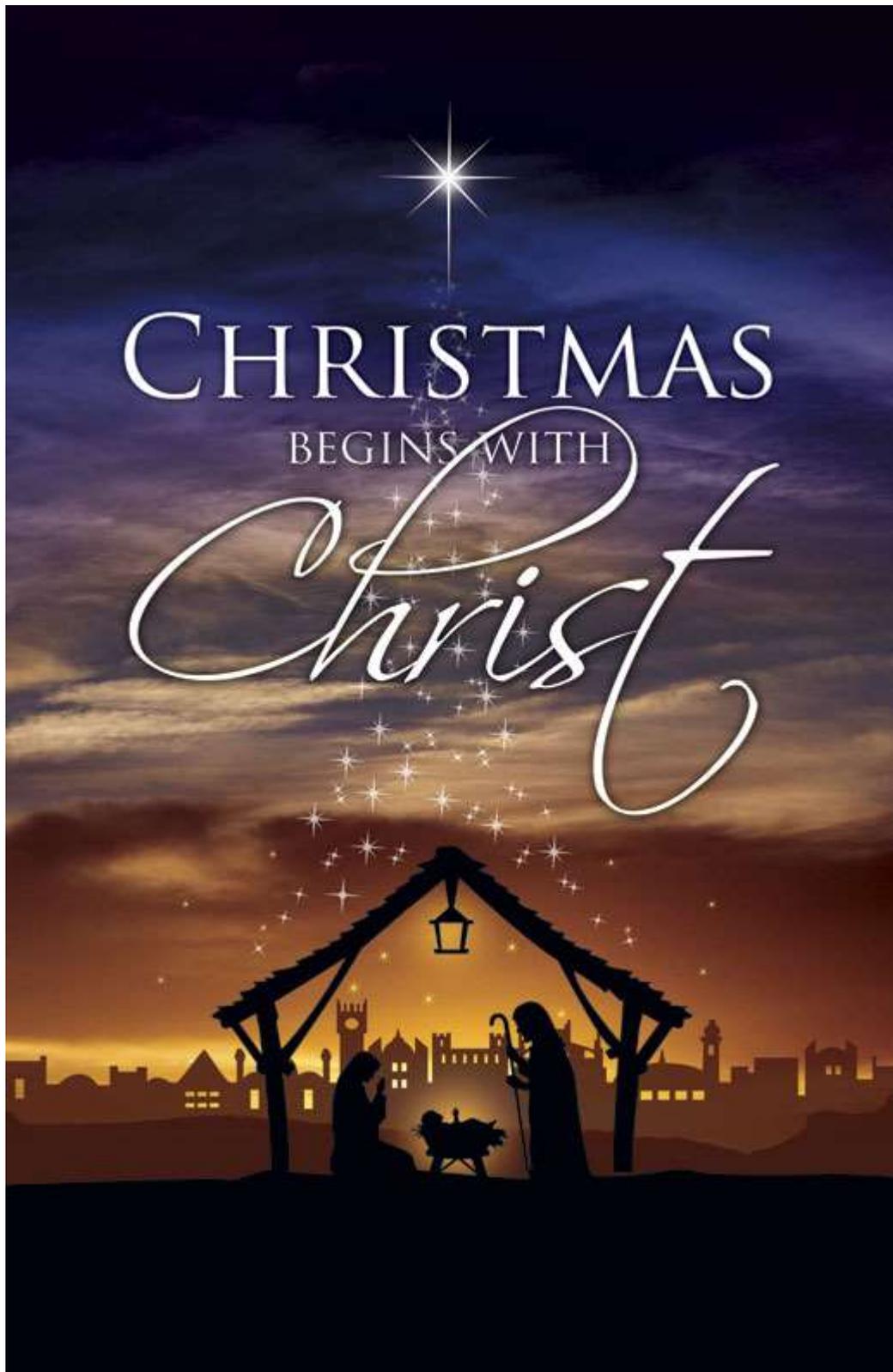


St Elphin's Chronicle





Warrington Parish Church, St Elphin's Church Services for December 2018

Sunday 2nd December, Advent Sunday

- 8.30am Holy Communion
- 10.30am All-Age Eucharist
- 12.30pm Holy Baptism
- 6.30pm Evensong

