

*st BRIDGET'S, west KIRBY
with caldy church
parish magazine*



On the Road to Emmaus, Lars Gallenius, 1684, National Museum of Finland
Did not our hearts burn within us? Luke 24

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www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk

www.caldychurch.org.uk

The Supper at Emmaus

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:28-32.



In this resurrection appearance Jesus met two disciples on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They were discussing the events of Easter, puzzled by them. But Jesus explained their significance to them, telling them everything that Scripture had said about himself. The disciples were enlightened but did not recognise Jesus.

When they reached their destination they invited Him into supper. There Jesus broke bread, and they saw that it was Jesus.

This mirrors our own journey in the Communion service. We hear the scriptures, have them explained in the

sermon and then encounter Jesus in the breaking of bread.

There are many depictions of the scene in art. Two are shown here, The first is by Velasquez painted in Spain in 1622-3, when he was in his early twenties. The second painting was painted by Caravaggio about twenty years earlier, when he was at the height of his fame.



There is far more drama in Caravaggio's version, conveyed by the lighting, and by the dramatic gestures of the astonished disciples and the foreshortening that draws us into the scene. In the Velasquez everything is much calmer: the disciple silently asking his friend for confirmation of what he has seen. Both perspectives are valid: an encounter with God can be dramatic, but more often it is rather a matter of quiet recognition.

What song do you sing?



I was challenged recently by the words of Indian poet and writer, Rabindranath Tagore, remarking on how the song he wanted to sing had never happened because he had spent his days stringing and unstringing his instrument. It challenged me because, excuse the pun, it struck a chord. I can at times cram my life and my calendar so full that my glimpses of God, my hearing God's song, risk being few and far between. It's not that I don't want to have the song of God sung in me but that I too keep stringing and unstringing my instrument. It is too easy isn't it, to become preoccupied with the hurry and the worry of life and the details and pressure of a diary that we can miss the songs which are waiting to be sung?

Tagore's words came back to me when on a retreat at St Beuno's in Tremeirchion, I was given the activity of imagining myself as an instrument. What instrument would I choose? What drew me to see myself in that way? This occupied me for some time until I moved to the next question ... 'and what tune are you playing? What is the melody being sung through your life?' Is it a lullaby, a spirited march, a rock song, a ballad? Is it discordant or in perfect harmony?

What instrument do you see yourself as? Whose tunes are you playing?

When we look at what is going on in our lives in terms of tunes and songs it can give a fresh perspective. 'Do I seem to be constantly banging a drum and clashing a cymbal or am I floating through my days like a flute? Or perhaps I only emerge every so often to give a ting on a triangle!

When we look back over our lives or even just the day, there are many melodies which have been played. These will have included people and events, things which have influenced us or perhaps we have influenced, they might be ideas or insights, fresh ways of looking at things.

As Christians, we are moved to ask what difference it makes when God plays the instrument, chooses the tune or influences the rhythm? Do we change tempo or find ourselves hearing melodies we have never noticed before when God brings the instrument to life?

Instruments remain silent without the touch of the player – whether that touch is through hands, feet or breath. What song do we sing when we allow God to be the breath which makes the music happen? When we look at the church as an orchestra for God what part do we play and what instruments are missing? We need the triangles as much as the trombone and trumpet.

As we celebrate the Easter season, the song we are given is one of joy, hope and new life. It is a song which the world needs to hear more than ever. It is a melody which needs everyone to play their part so that the orchestra of creation can give the performance it was designed for.

May the hope and joy of Easter be played in your life and if you are still wondering what instrument you are, try asking the composer.

Alex

The Bereavement Journey, a place to talk

May - June 2024



Coping with the death of someone loved and precious is one of the most difficult things we have to do. Sometimes we are still struggling to come to terms with bereavement many years later.

We are pleased to be offering *The Bereavement Journey*, led by Gillian Seale from Tailored Yarn.

This is a series of six weekly sessions where participants explore their experience and response to grief in a supportive environment. Currently the sessions are planned for Thursday afternoons during May and June.

