

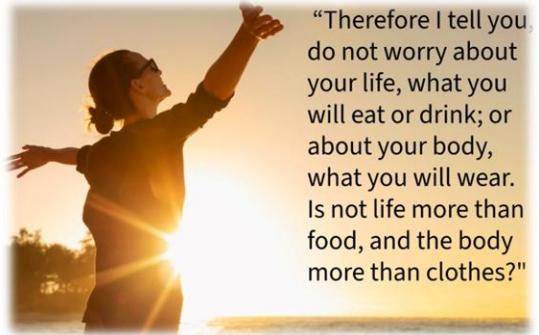
St Bridget's, West Kirby with Caldy Church

2nd Sunday before Lent

8th February 2026

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget's
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget's (livestreamed)
10am	Holy Communion – Caldy
12 noon	Holy Baptism – St Bridget's
6.30pm	Evening Prayer – St Bridget's

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LECTIONARY READINGS THIS SUNDAY

Lectionary readings next Sunday

Exodus 24.12-end 2 Peter 1.16-end Matthew 17.1-9

FROM OUR BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE (8th – 14th February)

St Bridget: Audrey Cross, John Bibbington, Peter Crook, Jean Davies, Georgina Griffiths, Jean Bond, Margaret Bonner, Michael Meyer, Michael Porter, Daphne Hobkinson, Christine Thompson, Marjorie Johnston, William Railton Stanley, Elizabeth Corlett, Grace Edwards.

Caldy: Florence Dixon Taffs, John Gordon Cooper, Jean Moyra Bond, Lilian Weston.

RIP: Eileen Spark, Robert Edwin Jones, Nicholas Lean.

Flowers on the Memorial Table at St Bridget's today have been given and arranged by Patricia Barrett-Crowther in memory of her beloved husband Terry.



WHAT'S ON this week**9th – 14th February**

Monday	RECTOR'S DAY OFF	
Tuesday	10am	Holy Communion – Caldy Church followed by coffee / tea
	11am	Funeral (Eileen Wordley Spark RIP) – St Bridget
	3.30pm	Toasty Tuesday in St Bridget's
	4.45pm	Sing Aloud
	6pm	Choir practice
	6.30pm	School Governors' meeting
	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
	2pm	School Lent service – St Bridget
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

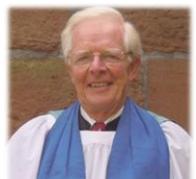
A HUGE THANK YOU

Last weekend was a wonderful celebration of our patron saint, Bridget. We had an evening of merriment and delicious food, with songs, poems, jokes and music. We raised £717.08 for the Foodbank which is a fitting tribute to Bridget. Our heartfelt thanks go to the team who organised the event and provided food and to all who attended.

On Sunday morning we had an 'All In' parish service with all our singers and musicians accompanying some joyous worship and in the evening the senior choir led a beautiful Choral Evensong. All that was missing was some Irish dancing – maybe next year!

HELP WITH REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE SCHOOL SERVICE

St Bridget's School hold their Lent service at 2pm this Wednesday in church. We offer refreshments after the service to some of the parents and children. This is an important part of our ministry of hospitality. If you are able to provide a cake or biscuits or could come along at 2.30 to help serve refreshments and wash up please let Paula in the office know. Thank you.

**BRIAN DODD**

Our Lay Reader Brian Dodd has a big birthday in March and at the tender age of 90 is stepping back from active ministry. We want to celebrate all that he has given to this parish and are planning a bring and share lunch on March 22nd in St Bridget's Centre after the 10am services.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Wednesday 18th February marks the beginning of Lent. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 11.30 at St Bridget's including an invitation to be marked in ash with the sign of the cross. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence and this custom has been followed since the Middle Ages. Please make a special effort to begin the season of Lent by coming along. During Lent we do not have flowers in church, the Gloria is not used, and we avoid using the word Alleluia in our worship – saving all of these for the great celebrations of Easter Day.