Monday 3rd December

- 7.30pm Bereaved Parent's Service

Tuesday 4th December

- 6.30pm Warrington West Scouts Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 5th December

- 10.00am Holy Communion
- 6.30pm Warrington East Scouts Christmas Carol Service

Thursday 6th December

- 7.00pm St Rocco's 'Light up a Life Service'

Sunday 9th December, 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 8.30am Holy Communion
- 10.30am Sung Eucharist
- 6.30pm Evensong

Monday 10th December

- 6.00pm Oakwood Avenue Primary School Christingle Service

Wednesday 12th December

- 10.00am Holy Communion
- 7.00pm Accent Music Hub Christmas Concert

Thursday 13th December

- 7.30pm Cheshire Chord Company Christmas Concert

Sunday 16th December, 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 8.30am Holy Communion
- 10.30am Sung Eucharist
- 12.30pm Holy Baptism
- 6.30pm Evensong

Monday 17th December

2.00pm St Elphin's CE Primary School KS2 Christmas Carol Service

Tuesday 18th December

6.30pm Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 19th December

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd December

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Sung Eucharist

6.30pm Parish Christmas Carol Service

Monday 24th December, Christmas Eve

3.00pm Christingle Service

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Tuesday 25th December, Christmas Day

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Eucharist

Wednesday 26th December, St Stephen's Day / Boxing Day

10.00am Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 30th December, 1st Sunday of Christmas

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Sung Eucharist

6.30pm Evensong



Worship in the Parish

Sundays:

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Eucharist

12.30pm Holy Baptism (1st & 3rd only)

6.30pm Evensong

Wednesdays:

10.00am Holy Communion

Saints' Days and other Holy Days

7.30pm Holy Communion (unless stated otherwise)

Morning and Evening Prayer are said daily in Church at 8.00am and 5.00pm respectively Monday, Tuesday (Evening Prayer only), Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, (*unless stated otherwise on the weekly notice sheet or in the magazine*).

A Loop System is in operation in the Church to assist hearing aid users. Please switch your hearing aid to the 'T' position for it to be effective.

There are large print copies of the Hymn Book and the Communion Service. Please ask the Church Wardens or Sidespeople if you would like a copy.

Special Services are announced through Church Notices, the Parish Magazine and the Website as necessary.

Holy Communion is taken regularly to the Sick and Housebound by our Clergy and Team of Licensed Eucharistic Ministers. Please inform the Clergy when parishioners are ill, either at home or in hospital.

The Parish Staff

Rector and Area Dean of Warrington	Reverend Canon Paul D Wilson The Rectory 129 Church Street WAI 2TL email: revpdwilson@aol.com	01925-635020
Curate	Reverend Stewart McTaggart stewartmctaggartis@hotmail.com	07540-344870
Readers	Mr R Whitticombe 3 Franklin Close WA5 8QL Mr L Marsh 14 Queens Avenue WAI 3BP	01925-564408
Reader Emeritus	Mr A G Dunn 56 Orford Green WA2 8PL	01925-630417
Church Wardens	Mr A Wright 5 Kinsale Drive Locking Stumps WA3 6LX Miss K J Hayes 8 Charlton Street WA4 1LX	01925-821048 01925-656790
Organist and Choirmaster	Nigel Kirk	

Websites:

St Elphin's: <http://www.warringtonparishchurch.org>

Diocesan Website: <http://www.liverpool.anglican.org>

Cathedral Website: <http://www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk>



www.facebook.com/warringtonparishchurch

Please do visit and 'Like' our Facebook page so you can keep up to date with events and services in our church and 'share' this with others whom you connect with on social media.

‘Christmas is for the children...’

Have you, like me, heard people say – ‘*Christmas is for the children*’? In some ways it’s a little sad if, as adults, they’re saying this because they don’t want all the hype, fuss and bother that surrounds this time of year – the relentless commercialisation of Christmas. It could also say something of how they miss the Christmases of their own childhood, reminiscing about a bygone era. It could also mean that, in their opinion, only children would believe the ‘fantasy’ that is the story of Christmas.

In one way they’re quite right in saying that ‘*Christmas is for the children*’ because this is what Jesus asks us to become – children. He doesn’t say that we should become childish, but childlike. In fact, he tells the disciples that unless we become like children then we won’t get into the Kingdom of Heaven. And to prove that he became a child himself, putting himself into the hands of poor parents in a stable of all places, in a backwater town.

