

# St Elphin's Chronicle



## April 2026



Vol 138  
Price 50p



## Services & Events at St Elphins for April 2026

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup></b>  |  |
| <b>10.00am</b>                   | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>11.00am</b>                   | <b>Lent Bible Study</b>  |
| <b>6.30pm</b>                    | <b>Compline</b>  |
| <b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>   | <b>Maundy Thursday</b>   |
| <b>6.30pm</b>                    | <b>Holy Communion, Washing of Feet, Stripping of the Altar. Watch until 9.00pm</b> |
| <b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>     | <b>Good Friday</b>   |
| <b>12.00 – 1.00pm</b>            | <b>All Age Service</b>   |
| <b>1.00 – 2.00pm</b>             | <b>Stations of the Cross</b>   |
| <b>2.00 – 3.00pm</b>             | <b>Liturgy for Good Friday</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>     | <b>Easter Day</b>  |
| <b>6.00am</b>                    | <b>Vigil Service followed by breakfast</b>   |
| <b>8.30am</b>                    | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>10.30am</b>                   | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>  |  |
| <b>10.00am</b>                   | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>    |  |
| <b>8.30am</b>                    | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>10.30am</b>                   | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup></b> |  |
| <b>10.00am</b>                   | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>    |  |
| <b>8.30am</b>                    | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>10.30am</b>                   | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup></b> |  |
| <b>10.00am</b>                   | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>    |  |
| <b>8.30am</b>                    | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>10.30am</b>                   | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup></b> |  |
| <b>10.00am</b>                   | <b>Holy Communion</b>  |

# The Parish Staff



**Rector:** Revd Anne Dowdeswell

07864 938898

[anne.dowdeswell@parishofwarrington.org](mailto:anne.dowdeswell@parishofwarrington.org)

## **Leadership Team:**

**Warden:** Janet Cliffe 07778 899492

**Safeguarding Officer:** Stephanie Freeman 07970 172520

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Susan Jeffery

Ken Jeffery

Dianne Rothwell [stelphin246@btinternet.com](mailto:stelphin246@btinternet.com)

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](http://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](mailto:stelphin246@btinternet.com) and we will add you to our mailing list.

Alternatively, you can download the magazine from our website:

<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...

Hello everyone. If you are reading this before Easter – every blessing for Holy Week – and if the celebration has already passed - Happy Easter, Alleluia Christ is risen!!

Holy Week and Easter are such a full time in our church calendar. This is just how it should be, of course, but there is a real risk for me of getting so caught up in the preparation and the printing and the general fretting that my mental preparation looks less like a calm and devout examination of myself as I walk with Christ through Holy Week and more like:

- How many people will come to the six o'clock?
- Where are the nails for the pascal candle?
- How many handheld candles have we got?
- Oh my goodness the magazine article is due(!!)
- Do we need a risk assessment for the easter fire?"

Making time for prayer and for God can be a test for all of us, and not just at this time of year. What do you do to carve out time and space? Susannah Wesley – mother of 10, including John and Charles Wesley – famously would sit with her bible and pull her apron up over her head to create a small sacred space within which to read and pray. I find prayer walking very helpful. Many people like to make time at the beginning or end of the day for prayer. There are lots of online resources available now, including *Daily Prayer*, an app which has the texts of Morning, Evening and Night Prayer for each day, with the readings and psalms. The Northumbria Community, the Iona Community and others offer daily prayer services on their websites.

Looking beyond Easter, *Thy Kingdom Come* has grown into a worldwide movement over the last decade. The nine days between Ascension and Pentecost are a time of prayer for those who do not yet follow Christ to come to know him. This year's theme is 'God with Us', and how the Holy Spirit has been at work in the world. And at its heart, as always, is the Prayer for Five, as we pray on behalf of five of our friends, family members, neighbours, or colleagues who do not

yet follow Christ, that they may come to know Him as we do. Archbishop Sarah has written a book of reflections and readings for the nine days – the Novena – and we will have copies available in church if you would like to share in this time of prayer. There will also be online resources available and we'll link to these from our social media.

