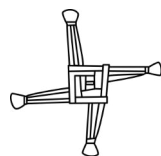


St Bridget's, West Kirby with Caldy Church PARISH MAGAZINE



www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk

www.caldychurch.org.uk

August 2025 (Vol. 155: No 7)

£1.00

Caring for God's acre:
View of the lower churchyard at St Bridget's



Cover image: Photos taken by Kathryn Fegan for **Friends of Roman Road Sandhills** in Meols (find them on **Facebook**)

Top to bottom clockwise: Clouded Border moth, Small Copper butterfly, Field Vole, Common Frogs (two!)

Letter from Alex

Alex is away for a few days on a much-needed and much-earned break. She has left this reflection from *Sacred Space* for us to ponder and pray about in this month when we focus on 'God's acre' and His wildlife.

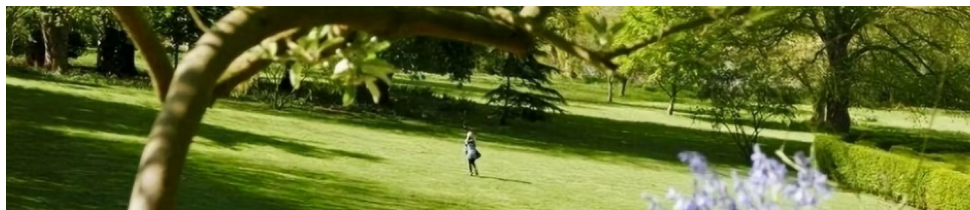
Nature as a Holy Place

Gardens offer endless scope for budding mystics! They are safe places, places of life, abounding in beauty. Where there is a garden, there will be water and living things with their varied beauty. Charles Darwin, although remembered as the great proponent of evolution, saw himself primarily as a beholder of the natural world. He spent much of his life contemplating the simplest things, and he ends his great work, *The Origin of Species*, by noting: 'It is interesting to contemplate an entangled bank ...'. This humble bank he studied is clothed with many plants, with birds singing, insects flitting about and worms crawling through the damp earth. It leads him to reflect that 'these elaborately constructed forms, so different from each other and dependent on each other ... have all been produced by laws acting around us.'

So, find your entangled bank, contemplate it, muse on its long history and reflect on what it is trying to say to you. Let this be your holy place where you fall in love with the natural world and with its maker. Let the tapestry of life come alive under your gaze. Perhaps you may exclaim, like Darwin, 'It has been for me a glorious day, like giving to a blind man eyes.'

Brian Grogan SJ, ***Finding God in a Leaf: The Mysticism of Laudato Si'***

Based on content copyright of Sacred Space, used with permission, and linking to <https://www.sacredspace.com>



A Week-end Retreat at Foxhill

Christmas seems a long way off (!) but you may like to know about a week-end retreat at Foxhill (the Diocesan Retreat centre near Frodsham) which is likely to get booked up fairly quickly:

‘Anticipate: A Journey to Christmas’
4pm Friday 28th – 3pm Sunday 30th November

Led by Ven Jane Proudfoot, Archdeacon of Macclesfield.

A few of us have booked to go and we can share lifts. Anne Samuels is co-ordinating that.

You can find all the details here: www.foxhillchester.co.uk Cost: £225.

Speak to Anne or ring Foxhill for further information (01928 733777)

It's official – volunteering is good for you!

In his podcast, *Just One Thing*, on BBC Radio 4, Dr Michael Mosley discovered that, as well as being a very rewarding thing to do, volunteering your time or labour could really benefit your health too.

Talking with a scientist who has been investigating the power of helping others, Michael heard that by boosting your mood and empathy, volunteering can lower chronic inflammation, cholesterol and even help you lose weight. It's also a great way to meet new people and give back to your local community!

There are ample opportunities to volunteer at St Bridget's and Caldy – you could start by helping once a month at the Link cafe on Wednesday mornings or by making tea and coffee after 10am services and then work your way up to being the Treasurer! Please speak to or email one of the wardens who will point you in the right direction (churchwardens@stbridgetschurch.org.uk)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001zmcl>

Our meeting began with a reminder from Carole Steel that there would be no August meeting; in September Nick Lynch, of Barclays Bank, would be coming to advise us regarding avoiding scams.

