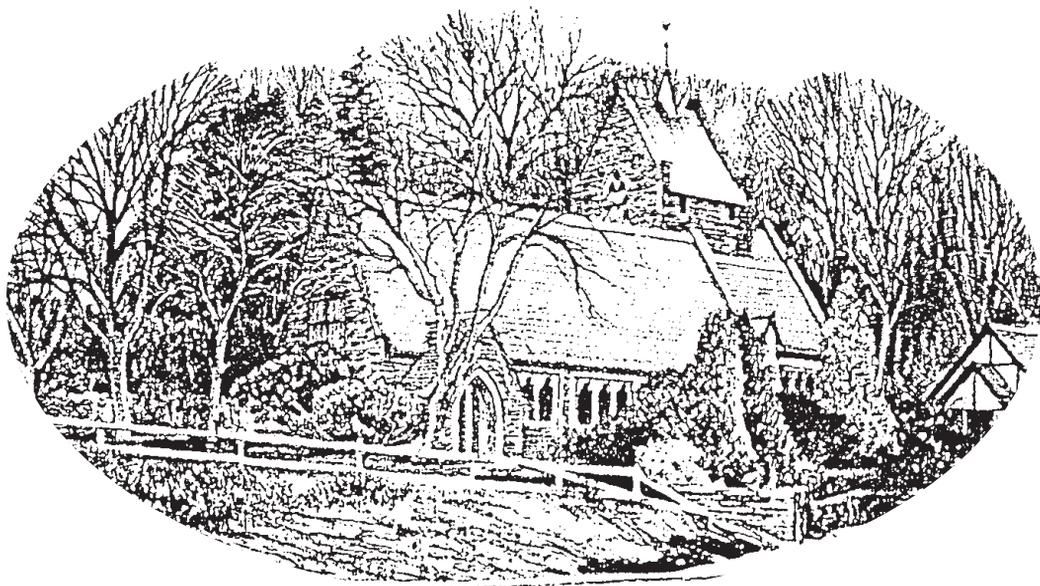


**The Parish of St Bridget, West Kirby
with
Caldy, The Resurrection and All Saints**



Review 2019

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At work in the community

Link Coffee Shop 2019

We have continued to open every Wednesday, with the exception of Christmas Day.

Attendances on most weeks have been over fifty. Many small meetings take place in the coffee shop to discuss church service planning and other parish business. The St. Bridget's music group are regular attenders, discussing the music to be played at the All Age Parish Communion.

Within the shop we are delighted to serve members of the Knitters Group.

The visits by children from St. Bridget's School are greatly looked forward to. Their charm certainly increases sales from the cake stall. Their reward seems to be the consumption of large quantities of biscuits!

An increasing number of parents have visited us.

Again this year, on seven Wednesdays, a Lenten Lunch was provided at St. Bridget's Centre when soup and cheese were served. The lunch was organised by Liz Ashley.

We are grateful to all who provided soup and helped each week.

Donations made after the lunches enabled us to make contributions to local charities.

Holy Week, Wednesday, was marked with hot cross buns.

On the last Wednesday before Christmas mince pies were served. St. Bridget's Music Group provided seasonal music and led us in singing carols.

Added interest has been provided by the Fairtrade Stall and a Table Sale of unwanted gifts, books and memorabilia. Cakes were again on sale, baked by Sally Cashen.

As the result of the café activity we have been able to donate over £1350 to the PCC. Of this £1050 was for St. Bridget's Enhancement Appeal. This supported the rewiring and upgraded lighting in St. Bridget's Church.

The sales table, operated by John and Carole Steel, had, by the end of 2019, raised almost £1950 for the Enhancement Fund.

Surplus vegetables from allotments are sold to support Wirral Food Bank.

We are grateful to all those who give up time to operate the Coffee Shop week by week.

Edward Edwards

Pastoral Link Scheme

Records show, as I can best calculate, that about 70 people were involved in the pastoral visiting scheme in one way or another during 2019. The scheme can best be viewed as a group of friends who keep in touch, meet up and look out for each other. Many people have been involved in the scheme for quite some time, while others are involved only for a short period while temporarily housebound or immobile after surgery, for example. The scheme is very informal, which has both benefits and disadvantages. Lockdown in March 2020, which started after the period covered by this report, obviously has made a difference in what is needed from the scheme and the church community in general, and this difference will be long-lasting. A proper review has not yet been carried out, but it will come. Please let the parish office know, office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk, of news (happy or unhappy) involving any parishioners, whether or not they are friends with whom you are in close contact.

