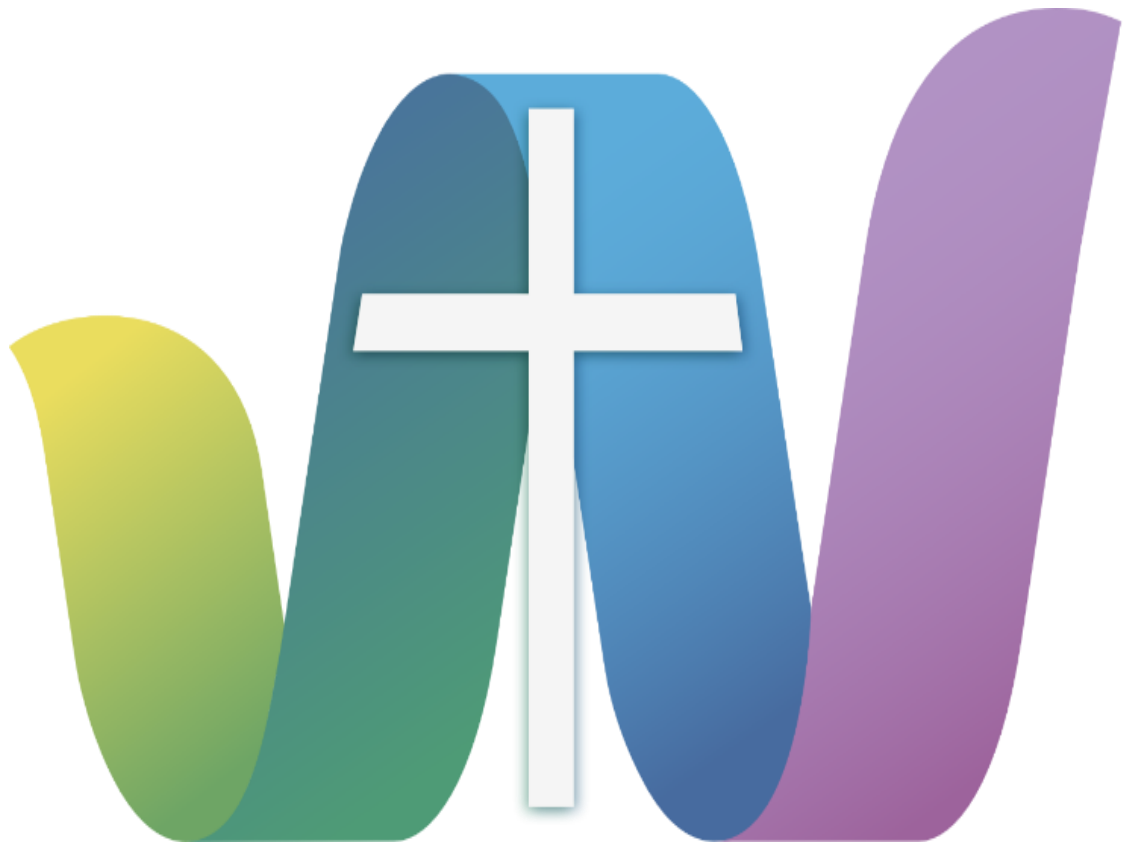


St Elphin's Chronicle



The Parish of Warrington
Renewing the Church, Loving Warrington
and Growing the Kingdom in Jesus' name

March 2026



Vol 138
Price 50p



Services & Events at St Elphins for March 2026

Sunday 1st	The Parish of Warrington, Second Sunday of Lent
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 4th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Lent Bible Study
Saturday 7th	
11.00am	<i>St Oswald's Orthodox Mission Service</i>
Sunday 8th	Third Sunday of Lent
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 11th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Lent Bible Study
Sunday 15th	Mothering Sunday
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 18th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Lent Bible Study
Sunday 22nd	Passiontide begins
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 25th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Lent Bible Study
Saturday 28th	
11.00am	<i>St Oswald's Orthodox Mission Service</i>
Sunday 29th	Palm Sunday
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion

The Parish Staff

Rector: Revd Anne Dowdeswell

07864 938898

anne.dowdeswell@parishofwarrington.org

Leadership Team:

Warden:

Janet Cliffe

07778 899492

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stelphin246@btinternet.com

Safeguarding Officer:

Stephanie Freeman

07970 172520

Treasurer:

Wendy Bailey

07963 021172

Susan Jeffery

Ken Jeffery

Andrew Worrall

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:



A Rector Rambles...