However you will be spending Holy Week and Easter, I hope that some of our services will provide some of the spiritual nourishment that you need and that you know that you are assured of my prayers for a blessed and peaceful Holy Week and a joyful Easter celebrations.

With every blessing

*Anne*

07864 938898

anne.dowdeswell@parishofwarrington.org

## **An Easter Message from Bishop Ruth**

'Hallelujah! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!' it's Easter Sunday – what a wonderful day to celebrate the good news of Jesus. This is what it's all about. At Christmas we celebrate a baby's birth, but now we move from the crib, through the cross, to that which is beyond the grave. That's the story of God coming into our world and wanting to show us his love for each and every one of us.

And so today, the story which has been such a page turner throughout the week: from that moment of entering Jerusalem on a donkey, through to the betrayal in the garden on Maundy Thursday, and then onto the cross on Good Friday; the quietness of the tomb on Saturday as we waited; and now, the culmination – Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

'May I wish you all a very happy Easter, and may you know something of the joy, the new life, and the new opportunity that the story opens up for you.'

+ 

## New Bishop of Warrington announced

I am pleased to share with you that on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, Downing Street announced the news that The Very Revered Simon Robinson has been approved as the next Bishop of Warrington.

Firstly, please keep Simon in your prayers as he prepares to join us. I look forward to the fresh leadership, faith and care he will bring as he begins this new ministry alongside us.

Ordained in 2012, Simon has served as Dean of Truro since January 2024, having previously undertaken the role as Interim Dean in October 2022. During this time, he has shown a deep commitment to excellence in worship and mission, alongside significant leadership across diocesan life, General Synod, and several church and community trust boards.

Simon has a long history working in education, previously taking up the role of headteacher in London. His motivation to serve the community is something he looks forward to pursuing as he takes up his new role as Bishop of Warrington. Simon will be officially consecrated by the Archbishop of York during a service on 30<sup>th</sup> April in York Minster before attending his official Welcome Service on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Liverpool Cathedral. More details will be shared in the coming weeks. Please do join me in warmly welcoming Simon and in praying for his future success. I look forward to the ways in which, together, we will continue to serve our communities and share the good news of Jesus.

Please join me in praying for Simon as he begins his journey to joining us in the North-West:

Loving God, we thank you for calling Simon to serve as Bishop of Warrington. Be with him in this time of transition; go before him in all that lies ahead. Grant him peace, strength and confidence as he prepares to join us in the Diocese of Liverpool.

Surround him with your grace and prepare our hearts to welcome him with gratitude and joy. In Jesus name, Amen.

+ 

*It was lovely to have the opportunity to meet Dean Simon at Evensong at the Cathedral on Friday along with other members of the College of Canons and he is very much looking forward to joining us all in Liverpool. Dianne*

## Ryfields Communion Service

The next service at Ryfields is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 10.00am.

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

*Janet Cliffe*



## St Elphin's Ladies Group



Many thanks to Revd Anne for her fascinating talk about weddings.

Our next meeting will be lunch at Juniper Farm on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 12.30pm. Names to Margaret as soon as possible please.

All welcome.



## Lent Appeal 2026

Just a quick reminder to bring your donation box or envelope back by Easter Day please.



## 6.00am Easter Day

If you are planning on joining us for the Easter Vigil Service can you please sign up on the list at the back of church for catering purposes and also if you have any dietary requirements.



## St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the March draw are as follows:

|                 |                |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Gaynor Hankey  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Anita Taylor   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Pauline Rowson | 4 <sup>th</sup> | Sylvia Heywood |

£102.50 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April and payments must be made by Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **Confirmation Service**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church for anyone interested in being confirmed in June.

For more information, please speak to Revd Anne.