I’m sure that you’ve noticed how children have the amazing ability to be falling out and fighting one minute, then best of friends the next? Have you noticed how some adults can hold petty grudges for years? Could it be that perhaps children have a much more mature way of dealing with hurts? – sort it out then play again as friends as if nothing had happened. When is it that we get it knocked out of us that forgiving others is a bad, foolish, naïve and childish way to behave? Jesus calls us to become like little children.

Have you noticed how children see the world in a very different way to adults? They see the awe and wonder of God’s creation; in a simple butterfly or a shooting star. They see such beauty in the things we take for granted. I don’t think that we take enough time to be like children and wonder like a little child. Jesus calls us to become like little children.

Most grownups tend to rush by the Christmas manger in order to reach that so-called ‘*perfect Christmas*’ goal. They don’t always stop to wonder about WHO he is and WHY he came – the two most important questions of all time! We grownups seem to have stopped

wondering and started wandering! Jesus calls us to become like little children.

And yet when we were children the Christmas Story was so much richer and deeper. Years ago, it seemed to have much more meaning – back when we were like little children.

Jesus calls us to be like little children in our preparations, not only for Christmas, but for our whole lives. He calls us to look again with awe and wonder at the world around us, to look deeper into the world he has created. He calls us to look with the eyes of little children at the Christmas Story and to make it glisten and sparkle like it once did. To discover again WHO Jesus is and WHY he came at Christmas time.

No matter how many years there are behind us, we will always be children of our heavenly Father, and when someone says ‘*Christmas is for the children*’ we can agree with them – because that includes us too!

With every blessing this Christmastide.

Paul

The Revd Canon Paul Wilson
Rector and Area Dean of Warrington



Bishop Paul's Christmas Message 2018

In the dark, small hours of the night, the time when our sleep is most disturbed as sombre thoughts invade our minds, a child is born. No ordinary child. A child born to banish the darkness and shining a light of hope into all our hearts.

On that night, fearful shepherds gathered around the child to worship him in wonder before going out to tell others. Shortly afterwards the child would be visited by wise people from the East, again worshipping him before heading off to share the news. And throughout his life Jesus would be encountered by many who reflected in wonder and then shared what they had seen.

Was there a common thread?

Of course. Everyone who encountered Jesus was transformed. Transformed in different ways. The shepherds found strength. The Eastern sages had their intellectual curiosity satisfied. The blind were given sight. The outcasts received friendship. The hungry fed. The poor given hope.

They were transformed. How were they transformed? An encounter with Jesus transformed them. How do we know they were transformed? Because they stepped up and spoke about that transformation. In other words they had an inner journey of encounter and an outer journey of proclamation.

Over the last year in the Diocese we have been developing our Rule of Life. I have been talking about both the inner and outer journey. The inner journey where we Pray, Read and Learn as we try to deepen our faith, and widen our understanding of what it means to know Jesus and to act as he did. The outer journey where we put that action into practice - we Tell, Serve and Give. In these ways we show what it is to be a disciple of Christ, part of a transforming movement that longs to make a bigger difference so that more people know Jesus and there is more justice in the world.

Because the world is longing for that justice. From the massive political uncertainties and conflicts between nation states, to the fearful parent wondering how they will feed their child. We see darkness surrounding us, we have our own pressures, the fears and stresses of the world engulf us. In such a world we need hope.

Some seek for hope in luxury, in the excessive commercialism of Christmas. Expensive presents, lavish parties, over-indulgence. Attempts to find release from the day to day. But as people of faith, we find hope in Jesus. In the precious Christmas gift who transformed the lives of those he encountered. Who can, and is, and will, and wants to transform you, and me.

I pray for you, friends, that you seek hope in Jesus, I pray that you encounter that living and transforming Jesus - and I pray you tell others about that Jesus in word and action, this and every day.

St John's Court

The next services of Holy Communion at St John's Court will be on Tuesday 4th December and Tuesday 8th January at 11.30am.

All are welcome.



Decorating the Church for Christmas

We begin decorating the Church on Saturday 1st December by putting up the trees and continue the week after on Saturday December 8th. Gifts of evergreen will be very welcome and we will be in the church from 9.30am. Donations to the flower fund would be much appreciated.

