

St Elphin's Chronicle



She, inspired by
faith, motherhood and loss
Reflected on
Women as Mothers
The need for support
and strength for all.
In this vital vocation
A desire to change
Our nation
for a mother to show a good example
to children,
To keep prayer and faith
in family life.
The cradle then rocked
and the world was ruled.
Then the world
Enveloped us in its arms
We, her greatest memorial
We hold her vision
Close to our hearts
In our mutual fellowship
In our heartfelt prayers
In the lives we touch.
In our land and across the seas.
Everything inspired
by One
We follow in her steps
Trusting in God's plan
To reach out in love and service
Across the World.

Elaine Millard, St Mary's MU, Tickhill



August 2026



Vol 138
Price 50p



Services & Events at St Elphins for August 2026

Saturday 1st	
10.30am	Orthodox Service
Sunday 2nd	
8.30am	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer
10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 4th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 8th	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
Sunday 9th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion followed by Bring and Share Lunch to celebrate Mary Sumner Day
Tuesday 11th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 15th	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
Sunday 19th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
12.00 noon	Baptisms
Tuesday 18th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 22nd	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening and Big Clean
Sunday 26th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 25th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 29th	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Church Opening
Sunday 30th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
12.00 noon	Baptisms

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>



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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

A Rector Rambles...

Hello everyone.

I hope that you are enjoying some rest this Summer, whether you are able to get away on holiday or are enjoying the weather at home. Taking some time off, resting our bodies and minds, matters. Jesus and His disciples often made 'strategic withdrawals' from the crowds: 'because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, "Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest".' (Mark 6: 31,32).

Jesus saw how tired and stressed His disciples were and wanted to give them a break in their busy lives. He loved them and cared about their wellbeing. He longs to do the same with us, so that we can restore the balance of work, rest and play in our lives. The Summer can give us the opportunity to take time off, to let go the burdens that we carry every day and receive again His rest for our souls: 'Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28).

Refreshment may not just be about stopping altogether. It can be an opportunity to renew our faith and build new habits. Across the parish of Warrington, we have a new set of daily reflections which will not take a huge amount of time each day but may help to bring some focus and reset our prayer practices. The prayer sheet is in this magazine. The story is told of the aged Apostle John playing with doves. A passing hunter expressed surprise at what a man as pious as John was doing. John pointed to the bow in the hunter's hand and asked him why he carried it with a loosened string. The hunter replied, 'it loses its strength unless it is given the chance to unbend'. John replied, 'why are you surprised that a servant of Christ should not relax to keep himself stronger for his work?'

I hope that, whatever you are planning for the Summer, you are able to find refreshment for your bodies and minds.

With every blessing

Anne

Ryfields Communion Service

The next service is on Thursday 6th August at 10.00am. Please note that there will not be a service in September.

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

Janet Cliffe



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Venezuelan Appeal.
We raised the sum of £26.00



St Elphin's Ladies Group



We had a fantastic Afternoon Tea at White Moss Garden Centre in July and are planning on returning later in the year – watch this space for details.



We will not be meeting in August.

Celebrating Friendships within Mothers' Union

For 150 years, Mothers' Union has been uniting people and helping form lasting relationships. From local branch meetings and community projects to links with members across the world, relationships have grown and flourished. It is these connections that make Mothers' Union feel like a family, with relationships often spanning years and distance.

One such friendship is that of Marilyn Oulds and Sue Habgood. Many years ago, as part of an initiative to strengthen links across dioceses and countries, members were given Prayer Partners. Marilyn, from the Diocese of Brisbane in Australia, was paired with Sue from the Diocese of Guildford in England. Neither of them imagined that a simple promise to pray for one another would lead to decades of friendship. At first, they exchanged prayers and news of their families, sharing the joys and challenges of everyday life. Despite living in different countries, Marilyn and Sue made the distance feel smaller through regular contact, until they eventually visited one another in their homes, shared precious time together and became part of each other's family stories. They celebrated birthdays, weddings and the arrival of grandchildren, and stood beside one another through illness and difficult times. Today both women are grandmothers, and their eldest grandchildren are close in age, another lovely connection between their families. An added blessing has been the friendship that has developed between their husbands.

Marilyn sums it up beautifully: *'I have made so many precious friendships through Mothers' Union, but the bond I share with Sue is truly something special and means so much to me.'*

For others, connection within Mothers' Union is not only about friendship, but also about family and belonging across generations. Helen Russ reflects on how that sense of belonging has been part of her own story: *'For me it is generational; my grandmother and mother*

were both members and I always knew I would join at some point.' Those words will resonate with many members whose own Mothers' Union journey began long before they signed their membership forms. The values of faith, service and friendship are often passed down through families, linking one generation to the next.

As we celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union, we give thanks for the friendships that have been formed, and we look forward to those still to come. Across oceans, time zones and generations, Mothers' Union members continue to discover what Mary Sumner knew from the beginning: that lives are changed when people come together to pray, support and care for one another.

