St Elphin's Chronicle



November 2026

Vol 138
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Diocese of Liverpool

Services & Events at St Elphins for November 2026

Sunday 1st	**Patronal Festival**
8.30am	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer
10.30am	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Memorial Service
Monday 2nd	
6.30pm	All Souls Service
Tuesday 3rd	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Saturday 7th	
11.00am	Orthodox Service
7.00pm	Festival of Remembrance
Sunday 8th	**Remembrance Day**
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Service of Remembrance (not Holy Communion)
Tuesday 10th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 15th	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion – All Age Service
Tuesday 17th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd	
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 24th	
10.00am	Holy Communion
11.00am	Ruth Group at The Stonemill
Saturday 28th	
11.00 – 3.00pm	Christmas Fayre
Sunday 29th	**Advent Sunday**
8.30am	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holy Communion

The Parish Staff

Team Vicar:	Revd Anne Dowdeswell	07864 938898 anne.dowdeswell@parishofwarrington.org
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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, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. As I am writing this, we are in the aftermath of the first major storms of the season and I have to admit to spending quite a bit of time pondering whether the Rectory is more than 281 feet from the famous spire of St Elphin's. But for today at least, everything is standing and the winds have died down a little.

One of the questions that clergy get asked fairly frequently is "what is the difference between a vicar and a rector?" And, if it doesn't seem like the moment for an extended discourse on the historical issue of priests who acted *vicariously* on behalf of a bishop or monastery, receiving a stipend and priests who received the full tithes and other income for their parishes and bore financial responsibility for, for example, chancel repairs, as well as having a more independent leadership role… and it usually doesn't seem like a good time for that discussion! – I sometimes say 'rectors live in a Rectory. Vicars live in a vicarage.' Which is brief, but inaccurate!

Actually both answers are pretty inaccurate these days. Glebe lands are managed by a Diocesan committee, parish clergy receive stipends, Common Tenure governs the management of clergy, 'vicar' is used pretty much universally by our society for people in dog collars and lots of vicars live in rectories – and rectors in vicarages too.

'Team Rector' has become a title used for senior clergy leading team ministries. Since the establishment of the Parish of Warrington in the spring of this year, our team rector has been Sarah Peppiatt and the other clergy of the parish have been team vicars. At a service at St Barnabas in October, Bishop Simon issued our new licences and installed Sarah. So now the formalities have caught up with the actual situation.

If you weren't able to be at the service, the clergy affirmed and declared their "belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments, I will use only the forms of service which are

authorised or allowed by Canon" as well as swearing allegiance to the King and obedience to the Bishop of Liverpool.

Bishop Simon told all the assembled and relicensed ministers that "In your work, mission and ministry, and in collaboration with your colleagues care alike for young and old, weak and strong, poor and rich; share their joy and their sadness. You are to enable the people here to use their own gifts in the service of the Gospel, to help them discover the longing of their own spirit. You are called to ensure that you also grow in grace, learning from the people, making time for study, for quiet reflection and for prayer for you are called to be available, to be humble and to be human. Together all of you are called to proclaim the glorious freedom of the children of God, to preach the Gospel of peace and hope, to pray earnestly not only for the people in your care but for the whole community. You are to minister God's healing and reconciliation wherever there is pain or conflict whether within or beyond the Church."

As a job description, that is pretty daunting – but along with the other team vicars, lay readers, and our team rector – I'll try to live up to the challenge. As a vicar living in a Rectory, I am going to have to think of a new answer to that question though!

With every blessing,

Anne

Can you help?

December is one of our busiest months for services and events and we could do with some help stewarding at them.

If you feel you would be able to help us please speak to Janet and she will show you the list of dates and take your details. The more volunteers we have the easier it will be to cover the events.



Thank you.