Mary Rees

Men's Luncheon Club

We had to wind up the men's lunch club last October. Our numbers had been going down steadily over the last couple of years, and we took the decision with a heavy heart. No new gentlemen were coming forward to join so we felt that the need for the monthly meeting had run its course. Should the

need arise in the future, I'm sure it could be restarted, maybe in a different format, to meet the needs of our parish.

Audrey Briggs

St. Bridget's Healing Prayer Group

There are now only four members of our group: Joyce Preston, Barbara Adams, Liz Povall and Joan Mates. We meet once a week but we do have a ring of prayer when there is special need.

Although we are few in number, we do have a lot of encouragement from many of our church family, for which we are thankful.

At the moment of course we do not meet in person, but join together in the power of the Holy Spirit at our usual time on a Wednesday Afternoon. Each of us feel it is a privilege to do this work and our meetings are a time of truly resting in the power of the Spirit. A quiet oasis in the hustle of the day. We know God is with us as when two or three are gathered in His name he is in the midst and will grant their request. We meet at 83 Westbourne Road.

Please do get in touch if you want us to pray for anyone or anything. We do have a strict code of confidentiality; please do keep requests coming.

Joan Mates

The Summer Fair 2019

The Fair starts with a gathering of strong volunteers, early in the morning, who tirelessly put up all the gazebos and tables and chairs before enjoying their reward of a bacon bun.

The 2019 St Bridget's Summer Fair was opened by the former England and Liverpool FC legend John Barnes, who was most entertaining and entertained all with a wonderful performance of Football is Coming Home.

New for this year's Fair was a Floral Art competition open to all ages with the theme of recycling. It attracted a good entry from

youngsters whose inventive recycling of products let for interesting and beautiful displays.

The crowds enjoyed super performances on the field by the Maypole dancers from St Bridget's' school, along with music The Wirral Symphony Orchestra, the magnificent Off Pitch Choir, as well as our own St Bridget's Happiness Band. Entertainment for the children included the Bouncy Castle, face painting, donkey rides, Punch & Judy, and the ever popular Beat the Goalie – which exhausted our willing volunteers led by Dave Waring! As always the cake, plant, book, chutney & jams and various stalls proved most attractive, raising much needed funds for our Appeal. This year's raffle was very popular, the strawberries & ice-cream was a sell out and the ever popular burgers and liquid refreshment provided by the Tap on the field, along with the tea and cakes in the Hall, recharged all for the afternoon. Thanks are due to so many for giving of their time and skills to make the day run so well – there are so many people involved in everything from programme design, bakery skills, to washing up the hundreds of tea mugs – many thanks one and all!

Audrey Briggs

Christmas Day Lunch 2019

We have organised this lunch for some years now and we are most grateful to all those volunteers who have given their time so freely over the years. This year we entertained fifty or so people from the West Kirby area who would otherwise be on their own on this special day. They were welcomed by John Bleazard and enjoyed a traditional turkey lunch and they later sang carols and participated in a raffle before departing home with a gift supplied by a local charity. Some were transported home by our volunteers. Our thanks to all those who then cleared up leaving the Centre neat and tidy

Syd Ford

Cameo 2019

For anyone who doesn't know what Cameo is, we are a group that grew out of the Young Families/Wives group many years ago. For some meetings, particularly when space is no problem, we invite husbands and/or friends to join us. We usually meet at a member's house.

We met in January to arrange our programme for the year and to do a quiz or two. We try to sort out dates as much as possible so that everyone can put the events in their diaries. This usually works well. (The importance of this was evident this year as the "to be arranged" dates went rather haywire in August to October!)

In February we went to the wonderful Little Theatre in Birkenhead to see the Carlton Players in Blithe Spirit. Then, in March, we went out for a meal at Est in West Kirby. It was lovely to see so many people there. We discussed our favourite books etc in April at a member's house, then in May we had a

slight change of plan from that discussed in January. We usually go for a local walk in May but we decided instead to go to the Light Night in Liverpool. That still involves walking! Some of us went over independently, others met up and started off together then separated as we wanted to see different things. There is so much to do that it is impossible to see everything.

We had a second visit in June to the Little Theatre to see Secondary Cause of Death and then our BBQ in July. We next met in November to see "The United Kingdom" at a member's house, then in December we finished off the year as usual with carols, mince pies and mulled wine.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to arrange all this and volunteered their houses for us to meet in.

