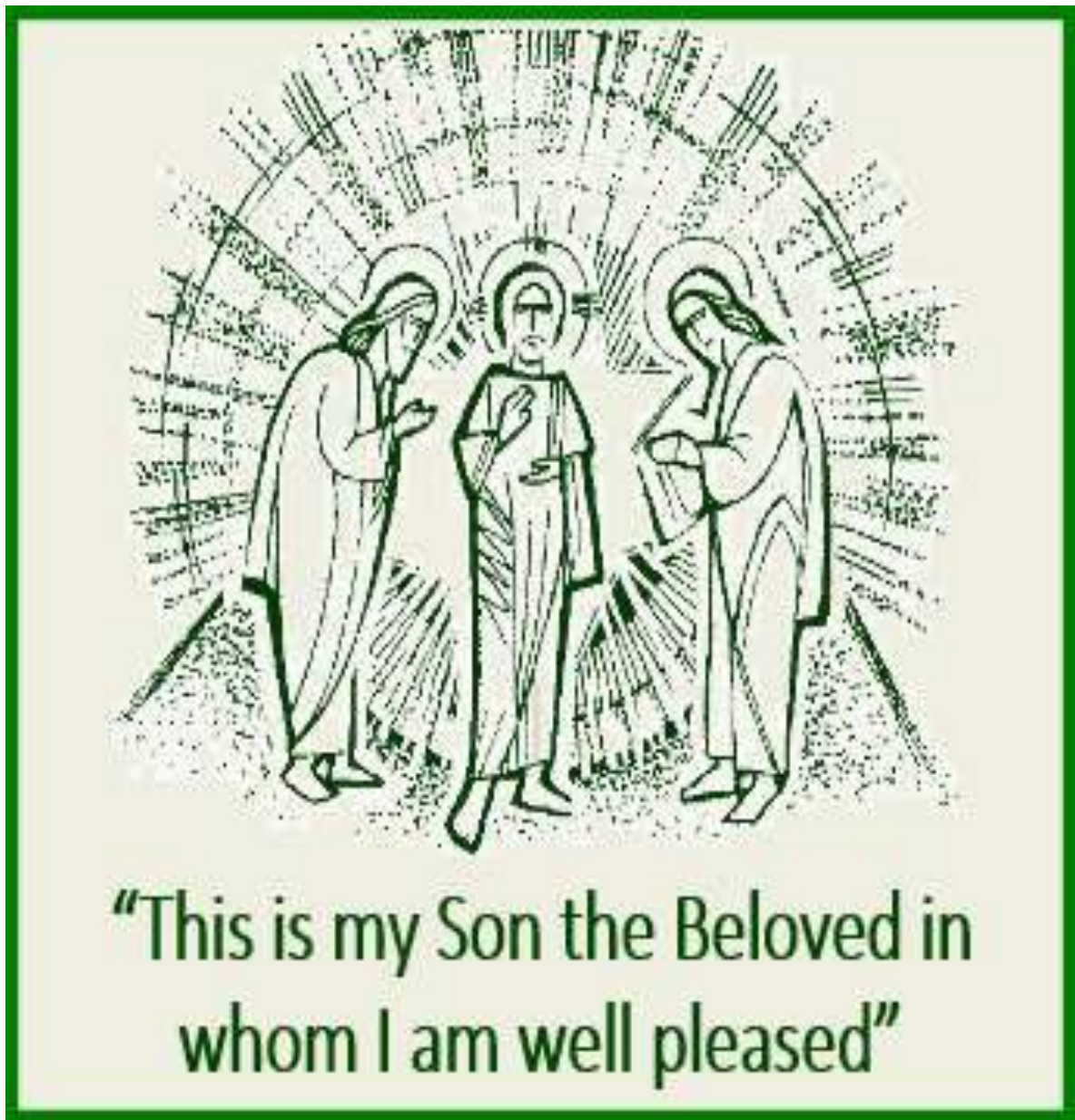


St Elphin's Chronicle



August 2025



Vol 137



Price 50p



Services at St Elphins for August 2025

Sunday 3rd August	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 6th August	No service of Holy Communion today
1.00pm	Funeral Service for Barbara Holden
2.30pm	Mary Sumner Day Service for Mothers' Union
Sunday 10th August	
8.30am	Morning Prayer
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 13th August	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th August	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
12.30pm	Baptisms
Wednesday 20th August	No service of Holy Communion today
Sunday 24th August	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 27th August	No service of Holy Communion today
Sunday 31st August	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion

