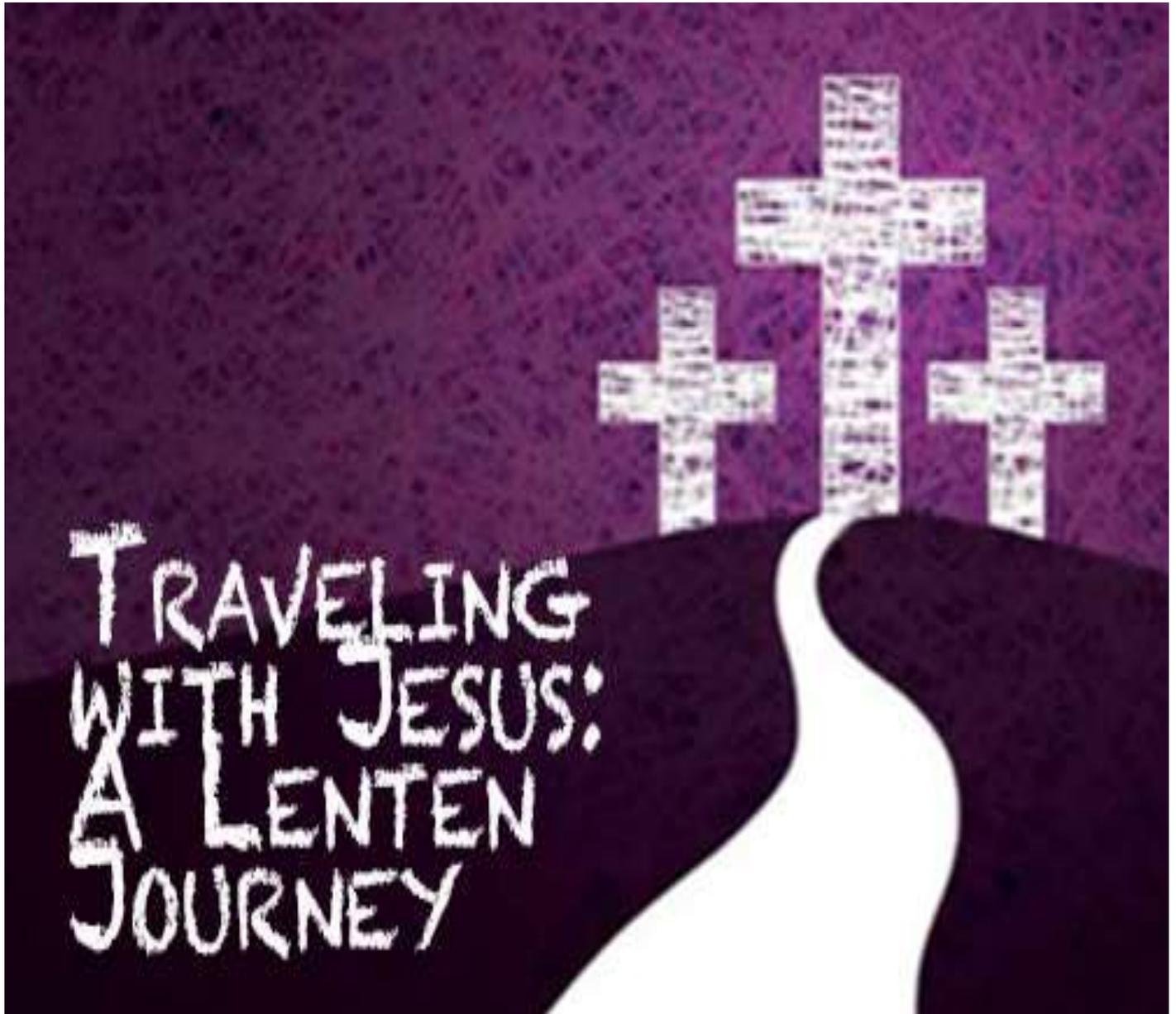


St Elphin's Chronicle



March 2021

Vol 133



Diocese of Liverpool



Price 30p

We must keep on protecting each other.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

STAY ALERT › CONTROL THE VIRUS › SAVE LIVES



The Parish Staff

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Reader Emeritus	Mr R Whitticombe 3 Franklin Close WA5 8QL	01925-564408
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Websites:

St Elphin's: <http://www.achurchnearyou> (St Elphin)

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

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



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.

During this current lockdown our online Services can be found on YouTube, the link will appear on the Church Facebook page.