Lord, in this quiet month of August, help us to be still, to rest from our busyness, reflect on Your goodness, rejoice in Your faithfulness, and replenish our hearts with Your Peace. As we remember Mary Sumner, we thank You for her vision and love. May her example inspire us to walk in faith, speak with courage and serve with joy. Amen

Branch meetings 2026

Sunday 9 th August	Mary Sumner Day – Celebration during the 10.30am service followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. Please sign the list at the back of church if you will be staying for lunch.
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Tea / Coffee in August

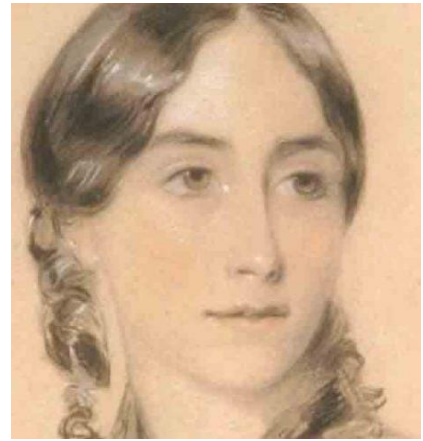
2 nd	Volunteers required
9 th	Wendy
16 th	Volunteers required
23 rd	Wendy
30 th	Volunteers required

Mary Sumner, founder of Mothers' Union, changed the world

Mary Sumner, the Winchester Woman who changed the World.

One of the most influential people ever connected to the city was a woman who simply wanted to help other mothers.

Her name was Mary Sumner.



Born Mary Elizabeth Heywood on 31 December 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester, she grew up in a loving and educated family. As a young woman, she travelled in Europe and studied music in Rome, where she met George Henry Sumner, son of the Bishop of Winchester. The couple married in 1848 and eventually settled in the Hampshire village of Old Alresford, just a few miles from Winchester where George was Rector.

Like many new mothers, Mary found parenthood far more difficult than she had expected.

She later admitted that she often felt overwhelmed and unsure of herself. There were no parenting books, no online forums and no support groups. Many women simply struggled in silence. Rather than keeping those feelings to herself, Mary decided to do something about it.

In 1876, she invited local mothers to meet together in Old Alresford. Her idea was simple: women could support one another, share experiences and help each other through the challenges of family life. It almost didn't happen.

Mary was so nervous at the first meeting that she could barely speak and her husband had to help address the gathering. Few could have imagined that this shy village rector's wife was about to start a movement that would spread across the world.

But word travelled.

More groups appeared. More women joined. Before long, the Mothers' Union had spread throughout the Diocese of Winchester, then across Britain, and eventually across the globe.

Today, millions of women have been members of the organisation she founded.

Mary spent her final years living beside Winchester Cathedral at No. 1 The Close. When she died on 11 August 1921, aged 92, she was buried alongside her husband in the cathedral grounds.

It's remarkable to think that one of Winchester's greatest success stories began not with wealth, power or privilege, but with a mother admitting she didn't have all the answers.

Sometimes the people who change the world aren't the loudest voices in the room. They're simply the people who understand a problem and decide to help.



St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the July draw are as follows:

1 st	Norma Fox	2 nd	Gill Whitticombe
3 rd	Sylvia Wright	4 th	Pauline Rowson

£107.50 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 23rd August and payments must be made by Sunday 16th to be in the draw.

For more information, then please speak to Janet Cliffe.

Summer Bible Reading

Many of us go away over the summer, and many of us have a different rhythm of life, and it's easy to let our spiritual disciplines slip. So here's a sheet to help you keep praying and reading the Bible over August, or to start praying and reading if you've never tried it before!

Date	Passage	Things to pray
August 1st	Mark 1 verses 1-20	Pray for the people in your church who preach and teach.
August 2nd	Mark 1 verses 21 to 45	Pray for people you know who are unwell
August 3rd	Mark 2 verses 1-17	Pray for someone who isn't part of the church yet
August 4th	Mark 2 verses 18-27	Pray for the 'new wineskins' God might be asking your church to develop.
August 5th	Mark 3 verses 1-19	Pray for God to provide new volunteers and leaders
August 6th	Mark 3 verses 20-35	Pray for those who have no families, and those who are estranged.

August 7th	Mark 4 1-20	Pray for those who've heard God's word today - that it would be fruitful
August 8th	Mark 4 verses 21-41	Pray for God to bring peace in the midst of the storms
August 9th	Mark 5 verses 1-20	Pray for ministries which work with those on the margins of society
August 10th	Mark 5 verses 21-43	Pray for those living with chronic illnesses, and those who help care for them
August 11th	Mark 6 verses 1-29	Pray for those who are persecuted today because of the gospel
August 12th	Mark 6 verses 30 -56	Pray for God to take the little we have and multiply it so we can serve his kingdom
August 13th	Mark 7 verses 1-23	Ask God what things are making you 'unclean' on the inside. Ask for his forgiveness.
August 14th	Mark 7 verses 24-37	Pray for those who are strangers here.

