

diversity **D** equality **E** inclusion **I** belonging **B**

THE BRIDGE

ST BRIDGET'S WITH CALDY PARISH MAGAZINE

£1

stbridgetschurch.org.uk

caldychurch.org.uk

June 2026 (Vol. 16:No 5)

“the best way to find yourself is to
lose yourself in the service of others.”
— mahatma gandhi

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.

Iona Community worship (June 7th)

You are warmly invited to join us for this peaceful, meditative service of Evening Prayer using liturgy from the Iona Community. During our worship, John and Margaret Smith will share their thoughts on what membership of the Iona Community means to them. We look forward to welcoming you. *Mary & Graham*

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



Our parish has been a member of the Inclusive Church Network for almost 20 years.

As a community called to follow Jesus, we are invited again and again to widen our circle—to welcome the stranger, to bear one another’s burdens, and to practice hospitality as a way of life. Inclusion is not a programme or a slogan; it is a spiritual discipline rooted in the gospel. When Jesus ate with the outcast, spent time with those on the margins, and revealed a God who was generous and merciful, he showed us that God’s table is big enough for everyone.

Our parish theme for the month of June is love. June is also Pride month and we fly the Pride flag from the top of St Bridget’s tower to demonstrate our commitment to being a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

Being inclusive means listening before judging, learning before assuming, and acting with humility and courage. As a church it means that in all we do we seek to honour the dignity of every person—regardless of age, race, ability, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, immigration status, or mental health. It means that our worship, our teaching, our social activities, our pastoral care, the set up and use of our buildings and the spending of our money aims to enable everyone to feel truly welcome. Inclusion looks like accessible entrances and hearing loops, child-friendly corners, quiet spaces and busy spaces, it means pastoral care that meets people where they are, sermons and teaching that reflect diverse stories and challenge assumptions.

Inclusion also requires honest self-examination. We must ask where our words, traditions, or structures inadvertently exclude. We must be willing to change, to apologise, and to repair relationships. It is a communal work -every member is encouraged to practice it in conversations on street

corners, in the offering of hospitality and acts of service and in decision making.

Above all, inclusion flows from love. Jesus' command to love one another (John 13:34) and the apostle Paul's vision that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek (Galatians 3:28) call us beyond comfort into faithful, costly welcome. When we broaden our embrace, the body of Christ becomes truer to its calling: a living sign of God's reconciling grace to the world.

This month as we celebrate love, we are reminded of our strapline, open hearts, open minds, open hands and invite you to join us in offering a radical welcome to all

Alex

Ordination weekend 20th and 21st June

On **Saturday 20th June at 4pm in St Bridget's**, our curate, Ruth Abbott, will be ordained priest by the Bishop of Birkenhead. To our knowledge, it is the first time that an ordination has taken place in St Bridget's.

Ruth joined us as Deacon last year and we hope she now feels embedded in the parish. Please hold her in your prayers during the next few weeks, especially the week before her ordination when she will be on retreat.



Everyone is welcome to the service and we hope that many of you will come to support Ruth.

The following day, on **Sunday 21st June**, Ruth will preside at Holy Communion at 10am in St Bridget's for the first time (she has been practising!) This will be a united parish service (no service at Caldy that day), followed by a Bring and Share lunch in the centre.

Please come along, bring and share (or even just share)!

[*'Rainbow Rising Sun' stole by Stole My Heart by Elaine, who recently spoke at an MU meeting*]

Would you like to support our work?


We offer many different activities and opportunities across the parish but there is always more we could do. It costs us 4K per week to maintain mission and ministry. We currently just about have enough income to cover our essential expenditure which means we have to fundraise for anything extra. We do not receive any money from the state or from the Church of England so we are entirely dependent on the money which comes in from our congregation and community. The best way to support the parish is via the parish giving scheme which you can sign up to via our church website. Legacies are also a great way of enabling us to do more, so please consider that as a possibility.

www.stbridgetchurch.org.uk

Thank you



Calling All Bakers for Summer Fair Saturday July 4th on School Field

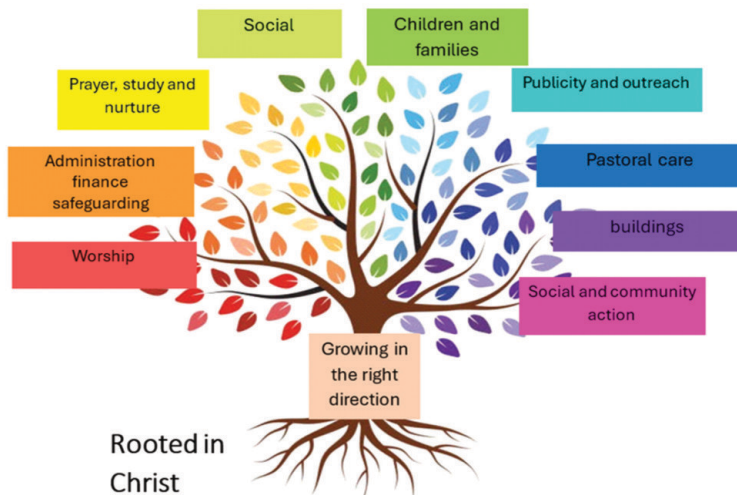


The Summer Fair is a wonderful joint occasion between St Bridget's school and the church. The congregation prays for sunny weather and the school families join in to set up the field, run stalls and enjoy themselves.

