



THE BRIDGE

ST BRIDGET'S WITH CALDY PARISH MAGAZINE

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caldychurch.org.uk

May 2026 (Vol. 16:No 3)

the COVER STORY

This month's cover photo is of the Easter decoration of the South Porch in St Bridget's, created by a very talented person (or persons). The other side of the porch depicted the empty tomb.

The churches looked beautiful after the austerity of Lent and many people commented on this.

To all those who were involved - thank you! The rest of us appreciate you.

First-of-the-month evening services at St Bridget's

St Bridget's has a Sunday Evening Service at 6.30pm every week. For the last year we have developed a pattern of services on the first Sunday of the month. Currently we rotate these three services.

Choral Evensong according to the Book of Common Prayer (May 3rd)

Our small senior choir prepares the music for this service. We sing the psalm and the responses as well as the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*. There are hymns and an anthem. Again, some people simply come and listen but there is plenty of opportunity to sing. There is a sermon and the service lasts just under an hour.

St Bridget's church clock

Thanks to generous donations we are able to send St Bridget's church clock away for repair. Some parts have worn out and keep slipping so the striking goes wrong or the chimes get in a muddle! We hope it won't be silent for too long. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Fair Trade stall at St Bridget's

There are some additions to the Fair Trade stall recently. These include a new range of greetings cards for birthdays and other occasions. At £1 each they represent excellent value and help support the work to make trade fairer for those who produce goods.

Do have a look at the stall after the 10am Sunday service at St Bridget's or at the Link Coffee morning on Wednesdays.

Letter from Alex

Celebrating who we are and what we care about

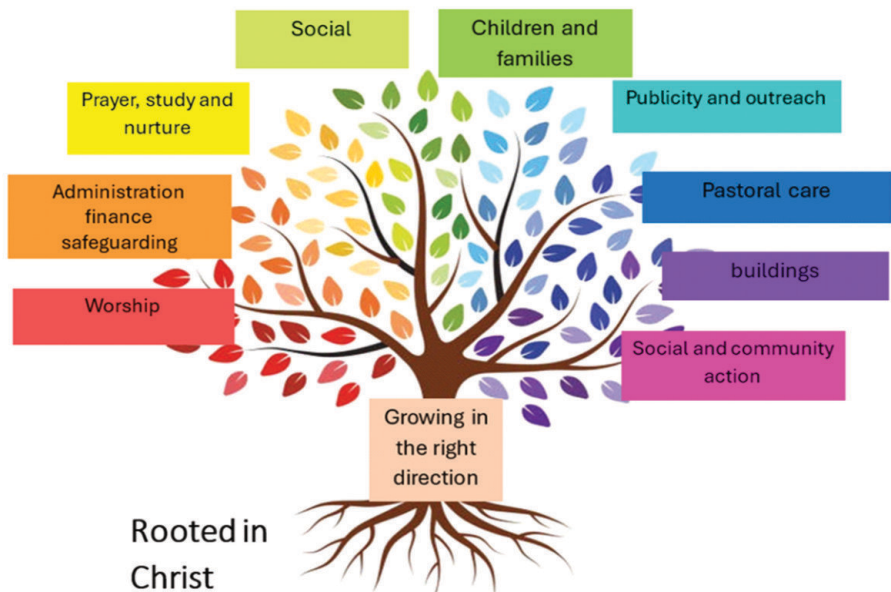
If you know me then you will probably know that I like new ideas. Sometimes I see people look in slight terror when I say 'I've been thinking...' because it usually means there's another idea on its way. Recently I was chatting about what I would like to put on the large noticeboard on the edge of the church. I wonder if you are someone who ever stops and looks at it ?

I was thinking that if we only had pictures and just a few words, what would we say? This was my idea

God cares about... The Earth, People, Justice, Equity, Love, You ... and so do we

Maybe our wonderful publicity and outreach worker will bring this idea to birth!