There was then a bilingual Bible reading and anecdote (from Mair), followed by prayers.

We were treated to a most interesting illustrated account of the development of West Kirby Museum. Elizabeth Davey told us that between 1869 and 1870 the Church was substantially rebuilt. In the course of this 'restoration' some Anglo-Norse-style sculptured stones had come to light, including a hogback stone carved from carboniferous limestone from the Wrexham area.

A local worthy, Charles Dawson Brown, was instrumental in encouraging the preservation of these and other stones. He had been variously a church warden and an early captain of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club. When he died in 1890 a fund was collected in his memory and the former Bier House (the bier being the cart for transporting coffins) was converted into a museum to house the items he had 'saved'. Substantially rebuilt, with a pyramidal tiled roof, the museum was opened in 1892 and named the Charles Dawson Brown Museum (recently renamed the West Kirby Museum)

The great variety of artefacts it contained represented items crafted in the Viking period, through mediaeval times and later (for example, details of the 1712 tithe board), including the most poignant, a stone coffin chiselled out of local sandstone to hold a small child.

With the rebuilding of St Bridget's Centre the opportunity arose to double the size of the Museum. After much planning and fundraising, the museum reopened in 2013, incorporated into the new St. Bridget's Centre building. The MU members enjoyed a tour with Elizabeth Davey after the meeting: as she told us, displays are constantly changing, so it's well worth visiting again to view further fascinating items.

Reminder: There will be no meeting in August.

GRATITUDEGRATITUDE***

The Parish has recently received a generous bequest from the estate of Liz Povall, who died last year and who was very much a part of the St Bridget's family.

This is much appreciated and the funds will be put to good use.

Summer Fair 2025

A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in any way with this year's Summer Fair, held in conjunction with St Bridget's school. There are too many people to thank individually but the organisers from church and school will have been particularly relieved when Sunday 29th June arrived.

And in addition to being a wonderful community event, a magnificent profit of over £4600 was made for church funds (with the school receiving a similar sum).

Organ update

You may have been wondering (especially if you have supported the fund raising!) what is happening with the work on the St Bridget's organ. Henry Willis & Sons Ltd have been very busy with major work on far-flung organs but they should soon have space in their Liverpool workshop for our organ.

They are visiting church on Wednesday 23 July to check the routing of some of the wiring and hope to uplift the console and take it away during the week beginning 4 August. We should have a 'stand-in' electronic instrument from that time.

Dale PCs



**For PC Sales Service & Repair Call Dave At Dale PCs
0151 652 6262 or email help@dalepcs.co.uk**

Dave Wilson is a mature qualified professional.

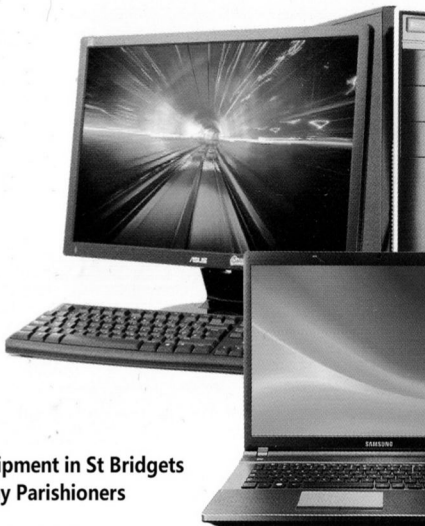
He says: "I have been working with computers for over 30 years and I have a relentless passion and enthusiasm for all things IT."

If you're having problems with your PC, or are looking to improve or replace it please give me a call and we'll have a chat about it.

My advice is free and I operate a no nonsense no fix no fee policy, customer satisfaction is at the heart of everything I do."

