

The Parish Magazine



of Whitchurch, Fauls & Tilstock



February 2023



FTW Benefice Contacts

Rector of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

The Revd Canon Dr Judy Hunt - 01948 667253

Email: revjudyhunt@gmail.com

Benefice Office: St Alkmund's Church, Church Street, Whitchurch, SY13 1LB

Benefice Administrator Alison Dunne - 01948 667102

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

Holy Immanuel Church, Fauls

PCC Acting Chair	Rev Sue Armstrong	01948 840039
Church Warden	Pam Bembow	01948 840356
PCC Secretary	Liz Allwood	01630 685796
PCC Treasurer	Liz Kempton	01948 840271
Website	www.holy-immanuel-fauls.yolasite.com	

Christ Church, Tilstock

PCC Chair	Revd Judy Hunt	01948 667253
Church Warden	Freda Corfield	01948 880910
Church Warden	Joan Hockenhull	01948 880226
PCC Secretary	Joan Hockenhull	01948 880226
PCC Treasurer	Will Watson-Jones	01948 880340
Website	www.christ-church-tilstock.yolasite.com	

PASTORAL LETTER

for February from Revd Sue Armstrong

:Dear Friends,

What a change, to go from the wet weather we have known to bright, frosty and cold.

It reminds us that as we move away from Christmas and the long dark nights we are moving towards Spring and all that that promises.

In my garden the primroses along the hedgerow are peeping out and the hellebores are bringing colour to the winter garden.

It helps us as we move into Lent, using this time to deepen our faith and understanding, with bible study, prayer and courses as we progress towards the promise that Easter brings.

Rev'd Sue

The Children's Society

Children's Society News

Thank you to all who support the Children's Society. The box collection this year resulting in a total of £1095.15.

Thank you to everyone who holds a collection box. If anyone would like more information about having a box please contact me.

It was lovely to welcome over 130 people to the Christingle service in December, where £212.32 was raised.

We were pleased to have involvement from the town's schools too. Many thanks to anyone who helped in anyway to support this very worthwhile cause.

Also a huge thank you to Sue Collins for organising the Children's Society fundraising for the last 20 years. It's a bigger job than you think, as I am just finding out! You have been a star Sue. Thank you!

Rebecca Sims

The Children's Society



Food, fun and friendship

In Bargates Hall

(behind St Alkmund's Church)

2023

1st & 15th February • 1st & 15th March

5th & 19th April • 3rd & 17th May

(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: Rev. Judy Hunt on

01948 667253

or revjudyhunt@gmail.com



**HOLY IMMANUEL CHURCH
ANNUAL CAROL SUPPER**

Some photos from the evening back in December



SNOW BEAR VISITS ST ALKMUND'S

New member to the congregation, joined in the New Year, not sure how long he will stay!



CANDLEMAS SERVICE ON SUNDAY 29TH JANUARY 2023
Lovely photos taken from the service, and afterwards taking refreshments at the
Tilstock Bowling Club





UKRAINE PAIN RELIEF APPEAL

Thank you so much for the great response to this appeal. A suitcase was filled ... and more kept coming. The journey to Ukraine started on 28th January. The pain relief tablets will go to those on the frontline and associated hospitals.



'THE BIG BREW'

WHEN: 4th March 2023

WHERE: St Alkmund's Church

TIME: 10.00am — 12noon

TRAIDCRAFT STALL

TEA/COFFEE



CAKES



A Big Brew is a chance to get friends and family together over a fair trade cuppa and some home made cakes and treats - all while raising money for the fight for trade and climate justice.

Transform Trade

(the new name for Traidcraft Exchange)

This is part of our Fairtrade Fortnight celebrations.



