

THE BRIDGE

FOR OUR PLANET TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ST BRIDGET'S WITH
CALDY
PARISH MAGAZINE

stbridgetschurch.org.uk caldychurch.org.uk

September 2026 (Vol. 16: No 8)

£1

Summer Link

Our children and families people, Carolyn and Andrew, organised the very successful and well attended Wednesday morning **Summer Link** sessions. Carolyn has sent this account:



We have just finished our Summer Link sessions of craft and play on Wednesday mornings over the summer holidays. It has been a really wonderful 6 weeks of welcoming many new adults and children, in addition to keeping in touch with families we know well. We've had an average of 30 folks attending each session, from babies to grandparents.

In each session we have offered two crafts and colouring sheets, which have changed from week to week. We have trimmed the hair of the famous 'grass heads', made clothes for wooden

peg figures, created pom-pom sheep, decorated windchimes and more besides. In addition to crafts we offered a Lego station, a games table and a baby corner, which were all well utilised. A bonus of the Wednesday slot has been the parents wandering into the The Link Cafe to experience its famed hospitality. We hope they will continue to visit in the future.

...continued on page 4...



Letter from Alex



Come, Ye Thankful People, Come...

Who remembers making a small basket of food to take to school for the harvest festival? I remember using an old fruit and vegetable box from the greengrocer. It had a sturdy metal handle, and in the days before iPads and PlayStations, I would happily spend hours decorating the outside with tissue paper and pictures cut from magazines. I carried my box to Black Horse Hill Primary with immense pride, feeling that I was making a real difference to hungry people somewhere—even if I wasn't entirely sure where.

Part of the purpose of this act of generosity was to help me recognise and be thankful for all that I had, particularly the security of never going hungry.

During the Season of Creation (1st September–4th October, see page 15), which encompasses our harvest celebrations, we continue to remember with gratitude all that we have, while actively supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. Today, I am only too aware that hungry people are not just on the other side of the world, but often less than ten miles from our own doorsteps.

As Christians, we are reminded of our calling to love our neighbours and care for them in practical ways. We are also reminded that the earth and everything it produces does not belong to us; it belongs to God. We are merely stewards entrusted with its care, and so far, we have not done a very good job. Our actions have disrupted the climate, affecting every ecosystem, crop, and living creature. We see daily how extreme weather patterns, shifting seasons, and rising temperatures make it increasingly difficult for farmers—both locally and globally—to grow food.

Caring for creation is not an optional extra. It is a core part of our Christian discipleship and a direct expression of our love for the Creator.

Therefore, alongside bringing much-needed donations to the church foodbank, there are other practical steps we can take:

Adopt LOAF principles: Choose food that is **L**ocally grown, **O**rganically produced, **A**nimal-friendly, and **F**airly traded.

Reduce waste: Plan meals carefully, compost leftovers, and consume mindfully to

ensure we respect the resources we have been given.

By taking these small steps, we can truly honour God's creation and ensure that the blessings of the harvest are shared sustainably with all.

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

Alex

Summer Link

These sessions could not have happened without our fantastic volunteers, which this year included young people from local schools. The ability of all our volunteers to welcome and get on with people is such a wonderful asset and demonstrates the love, warmth and acceptance of God which is the reason that St. Bridget's exists. Moreover, all that we offer could not be achieved without the financial contributions of everyone who gives to the mission of our wonderful church and centre.

Thank you!!



Creation care

We are very blessed to be part of a church community at St Bridget's that is doing so much to look after our wildlife and environment.

Did you know there are other things we can do in our local area by which we can also show our care for local nature? Here are a few we discovered and have become part of since we moved to West Kirby three years ago.

On Wednesdays, there is a Wirral Council Ranger led group. We meet at 10am and work in different places, Thurstaston Hill, Gilroy Park or Caldý Hill. We work to keep footpaths clear of brambles etc, clear ponds, cut back vegetation that is growing too quickly and smothering the heather. We collect litter, build hedges, and basically join in with whatever the ranger deems is most necessary. It can be quite hard work, but we all do as little or as much as we feel able.



No doubt many know of the *Friends of Hilbre*. Meetings are more irregular, depending on tides, season and weather, but once there, under the guidance of the Wirral Ranger, we clear bracken, ragwort, brambles to let the natural habitat keep strong and healthy so a wide variety of birds and insects can find sources of food and shelter. Other jobs might include counting butterflies or collecting litter. It's so wonderful on the island that even basic jobs feel exciting.

A little further from home, there is the *Friends of Roman Road Sandhills* group in Meols. This friendly group is a real joy where under the guidance of our enthusiastic leaders, we work to restore the natural dune grassland environment to encourage the flora, butterflies and bees to visit or find a home. It's a small patch and in 2 years

we have seen so much positive change, which both wildlife and humans are appreciating.

