Legion. Also in November was the All-Souls service remembering those who died throughout the year and all those who have passed before. A very quiet and reflective service with the congregation having the opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones.

December commenced with a Christingle service, held during the Sunday morning service, the collection of which goes to The Children's Society. The annual Carol Service was held on a Sunday evening followed by tea and coffee in the hall. The Church was full again, and featured the parish music group AMPP and Tony Connell, our guest organist, with special local singers invited to come and sing. On Christmas Eve afternoon the Nativity play was performed which always takes on a life of its own as children and adults are asked to join in on an impromptu basis with much fun. Afterwards there were refreshments in the hall (including mince pies). At 11:30 was our Midnight service with a large congregation. On Christmas Day there was a peaceful morning service at 10:30.

## **Fundraising**

Our fundraising for the year; Beetle Drives ran throughout the year. Pancake Tuesday, Lent Lunches (5no.), The Spring Fayre, TT Café (on 4 days this year), Helens Harvest Tea, Harvest Supper, Christmas Fayre and Bridge club Christmas Lunch. In February AMPP help a music and supper evening on the theme of "Love is all around." In April the Island folk group "Mines a Shanty" also fulfilled a promise to Ellen by holding an evening of music and supper and donated their normal fee to the church. All events were very well received and raised money for the Church. We thank all those involved who made all these events a success.

## **Church Hall**

The Church Hall continues to be used extensively by the Church for fundraising and by other members/ groups in the wider community.

During the year we have regular users, such as the Bridge Club every Wednesday afternoon, The Youth Club every Wednesday evening, yoga Tuesday evening, The Beetle Drive once a month on a Friday evening a great family event. Mums & Tots on a Thursday morning followed by the Brownies/Rainbows late afternoon. Coffee morning every Friday morning.

## **Abbey Grounds**

Many thanks to those who have tended and looked after the gardens in the Church Grounds which are always very attractive. In addition, thanks especially to Phil Burnett for cutting the grass.

## **Church and Hall Buildings**

Thank you to those who behind the scenes have cleaned the Church and Hall.

Ellen Halliwell

## **Airbnb Report St Marks Schoolroom 2025**

Thank you very much to Doreen, Jenny, Carole and Kevin and Orry too, for all your hard work overseeing the Schoolroom for Air BnB in 2025 (and from its opening). And thank you for agreeing to continue with some involvement with preparation/ cleaning/ meeting guests etc in 2026. Revd Ruth.

The year 2025 was our last year accepting Airbnb guests at St Mark's schoolroom. It was decided by the Vicar and Wardens to stop using Airbnb and consider using the St Mark's Schoolroom for more local activities and meetings. Last year (2025) we greeted the number of 72 adults, 11 children and 1 baby. Even though we have cancelled Airbnb, we will still accept private guests to stay at the schoolroom providing the room is free and there are no local activities being held on the dates.

Even with the Airbnb being cancelled there is still work to do at the schoolroom that is ensuring that the schoolroom is clean and tidy. (From a report from Doreen Christian)

Other groups/ individuals also rented out the Schoolroom in 2025 and it was used for St Marks church post service gatherings.

RW

## **AMPP Annual Report for the Parish of Malew and Santan 2025**

Last year I reported that AMPP ( the Abbey Church music group) was formed "over 15 years ago". That is true but Barry, Bobba, Marc and myself recently realised that our group was actually formed in 2006 (20 years ago – how time flies!)

In 2025 AMPP continued to provide most of the musical accompaniment in services at the Abbey Church, along with "guest appearances", in whole or in parts, at other churches in the parish.

In addition, the Abbey Church has continued to be fortunate to have student organist Carys Hoile, organist Tony Connell, and Chris Callow to play at other services and alongside AMPP on occasion. Recently, we've also benefitted with the addition of Alexander, a student at King

Williams College, who should be able to continue to assist with our music in 2026. Thank you to all 4 of you

During the past year AMPP provided the music at 30 Sunday services solely (as soloists, duets, trios or quartet), another 5 services alongside an organist and the remainder taken by the organists alone. Carys principally helped with Easter and Christmas services in University Holiday periods and Tony continued to play played one Sunday in each month. Marc, our excellent sound engineer, again provided recorded accompaniment at the Remembrance Service in November.

