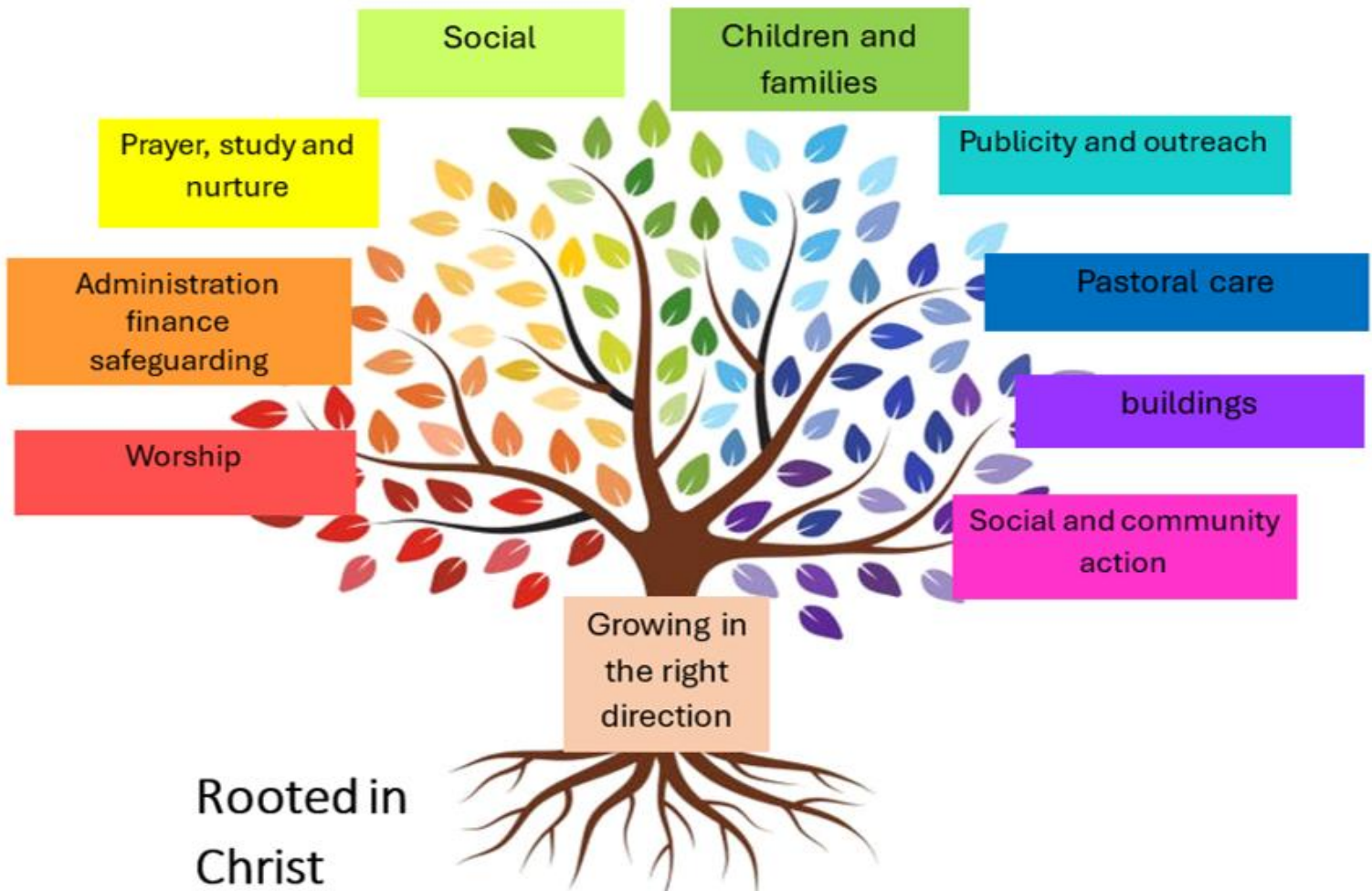


The Parish of West Kirby, St Bridget with Caldy, Church of the Resurrection and All Saints



PARISH LIFE

OVERVIEW AND GROUP REPORTS

2025 -2026

This review is in addition to the Trustees Report and contains the Rector's Preface, Churchwardens' Report, and a Safeguarding Report followed by group reports summarising activities in the parish.

RECTOR'S PREFACE

I was recently encouraged to spend some prayerful time imagining taking Jesus around the parish, reflecting on what I would want him to see and pondering what he might want to show me. I found myself engaging in this with a smile on my face. It continues to be a joy and privilege to minister in the parish and to worship, pray, plan and journey alongside you all. 2025 has been another busy year. Some activities feel like they are 'bedding in' whilst others are just taking off and there are several new ventures under discussion.

The image on the front cover seeks to illustrate the various aspects of our mission and ministry. Just like any living tree it changes during the year, some things are pruned whilst others are expanded and there are always elements which need a little feeding! We seek to be rooted and centred on Christ and to bring in God's kingdom through living out the Gospel message.

Both our churches are beautiful sacred spaces which we hope offer the visitor and the regular worshipper an encounter with God. We are fortunate that there are no major repairs required and I am hugely grateful to our buildings and enhancement team for their skills, knowledge and hard work which takes care of the day-to-day maintenance as well as planning improvements. During 2025 we significantly advanced work towards the provision of a toilet within St Bridget's with the help of our new architect. We also began some exciting plans for Caldy church and hall which we hope will provide an attractive and sustainable future. We celebrated all the major Christian festivals across the year, the highlight of which was perhaps the celebration of our patron saint, St

Bridget's 1500th anniversary. A weekend of worship, crafting, poetry, beer brewing and drinking, eating, dancing and music making was a wonderful way to celebrate and wonderfully reflected our diverse and vibrant worshipping community.

Our regular services have been well attended, and it is a delight to see a growing church family. We have introduced some new services mainly focused on building our prayer life and reaching out to the wider community. Our worshipping life is enhanced by our church school and our links remain strong. The school received a glowing report following the School Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) which commented that it was as though 'Jesus walked the corridors'. Let's hope he liked what he saw!

The groups which focus on worship, prayer, study and nurture have continued to plan and support a variety of opportunities to deepen our faith. We have enjoyed quiet mornings, prayer vigils, books and courses and the theology group has settled in well at the local pub. Our children and families team continue to work hard and have engaged with an increasing number of families. Toasty Tuesdays has become a firm favourite with over 100 pieces of toast being devoured most weeks.

We have continued to care for all our churchyards, and I think Jesus would be delighted in our efforts to cherish creation and steward it well. We remain committed to running both churches in an eco-friendly and sustainable way.

Money is always a matter of interest and concern. Our parish treasurer steers us through decision making with a wonderful balance of faith and caution. We continue to spend more money than comes in but I trust that

the accounts reassure you that we manage our resources well and with the aim of making a positive difference and revealing Christ in the community even when it stretches us beyond our budget.

In many ways St Bridget's Centre is at the heart of our social activities, and the Link café continues to be a blessing to the wider community. I am indebted to all who volunteer on the committee and oversee its management and maintenance.

