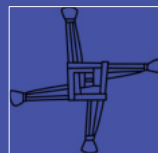


St Bridget's, West Kirby with Caldy Church PARISH MAGAZINE



Remembrance does not glorify war and its symbol, the red poppy, is a sign of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future



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www.caldychurch.org.uk

£1.00

November 2025 (Vol. 155: No 10)



Do you enjoy singing?

Has someone ever commented on how lovely your singing is?

St Bridget's church has a junior choir called 'Sing Aloud'.

We practice each week during term time, and we sing together in church for special occasions.

Our next big sing is Christmas the traditional carol service
at St Bridget's church.

Would you like to join us for this occasion?

The rehearsals are Tuesday 4.45 until 6pm in St Bridget's church
and are led by Mrs Longmore and Reverend Alex.

Sometimes people have to arrive a little after the start or leave a
little before the end because of other things they are doing.

If you are aged over 7, can come to rehearsals between now and
Christmas and would be available on the evening of Sunday 21st
December for the Carol Service then we would love you to join us.

If you are interested please let Reverend Alex know
rectorwestkirby@gmail.com or 017718646863

Cover quotation from the Royal British Legion website: The poppy is a symbol of Remembrance and hope, including hope for a positive future and peaceful world.



Letter from Alex

‘Do this to remember me’

The month of November is a time when we have a focus on remembering. On the 2nd of the month at St Bridget’s we hold a special service called *‘A Time to Remember’* when we gather to read out the names of those we love who have died and light candles in their

honour. Later in the month on Remembrance Sunday, we come together to remember those whose lives have been taken as a result of warfare.

The act of remembering is deeply human. Remembering links us to the past, helps us make sense of the present and can guide our future. While memory can be fallible, fleeting, and sometimes painful, it remains one of the most profound aspects of our consciousness. In the end, it is not just the act of remembering that is important, but how we choose to engage with those memories—whether through reflection, action, healing or simply cherishing the people and moments that have shaped us.

When we remember the people we love who have died we are reminded and can celebrate the good things about who they were and the positive influences they had on our lives. Lots of people tell us the importance and comfort they receive when they hear the names of people they have known and love spoken aloud. When we remember the losses caused by war, we have the chance to reflect and remind ourselves of the importance of trying to do things differently in the future though so often we seem to fail in this.

As Christians our greatest act of remembrance is when we gather to celebrate Holy Communion, sharing bread and wine and following the command that Jesus gives his closest friends just before his death *‘do this to remember me’*. This sacramental act of remembrance celebrates what Jesus has done for us and unites us with him and one another as we go out into the world. It is very much about the past, present and future.

All our remembering can help shape our moving forward. In her poem *‘before and after’* Donna Ashworth writes

‘The before is committed to memory now, the after is totally up to you. Make it count.’

You are all more than welcome to share in our acts of remembering, week by week at Holy Communion or the special services during November.

‘Do this to remember me’

Alex

REAL ADVENT CALENDARS

The *Real Advent Calendar* is the only one with Fairtrade chocolate, a copy of the Christmas story and which helps projects providing care and support for mums and new babies in African villages.

The *Real Advent calendar* was created in 2013 following surveys which showed that 36% of 5–7-year-olds did not know whose birthday is celebrated at Christmas. In the same year 51% of adults said that the birth of Jesus was irrelevant to their Christmas.

To help spread the Christmas story the Real Advent Calendar was created with a line of the Christmas story behind each of the 25 doors and a corresponding page in the Christmas story-activity book which expands the story and sometimes sets an Advent challenge.

Children love the Fairtrade chocolate and they love the book. Parents enjoy reading it with them and learning more about the Christmas story and traditions. Every year a new edition is produced using top children's illustrators.

The *Real Advent Calendar* is a great way to put Christ back into the hearts of those who no longer know the Christmas story.

The calendars are not on sale in supermarkets but are available from the Fair Trade stall in St Bridget's Centre on Sunday after the main morning service, and on Wednesday at the Link Coffee Morning. Margaret Smith

Patricia's quiet, hidden ministry

The Rev'd Ruth Harley tells how the simple kindness of one woman drew her, as a teenager, into the life of the Church

RECENTLY, I decided to tell our 8 a.m. congregation the story of the first time I went to church. And how it might well have also been the last, if it hadn't been for one woman's quiet kindness.

