

1844



2005



A Service of Thanksgiving for St. Elphin's School

at Warrington Parish Church on

Saturday 11th March 2006
at 2.30pm

We are grateful to the Rector, Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council for their kindness in allowing us to use Warrington Parish Church of St Elphin for this service.

Please note that with the exception of the incumbent, no names of participants are included in this service booklet. All who speak today are representatives of pupils, staff, chaplains, governors and parents drawn from different eras in the life of St Elphin's School.

Order of Service

Welcome by the Rector of Warrington, The Reverend Michael S Finlay

Opening Prayers

All We come in this service to God
Glad to be here, wishing we were elsewhere

All We come to God who has come to us in Jesus
And who walks with us the road we travel

All We come with our faith and with our doubts
We come with our thanks and with our disappointments

All We come as we are, because it is God who invites us to come
And God has promised never to turn us away.

Almighty God, watchful and caring,
Our source and our end,
All that we are and all that we have are yours.
Look kindly upon us
As we come to praise your name,
To ask your forgiveness,
To submit to your authority,
To know your healing power
And to receive your word.
Bless this our act of worship and thanksgiving
For our school and for each other.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

1. **Praise my soul the King of Heaven**
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

2. Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless;
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

3. Father-like, he tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes;
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Widely as his mercy flows.

4. Frail as summer's flower we flourish
Blows the wind and it is gone;
But while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Praise the high eternal one.

5. Angels, help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space;
Praise him! Praise him! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Greetings

Memories of St Elphin's 1

All Unless the LORD builds the house,
its builders labour in vain.

All Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchmen stand guard in vain.

All In vain you rise early and stay up late,
toiling for food to eat
for he grants sleep to those he loves.

All Sons are a heritage from the LORD,
children a reward from him.

All Like arrows in the hands of a warrior
are sons born in one's youth.

All Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.
**They will not be put to shame
when they contend with their enemies in the gate.**

Hymn

1. **Lord for the Years** your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
2. Lord, for that word the word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word receive your people's praise.
3. Lord, for our world, when we disown and doubt you,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
4. Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
Past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Memories of St Elphin's 2

Reading Psalm 121

Memories of St Elphin's 3

Choir Panis Angelicus

César Franck

Memories of St Elphin's 4

Offertory Hymn

1. **Dear Lord and Father of Mankind,**
Forgive our foolish ways;
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise.
2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee.
3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!
4. Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.
5. Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy stillness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

Message

Intercessions

concluding with the traditional version of *The Lord's Prayer*

Choir A New Commandment

The School Prayer

All **Grant us, O Lord
In thought, vision;
In word, wisdom;
In deed, courage;
In life, service;
And in all things, love;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

O God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.

Closing Hymn

1. **Crown him with many crowns**
The Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own:
Awake my soul and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Son of God
Before the worlds began:
And ye who tread where he hath trod
Crown him the Son of man;
Who every grief hath known
That wrings the human breast
And takes and bears them for his own
That all in him may rest.

3. Crown him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife
For those he came to save:
His glories now we sing
Who died and rose on high;
Who died eternal life to bring,
And lives that death may die.
4. Crown him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease
And all be prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end,
And round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.
5. Crown him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime:
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.

Dismissal

Blessing of the congregation.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

All

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace...

Organ Toccata

Widor

Please join us for refreshments at
St. Elphin's Fairfield CE VA Primary School.

Life after death...

St. Elphin's Archives

When memories fade, records remain to tell stories:

- of individual pupils and staff, and how school shaped their lives
- of a community: its place in a locality and its contribution to the education of women.

St. Elphin's Archives are deposited in the Record Offices in Chester (1844-1920) and Matlock (1904-2005), to be publicly available to all and to be preserved permanently.

The Museum of Childhood at Sudbury will display our uniform and history.

You may have items (photographs, letters) which would add to this corporate memory. Please speak to Ann Hodgson for further information (01629 814171).

Practical help at home and abroad

Since the school changed hands last Summer, it has been possible to 'rescue' many items from the remaining contents and pass them on to various charities and other good causes. This includes books for Cliff College theology students, textbooks and science equipment for Malawi, fabric and equipment for setting up small businesses in Africa, blankets for Romania, Armenia, and street people in Birmingham, books, art and craft materials and furniture for schools, churches and various appeals.

The Time Capsule

The Time Capsule buried at the Darley Dale site in 2004, has been brought to Warrington and will be reburied at the back of Warrington Parish Church.