

Form RB1

Registered Building No. 130
Ref: CCM/JCS

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1981

THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1982

TO: M P Kelly
Secretary
St Lukes Parochial Church Council
Ballawyllin
East Baldwin
Isle of Man

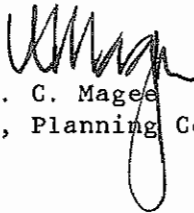
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 23rd February, 1990, the PLANNING COMMITTEE of the Department of Local Government and the Environment, in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations REGISTERED St Lukes Church, in the Parish of Braddan, as defined with a red line on the enclosed plans, in the PROTECTED BUILDINGS REGISTER by reason of its 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 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 the Registration was published on the 3rd day of May, 1990.

Dated this 26th day of April, 1990.

By Order of the Committee



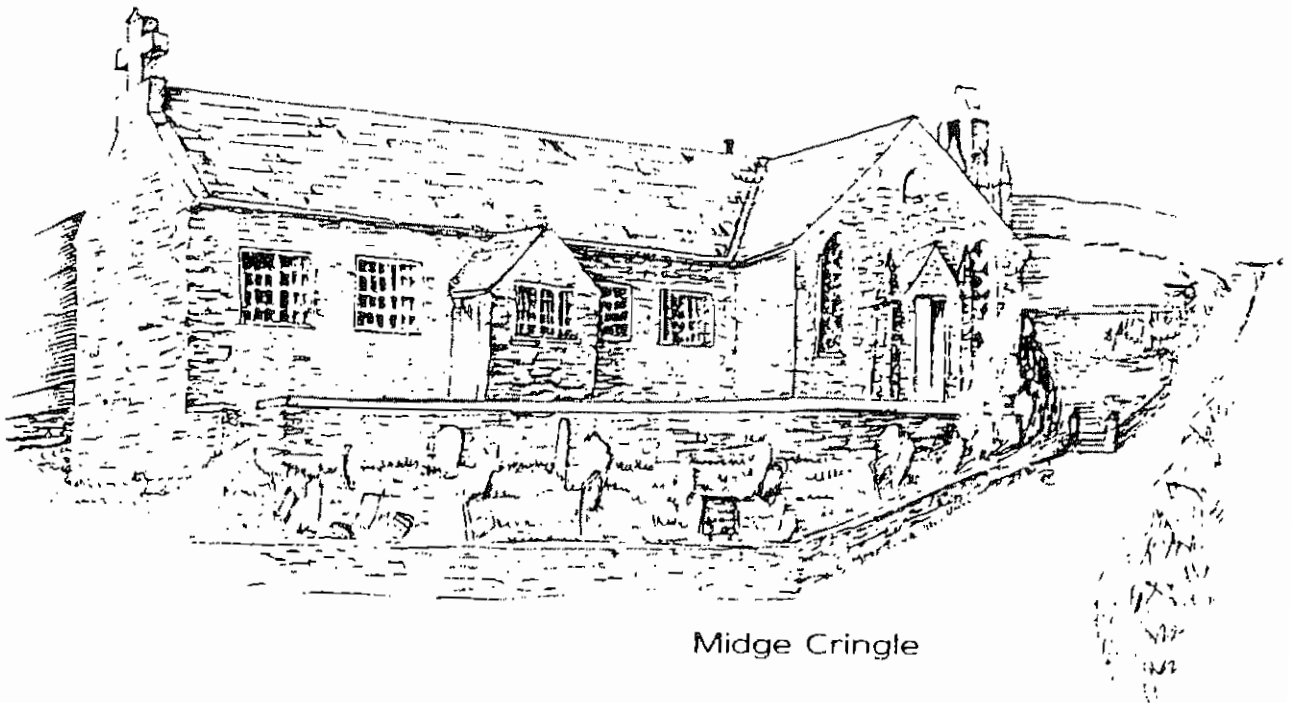
C. C. Magee
Secretary, Planning Committee

Central Government Offices,
Douglas,
Isle of Man.

NOTE: Rights of Review and Appeal against this registration are provided under the Regulations and summarised on the enclosed leaflet.

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

*St. Luke's Church
Baldwin*



Midge Cringle

BY T. S. J. COWELL

church Warden

St. Luke's Church, Baldwin

St. Luke's stands on the site of an ancient keeil, dedicated to St. Abban, and also it is known as Abban's Church of Killey Bane. Abban was an Irish Saint recorded in the Calendar of Aengus, son of O'Comar of Lainster. There is very little known about its early history, and most of the information has been gathered from people now long since passed on, or gleaned from various old history books.

Three churches have been known to have stood on this site. The first one being built by a Holyman or hermit, who lived further down in the Baldwin valley towards Injebreck, at a place called Ulican or Balla Leane (?) which he farmed. These places were flooded when the Baldwin reservoir was constructed. He built his little sod church in a hollow on the hillside, just below the ancient monument to the old Tynwald Hill, a Cairn ring of stones, a few hundred yards above the church. St. Luke's was the ancient church of Tynwald, but this site was last used around 1428.

The next church was slightly larger and was built by the inhabitants of both Baldwin Valleys, as the site stood high on the hill overlooking both valleys. The third church was the stone built keeil, built for St. Abban, when he came to administer to the people. The present church was built by Bishop Ward and consecrated on May 14th 1836, and named St. Luke's. St. Luke's was a daughter church of Kirk Braddan originally, but was transferred to the parish of Marown at the boundary change-over of July 1978.

