



The Parish Magazine of Whitchurch, Fauls & Tilstock



April / May 2024

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear friends,

The Easter season is usually a time when spring starts to show its colours and the warmth of the sun begins to give us hope that winter is finally over. This year the incessant rain since last November has meant delays planting crops, due to waterlogged fields, with grass becoming mud at the touch of a tyre or boot.

For me and my family we are experiencing spring in a new place, with new schools, new churches and new church families. The welcome we have received from the churches and the communities has been wonderful and the children have settled into the excellent Whitchurch Infant and Junior Schools. The churches of Fauls, Tilstock and Whitchurch are getting used to my northern accent.

Already we've had the highs of weddings, the lows of saying farewell to beloved congregation members at their funeral, and the delight of welcoming new members into the church family at baptism. Into all these highs and lows, the changes of the location and the unpredictability of the seasons, speaks a God who loves us so much that Jesus is prepared to die for us, conquering death and giving us all certain hope for the future.

For some of us our response to that love is to attend church and worship God with others. Some find they encounter God in their daily lives and surroundings, many not recognising the sense of awe and wonder is a nudge from the Holy Spirit. My prayer for you is that as April becomes May, and the season of Easter moves towards Christ's Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, you will know the calm of God's presence and the warmth of God's love in your life whatever the weather.

Easter blessings

Rev Chris

Some beautiful photographs of our Easter flowers in St Alkmund's Church



OUR PARISHES' NEWS

SERVICES ONLINE: Our 10.00am and 6.30pm services at St Alkmund's will be live streamed on YouTube via our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@StAlkmundsWhitchurch or on our Facebook page. Also available on our Church Near You Website: www.churchnearyou.com/whitchurch/4623

8.00am BCP COMMUNION SERVICE:

In St Alkmund's Church will take place on the first Sunday of each month. The next date will be Sunday 5th May at 8.00am.

ZOOM GATHERINGS: please contact Judy Bellingham on 07427884116,

bellinghamjudy6@gmail.com for the link, log in and passwords:

◆**Wednesday Morning Prayer** at 10.00am

◆**Friday Chat over a cup of Tea** at 4.00pm

Friday (or last Thursday of the month), prayers at 9.30am. Please contact Caroline Sewry on 01948 841046 or c.sewry@imperial.ac.uk for the zoom link to log in. Link via telephone may be possible for those without computer access.

TIME TOGETHER— for those with memory loss or dementia and their family members or carers will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm in Bargates Hall. The next dates will be the 1st and 17th May.



HAND CROSSES: "I make hand crosses from the pews removed from St Alkmunds, as per the sample at the back of St Alkmund's Church, if you would like one, they are £3 each (or more if you wish) as all the money is donated to Hope House". To order please contact me on 01948 661851 -Eric Williams

HOMES COMMUNION: is held monthly at Greenfields Care Home and St John's Park, the next date will be the 9th May. Please contact Pauline Stokes (663194) or Jill Wallace (666233) for more details.

SIDES PEOPLE NEEDED: If you think you may be able to help as a sides person on a Sunday—please contact Alison Dunne in the office on 01948 667102 or email ftwstalkmunds@gmail.com, or speak to the Church Wardens.

CHRISTIAN AID: We need volunteers to help with a street collection in town on Saturday 18th May, organised by Churches Together. If you have an hour or so to spare that day please put your name on the list at the back of the church. Money raised will help the work of Christian Aid in tackling poverty and injustice worldwide.

SHROPSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
GARDENS OPEN

www.shropshirehct.org.uk

THE LEASOWES, GARDEN AND ARBORETUM

10am – 4.30pm

The Leasowes Farm, Cound, Shrewsbury SY5 6AF

10 acres of formal gardens and an arboretum with a productive fruit and vegetable garden and a wooded valley. Colourful borders, old fruit trees, rhododendrons and azaleas with prettily planted streams link up via a bridge to five large connected lakes up in the woodland. The Arboretum stretches above the house into the wooded valley with 700 unusual and rare trees and shrubs, most are labelled and all planted by the owner Mr Robert Bland. Upper and lower paths wander through the trees allowing good views down to the lakes and offer a wonderful opportunity to look down onto some very rare trees. A timber chalet high up in the trees has some seating for a rest. A final pond at the highest part of the Arboretum allows wonderful views to the Wrekin.

- . Delicious teas, dogs on leads welcome, lovely walks on a variety of levels in the gardens and Arboretum.

Directions:

Turn into Oakleys on A458 one mile north of Cressage and immediately fork left over a cattle grid.

