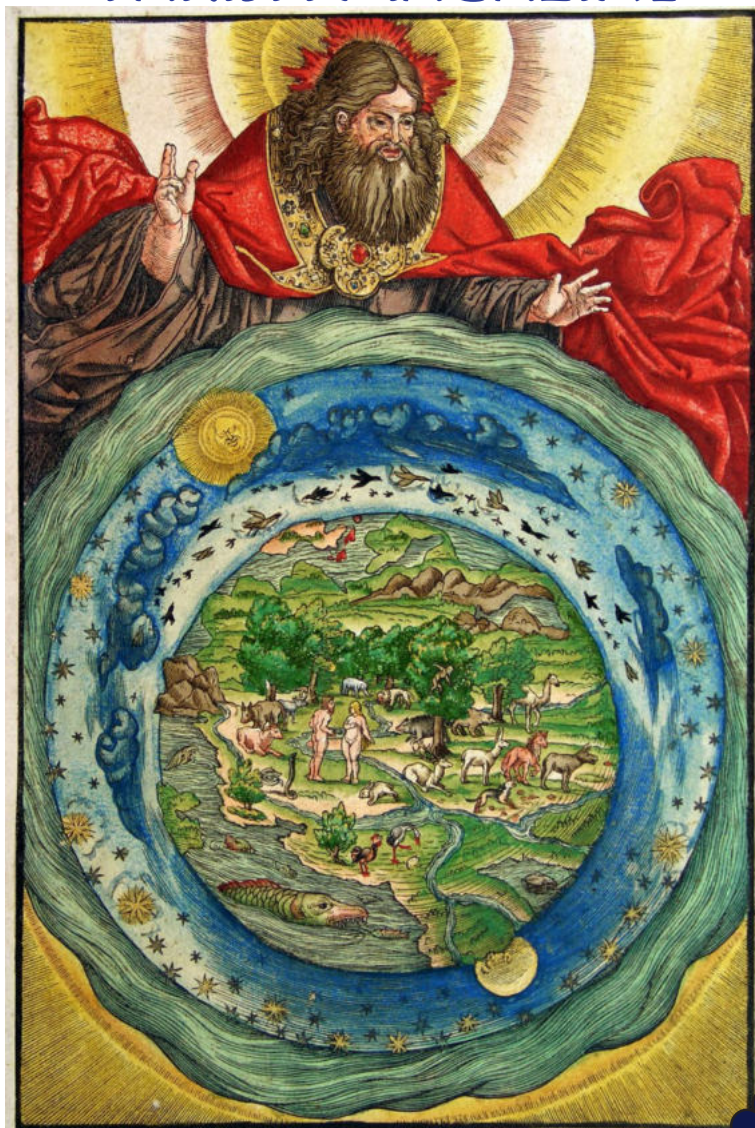
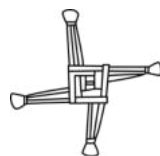


St Bridget's, West Kirby with Caldy Church PARISH MAGAZINE



www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk

www.caldychurch.org.uk

September 2025 (Vol. 155: No 8)

£1.00



The St Bridget's Church Summer Activity mornings ran over five weeks in the school holidays. They proved to be a great success!

The children enjoyed a variety of crafts, games, building and creating. Plus they loved playing on the school field and, of course, eating the healthy snacks provided.

Many activities were themed around creation & creativity and included clay modelling,

framing of sculptures and marble effect pictures made using paints and shaving foam!

Thank you so much to all our wonderful & enthusiastic helpers for leading & assisting in all the activities.

Carolyn & Andrew



Cover image: The Creation by Lucas Cranach. Coloured version from Martin Luther's 1534 translation of the Bible. 1 January 1534
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Creation-Luther-Bible-1534.jpg>



Letter from Alex

If you go down to the woods today....

Well, maybe not the woods, but the lower churchyard at St Bridget's, you just may be in for a surprise.

Over the last 3 years we have been working to care for this small portion of God's Acre. As well as tidying around graves and removing much of the invasive bramble and ivy, we have been sowing seeds and carefully cutting in order to develop wildflower meadows.

It's not a quick fix but we are beginning to see results. We now have yellow rattle flowering which will help other wildflowers become more established. On the bank between the churchyard and school we are planting trees and plants which will attract insects and bees as well as growing some flowers and shrubs useful to flower arrangers so that we can become more sustainable.

As a church community we have committed to caring for creation. It's not just a 'nice' thing to do but is part of living out our faith and an issue of justice.

If you have watched Sir David Attenborough's new documentary *Extinction: The Facts* you will not be able to avoid the reality about the damage that humanity continues to do to creation, and about the extreme and unfair impacts on those living in poverty this has, making life even harder for them.