If you want any more information, or wish to join the group, please contact Jane Tann (625 1234)

Jane Tann

Children & Families

St. Bridget's Storytelling Service 2019-2020

The storytelling services take place in the church centre at 10 am on Sunday mornings in term time, and are usually attended by 10-15 people. We broadly follow the Sunday readings heard in the main church building as a guide to our storytelling, though we sometimes innovate in response to events and priorities. A short liturgy with a song and prayers surround the story which can be pursued in whatever way appeals to the teller. We have been very fortunate to have regular input from Mary & Graham and Anne and Ray, which brings a wealth of skills and understanding to the service. The children enjoy each others company and their enjoyment of biscuits and football on the field afterwards is an important part of

their experience. In addition to the services, the families have continued the tradition of a yearly camping trip. This year we camped beside lake Bala and had a wonderful couple of days of boating, fires and singing. Unfortunately, that can't happen this year, but we look forward to resuming normal service in 2021.

Andrew Gibb

Safeguarding

There have been no disclosures or matters to report. The Church continues to promote its safeguarding policy on its leaflet which is handed out in church.

I would ask that when leaflets are posted through the doors of the congregation or distributed to the general public, we continue to ensure our safeguarding policy

wording is put on these documents. It is even more important to have a visible policy when we reach out to the public in general.

Bethan Halpenny-Collins

St Bridget's Educational Trust

Gerry Ellis had resigned as a Trustee before the October meeting and John Bleazard and Brenda Buttle resigned at the close of that meeting. Brenda had served since September 1994 and Gerry since October 1999. The new Rector will automatically become a Trustee. To replace Brenda and Gerry we welcome Anne Waring and Cllr Alison Wright. Anne was appointed by St Bridget's PCC and Alison by Wirral Borough Council.

Grants were made to finance the Advent Link Newsletter, electrical equipment for St. Bridget's and books for St. Michael's. It was agreed to allow St. Bridget's School to spend up to £250 on classroom bibles. It was decided that we would discourage the churches from making regular requests and concentrate on one-off items. We contacted each other by e-mail for the March meeting. This was slow and cumbersome but in the end all was achieved. The only grants made were to four students. Each received £350.

The Trustees felt that the Scheme needed a small change and decided to contact the Charity Commissioners to try to effect that change. We want to be able to make a grant to young people in the congregation whatever primary school they attended. At the moment we can only award students who attended St. Bridget's school unless they are studying a religious topic.

John Steel

Mother's Union

We started the year with 33 members on roll. During the year a number of members suffered from ill health, Averill Yeats was admitted to Upton Manor Care Home and Miriam Wainwright was admitted to Fairfield

Care Home where very sadly she died on 30 March 2020.

Barbara Adams was commissioned as our leader on Mothering Sunday, March 31st 2019 and two new members, Jennifer Wood and Alison Wright, were admitted to our branch. John Bleazard made it a very special service.

During the year we had some very interesting speakers. For Anne and Ray Samuels' 'Love Story' we were asked to bring an item representing love. We had a lovely afternoon getting to know them and they us.

Julie Palmer from the Wirral Women's and Children's Aid came to tell us about the refuge in Rock Ferry and we took along lots of knickers and toiletries for her to take back.

The Rev. Canon Ian Davenport, 'Queens Chaplain', came to tell us about his work. We watched the film 'I Daniel Blake' which gave us all a lot to think about. Rosie Griffiths (a member of our congregation) came to tell us about her work in India and Mark Statham from 'Street Pastors' came to tell us about the work they do in Birkenhead and Liverpool.

We had lunch at the Gravesberrie followed by a visit to Holy Cross Church, Woodchurch, where the Rev. Peter Mills told us the history of the church. This was followed by tea and Welsh cakes. The committee provided Afternoon Tea in September when everyone ate too much and we had Christmas Dinner at the Creave Dunning in December.

Some members attended the Diocesan Festival in Chester Cathedral on 9th March 2019 and the Deanery Festival at St. Peters Lower Heswall on September 20th.

Friends and members of the congregation are always welcome to our meetings and during the year many visitors came along. If you would like to join us please speak to Barbara Adams or Carole Steel.

Carole Steel (Secretary)

Care for the Environment

St Bridget's Church grounds

Mike Brady continues to keep the churchyard looking good. Mowing and s trimming the grass areas, pruning bushes and moving ant hills. And in the summer months he waters and weeds the planted areas. He also keeps both upper and lower cremation areas well presented as they are visited quite regular by families. Floral arrangements and flowers continue to be placed on the boarded areas.

All the planted areas around the church bloomed very well and there were quite a lot of good comments on how good the churchyard is looking. Last September we tackled the area by the Lychgate. Raising the bed area by 200 mm and filling with a ton of top soil, and planting it up. Planting is still in progress in this area.

We organised five working parties last year to perform light duties. One working party was to fill 2 skips with all the cutting down that had accumulated over the past years. This amounted to 8 tons in total. We have a bad problem with Alexander's Weed in the lower churchyard which has come from the Wirral Way and is spreading to the upper churchyard.

