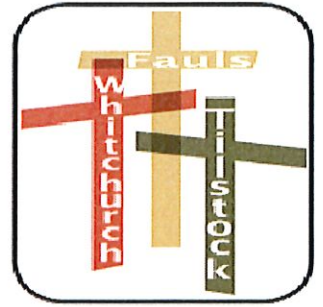


FTW NEWSLETTER

7 April 2022



Pastoral Letter from Jane Rylands

Dear Friends,

Thank God, not many of us are having to face a crisis of the magnitude of those fleeing home and country to seek safety in a strange territory. But crisis befalls all of us from time to time: afraid, perhaps because of a serious illness diagnosis, or an unexpected job loss; or perhaps unable to function as normal for a time because of grief or some other trauma.

Times that threaten the future we were expecting often lead us to reflect on what we haven't done and can bring us to make promises to make changes for the better if we are given a second chance.

During Lent Christians prepare themselves to relive in story the crisis of Jesus's crucifixion. We make promises to do things better, to live a life worth living, if we can only be rescued from our self-absorption and be forgiven our many mistakes.

It seemed to Jesus's first followers that the promises of the new way died a death with him on that Friday of the Passover festival. Today we undertake Lent knowing that our future is already saved, that Jesus's resurrection which we celebrate on Easter Sunday grants new life, a different life, a restored life, a repaired life, a life blessed by hope, a life worth living to all those who seek it.

It is our comfort through crises that Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' (John 8 v 12)

Yours in Christ

Jane



HOLY WEEK 2022

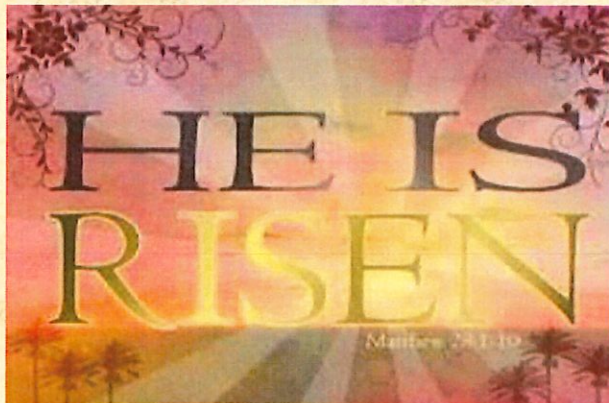
Mon 11th April	7.00pm	by Zoom
Tues 12th April	7.00pm	by Zoom
Weds 13th April	7.00pm	by Zoom
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	at St John's Methodist , W/ch
Good Friday		
Meditative service	10.00am	at St Alkmund's W/ch
Procession of Witness	11.30am	from Tesco Car Park



POSTCODES OF OUR CHURCHES

Fauls SY13 2AS Tilstock SY13 3JL
Whitchurch SY13 1LB

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES 2022



8.00am	Whitchurch (St Alkmund's)	Holy Communion [BCP]
9.30am	Fauls (Holy Immanuel)	Easter Communion (*)
10.00am	Whitchurch (St Alkmund's)	Easter Communion (*)
11.00am	Tilstock (Christ Church)	Easter Communion (*)
6.30pm	Whitchurch (St Alkmund's)	Easter Evensong

All ages are welcome at all our services but you may like to note that an () is next to those services which are a little shorter and which may be particularly suitable for children.*

Other dates for your diary

As this year continues to gallop its way forward, we will keep you updated with planned events and venues. Please check each subsequent newsletter for any amendments and/or additions. Further details on some of the programme below can be found on other pages of this edition of newsletter.

