

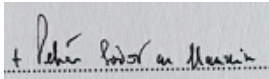


## The Diocese of Sodor and Man

**We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.**

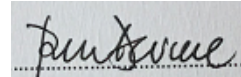
Signed on behalf of:  
**The Diocese of Sodor and Man**

Signed:



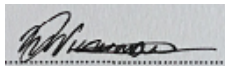
Position: Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man

Signed:



Position: Area Dean, Isle of Man

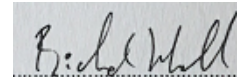
Signed:



Position: Commanding Officer

The Salvation Army, Isle of Man

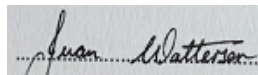
Signed:



Position: Chair of District and Superintendent

The Methodist Church, Isle of Man

Signed:



Position: Speaker of the House of Keys

and Armed Forces Champion

# The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom  
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

## Section 1: Principles of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We **The Diocese of Sodor and Man** will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen*
- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

## Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 We recognise the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business and to our country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- Enfoldng the Armed Forces members and veterans in Christian love and fellowship
- Prayerfully offering support
- Promoting a 'Forces Friendly' approach
- Being alive to the fact that scars from the ugliness of war may be more psychological than physical both on those who have served in action and their families
- Recognising the changing structure of the Armed Forces which brings a greater reliance on Reservists and with that, increased integration with the community
- Seeking to support church members who choose to volunteer as Reservists
- Seeking to understand the pastoral support required by a changing population of 'new veterans'
- Being aware of the isolation and loneliness of separated families
- Recognising and remembering the sacrifices of others by marking Remembrance Sunday
- Providing church leadership through divine services and the production of appropriate liturgical material to military anniversaries
- Leading divine services for a specific military need
- Supporting the Services' charities
- Ensuring that our buildings are accessible to all, particularly veterans with disabilities
- Supporting fellow church leaders who offer chaplaincy and help to Armed Forces and related personnel
- Offering support to local cadet units within both schools and our community
- When in the position of employer, looking favourably upon applications from service personnel and ex-service personnel
- Making our congregations aware of what may be the needs of serving members of the forces, veterans and families
- Supporting Armed Forces Day

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.