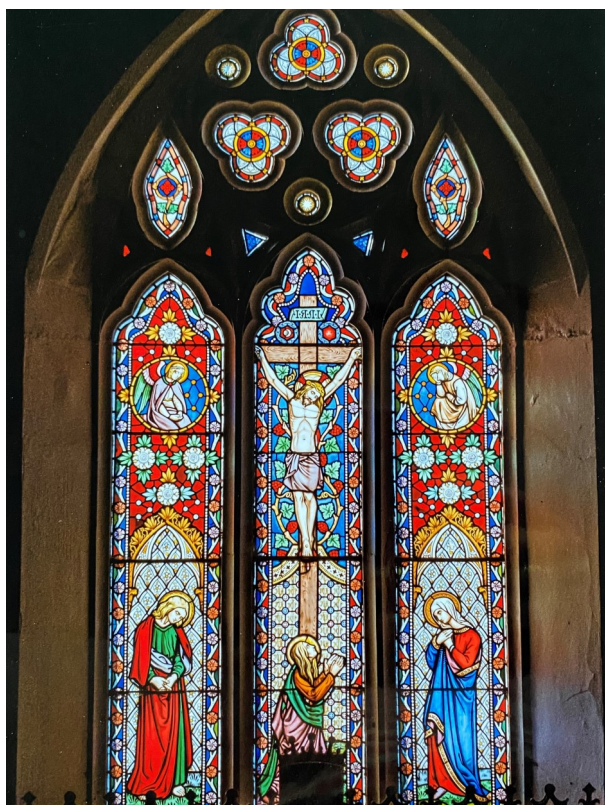
TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

East Window Repair at Holy Immanuel, Fauls

The Holy Immanuel, Fauls
Quinquennial report of 2018 indicated
that work was needed on the east
window due to the bowing of the glass.

On inspection by Recclesia Stained Glass,
it was also discovered that the east wall
needed repointing, and there was a crack
in the mullion of the window as well as the
stained glass of the window needing to be
removed and repaired.

Recclesia will undertake all of the work this
spring, faculty permission having
been finally granted.



PAY TO PRESERVE A PORTION

Holy Immanuel Fauls are about to
start a fundraising campaign to
help with the cost of the repairs to
the east window, more detailed
information can be found on the
next page.

Warm Hub at St Johns Methodist Church

Every Monday

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

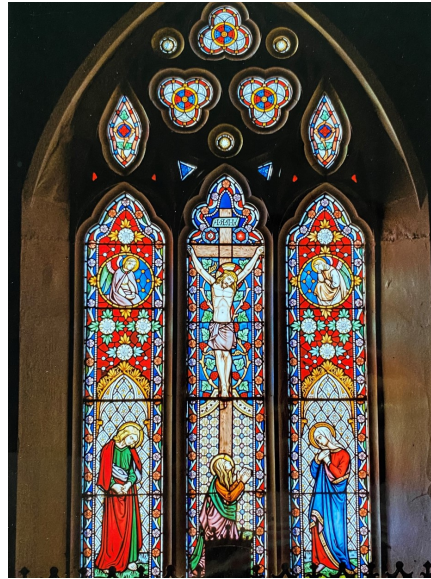
We would love to see you!

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

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

Pay to Preserve a Portion

At Holy Immanuel Church, Fauls



Following the last Quinquennial Inspection of the Church it was drawn to our attention that our beautiful east window at Holy Immanuel Church, Fauls, is at risk of buckling which could result in us losing it altogether should it spring from its fastenings.

Naturally we want to preserve the window for future generations to enjoy and we are, therefore, commencing works to ensure this is rectified swiftly. The job will entail the removal and repair, where necessary, of the glass, the re-pointing of the masonry, with some of this being replaced, as well as certain pieces of ironwork also being renewed by a specialist team of workers with an estimated cost of £18,720 plus VAT.

As a result we are launching our Pay to Preserve a Portion appeal to help us raise the necessary funds for this project. If you would like to support Holy Immanuel Church in this matter any donation would be most grateful and very much appreciated with specific portions, large and small, being priced from £5 upwards. You can have your name listed as a record of your support for a certain piece of the window or your donation can remain anonymous if you desire.

Donations can be gift aided as appropriate which will further help our fundraising appeal as we can claim back 25% of your donation if you qualify; a super addition.

