

The Parish Magazine

FTW **F**auls **T**ilstock & **W**hitchurch



Judy Bellingham (St Alkmund's, Whitchurch) with Eileen Livesey (St Georges RC) on the steps of St Alkmund's promoting Christian Aid Week (see page 3 for details and article)

Spring/Summer 2021

50p

PASTORAL LETTER

Hello!

Last time I wrote a short bit for this magazine I was writing about Autumn, now we're well into spring and heading towards summer! New life is everywhere from baby animals, glorious vibrant colours everywhere and the rains, snow, wind and frost a distant memory – well, hopefully.

Actually its interesting that we've had one of the warmest March's on average, whilst one of the colder starts to April with snow showers and hail! we still wake up to surface frost most mornings, even if it soon warms up!

Aren't I remarkably British talking about the weather in an opening?

The weather is so unpredictable and unexpected that we love to talk about it don't we? We can have all the weathers in one day sometimes. Even if the weather forecast says one thing, its not always certain that that is what is going to happen!

God works in unexpected ways too – The easter story, if you think about it is so unexpected. Crucifixion was a ridicule, a torture and execution designed to humiliate the person on the cross, hanging high up for all to see, naked and struggling for breath amongst the pain in the hands and feet. It was a spectacle, entertainment for the Romans. Jesus' trial is also a mockery part of the story – a fake crown, thorns instead of Gold, a mock robe, and sarcastic words or worship. No one saw it coming, not even those closest to Jesus. I think with our familiarity with the events we forget this.

And yet, God uses such a mockery, a brutal, humiliating death to bring salvation, to bring our forgiveness and freedom.

In 1 Corinthians 1:23-25 it says:

²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (NIV)

Here Paul isn't adopting a "blind faith" or a "anti-intellectual" view. He is recognising the limits of *human* understanding and the reality that God does not act in a way we think he *should*. The plan for salvation through the crucifixion may be scandalous or ridiculous but it was his plan.

The events of the crucifixion are so often open to misinterpretation, mockery and met with disbelief. It's hard to believe God became man, that he entered our pain and our suffering and our death, in order to become a perfect and final sacrifice for Sin. Could he have done it differently? More in a way we would "predict?" maybe, but he didn't.

So, as we reflect on this season, with Coronavirus, it's struggles, disappointments and yet at times the surprising moment of Joy or hope. Remember that God is God, and we are not. Jesus' death on the cross is a demonstration of the power of the wisdom of God for all of us who believe. He doesn't do things we may expect, or wish he would do, but by now, maybe we should expect the unexpected?

Faith doesn't make us safe, we're not protected from the bad of the world, and at times it's a struggle and things come our way to shake and rock us, things that we wish we knew the answer to. But Faith can make us secure, because God is faithful and good even with everything happening around us. and we can trust and worship him without needing to understand him, or the purposes, reason or cause of everything fully.

Christianity didn't begin, survive or expand primarily through cleverly designed human arguments and plans but through the work of the Sprit, through God's plans beyond comprehension.

The disciples were out fishing one day, following Jesus the next.

Are we ready for such an unexpected change? An unexpected call to follow Jesus?

Like the weather forecast we can't predict God. But if we are ready to see God in unexpected places and in unexpected ways, we might find him there, working all things together for the good of those who love him. (Romans 8:28)

With love and prayers

Rev'd Sam

Christian Aid Week Services

Several churches in Whitchurch will be holding their own Christian Aid Week service during the week and the Christian Aid service from St Alkmund's will be streamed live on May 9th at 10 am on the Facebook page and will continue to be available afterwards and on Youtube under 'Judy Hunt'.



Christian Aid Week 10-16th May 2021

In Kenya, extreme dry weather is making it harder and harder to survive. For communities fighting the climate crisis, every last drop of water matters and every last one of us can help them thrive. The coronavirus pandemic has only increased the urgent need for families to access a reliable source of water.



The devastating climate crisis robs people of the water and so also the food they need to live.

Rose walks for six hours to fetch water for her grandchildren. She tries hard to give them the kind of life she remembers from when she was a girl: when the rivers flowed with water and the crops bore fruit.

