

# St Elphin's Chronicle



## August 2020

Vol 132



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## COVID-19

The Church continues to be alive and active, but in Warrington our buildings must close.

The UK including the North West of England is seeing increases in the number of people falling sick with COVID-19. We must physically distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives.

Therefore, as well as public worship being suspended, this and all church buildings in the Diocese of Liverpool are now closed.

Our worship of God and our care for each other continue but cannot be done in this building.



Our Warrington Parish Church Facebook page contains daily video worship and prayer at 10am, details of how to join others online for prayer, worship, study, and community life.

See: [www.facebook.com/warringtonparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/warringtonparishchurch)

The churchwardens of this church can be contacted in an emergency by telephoning:  
01925 821048

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength . . . Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”



**To protect the vulnerable amongst us:  
please do not leave your home except for essential trips.**

## The Parish Staff

For all enquiries during the interregnum  
please contact Arnold Wright

Reader	Mr L Marsh 14 Queens Avenue WA1 3BP	
Reader Emeritus	Mr R Whitticombe 3 Franklin Close WA5 8QL	01925-564408
Church Wardens	Mr A Wright 5 Kinsale Drive Locking Stumps WA3 6LX	01925-821048
	Miss K J Hayes 8 Charlton Street WA4 1LX	01925-656790

## Websites:

St Elphin's: <http://www.warringtonparishchurch.org>

Diocesan Website: <http://www.liverpool.anglican.org>

Cathedral Website: <http://www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk>



[www.facebook.com/warringtonparishchurch](http://www.facebook.com/warringtonparishchurch)

Please do visit and 'Like' our Facebook page so you can keep up to date with events and services in our church and 'share' this with others whom you connect with on social media.

It gives the Ministry Team and Wardens great pleasure to inform you that a New Rector of Warrington has been appointed, please read below a statement from the Venerable Simon Fisher, Archdeacon of St Helens & Warrington:

*'I'm really pleased to commend to you the Revd Canon June Steventon as your new Rector. June was born in Warrington and in fact baptised at St Elphin's. She was ordained in the Diocese of Rochester but has served in our diocese for many years, most recently as Vicar of St Oswald's Winwick and St Michael's Burtonwood for the last ten years.*

*It is an absolute delight to welcome June back to Warrington itself again and to see her take up this role among you. Thank you all for your prayers during this time of discernment. A date for June's licensing service has not yet been finalised but is expected to be around the beginning of November.'*

I am sure you all join with our Readers, Wardens and PCC in congratulating Revd June and look forward to welcoming her to St Elphin's and working with her to share and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

\* \* \* \* \*



Following consultation with the Archdeacon the Churchwardens and PCC have decided that St Elphin's Church will remain closed for the time being. The parish is in vacancy and we feel it would be an imposition to ask local clergy to cover whilst they are working at re-opening their own churches. The situation will be reviewed in early August.

This will give us time to ensure that the various guidelines for cleaning and ensuring social distancing have been followed and a rota for clergy cover established. Please be assured that we are working hard to develop safe and compliant ways of managing the re-opening.

Meanwhile we ask for your continued prayers and patience.

*'God is our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble'*

*Psalm 46 v.1*

I am sure that like myself most people have made a promise at some time during their lives.

One of the most important aspects of a promise is that it is kept so that we can be seen to be a person who can be trusted, to keep our word.

Many years ago when I was a lot younger than I am now, I was a Cub Scout; in order to be a full member of that organisation it was necessary to make a promise in front of all the members of the Pack and the Leaders.

In due time when I was 11 years old I became a Scout and again made the Scout Promise, which is still today one that all members of the Organisation/Movement make.

It is a simple promise with a great deal of meaning to it. The words are: 'On my honour, I promise, that I will do my best, to do my duty to God and to the Queen to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.'

This can be modified for people of any religion/faith/humanist/no religion and also if they do not have a Queen.

The Scout Law comprises of seven parts which all members must adhere to. They are:

1. A Scout is to be trusted
2. A Scout is loyal
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate
4. A Scout belongs to the world-wide family of Scouts
5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties
6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property
7. A Scout has self-respect and respect for others

