

St Elphin's Chronicle



July 2026



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Services & Events at St Elphins for July 2026

Wednesday 1st	
10.00am	Holy Communion
10.30 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening – last midweek church opening
Saturday 4th	
11.00 am	Orthodox Service
10.00 am – 2.00pm	Warrington Walking Day Event at Bank Park
Sunday 5th	
8.30am	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer
10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 7th - Please note new day for our weekday communion service	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 11th	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
Sunday 12th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 14th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 18th	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
Sunday 19th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
12.00 noon	Baptisms
Tuesday 21st	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 25th	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening and Big Clean
Sunday 26th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 28th	
10.00am	Holy Communion

The Parish Staff

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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:

<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 managing this hot weather. It was really warm in church for our joy filled Confirmation Service at the end of June.

As well as confirming their faith for themselves, the candidates were 'commissioned', answering these questions from the Bishop:

All who are baptised are called to worship and serve God and to grow in discipleship; to persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord. Will you commit to a life of discipleship?

With the help of God, I will.

Through his own example, Jesus calls us to pray. Will you then commit to deepening and strengthening your relationship with God through prayer?

With the help of God, I will

Jesus met his disciples on the road and he opened the scriptures to them. Will you then commit to reading the scriptures with the Holy Spirit as your guide and inspiration?

With the help of God, I will.

Jesus brought his disciples together to learn the ways of God and to share in communion. He calls us to study together. Will you then commit to a life of learning?

With the help of God, I will.

God sends us to tell the good news of Jesus and to go and make disciples of all nations. Will you tell of the abundant life in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Jesus shows us that though he is Lord, yet is he servant of all. He sends us to serve in his name. Will you seek to serve Christ in all people and work for more justice.

With the help of God, I will.

God sends us to give generously in the service of the Gospel, knowing that 'where our treasure is, there our heart will be also'. Will you be generous in your giving in the service of Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

May God who has made firm his calling upon you, now strengthen you in your life of faith and discipleship as you respond to his call to pray, read and learn, and as he sends you to tell, serve and give.

Amen.

I wonder if there is scope for all of us, new Christians and those more established in our faith, to make these commitments.

With every blessing

Anne



Ryfields Communion Service

Please note that there will not be a service at Ryfields in July, the next service is on Thursday 6th August at 10.00am.

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

Janet Cliffe



Thank you to everyone who contributed during Christian Aid Week.
We raised the sum of £129.00



Walking Day Reborn: Standing Together in Faith

Warrington Walking Day is beginning a new era, with responsibility for organising the event returning to the community.

Join us as we start an exciting new chapter for this historic tradition with a vibrant, family-friendly celebration.

Where: Bank Park & Warrington Town Hall

When: Saturday, 4 July: 10am – 4pm

What's On:

- **The Banner Parade:** A special procession honouring the tradition.
- **Family entertainment:** Brass bands and local choirs and the popular Silcox Fun Fair.
- **Food & Drink:** Town Hall Tea Room open for home made cakes, sandwiches and savouries.
- **Preserving History:** Share your stories at the Historic Memories Desk in partnership with Warrington Museum.

The **Walking Day Heritage Event** 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



St Elphin's Ladies Group



The Ladies Group are going to White Moss Garden Centre for Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 15th July at 2.00pm. The cost is £20.00. Names to Margaret by Friday 10th please. If you require transport can you also let Margaret know so that we can organise lifts.

All welcome.

Revd Lindsay Yates

It was lovely to be able to attend the Ordination of Lindsay at the Cathedral on Sunday. Here are a couple more pictures from the day.



On Thursday 11 June, members from across Britain & Ireland, alongside partners and guests from the worldwide Mothers' Union family, gathered at the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster to celebrate the organisation's 150th anniversary at the Annual Gathering. The day opened with prayer and worship led by Mothers' Union Bishop Ambassador, Bishop Kelly of Basingstoke, before Worldwide President Kathleen Snow and CEO Bev Jullien welcomed members to a day of celebration, reflection and looking ahead. Throughout the morning there was a wonderful atmosphere as friends reunited, new connections were made, and members reflected on Mothers' Union's journey over the past 150 years.