There is still a problem with parents leaving their dogs unattended and tied to various locations in the churchyard. Also dog poo is still being left around the churchyard.

We still get enquiries regarding grave searches. Both from home and abroad. People are surprised to find that their ancestor's graves do not have headstones on them and have enquired about placing new headstones on the graves. We had two new headstones fitted last year. Also, several families have been to tidy up their family graves removing all weeds and laying ornamental stones in the grave kerb area. In one case reletting the names on the headstone.

Bill Smith

Caldy Church Gardens

We are very fortunate at Caldly to have superb gardens so well maintained by John. The gardens surround our church and greatly enhance the appearance of the church—that's why we call it "The Church in a garden". The gardens are a great benefit when weddings are celebrated when they form a beautiful backdrop for those photos of the bride and groom. The gardens, of course have other benefits as they form a tranquil place for the relatives of loved ones to sit and reflect in the garden of remembrance.

Syd Ford (Warden)

Earth Festival 2019

The Earthfest 2019 was blessed with great weather and great planning by Transition Town West Kirby. Building on the planning innovations of 2018 much of the field infrastructure was up and ready the night before, protected by some overnight campers. This leads to reduced stress levels on Saturday morning which enhances the whole experience of the day. Last year, St Bridget's was represented on the field with a booth focussing on Eco church and Inclusive Church. We spent a very pleasant day welcoming all-comers to sit down and enjoy company and ideas, close to the main music stage. It was nice to see lots of young people happily sitting in the booth eating and chatting. The festival was supported very generously by Wirral Council, and groups like Rotary who ran the kitchen to raise funds. Unfortunately, Earthfest can't happen this year, but we look forward to resuming normal service in 2021.

Andrew Gibb

Caldy Open Gardens

The event was not held in 2019 as the organisers decided to hold it every other

year and 2019 was an "Off" year.

Because of the Coronavirus it was cancelled for 2020 BUT it is now definitely on for 2021 on Sunday 23rd May. The sponsor in 2021 will be Premier Plants of Ledsham, The chosen charity will be Koala North West (previously known as Home Start Wirral). We at Caldly church will take pleasure in being involved providing refreshments in the Church Hall.

Syd Ford (Warden)

Eco Church – Caring for God's Creation

For many years, the Parish has been aware of our need to care for God's creation, of which we are all a part. Initially, we were fully registered as an Eco Congregation, and more recently have been active members of the Eco Church movement, spearheaded by A Rocha.

Emma Speake, then our curate, gathered a team at Caldly Church, who achieved a Bronze Eco Church Award, and introduced many changes including Fairtrade tea and coffee, environmentally friendly cleaning products and recycling plastic waste. The

wall hanging/altar frontal used in church on Earth Day in 2019 now takes pride of place in the Hall.

St Bridget's started more slowly but gained its Bronze Award in early 2019 on the basis of existing good practice. Later in the year, a small group started to meet with membership across the Parish. As I write in April 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought things to a temporary halt. St Bridget's is now ready to apply for a Silver Award and will do so when it is possible to do so. The 'Caring for God's Creation' group will be looking ahead for ways to instil awareness and action in everything that we do as individuals and as a Christian community. One thing that the pandemic has certainly highlighted is the adverse impact of human activity on the global environment, and hopefully lessons will be learned from this.

Unfortunately, EarthFest 2020 has had to be cancelled, but hopefully we will be able to play an even fuller part with renewed enthusiasm in 2021.

John Smith

At Work Abroad

Traidcraft

After the difficulties of last year, Traidcraft nationally has made a gradual recovery. Sales have continued to grow, and they have been able to make some temporary UK staff permanent, and also take on additional staff. Even more pleasingly they have been able to extend their craft range and reconnect with some of their previous craft producers and reorder some goods. The lockdown has meant that sales through fair traders and

shops have reduced, but on-line sales of foods and household items have increased to the point where they were unable to take on any new on-line customers for a time. I am grateful for Sue Harrison's support in selling Traidcraft goods alongside her Ecover products from home.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support for Fair Trade.

Margaret Smith

Study and Fellowship in the Home

Bible Crew

We are an offshoot of Storytellers. The secondary school-age children meet with me once a month (unless holidays intervene) after the Storytelling service, and we discuss a variety of Christian faith issues. The aim is to give these youngsters the opportunity to ask questions and discuss opinions about the Bible, the Church, Christian morality and ethics, etc.etc. – in fact, almost any aspect of their faith and its relationship to the fast-

changing world in which they are growing up. Mary will sometimes assist me and Ann and Ray Samuels also fill in if we are on holiday.

