



The Benefice of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

in North Shropshire

BENEFICE PROFILE 2023

Post:

Full-time Rector of
Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch



www.holy-immanuel-fauls.yolasite.com
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4446/

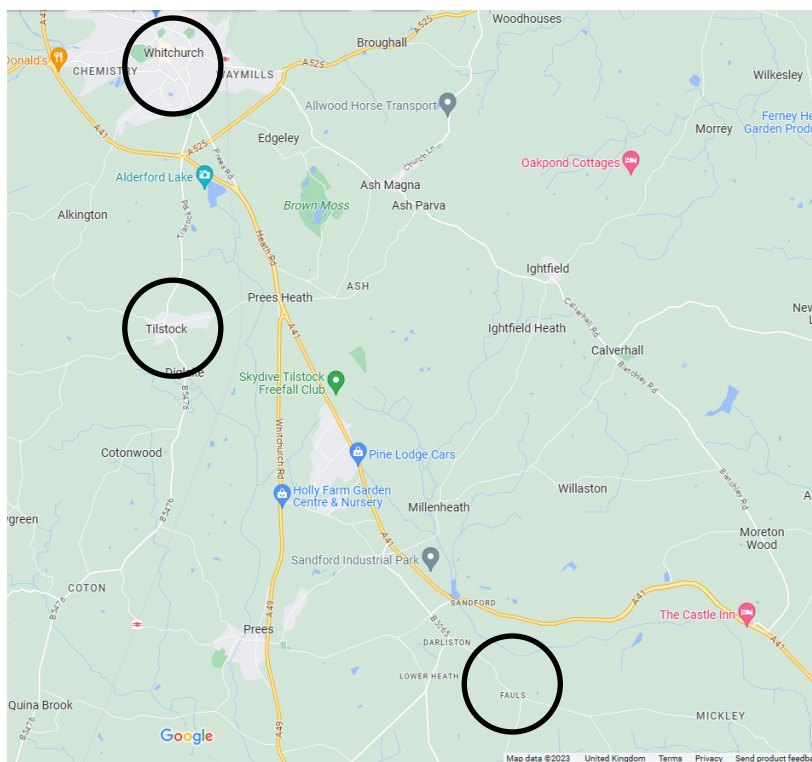


www.christ-church-tilstock.yolasite.com
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4544/



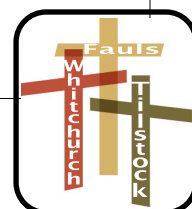
www.stalkmunds.com
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4623/

www.facebook.com/StAlkmundsWhitchurch
www.twitter.com/StAlkmundsSY13
www.instagram.com/stalkmunds_sy13/



Contents Page

Foreword by the Right Revd Sarah Bullock, Bishop Of Shrewsbury	3
The Ven Paul Thomas, Archdeacon of Salop	4
Rural Dean of Wem and Whitchurch, Revd Adam Clayton	5
Welcome to the Benefice of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch	6
The Parishes	9
The Rectory	20
Who we are	24
Worship, Prayer and Liturgical Life	25
Occasional Offices	26
Other Services	27
Teaching and Discipleship	29
Music	30
Children and Youth	31
Church in the Community	33
Eco church	34
Charities	34
Friends of St Alkmund's	35
Our new Rector	36
Looking forward in the Benefice	37
Our Vacancy Prayer	38



Foreword by The Right Revd Sarah Bullock, Bishop of Shrewsbury

The Diocese of Lichfield is a diverse, rich and exciting place to live and work. It lies at the heart of England, not just geographically but culturally and socially. There are areas of spectacular natural beauty that sit beside the legacy of centuries of industry and commerce, areas of urban deprivation and rural poverty beside places of aspiration, growth and hope.

What unites us as a Diocese is the invitation to “Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad”. St Chad, the first Bishop of Lichfield, challenges us to humble, faithful and courageous mission in this part of the Midlands and in this generation. We are committed to the mutual flourishing of faithful Anglicans of all traditions, and to welcoming and honouring people of all backgrounds. We are inspired by our Diocesan Vision:

“As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as people of hope.”

We have identified three priorities as we seek to realise this vision more fully: to developing discipleship, encouraging vocation and inspiring evangelism. These priorities help us focus our work in all the varied forms of Christian life in the Diocese, in our Parishes, Fresh Expressions, Schools, Chaplaincies and the Cathedral.

The priest appointed to the post of Rector in the benefice of Fauls, Tilstock and Whitchurch would be accepting an invitation to join us in this pilgrimage of faith. We will do all we can to support you to grow as a disciple, deepen your vocation and be a confident bearer of the good news of Jesus Christ so that you are equipped and ready to do the same for those with whom you are called to share in ministry. Is God calling you to join us?

†Sarah, Shrewsbury



Foreword by The Ven Paul W Thomas, Archdeacon of Salop

Zest for Zimsum:

Whitchurch is a fascinating place. It is the oldest town in North Shropshire with evidence of a human settlement 3000 years ago; became a significant Roman town, and since then never lost its prominence in the county. It is steeped in history. Whitchurch also has many associations with journeying. It was situated on a major Roman road between Wroxeter and Chester, today lies along the designated route between Land's End and John O'Groats, plus it enjoys access to several canals. For many years this market town also hosted a proud tradition of clockmakers, including J. B. Joyce who even installed a clock on the Shanghai Custom House. One other distinction lies in its manufacture of Belton's cheese and Powell's pork pies: Whitchurch is a place which knows the value of good food! And this rich culture spreads into its surrounding areas to include the villages of Tilstock and Fauls.

Zimsum is a Jewish concept teaching that God contracts God's Being to make space for creation. The universal divine presence withdraws enough to make possible the emergence of another order of existence. Creation is gently enfolded but not strictly controlled by God; it can be itself and follow its own devices and desires, making for a lively relationship full of challenge. Frequently God must confront the question, 'Where do we go from here?'

Like God, the Church needs to possess *zimsum*, to make room for alternative outlooks and activities whilst sustaining a gentle relationship with them. The church building should be a place which hums with the sound of voices, laughter and tears, as people of all creeds, colours and conditions find a space within it as the welcome guests of the Christian community. Hosting all-comers can challenge long-cherished beliefs and practices and bring a sense of losing control. But that is the nature of true dialogue and openness, and in finding the way forward there can be a deepening of mutual regard, the exercise of resourceful imagination and an expansion of horizons for both partners as they explore new possibilities. This is the cost of *zimsum*.

