

The Parish Magazine

of **Whitchurch, Fauls & Tilstock**



April / May 2023



FTW Benefice Contacts

Rector of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

The Revd Canon Dr Judy Hunt - 01948 667253
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Associate Minister of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

Revd Sue Armstrong - 01948 840039
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Mrs Jane Rylands - 01948 663184
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St Alkmund's Church

PCC Chair	Revd Judy Hunt	01948 667253
Church Warden	John Stokes	01948 663194
Church Warden	Sheila Chase	07714 208178
Verger	Pauline Stokes	01948 663194
Electoral Roll Officer	Paul Williamson	01948 664112
PCC Lay Chair	Pauline Green	01948 664769
PCC Secretary	Elaine Bucknell	01948 666554
PCC & Fabric Treasurer	Mel Williams	01948 661286
Director of Music	Richard James	07975 622 542
Website	www.stalkmunds.com	

Holy Immanuel Church, Fauls

PCC Acting Chair	Rev Sue Armstrong	01948 840039
Church Warden	Pam Bembow	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	Revd Judy Hunt	01948 667253
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	

PASTORAL LETTER

for April from Revd Judy Hunt

Dear Friends,

As I write this, with my retirement coming in a few weeks' time, I'm looking back over my 11 years here. So much has gone on, so much has changed, so much has developed.

When I arrived – it was to Whitchurch only (what is known as a single parish benefice) but soon came the experiment of Shropshire North Six: Edstaston, Fauls, Prees, Tilstock, Whitchurch & Whixall. This took up a great deal of time and effort and, in the end, didn't work. We then trialled being two groups of three Parishes (PEW and FTW), this was felt to work much better and the FTW group became a legal benefice at the end of January 2020 ... only for Covid to strike! However, our links were strong enough for the three parishes to work well together and to provide much support in our communities during and after lockdowns.

In Whitchurch, Churches Together has been important: the development of the Foodbank came through this group. Sometimes our CoE benefice and Churches Together have 'joined forces' and this has enabled other really important ministry to develop such as the Hospital Chaplaincy team and Time Together for those with dementia and their family members.

We've had some interesting Study Courses too, including one based on the TV Drama "Broken" and another on Conflict Resolution. Confirmation Courses (open to all) have nurtured young people and adults in the journey of Christian discipleship. Much has been done with schools – we have 5 now within the benefice. Collective Worship, Experience Sessions, Church services, Concerts and Career Fests have all featured.

Work on our buildings and developing our music (services and concerts) have also been important.

There are really good foundations in the FTW benefice; these will keep the parishes rooted in God and in their communities, whilst also being linked together in supportive relationships. Additionally, there are really good foundations from which to build into the future, with Christ as the cornerstone.

May prayerful reflection on the journeys we've all taken over the last decade or so be a source of strength and hope in God for the future.

The Bible verse that comes to mind – for the FTW benefice (and for me ...) is Jeremiah 29 v11: "For surely I know the plans that I have for you", says the Lord, "plans for your welfare and not for harm, plans to give you a future with hope." I think this quote is relevant for the PEW benefice too!

I am grateful for the love, prayer and support I have received from so many people. I have appreciated working alongside so many colleagues in various different ways – and a special mention here of Revd Sue Armstrong. It has been a privilege to be welcomed into the life of the communities within Fauls, Tilstock and Whitchurch and into the lives of so many individuals and families. Thank you!

My last service here will be at 10.30am on Sunday 30th April in St Alkmund's, Whitchurch. All are welcome to this service. I then move to Malpas during the following week.

With love and prayers,

Revd Judy

HELLO FROM JAMES KELLAS

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



James writes: “I am very excited about joining St Alkmund’s and directing the music department after Easter. Once lockdown had lifted my wife and I decided to say farewell to city-life and moved to nearby Wem from Ruislip in North-West London; for over 10 years I have been organist and choir director at an Anglo-Catholic church there. During the week I teach the piano from our home in Wem as well as a couple of schools (still in London!). I’m greatly looking forward to meeting and worshipping with everyone very shortly.”

