

## THE LATEST ON SAVING OUR CHURCH'S ENDANGERED STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

A very big "thank you" to those who have already made contributions towards the cost of the window repairs.

In brief, the main body of the church has many beautiful stained-glass windows, installed in 1893 by Messrs R B Edmondson and Son of Manchester. In 1966 the Gallery section of the church was closed off. Within the Gallery, there are four windows, two of which have striking upper sections to them. One of the windows bears the Manx Triskellion, and is the **ONLY** window displaying anything Manx in the church. Both windows detail names of villagers who originally contributed towards the cost of the windows. Sadly these two windows are in an extremely poor state of repair, held in precariously by plastic protective sheeting on the outside, making this work urgent not only in conservation terms but also posing a Health and Safety risk.



Whilst the church is not Registered/Listed we have the full support of the Registered Building Officer here on the Island, who is keen to safeguard this important chapter of Manx heritage. It is worth noting that the pool of Grants available to Manx churches is extremely limited as we do not receive any form of heritage Grants in the vein of English Heritage.

We are passionate about maintaining the church building and passionate about maintaining a presence in the village; without doubt this will provide a huge boost to local heritage, especially given that 2026 is the year of the Manx Language and it would be wonderful to celebrate this by bringing the windows into the main body of the church. Regrettably, our Grant Application to the Manx Lottery was unsuccessful and we have submitted a further application to National Churches Trust and similarly with the Isle of Man Victorian Society.

We do not have any Stained-Glass experts on the Isle of Man. The Isle of Man Diocese are currently building relations with Ark-Stained Glass and Leaded Lights Limited, based in Hereford. The ferry link and cost of transportation to the island (up to £2000 for a large works vehicle) is a significant disincentive for many companies. Therefore, the Diocese has formed a relationship to enable batching work as the only feasible option and would enable us to share transportation and accommodation costs.

Ark-Stained Glass are planning to come over in April, to tie in with another job, at which time we are hopeful to have raised sufficient funds, we are however still somewhat short of our target of £12,000, and any help towards costs would be hugely appreciated. Thank you in anticipation.

*Carol Ainley*, Warden and PCC Treasurer. Tel: 418282 E: ainley@manx.net