If the church does not meet that cost in the years ahead it will lose its connection with more and more people. Communities no longer want a church which functions like a carefully guarded shrine; they want a place which has open doors, neutral spaces, flexible facilities, and a spiritual core which makes sense of everything else on offer. The three churches in this Benefice have started thinking this way and know that they need to go further.

So, what do they need in a new Rector? Someone who would relish the vibrant and varied life of this market town and its hinterland. A ministry which delights in the gifts of all God's people, which knows how to sustain a vibrant spiritual life in the worship and devotion of the Christian community, but which also gains energy from a genuine engagement with people and groups of goodwill who do not use Christian language to express their ideals.

They need a Rector who has a zest for *zimsum*!



Rural Dean of Wem and Whitchurch, Revd Adam Clayton

Wem and Whitchurch Deanery

Thank you for showing an interest in these wonderful churches in the villages of Fauls and Tilstock and the market town of Whitchurch in North Shropshire. This is a very exciting and challenging time for our deanery as we work together to develop a vision for the future within the diocesan initiative 'Shaping for Mission'.

What is Shaping for Mission?

"Shaping for Mission" is the process across Lichfield Diocese to strengthen our life of discipleship, vocation and evangelism while facing significant reduction in financial income. We are working together as people of hope to make our mission sustainable in filling our diocesan vision."

(Diocese of Lichfield website)

What does that actually mean for us in this Deanery?

For starters, it means that our 21 churches have been asked to think about areas where we can work together. A team of both laity and clergy have been looking at our strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and challenges. We have been working to produce a vision of how this might be achieved.

This has led to our agreed Deanery Vision.

"To help our churches to be filled with confident disciples of Jesus Christ and to be an effective Christian presence in the communities we serve."

The intention behind this vision is to grow the Kingdom of God in our deanery. We want churches to be excited, encouraged, equipped and empowered across many forms of ministry.

If you want to learn more about the research that led us to this vision and to see the detail of what the vision might include, there are two videos available to watch on YouTube:

Our Findings – tinyurl.com/shaping1

The Vision – tinyurl.com/shaping-vision

If appointed, you will be a valued member of our Deanery Chapter and enjoy the fellowship and support of your fellow clergy.

Adam Clayton
Rural Dean



Welcome to the Benefice of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

We are looking for a full time
Rector of our three parishes

Thank you for showing an interest in our
wonderful churches in the market town of
Whitchurch and in the villages
of Fauls and Tilstock, North Shropshire

OUR MISSION STATEMENTS

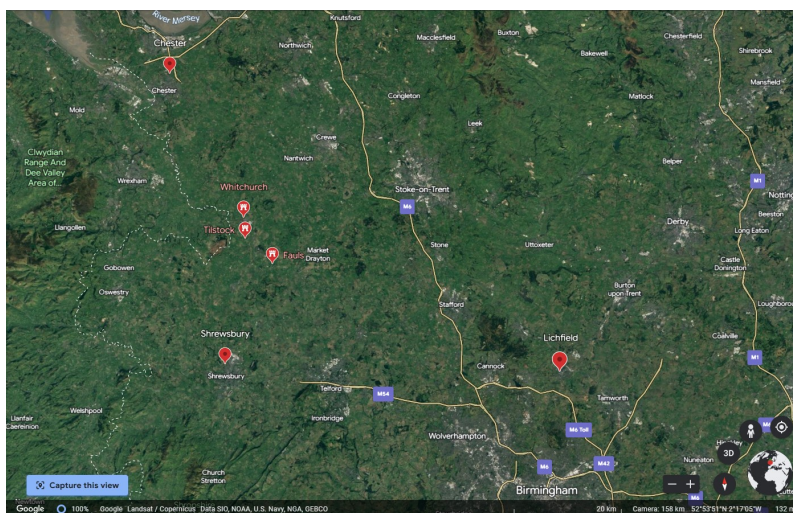
Fauls We are a friendly, socially active church,
our fellowship rooted in faith

Tilstock To reach out with God's love and help
our church to adapt to the changes and needs
within our community

Whitchurch Our church is a place where all are
welcome and God can be found

We seek to

- ♦ Build up our spiritual life through prayer and teaching
- ♦ Actively encourage lay involvement in mission and outreach
- ♦ Share the good news of the Gospel with the whole community
- ♦ Work closely with the parishes in our benefice: Holy Immanuel, Fauls and Christ Church, Tilstock



Map showing the position of
Whitchurch (SY13)
within the United Kingdom



BEST FIVE THINGS ABOUT OUR BENEFICE

- ♦ Our friendliness and inclusive welcome
- ♦ The mutual support between our Parishes
- ♦ Our volunteers
- ♦ Joy of music in our worship and as a tool for outreach
- ♦ Our involvement with our communities

TOP 3 CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

- ♦ Strengthen our children's and youth work
- ♦ Embrace technology as a way of both keeping in touch and of reaching out
- ♦ Develop existing initiatives and identify new opportunities

5 KEY QUALITIES OF OUR NEW RECTOR

- ♦ Inclusive in outlook, welcoming and approachable
- ♦ Committed to working across the whole Benefice
- ♦ Collaborative leader
- ♦ An enthusiast of good worship and preaching
- ♦ Wise steward of all resources



THE BENEFICE

The parishes of Holy Immanuel, Fauls; Christ Church, Tilstock and St Alkmund's Whitchurch officially became a Benefice in January 2020 but began working together as a three in January 2017.

We enjoy a relationship of mutual support and fellowship, both valuing and benefitting from each other's varied contributions and perspectives. We are content to retain and celebrate our distinctiveness but also share in common a tradition of inclusiveness, services which express the rich liturgical resources of Common Worship and which are shaped by a central church ethos.

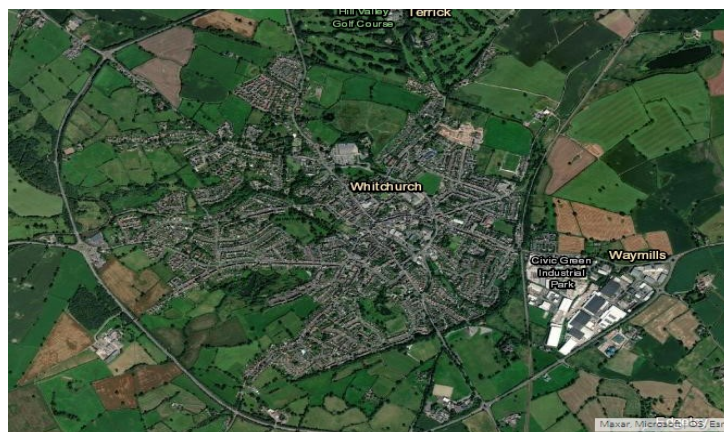
Whitchurch is much the largest of the parishes but it was decided to use an alphabetical ordering in the name of the benefice (FTW) and it has been retained in this Profile document.