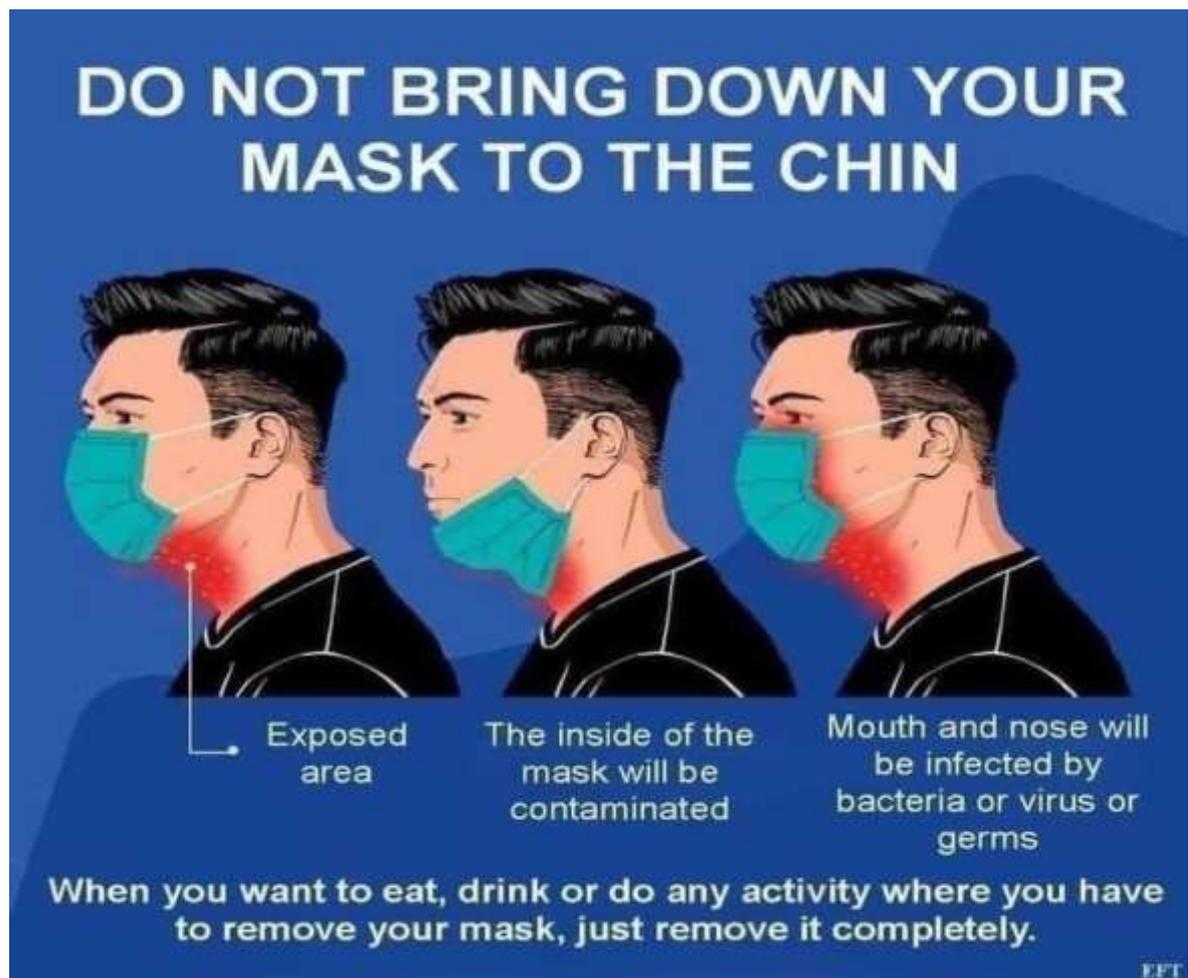
The Law and Promise are the bones of the movement and I believe can be fulfilled by anyone.

As far as I am concerned the Law and Promise can be compared to the Commandments and Creed which we as Christians profess, and so we can, by our deeds and actions show to all people and especially those members of the world-wide church what we truly believe, and display how we try to follow the example of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ through our deeds, actions and how we treat our fellows through and in all aspects of our lives.

I trust that even through these last few months, when we have had our movements restricted, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and many have had to self-isolate or shield from contact with those whom we love and care for we can and have upheld the Laws and Promises we have made to our Fellow Scouts, Fellow Christians and fellow contacts throughout the world.

God Bless you all; Keep safe and well

*Ray*



Gill has been very busy making face masks to sell for church funds.

They are £6.00 each or 2 for £10.00.

If you are interested in purchasing any please contact Gill on 564408

## Pause for Thought with Norma Fox

*I have calmed and quieted myself.*

*Psalm 131 : 2*

Picture a parent poised lovingly over a child, finger gently placed in front of nose and lips softly speaking the words, 'hush', 'shhh'. The demeanour and simple words are meant to comfort and quiet anxious little ones in the midst of disappointments, discomfort or pain. Scenes like this are universal and timeless and most of us have been on the giving and receiving of such loving expressions.