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GREDDINGTON

2-5pm

Hanmer, Whitchurch SY13 3DQ

Trees and shrubs of great interest, mostly labelled in a mature garden of 16 acres. Extensive planting of Quercus in the Park grown from acorns collected around the world. Lots more tree planting has recently taken place. Collections of Viburnum and Sarcococca.

Delicious teas in the stable yard, dogs on leads welcome, good views and walking in the parkland.

Directions:

A539 to Hanmer, by pass the village, small NFU bungalow on the left, 3 cottages on left. Before Lodge beside large black gates on left. Church: St Chad's (open)

Background to Rogation

This was traditionally a time when Christians prayed for God's blessings on their crops and other aspects of their work on the land. A service was followed by a visit to various places in the neighbourhood. Often this was combined with 'The Beating of the Bounds', a very old custom from a time when it was important to know the boundaries of the parish. In many cases food and drink were supplied by the Church or wealthy people within the village.

George Herbert, the poet and country parson who lived in the Seventeenth Century, called this tradition 'Procession' and described it in the following terms:

"The advantages of it are:

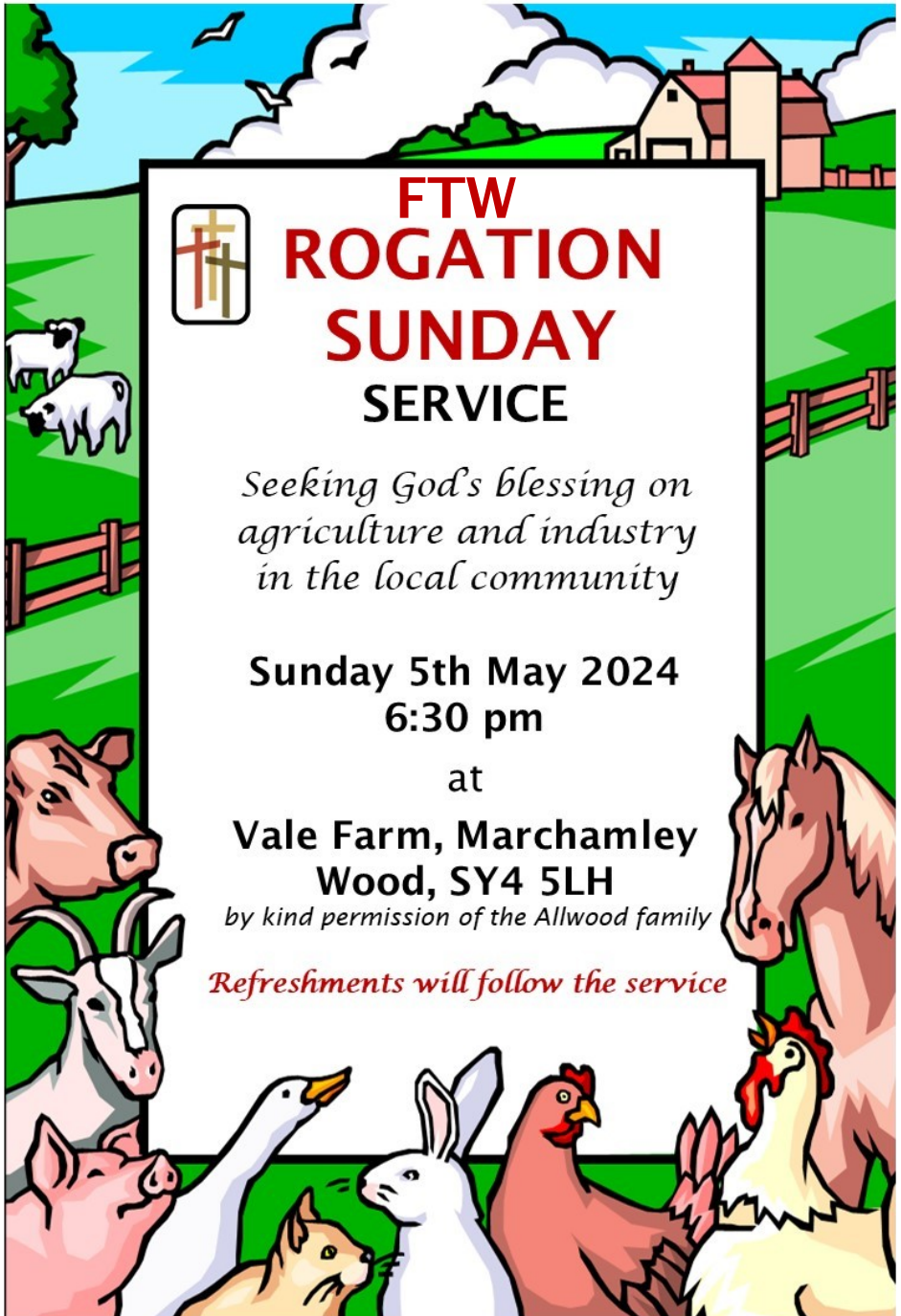
- ◆ *Firstly, a blessing of God for the fruits of the field*
- ◆ *Secondly, justice in the preservation of bounds*
- ◆ *Thirdly, charity in loving walking and neighbourly accompanying one another, with reconciling differences at that time, if there be any*
- ◆ *Fourthly, mercy in relieving the poor by a liberal distribution of alms"*