So, there are three local groups we've appreciated. Several others are available, including the *Friends of Ashton Park*. You get outdoors, have physical exercise, meet new friends and learn new things from knowledgeable rangers and leaders, all while making a small contribution to God's amazing but fragile world. It can feel lost in the vastness of it all, but there are so many similar groups on Wirral, the UK and across the world, and everything we do in this way is connected to the whole.

Philippa and Graeme Skinner

God's Grandeur

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

September 2026 Diary

Our churches are open for visitors and as places of prayer & stillness
St Bridget's daily until 5pm, Caldý Church every day

**The Parish Office in St Bridget's Centre is open
Monday to Friday mornings, 9.30am–12.30pm**

The Rector's day off is a Monday

*For additional information about our activities, including occasional services
and events, please consult our website*

(www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk),

A Church Near You

www.achurchnearyou.com/St-Bridget-West-Kirby

www.achurchnearyou.com/All-Saints-Caldy

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

Sunday 6th September FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldý
6.30pm	Prayers for Healing and Wholeness – St Bridget

Sunday 13th September FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Sunday 20th September SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	All Together Worship, Harvest Festival and Creation celebration – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – Caldý
6.30pm	Creation-focused Evening Prayer – St Bridget

Sunday 27th September SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	Holy Communion – St Bridget
10am	All Together Worship, Harvest Festival and Creation celebration – Caldy
6.30pm	Compline – St Bridget

Regular weekday services

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

Other regular activities

2nd Tuesday of month	2pm	Mothers' Union in the Centre
1st Tuesday of month	7pm	Theology Discussion group at the Ring O' Bells
One Saturday per month	9.30–12 noon	Churchyard Working Party St Bridget's

Regular weekday activities

Tuesday	3.30pm	Toasty Tuesday in St Bridget's (term time)
	4.45pm	Sing Aloud junior choir practice (term time)
	6.00pm	Choir practice
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice
Wednesday	8.30–11.30am	The Link Café – Centre (from 9.30am out of term)
	10am	Knit & Natter, craft and chat group – Centre
Thursday	10am	Caldy Baby & Toddler Group (term time)
Friday	10am	St Bridget's Baby Group – Centre (term time)

FROM THE REGISTERS...

HOLY BAPTISM

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

26th July	Dolly Navy-Rose Monger (St Bridget)
2nd August	Riva Dobson (Caldy)
9th August	Eleanor Daisy Champion (St Bridget)
23rd August	Leo James Chapman (St Bridget)

BLESSING of MARRIAGE

"May they grow together in love and peace"

8th August	Thomas Cureton and Liu Ye (St Bridget)
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FUNERAL and Burial of ashes

"Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord"

30th June	Eileen Spark (burial of ashes at Frankby Cemetery)
28th August	Jean Corbett (St Bridget & Landican)



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Theology Discussion Group @ the Ring O' Bells

The next meeting after the 'summer recess' is on **September 8th at 7 pm in the Ring O' Bells**. *As the session may be well attended, it is possible the venue will be changed so check the weekly newsletter.*

The theme will be ***End of Life***, reflecting debates over assisted dying.

This is an issue that came to a head last year when the bill to allow assisted dying was debated in parliament and was eventually rejected by the House of Lords. Whether it will be re-introduced in the near future is uncertain, but the issue is unlikely to go away. For many of us myself included, this is a sensitive issue because we have first hand experience from our own families of relatives who have had a difficult and painful deaths, but as Christians we have usually held to the established position over the sanctity of human life.

We are also conscious that we live in a time that is unique in human history, because people can be kept alive through medical intervention yet have an extremely poor quality of life. To give one personal example, my mother had a stroke and lived a further nine years in a nursing home with no idea of who she was and or even the identity of her close family members. As someone noted it was a 'cruel and inhuman punishment' despite the excellent care she received. Although palliative care could be much improved in the UK, my experience has been that some people still suffer a terrible end of life experience even with the best and most expert care.

In the 1950s, Dr John Bodkin Adams was put on trial for murder because he had assisted many of his elderly patients to die and had, incidentally profited from inheritances. He was controversially acquitted, suspended from practice but was eventually restored to the medical register. This case established the principle of double effect that a doctor could relieve pain even if he/she knew this would shorten life and this settled the matter

until the Harold Shipman case. Shipman was not a concerned doctor relieving pain and shortening life but a mass murderer, who nevertheless made many practitioners more cautious about end-of-life care.