Dave has been supplying & maintaining the computer equipment in St Bridgets Parish Office for over 10 years and has helped out many Parishioners

www.dalepcs.co.uk



SHRIMPS HAIR DESIGN

Est. 1985



Julie Dala
Proprietor

6 Acacia Grove
West Kirby

9AM - 5.30PM

0151 625 7073

**Open 9am - 5.30pm
6 days a week**

Golden Oldies Rates
Mon, Tues & Wednesdays

Dedicated to our job

Children up to 100+ years old
Gentlemen too

August 2025 Diary

Our churches are open for visitors and as places of prayer & stillness
St Bridget's daily until 5pm, Caldly 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 August SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Sunday 10th August EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Sunday 17th August NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Sunday 24th August ST BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

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

Sunday 31st August ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldý
6.30pm	Compline – St Bridget

Regular weekday services

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

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	Caldý 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”

8th June Charlotte Emily Robb (Caldy)

8th June Oliver Leo Wilson (Caldy)

13th July Georgina Jane Singleton (adult – St Bridget)

FUNERAL and INTERMENT OF ASHES

“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord”

4th July Barbara Watts (St Bridget & Landican)

8th July Michael Brinsley Carter and Andrew Carter (burial of ashes at St Bridget's)

22nd July Barbara May Wright (burial of ashes at St Bridget's)

31st July Alison McAfee (burial of ashes at St Bridget's)

Other regular activities

Second Tuesday of month	2pm	Mothers' Union in the Centre
-------------------------	-----	------------------------------

Third Wednesday of month	12 noon	Men's Shed Lunch in the Centre
--------------------------	---------	--------------------------------

First Tuesday of month	7pm	Theology Discussion group at the Ring O' Bells
------------------------	-----	--

One Saturday each month	9.30–12 noon	Churchyard Working Party St Bridget's
-------------------------	--------------	---------------------------------------

Letter from David

The Role of Women

Dear Friends,

On July 22 we celebrated the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, which alerts us not only to Mary's signal contribution to Christ's ministry but also to the wider role of women both in the gospels and the early church. When reading the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles it is easy to give undue prominence to male disciples and apostles and forget that women played an essential role in the New Testament.

Women joined Jesus and his male disciples as they travelled through the towns and villages of Palestine and accompanied Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem. Mary and Martha of Bethany, in addition to Mary Magdalene, were particularly close friends of Jesus. When Jesus was arrested, the male disciples fled from the scene, but the women remained steadfast.

It was women who witnessed Christ's execution, who viewed the

tomb in which he was buried and who first saw the resurrected Lord; the empty tomb story depending on their testimony.

In the first chapter of Acts of the Apostles, we read that woman joined the disciples in prayer in the upper room before Peter's first sermon, and at critical stages in the early history of the church women were in the limelight. St. Luke, the author who penned the Acts of the Apostles, emphasizes the role of women: in Thessalonica, for example, 'some (people) were persuaded, and joined Paul and Silas, as did many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women' (Acts 17: 4); Phoebe is the patroness of Paul and other apostles; in Corinth, prosperous Chloe sends her slaves (or freed slaves) to Paul with a message (1 Cor. 1: 11) and Prisca (or Priscilla) is clearly as prominent as her husband, Aquila, in providing hospitality and support to Paul's mission to the gentiles.

The feast of St. Mary Magdalene alerts us to the fact that scripture demonstrates that Christ calls all to his service: men and women without exception; and knows no distinctions of race, class, gender, wealth or any other human characteristic. Christ's message is a message for all. St. Paul is often castigated for being a first century misogynist but still grasped the idealism that is at the heart of Christ's kingdom.

"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

With fondest regards,
David

We're all going on our summer holidays...

Film Fridays in St Bridget's Centre

Film Fridays is having an Interval (no popcorn though!) for the month of July, but look out for the next season of films coming soon!

Theology Discussion Group @ the Ring O' Bells

There is no meeting in August but there will be in September (at 7pm on Tuesday, 7th September) on the theme of the Eucharist.

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS HAVE
ARRIVED!**

ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH ACTIVITY MORNINGS SUMMER 2025

**5 mornings of craft, play, outdoor games &
Bible stories for children aged 5-11 over the
summer holidays**

But not
for these!

Too late
for these!