A WELCOME GUEST TO OUR PALM SERVICE SUNDAY ON THE 2ND APRIL 2023

Once again we welcomed Noah the donkey to our Palm Sunday Service, as always Noah was on his best behaviour.

Thank you to John & Gill for kindly bringing him to church with them.





THANK YOU

Thank you for all the help with the music at St Alkmund's.

Having been without a Director of Music for a couple of months, we are very grateful to those who have stepped in to help:

Martin Bussey
Garry Churchill
Helen Clarke
Angela Davies
Henry Smith
Stewart Smith

Thank
You



Food, fun and friendship

In Bargates Hall

(behind St Alkmund's Church)

20232023

3rd & 17th May • 7th & 21st June

5th & 19th July • 2nd & 16th August

6th & 20th September • 4th & 18th October

1st & 15th November • 6th & 20th December

(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 drink!

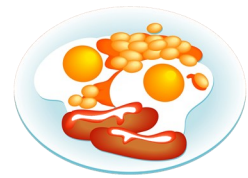
There might be craft activities, for those who are able the opportunity to take part in some gentle physical activity, singing, a prayer

Enquiries: Pauline Green

Email: paulineren056@gmail.com



EASTER BREAKFAST



A wonderful breakfast was enjoyed by all at the Easter Breakfast in Bargates Hall on Easter Sunday morning. A big thank you to all who helped prepare the lovely meal, and to everybody who came along to enjoy the food on this special day.



PHOTOGRAPHS FROM OUR EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

ST ALKMUND'S SUNDAY 9TH APRIL 2023





DEMENTIA ACTION WEEK - 2023

A National event that sees the public taking action to improve lives of people affected by Dementia- The week will take place on 16th - 22nd May.

Church is a rich place and community to welcome and include those living with Dementia and their carers.

St Alkmund's is a Dementia Friendly Church - Working year on year to keep the needs of people affected by Dementia at the hearts of everything they do.

Time Together - A group supported through Churches Together and in Partnership with Age UK meet fortnightly throughout the year - In Bargates Church Hall -
A group for those with memory loss or dementia and their family and carers. Provides care, support and a listening ear in a warm and friendly atmosphere with craft activities, song and prayer.

With the recognition and support received from a number of local organisations makes it possible to invite outside / independent groups and individuals ,offering a wide range of varied and interesting entertainment throughout the year.

We are grateful to Whitchurch Library for their ongoing - year on year - support and cooperation enabling TIME TOGETHER to present a display during
DEMENTIA ACTION WEEK - illustrating what is available and offered to the community as a whole.



ST ALKMUNDS NEW NATURE PROJECT

A NEW BUG HOTEL

It will be owl right on the night – good news for owls



Volunteers ready for a tea break



A new home for an owl



Another box being installed



Volunteers have been putting up nesting boxes on trees around the churchyard, to encourage more bird species. This is part of a plan to attract a wider range of wildlife in the church grounds, which are a valuable and well-visited green space close to the town centre.

Next will be to build a 'Bug Hotel' in a corner of the churchyard, to encourage a wide range of creepy crawlies, and to refurbish the existing 'bug hotel' built a few years ago. The Beavers will be helping with this, and other children are invited to join them, 6.00pm - 7.15pm, on Friday 28 April.

*The project has been helped by a grant from **Freedom Fibre**, and with practical assistance from **Men in Sheds** and members of the local branch of **Shropshire Wildlife Trust**.*



Hi all

I just wanted to inform you that the Watergate Centre (5 Watergate Street Whitchurch SY13 1DW) will be open from about 10am for the length of the service.

We felt this would be especially welcomed for those who live alone, so that they can watch the Coronation together and enjoy the excitement and warmth of a community atmosphere on this joyful occasion.

