

St Elphin's Chronicle



September 2026



Vol 138
Price 50p



Services & Events at St Elphins for September 2026

Tuesday 1st	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 5th	
11.00am	Orthodox Service
Sunday 6th	
8.30am	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer
10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 8th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 12th	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
Sunday 13th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
12.30pm	Baptisms
3.00pm	Battle of Britain Service
Tuesday 15th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
17th – 19th	
Jigsaw Festival	
Thursday	3.00pm – 7.00pm
Friday	12.00pm – 5.00pm
Saturday	10.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday 20th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 22nd	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 26th	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening and Big Clean
Sunday 27th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 29th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Ruth Group at The Stonemill

The Parish Staff

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anne.dowdeswell@parishofwarrington.org

Leadership Team:

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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 (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:



The
Parish of
Warrington

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival takes place on Sunday 4th October.

Once again we will be supporting Warrington Foodbank for our Harvest Appeal this year.

We are only collecting tinned, dried and packet foods or toiletries. Please do not bring any fresh food or vegetables.



Ryfields Communion Service

Please note that there will not be a service in September.

The next service is on Thursday 1st October 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



Our next meeting will be lunch at the Rope and Anchor, Woolston on Thursday 24th September at 1.00pm.

Names to Margaret Sefton as soon as possible please.



Many thanks to everyone who donated Jammie Dodgers for Creamfields.

I'm sure they were appreciated by all the festival goers.

1330 Warrington Squadron Air Training Corps

Invite you to join them for their annual service of remembrance for The Battle of Britain.



St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the August draw are as follows:

1st Barbara Sheldon

2nd Dianne Rothwell

3rd Janet Cliffe

4th Alan Henshaw

£107.50 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 27th September and payments must be made by Sunday 20th to be in the draw.

For more information, then please speak to Janet Cliffe.

A global celebration: Mothers' Union marks Mary Sumner Day

On 8th and 9th August, Mothers' Union members around the world came together to mark Mary Sumner Day and celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union. From cathedral services and picnics to creative displays, fellowship and thanksgiving, members reflected on Mary Sumner's legacy and the difference Mothers' Union continues to make in families and communities.

Manchester Cathedral provided the setting for a special 150th anniversary service, featuring a colourful jigsaw display created by branches across the diocese. Each branch decorated a piece to show what Mothers' Union means to them. The finished display was a lovely visual to show the make-up of our Movement and how we are all part of a bigger picture. Canon Rosemary Taylor who led the talk reflected that, 'We are all pieces of the Mothers' Union jigsaw. We are all different. We have different gifts, different experiences and different stories. We belong to different branches and different communities, and yet we fit together as part of one worldwide movement.'

In York Diocese, members of St John the Evangelist Church celebrated in one of the best ways possible – with cake and fizz! While St James' Church in the Diocese of Carlisle hosted a special anniversary service. Members sang hymns with great gusto and heard a sermon from former Worldwide President Lynne Tembey, before gathering at the community centre for refreshments, fellowship and Mothers' Union displays.

More than 550 people travelled from across Ireland to Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, on Sunday 9th August, including members from Zimbabwe and Malawi. The Festival Eucharist, celebrated by Archbishop Michael Jackson, reflected on Mothers' Union's past, present and future. The service theme, 'Join Us, Join In', was described by All Ireland President Kay Clarke as 'more than an invitation to mark a milestone. It was a call to share in God's mission to belong, pray,

serve and witness to Christ's love in our homes, churches and communities.'

Leading the service, former Worldwide President Lady Christine Eames reflected on the organisation's journey but also set a challenge for the future, saying: 'We have worked together, we have prayed together through good times, through bad times.' Looking ahead, she asked: 'What will you and I hand on to those who come after us?' Something for us all to reflect on as we start to close our 150th anniversary year.

There was also a special moment in Bangor, Northwest Wales. During the celebratory service at Bangor Cathedral, the Diocese of Bangor Mothers' Union was admitted to the Community of the Cross of Nails, the worldwide Christian network committed to peacebuilding and reconciliation. The Province of Wales has set a 150th challenge for all dioceses to be formally affiliated with the Community of the Cross of Nails, creating a lasting spiritual legacy centred on peace, reconciliation, and hope for future generations.

The Very Revd Dr Manon Ceridwen James, Dean of Bangor Cathedral and Bishop-elect of Bangor, said: 'The Mothers' Union has spent 150 years turning faith into practical care for families and communities. Joining the Community of the Cross of Nails is a natural expression of that commitment. This cross will be a visible reminder of our shared calling to pray for peace, work for reconciliation and bring healing where there is division.'

In Winchester, the very diocese in which MU was born, Mary Sumner was remembered by the Mayor of Winchester, Cllr Jamie Scott, who laid flowers on her grave in the grounds of Winchester Cathedral. The gesture was followed by Choral Evensong, marking 150 years of Mothers' Union and honouring the lasting impact of its founder.

Across the UK, members continued the celebrations in their own communities. Sheffield Diocese followed its 150th anniversary service with a picnic in the grounds of Sheffield Cathedral, while members from across Llandaff Diocese gathered at Margam Orangery for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

In Blackburn Diocese, members gathered at Blackburn Cathedral for a day featuring more than 70 Mothers' Union branch and deanery banners, alongside displays showcasing the work taking place across the diocese. Children also created a special banner, which was later blessed by The Rt Revd Philip North, Bishop of Blackburn, during the Eucharist service commemorating Mary Sumner Day.