The
Parish of
Warrington

On the 1st of March the ecclesiastical parish of St Elphin - along with all the other parishes in the Deanery of Warrington - ceases to be a legal entity as we enter into a single larger parish of Warrington.

On a day to day basis this may not make an immediate difference at St Elphin's - we will still see the same people doing the same sorts of things that we are doing just now - but there will be some significant changes to the legal framework within which we minister to the community and some benefits to us in terms of working together and having central admin support for the churches. Our current PCC will cease and some of its members will form our local leadership team.

On Sunday 8th March at 2:30 at St Phillips Church Westbrook, there will be a celebration and launch service.

Everyone is welcome to attend as we get together as a single parish of Warrington, for refreshments, to witness the legal parts of the change and to commission members of the new leadership teams.

It would be lovely to see you there.

With every blessing

Anne

07864 938898

anne.dowdeswell@parishofwarrington.org

Ryfields Communion Service

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

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

Janet Cliffe



Lent 2026

This year we are joining the Single Parish in studying the psalms.

If you can't join us on Wednesdays at 11.00am other days and times can be found on the list below. Everyone is welcome to attend any of the sessions.

LENT 2026 PSALM BIBLE STUDY

MONDAY 1.30PM

ST PAUL'S

TUESDAY- 4PM

ST ANDREW'S & ST MARGARET'S

WEDNESDAY- 11AM

ST ELPHIN'S

WEDNESDAY- 11.30AM

with Christ Church Padgate

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

THURSDAY- 7.30PM

ST JAMES'

WEDNESDAY- 7.45PM ON ZOOM

HOLY TRINITY

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY OF OUR PSALM READING
SCHEDULE OR ZOOM LINK PLEASE EMAIL
HANNAH.AUSTIN@PARISHOFWARRINGTON.ORG



The
Parish of
Warrington



Mothering Sunday Services

15th March 2026

8.30am & 10.30am

A time to celebrate our Mother Church
and the people who love and nurture us now and in the past.

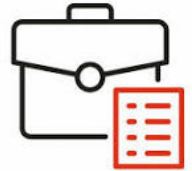
All welcome



Work Experience

I can confidently say that my time working here was absolutely remarkable all thanks to Anne, Janet, Ken and all who taught me everything with incredible kindness and patience. The first thing that comes to mind when I reflect on the experience is the overwhelmingly beautiful sense of unity at the church. At its core, we are a diverse group of people who may have never spoken to each other on any other occasion coming together to celebrate and share God's love that has been given to them.

From exploring the practical logistics of the church, to experiencing the deep connection this congregation has to a faith that unites us as children of God, I have loved every second of it.



Emily



St Elphin's Ladies Group



The Ladies Group will meet for the last time in church on Thursday 19th February at 2.00pm when Revd Anne will be coming to talk to us.

We have realised that we can no longer carry on as we did in the past and have decided to try something different.

We still want to meet up but have agreed that our format needs to change so we are going to become: *Ladies that Lunch; Ladies that visit Garden Centres; Ladies that do whatever takes our fancy!!*

Watch this space for details of future outings!!

All welcome.



Lent Appeal 2026

We have decided to continue to support them for our Lent Appeal and boxes are available at the back of church – to be returned by Easter Day please.



St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the February draw are as follows:

1 st	Gill Whitticombe	2 nd	Andrea Robinson
3 rd	John Hankey	4 th	Sylvia Wright

£102.50 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 22nd March and payments must be made by Sunday 15th 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.

