

# St Elphin's Chronicle



## June 2026



**Vol 138**  
**Price 50p**



## Services & Events at St Elphins for June 2026

<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	
10.00am	Holy Communion
10.30 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>
7.00pm	Holy Communion
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	
10.00am	Holy Communion
10.30 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
2.00pm	Ladies Group in church
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	
8.30am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Civic Service
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	
10.00am	Holy Communion
10.30 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	
10.00am	Holy Communion
10.30 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening and Big Clean
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
3.00pm	Confirmation Service



# The Parish Staff

**Rector:** Revd Anne Dowdeswell

07864 938898

anne.dowdeswell@parishofwarrington.org

## **Leadership Team:**

**Warden:** Janet Cliffe 07778 899492

**Safeguarding Officer:** Stephanie Freeman 07970 172520

**Treasurer:** Wendy Bailey 07963 021172

Susan Jeffery

Ken Jeffery

Dianne Rothwell 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: [stelpin246@btinternet.com](mailto:stelpin246@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 – I hope that you are enjoying this warm weather – or at least managing to keep cool through it. I am writing this through the week between Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. It's a busy week for the sacristans and church decorators amongst us – the fabrics and frontals in Church have been white since Easter, changed to red for Pentecost Sunday, then to green for the weekdays and back to white (or gold) for Trinity Sunday and then green again for most of the Summer. Thank you to everyone who works to keep St Elphin's up to date in this respect and so beautifully decorated.

It's been great that we have been able to expand our opening hours a little too, and now we are open to welcome visitors for a couple of hours after the 10am Communion on Wednesdays as well as on Saturday morning. Thank you to our welcomers – especially to new volunteers.

The quality of the welcome to the church and to services is one of the great gifts of St Elphin's. This emerges from the gifts and decisions of church members as well as from decisions made – sometimes long ago - about the internal layout of the building. For example, our welcome to visitors who have issues with mobility is reinforced by the level access throughout the main body of the church. Our welcome to those with poor or deteriorating vision is backed up by the availability of large print booklets for services.

There is a genuine sense of welcome at St Elphin's – but it is something that we can always improve. Human nature means that it can be easier to genuinely welcome and to serve those with whom we can feel some common ground. The way in which St Elphin's handles gluten-free refreshments, with thoughtful care, including a separate toaster as well as careful storage of gluten free bread, is an example of loving service which is supported by church members who have family members who need a gluten-free diet. This brings a deeper understanding of the issues and perhaps a stronger incentive to ensure that the church gets it right. But when that common link is harder to pin down, we can end up making assumptions about what people

might want – and then making decisions based on those assumptions – can be tricky.

***Inclusive Church*** is an organisation that supports churches in ensuring that they offer a real and inclusive welcome to everyone – which may involve challenging our preconceptions about what help and support people need. As a church which prides itself on our welcome, we might ask if we could sign up to their statement below and what difference it would make to our mission to serve and bring the Good News to all the people of our community. St James Church is already a member – let me know if you would be interested in our joining them.

*“We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.*

*We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.*

*We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”*

With every blessing

Anne

## **Ryfields Communion Service**

The next service at Ryfields is on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 10.00am.

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

Janet Cliffe



## Corpus Christi

There will be a service of Holy Communion for Corpus Christi in Church on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm.



*For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'*

*In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

*1 Corinthians 11.23-26*



## St Elphin's Ladies Group



The Ladies Group are meeting in church at 2.00pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June for a talk on Stained Glass by Simon Hardcastle.

£4.00 includes tea or coffee and a raffle.

All welcome.

## Church Maintenance

Keeping the church building in good order is an important responsibility and this summer a significant piece of work will start on the stonework of the tower. You will see the scaffolding go up in June and we expect the work to take several months to complete. As well as being vital, this work will clearly also be expensive. We are very fortunate that thanks to the generosity of donors over the years as well as the hard work of church fundraising, we are able to meet the approximately £300,000 that this work will cost. This includes VAT, since the recent removal of the VAT exemption for listed places of worship. Once this work is finished, there will inevitably be more to do – in fact our architect has a list – and this is going to mean a significant fundraising effort in the future. We are hugely grateful to everyone whose hard work, generosity and forethought has enabled us to carry out the tower works this summer and will keep you all informed about the progress of the works.

*Anne*

Some days start quietly and peacefully – and some days start with a gentleman hammering on the door to let me know that “there’s someone with a wheelie bin nicking the flag stones from the church.” Oh good – it must be Thursday!