FAULS



TILSTOCK



WHITCHURCH



THE PARISHES

FAULS

The Village

Fauls is a village with a population of about 100 with strong historical links to the larger nearby community of Prees. There are about 50 on the electoral roll. Housing is mixed rural with a number of active farms in the parish.

The nearest school that local children may attend is Lower Heath C of E School.



The Church Hall

Fauls Church Hall was built in 1938 about 300m down the hill from the church. It stands in its own grounds, consisting of a car-park and field and is looked after by the caretaker who lives in the neighbouring house which is provided and who also cleans the church and maintains the graveyard. It is central to the village and hosts not only church activities but also groups such as the Fauls Singers, the Flower Club and Garden Club.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067465579865>

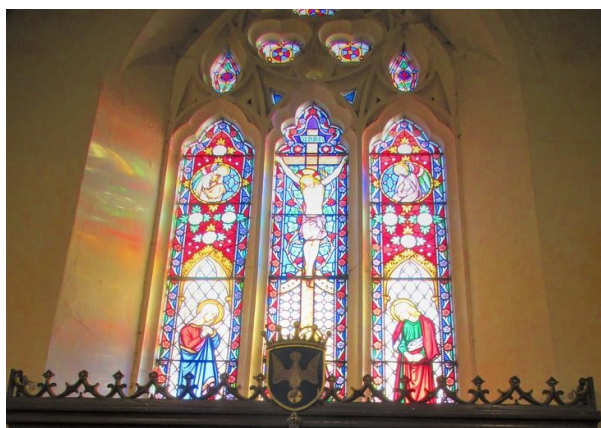


Holy Immanuel Church

Holy Immanuel Church was consecrated in 1856 and there is a wonderful history booklet accessible on the website <https://holy-immanuel-fauls.yolasite.com/> which explains how the village got its own church and one of such high quality. The Church has been well maintained and is in good condition. It sits within its churchyard.



Work recently done includes the re-sealing and securing of capping stones on the gables, the hanging beam for the bell installed, and also the installation of new heating, LED lighting and Sound system. In spring 2023 East Window was repaired and the wall repointed.



The Churchyard and Cemetery

The churchyard surrounds the church and is still open for parish burials. Wildlife friendly but very tidy it is often visited by loved ones of those for whom it is the last resting place. There is one WGC maintained war grave.



PARISH FACTS & FIGURES

STATISTICS FOR HOLY IMMANUEL, FAULS

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Electoral Roll	59	60	60	55	55	46	40	
ASA(*) adult	16	22	11	14	10	11	11.3	
ASA(*) u16	1	1	1	1	0	0	0.4	
Easter Communicants (**)	25	30	22	24	---	----	21	
Easter Attendees (**)	39	31	23	28	---	----	22	
Advent Special 1	61	0	115	85	12	60	72	
Advent Special 2	0	190	184	160	0	121	170	
Christmas Communicants	15	11	8	11	5	----	6	
Christmas Attendees	19	14	10	14	5	----	11	
Baptisms (u16)	3	1	8	3	0	3	5	
Baptisms (adult)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Funerals (w church service)	1	6	7	2	5	1	2	
Funerals (at Crem only)	1	2	2	1	2	0	0	
Weddings	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	
Prayer & Dedication of Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

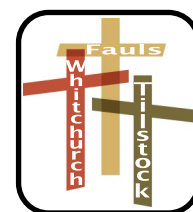
(*) **ASA = Average Sunday Attendance** Includes Harvest and Mothering Sundays but excludes Baptisms, Easter, Remembrance, Christingle, Memorial & Thanksgiving and Carol Services;

Advent Special (Advent Sunday to 23rd Dec): **1** for congregation & local community; **2** for civic organisations and schools

(**) ? Boosted in 2013, 2015 & 2017 by Easter Eve Confirmations

2020 Covid-19 restrictions affecting March onwards; ASA – October only


2021 Covid-19 restrictions affecting first 6 months; ASA – October only



FINANCE

Fauls PCC

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

 Return of Parish Finance January to December 2022		Parish Name: PCC Holy Immanuel, Fauls		If the form is NOT completed for the entire parish, please list below the churches included:		Parish Code (6 digits): 620597	
						Deanery: Wern & Whitchurch Diocese: Lichfield	
30 Are your accounts Receipts and Payments [/] OR Accruals [] ? (indicate ONE)							
RECEIPTS/INCOME		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)	PAYMENTS/EXPENDITURE		UNRESTRICTED (nearest £)	RESTRICTED (nearest £)
Voluntary giving				Costs of generating funds			
1 Regular giving		3,845		17 Costs of fundraising activities		607	
3 Collections at services		1,419		Church activities			
4 All other giving and voluntary receipts, including special appeals (recurring and one-off)		235		18 Mission giving and donations		957	
6 Gift Aid recovered (regular giving and one-off donations)				19 Diocesan parish share contribution		4,853	
7 Legacies received (capital value)				20 Salaries, wages and honoraria			
8 Grants (include recurring and one-off)		750		21 Clergy and staff expenses		1,413	
Total voluntary giving	£	6,249	£	Church expenses			
Activities for generating funds				22 Mission and evangelism costs			
9 Fundraising activities (gross proceeds)		4,660		23 Church running expenses (including governance)		4,189	
Income from investments				24 Church utility bills		2,033	
10 Dividends, interest, income from property etc.		2,691		25 Costs of trading		5,988	
Church activities				Major capital expenditure			
11 Fees retained by PCC (weddings, funerals etc.)		1,849		27 Major repairs to the church building			
12 Trading activities (gross proceeds), NOT fundraising		4,103		28 Major repairs to church hall/other PCC property including redecoration			
Other incoming resources				29 New building work to the church, church hall, clergy housing or other PCC property.			
13 Other receipts/income not already listed				Other expenditure			
PLEASE NOTE BRIEF DETAILS IN BOX E				99 Other payments/expenditure not already listed		20,040	
Totals (from Financial Statements)		Unrestricted	Restricted	PLEASE NOTE BRIEF DETAILS IN BOX E			
A RECEIPTS/INCOME	£	19,552	£	Totals (from Financial Statements)		Unrestricted	Restricted
B COMBINED TOTAL	£		19,552	C PAYMENTS/EXPENDITURE	£	20,040	£
PLANNED GIVERS AND LEGACIES				D COMBINED TOTAL	£		20,040
				CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED
14 Number of regular givers				31 Cash and deposit balances/Net current assets as at 31/12/22		35,986	3,858
16 Number of new legacies received in year				32 Investment assets as at 31/12/22		77,719	
Please refer to the accompanying notes to help clarify what is included in each section. The item numbers refer to RPF notes, consistent with the guidance provided in PCC Accountability, 5th edn.				Name: ELIZABETH M KEMPTON Position: TREASURER Email or telephone: lizkempton19@gmail.com		Date: 18/02/2023	
Looking back across 2022, was there any exceptional financial activity affecting movement on cash and investment balances? Please provide details in this box							
E These might include project or capital expenditure, major equipment purchases, property or asset disposals, new investment or investment sales, new loans or loan repayments							