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Saturday 23 April	19:00hrs	Organ Recital by Richard James	St. Alkmund's Church
Saturday 7 May	10:00 – 12:00hrs	Plant Sale	Bargates Hall
Saturday 7 May	19.30hrs	Choral Classics and Rock Music – Cor Bach	St. Alkmund's Church
Friday 20 May	Morning	Christian Aid Coffee Morning	Whitchurch Civic Centre
Sunday 22 May	? 18:30hrs	Rogation Service	Chapel Field Stud, Ash Lane, Whitchurch Shropshire, SY13 4BP
Sunday 29 May	10:30hrs	Joint FTW Service	Fauls Church Hall
Sunday 5 June	Usual times	Special Services for Queen's Jubilee	All 3 churches
Tuesday 14 or 22 June	19:30hrs	AGM of Friends of St. Alkmund's	St. Alkmund's Church
Saturday 18 June	Morning	Fauls Coffee Morning	Darliston Farm, Fauls
Friday 24 June	Morning	Christ Church, Tilstock Coffee Morning	Whitchurch Civic Centre
Saturday 9 July	15:00hrs	Concert by Nantwich Singers	St. Alkmund's Church
Saturday 16 July	Leave 09:00hrs Return 16:00hrs	Parish Outing	Llandudno
Saturday 31 July	10.30hrs	FTW Joint Service	Christ Church, Tilstock
Friday 12 August	09:00 – 12:00hrs	St. Alkmund's Coffee Morning	Whitchurch Civic Centre
Sunday 25 September	9.30hrs	Harvest Festival	Fauls Church
Saturday 1 October	All day	Whitchurch Blackberry Fair	Throughout the town of Whitchurch
Sunday 2 October	10:00hrs	Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch	St. Alkmund's Church and then at Bargates Hall.
Sunday 9 October	11.00hrs	Harvest Festival followed by Soup Lunch	Christ Church, Tilstock and then in the Village Hall.
Saturday 12 November	Morning	St. Alkmund's Coffee Morning and Christmas Fair	Whitchurch Civic Centre



The Royal College of Organists
Patron: HM The Queen

INTERNATIONAL ORGAN DAY

SATURDAY 23RD APRIL 2022

Director of Music at St. Alkmund's Church

RICHARD JAMES

invites us to join him at St. Alkmund's to celebrate the
day with an

ORGAN RECITAL

featuring popular pieces by J S Bach and others

on Saturday 23 April at 19:00hrs

All Welcome – Refreshments provided after the recital

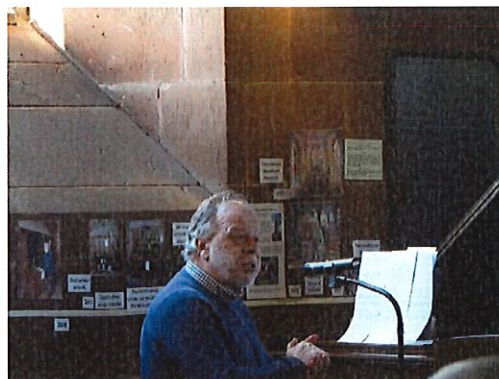
No entry charge – Any donations will be given to aid
support work in Ukraine

Caldecott Arts Festival

Our town of Whitchurch saw an amazing response to celebrate the life and works of Randolph Caldecott on the 19 March 2022.

How wonderful it was to see generations acknowledge the accomplishments of this son of our town of Whitchurch.

His legacy will live on forever. Here are some pics of this memorable day.



The first Randolph Caldecott prize awarded in America was for the illustration of a book on "Animals in the Bible". Jane Rylands, together with helpers, designed and made this beautiful banner to represent this. It's displayed in St Alkmund's for all to see.



PLANNING AHEAD FOR MAY 2023 onwards

Revd Judy told all the FTW annual meetings last year (2021) that she plans to retire around Easter next year (2023).

Easter Sunday is on 16th April in 2023 and there are 5 Sundays in that month – so her last Sunday might be a Joint Service on 30th April 2023.

Revd Judy, Revd Sue and Jane Rylands have been doing some planning ahead. Those suggestions were discussed at the FTW Co-Ordinating group on 14th March 2022 and were then referred to PCCs.

