

Registered Building No.138

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1981

THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1982

To: Miss H Rowlands
Secretary, Lezayre Parochial Church Council
6 Croft Park
Kirk Andreas
RAMSEY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 4th July 1991, the PLANNING COMMITTEE of the Department of Local Government and the Environment, in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations REGISTERED Kirk Christ Lezayre Parochial Church in the Parish of Lezayre, as defined with a red line on the enclosed plan, in the PROTECTED BUILDINGS REGISTER by reason of its architectural and 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 will be published on the 18th July 1991.

Dated this 11th day of July 1991

By Order of the Committee



M I Savage

Chief Executive

Department of Local Government and the
Environment

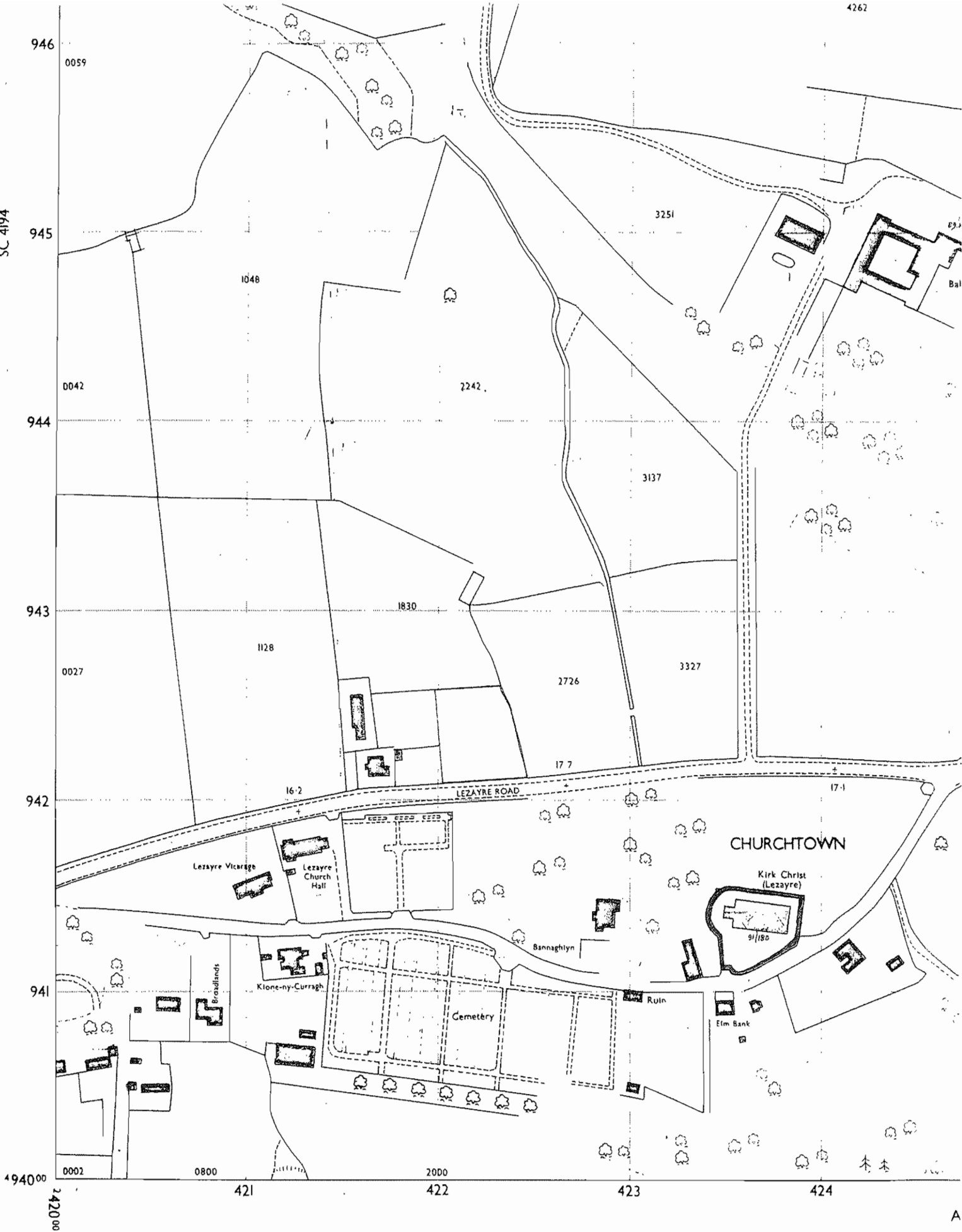
Murray House, Mount Havelock
Douglas
Isle of Man

NOTE: Rights of Review 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.