It's not the story of a "successful" church": maybe a dozen people, all aged over 70. One day, an unaccompanied 14-year-old showed up at this little church (me!). Whoever was at the door gave me a pile of books and papers, and told me to sit wherever I liked. So, I slipped in at the back . . . and was totally baffled.

The vicar tried his best to help: "We're on page three of the order of service." But what is an order of service? "We sing hymn number 63 in the green book." Locate green book. Turn to page 63. Nope, that's not what they're singing.

By the end, I had decided that this church thing wasn't for me. It didn't make sense, I hadn't got anything out of it, and I wouldn't be going back.

That might have been the end of the story, if it weren't for Patricia.



Patricia was in her eighties, and she was not a likely evangelist, to put it mildly. I think that she found the idea of talking about God quite embarrassing. Nor was she one of those stalwarts of the church keeping things running. I don't think she was even on any rotas.

But it was Patricia who said: "Hello, dear, you're new, aren't you? I'm sorry, I didn't see you come in, or I would have asked you to sit with me. Would you like to sit with me next week?" And, being a well-brought-up girl who didn't like to disappoint old ladies, I said "Yes."

And, because I said I'd sit with Patricia next week, I felt obliged to go back to church. So, I turned up again the next week, and the next, and the next. And Patricia sat beside me, pointing out what page we were on, and telling me when to stand up and sit down.

That's it. That's all she did. No great proclamation of the faith, no moment of "conversion". But, faithfully and patiently, week by week, Patricia helped me to

make enough sense of church for it to become somewhere I could encounter God. And everything else followed from that.

Quietly, unspectacularly, on an ordinary Sunday, this very unassuming woman changed my life (though she'd have been terribly embarrassed if anyone had put it to her like that) by her gentle witness to the steadfastness of God. I think of her often, and thank God for her.

And I wonder if, in all our talk of church-growth strategies and mixed ecologies, we are valuing the wrong things, looking in the wrong places. What would happen if we were more attentive to people like Patricia? If we valued the unremarkable life of the church more?

It seems to me that Jesus, again and again, calls our attention to the small and the ordinary: the mustard seed, the yeast, the widow's mite (which is why I was talking about Patricia in the first place). And yet we persist in celebrating and aiming for the big and spectacular.

Anyway, all this is to say: don't underestimate the Patricias in your congregations (and every congregation has them). Pray for them, and thank God for their quiet, hidden ministry and faithfulness — even if neither you nor they will ever see the fruit of it.

The Rev'd Ruth Harley, Vicar, Cowgate and Priest in Charge, Newbiggin Hall



Report on St. Bridget's MU Meeting, October 14th 2025

Our meeting began with a reminder from Carole Steele about the MU lunch at the Gravesberrie Inn, Greasby, on Tuesday, 11th November at 12 midday.

She said that some members had enjoyed both the Commissioning Service and a lovely tea in Handbridge last month, despite torrential rain on the journey home.

We then heard a most interesting account of his career from the Revd David Chester, which began with his time at Durham University, progressed to Aberdeen University and led to work in Liverpool University (where he is Prof Dave Chester, BA, PhD, Dip Theol C Ceol, Senior Fellow, School of Environmental Sciences).

His interest in Geology and then Volcanology, coupled with his talent for productive research, enabled him to travel widely and become an expert in the field of earthquakes and volcanic activity; there are many publications to testify to this and he is still enjoyably involved in active research.