Rose and her grandchildren shouldn't have to suffer hunger. A simple earth dam, built with the help of Christian Aid's partners and your donations, could completely change their lives. This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray to stop this climate crisis causing people like Rose and her family to be hungry.

From envelope collections to walking 300,000 steps in May, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community against global poverty and injustice.

All the churches in Whitchurch will be thinking about Rose and the millions who are being affected by climate change, during Christian Aid week.

This year as last, we will be unable to hold the house to house collection, so instead, we are having a pew collection in churches and a zoom quiz during the week.

Envelopes will be out in the pews on 9th May but if you would prefer to give online, a Christian Aid e-Envelope has been placed on all the churches' websites.

The quiz will take place on Tuesday 11th May and if you would like to join please contact Rev Rob Weir at robweir@albatross.me.uk and he will send you the link.

Thank you for all your help so far during 2020 and into 2021, in what are very difficult times, for the partners Christian Aid is supporting in the poorest communities in the world.

This Christian Aid Week, please:

- **Give** generously to help ensure people like Rose fight this climate crisis.
- **Act** as we call on the UK Prime Minister to lead the world with ambitious climate action that will also address inequality
- **Pray** for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that as a global community we will care for our common home and for people living in poverty.

Together we can stop this climate crisis.

Judy Bellingham

PARISHES' NEWS

WEEKLY MAILINGS: Please also let me (Revd Judy) know if you would like to receive postal or electronic mailings each week—you need to opt IN.

MESSAGES FROM:

REVD JUDY, REVD SAM JOHNSON & JANE RYLANDS: A new one will be available each *Wednesday* and it will then be replaced each *Sunday—afternoon or evening*. They can be found on the Facebook page of St Alkmund's, W/ch, on YouTube:

Revd Judy FTW https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLafrOGz5y6pw_5JKHbC-OPFtXQ1n4qA1w

Links on the church website too; or listen on the phone by ringing 01948 522520.

FLOWER ROTA—ALTAR FLOWERS each week, except during Lent, there is the opportunity to place flowers on the Altar, in remembrance of a loved one or an anniversary or another date that is important to you. We have several vacancies during the year. If you are interested please contact Marcia Haywood on 01948 666 542 or email jmshaw@aol.com.

The vacant dates are

17th & 24th Feb; 3rd March; 19th May;
16th June; 14th & 28th July;
15th & 23rd Sept; 13th Oct; 8th Dec
6th & 10th Jan 2022

PENTECOST EXPERIENCE

Having had positive replies from our volunteers and a grateful and positive response from the school, I am glad to say that we are able to do the Pentecost Experience for Y6 in church on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th June. As it is straight after half term we will go for the Monday afternoon then two sessions on the Tuesday.

If you would like to help out please contact/speak to Wendy Darter.

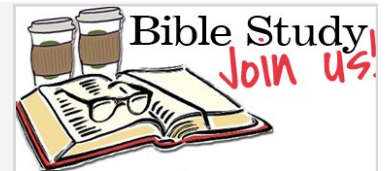
CHOIR

We are hoping that the Choir can start singing again on Sunday May 16th, hurrah! But unfortunately still no singing by the congregation.

A lot has happened during the various lockdowns the Choir have suffered the loss of Prof Roger Duffell, valued choir member, and Dr Bob Fowler and Boyne Clarke, 2 wonderful Organists, all will be sadly missed.

Whilst everyone is obviously saddened by these deaths we have much to be thankful for with the opening up of society and the continued progress of the vaccination programme and we also look forward to finding a new director of music and moving forward with them—hopefully to bigger and better things. If you would like to join us on this journey please speak to the Rector or Churchwardens.

ST ALKMUND'S BIBLE STUDY



I do hope you've all been keeping well and have now had the two jabs, so we're ready to face the future with a smile on our faces. It's left me with the feeling that I find it safer at home and find it difficult to go out among people, but at least, I've managed to go to church these last two weeks, so there's hope in the future. It's been good to see some of you there too.

It will be good to see the family again, inside, if we get any rain!! Meeting indoors!!

I've been keeping busy making cards for local people, with some challenging thoughts. For example someone wanted a birthday card with Derby County Football Club on it, that, was a challenge.