**Please note: on Wednesdays when there is no service of Holy Communion at St Elphins services are available at:
St Barnabas, Lovely Lane at 10.00am and Christ Church, Padgate at 10.30am**

The Parish Staff

Rector:

Contact Details:

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st.elphinwarrington@gmail.com

Churchwarden: Janet Cliffe 07778 899492

Assistant Kathryn Hayes 01925-656790

Churchwardens: Ken Jeffery
Dianne Rothwell stelphin246@btinternet.com

Websites:

St Elphin's: <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/15292>

Diocesan Website: <http://www.liverpoolcofe.org>

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



WarringtonParishChurch (Instagram)



www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15292 (internet)



warringtonparishchurch (Facebook)

If you would like to receive an electronic version of the parish magazine please email: stelphin246@btinternet.com and we will add you to our mailing list.

Alternatively, you can download the magazine from our website at <http://www.achurchnearyou.com/15292>

If you would like to support the work of St Elphin's contactless payments can be made by using this QR code:



What a send-off! Thank you!

Thank you one and all for the amazing farewell on Sunday 6th July. Your love, kindness, thoughtful gifts, and warm wishes will stay in my heart forever, as will the memory of Charmaine's fabulous cake featuring a Reverend Debbie with PINK shoes!

What treasures you all are... What jewels in the crown of God's Kingdom here on earth...

I continue to pray for you as you work through this time of vacancy and look forward to the arrival of Reverend Anne Dowdeswell. It has been an honour to be with you and to be part of the St Elphin's family over the past four years. As I settle into pastures new, I hope to continue to honour Canon June and her teaching and ministry. She was a very special friend and I miss her.

I think that in my last couple of weeks at St Elphin's I experienced just about everything your splendid church does so well: Walking Day, the Civic Service, two funerals, a wedding, school joining us for one of our Wednesday Holy Communion services, and baptisms too!

I hope the tradition of the priest inviting the schoolchildren to ask questions after the service continues. It's been fascinating (and sometimes terrifying) to open the floor to their curious minds, and they've asked some super questions and kept us all on our toes!

I smile when I think of St Elphin's and each one of you. Thank you for being the best training church anyone could wish for.

With love, hugs and blessings,

Reverend Debbie

Vicar of the Benefice of Bagnall with Endon and Horton



Janet's Farewell Speech to Revd Debbie

When I was trying to get inspiration for this special day I was trying to think of one good thing about Debbie, then I realised that there were many good things that I could say and we would be here until Christmas!!!!

When I first met Debbie, June introduced us, I thought what a nice pleasant quiet shy person she was! I very quickly realised that she was neither quiet nor shy.

We have come a long way on our journey as I was also new and had only just begun as churchwarden. We got on from the very first day and work so well together.

We have had our ups and downs over the last 4 years, we have laughed and cried together. Reverend Debbie has had her curacy training cut short due to unforeseen circumstances however she never complained she just stepped up and kept the church going of which we are all eternally grateful. I will just touch on some of the hard times we had.

The funeral of Brianna Ghey the young girl that was murdered in Culcheth was held in this church Debbie presided over it and was a constant help to Brianna's family during their time of grief

The funeral of Lucy the young lady who died in America was also held here and again Debbie was a great comfort to the family.

As I said Debbie stepped up to the plate during June's illness. The first time she was hospitalised she was still of help to Debbie and when she recovered enough to come back to the church on a part time basis Debbie made sure she did not overdo it.

Sadly June was admitted to hospital again in April of last year. Debbie soon realised how poorly June was and visited her regularly. When June was moved into St Rocco's Debbie took her communion, I must tell you this short story Debbie was administering the communion June was very poorly and when it came to the part where we say together the Lord's Prayer Debbie had a mental block and said to June I cannot

remember the Lord's Prayer. I am sure that June would have given her a smile even though it would be a weak one. Sadly June died in July last year and Debbie was again remarkable as she had her own grief to deal with as well as mine and everyone here. It was one of the darkest times we have ever had in this church. Again Debbie was a great support to June's daughter Bethany.

We have also had funerals of members of our congregation and one of our previous rector Revd Canon Mike Finlay and I cannot end this part without a mention of our Reader Emeritus Ray Whitticombe who sadly died in December. All these funerals did have an emotional effect on Debbie but she handled everything with great professionalism.

