

St Elphin's Chronicle



January 2026



Vol 138



Price 50p



Services & Events at St Elphins for January 2026

Sunday 4th	Epiphany
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 7th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Thursday 8th	
10.30am	Funeral of Paul Edward Lynskey
Sunday 11th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Monday 12th	
12.40pm	Funeral of Joan Penketh
Wednesday 14th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 21st	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 28th	
10.00am	Holy Communion

The Parish Staff

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Assistant	Kathryn Hayes	01925-656790
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Wbsites:

<u>St Elphin's:</u>	http://www.achurchnearyou.com/15292
<u>Diocesan Website:</u>	http://www.liverpoolcofe.org
<u>Cathedral Website:</u>	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>

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A Rector Rambles...

Prayers for Peace

Hello, and Happy New Year. Thank you so much for all the good wishes and cards, I'm really grateful. I hope that you had a peaceful Christmas and are planning to start the new year (or have started, depending on when you have found time to read this magazine) in safety and peace.

Many of us are fortunate enough that we can assume being safe and peaceful, maybe even take that for granted, but there are lots of people – here and across the world - who yearn for peace and for themselves and their families to be safe. The news over recent weeks has reminded us how precious and how fragile is the gift that the angels described, brought by the prince of peace. 2026 seems likely to be a year when praying for peace is going to be a priority for us all.

This prayer from the Church of England may be useful:

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; 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 for ever. Amen.

Or you may find the traditional language of the Collect for Peace from the Book of Common Prayer more familiar:

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Several groups that actively work for peace and reconciliation have good online resources and communities. The Corrymeela Community emerged in response to the troubles in Northern Ireland and offers a podcast, online lectures and other resources (<https://www.corrymeela.org/>) and Coventry Cathedral has a world famous ministry of reconciliation dating from the Cathedral community's response to the destruction of the old Cathedral during the Coventry blitz of the Second World War. For more information, check out their website at <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk>.

Praying for peace matters, and working for peace matters too. Whether we are called to write or campaign or send financial support to international organisations working for reconciliation, or to look more locally at opportunities to increase dialogue and good relationships between and within communities, or taking time to reflect on our own responses to events – do I always act like someone who prays for peace for every one of God's children? – there is something for each of us to do.

Listening

2026 will undoubtedly see a great deal of change in the Anglican churches of Warrington as we become a single parish and work out together what that might mean for the way we work for God's kingdom here. I am continuing to try to listen to members of our congregations at St Elphin's alongside visitors, members of the local community and organisations that have an interest in our work, our building and our faith. It's been so interesting over Christmas to talk to people who only come to St Elphin's once a year – for the Christingle service, for example, or the Scouting carol service – but for whom that one service is a core part of their year, built into their family traditions. We stuck to the established pattern of services over Advent and Christmas (established since Covid, at least) and I wondered how that pattern met the needs of our parish?

So my listening this month will be a little more focussed. Please let me know – by text or email, postcard or conversation, whatever is easiest for you – about anything that you'd like to about the way that we are

as a church community, but especially about our pattern of services. We cannot commit to do everything that is suggested, but it would be so helpful to know what you think about these questions. We would like to hear both from regular attenders and from people who are not at church so often.

- *Do you regularly attend services at St Elphin's – at least once a month, more or less?*
- *What do you see as positive and good about the current pattern of services and the content of our services?*
- *What would you like to change about the current pattern and content of our services?*
- *Would you find it easier to come to services on weekdays or evenings?*

Thank you for taking the time to help with this.

With every blessing for a peaceful New Year

Anne

07864938898

anne.dowdeswell@parishofwarrington.org

Ryfields Communion Service

With immediate effect there will not be any further services at St Johns Court however services will continue to be held at Ryfields normally on the 1st Thursday of each month.

The next service however will be at Ryfields on Thursday 8th January at 10.00am due to the 1st being New Year's Day.

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.



A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way over the Christmas period:

Cleaning and decorating church, stewarding, reading, serving, making Christingles and helping out at our Christingle service on Christmas Eve.



