



THE BRIDGE

ST BRIDGET'S WITH
CALDY
PARISH MAGAZINE

stbridgetschurch.org.uk caldychurch.org.uk

October 2026 (Vol. 16: No 9)

£1

Toasty Tuesday is three years old!



The extremely popular *Toasty Tuesdays* are back for the new school year. Our Children and Families workers, Andrew and Carolyn (above, if you don't know them, though it's hard to believe anyone won't by now!) started this weekly term-time event and have been lucky to have several volunteers to help spread the chocolate!

However, it's been so successful that they are keen for more people to join the wonderful team. Volunteering need only involve you for about 1.5 hours every few weeks and would involve serving tea (to the adults) and toast (to the children) and washing up.

Cover: This shows the installation over the font, celebrating water for the Harvest Festival. It was conceived and created by Helen and Ali and has been much photographed. Thank you both!



All Welcome!

I recently found myself answering the door to attendees at a meeting in someone else's house whilst they were busy making cups of tea. "Welcome, welcome!" I said and then found myself laughing that I was welcoming people, who I didn't really know, into a house which wasn't mine!

It made me think about how this is the position we are in when we welcome people into church. We may not know them very well, if at all, and we are welcoming them into a house which belongs not to us but to God.

As a church we frequently use the words 'All Welcome' on posters and fliers when inviting people to events and services. But do we really mean it? This month we celebrate this parish belonging to the Inclusive Church Network, an organisation which seeks to ensure that all feel more than welcome. What does that really mean? Surely all churches would say they were inclusive and that all were welcome?

But to be a truly inclusive and welcoming church means transforming our communities into spaces where every person is not just tolerated, but deeply valued, safe, and celebrated. It calls us to shift our mindset from *doing ministry for* marginalized groups to *doing ministry with* them.

For example, true accessibility goes far beyond installing a ramp at a door but requires an ongoing commitment to removing physical, sensory, and communicative barriers so that everyone can participate fully in the life of the church. It means trying to ensure that those with health challenges or medical conditions feel safe and comfortable enough to fully enter into worship. It's one reason we have worked so persistently to provide an accessible toilet within St Bridget's church*.

A truly inclusive and welcoming church understands that God creates minds to work in beautifully diverse ways creating a culture where

neurodivergent people do not feel pressured to “mask” in order to fit in. We aim to encourage conversations around mental health conditions, so that depression, anxiety, or trauma are met with supportive community care

Inclusion also means ensuring that LGBTQI+ individuals are fully affirmed in their identities, relationships, and spiritual callings, free from the fear of rejection or spiritual harm, fully welcomed as they are. As a Church, the challenge for us is to move past those vague phrases like “all are welcome” to explicitly naming, celebrating, and affirming LGBTQI+ individuals, opening all levels of ministry, leadership, ordination, and sacraments (including marriage) to individuals regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation and honouring and validating all families, including same-sex couples, those who are divorced, transgender parents, single parents, and blended or chosen families. Being truly welcoming and fully inclusive means we are likely to always be a work in progress as we seek to understand the needs of our diverse community.

Perhaps most of all we want all those who come through our doors to not simply feel welcome but that they belong because true inclusion is the understanding that the church physically and visibly lives out the life, presence, and mission of Jesus through human bodies, shared community life, and liturgical worship. We are called to embody a love that leaves no one on the margins. A truly inclusive community goes past mere politeness to build mutual relationships where we listen, learn, and allow ourselves to be changed by one another. It means the church is not a private club for the already comfortable, but a spiritual home that says clearly to everyone Welcome! Welcome! Here, you are loved. Here, you are included. Here, you are home.

Alex

*Planning permission has now been granted for the toilet extension.



The Inclusive Church Statement

"We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.**

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

Inclusive Church is a network of churches, groups and individuals uniting together around a shared vision.

Our curate, Ruth, writes:

We are delighted to be welcoming Rev Hannah Harvey as our guest speaker for Inclusive Church Sunday, which is Sunday 11th October. Hannah will be joining us as we explore an important question: what does it really mean to make room for everyone?

For some people, faith communities have been places of friendship, belonging and acceptance. For others, the experience has been very different. People can find themselves judged, excluded or simply feeling out of place because of their sexuality, gender, race, neurodiversity, disability or mental health. Others may feel that religion simply has

nothing to say to them. Inclusive Church Sunday gives us an opportunity to acknowledge those experiences honestly and to think about the barriers that still exist. Inclusive Church began in 2003 and has grown into a network of individuals, congregations and organisations committed to challenging exclusion and celebrating diversity. Its message is straightforward but demanding: saying that everyone is welcome is not enough. What matters is whether people genuinely experience acceptance and belonging.

Many of us have known people who have experienced exclusion from faith communities because ‘they didn’t fit in’ and how much it can mean to discover a place where they are truly welcomed. However, putting up a sign saying “Everyone Welcome” is the easy part. We also need to ask who might still feel on the outside and whether we are prepared to listen to why.

