

St Elphin's Chronicle



The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people ...'

December 2025



Vol 137



Price 50p



Services & Events at St Elphins for December 2025

Wednesday 3rd	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 7th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 10th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 13th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 17th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 20th	
2.00pm	Blue Christmas
Sunday 21st	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 24th	
3.00pm	Christingle Service
Thursday 25th	Christmas Day
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion including Baptism
Wednesday 31st	
10.00am	Holy Communion

The Parish Staff

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Websites:

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

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

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



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



warringtonparishchurch (Facebook)

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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:



Bishop Ruth's Christmas Message 2025

Rt Revd Ruth Worsley, Interim Bishop of Liverpool

How good are you at buying Christmas presents? Sadly, I am one of those people who leaves everything until the last minute and find myself scurrying around for that extra something on Christmas Eve in case an unexpected guest just turns up complete with a lavishly wrapped gift.

I wonder if you know the Russian folktale of Babushka. It's a wintry night and Babushka hears a knock at the door. She opens it to find three travellers who are on a journey asking for a bed for the night. She invites them in, offers them food and they tell their story. They are seekers after truth and have seen something remarkable in the skies, a portent, a star, which has set them off on a journey of discovery, searching for a royal baby. They invite her to join them on the road. "Yes, I'd love to come," replies Babushka. In the morning they are keen to be getting on but Babushka says she will follow once she has found a suitable gift for the baby born to be king. The tale ends in sadness as Babushka, having taken time to get the house in order and find a suitable toy, struggles to find her way on the road and never catches up with the wise men or discovers the baby Jesus.

Isn't it sad that somehow the searching for a suitable gift took her attention rather than going to find Jesus for herself. At Christmas, we can often neglect the greatest gift of Christmas: the fact that God so loved the world that he decided he would come and be a part of it with us, sending his only Son to be born a baby in a manger.

I want to encourage you this Christmas to recognise something of that incredible gift of God's love. What an amazing thing to do: to come and give himself to us. That's the message of Christmas: remembering how God has shared his heart with us, and all he looks for from us is our response of giving ourselves to him.

May I wish you a very happy Christmas. May you discover the joy and grace and love of the celebration and experience that gift for yourself.

+Ruth

Rector's rambling

Thank you all so much for your welcome – from my licensing service to the cards and conversations I have experienced a wonderfully warm welcome from everyone. Thank you all, so very much. It's not quite a film script yet, but so far we've ticked off 3 baptisms and a wedding. Also one PCC meeting, one Deanery Synod and quite a lot of toast! And after a month of meeting lots of new faces and not quite learning lots of new names I'm looking forward to Advent and all of the Christmas preparations.

Advent and Christmas

We start this weekend on Saturday with the Christmas Fair at St Elphin's and on Sunday we will be lighting the first of our Advent candles. This gives us a little picture of the slight disconnect that seems to be built into December for church-goers. Because alongside the busyness and expense and cinnamon scented candles in the shape of a bulldog in a Santa hat, we are also trying to enter into the expectation and preparation of the Advent season. A quieter, more thoughtful time altogether. *Times and Seasons* gives an introduction to the season: "Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time... The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22)."

'Alert watchfulness' may not be easy to maintain whilst struggling through Primark in search of the exact pair of slippers in the exact colour and size required – 'frazzled weariness' might be nearer the mark. So I hope that as a church we are able to offer a little peace to help us to step aside and prepare to welcome our Lord. The Church of England has range of on-line support for our Advent preparations, including:

- **Reflections via email:** Our daily emails including Bible readings, short reflections and a practical challenge, as well as prayers linked to weekly themes. Sign up at churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/sign-joy-christmas.
- **Daily reflections via Everyday Faith app:** You can read and listen to daily Advent and Christmas reflections from 1 December through the Everyday Faith app, the daily devotional app from the Church of England
- **Women of the Nativity:** A collection of nine imagined stories told from the perspective of women, written by Paula Gooder, recreating the events of the Nativity. churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/women-nativity.

If you would prefer to hold an actual book, or if stepping aside from your phone and social media is part of your Advent preparation, *O Come Emmanuel, Reflections on the Advent Antiphons* includes reflections from David Hoyle, Esther Prior and Philip North and *Twelve Joys of Christmas; Meditations for Christmas and the New Year* by Nicholas Papadopoulos explores twelve classic hallmarks of the festive season - from Christmas jumpers to the Pantomime - in search of a deeper truth about the good news of God's love.

Listening in

It's been really lovely to talk to so many of you about your experiences at St Elphin's and your hopes for the future. If you have views about things that we do currently, that you think that we could do in the future, that we should start doing again – or that we should stop doing(!) – please let me know. Catch me after a service (not before, please), text me or email or drop me a note – I'd be really pleased to hear from you.

With thanks for all your prayers and support and with every blessing for the coming month,

Anne

Ryfields & St John's Court Communion Service

The next service of Holy Communion at Ryfields will be on Thursday 4th December at 10.00am.

The next service at St Johns Court will be on Tuesday 9th December at 11.30am.

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

Janet Cliffe



St Elphin's Ladies Group



We're restarting the Ladies Group in January with a meal out on Monday 12th January at The Harvester, Westbrook. Names to Margaret or Gill as soon as possible please so we can reserve our booking.