We recognise the vital importance of safeguarding and are fortunate to have a skilled and active safeguarding team enabling us to implement the necessary checks and training. Thank you to everyone for helping us create a safe and welcoming environment for all.

The smooth running of the parish is due to many people, both employed and volunteers, and especially to our parish administrator, ministry team and our PCC. I am very grateful for their wise, skilled and invaluable support and the wonderful ministry undertaken by all our volunteers.

During 2025 we have sadly experienced the death of some key members of our church family drawing attention to the many tasks people undertake almost without us realising

This booklet aims to celebrate the life of the parish and to show where we have put our time, energy and resources.

As I record my thanks for everyone who plays a part in our shared life, I also invite us to pray that we would be constantly open to the Holy Spirit and the transforming love of God as we seek to make Christ known throughout our community.

I pray also that Jesus smiles as he looks upon us.

The Reverend Alex Williams Rector

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Another year, another churchwardens' report...

In April 2025, Greg Buckridge completed six years as warden (the maximum term allowed) and Anna Gibson became warden in his place. We're very grateful to Anna that she agreed to stand: she brings with her many talents and a different viewpoint. We are grateful to Greg for his continued support, especially with building matters. We continue to be responsible for our churches of St Bridget's and Caldy Church of the Resurrection and All Saints, for the smooth running (not always!) of the services and for our Rector Alex. We have been delighted to see many new faces during the year and hope that these people will find a home within the parish family. The welcome that anyone receives when they come to one of our services, whether as a weekend visitor, someone new to the area or just wanting to 'test the waters', will largely define whether they found their attendance meaningful and whether they want to return. We strive to improve our welcome, before, during and after the services and urge everyone not to forget their name badges! Knowing someone's name is so helpful in lots of ways and just because you've been coming to church for ages, doesn't mean the rest of us know what to call you. We know there is always room for improvement. Several of the people who have joined our church family are now taking part in services as readers, welcomers, intercessors leading our prayers, and administering the chalice. But if anyone would like to carry the cross as crucifer on occasion, the other crucifers would love to hear from you, as recent calculations suggested the average age of the crucifers was 70 years! We are always keen and very grateful for people to take part, and you don't have to wait to be asked! However, no-one will mind if you're

not comfortable with a 'front-of-house' role. Chris Tann (ably assisted by Greg) continues to manage the live-streaming and the equipment for this, and we are most appreciative of all his help and expertise. He is also impressively calm in audiovisual crises! We know that the live streaming of services, including weddings and funerals, is much valued. During the year there have been some different services in which we sought to respond to particular needs of our community and the wider world. In autumn/winter we held two quiet prayer vigils, one focusing on the suffering of Gaza, the other on child victims of war. We listened prayerfully to poems and individual experiences of suffering and hope. Both vigils welcomed members of other churches (or none). We have also begun to develop a short informal prayer service on the second Saturday of each month. This includes prayers of thanksgiving, and blessing for ourselves, our own community and the wider community. All are more than welcome to come along for some quiet prayer together, or to share ideas in prayerful discussion. It is a work in progress, open to the holy spirit's guidance! This regular service is also available for the Church of England Prayers of Love and Faith, in keeping with our church's calling to be an inclusive church. As ever, we pray that God will continue to guide and strengthen Alex, our Rector, and those who assist her in her ministry and mission and that all of us at St Bridget's and Caldy will support them in every way we can.

Ann Holden and Anna Gibson, Parish Churchwardens

(See also the Trustees Report and the Buildings report)



ADMINISTRATION

SAFEGUARDING REPORT.

At St Bridgets and Caldy Church we work hard to maintain a safe environment for all and are fully committed to implementing the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and good practice guidance. The Safeguarding team includes Sue Shaw (administrator), Veronica Sherlock (DBS administrator) and Rosemary Morgan (Parish Safeguarding Officer). Local Safeguarding teams are supported by the Diocesan Safeguarding team who provide support and advice on a daily basis as well as structured teaching courses for mandatory training sessions. During 2025 the Diocesan Safeguarding team has delivered a number of networking sessions across the diocese enabling Parish Safeguarding Officers and local safeguarding teams to meet up to discuss in detail the challenges and solutions. In June 2025 the Diocese put on a special safeguarding service at Chester cathedral with an invitation to all safeguarding teams to attend and an opportunity to ask questions. As a parish we continue to make progress with the electronic Parish Safeguarding Dashboard achieving targets on a regular basis and prompting us to address areas for improvement. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility not just the safeguarding team or the Rector's. If you have a concern please raise it; and even if you do not have a formal role within the Church, please consider completing the Basic Awareness online training for safeguarding, available on the Diocesan website.

Rosemary Morgan

Parish Safeguarding Officer.

THE PARISH OFFICE

I enjoy being Parish Administrator very much and feel that what I do is worthwhile and valued. My job covers admin. for the clergy and the two churches; and involves overseeing bookings at St Bridget's Centre – lots of diary management. Alex the Rector is great to work with, as are the churchwardens, our church volunteers, the clergy, centre hirers and most people in the parish! In amongst the emails and phone calls there are always visitors to the office with queries and questions. For example:

- Please can we have hand soap available in the kitchen again? There hasn't been any since October.
- A blackbird's nest full of chicks has fallen on the ground by the entrance to the lower churchyard. Please would somebody pick it up before a cat or magpie gets to it.
- Please show me how to switch on the oven (a frequent request)
- Can you help me find my grandmother's grave? She was buried in Grange Cemetery in 1936.
- I forgot to leave tea and coffee out for the technicians doing work in the Beacon Room – could you leave them some in the kitchen?
- Have you seen my dog's ball?
- Is there anything Jim could kneel on whilst he's gardening?
- What's her surname? (no indication of who they are thinking of – the parish administrator is a mind reader)
- I'm terribly sorry, I've dropped the Centre front door key from the key safe into the drain. (thankyou Greg for coming instantly to the rescue)

Paula Cobby Parish Administrator

Thank you Paula for dealing with the many queries with such grace!

FINANCE

A very full review of parish finances in 2025 is given in the Trustees Report and Annual Accounts. We remain hugely grateful to John Smith the Parish Treasurer who has continued to guide us for another year. We also have many other people who help with finances - those who sort out Gift Aid, count and pay money into the bank, make payments and help balance books. We are very fortunate to have a small finance team who are able to support the work of the treasurer as necessary.

During 2025 we started to make use of the Parish Giving Scheme, which allows givers to inflation-proof their giving and also automatically generates Gift Aid receipts if the giver is able to allow this. A leaflet was distributed to every house in the parish, which raised awareness of the work we undertake and of the financial resources we need to do this. We continue to spend more money than we receive, but we have a theology of generosity and believe that, if we are prayerfully centred on making the love of God known, then we will be resourced to do so. We receive no external funding other than one-off grants when we are successful with our applications, and are almost entirely dependent on the generosity of our congregation and community, for which we are very grateful.