In the last decade two retired Archbishops, George Carey (born 1935) and Desmond Tutu (1931–2021), conscious of their likely future fate in care homes urged Christians to reconsider end of life, specifically with respect to assisted dying. Much to my surprise, because I thought I was in a tiny minority, a 2024 *Times* survey of Anglican clergy found that 35.5% were in favour of compassionate assisted dying, provided there were effective legal safeguards.

In order to facilitate discussion I have as usual attached some materials to view in advance

Note the meeting is on the second Tuesday because of the holiday at the start of September

Dave Chester

Some comments by [Cardinal Vincent Nichols](#)

"Nothing would be done at all, if a man waited till he could do it so well, that no one could find fault with it."

John Henry Newman (1801–1890)

"Lectures on the Present Position of Catholics in England," 1851

150TH CELEBRATIONS

On Tuesday 11th August we held our Strawberry Tea to raise money for MU Projects. It was very popular and around 60 people enjoyed lovely *[it was all delicious! Ed.]* food and fellowship. We also had a raffle and altogether raised £425. Thank you to the committee who made most of the food and to all our helpers who were not members who helped set up, serve and clear up, you were all amazing.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 8th September** when Ruth our curate is coming to tell us about her Life as a Curate. This is an open meeting everyone is welcome to come along. We would welcome some new members, if you would like to join us speak to Carole or Chris Andrew.



The guests had good appetites!



PARISH BOOK CLUB

After the August break, during which you have been busily reading, the next session will be 5–6pm on Sunday 27 September in St Bridget's Centre.

For this session, we'll be looking at Chapters 8 and 9 in ***Naked Spirituality A life with God in twelve simple words*** by Brian D. McLaren. The fourth word is 'O!' (Practising Jubilation and Not Just a Word - a Way of Life).

Sitting Lightly to Ourselves (Ray Samuels)

I think it was G.K. Chesterton who said that the reason angels can fly is because they take themselves so lightly. I don't know about you, but I sadly have to admit there's never been much chance of me becoming



airborne! And yet the older I get, the more important it feels to sit lightly to myself and smile at the 101 games we all play to try and keep ourselves (and others?) firmly in our control. No wonder prayer is often described as 'letting go' and why sin can be described as 'our refusal to let God be the God of love and compassion to us and through us to others'. Just think about that for a moment, it's got everything to do with not taking ourselves too seriously!

Could this be a way God is trying to change us with whatever it is we face at the moment? There's a wonderful story about Pope John XXIII, who did so much to breathe new life into Roman Catholicism in the 1960's. He was being hounded by a serious cardinal to do something decisive to resolve the unsolved tragedies of the modern world. The Pope put his arm around him and said that he too knew the temptation to accept total responsibility for the whole world. He was personally helped, the Pope said, by an angel who came to him at night in the papal bedroom and said: 'Hey there, Johnny boy, don't take yourself so seriously!'



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SEASON OF CREATION

Each year, from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for a worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as creator who summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. This year, the theme for the season is **Living Water**.

There's so much happening so here is a taster:

PRAYERS ON LINE

Tuesday 1st September 2.00pm Ecumenical service of creation on Zoom and YouTube. Celebrate the beginning of the season of creation with faith leaders worldwide.

For more information, see <https://seasonofcreation.org/events>

Tuesday 8th–Saturday 12th September, 7.30am and 7.45am Ecumenical Morning Prayer via the Anglican Communion by livestream (Facebook Anglican Communion)

Find out more at <https://anglicancommunion.org/campaign/season-of-creation>

Thursday 24th September Eco church online prayer forum 12.00–1.00pm, hosted online by **A Rocha UK**

Details on their website <https://arocha.org.uk>

ACTIVITIES IN CHURCH AND IN PERSON

Saturday 12th September Heritage Day 10-4pm church open (see page 23) and 12.00 noon *Prayers for the needs of the world* will focus on the earth

Saturday 19th September

Wirral Earth Festival: Saturday 19th September, 11am - 4.30pm

St Bridget's Field

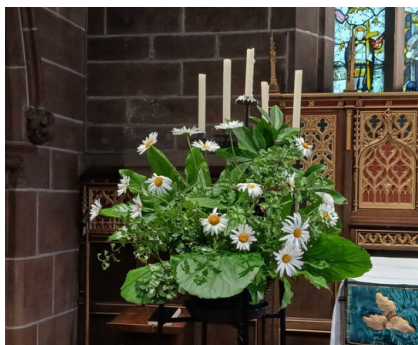
Wirral Earth Festival returns in September for a day of music, storytelling, earth-friendly stalls, food and drink, and poetry.



