

# THE BRIDGE

ST BRIDGET'S WITH CALDY PARISH MAGAZINE



£1.00

[www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk](http://www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk) [www.caldychurch.org.uk](http://www.caldychurch.org.uk)

April 2026 (Vol. 16: No 3)

## the COVER STORY

The more observant among you may have noticed that the magazine cover looks different. We thought [actually, the Editor thought] that it might be good to have a name for our Parish Magazine so that you can ask your friends “Have you read this month’s ‘The Bridge’?”, rather than “the St Bridget’s and Caldý parish magazine”.

The Bridge’ has several connotations: ‘Bridge(t)’, a bridge between our two churches, a bridge between the church and our local community.

What do you think?



There is just time to buy yourself a REAL EASTER EGG!

## THANK YOU \*\*\* THANK YOU

We have received a generous donation of £1,000 from Jill Champion in memory of her twin sister Janet West. A small portion will be spent on wild flowers for the lower churchyard as Jan was a great gardener and loved nature.

Donations and legacies enable us to further our mission and ministry beyond paying the everyday bills. Please consider leaving a legacy in your will.



## LETTER FROM alex

Wait a moment!

I am someone who can be rather impatient. Why wait if we could do it now? What are we waiting for? That kind of thing. As we approach the great celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus at Easter there is quite a lot of waiting. And it's waiting in often uncomfortable places. We wait throughout Lent to be able to indulge once more in anything we have given up (unless we are intending to keep going with it!). We wait for the days which especially mark the approaching Easter Day; Palm Sunday and the welcoming of Jesus as a King; Maundy Thursday as that same king shows us what true kingship is about; Good Friday when we wait at the foot of the cross and, perhaps most of all, Holy Saturday when we wait in the emptiness and desolation of the tomb...

Or maybe we don't. Maybe we become caught up in the frantic buying of easter eggs and any thought of waiting disappears as we begin our celebrations on the Friday of our now commonly called 'Easter weekend'

Waiting has become something to be discouraged. We want things and we want them now and, with a consumer-driven society and faster 'smarter' technology, that impatience is fed. Easter eggs in the shops in January, the fruit and vegetables we want all year round – "what do you mean there are no strawberries available in November?" And even though we express our concern about it we are so often drawn in. Who remembers when we could only buy crème eggs close to Easter?

Waiting is a discipline to be practised during Lent and especially on Holy Saturday. The day before Easter Day is not Easter Saturday but Holy Saturday. Jesus is dead and, in the tomb, the disciples have fled and are together in despair because they don't know what we know. They wait,

they sleep from exhaustion and grief, they try to find some hope. Even though these days the world won't wait with them, perhaps you can. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday form the Triduum, three of the most important days of the Church year as we wait for the triumphant celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day and we celebrate that nothing can defeat or overwhelm the transforming love of God – not even death.

We invite you to wait and to celebrate with us

*Alex*



## Ordinands and Ordination

*Ruth Abbott, deacon and soon to be priest*

Ruth will be ordained priest at St Bridget's at 4pm on Saturday June 20th by the Bishop of Birkenhead. As far as we know, this is the first ever ordination to take place in St Bridget's. Ruth was ordained Deacon in Chester Cathedral last year and having completed her 'probationary' year and fulfilled all the requirements for priesthood she will now be ordained priest. This means she will no longer wear her stole diagonally like a car seat belt (!) but will wear it simply around the neck. The diagonal deacon's stole symbolises a servant's sash, signifying their role in proclaiming the Gospel, serving the altar, to distinguish it from the priestly stole worn around the neck.

Ruth will preside at Holy Communion for the first time on June 21st at St Bridget's at 10am. We pray for Ruth and all are warmly invited to join us for her ordination.

***Ruth says:***

Having received such a wonderfully warm welcome back in July last year, I feel I've now well and truly found my feet and I'm really enjoying being part of all the activity at St Bridget's and Caldy. There always seems to be

something going on, and there's usually a lovely excuse to drink more coffee and have a chat. I've also greatly enjoyed taking Home Communion and assisting at Holy Communion at Caldby Manor, where I've learned that no matter how prepared I think I am, there's usually something I've forgotten.

Last week, I graduated from Emmanuel Theological College, which was a wonderful chance to catch up with fellow students, and hear how they were getting on. [See photograph on Page 12]

The past year has absolutely flown by: one minute I was arriving, not quite sure what a Curate was actually supposed to do, and now my ordination as a priest is just around the corner! I'm genuinely thrilled that it will take place at St Bridget's – Alex and I have been practising for my first presiding at Holy Communion, the day after my ordination. I do hope that as many of you as possible can come.

### ***And an update from 'Fred the Ordinand'***

I thought it would be helpful for you all to know where I am at in my training and ordination journey.

I am now about halfway through my 3-studies and a year away from the end of my time in this lovely parish, when I will be ordained a deacon and sent off to serve as a curate – as Ruth is serving you now. I finished my Higher Education Diploma last year and started my Masters in Theology Ministry and Mission last September. Some of you helped me with my research project last year, which has been marked favourably, so thank you all so much for that. After a couple of essays due in May, I will then be settling down to write my MA thesis, which, as it stands, will focus on ethical formation in the Caroline Divines of the 17th Century, but don't worry, I won't need any help with that; though I love talking about it so feel free to come and ask me questions.

