

St Bridget's, West Kirby with Caldy Church



Sunday 4th January 2026

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.



- 8am** **Holy Communion – St Bridget's**
10am **Holy Communion – St Bridget's**
 (livestreamed)
10am **Holy Communion – Caldy**
6.30pm **A Quiet Space Prayers for Healing and Wholeness – St Bridget's**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION



Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LECTIONARY READINGS THIS SUNDAY

Isaiah 60.1-6 Ephesians 3.1-12 Matthew 2.1-12

Lectionary readings next Sunday

Isaiah 42.1-9 Acts 10.34-43 Matthew 3.13-end

FROM OUR BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE (4th – 10th January)

St Bridget: Lucy Axton, Thomas Cooper, Edith Gwendoline Evans, Eric Methven Barker, Sidney William Wilkins, June Forbes, Jean Philipps, David Owen Griffith, Elizabeth Thornton Sanders, John Clifton Croft, Lilian Mabel Sandbach, David Keith Morris, Isabel Mickler, Audrey Murphy, James Vincent (Jim) Taylor, Stephen David Allanson.

Caldy: Christopher Frank Wells Eames, Geoffrey Arthur Jones.

RIP: Jo Ashcroft, Eileen Romnes, Helen Brooks, Irene Moores.



A QUIET SPACE This evening, 6.30pm in St Bridget's

There will be a short meditation and an opportunity to offer and receive prayer for yourself or others at this quiet evening service.

WHAT'S ON this week**5th – 10th January**

Monday	RECTOR'S DAY OFF	
Tuesday	10am	Holy Communion – Caldy Church followed by coffee / tea
	2pm	Holy Communion at Caldy Manor
	2pm	Home Group – Rossinière, Pikes Hey Road
	4.45pm	Sing Aloud
	6pm	Choir practice
	7pm	Theology Discussion Group upstairs at the Ring O' Bells
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice
Wednesday	8.30am	Morning Prayer – St Bridget
	8.30 – 11.30am Link café – Centre	
	10am	Knit & Natter, Craft and Chat group – Centre
	11.30am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
	12 noon	Ministry Team meeting
Thursday	9am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	10am	Caldy Baby & Toddler Group + STiCK
Friday	9am	Morning Prayer livestreamed on Facebook
	10am	St Bridget's Baby Group – Centre

A Message from Anne Samuels

Thank you so much, everyone, for your messages of support, love and prayer and practical help over these last couple of months since my accident. It has been a traumatic time for Ray and it has meant the world to both of us to know we are not making this journey on our own. I am now at home and on the long road to recovery.

Let's all pray for each other as we enter the New Year, wanting to trust God for whatever lies ahead. It's wonderful to be a caring church community!

**CHARITABLE GIVING IN 2025**

In addition to donations to charities by individual church members, the parish gave over £11,000 in 2025 to charities. We have received many appreciative letters and emails, from local, national and international charities. Among local charities supported were Claire House, Wirral Ark, Wirral Foodbank, Riding for the Disabled, Maggie's and Wirral Mencap. Nationally, we supported A Rocha/Eco Church and Inclusive Church. Internationally, support for the Melanesian Mission, Médecins sans Frontières, WaterAid, Ripple Effect, Shelterbox, Tearfund and Mercy Ships.

I have more detail about the charities if you would like to know more.

Thank you for your generous giving to church funds, which allows us to be equally generous in our giving, at the same time as meeting all our essential costs.

John Smith – Parish Treasurer

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARISH

For those of you who were away over Christmas, or who were unable to get to any of the services through ill health, we thought you might like a short report.



19th December Caldy Carols on the green outside church after dark, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in church. There is a video on Facebook (search for West Kirby and Caldy church carols): this was a great success with about 50 people joining together.

21st December The traditional service of carols and readings in St Bridget's. The junior and adult choirs sang beautifully and some of the children were brave enough to sing solos. The church was full and there was a lovely atmosphere, from the beginning of the service, with the church in darkness, to the resounding ending.

Christmas Eve The outdoor/indoor nativity, when visitors tried to find rooms at one of the inns in Bethlehem. On the way, they were challenged by the bearded and heavily disguised tax collectors, encouraged by the night watchman by his fire and patrolled by the Bethlehem Police Dog Unit. Once in church, 'the room in the inn', a great cast told the story with much conviction to the 400 visitors, even down to the (real) baby in the manger (the baby's brother wasn't keen on this idea!)

Midnight Mass was very well attended this year with about 190 people present. Rev. Alex said that she had never blessed so many at the altar rail – wonderful that these visitors (many younger people) felt able to do this during Communion, instead of staying in their pews looking uncomfortable.



At St Bridget's, following the quiet communion at 8am on **Christmas morning**, we welcomed about 160 to the 10am service. Many of our usual members were absent as they were away or not well enough to attend, so it was heartening to see lots of visitors and children, who were able to watch the opening of the big, wrapped box during Rev. Alex's talk (spoiler alert! A gold, helium-filled star floated out). The Caldy service was also well attended.

If you are able to use [YouTube](#), the live-streamed Carol Service, Midnight Mass and 10am Christmas Day services at St Bridget's are available to watch.

BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY

The next *Bereavement Journey*®, a 7 session programme which assists bereaved people to process their loss, will be held at the West Kirby Methodist Church from January 28th for seven weeks, every Wednesday from 2-4pm. If you are interested in attending or know someone who might benefit, please let Paula in the office know, or contact Susan Rice-Oxley on 07867 544964 or susanriceoxley@live.co.uk

COATS, HATS, JOGGING BOTTOMS and TRAINERS



A huge thank you for your generous donations which are massively appreciated and have made a big difference to those arriving in Hoylake with very little. We are continuing to collect items which are desperately needed – please leave in the church porch.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing, put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,
exalted for you or brought low for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.

**And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.**

So be it.

**And the covenant made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.**

Amen.

The Methodist Covenant Prayer, used at the annual Covenant Service traditionally held at the beginning of the new year.

CONTACTS

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