### st Brioget's, west kirby with caloy charch parish magazine



St Monica with her son St Augustine Mothering Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March

Volume 154 – Number 3 March 2024

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#### THE ANNUNCIATION – 25th March



We celebrate the coming of Jesus to earth on the 25th December, but the story does not begin there. Nine months before that, on 25th March, we celebrate the Annunciation, when the archangel Gabriel told Mary of what was to come. In Luke 1:26-38 we learn that Mary was at first troubled and then questioning, How shall this be? But when Gabriel tells her that with God nothing is impossible, she immediately God's accepts will: Behold handmaid of the Lord: be it unto me according to thy word. It is not what she would have chosen for her life, but she recognises that what God wants must take precedence. This is echoed many years later in the Garden of Gethsemane when Christ says Father,

if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.



The Annunciation is one of the most popular of all subjects in Christian Art. The first picture, by the 15th century Polish artist Obilman, shows some of the traditional elements associated with the scene: the angel Gabriel and Mary herself, and a flower, usually a lily (symbolising both purity and fertility). What is missing is the Holy Spirit descending on Mary. This can

take the form of a dove, or as in the painting by Botticelli, an Italian contemporary of Obilman, rays of golden light streaming over Gabriel and onto Mary.

All these elements can be found in our very own depiction of the annunciation. The window in the chancel, which was Charles Kempe's first commission for St Bridget's. In fact Kempe gives us *both* the dove *and* the golden rays.

#### **Rector's Letter**



I have recently started some art classes. The challenge however is that I'm really not very good at it. I have a very encouraging teacher who often says 'well done, you're getting there' but I find myself looking around at the others in the group who seem to be so much quicker and better than me. Most weeks, in between classes, I don't manage to practise the things I have learned and so arrive each week in my usual muddle.

If only I had practised at home, made lots of mistakes when no one was watching and tried to work out which colour mixed with which, so I wasn't spending half the time working out whether it was Sap Green or Paynes Grey which mixed with the tiniest bit of French Ultramarine to make a perfect snowdrop lea. (please tell me if you know).

I could, of course, if I chose, just pop my paints and brushes in a drawer and think that some day I might try again - when I've more time or am in the right mood. After all no one would really notice.

And yet I keep going, because when I'm there it somehow nourishes me, even when I plonk my brush down and sigh loudly. Each time I go I'm encouraged a little bit more; I learn a little bit more and sometimes I even find myself thinking 'that's not half bad'. And each time I go I'm greeted with 'well done, you're back'. I've come to think that it's a lot like going to church. We're pretty sure it's good for us but it can be such an effort. And sometimes when we're there we wonder what we're doing, whether it really suits us (they've put that hymn on again which we don't know or like) and we can't help but think that everyone else seems to be more sorted and 'better at it' than we are. It's tempting to think that we'll just 'pop the paints in a drawer' and maybe go again when it suits us better. No one will notice.

#### And yet.

Our church family can be a place where we are encouraged, where we are told 'you're getting there' where even when we think everyone else seems to be getting on much better than us, we can find that we belong. Week by week we are invited to journey together, whether we have practised lots during the week or barely given it a thought, we are invited to come with all our muddle and mess to find the encouragement and support and to discover who we are called to be in the sight of God. We are welcomed whether we haven't been for many years or turn up week by week.

During this season of Lent, we revisit some of the significant events in the life of Jesus. We consider his baptism and the call to each one of us to repent and try again, to re-evaluate our lives and have a fresh perspective. We watch Jesus challenge unjust systems and practices which diminish and exclude people and

we see him meet the needs of the most vulnerable in society. As he washes the dirty feet of his friends, we are reminded of the call on each of us to serve others and, as we hear the invitation and command to all of us to meet and eat together, we are encouraged that simply by showing up and sharing in bread and wine, in storytelling and prayer we are united with Jesus in body and soul and mind.

These are all reminders of the ways in which we are called to live as individuals, as a church family and as a wider community. These are encouragements that even when we don't think much of our artwork God rejoices in our efforts, that when we wonder why on earth we are bothering God notices and says 'Well done, you're here'.

Alex

#### Sing a song of sixpence



We juggle many things when it comes to using our financial resources wisely. This year across the parish we know that there will be some repairs needing to be paid for in both church buildings, we are planning opportunities for people to explore and deepen their faith, we are investing in our Children and Families

work and are developing the lower churchyard at St Bridget's to create a restful space for people and nature. We also want to make both our churches and halls fit for purpose for many years to come. Whilst we are exploring grants and have received one or two small ones already, we can only do all of the above because of your generosity.