Anyway, it turns out that the path around the church being really busy is an advantage, and several people walking their dogs had disturbed the people trying to wheel away some of the stones. The theft has been reported and we’re talking to the local authority (which has responsibility for the churchyard) about restoring the stones (and the wheelie bin) to their original places. Thank you to everyone who let us know about the situation and to everyone who helps to keep the church secure.

*With every blessing*

*Anne*

## Advance Notice



### *Lindsay Michele Yates*

*to be ordained Deacon  
by Bishop Ruth Worsley*

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*on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
at 10.30am  
Liverpool Cathedral*

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*Reception afterwards at  
St. Peter's Pavilion  
Hurst Street, Hindley  
Wigan WN2 3DN  
from 2.00pm*

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*Please pray for Church Wigan and West Hub  
where Lindsay will be licensed to serve.*

Lindsay would like everyone to know that they are all welcome to attend but she will come and visit us one Sunday after her ordination for those who can't make it on the day.



## **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.

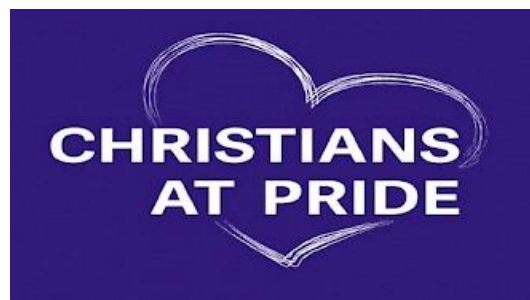
For more information, please speak to Revd Anne.

Sharing our faith is part of our practice of our Christianity. This can take a lot of forms – talking to friends and neighbours about the difference that Christ has made in our lives, inviting someone to come to church with us, telling a grandchild a bible story, or, sometimes, publicly standing up to say “I am a Christian. I believe in the God who is love. I follow Jesus Christ.”

The next few weeks will give us several opportunities to stand up and tell the world – or at least Warrington – about our faith.

The **Walking Day Heritage Event** at Bank Park on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 10.00am – 3.00pm, will be a public celebration of the heritage and the future of this important celebration of public faith. Churches from across Warrington will gather to share their stories – please come along and invite your friends and family on the day to see the parade of banners, hear the bands and share our stories.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, **Warrington Pride** will be taking place. Lauren and I will be joining a group representing churches from across the town and will be walking in the parade under the banner ‘Christians at Pride.’



We will be celebrating the diversity of God’s creation, affirming our belief that God loves each one of us and offering repentance to those who have been hurt by the church.

It would be lovely to see you at either of these events – and if you can think of other ways that we can be publicly sharing our faith, please let me know.

*With every blessing*

*Anne*

## Eco Church – Going for Silver

The Eco Church survey is a self-assessment tool to assess a church's progress and guide you to take further action as you work towards a Bronze, Silver or Gold Eco Church award.



You may have seen our Bronze Eco Church Award displayed in church and on the front of our magazines. We achieved this in 2019 and are now working towards our Silver Award.

The survey takes us through five key areas of church life:

- 1 Worship and teaching
- 2 Buildings and energy
- 3 Land and nature
- 4 Community and global engagement
- 5 Lifestyle

We've fulfilled the criteria for numbers 1 and 2 and are exempt from number 3 as we don't own or manage any land but we are still only at the bronze stage for numbers 4 and 5.

The questions in each category act as a prompt to take further steps. The overall objective of Eco Church is to help churches engage with caring for the earth as a key part of our Christian faith in response to the climate and nature crisis.

The survey accommodates churches in very different settings, with pathways for churches with large to small buildings or no buildings at all. Similarly, there are different pathways for churches with land, to little or no land at all.

If anyone would like to be involved to help us achieve our Silver Award please speak to Dianne.

## **Notice from Mothers' Union**

We are pleased to confirm that our 150th Anniversary Celebratory Service from St Pauls Cathedral on 10 June, 5pm (UK time) will be available to watch live from our Facebook page. The cathedral will be packed with Mothers' Union members from Britain & Ireland and around the globe. The Archbishop of Canterbury will be joined at this joyous celebration by Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow, CEO, Bev Jullien and distinguished guests. We want everyone who can't be at St Paul's to have the opportunity to celebrate too! The following day, members in Mothers' Union in Britain & Ireland are coming together again at the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster at a gathering to share and celebrate our legacy, showcase our present and shine a light on our future work and impact.