John Smith Treasurer

Give generously and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. Deuteronomy 15:10



WORSHIP

We are always reflecting on the opportunities we offer for people to encounter and deepen their relationship with God through worship. We are very fortunate to have a gifted team of lay and ordained ministers which enables us to offer a variety of worship across both churches in the parish. This year we have welcomed a curate Ruth Abbott and continued to benefit from the ministry of Fred Aspbury an ordinand on placement with us. The ministry team meets each month and is a supportive group which plans and reflects on patterns of worship as well as discussing resources for prayer, study and nurture.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP – THE SACRISTANS

We have a small but excellent team of people in both churches who help to set things up ready for services as well as keeping the churches clean and sparkling. The sacristans prepare everything needed by the ministers during both weekday and Sunday services, ensure that the linen is clean and good quality and keep us well stocked with candles, wafers and wine. At weddings and funerals, we have a team of vergers who are paid for the duties they undertake. One of the ways we show our love of God is in how we care for and prepare our sacred spaces for worship. A huge thank you to those who help us in this work.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We are incredibly fortunate to have several skilled musicians in our church community. Katinka, Lynne, and Viera regularly play the organ for 10am services at St Bridget's and Clive Grey plays frequently at 6.30pm. John Tennant, Stephen Claus and Katinka play at Caldy and Stephen has

been very helpful in organising tuning and inspection of both organs. The Music group accompanies us for All Together Worship and at our major festivals. We are grateful for all who bring music alive for us, enriching our worship and helping us encounter God.

*Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. Psalm 95*

NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCHES

St Bridget's: from Katinka

In the past year the view from the organ bench has not changed, but the organ itself has. While all organists are eagerly awaiting the return of St. Bridget's beautiful, original, updated and rebuilt organ console, we have had fun entertaining the congregation with some exciting stops from the electronic replacement organ. Who knew that a 32-foot pedal stop could be so loud? Or that it is extra hard to play pedal notes in the dark?

Thank you for another year of music making & worshipping!

St Bridget's: from Lynne Saunders

As one of the team of organists here at St Bridget's I was sorry to say goodbye to our fellow organist, Rob, who moved away from West Kirby in the summer of 2025 after being here for a number of years. His contribution to the music of the church has been missed. However, Katinka and I have been fortunate to have Viera join us to play the organ on a regular basis. Continuing my theme of the last two years, St Bridget's Willis church organ finally went off for much needed restoration in the autumn of 2025. This could not have been achieved without the generosity of so many people towards the enormous cost of the repair.

Meanwhile, we have managed with the temporary replacement electric organ which, apart from a few glitches, and not having the range of the Willis organ, is serving us reasonably well. We look forward to the reinstatement of the Willis organ in full working order. I have very much enjoyed playing the organ as part of the worship here at St Bridget's church this year. It was an honour to play at the Christmas Day service for the very first time.

Caldy: from John Tennant

When I retired from St John's Church Egremont, Wallasey after some 33 years' service as Organist and Choirmaster, I was determined to take a break from church music. However, it was not to be. Learning that I was no longer tied to a single organ bench, I was soon receiving invitations from churches around Wirral, to either join their team of organists or to deputise during holiday periods. Paul Marriott at St Bridget's was one such and from there, thanks to the persuasive powers of Jenny Cooper, I soon found myself at Caldly, where I am a regular to this day. What is fairly unusual about the organ bench at Caldly, is that it is at floor level and faces the choir. The organ console (the bit with the keyboards, stops etc.) stands independently from the body of the instrument and is of low height. From here, the organist can see most of the congregation, the clergy and the backs of the singers! This is comforting in a way, as one is aware of how the service is progressing and can enjoy the singing of both choir and congregation, not to mention clergy. This is uplifting to the organist and doesn't always happen elsewhere. Few churches that I've played in have an arrangement such as Caldly, and most consoles are in some sort of loft. Some are a couple of feet above floor level as at St

Bridget's or 20 or 30 feet high in many cathedrals. In these cases, the organ loft can become the organist's little kingdom, where others fear to tread! I've been fortunate to play in many of our great Cathedrals over the years and have always been impressed by the variety of non-musical items to be found in their organ lofts including cuddly toys, whisky, and a sofa. Perhaps I've digressed from the original topic of Organ Benches, but if there were no benches for the organist to sit upon, there would be no live organ music.

Caldy: from Stephen Claus

Our modest organ at Caldly was thought to be good for another few years without major concern. That was before what I am convinced is the handiwork of the Caldly mouse. This organ was installed in 1962, but it was not all new components at that stage. A lot of parts were clearly in good second-hand condition, as was a lot of the pipework. In 2025 however we had some minor electrical issues, and an exhausting stop that will not turn off, so it hisses a lot. I think the latter could be the handiwork of a mouse or other rodent, but to be sure much of the organ must come out. The risk in trying to repair the minor electrical fault is that more damage to other rather aged rubber tubing could occur and the only solution is to have an overhaul. Nothing lasts for ever and after 60+ years the PCC recognises the need to have the organ restored. The usual diet of old and new hymns has continued and is enthusiastically embraced. Sadly, the second member of the choir died, and any volunteers are welcome to accompany our remaining loyal member. We look forward very much to having a restored organ to face the next 60 years.

OUR CHOIRS

Sing Aloud

Our junior choir 'Sing Aloud' has 14 members, and their singing continues to develop well. They support All Together Worship and also sing with the adult choir at services throughout the year, as well as at weddings. 'Sing Aloud' is currently led by the Rector, Immi Longmore, Anna Ledingham and Judith Calvert. We follow the RSCM Voice for Life scheme and awarded several white and blue ribbons. Fewer children have the opportunity to learn to sing well so we celebrate this part of our church life

The adult choirs

A faithful group of singers rehearse each week and lead the singing in our churches. We continue to try and grow in number and to broaden our repertoire. Highlights have been the traditional Christmas Carol Service choral evensong and services with the Sing Aloud choir.

THE MUSIC GROUP

A Recipe for a Church Music Group

1. Take a group of singers and instrumentalists
2. Blend a strum of guitars; a banjo; a ukulele; a cello; a mandolin and a violin.
3. Mix with a treble recorder; an occasional keyboard; a passing saxophone; a beat box; a couple of kazoos and a random selection of percussion instruments.
4. Sprinkle with a large portion of enthusiasm, season with a dash of humour, and serve.
5. This recipe is suitable for indoor or outdoor music-making in all weather conditions.

And there you have it - St Bridget's Music Group (aka The Happiness Band). We play for Sunday worship and other church events when needed and out and about in the community when invited. Challengingly small spaces with minimal elbow room are our speciality. We remain, as ever, never knowingly over-rehearsed and are always ready to welcome new singers and instrumentalists of all abilities. If you think that you would like to join us and share in the privilege of contributing to the worshipping life of our churches, please contact Andrew Gibb or come and chat to us after a service.