Many thanks, Sylvia.



Confirmation 2018

On the 18th November at the 10.30 Eucharist, the Right Reverend Beverley Mason, the recently consecrated Bishop of Warrington, confirmed 13 candidates and met them and their families after the service.

Those confirmed from St Elphins were:

Denise Ure, Charlotte Jane Tierney, Lydia May Robinson, Andrea Louise Robinson, Shania Ashley Henry Mensah, Joshua Daniel Savage, Ella Woods, Declan Thomas Bailey, William James Kenwright, Ruby Katherine Ashcroft Wells and Darcy Grace Lloyd.

Also confirmed were Adam Corlett and Priya Nair from St Barnabas.

The Right Reverend Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool also attended and gave the Address and final Blessing.

Please remember them all in your prayers.

Parish Magazine 2019

The cost of the magazine will remain at 30p for 2019.

The cost for those sent by post will be £12.00 for the year

They can be ordered from either of the Churchwardens.

Tel: 821048 or 656790



Thank you to everyone who helped us fill 93 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.



St Elphin's Ladies Group

Future Dates:

Wednesday 5th December at 1.00pm

Christmas Lunch at Toby Carvery

Wednesday 19th December

Christmas Carols with Bob followed by mulled wine and mince pies – it's not just for ladies – all our welcome to join us and get into the Christmas spirit.

All Ladies are welcome to join us for any of our meetings at 7.30pm in St Elphins Community Centre. The cost is £4.00 which includes tea/coffee and a raffle.

Christingle 2018

Our Christingle Service will again take place on Christmas Eve at 3.00pm.

It is 50 years this year since the Children's Society first started to organise the services and they take place throughout the country.



Please pick up a collecting candle, put in what you can afford and bring to our Christingle service at 3.00pm on Christmas Eve.

They are now available in church.

Collection envelopes will also be available at the service.

Don't forget to Gift Aid your donation if you are able.

All donations go to the Children's Society.

All are welcome.

Au Revoir to Ann & Geoff Dunn



At the end of the Eucharist on 25th November, a presentation was made to Ann and Geoff who are leaving us for France in a few weeks time.

Both have made a big contribution to the life of the Parish and the Community over the last 22 years and have made many friends here. Geoff has served as a Reader and his Sermons and Funeral Ministry have been much appreciated. He has also served on the Committee of the Community Centre and has been responsible for the running of the 50/50 Club. Ann has been Churchwarden during part of their time here and has also been Chair of the School Governors and played an active part in our worship. She has also been Secretary of the Community Centre Committee for many years. Refreshments were served after the Service including a specially made cake with the words Au Revoir on it.

We wish them well in their new life in France.



Christmas Craft Fayre

The total raised at this year's Fayre amounted to £4670.70. The Raffle added a further £493.00.

The list of Raffle Winners is shown below.

Many thanks to all the Stallholders and the people who attended the Fayre.

A big thank you to the Choir and Mrs Williams from St Elphin's (Fairfield) Primary School for giving up their Saturday to attend and sing so beautifully for us.

£100 Cash	D Watmough
£50 Cash	Tom Wilson
£25 Voucher	Matthew Whitticombe
Spirit Hamper	C & A Thompson
Bottle of Famous Grouse	Ray Whitticombe
Bottle of Brandy	Joanne Marsh
Bottle of Port	Alexis
Christmas Cake	Paul Wilson
Mens Gift Set and Holdall	Jane Coombs
Cath Kidston Bag & Childrens Books	Beryl Bagley
Bottle of Tia Maria	Christine Chambers
Wine and Wine Glasses	Ann Marley
Set of Childrens Books	David Brownlee
Pair of Cabin Bags	Barbara Sheldon
Bathroom Scales	Gill Whitticombe
Chip and Dip Set	Margaret Dolan
Box of Roses	Geoff Dunn

Pause for Thought...with Norma Fox

A colleague drew my attention to a poem I'd never seen before. It begins:

*'Blessed are Thou, O Christmas Christ,
that Thy cradle was so low that the shepherds,
poorest and simplest of all earthly folk,
could yet kneel beside it,
and look level-eyed into the face of God.'*

What an amazing image. 'Look level-eyed into the face of God.' I imagine the shepherds perhaps visiting Jerusalem one year on for the Passover, although the bible doesn't say they were Jews, just shepherds. And the Angels told them the good news was for all people. But I see them struggling through the crowds in the bazaar past the money changers at their tables, to the temple. Overawed by the robes, the ritual, and the architecture, maybe they'd feel God's power and magnificence, but would they feel His love?