Our strategy and vision tree 2026. Like all healthy trees it sometimes needs to be pruned and new growth



This month, on Sunday May 17th, we meet together as a church community, first to worship at 10am and then, after the service, to hear about the work of the Parish. We will celebrate the good things which have taken place during the previous year, we will take note of the challenges and we will look ahead to what we hope to achieve across the parish in our mission and ministry. At the heart of all we do is God, God's longing for the world and the part we can play in that.

What do you long for in the world?

Why not come along on May 17th and see if it fits with what we are hoping to achieve.

Alex



I thought priests were Roman Catholic?

This is something often said when Church of England clergy tell people that they are priests. On June 20th our curate, Ruth Abbott, will be ordained priest in St Bridget's Church at 4pm. Ruth's journey to priesthood began with a discernment process. What sort of ministry did she feel called to? Was it to lay ministry such as a Reader or Parish Worker or was it to ordained ministry as a Deacon or Priest? Ruth discerned a calling to priestly ministry.

All priests begin ministry as Deacon. Last year Ruth was ordained Deacon and began her time as curate in the parish, taking services at Caldby and St Bridget's. As a Deacon, Ruth was able to take Services of the Word as well as working in all sorts of different ways across the parish, but she could not preside at a service of Holy Communion. Only priests can do that. This month, after almost a year as a Deacon, Ruth was interviewed by the Bishop to whom our Rector (Ruth's Training Incumbent) had submitted a lengthy report about Ruth. At the end of this interview the Bishop wholeheartedly recommended Ruth to be ordained priest.

Everyone is invited to Ruth's ordination.

Ruth will then preside at Holy Communion the following morning at the 10am service at St Bridget's. There will be no service at St Caldy that morning as we join together and share in this wonderful moment with Ruth.



AN ORGAN UPDATE AT LAST

We have this week received an update on the organ restoration!

The next major part of the work at St. Bridget's is the re-wiring of the organ chamber and Sam, one of the Willis staff, will be doing this in the week beginning 18th May, having spent the previous week tuning the organ on Orkney. The wiring in the organ loft involves removing all the low voltage wiring from the electromagnets, then running all new cables and returns to a central location where the New Solid State System will live. Jonathan Bowden has been working on the wiring lists for Sam already and should have those prepared by the end of this week.

The pipework cleaning involves the removal of all pipework from the chamber. This will be done row (rank) by row, so the pipes are cleaned and then replaced in the organ loft. Three Willis people will be involved in this stage.

Willis will do their best not to make church impassable with pipes (they would be concerned about the risk of theft, for one thing). The Managing Director, David Wyld, also wants some of the pipework to be taken back to the factory in Liverpool – those pipes will be cleaned in the workshop and they will also be checked in the 'voicing machine' and adjusted as necessary to the Willis 'speech characteristics', as the organ wasn't 'speaking' as it should have been. [Ed. We're talking musical tone and timbre, I think, not suggesting that we have a Scouse-accented organ!]

The last job will be to bring the console back to church, connect it up and hope it all works.

QUIET PRAYER

Deborah Huthwaite asks: What's it all about?
Come along on Wednesday 27th May (probably in church, time to be announced in weekly news sheet) and find out.



If you're someone who's only met me recently, you might be surprised to hear that I'm keen on contemplative prayer. I'm a bit of a talker and in old age, as Jim [Deborah's husband!] gets quieter, I seem to get louder, or at any rate, more talkative...

About 40 years ago I was not only a talker but a compulsive do-er. As a mother of five children and a member of an active Liverpool church, I was always busy. Bible reading was at speed (or not at all), and prayer consisted of me giving God His 'to do' list for the day. Silence didn't really enter my head or our lives.

Somehow it came as a great relief to hear of The Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer. A regular meeting led by Rev Bob Dickinson was held in Liverpool Parish church and I joined.

To begin with, I struggled to sit still for one hour, my mind shooting off in all directions. Gradually, I came to appreciate quiet prayer, and eventually started a group in our church in Liverpool. We met monthly for years. Since we moved to West Kirby in June 2025, I have talked with Alex and been encouraged by her enthusiasm for the idea of forming a group here at St Bridget's.