Mothers' Union is continuing its work to strengthen leadership and opportunities for women through a new project in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), supported by a grant from Trinity Church Wall Street. Trinity's grant making is supporting creative leadership and empowering Anglican churches to carry out their ministry across the world. The funding MU received will be used to establish digital learning hubs across dioceses in the DRC, equipping hundreds of women leaders with the skills and confidence to lead within their churches and communities, and in Year 2 to expand the programme into 3 other countries.

In March, a 'training of trainers' session was led by Naomi Foxwood, Leadership Programmes Manager at Mothers' Union, and Marthe Vira, Provincial Community Development Coordinator. Due to logistical challenges, the session was held in Uganda, bringing together MU leaders from four dioceses in the DRC. The gathering provided an opportunity to test the leadership curriculum, explore what makes effective leadership, and build confidence in using the technology that will support the programme.

This initiative responds to two key challenges. Digital literacy remains a significant barrier for women, with the World Bank reporting that women in Sub-Saharan Africa are 36% less likely to use mobile internet, and 28% less likely than men to own a smartphone.\* This gap is not just about a lack of tech devices; it includes a lack of skills, high costs and social barriers that can hinder women's participation in society, the job market and the economy. Whether it be promoting a small business on Facebook, accessing material online to help teach Sunday school, or being able to contact people through email or zoom, digital skills build confidence and opportunity.

At the same time, many women are already stepping into leadership roles within churches and their communities, particularly after completing MU's literacy course. However, they often have not had any leadership training. Mothers' Union's 'Empowered to Lead' course seeks to bridge this gap, combining practical leadership skills and techniques with a strong biblical foundation and participatory learning. Drawing inspiration from figures such as Mary Sumner and Queen Esther, the course is designed to be both relevant and transformative.

Naomi commented 'the pilot with DRC is an exciting programme to equip and empower women to make a difference in their lives, their families, communities and churches. The training of trainers in March was a brilliant time together to test the material and learn about the elements of great leadership.' Marthe also stressed the importance of the digital leadership programme, saying 'today a woman without a telephone is like a battery without power.' Through access to devices and connectivity, women are gaining new opportunities to learn, lead, and connect.

Following the training, participants have now returned to their dioceses to establish digital hubs supported by Starlink and prepare the first cohort of 100 women to begin the programme. This pilot marks an exciting step forward, with plans to expand the project into other countries, continuing to equip women to make a lasting difference for generations to come.

Father God, we join in and celebrate your love to us through Mothers Union. We praise you for the past 150 years, for the vision of Mary Sumner and for all who have followed her, praying and serving in your name. We delight in all your gifts to us, the joy of family, the wonders of Your creation, the fellowship of our fellow members and most of all, Your love to us through the gift of your Son Jesus Christ. May we always walk in Your footsteps. Give us the strength to be different, to stand up for justice and peace, and be a sign of Your reconciling love for all, we ask this in your name. Amen

## **Branch meetings 2026**

Unless otherwise stated meetings take place in church at 2.00pm

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> June      Joining the Ladies Group for a talk on Stained Glass by Simon Hardcastle

## **Tea / Coffee in June**

7<sup>th</sup>              Jess and Zephyr  
14<sup>th</sup>             Wendy  
21<sup>st</sup>             Chris and Barbara  
28<sup>th</sup>             Wendy



### **Change of Date**

Our next Big Clean will be on Saturday 13th June. Before the Jigsaw Festival in September we are aiming to paint the boards we use to display the jigsaws. If anyone can help us with this please speak to Ken or Andrew so we can arrange a suitable date.

## Pause for Thought with Norma Fox

During a walk in the local park I encountered a couple of unleashed dogs. Their owner didn't seem to notice that one of them had begun to intimidate a small boy. The boy tried to shoo it away but the animal only became more intent on bothering him. Eventually the child panicked. He bolted several yards in the distance but the dog pursued him. The chase continued until the child's mother yelled '*run to me*'. The child doubled back, calmed down in his mother's arms and the dog finally decided to make mischief somewhere else.

There are moments in our lives when God calls us and says '*Run to Me!*' Something troubling us on our heels. The faster and further we go the more closely it pursues us. We can't shake it off. We're too afraid to turn and confront it on our own. But the reality is that we aren't on our own. God is there ready to help and comfort us. All we have to do is turn away from whatever scares us, and move in His direction. God is our refuge in times of trouble. The Lord says '*Do not be afraid*'.

