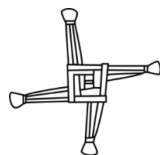


St Bridget's, West Kirby
with Caldy Church
PARISH MAGAZINE



Inclusive Church

www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk

www.caldychurch.org.uk

October 2025 (Vol. 155: No 9)

£1.00

The image on the cover this month is the new logo for *Inclusive Church*, fitting as our focus this month is on ‘inclusion’. The explanation given on the *Inclusive Church* website for the thinking behind the new logo is interesting:

We know that for some, the idea of “church” can be complicated, especially when tied to painful histories. A central element of *Inclusive Church*’s work is to re-imagine church as a place of true inclusion, so we don’t want to abandon the symbol, but rather reclaim it. The building here is not fortress-like. It’s open at the base, with light and colour radiating from within. It invites, shelters, and holds space.

You might also see:

A signal tower or beacon — broadcasting welcome far beyond the building

A house — a reminder that inclusion must start at home

A row of buildings — because we’re a network of communities

An open shelter — holding space, not locking people out

The arc of colour might be a rainbow — a known and trusted symbol of LGBTQIA+ inclusion. But look again, and you might see:

A broadcast signal — connecting with those who can’t attend in person: the housebound, the shift-working, the long-isolated

A canopy of light — casting warmth, not shadow

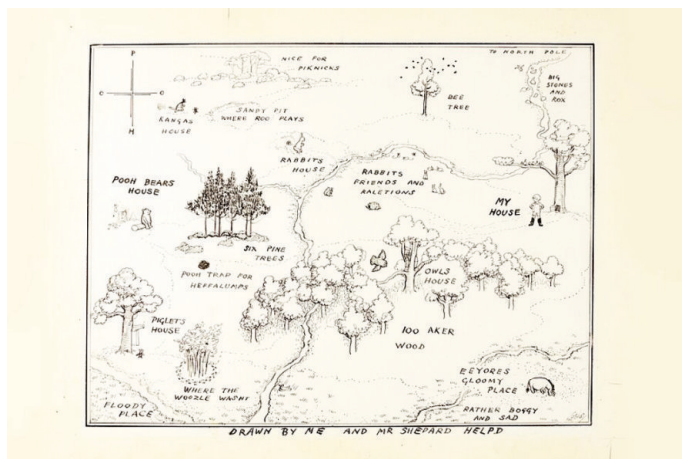
A beacon of hope, a banner of sanctuary

An inclusive umbrella, under which many can shelter

Look closer still, and you might see something more personal:

A thumbprint — unique, human, real

[Taken from <https://www.inclusive-church.org/vi25/>]



Letter from Alex

The wonderful thing about Tiggers ...

This month our focus is on inclusion. As a parish we are part of Inclusive Church. That does not simply mean that we aim to be inclusive – all churches would surely seek that? Rather it means that we are signed up to the vision and values of the Inclusive Church Organisation. [You can find their statement on page 13 of the magazine.] In a nutshell, we will not discriminate based on difference and we will challenge the Church and society where it does.

Some of you will know that I am a fan of Winnie the Pooh and have even been heard to say that he is my favourite theologian! Out of all the characters in the Hundred Acre wood, I wonder which you would most identify with?

The happy, peaceable and relaxed, Winnie the Pooh or sensitive, empathetic, kind Piglet? Eeyore, loyal, lovable and an obstacle finder or Tigger, energetic, fun and bouncy? The wise and philosophical Owl or Kanga, so brilliantly organised, detailed and follower of rules?

Some of these descriptions may have surprised you. In particular, if you had been asked to describe Eeyore or Tigger you may have used different words. The above are all affirming and positive statements, but we could of course describe them in more negative terms.

The gluttonous and dull Winnie the Pooh or Piglet, cripplingly nervous and neurotic; Eeyore, a pessimist and energy drain; Tigger, hyperactive, loud and chaotic, Owl, self-centred and egotistical or Kanga, bossy and inflexible.

And we might even start putting labels on them in terms of disability or disorder. Surely Winnie the Pooh has an eating disorder, Tigger has ADHD, Piglet has an anxiety disorder, Kanga has an obsessive-compulsive disorder. Clearly Eeyore has a depressive disorder and at times Owl definitely has a narcissistic personality disorder. How quickly the words and labels can change what the Hundred Acre Wood feels like.

The lenses through which we view people, the words we use to describe them affect our responses to them, and the responses of society.

The model Jesus uses is so often to see the positives and potential in people, to notice what is holding them back or diminishing them and to expose how the society in which they are living is so often what disables them.

How does it challenge us if we consider that it is not people who are disabled, but that the society in which they are living creates the barriers which disables them?

How does it challenge us if we start to regard disability as a natural difference or form of diversity?

Jesus saw the essence of people, did not discriminate against them and challenged society to be a place where all were welcomed, valued, and needed, all with a contribution. A place where all could flourish – given the right support and encouragement.