The best way to support the parish financially is through a standing order. If you feel able to give regularly, thank you and here are our current details.

Sort code: 20-50-36

Account name: WEST KIRBY ST BRIDGET WITH CALDY PCC

Account number: 70705713

#### CONFIRMATION - JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> 6.30pm

Whilst baptism gives us full membership into the Church, the Body of Christ, at confirmation we confirm the promises that were made when we were baptized.

If you were baptized at a christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself. At a confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community are there to promise to support and pray for you. Seeking baptism as a young person or adult is regarded as a step towards confirmation. We will be holding a confirmation service at St Bridget's this year on July 21st. Those wishing to be confirmed will be offered a short course of exploration and preparation.

If you would be interested in confirmation (or baptism) please contact the Rector.

### The Bereavement Journey, a place to talk May - June 2023



Coping with the death of someone loved and precious is one of the most difficult things we have to do. Sometimes we are still struggling to come to terms with bereavement many years later.

We are pleased to be offering *The Bereavement Journey*, led by Gillian Seale from Tailored Yarn.

This is a series of 6 weekly sessions where participants explore their experience and response to grief in a supportive environment. Currently the sessions are planned for Thursday afternoons during May and June.

Everyone will be bereaved at some time to some degree or another. Loss needs to be processed and how we deal with it will affect our mental and physical well-being and future. Working through grief can take a long time and no two people will have the same loss or the same journey. We hope during these weeks to be able to provide a few signposts to anyone processing the death of someone important to them, wherever they are on the journey. If you or someone you know is dealing with bereavement and grief and you would like to explore being part of this journey, please contact the parish office or the Rector. (thebereavementjourney.org).

Alex

#### **ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL**



Both our churches are usually decorated with flowers and greenery except during Lent and Advent. We use flowers to remind us of the beauty of creation and to give thanks to God for the abundance of the earth, as well as making our buildings look even more beautiful. We are always looking for ways in which we can work in harmony with and cherish the earth. To this end we are exploring more sustainable methods and also making things simpler so that more people feel able to have a go at helping.

We would love the wider community to join us in this effort. Perhaps you would be willing to join our rotas and provide a bunch of flowers for a vase or even grow some flowers which could be used in arrangements. We have some existing flower arrangers who just need someone to pair with them to help. Our new rota at St Bridget's asks people to sign up to provide arrangements for a two week period just twice a year.

We often have money donated, so you don't need to spend your own money – but if you have greenery and flowers that would work you can use those, and we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact Paula Cobby in the parish office for more information.

#### WHEN YOU HAVE A MOMENT



We can often be unsure how to notice or talk to God. Here's a simple way to reflect on our day, to notice and respond.

God, where did I see you in my home? In my daily tasks and routines? Where did I miss your presence?

God, where did I see you on my travels? In the day's comings and goings? Where did I pass by too quickly?

God, where did I encounter you in my meals, shared or alone, quick or leisurely? Where was I ungrateful?

God, where did I hear you in the media? Where did I see you on my many screens and devices? How did I distinguish your voice from the other noise?

God, how did I encounter you in my neighbour? My family, friends and coworkers? When did I fail to love others as you love me?

Thank you for the times I realised you were there, help me to notice where I missed you and please open my eyes and ears more to your presence tomorrow. Amen

#### **SAY ONE FOR ME**

If you would like prayer for yourself or someone else, please let the Rector know via email, phone call or a note in the *For the Rector* box at the back of each of our churches. There are also prayer request cards in both churches and some prayer resources available free at the back of St Bridget's.

#### FROM THE REGISTERS...

#### HOLY BAPTISM

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

28<sup>th</sup> January Joseph Richard Appleby (adult) (St Bridget)

Evie Jennifer Appleby (adult) (St Bridget) Daisy Katherine Appleby (St Bridget) Honey Francesca Appleby (St Bridget)

11<sup>th</sup> February Hannah McPhail (St Bridget)

#### **FUNERALS**

"Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord"

6<sup>th</sup> February Audrey Emma Rankine (St Bridget & burial at Frankby)

27<sup>th</sup> February Derek Scott (St Bridget & burial at Frankby)

# tearfund Lunches



You are invited to lunch on:

- 12 April for Jollof rice (Nigeria) vegetarian
- 19 April for fish stew (South Sudan)
- 26 April for Fasouli (Yemen) vegetarian
- 3 May for Pad Thai (Thailand)
- 10 May for Dal Bhat (Nepal) vegetarian
- 24 May for Feijoada (Brazil)

These are countries in which Tearfund works and we can hear a little more of what they are actually doing. Venue: 1 Pikes Hey Road, Time 1 p.m.