The youngsters can come up, unexpectedly, with very challenging questions or ideas about their faith so we leaders have to think on our feet and be ready for anything, but exploring and sharing their thoughts and ideas, and our own, is a joy and a privilege.

Graham Crowder

Communications

Parish Magazine

The Parish Magazine is an important means of communication, keeping parishioners up to date with what is going on, and providing other interesting articles. Each monthly issue had a Rector's letter and a Curate's letter, written by David Chester. Paula Cobby, the Parish Administrator, provides the Diary, the record of baptisms, marriages and funerals, and a monthly list of Bible readings, while Syd Ford writes a Caldly page. Thanks to all of them for supplying this core material in good time every month. Other regular items include reports the Mothers' Union meeting. One off items are also welcome, and add variety. Syd Ford now also manages the advertising, and has done an excellent job in finding new advertisers and collecting outstanding payments. At end of 2019 we had six and a quarter pages of advertising, which roughly covers the printing costs. Issues normally have 20 pages.

Anne Waring continues to arrange for the printing, now on the photocopier in the Parish office. Many thanks to Anne: this arrangement works well and produces a good quality product. Jean Pilling organises the distribution for St Bridget's, and Jenny Cooper organises distribution for Caldly.

An electronic version has appeared on the website since January 2017: past issues are retained, so this forms a readily accessible archive. Barry Darby, our web master organises this. Thanks to Jean, Jenny and Barry and to all our distributors, and to Priscilla for her assistance. Thanks are due to Syd (again) for his work as magazine treasurer.

Trevor Bench-Capon

Link Newsletter 2019

This year we published three editions of the newsletter at Easter, Autumn and Christmas. These were delivered to nearly every letter box in the parish.

We are very grateful to the many intrepid "post persons" who have undertaken this – often in appalling weather.

Any volunteers to help delivery are very welcome. They would help to ease the load on some foot sore team members! We have tried to provide content which is read by a wide variety of residents. Many of those who receive the newsletter have no regular contact with St. Bridget's or Caldly Churches.

We have discovered unsuspected talents among our contributors! We try to present articles which engage with local history, history of the churches, the arts and

sciences, social challenges and care for the environment. Coming events are featured.

We are grateful to everyone who willingly provided contributions.

The newsletters published in 2019 were sponsored by St. Bridget's Educational Trust. We wish to thank the trustees for their support.

Edward Edwards

Working with other Churches

Life Expectancy Wirral

The Life Expectancy Project has had to remain largely in abeyance again this past year. Contact with both Laird Street Baptist Church and with St James Birkenhead has been maintained. In 2019 and again in 2020, we have worked together to share the Easter story with schools both in West Kirby and in Birkenhead. The schools have hugely appreciated this and continue their enthusiastic support. It is certainly intended that the relationships established over the past seven years will continue, and any opportunities for working together will be taken as they arise. *John Smith*

Iona

The major refurbishment work at Iona Abbey was just days from completion when the Covid 19 crisis hit us all in March 2020. Two years of building work had followed several years of fundraising. A group is still hoping to go to Iona later in the summer of 2020, but this may well not be possible. All being well again, a group visit in 2021 will almost certainly be organised. *John and Margaret Smith*

Inclusive Church

This Parish is proud to be registered with Inclusive Church: we display the IC Declaration and can be found at inclusive-church.org by people searching for a Church which does not discriminate on any level, on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. Inclusive Church was founded in

2003 in response to the forced resignation of gay bishop elect Dr Jeffrey John, but has since grown and widened its remit, with mental health and disability important additional concerns.

In August the Revd Mary Railton Crowder convened a meeting which reviewed our inclusive practice and began some improvements, particularly in publicity and communication, and Andrew Gibb promoted the Church's inclusive philosophy at Earthfest in September.

In October we celebrated Inclusive Church Sunday in both Churches; at St Bridget's we held All Age worship on the theme *What does inclusion mean to you?* Our café is registered as an unconditional Place of Welcome.

In the recruitment process for a new Rector, the PCC asked for a priest in sympathy with the Inclusive Church movement, and the appointee assures us that they fit this description.

In April The Campaign for Equal Marriage in the Church of England was formally launched to campaign to remove the current discrimination against married same-gender couples in the Church and to enable same-gender couples to be married in their parish church. At present, clergy are forbidden same sex marriage, and by Act of Parliament the Church cannot perform gay weddings, although many clergy would like to.

Opinion polls report that grass roots Anglicans increasingly support inclusive principles, but our decision making processes are slow, and hampered by links with less progressive provinces abroad.