Sunday 20th September 10.00am All Together Worship Harvest and Creation celebration at St Bridget's

3.30pm-6.00pm Afternoon of sustainable flower arranging (*see page 18*)

6.30pm Creation-focused evening prayer at 6.30 pm in St Bridget's



Friday 25th September Film Club with a creation-related theme, in the Beacon Room, St Bridget's church centre 6.45pm for 7pm start

Sunday 27th September Harvest Festival All Together Worship at Caldry 10.00am

Sunday 4th October St Francis' day

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

6.30pm First of the Month service at St Bridget's – Iona prayer

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



"The church doesn't need my money!"

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

We rely entirely on donations from our community.

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

Your generosity directly funds:

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

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

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





An Introduction to sustainable Church Flowers

At St Bridget's Church, Church Road,
West Kirby. CH48 7HL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2026

3.30 P.M. START AND CONCLUDING
WITH A SHORT EVENSONG AT 6.30 P.M.

Everyone is welcome and this event is free.

Light refreshments will be served.

St Bridget's Church will share how they
have started on a SCF journey and show
you a few of their tips and tricks.

CHESTER DIOCESE has asked our Flower Guild to run a Sustainable Church Flowers event, in St Bridget's, at 3.30pm on Saturday 20 September.

Join us for an inspiring afternoon as we explore St Bridget's journey into the world of sustainable flower arranging. You'll hear how the church embraced this approach and gain an insight into the techniques and practical mechanics that make sustainable flower arranging possible.

There will be plenty of opportunity to chat, share ideas, and enjoy tea and cake together before we conclude the day with Evensong at 6.30pm, featuring a special creation care and floral theme

The event is free to attend, although a small contribution to the church on the day would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to attend, please contact:

St Bridget's Church Office, office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk 0151 625 2739

NEWS!!

Rector and churchwarden hit the national headlines!!

Well, OK, not actually the national news but the Diocesan Newsletter and YouTube:

Growing towards gold in West Kirby

As we celebrate Creation Season and the 10th anniversary of the Eco Church scheme, we're pleased to highlight the inspiring work of St Bridget's Church, West Kirby, a Silver Eco Church that is now working towards its Gold Award.

You can watch the video interview of the two stars on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Z4bhnziJNs>

The photo is a screen grab from the film - possibly worthy of a caption competition?



Everyone in our church family has talents - we now have a hymn writer at St Bridget's who wishes to remain anonymous

Come to Me

Come unto me all you who long with yearning,
Come unto me and I will quench your thirst,
Maybe like lovers thirst keeps on returning?
Until one day in me you are immersed.

Come unto me, come with your heavy burden,
Come unto me and I will take the weight.
Be yoked to me, your strength and trust will burgeon,
Let go, let me, and worries will abate.

Like stars at night determined by earth's orbit,
Like skylarks' flight above the morning dew,
The tidal sea that swells when the moon draws it,
So fix my heart to always come to you.

The Bride says: 'Come!' , the Holy Spirit also,
Awake my drooping soul, my heart gone numb,
Like the lost son arise, return! I will go,
Oh, ever-greater Christ to you I come.

Music by TB Barratt: <https://ifphc.wordpress.com/2024/10/17/t-b-barratt-from-english-methodist-to-norwegian-pentecostal-pioneer/>

T. B. Barratt

Come un-to me all you who long with year - ring come un-to me and I will quench your

thirst May-be like lov - ers thirst keeps on re - turn - ing un - til one day in me you are im - mers - ed

And, to finish, more from the Bible by Kids:

The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert,
Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to
get the ten ammendments.

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam
to eat the apple.

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



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Saturday 12 September, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Heritage Open Days is a country wide festival which runs from 11th to 20th September 2026. In Wirral, over 80 participants are opening up their properties or organising walks, talks or special events.

Both our churches will be part of the programme, welcoming visitors on Saturday 12 September between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. At Caldy, it will be an opportunity to admire the lovely Arts and Crafts interior while at St Bridget's it is hoped that local artisans will be demonstrating church-related crafts, such as church embroidery and calligraphy. Tours of tower and ringing chamber may also be available. At the same time the Museum will be open with a new display on '*Transport through the Ages*' plus displays on the Grange Road Shops, Wirral Archaeology, the Cheshire Home Front and Calday Grange Grammar School.

Refreshments will be available in St Bridget's Centre.



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SAFEGUARDING

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

If you are concerned about someone's safety or well-being contact:

- The Rector, Reverend Alex Williams, 0151 625 1052 rectorwestkirby@gmail.com
- The Parish Safeguarding Officer Rosemary Morgan 0782 1672232
safeguardingwestkirby@gmail.com
- The Diocesan Safeguarding Team 01928 718834 (option 4)
safeguarding@chester.anglican.org

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