The lunches are free but a donation to Tearfund would be appreciated. Please let me know which meal you would like, giving me a second choice so I can manage numbers!

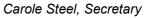
Joy Alcock

#### ST. BRIDGET'S MOTHERS' UNION



On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February Canon Barrie Gauge gave us an entertaining talk on his sixty years in the ministry. He had started his work in Hoylake before working in a number of parishes including St. James in Birkenhead, introducing new ideas in his churches and increasing the congregations. Elizabeth and Barrie have now arrived back in Hoylake to retire.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday March 12**<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. when Rev. Richard Wiliams will be telling us about **Walsingham**. Visitors from the congregation are always welcome to join us.





#### **Tots on Tour in 2024**

In February babies and toddlers from the St Bridget's Baby Group & the Caldy Toddler Group once again visited the residents at Caldy Manor Care Home.

We were treated to tea and cake on arrival and really enjoyed chatting to all the residents who loved seeing the tots!

We sang nursery rhymes, played peek a boo with the scarves and had fun with the large parachute too. It was such a happy occasion and we're already looking forward to our next visit in March.

Carolyn Tallents

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#### **March Diary**

Our churches are open for visitors and as places of prayer and stillness
St Bridget's daily until 5pm
Caldy 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 more information about our activities, please see:
 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)

Holy Communion - St Bridget

#### MARCH Fri 1<sup>st</sup>

7 30am

FII 1 <sup>-4</sup>	7.30am 9am 10am 2pm	Morning Prayer livestreamed on Facebook St Bridget's Baby Group – Centre World Day of Prayer at St Andrew's URC Church, Greenwood Road, Meols
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8am 10am 10am 12.00pm 1pm 6.30pm	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Holy Communion – St Bridget Holy Communion – St Bridget Holy Communion – Caldy Holy Baptism (Rory Heyns) – St Bridget Holy Baptism (Charlotte Colton) – St Bridget 'Quiet Space' – a service with prayers for wholeness and healing – St Bridget
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup>	10am 10.30-11am 11.45am 2pm 2pm 3.30pm 4.45pm	Holy Communion – Caldy Church Coffee @ Caldy Funeral (Frances Cockeram RIP) – Caldy Holy Communion at Caldy Manor Lent Group – 1 Pikes Hey Road Toasty Tuesdays – St Bridget Sing Aloud practice in the Centre
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm 8.30am-12 10am 11.30am 12 noon	Bell ringing practice The Link Café – Centre Knit & Natter, craft and chat group – Centre Holy Communion – St Bridget Ministry Team meeting
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	9am 10am 6pm	Morning Prayer on Zoom Caldy Baby & Toddler Group + STiCK Choir practice

Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30am 9am 10am Making posies 8am 10am 10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion – St Bridget Morning Prayer livestreamed on Facebook St Bridget's Baby Group – Centre for Mothering Sunday MOTHERING SUNDAY Holy Communion – St Bridget All Together Worship – St Bridget Holy Communion – Caldy Compline – St Bridget
Tue 12 <sup>th</sup>	10am 10.30-11am 2pm 3.30pm 4.45pm 7.30pm	Holy Communion – Caldy Church Coffee @ Caldy Mothers' Union – Centre Toasty Tuesdays – St Bridget Sing Aloud practice in the Centre Bell ringing practice
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am-12 10am 11.30am 2pm	The Link Café – Centre Knit & Natter, craft and chat group – Centre Holy Communion – St Bridget Lent Group – 1 Pikes Hey Road
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	9am 10am 6pm	Morning Prayer on Zoom Caldy Baby & Toddler Group + STiCK Choir practice
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30am 10am 9.30am-12	Holy Communion – St Bridget St Bridget's Baby Group – Centre Churchyard Working Party at St Bridget's
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	0.000 12	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Junuay 17	8am 10am 10am 6.30pm	Holy Communion – St Bridget Holy Communion – St Bridget Holy Communion – Caldy Evening Prayer – St Bridget
Tue 19 <sup>th</sup>	10am 10.30-11am 2pm 3.30pm 4.45pm 7pm	Holy Communion – Caldy Church Coffee @ Caldy Lent Group – 1 Pikes Hey Road Toasty Tuesdays – St Bridget Sing Aloud practice in the Centre St Bridget's Educational Trust meets
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm 8.30am-12 10am 11.30am 12 noon	Bell ringing practice The Link Café – Centre Knit & Natter, craft and chat group – Centre Holy Communion – St Bridget Men's Shed lunch – Centre
Thurs 21st	2pm 9am 10am 6pm	Baby Group visit to Caldy Manor Morning Prayer on Zoom Caldy Baby & Toddler Group + STiCK Choir practice