During Lent, I have been dipping into a devotional book by Ian Adams called Wilderness Taunts. Here are some lines from it:

What if God hears, but has little interest in your words - or at least less interest than you have in them?

What if this God is more interested in your presence, in your attention, in your love? Could your words be getting in the way?

Say what needs to be said, then fall into silence. Into presence.

If these words resonate with you, do come along to the taster session on 27th May. Before then, on the weekly notice sheet, I will write a brief advert so that you know what to expect. No previous experience necessary!

And please take note; I'm not writing this article as an expert in contemplative prayer or any sort of prayer. I'm just a fellow traveller along the pilgrim way.

Deborah Huthwaite 07425138681 debhuthwaite@hotmail.co.uk

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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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May 2026 Diary

Our churches are open for visitors and as places of prayer & stillness
St Bridget's daily until 5pm, Caldy 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 3rd May FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldy
6.30pm	Choral Evensong – St Bridget

Sunday 10th May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Sunday 17th May SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	All Together Worship – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldly
6.30pm	Compline – St Bridget

Sunday 24th May PENTECOST

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Service of the Word – Caldly
12 noon	Holy Baptism – St Bridget
6.30pm	Evening Prayer – St Bridget

Sunday 31st May TRINITY SUNDAY

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

Regular weekday services

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

Other regular activities

2nd Tuesday of month	2pm	Mothers' Union in the Centre
3rd Wednesday of month	12 noon	Men's Shed Lunch in the Centre
1st Tuesday of month	7pm	Theology Discussion group at the Ring O' Bells
One Saturday per month	9.30–12 noon	Churchyard Working Party St Bridget's

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	Caldy Baby & Toddler Group (term time)
Friday	10am	St Bridget's Baby Group – Centre (term time)

FROM THE REGISTERS...

Funerals, memorial services and burials

“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord”

15th March	Patricia Sumner (burial of ashes at St Bridget's)
2nd April	Dorothy June Chambers (Landican)
16th April	Shirley Beatrice Taylor (Landican and St Bridget)
17th April	Stephen Uren (Caldy)
24th April	Karl Andrew Wilson Whiteford (burial of memory box at Forget Me Not Fields)

IS IT YOU?
Ministries in the Church of England

Is it you?

Perhaps you have a sense of God calling? There are many ways in which we can respond to God's call, and every one of us has a ministry of some kind. If you would like to explore further what your ministry might be please speak to any member of our ministry team and watch this film produced by the Church of England.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/vocations>

Theology Discussion Group @ the Ring O' Bells Tuesday 5th May 7.00pm

Last month, Dave says, the group had a fine session on Liberation Theology, and it was decided that the theme this month would be Baptism. Ray (Samuels) has kindly agreed to lead the session. Of the seven sacraments, only two were initiated by Christ himself, the Eucharist and Baptism, but over the centuries the latter has generated controversy over several aspects of its theology and practice, not least over the issue of infant as opposed to adult baptism.

If you'd like to attend (and you would be very welcome), Dave can supply the material, a 'pastoral introduction' to baptism published by the Church of England and three short videos. One of these is Tom Wright's perspective from the standpoint of biblical theology, the second a traditional Catholic defence of infant baptism and the third a focus on adult or believer's baptism.

Best wishes,

Dave Chester (jg54@liverpool.ac.uk)

Do you have to follow a gluten-free diet?

If you do, and wonder if you can comfortably take the bread (wafer) at the Eucharist, did you know that we have gluten-free wafers? Please ask one of the wardens on duty at services of Holy Communion or speak to the presiding minister at the service, or ask when you reach the altar rail.

Our usual wafers are made by the nuns of the Carmelite Monastery Thicket Priory, in Thorganby, near York (<https://www.thicketpriorycarmel.org/>)

The gluten-free wafers are supplied by Eden, church suppliers (<https://www.eden.co.uk/gluten-free-communion-wafers/>)

On Tuesday 14th April, Carole welcomed members, friends and MU members from Higher Bebington who had joined us for the afternoon.