Everyone will be bereaved at some time to some degree or another. Loss needs to be processed and how we deal with it will affect our mental and physical well-being and future. Working through grief can take a long time and no two people will have the same loss or the same journey. We hope during these weeks to be able to provide a few signposts to anyone processing the death of someone important to them, wherever they are on the journey. If you or someone you know is dealing with bereavement and grief and you would like to explore being part of this journey, please contact the parish office or the Rector. More information at thebereavementjourney.org

WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

In recognition that we worship a generous God and are called to help those in need, we are committed to financially supporting charities both in the UK and overseas. These are the charities the parish has given to over the last 12 months:

Melanesian Mission, WaterAid Wirral Debt Advice, St Johns Hospice, Eco Church/A Rocha, Riding for the Disabled, Wirral Women and Children's Aid, Inclusive Church, Incubabies, Wirral ARK, Shelterbox, Wirral Environment Network, Médecins Sans Frontières. Ripple Effect (Send a Cow), Feeding Birkenhead, Charles Thompson Mission, Bible Society, Maggies, Claire House, Barnabas Fund, Leprosy Mission, Ukraine Disasters Emergency Committee and Church Mission Society.

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

In the lower churchyard at St Bridget's we are working to establish a Spring and Summer meadow, to encourage biodiversity and to provide a beautiful reflective space. We are at an early stage, but we have marked out some paths and have completed a first batch of seed sowing. At the moment this area is awash with primroses, and we hope will soon be displaying a larger variety of spring wild flowers.

If you would like to help us in this project, please contact the Rector.

Stories of Encounter: Sunday 7 April at 6:30pm at St Bridget's

When our Rector Alex announced the introduction of themed evening services on the first Sunday of each month, she promised us something old and something new.

Stories of Encounter is the latest in this series.... and it will be something new! It will be a quiet reflective service of evening prayer based on liturgy from the Iona Community. The service will also include hearing a member of our church family speak about their personal journey of faith. Listening to someone share their experiences of encountering God can be a wonderful way of helping us reflect on our own faith story, both past and future.

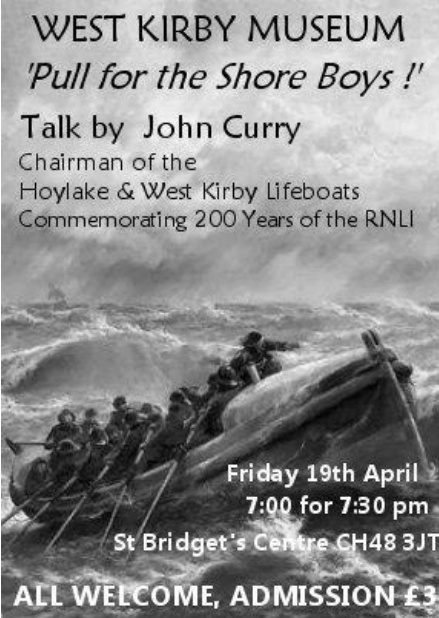
We look forward to welcoming you.

Graham and Mary

Parish bank account.

The parish's main bank account will shortly be moving from Barclays to the Co-operative Bank. If you are a regular giver, you may notice different wording on your bank statement, but the change should happen automatically without you needing to do anything. The move is a decision of the PCC because of ethical concerns about Barclays.

John Smith – treasurer



WEST KIRBY MUSEUM
'Pull for the Shore Boys !'
Talk by **John Curry**
Chairman of the
Hoylake & West Kirby Lifeboats
Commemorating 200 Years of the RNLI