# Holy Week & Easter 2026

29<sup>th</sup> March - 5<sup>th</sup> April



|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>   | <b>Palm Sunday</b> , Holy Communion<br>8.30am and 10.30am  |
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>   | <b>Service for Holy Week</b> , 6.30pm  |
| Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>  | <b>Service for Holy Week</b> , 6.30pm  |
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> | <b>Holy Communion</b> , 10.00am<br><b>Service for Holy Week</b> , 6.30pm   |
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | <b>Maundy Thursday</b> , 6.30pm<br>Holy Communion, Washing of Feet,<br>Stripping of the Altar.<br>Watch until 9.00pm |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | <b>Good Friday</b>   |
| 12.00 – 1.00pm            | All Age Service  |
| 1.00 – 2.00pm             | Stations of the Cross  |
| 2.00 – 3.00pm             | Liturgy  |
| Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>    | <b>Easter Day</b>  |
| 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*

# Calling all Jigsaw Enthusiasts

St Elphin's, St Barnabas & Holy Trinity Churches  
invite you to join them at St Elphin's Church,  
Church Street, Warrington, WA1 2TL for a

## Jigsaw Day

**Saturday**

**18<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**10.00 - 2.00pm**



**Other Stalls include:**

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Refreshments  | Cake Stall        |
| Tombola       | Jams Stall        |
| Knitted goods | Wood              |
| Stained Glass | Silk Arrangements |
|               | Candles           |

**Admission £1.00 - includes free raffle ticket**  
Proceeds to be split between the 3 churches

## Jigsaw Sale

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

10.00 – 2.00pm

We will need help setting up on Friday 17<sup>th</sup>  
and also on the day.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers is now at the  
back of church

Posters and flyers are also available at the  
back of church and we would be grateful if  
you could take some to publicise the sale



### Admission to Holy Communion

If you would like your child to be admitted to Holy Communion before Confirmation please fill in their name below along with your contact details.

Or if you would like more information about this please speak with Revd Anne.

On Friday 6 March, Christians across the globe once again united for the World Day of Prayer (WDP), an international, ecumenical movement of people praying together for peace, justice and transformation in the world.

World Day of Prayer is built around the simple but powerful motto: 'Informed Prayer; Prayerful Action'. Each year, women from a different country prepare the service, sharing their stories, faiths and concerns with the world. For 2026, the focus country is Nigeria, with the theme taken from Matthew 11:28-30: 'I will give you rest, come'. It is deeply moving that, in a country facing insecurity and hardship, the chosen theme speaks of rest. Through this service, Nigerian women invite us to hear again Christ's gentle words: 'come to me, all you who are weary'. It is an invitation not only to personal comfort, but to shared strength, reminding us that we are stronger when we stand and pray together. World Day of Prayer is more than a single service in March. It helps to build understanding, friendship and solidarity across nations. It calls us to listen carefully to the experiences of others and to respond with compassion, not only in prayer, but in action.

### **Mothers' Union in Nigeria: Faith in action**

For Mothers' Union members in Nigeria, this theme is not abstract; it reflects everyday life and ministry. Across the Diocese of Pankshin, Mothers' Union members continue to grow in faith and service. They take part in seminars, workshops and conferences, strengthening their spiritual lives and equipping themselves to support their families and communities. The executive committee meets regularly to reflect on the needs and challenges within the diocese, seeking God's wisdom for the way forward.

Members have also led a gender-based violence awareness campaign, encouraging women and children to speak out and seek help. This

work requires courage, compassion and persistence. It is a clear example of prayer leading to practical action. Alongside advocacy, there is also quiet and faithful care. Christmas packages are shared with children and widows across the diocese. Fellowship gatherings bring encouragement and unity. Through these simple but meaningful acts of love, members make Christ's promise of rest tangible, offering hope and support to people who feel weary.