Priscilla Bench-Capon

St. Bridget's Centre

2019 has been another satisfying year for our Centre which is now 8 years old: we remain as busy as ever but we are having to give the building an increasing level of "TLC".

We now have 28 separate bookings for a typical week (last year was 25) from Church, Museum and community users plus a whole range of occasional bookings (like bread making, scouts, annual meetings of societies, various quizzes and Museum lectures) and the monthly West Kirby WI meeting. We continue to gain fitness classes (pilates and yoga) filling in gaps in the diary: there are fewer and fewer gaps each year! We welcome the one-off bookings for the variety they bring to the Centre – family parties, christenings, family parties and of course a very special Bleazard wedding! Major events included the usual St Bridget's Summer Fair, Wirral Heritage Open Day, Earthfest and West Kirby Remembers.

The centre has continued to be an important part of the West Kirby community and Church life – with the fund-raisers for the Church Enhancement project, the Link Café, Sunday refreshments, storytelling services, PCC and St Bridget's Committee meetings, regular Church group bookings, Knit and Natter mornings, Men's Luncheons and yet another wonderful Christmas Lunch!! Our thanks to all those who work to make these things happen.

We seek to maintain and raise standards and strive to keep the Centre looking good despite reaching its 8th Birthday! This year we have replaced some lights with more efficient LED lights, commenced a programme of redecorating, done some external re-pointing of the older walls and undertaken roofing repairs to combat our leakage problems. Happily the work done by our new engineers, Ford Heating, has improved the reliability of the heating system.

We retained our team of Andrea Sawiak and Alfonso Vilela with Celia Gentles covering children's parties, holidays and sickness. They have worked hard to keep things looking good aided by our hirers and Church users who generally hand back rooms in a good state. And of course we thank Paula Cobby who coordinates the bookings and Rosie Heenan who keeps a close eye on our finances!

We can again look back to the year with satisfaction on achieving our core objectives – covering costs, increasing use, maintaining standards and setting aside funds for necessary improvements and renewals.

Martin Harrison

Parish Office

Paula Cobby works in the Parish Office. Her job description says the following:

The Parish Administrator's job is to provide admin support for the church and clergy, help with the smooth running of St Bridget's Centre, take bookings, keep the diaries up to date and to be a point of contact for people enquiring about any of the ministries and activities of the parish.

However, there are additional things to be aware of:

- A Bollywood music band can't practise in the Beacon Room while the museum is open to the public.
- There may be 6, 7 or 8 people singing in a choir for a wedding: wait until the wedding is over before seeing how many need to be paid.
- The Pilates class will finish on time so please don't arrive early for the PCC meeting booked in the room immediately afterwards.
- The toilets are flushing brown water but this is just because of the rainwater harvesting system, so don't be alarmed.
- The Flower Guild can do an extra pedestal

- arrangement for a wedding but aren't prepared to tie ribbon and gypsophila on every pew end.
- Check that the hymn numbers correspond to the hymns chosen by the preacher – sometimes they don't and it confuses the organist.
- Remind the Rector not to have the very quiet, meditative service of Compline in church on a Tuesday evening – it's bell ringing practice night.

- There's a burial of ashes next week and no one has contacted the sexton to arrange for the hole to be dug.
- The piano in the Hilbre Room sounds better when played with the lid open.
- A children's dressing up costume should be in Lost Property, not with the tea towels.

The Parish Office is usually open Monday to Friday mornings, 9am to 12 noon. Tel. 0151 625 2739, email office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk

Paula Cobby

Ministry to Schools

Schools' work

John Bleazard suggested that, in view of his departure, the report for St Bridget's school should be written by one of the Foundation Governors appointed by the PCC.

There are four Foundation Governors: the Rector, myself, Anne Waring and Frank Price.

Not only have we said farewell to Father John (as the children call him) but also Frank who retired from the board after 12 years' service. His ability in a single sentence to bring his knowledge and experience to solve many a board dilemma is sadly missed. Frank has been replaced by Imogen Longmore a regular worshipper at the church with her family. Imogen had been a parent Governor at the school.

As Foundation Governors we have the same responsibilities as the other governors in strategic planning and guiding the school but with the added responsibility of making sure that the Christian element of the school is upheld.

The children have continued to have regular assemblies run by John and Graham Crowder and to have regular church services in church for the Christian festivals. These services are organised by each year group in turn and are attended by those children's parents. The children are taught that these services are not a performance, the drum

playing and the children's singing conducted by Miss Smith are sheer worship. Attention has also been given to encourage the children in reading bible passages during the services.