There will be opportunities to Pay to Preserve a Portion at all of our social events in Fauls or you can contact our Treasurer, Liz Kempton on 01948 840271. Alternatively you can make a donation directly into our Church bank account making sure that you put WINDOW as a reference so that the money can be allocated to this important appeal.

Thank you, Fauls PCC

Fauls Parochial Church Council 20-45-45 70731633 WINDOW

BENEFICE SURVEY 2022

Findings from the 2022 Benefice survey

In October 2022 the FTW PCCs invited those who had a connection to the benefice of FTW to complete a survey. The PCCs wanted to hear about what people enjoyed about church, where they saw room for improvements and what they wanted for the future. There was a good response of 50 replies from Whitchurch, 6 from Fauls and 4 from Tilstock. The results will help the PCCs to understand the individual parishes and the benefice. The PCCs can then shape prayers and planning for the year ahead. The results will also support the benefice in writing the profile for when we recruit a new Rector following Judy's retirement.

92% of respondents were regular church goers and it was wonderful to hear that 88% felt part of the church community with positive feedback for coming to church, including the worship of God through sermons, bible readings and participation in holy communion with others. The joy of singing hymns and in other music heard. The sense of being made welcome within the church family and the fellowship and friendship with fellow church goers.

Accepting a need to embrace change was acknowledged as being hard but necessary to reach the wider community. It was remarked that our church families will need to be willing to lean on the Holy Spirit for guidance. A number of recommendations were identified and reassuringly the majority are already being acted upon by the FTW PCCs, for example the services that are offered, widening the music offering and also making the churches more welcoming. There are then recommendations associated with attracting more families and giving consideration to becoming environmentally friendly.

Copies of the survey findings are available at the back of the Churches.

Alison Talbert

Prayer Update January 2023

Dear Friends,

It's been a while since I've written an update though I did write a prayer letter in December. A lot has happened, and a lot hasn't happened yet - more of that later...

At the beginning of December my dear friend Suzanne, 86 years young, died. She was found by a worker slumped over her breakfast sitting on her verandah. She was buried 2 days later in a dugout canoe that she'd bought for the purpose, on her son's land. I miss her and our rich and varied conversations on theology and psychology- she had lived a full life as social worker, mother, and farmer's wife in Canada, UK, Argentina, South Africa, Tanzania and finally Kenya.



Exchanging Vows



The Bride Arrives at last

Bonface Baraka the assistant administrator of Upendo married Anna on Christmas Eve. There were around 200 guests at the outdoor ceremony. The groom arrived 2 hours before the bride so we were entertained by an excellent church band and several processions of flower girls and boys, best boys and best girls all in different coloured outfits. The tailors of Kilifi must have benefitted greatly.

Recently my cleaner and guard told me of domestic challenges. Patience's husband wanted to kick her out of the house and Stephen received death threats from his wife's former husband. So far, the worst hasn't

happened.

Progress at work was slow over December and early January. We sent responses to the ethics review boards' comments. Fred the new study coordinator started so I'm working on job descriptions for research nurses and senior fieldworkers and standard operating procedures with him. We didn't get any suitable applicants for the social scientist post so are readvertising.

The Upendo children are back at the project after the Christmas break and have hairdressing, tailoring, crocheting, and sandal making and a first aid refresher course as holiday activities. Schools start back at the end of January.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful New Year
Alison

Prayer points

- Thanksgiving for Suzanne's life and faith
- For resolution of Patience's and Stephen's domestic problems
- For study ethical approval and successful job interviews
- For timely allocation by the government of school placements for new junior secondary (CBC) and secondary students