If you don't do Facebook but would like the link emailing to or would like to receive an electronic version of the parish magazine please let Dianne know at stelphin246@gmail.com and we will add you to our mailing list.

Alternatively you can download the magazine from our website at <http://www.achurchnearyou> (St Elphin)

'Behind every crucifix
– hidden for we cannot see him
- stands our RISEN LORD'

These words are found on a very special card given to me when things were tough.

It is now rather battered and worn as I have carried it with me for many years.

There is no illustration but I can see so much in the words in my mind's eye I can faintly see a Risen Jesus standing behind the Crucified Jesus and I can see light coming from within a dark tomb; I can almost feel Jesus' presence when I feel lost and alone and when I can bear to lift my head, I see him out of the corner of my eye ... he stands accompanying me. I know that I am not alone.

God/Jesus/Holy Spirit, is always with us; the Bible tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God 'neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8 v 38). If Jesus had got down from the cross, he could have alleviated his own suffering; maybe fallen in love and had his own family or he could have founded a great empire and amassed a great fortune for himself. Instead he chose to follow what he believed to be God's call upon his life; which looked like failure to so many people, even to some who were his closest friends and followers.

We are now in the season of Lent which is a gift of time to spend hopefully and well.

Lent is a time to look at the essentials of life and ask God to help us to know God and ourselves more intimately; to acknowledge the love of God for us and to live in the reality of this love which took Jesus to the cross and on the third day brought Him to life so that we too may spend eternity with God – how amazing is that? Each year I pray that I will arrive at Easter with a feeling of hope and a faith renewed; this is also my prayer for you.

God bless you.

Canon June





A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

"With many in our country on lockdown, it's important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are."

Archbishop Justin Welby

Options available include materials also available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as Prayer during the Day and Night Prayer updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service.

A section called Hymn Line offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection and is based on an initiative by the Connections group.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/daily-hope-phone-line>

Pause for Thought with Norma Fox

Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love... Psalm 51:1

There were no neat lawns, no formal flower beds in Gethsemane's garden. There were olive trees scattered over the hillside – Gethsemane means 'oil press' – and straggly grass and dust. A place of peace and quiet away from the city, except when the olives were harvested. I guess Jesus was attracted by the quiet.

It was quiet the last time he went there, at night, but the peace had gone. It was a time of tension: Jesus struggling with himself, striving with God. Somehow, it's easy to get smug, gloss over the struggle and concentrate on Jesus decision '*Yet not my will, but thine be done.*' (Luke 22:42) Nice and easy. 'Ah', we say, 'He always did his father's will.' True, but there was nothing easy about it. Look at the struggle.

It echoes our own struggles. The constant battle of our will versus God's. The fight to do our own way, not his. We'll do anything to avoid it, argue, pretend, rationalise. Yet if we were to put less energy into fighting, there would be more left to follow God's way to do his work in the world! We screw ourselves up so tightly raising objections that we've nothing left over for constructive thought. But from the cross Jesus offers us a new freedom. In his powerful book 'Celebration of Discipline' Richard Foster describes it as 'the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get your own way.' Obedience – a free decision we make towards God – leads to a freedom from self. Something worth thinking about this Season of Lent.

And when you look at it more closely, the struggle isn't really against God but against self, and God is actually on our side waiting to welcome us when we turn to him.

..... according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!

Psalm 51 :1,2



St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the February draw are as follows:

1st Margaret Dolan 2nd Wendy Bailey
3rd Gill Whitticombe 4th Nancy Jones

£130.00 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 21st March and payments must be made by Sunday 14th 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

RNIB

See differently

Used Stamp Appeal

If you receive cards and letters through the post, could you save the stamps to help RNIB?

They will recycle them into much-needed funds for their services.

Stamps don't need to be thoroughly sorted, but it helps if they are separated into British and foreign stamps. (Channel Islands and Isle of Man count as foreign)

Make sure you leave a centimetre of envelope or packaging around each stamp.

Dianne

Unfortunately, due to the current crisis we are still unable to meet together but I hope you will join with our brothers and sisters across the world especially on 25th March (Lady Day) which is a special day for Mothers' Union.

A Short reflection for Lady Day

Gracious God, you have done so much for us and we so little in return.
You ask for humility and we are often a proud people.
You ask for willingness and we are often a stubborn people.
You ask for repentance and we are often a deaf people.
You ask for service and we are often a busy people.
Gracious God, you want the best for us. Teach us obedience
grant us forgiveness that we, like Mary might be your willing servants.
Amen

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.' 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.' 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.'