The Christmas Carol service in the Abbey Church was again very well attended by a large congregation with music being provided jointly by Tony and AMPP with guest soloist singers Joy and Caydance. The Parish Choir of singers from throughout the parish also made a full contribution to the event. Joy's young voice was also heard for the first time in April when she sang one of her favourites "Jesus loves me." We hope to hear more from our soloists next year.

AMPP 's annual concert of more secular music to raise funds for the Parish and for charity was this year held in February based upon a Valentine theme ("Love is all around"). All the tickets for the event were sold out before the day of the concert and over £1000 was raised for Church funds and a donation to Manx Hospice.

We look forward to continuing to enjoy providing music to the parishioners of Malew and Santon during 2025.

AMPP - Abbey and Malew Parish Players

### **St Marks Church Report 2025**

In general St Marks Church fabric is in good condition. The floorboards that are exposed and were untreated have now been varnished and the cost met by a member of the congregation and this has enhanced their appearance.

The 'Visitors Book' shows the Church is visited regularly by both local and visitors world wide. Lovely and complimentary comments are noted, most often feeling the peacefulness of the Church.

Regular Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion and usually one BCP Morning Prayer are held at 08.00 am (Joint Parish 11am Eucharist rotates around the parish) plus some extra special services, including six evening services at 6.30pm.

6th January 2025 we started the year celebrating 'Epiphany' together with some of the congregation from Ballagarey Chapel sharing the readings. We enjoyed a lovely soloist and afterwards gathered for refreshments.

1st March 2025 St Marks hosted a joint Parish service with a faith lunch after, in the Schoolroom.

18th April 2025 'Good Friday' we were joined again by Ballagarey Chapel for a 'service of reflection' with Bible readings and song. Music was provided by the Abbey music group AMPP and Carys played the organ.

20th April 07.00 am outdoor 'Sonrise' communion service with hymns. We had 2 attendees and enjoyed bacon bap breakfast afterwards, with thanks to Kevin Bott.

4th May 2025 St Marks celebrated 'Rogationtide' at our 6.30pm service with gentle prayer, Bible readings, hymns, and a walk around the village, ending at Ballagarey Chapel for prayers, and enjoying refreshments. We thank all the participants who read at the stations and particularly Phil Gawne for reading in Manx language and Ballagarey for hosting supper.

Also in May St Marks Church held services for a funeral and a Wedding.

3rd to 8th July 2025 St Marks joined in the Southern Flower Festival and had a lot of visitors enjoying the arrangements.

3rd August 2025 Briarfield Brass Ensemble joined us for a very enjoyable Evening service. And as they say 'raised the roof'. The theme was Joy in Simplicity.

7th September 2025 Laxey Handbell Ringers joined us and were very much enjoyed. The theme here was "Celebrating Friendship". St Marks donated part of our collection to their charity of choice 'Deaf Society'; again we all enjoyed refreshments post service.

5th October 2025 we were joined by a visiting Choral choir 'Voces Insulae' who sang a formal Evensong that was very much enjoyed and again refreshments were provided.

2nd November 2025 A parish joint service was held at St Marks at 11am, again finishing with a faith lunch.

7th December 2025 we celebrated Advent at our 6.30pm again joined by our friends from Ballagarey Chapel. We were treated to two lovely solos from Karen Elliott, who along with her husband John who played the organ. Again refreshments were enjoyed.

25th December 2025 Christmas Day 08.00 Service. A lovely way to start the day and reflect on the birth of Jesus.

So as you can see St Marks has had a busy year and thanks goes to Ruth for sourcing the much varied services for our enjoyment. It was much appreciated.

Unfortunately the year was marred on 17th September 2025 by the passing of Reverend Canon Brian Kelly who over a number of years served and took part in the services of St Marks. He was always very willing and seen us through some difficult times eg interregnum and sabbatical times when there were vacancies.