Ryfields Communion Service



Please note that there will not be a service in November. The next service is on Thursday 3rd December 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



The Ladies Group are not meeting in November but our December Meeting will be a Christmas Afternoon Tea at White Moss Garden Centre on Tuesday 1st December at 2.00pm.

The cost is £20.00 and if you would like to join us please let Margaret Sefton know by Sunday 22nd November at the latest please as we have to confirm numbers and pay on Friday 27th.



St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the October draw are as follows:

1st	Sylvia Wright	2nd	Margaret Sephton
3rd	Norma Fox	4th	Martin Butterworth

£107.50 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 22nd November and payments must be made by Sunday 15th to be in the draw.

If you are not already a member, would you consider joining? To join or for more information, then please speak to Janet Cliff.

November 2026

Celebrating worldwide fellowship: one worldwide family in Christ

After four days of worship, learning, celebration and connection, the Mothers' Union Worldwide Gathering in Durban came to a close on Saturday 3 October with a message of hope, courage and renewed calling. With the theme of Celebrating Worldwide Fellowship: One Worldwide Family in Christ, delegates from across the world were reminded that while Mothers' Union has much to celebrate from its first 150 years, the anniversary is also a moment to look forward.

The day began with the keynote The Future Belongs to the Faithful: Hope, Courage & the Mothers' Union's Next 150 Years, from Worldwide President Kathleen Snow. She reminded delegates that the future is built on God's faithfulness. 'This anniversary is not simply a celebration of longevity; it is a testimony to God's continuing presence. We have heard much about listening, and walking alongside each other and in our communities, and that is what has made a difference to our communities.'

Looking to the future also requires courage: courage to listen, to adapt and to make space for new voices, while remaining rooted in the values that have shaped Mothers' Union from the beginning. Kathleen's message was clear. The next 150 years will not be shaped by a small group of leaders alone. Every member, branch, diocese and province has a part to play.

The Gathering concluded with the Closing Eucharist and Commissioning Service, led by The Most Revd and Rt Hon, Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury, accompanied by The Rt Revd Dr Thabo Magkoba, Archbishop of Southern Africa. The service gave thanks for 150 years of Mothers' Union and celebrated the acts of love, prayer, friendship and practical service that have shaped its story. As Her Grace said, 'if you want something doing, ask the Mothers' Union!' As our anniversary year continues, the closing service marked both an ending and a beginning. The past 150 years provide a foundation, but the challenges facing families and communities continue to change. The gathering had given delegates space to listen to those challenges, hear from different generations and contexts, and reflect on how faith can be lived out through action.

The next chapter will need the experience of those who have carried Mothers' Union this far, alongside the energy, ideas and leadership of a new generation. It requires a message of sending. Go, light the way. Go back to our churches and communities. Go back to our families and branches. Go with faith, courage, compassion and hope. And continue the work that has connected Mothers' Union across the world for 150 years: praying, serving, speaking up and standing alongside families and communities.

Luke 10:23 reminds us "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see". May we all be encouraged, empowered and inspired to carry the work of Mothers' Union into a new chapter, wherever we are around the world. The story does not end in Durban; the next chapter is already beginning.

Lord, in this our 150th celebration year, help us to remember the past life and vision of our founder Mary Sumner. We give you thanks for her strong base of faith, upon which we can build her vision and way forward today. Lord like the woman who took the risk to touch Your cloak, help us to have such faith that we can help to empower the lives of others, that they may encounter the peace that passes all understanding. Amen

Branch meetings 2026

All meetings are in church at 2.00pm unless stated otherwise.

We are not meeting in November.