Mary Railton-Crowder

BELL RINGING

St Bridget's is one of the few local towers that continued to ring every Sunday throughout 2025; Sunday evening ringing also took place six times and we rang for a small number of weddings and funerals. Our regular Tuesday evening practice still attracts visitors as well as our own band. Seventeen is the maximum number we can accommodate, as it otherwise becomes uncomfortably crowded in our small ringing room. Quarter Peals (the bells ring for a minimum of 1250 'changes', which takes around three-quarters of an hour) before some practice nights have been instigated to augment numbers of ringers. We know that Quarters aren't the be-all and end-all of ringing, but can be enjoyable and improve the overall standard. In 2025 three of St Bridget's ringers came in the Chester Guild's top twenty ringers, out of over three hundred. St Bridget's was 24th in the world with forty-four Quarters, out of thousands of other towers and second to Chester Cathedral in Cheshire.

Maintenance matters and every three or four months, checks on the bell ropes, wheels, clappers and other parts are necessary. Issues with dust coming through a hole in the ceiling close to one of the rope holes has provided 'mirthful showering' for that unfortunate ringer! During June, the 5th and 7th bells were adjusted for 'odd struck-ness': corrective work undertaken by some of our own ringers in challenging, cramped, conditions. The clapper balls were painted with an anti-slip coating to prevent the muffles, when attached, from slipping. Without this, the bells wouldn't produce their distinctive sound for funerals. In February, we hosted the University of Liverpool ringers on the morning of their Dinner Day and in April, we welcomed the band from St Chad's, Shrewsbury. A totally unserious comment in the Ring O' Bells one Tuesday evening, galvanised our 2025 Tower 'tour' and a day trip to Llandudno aboard the paddle steamer Waverley. We should definitely do social things more frequently! Our own public tower tours continue to be popular: it's only a few who look fearful as they make that final scramble up onto the roof. Our Rector is the current Guild President, and the Wirral Branch AGM was held at St Bridget's. When checking there was no conflict of interest with the Saturday morning yoga session in the Centre. we were assured that the yoga organisers and the participants, very much appreciate the 'soothing' sound of our bells in the background. We hope that you do, too! We always need more ringers so if you feel you'd like to try it or find out more, please get in touch! **Don Naylor Tower Secretary**

Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. Psalm 33

WORSHIP AND CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

Flowers

We glorify and praise God's creation by decorating our church with flowers and plants throughout the year, except Advent and Lent. Both our churches have people skilled and enthusiastic about flowers.

St Bridget's Flower Guild

St Bridget's flower guild has had quite a change around in members over the past year! Many of our experienced arrangers have hung up their secateurs and taken a well-earned step back. We will miss their experience and guidance, but luckily, they aren't far away for us to ask. The guild members are trying to be as sustainable as possible with their purchase of flowers and floral mechanics. Whilst this has been challenging, we are pleased in the various excellent efforts that have been made and you will now see more flowers in vases, flowers supported by chicken wire, twigs and other curious things. We would like to apply for a Sustainable Church Flowers Award in the coming year, so watch this space! The Guild arranged a Christmas wreath workshop to raise funds so members could go on a Sustainable Flower Arrangers Class. We know we are very blessed to be given the opportunity to beautify our lovely church. We hope to create a welcoming display for visitors and our church family, especially at festivals. There seems to have been a noticeable increase in requests for new Memorial flower tributes. We are encouraged to hear lots are from funerals which have taken place in church where the family are not regular attendees but feel they have a valued connection. We hope our church family enjoy the floral displays and anyone looking to join our merry band would be very welcome indeed!



Inclusive church

During 2025 we have continued our work as part of the Inclusive Church Network. We are looking at how we can make facilities at Caldy church more accessible, we provide large print copies of all our services and publications and the PCC agreed spending to significantly improve the sound systems in St Bridget's centre. We flew the Pride flag from St Bridget's church tower for the month of June and contributed towards the campaign towards allowing the blessings of same-sex marriages. We continue to support the needs of those struggling financially through donations to the Foodbank and other charities. We strive to meet the objectives of Inclusive Church Network in being a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.

Eco-Church

Eco church is an obvious and all-pervasive aspect of our church's mission to care for God's amazing gift of creation, and for the earth, our common home. We have continued to work gradually towards gold level in the A Rocha church award scheme, a useful template for practical action. Under Alex, our rector's leadership, communal worship and liturgy prioritises praise and gratitude for God's creation, intercession for the poor of the earth and the earth itself, and awareness is raised of our responsibilities and opportunities for action through sermons, newsletters, and community events. Our church buildings are consistently managed in such a way as to minimise as far as possible their impact on the earth's

resources including becoming more sustainable in our use of flowers and their arranging, becoming almost 'floral foam free'!

Thanks to the generous efforts of the lower churchyard working party volunteers, efforts to create a managed wild area has progressed well and the area is transforming into a space which will nurture biodiversity. Graves are visible, and much undergrowth cleared in a planned way, with the aim of enabling wildlife habitats to thrive, and, in time, to allow native wildflowers to propagate. Last June volunteers took part in the national churches Count on Nature, and recorded many species particularly of wild meadow grasses, and noted different bird songs. Their work has also enabled us to make progress towards the establishment of our prayer walk, involving designs by the pupils of St Bridget's school, for outdoor glass works of art executed by a local artist. These will represent the Creation Story and encourage prayerful meditation.

During the past year, we have continued to build links with other eco groups including Faiths 4 Change and Chester Diocese- Going for Gold, and with other local parishes on a similar journey. As our churches remain open all day, they are places of welcome for all pilgrims, whose journeys connect us and them with the sacredness of the earth, and we have become part of the Pilgrim movement.

Margaret and John Smith have continued to provide their excellent Fairtrade stall, which is not only stocked with all kinds of beautiful Fairtrade goods, cards, and food supplies, but which is also a point of welcome for newcomers, and Sue Harrison makes available other eco-friendly household products. John's experience and support for Eco Church continues to be inspirational. The blister pack collection boxes for recycling are quickly and constantly replenished, a reminder of how much

waste usually goes to landfill. Our regular contributions to the Foodbank are a way of responding to the unfair distribution of the earth's resources which leaves so many people locally in need. Finally, we have begun to engage with those who have to leave their lands because of climate change, poverty and war, through support for refugees staying in Hoylake, and for the Heart 4 Refugees charity in Wirral. Thank you for all generous contributions of time, clothes or money.

...ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. Job 12



PRAYER, NURTURE AND STUDY

During 2025, our focus has been to help people feel more confident talking about faith, God and Christian discipleship, and to provide accessible ways to explore the “big questions” in a welcoming environment. We have reviewed the range of existing nurture and learning opportunities already active in the parish (including Bible study group, Prayer Group, Quiet Mornings, Sunday evening worship, and Confirmation preparation) and discussed where there may be gaps or barriers to participation. The PCC trialled the Start Course as a possible pathway for those exploring faith and the Christian life. Feedback

suggested the format was good, but the content was not entirely what we were looking for as an “entry point” resource for our community.

The group supported seasonal learning and reflection, including recommending resources for Advent and signposted people to reading and study resources connected with discipleship, prayer, mission, social justice, ecology, equity and poverty—encouraging individuals and groups to go deeper in understanding and practice.