Turn to the baby. A down to earth event in more than one sense. God found in human form, to touch, to see, to live with, near at hand. The shepherds come and kneel, and look level-eyed into his face. The poor look at the poor and see God. One thing to note. They had to kneel to look – Humility meets humility and discovers God. And it's in worship that we meet him too.

There's another dimension as well, there always is. The thing that makes us look down, avoid another's gaze, is embarrassment or shame. That's gone.

The baby, grown to manhood, stretched to his limit on the cross, has taken the shame. He encourages and enables us to look straight, level-eyed into his face.

A final word, if anything is final. The image has another implication. We most often look level-eyed into the faces of those around us – work colleagues, family, neighbours. God's in them too. That's where we find him, looking level-eyed at us. And that includes the lonely, the sick, the hungry and the poor of society. That's where Christ is.

*The great thing is that your demands
you first made on yourself.
I see you, when I kneel, because you knelt first.
And when I kneel, defences down,
Your hands reach out and, suddenly,
I'm standing on my feet again,
And see you looking out from every face.*

Wishing you all love and peace and joy this Christmas

Norma



Y-Project

Just a quick reminder that any gifts for the Y-Project need to be in Church by Sunday 9th December so we can get them delivered in time for Christmas.



Warrington Foodbank in Advent

We are also collecting the following items to assist the Foodbank with Christmas food. If you are able to help with any of the following items please bring them to church by 16th December.

Tinned Ham, Christmas Puddings (non-alcoholic), Christmas Cake, Festive biscuits, Children's Selection Boxes, Boxes of Chocolates, Large Chocolate Bars (150/200g), Festive Snacks and Nibbles, Christmas Crackers.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence:

Global Mothers' Union campaigns around the world, through our 4 million members in 84 countries, for an end to gender-based violence – violence carried out most often against women and girls because of their gender. 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence is an international campaign. It takes place each year from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

Throughout the campaign, we join with others globally to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies. The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign is an extension of the day-to-day grassroots work of Mothers' Union, where we work alongside communities to help end gender-based violence and to support those affected by it. In Liverpool Diocese this culminates in a service on Friday 7th December in the Lady Chapel of Liverpool cathedral at 12.00 noon. All are welcome to attend this service.

Lord, stir us into action and awaken our hearts to advocate and unite against injustice, to create a just world filled with your love, a world where the weak are protected, the wealth of creation is shared and where people live in harmony and respect. We pray for all victims of injustice and unrighteousness; for their strength and salvation, their protection, freedom and justice together with their hope and healing. Embrace our hearts with the fire of your love and the desire to ensure justice throughout the world, enabling our communities to grow in love and peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Our Christmas branch meeting is Wednesday 12th December 7.30pm in St Elphin's Community Centre. St Elphin's choir will be joining us for this meeting which will take the form of readings, carols and prayers, followed by a buffet supper. All are welcome to join us for this meeting.

Our annual Afternoon Tea with carols takes place on Saturday 22nd December at 25 Audre Close 2.00pm – 4.00pm. If anyone would like to join us for this event but needs transport please speak to Wendy Bailey. No charge but donations welcome for Mothers' Union funds

Baptisms in December

2nd Margaret Dolan & Sandra Kirk
16th Barbara Eden & Barbara Barrett

Tea / Coffee Rota for December

2nd - Julie & Linda
9th - Julie & David
16th - David & Kerrie
23rd - Ann & Anne
30th - Volunteers required



St Elphin's 50/50 Club



The results of the November draw are as follows:

1 st	Neil Walsh	2 nd	John Rowson
3 rd	Alison Hicks	4 th	Martin Butterworth

£127.50 went to church funds

The next draw will take place on Sunday 23rd December and payments must be made by Sunday 16th to be included in the draw. Any payments made after that date will be assumed to be for the following month. Any cheques should be made payable to 'St Elphin's 50/50 Club'.