We live in a beautiful yet broken world. A world of awe-inspiring beauty, a world that God has created teeming with life – full of diversity and abundance and colour. The Bible shows that God, people and the natural world are deeply interconnected. And if one aspect of that relationship is broken then there is a knock-on effect. We don't have to look very far to see evidence of this: racial injustice, gender inequality and environmental breakdown. The overwhelming scientific consensus is that climate crisis is a human-made problem, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, releasing heat-trapping gases such as carbon dioxide. In turn this is having a devastating impact on our world and putting millions of lives at risk with the most vulnerable being hit hardest.

As Christians and churches, we have a crucial role in calling for, and working towards, a world that allows everyone to flourish – one that enables us to live in harmony with the rest of creation. To turn this into reality, and to prevent further harm to our global neighbours, we are called to tackle the climate crisis together

Our work in the lower churchyard is a tiny drop in the ocean but is symbolic of our commitment to protecting and restoring creation. We are God's representatives, created to serve and look after the earth and all creation.

And as well as working to increase biodiversity and work in a more sustainable way, we also hope to create a space for contemplation. As part of this we are planning a beautiful prayer walk, tracing creation's story from the big bang to the present day. We hope that this will prompt us to prayerfully reflect on the part we might play in protecting and nurturing our beautiful world in a way which helps all of God's people flourish.

So, keep your eye on the lower churchyard and let's hope you'll be in for a nice surprise.

Alex



Next meeting 9th September 2pm

Carole Steel writes: Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9th September when *Nick Lynch from Barclays Bank* is coming to tell us about scams on our telephones and computers. This is geared to our age group so please try to come along and invite anyone else who you think would be interested.

The Mothers Union Matters Magazine carried a report on the Deanery Service held at Christchurch, Higher Bebington when the St Bridget's MU banner was paraded and Chris Andrew lit a candle for our branch.

The Commissioning Service is at St. Mary Without-the-Walls in Handbridge, Chester on Saturday 20th September at 2 pm. If any MU members would like to go, please get in touch with Carole (you'll have her contact details) so lifts can be arranged.

Organ update

On Wednesday, 6th August, Jonathan and his team from Henry Willis came to remove the St Bridget's organ console to the workshop in Liverpool. It was obvious that they had done this before. In a couple of hours, they had dismantled the console sufficiently to transport it and had installed the 'stand-in' electronic instrument. It is entirely possible that some people will not have noticed from the difference in sound!

We do not yet know how long the restoration work will take – it may depend whether they find that additional work is needed. Watch this space as we're hoping that we can run a visit to the Willis workshop to view our eviscerated organ.



Inside the console when the back was removed



The dubious-looking wiring that connects the console (manuals, stops, pedals) to the pipes

A GOOD HARVEST



Our curate, *Ruth*, has been thinking about Harvest:

As the weather gets cooler and we prepare for the start of the new school term, our minds naturally turn to harvest. The tradition started in the 1840s when a Cornish vicar, Robert Hawker, decided it would be a good idea to bring the first loaf baked with the year's wheat into church to give thanks. People soon joined in with baskets of fruit and veg, and it became Harvest

Festival as we know it.

These days, most of us aren't out there gathering sheaves of wheat, but harvest still gives us plenty to be thankful for. Food, certainly – though maybe not that mysterious tin of peaches that's been hiding at the back of the cupboard since 2002. We're also grateful for the people who make life tick along: shop workers, delivery drivers, teachers, carers, neighbours and friends. And let's not forget those little blessings we easily overlook – a cup of tea with a friend when we most need it, or a patch of sunshine after days of rain. In today's busy world, it's easy to forget just how dependent we are on those simple blessings. Harvest calls us to pause, notice, and say thank you.

So what does a "good harvest" look like in our everyday lives? It might be a bumper crop of courgettes that we have to force on all our friends and family or it could be a year rich in laughter, friendship and shared meals. It could be the patience we've grown, or the kindness we've managed to pass on (even when we didn't feel like it!). It might simply be knowing we've made someone's day a bit brighter, or simply found joy in the everyday gifts around us. As we celebrate Harvest this year, may we not only count our blessings but also share them. And we may find that the best kind of harvest is one that's gathered in love, and given away freely.