### Prayer

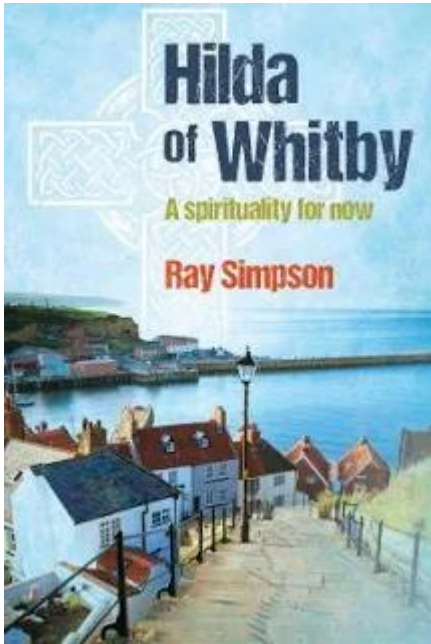
Lord Jesus, You are the Prince of Peace, we all need the kind of peace that only You can give. Help us to turn to You when we are troubled.

Through waves and clouds and storms  
His power will clear the way;  
Wait thou His time; the darkest night  
Shall end in brightest day

*verse from a hymn*

## Book Review from Mara

### Hilda of Whitby, A Spirituality for now by Ray Simpson



Hilda of Whitby was a dominant figure in the development of the British Church in the seventh century, and this book explores her life and times, and what spiritual lessons we can draw for Christian life today.

Women played an important role in the leadership of the ancient Celtic Church than in the Roman Church which replaced it.

A spiritual style is adopted throughout the work with each chapter ending with a devotional section or reflection.

Hilda was a compassionate religious leader with a heart for uplifting everyday people and is as much a part of the Christianity of our isles as Brigid and Mother Julian. Saint Hilda is as relevant to the world today as she was in her own day.

Ray Simpson is the Founding Guardian of the Community of Aidan and Hilda, based on Lindisfarne, where he runs a retreat house and library.



### St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the May draw are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Barbara Barrett	2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Hankey
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Barbara Sheldon	4 <sup>th</sup>	Sylvia Wright

£102.50 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June and payments must be made by Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> to be in the draw.

For more information, then please speak to Janet Cliffe.

## 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	
	2025	2026	2025	2026
January	23,491	6,289	4,960	4,217
February	5,621	3,659	7,453	17,939
March	6,665	4,897	11,369	15,253
April	17,601	8,076	7,060	5,384
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 53,379</b>	<b>£22,921</b>	<b>£ 30,842</b>	<b>£ 42,792</b>

### **Income**

Jan 2025 included £15,000 from the estate of Rev Paul Nener, however, despite this there is a £6,000 reduction in income compared with end of April 2025, and there is also a £6,000 reduction in income from investments, meaning the total reduction in income compared with 2025 is circa £30,500

### **Expenditure**

Feb 2026 includes £10,307 on repairs to windows and March includes a full years insurance of £10,072. So expenditure for end of April 2026 is approximately £12,000 more than for the same period in 2025.

*Wendy Bailey, PCC Treasurer*

Tel: 07963 021172

Wendy\_bailey@hotmail.com

# St Elphin's Prayer List



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

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

## Parish Registers

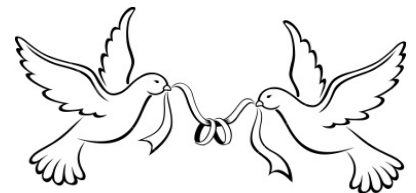
### Holy Baptism in May

17<sup>th</sup> Nellie Louise Jane Grant



### Holy Matrimony in May

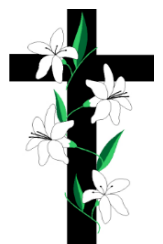
30<sup>th</sup> Darren Lee Catherall and Sharon Farmer



### Christian Burial & Cremation in May

14<sup>th</sup> Brenda Hill

Age 87





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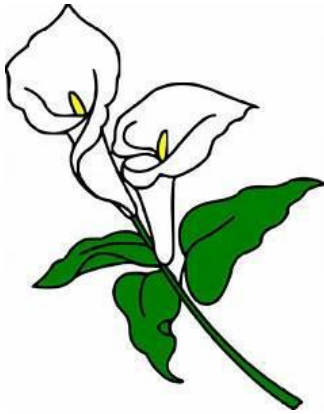


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