My time here has been, and continues to be, exceptionally rewarding and transformational, and I know that my experiences will help me in my future ministry. A year seems a long time now, and I'm excited about ordination, but I know it will fly by. In the meantime, I look forward to walking with you on our journey with Christ.

On Tuesday 10th March, a good number of members and visitors came to listen to Fred Aspbury, our ordinand, tell us about his journey so far. He grew up in Newark-on-Trent in Nottinghamshire, he was not religious and wasn't baptised. He rebelled at school and ran away at 16 to live with friends, worked in Italy for two years and eventually went to university to study English Literature and Philosophy. After that he met Amy, got married and trained as an English Teacher which he didn't enjoy so went on to be a Civil Servant. They lived in Manchester and after having two children his life changed.

A friend challenged his beliefs and as he was interested in church architecture and the Stations of the Cross, took him to St. Oswald's where he met a Warden who had a profound effect on him. He was fascinated by church life but was still an atheist. He was eventually baptised and confirmed and wanted to give his life to God. The family eventually moved to New Brighton where he still lives and supports Tranmere Rovers. Fred feels God has guided his life.

**VISIT TO CHRISTCHURCH, WILLASTON, MONDAY 30TH MARCH AT 1.30 PM**  
Di Waller, our Diocesan President, will be bringing the provincial time capsule as part of 150th celebrations. A number of members hope to go.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday April 14th at 2pm when Elaine Bradshaw (Alex's sister) will be giving an illustrated talk called 'STOLE MY HEART'. If you are interested in church embroidery, altar frontals and stoles do come along. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

Carole Steel, Secretary

# Dale PCs



For PC Sales Service & Repair Call Dave At Dale PCs  
**0151 652 6262** or email [help@dalepcs.co.uk](mailto:help@dalepcs.co.uk)

Dave Wilson is a mature qualified professional.

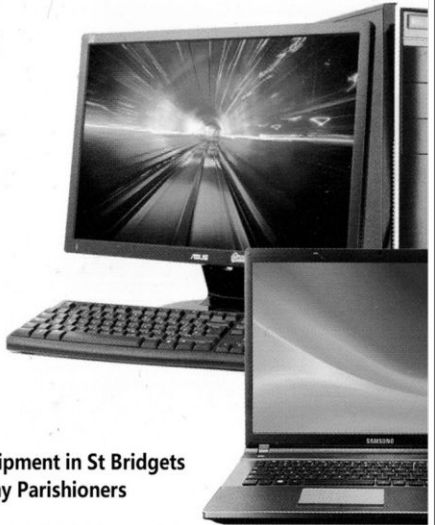
He says: *"I have been working with computers for over 30 years and I have a relentless passion and enthusiasm for all things IT."*

*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](http://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

# April 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](http://www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk)),

*A Church Near You*

[www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Bridget-West-Kirby](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Bridget-West-Kirby)

[www.achurchnearyou.com/All-Saints-Caldy](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/All-Saints-Caldy)

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

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY, 2nd April**

7.30pm Holy Communion with foot washing, stripping of the altars and  
prayer vigil until midnight – St Bridget

## **GOOD FRIDAY 3rd April**

10–11.30am Children's activity morning in St Bridget's Centre

10am Quiet reflective service – Caldý

12 noon Stations of the Cross – St Bridget

2pm At the Foot of the Cross – St Bridget

## **HOLY SATURDAY 4th April**

All day Our churches remain open for prayer and reflection

## **EASTER SUNDAY 5th April**

8am Holy Communion and Lighting of the New Fire – St Bridget

10am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion – St Bridget

10am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion – Caldý

6.30pm Evening Prayer – St Bridget

**Sunday 12th April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

**Sunday 19th April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

**Sunday 26th April THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Service of the Word – Caldy
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

**FROM THE REGISTERS...****FUNERALS and MEMORIAL SERVICE**

*“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord”*

6th March	Dale Ann Lowry (Memorial service at Caldy)
11th March	Janet West (St Bridget & Landican)
13th March	Harold Pugh (Landican)
27th March	Boyd Maxwell (Max) Hyslop (Landican)

## 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)

## 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

### ***Theology Discussion Group @ the Ring O' Bells***

*The next meeting of the group will be on Tuesday 7th April in the 'Upper Room' at the Ring of Bells, beginning at 7 pm. The theme will be Liberation Theology and more generally the interface between Christian belief and political action. Dave will supply you with the notes if you email him and there are two web-based resources you may find useful.*

*Best wishes,*

*Dave Chester (jg54@liverpool.ac.uk)*

[BBC - Religions - Christianity: Liberation theology](#)

[Why is Liberation Theology so Controversial? - YouTube](#)



# ***Easter Activities for the family***

***Friday 3rd April  
10 to 11.30am  
St. Bridget's Church  
info: 625 2739***

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

Each month, usually on the first Sunday, we offer a different style of worship from the simple Evening Prayer or Compline of other weeks. The current pattern is 'Prayers for Healing and Wholeness', 'BCP Choral Evensong' (May 3rd) and 'Stories of Encounter'(June 7th).