We have looked at a possible **Rota of Services**; if this becomes the approach used:

- Fauls and Tilstock would have two Sunday morning Communion each month and two Morning Worship Services.
- Whitchurch would have three 10.00am Communion services and one Morning Worship service; the 8.00am could stay in place if numbers attending are sufficient to warrant it taking place and the 6.30pm Evensong will still take place.

Many of these services will be taken by Revd Sue and Jane R, with some assistance from Revd Jane Stephenson. However, holidays, illnesses and when Church Festivals fall will alter the basic rota.

We will also need some **Congregation Members** from each parish to volunteer to 'have a go' at taking a service – or part of a service. Hopefully, then some will do this in the vacancy. We have resources for intercessions when needed and also reflections or meditations, linked to each Sunday's readings, in place of the sermon or talk. Sometimes quiet for reflection could follow the readings in place of a talk.

We are looking at producing a **Morning Worship booklet** that will be easy to use – and may have different versions of it for the varying seasons of the church's year.

Work will be done later in the year on the **Benefice profile** (needed before the post of Rector can be advertised) and the Bishop will be approached to see if the process can be started earlier than is often the case. Jane Rylands has kindly agreed to chair a group, with people from each parish, to work on both aspects.

Revd Sue has offered to be the contact point for all **Occasional Offices** (weddings, banns, baptisms and funerals) for Fauls and Tilstock and also for Whitchurch funerals. We have yet to see how best to do the bookings and staffing of Whitchurch weddings, banns and baptisms.





CHORAL CLASSICS AND ROCK MUSIC

RAISING FUNDS FOR HEALTH CHARITIES

ST.ALMUND'S WHITCHURCH

WELCOMES

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

FOR A

CHARITY PERFORMANCE BY

Cor Bach

Cor Bach are an acapella group who've scored nearly 5 million hits on social media and will be performing with local talents Saxophonist **Oliver Pritchard Jones** and **Oliver Smith**, Flautist.

Join them in

Sing out for Cancer

7.30 pm on 7 May

The tickets which are £10 each are available from Gallery Flowers on the High Street in Whitchurch and also from The Card Market on Green End. Or contact Peggy Mullock on 01948 664959

SAFEGUARDING IN OUR CHURCHES

BACKGROUND

(Taken in part from the Annual Report on 2021 for St Alkmund's)

A new Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework was approved by the National Safeguarding Steering Group in April 2021. This Framework sets out details of the Church's safeguarding learning pathways, and expectations of Church officers in respect of those pathways.

Safeguarding is at the centre of our faith, in our practice, in our worship, in our praying, and in our believing. In other words, safeguarding needs to become integral to the very DNA of the Church rather than an appendage, with good safeguarding behaviours flowing naturally and intuitively. Theology, by which we simply mean clear thinking about God and the faith we share, has been interwoven into all our learning and the development pathways. As IICSA identified, this will require a significant shift in the Church's culture as a whole system approach

Achieving a paradigm shift in safeguarding requires a "whole system" approach within which change is achieved by the inter-relatedness of different strands. One developmental strand is "safeguarding learning". This framework sets out the form that safeguarding learning needs to take to contribute effectively to the paradigm shift envisioned and to overall organisational change. The safeguarding learning pathways support participants in developing and maintaining the necessary values, beliefs, knowledge, and skills to safeguard and protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults as outlined in the 'Promoting a Safer Church' House of Bishops policy statement (2017).

Copies of this Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework 2021-2024 have been printed out by Meriel Edge and placed at the back of St Alkmund's Church for any interested parties to read.

The FTW PCCs have put in place a small benefice Safeguarding Committee to ensure this paradigm shift is achieved.

Each PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Safeguarding is of immense importance in our Benefice . It features as an Agenda item at every PCC meeting and has a full and comprehensive risk assessment which is regularly scrutinised and updated, when necessary.

