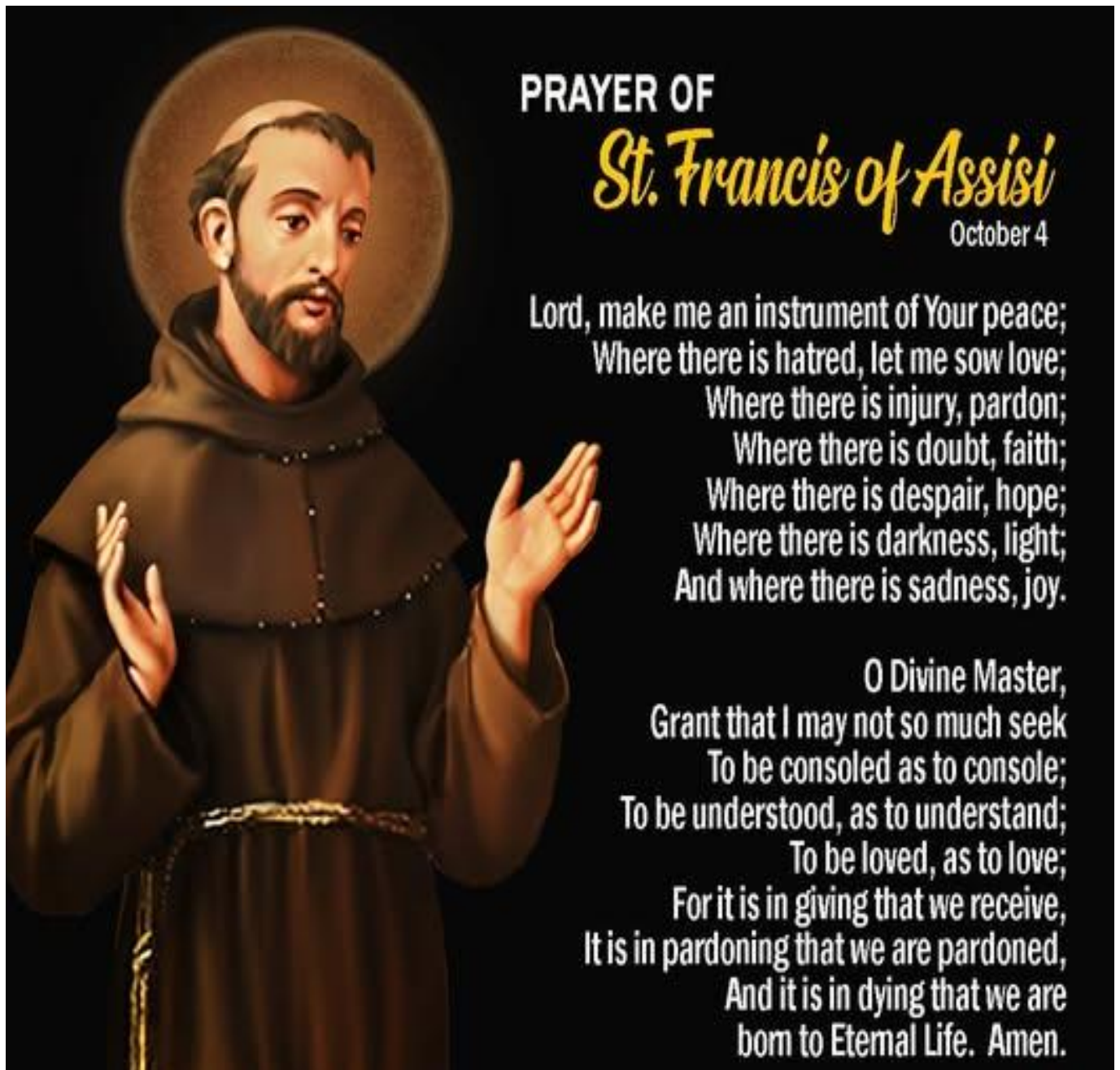


St Elphin's Chronicle



October 2026



Vol 138
Price 50p



Services & Events at St Elphins for October 2026

Saturday 3rd	
11.00am	Orthodox Service
Sunday 4th	Harvest Festival
8.30am	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer
10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 6th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 13th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
2.00pm	Ladies Group – Games afternoon in Church
Sunday 18th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion – All Age Service
6.00pm	Parish of Warrington Service at St Barnabas with Simon, Bishop of Warrington. All Welcome
Tuesday 20th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 21st	
2.00pm	Mothers' Union meeting in Church
Saturday 24th	
10.00 – 12.00 noon	Big Clean
Sunday 25th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 27th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Ruth Group at The Stonemill