Perhaps some of you are looking forward to holidays. I can hardly write the word – **holidays!!** Pat and I will not be going up to Keswick in the summer, perhaps we'll go for the New Year, we've yet to decide.

We have kept well all this time, enjoying the recent lovely sunny weather and watching the trees come into bloom. Don't know whether it's my imagination, but, is the blossom better than ever this year? It's certainly been a wonderful lesson to look ahead with a song in our hearts and not keep looking back and just rest -on -Him.

Hurray, as we're nearly at the end of the lockdown, unless Boris moves the goal posts, we can plan for our future meetings.

GOOD NEWS – we can meet in July. Just in case you have lost your list of dates, they are as follows:-

14 th July,	28 th July
11 th August	25 th August
and 8 th September	22 nd September

All of our meetings take place in Bargates Hall at 2.00pm, with a lovely cup of tea / coffee with biscuits at 3.00ish. Something to look forward to.

Anyone wanting to join us for the first time, you'll be very welcome and we'll see you there. In case you've forgotten, we will be studying St Peter's Letters. We should know them by heart now !!!!

Celia



PETER EDGE: IN LOCKDOWN AND MOVING FORWARD

In March 2020, I was performing Le Nozze Di Figaro with Opera North's Whistle Stop Opera and was playing the title role. It was my last professional engagement before the Coronavirus pandemic truly began. During mid-March the emails started pouring in, with cancellations going right into 2021.

As a self-employed freelance musician it was extremely tough, however I began to think of innovative ways to keep music going throughout the pandemic. Back in March 2020 I had a total of 6 students, whereas this week I am teaching a total of 34. What was amazing was the fact that our music school reached out all over the world and I now teach students in Belgium, France, Guatemala, Iceland, Italy, India, Jamaica, Qatar, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Norway, UK and the USA. Talk about adjusting to different time zones! Some days I start at 7:30am (to reach the USA students) and finish at 10pm (with the New Zealand students!).



We were extremely fortunate with the weather in the initial lockdown and, as I have always been a keen cyclist, I decided to take my cycling to the next level. I made it my goal to go and do some exercise for at least an hour a day, whether that be walking outdoors or cycling, and I later averaged 190 miles a week on my bike. My next challenge is Alderford Lake's Triathlon in a few weeks time!

I was still missing performing terribly. The Concordia Foundation, with whom I'd performed in the past, offered a grant in exchange for a video to thank our sponsors. To coincide with the 'clap for our heroes' on Thursday evenings, I released my first online recording which I chose to sing 'Over the rainbow'. Going on from this, I offered to sing a hymn of the week for St Alkmund's Parish Church. This was great as it motivated me to keep singing! It was lovely to hear how much the congregation appreciated these hymns. Other events included zoom concerts. The only difference was - when people clapped, all you could see was their movement as everyone was muted! It was a bit of a bizarre experience...

During the summer the weather was still beautiful and, with the generosity of three families, I put on outdoor concerts near Whitchurch. The success of these concerts led to more and I found myself performing in Kent and Cornwall. I was particularly amused at one of the concerts in Cornwall as the weather was awful. The wind was so bad that it distorted all our microphones and the audience progressively produced layer upon layer upon layer of extra clothing. In the end some of them were in full dressing gowns and duvets to escape the cold.

Another way to keep performing was to sing on people's door steps. I partnered with AgeUK and visited the most vulnerable people in London, those who had had little interaction with people for most of 2020. Accompanied by my bluetooth speaker, I cycled to residents' houses across central London and sang a small programme of music. When outdoor concerts were officially put on hold, Charles Court Opera introduced 'Dial A Song', where people got in touch to nominate someone to receive a song via telephone call. For my first call I sang Shine, Jesus Shine for a ladies birthday! She even joined in as well. In the meantime, I expect performances to be substantially affected for the remainder of this year, hopefully opening up in the Autumn. Currently I am taking on a new venture and have taken on a part time position as a music teacher in a primary school in West London, alongside my online tuition.

I am confident about the future and am looking forward to some exciting contracts which may be just around the corner. And of course performing in St Alkmund's on June 4th (see page 14)



EASTER

It feels like Easter has passed us by, again, this year but some things still happened. Revd Sue went to Lower Heath School for an outside Service and knitted Easter chicks and in time honoured tradition marbled hens eggs in water coloured with flowers and onion skins.