Some practical implications

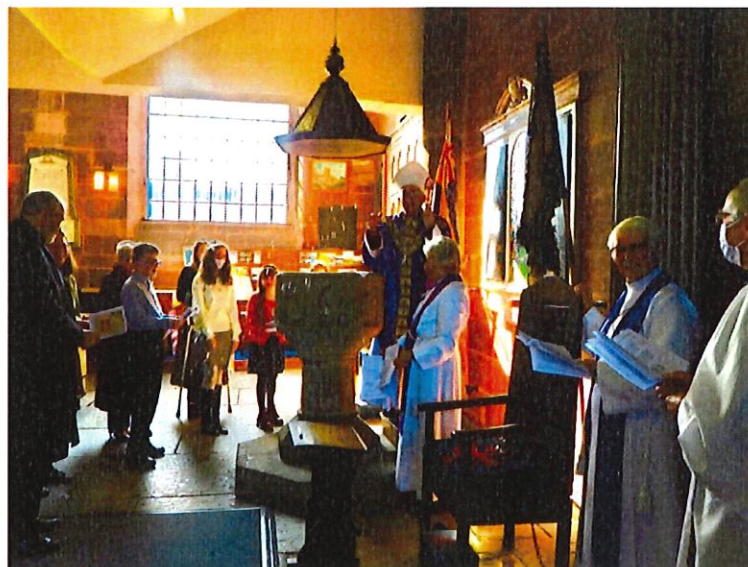
1. We hope that we get a new Benefice administrator soon – part of the role is keeping our records up-to-date in all three parishes. Included in this is keeping all who has done what level of church safeguarding training and when and similarly for DBS checks – and do the reminding of people and chasing them up when they need to renew either safeguarding training or a DBS check. This will take the load of such work off Revd Judy.
2. All PCC members will have to do safeguarding training every three years – plus all those involved in various church groups
 - o This is approx 45 people for St Alk's; 11 for Fauls; 7 for Tilstock
 - o Most are due this year
 - o We're going to start to 'tackle' this after Easter – asking all who can do it on line (including with the help of a family member or friend) to do so – and send the 'certificate of proof' in. Then they will be asked if they will take someone else through it – registering the other person's name –to help those who have no computer access.
3. DBS clearance is need for some roles and now includes all PCC members. There is also a change to needing renewal every 3 years. If your last DBS was before January 2022 – your next renewal stays at 5 years from your last clearance and then the next one will be 3 years after that; those whose most recent DBS check is after January 2022 – your next one will be in three years' time.

The Policy for St Alkmund's, and associated documents, are on the website: www.stalkmunds.com

The safeguarding officer for Fauls & Tilstock is Revd Sue and for St Alkmund's, W/ch is Meriel Edge.



Sunday 3rd April saw candidates from Whitchurch, Prees, Whixall and Lee Brockhurst being confirmed in a joyful service by
Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield



Freda Carey

Church Mission Society Mission Partner in Pakistan

Update March 2022

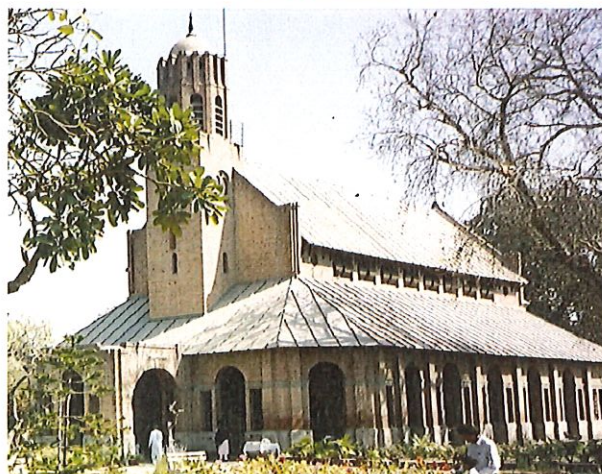
E-mail: fredamcarey@gmail.com



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Lahore again. Thanks to your prayers I arrived safely back in Lahore on 12th February. The flight was smooth, and although one bag went missing at some point, thankfully it was returned to me two days later

It was lovely to be able to join friends at the church service at St Andrew's Church, Lahore on the Sunday after my arrival. This church will celebrate its 150th anniversary this year, having been founded in 1872, near to the main railway station and the Railway Colony for the railway employees, many of whom were Christians. For many years the railway company appointed and paid the salary of chaplains for the church but later it came directly under the Diocese of Lahore. It was the centre of a charismatic renewal movement in the 1970s under Australian CMS missionary, Rev. Sidney Iggulden, which produced many of today's Pakistani Christian leaders.