Mango Season Again

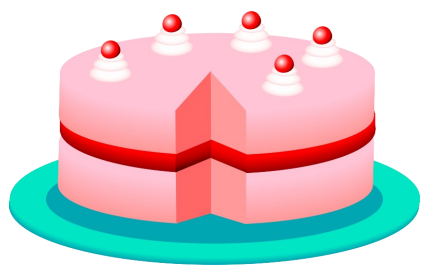
SOUP LUNCH AT FAULS

Saturday 18th February 2023



**IN
FAULS
CHURCH HALL**

**at 12.30pm
£7.00 PER PERSON**



**Soup & Cake
Tea/Coffee**

SOUP LUNCH at TILSTOCK



Saturday 25th February 2023

**IN
TILSTOCK VILLAGE HALL**

at 12.30pm

£7.00 per person

Pre booking required:

**Barbara Ellison on 01948 880312
Joan Hockenhull on 01948 880226**

**Soup & Desert
Tea/Coffee
Raffle**



SNOWDROPS WINTER WALK

19th February 2023, 1-4pm

Eyton Hall
Eyton upon the Weald Moors
nr. Wellington TF6 6ET

In aid of Shropshire
Historic Churches Trust

£5 cash please, WC,
Light refreshments, No Dogs
(no wheelchair access)

www.shropshirehct.org.uk



30 January 2023
for immediate release

FREEDOM FUND MAKES AWARDS TO WHITCHURCH COMMUNITY GROUPS

Five community groups in Whitchurch have been awarded £250 each from Freedom Fibre's Freedom Fund, a new community fund designed to support good and green community projects.

The Inner Wheel Club of Whitchurch received £250 to continue adopting derelict pieces of land across the town to transform them into community gardens; **St. Alkmund's Church** was awarded £250 for green improvements at the church, including creating bug hotels, installing bird boxes and putting in an information board; **Whitchurch Walkers** were awarded £250 to help raise promote the group's 'Walkers are Welcome' campaign throughout the town; **The Queensway Area Residential and Recreational Association** received £250 to plant a range of pollinating plants across Queensway Playing Fields; and the **Brownlow Community Centre Trust** was awarded £250 to replace fluorescent lighting with more efficient, environmentally friendly LED lighting.

Neil McArthur, Freedom Fibre's Chief Executive Officer, said: "I'm absolutely delighted that we have been able to make awards to these very worthy causes. Playing our part in the communities in which we are working is so important to us – I can't wait to see these projects come to fruition!"

Helen Morgan, MP for North Shropshire, said: "All of these groups provide really valuable services for their local communities so I'm delighted they've seized the chance to benefit from this extremely useful funding."

The Freedom Fund was launched in October 2022 to support community groups delivering environmental projects. The Fund will re-open again later in 2023 to provide support for an even greater range of community groups.

Freedom Fibre is currently rolling out its lightning-fast, full-fibre network to homes in and around Whitchurch. If you are interested in connecting to our full-fibre network, please register your interest at www.freedomfibre.co.uk.

ENDS.

Press Contacts

George Newton, Stakeholder Engagement Lead - george.newton@freedomfibre.com

Laura Savage, Marketing Executive - laura.savage@freedomfibre.com

St Alkmund's Church Bell Ringers Wanted!

We are very keen to add more ringers to our band.

We would welcome ringers with previous experience, but we can also teach people new to this fascinating skill.

If you are interested in joining the band, learning to ring or just finding out more, please get in touch!

Please contact the Tower Captain

Malcolm Monie on **07746 687242** or bells@monies.me.uk

You are welcome just to come and watch either on a practice night or on Sunday morning but do please get in touch first in case we are not ringing for any reason.

Thursday practice 19.00 - 20.30

Sunday ringing 09.30 – 10.00

St Alkmund's Church Choir members wanted!

St Alkmund's Church, Whitchurch is looking for new choir members (particularly male voices) to sing at Sunday services - 10.00 Holy Communion and /or 18.30 Evensong.

Rehearsals are Wednesday evening at 19.00

Ability to read music is preferable, but by no means essential.

If interested, please contact:

Richard James (Director of Music) 07975 622542

Or email: richard101@outlook.com



Preparing for the vacancy and beyond

Once Revd Judy retires at the end of April, many Sunday services will be covered by our "Home Team": Revd Sue and Jane Rylands, plus those who have been leading services over the past few months: Celia Churchill, Sue Collins, Sarah Radford, Caroline Sewry, Jill Wallace, Liz Walsh, Alex & Sally Williamson.