Pictures: Top right and Left
Cross with items brought to lead
Worship
Bottom right and left
knitted chicks with eggs



After missing Easter Sunday, for the second time, our churches were able to open for services on Sunday 18th April, the third Sunday of Easter—how wonderful to be back—still, of course, observing Covid-19 Restrictions. And we are still in the Easter season for a little longer, this Sunday being Easter 6—Rogation, and again we will miss being able to go to one of our very welcoming farmers for our traditional Rogation Service. **Ascension Day is Thursday 13th May.** This year as we can't have the usual Deanery Ascension Service, we will be having a joint service in St Alkmund's at 7.30pm. Sunday 16th May (Easter 7—Sunday after Ascension) which is followed by Pentecost also known as Whitsun on Sunday 23rd May.

**Hopefully we will be able to have
a 'normal' Easter next year!**

RESOURCES

One thing we have learnt during the Covid-19 lockdowns is that we can do things differently and though we wouldn't want to keep to only worshipping remotely, what we have learnt will certainly add to our experiences moving forward.

How wonderful to be able to worship when we are feeling ill or frail or when away from home. We have so many resources at our fingertips and now also have the knowledge of how to use them.

Below is a list of the resources we have published each week in the Pewsheets.

We are leaving these in this edition so that you have another opportunity to save them for future use. We will, of course, let you know of any new resources we decide to use.

General Resources:

- St Alkmund's website: <https://www.stalkmunds.com/>
- Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/>
- Diocesan Website: <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org>
- Arthur Rank Centre: <https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/>
- Spring Harvest: <https://springharvest.org/>
- ROOTS: www.rootsontheweb.com
- Lee Abbey: <https://leeabbey.org.uk/>
- Wisdom from the Monastic tradition: <https://www.alonetogether.org.uk/>
- Thy Kingdom Come site: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>



Prayer

- "Sacred Space" daily – either download as an app or find it on the web: <https://www.sacredspace.ie/daily-prayer>
- Pray as you Go – download as an app.
- St Beuno's: <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/org/st-beunos>



Bible Reading

- Bible Society website: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk>
- The Bible Reading Fellowship : <https://www.brf.org.uk>
- Scripture Union site <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/>

Sunday & Other Services

- **TV**—including Songs of Praise and other(s) on a Sunday
- **Radio; Daily Services** on Radio 4—the Daily Service is available at 9.45am on LW on Radio 4 DAB side channel which is automatically made available about a minute before the programme begins. *After tuning to Radio 4 DAB, select 'Daily Service' (from your display) with the tuning wheel and press the selector button. Longwave.*
- Also on Radio 4—Each Sunday morning between 8.05 and 8.45am you can tune in to a service with different topics or themes from different churches—with plenty of singing!
- **Radio 3** has Choral Evensong on Weds at 3.30pm.
- <http://www.stlukesbath.com/> (Janet Ivens' church before coming here)
- www.keynshammethodistchurch.org/video (Freda Carey's home church in the UK)

Other Worship Resources

Taizé: <https://www.fr/en> Iona: <https://iona.org.uk/> www.engageworship.org
www.theworshipcloud **DAILY HOPE:** a free phone line of hymns, reflections & prayers: 0800 804 8044



Messy Church remains suspended for now

We usually meet at 3pm—4.30pm

every other month

In Bargates Hall (behind St Alkmund's)

and have fun with crafts, singing, stories
& a bite to eat

We hope to be able to re-start in the summer

Back in July 2019 the theme for the Messy Church garden party was 'the global church, our worldwide family'. We were learning that we are all God's children, loved and cherished by Him.

Amongst other activities we played an elimination game with flags laid on the ground as bases and we sang 'He's got the whole world in His hands'. We also began to make some bunting with the words of the song. I have put these things together to hang from the balcony to reflect some of the things we think about in Christian Aid week and at Pentecost.

The flags particularly represent the United Kingdom, Pakistan and Kenya chosen to reflect the work of our Link Missionaries Freda Carey and Alison Talbert for whom we pray regularly and China where, amongst other things to pray for, it is not easy to be a Christian. These four flags are intended to stand for the whole world.