TILSTOCK

The Village

The village of Tilstock is growing rapidly, with over thirty properties built recently and more due to be completed soon.

The C of E school is thriving and is rated 'Good' by OFSTED.

The village also benefits from a well-established Bowling and Tennis Club, the modern well equipped Tilstock Bradbury Village Hall and The Horseshoes, a newly renovated pub.

Christ Church, Tilstock

Christ Church, Tilstock, is a red brick building consecrated in the 1830s. The congregation may be small in number but pride themselves on giving a warm welcome to all.

The church, churchyard and cemetery are well maintained and all recommendations from the Quinquennial Report have been implemented. It sits in the centre of its churchyard but has a modern cemetery just across the road. Both the churchyard and the cemetery have war graves maintained by the WGC.



STATISTICS FOR CHRIST CHURCH, TILSOCK

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Electoral Roll	40	40	41	32	32	30	28	
ASA(*) adult	10	8	9	11	10	7.22	7	
ASA(*) u16	0	0	0	0	0	0.22	0	
Easter Communicants (**)	15	16	17	22	---	---	7	
Easter Attendees (**)	17	17	21	28	---	---	8	
Advent Special 1	0	0	0	97	0	0	77	
Advent Special 2	161	159	54	87	0	140	0	
Christmas Communicants	8	15	9	9	---	---	0	
Christmas Attendees	75	157	94	106	34	11	49	
Baptisms (u16)	4	1	2	3	0	1	6	
Baptisms (adult)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Funerals (w church service)	1	6	3	3	2	6	6	
Funerals (at Crem only)	0	3	2	5	0	1	1	
Weddings	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	
Prayer & Dedication of Marriages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

(*)

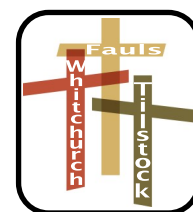
ASA = Average Sunday Attendance Includes Harvest and Mothering Sundays but excludes Baptisms, Easter, Re-membrance, Christingle, Memorial & Thanksgiving and Carol Services

Advent Special (Advent Sunday to 23rd Dec): **1** for congregation & local community; **2** for civic organisations and schools

? () Boosted in 2013, 2015 & 2017 by Easter Eve Confirmations**

2020 Covid-19 restrictions affecting March onwards; ASA – October only

2021 Covid restrictions affecting all year; no Sunday services until June



FINANCE

Tilstock PCC

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

<u>CHRISTCHURCH TILSTOCK PCC</u>				
<u>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022</u>				
	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stock in hand	-	-	-	-
Debtors	-	1,200	1,200	1,200
Cash at bank and in hand	-	42,999	42,999	49,505
	-	44,199	44,199	50,705
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	-	-	-	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS	-	44,199	44,199	50,705
NET ASSETS	-	44,199	44,199	50,705
FUNDS	-	44,199	44,199	50,705
			-	
These accounts were approved by the PCC on				
ON BEHALF OF THE PCC.				
.....Chairman			DATE:	05 April 2023
The annexed notes form part of these financial statements.				



WHITCHURCH

The Town

Whitchurch is the oldest continuously inhabited town in Shropshire according to the Wikipedia entry https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitchurch,_Shropshire, certainly the Romans had a settlement here, it's been a market town since the 14th century and the oldest buildings are 16th century.

What about Whitchurch in the 21st century? It's an easy place to live. Supermarkets, a small weekly market, national chains and a variety of independent shops and eateries make up the shopping opportunities in this Fairtrade town. We still have one bank, a Post Office, a library, a medical practice and a small hospital with a Minor Injuries Unit. There are many sports clubs, Scout and Guide Groups, Army and Air Cadets, U3A and Rotary and beautiful countryside including the canal and the start of the Sandstone Trail within walking distance of the town centre.

<https://whitchurchtowncouncil.gov.uk/>

There are schools and nurseries for all children up to 18.

There are good road links in all directions and also train routes from the town's railway station. This means that many people commute to work but there is also a good amount of light industrial and agricultural business locally. The biggest employer is Americold which provides chilled food storage and distribution.



There is a significant amount of Edwardian and mid-twentieth century housing in the town. There are a number of Grade 2 listed buildings but St Alkmund's is the only Grade 1 listed building. More recently there has been a considerable amount of new housing with a new development of more than 500 houses just begun.



There are currently two care homes with another under construction. An Extra Care facility is also being built with a new medical centre on the same site.

POPULATION

Population 10,141

¼ are 65+

94% ethnically white

62.7% describe themselves as Christian

[Whitchurch Urban \(Parish, United Kingdom\) - Population Statistics, Charts, Map and Location \(citypopulation.de\)](http://Whitchurch Urban (Parish, United Kingdom) - Population Statistics, Charts, Map and Location (citypopulation.de))

DEPRIVATION RANKING

(Church of England statistics)

Ranked 3958 out of 12307 parishes where 1 is the most deprived

www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=67bce0ed36dd4ee0af7a16bc079aa09a&extent=-0.4317,51.313,0.1986,51.5945



The Church

St Alkmund's Church was consecrated in 1712 having been built to replace its 15th century predecessor which fell down after a July evensong in 1711. It has a red sandstone exterior and occupies a high spot at the top of the High Street, its locally built Joyce tower clock being the town's time keeper (now with automated winding!).