7.30pm PCC meeting – Centre Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> 7.30am Holy Communion – St Bridget

9am Morning Prayer livestreamed on Facebook

10am St Bridget's Baby Group – Centre 2pm Making palm crosses – Centre

**PALM SUNDAY** 

8am Holy Communion – St Bridget 10am Holy Communion – St Bridget

With liturgy of the palms

10am Holy Communion – Caldy 6.30pm Compline – St Bridget

**HOLY WEEK** 

Wed 27th

Tue 26<sup>th</sup> 10am Holy Communion – Caldy Church

10.30-11am Coffee @ Caldy

3.30pm Toasty Tuesdays – St Bridget 4.45pm Sing Aloud practice in the Centre

7.30pm Bell ringing practice 8.30am-12 The Link Café – Centre

10am Knit & Natter Group – Centre
 11.30am Holy Communion – St Bridget
 1.45pm School Easter service – St Bridget

MAUNDY THURSDAY

28<sup>th</sup> March 8pm Holy Communion with footwashing,

stripping of the altars and prayer vigil until

11pm - St Bridget's

**GOOD FRIDAY** 

29<sup>th</sup> March 10am-12 Activity Morning in the Centre

10am Reflective Service (Caldy)

2pm At the Foot of the Cross (St Bridget)

HOLY SATURDAY

30<sup>th</sup> March Our churches remain open for prayer and

Reflection

**EASTER SUNDAY** 

31st March 6.30am 'Greeting the Dawn' Bonfire on the beach

at the end of Lingdale Road

8am Holy Communion and Lighting of the New

Fire (St Bridget)

10am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion

(St Bridget)

10am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion

(Caldy)

#### **APRIL**

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	8am 10am 10am 12 noon 1pm 6.30pm	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER Holy Communion – St Bridget Holy Communion – St Bridget Holy Communion – Caldy Holy Baptism (Isla Nicholls) – St Bridget Holy Baptism (Thomas Noble) – St Bridget Evensong (BCP) – St Bridget
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	6pm 9am	Choir practice  Morning Prayer livestreamed on Facebook
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	2pm 7.30pm 9.30am-12 10am 11.30am 12 noon 9am	Holy Communion at Caldy Manor Bell ringing practice The Link Café – Centre Knit & Natter, craft and chat group – Centre Holy Communion – St Bridget Ministry Team meeting Morning Prayer on Zoom
Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10am 10.30-11am	Holy Communion – Caldy Church Coffee @ Caldy

#### **Daily Bible Readings for March**

1st 1 Peter 1.1-9

2nd	Acts 7.44-50		
4th	Luke 9.1-11	18th	2 John
5th	Hebrews 10.32-end	19th	Matthew 2.13-end
6th	1 Peter 3.18-end	20th	John 14.1-14
7th	Mark 13.21-end	21st	Luke 13.31-35
8th	1 Corinthians 10.23-end	22nd	John 12.20-26
9th	Hebrews 3.1-15	23rd	John 12.27-36
11th	1 Corinthians 15.20-34	25th	Colossians 1.18-23
12th	Acts 13.26-35	26th	Galatians 6.11-end
13th	1 Peter 1.17-2.3	27th	Revelation 14.18-15.4
14th	Luke 11.37-52	28th	Ephesians 2.11-18
15th	Luke 6.17-26	29th	John 19.38-end
16th	2 Corinthians 1.12-19	30th	1 John 5.5-12

#### **Clergy Letter**



Dear Friends,

Tradition assigns the Psalms to King David, although only 72 out of 150 Psalms are specifically attributed to him. Most scholars today believe there are several collections of Psalms contained in the Psalter, which may have been composed at different dates because they allude to events that occurred before, during and following the exile of much of the Jewish population in Babylon following the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC.