August 15th	Mark 8 verses 1-21	Pray for ministries which show compassion to the hungry in our country and further afield
August 16th	Mark 8 verses 22-38	Pray for people in our nation to declare Jesus Christ as Lord
August 17th	Mark 9 verses 1-32	Pray for God to give you a fresh vision of who he is today
August 18th	Mark 9 verses 33-50	Pray for humility and grace to be practiced in your church - including by you!
August 19th	Mark 10 verses 1-31	Ask God how you should be using your money. Is there something generous he wants you to do?
August 20th	Mark 10 verses 32-52	Pray that God would help you serve others today
August 21st	Mark 11 verses 1-11	Praise God today for his goodness to you
August 22nd	Mark 11 verses 12-33	Pray for your church to be a 'house of prayer'
August 23rd	Mark 12 verses 1-27	Pray that God would

		show you what you ought to be doing for him today.
August 24th	Mark 12 verses 28-44	Pray for God to help you love him with all your heart and the people around you as yourself
August 25th	Mark 13 1-13	Ask God to give you words to speak to explain your faith to others
August 26th	Mark 13 v 14-37	Ask God to help you live all the time so you're ready for him
August 27th	Mark 14 v 1-31	What gift might you offer the Lord today?
August 28th	Mark 14 v 32-72	Pray for courage not to let the Lord down.
August 29th	Mark 15 v 1-20	Praise God for his goodness in sending his Son for us.
August 30th	Mark 15 v 21 to 47	Pray for those who are dying today, and especially those with no faith.
August 31st	Mark 16	Praise God for the resurrection!

St Elphin's Brownies

Recently some of St Elphins Brownies had a day out to New Brighton.

In one day they learnt to read timetables, (and for several travel on a train for the first time.) They followed a street map to follow the Mermaid Trail. They ate lunch in the Fairy Glen and then walked down to the lifeguard protected sand to build sandcastles and play in a rock pool.

A visit to the theatre cafe for a drink and to use the hand dryers to dry their clothes. Time meant we had to go for the trains home. At the first change we all had to contend with the fans from the Rugby Union International, we then had to change at South Parkway where they had been promised an ice-cream, if there were any for sale. They were all delighted to find a machine where you picked your flavour and then made your own ice cream. Finally we caught the last of the 3 trains to hand over sun kissed Brownies who had put into practice their skills at planning journeys, map reading and earning their Folklore badge.

We have to say Thank you for the grant from the church Moral Welfare Fund which helped with the finance side so they could put their learning into practice.



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
Total	£66,210	£30,301	£51,492	£71,665

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 June 2025, and there is also a £9,000 reduction in income from investments, meaning the total reduction in income compared with 2025 is circa £35,900.

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 June 2026 is approximately £20,000 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

The Secret of Peace

Grace was a very special lady. One word comes to mind when I think of her : peace. The quiet restful expression on her face had seldom changed in the years I had known her, even though she had been blind for many years. When I had asked her the secret of her peace she had said *'Its not a secret, my dear, it's a person. Its Jesus in me. There is no other way I can explain the quietness I feel in the midst of the storm.'*

The secret of peace is our relationship to Jesus Christ. He is our peace. When Jesus is our Saviour and Lord, and as we become more like Him, peace becomes real. Things like sickness, financial difficulties or danger may be present, but peace reassures us that God holds our lives in His hands (Daniel 5 : 23) and we can trust that things will work together for good.

Can we experience this peace that goes beyond logic and understanding? Yes we can. And do we have the inner confidence that God is in control? Yes we do. I have experienced this time and time again in my life.

My wish for all today echoes the words of the apostle Paul: *'May the Lord of peace himself give you peace and may you have it at all times and in every way.'* (2 Thessalonians 3 : 16)

Peace perfect peace is the gift of Christ our Lord.

Thus says the Lord,

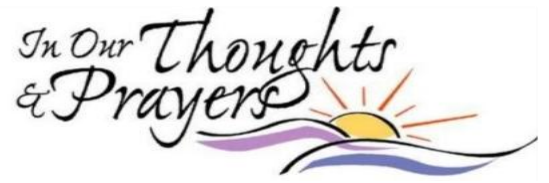
Will the world know my friends?

Peace perfect peace is the gift of Christ our Lord (hymn)

Prayer

Dear Lord, please give us your peace at all times and in every situation. Amen.

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

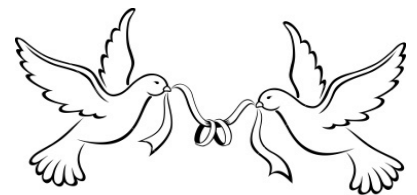
Holy Baptism in July

12 th	Felicity True Hyatt	
19 th	Elsie Sue Acomb	Milah Elizabeth Driscoll
	Nevaeh Elizabeth Smith	



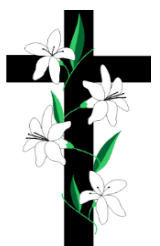
Holy Matrimony in July

23 rd	Harry Samuel Leah and Melissa Louise Lawrence
27 th	Connor James Lockett and Charlotte Emily McKay



Christian Burial & Cremation in July

3 rd	Denis Ashton	Age 70
8 th	Farirayi Mutemererwa	Age 34
16 th	Robert Sherratt	Age 73





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