I do not think there is anyone in this place whom you have not helped in one way or another in their time of need.

The introduction of healing during both Sunday services has proved very successful. I am hoping we can carry this on.

Revd Debbie was also very popular with the teachers and pupils of our school arranging for them to come in to church to join us for our Wednesday morning Eucharist. I must say I am in awe of you Debbie as at the end of the service you invite questions and you always answer them no matter how difficult they may be. I often thought after particular difficult questions how on earth is she going to answer that one and amazingly you always did so well done on that.

As I said at the beginning Debbie was not known as shy and quiet and I have picked out a few instances where this has been proven. We were at a deanery synod meeting and were discussing how we could utilise space in our churches. A voice next to me (Debbie) said we could grow mushrooms in the cellar at St Elphins !!!! The room went quiet I did not know where to look. I am serious she said, we did get quite a few funny looks!

Another time, more recently there was a service at Church of Ascension on Ascension day which some of us attended one of the hymns was Freely, freely give and the chorus starts with the words Freely, freely. Now when you come to the chorus it is customary to

sway - so far so good - well Debbie was on one side of me and Dianne on the other and both decided to sway which would have been fine if they had both gone the same way so you can imagine me stuck in the middle getting squashed. Again we got a few strange looks!

As I said at the beginning I could go on and on but I think I have said enough there will be plenty of time after the service to chat to Debbie there is also a buffet so please stay and help us to send Debbie on her way in true St Elphins fashion.

Before I finish I would like to get a bit personal as I have learned so much from Debbie and of course June. Never in a million years did I think I would be able to get the contactless giving machine up and running and know what to do if it stops working as it does from time to time and it was both of you who gave me the confidence and helped me to believe in myself and that there is nothing I cannot do if I put my mind to it so thank you from the bottom of my heart

The Benefice of Bagnall with Endon and Horton's gain is our loss as they are getting a very experienced priest, they do not yet know what they are letting themselves in for!!

We do wish you well Debbie I know you will smash it. You will be missed. I will miss you as I feel that we are not only work colleagues but friends also.

We had a whip round for you and I would like you to accept these gifts as a reminder of your time at St Elphins and do please stay in touch.

May God bless you and guide you as you continue in your ministry

Advance Notice

Unfortunately there will not be a service of Holy Communion on the following Wednesdays:

6th, 20th and 27th August but there is a service on the 13th.

However there are services at St Barnabas at 10.00am and at Christ Church Padgate at 10.30am.

Also on Sunday 10th August the 8.30am service will be Morning Prayer but 10.30 will be Holy Communion.

Ryfields & St John's Court Communion Service

The next service of Holy Communion at Ryfields will be on Thursday 7th August 2025.

The next service of Holy Communion at St John's Court will be on Tuesday 12th August at 11.30am.

Please note that there will not be any services in September.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me (07778 899492)

Janet Cliffe



St Elphin's Ladies Group



The Ladies Group is not meeting in August but are all invited to join the Mothers' Union Lady Day Service and buffet in Church on Wednesday 6th August at **2.30pm** (please note change of time due to a funeral at 1.00pm).



Big Clean

Thank you to everyone who helped with our recent Big Clean day.

Our next dates are: 2nd August, 30th August and 27th September

Pause for Thought with Norma Fox

Am I my brother's keeper? (Genesis 4 : 9)

A marine biologist was swimming near the Cook Islands in the South Pacific when a 50,000 pound humpback whale suddenly appeared and tucked her under its fin. The woman thought her life was over. But after swimming slowly in circles, the whale let her go. It's then that the biologist saw a tiger shark leaving the area. The woman believes the whale had been protecting her – keeping her from danger.

In a world of danger, we're called to watch out for others. But you might ask yourself, 'should I really be expected to be responsible for someone else?' Or in Cain's words; '*Am I my brother's keeper?*' The rest of the Old Testament resounds with the thunderous response: Yes! Just as Adam was to care for the garden, so Cain was to care for Abel. Israel was to keep watch over the vulnerable and care for the needy. Yet they did the opposite – exploiting the people, oppressing the poor, and abdicating the calling to love their neighbours as themselves (Isaiah 3 : 14-15).

Yet in the Cain and Abel story, God continued to watch over Cain, even after he was sent away (Genesis 4 : 15-16). God did for Cain what Cain should have done for Abel. It's a beautiful foreshadowing of what God in Jesus would come to do for us. Jesus keeps us in His care, and empowers us to go and do likewise for others.