When I ponder psalm 131 : 2 this is the picture that comes to mind. The language and flow of the psalm suggest that the writer David had experienced something that had provoked serious reflection. Have you ever experienced a time of disappointment, fear of failure, the end of a relationship? Something that prompted thoughtful reflective prayer? What do you do when faced with life's circumstances, when troubled times mount up about you? David poured out his heart to the Lord and in the process did a bit of honest soul searching and inventory. In coming to terms with his circumstances he found a calm, a tranquillity like that of a young child who was satisfied with simply being with his or her mother.

Life's circumstances change and sometimes we are humbled. Yet we can be hopeful and content knowing that there is One who has promised to never leave or forsake us. We can trust Him fully.

*Through all the changing scenes of life,  
In trouble and in joy,  
The praises of my God shall still  
My heart and tongue employ.  
Hymn verse (from Old & New)*



Ann and I were delighted recently to receive a socially distanced visit from Aimee Green and her lovely baby son Daniel. It was so lovely to be able to welcome such a happy and contented baby to our garden. Aimee and her husband Simon, have been frequent attenders at St Elphin and more recently together with Daniel, Aimee and Simon were married by Rev Stewart McTaggart (Rev Paul was unfortunately on holiday) on 29th September 2018. Ann and I were present and it was a really lovely wedding and Aimee looked absolutely fabulous. Unfortunately it wasn't possible to arrange a Christening before Rev Stewart moved to Southport but on January 19th the Rev Shirley Cowan conducted a really lovely Christening service for Daniel at St Elphin which, again, we were so fortunate to have attended.

We spent a really enjoyable couple of hours with Aimee and Daniel when they visited and Daniel was so well behaved. They are a lovely Christian family - I happen to know Aimee and Simon recently treated a homeless gentleman in Warrington to a hot meal and even bought him a new sleeping bag - and we very much hope to see them in church again as and when 'normality' returns.

*Chris Bean*





## St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the July draw are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Lynda Hayes	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pauline Rowson
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christine Dickenson	4 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Bailey

£132.50 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August and payments must be made by Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> in the draw.

Any payments made after that date will be assumed to be for the following month. Any cheques should be made payable to 'St Elphin's 50/50 Club'.

New members are always welcome.

*Janet*



#RuleOfLife

### Are you up for a Challenge?? Fancy reading the Psalms this summer?

In our diocesan Rule of Life we say that we are 'Called to Read'. The 2020 Summer Reading Challenge will call us to read the Psalms, with reflections from Archdeacon Simon and a team from across the diocese. There will be challenges for those who want to reflect and pray with two psalms a week, those who want to read a new psalm every day, and those who are able to read the whole psalter over six weeks of the challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge started on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July but it's not too late to sign up if you are interested.

You can sign up to the Rule of Life at [www.liverpool.anglican.org](http://www.liverpool.anglican.org)

#CalledToRead #RuleOfLife

## Church Finances for 2020

Last year I started to provide details of the income and expenditure monthly. It is difficult at the beginning of the year to see the trend so I have included 2019 figures for comparison.

Month	Income		Expenditure	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
January	4,774	5,252	7,619	8,083
February	4,042	6,701	6,457	5,757
March	10,807	5,494	7,812	7,923
April	9,368	8,887	8,028	7,263
May	5,807	4,937	9,054	5,189
June	9,279	3,565	8,997	5,542
July	9,230		7,397	
August	4,523		7,587	
Sept	10,857		8,121	
Oct	6,185		6,619	
Nov	7,657		7,525	
Dec	9,130		9,932	
Total	£91,659	£34,835	£95,148	£40,271

Expenditure over income circa £5,500 by June 2020. £4,000 of the income in February and March was wedding deposits and April includes a £5,000 donation. £2,655 owing to Diocese and £7,211 wedding deposits held in general account.

Many of you have contacted me during this crisis to pay by cheque or bank transfer and for that I thank you. Although our income is well down on the same period last year to the tune of circa £9,000 our expenditure has also been reduced but only by circa £7,600.

**During this emergency the church still has expenses to pay. If you are able please contact Wendy Bailey about continuing to pay your donations by cheque, standing order or bank transfer.**

Wendy Bailey, PCC Treasurer  
Tel: 07963 021172 Wendy\_bailey@hotmail.com

9<sup>th</sup> August 2020 marks Mary Sumner, a day in which we remember our founder and her vision for our movement. This year, Mary Sumner Day falls on a Sunday and in the midst of a global pandemic and so we understand that the day may look very different for our members.