**Monday 21st July
Thursday 31st July
Friday 8th August
Monday 11th August
Thursday 21st August**

**For information and bookings
07456 394 194
childrenandfamilies@stbridgetschurch.org.uk**



THE TV MAN

www.the-tv-man.co.uk

0779 780 165

0151 625 3720 (evenings, etc)

*Providing a personal service to the
Wirral for over 20 years*

Tuning : Set ups : Problems : Faults

R. HINTON & SON

97 BANKS ROAD – 625 5605

*Family Butchers specialising in Fresh
Meat and Poultry*

*Licensed to sell Game/Venison/
Pheasant/Wild Duck (seasonal)*

**FREE DAILY DELIVERIES TO LOCAL
AREAS**

To Advertise in this Magazine

**Contact the
Parish Office**

0151 625 2739

office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk

12 Issues a year – print and online

**Have you made provision
for ALL your loved ones
in your will?**

**Maxwell
Hodge**
SOLICITORS



**Contact Andrea Ashton at our West Kirby branch to
discuss your later life planning requirements.**

Tel: 0151 625 9154 | www.maxwellhodge.co.uk

<https://www.maxwellhodge.co.uk/wills-probate-and-lifetime-planning/>

*It may be school holidays but that's no reason to stop learning. **Richard Williams** has written this fascinating account of the history of the Nicene Creed.*

The Nicene Creed 325–2025

More than 1700 years ago the Christian religion ceased to be a persecuted sect in the Roman Empire and was made a 'religio licita', a legal religion which you were allowed to follow, one of many recognised by the Empire. It is unsurprising really given that the Emperor's mother was herself a prominent Christian, Helena, who later in her life visited the Holy places and is claimed to have found the true cross on which Jesus was crucified. It was after this that the Cross became the main Christian symbol, the fish having been so until then. Whether or not Helena ever visited Britain is uncertain, although tradition has it that the Church of St. Helen in York is built on the site of the Governors palace where she would have stayed had she ever visited. Her husband, the Emperor Constantius I, definitely visited the country to put down an uprising by the usurper Carausius who had declared himself Emperor in Northern Gaul and Britannia.

After Constantius died in 306, his and Helena's son Constantine was declared Emperor. He faced many other claimants to the throne but finally established his control over the entire Empire after the battle of Milvian Bridge in 312 when he placed the Christian Chi Rho symbol on his soldiers shields having had a dream telling him that he would conquer all under this sign. Shortly after this Constantine was baptised and by the edict of Milan in 313 the Christian Church ceased to be vulnerable to persecution and hostility, it was now part of the establishment!

No wonder then that Christians now found time to start arguing and disagreeing with each other. At the very heart of this was the question about what the relationship is between the God we know as Almighty, the Creator, the Father; his Son, Jesus Christ, both human and divine, the Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, the gift that Jesus promised to his disciples to uphold and inspire them, the Sustainer.

So in the year 325, 1700 years ago this year, Constantine convened the first ever Council of the Church to be held in the ancient Greek city of Nicaea which is in modern day Turkey on the shores of Lake Iznik. Bishops from all over the empire came to decide what the orthodox Christian statement of faith in Jesus Christ should be.

This was thought necessary because of a disagreement in the Church at Alexandria in North Africa. The Archbishop Alexander was insistent that Jesus was from all eternity from God the Father, whereas a Presbyter called Arius asserted that Jesus was only for a time, not eternal. The Father had sent him into the World to do his work but he was not an eternal and enduring part of the Godhead. And the Holy Spirit was God the Father's gift, not dependent on Jesus Christ at all.

For a long time Arius and his ideas were in the forefront of Christian faith but Alexander and his successor, Athanasius, fought for the trinitarian understanding of God to be

accepted as the orthodox understanding of God as revealed through Jesus Christ. Poor old Athanasius, who was a Bishop for over 45 years, spent nearly 17 years in exile being deposed and chased from his see no more than five times when various Emperors, followers of Arius, wanted him out.

Eventually, his beliefs and his understanding of God and the nature of the Trinity, God as Father, Creator; God as Son, Redeemer; and God as Holy Spirit, Sustainer, won out and the first Council of the Church at Nicaea, and subsequent Church Councils, affirmed that indeed, Jesus Christ was eternally part of the Godhead, with the Holy Spirit.

This year we celebrate 1700 years of Christians united in their belief about God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which they proclaim whenever they worship together and recite the Nicene creed. And what better time for us to hear about it and rejoice in its clarity than near the Feast day of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity.