We also facilitated informal discussions at the Thirsty Thursday sessions at the Ring O’ Bells. These began well, with good engagement and openness, but attendance declined and the theology group seemed of more interest. We will review how best to support this kind of low-barrier space and whether there are alternative settings that would help more people take part. During 2025, our focus has been to help people feel more confident talking about faith, God and Christian discipleship, and to provide accessible ways to explore the “big questions”.

As a group, we bring prayer and learning together—encouraging people not only to talk about but also practise faith. We want to develop our prayer life as individuals and a parish and we seek to make prayer, study and nurture accessible and connected with our shared mission.

At the end of the year the PCC began to prune the tree, and the Nurture and Study work was brought together with the prayer strand of the former Worship and Prayer group, creating the Study, Nurture and Prayer Group. This has helped us connect learning and discussion more intentionally with spiritual practice, and to keep our work aligned to the parish vision and strategy. We will see what that brings in 2026.

Angela Douglas

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Joy Alcock's regular Bible study group has remained popular and follows a varied programme. It once again expanded to become a Lent group this year, led by a different ministry team member each week and looking at the Sunday Gospel readings. We also have a monthly short discussion at Caldy following Tuesday Communion where we share questions about the Christian faith and how it relates to current affairs.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

See Trustees' Report for detail about St Bridget's and Caldy churches, St Bridget's Centre, Caldy Hall and the parish tenanted property.

The buildings maintenance team is tasked with handling all repair work, both major and minor, across our churches, including Caldy church hall. Their responsibilities ensure that the facilities remain safe, functional, and welcoming for all who use them. Many maintenance tasks are undertaken directly by the team members themselves including routine but essential jobs such as cleaning gutters and drains, replacing or repairing damaged items. When the situation calls for specialist skills or larger projects, contractors are engaged to carry out the necessary work.

In the past year, both churches underwent roofing inspections, with some remedial repairs completed as required. Caldy church and its hall successfully passed a five year electrical safety check, ensuring compliance and safety. St Bridget's church completed its own five-year electrical safety check in 2024. Restoration work has been ongoing on the dormer windows of St Bridget's church, on both the North and South sides and more extensive restoration is planned to be carried out by a specialist restoration contractor in 2026. Rising damp is a common concern for church buildings, but fortunately, no major issues have been identified in either of our churches. Nevertheless, damp found in the east wall of St Bridget's church remains an ongoing point of attention and an attempt to address this has included the digging of a trench by the East wall near the Lady Chapel to create a gap between the high earth embankment and the wall. Sincere thanks are extended to the maintenance team for their invaluable professional and practical contributions throughout the year. **Greg Buckridge Buildings Team**

ENHANCEMENT GROUP

The Enhancement Group plans and oversees improvements to our two beautiful church buildings; past projects have included new heating, new church carpets, rewiring, lighting and sound systems and the livestreaming equipment and cameras which beam our worship to people unable to attend in person. At our meetings we also cover maintenance of the buildings and in 2025 we changed our name to Buildings and Enhancement Group, to reflect this dual role. We welcomed Anna Gibson as a new member in May. Smaller jobs completed this year at St Bridget's included new microphones for the chancel, a new bike rack, painting the

lychgate, installing outside sockets (particularly useful for Christmas lights), and a cable to strengthen the font cover mechanism. At Caldy, railings have been painted and a flagstone installed to enable access to the noticeboard. The big ongoing jobs are a toilet for St Bridget's Church, Caldy Hall's accessibility problems, audio-visual improvements for St Bridget's, and the two organs. For the proposed toilet, a productive meeting in May between the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), our new Parish Architect and ourselves moved things forward. We now have DAC support for an agreed design and David Hind is liaising with the Architects towards submitting a Planning application. For Caldy Hall, the DAC visited to discuss a tentative idea of extending the church on its north side, to replace the hall, which we could seek to re-purpose and lease. We are working on plans and drawings to put to the people of Caldy for consultation. Three Audio-visual companies visited St Bridget's and provided estimates. The PCC has agreed that improvements would be desirable (for example, at All Together Worship, no-one in the chancel can see the screen), but the cost would be over £25K and we cannot afford it yet. The Organ repairs are looked after by a separate committee. St Bridget's organ is in the workshop of Henry Willis and sons of Liverpool, who have lent us an electronic instrument during the refurbishment. We hope to have our glorious organ back soon. Many thanks to all of the Group. We are especially grateful to David Hind for his expertise in dealing with the professionals, and to Greg Buckridge and David Wright for their practical skills.

Priscilla Bench-Capon, Enhancement Group Secretary

THE CHURCHYARDS AND GROUNDS

St Bridget's Churchyard

St Bridget's churchyard is a beautiful but large area to maintain. We have benefited hugely from the skill and dedication of Bill and Doreen Smith and were deeply saddened by Bill's unexpected death in July 2025. Doreen has continued to look after the flower beds in the upper churchyard and help organise churchyard working parties and with the help of our paid gardeners from Greasby Gardens the churchyard is both well maintained and attractive. We had 7 working parties during 2025 and are very grateful for the work of our committed volunteers. We receive lots of compliments for how beautiful our grounds are and how appreciative people are.

St Bridget's Lower Churchyard

During 2025 volunteers have continued to work creating wildflower meadows in several areas of the lower churchyard. Many wildflower seeds were sown and whilst results were rather disappointing, we finally celebrated the arrival of Yellow Rattle in a number of areas. There has been further seed sowing and planting of native bulbs. The raised bank between the churchyard and the school is being developed to provide shrubs and flowers which attract bees, butterflies, birds and other insects and also flowers for use by our flower arrangers. The bark chipping pathways have been replenished and offer safer access for those wanting to wander. Several wood piles are established on the perimeter to provide homes for bugs and insects. We have planted some native trees and continue to remove the self-sown sycamore and holly saplings which are invasive. We have also started to tackle some more troublesome plants

such as Alexander Weed and Tri-cornered leek. A large task is the carefully timed cutting of the grass in different areas and then the raking and removal. Whilst one area each year is left uncut there is still a lot to deal with. We are grateful to our paid gardeners for their help with this and are hugely indebted to our volunteers who have both a passion and commitment and energy which is slowly transforming this special place.

Caldy church garden

With Greasby Gardeners' two-man team coming fortnightly for 2 hours, the grounds are mowed, strimmed and trimmed. During 2025 there was a general consensus that the grounds surrounding the church needed some additional care and attention. The first area to be tackled was the planting of the border alongside the steps to the main entrance which our curate undertook and successfully provided some welcome colour throughout the autumn. The next project was the Garden of Remembrance where a tiny, evergreen creeper had become invasive making this special area look unkempt, uncared for and upsetting some who came to pay their respects. A fundraising initiative was launched, raising over £2,000, which enabled SJB Memorials to remove the weed infested, tired gravel from the main area, re-lay the memorial plates and replace the old gravel with slightly larger pebbles. The end result is very attractive and will hopefully prove less appealing to weeds, and thus easier to maintain. Towards the end of the year, Rachel Summers, along with the Rector, surveyed the rest of the grounds, resulting in Rachel drafting a plan of action to rejuvenate them over the following year. The work is being undertaken primarily by Rachel along with various Caldyp residents who are keen gardeners and to whom we are very grateful.