Friday 19th April
7:00 for 7:30 pm
St Bridget's Centre CH48 3JT

ALL WELCOME, ADMISSION £3

An Easter Quiz



1. Which of these is an adjective meaning "Easter"?
 - a. Oestral
 - b. Paschal
 - c. Vernal
2. Who was Jesus' tomb made for?
 - a. Joseph of Arimathea
 - b. Nicodemus
 - c. Simon of Cyrene
3. Which poet wrote *Easter 1916*?
 - a. Seamus Heaney
 - b. Patrick Pearse
 - c. William Butler Yeats
4. Which of these German words means "Easter"?
 - a. Himmelfahrt
 - b. Ostern
 - c. Pfingsten
5. Where were Cleopas and his friend walking to in Luke 24?
 - a. Bethany
 - b. Emmaus
 - c. Jericho
6. Who wrote the song *Easter Parade*?
 - a. Irving Berlin
 - b. Jerome Kern
 - c. Cole Porter
7. Who was the first person to meet Jesus on Easter Day?
 - a. The gardener
 - b. St Mary Magdalen
 - c. St John
8. What is the earliest possible date of Easter in the western Church?
 - a. March 22nd
 - b. March 26th
 - c. March 31st
9. Who wrote the hymn
Jesus lives! Thy terrors now can no more, O death, appal us?
 - a. Christian Gellert
 - b. Charles Wesley
 - c. Isaac Watts

(e)6	(e)8	(q)7
(a)9	(b)5	(b)4
(c)3	(a)2	(b)1
Answers		



God in all things?

Holy God you are always with us. Open our eyes to your presence.

These are words we say every week at our 9am Thursday zoom service*. But where is God in our day? It's one thing to believe he is always with us, but it's quite another to have our eyes opened to 'see' him. It certainly isn't going to happen unless we take a different approach to our day, and perhaps even a different approach to ourselves. This is where we turn for help to people like St. Paul, St. Benedict, Julian of Norwich, St. Ignatius, and more recently Thomas Merton. For these people, and countless others with them, trained themselves to see all of life as a gift. They saw God 'addressing' them in whatever lay before them at any moment.

This is exciting teaching, and the more you think about it, the more it seems to make sense of what Jesus taught us about 'Life'. The washing up, the pile of papers, the person talking to us, even how we are feeling. Whatever is in this moment we need to see as God coming to us. Impossible? Obviously not, but it won't happen without our desire for it to happen and us praying that God will help us. The next time you're peeling the spuds, why not try seeing the potato, your hands and the peeler as 'gifts' through which God is making himself known to you in that particular moment? Just think how different life would be if we started thinking like that more often. St Paul told us to 'pray without ceasing'. Could this be what he meant?

Ray Samuels

** You are warmly invited to join us. Why not give it a try? Ask Alex.*

Daily Bible Readings For April

1st	Romans 1.1-7	22nd	Revelation 7.9-end
2nd	John 5.19-29	23rd	John 15.1-8
3rd	John 20.1-10	24th	1 Corinthians 15.35-49
4th	Revelation 1.4-end	25th	2 Timothy 4.1-11
5th	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11	26th	Romans 6.1-11
6th	John 21.1-14	27th	Luke 24.13-35
8th	Hebrews 2.5-end	29th	Romans 4.13-end
9th	Acts 16.6-15	30th	Matthew 6.19-end
10th	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	1st	John 1.43-end
11th	Mark 4.35-end	2nd	Mark 12.18-27
12th	1 Peter 3.8-end	3rd	Romans 8.1-11
13th	Matthew 28.8-15	4th	Luke 24.33-end
15th	Revelation 5		
16th	Matthew 5.38-end		
17th	1 Corinthians 15.12-28		
18th	Mark 6.47-end		
19th	Romans 5.12-end		
20th	Luke 24.1-12		

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Wed	9.30 – 4.30
Thu	9.30 – 4.30
Fri	9.30 – 4.30
Sat	9.30 – 1.00



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April Diary

Our churches are open for visitors and as places of prayer and stillness
St Bridget's daily until 5pm
Caldy Church every day

The Parish Office in St Bridget's Centre is open
Monday to Friday mornings, 9.30am – 12.30pm

The Rector's day off is a Monday

***For additional information about our activities please consult
our website*** (www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk),
www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Bridget-West-Kirby
www.achurchnearyou.com/All-Saints-Caldy
or the weekly newsletter, or phone the office (0151 625 2739)