We have a large television Monitor (and a TV licence!)

Refreshments can be provided and we suggest people could be invited to bring their own picnic lunch.

I hope you will be able to circulate this as widely as you are able, and any offers of help to serve refreshments “on the day” would be most welcome!

Many thanks for your attention to this

James Muir (leadership team the Beacon Church)

Plant Sale

Sadly there will be no mega sale as in the past few years. Anno Domini has crept up on us and Janet and I feel that a scaled down option is the best route to take. We shall be offering 20 Patio Pots and 20 hanging baskets on a first come first served basis.

Small hanging baskets £7.50

Large baskets £10.00

Patio Pots £ 10.00

If you would like to secure any of these please ring Judy Bryant on 663234 and I will grow them on for you until maybe the 2nd week in May.

Many thanks to all our faithful supporters



Warm Hub at St Johns Methodist Church

Every Monday

- 9.30am-11.30am** **BBT@St Johns** for Bumps, Babies & Toddlers and parents & grandparents. Tea, coffee, chat, Toys, Crafts, Songs, Stories
- 12noon -2.00pm** **MORE plus** serving Soup & Toast
- 1.00pm-4.00pm** **MORE on a Monday** for adults seeking companionship, relaxation and exercise with board games, jigsaws, table tennis and craft activities plus tea & conversation

We would love to see you!

*We are also setting up a **clothing hub**, coordinating and storing donations of clothing and bedding which can be accessed by people with referrals from the Foodbank during our Monday sessions.*

If you have any clothing donations please speak to Briony at St Johns Methodist Church

Update on St Alkmund's building:

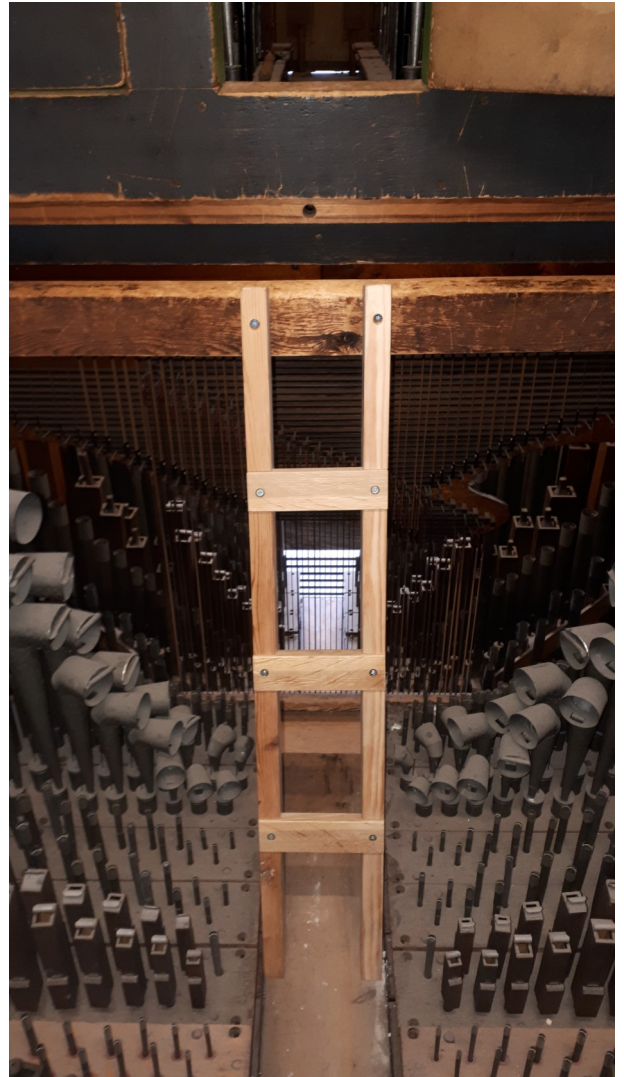
The new integrated sound and camera system for St Alkmund's is due to be installed during the week of Monday 17th April. Please be patient and understanding if there are any teething problems!

