

St Elphin's Chronicle



February 2026



Vol 138



Price 50p



Services & Events at St Elphins for February 2026

Sunday 1st	Candlemas
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 4th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 11th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
12.30pm	Baptisms
Wednesday 18th	Ash Wednesday
10.00am	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
6.30pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
Sunday 22nd	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 25th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Lent Bible Study

The Parish Staff

Rector:	Revd Anne Dowdeswell	07864 938898
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Churchwarden:	Janet Cliffe	07778 899492
Assistant	Kathryn Hayes	01925-656790
Churchwardens:	Ken Jeffery Dianne Rothwell	stelphin246@btinternet.com

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>

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



A Rector Rambles...

Walking Day

Believe it or not, until about 6 months ago, I had never heard of Warrington Walking Day. Then I read a job description for a church called St Elphin's (I'd never heard of him either) and there it was 'Walking Day.' As you know, every day is walking day for me, but a quick hunt online and I had a much better idea. But most of the pictures and articles were about the history of the event and I was still not really sure about the 21st century version. Since arriving in Warrington I have had conversations about the day, and learned a little about what it means as part of the heritage of the town - but I'm still a little bit unclear about the details. So I was really pleased to be invited to a meeting at the Town Hall to discuss Walking Day 2026.

As is the way of these things, I came away with more questions than answers, but a few things were very clear. Walking Day is a really important annual feature for lots of local people and churches, but attendance has dwindled over recent years, especially since lockdown. Bands are less available - and as someone said, these days, the band members can walk and they can play, but they can't walk and play. The days when local businesses would close for the day are over and working age people find it hard to attend on a Friday. Requirements in terms of road safety have drastically changed, for good reasons that will be obvious to us all. Most startling, at least to me, is that the cost of running Walking Day has fallen on the local authority. In addition to many hours of officer time, which is expensive in itself, the estimated cost to run a Walking Day on the lines of 2025, in 2026, is £70,000. This cost - including road closures, security, public safety and so on - is simply too great for the council to justify this year, when services and jobs are already being cut.

There are obvious ways to cut some of these costs - shorter walking routes, for example, and moving to a weekend, and inviting other groups to attend might help with attendance. But are there other things we should be considering?

There is another meeting scheduled next week and it would be really helpful to have as many suggestions and comments as possible by then. Please let me know what you think, so that Walking Day can evolve and continue.

Lent

Through Lent we will be joining the single parish in studying the psalms. We will meet at St Elphin's at 11.00am on Wednesdays, but if that's not a good time for you, we will be advertising the groups that are meeting at other churches in Warrington.

With every blessing

Anne

07864 938898

anne.dowdeswell@parishofwarrington.org

Ryfields Communion Service

The next service at Ryfields is on Thursday 5th February at 10.00am.

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

Janet Cliffe



Wednesday 18th February 2026

Services of Holy Communion with Imposition
of Ashes at 10.00am and 6.30pm

All Welcome



St Elphin's Ladies Group



The Ladies Group will meet in church on Thursday 19th February at 2.00pm for a Snowman Drive and Dominoes.

Please note our new meeting time.

All welcome.



Big Clean

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

Our next big clean will be on Saturday 21st February.

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

Christmas Appeal 2025 & Lent Appeal 2026

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Appeal to support Mary's Meals. We raised a total of £270 which means that they have been able to provide 2,700 meals for children.

We have decided to continue to support them for our Lent Appeal and boxes will be available from Ash Wednesday.





St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the January draw are as follows:

1st Geoffrey Billinge
3rd Alan Card

2nd Andrea Robinson
4th Paul Bailey

£102.50 went to church funds

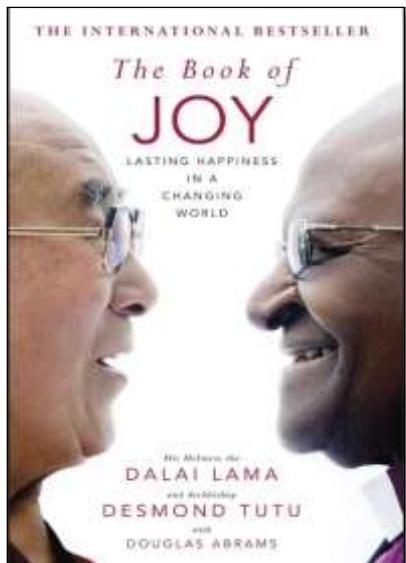
The next draw will take place on Sunday 22nd February and payments must be made by Sunday 15th to be in the draw.

For more information, then please speak to Janet Cliffe.

Book Review from Mara

The Book of Joy – lasting happiness in a changing world.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams.



I am sure that I am not the only person who is keen to find pockets of joy to counteract all the pain and suffering we see and hear daily on the news right now.

These two well-known and respected faith leaders have endured and survived years of exile and oppression, but are two of the most joyful people. In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu travelled to India to celebrate the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday, and create this book as a gift for others.