There was a time of prayer before Elaine Bradshaw spoke to us about her business enterprise, *Stole my Heart*. She told us the fascinating story of the way her skills in embroidery and appliqué had developed and been honed as she progressed from first making a clerical stole for her sister, our Rector Alex, at her Deaconing. Poignantly, this included their mother's wedding ring stitched amidst the gold embroidery. Elaine explained the intricate techniques she uses to display her designs, some of which tell stories, while others reflect the life experiences of their wearers.





In addition to stoles, Elaine also produces pulpit falls and her commissions come from far and wide. Examples of her work were on display and others were shown onscreen. There were a number of Elaine's working files to look at showing the designs from start to finish. Her account of her work sparked a great deal of interest.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday May 12th at 2.00 pm in the Beacon Room when Rosie Earp who is in charge of 'Away From it All Holidays' for Chester Diocese MU will be coming to tell us about the holidays that are arranged for families who otherwise would most probably never have one. Static caravans are arranged in North Wales for this. Do come along and learn more of what the MU does in the community. Visitors are very welcome.

On Tuesday 18th May, we hold our Wave of Prayer from 1.30–2.00 pm. This is a never-ending prayer chain around the world when we pray for our linked Dioceses.

[Elaine has also restored the special gold altar frontal for St Bridget's - see before and after photos above]



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TOYBOX

a charity changing the world for street children



TOYBOX

Changing the world
for street children

Toybox is one of the charities to which the parish has made a donation in the last year, so we thought you might like to know more.

Record levels of inequality, violence, migration, war and natural disasters mean children are forced to live or work on the streets around the world. They escape abusive homes or end up on the streets after being displaced or trafficked. Whatever the reason for children moving to the streets, all of them are at risk of abuse and exploitation on a daily basis. They are exposed to stigmatisation, physical, sexual and psychological violence. Their future is bleak and their life expectancy terrifyingly low.

For over 30 years, *Toybox* has been working alongside street children, first in Latin America and now in Asia and Africa. The charity's core purpose is to help children marginalised and abused by those who should be protecting them.

They state: **We seek to do the right thing, to speak the truth against injustice and to be unafraid to try new ideas.**

Joy Alcock, deputy warden at Caldy, found a wonderful notebook that belonged to her mother. Amongst the many entries was this:

Mother and baby camel in zoo:

Baby: "Why do I have two humps?"

Mother: "So you can carry your own water supply when you're in the desert"

B: "Why do I have such long eye lashes?"

M: "When you're in the desert, they help to keep the sand out of your eyes."

B: "Why do I have such big flat feet?"

M: When you are in the desert, your flat feet stop you from sinking into the sand."

B: "Well, mum, what am I doing here in Chester Zoo?"

PARISH BOOK CLUB

Starting on May 24th at 5pm in the Beacon Room, St Bridget's Centre for one hour.

This year's book is ***Naked Spirituality*** *A life with God in twelve simple words* by Brian D. McLaren.

The author is described as 'A controversial Christian leader and author of *A New Kind of Christianity* [who] encourages readers to avoid old religious practices that do not contribute to spiritual growth and instead embrace and new set of practices to invite a better life.'

We know how busy life can be and how for some the thought of reading a book in a month is overwhelming, so we are going to read one chapter a month! Each chapter focuses on a word – and even if all you read is that word you can come along and listen or share your thoughts. First word... 'Here'

The book is widely available both new (New from <https://blackwells.co.uk/> for £12.99 including delivery) and second-hand and on Kindle and, if you would like to shop local, *West Kirby Bookshop* can supply the book and will give you a 10% book club discount.

Ring Ring Ring Ring Ring Ring Ring Ring Ring Ring

St Bridget's Tower has a great team of bell ringers but needs to train up new ringers to sustain this amazing skill. If you would like to know more please speak to Don Naylor, the Tower secretary who can be reached on 0798 365 7859 or email donhilbre@sky.com

Endpiece

David was a Hebrew King who was so skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.

(Found in a past church newsletter)

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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.