The two key projects for 2026 are rejuvenating the long border which runs from the bottom of Kings Drive to the side gate into the enclosed church garden. There are also future plans for tackling the mature shrubs growing in front of the church to not only rejuvenate them but keeping them clipped to frame rather than obscure the church and together with plants, kindly donated, the garden will once again provide a fitting backdrop to showcase our lovely church. Our thanks to all who have donated and helped and inspired this work.

“Let us go out early to the vineyards and see whether the vines have budded, whether the grape blossoms have opened and the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love.”
Song of Solomon 7:12



PASTORAL CARE

Our Lay Pastoral Team covers Caldy Church and St Bridget's, and we are very busy little bees helping out behind the scenes! We credit our amazing church families for keeping us in touch with folk and letting us know where we may be of help. We have been helping those housebound or with reduced mobility to watch church services online as our livestream option enables all to feel part of services. The opportunity for Home Communion in a group or individually has also been welcomed by those unable to join us physically in church, and we have been arranging this, and enjoying afternoon teas to boot! Lifts to hospital appointments are sometimes arranged if relatives are sadly unable to do so, we respect privacy whilst providing support and company. Much of our pastoral care lies in quietly supporting those on our fringes and those

whom we notice are struggling silently in our midst, this is a part of our work which we find humbling and grateful to be asked to do. We are a Lay team and have close links with the ministry team, we value their guidance and support, and our remit is to provide pastoral support and care. Our bereavement support gives a gentle reminder that there is always someone at both churches available for a chat if requested. For a year we keep contact with those affected by the death of someone close and offer the opportunity for flowers in memory and names to be added in the Remembrance Books. We encourage all to try the Bereavement Journey course and provide information on ways to cope with their loss through many social contact opportunities available including the Bereavement café. The Bereavement Journey course first offered in St Bridget's Centre in 2024 has proved a valuable support to our community. We are grateful to the West Kirby charity for supporting us in this ministry. In 2025 we offered the course twice, March/April and September/October, the latter held at St Michael's church in Newton as part of developing the course alongside other churches across West Kirby and Newton. Both were very well attended, meeting people in their time of need and seeing friendships and bonds of support develop for those dealing with grief including ongoing support. This has resulted in a second bereavement cafe/breakfast group meeting at Wetherspoons in West Kirby in addition to the Friday group that meets at the Marine Place café.

Sally Cashen and Simon Trout on behalf of The Pastoral Team

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another". John 13



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Our mission is to enable children and their families to experience something of the love of God and learn about what it means to live a Christian life. We try to provide opportunities for this from birth to secondary school and beyond. We continue to benefit from the work of Andrew and Carolyn our Children and Families workers.

Here is a summary of what goes on!

Storytelling

Storytelling is a Sunday morning provision for children which takes place in the Beacon Room during the 10am service. We focus on a simpler retelling of the gospel stories with the use of 2-and-3-dimensional pictures/objects, short videos, music and crafts. We have an average of about 10 children and parents/helpers per session. Storytelling runs during term-time except for Sundays when we have All Together Worship.

St Bridget's Baby Group

The St Bridget's Baby Group is for parents and their babies, up to the age of one. The group meets in St Bridget's Centre every Friday morning in term time and aims to provide a friendly, supportive and nurturing environment. There are sensory toys for the babies together with singing plus drinks and biscuits for the parents. Parents need to book ahead to join the group as there is a waiting list. Every term the group also visits Caldy Manor Care home where the babies and their parents meet, chat and sing with the residents.

Toasty Tuesdays

Toasty Tuesdays runs from 3.30pm to 4.30pm every Tuesday in term time. It has become very popular with over 150 visitors every week, mainly from St Bridget's Primary School, including parents, grandparents or carers. They visit the church straight after school to eat toast, drink squash and play a variety of games which are set up inside the church. Members of the ministry team are available to chat. With a fantastic team of volunteers, our hope is that everyone has a great time and feels at home within a church building as well as providing opportunities for conversation.

Supper Sundays

Super Sundays takes place once every half term in St Bridget's Centre on Sunday afternoons from 3.30pm to 5pm. It's for families and children (from 0-11 years) and is an opportunity for them to meet, play, eat supper and have a gentle introduction to exploring faith through Bible stories and conversation.

St Bridget's Summer Club

We had our second Summer Activity Club in 2025 on five mornings in July and August. The children enjoyed a wide variety of activities including craft, play and outdoor games. 2026 will see a change in format as we experiment with running alongside the Link café.

Caldy Toddler Group

We have had another busy year of welcoming new parents and toddlers to our sessions and enjoying watching our regular toddlers developing their confidence in a familiar happy environment.

It's a joy to watch friendships within our community setting develop. We were very grateful to receive a generous donation from Caldy Society. This enabled us to upgrade to a new suite of toddler chairs, and adult chairs at the appropriate height for circle time and STICK, changing equipment and a set of instruments. Joy and Andrew continue to mesmerise the toddlers with STICK each week along with beautiful handmade figures to engage the children. Caldy Toddler Group takes place on Thursday mornings in term time and is run by enthusiastic and welcoming volunteers from the Caldy church catchment and attracts parents/guardians and children from a wide area around West Kirby. In addition to the toys and games on offer, the children sing songs and have a Gospel story retold with the use of knitted figures and other props, which the children illustrate through a sticking craft. Thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers who make it possible for this community group to continue each week.

Cindy Bradshaw

All of these activities could not happen without the financial support of the PCC through the generous donations of people like you! Moreover, none of these sessions could be offered without the support of our wonderful volunteers. Our volunteers spread chocolate on toast, bake lovely cakes, serve food to families, wash dishes, offer tea and a chat, set up rooms with toys, tell stories and sing songs, and help children and families to know more about God. We are incredibly grateful for this offering of time, thought and effort from every one of our volunteers!

ST BRIDGET'S SCHOOL

During 2025 we have continued to strengthen the wonderful relationships with our church and school. The children regularly take part and lead services in church celebrating major festivals. Our Eco and Ethos Ambassadors (children from each year group) have planned and led services during 2025 and are continuing to learn about liturgy and crafting worship. They often become focussed on the refreshments, so we have been delighted that the church family has provided refreshments for children and parents in St Bridget's Centre after several school services, also helped by the school governors from our Christian Ethos Committee. Here are some of this year's events and initiatives:

All Together Worship includes children and families from our school.

Reverend Alex, Reverend Ruth & Ordinand Fred lead Collective Worship every week with the children.