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

First Aider: Susan Jeffery

Health and Safety Officer: Ken Jeffery

Gift Aid & Admin: Dianne Rothwell stelphin246@btinternet.com

Fire Safety Officer: 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

Hello everyone,

In the church year the *Season of Creation* (September 1st – October 4th) is an opportunity for us to reflect on our responsibility to care for the planet. As we mark the end of the season at St Elphin's with our Harvest Celebration, we might want to consider:

The world is not ours:

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1). The world is not ours, but God's! This means we have a responsibility of caring for God's world: *'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'* (Genesis 2:15). Clearly, we have not done the best job! The effects of global warming have been all too obvious this summer! 2025 ranked as the third warmest year on record globally, 1.3°C to 1.44°C above pre-industrial levels. This follows the historic peak in 2024, driven by ongoing fossil fuel emissions and high ocean surface temperatures and 2026 will break new records.

Our hope is found in Jesus:

Any hope for the future lies in Jesus Himself. He is the one who sustains creation and will bring everything to completion: *'all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.'* (Colossians 1:16,17). God's plan is *'to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.'* (Ephesians 1:10). We can look forward to the climax of history when God through Christ will restore our broken world and make everything new.

In the present, we are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth. Simple everyday actions can help to sustain our planet, including recycling of waste, energy saving, choosing reusable options, careful diet and a commitment to simple living can help the planet. As we think about working towards the Silver Eco Church award we will need to think about our own answers to these issues. In particular there is a gas boiler under the church roughly the size of a Morris Minor and which will need to be replaced before too many more years have passed and we will need to consider the full impact of our choice of replacement.

However difficult the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage it with faith and not fatalism!

With every blessing

Anne

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

The next service is on Thursday 1st October at 10.00am.

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

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

Janet Cliffe



St Elphin's Ladies Group



The next Ladies Group meeting will be in church on Tuesday 13th October at 2.00pm when we will be having a games afternoon.

We've already got Mahjong and Rummikub for you to have a go at but If you have a favourite board game please bring it along with you.

There may even be a Jigsaw Puzzle to have a go at!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

31st October – All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.



St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the September draw are as follows:

1 st	Alan Card	2 nd	Sylvia Wright
3 rd	Neil Walsh	4 th	Hilda Peacock

£107.50 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 25th October and payments must be made by Sunday 18th to be in the draw.

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? If you would like to join or want any more information, then please speak to Janet Cliffe.

Dedicate a Hymn Book

You will be aware that a lot of our hymn books are dedicated in memory of a loved one but we still have several books that have no dedication in them.

If anyone would like to dedicate a book in someone's memory please speak to Janet.

Love in every stitch – a celebration of 150 years of Mothers' Union

As part of its 150th anniversary celebrations, Truro Diocesan Mothers' Union brought together more than 50 beautiful banners from across Cornwall for a special exhibition at Truro Cathedral. Titled 'Love in Every Stitch', the exhibition showcased the handiwork of Mothers' Union members over the decades. As Judith Field, MU member and Truro Cathedral Fundraising Officer, explained: 'The exhibition is called "Love in Every Stitch" because each of these beautiful banners was hand-sewn with loving care.' While an exhibition had also been held to mark MU's 140th anniversary, this year's celebration was even bigger, with banners of all ages and styles displayed throughout the Cathedral.

Finding them all was no small task. Judith contacted churches across the diocese to find out whether they had a banner to contribute. Some had been tucked away and forgotten, making the search something of a treasure hunt. Along the way, the banners also brought back memories for parishioners whose relatives had been Mothers' Union members in years gone by. The banners varied greatly, from historic designs to more modern creations, with many featuring images of Mary and the infant Jesus, reflecting themes of mothering and the love of God. Most were blue or edged in blue, although one mystery remains unsolved: why the Mothers' Union banner for Cornwall is red!