Tues 1st Dec	Ladies group are going for an Afternoon Tea if you would like to join them please see Margaret Sefton
Wed 9th Dec	Christmas meeting at my house (25 Audre Close WA5 3NH) please note change of date and venue (usual arrangement please bring something to eat for a buffet and a small gift)

Tea / Coffee in November

1st	Bring and Share Lunch for Patronal Festival
8th	Wendy
15th	Barbara and Chris
22nd	Wendy
29th	Dianne

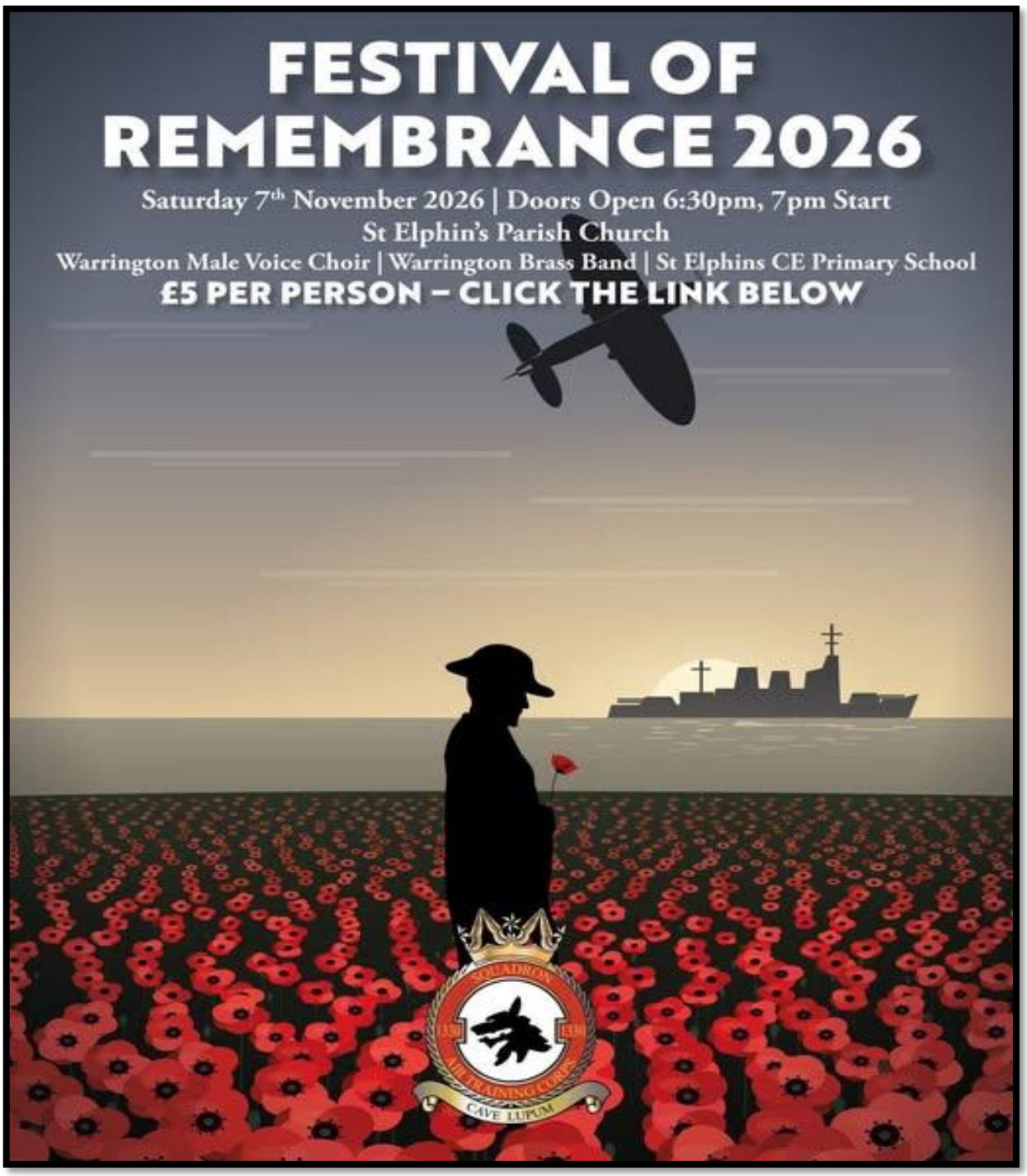


Big Clean

We are very grateful for the wonderful work the ATC gave us at our last Big Clean in October.