For many women and girls in Nigeria, daily life brings real challenges. In some communities, girls have fewer educational opportunities than boys. Early marriage can limit a girl's future and expose her to health risks, and violence and discrimination remain a reality, with widows often experiencing isolation and hardship. These are not distant issues; they shape the lives of families and communities. As part of a global Mothers' Union movement, we are called not only to be aware of these realities, but to hold them faithfully in prayer and respond with love where we can.

Lord our Father, let us be rooted in You as we begin this month of remembrance, grace and hope. Help our members grow deeper in faith and purpose to welcome a new generation of members with love. May the love of God, His presence, Spirit, glory and power abide with us and all our loved ones every day of this month. Amen

## **Branch meetings 2026**

Unless otherwise stated meetings take place in church at 2.00pm

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> April      St George's Day Service

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> May      Meal out

## **Tea / Coffee in April**

5<sup>th</sup>              Wendy

12<sup>th</sup>             Jess and Zephyr

19<sup>th</sup>             Barbara and Chris

26<sup>th</sup>             Wendy

## Pause for Thought with Norma Fox

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. (Ecclesiastes 3 : 1)*

Isn't it wonderful how the season of spring blows away the dark clouds of winter. How the whole earth is awakened and renewed, ourselves included, and so it is with me. Praise be to God.

New seasons are important to many people. Some count the days because of what they hope the new season will bring. Perhaps you've been marking off a calendar for spring to signal the end of another winter.

We also go through seasons of life that don't have to do with the weather. The author of Ecclesiastes told us there is a season of every activity under the sun – a time to live, and a time to die, a time to be happy and a time to be sad. A time appointed by God during which we live our lives.

Moses spoke of a new season in his life after he led the people of Israel through the wilderness (Deuteronomy 3 : 2) and he had to give up his leadership role to Joshua. And Paul faced a lonely season while under arrest in Rome – asking for visitors but realising that God was *'at my side'* (2 Timothy 4 : 7)

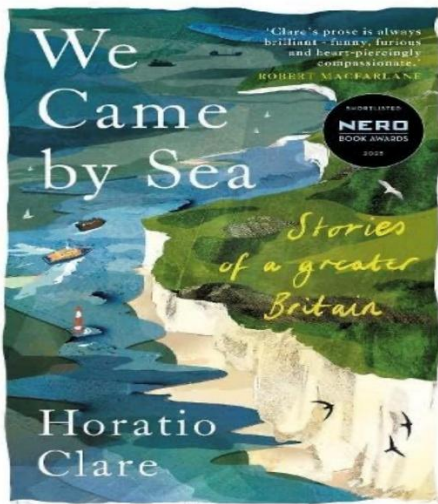
Regardless of the season of life lets give thanks to God for His greatness, His help and companionship.

### Prayer

Thank you Father, for the promise of your care during this season of my life. You have allowed this circumstance for a good reason. Help me to use this time appointed by you in a way that deepens my trust in You.



## Book Review from Mara



*We Came by Sea* by Horatio Clare is a rare and refreshing experience. No sooner have you begun marvelling at his lyrical prose than you start to hear a faint cracking noise. You're not hallucinating; it's the sound of the shaky narrative on small boat crossings peddled by certain newspapers, the increasingly biased television news, social media clickbait and political pundits at one end of the spectrum slowly coming unstuck.

Few would deny that undocumented people desperately try to cross the channel in small unseaworthy deathtraps, nor that the number of arrivals can create challenges for rescue services. But there is a side to this story that revolves around who we are as a nation, and rarely do we find coherent critical thinking to education and enlighten us, quite like this.

Xenophobic rhetoric about 'invaders coming to take our jobs' aside, why do people risk their lives to come to Great Britain? The answer, it would appear, is in the question. After family and language, a key reason is the perception of the UK as a bastion of human rights and democracy. They believe in safety, freedom and democracy and that they will see that in the UK. This, is a well-founded reputation to be proud of, with countless unrecognised, uncelebrated British people who are giving their all to help the vulnerable and desperate, in ways we are encouraged to act towards strangers and needy in the Bible.