Holy Week & Easter 2026

29th March - 5th April



Sunday 29 th	Palm Sunday , Holy Communion 8.30am and 10.30am
Monday 30 th	Service for Holy Week , 6.30pm
Tuesday 31 st	Service for Holy Week , 6.30pm
Wednesday 1 st	Holy Communion , 10.00am Service for Holy Week , 6.30pm
Thursday 2 nd	Maundy Thursday , 6.30pm Holy Communion, Washing of Feet, Stripping of the Altar. Watch until 9.00pm
Friday 3 rd	Good Friday
12.00 – 1.00pm	All Age Service
1.00 – 2.00pm	Stations of the Cross
2.00 – 3.00pm	Liturgy
Sunday 5 th	Easter Day
6.00am	Vigil Service followed by breakfast
8.30am	Said Communion
10.30am	Sung Eucharist

All welcome

For catering purposes there will be a sign-up sheet at the back of church for the Easter Vigil breakfast

First Divine Liturgy for St Oswald's Warrington

On Saturday 7th February the first Orthodox Divine Liturgy was served in St Elphins.

49 people attended this new mission. Below are a few pictures of the service.

Their next service will be on Saturday 7th March at 11.00am attended by their Bishop His Eminence Metropolitan Silouan visits to serve a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the same venue. At this Liturgy, Daniel Moran (*pictured in gold robe below*) will be ordained to the subdiaconate.



Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday stirs deep emotions for many of us, gratitude, love, remembrance, and sometimes sorrow. Around the world there are teenage mothers who long for the comfort and protection of family; yet find themselves utterly alone at the moment they need love most. Now is the perfect time to come together and celebrate the strength of mothers and the power of community. By giving an ethical Gift of Belonging this Mothering Sunday, you can help young members raise their children with hope and dignity in God's Family.

When Grace became pregnant at 15, her parents were ashamed and rejected her. She had to leave home and school with no income, no health insurance, and nowhere to go. For months she lived in fear, trying to care for her baby alone. Then she met a woman from a Mothers' Union group. Someone she now call her 'spiritual mother'. This woman prayed with her, and brought her into a community support programme. Through that connection, Grace received guidance, faith based counselling, and practical help, including a small loan of £20 to start baking chapatis to sell. Today Grace runs her own small shop. She can feed and clothe her child, and she helps other young mothers learn business skills. Her parents, once filled with shame, now visit her with pride and her younger sister now sees Grace as a strong role model.

To give please visit: www.makeamothersday.org or see Wendy Bailey Loving Lord, on Mothering Sunday, we thank you for mothers, our own mothers and mothers everywhere. We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they care for their children. We praise you, our God, for all who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children. We praise you, our God for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love. Grant your wisdom, guidance and support to all entrusted with the responsibility of motherhood. Lord of all love, hear our prayer in the name of Christ. Amen

Branch meetings 2026

Unless otherwise stated meetings take place in church at 2.00pm

Wed 25th March Lady Day Service

Wed 22nd April St George's Day Service

Tea / Coffee in March

1st Wendy

8th Wendy

15th Jess and Zephyr

22nd Wendy

29th Dianne

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



Jigsaw Fayre
Saturday 18th April
10.00 – 2.00pm

We currently have a pile of jigsaws that need checking before the sale.