Pictured on the back page

FTW Families



Each week during the covid-19 restrictions we have been publishing a short "FTW families" video with puppets, a story, a song and an activity for you to get involved with linked to that Sunday's readings.

We'd love you to watch it and let us know what you think, and if you do a craft - why not send us a picture? New video every Saturday!

Watch previous weeks on our Facebook page or YouTube Channel

It is our intension for this to become a regular, monthly, thing in the near future.



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Step 3
Raise a **FREE**
donation!

Closure of the Whitchurch branch of Barclays Bank, 9th July 2021.

How the closure of our local bank branch affects St Alkmund's Church Treasury functions:

As you may be aware, as Treasurer I have been seeking to encourage regular giving by non-cash/cheque alternative methods. There are several reasons for this, even before the Covid-19 pandemic changed our lives over the last 12 months and more.

1. We had regular banking teams (3 of 2) to count all money received through plate collections, weekly and ad-hoc Gift Aid envelopes. All coin denominations would need to be bagged up separately and the pair would escort each other down the High Street to offload a sometimes heavy bag of cash. These volunteers aren't getting any younger (or more mobile). Security and safeguarding is a concern for everyone. It concerned me that they were risking their health walking up and down the office stairs, and the High Street, with heavy bags. If they were to suffer a fall, I would feel it was my fault for putting them in that position;
2. We incur monthly bank charges and cash and cheques are costly items to deal with. Direct bank movements incur no charge, whereas every cheque banked costs £1.50 – regardless of the value of the cheque. Cash costs £1.50 per £100 to pay in or withdraw.

Since the first lockdown closure of Church in March 2020, change was enforced upon us. On re-opening, I withdrew the banking teams because they could no longer work together as they were not in a 'bubble'. I have been banking cash and cheques regularly – although not weekly – without assistance. Whilst this is not recommended practice for reasons of fraud prevention, for the moment it is the safest way it can be done.

I have removed the option of weekly giving envelopes and most who gave this way have managed to change by setting up a Standing Order with their own bank, or by signing up to the Giving Direct scheme arranged through the Diocese of Lichfield Board of Finance.

Telephone banking is a helpful option for those who don't have access to online banking. Other ways to make donations are by contactless bank card using the Goodplate available at services - default set at £5, although you can easily amend it to an amount of your choice (please reset it to £5 before moving on); there is a 'donate' page on the website stalkmunds.com; and you can call the office on Thursdays to make a one-off payment by card over the phone. Costs for card takings are 2.5% and on the website via Give As You Live are 4.8%. Whilst more expensive than cash handling bank charges, the savings in administration should not be underestimated.

Cont... ..



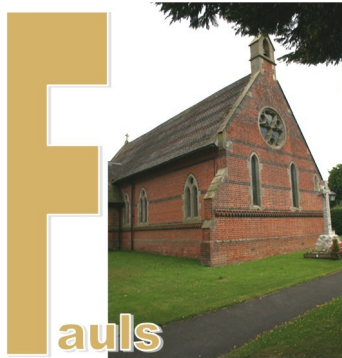
Give as you Live™



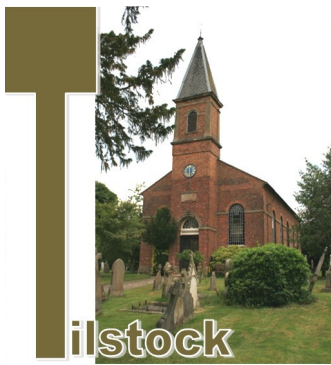
Give as you Live®
Online

Generate bumper donations for us when you book a UK staycation

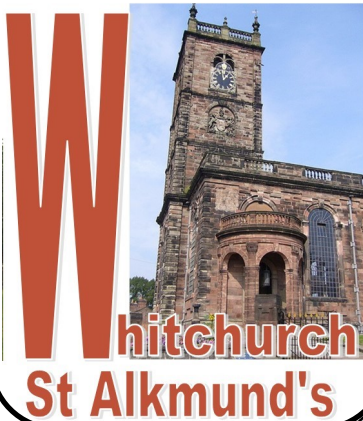
The logo for 'Giving in Grace' features the text 'Giving in Grace' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, slanted upwards to the right. To the right of the text is a stylized purple flame or flower-like graphic.