- cc - 1) Lezayre Parish Commissioners
2) Manx Museum & National Trust
3) Advisory Council

SC 4194



Surveyed by the Ordnance Survey 1984

Date of Levelling 1868

This plan is not necessarily up to date
Information about administrative bound

KIRK CHRIST PAROCHIAL CHURCH
LEZAYRE.

History.

Perhaps the most comprehensive writings on the church are to be found in "**The Annals of Kirk Christ**" written in 1954 by Reverend Canon R.D. Kermode M.A., the daughter of whom is still alive and well and a source of much information about the parish. The Annals mention:

"Of the Old Church hardly a vestige remains. It was situated in the eastern part of the Churchyard, on a portion of land levelled out on the hillside. This ground is now filled with graves. There is very little known about it before the eighteenth century.

The oldest reference is the Visitation of Bishop Foster in 1634. Unfortunately the document is in a very fragmentary condition.

Moore¹ states that in the seventeenth century "the general condition of the churches seems to have been very bad, there being entries in the records which tend to show that they were little better than barns, and in a miserable state of repair". From time to time efforts were made by the authorities to prevent the fabrics falling into decay. In 1657 the Council and the Keys issued an enactment that "the assessment for the reparacon of the Churches in this Isle...ought to be made on the ffarmers of the quarterlands according to their respective rents and upon inhabitants according to their abilities, all intack houlders, cottage houlders, Tradesmen and Townes inhabitants and this to bee made and levied by the Church-wardens for the tyme being in each yeare".

In 1683 it is recorded that there is "a great indecency and disorder in all or most of the parish churches for want of sufficient and commendable seats". The holders were therefore ordered to take "speedy course for the repairinge and making up of their respective seats and pews, in some handsome and orderly manner according to their severall abilities".

The condition of the church of Lezayre seems to have been as bad as all the rest. By the end of the century it had become ruinous, for in 1704 it was rebuilt on the ancient site by Bishop Wilson. Over the main door a stone was erected with the following inscription: To the honour of the sacred Trinity. This Church was rebuilt A.D. 1704, The Right Rev. Dr. Ts Wilson, the Bishop, Mr. Rob. Parr, the Vicar Generall, Minister; James Christian, John Curghey and Edmund Corlett and Robert Curghey, Church-wardens.

A public meeting of the principal landowners was held in the Parish Church on December 30th, 1829 "for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety and necessity of erecting a new church...upon such plan as may be agreed upon - Resolved that the Lord Bishop be solicited to issue his Authority to summon a jury of four competent men to view and report the state and condition of the said church. And we, whose names are hereunder subscribed, respectfully request his Lordship to issue such authority to the proper officer accordingly."

The Bishop issued the Authority on the next day. The report came down that the existing church was "in an insufficient state". On January 18th the Bishop ordered that the Verdict and accompanying documents should be recorded up his Registry. The Bill of the jury was £1 10s. 0d. with 2s. 6d. paid to the Clerk for drawing up the report etc.

The land on which an Assessment could be levied being reckoned as equivalent to $74\frac{3}{4}$ Quarterlands; the sum raised was £747 10s. 0d. Later a further assessment of £2 0s. 0d. was made. Presumably the balance was expended on pulling the old Church down and building a wall around a new one. I have not been able to ascertain what amount the Government paid for the Chancel, nor what the Bishop gave out of the large sum which he collected for church building. Soon after the Church was built a galley was required - not because there was not sufficient room for the congregation, but because there was not space to supply 75 Quarterland seats and a few free ones in addition. But there was no money available, so they adopted a strange expedient. They sold plots of land in the Chancel on which the purchasers would erect private pews, in addition to their Quarterland seats. Receipts for some of the payments are still preserved in the Diocesan Registry. About a dozen pew spaces were thus sold. In every case the families have died out or moved away and the pews were removed at the alterations made in 1927 and 1938. In the case of Michael Cowley the right to the pew was sold along with the house. Elm Bank is now the property of the Vicar and Wardens under the will of the late Clerk - Mr. W.K. Lacey.

Michael Cowley was guilty of a great act of vandalism. Before this time the village cross stood on a vacant piece of ground near to the churchyard gate. It was the custom for funeral parties to march around it before entering the churchyard. The old Lezayre Fair was held near it. Cowley bought the adjoining land, and then claimed that the site of the

cross was included in the purchase. There was a protracted lawsuit which finally went before the House of Keys in 1834. Cowley won his case. That was the end of the cross. It was broken up, the head was rescued and is preserved in the church porch along with many other cross heads preserved from the churchyard.