The exhibition also included information about the work of Mothers' Union locally and around the world. During the exhibition, members held a family fun day inside the Cathedral, offering free activities for local families and visitors alike. There was even a bouncy castle and a Mothers' Union member dressed as a dinosaur! Families of all kinds came along, including local residents, holidaymakers, grandparents with children and local childminders.

Visitors were also invited to explore the exhibition and vote for their favourite banner, although many found choosing just one a challenge.

By the end of the exhibition, hundreds of votes had been cast. And while many of the beautiful banners received votes, there was one clear favourite: the Mothers' Union banner from St Wenap in the small village of Gwennap, near Redruth.



Branch meetings 2026

All meetings are in church at 2.00pm unless stated otherwise

Wed 21st Oct Meeting in Church

Wed 2nd Dec Christmas Meeting (please note change of date, as the church is busy on the next two Wednesdays)

Tea / Coffee in October

4 th	Wendy
11 th	Volunteers required
18 th	Dianne
25 th	Wendy



Big Clean

We've not had a Big Clean for a while so if anyone is available to join us on Saturday 24th October between 10.00 and 12.00pm we'd love to see you.

Tea/Coffee and Toast available.

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 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	8,562	7,781	60,478
August	2,969	3,926	6,735	19,037
Total	£82,261	£43,569	£66,008	£151,179

Income

Jan 2025 included £15,000 from the estate of Rev Paul Nener, however, despite this there is a £5,800 reduction in donations compared with end of August 2025, and there is also a £13,800 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 1st payment towards the repairs to the tower. July includes the 2nd payment for the tower, August the 3rd payment. So expenditure for the end of August 2026 is just over £85,000 more than for the same period in 2025, all to do with the repairs to the tower.

Wendy Bailey, PCC Treasurer

Tel: 07963 021172 Email: Wendy_bailey@hotmail.com

What Interests You ?

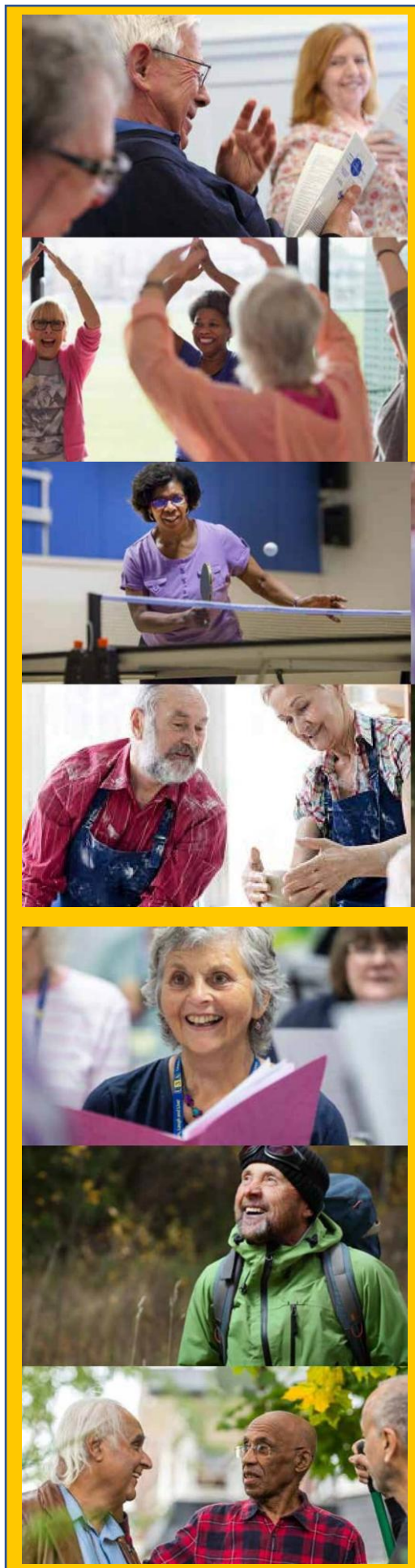
If you have time on your hands or want to get out more then Warrington U3A enables you to develop your interests, make new friends and above all have fun.

