

Clergy and Reader in Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

Rector of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

-Currently in vacancy

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

Revd 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	—	
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

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

Christ Church, Tilstock

PCC Chair	—	
Church Warden	Freda Corfield	01948 880910
Church Warden	Joan Hockenhull	01948 880226
PCC Secretary	Joan Hockenhull	01948 880226



The Parish Magazine of Whitchurch, Fauls & Tilstock



The beautiful nativity figures from St George's RC Church on display at the Crib Festival

December 2023

PASTORAL LETTER

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long:
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,
And ev'ry voice a song.

It is the season of Advent hymns in church. Only the choirs get to sing carols as they rehearse for the Carol Service!

Although even the most curmudgeonly of us have had to put some thought into our Christmas planning by the beginning of December, some are already in full-blown Christmas party mode.

In church we are trying to keep our focus on the preparations.

Advent is serious business because Christmas is serious business.

Part of Christmas is the simple joy of remembering that God came to live a human life amongst us. Came as a baby. A miracle birth. Alleluia! Alleluia!

But the implications of that birth affect the histories of God's people up to that point and create a whole new narrative as God shows himself to us, shows us a new way and brings a new promise of eternal life. Advent is the time to try and get our heads around this, to prepare ourselves to receive the life-changing Christ child when he comes.

And then we let the party begin!

Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King:
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

with blessings as you make your preparations for Christmas.

Jane Rylands

Reader licensed to the FTW benefice



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	Sung Communion
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 to regular services</i></p>			Junior Church (2-11yrs) and Sermon Slot (12+)		
			This takes place at St Alkmund's W/ch during the 10am service on most Sundays (apart from the 1st Sunday and School Holidays)		



St Alkmund's Vestry

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

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

Church office Tel no: (01948) 667102

Church Office email ftwstalkmunds@gmail.com

**FROM ST ALKMUND'S PARISH REGISTERS
2023**

Funerals



20th November—Edith Elizabeth Jones (Betty)—88 yrs
 23rd November—Sheila Rosaline Moorhouse—88 yrs
 24th November—Ronald George Rocke—92 yrs
 7th December—Thomas Williams (Tom)—89 yrs
 11th December—Celia Margaret Camplin—82 yrs*
 13th December—Sheila Mary Rickett—87 yrs

**Crematorium Service*

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

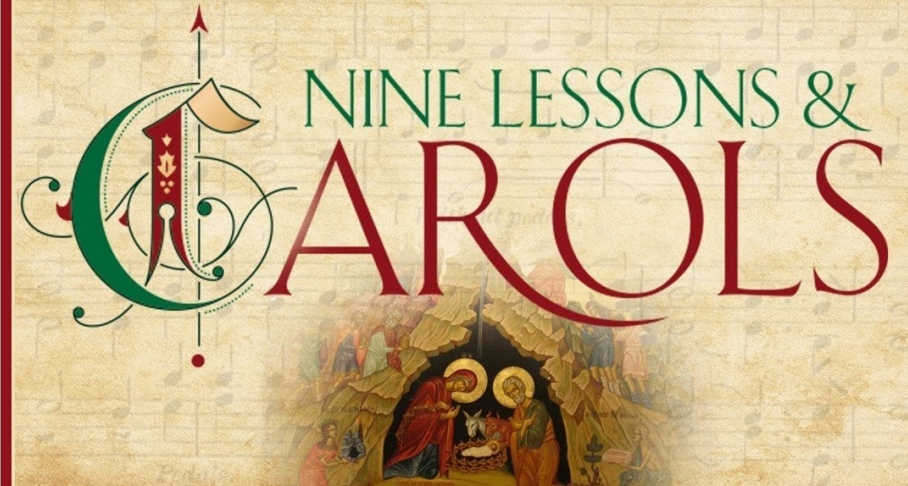
Weddings



Baptisms



22nd October—Riley Scott Raynor-Swann
 10th December—Albie Christopher Blackhurst



Service of 9 Lessons and Carols

IN

ST ALKMUND'S CHURCH

ON

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER

AT 6.30PM

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/chuchurch/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 7th January 2024 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— will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm in Bargates Hall.

LOWER HEATH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR: On Friday 15th December, 3.30pm-5pm.

ADVENT MEDITATION SERVICE:

A short service of reflection for Advent on Wednesday 20th December at 7.00pm in St Alkmund's Church.

FOODBANK BOX: Once again we are putting the box out for Food Bank donations—but only on a Sunday. Food Bank would be delighted to have the support from St Alkmund's once again. Many thanks Pauline Stokes

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE CONGREGATION:

If you bring Christmas Cards for friends at church, please give as many as possible to the people directly; after that there is a box at the back of church. Please put cards in the correct slot and have a look for any addressed to you (check the slots for both your Christian and surnames!!)

FAULS GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW:

Tickets are now on sale from any Fauls PCC member at £1.00 each. Prizes include a Christmas Hamper, Shopping Voucher, Bottles, Christmas Cake and many more! To be drawn at the Fauls Carol Supper on the 15th December.

THOSE CHOOSING INTINCTION: (Dipping wafer) Please do not allow your fingers to come into contact with the consecrated wine when dipping your wafer into the chalice. Thank you.

ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION AT ST ALKMUND'S:

Following completion of the reordering work - enabling an 'All Inclusive' policy at St Alkmund's - the commencement date for Administration from the front of the Nave at the Chancel steps will take place on the 10th December. All are welcome!