In the parable of the lost sheep, a shepherd has one hundred sheep, but when one goes missing he leaves the other ninety-nine to search for it. The ninety-nine are already safe and secure; it is the one on the outside who needs his attention. This poses a challenge for us today. How much of our energy is spent looking after those who are already comfortable, and how much is spent noticing and listening to those who have found themselves on the margins? This can be challenging, because it means going beyond our familiar circles, meeting people where they are and being prepared to listen. Most importantly, it means recognising that the encounter may change us too. It may cause us to question our assumptions, hear things that make us uncomfortable and form relationships with people whose experiences are very different from our own. But perhaps that is where something important happens: not when one group welcomes another on its own terms, but when we discover a new way of being together – a reflection of God’s kingdom here on Earth

Inclusive Church Sunday gives us a chance to reflect on all of this. It reminds us that making room for others is not a finished task or a label we can comfortably give ourselves. It is an ongoing willingness to listen, to learn and sometimes to change – and to recognise that all of us have something to contribute to the way we live alongside one another.

October 2026 Diary

Our churches are open for visitors and as places of prayer & stillness
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-Caldý](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/All-Saints-Caldy)

or the weekly newsletter, or phone the office (0151 625 2739)

Sunday 4th October EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldý
6.30pm	Iona-style Prayer for Creation – St Bridget

Sunday 11th October INCLUSIVE CHURCH SUNDAY

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

Sunday 18th October ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	All Together Worship – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldý
12 noon	Holy Baptism – St Bridget
6.30pm	Compline – St Bridget

Sunday 25th October **LAST 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
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 (from 9.30am out of term)
	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

"Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord"

18th September William James Frederick Gollins (Caldy & Landican)

30th September Margaret Jewsbury (St Bridget & Landican)

Parish Book Club

The next session will be 5–6pm on Sunday 25 October in St Bridget's Centre (to be confirmed at the time of writing).

For this session, we'll be looking at the next word 'Sorry!' in Chapters 10 (*Holier Than Myself*) and 11 (*Unleashing Our Own Becoming*) in ***Naked Spirituality*** *A life with God in twelve simple words* by Brian D. McLaren.

Sunday 4th October St Francis' day

4.00pm Showing of the film *People's Emergency Briefing* in the Beacon Room, St Bridget's church centre (the film is about the huge implications of climate change).

And watch out for progress towards the Prayer Walk in the lower churchyard at St Bridget's – a cosmic walk of meditation on Creation.

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Calling all photographers!



Churchwarden Anna hopes that our readers will look around them, in their gardens, on a walk or even in the house and photograph something of interest from God's creation. Use your phone or a real camera. Perhaps add a few words to say why you were interested in the subject and send to the Editor.

This is a Western Honeybee, seen in Anna's garden.

This extract is from **Sue Monk Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees*** (which is well worth reading, if you haven't already done so):

I hadn't been out to the hives before, so to start off she gave me a lesson in what she called 'bee yard etiquette'. She reminded me that the world was really one bee yard, and the same rules work fine in both places. Don't be afraid, as no life-loving bee wants to sting you. Still, don't be an idiot; wear long sleeves and pants. Don't swat. Don't even think about swatting. If you feel angry, whistle. Anger agitates while whistling melts a bee's temper. Act like you know what you're doing, even if you don't. Above all, send the bees love. Every little thing wants to be loved.

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St Bridget's Flower Guild shows others how to do it

On September 20th, members of St Bridget's Flower Guild hosted a Diocesan event on sustainable flower arranging. A verbal report by an attendee said that about 30 people came, mostly from outside our Parish. Sally Cashen gave an excellent demonstration of how the Flower Guild works more sustainably, while April Titley created an arrangement that was won by a visitor.

St Bridget's War Memorial:

Edward Smethurst Crowder: the face behind a name

Mary Railton-Crowder

Edward was born in Wallasey in 1888. He moved to West Kirby as a child and lived at 34 South Road, West Kirby with his parents, Richard Crowder and Maria (née Smethurst) and his two sisters, Jessie and Margaret. He became an upholsterer and at the time of the 1911 census he is shown as lodging with the Andrews family at 51 South Rd. In 1913 Edward married Gertie Roberts. They had one child, a son Leslie, who was baptised at St Bridget's in April 1914. Our parish registers show that the family was living in Eaton Rd at the time. Edward joined the Territorial Army in 1909. When war broke out he served first



with The Kings Liverpool Regiment and then the Manchester Regiment. He was wounded in action in France in March 1918 and taken prisoner. He died of his wounds on 3 June 1918 and is buried in a POW cemetery in Poland. He is remembered on war memorials at St Bridget's, Grange Hill and Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery in Poland.