We are also sending letters out to local retired clergy, the Bishop, the Archdeacon and the Assistant Archdeacon to see what help they can offer. Occasional Offices (i.e. Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals) will be covered by Revd Sue, retired clergy or other deanery clergy.

Please do pray for all the arrangements that have to be made, especially for Alison Dunne in her work as Administrator, and for all involved.

The first official part of the process for appointing a new Rector is for the three PCCs to meet with the archdeacon and this has been arranged for Wednesday 3rd May. The Benefice Profile group has been working on a Benefice Profile, to be agreed by all three PCCs, which will also be needed. This group is chaired by Jane Rylands, with Revd Sue also involved and two representatives from each of the three parishes:

Fauls – Richard Allwood & Paul Holland
Tilstock: Freda Corfield & Joan Hockenhull
Whitchurch: Pol Green and Paul Williamson.
Please be praying for this group too.





LENT SERVICES & EVENTS



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday 22nd February
at 7.30pm
in St Alkmund's , W/ch

Fauls Lent Lunches - Service of reflection

Commencing 28th February 2023
Tuesdays in Lent
at 12 noon
in Fauls Church Hall

Christian Aid Lent lunches - W/ch Churches Together

Commencing 2nd March 2023
Thursdays in Lent

2nd March	St Alkmunds to host	in St John's Church
9th March	St John's to host	in St John's Church
16th March	Beacon to host	in Watergate Centre
23rd March	St George's to host	in the Watergate Centre
30th March	Christian Aid Committee to host	in the Watergate Centre

Lent Course

Commencing 2nd March 2023
Thursdays in Lent
at 4.00pm
in Bargates Hall
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th March



THE UNITY COURSE

We will follow "The Unity Course": <https://theunitycourse.co.uk/>

Explore the call to Loving Disagreement through the Unity Course
Based on Christopher Landau's book, Loving Disagreement, the Unity Course enables you to reflect on the place of disagreement within the Christian life. Over five sessions, participants explore how inevitable disagreements can be faced in more authentically Christian ways, living out the New Testament's consistent call for members of the Body of Christ to pursue loving unity. Each of the five sessions combines reflection on Biblical material (from a chapter in Part One of the book) with consideration of practical applications (from the corresponding chapter in Part Two) alongside time for discussion and prayer. There's also a free online video for each session.

Session 1 – **THINKING**
The central Christian call to love your neighbour – even in church

Session 2 – **PRAYING**
The inevitability of disagreement and the problem of anger

