

Registered Building No. 11
Ref NGC/MC

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1981

THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1982

TO: The Rector and Wardens of Ballaugh,
New Rectory,
Ballaugh,
Isle of Man.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 15th day of July, 1983, the **PLANNING COMMITTEE** of the Isle of Man Local Government Board in pursuance of its powers under the Above Act and Regulations **REGISTERED** Ballaugh Old Church otherwise known as the Church of St. Mary de Ballaugh, situate at The Cronk in the Parish of Ballaugh, in the **PROTECTED BUILDINGS REGISTER**, by reason of its architectural or historic interest.

THE EFFECT OF THIS REGISTRATION IS IMMEDIATE and prohibits the alteration or demolition of the structure or appearance of any part of the building(s) except in compliance with an obligation imposed by or under any statutory provision or with the prior written consent of the Planning Committee.

Public Notice of this Registration will be published on the 29th July, 1983.

This twenty-first day of July, 1983.

By Order of the Committee

J. F. Kissack, Secretary.

Government Offices,
Bucks Road,
Douglas, Isle of Man.

NOTE

Rights of Review and Appeal against this Registration are provided under the Regulations and summarised overleaf.

A copy of Schedule 2 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1981 is appended hereto.

OLD BALLAUGH CHURCH

It is believed that a church has been located at the site of the old Ballaugh church ever since the introduction of Christianity to the Island. However, possibly the first recorded mention of a church existing on the site was in 1231, within a Papal Bull.

A church on the site was rebuilt in 1717, by Bishop Wilson, but the building of the existing church was instigated by Bishop Ward, as one of seven to be erected around the Island, and the Architect John Welch was commissioned to design the building. It was completed and consecrated on 27th September 1832.

In 1848, the Rev. John Mason Neale, a High Church leader, visited the Island and, commenting on Ballaugh Church, noted "though new, it is evidently rebuilt on the old plan, and its west facade is extremely interesting, it has a western porch, which I suppose resembled that at Kirk Maughold, and from this two flat square-edged pilasters rear up to the campanile .. which is of the same character as in our own Saxo churches. It is much to be wished that the original work remained; as it is, such a glimpse is more tantalising than instructive."

The church was restored and altered by Rev. Thomas Howard in 1849 and again in 1879 by the Rev. William Kermode.

The Old Church of St. Mary de Ballaugh

The Old Church of St. Mary de Ballaugh (from Bal-ny-laghey, homestead of the Curragh, or, more probably, from Bal-laff, Our Lady's Place) occupies a site of some importance in pre-historic times. In 1877 the grave of a young chieftain, dating hundreds of years before the coming of Christianity to the Island, was found 100 yards east from the Churchyard wall. Sepulchral urns have been found elsewhere in the parish. Like other ancient Manx Parish Churches, it is almost certainly the successor of Celtic and Norse Churches on the same site, and it contains material in its walls from previous buildings, notably the few remaining dressed stones used as cornerstones. The bell-cote resembles those in Saxon churches in England.

The church is first mentioned in a Papal Bull of 1231. The earliest known Rector was Donald McCorkyll (1408) and though little is known of the church's history before 1700, it would be like other old Manx Churches, rectangular and three times as long as wide. In 1717 it was lengthened by 21 feet, the parish paying £12 and Bishop Wilson the rest. A gable was added at the west end, adorned by two pilasters and surmounted by a bell-cote. Tradition says that the two gate pillars were purposely built leaning in. They are not earlier than the 18th century.

Between 1757 and 1777 rear and side galleries, reached by an outer double stairway rising on either side of the porch, were erected by Rector James Wilks. The present north-side windows are 18th century at the earliest, and replace two small openings of earlier times. Because the Manx people believed Jeremiah's statement that evil came from the north, there were very few windows on the north side of the Old Manx Churches.

In 1832 the new Parish Church was built. This was because the Old Church was then in a very bad state of repair, it was situated a long way from the village, and it could only seat 350 in a parish of 1487 people. For some years the Old Church was disused and fell into decay, but in 1849 it was rescued by Rector Howard who re-roofed it, removed the galleries and took down the 1717 extension to the chancel, thus reducing the length by one third. It was further restored by Rector Kermode in 1877 and again by Rector Elliott in 1955, since when it has been regularly used for Worship. Evensong is Said every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Holy Communion is Celebrated at Christmas, Easter, Harvest Thanksgiving and on the second Sunday of the month. Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals also take place.

In the Church is an 11th century Runic Cross, the only one found in Ballaugh, which shows features of the great sculptor Gaut. The weather-worn Runic lettering runs "Ouliabr Loitulfsonn raisti krs thana aftir Ulb sun Sin" (Olaf Liotulfson erected this cross to the memory of Ulf his son). The Font, made out of a red sandstone block, and built into a window-sill, is of unknown antiquity. It is decorated with a cross cut in relief, and the Manx inscription runs "Ta un Chiarn, un Credjue, un Vashtey, un Jee as Ayr jeh ooilley" ("There is one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all").

On the North-East corner of the Church is a sandstone block which once bore the word - "Salvation".

The two Jacobean chairs in the sanctuary were given by Bishop Wilson (died 1755) and the reading desk and pulpit were given by Bishop Hildesley and Rector Wilks in 1772. The earliest memorial in the Churchyard is to "Anne Ellison, 1654". The Burial Register begins at 1598 (the oldest in the Island) the Baptismal Register in 1607, and the Wedding Register in 1695. The Old Registers had become very dilapidated, so they were copied out by Thomas Howard (Rector - 1836-76).

All sorts of changes, good and bad, have occurred since 1717 when the restored church was reopened, and great events have occurred in the history of our Island and the world; but still the Old Parish Church stands here, and still people come, like their forefathers, to Worship God. It will still be here when even the youngest of us is no more, a silent witness to Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and for ever. Still visitors from our big towns come in summer to enjoy its Peace and quiet, which makes all our bustle and noise seem so silly. As you stand in the Church, remember the generations of Rectors and people who have worshipped here and who have come at times of joy and sorrow. Pray, if you will, that God will continue to make this Church a centre of sanity in our confused and unhappy world.

*THE RECTOR IS INDEBTED TO FORMER RECTOR ELLIOTT AND THE LATE
MR. DAVID CRAINE FOR MUCH OF THESE NOTES.*