On July 11th, 1835, the Vicar, Wardens and parishoners asked the Bishop to consecrate the Church. The Act of Consecration is dated July 14th. The pews were allotted in 1838. So the new church was built, but the committee does not seem to have taken much care over its equipment etc. The Visitation of 1835 stated that the fabric, furniture are good, both Bibles new, English Prayer Books, one tolerable and one very bad, Linen, Napkins etc extremely bad - and that in the year that the church was consecrated.

The Church Today.

It is visible from the main Ramsey to Sulby Road, landmarked by the Church's own War Memorial, standing at the roadside. It is surrounded by numerous trees which make the approach to the Church very pleasurable. The Church itself is in good repair, the roof is currently undergoing replacement. The interior is perhaps more impressive still with various holy inscriptions written in Manx on the walls and plaques and wall mountings adorning the walls. One such plaque, made from brass bears the inscription:

"To the glory of God and in memory of the following descendants of Gillocrist ad 1176 in this Parish and of Ewanrigg in Cumberland from whom through more than 21 generations, Milntown passed in the direct male line AD 1380 - 1904..."

The list begins with John MacCrystyn 1380, Justiciaruis Insulae 1408 and ends with Edward Alan Christian 1879 - 1918 who died at Milntown 17th February, 1918, erected by Vio. Widow of William Bell Christian AD 1922. Amongst these is "John Christian 1602 - 1650 Deemster, imprisoned and his brother William Christian of Ronaldsway and Langness, known to his sountrymen as Iliam Dhone, 1608 - 1662 Governor and Great Patriot, shot at Hango Hill."

There are hand-sewn hassocks at the foot of every pew and at the back of the Church on the right hand side is a wall plaque bearing the names of all the Parish vicars, from Michael in 1408, to C.J. Fleetney in 1986. the newest vicar was installed on 2nd July, 1991. This plaque was presented by Miss Ruth and Major John Shaw in memory of their sister Elizabeth in 1973.

Next to the altar, at the head of the building, to the left sits the organ until 1990 cared for by Cecil Clutton CBE who was partly responsible for building the organ for St. Paul's Cathedral. Also known as an eminent historic

car and motorbike collector and horologist. His memorial service was, fittingly, held at St. Paul's.

There are various impressive stained glass windows around the Church. One erected in 1853 in the Chancel in memory of Deemster John Christian of Milntown who died in 1852 and Susanna, his wife who died in 1853.

In 1884 a window of more than ordinary interest was placed in the north side of the Church. The inscription states that it was erected by Daniel Cottier, Glasspainter in memory of his father, Daniel Cottier who died in 1847; and of his grandfather, Daniel Cottier who died in 1803. The window contains two lancets, each containing four panels surrounded by a conventional pattern. The panels represent - reading from top to bottom - on the west, **Industria, Temperantia, Caritas, Veritas**; on the east **Modestia, Patientia, Fortitudo, Castitas**. The colouring is rich and good. Daniel Cottier belonged to a Lezayre family (his grandfather was buried here in 1803, July 12th). He is the only Manxman, as far as it is known, who attained eminence as a glasspainter.

In the porch, before entering the church proper sit 11 pieces of cross slabs, dating from the 8th to the 12th century, some found in 1928 in the cemetery surrounding an early and long-forgotten Celtic church at Cronk yn How Balleigh.

Reference:

KERMODE R.D. Canon M.A. - "The Annals of Kirk Christ", Isle of Man: Norris Modern Press Ltd., 6, Victoria Street, Douglas, 1954.

1. **Moore** Dioc. Hist. p.135.





THE GREAT WAR
1914-1918
A DEDICATION
TO THE
MEMORIES OF
THE
SOLDIERS
WHO
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AND
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SECOND
WORLD
WAR
1939-1945



**KIRK CHRIST
LEZAYRE**

HOLY COMMUNION

8-30 am 1st Sunday of Month
11-00 am 3rd Sunday of Month (Lenten)
12-00 noon 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays of Month
6-30 am at GLEN AUSTIN 5th Sunday of Month

MORNING PRAYER

11-00 am Each Sunday except 3rd of Lent

EVENING PRAYER

6-30 am at GLEN AUSTIN 1-3rd Sundays
6-30 am at ST STEPHEN'S LEZAYRE 4th Sunday

The above services from The Book of Common Prayer

VICAR R. HARRISON

SEXTON M. B. E. G.









