



**Creative Approaches to Pilgrimage, Heritage, Conservation and Spiritual Tourism  
Conference 8-9 July 2026**

**Venues: Manx Museum i-Museum, Douglas and Cathedral Isle of Man, Peel**

The conference marks ten years of the establishment of Pilgrimage Isle of Man <https://pilgrimageisleofman.im/>, and will bring together academic researchers, professionals from the heritage and tourism sectors, clergy, and members of the public interested in pilgrimage, faith heritage and spiritual landscapes.

**Programme**

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> July 9.30-4.30**

**Manx National Heritage i-Museum, Kingswood Grove, Douglas IM1 3LY**

**9.30-10.00 Registration**

**10.00 -10.15 Welcome:** Kirsty Neate (MNH) Avril Maddrell (University of Reading)

**10.15 – 11.00 Keynote 1:** Dee Dyas, University of York (30+ 10) **The dynamics of pilgrimage – the power of place and journey in the 21st century**

**11.00 - 11.25 Paper:** Ian Faulds, (Minister, Maughold Church) (20 +5) **The importance of Authenticity in Island pilgrimage**

**11.25 - 11.45 short break**

**11.45 - 12.10 Paper** Ruben Lois (University of Santiago de Compostela) (20 +5) **Feminist resistance to development in a rural area of the Camino de Santiago**

**12.10-12.30** Andrew Johnson, **The Manx Crosses as Pilgrimage Monuments, Past and Present** (15 +5) see: [imuseum\\_Cross Slabs\\_Drawings](#) and [iMuseum\\_Cross Slabs\\_3d Models](#)

**12.30-1.30 Lunch + visit MNH cross slab collection , + posters**

**1.30 -2.10 Keynote 2:** Guy Hayward (British Pilgrimage Trust) **The British Pilgrimage Trust** (30+ 10)

## 2.10 – 3.00 Papers:

i) Guro Berge Vistad, National Pilgrim Centre, the Cultural Route of St. Olav Ways (20 +5)

### **Pilgrimage Governance and Contemporary Pilgrims on the St Olav Ways**

ii) Minna Opus (University of Turku) (20 +5) **Revitalizing Pilgrimage: The Role of Academic Inquiry in Shaping Finland's Diverse Pilgrimage Landscape**

## 3.00- 3.15 short break

**3.15 – 3.40 Paper** Mario Katic (University of Zadar) (20 +5) **Pilgrimage as Infrastructure of Anticipation: Adriatic case studies**

**3.40 - 4.20 Keynote 3:** Lena Gemzoe (University of Stockholm) (30+ 10) **Walking to the Cathedral of Hope. Climate Action, Caminoization and Gender in the Swedish Pilgrimage Movement**

## 4.20 - 4.30 Concluding Comments

**Closing:** Michael Manning (Manx Bard): **two poems**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July St German's Cathedral (Derby Rd, Peel, Isle of Man IM5 1HH)

## 9.30 – 12.00 Creative Writing workshop

**Landmarks for those who dare to get lost: A creative writing pilgrimage via the gardens of St German's Cathedral.**

Avril Maddrell (University of Reading) and Heather Walton, (University of Glasgow)

In this workshop Heather Walton will use simple prompts and exercises to enable participants to make their own 'writing pilgrimage' drawing inspiration from the landmarks in the Cathedral Garden. No experience necessary. The morning will be relaxed and informal with opportunities for both sharing and silence. Coffee will be served. Please wear suitable clothing for the weather and something to write with/on (maximum 25 participants)

## 12.40 - 5.15 Guided circular walk on a segment of the Triskelion Way

Phil Craine (Pilgrimage Isle of Man and Blue Badge Guide)

**Start and return:** St German's Cathedral CAR PARK, Peel for 12.50 bus (nearby stop, opposite Town Hall). Wear suitable footwear and clothing and bring water and a snack.

Please register for each free activity by 30<sup>th</sup> June:

[Pilgrimage IoM Conference | Registration form – Fill out form](#)



Manx National Heritage  
*Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin*



University of  
**Reading**