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Alkmund%27s_Church,_Whitchurch

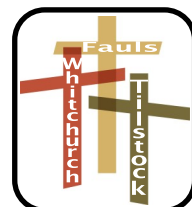
The interior of the church is spacious and light thanks in part to the north windows being plain glazed. The East and South windows are stained glass. It can comfortably seat 400 with more in the balcony. It has a fine, well maintained, 18th century organ and a wonderful acoustic making it a draw for local musicians.

A fascinating look around the inside of our church is now possible using this link: [360° Deaneries film](#)



The dedication to St Alkmund, a Northumbrian prince, is relatively unusual, with just 5 other churches sharing his name including one in Shrewsbury and two in Derby. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alkmund_of_Derby

Thanks to some very generous legacies the stained glass and exterior stonework have been restored in the last few years and an exterior ramp and level access into the building has been constructed. Faculties have been granted, funding is in place and work begun on the installation of a disabled toilet and a new refreshment servery; for the removal of some pews, to enable better circulation especially for the less mobile, and in the lady chapel to permit more varied use; and for the replacement of the sound system including the addition of a permanent camera for recording. Our boiler needs replacing and work is being undertaken to explore the best option.



The Benefice Office

The well-equipped Church Office is accessed by a staircase from the Vestry in the west end of St Alkmund's church. An administrator is employed 25 hours a week and the office is open weekday mornings.



Bargates Whitchurch (the Church Hall)

Bargates, named for the area of the town immediately north of the church, and situated behind the church across the carpark, consists of two meeting rooms, a kitchen and toilets with a store room above and a small outside area. It is maintained in good condition and there are many regular bookings including the Food Bank which rents permanent storage space.

<https://whitchurch.foodbank.org.uk/>



The Graveyard

Behind the church is the old graveyard and an active Garden of Remembrance for the internment of ashes, which is also the site of a recently installed Baby Loss Memorial. The town cemetery is a mile out of town and is run by the town council. There is one WGC maintained war grave in the old graveyard.



THE RECTORY

Church Street, Whitchurch, SY13 1LB

The Rectory lies on the edge of the church grounds and was built in the seventies.

It has a large sitting room with views to the church and garden, a dining room with french windows onto the garden, a kitchen with room for a breakfast table, and a downstairs toilet. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, a bathroom (with sink, bath and over-bath shower) and separate toilet. The downstairs study is good sized but has no separate entrance. It has gas central heating.

The EPC rating is E and the Council Tax band is F.

The large garden is child / dog / wildlife friendly! Whitchurch PCC pay for the lawn to be mown.

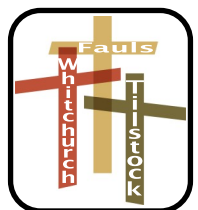


STATISTICS FOR ST ALKMUND'S, WHITCHURCH

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Electoral Roll	144	155	149	147
Average Sunday (*)		(Oct)		
Adult	100	58	64.8	79.3
Attendance				
Average Sunday (*)	4	4	3	4.3
Under 16 Attendance				
8.00am	11	7	6.5	6.4
10.00am	76.4	44	52.6	65.7
6.30pm (new)	16.5	10	9.2	7.2
6.30pm (total)	25	7	16.7	16.4
Easter Communicants (**)	136	N/A	N/A	89
Easter Attendees (**)	172	N/A	N/A	127
Advent Special Attendees	1710	158	220	1229
Christmas Communicants	125	83	80	121
Christmas Attendees	1092	102	148	675
Baptism (u16)	29	12	14	41
Baptism Adult	0	1	0	1
Funerals (with Church service)	46	21	35	33
Funerals (at Crem Only)	19	55	21	18
Interment of Ashes in GoR	10	15	8	11
Weddings	10	0	10	2
Prayer & Dedication of Marriage	0	0	0	0

The statistics are shown in the table above. Please note that the Average Sunday Attendance (*) for 2019-22 figures include Harvest, Mothering Sundays but exclude Baptisms, Easter, Remembrance, Christingle, Memorial & Thanksgiving and Carol Services, and the Queen's Reflective & Memorial Services.

2020 & 2021 figures affected by Covid-19.



FINANCE

Whitchurch PCC

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

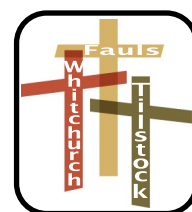
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	86,732	38	16,145	—	102,915	86,805
Income from charitable activities	12,185	—	—	—	12,185	15,319
Other trading activities	18,349	—	1,072	—	19,421	15,136
Investments	16,014	—	15,818	—	31,832	27,459
Other income	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total income	133,280	38	33,036	—	166,353	144,719
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	1,663	—	—	—	1,663	321
Expenditure on charitable activities	128,945	—	31,112	—	160,056	161,154
Total expenditure	130,608	—	31,112	—	161,720	161,474
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	2,672	38	1,924	—	4,633	(16,756)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	1,932	—	1,000	—	2,932	600
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,000)	—	(1,932)	—	(2,932)	(600)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains / losses on investment assets	(20,456)	—	(72,539)	—	(92,995)	—
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—	86,429
Net movement in funds	(16,853)	38	(71,547)	—	(88,362)	69,673
Total funds brought forward	1,123,110	2,474	596,570	—	1,722,154	1,652,482
Total funds carried forward	1,106,257	2,512	525,023	—	1,633,793	1,722,154
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General Fund	1,106,257	—	—	—	1,106,257	1,123,110
Designated						
Bell Designated	—	2,512	—	—	2,512	2,474
Restricted						
Agency collection	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Buildings Fund Scheme	—	—	220	—	220	220
Fabric Restricted	—	—	514,061	—	514,061	584,931
Interior Decorating Scheme	—	—	3,514	—	3,514	3,014
Lectern Restricted	—	—	1,000	—	1,000	1,000
Time Together	—	—	6,229	—	6,229	7,406



Whitchurch PCC

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Total funds	Prior year funds
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	892,300	892,300
Investments	696,996	789,992
	1,589,296	1,682,292
Current assets		
Debtors	4,573	3,639
Cash at bank and in hand	41,993	44,612
	46,567	48,251
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	2,070	8,388
	2,070	8,388
Net current assets less current liabilities	44,496	39,863
Total assets less current liabilities	1,633,793	1,722,154
Total net assets less liabilities	1,633,793	1,722,154
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General Fund	1,106,257	1,123,110
Designated		
Bell Designated	2,512	2,474
Restricted		
Church Buildings Fund Scheme	220	220
Fabric Restricted	514,061	584,931
Interior Decorating Scheme	3,514	3,014
Lectern Restricted	1,000	1,000
Time Together	6,229	7,406
Agency collection	—	—
Funds of the church	1,633,793	1,722,154