The celebrations reached across the world. In Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia, members hosted Sunday services to mark Mary Sumner Day and give thanks for 150 years of faith in action. In Kumasi Diocese, Ghana, members gathered at St Anne's Anglican Church in Ashanti New Town for a service of thanksgiving and fellowship, including the cutting of an anniversary cake. Mothers' Union USA also marked 23 years of service alongside the organisation's 150th anniversary with a joyful gathering and another fantastic cake.

Whether gathered in a cathedral, sharing a picnic, creating a display or praying together, members found their own ways to remember Mary Sumner and celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union. Her vision continues to live out in these small and large acts of faith, service and fellowship.

Empowering Lord, we thank you for the light of Mothers Union shining through 150 years - for friendship shared, families strengthened and faith lived out in love. Bind us together in unity with Christ, so that our strength may grow and our light shine ever further. Bless our homes with peace and fill our hearts with your hope. Help us to be faithful in the small things – the quiet kindness, the gentle word, the helping hand – stronger together in fellowship and joyful in your service, Amen



Branch meetings 2026

All meetings are in church at 2.00pm unless stated otherwise

September No MU meeting in September but all welcome to join the Ladies Group on Thursday 24th September 1.00pm for lunch at the Rope and Anchor please see Margaret Sefton if you wish to attend

Wed 21st Oct Meeting in Church

Wed 9th Dec Christmas Meeting

Tea / Coffee in September

6th Wendy

13th Volunteers required

20th Wendy

27th Volunteers required



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 Festival

17th - 19th September 2026

Thurs: 3.00 - 7.00pm

Friday: 12.00 - 5.00pm

Sat: 10.00 - 4.00pm



Other Stalls include:

Refreshments

Cake Stall

Chocolate Tombola

Jams Stall

Knitted Goods

Candles

Stained Glass

Wood

Silk Flowers

Books



Admission £2.00 - includes free raffle ticket
(free re-admission with programme over the 3 days)

Proceeds to be split between the 3 churches

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	14,720	21,995
June	4,679	4,450	5,930	6,877
July	13,081	8,100	7,781	60,478
Total	£79,291	£39,181	£59,273	£132,142

Income

Jan 2025 included £15,000 from the estate of Rev Paul Nener, however, despite this there is a £6,500 reduction in income compared with end of July 2025, and there is also a £14,500 reduction in income from investments, meaning the total reduction in income compared with 2025 is circa £40,000.

Expenditure

Feb 2026 includes £10,307 on repairs to windows and March includes a full years insurance of £10,072. May includes the first payment towards the repairs to the tower. So expenditure for end of July 2026 is approximately £73,000 more than for the same period in 2025, all to do with repairs to the tower.

Wendy Bailey, PCC Treasurer

Tel: 07963 021172 Email: Wendy_bailey@hotmail.com

Pause for Thought with Norma Fox

Precious to God

His name was David, but most just called him 'the street fiddler'. David was a dishevelled, older man who was a regular fixture in popular places in our town, serenading passers-by with unusual skill at his violin. In exchange for his music, listeners would sometimes place coins in the open instrument case before them on the pavement. David would smile and nod his head in thanks as he continued to play.

When David died recently and his obituary appeared in the local newspaper, it was revealed that he spoke several languages, was the graduate of a prestigious university and had even run for political office years ago. Some expressed surprise at the extent of his accomplishments, having assessed him on the basis of appearance alone.

Scripture tells us that 'God created mankind in his own image' (Genesis 1 : 27) this reveals an inherent worth within each one of us regardless of how we look, what we have achieved or what others may think of us. Even when we chose to turn from God in our sinfulness, God valued us so much that He sent His only Son to show us the way to salvation and eternity with Him.

We are loved by God, and all around us are those who are precious to Him. May we express our love for Him in return by sharing His love with others. God's love is meant to be shared.

Prayer

Heavenly Father thank you for your precious love. I pray that others may see Your love in my words and action.

Loving Shepherd thou didst give
Thine own life that I may live;
May I love thee day by day,
Gladly thy sweet will obey.

verse from a hymn

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

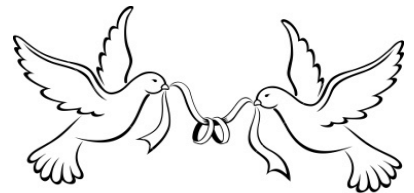
Holy Baptism in August

16th Elizabeth Margaret Hill



Holy Matrimony in August

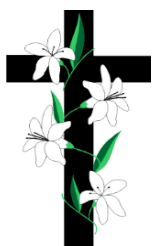
15th Matthew Lowndes and Kirsty Ross



Christian Burial & Cremation in August

13th Philomena (Christine) Figgins

Age 70





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FUNERAL
PLANNING
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REGISTERED

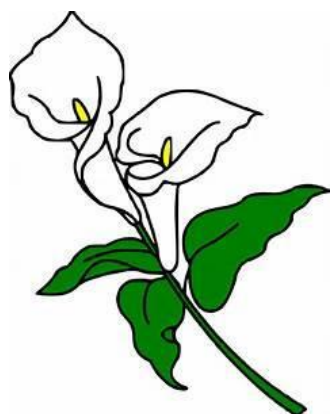


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Lymm

01925 758057

Stockton Heath

01925 602932



Coffee Bar@Holy Trinity



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HT Coffee Bar

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