We bring our prayers in hope and confidence; trusting in the truth of our Lord's word that nothing is impossible with God.

For the faithfulness of your servant Mary, we give you thanks.
For saints of every age who, when called, have simply obeyed –
Whether shepherd or scholar, faced by opposition or praise,
Asked to give from their riches or poverty – we give you thanks.

In your eyes all are blessed.

May we count ourselves among that number, willing to hear your call.
Our lives dedicated in service to our Saviour and King. Amen

Make A Mother's Day 2021

Mothering Sunday is a special time to say thank you to all mothers and caregivers for the selflessness with which they nurture, love and help us to flourish.

This year, you can celebrate or remember someone special by giving a gift of togetherness. At a time when the chance to come together has become more precious than ever before, your donation can help to strengthen kinship in communities and empower women and girls to flourish. (www.mothersunion.org)

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



Church Finances for 2021

Last year I started to provide details of the income and expenditure monthly. In order to give you an indication of the impact of the pandemic. It is difficult to get a true picture early in the year so I have included 2020 figures for comparison.

Month	Income		Expenditure	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
January	£ 5,252	£ 3,020	£ 8,083	£ 5,889
February	£ 6,701		£ 6,532	
March	£ 5,494		£ 7,923	
April	£ 8,887		£ 7,263	
May	£ 4,937		£ 5,189	
June	£ 3,565		£ 5,542	
July	£ 2,351		£ 5,531	
August	£ 8,732		£ 6,054	
Sept	£ 3,330		£ 5,211	
Oct	£ 6,866		£ 6,827	
Nov	£ 8,576		£ 5,945	
Dec	£ 3,806		£ 6,279	
Total	£68,499	£ 3,020	£76,380	£ 5,889

Expenditure over income in January £2,860

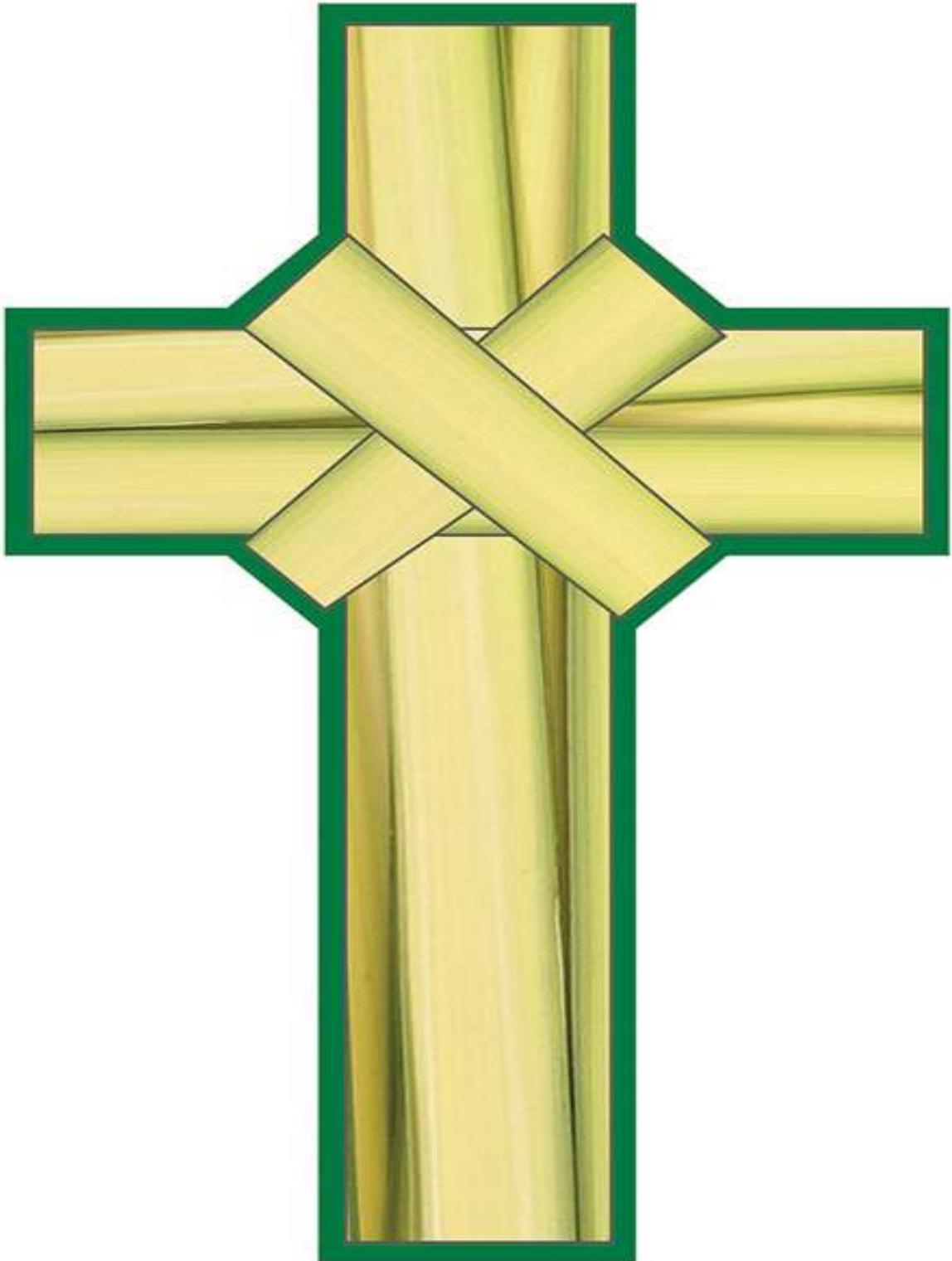
Many of you have contacted me during this crisis to pay by cheque or bank transfer and for that I thank you.