School Council children went up the Church Tower to celebrate

Ascension Day ♦ Four Year 4 children attend the Link Coffee Morning every week and help serve ♦ Church provides a beautiful service for our

Year 6s when they leave school ♦ Reverend Alex leads staff "Breathing Space" on a termly basis. This provides continuing professional development for our teachers and time for reflection and prayer ♦

Church and school worked together once again in December to provide a Christingle Service. The church was packed out! Huge thanks to Mrs

Longmore for organising this event ♦ Children in Year 4 are invited to take Holy Communion receiving teaching in school over 6 weeks followed by a service attended by Year 3, 4 & 5 children and families of those children receiving Holy Communion ♦ This year was the second year that church

and school have worked together on our Summer Fair and this year was an even bigger success as we celebrated school's 200th birthday. We have achieved so much in the past year, and I am continuously grateful for the love and support of our church, more importantly, I know that our children are too. We feel deeply connected to our church family and our church has a crucial role in developing the spirituality of all of our school family.

Miss Nadine Smith RE and Christian Ethos Lead Teacher

2025 marked 200 years of St Bridget's school and also saw the school join a Diocesan Multi Academy Trust known as Chester Diocesan Learning Trust (CDLT)

*Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.
Proverbs 22*



SOCIAL AND OUTREACH

During 2025 there have been several activities providing social opportunities to both the church family and the wider community with St. Bridget's weekend being a highlight. Much of this happens organically but we are grateful to those who do the behind the scenes organising and for pulling things together. We are very fortunate to have many regular social activities described below.

ST BRIDGET'S CENTRE

The Centre continues to be a wonderful resource for the community. During 2025 it has been very well used, with most days and evenings fully booked. Amongst the activities in the Centre are: Pilates, Yoga, Wirral Academy of Performing Arts, Bridge classes, St. Bridget's Pre School, Children's birthday parties, Baby group, Link Café, Church refreshments, Handbell ringing, West Kirby Women's Institute, Sourdough baking classes, Wirral Bird Club, Mothers' Union, Men's Shed lunches, West Kirby Museum, Local history Lectures and exhibitions, Quiz nights, Craft workshops, Wirral Ramblers orientation training, Friday Night Live and Squirrels (baby scouts!). The Centre also hosts our Fair-Trade stall selling food and craft items and our eco shop. The stall is open in the Centre after the 10am service on Sundays and at the Link on Wednesdays. The Centre is reliant on the cooperation of all concerned with its life and particular thanks are due to Paula Cobby for all her work dealing with bookings and enquiries, Rosie Heenan for managing the money and Jamie Cook the caretaker, who all often go the extra mile to help us and others as well as those who serve on the committee.

Richard Williams Centre Manager

Working as caretaker at St Bridget's Centre is both challenging and rewarding. Challenging when things aren't running smoothly, rewarding when things do run smoothly. A large part of my work is cleaning which I share with Alfonso. I start early in the morning which I like, especially in the summer months (although winter does have a beauty of its own). I get to see the world and nature waking up for the day. St Bridget's is such a beautiful place early in the morning; the quiet, dawn breaking, cheeky

squirrels playing, all the different types of birds singing, foxes hunting. Nature's play. Very peaceful. There are also many other tasks to do; weeding, painting, ordering stock, fixing broken things, emergency checks, washing windows etc. There's always something to keep me busy. As I cross things off on my list more things always appear! My number is on the alarm call-out list so a late-night call-out from the alarm is not unknown. It's a very varied job which I enjoy. But in a world where success is mostly measured in money and status it can be a bit awkward, sometimes, explaining my career path. Cleaning for a living is often seen as menial work. But I just remember my favourite verse from the Book of Psalms: "Be still and know that I am God".

Jamie Cook Caretaker

THE LINK CAFÉ

Another successful year for our Wednesday morning Café in St Bridget's Centre. On a typical morning we start quietly, which gives the staff and a few early regulars the chance to chat, then traffic builds up, as the Steels' Sales Stall, Peggy Dodd's Knit and Natter Circle and Margaret Smith's Fair Trade stall arrive, and peaks when children from St Bridget's School join the waiting staff, drawing in their families and making us very busy with toast orders. Numerous church meetings take place in the Café, as well as informal catching up on news and getting to know people. For many of us, it is a treat to have food and drink that someone else has prepared. We provide a play mat and toys for pre-school children, and Sally Cashen, Pat Southworth and others bake lovely cakes for us to sell. Chris Andrew has retired as our leader after many years of sterling

work; Clare Ledingham has taken over managing the rota and has recruited more new volunteers. We are grateful to all these people, to Richard Williams the Centre Manager, and all the volunteer staff, especially those who arrive early to set up, and stay on to pack up. Thanks to donations for the refreshments, and cake sales, we were able to pass £4211 surplus to the PCC over the year. £1866 of this came from the card machine. We opened every Wednesday except Christmas Eve.

Priscilla Bench-Capon, Café Treasurer

Knit and Natter, Craft and Chat.

Crafters continue to enjoy each other's company at the meeting of the Link each Wednesday morning. It's always fun see what different projects are being worked on and to learn some new skills. There are a great variety of crafts including embroidery and crochet projects. Our knitters helped provide over 100 knitted stars of a wonderful variety which were distributed on Christmas Day. We warmly welcome and invite anyone to come and join us, enjoy a natter and share or start a craft.

HANDBELL RINGERS

The handbells are "Under New Management". Following the retirement of Janet Belton our previous Musical Director, the baton has been passed to our Chairman, John Lindsay. John is also Musical Director of Port Sunlight Handbell Ringers, so we are able to share both musical arrangements and delicious cream teas, following our "Get Together" afternoon last year. The group, which meets in St Bridget's Centre on a Thursday morning, has entertained the residents at Hoylake Cottage during the year, this included a carol concert at which the residents joined

in the well known carols with great enthusiasm, followed by mince pies and mulled wine for all. The proceeds of these recitals go to the St Bridget's Organ appeal. Sadly, we are unable to play at the Summer Fair again this year as several members will be on holiday. **Sue Shaw**

SUMMER FAIR

June 28th, 2025, provided a beautiful, dry and sunny day for our annual St Bridget's school and church Summer Fair. This year was extra-special, celebrating the school's 200yr birthday, with the school open for guided tours attracting many "alumni", some of whom are old enough to remember the old school buildings pre-1968! This was the 4th joint church/school committee led summer fair, and we are blessed to have the energy and ideas this cooperation brings to our community.

In all 23 stalls were requested, with food offerings provided by The Round Table and Burrito Shack as well as ice cream, cakes and the wonderfully successful introduction of a Candy Floss stall! Coffees and teas were available all day from our hard-working volunteers in the church centre. The heady mix of good weather and entertainment and over 700 visitors, young and old, made for a great afternoon. Entertainment came thick and fast with music by The Happiness Band and "More Like Dave", a country dancing display, maypole dancers, and Tug of War. In the Centre and church, the fabulous Off Pitch Choir and handbell ringers were enjoyed. Our ever-popular church tower tours drew many visitors too.