### **Online Services**

Mothers' Union are delighted that the following services will be taking place online and will be available on both our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion>) and You Tube Channels. As Mary Sumner Day falls on a Sunday this year Mothers' Union have provided two online services – one in early morning and one in the evening

#### **Mary Sumner Day Morning Prayer - 8:30am (BST)**

#### **Mary Sumner Evening Compline – 9:00pm (BST)**

Service sheets for both events will be available on the Mothers' Union website.

As you are aware, we usually hold a Deanery event to celebrate Mary Sumner Day at St Elphin's but unfortunately this will not be possible this year. As well as the on line services mentioned above there is a copy of a service for you to use in your own homes please join in with your brothers and sisters across the world to remember this special lady.

August 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> also marks the wave of prayer falling on Liverpool Diocese. Please take time during this period to remember our sisters and brothers throughout the world and especially our link Diocese of Kasai in DR Congo, Shyira in Rwanda, Ijumu & Egba West in Nigeria and Sambalpur in India

Please keep in touch with each other by telephone or email and let me know if anyone needs additional help. Wendy Bailey Tel: 725943  
[wendy\\_bailey@hotmail.com](mailto:wendy_bailey@hotmail.com)

## **Service for Mary Sumner Day 2020 (9<sup>th</sup> August)**

Welcome to our Service for Mary Sumner day 2020. We cannot gather to celebrate and be inspired by the example of the founder of Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner, but let us pray as we look to build hope and confidence in lives that have been affected in these uncertain times.

The plans of the Lord stand firm, the purposes of his heart through all generations

*Psalm 33:11*

God of history and eternity,  
Lord of every generation,  
We come to worship with glad and thankful hearts.

**Let us praise his name together. Amen**

### **Opening prayers**

**God of the past, the present, and the future,  
we have gathered to celebrate and to rejoice:  
to give thanks for the life and vision  
of our founder, Mary Sumner.**

**As we look to the past with thanksgiving  
so we affirm our resolve to build upon this heritage  
as we seek to serve God in our generation,  
and establish a stable future for those yet to come. Amen**

### **Collect for Mary Sumner Day**

Faithful and loving God, who called Mary Sumner to strive for the renewal of family life: give us the gift of your Holy Spirit, that through word, prayer and deed your family may be strengthened and your people served; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **New Testament Reading: Philippians 1:3-6; 9-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:34-40**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” ‘Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?” ‘The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer**

*Written by her in 1876 and then prayed by her every day for the rest of her life*

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; Lord, we thank you for the lives touched throughout the years and throughout the world by the members of Mothers' Union and every life I touch do thou by thy spirit quicken, We pray that those whom we serve will experience the reality of your love through our prayers, words and actions, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live. Amen

**All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live. Amen**

## **Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession**

Loving Lord, We give thanks for the inspiration of our founder, Mary Sumner. We look back with gratitude for her witness, and for all that has been achieved thus far in the name of Mothers' Union worldwide.

We give thanks that you have prepared our way and strengthen us at every stage with hope and resolve. We pray for all initiatives, large and small, to transform families and communities.

We give thanks for our members across the globe as they proclaim your love in challenging times and places. We pray that our membership will flourish and grow as stories of our work and achievements are heard.

We give thanks for the far-reaching vision of Mary Sumner and for all who have continued her work through the years.

We pray for God's blessing upon our future. May we continue to enrich family life for future generations. Amen

## **Mothers' Union Prayer**

**Loving Lord**

**We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.**

**We pray for families around the world.**

**Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.**

**Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.**

**In Jesus' name. Amen**

## **Final blessing**

All praise be to God, by whose power  
one woman's vision became reality  
through the founding of Mothers' Union.

All praise be to God who has led us thus far  
and whose Spirit inspires for what lies ahead.

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain  
with you always. Amen.

United in love across the world, go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen**



# Wave of Prayer 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Let all the world, in every corner sing, My God and King!**

**We join hands across the world**

**to celebrate our hope and confidence in Christ.**

We join in celebration with our worldwide family of God; one in heart, to glorify your name. Together we bring our worship, together we bring our praise.

As children of God from all nations we share each other's joy in your abundant blessings of grace; We rejoice with those who rejoice and together praise our heavenly Father.

**As the family of Mothers' Union we are united in hope and confidence. We glorify our heavenly Father with thankful hearts. Amen**

**Loving Lord, we give thanks for the privilege of service as Mothers' Union worldwide.**

We pray for our members throughout the world as they build hope and confidence in others through their witness and their work.

We give thanks for signs of transformation in families and communities worldwide as we reach out in love and service.