Tue 2 nd	10am	Holy Communion – Caldly Church
	10.30-11am	Coffee @ Caldly
	2pm	Holy Communion at Caldly Manor
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice
Wed 3 rd	9.30am-12	The Link Café – Centre
	10am	Knit & Natter, craft and chat group – Centre
	11.30am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
Thurs 4 th	12 noon	Ministry Team meeting
	9am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Fri 5 th	6pm	Choir practice
	9am	Morning Prayer livestreamed on Facebook
	2pm	Memorial Service – St Bridget (Lilian May RIP)
Sunday 7th		SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
	8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
	10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
	10am	Holy Communion – Caldly
	12 noon	Holy Baptism (Isla Grace Nicholls) – St Bridget
	1pm	Holy Baptism (Thomas Alan Noble) – St Bridget
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer – ‘Stories of Encounter’ – St Bridget
Tue 9 th	10am	Holy Communion – Caldly Church
	10.30-11am	Coffee @ Caldly
	2pm	Mothers Union – Centre
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice
Wed 10 th	9.30am-12	The Link Café – Centre
	10am	Knit & Natter, craft and chat group – Centre
Thurs 11 th	11.30am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
	9am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	6pm	Choir practice

Fri 12 th	9am	Morning Prayer livestreamed on Facebook
Sunday 14th		THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
	8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
	10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
	10am	Holy Communion – Caldly
	12 noon	Holy Baptism (Nancy Jane Murray) – St Bridget
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer – St Bridget
Tue 16 th	10am	Holy Communion – Caldly Church
	10.30-11am	Coffee @ Caldly
	3.30pm	Toasty Tuesdays – St Bridget
	4.45pm	Sing Aloud practice in the Centre
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice
Wed 17 th	8.30am-12	The Link Café – Centre
	10am	Knit & Natter, craft and chat group – Centre
	11.30am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
	12 noon	Men's Shed lunch – Centre
Thurs 18 th	9am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	10am	Caldly Baby & Toddler Group + STiCK
	6pm	Choir practice
Fri 19 th	9am	Morning Prayer livestreamed on Facebook
	10am	St Bridget's Baby Group – Centre
Sat 20 th	9.30am-12	Churchyard Working Party at St Bridget's
Sunday 21st		FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
	8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
	10am	All Together Worship – St Bridget
	10am	Holy Communion – Caldly
	11.30am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Centre
	6.30pm	Compline – St Bridget
Tue 23 rd	10am	Holy Communion – Caldly Church
	10.30-11am	Coffee @ Caldly
	3.30pm	Toasty Tuesdays – St Bridget
	4.45pm	Sing Aloud practice in the Centre
	6.30pm	School Governors meeting
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice
Wed 24 th	8.30am-12	The Link Café – Centre
	10am	Knit & Natter, craft and chat group – Centre
	11.30am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
Thurs 25 th	9am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	10am	Caldly Baby & Toddler Group + STiCK
	6pm	Choir practice
Fri 26 th	9am	Morning Prayer livestreamed on Facebook
	10am	St Bridget's Baby Group – Centre
Sunday 28th		FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
	8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget

	10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
	10am	Holy Communion – Caldy
	12 noon	Holy Baptism – St Bridget (Hermione Jane Ann Charlton)
	1pm	Holy Baptism – St Bridget (Sloane Alexia Walker Swede)
	3pm	Supper Sunday – Centre
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer – St Bridget
Tue 30 th	10am	Holy Communion – Caldy Church
	10.30-11am	Coffee @ Caldy
	3.30pm	Toasty Tuesdays – St Bridget
	4.45pm	Sing Aloud practice in the Centre
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice
MAY		
Wed 1 st	8.30am-12	The Link Café – Centre
	10am	Knit & Natter, craft and chat group – Centre
	11.30am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
	12 noon	Ministry Team meeting
Thurs 2 nd	7am-10pm	<i>St Bridget's Centre is Polling Station</i>
	9am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	10am	Caldy Baby & Toddler Group + STiCK
	11.30am	Burial of ashes at Frankby Cemetery (Muriel Taylor RIP & Ruth Trout RIP)
	6pm	Choir practice
Fri 3 rd	9am	Morning Prayer livestreamed on Facebook
	10am	St Bridget's Baby Group – Centre
Sunday 5th		
	8am	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Holy Communion – St Bridget
	10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
	10am	Holy Communion – Caldy
	6.30pm	Evensong (BCP) – St Bridget

FROM THE REGISTERS...