At the end of a week of sharing stories, experiences and emotional moments, they revealed how to live a life that brims with joy. They share the eight pillars of joy; perspective, humility, humour, acceptance, forgiveness, gratitude, compassion and generosity, and suggest ways in which we might express these practices of joy in our own lives.

Blessing the River Thames: A Tradition of Prayer, Hope, and Stewardship

The Blessing of the River Thames is a long-standing diocesan tradition shared by the dioceses of Southwark and London, centred on prayers of protection and thanksgiving, reflecting the river's vital role in the life of London. For centuries, the Thames has shaped the city by sustaining communities, supporting livelihoods, and connecting people. For Mothers' Union, this tradition closely reflects our commitment to prayer for families, communities and the places where everyday life is lived.

On Sunday 11 January, Mothers' Union members from the dioceses of London and Southwark gathered on London Bridge for the annual blessing of the River Thames. Joining clergy from Southwark Cathedral and St Magnus the Martyr, the ceremony was a visible and prayerful expression of Mothers' Union's presence as part of the Church of England in the heart of the city. Although the day was cloudy and cold, members were delighted to mark the occasion alongside congregations of local churches and the wider public. The service was led by The Right Reverend Jonathan Baker, Bishop of Fulham, and brought together clergy and communities from both dioceses. It was brief but rich in meaning, with prayers and scripture readings shared, linking ancient tradition with contemporary worship.

Prayers were offered for all who use the river and bridges, including the RNLI and River Police, and in remembrance of people who have lost their lives in the Thames. A wooden cross was blessed and placed into the water, a symbolic echo of the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. Carried swiftly downstream by the strong current, the cross quickly disappeared from view as people leaned over the bridge barriers to follow its path.



Loving Lord, we thank you for the endless and selfless love that you have given to us. We know that every one of your children is known to you and loved by you, no matter what. We give thanks for the example of love that we see in you. Let those who do not know your love or those who have not experienced love as a person, should feel your presence, hear your word and know your presence, now and always. Amen

Branch meetings 2026

Unless otherwise stated meetings take place in church at 2.00pm

Wed Feb 25th Meeting in church

Wed 25th March Lady Day Service

Wed 22nd April St George's Day Service

Tea / Coffee in February

1st Chris and Barbara

8th Wendy

15th Jess and Zephyr

22nd Wendy

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

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
December	4,929	7,087	6,214	28,907
Total	£110,238	£169,076	£91,693	£112,703

This is only the first draft of the income and expenditure for 2025. The accounts are not yet finalised so there may be some adjustments to the balances.

Some of the biggest income items in 2025 is £40,825 in bank and investment income, £15,000 legacy from the estate of Rev Paul Nener, £6,075 from PCC fees from Weddings and Funerals and £4,442 from fundraising activities.

Wendy Bailey, PCC Treasurer, Tel: 07963 021172

Advance Notice

CELTISH

IN CONCERT

An evening of inspirational Celtic music, stories and song.

St Mary's Church Great Sankey

Saturday 7th March 7.00pm



Tickets £5 (minimum donation) including light refreshments – tea/coffee and home-made cakes

Please contact David Tanner directly for tickets

Email: davidm.tanner@icloud.com

Mobile: 07968 584193

All proceeds go to support the work of the Leprosy Mission

Donations:

General Fund

Remembering Mum and Merle on their Birthday 23rd December from Kathryn Hayes 20.00

In Memory of Dave Sefton from Margaret 50.00

In Memory of George Richard Barrett from Barbara 30.75

Hymn Book Dedication

In memory of Lynda Hayes from The St John's Girls 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

Victor Moran

Scarlett Keegan

Terry Buxton

Dave Prescott

Gill Molyneaux

Roland Jackson

Sharon Hopkins

Stan Rowe

Emily Craddock

Joyce Bradbury

Tesiree Elghali

For those who are bereaved of:

Paul Edward Lynskey

Joan Penketh

Terry Alcock

Terry Martin

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism in January

18th Ocean Macie Whyte

Scarlett Rose Thompson

Luca James Roberts



Shine as lights in the world
To the Glory of God the Father

Christian Burial & Cremation in January

8th Paul Lynskey Age 65

12th Joan Penketh Age 92

22nd Terry Martin Age 85



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



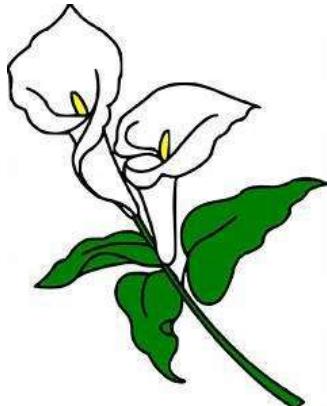
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Lymm	01925 758057
Stockton Heath	01925 602932



Coffee Bar@Holy Trinity



Coffee Bar

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www.HTWarrington.org.uk



HT Coffee Bar

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