Not only did they clear all the rubbish from up in the balconies they dusted and polished them too.

It's always a pleasure having them with us, especially for their Festival of Remembrance Service.



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
September	5,691	4,771	4,950	55,928
Total	**£87,952**	**£48,340**	**£70,959**	**£207,107**

Income

Jan 2025 included £15,000 from the estate of Rev Paul Nener, however, despite this there is a £5,500 reduction in donations compared with end of September 2025, and there is also a £14,600 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, September the 4th payment. So expenditure for the end of September 2026 is just over £136,000 more than for the same period in 2025, all to do with the repairs to the tower.

Wendy Bailey 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/

U3A

Learn, laugh, live

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

Join us for our

Christmas Fayre

at

St Elphin's Church

Saturday

28th November

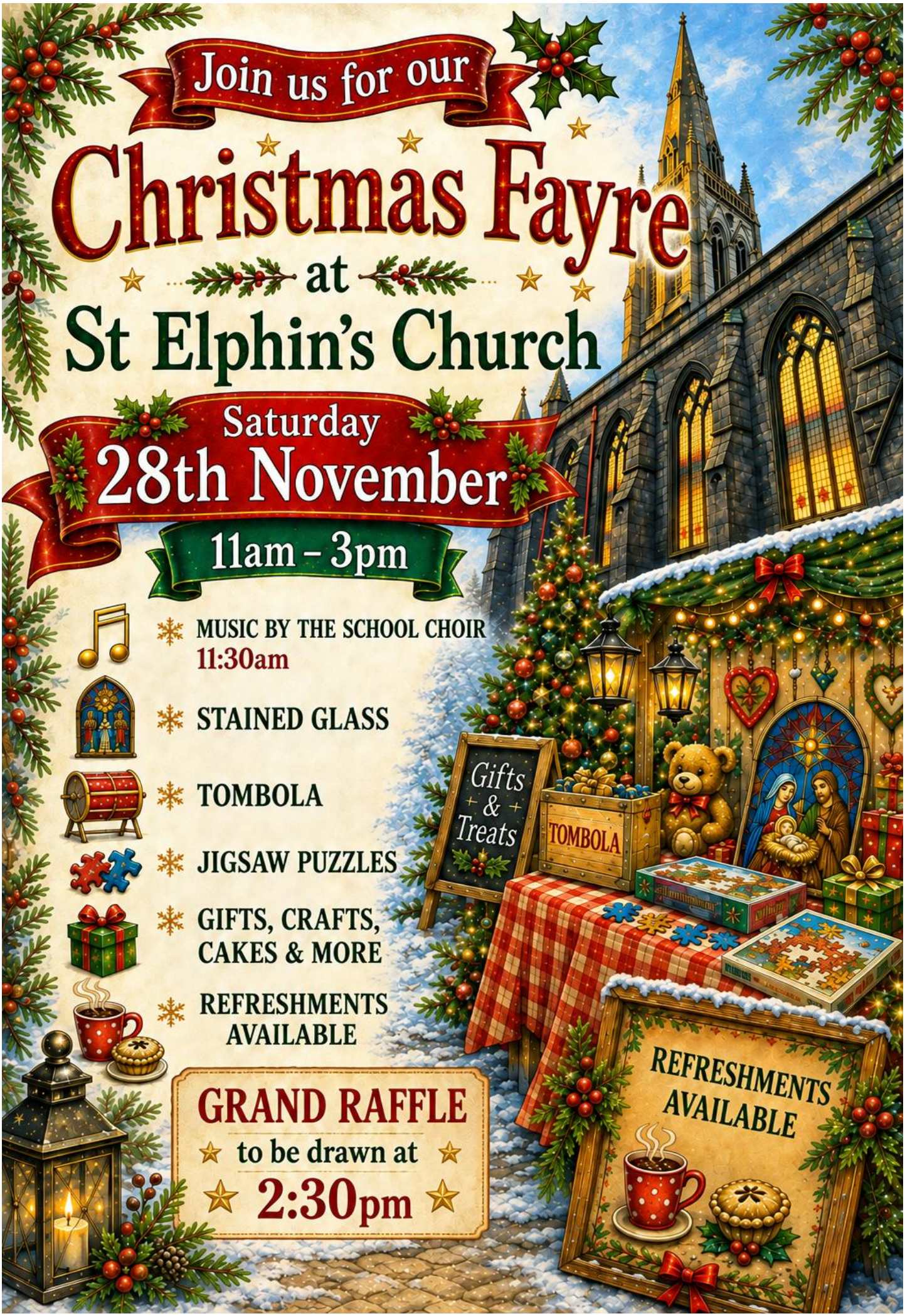
11am – 3pm

- MUSIC BY THE SCHOOL CHOIR
  11:30am
- STAINED GLASS
- TOMBOLA
- JIGSAW PUZZLES
- GIFTS, CRAFTS, CAKES & MORE
- REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

GRAND RAFFLE

to be drawn at

2:30pm



Raffle tickets are now available at the back of church for our Grand Raffle to be drawn on Saturday 28th November. Completed tickets to be returned to church by Sunday 22nd please.



Pause for Thought with Norma Fox

As the lights dimmed two friends prepared to watch the film of Apollo 13. One friend said to the other, under his breath, *'Shame they all died.'* They were watching the film about the 1970 space flight with apprehension waiting for the tragedy to strike, and only near the closing credits did they realise they had been mistaken. They hadn't known or remembered the end of the true story – that although the astronauts faced many hardships they made it home alive.