Session 3 – **WORSHIPPING**
Facing disagreement well

Session 4 – **WRITING AND SPEAKING**
Taming the tongue

Session 5 – **UNIFYING AND PEACE-MAKING**
Learning to disagree Christianly

St Alkmund's Church Building

UPDATE

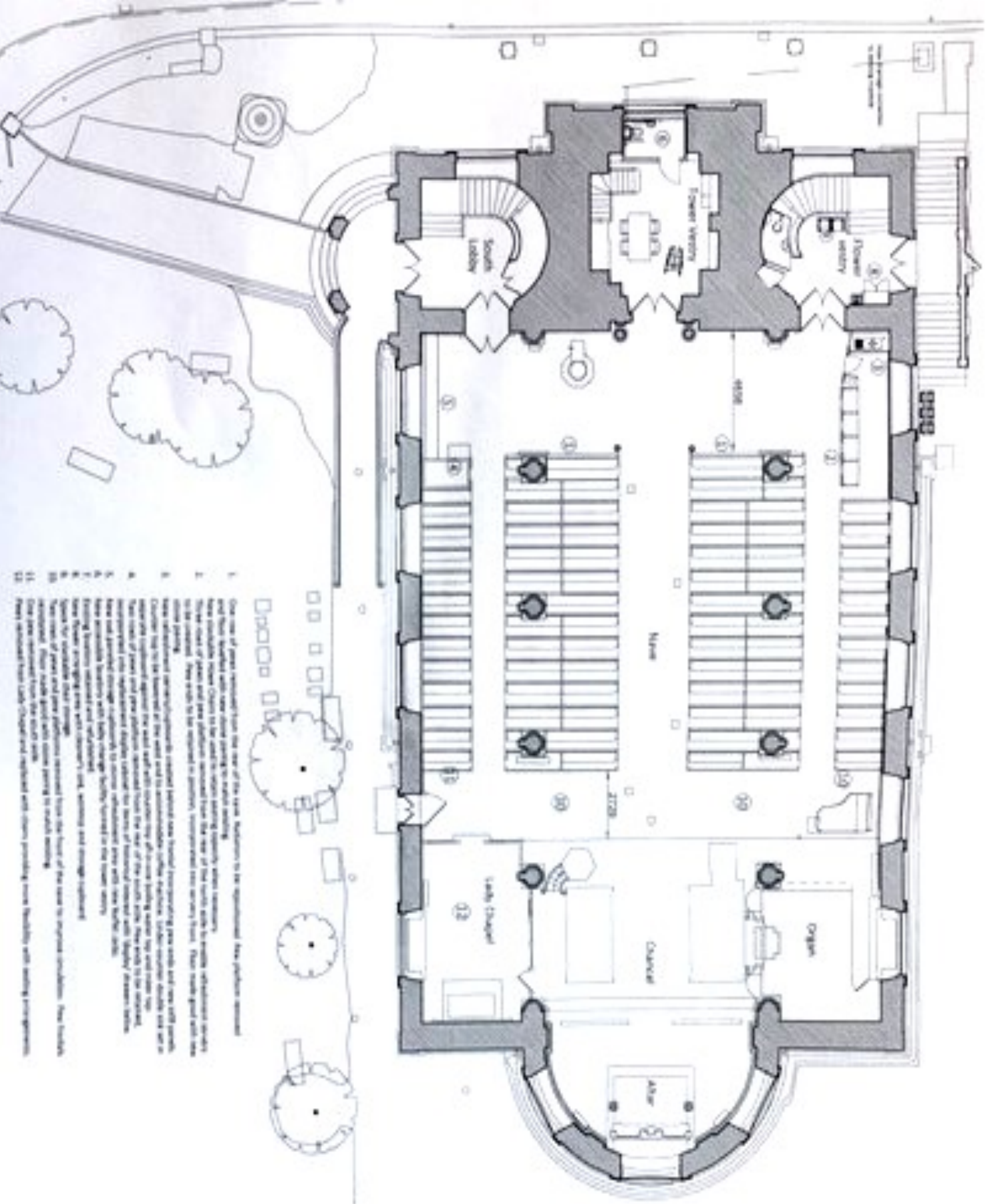
At long last, we have some good news to report! We have been given permission to make progress with our plans to:

- Install a disabled access toilet, which will go underneath the window in the vestry
- Install a servery in the northwest corner of the church
- Upgrade the present toilet
- Take out one row of pews at the back of church to give more room for those with mobility difficulties and for having refreshments
- Take out two rows of pews at the front of church to give room for everyone to circulate around the church and, if ever necessary, to access the fire exit close to the Lady Chapel; also to enable administration of communion at the chancel step and to enable the grand piano to be brought across to a more central position when required
- To store stackable chairs on trolleys in the north porch which could be used for services when we are likely to be very full, in place of the removed pews
- To take out the pews in the Lady Chapel and replace with good quality upright chairs to have a more flexible space in the Chapel
- To install a new and integrated sound and camera system. The old sound system has served us well but we can no longer get parts for it. The new system will extend what we can do in church when we want several different people to use microphones at the same time and should vastly improve the quality of our livestreaming

The plans for the re-ordering can be seen on the following page.