New members are always welcome.

The more members we get the higher the prize money and also the more we receive for church funds.

Janet

Readers and Prayer Rota for December

	<u>8.30am</u> Reader	<u>10.30am</u> Prayers	<u>10.30am</u> Reader	<u>6.30pm</u> Reader
2 nd	Dianne R	All Age Service		DR / GW
9 th	Sue J	Janet Cliffe	Sylvia Wright	Barbara E
16 th	Dianne R	Gill W	James T	AW / SW
23 rd	Sue J	Thelma Walsh	Lee Marsh	Carol Service
24 th	Midnight	Gill W	Sylvia Wright	
25 th	Dianne R	Lee Marsh	Barbara E	
30 th	Sue J	Janet Cliffe	Thelma W	DR / GW

Communicants and Collections

Week ending	Communicants	Collections
28 th October	96	642.40
4 th November	92	909.15
11 th November	84	523.80
18 th November	132	725.15

Donations:

Fabric Fund

Treasured Christmas Memories of family and friends from Norma Fox	10.00
Christmas memories of Jack and Jean Rothwell, Marjorie and Arthur Cresswell and Ivy and Roy Jones (USA) from Dianne	50.00
Christmas Memories of Flo and Fred Pennington from Irene and Family	10.00

Treasured memories of Mum and Dad, Flo and Fred Pennington from Freda, Allan and Family	10.00
Loving Christmas memories of Frank Wilde and Ethel and George Danby, from Allan, Freda and Family	10.00
Happy Christmas Memories of Lionel Fryar, a much Loved Brother-in-law and Uncle from Freda, Allan and Family	10.00
Treasured memories of a dearly loved Husband, Dad and Grandad from Irene and Family	50.00
Remembering Mother and Father at Christmas from Arnold and Sylvia	100.00
Thanks to our friends at St Elphins over the last 22 Years from Ann and Geoff	50.00
Anonymous donation towards cost of exterior lighting at the West Door	400.00
In memory of all our loved ones at Christmas, from Janet and Alan	50.00

General Funds

In memory of my beloved Husband, Alan Spiers from Olive Spiers	100.00
Happy Christmas to all my friends at Church from Frances Wilkinson, Meadowview Care Home	20.00
Proceeds from the Afternoon Tea in Church on 7 th November towards WWI soldier silhouettes	200.00
Remembering Dad George Richard Barrett on his Birthday and Christmas, from Wendy and Paul	40.00
In memory of George Barrett from Barbara	30.00
In memory of Lillian and Len Brooks from Barbara	10.00
In memory of Dorothy and John Molyneux from Barbara	10.00

Flower Fund

Loving Christmas memories of Peter Lawrenson and Walter John Hewitt from Cynthia and Family	10.00
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Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

4th November

Oliver James Horne

Harry Andrew Gordon Litherland

Jaxon Peter Alan Roose

Emily Ann Kennedy

Nicola Rachel Bentham



Christian Burial & Cremation in November

1st Georgina Maureen Higham

Age 79

15th Gladys Newton

Age 85



Lest we Forget - December 1918

5th Private Frank Cooper (*buried in Warrington Cemetery*)

Age 19

Christmas 1918 - a poem by *Edgar Albert Guest*

They give their all, this Christmastide, that peace on earth shall reign;
Upon the snows of Flanders now, brave blood has left its stain;
With ribbons red we deck our gifts; theirs bear the red of pain.

They give their lives that joy shall live and little children play;
They pass that all that makes for peace shall not be swept away;
They die that children yet unborn shall have their Christmas Day.

Come! deck the home with holly wreaths and make this Christmas glow,
And let Old Glory wave above the bough of mistletoe!

Come! keep alive the faith of them who sleep 'neath Flanders snow.

Ye brave of heart who dwell at home, make merry now a-while;
The world has need of Christmas cheer its sorrows to beguile;
And blest is he whose love can light grief's corners with a smile.

Ring out once more, sweet Christmas bells, your message to the sky,
Proclaim in golden tones again to every passer-by
That peace shall rule the lands of earth, and only war shall die.

Let love's sweet tenderness relieve war's cruel crimson clutch,
Send forth the Christmas spirit, every troubled heart to touch;
Blest will be all we do for them who do for us so much.