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November 2025 Diary

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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 2nd November ALL SAINTS

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 8am | Holy Communion – St Bridget |
| 10am | Service of the Word – St Bridget |
| 10am | UNITED PARISH COMMUNION – Caldý |
| 6.30 pm | <i>A Time to Remember</i> – St Bridget
Memorial service for All Souls |

Sunday 9th November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (Third Sunday before Advent)

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 8am | Holy Communion – St Bridget |
| 10am | Holy Communion and Act of Remembrance – St Bridget |
| 10am | Holy Communion and Act of Remembrance – Caldý |
| 6.30pm | Compline – St Bridget |

Sunday 16th November SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

- | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 8am | Holy Communion – St Bridget |
| 10am | All Together Worship – St Bridget |
| 10am | Holy Communion – Caldý |
| 6.30pm | Evening Prayer – St Bridget |

Sunday 23rd November CHRIST THE KING

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

Sunday 30th November ADVENT SUNDAY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – 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)

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

FROM THE REGISTERS...

HOLY BAPTISM

"May he grow in the faith in which he has been baptised"

5th October Evan Rocky Munn (St Bridget)

MEMORIAL SERVICE

"Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord"

13th October Kathleen (Kay) Cass Harper (Landican & Caldby)

Giving to charities

The PCC recently agreed further donations to charities, which have now been sent. Three charities are small, local ones – **Dale Farm** in Heswall (supporting adults with learning difficulties), **Heart4Refugees** at Grange Baptist Church in Birkenhead (supporting refugees!) and **Supporting the Peeps** based in Moreton (providing practical help to local families in need).

A donation also went to the **Disasters Emergency Committee** (bringing together all the major UK charities meeting urgent needs worldwide) for their work in the Middle East. Hugely appreciative messages have been received from the three local charities.

Thank you to everyone whose generosity allows us both to meet our own essential needs and also to provide significant support to others.

John Smith – Parish Treasurer

Podcasts – their mysteries explained!

Fred Aspbury is doing his best to drag us into the 21st century [some of us have so far resisted! Ed.], with this guide to podcasts:

In my sermon at Choral Evensong recently, I mentioned a podcast I like to listen to. But what is a podcast, I hear you cry; and how does one go about listening to them?

A podcast is an audio program that you can listen to whenever you want, usually through the internet. It's a bit like a radio show, but instead of tuning in at a certain time, you choose what to listen to and when.

Podcasts often come in episodes, and you can subscribe to your favourites so new episodes appear automatically on your phone, tablet, or computer. Most people listen using apps such as Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or Google Podcasts, though the BBC also has them through the BBC Sounds app. You can also find them on YouTube or directly on the producers' website. Alternatively, just do a Google search.

However, because anyone can make an upload a podcast, it can be hard to find good ones. Below is a short list of my favourites. Enjoy!

Podcast	Presenters	Summary	Favourite episode/series	How to listen
<i>The Rest is History</i>	Tom Holland and Dominic Sandbrook	A lively, narrative history podcast exploring fascinating moments, people, and ideas from the past with wit and depth.	"Horatio Nelson" (5 episodes) "The First World War: 1914" (6 episodes)	Available on all major podcast platforms (BBC Sounds, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, etc.)
<i>Ask N.T. Wright Anything</i>	N.T. Wright and Justin Brierley	Listeners ask New Testament scholar N.T. Wright questions about theology, the Bible, and faith in everyday life.	"Why did Jesus have to die?"	Premier Insight.com, Apple Podcasts, Spotify
<i>Unbelievable</i>	Justin Brierley	Brings Christians and non-Christians together for respectful debates on faith, reason, and culture.	"Tom Holland vs. A.C. Grayling: Did Christianity give us our human values?"	Premier Christian Radio.com, Apple Podcasts, Spotify

Podcast	Presenters	Summary	Favourite episode/ series	How to listen
<i>Triggernometry</i>	Konstantin Kisin and Francis Foster	Honest and often provocative interviews with guests from across the political and cultural spectrum.	"Slavery Reparations and Colonialism with Rafe Heydel-Mankoo and Kehinde Andrews"	YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Spotify
<i>Two Priests Talking</i>	Fr. George Westhaver and Fr. Jonathan Turtle	Conversations between two Anglican priests reflecting on theology, liturgy, and church life with humour and insight.	"The Anglican Trident? Scripture, Reason and Tradition"	Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or through parish websites

Do you have a favourite podcast that you think that others would enjoy? If so, please let the Editor know (ann.holden@cantab.net) or Paula in the Parish Office so we can include it in the next magazine.