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, bank transfer or consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme.

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

Palm Sunday – 28th March 2021

Traditionally on Palm Sunday everyone is given a palm cross to take home, but during these strange time not everyone will be in church to receive a cross so we have included one in the magazine for you to cut out and use.



This page has been left intentionally blank so that should you wish to cut out the Palm Cross to use on Palm Sunday you can remove the centre pages and the rest of the magazine will stay intact!!

If you are unable to attend church at the moment but would prefer to receive a real palm cross please contact Dianne at stelphin246@gmail.com or telephone 632974 and we will arrange to get one to you.

Here's a simple prayer idea you might like to use at home while holding your cross.

Each point of the cross links to a theme.

1. Hold the cross in your right hand and then place your left thumb on the left 'crosspiece'. Pray for the world, in these or similar words: *Loving God, thank you that your peace reaches into every situation across our world. Be close to those places that need peace this day. Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer*
2. Place your left thumb on the right of the 'crosspiece' and pray for people in need in these or similar words: *Loving God, thank you that your hope reaches into every situation. Be close to those who are ill or sad this day. Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer*
3. Place your left thumb on the base of the 'crosspiece': Pray for the community where you live in using these or similar words: *Loving God, thank you that your joy reaches into our homes. Help us to know that you are with us every day. Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer.*
4. Place your thumb on top of the 'crosspiece': Pray for those who lead in the church and teach us about Jesus: *Loving God, thank you that your love is shared through your church. Give wisdom to those who help us to know the Good News of Jesus. Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer*
5. Place your thumb in centre of the 'crosspiece': Pray for yourself, in these or similar words: *Loving God, thank you for Jesus and the love he showed for me. Help me to follow him more and more each day. Amen.*

Brain Teaser Answers

Change One Letter from the first answer to find the second answer

1)	Farm animal	Dwelling	Horse	House
2)	Type, likeness	Writing medium	Ilk	Ink
3)	Communicate knowledge	Bring into a country	Impart	Import
4)	Collapse inward	Beg	Implode	Implore
5)	Forbidden sex	Put money in shares	Incest	Invest
6)	Deduce	Bury	Infer	Inter
7)	Sickly, weak	Tell	Infirm	Inform
8)	Make angry	Blow up	Inflame	Inflate
9)	Mere	Behind time	Lake	Late
10)	Sorrowful song	Dormant	Lament	Latent
11)	Reduce	Period of teaching	Lessen	Lesson
12)	Raise	Lean to one side	Lift	Lilt
13)	Peer	Noisy	Lord	Loud
14)	Hair	Female horse	Mane	Mare
15)	Centre	Confusion	Middle	Muddle
16)	White liquid	Furry mammal	Milk	Mink
17)	Unenclosed	Cooker	Open	Oven
18)	Thin sheet for writing or drawing on	Player of a wind instrument	Paper	Piper
19)	Portion	Haven	Part	Port
20)	Tranquillity	Location	Peace	Place

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



- | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| Ash | Holy Week | Palm Branch |
| Wednesday | Holy Thursday | Forty Days |
| Sacrifice | Good Friday | Jesus |
| Almsgiving | Holy Saturday | Passover |
| Prayer | Easter | Foot Washing |
| Fasting | Palm Sunday | Resurrection |
| Lent | Purple | Love |

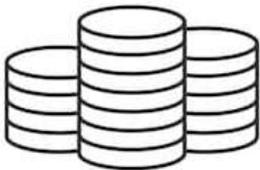


Planned Giving Envelopes

The planned giving envelopes for April onwards have arrived and are ready to be distributed.