Big Clean

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

Our next big clean will be on Saturday 24th January and future dates are: 21st February and 28th March.

If you can spare an hour or two we'd love to see you.



St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the December draw are as follows:

1st Charmaine Garner

2nd Barbara Barrett

3rd Barbara Sheldon

4th Andrea Robinson

£102.50 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 24th January and payments must be made by Sunday 17th to be in the draw.

Away From It All: 60 years of changing lives, one break at a time

Launched in 1965, the Away From It All (AFIA) holiday scheme has been at the heart of Mothers' Union's outreach in Britain and Ireland for 60 years. What started as a simple, compassionate idea has grown into one of the most enduring and impactful projects in our movement's history.

For six decades, AFIA has responded to families facing financial hardship, trauma, illness, domestic abuse, and overwhelming stress. Tens of thousands of families have been supported, with Mothers' Union groups involved in fundraising, planning and delivering the holidays.

Here are just a few heartwarming stories from across our regions in 2025:

In **Glasgow and Galway**, 10 mums and 15 children were gifted a holiday at the Field Study Centre on Isla of Cumbrae in July, made possible by our dedicated MU members and volunteers. The three days away provided great company and lots of laughs, with new friendships formed and memories created. One mum shared "thank you very much from all my heart. You are angels! Also, thanks to God that I'm 100% human! Just wanted to share the impact a couple of days can have." These powerful words a reminder of the impact that even a short break can have on families navigating difficult seasons.

In the **Diocese of Bristol**, MU members took 136 adults and 128 children on an unforgettable day out to Weston-Super-Mare. With four coaches full of excited families, the trip was all about fun, friendship, and making cherished memories. From paddling in the sea to enjoying ice cream in the sun, the day offered families a rare chance to relax and reconnect.

In **Leicester**, 10 families were able to enjoy a much-needed holiday at Haven Mablethorpe. The trip gave parents and children time to unwind, recharge, and create precious memories away from the

pressures of daily life. For many of the families attending, it was their first real break in years, providing a time of healing, laughter and restoration. A wonderful way to start the summer holidays.

And it's not just days out and holidays that AFIA can provide. In **North Devon**, the scheme provided funding for a Christian summer camp for children and young people.

None of this would be achievable without the generosity, prayers and tireless work of Mothers' Union members and supporters. The AFIA scheme is a testament to what we can do when we come together to uplift families in need. The dedication over 60 years has made joy possible for generations of families.

In today's world, the need for AFIA is still as urgent as ever, with families caught in the pressures of rising living costs, domestic instability, caring responsibilities and isolation and poverty. A break away from it all isn't a luxury; for some people, it's a lifeline. In a time when rest is often inaccessible to people in vulnerable situations, AFIA reminds people that they are seen, valued and loved.

Lord, like the Magi who travelled from the East, may we always seek to worship you, no matter the distance, you are forever in our hearts. Let us be overjoyed in your presence.

Branch meetings 2026

No meeting in January but the ladies group are having a meal out on Monday 12th January. If you would like to attend, please speak to Margaret Sefton or Gill Whitticombe

Tea / Coffee in January

4th Wendy

11th Volunteers required

18th Jess & Zephyr

25th Wendy

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

Christmas Fayre and Grand Raffle

Many thanks to everyone who helped out with our Christmas Fayre and Grand Raffle in November. On the day we raised £1854 but since then we have sold more goods and the final total now is £1982.10.