SOMETHING MORE



Saturday 8th November 10am – 12 noon, St. Bridget's Centre

This will be an informal session, aimed at those who want to explore the basics of the Christian faith and consider how being a Christian can change lives. Coffee, cake and conversation! Plenty of opportunity to ask questions, chat in small groups or simply listen. Please do consider inviting friends, family or neighbours.

If you would like to come, please give your name to Paula in the office: email office@stbridgets.org.uk or 0151 625 2739.

ORGAN UPDATE

The work on the St Bridget's organ has begun! As you'll remember, the console is now in the Henry Willis & Son workshop in Liverpool. This is part of the recent report. By the next issue of the magazine we hope to have some photos to show you also.

Regarding the work to your console here in the factory, it has now been completely stripped and all parts cleaned. The keys have been stripped down, overhauled and cleaned. The Pedalboard has been stripped and overhauled and new Rosewood caps applied to the Sharps (the originals were very worn as they were plain, black painted base wood). The Frame has been stripped, repaired and filled ready for spraying with Piano Black. The Drawstop Jambs have been removed. All the switchgear has been removed and the jambs themselves have been repaired and filled where damaged and sprayed and rubbed down ready for spraying with Piano Black. The console case has been cleaned and repaired where it is damaged and the keybench and kneeboard repaired - where the veneer was missing.

It's very exciting —but please don't ask for a full explanation of the above!



A Week-end Retreat at Foxhill

'Anticipate: A Journey to Christmas'

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

This will now be led by Rev. Lucy Brewster, Director of Foxhill. Have a look at the Foxhill website for more information (www.foxhillchester.co.uk)

A few of us from church are going. If you have booked, please let Paula in the Office know (625 2739, office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk) to coordinate lifts.



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Also representing the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) on the Wirral Peninsula

This old established environmental Society is looking for a **Minutes Secretary**, ideally to start in the New Year. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in helping us (unfortunately unpaid!) on the 4th Thursday afternoon in the month, please contact the Chairman, **Rod Tann** (who is often to be found sitting at the back of church for 10am service in St Bridget's), email: rodgtann@gmail.com or phone: 0151 625 1234 for more information. No previous knowledge of our work is necessary.

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Theology Discussion Group @ the Ring O' Bells

The next meeting is on Tuesday, 4th November at 7 pm in the 'Ring of Bells'.

Dave says: "I must apologise for letting the discussion wander [*at the last meeting*] from 'Green Theology', via Genesis and Creation to the whole question of the relevance of the Old Testament today, both for the Christian life and in worship."

Dave is currently planning a series of sessions on these questions which will form the basis of a programme of sermons and would appreciate any input from this discussion group.

In the next meeting, it is planned to discuss ancient (Old Testament) texts which today many Christians find problematic, although we are aware that Christ came to fulfil scripture.

All are welcome – please do come along and please invite others. Dave can be contacted on jg54@liverpool.ac.uk

Caldy Open Gardens 2025: Press Release



A huge thank you to everyone who participated in or attended Caldycaldy Open Gardens 2025. We're delighted to announce that the funds raised have, with the help of Neil Gregory at Mitchell Group, enabled our chosen charity, now known as Age UK Wirral, Liverpool & Sefton, to buy two wheelchair accessible vehicles, with a third vehicle in the pipeline, for their Home from Hospital Service.

"We're incredibly grateful to the generosity of everyone involved in Caldycaldy Open Gardens 2025 for enabling us to totally replace our worn-out vehicles with a new fleet. This guarantees we can run our Home from Hospital service efficiently and reliably for years to come. From each and every person who will benefit from our new vehicles — thank you!" Rich Crosbie, Lead out of Hospital Services

The Home from Hospital service enables vulnerable people, ready to be discharged from hospital, to return home, helping them attend future medical appointments & supporting them through their recovery. The resulting reduction in bed blocking and in hospital re-admissions benefits everyone living in the local area; a win-win all round.



And for this small space, a quotation from Confucius:

**It does not matter how slowly you go as long as
you do not stop**



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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.