St Andrew's Church, Lahore

The annual conference of the Theological Educators' Forum (TEF) took place at the OTS office in Lahore from 23–25 February, with various local speakers addressing 'The Challenges for Theological Education in the Context of Pakistan'. There were about 70 participants from 35 institutions. I led a seminar on Creation Care or Environmental Theology, and there were other optional seminars on Technology and Media, Theology of Urdu Worship Songs, the Importance of Spiritual Disciplines, the Role of Female Theological Graduates, and Creating a Reading Culture. The main sessions looked at Public Theology, Contextual Theology, the Challenges of Higher Education, Leadership, Sustainability and Bridging the Gap between the Church and the Seminary.



Sessions during TEF conference in 2022

Admissions for the third cohort of our Master of Arts in Christian Studies (MACS) programme have just taken place, and their first module will be Research Methods, which I will teach. It will be in two parts, 14-16 March and 11-13 April with practical field research in between. The first cohort will do their sixth and final taught module at the end of March on the Church and Society, which will be taught by my colleagues, Rev. Javaid and Rev. Nadeem. Then they will have to start writing their final theses.

The latest wave of Covid-19 seems to have passed, although face masks are still being worn in public places. Lahore has been hosting a series of cricket matches of the Pakistan Super League over recent weeks, so we hope that it does not trigger another wave of infection.

Village wedding

The highlight of my first full weekend back in Pakistan was the wedding of Pastor Emmanuel's daughter Rina on 19th February. This is a popular season for Christian weddings as the weather is pleasant after the cold, wet winter months, and it is before the start of Lent, when Christians usually avoid marriage celebrations. As it was two years since I last visited the village, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the journey time had decreased from three and a half to two and a half hours, because of a new motorway between Lahore and Sialkot, and because the road between the town where the minibus stops and the village itself has been greatly improved. When I arrived on Friday, I found that most of the other relatives were already there, having travelled from Karachi, Islamabad, Sialkot and Gujranwala. The house and the school rooms next door were crowded with temporary accommodation, and some relatives had to stay with Muslim neighbours because there was no room. There were 10 of us sharing the room I slept in!

On Friday evening various cultural ceremonies took place, particularly the mehndi (henna ceremony), designed to wish good luck and prosperity to the new couple. Sometimes in the cities, the bride and groom hold a combined mehndi, but usually they have separate events with their respective friends and relatives. A new custom for me involved smearing the bride's hands, forearms and face with yellow turmeric (haldee) paste and feeding her sweets. Rina was dressed all in yellow for this.

Then we moved to the courtyard of the school next door where a large colourful shamiana (marquee) had been set up. The groom lives in Karachi but his aunt and uncle live in a nearby village and so he and his close relatives were staying there. Some of the groom's relatives arrived and the henna ceremony began, with relatives, turn by turn, putting a little henna and oil on the bride's hair and giving her small gifts. For this Rina was dressed in a red tunic and rainbow coloured lenga, a floor-length full skirt. Food was served, and the rest of the ceremony began at 10.30pm, with young women bringing lighted candles, which they placed in front of the bride. Then the dancing began, and went on into the early hours.