Raffle Prize Winners:

1	£100 cash	Jennifer Hunter
2	£50 cash	Jenny Radley
3	£25 cash	Janet Cliffe
4	Christmas Hamper	John Hankey
5	Chocolate Hamper	Gill Whitticombe
6	Pamper Hamper	Jackie
7	Bells Whisky and Glasses	Gill Whitticombe
8	Gin Hamper	Joyce Bradbury
9	F & M Champagne	Jenny Fellows
10	Glen Orchy Whisky	Darren Halligan
11	Tia Maria	Liz Isaac
12	Baileys	Christine
13	Prosecco & Glasses	Ann Armstrong
14	Mulled Wine & Glasses	Paul Garner
15	Sherry & Glasses	Linda Johnson
16	Red Wine & Glasses	Sam & Barbara Sheldon
17	White Wine & Glasses	Susan & Ken Jeffery
18	Beer Hamper	Margaret Sefton
19	Tea & Biscuit Hamper	Gill Molyneaux
20	Advent Calendar & Tablet	Julie Worthington
21	Rose & Glasses	Lindsay Yates
22	Red Wine & Glasses	Julie Worthington
23	Stitch Set	Andrea Robinson

Huge thanks to everyone who supported us on the day.

Our next fundraiser will be a Jigsaw Day on Saturday 18th April – more details in next month's magazine but we've got quite a few sold as seen jigsaws that need checking before then if anyone has time to spare!

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
November	6,125	7,133	5,715	9,337
Total	£105,309	£161,990	£85,479	£83,796

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 £2k 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

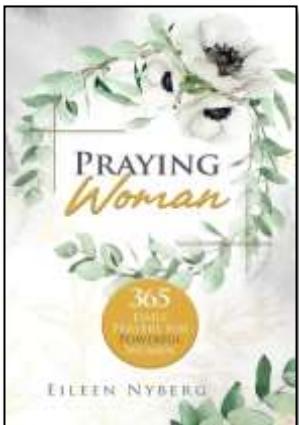
Christmas Appeal 2025

Many thanks to everyone who took part in our Christmas Appeal in aid of Mary's Meals.

So far we have raised just over £200 but if you've not returned your box yet it's not too late.

Book Review from Mara

Praying Woman - A Prayer for Every Day, a Companion for Every Season by Eileen Nyberg.



As I am still enjoying the practice of an Advent book with a focus for each day, I sought out a book to take me through 2026 and beyond, a companion guide. Short reflections with a theme for each week, to invite gratitude, reflection, courage and hope - a book to meet real spiritual needs and that fits the seasons we encounter with encouragement and provides the sanctuary of God's presence when we are feeling depleted.

The daily guide provides a theme of the day, a verse of scripture to focus on, a prayer and a question to reflect upon. We often juggle multiple roles and responsibilities, and in each of these spheres, we have the opportunity to bring the needs of our loved ones and our world before God. Through the practice of daily prayer, we cultivate our dependence on God, opening ourselves up to His perfect plan for our lives.

Donations:

General Fund

Donation in memory of Ray Whitticombe from Gill, Mara & Matthew	100.00
Fondest memories at Christmas in memory of Samuel & Ethel Sheldon, Joseph Walter & Annie Rustage from Sam & Barbara	100.00
In memory of Ada Burgess from Mary and Esther	10.00
In memory of Ada Burgess from Carol – Westvale Care Home	10.00
In memory of Ada Burgess from Kerrie & boys	5.00
In memory of Ada Burgess from Lynda & Howard Newton	20.00
Donation from Brenda Hill	50.00

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
Victor Moran	Scarlett Keegan
Terry Buxton	Dave Prescott
Gill Molyneaux	Roland Jackson
Sharon Hopkins	Stan Rowe
Emily Craddock	Joyce Bradbury

For those who are bereaved of:

Paul Edward Lyskey
Joan Penketh

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism in December

28th Finn Stephen Whitham



Christian Burial & Cremation in December

18th Ada Burgess Age 100





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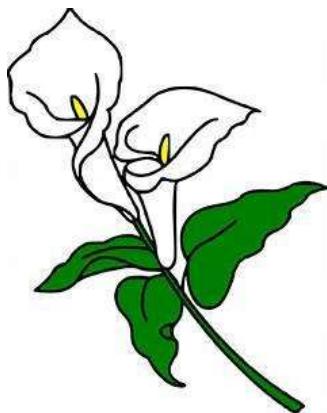


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Coffee Bar

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