Jenny Corrin

*The site is an extremely ancient one dating from the time of St Ninian and dedicated to one of his followers (who may have possibly been associated with one of the two keels on the site)*

*There is a re-burial in the corner of the current oldest churchyard from the former medieval churchyard across the lane and two natural wells that abut the lane and the church centre site. The new churchyard (1950) is now full but land was consecrated in 2023 to provide an additional area for graves and ashes plots and our first burial in the new graveyard took place at the end of the year. The church centre is currently used for community provision during the weekdays as a children's nursery. There is a large and easily accessible car park on the glebe land opposite the church building, and now the additional land provides amenity and non-consecrated burial land for the growing populations of the parish as well as the long proposed developments at Newtown.*

*Trust funds tied to the fabric and general maintenance of the building exist.*

## **The Congregation**

This has again been a challenging year in many ways. There has been a continued generous support to the church from our dedicated congregation despite the age and the growing illness and infirmity of many of the members. We continue to host weddings, baptisms and funerals as well as the normal weekly services this year. Congregations are usually around a dozen and at these special services have filled the church.

We have continued to welcome several ordained celebrants, as well as our lay readers Ellen and Howard. We give thanks to all who have given so generously of their financial resources, time and talents to ensure the continuance of this church as a place of worship and quiet meditation. Last year was marred by the loss, through extended illness, of our wonderful organist, Ron Fargher. His talented and always prayerful support has provided a constant heartbeat to our services and we missed him greatly and are pleased to include him again in our congregation. We give thanks to Sarah, Chris, Alexander and Peter Jones; organists who have supported our services this year. It has been great to welcome AMPP as well.

The Nursery's naïve Nativity again filled the church with joy in December; and the afternoon carol service was well attended as was Christmas morning with Rev Margaret Fourie. The decoration of the church for festivals has been stepped down this year because of lack of personnel but thanks go to all who continue to give their financial support, time and talents to making the church so lovely.

## **The outside areas**

- ❖ In the *newly consecrated burial ground* further action and expenditure will be needed to allow wet weather access to the site, and some planning and setting out of grave plots. The stone wall, completed in September, has partially enclosed the site but will still allow further development of a variety of funereal provision for the community.
- ❖ *The churchyards* A new contract has been agreed for ongoing maintenance and the grounds are now managed by Mr Kinrade and are looking much better tended. We give



him our heartfelt thanks. It was of great concern to many parishioners and the Burial Authority that graves were looking unkempt.

- ❖ We are *continuing to improve the outside ambience of the church site* with a view to presenting Saint Sanctain's as a very desirable venue for a range of activity in the future. The trees in the garden are doing well and produced a lovely show of blossom last spring. The newly grassed areas are now available for *weddings* and other *community celebrations*.
- ❖ The rustic canopy by the church door, which originally sheltered the Viking stones, collapsed. As it was an addition to the original church building, the wall was repainted to make good
- ❖ *Repainting* the outside of the church and reviewing the safety of the roof and bell will be needed in 2026/7
- ❖ The Church Centre has been well maintained and redecorated by the current tenants
- ❖ *Restoration* of the boundary walls and fences is ongoing, with the parts abutting the road and nursery completed. A professional tree survey has been carried out to look at the safety of the trees around the site and several trees will be removed in 2026/7.

### **Inside the church**

The new sound system, purchased in 2024, has proved adequate and the congregation is happy with it. The acoustics of the building are good and also the organ is regularly well maintained by Peter Jones. With the help of Louise Whitelegg we have reviewed the necessary repairs and conservation needs of the building and will be seeking various faculties to do this work.