WHO WE ARE

CLERGY

Associate Minister of the three parishes: Revd Sue Armstrong

LAY LICENSED

Reader of the three parishes: Mrs Jane Rylands

LAY SERVICE LEADERS

Seven including one mother and primary-aged daughter team

CHURCH WARDENS

Fauls: Mrs Pam Benbow

Tilstock: Mrs Freda Corfield and Mrs Joan Hockenhull

Whitchurch: Mr John Stokes and Mrs Sheila Chase,
plus four deputy wardens

PARISH STAFF

Benefice Administrator: Mrs Alison Dunne

St Alkmund's Verger: Mrs Pauline Stokes

PCCs

Fauls: 10 PCC members

Tilstock: 9 PCC members

Whitchurch: Mrs Pauline Green - Lay Chair, 16 members including
3 Deanery Synod representatives

DBS HOLDERS

42

SAFEGUARDING

The Benefice take its responsibilities surrounding the safeguarding of children, young people and adults who may be at risk very seriously, and works in partnership with the Diocese of Lichfield to ensure that we work in accordance with the best practice at all times.



WORSHIP, PRAYER AND LITURGICAL LIFE

Tradition and Pattern of Services

Our churches are inclusive, liturgical and sacramental but not high.

St Alkmund's, Whitchurch has maintained a pattern of three services each Sunday (except fifth Sundays). 8am BCP attracts a small but loyal congregation; 10am Holy Communion is the main service using seasonal Common Worship liturgies, with bells rung beforehand, a robed choir and children's groups meeting during the sermon; and 6.30pm sung BCP evensong with choir and anthem. One Sunday a month Prayer for Healing is offered during Communion.

Holy Immanuel, Fauls has a 9.30am Holy Communion (Common Worship) and **Christ Church, Tilstock** has theirs at 11am allowing the presiding priest to take both services.

First Sundays in all three churches are All Age Worship, non-communion in Fauls and Tilstock and with communion in Whitchurch.

Recently a number of lay worship leaders have been trained across the Benefice and St Alkmund's has also begun to have a non-communion morning service once a month.

During Covid St Alkmund's began to livestream most morning services.

St Alkmund's Church **Regular Sunday Services**

8.00am Said Communion BCP
10.00am Holy Communion
6.30pm Sung Evensong BCP

1st Sunday of every month
10.00am All Age Worship Together Communion

5th Sunday in any month
10.30am Joint Service in Fauls,
Tilstock or Whitchurch

Holy Immanuel, Fauls **Regular Sunday Services**

1st Sunday
9.30am - All Age Worship

2nd - 4th Sundays
9.30am Holy Communion

5th Sunday in any month
10.30am Joint Service in Fauls,
Tilstock or Whitchurch

Christ Church Tilstock **Regular Sunday Services**

1st Sunday
11.00am - All Age Worship

2nd - 4th Sundays
9.30am Holy Communion

5th Sunday in any month
10.30am Joint Service in Fauls,
Tilstock or Whitchurch

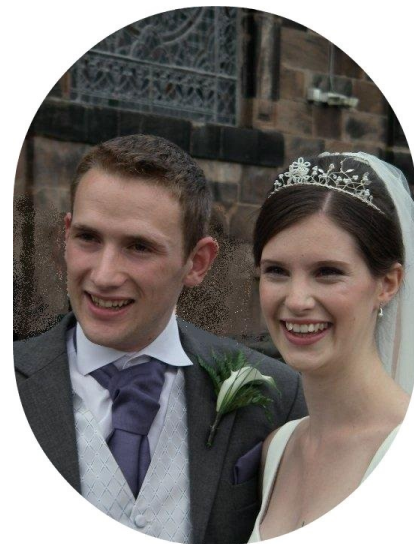


OCCASIONAL OFFICES

St Alkmund's, Whitchurch

<https://www.stalkmunds.com/weddings-baptisms-funerals.php>

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Baptism (u16)	29	12	14	41
Baptism Adult	0	1	0	1
Funerals (with Church service)	46	21	35	33
Funerals (at Crem Only)	19	55	21	18
Interment of Ashes in GoR	10	15	8	11
Weddings	10	0	10	2
Prayer & Dedication of Marriage	0	0	0	0



Christ Church, Tilstock

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Baptism (u16)	3	0	1	6
Baptism Adult	0	0	0	0
Funerals (with Church service)	3	2	6	6
Funerals (at Crem Only)	5	0	1	1
Weddings	0	0	2	0
Prayer & Dedication of Marriage	0	0	0	0



Holy Immanuel, Fauls

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Baptism (u16)	3	0	3	5
Baptism Adult	0	0	0	0
Funerals (with Church service)	2	5	1	2
Funerals (at Crem Only)	1	2	0	0
Weddings	1	0	1	1
Prayer & Dedication of Marriage	0	0	0	0



OTHER SERVICES

Through the church and civic year a number of 'special' services are held.

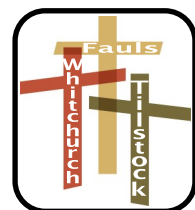
On **Remembrance** Day the various church leaders of Whitchurch lead the townsfolk in prayers at the cenotaph and there is then a parade of uniformed groups to a Service in St Alkmund's. Holy Immanuel and Christ Church similarly host local Remembrance services. Tilstock marks Armistice Day with a short service at the War Memorial with the school joining if it is a weekday and Whitchurch marks it with a two minute silence led from the church steps.

Memorial Services are held in each church at the end of November and St Alkmund's holds another just before Easter.

At **Christmas St Alkmund's** hosts two very popular family friendly Crib Services and a Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve as well as a 10am service on Christmas morning. A service of Nine Lessons and Carols on one of the Sundays before Christmas is a highlight of the year for the choir and an opportunity, together with **Harvest**, to invite representatives of the community, young and old, to be involved in reading the lessons. Earlier in December there is a **Christingle** Service which children from the local schools are encouraged to attend. **Holy Immanuel** holds a 'Carol Supper' in the Church Hall as well as a Carol Service, a family friendly Carols Around the Christmas Tree in the churchyard and Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve. **Christ Church** has a very popular Christmas Eve Carol Service accompanied by a local Folk Group.