In Christ we can know the end of the story – that we too will make it home alive. By that I mean we will live forever with our heavenly Father, as we see in the book of Revelations. The Lord will create a *'new heaven and a new earth'* as He makes all things new (21 : 1, 5). In the new city, the Lord God will welcome His people to live with Him without fear and without the night. We have hope in knowing the end of the story.

What difference does this make? It can transform times of extreme difficulty, such as when people face the loss of a loved one or even their own death. Though we recoil at the thought of dying, yet we can embrace the joy of the promise of eternity. We long for the city where no longer will there be any harm or sadness, where we'll live forever by God's light and love.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, give me unfailing hope, that I might rest in Your promises and welcome Your life eternal. Amen.

All my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance
He guideth,
God unknown, he alone
Calls my heart to be his own.

verse from a hymn

For the Fallen

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Laurence Binyon

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	Kathleen Westland
Emily Craddock	David Whitfield	Mara
Margaret Lee	Margaret	

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism in October



25th Emily Rose Whittaker

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

Christian Burial & Cremation in October



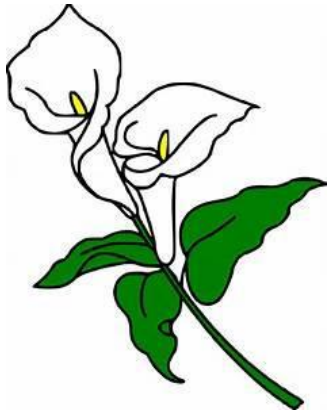
29th Nigel Kirk Age 66

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

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Bereavement Café

Scan here for more information

St. Rocco's Hospice

Evening Cafe
1st Tuesday of the month
7.30-8.30pm

St. Rocco's Hospice
Lockton Lane,
Bewsey,
Warrington,
WA5 0BW

Alexandra Park

2nd Tuesday of the month
9.30am-11am

Alexandra Park Pavillion,
Stockton Heath,
Warrington,
WA4 2UT

Masonic Hall

Last Tuesday of the month
10am-11.30am

The Masonic Hall,
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