We pray for the flourishing of Mothers' Union as we adapt for the needs of this present time and entrust ourselves to God to lead us forward.

**Unite us together in hope and confidence to continue to reach out as your hands across the world. Amen**

Almighty Lord, we thank you that we are united in prayer and worship through our hope and confidence in Christ.

We thank you for the joy of coming together into your presence to petition and praise, united in faith across the world.

**In steadfast hope and confidence we bring our prayers and worship to God.**

We thank you for the joy of finding our numbers are swelled by the company of the Holy Spirit, who shows us how to pray and adds his prayers to ours.

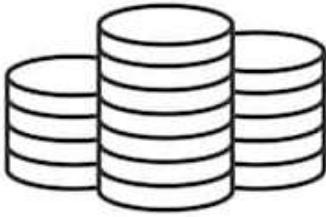
**In steadfast hope and confidence we bring our prayers and worship to God. Amen**

**We go in hope and confidence to share the love of Christ; united across the world as the family of God. Amen**



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Please speak to Wendy Bailey for our bank details

Parish Giving Scheme



Please ask Wendy Bailey for more information or a starter pack

*giftaid it*

Please speak to Dianne Rothwell if you are able to gift aid your donation

## St Elphin's Prayer List

### All those who are ill:

Daisy Easton	Charlie Delooze	James Flitcroft
Carol Shaw	Margaret Lomax	Mary Currie
Doreen Ross	Graham Belton	Trevor Edwards
Beryl Delooze	Brenda Hill	Margaret Rimmer
Nancy Wild	Sandra Kirk	Logan Austin
James Orford	Kath Whitehouse	Beryl Dell
Julie Morandini	Siobhan Campbell	Sue Waddleton
Leslie Campsie	Carol Lewis	Nigel & Debbie Kirk
Geoff Dunn	Kristina Czimbor	Martin Fiske
Gary Martin		

### Those who are bereaved of:

Dave Friday (Ray's Brother in Law)

We also pray for anyone suffering from Covid-19 or those who have died as a result of the virus.

## Donations:

### General Fund

In thanksgiving on the occasion of our Ruby Wedding - 2nd August 2020 from Neil and Thelma Walsh	100.00
Thinking of George on our Diamond Anniversary, 13 <sup>th</sup> August 1960 from Hilda	60.00
Loving birthday memories of Dad, Tom Wilkinson, on his 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday and birthday memories of Mum, Frances Wilkinson on 31 <sup>st</sup> August from Lynne and Pat	100.00



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Regards from a very happy patient"

H. Endress

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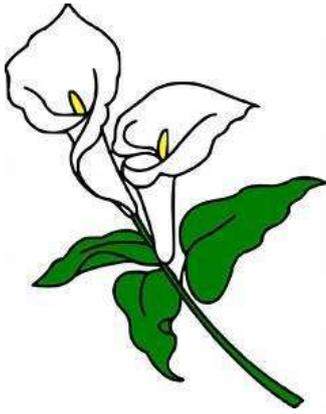


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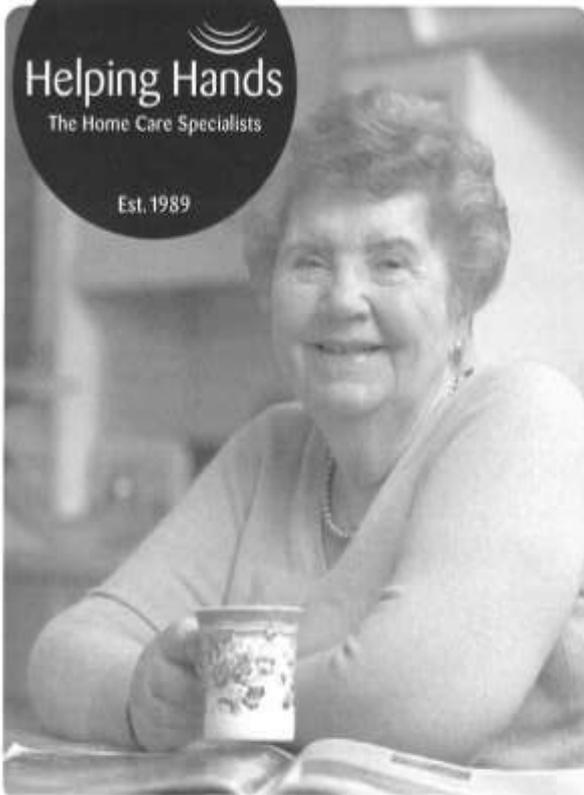
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