Big Clean

Our last Big Clean for the year will be on Saturday 6th December. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to help us clean church in readiness for Christmas.

And also join us afterwards for some festive nibbles.





Christmas at St Elphin's

Monday 1st December at 7.30pm

A Candlelight Service to remember our children with love.
A service for all bereaved parents and friends.

Wednesday 10th December at 7.00pm

St Rocco's Light up a Life Service

Blue Christmas

Saturday 20th December at 2.00pm

A Service of Hope, acknowledging that Christmas can be a difficult time for many of us

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December

3.00pm Christingle Service

Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th December

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 31st December

10.00am Holy Communion

We look forward to seeing you at any of our services

Big Give this Christmas

Across Uganda, 47% of the rural population live in poverty. Too often, parents are forced to choose between food for today or school fees for tomorrow. With your help, we can break this cycle together through savings groups. Not only do they teach practical skills but they also help people believe in their God-given potential. That is why this project matters so much. It will reach 1,200 new participants, primarily women, across four dioceses, establishing 60 self-managed savings groups. Each will become a place of learning, resilience and encouragement where families can build livelihoods, face challenges together and discover hope for the future.

You can help more families in Uganda put food on the table, send children to school, and build a future filled with hope, not fear. And there's never been a better time to give. Between 2 and 9 December, every £1 you donate online will be doubled through the Big Give. That means your generosity could help twice as many women start businesses, twice as many children stay in school, and twice as many families take their first steps out of poverty.

To Donate www.mothersunion.org/appeal/christmas25

Gracious God, we gladly accept and give thanks for your invitation to venture with you through this season of Advent. As we wait in anticipation the promises foretold by the prophets 'behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,' may we be ready at his birth to recognise the gift of your Son and be prepared to love and serve him. Amen

Branch meetings 2025

Unless otherwise stated meetings take place in church at 2.00pm

Wed Dec 10th St Elphin's Church 2.00pm – Christmas meeting

Tea / Coffee in December

7 th	Chris & Barbara
14 th	Wendy
21 st	Jess & Zephyr
28 th	Wendy

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



St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the November draw are as follows:

1 st	Charmaine Garner	2 nd	Thelma Walsh
3 rd	Gill Whitticombe	4 th	Barbara Sheldon

£102.50 went to church funds

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

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
July	13,081	8,386	7,623	7,106
August	2,966	4,846	6,735	6,663
September	5,528	6,917	4,950	5,668
October	11,232	9,713	8,964	6,252
Total	£99,184	£154,857	£79,765	£74,397

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, July includes £10,194 in bank interest, October income includes £4,016 in bank /investment income

Expenditure

Expenditure is currently running about £3.4k 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



Christmas Appeal 2025

Mary's Meals is a global charity that serves life-changing school meals to some of the world's poorest children.

There are 71 million primary school-age children out of school around the world; they have to work or beg to survive. And when they do make it into the classroom, hunger affects their ability to learn.

It costs just £19.15 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a school year!

Collecting boxes are available at the back of church - to be returned by Christmas Day please

Donations:

General Fund

Christmas greetings to all my friends at the Wednesday 10.00am service from Avril 20.00

Christmas memories of William, Elsie and Arnold Wright from Sylvia 100.00

Christmas and Birthday memories of George Richard Barrett from Wendy and Paul Bailey 30.00

Birthday and Christmas memories of George Richard Barrett from Barbara 30.75

Treasured Christmas memories of Lionel Fryar from Irene 50.00

In memory of Helen Fryar and Allan Wilde at Christmas from Irene 50.00

Christmas memories of Jean and Jack Rothwell, Marjorie and Arthur Cresswell, Ivy and Roy Jones (USA) from Dianne 50.00

Hymn Book Dedication

In memory of Brian Fitzgerald from Irene 100.00

St Elphin's Prayer List



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

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

For those who are bereaved of:

Ada Burgess

Parish Registers

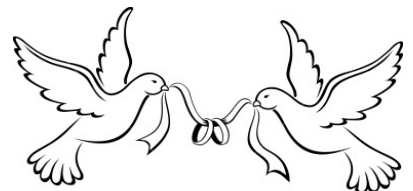
Holy Baptism in November

16th Georgie John Lee Owen Theodore Edward Jones
 Aniyah Ja'zay Oosthuizen



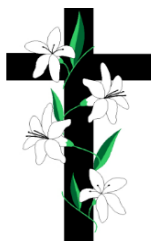
Holy Matrimony in November

20th Ryan David Paul Shreeve and
 Charlotte Olivia Davies



Christian Burial & Cremation in November

20th Jeffery Isaac Age 79





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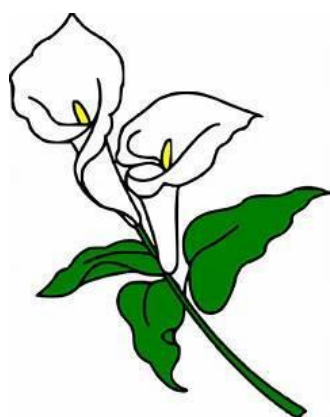


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HT Coffee Bar

Monday & Wednesday 10.00am – Noon Friday 10.00am – 1.00pm