Former Worldwide Presidents shared memories from their time in leadership, reflecting on how the organisation has grown from Mary Sumner's vision in 1876 into a global movement supporting families and communities across more than 80 countries.

During the lunch break, members had the opportunity to visit the specially curated 150th anniversary exhibition at Mary Sumner House. The exhibition explored the history of Mothers' Union, celebrating its founder and tracing the organisation's growth from a small parish initiative to a worldwide movement.

The afternoon turned its focus to the work taking place today. Members heard about programmes supporting domestic abuse awareness, the AFIA (Away From It All) holiday programme, prison ministry, hospital support and work with people experiencing homelessness. Sarah Newnham, Director of Global Programmes, reminded everyone that while Mothers' Union serves local communities, it is strengthened by being part of one global family working together across provinces and continents.

Looking to the future, Membership Engagement Manager Atim Abrams hosted the final session, which included a discussion on safeguarding and the importance of creating safe and welcoming spaces for everyone. Lois Bosatta, Director of The Clewer Initiative, also spoke about the value of partnership in tackling modern slavery and the difference that organisations can make by working together.

One of the most uplifting moments of the day came from Girls' Brigade. Chair of Trustees Emily Brailsford, alongside Youth President Eloise and Youth Ambassadors Olivia and Molly, spoke passionately about the importance of

involving young people in the future of Christian organisations, offering an encouraging reminder of the next generation of leaders.

As the gathering came to a close Kathleen Snow thanked everyone who had contributed to making the anniversary celebrations such a memorable occasion before Canon Jen McWhirter led the closing prayer. Members also recognised the contribution of CEO Bev Jullien ahead of her retirement later this month with a warm and heartfelt presentation.

The Annual Gathering captured the spirit of Mothers' Union's 150th anniversary, celebrating the achievements of the past while looking confidently to the future. As members left the Emmanuel Centre, there was a shared sense of gratitude for all that has been accomplished and renewed commitment to continue serving families and communities through faith in action, lighting the way for generations to come.

Creator God, in this anniversary year we give thanks for the unity and fellowship that Mothers' Union brings to people throughout the world. Help us to learn from one another as we unite to sing your praise. Heavenly father, teach us to reach out our hands to others whose experiences are so different from our own; that we may find a common thread standing together, prepared to share our Mother's Union gem of support and love. Amen.

Branch meetings 2026

Unless otherwise stated meetings take place in church at 2.00pm

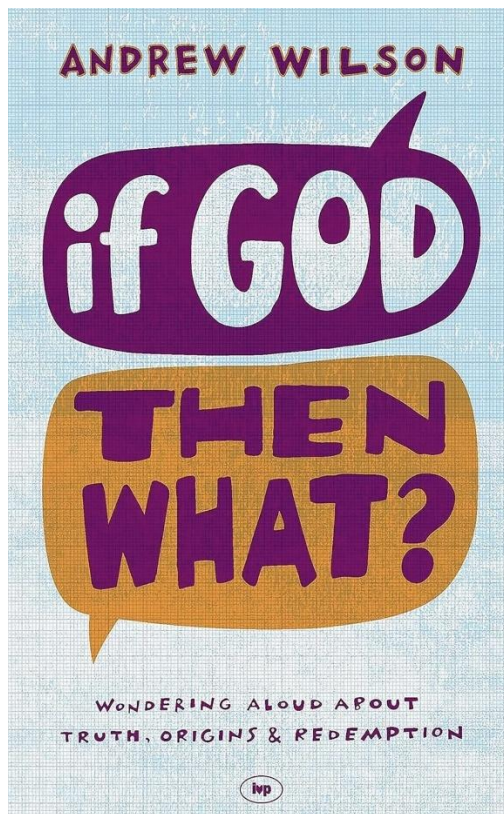
July	We are not meeting in July
Sunday 9 th August	Mary Sumner Day – Celebration during the 10.30am service followed by a Bring and Share Lunch.