Bishop Ward and his daughter came on horseback to the Baldwin Valley and found the existing church in a ruinous state, and decided to rebuild the present church on this site. He was staying at the Castle Mona in Douglas. He built four churches during his time on the Island, St. James' at Dalby, St. Stephen's at Sulby, St. Luke's, and All Saints at Lonan (?). The architect was Walsh, who also designed and built the Tower of Refuge.

The farmers and crofters who had a horse and cart, carted ten loads of stone each, giving two days each week for this work, from the East Baldwin river, up through Ballawyllan Farm. A quarry was also opened just behind the church for stone, and the roof slates came from the slate quarries on the side of Colden Mountain, just above the Baldwin village. The families involved included the Cannells, Cowells, Kellys, Quines and Killips.

A few stones of the ancient keeil still remain and these are incorporated into the east wall, behind the high altar, just above the east window, and under the bell turret. There is no known foundation stone to the present church, but Bishop Ward is thought to have laid a stone during the construction just below the bank level. There is a stone, a red sandstone, possibly Peel, on a windowsill on the Southeast side of the church with an incised linear cross, which is known locally as the "Cursed Stone of Destiny". It is considered to be older than the 7th century.

The story goes that a certain farmer living nearby at Algale Farm, wished to build a new cow shed and removed some stones which included the incised cross stone from the ruins of the then ancient keeil. After he had built the new cow shed, things began to go all wrong for him on the farm. All his animals became sick and died, his sheep, cows, pigs, horses and finally his wife fell ill. He became so afraid that she too would die, that he pulled down the cow shed with all haste. She survived and in thankfulness for his wife's complete recovery to good health once more, set about with gusto to help Bishop Ward to rebuild the new church in 1836.

Part of the church building was once used as a day school, under the terms of the Education Act of 1870, this portion being the west end. The schoolmaster used to ride a fine white horse, and he collected the money from the children's parents once week. For all those attending the school, it was 9 pence per child, or if you had three attending, it cost you less, 6 pence per week for each child.

Inside the church

The church is partly lit by ten brass oil lamps and heated by a large coke, peat and wood burning stove, set in the middle of the church floor. The large pipe organ came from Kentraugh Mansion House, but had been vandalised and lay broken down for 46 years. In Millenium Year 1979 it was decided to repair the organ and Messrs Wood Brothers of Huddersfield, organ builders, undertook the work.

The pulpit came from Kirk Braddan Church about 90 years ago. On the top left hand side, just below the brass candlestick, there is a groove cut into the pulpit top. This was for the preacher to place his watch or sandtimer in to judge the 80 minute sermon. The pulpit before this one was one of the tree trunk style.

The font was given in memory of Elenor Laird Warren by her father Major H. Warren in 1896.

On the collection plates are carved the inscription "God loves a cheerful Giver". The words "Praise ye the Lord" are carved over the window archway above the high altar. Carved in the wooden panels can be seen the different symbols representing the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and also those of the four Apostles, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Gilded lillies are carved on the altar radoes representing the Virgin Mary.

One quaint custom of St. Luke's in years gone by is that all the men sat on one side of the church and all the women and children sat on the other, separated by the aisles.

The Churchyard

Notable people buried in the churchyard include the gentleman who helped with composing the music for the Manx Wedding song. Also buried in the churchyard is a little girl, who played truant from St. Luke's Sunday School, and went playing at Glen Auldyn, and was drowned in the Glen Auldyn river, during a thunderstorm, on her way home.

There are also 9 paupers graves in the churchyard with a wooden headback. Doctors from Ballamona Hospital are interred in there own special plot. Many headstones have Manx inscriptions. Eight miners were killed in a gas explosion in the Chio Lead Mines, East Baldwin, and are also buried in unmarked graves, except one, William Corlett of Battery Hill, aged 34. He was very young and the people of the valley paid for his burial and headstone, which lists his death as due "Blast and Explosion".

Black death was brought to Kirk Braddan by a woman buying food from a grocers shop in Douglas Quay, which was infested with long tails (rats) from visiting ships. Many of the victims lie buried in Old Kirk Braddan churchyard in 1832, and the epidemic reached the Baldwin Valleys, where every family lost at least one member of the household. The victims were buried at St. Luke's in 1842 in a large vault or mound. Many of the old people used to walk around the mound reciting the Lords Prayer in Manx on the anniversary of the event.

Other notable graves are Messrs Kelly, the weavers from the Woollen Mills, East Baldwin, Wool manufacturers, two Welsh dressmakers from Australia, and Sir Philip Wombwell, Baronett, one of the Spittal family.

When the author's grandmother who was housekeeper to the parson Rev. Robert Cain and Rev. R. S. Butterson, who both lived at St. Luke's parsonage, came home one day with a pheasant, she cleaned and cooked the bird and he requested that she bury the crop from the bird in the corner of the churchyard, as you approach the church. This she did and from the content an Oak Tree grew, which can still be seen to this day growing next to the notice board.

On a clear day you can see the Isle of Anglesey from St. Luke's Church door, due to St. Luke's being one of the highest standing churches on the Island, 563 feet above sea level.

St. Luke's Church door is never locked, as a murderer fleeing from his victim's relatives can still seek refuge and shelter in the church, from a law enactment of Tynwald of 1422 concerning a prowess (?) in dealing of causes by means of the Sword, God and Country.

It continues to welcome persons from far and near who come to worship God in the peace and quietness of its unique vantage point overlooking the beautiful Baldwin Valleys.





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