Warrington U3A has over 1000 members and has over 40 interest groups all organised by its own members.

You can join as many groups as you wish and joining in is made so much easier when you are surrounded by other members with similar interests.

Also, once a month, we invite all members to a general meeting where you can get together with friends, chat and listen to some really interesting speakers.

Warrington U3A welcomes you, whoever you are, whatever your background and whatever your circumstances.



A whole world of new experiences is awaiting you, so what's stopping you joining our groups ?

Art, Awaydays, Badminton, Latin Birdwatching, Bowling, Theatre Appreciation, German, American Square Dancing, Italian, History Guitar, Ukulele, Knit and Natter Line Dancing, Mah Jong, French Lace Making, Bridge, Badminton Literature, Guitar, Rummikub Philosophy, Scrabble, Book Club Natural History, Walking, Science Family History, Tai Chi, Spanish Film Club, Folk and Acoustic Table Tennis, Sea Shanties Photography, Patchwork Quilting and Singing for Pleasure

We are Warrington U3A

Contact : Andrew Young

Email me at :
wu3anewreg@outlook.com

Telephone : 07817 377238

Our web site is :
u3asites.org.uk/warrington/



Learn, laugh, live

Founded in 1981, we are part of the National U3A movement which has over 1000 branches and 400,000 members.



A huge thank you from the Jigsaw Team to everyone who helped with and attended the Jigsaw Festival.

Despite the dreadful weather on Friday we raised the fantastic sum of £4,229 over the 3 days of the festival.

For anyone who wasn't able to join us at the Festival, Jigsaws will be on sale at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 28th November and the dates for 2027's Festival are:

Thursday 16th – Saturday 18th September

Watch this space for a date for a pop-up Jigsaw Sale early in the New Year!!

Advance Notice

Our Christmas Fayre and Grand Raffle will take place on Saturday 28th November and we would be grateful to receive donations of gifts for the stalls and Raffle.

We also need volunteers to help set up on Friday 27th, to help on the stalls on Saturday 28th and also help us to tidy up after the Fayre.

Tickets for our Grand Raffle will be available at the back of church in mid-October.

Donations towards the prizes are also welcome.

Please speak to Dianne or Janet for more information.



Join us for our

Christmas Fayre

at

St Elphin's Church

Saturday
28th November

11am – 3pm



MUSIC BY THE SCHOOL CHOIR
11:30am



STAINED GLASS



TOMBOLA



JIGSAW PUZZLES



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AVAILABLE

GRAND RAFFLE

to be drawn at

2:30pm



Remembering St Francis of Assisi

Eight hundred years ago, on 3rd October 1226, St Francis of Assisi, the Italian friar, deacon and mystic, died. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity, he founded the Franciscan Order.

He died at the age of about 44 of severe illness, including eye disease, malaria and exhaustion, possibly following a 40-day fast. He was declared a saint by Pope Gregory IX two years later.

Francis' father was a wealthy silk merchant, Pietro di Bernardone dei Moriconi, and his mother a noblewoman from Provence. He was one of seven children – called Francesco by his father, who was an enthusiast for France. At first, he behaved as a typical son of a wealthy merchant, but several things changed his attitude – one of which was his capture and imprisonment for nearly a year after fighting in a war against Perugia.

He also had visions and underwent a change in character leading him to a strong commitment to help the poor – an attitude which led to estrangement from his father, whom he eventually renounced.

He aligned himself strongly with the poor, on one occasion begging with them at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. He also spent times in lonely places, seeking divine illumination, and was said to have received the stigmata during an angelic vision.

Often pictured wearing a plain brown habit tied with a rope of three knots, symbolising poverty, chastity and obedience, St Francis is one of the most honoured people in Christianity. He is a joint patron saint of Italy with Catherine of Siena, and in 2013 Archbishop Bergoglio of Argentina chose the papal name of Francis in his honour, becoming Pope Francis.

Many pilgrimage routes lead to the tomb of St Francis in Assisi, and he is honoured by many churches, including Lutherans and Anglicans.