In **Lent Holy Immanuel** has traditionally held weekly Lenten services followed by a soup lunch.

At **St Alkmund's Mothering Sunday** sees an invitation to the Scout and Guide groups to parade and on **Palm Sunday** the congregation is often joined by Noah the donkey.



Also in Whitchurch there are several **Churches Together** Events during **Lent** including a Maundy Thursday service, Lent lunches, a Bible Study course and a Procession of Witness through the town on Good Friday. St Alkmund's own Good Friday service precedes this.

Christian Aid week and Bible Sunday are also celebrated ecumenically.

Harvest is celebrated by the individual parishes but **Rogation** is celebrated as a Benefice with worshippers often being hosted by a local farming family at their farm.

Once a month a team including the Rector takes Communion into one of the **care homes** in Whitchurch and to an over 50s development, and a fortnight later a 'Songs of Praise' lay-led service is held in the care home.

In Autumn 2023 the **Hospital Chaplaincy Team** is looking forward to being able to resume its role of daily visiting to the Whitchurch Community Hospital, taking communion to patients and holding seasonal services.

In October Holy Immanuel holds a **Pet Service** with a large variety of animals and their owners in attendance!



TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP

Through the year, particularly during Lent and Advent, short clergy-led **Bible Study** courses have been held, including recently Paula Gooder's Wilderness, Tom Wright's pandemic book, Steven Croft's Five Images of Transformation and LILF. In addition a lay-led group meets fortnightly.

Young person (year 6 and older) and adults' **confirmation** classes have been held biannually with a confirmation service held around Easter, depending on the Bishops' availability.

There is much **lay-led prayer** with a rota for Sunday morning intercessions, a midweek Morning Prayer and a Friday morning prayer meeting both on zoom, and an FTW prayer newsletter with weekly updates including prayers from the Prayer Board in the church.

There are many opportunities for faithful **service** including the Hospital Chaplaincy team, the Bible Society, the Children's Society, Christian Aid, Fair Trade and the Foodbank. A particular church led project is Time Together, a fortnightly meeting for people living with dementia who come with a family member or carer; it is run in partnership with Age UK. St Alkmund's is registered as a Dementia Friendly Church and constantly reviews its practices to ensure that all are welcome and their needs met.

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/inclusion/dementia-friendly-church/>

We support two missionaries with prayer and in our annual giving and look forward to their regular updates and visits when on furlough.



MUSIC

James Kellas began his role as the new Director of Music of St Alkmund's in April 2023. He has responsibility for training and rehearsing the choir, choosing hymns under the oversight of the Rector, and playing for Sunday Services but with aspirations that the Director will also take a lead in using music as a tool for outreach, especially to young people, and in organising concerts. There are a number of musicians and music groups who hire St Alkmund's on a regular basis for performances.



The organ case dates from 1714. The organ by Dallam of York had a major upgrade in 1755 to three manuals and much of this organ is still in use although there were 5 or 6 additions made to it through the 19th century. The most recent restoration was in 1998 but it has been regularly tuned and maintained since then. As well as the organ St Alkmund's has a Challen baby grand piano and a Yamaha Portable Grand DGX620 keyboard.

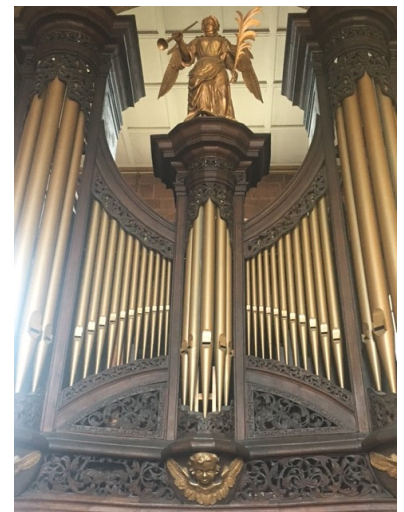


Holy Immanuel and Christ Church also have organs. Fauls has two organists who share duties but Tilstock does not currently have an organist.



St Alkmund's has a robed choir who sing at the 10am service and at the 6.30pm choral evensong. It also has a team of bellringers who ring before the morning service and at weddings if requested.

In autumn 2022 the three PCCs conducted a survey to find out what people liked about our worship and music and hymn singing scored highly. Our regular hymn book, used in all three churches, is Hymns Old and New. We also hold a full set of licences to allow us to photocopy and use other music. It is an ambition to bring some more contemporary songs into our repertoire. Our commitment to sung evensong in Whitchurch is seen as an asset in our worship repertoire.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

St Alkmund's runs a **Junior Church** and '**Sermon Slot**' during the Sunday morning service. Before Covid there was also a benefice **Messy Church** bi-monthly on a Sunday afternoon. In all three churches the first Sunday of the month is a service of **All Age Worship**. A Deanery Team record **Open the Book** sessions for distribution to Deanery schools (all the primary schools in the deanery are Church of England schools).

In Whitchurch a **Baptism** Support Group liaises with families who have booked baptisms in St Alkmunds. Throughout the Benefice there is an open baptism policy with one visit to the family to talk through the service. Unless the family has a church connection baptism services in St Alkmund's have been held fortnightly at either 12pm or 3 pm. Families are then invited to come to an All Age Worship Service to receive a welcome from the congregation.



Our Schools

Fauls: Lower Heath C of E Primary School

<https://lowerheath.co.uk/>

Tilstock: Tilstock C of E Primary School

<https://www.tilstockprimarieschool.co.uk/>

Whitchurch: Whitchurch CE Infant Academy and
Whitchurch CE Junior Academy

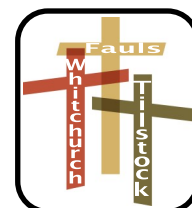
<https://www.thewhitchurchcofefederation.com/>

Sir John Talbot's School (secondary)

<https://www.sirjohntalbots.co.uk/>

The Rector supports **Collective Worship** in the Whitchurch Federation and hosts **Academy led services** in St Alkmund's each term.

Revd Sue Armstrong supports Lower Heath and Tilstock with weekly visits, Tilstock coming into church half-termly and Lower Heath termly. Both offer other support as appropriate.



St Alkmund's hosts children from the Junior Academy at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost for an '**Experience**' with the children circulating in small groups around a number of discussion and activity stages; and children from the Infant Academy for a 'Church Experience'.

All the primary schools in the benefice are involved in designing artwork for parish Christmas cards (for Churches Together in Whitchurch).

Revd Sue Armstrong is a **Foundation Governor** of both Lower Heath and Tilstock. Mrs Jane Rylands is a Foundation Governor of the Whitchurch Federation and there is currently a vacancy for the second position.

Sir John Talbot's, although founded in the 16th century by a Rector of Whitchurch, has no religious foundation but the Rector is an ex officio member of the Foundation Trustees which own the site and buildings and are able to offer some grants. Good relationships have been fostered with the school which led to us hosting a Careers Fest for them for several years; last year it took place at the school and members of our Social Group attended and ran refreshments for them. They come to St Alkmund's for their Carol Service and have sent representatives to read at some of our festive services.



CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

All three churches are open on a daily basis and St Alkmund's in particular has many visitors. It is a principal site for tourists to the town but is also visited by locals for prayer. It supports tourist visits with information boards and leaflets and opens the tower on Heritage Open Days.

St Alkmund's is an active member of Whitchurch Churches Together and relationships are strong with St John's Methodist Church

<https://www.stjohnswhitchurch.org.uk/>,

St George's Catholic Roman Church

<https://saintgeorgeswhitchurch.org.uk/>

and the Beacon Church

<https://www.tbcw.org>

Holy Immanuel, well known for its hospitality, organises a number of village activities including the Scarecrow Trail and hosts regular community lunches. The weekend before Christmas they host a Crib Festival. The church enjoys close links with Prees Green Chapel.

Whitchurch has a community led street festival in the autumn called The Blackberry Fair <https://www.blackberryfair.co.uk/> with which the church enthusiastically engages hosting performances, offering refreshments and craft activities and in 2022 running a 'Big Sing'.

The town also holds special events the day the Christmas lights are switched on and St Alkmund's puts on a very popular Crib Festival with almost a hundred cribs on display. The church also switches on its own lights with stars surrounding the tower and a tree in the grounds.

Churches Together encourage and support the town in maintaining Fairtrade Town status and a member of St Alkmund's congregation runs a Fair Trade stall at the town's weekly market.

Time Together, the group which meets fortnightly to support those living with dementia and their carers, is run by St Alkmund's but its service is open to all. The community has demonstrated its support with many generous financial donations having been made.



ECO CHURCH

All three churches are always looking to reduce their carbon footprint and become more environmentally friendly. All three have LED bulbs throughout for instance.

Holy Immanuel has recently installed modern, efficient (and warmer!) heating. Unfortunately an attempt to install solar panels on Bargates Hall in Whitchurch was rejected by the local planning authority because of the listed buildings it neighbours.

St Alkmund's has attained the A Rocha UK Bronze Eco Church award and is working towards Silver.

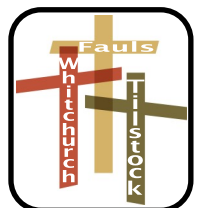
In the spring of 2023 ten new bird boxes, made of recycled timber, were installed in the St Alkmund's churchyard, including a large owl box, and a second 'bug hotel' was built. As community projects these involved collaborations with Men in Sheds, members of the Wildlife Trust, and local Beavers and Rainbows. Holy Immanuel and Christ Church churchyards are also home to birdboxes and hedgehog houses as well as all three being naturally environmentally positive environments.



CHARITIES

There are a number of charities of which the Rector is an ex officio Trustee. Whitchurch Relief in Need no 218203 has a remit to the poor and needy as does the more wealthy Jane Higginson Charity no 242737.

The Samuel Higginson Almshouse Charity no 242738 has care of six almshouses near the church and the Higginson CE School Charity owns the buildings and land of the Whitchurch CE Federation academies and has a modest amount of income to benefit education projects.



FRIENDS OF ST ALKMUND'S

Charity No 1151968 www.stalkswhitchchurchfriends.co.uk

Patron: Anna Turner Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire

This charity was set up as part of St Alkmund's 300th anniversary celebrations and has been generous in its funding of repair and conservation work, contributing amongst other things to an access ramp (suitable for a Grade 1 listed building), wonderfully comfortable pew cushions, a new auto-regulator for the J B Joyce tower clock and currently fundraising for the new disabled toilet.



OUR NEW RECTOR

To help us follow the path which God sets before us we seek a Rector who will be -

- ♦ Inclusive and welcoming in outlook.
- ♦ An enthusiast of good worship and preaching, actively supportive of our ministry through music. We value our weekly services based on the liturgies of Common Worship and BCP. Our Autumn 2022 survey identified an interest in exploring some other contemporary formats too.
- ♦ Committed to working across the whole benefice leading and supporting both clergy and lay teams with a collaborative leadership style, recognising and encouraging the gifts of others.
- ♦ A wise steward of all resources, people, buildings and finances with demonstrable pastoral, leadership and governance skills.
- ♦ As committed to the ministry to the elderly as to the young and their families and alert to the possibilities of the ministry of occasional offices and civic responsibilities.
- ♦ A car owner with a current driving licence



LOOKING FORWARD IN THE BENEFICE

- With some 42 DBS'd volunteers across the Benefice, many others in roles which do not need such a certificate, as well as those in our paid positions we are three active worshipping communities supporting a good range of initiatives within our parishes. We are aware of the need to be constantly alive to new opportunities to both develop these and to introduce fresh projects to serve our communities.
- Our Autumn 2022 Congregation Survey identified a need to strengthen our children's and youth work and to see it reflected in church participation.
- During the vacancy the Whitchurch PCC, with the support of an excellent architectural advisory team, has begun managing internal re-ordering works recently approved by the DAC. Continuing these projects will be a focus for a while and we hope that they will show a benefit in greater and more ergonomic use of St Alkmund's church building.
- Whitchurch has a newly installed much improved sound and video system and we hope that this will aid better live streaming and other engagement through social media - although we are learning these skills as we go!



OUR VACANCY PRAYER

Faithful God,

During this vacancy, fill us with vision and joy and keep us faithful in prayer, word and worship.

Guard and grow our Benefice as we serve you together.

Help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers and visitors.

Sustain those in interim leadership; give wisdom to those involved in the process of appointing our new Rector; and prepare the heart of the right person.

Ever-living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, may we see your kingdom come here in Fauls, Tilstock and Whitchurch, to the glory of your name. Amen.