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Dave has been supplying & maintaining the computer equipment in St Bridgets Parish Office for over 10 years and has helped out many Parishioners

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September 2025 Diary

Our churches are open for visitors and as places of prayer & stillness
St Bridget's daily until 5pm, Caldý 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, including occasional
services and events, please consult our website*

(www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk),

A Church Near You

www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Bridget-West-Kirby

www.achurchnearyou.com/All-Saints-Caldy

or the weekly newsletter, or phone the office (0151 625 2739)

Sunday 7th September TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldý
6.30 pm	Quiet Space with Prayers for Healing and Wholeness – St Bridget

Sunday 14th September HOLY CROSS DAY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldý
6.30pm	Evening Prayer – St Bridget

Sunday 21st September NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	All Together Worship and Harvest Festival – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldý
6.30pm	Compline – St Bridget

Sunday 28th September FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldý
12 noon	Holy Baptism – Caldý
6.30pm	Evening Prayer – St Bridget

Regular weekday services

Tuesday	10am	Holy Communion at Caldý Church
Wednesday	8.30am	Morning prayer at St Bridget's
Wednesday	11.30pm	Holy Communion at St Bridget's
Thursday	9am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Friday	9am	Morning Prayer livestreamed on Facebook

Regular weekday activities

Tuesday	3.30pm	Toasty Tuesday in St Bridget's (term time)
	4.45pm	Sing Aloud junior choir practice (term time)
	6.00pm	Choir practice
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice
Wednesday	8.30–11.30am	The Link Café – Centre
	10am	Knit & Natter, craft and chat group – Centre
Thursday	10am	Caldý Baby & Toddler Group (term time)
Friday	10am	St Bridget's Baby Group – Centre (term time)

.....
The Bible according to children (first seen in St Michael and All Angels, Newton magazine many years ago)

- **In the first book of the bible, Guinessis, god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.**
- **Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.**

FROM THE REGISTERS...

HOLY BAPTISM

“May they grow in the faith in which they have been baptised”

27th July Chloe Joanna Allen (St Bridget’s)

3rd August Reeva Bridget Hughes (St Bridget’s)

HOLY MATRIMONY

“May they grow together in love and peace”

8th August Harry Hardman & Grace Bradshaw (St Bridget’s)

23rd August Adam Peel & Emily Morcumb (St Bridget’s)

FUNERAL and INTERMENT OF ASHES

“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord”

15th August William Smith (Frankby & St Bridget’s)

19th August Brenda Free (interment of ashes at Caldý)

Other regular activities

Second Tuesday of month	2pm	Mothers’ Union in the Centre
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Third Wednesday of month	12 noon	Men’s Shed Lunch in the Centre
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First Tuesday of month	7pm	Theology Discussion group at the Ring O’ Bells
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One Saturday each month	9.30–12 noon	Churchyard Working Party St Bridget’s
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William ('Bill') Smith

6th April 1954–19th July 2025

The St Bridget's community was shocked and saddened by Bill's sudden and unexpected death on 19th July.

Bill, with his wife Doreen, had given so much of his time and talents to St Bridget's over many years, as a PCC member, chutney producer, churchwarden, sacristan and churchyard manager. He was also Treasurer of West Kirby Museum and, with his Building Works experience, a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

However, after Bill's death, it became obvious how much he and Doreen had helped others with kindness in many ways. His advice was always worth listening to (though, it has to be said, not always welcome!). He was the go-to man for all sorts of DIY jobs, from erecting greenhouse and shed kits to making planters for the churchyard, and he worked without fuss and drama.

We shall miss you, Bill, and we pray especially for Doreen.

Churchwarden Ann

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER

The Parish Administrator, Paula, has handed over her role as Electoral Roll Officer to Mary Rees and we are very grateful to Mary for volunteering to take this on. An updated Electoral Roll was compiled earlier this year but you can be added at any time. The main benefit of being on the Roll is that you are entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

For details of how to apply to be on the Roll or other Roll-related enquiries, please contact **Mary Rees**

(mrees433@gmail.com; 0151 625 1598; or 1 Mount Road, West Kirby CH48 2HH)



A Week-end Retreat at Foxhill

Christmas seems a long way off (!) but you may like to know about a week-end retreat at Foxhill (the Diocesan Retreat centre near Frodsham) which is likely to get booked up fairly quickly:

‘Anticipate: A Journey to Christmas’

4pm Friday 28th – 3pm Sunday 30th November

Led by Ven Jane Proudfoot, Archdeacon of Macclesfield.

A few of us have booked to go and we can share lifts.

Anne Samuels is co-ordinating that.

You can find all the details here: www.foxhillchester.co.uk Cost: £225.

Speak to Anne or ring Foxhill for further information (01928 733777)

Theology Discussion Group @ the Ring O’ Bells

The next meeting, after the summer break, is on **2nd September** at **7 pm** in the **‘upper room’** at the **‘Ring of Bells’**. The theme is the important one of the **Eucharist**, that is central to our worship and about which there has been much discussion and at times acrimony between Christians.

As usual, David (Chester) has prepared some preliminary study materials. These include a sermon that David preached some years ago for a teaching series at another church and some on-line materials taking differing perspectives.

All are welcome – please do come along and please invite others.

(David can be contacted on jg54@liverpool.ac.uk)

NEWS FROM THE TOWER

West Kirby Team Win Striking Competition

West Kirby ringers took part in the Wirral Branch 6-bell striking competition at St Bartholomew's Church Thurstaston, on Sunday 10th August.