Fauls Holy Immanuel



Tilstock Christ Church




Whitchurch St Alkmund's



Sunday Services

An asterisk (*) denotes a slightly shorter service—suitable for those with young children

First Sundays			Second Sundays		
8.00am	Whitchurch	BCP Communion	8.00am	Whitchurch	BCP Communion
9.30am	Fauls	Morning Worship*	9.30am	Fauls	Holy Communion
10.00am	Whitchurch	Worship Together Communion *	10.00am	Whitchurch	Holy Communion
11.00am	Tilstock	Morning Worship*	11.00am	Tilstock	Morning Worship
6.30pm	Whitchurch	Evening Prayer	6.30pm	Whitchurch	Evening Prayer
Third Sundays			Fourth Sundays		
8.00am	Whitchurch	BCP Communion	8.00am	Whitchurch	BCP Communion
9.30am	Fauls	Holy Communion	9.30am	Fauls	Holy Communion
10.00am	Whitchurch	Holy Communion	10.00am	Whitchurch	Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing
11.00am	Tilstock	Morning Worship	11.00am	Tilstock	Morning Worship
6.30pm	Whitchurch	Evening Prayer	6.30pm	Whitchurch	Evening Prayer
Fifth Sundays			Other Services		
8.00am	Whitchurch	BCP Communion	Weds at 9.45am	Whitchurch	Morning Prayer
<p><i>There is often a Joint service at one of the three churches, so please see notice boards and pewsheets for details.</i></p> <p><i>The pewsheet Diary also has any variations to regular services.</i></p> 			<p><i>Usually in church or Bargates, but venue may change from time to time, so check pewsheets</i></p>		
			<p>Junior Church (2-11yrs) and Sermon Slot (12+)</p> <p>This takes place at St Alkmund's W/ch during the 10am service on most Sundays (apart from the 1st Sunday and School Holidays)</p>		
<p>St Alkmund's Rector's Vestry</p> <p>Baptism and Wedding dates can be arranged each Tuesday evening by phone during the coronavirus outbreak, from 6.30pm—7.30pm</p> <p>Usually, The Rector or the Churchwardens would be in church for 'Rector's Vestry' between 7 & 7.30pm most Tuesday evenings</p> <p>Rector's tel no: (01948) 667253 or revjudyhunt@gmail.com</p>					

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BCMS

Crosslinks Alison Talbert (Jan 2021)

Check for the latest news on Crosslinks mission partners and associates on our web site <http://www.crosslinks.org>



Petrichor! Thunder! Rain! The wind has changed direction and yesterday we experienced our first 'proper' rain. Just as people in the UK look forward to the joys of spring, here we celebrate the start of the rainy season.

My guard Stephen is on annual leave this month and preparing his farm for planting. It has been very hot and it will be great to cool down in the coming months – but not for long as it gets significantly warmer from September.

This Easter, Kenyans have been celebrating in different ways due to COVID-19 restrictions. Nairobi and four adjacent counties are sealed off due to high incidence of COVID-19 and church services in the 'disease-infected zone' are online only. In the rest of the country there are limits on the number of worshippers and length of services. I have not been to 'church church' for over a year and, due to a third wave of COVID-19 in the country, will be waiting a bit longer. I had my first COVID-19 vaccination (Oxford-AstraZeneca) for free in the hospital car park last month and am due for the second dose eight weeks later, imports from India permitting. I was in the first phase but due to a slow uptake from health workers, teachers and the military, the government decided to expedite the second phase and call 'old' people too (i.e. those aged 58 and upwards).



In January, Upendo Orphans' Support Project restarted on-site activities (which includes providing meals six days a week), coinciding with when the remaining school years went back to class. The Upendo Star Modern Primary School (under the management of the Methodist Women's Group). Bonface Baraka, the assistant director, is busy organising the school break activities, including bible teaching, hairdressing, tailoring, videography and first aid lessons, plus goal setting and psychosocial counselling sessions for the teenagers.