That's a message for each of us and one for us as Christians to share with others.

The wonderful thing about Tiggers is that Tiggers are wonderful things.

Alex

Sydney (Syd) David Ford (1936–2025)



It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Syd Ford last month. Syd was a remarkable individual who left an indelible mark on Caldý Church and community. His contributions were numerous and varied, reflecting his deep commitment and love for the church and its people.

Syd was a man of many talents and responsibilities.

He was involved in every aspect of church life, from cleaning the pigeon mess in the bell tower, replacing window meshes, to singing in the choir, serving as a member of various committees, including Caldý Committee, and the PCC. His commitment to the church meant that he was always ahead of anything that needed to be done, whether it was changing light bulbs, adjusting the heating, or installing a new handrail. He never hesitated to lend a helping hand. He is fondly remembered for organising the Parish Christmas Day Lunch.

Syd's kindness and generosity were evident to those who knew him. He was a gentleman and a gentle man, always ready to help others settle into church life and encouraging them to get involved. He had a great sense of humour, and his Christmas Pantos with Val were unforgettable. Syd's friendship and support extended beyond the church, as he encouraged others to take on responsibilities and get involved in various activities and charities.

Syd was a faithful Christian, with his faith evident in everything he did. He was kind and saw the good in people, never their faults. His dedication to the church and its people was unwavering, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. As we remember Syd, we take comfort in the knowledge that his spirit will continue to inspire us as we look to the future of Caldý church with hope and renewed vision.

Rest in peace, dear Syd.

Members and friends were treated to a most informative account of **how to avoid online or phone scams by Nick Lynch of Barclays Bank**. His main role is in advising customers and others within the community about finances and fraud avoidance.

The scam industry has grown, and will continue to grow as more money is put into it by those who are defrauded: so the first point to note is – don't give the scammers even £1! It works by manipulating us through Greed (something for me), Urgency (click now), and Fear (of missing out on an offer).

Phishing is one of the most prevalent: throwing out a massive net so as to catch something.

Vishing – the 'V' stands for 'voice'. During a conversation with the caller, you may be asked for bank account details, codes, etc. by someone pretending to be from your Bank. In this case, we should end the call and phone the Bank, using the official number on the reverse of our debit card. BUT make sure that the scammer isn't still on the line, by checking that there is a dialling tone. A new service = 159 will do this: Clear the line, ring 159.

Smishing – contacting people through SMS (text messages), purporting to be their children or grandchildren, in desperate need of money for taxi fares or similar; in this instance, check by asking them to give you personal information which only those close to you would know.

We were advised by Nick to keep scam calls very short, due to new advances in AI which can enable voices to be recorded and used to send voicemails to unsuspecting family.

If in doubt: Check to see where an email has come from; don't click onto links; notice if you haven't been addressed by name; look for a padlock sign, which you can click onto for more information about the origin of your message; or ask someone whom you trust for advice.

Some positive news: It is extremely difficult for someone to hack into online banking!

We look forward to our next meeting on 14th October, when the Rev David Chester will speak about **'Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Me'** (Sounds exciting!)

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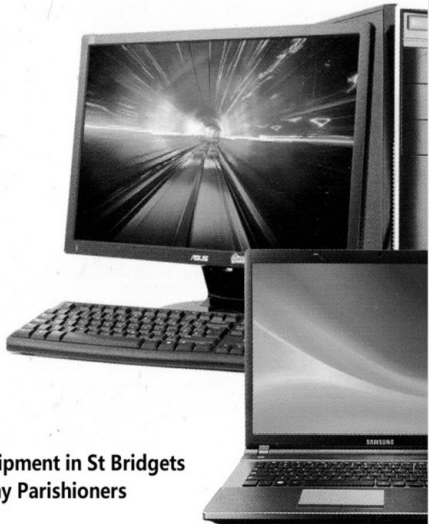
He says: "I have been working with computers for over 30 years and I have a relentless passion and enthusiasm for all things IT."

If you're having problems with your PC, or are looking to improve or replace it please give me a call and we'll have a chat about it.

My advice is free and I operate a no nonsense no fix no fee policy, customer satisfaction is at the heart of everything I do."

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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October 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 5th October SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion & Harvest Festival – Caldý
12 noon	Holy Baptism – St Bridget
1pm	Holy Baptism – St Bridget
6.30 pm	Choral Evensong – St Bridget

Sunday 12th October INCLUSIVE CHURCH SUNDAY

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

Sunday 19th October EIGHTEENTH 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 26th October LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldý
12 noon	Holy Baptism
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)

■ **Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.**

■ **Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.**

FROM THE REGISTERS...