Brother, Sister, let me serve you
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
Fellow travellers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

Hymn by Richard Gillard

Stitching hope into the fabric of lives in the Solomon Islands

Donated sewing machines and materials from the Diocese of Exeter have enabled sewing groups to be set up across the Solomon Islands, where women and girls not only learn valuable sewing skills, but also find safe, empowering spaces.

The gifts are actively transforming lives; five sewing workshops are now set up across the islands. The workshops are more than just a place to learn the skill of sewing – they are safe spaces for women and young girls to come together to learn how to make clothes for their families and communities. Once they have been equipped to sew, many women begin to earn an income by selling their creations, helping support their households and build brighter futures.

Earlier this year, Katie Drew, diocesan member and Executive Director, Melanesian Mission, had the privilege of visiting the Solomon Islands and spending time with some truly inspiring Mothers' Union members.

25 Jun 2025

One of the most memorable moments of Katie's trip was witnessing the tangible impact of the sewing machines and materials generously donated by members of the Diocese of Exeter.

The gifts are actively transforming lives; five sewing workshops are now set up across the islands. The workshops are more than just a place to learn the skill of sewing – they are safe spaces for women and young girls to come together to learn how to make clothes for their families and communities. Once they have been equipped to sew, many women begin to earn an income by selling their creations, helping support their households and build brighter future

The sewing machines have become tools of transformation, offering dignity, independence and hope. Another shipment of sewing machines will be sent to the Solomon Islands this summer, providing the opportunity for more women and girls to acquire a new skill to bring about positive change in their lives.

Loving Lord, we give you thanks for the vision of our founder as we celebrate her special day this month. Prayer is the foundation of Mothers' Union and we pray for confidence and faithfulness to build on Mary Sumner's legacy and all that has been achieved so far. As we support one another through prayer, may we touch many lives for God through our prayers, our words and our actions. Amen

Branch meetings 2025

Unless otherwise stated meetings take place in church at 2.00pm

Wed August 6 th	Mary Sumner Day Service in St Elphin's at 2.30pm followed by light buffet. All members of the church are welcome to join us.
Wed Sept 24 th	Celebrating Grandparents
Wed Oct 22 nd	Topic to be advised
November	Possible meal out date to be advised
Wed Dec 10 th	Christmas meeting

Tea / Coffee

- 3rd August - Wendy
- 10th August - Wendy
- 17th August - Volunteers required
- 24th August - Wendy
- 31st August - Volunteers required

Please sign up on the list in the kitchen if you are able to help.

*** YOUTH COLLECTIVE ***

Games, snacks and your space to talk about faith

MONDAY 6.30-7.30PM
YOUTH COLLECTIVE
Warrington Youth Zone
Dallam Lane
Warrington
WA2 7NG

WEDNESDAY 3.15-4.15PM
YOUTH COLLECTIVE
Fearnhead Community Centre
Insall Road
Warrington
WA2 0HD

FRIDAY 7-8.30PM
CC YOUTH
Christ Church Padgate
Station Road South
Warrington
WA2 0QJ

Book Review from Mara

The Girl from Montego Bay – The Autobiography of Britain's First Black Woman Bishop, Rose Hudson-Wilkin



It is rare that I sit down and read a book in one sitting, but I stayed up way past my bedtime to read this, as I truly could not put it down. Bishop Rose is a trailblazer, but wishes that accomplishments like hers would become the norm in her lifetime.

Rose is open about her challenging childhood in Jamaica, and walks through her call to train as an evangelist at the Church Army College in London, where she met her future husband, Ken.

She has been at the heart of change for over four decades, and been guided by the Spirit and her tenaciousness to not go where the path leads, but to go where there is no path and leave a trail. From ministry in Hackney, of working in Parliament, being appointed MBE in 2020, to having a role at the Coronation of King Charles in 2023, you might imagine it has been plain sailing, but this is far from the case. Rose faced (and continues to face) discrimination due to her gender and minority-ethnic background, yet her humour, grace and energy shine through in her stories. It is very much as if you were sitting talking to Bishop Rose as you journey through her book, and she is excellent company!

Dedicate a Hymn Book

You will be aware that a lot of our hymn books are dedicated in memory of a loved one but we still have several books that have no dedication in them.

If anyone would like to dedicate a book in someone's memory please speak to Janet.