Tea / Coffee in July

5 th	Volunteers required
12 th	Wendy
19 th	Chris and Barbara
26 th	Wendy

Book Review from Mara

If God, Then What by Andrew Wilson



Are you or someone you know looking for answers to those big faith questions? If God, Then What? is a profound, quirky and often amusing take on life's biggest questions. By sharing stories and asking questions, Andrew Wilson asks nine big questions about the meaning and purpose of life and if God can provide the answers. He offers a fresh way of looking at life and a different way of communicating the gospel. If you need a book where big topics are discussed in a conversational way, and to not get bogged down, this book is a ray of hope in a bookshelf of weighty tomes!



St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the June draw are as follows:

1 st	John Hankey	2 nd	John Rowson
3 rd	Thelma Walsh	4 th	Andrea Robinson

£107.50 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 26th July and payments must be made by Sunday 19th 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. In 2023 we moved to a new accounting system. 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
May	8,153	2,930	7,060	5,384
Total	£61,532	£25,851	£45,563	£64,787

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 £20,600

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 May 2026 is approximately £192,000 more than for the same period in 2025.

Wendy Bailey, PCC Treasurer

Tel: 07963 021172 Email: Wendy_bailey@hotmail.com

Pause for Thought with Norma Fox

What shape is God? Donald English, a notable Christian preacher, was speaking about John the Baptist in prison. John sends messengers to Jesus *'Are you the one that is to come?'* they ask on John's behalf.

We can try to imagine, and that not very well, what was going on in John's mind. According to Donald English, the basic issue was really about the shape of God. John had his own mental picture of the Messiah and apparently Jesus didn't quite fill the pattern. He didn't quite act the way John expected him to. Donald English hears Jesus throwing the question back. *'John, am I to be your shape or are you going to be my shape?'*

To some degree we all create God in our own image. Hopefully we've left behind the 'nice old gentleman with a white beard'. But we each hold a picture in our minds. Perhaps of a merciful God, or a judgmental one: a father or a brother. Some suggest we should think of God as mother. Whatever the picture, we tend unconsciously to select and arrange our experiences of life to confirm the image we already hold. We neatly file away and forget the signs that tell us the disturbing news that God is bigger than our ideas. Yet he is not to be confined in the little box of our prejudices or the straightjackets of our timidity.

Maybe it would be more comfortable if he were. Holding on to God is sometimes a bit like holding an elephant by the tail – you have to go in his direction not yours. And his direction leads to expanding horizons: *'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.'* (Isaiah 55 : 9)

It is God that holds us in the palm of his hand, not the other way round. He encourages and stimulates us to explore, to learn more, to move on to new riches and in doing so we slowly assume his shape, modelled into his likeness.

Prayer

Lord, in these moments of surprise when, open eyed we see your majesty;
when open mouthed we flounder in the sea of your infinity,
reach out your hand to us,
teach us to swim within the current of your love.
And in the frightening realisation of our own smallness
show us the greatness of your care. Amen.

Donations:

General Fund

In memory of David from Margaret Sefton	50.00
In memory of Brenda Hill from Sylvia	10.00
In memory of Jean Rothwell, 7 th July 2013, from Dianne	40.00
In memory of Canon June, 7 th July 2024, from Dianne	10.00

St Elphin's Prayer List



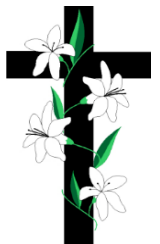
All those who are ill or in need of our love and prayers:

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

Parish Registers

Christian Burial & Cremation in June

15th Karen Louise Leigh Age 56



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



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