As usual, for the organising committee the day itself flashed by in a blur and we get little time to thank everyone. We are indebted to all the school parents and children, our church community, volunteers and local traders

who “made it happen”. All funds raised go directly to support and maintain church and school community activities throughout the year. We asked for and received direct feedback suggestions on the day, and efforts are being made to add as many as possible into offerings for the 2026 Summer Fair.

MEN IN SHEDS

In 2025 the Men's Shed group met every month on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at St Bridget's Centre. There were two exceptions to this. At our January meeting we went for a group lunch at the Green Lodge in Hoylake and, on one of the Spring meetings, we had a private tour of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. We usually have a guest speaker to talk about a topic of interest. These have tended to be from outside the group but, increasingly, we are finding that our own members are well versed to talk about their particular area of expertise. An example of this last year was a talk about volcanos. We have also used the bowling greens on a couple of occasions when the weather has allowed.

The group is continuing, possibly with a change of name to reflect that we don't actually have a shed!

New members are always welcome. (ian.r.may61@gmail.com)

MOTHERS' UNION

We started 2025 with 25 members with an average of 15 members and visitors attended meetings. In May, Joyce Preston one of our long standing and faithful members died and several MU members attended her funeral. During the year we had many interesting speakers including Dave Wright, the Reverend Judith Calvert, Canon Richard Williams, the Falls Prevention Team, Elizabeth Davey from the Museum, Nick Lynch

from Barclays Bank and the Reverend David Chester. We held our Wave of Prayer in the Lady Chapel on May 18, when we prayed for our Linked Dioceses around the world. We held a Bring and Share Lunch in June and in September members attended the Deanery Service at Christ Church, Higher Bebington and the M.U. Commissioning Service at St. Mary's Without-the-Walls in Handbridge. We had lunch out in November at the Gravesberie in Greasby and in December we enjoyed a seasonal celebration, singing carols and being entertained by Andrew Gibb on his guitar. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. Do come along and meet us. 2026 is the 150th anniversary of the Mother's Union and many events are being held across the country. Please ask if you would like a copy of this year's programme.

Carole Steel Secretary

FRIDAY FILM CLUB

2025 saw the start of a community film night which has increased in popularity. Held in the Beacon Room Cinema it's a great night out at the Silver Screen. Just come, relax, and settle down, glass in hand A range of films on offer, with something for everyone.

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WEST KIRBY (CTWK)

The churches in West Kirby range right across the spectrum, and it is not always easy to be entirely in step with each other. Despite the different approaches to living the Gospel and seeking to bring others to faith, much mutual support is provided and shared work undertaken.

During 2025 CTWK provided a visible presence at Christmas, singing carols in West Kirby, sponsoring some of the West Kirby Christmas lights, taking part in a Good Friday Witness in the town and providing books for all Year 6 children in West Kirby schools. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity a joint service was held at Riverway church when Father Brian Bell from St Andrew's preached. It was agreed that CTWK would work together to build a team who could offer the Bereavement Journey several times during the year and the first of these jointly run courses was offered in the Autumn.



PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH

We have many ways of sharing information within our church communities and the wider parish, and we recognise the importance of having an effective means of telling people who we are, what we believe in and what we are doing. Andrew Gibb continues to provide 3 hours per week in organising and publicising events which help us reach out into the community as well as the regular week by week activities. Andrew maintains the website, produces fliers, posters and invitations and helps us reflect on how we can communicate effectively the many things we offer as a community

Parish Magazine

Our parish is one of a dwindling number that still has a monthly printed parish magazine, with about 120 copies printed and sold each month. As the magazine is also available online, we hope that the readership is large enough for the effort involved! Anyone can contribute to the content – the Editor welcomes articles on any subject vaguely related to parish and local life, worship, prayer and even God. Over the year, a wide range of topics has been covered, with longer articles especially at Christmas in the bumper December/January edition. Although it costs us significantly more to use colour, we feel that the cost is justified. And talking of costs, we are most grateful to our advertisers without whose support, the magazine might cease production. We also thank Anne Waring and ‘Paula in the office’ for printing each issue and the distributors who deliver. If you haven’t recently looked at, or read, a copy of ‘The Bridge’ (aka the parish magazine), please do so and let me have feedback and suggestions for the future. **Ann Holden**, Editor

Electronic weekly newsletter

A weekly newsletter is emailed to 420 people via MailChimp, with proper management of contacts for data protection a small number are delivered as hard copies and 30 are placed in the churches for collection. The newsletter is prepared in the Parish Office as a printer-friendly document, then reformatted for Mailchimp and circulated at 6pm each Friday. It is also available on A Church Near You, with a link from the Parish Website. Anyone can join the list by contacting the Parish Office, clicking the online link, or using the QR code on the cards in the pews. Each week it is

packed with information about services, events, opportunities to help, parish news, contact details, and the Book of Remembrance for the week.

A Church Near You website

AChurchNearYou.com is the Church of England's official church finder tool, and it also offers free websites for churches and benefices. In recent years it has developed from a site offering basic location and contact details, and we are now able to advertise all our services and events, upload the newsletter, magazine, orders of service and other documents, and provide hyperlinks to join our services online and to donate online. It is easy to update, and we do this each week. It complements the Parish website, which keeps more permanent content. Among its useful features is the large selection of tags which help people who are searching, such as Easter, Family Friendly, Gluten free Communion, Event held in a pub, Refreshments, Book of Common Prayer, Christmas Carols, Parents and Toddlers, Stained Glass, Prayers of Love and Faith. At the time of writing, achurchnearyou.com/st-bridget-west-kirby had received 32,758 page views in the past year, and achurchnearyou.com/-all-saints-caldy 13,768, both more than double the previous year. **Priscilla Bench-Capon** Editor

Website and social media

The website is mainly static and provides an overview of our vision and values, our activities, groups and people. It is possible for people to request baptisms and weddings via the website and learn about the variety of activities on offer. We are grateful to Andrew who updates the 'what's on' section each week. We are continuing to update and refine different pages and are pleased to see that we have lots of people 'visiting' the website.

And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? Romans 10:14-17

CLOSING REMARKS

There are many people who deserve thanks; not all are mentioned in this review although many have contributed to it.

Apologies to any who feel their work or presence has been omitted – it was in error!

A huge thank you to all who play a part in the life of the parish.

*I thank my God for you every time I think of you;
and every time I pray for you all,
I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the
work of the gospel from the very first day until now.*

Philippians 1:3-14

for those of you who open up, set up, mop up,
those who put chairs out and tidy them away.
those of you who settle up, box up, fold up and fold away.

I thank my God

those of you who turn up, ring up and scoop up,
who call and care and pick up and walk alongside.

those of you who plan and sketch
who measure up and weigh up and jot down.

I thank my God

for those of you who make music,
those who offer welcome and books and a prayer.

those of you who brings stories alive
and open hearts and minds,

those who cut out and stick down, who stitch and knit

I thank my God

for those of you who pause and ponder and pray
who offer things past, still blessing today.

for those who raise a smile, a kind remark,
a word of encouragement or blessing

for those of you who think you cannot find yourself here,
know that you are seen and loved

and every time I think of you, I thank my God.

REVA 2026