### **Future**

At present there are no comfort or adequate refreshment facilities for visitors when the centre is in daily use by the nursery. In the future, with support from the parish, we would hope to:

- ❖ Continue to improve and maintain the fabric of the building.
- ❖ Continue the ongoing de-clutter of the *organ loft area*.
- ❖ Encourage the greater use of the organ.
- ❖ Prepare *new guides* to both the church and churchyard to encourage *heritage trail* use.
- ❖ *Upgrade the Vestry and Baptistry areas* to provide secure storage, a refreshment area and safer stairs to access the organ loft.
- ❖ Extend the Church Centre building and facilities to allow greater flexibility of use to the site and a more realistic and economic use of the facility by allowing the nursery to expand.

Diane Ormond and Peter Davidson (Churchwardens)

10/06/2026

### **Report on Synod**

During the year your Synod representatives attended two of the three meetings of the Diocesan Synod, held in 2025. The meetings followed the usual Synod pattern of prayer, presidential address, minutes, reports, financial and legislative business, and discussion. Much of the business was necessarily formal, but there were a number of points of direct interest to parishes.

Bishop Tricia's early addresses set a pastoral and missionary tone, emphasising love of God and neighbour, the long Christian story of the Island, and the need for the Church to be steady, hospitable and outward-looking. In July, Bishop Mark, standing in for Bishop Tricia, spoke about vocation and ministry as belonging to the whole baptised community, not only to clergy.

The main recurring themes were mission, finance and trust. Synod discussed the emerging Diocesan Vision and Strategy, the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment bid, and possible projects around children and youth work, community engagement, and new forms of ministry. There was also a discussion about trust in the Church and, later in the year, about communication within the Diocese and with the wider community.

Financial matters included the continuing review of the Shared Ministry Fund, the 2026 Diocesan budget, and increases to parochial and legal fees. Synod noted the pressure on parish and diocesan finances, but also the grant income brought in for net zero carbon and other work.

There was also the usual legislative and governance business, including General Synod reports, changes to Church Representation Rules, the Vacancy in See difficulty for a small Diocese, and the new Cathedral Chapter arrangements.

Overall, the meetings were orderly and careful rather than lively, but they gave a useful view of the wider Diocese and the pressures and priorities now shaping parish life.

Achieving "Net Zero" by 2030 came in for some discussion, and the issue that Manx Electricity is likely not to be "Carbon Neutral" was noted.

Peter Davidson

## **Readers Annual Report 2025**

There are two licensed Readers in the Parish, Howard Connell and Ellen Halliwell. Both have taken services in all churches in the Parish this year. They have been joined by Pat Tattersall as a Liturgical Assistant who is a welcome addition to the team.

As mentioned, in last years report, a service rota has been developed to enable the various talents to be most effectively used throughout the parish in support of Rev. Ruth. Howard and Ellen have also been able to visit parishioners who are unable to attend church and provide them with communion.

As we develop our working relationships we hope we can continue to develop our mission.

## **Administration**

Church Wardens in 2025: Orry Mitchell, Jenny Corrin, Ellen Halliwell, Diane Ormond, Peter Davidson, Pat Tattersall and Jo Storrs.

PCC Members: Helen Barker, Barbara Brereton, Doreen Christian, Ashley Petit Bob Pilling and from 2025 APCM, Ann Collins. John Ormond retired from PCC in April but continues with finance work at Santon.

Diocesan Synod Representatives: Bob Pilling, Diane Ormond and Peter Davidson and Ex Officio Howard Connell as Vicar General

Southern Mission Partnership representatives: Diane Ormond, Jenny Corrin, Bob Pilling and Orry Mitchell

Doreen Christian continued to provide administrative assistance to the parish including overseeing the Air BnB facility and taking bookings for both the Abbey Hall and the St Marks Schoolroom up to the end of November 2025, when we said a huge Thank You to Doreen for very many years of assisting the church with administration, with gifts and a lovely cake at the Christingle Service.

In December Ms Rhiannon Manning joined us as Administrator; Rhiannon is the Parish Administrator for Rushen Parish too and we welcome her to the Parish of Malew and Santon. Her hours will vary as we explore what her role might include.

Helen Barker is the PCC Secretary.

Grateful thanks to you Helen as PCC Secretary.