If you can help please speak to Dianne

Sign up sheet for volunteers will be at the back of church

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



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

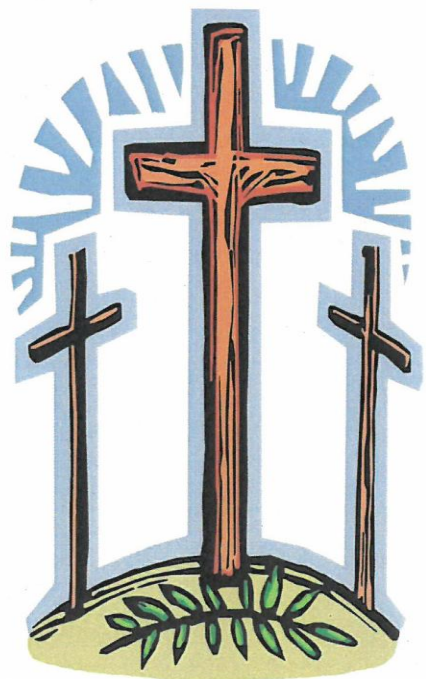
Palm Sunday

Resurrection

Lent

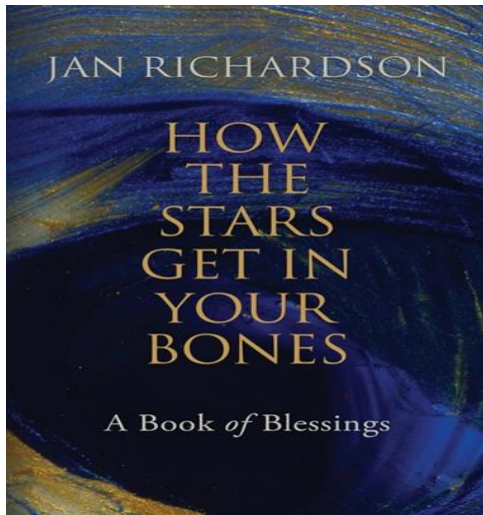
Purple

Love



Book Review from Mara

How the Stars Get in Your Bones



A book of blessings by Jan Richardson

A collection of Blessings that turn toward the hard things that each of us knows: grief, loss, fear, and weariness, that we live with. Jan Richardson invites us to focus on the joy, solace, grace, and love that moves through all the messy parts of our lives, illuminating and transforming what seems hopeless

A blessing has the ability to enter into our pain, not to dismiss it but to name it, and to name also the love that connects us and holds us: the love that is continually working for our wholeheartedness.

These blessings welcome us wherever we are, offering a space of healing and calling for courage, that we might find our path back into the world.

*To keep turning your heart
toward this unendurable earth,
knowing your heart will break
but turning it still...*

*I tell you,
this is how the stars
get in your bones.*

Big Clean



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

Our next big clean will be on Saturday 21st March – please note change of date.

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

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	
	2026	2025		2026	2025
January	£8,452	£23,491	January	£4,217	£4,960
2024/25 summary	2025	2024		2025	2024
Donations & Legacies	55,725	118,514	Parish Share	34,782	49,030
Weddings & Funerals	7,769	6,679	Church Maintenance	11,328	17,060
Fundraising etc	5,919	5,800	Cost of Fundraising		58
Investments	40,825	38,083	Other Costs	34,518	35,616
Insurance claim			Insurance	11,065	10,939
Total	£169,076	£107,558		£112,703	£105,345

Income

January 2025 income included £15,000 from the estate of Paul Nener, plus £3,054 from investments. January 2026 income includes £3,064 from investments.

Expenditure

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. The bank charge 85p per cheque banked or paid and £1.50 for each £100 banked. Electronic payments are either Nil or 20p. 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

From Alan Card	20.50
From Paul Bailey	10.25
Birthday memories of John Rothwell, 24th March, from Dianne	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	Pam & Maurice Wingate
Joyce Goodall	David Whitfield

We are currently reviewing the prayer list – if there any names that no longer need to be on it or if there are any names you would like adding to it, please speak to a member of the Leadership Team.

For those who are bereaved of:

Brian Wilson

Sheila Margaret Blackburn

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism in February

8th Jamal Hashemi
 Fatemeh Narimise

15th Oliver Wilfred Doyle
 Albie Joshua Robert Bates
 Ada Ann Thorpe

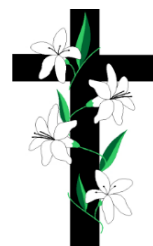


*Shine as lights in the world
To the Glory of God the Father*

Christian Burial & Cremation in February

27th Brian Wilson

Age 73



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



FPA
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PLANNING
AUTHORITY
REGISTERED

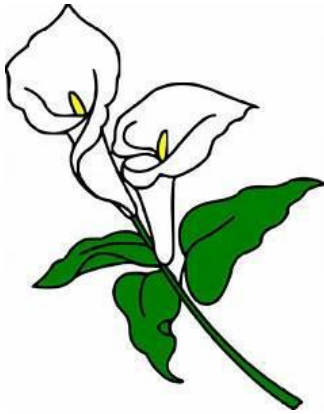


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Latchford Village	01925 415414
Lymm	01925 758057
Stockton Heath	01925 602932



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Coffee Bar

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t: 01925 574480

www.HTWarrington.org.uk



HT Coffee Bar

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