Rogationtide Today

It is an opportunity to meet up with Christians who attend different services or another place of worship, or else people who do not regularly attend a place of worship.

We can combine prayer for God's blessing on our local environment and the fruitfulness of the earth with:

- ◆ Prayer for God's kingdom coming and his will to be done
- ◆ Dedication of places, animals and objects to God (remembering that they are his already; it is our work with them that needs to be dedicated)



**FTW
ROGATION
SUNDAY
SERVICE**

*Seeking God's blessing on
agriculture and industry
in the local community*

**Sunday 5th May 2024
6:30 pm**

at

**Vale Farm, Marchamley
Wood, SY4 5LH**

by kind permission of the Allwood family

Refreshments will follow the service

NEW BICYCLE STAND NOW INSTALLED AT ST ALKMUND'S CHURCH



The new bicycle stand has now been installed in the car park at St Alkmund's Church, for the benefit of people using Bargates Hall and the church.

It was funded with a grant from Freedom Fibre, as the church nationally aims to encourage people to make more journeys sustainably and reduce pollution and carbon emissions.

It has been lovely to see people already making use of this new facility since installation.

Our thanks go to Garry Churchill for all his hard work in applying for the grant and overseeing the whole process up until installation.



WHAT TO BE MORE EPIC

THE FRIENDS OF ST ALKMUND'S WHITCHURCH (FOSAW)

The Friends of St Alkmund's Whitchurch (FOSAW) specifically raises funds to assist with the maintenance of the fabric of the church building. We are a group of people who have a connection to the beautiful grade I listed church here in Whitchurch. That connection may be through attending services, family links to the church, or simply a love of the beautiful building and a desire to see its splendour maintained for years to come.

We'd like to invite you to our AGM, on Tuesday 14th May in church. Beginning at 7:30pm, the brief formal meeting will be followed by James Kellas, St Alkmund's Director of Music and Organist, giving us a vibrant demonstration of the importance of FOSAW's work. He'll tell us how he became an organist, then demonstrate the church's wonderful acoustics by entertaining us with some magnificent music.

If you've been considering joining FOSAW, or if you know someone else who may be interested, please invite them and come and join us.

[Friends of St Alkmunds, Whitchurch –
The website for The Friends of ST Alkmund's Church,
Whitchurch \(stalkswhitchurchfriends.co.uk\)](http://stalkswhitchurchfriends.co.uk)



HELP WITH FLOWERS IN ST ALKMUNDS CHURCH

Do you enjoy arranging flowers?

Would you like to help with the flower decorations at St Alkmund's Church. No experience needed just an enthusiasm to learn. Help especially needed on a Friday morning.

For more information please contact:

Alison Dunne
 ftwstalkmunds@gmail.com
 Telephone 01948 667102



Food, fun and friendship

In Bargates Hall

(behind St Alkmund's Church)

2024

1st & 15th May • 5th & 19th June

(The 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoon of each month)

2.00 to 4.00pm

Who is it for?

Those with Memory Loss or Dementia and their family members or carers

Why come?

Support and a Listening Ear for Family & Carers
 Support and Stimulation for those with Memory Loss or Dementia – social, mental, emotional and spiritual care in a warm and loving atmosphere

What will it include?

A variety of things – but always having food and a cup of tea/coffee.

There might be craft activities, for those who are able the opportunity to take part in some gentle physical activity, singing, a prayer

Enquiries: Pauline Green on 01948 664769 or paulinegreen056@gmail.com

Group Discussion centred around the Bible



Group Discussion centred around the Bible

is an informal group, meeting in Bargates Hall on the
2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 2pm.

Newcomers welcome to enjoy learning together in a relaxed,
informal atmosphere -

at present we are enjoying learning about
Jesus' life from the Gospel of Luke.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 8th.
There is easy access parking - behind St Alkmund's Church,
and look forward to seeing you!