We are also aware that the church boiler should be replaced soon. Again it has served us well but we can no longer get parts for it and the flue system isn't working well. However, the Church of England has signed up to the aim of being 'carbon-neutral' which means that we shall have to investigate many different possibilities of heating system before we can move forward.





Buttrick Building

1. Main Entrance
 2. Main Lobby
 3. Main Hallway
 4. Main Staircase
 5. Main Elevator
 6. Main Restroom
 7. Main Storage
 8. Main Office
 9. Main Conference Room
 10. Main Meeting Room
 11. Main Classroom
 12. Main Lecture Hall

Buttrick

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 10. Main Meeting Room
 11. Main Classroom
 12. Main Lecture Hall

Room	Area	Volume	Weight	Value
1. Main Entrance	100	100	100	100
2. Main Lobby	200	200	200	200
3. Main Hallway	300	300	300	300
4. Main Staircase	400	400	400	400
5. Main Elevator	500	500	500	500
6. Main Restroom	600	600	600	600
7. Main Storage	700	700	700	700
8. Main Office	800	800	800	800
9. Main Conference Room	900	900	900	900
10. Main Meeting Room	1000	1000	1000	1000
11. Main Classroom	1100	1100	1100	1100
12. Main Lecture Hall	1200	1200	1200	1200

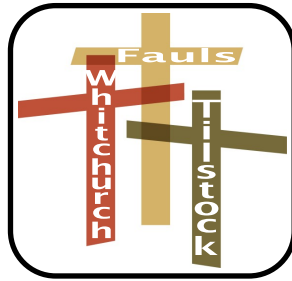
WE SAY GOODBYE



Director of Music at St Alkmund's

We shall, sadly, be saying a goodbye to Richard James at the end of February as he has decided to resign from this post. Other musical opportunities have opened up for him. We thank him for all that he has done in his time with us, we wish him well for the future, and we hope that we might see him and hear his organ playing occasionally in the future. We advertised the post and have interviewed for the position recently, there will be further updates to follow regarding this. In the meantime, we are very grateful to all the musicians who are helping us!

**We wish Richard
all the very best
for the future.**



FTW Diary

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sat 18th Feb 12.30pm Fauls Soup Lunch in Fauls Church Hall

Sat 25th Feb 12.30pm Tilstock Soup Lunch in Tilstock Village Hall

Wed 22nd Feb 7.30pm FTW Ash Wednesday service, St Alk's, W/ch

Tues 28th Feb Tuesdays in Lent 12noon Fauls Lent lunches in Fauls Church Hall

Thurs 2nd Mar Thursdays in Lent 12noon Christian Aid Lent lunches in St Alk's, W/ch
4.00pm Lent Course on Unity in Bargates Hall

Sat 4th Mar 10am to 12noon Big Brew (Fairtrade) in St Alk's, W/ch

Sat 25th March 7.30pm Bingo in Fauls Church Hall

Sun 26th March Fauls Sunday Lunch

Sun 26th March 6.30pm The Border Singers & Gallery Singers, Two requiems:
Fauré & Chilcott, St Alk's W/ch Tickets £10.00 under 18s free

Mon 27th & Tues 28th Mar WJA Easter Experience St Alk's, W/ch

Thurs 30th March 10.00am WJA Easter service in St Alk's, W/ch

Thurs 6th April 8.00pm Churches Together Maundy Thurs Service in St George's

Fri 7th April 10.00am Good Friday Meditative Service in St Alk's, W/ch

Good Friday 11.30am Procession of Witness in W/ch

Sun 30th April 10.30am FTW Joint Service In St Alk's, W/ch

Sun 7th May 10.00am Civic Service for the King's Coronation in St Alk's, W/ch

Sun 7th May 3.00pm King's Coronation Tea in Fauls Church Hall

Magazine information

Dates for the FTW Magazine

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

FTW MAGAZINE PUBLICATIONS

Issue	Publication Date	Deadline
April/May 2023	7th April 2023	31st March 2023
June/July 2023	9th June 2023	1st June 2023
August/September 2023	11th August 2023	3rd August 2023