Tim Lenton

Pause for Thought with Norma Fox

Everywhere and Nowhere

A woman who lost her teenager in a car accident wrote a tribute to her daughter, Linsey, in their local newspaper. One of the most powerful images in her essay was this: after mentioning the many pictures and remembrances of Linsey she had put around the house, she wrote *'she is everywhere but nowhere'*.

Although her daughter still smiles back at her from the photos, her spirited personality that lit up those smiles are nowhere to be found. They are everywhere – in her heart, in her thoughts, in all those photos - but nowhere.

But scripture tells us that, in Christ Linsey is not really nowhere. She is in Jesus presence, 'with the Lord' (2 Corinthians 5 : 8). She is with the One who, in sense is 'nowhere but everywhere'. After all we don't see God in a physical form. We certainly don't have smiling pictures of Him on our mantel. In fact if you look around your house, you may think He is nowhere. But just the opposite is true. He is everywhere.

In psalm 139 verse 7 the psalmist marvels at God's faithfulness to us – *'Where can I go from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?'*

Wherever we go on this earth, God is there. He is there to guide, strengthen and comfort us. We cannot go where He is not. We don't see Him but He's everywhere. In each trial we face, that's incredibly good news.

Great is thy faithfulness
O God my Father
There is no shadow
Of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not;
As thou has been
Thou forever wilt be.

Prayer

Thank you Lord that you are present with me here right now.
Teach me to lean on you. Amen

Prisons Week – 11th to 17th October

Prisons Week is an annual initiative dedicated to prayer and raising awareness for those affected by the criminal justice system. This year it runs from Prisons Sunday, 11th October, to Saturday 17th October.

It was begun in 1975 by Bishop Victor Guazzelli, an auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Westminster. The bishop was a keen supporter of social justice and wanted to encourage Christians to pray for the needs of all of those affected by prison: the prisoners, their families, the victims of crime and their communities, and all those working in the criminal justice system.

These days Prisons Week provides a shared focus for Christian churches and individuals to minister to those in prisons. It also aims to inspire volunteers to give time to support affected individuals.

Do you feel drawn to some kind of prison ministry, but are not sure where to begin?

You might consider the Prison Fellowship's letter writing scheme, *Letter Link*. It enables volunteers to safely connect with those in prison, to encourage them.

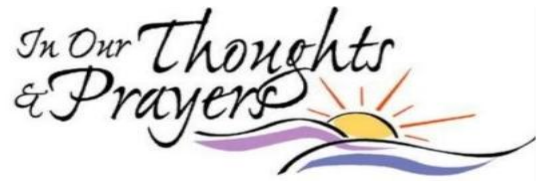
Letter Link has been the foundation of many friendships. Prison Fellowship letter writers can become a strong support system for someone struggling behind bars. And these letters can often be the vital link that connects people in prison with the outside community.

Sadly, *Letter Link* is sometimes the *only* communication that someone in prison receives. In a place of isolation and darkness, regular letters can be a source of comfort and a reminder that people in prison are still loved and valued by God.

Many prisoners are still seeking a pen pal.

For more info: <https://prisonfellowship.org.uk/our-work/letter-link/>

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
Margaret		

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism in September

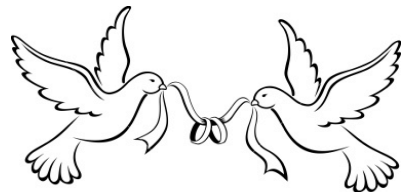
13th Matilda Gorst
27th Iris Amelia Hurley



*Shine as lights in the world
To the Glory of God the Father*

Holy Matrimony in September

25th Ryan Thomas Mercer and Mollie Anne Connell



*Those whom God has joined together
Let no man put asunder*



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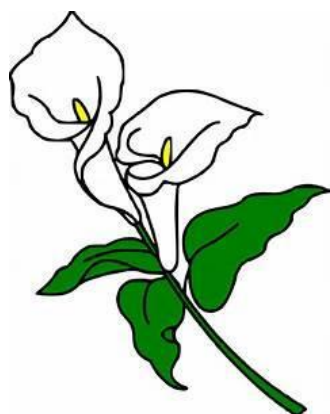


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