More detailed specifications for the partial re-ordering and installing of a Disabled toilet are being drawn up by our Architect. These will then be sent out to firms who might like to tender for the work. We are expecting the tenders back in late April and early May.

We are investigating how to reduce our carbon footprint and there will be more about this as the weeks go by.



A LOOK BEHIND THE ORGAN IN ST ALKMUND'S CHURCH



We are used to seeing our wonderful organ in St Alkmund's church, but it is very rare for us to get a glimpse of what goes on behind the beautiful organ. From the photos you can see the organ pipes and the small ladder that leads to a very small opening that the tuner has to get into to reach more organ pipes, the ladder has only recently been installed to allow safe access to the Swell which is required for tuning.



DONATION TO TIME TOGETHER

Revd Judy and other recipients with members of the Commander Ethelston Charity Cup Football Competition
- £250 donation was given to Time Together



Alison Talbert

Prayer Update March/April 2023

Psalm 63

O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;
My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Dear Friends,

First of all, my apologies for this being so late that it will cover April too. I have been so busy with meetings with lab and data teams and external collaborators, writing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and having brainstorming sessions with study coordinators about site preparations and study participant flow. It's becoming clear that despite having a protocol we need to spend some time together just concentrating on the practicalities so we will have a 2-day planning workshop at a local hotel in April.

The other thing preoccupying me has been collecting water when the mains supply is on. Ours comes from rivers so its obviously a concern about what happens when they dry up. On Sunday morning the heat and humidity (90%) were almost unbearable, then it rained- only for 5 minutes but that and the sudden appearance of flying insects makes it look like the rains are starting. The winds have changed to southerly so that is promising. Other parts of Kenya have had heavy rains this week, but the coast region is forecast to have lighter rains than normal, and we have only had a few spit spots since Sunday.



Masks at Upendo



On a lighter note, Upendo has received more sponsorship money and there are some new younger children around the project. Visitors from Karibuni Children, a charity that supports the feeding programme, brought some masks for them to colour in and that proved very popular though they didn't seem to recognize that they were supposed to be wild animals!

I met the Class of '22 secondary school leavers of Upendo and asked them what they were going to do in the 8 months before being allocated college and university places. Some had already found casual work and they were all applying for their national ID cards. Several wanted to set up a shop and sell juices, tailored goods and shoes, and others wanted to go into business raising broilers. Upendo will have a stall at a craft market on April 1st so I'll go along with some of the school

leavers, in the hope that seeing the professional traders there will give them some marketing ideas. Lemic has found a government computer course for them which is free. Their career goals were quite interesting to me ranging from medicine, hospitality, journalism, IT, to getting a diploma on how to operate heavy machinery to work at Mombasa port.

I'll sign off now and get back to SOP writing...

Yours in Christ's love,

Alison

- Thanks to God for the 5 new sponsored children at Upendo
- And for the start of the rains in Kenya
- Pray for the study team retreat in April
- Pray for timely approval from the Pharmacy and Poisons Board to import the study supplements

SHROPSHIRE
www.shropshirehope.co.uk

Saturday 22nd April

2023 Shropshire Hope Prayer Breakfast

Bishop Mike Royal, General Secretary of Churches Together England, is coming to speak at the 2023 Shropshire Hope Prayer Breakfast, in Christ Church, Glebe Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 0PZ.

Plus Mike will bring a fresh perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing the UK Church from his wealth of experience and current observations – thus helping Christians in Shropshire | Telford & Wrekin to pray effectively, and think of our mission for Christ in broader terms.

A free event, with a chance, for those who wish, to give on the morning to help cover the costs.