In it we proclaim our faith in God the Father, *maker of heaven and earth and of all that is seen and unseen*. But by far the longest section of the Creed is that in which Athanasius and the early Fathers set out their understanding of the relationship between God the Father and the Jesus Christ they followed and believed to be the special revelation of God's love as discovered in the gospels and the early writings of the Christian Church.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. There is that principle point made against the followers of the heretic Arius, Jesus Christ is there as part of God from eternity and to eternity. He is not just for a period of time in history but for all eternity. The beginning of John's gospel puts this into beautiful words for us;

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

This is our understanding of the incarnation, the word become flesh, dwelling amongst us as a human being in the person of Jesus Christ, and yet also there as the breath of God's creation at the very start of the human story. Jesus is from eternity, and so we go on to proclaim *God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.*

We go on to record our faith in his saving acts, the incarnation, the crucifixion, the resurrection, his ascension back into the Godhead where he is seated at the right hand of God, our simplistic human way of seeing it. And we proclaim our faith in the *Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.*

What we believe about God the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is all there in our creed, the faith we declare whenever we recite it together as Christians have done now for 1700 years.

TREVOR KELLY

*ANTIQUE CLOCK, BAROMETER
RESTORATION & REPAIR SPECIALIST*

QUALITY ANTIQUES BOUGHT & SOLD
REPAIRED & RESTORED
VALUATION FOR INSURANCE & PROBATE
COLLECTION & DELIVERY SERVICE

76 BANKS ROAD, WEST KIRBY CH48 0RE

TEL: 0151 625 7992

MOBILE: 07831 852776

GORDON HATTON & CO.

*Drainage Consultants
Est 1965*

Blocked drains cleared and repaired
CCTV Surveys: Water Jetting
Drain reports: Root Cutting
Septic Tanks: Drain Location
Drain Replacement / Relining/
Biodegradable cleaning/treatment products
*Dock Road South, Bromborough,
Wirral CH62 4SR*
0151 336 2287 / 07831 207494
drainswirral.com

SIMON BARNES

www.simonbarnescarpets.co.uk

CARPETS & FLOORING Est 1982

0151 625 8499

SHOWROOM:

15-15a Westbourne Rd
West Kirby CH48 4DG

Carpets, Vinyls, Rugs,
Woods, Laminate,
Karndean

Samples to take home

Mon	9.30 – 4.30
Tue	9.30 – 4.30
Wed	9.30 – 4.30
Thu	9.30 – 4.30
Fri	9.30 – 4.30
Sat	9.30 – 1.00



Dog walking service

Steve Atkinson
(former chauffeur)

07887 886818



Dog owner
from
"knee high"



Based in West Kirby, fully
insured, totally reliable

Walkies daily/weekly, 60-
min beach or rural walks



**Landscape
&
Gardening
Service**



**ALL GARDEN WORK
CONSIDERED**

Phone Steve 625 6090



We clean your oven..... so you don't have to.

Call today to have your oven, hob, extractor or Aga professionally cleaned.

Phil Cooper: contact details:

Tel. 0151 7212030.

Mob. 07812 252533

E-mail philcooper@ovenwizards.com

www.ovenwizards.com



DEE DISTINCT

ESTATE AGENTS

0151 662 0770

www.deedistinct.com

**THE SMARTEST MOVE
YOU'LL MAKE**



PROMEDICA24
Live-in companionship & care

**Home.
There is no place like it**

- and chances are, there's no reason to give it up either.

As live-in care specialists, we give people the option to remain at home, with support and companionship.

- We provide 24/7 person centred care and support
- Our services are fully regulated by the CQC
- We are rated 9.9 **on Homecare.co.uk**

Contact Jonathan Hayley today.

j.hayley@promedica24.co.uk

01515 425 015



homecare.co.uk

Rated 9.9 on Homecare.co.uk





TRUST



A local and independent funeral director, serving Wirral and Cheshire for over 125 years

0151 625 6030

WWW.CHARLES-STEPHENS.COM

17 BANKS ROAD, WEST KIRBY, WIRRAL CH48 0QX



The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of West Kirby:
Registered Charity 1131379

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.