During lockdown a lot of people on the envelope scheme have been sending their collections electronically (which makes life a lot easier for our Treasurer) and we would like to know if you would prefer to continue in this way or still receive your next box of envelopes. If you could let Dianne know by 21st March please either by email to stelphin246@gmail.com or by telephoning 01925 632974.

We have four simple ways to donate



Cash on Plate

Weekly Envelope Scheme

Please speak to Dianne Rothwell if you would like a box of envelopes

Offering
Envelopes



Bank Transfer

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 or if your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax

St Elphin's Prayer List

All those who are ill:

Daisy Easton

Carol Shaw

Doreen Ross

Beryl Delooze

Nancy Wild

Mary Currie

Barbara Eden

Ann Marie Vowles

Robert Hewitt

Ray Whitticombe

Mike and Ann Finlay

Margaret Gurney

Margaret Lomax

Graham Belton

Brenda Hill

Margaret Rimmer

Sue Poole

Lynda Hayes

Neil Walsh

Sylvia Lee

Andrew Clare

Eddie Blanchard

Bob Birbeck



Those who are bereaved of:

Ronald Eric Bradbury

Elizabeth Green

Robert James Corgill

Darren Greenwood

We also pray for anyone suffering from Covid-19 or those who have died as a result of the virus and anyone in hospital at this time.

Donations:

General Fund

In memory of Irene Magrath from Barbara Barrett	20.00
In memory of Irene Magrath from Wendy Bailey	10.00
In memory of Geoff Dunn from Janet and Alan	25.00
Birthday memories of John Rothwell, 24 th March from Dianne	10.00

Christian Burial & Cremation in February

- 9th Ronald Bradbury
15th Elizabeth Green
18th Robert James Corgill



*Rest Eternal grant unto them O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon them.*



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Regards from a very happy patient"

H. Endress

**General
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Council**



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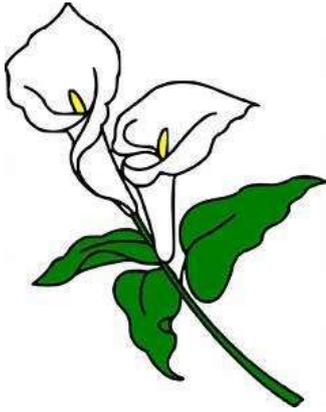
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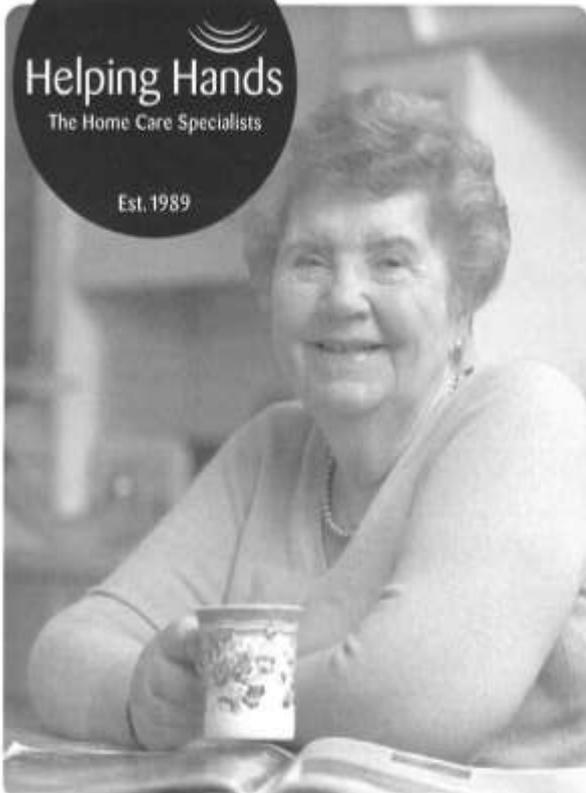
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visit: **www.helpinghands.co.uk**

Group times have changed:

During the current lockdown meetings are taking place virtually via Zoom – please contact Mike for more information



slimmingworld.co.uk
0344 897 8000



For more information please contact Mike on
Tel 07867 531764

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Longford Street, Warrington	01925 411626
Lymm	01925 758057
Stockton Heath	01925 602932

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