HOLY BAPTISM

"May they grow in the faith in which they have been baptised"

3rd March Rory Heyns (St Bridget)

3rd March Charlotte Colton (St Bridget)

FUNERAL and BURIAL OF ASHES

"Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord"

5th March Frances Gertrude Cockeram (Caldy & Landican)

8th March June Catherine Tebay (burial of ashes at St Bridget's)

Clergy Letter



Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away (Rev. 21: 1).

Dear Friends,

Eric Mascall (1905-1993) was one of the most eminent Anglo-Catholic theologians of the twentieth century. Although known in academic circles for his work in relating the writings of St. Thomas Aquinas to contemporary theological questions, he also wrote powerfully and eloquently on the resurrection. In a devotional work Mascall asks the rhetorical question, 'whether, in the last resort, it matters whether Jesus literally rose from the dead or not'? Perhaps the resurrection merely 'witnesses to the survival and triumph of Jesus in a purely spiritual form, while his body was left to decay in the grave as rubbish of no further importance'. Mascall maintains that it matters a great deal and argues that in the incarnation, God assumed human nature in all its wholeness: 'body no less than soul'. The incarnation is not just a pleasant way for Christians to view the divinity of Jesus but was a once for all intervention by God into the historic process of the universe. This had its climax in the resurrection.

Although we can only speculate on the actual mechanism involved in the resurrection, I suggest that there are three points we should ponder during the Easter season. First, Jesus lives on. We are told that if we seek in him the realm of the dead, 'He is not there! He is risen!' The New Testament is quite emphatic that the risen Christ is not a ghost, neither is he simply a disembodied soul. The biblical concept is one of a *spiritual body*, which contrasts with the natural body, implying both continuity and discontinuity. What the resurrection means is that Jesus lives on and has been raised to a higher level of existence. The *Transfiguration* is a window through which the chosen disciples could glimpse how Christ was to be glorified.

A second point is that the disciples experienced the resurrection for themselves. They were transformed from a depressed, disaffected, and frightened band of followers to the greatest missionary movement the world has ever seen. Would this have been possible if the resurrection were merely a myth? Without the resurrection would similar episodes of transformation have been so prominent a theme in the last two thousand years of Christian history?

Finally, the resurrection tells us much about the nature of God. We are sons and daughters of God. Jesus is not only our brother by adoption but is also our forerunner, and like him we can look forward to new life. The difficult *Book of Revelation* is important. As Christians we do not look forward to heaven as a better earth, but we can expect a new, transformed heaven and a new transformed earth. In other words, living the resurrection faith means that we attempt to *realise* God's kingdom in the here and now by striving to build a *new and better earth*, based upon the teaching of Jesus, but also look forward with confidence to a transformed existence in the future. This is to a *new heaven*, which is our inheritance as God's beloved children.

Have a happy Easter,

David

ST. BRIDGET'S MOTHERS' UNION

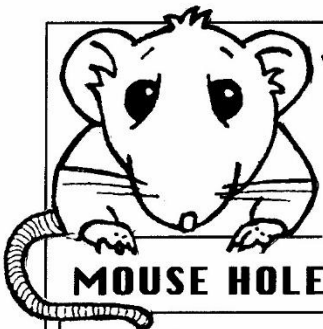


On 12th March Rev. Richard Williams gave an illustrated talk to a packed house on The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, one of the oldest shrines in the world. He told us how the Lady of the Manor of Walsingham in 1086 had a vision of the Virgin Mary and a spring had welled up by her feet and a Holy House was built there. He went on to tell us how over the years new shrines had been built and destroyed and rebuilt on different sites. Since university days Richard had been on pilgrimages to

the shrine and organised many himself.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday April 9th at 2 p.m. when Sofia Riera will be talking about Mental Health. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

Carole Steel, Secretary



MOUSE HOLE

As Christians, we use the **cross** as a symbol of our faith...



Greek Cross

Latin Cross

The eight points on the **Maltese** cross remind us of the eight 'blessings' of Jesus in Matthew 5.



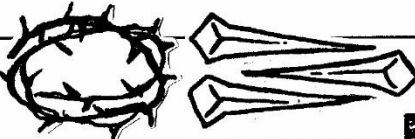
The circle on the **Celtic** cross is a picture of God's never ending love.