After Edward's death, his widow Gertie continued to live in West Kirby. She trained as a teacher and worked at Heswall Church of England School. She died in 1935. Their son Leslie became a Chartered Accountant and in World War 2 served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Army Ordinance Corps. Like his Father, he too served in the Territorial Army. He died in Oxfordshire in 1987 at the age of 73.

I encourage you to take a good look at the War Memorial next time you are in church. Please let me know if the names of any of your ancestors are

listed so that we can share more stories, and put more faces to the names of those who are remembered year by year.

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on November 8 and as usual our 10am services at both churches will include an Act of Remembrance.

'At the going down of the sun, and in the morning. We will remember them'



Mothers' UNION
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On Tuesday September 9th, we welcomed our curate Ruth Abbott to our meeting to speak about her life as a curate. She told us a little of her earlier life in Ireland where she was brought up as an Irish Catholic and of her life when she came to England: her children had attended St. Bridget's school when young.

Ruth had been a reader before being accepted for ordination and attended Emmanuel College in Liverpool for two years' training. The family moved to Heswall. She loves being at St. Bridget's. It has all been a learning curve, including the gardening at Caldy church. She told us of some of her mistakes, quizzed us on items in church and told us about the churches' customs. In the past year she said that she had learned a lot and just wondered why God had taken so long to call her and she feels very blessed. Many questions were asked before she rushed off to *Toasty Tuesday*.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th October at 2 pm when Emma Liney is coming to tell us about Claire House, our local children's hospice. Visitors are very welcome, do come along if you are interested in the wonderful work that they do.



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THE ORGAN RETURNS - ALMOST!

After months with no updates from Henry Willis on progress with the St Bridget's organ restoration, the Editor understands that their craftsmen are now working in the organ loft in the first and major stage of the organ being reinstated.



The organ loft and pipes require much cleaning and some of the pipes will be 'revoiced' (to make them sound like a Willis organ should, I think). This stage of the work may take several weeks and, when the wiring between organ and loft has been completed, will (we hope!) culminate in the return and installation of the refurbished console.

And then it will be time for a concert!



Theology Discussion Group

Evangelism – October 6th at the Ring of Bells at 7.15 pm

Following a successful and thought-provoking discussion of assisted dying and end of life, the subject for October is Evangelism. I have prepared a short reflection on this theme to aid our discussions* and, as usual, have provided links to *YouTube* videos.

Please note the change of time for the meeting. In November we will have a visit from Archdeacon Mike Gilbertson who will be speaking of the Book of Revelation.

Dave Chester

Matthew 28:19-20

‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

*There is no space to include this here but if you’re not on the emailing list, Dave will send it to you if you ask him nicely (jg54@liverpool.ac.uk)

Harvest festival at Caldy

The church was beautifully decorated, full of the abundance of God’s earth. Sadly, there has not been space this month for more than these two small images.



"The church doesn't need my money!"

If only that were true! While headlines often focus on the billions held centrally by the Church Commissioners, none of that money reaches our local parish. We receive zero funding from the government, national church, or charities.

We rely entirely on donations from our community.

And now, in 2026, our income is falling below our expenditure. It costs us just over **£4,000 every week** to keep our doors open and our ministries running.

Your generosity directly funds:

- ◆ Our Ministry: A full-time Rector for weddings, funerals, baptisms, pastoral care and wider ministry including parish administration
- ◆ Our Community: Baby and toddler groups, family activities, school support, our Link café and Bereavement Journey courses
- ◆ Our Spaces: The upkeep and safety of both church buildings and grounds, Caldý hall and St Bridget's Centre
- ◆ Our Wider Mission: Financial support for less affluent parishes nearby, charitable work in this country and overseas

If you can help support our work with a regular gift, please scan the QR code or visit our website to donate.

Thank you—we couldn't do this without you!

[PS The Editor has not made a mistake—heaven forfend!—including this page again but the situation has not changed significantly, so it bears repeating]



And, to finish, from the collection of Mrs Cobby, Paula's mother:

- The fasting and prayer conference includes meals.
- The Rev. Merriweather spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

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Thu	9.30 – 4.30
Fri	9.30 – 4.30
Sat	9.30 – 1.00



Lynn Ferriday requiescat in pace

Lynn Ferriday, who will be remembered by many in the parish, was not only the rector's wife but also an effective minister in her own right. In the days before Paula and the parish office, she shouldered much of the parish administration with Don and was especially appreciated by local undertakers for her efficiency. Lynn was heavily involved with the Mother's Union and in wider parish life. She had an important ministry of gentle support to many and is remembered for the strong friendships she formed with many parishioners.

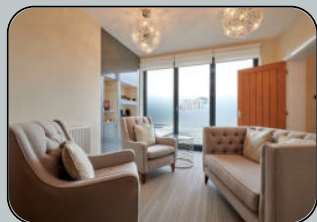


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St Bridget's West Kirby and Caldy Church take the safety of everyone within our churches very seriously, and expect that everyone will work within the **safeguarding policy** of the parish, a copy of which can be found on our noticeboards.

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.