The school have joined the church community for Mother's Day, Christingle service and Education Sunday when at the end of the service everyone congregates in the School playground for a blessing on the school.

Several Children from Year 4 were again invited to take their first communion.

Easter Experience – as I report below – was renamed Lent Event but was again equally enjoyed by the school and church helpers.

Children from Year 4 continue to help at Wednesday Coffee in the church hall. (They love their aprons.) Several of their parents have come to coffee to see them.

The school is working towards being a School of Sanctuary a church member, Anna, was able to introduce us to the right contacts.

School art work is displayed in the church porch and the church hall.

The Foundation Governors together form part of the Ethos committee which feeds back into Full Governors meeting.

Perhaps the biggest thing we have had to do was to look at our school vision, values

and mission statement along with the whole school curriculum in view of changes from SIAMs and Ofsted.

SIAMs want a more bible based approach with bible references and Ofsted want schools to develop a curriculum around the school vision.

After much brainstorming with staff and Governors the school mission statement of 'Love thy neighbour' was adopted. The story of the Good Samaritan seeming a good story suitable for all the age groups. The new school vision aimed and curriculum has then been develop from this parable.

School Vision Statement

Inspiring, nurturing and educating our children to serve God by reaching their full potential, serving our local community and by looking after our environment as global citizens of today and tomorrow.

School Mission Statement

'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Luke 10:27 'Faith, Hope and Love' 1 Corinthians 13:13

School Values to Support Learning and Behaviour

Truthfulness, Creativity, Compassion, Friendship, Teamwork, Respect, Perseverance and Responsibility

School Aims

To provide a school that supports children's development through its Christian foundation.

- To create an environment in which each child's potential can be realised, academically, socially, creatively, physically and spiritually.
- To organise a safe and happy school where everyone is valued and respected and their individual qualities and creativity are recognised and celebrated.
- To build a team of experienced committed and caring staff with a broad range of expertise and meeting the needs of the children.

- To work with all members of the school community to provide challenging learning targets appropriate to each individual child.
- To develop the children with a broad and balanced curriculum in order to create a firm foundation for c
- To encourage all children to adopt and maintain safe and healthy lifestyles.
- To foster in children the qualities of self-belief, care and consideration for others, and to encourage high expectations in all areas of school life, in order to equip them to be good citizens for the future.

Sue Darby

Lent Event 2019

Easter dates and school holiday timing meant holding the outreach to schools a little earlier in the year than usual; hence the sub-title 'Lent Event'.

We began with Creation seeing that God had created a perfect world for mankind but that bad things had crept in on the back of sin. However, God had a rescue plan for He so loved the world that he sent Jesus to show the way. So, we looked at things Jesus said and did while he lived among us in human form. Jesus met Zacchaeus and saw the good in Zacchaeus' heart when others hated him. Using Revels sweets, we illustrated that although people could look similar on the outside, the inside can be quite surprising. Jesus had compassion on the sick and disabled and we saw that Blind Bartimaeus was cured because of his persistent faith in who Jesus really was and what Jesus could do. We hid sheep and children had to search to recover them; just as Jesus the good shepherd cared for his 'sheep' and was prepared to go to the cross for them. Finally, we talked about Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection. We called this station 'Victory' pointing back to Creation where things started to go wrong and the fulfilment of God's promises at Easter. Also, during this

station children used green paper cut-out hands to decorate a cross as a reminder both of palm branches and of their own part in the story.

Schools engaged this year were Avalon and St Bridget's in West Kirby and the Priory and Co-op Academy Schools in Birkenhead.

Altogether around one thousand children were able to join in. Churches involved were St Bridget's and Caldý, Laird Street Baptist, St James' and Christ the King; some 40 volunteers worked in shifts to talk to the children. A huge thank you to all involved.

Sue Darby

Music & More

St Bridget's Music Group

What do you get if you mix 12 adults, 7 children and Zorro the Guide dog with a piano, a violin, 2 guitars, a bass, a mandolin, a trumpet, a saxophone, a clarinet, 2 flutes, Djembe, Cajon and Bodhran drums, a selection of descant, treble, tenor and soprano recorders, some soprano, alto, tenor and bass voices and any amount of ukuleles you can think of? The answer? You get St Bridget's Music Group! We are an informal all-age ensemble bound together by a love of music-making and a shared enthusiasm for exploring traditional and contemporary music from church traditions across the world. You also get rather squashed as there isn't really room for us in the church!

Although some of us occasionally 'moonlight' at local events as 'Bridget's Happiness Band', our primary role is to play for All Together Worship and other special services. Despite the lack of space we always seem to manage to find room for more singers and instrumentalists. We are an open and inclusive group: all ages and all abilities are very welcome. If you think you might like to join us please speak to either Andrew, Graham or myself.