St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the July draw are as follows:

1 st	Margaret Sefton	2 nd	Margaret Madden
3 rd	Gaynor Hankey	4 th	Gill Whitticombe

£105.00 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 24th August and payments must be made by Sunday 17th to be 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'.

The more people who are in the 50/50 the more money we collect for church funds and the better the prizes for the winners.

If you are not already a member, would you consider joining?

For more information, then please speak to Janet Cliffe.

Our next Jigsaw Festival is Thurs 18th to Sat 20th September and we are asking for volunteers to help, either with setting up on Wed 17th and Thurs 18th or during the festival itself.

As Warrington Running Festival takes place on Sunday 21st the Jigsaw Festival will be Thursday to Saturday

We are also collecting sweets and chocolates for the Treat Tombola and if anyone can make cakes for the Cake Stall there will be a separate sign-up sheet.

Sign-up sheets are at the back of church.



Warrington Deanery Daily Prayer

Loving God, we worship and praise you for your saving grace.

As the Deanery looks to the future, we ask that you renew your
Church here in Warrington.

We commit to playing our part as your faithful disciples in loving or
town and praying for the growth of your Kingdom.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Support Services Manager, Steve Glen, is now in post and the vacancies for Finance Officer and two part-time Administrators should be filled by the end of August. The office is based at St Barnabas Church. The Churchwardens have been working with Dave Hurst on building compliance and we are aiming for full compliance by the end of the year.

The Parish Safeguarding Officers are meeting regularly and completing all levels of their online training.

The Treasurers have been working hard to write a finance policy for the larger single parish, which is now with the Navigation Team to review by the September Shadow PCC meeting.

The Shadow PCC met for the second time last week with Dave Hurst and Kate Kennedy in attendance to talk about building compliance and safeguarding respectively.

Mara Livingstone-McPhail, FfM Project Administrator and Warrington Deanery Secretary



What Interests You ?

If you have time on your hands or want to get out more then Warrington U3A enables you to develop your interests, make new friends and above all have fun.

Warrington U3A has over 1000 members and has over 40 interest groups all organised by its own members.

You can join as many groups as you wish and joining in is made so much easier when you are surrounded by other members with similar interests.

Also, once a month, we invite all members to a general meeting where you can get together with friends, chat and listen to some really interesting speakers.

Warrington U3A welcomes you, whoever you are, whatever your background and whatever your circumstances.



A whole world of new experiences is awaiting you, so what's stopping you joining our groups ?

Art, Awaydays, Badminton, Latin Birdwatching, Bowling, Theatre Appreciation, German, American Square Dancing, Italian, History Guitar, Ukulele, Knit and Natter Line Dancing, Mah Jong, French Lace Making, Bridge, Badminton Literature, Guitar, Rummikub Philosophy, Scrabble, Book Club Natural History, Walking, Science Family History, Tai Chi, Spanish Film Club, Folk and Acoustic Table Tennis, Sea Shanties Photography, Patchwork Quilting and Singing for Pleasure

We are Warrington U3A

Contact : Andrew Young

Email me at :
wu3anewreg@outlook.com

Telephone : 07817 377238

Our web site is :
u3asites.org.uk/warrington/



Founded in 1981, we are part of the National U3A movement which has over 1000 branches and 400,000 members.

Advance Notice

S a t u r d a y
13 · 9 · 25

The Anglo-Saxon Story:

UNCOVERING THE LEGENDS, NORMAN RULE
AND LEGACY OF ST ELPHIN'S CHURCH.

10AM
to
2PM

Heritage Open Days event
at St Elphin's Church.



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Transfiguration of our Lord, Wednesday 6th August

About eight days after Jesus said this he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure,^[a] which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, 'Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' (He did not know what he was saying.) While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.' When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

Luke 9:28-36



Church Finances for 2025

For the last few years, I have been providing details monthly of the income and expenditure on the general account only. This account pays most of the church expenses including gas, electricity, insurance and clergy housing and other expenses. Therefore, this report for 2024 and 2025, now includes income and expenditure on all accounts **including fabric fund, and investments.**

Month	Income		Expenditure	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
January	23,488	9,283	4,960	7,001
February	5,621	45,237	7,453	6,257
March	6,665	37,780	11,369	10,440
April	17,601	15,080	7,060	9,072
May	8,153	8,992	14,720	8,627
June	4,679	7,939	5,930	7,310
Total	£66,211	£124,994	£51,492	£48,708

Income

January 2025 income included £15,000 from the estate of Paul Nener. Feb 2024 included £40k in Legacies. April 2025 includes £2469 tax relief and £11649 bank interest, May 2025 includes £5,602 in bank interest.