Our research unit still has restrictions on going into the office, so I have been collaborating with colleagues over Teams and Zoom meetings. I have some funds left over from the Barriers to Breastfeeding study so I have applied for ethical clearance to visit the study mothers again. Now that their children are four years old, I want to find out how they got on with feeding and childcare. When I do this depends on the research unit allowing researchers to recommence home visits. Where I do this will be the challenge: as most of the mothers were single and the custom here is for married women to move into their husband's household it will be interesting to see how many are now married and if I can find them...

In my last prayer letter, I mentioned we were awaiting a funding decision from the World Health Organisation for a large clinical trial. We were short-listed but unsuccessful as they said we didn't have as much infant malnutrition as Nigeria and Ethiopia and our budget was too big. The cost of living in Kenya is relatively high and oil prices have just gone up. Martha and I are still collaborating on research on how to improve care of at-risk mothers and nutritionally vulnerable infants, but international travel plans have been shelved so we are acquiring new digital skills, designing an online survey in lieu of face-to-face interviews.

With love in Christ,

Alison

Please pray for:

- Reduction in COVID-19 cases and lifting of travel restrictions.
- Resumption of in-person research activities.
- Those locally, especially in the tourist industry, who have lost jobs.
- A good rainy season without locusts.
- Unity in the Methodist Church of Kenya.

*Yours in Christ,
Alison*

MISSION PARTNERS

Freda Carey has sent this news from Pakistan:

Déjà vu

After another lockdown things are opening up again and classes resumed in mid February. Assignments set during lockdown needed marking—all 200 of them!

The United Bible Training centre in Gujranwala was closed to residential courses but managed to do some seminars and plan to run short courses for literate women and hope to start the one year discipleship course at the end of the Easter season. Please pray for all involved as there are stresses behind the scenes.

One good thing that has happened is that my faithful taxi driver who drives me to Gujranwala and waits while I teach and sometimes even when I have to stay late for meetings has gained more work (for some of my colleagues) and now owns his own vehicle and so no longer has to rent one.

Please also pray that I get my visa (applied for in October) and that I can start planning my home leave sometime in early summer when I hope to see some of my link partners.

Thank you for your fellowship, prayers and financial support. Freda.



I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOT THAT THE *WOOD?* HAS GONE

A little more change afoot at St Alkmund's, visitors and congregation alike are now welcomed by refurbished doors in to the church which have had some of the wooden panels removed and have been replaced with glass—so no more worrying if something is going on or not!

Our thanks must go to the late Mrs Anne Monie who bequeathed some of the funds needed and was instrumental in this project coming about. Thanks also to her family and husband, Mr Malcom Monie, for seeing to it that Anne's wishes were carried out.



Before

After



St Alkmund's Church, Whitchurch

Afternoon concert

Peter Edge and John Moore present
a concert of well loved classical
pieces

Friday 4th June

5.30pm to 6.30pm

St Alkmund's Church

Whitchurch

Suggested Donation £5

Pre-book tickets via edge.peter@icloud.com,
07850 577377 or the church Office

Richard Yates Memorials Monumental Mason

New monuments erected—Existing memorials renovated



42 Roman Way,
Whitchurch
Shropshire SY13 1BJ
O1948 663433
Mobile 07875 148715
richardayates@btinternet.com

HIBBERTS LLP **Solicitors**

Green End, Whitchurch, Shropshire



Telephone
01948 662231

St Alkmund's Church Contacts & Organisations

Working to become Dementia Friendly



Rector	Rev Canon Dr Judy Hunt	667253
Rector of St Alkmund's Parish Church (charity No. 1129900)		
The Rectory Church Street Whitchurch SY13 1LB—email: revjudyhunt@gmail.com		
Curate	Revd Sam Johnson	07307 888980
Churchwarden	Mr John Stokes	663194
Churchwarden	Mrs Jill Wallace	666233
Verger <i>Funerals/Weddings</i>	Mrs Pauline Stokes	663194
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Paul Williamson	664112
Organist & Choirmaster	Vacant	
PCC Lay Chair	Mrs Pauline Green	664769
PCC Secretary	Mrs Judy Bellingham	663443
PCC & Fabric Treasurer	Mrs Mel Williams	661286
Church Office	Miss Jo Lavin	665413
Website	www.stalkmunds.com	
Church Email	stalkmundschurch@btconnect.com	

Junior Church for children aged 2-11 years meets most Sundays (apart from the first in the month) during the 10.00am service in the Church Office, begins during the first hymn and re-joins the congregation at the Peace.