FTW Diary

Please see pewsheets for timings

2023

9 th Dec	Handel's Messiah in St Alkmund's Church
13 th Dec	Tilstock school Christingle
14 th Dec	Whitchurch School Nativity in St Alkmund's
15 th Dec	Tilstock Crib Festival Advent Organ Recital in St Alkmund's Fauls Carol Supper
16 th Dec	Tilstock Crib Festival
17 th Dec	Fauls Carol Service St Alkmund's Carol Service
19 th Dec	Lower Heath School Nativity WJA Carol Concert in St Alkmund's
20 th Dec	Tilstock Nativity Advent Meditation Service in St Alkmund's
21 st Dec	Lower Heath School Carol Service
22 nd Dec	Carols around the Christmas Tree Fauls
23 rd Dec	Christmas Crib Festival Fauls
24 th Dec	St Alkmund's Crib Services Tilstock Carol Service Fauls Christmas Communion Service St Alkmund's Midnight Service at 11pm
25 th Dec	St Alkmund's FTW All Age Holy Communion

2024

14 th Jan	Fauls Sunday Lunch
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**Holy Immanuel Church
Annual Carol Supper
& Grand Christmas Draw
In Fauls Church Hall**



**Friday 15th December 2023
starting at 7.00pm**

**Come along and sing to a variety of
Christmas carols and songs accompanied by
David and Rob**

**Adults £10 , children £5
to include cheese, crackers, bread,
a variety of salads, mince pies, stollen,
wine, tea and coffee.
All Welcome**



'Thank you to everyone who supported
the Children's Society this year.
£1039.79 was raised this year.
An amazing total. Many thanks to all'
Rebecca Simms



**If anyone would like to
consider having a box please contact
Rebecca Sims 07599946112**



CRIB FESTIVAL

at

Christ Church, Tilstock

Friday 15th December & Saturday 16th December
10.30am-3.00pm



**Everyone welcome to come along,
enjoy the festival,
and to have a tea or coffee.**

TILSTOCK CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 2nd December

An enjoyable afternoon was had by all, with £540 being raised, 'a wonderful amount'. Father Christmas popped in to see us! Thank you to everyone that came along, helped or contributed.



ST ALKMUND'S CRIB FESTIVAL

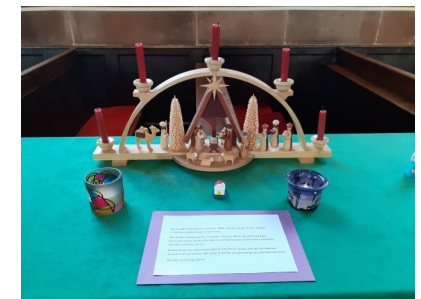
Saturday 25th November



Our yearly Crib Festival was held at St Alkmund's on Saturday 25th November, we had some wonderful cribs on display, too many to show all of the photographs!! It was a wonderful day, with lots of people coming in to have a look at the cribs.

It was a lovely community day!

A special 'Thank You' must go to Wendy, Doreen and Alan for all of their hard work in organising this.





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)

2023/2024

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

3rd & 17th January • 7th & 21st February

6th & 20th March • 3rd & 17th April

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 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 on 01948 664769 or
paulinegreen056@gmail.com**

FTW CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE

St Alkmund's, Whitchurch

10.00am Morning Worship

4.30pm Crib Service (*)

6.30pm Crib Service (*)

11.00pm First Communion of Christmas

**Please note that the 4.30pm Crib Service can get very busy,
so please try to attend the Crib Service at 6.30pm where possible.*

Christ Church, Tilstock

6.00pm Carol Service

Holy Immanuel, Fauls

10.30pm First Communion of Christmas

FTW CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am All Age Christmas Communion in St Alkmund's, W/ch (**)

FTW SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER

10.30am FTW Joint Service in St Alkmund's, W/ch



FAULS CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 25th November



Holy Immanuel, Fauls held their Christmas Fair in the Church Hall on the 25th November. With plenty of Stalls, Tombola, Bric a Brac & Refreshments, there was an excellent turnout which made it a successful event, and everyone had a lovely afternoon. With over £260.00 being raised for church funds.

Thank you to everyone that helped, contributed and attended, with a special 'Thank you' to Angie Jenkins for organising and to everyone who helped serve and make refreshments.



ST ALKMUND'S CHOIR SINGING

at the WHITCHURCH TOWN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

Saturday 25th November

St Alkmund's choir were asked to sing outside of the Civic Centre as part of the Whitchurch Town Christmas Lights Switch on. We have received plenty of lovely comments saying how well they all sang, with everyone being very impressed that they sang acapella!

We received a special 'Thank You' from the Town Council who said that the choir looked joyful on stage— full of smiles and a Christmas Spirit!

Well done & Thank You to our Musical Director, James Kellas and his amazing choir



A page from our 1909 October Parish Magazine

THE
WHITCHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE

And Parish Register.

DECEMBER, 1904.

ADVENT.

THE Christian year commences in our Church with the first Sunday in Advent. We number our years not by the age of the world, nor by the time during which the reigns of kings and queens have lasted, but by the time during which the kingdom of Christ has been established upon the earth, calling each year as it passes "The year of our Lord." So we begin our ecclesiastical year with the first of those Sundays which for many centuries have been set apart as preparatory to the great festival of the Holy Incarnation. All the self-searching thoughts which arise to the mind, and are suggestive of the passing away of another marked period of our earthly life, are called into exercise by the return of the season of Advent, and all our brightest and best hopes for the future are centred in the great event which we commemorate at Christmas. May we all be honest and true in preparing for the observance of that great festival, on which Holy Day we hope that a large number of devout communicants will testify to an ever increasing sense of responsibilities and privileges as Christians, who look back to the period of the nativity of Christ as by far the greatest event in the whole history of the world, and whose thoughts and actions are regulated by their belief in the Second Advent of our Lord.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE
St Alkmund's Church
3rd December 2023