HOLY BAPTISM

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

31st August at St Bridget’s

Isaac Wayne Byrnes

Susan Isabelle Byrnes

Maisy Carole Byrnes

Noah Isaac Byrnes

Wayne Stanley Byrnes (adult)

Annie May Byrnes

FUNERALS and INTERMENT OF ASHES

“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord”

5th September Sydney David Ford (Blacon & Caldý)

18th September Joyce Preston (interment of ashes at St Bridget’s)

29th September Patricia Couzens (St Bridget & Landican)

Other regular activities

Second Tuesday of month 2pm Mothers’ Union in the Centre

Third Wednesday of month 12 noon Men’s Shed Lunch in the Centre

First Tuesday of month 7pm Theology Discussion group at the
Ring O’ Bells

One Saturday each month 9.30–12
noon Churchyard Working Party St
Bridget’s

Inclusive Church

Inclusive Church is a network of churches, groups and individuals uniting together around a shared vision.

The statement (referred to in the letter from Alex on page 3):

We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.

We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

<https://www.inclusive-church.org/the-ic-statement/>

SUPPER SUNDAY!

The next Supper Sunday for families with young children is on Sunday 12th October in St Bridget's centre. This is an opportunity families with children aged 0 to 11 years to meet, play, eat supper and have a gentle introduction to exploring faith through Bible stories and conversation. 3.30pm to 5pm.

Contact Andrew or Carolyn on childrenandfamilies@stbridgetschurch.org.uk to find out more.



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). There are still places available according to the website (on 29 September)

‘Anticipate: A Journey to Christmas’

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

Led by Ven Jane Proudfoot, Archdeacon of Macclesfield.

Anne Samuels is co-ordinating lifts.

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 is on Tuesday, 7th October at 7 pm in the ‘Ring of Bells’. The topic is ‘Green Theology’, i.e. the Stewardship of the Earth.

As usual, Dave (Chester) has prepared some preliminary study materials. This theme started to become prominent in Christian circles following a publication in 1967 by the historian Lynn White, in which the author placed much of the responsibility for our present predicament at the door of the Judaeo-Christian tradition.

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

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

DANDELIONS

A keen gardener read an article in their newspaper about someone who had a large crop of dandelions. They tried every method they knew to destroy them, but without success. In desperation they wrote to the appropriate government department to ask for advice. The answer finally came back: we suggest you learn to love dandelions.

Now it happened that the keen gardener who had read this was also plagued with dandelions. So being told to learn to love them would be no easy task. But, inspired by the article, they began talking to them every day, being cordial and friendly. The dandelions maintained a stubborn silence. They were obviously still smarting from the war that had been waged against them – and were suspicious of the gardener’s motives.

But the day eventually came when the dandelions smiled, relaxed, and started to be friends. The lawn of course was ruined, but how attractive the garden became!

What is there in our life that we are being asked, not just to tolerate, but to love? What difference would it make?



[Thank you to Ray Samuels for this article]



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O GOD, WHO MADE ME
 to trudge along the road always,
 to carry heavy loads always,
 and to be beaten always!
 Give me great courage and gentleness.
 One day let somebody understand me—
 that I may no longer want to weep
 because I can never say what I mean
 And they make fun of me.
 Let me find a juicy thistle—
 and make them give me time to pick it
 And, Lord, one day, let me find again—
 my little brother of the Christmas crib!

AMEN



faites que je trouve un beau chardon et qu'on me laisse le temps de le cueillir

CARMEN BERNOS DE GASZTOLD. TRANS. BY RUMER GODDEN

Since Eeyore has been mentioned earlier and our theme this month is inclusion, this prayer is given here. The poet, Carmen Bernos de Gasztold (1919–1995), was a French poet who lived in a Benedictine abbey. Her most famous collection is *Prayers from the Ark*, published in 1955 and consisting of short poems, each a prayer from an animal on Noah's Ark. The collection was translated into English by Rumer Godden.

This version was drawn by someone at St B's for a much-loved friend
 (also St B's, but sadly no longer with us)

Meet others

in the

Beacon Room, St Bridget's Centre

on Saturday 8th November

10am–12 noon

For more info: 625 2739



All Hallows Eve, All Saints and All Souls It's not really about pumpkins

October 31 begins a three-day observance and celebration of Allhallowtide, a combination of Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day.

ALL SAINTS DAY Sunday 2nd November in Caldy Church

Our church in Caldy is dedicated to Christ's Resurrection and All the Saints. To mark their dedication day we will hold a joint parish service in Caldy at 10am with our combined choirs leading the worship.

There will be a 10am Service of the Word at St Bridget's.

TIME TO REMEMBER Sunday 2nd November in St Bridget's at 6.30pm

All are welcome to this special service in St Bridget's church when we remember those we love who have died. There will be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one. The service follows a simple pattern and seeks to bring comfort and peace, to celebrate the lives of those we have known and to acknowledge their importance to us.

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



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SAFEGUARDING

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.