And to Orry Mitchell: Vice Chair of PCC

The efforts of others who take and produce Minutes for Warden Meetings and offer PCC "holiday cover" support are much appreciated too.

The telephone number for administration remains 822469 with an updated answer machine message. The Postal address (mailbox is by the Hall small door) for the Parish remains

The Abbey Church Hall, Bridge Road, Ballasalla, IM9 3DA.

## **Electoral Roll**

At the 2025 APCM there were 90 names on the Electoral Roll, since that date no new names have been added. The 2026 revision identified 2 names that were no longer eligible to remain on the Electoral Roll and were removed. The Electoral Roll now stands at 88 names.

Chris Hoile Electoral Roll Officer

## **Interim Treasurers Report for APCM**

During 2025 I was supported by Chrissie Hale as bookkeeper who handled the vast majority of the day-to-day transactions, and I would like to thank her for her efforts. Due to family commitments Chrissie has had to retire from the position of bookkeeper from the end of the year, and my wife Ann has kindly agreed to take on the position in April – with the support of John Ormond for Santon - and undertake the detailed preparation of the accounts for 2025 for examination.

The preparation of accounts is almost complete, and we expect to review them in July after examination by Evolution Accounting : Toby Smith.

Peter Davidson

### **Closing comments from Reverend Ruth**

Thank you all for preparing your contributions to this Report.

2025 was a year requiring much pastoral care, and much of that associated with over 30 funerals, some for those very well known and much loved within our community. We were all shocked by the illness and death of our Bishop's husband, Andrew Hillas, in June. Bishop Tricia remains in our prayers, as do others among us, who despite personal grief, are working hard to serve God and Community.

But we had much cause for celebration too... in addition to our Sunday Services, which in themselves are always a Celebration of our reason for being-The Resurrection of Jesus.

We witnessed the licensing of Pat Tattersall as a Liturgical Assistant, five Weddings across three churches, two Baptisms, a Confirmation, and two Wedding Anniversary Blessings; new people involved in prayers, singing, reading, hospitality, cleaning, gardening and many unseen but much appreciated contributions. We had a Celebration of Friendship service at St Marks with Laxey Handbell ringers and a celebration of Joy in Simplicity with Briarfield Brass, who also brought much happiness with their playing of Christmas music (despite the rain and wind!) around three of our parish housing estates (with some very committed singers too!)

Friday Soup was always a joy with a cheerful team of volunteers welcoming many visitors, across the colder months in Abbey Hall. There was a new Christmas Day shared lunch, which we might like to build upon. Abbey Acorns Toddler Group remains a safe and welcoming place, appreciated by little ones and those who bring them. There were invitations to Youth club- they wanted a tour around Abbey church and then to ask questions about God- what a privilege! I was able to have more involvement with Ballasalla school too, attending concerts and a Christmas special! A trip to Malew Commissioner's Fun Day sowed seeds of hope for future involvement. And it is always special to Celebrate Holy Communion at Silverdale Nursing Home, where a congregation of over twenty is usual. And then there was the joy of ecumenical unity, as we welcomed friends to share at the Malew Civic service, to services in St Marks and The Abbey. In August we welcomed the new Methodist Minister Revd Christvin Edbarg who is also keen to work together in the future, where we can.

As always on the Island, there were many opportunities to deepen our faith and be more equipped in the living out of our faith – Quiet Days, Retreats, teaching from the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell on the Lord's Prayer, Island Spirituality Network meetings, weekly prayer meetings, Suicide Awareness training, advice from Motiv8, and the awe inspiring Museum of the Moon at the Cathedral, to name a few.

We have received assessments and education to help us better understand care of our older buildings – more in next years' report as we reflect on findings. Louise Whitelegg, as Church Buildings Support Officer for the Diocese has also shared her time and expertise with us, for which we are very grateful.

So armed with another year of new experiences, advice, and encouragement, and not least, the Power and Grace of the Holy Spirit, we move into 2026, praying that God would grant us serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and his wisdom to know the difference, as we seek to make Christ more Visible in the world.

Revd Ruth Walker