Ready for haldee ceremony

The next day, the wedding party arrived and some small customs were enacted, starting with the meeting (milni), when gifts of cloth are given by the girl's relatives to the equivalent relatives on the groom's side. The groom was dressed in a cream coloured achkan (traditional coat) and garlanded and veiled with tinsel. He was accompanied by a small page boy from the family. His entrance to the courtyard was blocked by a dupatta held by the bride's female relatives and friends until he paid them money to enter. As he and his party entered the courtyard, they were welcomed with showers of rose petals. When he was seated in the tent, the girls of the family brought him a glass of milk to drink.



Ready for the henna ceremony

Then most left for the church, in the next village, as there is no church building in Emmanuel's village. Rina was already there, getting made up in a beauty parlour, dressed in a long white wedding dress with veil. The groom also changed into a three piece suit for the ceremony. There were two little flower girls all dressed in white as well. The ceremony was almost the

same as an English wedding ceremony, with very much the same wording for the vows, but we started by singing the second part of Psalm 45, which is a wedding song. Then we heard a good message from Psalm 127, about the Lord being the foundation of family life. Then we returned to Emmanuel's house for the reception. After the meal and the cake cutting, the bride and groom went away to change their clothes yet again for the final ceremony, the rukhsati or departure, which took place back in the verandah of the house.

Rina was now dressed in red and gold, and as she left the room, her mother poured some rice into a fold of her dupatta and Rina tossed handfuls over her shoulder. Her mother also poured a little cooking

oil on both sides of the door frame before Rina came out. This expresses the wish that her home will never be lacking in the essentials of life. This was a very emotional time for Emmanuel, and Rina's unmarried brother and sister. They were all in tears at the parting. Then her brother Yuhanna (John) lifted her up and carried her across the courtyard and out of the gate to where the vehicle was waiting to take her to her new home. Some of Emmanuel's relatives left after the rukhsati but those of us who remained did not stay sad for too long however, as the music began to play and the dancing began again.

On Sunday morning, I learned about some more customs that I had not heard of before. I went with Rina's brother and sister and a few chosen relatives to take breakfast to her in the nearby village where they were staying. Fortunately she had been given some breakfast earlier, as we did not arrive until 11.30am, and she and her husband Nasir, did not get to eat it until 12 noon. We joined them in the meal. Then Rina and Nasir came back to Emmanuel's house with us for the rest of the day. The rest of the relatives from Rawalpindi left soon after that and I also returned to Lahore. Later the groom's relatives came to take Rina and Nasir back with them to the village. They all left for Karachi on the Monday afternoon by train and Emmanuel's Karachi relatives left on Tuesday. Nasir's family will arrange the final programme, the valima or welcoming of the bride, in Karachi so that all their friends and relatives who could not travel up to the Punjab for the wedding can meet the newlyweds.

Upcoming Activities

March is getting very busy with various programmes, although I have decided not to be involved in them all. I have been asked to teach at the United Bible Training Centre (UBTC) in Gujranwala on a Sunday School teachers' training course from March 7-12. [There were 26 teachers from Martinpur, Youngsonabad and Malawala villages, and we had a really good time together.] The following Sunday (13th March) I gave the talk at the all-age family service at St Andrew's Church. The 150th Anniversary celebrations at St Andrew's will take place on 23rd March, Pakistan Day.

The first part of the Research Methods module for the 3rd MACS Cohort is on March 14-16, so I would appreciate prayers for that. [Praise God this went well, although with 31 students it was hard work.] Please pray also for the Church and Society module after Easter for the 1st Cohort.

The Increase Association is holding its Committee meeting and Equipppers' Gathering in Antalya, Turkey, from March 25-28, and March 28-1 April respectively. Again I may join online for part of the time. Two of my OTS colleagues will be travelling to Antalya, Dr. Qaiser Julius, who is a Committee member, and Rev. Sharjeel Manawar, who is a new Increase Equipper.

Thank you for your fellowship, prayers and financial support.

With best wishes,

Freda



After the wedding service

St Aikmund's

Mega

Plant sale

**In Bargates hall
10.00–12noon
Sat 7th May**

Perennial
Vegetable
& Bedding Plants
available

Hanging Baskets
Plant Crèche

Entry £2