*We Came By Sea* features an entire cast of such unsung heroes - from the sympathetic security guard to the brave rescuer to the indomitable human rights activist to the Citizens Advice worker to the besmirched charity worker to the pragmatic lawyer to the kindly asylum accommodation manager, and we meet some of their counterparts, across the water in Calais. Perhaps the most powerful chapter in the book is the last one. There is no substitute for reading it - even if you're familiar with the facts. It brings into sharp focus the futility of policies rooted in denial, and the havoc and horror they wreak on the lives of the vulnerable. There is another side to this story that plays on the insecurity and fear of our neighbours. While not purporting to offer answers to all the questions, it offers an alternative vision of who we are and of who we can yet become.

## Church Finances for 2026

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         | 4,217          | 4,960          |
| February     | 3,659          | 5,621          | 16,623         | 7,453          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>£12,112</b> | <b>£29,112</b> | <b>£20,840</b> | <b>£12,413</b> |

### **Income**

Jan 2025 included £15,000 from the estate of Rev Paul Nener, however, despite this there is a £2,000 reduction in income compared with end of February 2025.

### **Expenditure**

Feb 2026 includes £10,307 on repairs to window. So expenditure for end of Feb 2026 is approximately £2,000 down on 2025 if you exclude major repairs.

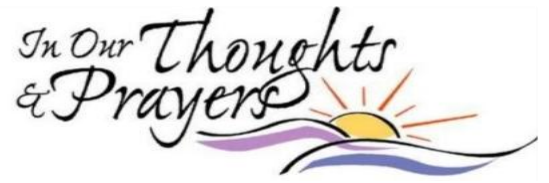
*Wendy Bailey, PCC Treasurer, Tel: 07963 021172*

## Donations:

### General Fund

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Treasured birthday memories of Lionel Fryar, 15 <sup>th</sup> April, from Irene and family | 50.00  |
| Birthday memories of Allan Wilde from Irene  | 20.00  |
| Birthday memories of Jean Rothwell, 1st April, from Dianne                                 | 10.00  |
| Birthday memories of Arthur Cresswell from Dianne  | 10.00  |
| Anniversary memories of Marjorie Cresswell from Dianne                                     | 10.00  |
| Anniversary memories of my brother Arnold, died April 24th 2021 from Sylvia                | 100.00 |

## St Elphin's Prayer List



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

Daisy Easton  
Carol Shaw  
Doreen Robinson  
Maynard Glover  
Ron Leather  
Sam and Barbara Sheldon  
Gill Molyneaux  
Sharon Hopkins  
Emily Craddock  
David Whitfield  
Margaret Lomax  
Brenda Hill  
Andrew Clare  
Mike Hughes  
Ron Hart  
Scarlett Keegan  
Dave Prescott  
Roland Jackson  
Joyce Bradbury  
Barbara Barrett

### For those who are bereaved of:

Bethany Kate Hewitt  
Tesiree Elghali



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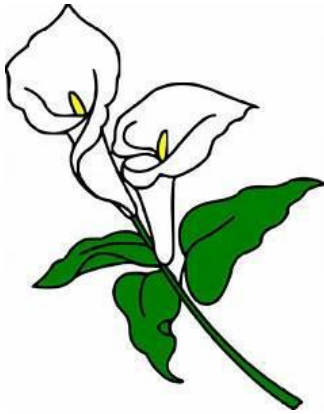


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## Hospice Shops



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|---------------------------|--------------|
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| Mersey Street (Furniture) | 01925 650800 |
| Sankey Street             | 01925 575780 |
| Hood Manor                | 01925 629494 |
| Latchford Village         | 01925 415414 |
| Lymm                      | 01925 758057 |
| Stockton Heath            | 01925 602932 |



## Coffee Bar@Holy Trinity



### Coffee Bar

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