Our Time Together group recently featured in an article on the Diocese of Lichfield website, an excerpt of this is shown below.

God is at work here

The warmth of the atmosphere is what struck me first and foremost as I arrived at Time Together, run by Churches Together in Whitchurch at Bargates Hall beside St Alkmund's Church. St Alkmund's has had a dementia-friendly church Certificate since 2018. And you can't miss the friendly atmosphere at Time Together, a fortnightly group for those with dementia and their family members.

As I enjoyed tea and craft and conversation, I found it moving to notice the low key teamwork, with everyone sharing in different ways, as valued members of Time Together. It made for a very special afternoon for all of us. There were 20 or more people the day I went - some were sharing a moment to draw breath, others were making tea, others were chatting, others were taking craft activities round to the different tables, decorating Easter crosses and making cards with lambs on. People knew one another and noticed what was going on, welcoming and weaving in both regulars and newcomers. There's a different focus each time – sometimes singing, sometimes boccia, a game of indoor bowls.

Is it hard to come the first time? "It's just about taking that first step – it took a bit of courage to come. But knowing one or two people, volunteers came and sat with us."

This couple explained that the wife was "Whitchurch born and bred", while her husband had been in Manchester as a steelmaker: he told me the work was very heavy and very hot, with some rough characters. When British Steel closed, he came to an aluminium company in Whitchurch. As his wife explained, "It's his story and it's mine".

She said of Time Together, emphatically, “It’s good for me. He goes to day care two days a week and I can’t come with him: it’s nice to be able to come here together.” This couple explained to me that when they first came there were a lot of people: the numbers dwindled for a time, but they’ve picked up again. This couple have been coming for several years: in all that time, “We haven’t missed many”. He used to enjoy playing dominoes with another man at Time Together – and that friendship developed to a point where they continued to meet and play dominoes at home.

The other domino player has died now, but his wife has recently returned to Time Together as a helper. Her husband had “dementia and lots of other complaints” – and they heard about Time Together by word of mouth. “We both loved it.” He loved people and he smiled all the time he was there – so they became known, to another guest who couldn’t easily remember names any more, as Smiler and Smiler’s wife. “The atmosphere is so happy.” They used to go to a local chapel, but liked it so much at Time Together that they started coming to St Alkmund’s Church. “I’m so lucky to have this.” Although it was too much to come to Time Together immediately after her husband had died, two years on feels the right time and “Smiler’s wife” has joined the team of helpers: “I’ve always been a listener – and I’ve grown in courage to go up and start a conversation.”

**if you would like to read the full article, this can be found on
<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/time-together.php>**



**If you would like to come along to Time Together details can be
 found on the leaflet on page 10**

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND



In spite of last year's proposed swan song for the plant sale, we have decided to have a 'pots only' sale to be ready from the second week of May.

You can order your pots anytime from now onwards and pay when you collect in May.

Medium size £10.00



To order please put your name on the list at the back of St Alkmund's Church or contact Judy Bryant on 01948 663234



Coffee Morning

**in aid of
Holy Immanuel Church**



**Saturday 11th May
10.30am - 12noon
at
Fauls Church Hall**



**Refreshments
Raffle, games & cake stall**



LLANDUDNO OUTING

Saturday 6th July 2024



The coach will leave St. Alkmund's, W/ch at 9.00am
& leave Llandudno at 4.00pm

Ticket Prices

Adults: £10.00

Church Children: (under 16) Free

Booking essential

To book: please either put your name on the list at the back of St Alkmund's Church or ring Sheila Chase on 07714 208178

Payment: required on booking—please place in marked envelope and hand into the St Alkmund's Church office



FTW Diary

Please see pewsheets for timings

- Sun 5th May FTW Rogation Service at Vale Farm
- Thur 9th May Deanery Ascension Day Service at St Peter & St Pauls Church, Wem, at 7pm
- Sat 11th May Fauls Coffee Morning in Fauls Church Hall
- Sun 12th May Churches Together Christian Aid Week Service at St John's
- Tue 14th May Friends of Whitchurch AGM at St Alkmund's
- Mon 20th May WJA Pentecost Experience
- Tue 21st May WJA Pentecost Experience
- Tue 25th June Archdeacons of Salop visitation service starts at 7pm in St Alkmund's Church
- Tues 2nd July Churches Together AGM, Watergate Centre
- Fri 5th July Fauls Summer Fete
- Sat 6th July Llandudno Day Trip
- Sun 14th July Pet Service Fauls church