Sermon Slot for young people aged 12 years, meets most Sundays (apart from the first in the month) at the 10.00am service, between the Gospel and the Peace.

Mrs Jane Rylands 663184

* **Choir Practices** in church on Wednesdays: *Sunday morning Choir*, 6.30pm
Sunday evening Choir, 7.15pm

* **Bellringers** (Practice on Thursdays 7pm)

* **Bible Study Group** meets in Bargates Hall

Children's Society Secretary

Guild of Service

* **Tea & Coffee Rota on Sundays**

Christian Giving

Envelope & Gift Aid Secretary

Whitchurch Federation of CoE Schools

Head of W/ch Infant Academy—

Head of W/ch Junior Academy—

* **Bargates (Church) Hall**

Bookings & Caretaker

Mr Malcolm Monie 663069

Celia Camplin 01948 662380

Mrs Sue Collins 667845

Mrs Sue Wainwright 664252

Mrs Wendy Darter 07429 255 151

To give regularly to the Church, contact the **Churchwardens**

Mrs Mel Williams 661286

Executive Head **Mrs Sarah Cope**

Mrs Julie Rowlandson 662905

Ms Sarah Walsh 662255

email bargateshall@aol.com

Mr Wayne Edwards 07800 569 801

* *Suspended during Covid-19 restrictions*

Giving in Grace

If you would like to make a donation to any of our churches you can do so by bank transfer to:

St Alkmund's Church may be made to: Whitchurch Parochial Church Council Account, Barclays Bank, Whitchurch, Charity No 1129900, Sort Code 20—77—85, Account No 80275417.

Holy Immanuel, Fauls may be made to: Fauls Parochial Church Council Account: Number: 70731633; Sort Code: 20 45 45

Christ Church, Tilstock may be made to: Tilstock Parochial Church Council Account: Number: 00463523; Sort Code: 30 99 58

Thank You!

Pastoral Care in Whitchurch As part of our care for one another, if you know of anyone (yourself included) who would appreciate a phone call from a church member, please let us know. This might be due to illness or some other reason. You can do this by contacting any of the following:

Audrey Baguley (662692); Jill Wallace (666 233); Vic Woodhouse (666420) or the Rector, Judy Hunt (667253). *"Bear one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ"*

or

IF HELP IS NEEDED during the coronavirus outbreak Please contact:

For Fauls—Liz Kempton: 01948 840271 or 07805445736
or lizkempton19gmail.com

For Tilstock—Joan Hockenhull: 01948 880226

For Whitchurch—Jill Wallace: 01948 666233 or 07714373192
or jwillwall40@yahoo.co.uk



Clergy and Reader in Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

Rector of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

The Revd Canon Dr Judy Hunt—01948 667253
revjudyhunt@gmail.com

Curate: Revd Sam Johnson 12 Edgeley Gardens, Whitchurch SY13 4NG,
ftwcuratesam@gmail.com 07307 888980

Associate Minister of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

Revd Sue Armstrong—01948 840039 revsuea@talktalk.net

Reader of Fauls, Tilstock & Whitchurch

Mrs Jane Rylands—01948 663184 jane@rylands.me.uk



BANNERS



Above:2 pictures of the 'He's got the whole world in His hands' banner a Messy Church project co ordinated and finished by Jane Rylands. See page 8 for details.

Left: The long awaited Bargates Hall Banner which was due to be unveiled at the first Easter Breakfast that we missed due to Covid-19. When we had to abandon this years Easter Breakfast Rev Judy graciously allowed us to unveil it at the first Service back and at the moment it is still hanging in St Alkmund's but hopefully will travel to Fauls and Tilstock, too. The banner is the work of many hands most of whom met at a regular sewing bee held in Bargates Hall, whilst some worked on their section at home, and a few more were hijacked at the last St Alkmund's Christmas Fair –many of these the gentlemen of the congregation who were asked to sew a button on forming the leaves of the trees by Fauls and Tilstock Church. The idea was to have a piece of art representing the local community by the community. The central Picture is surrounded by The Vine, representing that ours is a community of faith in God.

I am the Vine and you are the branches.....John 15:5