**Arrival
8:20am**

Continental Breakfast

**Event
Start
9am**

Register via
eventbrite | Shropshire Hope

or email
info@shropshirehope.co.uk





THE
CORONATION
KING CHARLES
III
2023

Holy Immanuel Church, Fauls

Is holding an

Afternoon Tea

To celebrate the

Coronation of King Charles III

On Sunday 7th May 2023

At 3pm in Fauls Church Hall

Booking is essential by Sunday 30th April with either

Pam Benbow (01948 840356)

or Joan Thomas (01948 841001)

Adults £10, Children £5

All are welcome

to join us to celebrate this special occasion
and enjoy a selection of savoury and sweet treats



Entering a Vacancy

At the end of April, the FTW benefice will enter a vacancy. Much work has been done to prepare the parishes for this time and cover for Sunday services has been arranged for The next few months. Midweek activities will continue and lay leadership is in place, as is some clergy cover.

The Benefice profile is already in draft form – thanks to the group who have been working on this. The first legal stage of the process to appoint a new Rector is a meeting between the 3 PCCs and the Archdeacon: this has been arranged for 3rd May.

Please do pray for all involved in leadership – lay and ordained; churchwardens, deputies and group leaders.

Please keep Alison in the office, plus Revd Sue and Jane Rylands particularly in your prayers.



Many of you will already be aware that Revd Judy retires at the end of April, having been with us at the Benefice of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch for almost 11 years.

We would like to wish Revd Judy all the very best on her next exciting chapter, and to thank her for all that she has done for us and our communities.

**Revd Judy's last church service will be:
a Joint FTW Service
on Sunday 30th April 2023 at 10.30am
in St Alkmund's church.**



I am sure that Revd Judy will have been involved with many of you during her time here, and that some of you may like to contribute to her leaving gift, the following information advises how contributions can be paid:

- ◆ Card payment can be made via the Good plate at the back of church.
- ◆ Cash donations can be made via envelopes at the back of the church - Envelope printed RJH Donation.
- ◆ Card payments can be made via telephone by calling the church office on 01948 667102 to make payment over the phone.
- ◆ Online payments can be made by paying into the following account:

Bank: Barclays Bank:
Account name: Whitchurch PCC
Sort Code: 20-77-85
Account No: 80275417
Quoting Ref: RJHDonation



**A Special Commemorative Civic Service
Hosted by St Alkmund's, Whitchurch
Sunday 7th May 2023
10.00am**

Leaders:

Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly,
Minister of St John's Methodist Church

Jane Rylands
Reader of St Alkmund's CoE Church

Preacher:

The Venerable Paul Thomas
Archdeacon of Salop





FTW Diary

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

30th April	10.30am	FTW Joint Service in St Alkmund's, W/ch (Revd Judy's last service)
4th May	7.00pm	Friends AGM in St Alk's, W/ch Anna Turner—Speaker
7th May	10.00am	Civic Service for the King's Coronation in St Alkmund's's, W/ch
	3.00pm	King's Coronation Tea in Fauls Church Hall
14th May	Morning	W/ch Christian Aid service - Beacon hosting
	11.00am	Tilstock Confirmation and Communion Service
18th May	7.00pm	Deanery Ascension Day Service in Clive
20th May	7.30pm	Cor Bach Concert in St Alkmund's, W/ch
21 st May	6.00pm	FTW Rogation service at Tilstock
4th June	Afternoon	Scarecrow Trail around Fauls

Magazine information

Dates for the FTW Magazine

Please see below the issue dates for the bimonthly magazine, if you have anything that you would like put into any of the editions then please send by email to the Benefice Administrator: Alison Dunne on ftwstalkmunds@gmail.com
No later than the cut off date shown below.

FTW MAGAZINE PUBLICATIONS

Issue	Publication Date	Deadline
June 2023	9th June 2023	1st June 2023
August 2023	11th August 2023	3rd August 2023
October 2023	6th October 2023	29th September 2023
December 2023	8th December 2023	1st December 2023