Because Easter Day falls on the first Sunday of April we have moved the service of Prayers for Healing and Wholeness to the last Sunday of March in the hope that more people will be able to attend. But why come?

### healing and wholeness

We all need healing in some way, perhaps a relationship or other kind of conflict has harmed or upset us. Sometimes we need healing from our own patterns of behaviour, or perhaps we are suffering in some other way, physically, mentally or emotionally. And our world needs healing from warfare, exploitation and injustice, as does the earth. At this quiet service we invite people to simply sit, reflect and pray or if they wish, to come forward for anointing and prayer.

Our curate, Ruth with her husband Gian at her recent graduation





## One parish - two churches

I wonder if you are someone who has said, 'I've never been in Caldy Church'. If you are then be encouraged to take a look. It is a beautiful gem perched on the edge of the Caldy Road bend. As a parish we have a vision to make it a sustainable space for the future which will entail some visionary planning and fundraising!

Meanwhile, we have recently replaced the pebbles in most of the areas reserved for ash burials and this has increased its attractiveness. We are grateful to those people who donated specifically to this work and to the PCC who part funded it. A small area still needs replacing when funds allow.

The church grounds have always been well maintained, and we are grateful recently to the work of volunteers who under the guidance of Rachel Summers are 'nibbling' away at the border along the main pathway, replanting as they go, as well as planting areas closer to the church.

Caldy has weekly services of Holy Communion at 10am on Sundays and Tuesdays, both followed by a cuppa and a chat. On the fourth Sunday of the month the 10am service is Morning Prayer.

We also have a thriving Toddler group each Thursday in term time which is run by a wonderful group of volunteers to whom we are immensely grateful.

Visit this gem – better still, join our worshipping community.



**THE TV MAN**  
[www.the-tv-man.co.uk](http://www.the-tv-man.co.uk)

07709 780 165

0151 625 3720 (evenings)

*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**

Want to advertise in this magazine?

Contact the Parish Office

0151 625 2739

[office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk)

11 issues yearly including bumper issue for Christmas and New 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](http://www.maxwellhodge.co.uk)

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



## Homeopathy for Health in Africa

Many of you in the parish will know Rachel Williams, if only because of the delicious cakes she makes on special occasions!

Rachel is a trained homeopathic practitioner and in October 2026, she has the opportunity to travel to Tanzania to volunteer with the charity *Homeopathy for Health in Africa*. The charity provides free or low-cost homeopathic healthcare to people living in rural communities where access to medical care can be very limited. Through outreach clinics and home visits, the team treats thousands of patients each year and also trains local Maasai people in homeopathy so they can care for their own families and communities. This helps create sustainable healthcare and brings much-needed support to some very vulnerable villages.

In addition to Rachel's own personal expenses, she has been asked to raise funds towards the cost of homeopathic remedies and tuition for the Maasai.

*Rachel says:*

To help raise funds for this work, I will be bringing homemade cakes to church on Easter Sunday and then hopefully once a month afterwards. If you would like a piece of cake, I would be very grateful for a small charitable donation. All proceeds will go directly towards supporting the charity's work, helping to provide remedies, education and practical support for those who need it most.

I promise you it will be the best chocolate cake you have ever tasted!!

Thank you so much for your kindness and support.

<https://www.homeopathyforhealthin africa.org/>



## 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 and second hand and on Kindle.  
(New from <https://blackwells.co.uk/> for £12.99 including delivery)

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

The greatest miracle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.  
(from the Bible by Kids)

## 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](http://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



Want to advertise in this magazine?

Contact the Parish Office

0151 625 2739

[office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk)

11 issues yearly including bumper  
issue for Christmas and New Year,  
print and online



**Landscape  
&  
Gardening  
Service**

**ALL GARDEN WORK  
CONSIDERED**

**Phone Steve 625 6090**

Want to advertise in this magazine?

Contact the Parish Office

0151 625 2739

[office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk)

11 issues yearly including bumper issue for Christmas and New Year, print and online



**DEE DISTINCT**

ESTATE AGENTS

0151 662 0770

[www.deedistinct.com](http://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](http://Homecare.co.uk)

Contact Jonathan Hayley today.  
[j.hayley@promedica24.co.uk](mailto:j.hayley@promedica24.co.uk)  
01515 425 015



9.9 [homecare.co.uk](http://homecare.co.uk)  
Rated 9.9 on Homecare.co.uk

Inspected and rated  
**Good** Feb 2018  
 Care Quality Commission





## TRUST



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

0151 625 6030

[WWW.CHARLES-STEPHENS.COM](http://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](mailto:rectorwestkirby@gmail.com)
- The Parish Safeguarding Officer Rosemary Morgan 0782 1672232  
[safeguardingwestkirby@gmail.com](mailto:safeguardingwestkirby@gmail.com)
- The Diocesan Safeguarding Team 01928 718834 (option 4)  
[safeguarding@chester.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@chester.anglican.org)

IF SOMEONE IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER OR HARM, **CALL 999** AND ASK FOR THE POLICE.