Ten teams entered, with the aim of ringing 120 different changes as perfectly as possible. The team with the fewest 'faults' and best striking wins. We're pleased to share that the West Kirby team won.

Here is a picture of the winning band, with our Tower Captain Randle Tinkler (at the back), and four St Bridget's ringers.

West Kirby will now go on to represent the Wirral branch in the Chester Guild 6-bell striking competition in September.

Randle is looking for anyone over the age of 11 who would be interested in learning to play the church bells. The team practises on Tuesdays at 7 pm. Please ask any of your children or grandchildren or anyone else who might be interested to go along for a trial run or get in touch with Greg Buckridge (on right of photo, phone 625 1636) and he will give you Randle's number.





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From Friday 12–Sunday 21 September 2025, venues across Wirral will open their doors to visitors as the area celebrates Heritage Open Days. Over 80 locations will invite the public to enjoy some 160 walks, tours, events and activities, all free of charge.

Both St Bridget's church and the West Kirby Museum will be participating in this programme, welcoming visitors on **Saturday 20 September** from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. St Bridget's will host tours of the church. The tower may also be open for visits while it is hoped that there will be music played during the day. *[We're not sure about the music as many of you will know that our pipe organ is being restored; however, the 'stand-in' electric organ is pretty good.]*

Across in the Centre there will be a programme of films and displays, covering topics including local architects and architecture, VE Day and Wirral Geology. A vintage singer will be performing and there will be craft activities. Light refreshments will be available.

Lydia: a New Testament Heroine and Leader (Acts 16)

The BBC recently included a story of a young single woman who had successfully developed an online business generating an annual income of more than £2 million. She had left school with no qualifications and the report focused on the financial success achieved by a woman. Why in 2025 was this considered so unusual? Was it because the business was a woman's? What relevance was it that she was single? Was it to offer reassurance that leaving school without qualifications does not necessarily equate with not being financially successful?

In the New Testament, the story of Lydia makes it clear that there were successful single women more than 2000 years ago. Lydia was a rich and powerful and apparently single woman who owned her own home in Macedonia. She dealt with purple dye, made by certain sea snails. The labour-intensive production

process resulted in small quantities of a very expensive dye of a highly desirable colour: only the Emperor or high members of the senate would have worn purple cloth – a PR exercise in flaunting your wealth and importance!

Lydia was an amazing woman even before she converted to Christianity: for a single woman to be a business entrepreneur in the Roman Empire would not have been easy by any standards. I suspect had she been recruited to the “Apprentice” she would have won outright on the first task!

Lydia ran a household though we can only speculate who made up this household. We are told that she worshipped and loved God but had no knowledge of Jesus 50-60 years after His death. The impression of Lydia is that despite her wealth and power, she was a Godly person striving to improve herself and do God’s work.

Meanwhile, Paul was travelling to spread the Gospel and one night he had a vision in which a man asked him to go to Macedonia. Being an obedient servant of God, Paul went to Macedonia. Once there, on a Sabbath, he met several women talking and praying by the river, one of whom was Lydia. We are told that God had prepared Lydia’s heart so when Paul started talking about Jesus, Lydia listened and believed and asked Paul to baptise her in the river. Her household

were also baptised, perhaps because they respected and loved their mistress. Following the baptism, Lydia invited Paul and his colleagues to stay in her house so she could provide for them.

Lydia was the first European gentile to be converted to Christianity and would have had a major influence on the growth of the early Christian Church. Despite her wealth and influence we know she loved God. How many of us following our baptism would think of the needs of those who had evangelised to us or invite them to stay in our home and provide for them? After all, a single woman inviting strange men into her home to rest and eat would have raised eyebrows even during Roman times but undeterred Lydia issued the invitation.

God provided for Paul through Lydia and God led Lydia to Jesus through Paul. God prepared Lydia’s heart to listen to Paul’s message and Paul was directed to go to Macedonia: everything was set in train to fulfil His plan. God has a plan for all of us: we need to open our hearts and mind to His will and act when we are prompted to offer practical support or share our faith.

*[This article was written and contributed by a member of our congregation but has been edited for the space available
See Acts, chapter 16, verses 11–40, NRSV]*

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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.

If you are concerned about someone's safety or well-being contact:

– The Rector, Reverend Alex Williams, 0151 625 1052 rectorwestkirby@gmail.com

– The Parish Safeguarding Officer Rosemary Morgan 0782 1672232

safeguardingwestkirby@gmail.com

– The Diocesan Safeguarding Team 01928 718834 (option 4)

safeguarding@chester.anglican.org

IF SOMEONE IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER OR HARM, **CALL 999** AND ASK FOR THE POLICE.