The **Russian Orthodox** cross has a cross bar where the notice 'King of the Jews' was nailed.



The lower bar is the foot rest and points to the good and bad thieves.
Read Luke 23:26-43



+THE CROSS+
is a symbol of **DEATH**

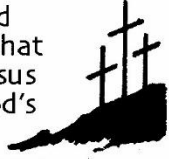
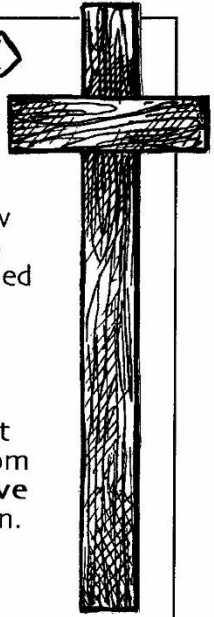
It reminds us how Jesus was put to death by being nailed to a cross.

+THE CROSS+
is a symbol of **LIFE**

It reminds us that Jesus has **risen** from the dead and is **alive** with God in heaven.

+THE CROSS+
is a symbol of **LOVE**

It reminds us God **loves** us so much that through his son Jesus we can become God's children too.

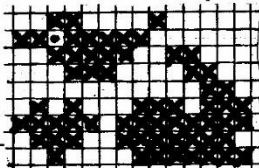


HAPPY EASTER!

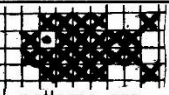
"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3 verse 16

Criss-Cross Pictures

Cross stitch is a popular form of stitching on canvas. Pictures and patterns are made by stitching lots of small **x** shaped stitches. Look out for an easy **x** stitch kit and have a go!



If you don't like stitching draw 'cross stitch' **x** patterns and pictures onto graph paper. **x**



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If your traditional New Year's Resolutions have already been put off until next year, speak to Maxwell Hodge about a different meaning to "will power"!

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- **Care Fees:** to discuss what may be done to safeguard assets from the local authority if residential or nursing care is needed in the future.

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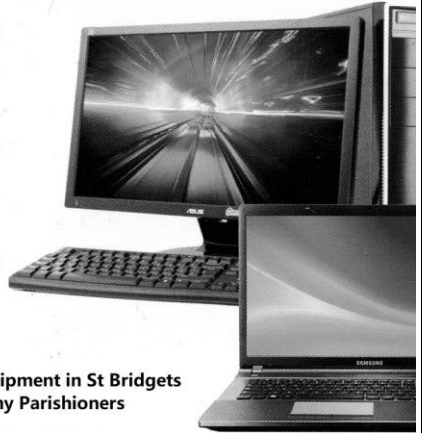
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Children up to 100+ years old

Gentlemen too

St Bridget's, West Kirby and Caldy Church take the safety of everyone within our churches very seriously, and expect that everyone will work within the safeguarding policy of the Parish, a copy of which can be found on our noticeboards. In particular, the Parish expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk with children or vulnerable adults, or an actual abuse, to raise this immediately with the person(s) with responsibility for safeguarding within the Parish. The Safeguarding Coordinator for the Parish is Rosemary Morgan, who can be contacted on safeguardingwestkirby@gmail.com 07821 672232. Alternatively, contact Sean Augustin, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser on safeguarding@chester.anglican.org 07704 338885, or Rev'd Alex Williams on 0151 625 1052.

Caldy Jottings

Caldy Church Grounds: We are hoping that someone who enjoys a bit of light gardening may like to help keep the bed along the main steps to the church planted with seasonal plants. You would need to be able to be fairly agile as it is on a slope and bordered by steps but if you think you could offer help with this please let the Rector know or contact Paula in the office.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: This year's Annual Meeting will be on Sunday 21st April at 11.30am in St Bridget's Centre. Do come along to hear reports about the Parish during the past year, ask questions, and vote for your Parochial Church Council reps (make sure you are on our Church Electoral Roll so you have a vote).

Services at Caldly in April (all at 10.00am)

Sunday 7 th April	Second Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th April	Third Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st April	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th April	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Holy Communion

Holy Communion is said each Tuesday at 10.00am

**Tea and Coffee are served
in the church hall after each service.**



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I would be delighted to help you.

Alastair Hamilton