FROM ST ALKMUND'S PARISH REGISTERS 2023/2024

Funerals



15th February—Margaret Walley—87 yrs*
19th February—Bryan Furber (Tony)—63 yrs
7th March—Zoe Jayne Mills—49 yrs
8th March—Graham Malcolm Ashley—81 yrs
13th March—Patricia Anne Jones (Pat)—82 yrs
21st March—Margaret Ann Ralphs—83 yrs*
11th April—Shirley Ann Lakin—86 yrs
18th April Margaret Priscilla Clive—91 yrs*

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep: Romans 12:15

**Crematorium Service*

Weddings



6th April—Andrew Cameron Small & Ameleah Grace Vermeulen

Baptisms



14th April—Reuben Brian John Brackenridge
21st April—Myla Grace Stokes



Sunday Services

First Sundays			Second Sundays		
8.00am	Whitchurch	BCP Communion	8.00am	Whitchurch	No Service
9.30am	Fauls	All Age Worship*	9.30am	Fauls	Holy Communion
10.00am	Whitchurch	Worship Together Communion	10.00am	Whitchurch	Morning Worship
11.00am	Tilstock	All Age Worship*	11.00am	Tilstock	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Whitchurch	Sung Evensong	6.30pm	Whitchurch	Sung Evensong
Third Sundays			Fourth Sundays		
8.00am	Whitchurch	No Service	8.00am	Whitchurch	No Service
9.30am	Fauls	Holy Communion	9.30am	Fauls	Holy Communion
10.00am	Whitchurch	Sung Communion	10.00am	Whitchurch	Sung Communion with Prayer for Healing
11.00am	Tilstock	Holy Communion	11.00am	Tilstock	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Whitchurch	Sung Evensong	6.30pm	Whitchurch	Sung Evensong
Fifth Sundays			Other Services		
8.00am	Whitchurch	No Service			
<p><i>There is often a Joint service at one of the three churches, so please see notice boards and pewsheets for details</i></p> <p><i>& the Diary for any variations</i></p>			<p>Junior Church (2-11yrs) and Sermon Slot (12+)</p> <p>This takes place at St Alkmund's W/ch during the 10am service on most Sundays (apart from the 1st Sunday and School Holidays)</p>		



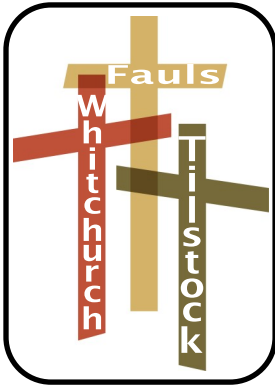
St Alkmund's Vestry

Baptism and Wedding dates can be arranged Tuesday evenings in church, from 7.00pm—7.30pm

The Rector will be in church for 'Rector's Vestry'

Church office Tel no: (01948) 667102

Church Office email ftwstalkmunds@gmail.com



Clergy and Reader in Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

Rector of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

Rev'd Chris Precious

Curate of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

Rev'd Pippa White

**Benefice Office: St Alkmund's Church, Church Street,
Whitchurch, SY13 1LB**

Benefice Administrator: Alison Dunne: 01948 667102

Email: ftwstalkmunds@gmail.com

Associate Minister of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

Rev'd Sue Armstrong: 01948 840039

Email: revsuea399@gmail.com

Reader of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

Mrs Jane Rylands: 01948 663184

Email: jane@rylands.me.uk

St Alkmund's Church

PCC Chair	Rev Chris Precious	
Church Warden	John Stokes	01948 663194
Church Warden	Sheila Chase	07714 208178
Verger	Pauline Stokes	01948 663194
PCC Treasurer	Mel Williams	01948 661286
PCC Lay Chair	Pauline Green	01948 664769
PCC Secretary	Elaine Bucknell	01948 666554
Director of Music	James Kellas	07789 555786
Bell Ringers	Malcolm Monie	01948 663069
Website	www.stalkmunds.com	

Holy Immanuel Church, Fauls

PCC Acting Chair	Rev Sue Armstrong	01948 840039
Church Warden	Pam Benbow	01948 840356
PCC Secretary	Liz Allwood	01630 685796
PCC Treasurer	Liz Kempton	01948 840271
Website	www.holy-immanuel-fauls.yolasite.com	

Christ Church, Tilstock

PCC Chair	Rev Chris Precious	
Church Warden	Freda Corfield	01948 880910
Church Warden	Joan Hockenhill	01948 880226
PCC Secretary	Joan Hockenhill	01948 880226
PCC Treasurer	Will Watson-Jones	01948 880340
Website	www.christ-church-tilstock.yolasite.com	