This year, there will be one cake stall, run by the church and its amazing cake makers. We need **homemade** cakes and biscuits, cup cakes, scones, whatever is your speciality! We will probably have available freezer space before the day. Please label your bakes if they have been frozen, if they contain nuts or if they are gluten-free. Keep an eye on the weekly newsletter for updates.

Thank you for your help!

Have you seen our tree? - The finance team



We are very fortunate to have a small number of people who take care of the money side of things in the parish! There are various aspects to this role including book keeping, authorising payments

We are very fortunate to have a team of people who take care of the money side of things in the parish. There are various aspects to this role including bookkeeping, authorising payments, counting cash, paying in to the Post Office, managing the payroll, claiming Gift Aid, and dealing with the multitude of things that crop up relating to money. My thanks to everyone who helps in any way. And thanks to all the generous givers who keep the parish afloat financially.

2025 was a relatively calm year. Although we had an overall deficit of around £30,000, this is accounted for by work on St Bridget's organ and the replacement of the boiler in St Bridget's Centre. We met all our commitments, including Parish Share of just under £100,000 (which pays for the Rector, contributes towards Diocesan costs and helps other parishes much less well off than ourselves).

2026 will be more of a challenge, as several essential maintenance tasks will need to be undertaken, and the costs of preparing for major projects at St Bridget's and Caldly will need to be met. It is likely that some reserves will need to be used, and that fundraising will need to start later in the year to allow the projects to progress.

I have given formal notice that I wish to retire as Treasurer in 2027, so we need to find someone to take the lead role in managing the finances of the parish. A new

accounting system is making the role much easier, and the workload is spread very successfully within the team, but we need someone to oversee everything, ensuring that all essential tasks are done. Might that be you? Speak to me or the Rector if you think you could help in any way.

Thank you again to everyone who helps manage the parish finances, and to everyone who gives generously to allow us to share the Good News of the Gospel in our community.

John Smith – Parish Treasurer

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2026 17th May

There was a good attendance of people on the Electoral Roll at this meeting, the highlight of which was the Rector's report of the year. Alex was thanked for this and all she does for the parish by John Roberts, in his inimitable style.

We are most grateful to all those who have agreed to take on an 'official' role in the coming year, especially to new members of the PCC.

The parish churchwardens are now Anna Gibson, for the second year, and Priscilla Bench-Capon, who is no stranger to being warden!

The deputy wardens at Caldby are Joy Alcock and Rose Wilson.



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June 2026 Diary

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**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 7th June FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldby
6.30pm	Stories of Encounter – St Bridget

Sunday 14th June SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Sunday 21st June THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget UNITED SERVICE of All Together Worship and Rev. Ruth
10am	Abbott's first celebration of the Eucharist – St Bridget (no service at Caldy)
6.30pm	Compline – St Bridget

Sunday 28th June ST PETER & ST PAUL, APOSTLES FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Regular weekday services

Tuesday	10am	Holy Communion at Caldy 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...

HOLY BAPTISM

"May they grow in the faith in which they have been baptised"

12th April	Dexter George Edwards (St Bridget)
3rd May	Denny Christopher Dettlaff (St Bridget)
10th May	Parker Aaron Walker Swede (St Bridget)

HOLY MATRIMONY

"May they grow together in love and peace"

22nd May	Caroline Elizabeth Watt & Samuel Philip Dodsworth (St Bridget)
23rd May	Annabelle Helena Williams & Will Brewster (St Bridget)

Theology Discussion Group @ the Ring O' Bells Tuesday 2nd June 7.00pm

Following another fine meeting in May on the theme of Baptism, the June meeting will be a discussion of the Psalms. The meeting as usual will take place in the 'upper room' at the 'Ring of Bells' **and all are welcome**. If you're interested, Dave can supply some notes of his own on the subject and also a table containing summary information on the Psalms. There are two useful YouTube videos (links given below): one by Tom Wright, stressing how Jesus used this material from the Old Testament and the other containing more introductory material.

With best wishes,

Dave Chester

A Tom Wright Video [NT Wright | Jesus and the Psalms - YouTube](#)
Introduction to the Psalms [Book of Psalms Summary: A Complete Animated Overview - YouTube](#)

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

(Philippians 1.6 NSRV)

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>

St. Bridget's Mothers' Union Meeting, May 12th 2026

The meeting began with prayer, led by Carole Steele.