LENT – A TIME TO REFLECT AND PREPARE

Lent is a time of reflection and preparation, and here are a few things which may help:

LENT CALL A chance to talk to someone else about the Bible reading used in church that week. No previous knowledge needed – it's simply a short phone call or facetime chat about what struck you, perhaps what puzzled you or particularly spoke to you. If you're interested let Paula know.

LENT BIBLE REFLECTION at the home of Joy Alcock, Tuesdays at 2pm – let Joy know if you would like to go along. The theme will be the Gospel reading for the week.

SOMETHING MORE Small group discussion to explore questions of faith. A simple format of listening to material presented and then a chance to discuss **Session 1** How might we understand and encounter God? **Session 2** Who is Jesus and what difference might he make to our lives?

Days and times to be confirmed but let Paula or the Rector know if you would like to come along.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS a 30 minute service each Friday at 12 noon in the Chapel at St Bridget's, from Friday 20th February to Good Friday. We will reflect on two stations each week, allowing time for prayerful meditation as we journey together toward Easter. All are warmly welcome to pause, pray, and walk the way of the cross with us during this sacred season.

EARLY MORNING SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION at St Bridget's on Thursdays at 7.30am.

ECO CHURCH of local interest: Peak Cluster proposals re carbon capture

You may be aware of plans to construct a pipeline to convey CO₂ captured from industrial processes from Derbyshire and Staffordshire, which will pass from there through the Wirral to the coast near Meols. Despite assurances from Peak Cluster, there are many unanswered questions as to possible 'greenwashing', safety and environmental damage. Whatever your views, please be aware of developments which could potentially have a radical impact on our local environment.

ST BRIDGET'S MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 17th February** (please note this is one week later than usual) at 2pm in the Beacon Room when John Roberts will be giving a talk entitled *A View from the Bench*. This is an open meeting and all are welcome. As it is half term there should be some parking at the back of the Centre for those unable to walk far.



FLOWER GUILD Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 17th February at 1.30pm at the Rectory



An opportunity to get together and discuss what we are going to do week by week and on special occasions this year. Anyone interested in what the Flower Guild does is most welcome to come and join us. Refreshments too!

INCLUSIVE CHURCH – PRAYERS OF LOVE AND FAITH

We are pleased to be able to use the newly permitted [prayers for same-sex couples](#). From March we will have a service of prayer and thanksgiving on the second Saturday of each month at 12 noon. As well as an opportunity for anyone to pray for current concerns, give thanks and ask for God's blessing, we can also offer couples the prayers of love and faith in celebration of same-sex marriage within this service. Please contact the Rector or Office with enquiries.

VAT FOR CHURCHES

Changes to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme coming into effect from March this year mean that churches like St Bridget's and Caldy will no longer be VAT exempt on building work and repairs. We really need the government to ensure that **all** listed places of worship across the UK can reclaim **all VAT costs on repairs and maintenance** of their buildings. Having to pay VAT on any building schemes will put many churches at risk of closure. The National Churches Trust are urging us to write to our MP – so here is his email address matthew.patrick.mp@parliament.uk

BRIDGE AFTERNOON Friday 20th February, 1 for 1.30pm St Bridget's Centre

Donations of cakes, home-made if possible, would be very welcome.

£20 per table, pay on arrival – please phone Audrey Briggs on 07486 918169 to book.



THE ELECTORAL ROLL

Don't forget to join the electoral roll for the parish. Forms are available at the back of church or [online](#). Completed forms can be handed in at the office in the Centre, or emailed to the electoral roll officer Mary Rees mrees433@gmail.com 0151 625 1598. If you complete the form online, you may type your name for a signature.

CONTACTS

Rector	Rev. Alex Williams 625 1052	rectorwestkirby@gmail.com
Curate	Rev. Ruth Abbott	curatewestkirby@gmail.com
Churchwardens	Ann Holden, Anna Gibson	churchwardens@stbridgetschurch.org.uk
Retired Clergy	Rev. David Chester	625 8004
	Rev. Mary Railton-Crowder	384 2482
	Rev. Canon Anne Samuels and Rev. Canon Ray Samuels	625 3492
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Rosemary Morgan 0782 1672232	safeguardingwestkirby@gmail.com
Parish Office	0151 625 2739	office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk