# FTW NEWSLETTER 27th February 2022





## Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

'Help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer' from the Collect for 1st Sunday in Lent.

As we move into Lent we so often think of the potential to direct our thoughts into a more reflective mode. Jesus, during his time in the wilderness began to prepare himself for what lay ahead. This is what we too can do by taking time to read, pray and discuss our faith, our lives, our future. Lent courses, Lent services give us the time and space for this, encouraging us to open hearts and minds to other ways of thinking and of responding. Perhaps being led to reach out in other ways, developing fresh ways of relating to our world and those who are in it.

Traditionally a time of 'giving up,' Lent offers instead the opportunity to 'Take up'. Christian charity does not have to be only the giving of our wealth — it could instead be giving of ourselves. Giving some time: a regular visit to a lonely friend, ½ a day a week to support a charity, offering transport to a housebound neighbour or a regular phone call. All of these are actively showing a desire to share God's love with those around us — of course they require a bit more from us than donating money does, but what we show [and what we gain] when God's love is demonstrated in this way is real, not just lip-service.

Yours in Christ, Revd Sue

#### **Dates for your diary**

Weds 2nd March 7.30pm Ash Weds service in St Alkmund's, W/ch Fri 4th March 2.00pm World Day of Prayer Service in St John's, W/ch Followed by refreshments 12noon to 2.00pm Saturday Soup in Tilstock Village Hall Sat 12th March Sat 19th March All day in W/ch Caldecott Festival Sun 3rd April 10.00am Confirmation Service in St Alk's, W/ch Thurs 14th April 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service in St John's Methodist Church in W/ch Fri 15th April 10.00am Good Friday Meditative Service in St Alk's, W/ch 11.30am Good Friday Walk of Witness from Tesco's. W/ch Sat 7th May Morning Plant Sale in Bargates, W/ch Evening ? Concert in St Alk's, W/ch Sun 22nd May ?6.30pm Rogation Service w Tullis Matson 10.30am Sun 29th May Joint FTW Service - ? at Fauls Sunday 5th June ??? Special services for the Queen's Jubilee Fri 24th Jun Morning Christ Church, Tilstock's Coffee Morning in the Civic Centre Sun 31st July 10.30am FTW Joint Service - ? at Tilstock Fri 12th Aug Morning St Alk's Coffee Morning in the Civic Centre Sat 12th Nov Morning St Alk's Christmas Coffee Morning - Civic Centre

# TLENT & HOLY-WEEK

### Lent Lunches

## Services in Holy Week & Easter

#### All Welcome!

#### Fauls Lent Lunches

These will be on Tuesdays in the Church Hall. They begin with a short service at 12.30pm, a light lunch follows. Dates: 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March and 5th April.

Donations welcome - which will be passed on to a charity chosen by the church.

## Churches Together in Whitchurch Lent Discussion group and Christian Aid Lunches

During Lent people from the churches in Whitchurch meet each week to eat together on a Thursday lunch time between 12.30 and 2.00pm. It is a simple meal of bread, soup, and fruit and a hot drink (no cheese this year!). It creates a space in our busy lives when we can spend time together and get to know each other a bit better. The atmosphere is always very welcoming, happy and relaxed. The money we would have spent on lunch is given to Christian Aid. £4.00 or £5.00 donation suggested. Please do come along if you have not been before and if you have, please come again!

Date	Church hosting	Venue
10th March	St John's	St John's
17th March	St George's	Bargates Hall
24th March	Beacon	St John's
31st March	St Alkmund's	Bargates Hall
7th April	Christian Aid group	St John's

This year, a discussion group will meet at 11.00am on the same days. The theme is likely to be "Following Christ in the Footsteps of the Saints." Location for each week – as above for the lunches.

#### Holy Week

Mon 11th 7.00pm Meditation on Zoom

Tues 12th 7.00pm Meditation on Zoom

Weds 13th 7.00pm Meditation on Zoom

For all of the above, please contact Revd Judy to get the necessary link

#### Thurs 14th April MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service for FTW & Churches Together in St John's Methodist Church W/ch

#### Fri 15th April GOOD FRIDAY

10.00am Meditative Service in St Alkmund's, W/ch11.30am Churches Together Procession of Witness from Tesco's Car Park

#### <u>Easter</u>

#### Sun 17th April —EASTER DAY

8.00am BCP Communion in St Alkmund's, W/ch

8.30am St Alkmund's Easter Breakfast in Bargates Hall, W/ch

9.30am All Age Communion in Holy Immanuel, Fauls

10.00am All Age Communion in St Alkmund's, W/ch

11.00am All Age Communion in Christ Church,

6.30pm Easter Evensong in St Alkmund's, W/ch

#### St Alkmund's Building:

The PCC of St Alkmund's has agreed to apply for permission for various works, you can see the architect's plans for these on the pages at the back of this newsletter. The basics are:

- 1. Removable Handrails to be installed at either side of the Chancel Steps. This will help people with some balance / mobility issues to access the Chancel more easily.
- 2. Installation of a disabled access toilet in the vestry. This is the only location in the church for which we are likely to gain permission. It will continue our progress to making the building welcoming to all people.
- Re-ordering the north porch area: upgrading the toilet and creating better facilities for the flower arrangers. There will also be space to store chairs on trolleys which can be put out for services which have maximum numbers to replace the removed pews (see below)
- 4. Installing a kitchen area in the northwest corner. This will mean that we have better facilities for refreshments and in line with health and safety regulations which state that we should not have toilet facilities leading off from a kitchen area
- 5. Removing two pews from the front (east) of the nave. This will mean that those with physical disabilities and others can move around more easily. It will also create a more flexible space for concerts and services, together with enabling the piano to be moved to the centre of the church.
- 6. Removing two pews from the back (west) of the nave. This will create a better space for serving and consuming refreshments as well as space for displays. Storage facilities will also be increased.
- 7. Removing pews from the Lady Chapel and replacing with good quality chairs. This will create a more flexible and inviting space for small services and for the signing of marriage documents.

There will be a need to re-locate the sound system desk. We plan to use this opportunity to upgrade the system and incorporate facilities for recording and live-streaming our services and other events.



Prayer Update is sent out by geoff.barter@gmail.com or Geoff Barter, 1 Rowlatt Court, Hillside Road, St. Allbans AL1 3QU England. Please send me any address changes. Check for the latest news on Crosslinks mission partners and associates on our web site

http://www.crosslinks.org

### Alison Talbert

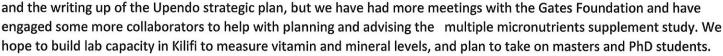
#### Prayer Update February/March 2022

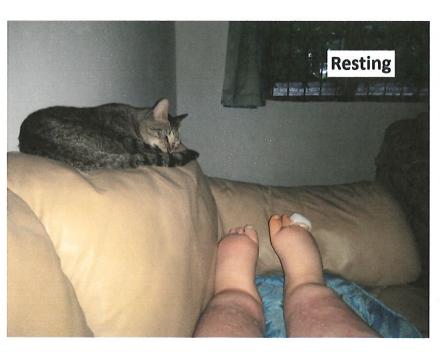
Dear friends,

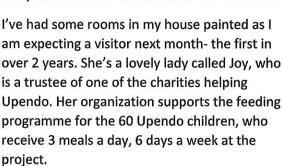
Apologies for this very late email- I've been resting with my feet up. No- not just being lazy but recuperating after a minor op to move some lumps on my toes that were causing problems. From seeing the surgeon in outpatients (no appointment required) to surgery took only 1 week.

Before that I was stressing about the application for renewal of my work permit and the day it expired, I had to visit the local immigration office in Malindi to get a 2 month stamp in my passport. I'm happy that the work permit has now been issued so I'm legally a resident (and allowed to work) for the next 2 years.

Looking at my prayer requests from last month, some have still not been answered such as our bible study group meeting again,







#### I thank God that:

- the Omicron wave has passed in Kenya and test positivity rates are less than 1%
- my work permit has been issued without the need to pay for a special pass
- I was able to get treatment for my feet easily

#### Please pray for:

- orphans who have low self-esteem
- budget and study design discussions with the Gates Foundation
- Joy's visit to Upendo on March 7-11<sup>th</sup> and good health during her travels in Kenya
- speedy healing of my feet so I can finish fieldwork visiting mothers

With love in Christ,

Alison