Mary Railton-Crowder

St Bridget's Ringing and Ringers

Tim and Greg keep the bells and fittings in good order but the work on fixing the odd struckness is proving to be a slow

process. The non ringer will not notice any discrepancy but the discerning ringer most certainly does. All our visitors will vouch for this.

Our band of 15 ringers are an excellent team, we regularly have all our 8 bells ringing and quality ringing each Sunday morning and also for some evening services. We will again when these isolation restrictions are lifted.

Unfortunately we are unlikely to see Eric ringing again and Tor has found that ringing will not fit into a busy teenage life. Dorothea is returning to Germany, we will miss her and her delicious cakes. We do have a new ringer, George, a young local lad who has excellent potential to become a first class ringer. With two other local people expressing an interest in ringing it looks like we will carry on going from strength to strength.

Tuesday would normally be our practice night, our ringers can ring all the popular methods, plus some of the more obscure methods. Peter H & Peter W are ringing Plain Bob, Jim D is learning Grandsire.

Brian L & Bethan H enjoy ringing Surprise Methods. Janet our secretary keeps us updated with any correspondence and Greg B is our Church Warden, he can keep us informed of any church news. Robert P, David KH, Paul I and Tim S are ringing and conducting both plain and surprise methods.

All the ringers are a great asset to our tower and the Wirral Branch. We do realise how lucky we are receiving all the help, assistance and encouragement from the

clergy and congregation. We are all going to miss our friend and colleague the retiring Rector, John B.

Randle Tinkler

St Bridget's Handbell Ringers

Conducted by Janet Belton, the eight members of the Handbell Ringers welcomed a new member this year, David Jones. We meet weekly in St Bridget's Centre. The group has more than 120 pieces in its repertoire both classical and popular, many appropriate not only to the various seasons, but also areas of the British Isles, the Cunard 175th anniversary and war-time favourites.

During the year, the Ringers have played at several care homes around Wirral, the residents seem to enjoy the older pieces and many joined in, singing the lyrics with great enthusiasm. The proceeds of these recitals go to the St Bridget's Appeal. In April 2019, Port Sunlight ringers hosted a "Get Together" which enabled St Bridget's to play with the ringers from Port Sunlight, and other groups and exchange music and ideas. Sadly the 2020 "Get Together" arranged for April had to be cancelled because of the Coronavirus lockdown. We were particularly disappointed as we hoped to welcome Sara Loach and her group from Christ Church Higher Bebington.

We are not meeting at present but as we all enjoy working together and making music we hope to resume rehearsals in September but during the Lockdown we chat on Zoom each week to keep in touch.

Sue Shaw

St Bridget's Church Music 2019

Our regular choir (6) have been enthusiastic in singing anthems during communion. Hymns/songs have been enjoyed by large congregations at the annual Christingle Service and Crib Service, and an augmented choir sung at the Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols in December

Unfortunately, it was not possible for the annual Patronal Festival Service which involves the St Bridget's singers to be held in January, as has been the custom.

Sue Shaw

St Bridget's Flower Guild

We held our AGM at the Rectory in February when we discussed the coming year. Little did we know at the time that the re-wiring of the church would effect us. When the re-wiring commenced and the church was closed during the week it was felt that logistically it was better not to have flowers in church. We did, however, manage to decorate the church for harvest festival and Christmas.

The finances of the Guild are in pretty good shape due in no small part to not having flowers in church for some months and the fact we are using artificial flowers when appropriate.

Again I thank Barbara Christian for her support and Paula Cobby as Treasurer for all her hard work and the fact she is always ready to go the extra mile. New members to the Guild are always welcome - arranging flowers can be very therapeutic!

Jen Chester

Knit & Natter Fellowship Group

We enjoyed another year of fellowship together on a Wednesday morning. We are continuing to knit for charities; hats for sailors, twiddle-muffs, premature baby clothes and blankets for residents in local homes. We also knit for one's family and friends. The crib sets have been well used and in need of repair. We thought it best to knit a new set so that they can be ready for when our new rector arrives.

It is not necessary to knit to come to our Wednesday morning group. Many come along just to enjoy the fellowship and natter over a cup of coffee. You are all welcome.

Peggy Dodd

The editor would like to thank all the contributors who so readily provided reports.

**Up to date information on the life of the Parish can be obtained
from the Parish Office 625 2739/ office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk
www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk
www.caldychurch.org.uk
www.westkirbymuseum.co.uk
Church Newsletter (weekly)
Parish Magazine (monthly)**