Expenditure

Expenditure is currently running about £3k more than the same time in 2024, mainly due to the reduction in the Parish Share, and the cost of roof repairs to the clergy vestry.

Many regular donations are now either through the Parish giving scheme or through other electronic means which means less visits to the bank and less cost to the church as banking cash and cheques incur additional charges. Thank you for those who are now using these methods, If anyone would like to know more about how to donate or about the church finances please see me.

Wendy Bailey, PCC Treasurer, Tel: 07963 021172

Donations:

General Fund

In memory of Margaret Lawton	20.00
In memory of Mavis Leather from Chris Dickenson	10.00
In memory of Mavis Leather from Sylvia Wright	10.00
In memory of Mavis Leather from Dianne Rothwell	10.00

Hymn Book Dedication

In memory of Barry Shaw and Karen Shaw, with love from Carol and family	10.00
In memory of Mavis from Ron and family	10.00

St Elphin's Prayer List

All those who are ill or in need of our love and prayers:

Daisy Easton	Margaret Lomax
Carol Shaw	Brenda Hill
Doreen Robinson	Andrew Clare
Maynard Glover	Margaret Gurney
Joy & Ray Foster	Mike Hughes
Ron Leather	Fred Allen
Sam and Barbara Sheldon	Ann Finlay
Canon John Holden	Ron Hart
Dave Prescott	Terry Buxton
Roland Jackson	Don Fox
Scarlett Keegan	Stan Rowe
Emily Craddock	Joyce Bradbury
Gill Molyneaux	Victor Moran
Ron Close	David Wood

For those who are bereaved of:

Jamie Peter Cooke

Barbara Holden



Parish Registers

Holy Baptism in June and July

29th June Zara Howarth
 Aurora Barbara Joyce Howarth
 Zoe Nagy
 Hossein Barandehgashti
20th July Albert Reginald Sinclair
 Nancy Elizabeth Sinclair
 Nella Grace May Hitchen
 Leo Jamie Scott Jennings



Holy Matrimony in July

26th Peter James Dickinson and Karen Morris



Christian Burial & Cremation in June & July

6 th June	Norman Westland	Age 84
1 st July	Margaret Lawton	Age 91
4 th July	Mavis Leather	Age 83
30 th July	Jamie Peter Cooke	Age 39



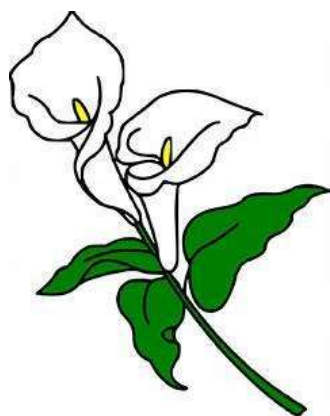


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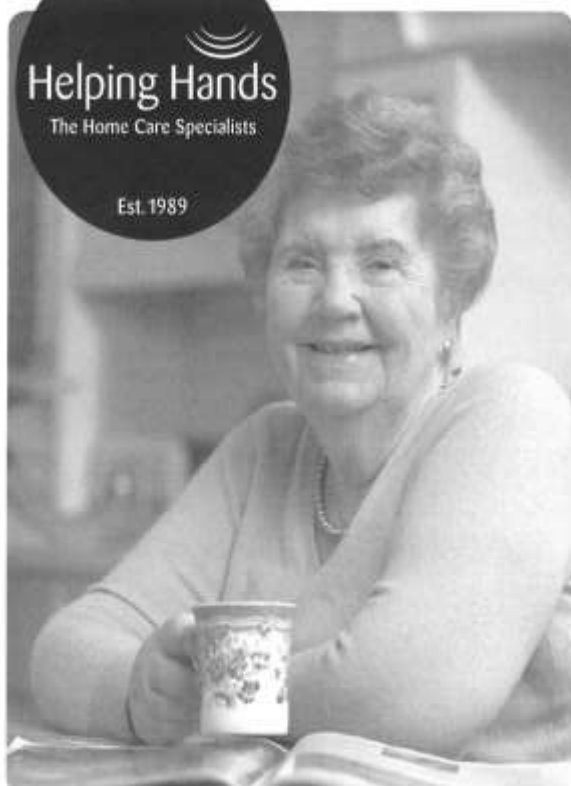
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