The Psalms continue to be popular in Christian worship for several reasons. First, they are biblically based and, in some Protestant denominations such as the Free Church of Scotland, Psalms and Metrical Psalms are the only 'hymns' allowed in public worship. A second reason for their popularity is that they express a variety of moods or spiritual states in which the worshiper may approach God (e.g. praise, thanksgiving, lament, penitence and even anger). Finally, many Christians over the past two millennia have interpreted them prophetically, seeing the Psalms as applying not only to ancient Israel but also to the church and the individual Christian.

New Testament references show that the earliest Christians used the Psalms and they have remained an important part of worship in virtually all Christian Churches. The *Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic* and *Anglican* Churches have always made systematic use of the Psalms, with a cycle for their recitation over a fixed period time. In the *Book of Common Prayer* psalms are read on a thirty-day cycle and they figure prominently in the more recently published *Common Worship* which we use week by week. In the early centuries of Church history, it was expected that any candidate for consecration as a bishop would be able to recite the entire Psalter from memory. Even today some Psalms have a popularity that extends well beyond the regular churchgoer. Miles Coverdale's (1488-1569) translation of the Psalms (based on Luther's version of the Bible and the *Latin Vulgate*), have particular importance in the history of both the English Bible and the *Book of Common Prayer*, and his Psalter continues to be used in the latter.

For many Anglicans, Episcopalians and English-speaking Christians more generally, the words of Coverdale's version of the Psalms are more familiar and beloved than any other translation of the Scriptures. Others may be unconsciously familiar with some of Coverdale's renderings through Handel's *Messiah*, which in several places uses the *Prayer Book Psalter* in place of the version in the Authorised (King James) Version of the Bible.

I commend the rich resources of the Psalter to you within your private devotions, and in morning and evening prayer.

With all best wishes.



PEAS

fingers and thumbs. Decorate with pictures and prayers. Stick on more

hands to make a longer zig-zag book.

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- **Care Fees:** to discuss what may be done to safeguard assets from the local authority if residential or nursing care is needed in the future.

Don't delay. If you require advice or assistance about any of these issues, please contact Andrea Ashton at Maxwell Hodge who is based at our West Kirby branch – Tel: 0151 625 9154



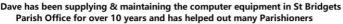
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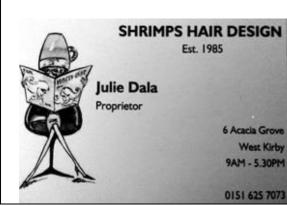
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St Bridget's, West Kirby and Caldy Church take the safety of everyone within our churches very seriously, and expect that everyone will work within the safeguarding policy of the Parish, a copy of which can be found on our noticeboards. In particular, the Parish expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk with children or vulnerable adults, or an actual abuse, to raise this immediately with the person(s) with responsibility for safeguarding within the Parish. The Safeguarding Coordinator for the Parish is Rosemary Morgan, who can be contacted on safeguardingwestkirby@gmail.com 07821 672232. Alternatively, contact Sean Augustin, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser on <a href="mailto:safeguarding@chester.anglican.org">safeguarding@chester.anglican.org</a> 07704 338885. or Rev'd Alex Williams on 0151 625 1052.

#### **Caldy Jottings**

Easter is early this year, so all the holy days from Ash Wednesday, through Mothering Sunday and Holy Week, up to Pentecost, are early too. Check the table below for the important dates

Our Buildings and Enhancement team are working hard: the problems with the floodlights have been resolved, we have a working machine in Caldy Church for card donations, and we hope soon to install a broadband connection, to provide wi-fi for the machine and the option of livestreaming services. At present the donation machine uses the mobile phone network.

#### Services at Caldy in March (all at 10.00am)

Sunday	Third Sunday	Holy
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	of Lent	Communion
Sunday	Mothering Sunday	Holy
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothering Sunday	Communion
Sunday	Fifth Sunday	Holy
17 <sup>th</sup> March	of Lent	Communion
Sunday	Dolm Cundov	Holy
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Palm Sunday	Communion
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday	Reflective
March	Good Filday	service
Sunday		Celebration
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Sunday	Holy
31 Walti		Communion

Holy Communion is said each Tuesday at 10.00am

Tea and Coffee are served in the church hall after each service.



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