Social and Group Activities

Tuesday

7.30pm St Elphin's Church Choir Practice in Church

Wednesday

6.45pm St John's Brownies – Scout HQ, Vale Owen Road

7.30pm St Elphin's Ladies Group (1st & 3rd only) meet in the St Elphin's Community Centre

7.30pm Mothers' Union – St Elphin's Community Centre (2nd only)

Thursday

5.15 – 6.15pm 9th Warrington Rainbows – St Elphins Community Centre

6.30pm St Elphin's Brownies – St Elphin's School

6.30pm St Elphin's Guides–St Elphin's Community Centre

7.30pm Men's Group (1st only)

Friday

6.30-7.30pm Beavers - (Boys/Girls aged 6 – 8)

6.30–8.00pm Cubs - (Boys/Girls aged 8 - 10)

6.45–9.00pm Scouts - (Boys/Girls aged 10 - 14)

At Howley Fairfield Neighbourhood Project, Fairfield Street. For more details contact Debbie (Group Scout Leader) on 07804 267310

All members of the Church and local community are welcome to come and join with us in these and any occasional activities which are announced in Church or advertised on the Church Notice Board.

School

St Elphin's (Fairfield) CE Primary School

Head Teacher:

Mrs Allison Bennett

 635143

Bookings:

made with the Head Teacher

St Elphin's Junior Church

Sundays at 10.30am in the Choir Vestry

Occasional Services

Holy Baptism

1st and 3rd Sundays in the month at 12.30pm

Arrangements to be made with the Rector or Church Wardens

Holy Matrimony and Banns

Arrangements to be made with the Rector or Church Wardens

Funerals

Arrangements are usually made with the Rector by the Funeral Director who has been engaged.

The Church Wardens hold a surgery in Church on Saturdays from 10.00am to 11.00am for Applications for Baptism, Holy Matrimony and Banns.

The Clergy are available at any time in cases of emergency.



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Regards from a very happy patient"

H. Endress

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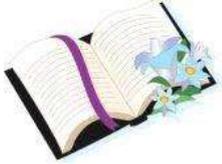
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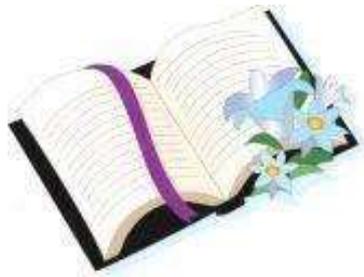
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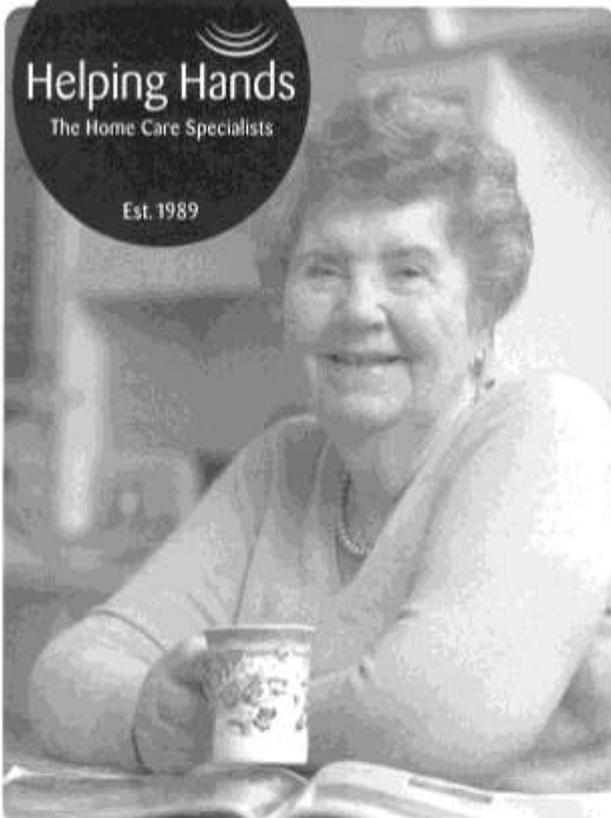
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**Thursday's 9.30am, 11.30am
5.30pm & 7.30pm**

Friday's 9.30am & 11.30am

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