She then informed us about the Wave of Prayer on May 19th, the invitation to the Heswall MU Beetle Drive on 16th June and the Bring and Share Lunch on 9th June. Carole also gave us feedback on the MU Council Meeting which she and Chris had attended recently.

We then heard an interesting talk by Rosie Earp, who administers the Chester Diocesan MU "Away From It All" holidays. This is funded by MU branches and enables people who would not otherwise have a break from their difficult or stressful situations to have a short holiday. Most are families, but sometimes single people qualify. Frequently, chalets at Presthaven are used, although there are other options.

Referrals are made by social workers, teachers, clergy and similar professionals.

Rosie said that the concept is based on Matthew 25:40 'Whatever you did for one of the least you did for me'.

NB. The Bring-and-Share on 9th June is at the earlier than usual time of 1.00pm. Visitors are welcome [We assume an edible contribution would be welcome but not essential. Drinks will be provided. Ed.]

AN ORGAN UPDATE

Sad to say, after our hopeful report about the imminent reinstatement of the St Bridget's organ and the final work in church, we have heard nothing further from Henry Willis & Sons Ltd.

Although we expected the work in church to begin on 18th May, this has not happened. In case anyone is concerned about the finances, we have not received an invoice from Willis since February so have only paid so far for the work that has been done.

We do so hope to be able to bring you more positive news in the next magazine and we're looking forward to arranging a concert to show off the restored organ.

Prayer Walk in St Bridget's Lower Churchyard

We have been working for almost a year to develop a prayer walk in the lower churchyard at St Bridget's. The children from St Bridget's school have helped to design images which depict the evolution of the planet. These images are being created in glass and will form the prayer walk in what we hope will be a quiet and sacred space. We are aiming to have all the necessary permissions in place to complete the installation before the end of the Summer term. Here is a preview of one of the glass images created for us by The Lazy Woodpecker based in Church Road, West Kirby.



<https://thelazywoodpeckers.co.uk/> 35 Church Road, West Kirby, Wirral

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.

We know for some the thought of reading a book in a month is overwhelming, so we're reading 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. Second word... 'Thanks'

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



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Dale Farm Trust

One of the charities which the parish supports is the Dale Farm Trust, a registered charity and vocational service based in Heswall,. It operates as a working organic farm and day centre that provides meaningful work experience, training, and therapeutic horticultural activities for adults with learning and physical disabilities

This is what they say about themselves:



At Dale Farm we are a happy community of supported people, staff and volunteers. We are a people centred service for adults with learning and/or physical disabilities; we provide people with disabilities meaningful work and opportunities.

Equality, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. We aim to assess, advocate, support and provide training for everyone at the farm. We see ourselves as one happy farm family where anyone is welcome no matter their ability or disability.

If you haven't visited Dale Farm, it is well worth a visit. Their farm shop is open to the public Monday to Friday 10am-2pm and sells their own fruit, vegetables and award-winning honey produced using their own hives.

Day-to-day activities include planting and growing organic fruit and vegetables in their fields and polytunnels, and they also grow plants, tubs and hanging baskets.

Joy Alcock, deputy warden at Caldy, found a wonderful notebook that belonged to her mother. This is one of the many entries:

There were two doors in heaven, one for men who were dominated by their wives and one for men who were never dominated.

Many men stood at the first door but only one man at the latter.

When St Peter asked the lone man how he came to be standing at this door, the man replied, "I don't know, my wife told me to stand here."

OXFAM – WEST KIRBY HAS A NEW SHOP MANAGER



Dear parishioner,

Having lived and worked abroad for 35 years, I'm delighted to now be semi-retired in West Kirby which has been my family home for 45 years. I say semi-retired because after a long career in retail, I found that I wasn't very good at being retired. So, I was very lucky that shortly after moving into a lovely Banks Rd flat and finding myself at a bit of a loss as to how best to spend my time, the Oxfam Shop Manager job became up, and after a couple of interviews I was delighted to be offered the job.

Some of you may know that sadly the shop has not been open on a regular basis, partly because it's not had a manager for some time, and because many of our wonderful volunteers have retired or left for various reasons.

That's where I hope that the parishioners of St Bridget's and Caldy churches might be able to help. I really need volunteers, especially on Fridays and Saturdays, to keep the shop open. We have lots of different and varied types of jobs to do, as well as serving our customers, and you don't need to commit to a whole day, maybe just a morning or afternoon if you can spare a few hours any day of the week except Sundays when we're closed.

I'm in the shop every day, so I would be happy to show you around and share our story with you over a cup of tea or coffee, which, I might add, are free for our volunteers. If you work a full day or travel to us on public transport, we'll also buy you a light lunch and reimburse your travel costs. We can't run our shops without our fantastic volunteers, and I hope that you will consider joining our existing lovely group.

Thank you for allowing me space in your parish magazine to introduce myself, and I hope that I might meet some of you soon.

Sincere thanks,

Paul – Shop Manager, Oxfam in Grange Rd.

Endpiece

**Christians have only one spouse.
This is called monotony.**

(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.