



St Bridget's, West Kirby with Caldy Church

Seeking to follow Jesus with open hearts, open minds and open hands



Sunday 27th September
Trinity 16

8am	St. Bridget's	Holy Communion	David Chester
10am	St. Bridget's	Holy Communion	Mary and Graham
10am	Caldy	Holy Communion	John Bowers
Service on Zoom:			
10am	At home	Holy Communion	David Chester and Brian Dodd

Services in church are exempt from the local lockdown rules about different households not being able to meet but we do need to be extra-careful about social distancing and inside and outside.

In church we observe social distancing, sanitise our hands, wear a face-covering and give contact details. At St. Bridget's the disabled toilet is available in the Centre if you need to use it.

The order of service is also on the parish website and can be accessed at

https://www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk/sites/all/themes/bridget/public_files/Holy Communion 23 August 2020.pdf

Zoom Sunday Service 10am

The link for Sundays (same for Tuesday Bible Study and Wednesday Link café) is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8301824880?pwd=SC9vRVNOZU5RVGdOcm56NDBCWmxNUT09>

Meeting ID: 830 182 4880

Password: 0N9H4q



Harvest Festival Sunday 18th October

Our services at 8 and 10am and on Zoom will have a Harvest theme. At St. Bridget's the Music Group will be back to sing and play to us and members of Storytellers will be taking part. Despite all the restrictions, we hope to make this a very special service!

We will be supporting Wirral Food Bank with gifts of cash or non-perishable items.

A short service of Holy Communion will follow at 11.30am in the Lady Chapel at St Bridget's.

Prayer for the Week

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for this Sunday

Psalms 25.1-9

Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-32

Philippians 2.1-13

Matthew 21.23-32

Books of Remembrance (27th September – 3rd October)

St Bridget: *Gertrude Tottey, Thomas Forshaw, Patricia Price, Isabel Marie Price, John Robert Gould, Richard John Floyd Rawlinson.*

Caldy: *Sylvia Ford.*

RIP: *Hesketh Ross Hughes, Geoffrey Watt.*

St Bridget's is open for private prayer 2.30pm – 3.30pm Tuesdays and Fridays

Website: www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk www.caldychurch.org.uk

Facebook: [@ StBridgetsChurchWestKirby](https://www.facebook.com/StBridgetsChurchWestKirby)

Twitter: [@StBandCaldy](https://twitter.com/StBandCaldy)



Please help us to keep in touch! If you know of any parishioners who might need support because of illness, or bereavement, or any other reason, please let us know via the Parish Office on office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk or tel. 0151 625 2739.

Link Café on Zoom: same log-in details as for Sunday service above.

The Trustees of the **St Bridget's Educational Trust** plan to meet on Thursday October 22nd. Anybody wishing to make an application for a grant should contact John Steel well before that date: email john_c_c_steel@hotmail.com / tel. 0151 625 1115.



Arrival of our New Rector

On Monday 9th November at 7pm, we will welcome Alex Williams as the Rector of St. Bridget's and Caldy.

The Institution will be performed by the new Bishop of Chester, the Rt. Revd. Mark Tanner.

Sadly, numbers will have to be limited and we will let you know about arrangements later. However, it's great news that the service is going ahead and we know that Alex is very much looking forward to joining us.

She will be moving into the Rectory on October 1st and we want to do everything we can to make her welcome.



A big "Thank you" from Joyce Preston to all her friends at St Bridget's who sent prayers, good wishes and cards for her 90th birthday.

Ecover Refills – if you wish to continue buying Ecover refills and are able to collect them from Sue Harrison's doorstep (11 Egerton Drive) please contact her on 625 8535 or martinandsueharrison@gmail.com to arrange a time. Sue also holds a limited range of **Traidcraft** goods at home; and you can also contact Margaret Smith for more items: 678 6201 smithjmdj@btinternet.com

Pedigree black Labrador puppies available – three boys left! Contact Paula in the Parish Office if you are interested.



Contacts

Assistant Priest: Rev. David Chester 625 8004

Churchwardens: David Wright 625 2389 and Gregory Buckridge 625 1636

The Parish Office in St Bridget's Centre is attended weekday mornings: Monday to Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Messages can be left on office@stbridgetschurch.org.uk or tel. 625 2739

Material for the website can be sent to: editor@stbridgetschurch.org.uk

We are committed to following Government and Church of England guidelines on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is Bethan Halpenny 07837 755214 bethanhc@live.co.uk

A Thought for the Week: Reflecting on Forgiveness

The recent media coverage of the anniversary of VJ Day reminded me of Doug. He was a Reader at Elstow Abbey in Bedford where I served my Curacy. Doug was stooped and frail and needed an arm to guide him safely down the aisle at the start and end of every service. I have no idea how old he was, but I expect he looked older than his years. Doug had been a prisoner of war in Changi, one of the most notorious Japanese POW camps. A great many of his friends had died in captivity and for those like Doug who survived, the nightmares returned to haunt their sleep, even in old age. Each August, the Abbey would host the annual service of FEPOW (Far East Prisoners of War Association) and the church would fill with gentlemen like Doug and their families. To hear Doug preach on these occasions was a privilege. To listen to a man who had suffered in such a cruel and inhumane way at the hands of his captors, speak with gentleness of love, forgiveness and reconciliation was a revelation.

On one such occasion, Doug told a very moving story of how, after their release, the train that he and other ex-prisoners were travelling on stopped by chance next to a train carrying badly wounded Japanese soldiers. Doug and the others left their train and went to minister to the injured Japanese soldiers, the very same men who for years had treated them so cruelly. The text for Doug's sermon that particular day came from St Matthew's Gospel. It was *'love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you'*

When it comes to forgiveness Jesus set the benchmark very high. Forgiveness and the need to forgive was at the heart of his teaching. And yet, so often we struggle with it. Forgiveness is such an easy word to say, but not such an easy state to achieve. If by any chance you find yourself struggling to bring yourself to forgive someone who has hurt you or to love someone who you find impossible to get along with, then I hope Doug's story might inspire you to at least have another try.

Martin Luther King once said that forgiveness is that experience which allows the Holy Spirit to return to us and enliven us again. If we want to be enlivened then we need to pray for the vision to be able, like Doug, to turn the hurts in *our* past into the stepping stones into the future and for God's healing and reconciling presence to work in us and through us.

Mary Railton-Crowder