

DECEMBER 2025

Please note that the Church Office will be closed from Christmas Eve until the 5th January 2026

Mon 22nd

6.30pm Carols around the Tree at Faults Church

Wed 24th Christmas Eve

4.30pm Crib Service at St Alkmund's Church

6.00pm Christmas Carols at Christ Church, Tilstock

6.30pm Crib Service at St Alkmund's Church

Advent 4

The fourth candle is lit

**Lord Jesus, Light of the World,
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother, God-bearer.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children
who long for your coming. Amen.**

FTW NOTICES

TIME TOGETHER for those with memory loss or dementia and their family members or carers: meets next on the 7th January 2026 at 2.00pm in Bargates Hall.

DISCUSSION AROUND THE BIBLE: The next meeting will take place in January 2026.

CHRIST CHURCH TILSTOCK: Many thanks to everyone who contributed towards our successful Christmas Coffee Morning. We wish FTW people a Merry Christmas and a happy healthy New Year.

CAROLS AROUND THE TREE: On Monday 22nd December at 6.30pm at Holy Immanuel Church, Faults, with mulled wine and mince pies. Please bring torches or headlamps and wrap up warm.

ST ALKMUND'S CRIB SERVICES: will be on Christmas Eve at 4.30pm and 6.30pm. We do hope you can join us.

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS: at Christ Church Tilstock will be on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm. Please join us for an enjoyable evening, and mulled wine and mince pies.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES: Please note that there will be services on Christmas Day at Holy Immanuel Faults at 9.30am and St Alkmund's, Whitchurch at 10.30am. There will be no other services at FTW on this day.

PLEASE NOTE: That due to the church office being closed over the Christmas period, there will be no pewsheets on Sunday 28th December.



THE PARISHES OF FAULTS, TILSTOCK & WHITCHURCH

POSTCODES: Faults SY13 2AS; Tilstock SY13 3JL; W/ch SY13 1LB
WEBSITES: www.holy-immanuel-faults.yolasite.com
www.christ-church-tilstock.yolasite.com
www.stalkmunds.com

"This Benefice takes its safeguarding responsibilities seriously"

RECTOR OF FAULTS, TILSTOCK, & WHITCHURCH Rev Chris Precious

The Rectory, Church Street, Whitchurch, SY13 1LB
rectorftw@gmail.com 07867 367627

CURATE of the 3 parishes

Rev Pippa White
curateftw@gmail.com 07453 457507

FTW BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR - 01948 667102

Mrs Alison Dunne: ftwstalkmunds@gmail.com

Please phone or email, prior to visiting, if you need to see the Parish Administrator

ASSOCIATE MINISTER of the 3 parishes - 01948 840039

Revd Sue Armstrong:

Tarragon Cottage, Providence Grove,
Prees, Whitchurch, SY13 2DH. revsuea399@gmail.com

READER of the 3 parishes - 01948 663184

Mrs Jane Rylands:

Ellesmere House, 28 Dodington, Whitchurch SY13 1DZ
jane@rylands.me.uk

❖ Donations to:

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

Holy Immanuel, Faults may be made to: Faults Parochial Church Council, Sort Code: 20-45-45 Account No: 70731633

Christ Church, Tilstock may be made to: Tilstock Parochial Church Council, Sort Code: 30-99-58 Account No: 00463523

Sunday 21st December 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent



9.30am	Faults	Holy Communion Rev Chris Precious
10.00am	Whitchurch	Holy Communion Rev Pippa White
11.00am	Tilstock	Holy Communion Rev Chris Precious
5.00pm	Whitchurch	Carols around the pubs

Thanks to all who have been or will be decorating
our churches for Christmas

Christmas Eve

4.30pm	Whitchurch	Crib Service
6.00pm	Tilstock	Carol Service
6.30pm	Whitchurch	Crib Service
11.00pm	Whitchurch	Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

9.30am	Faults	Christmas All Age Communion
10.30am	Whitchurch	Christmas All Age Communion

Sunday 28th December

10.30am	Whitchurch	FTW Holy Communion
---------	------------	--------------------

COLLECT: PRAYER FOR TODAY

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ISAIAH 7:10-16

A young woman will give her son the name Immanuel, meaning 'God is with us'. Isaiah's words were meant as encouragement to King Ahaz in dangerous times, but for us they will always have the profound meaning fulfilled in Mary and the birth of Jesus.

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah

¹⁰The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PSALM 80:1-8

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine forth
²before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's
prayers?
⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
⁸You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.

ROMANS 1:1-7

On the last Sunday before Christmas Day, we hear a reminder from Paul of the content of the Good News: that prophecy is fulfilled, that Christ is born a son of David, that he died and rose again—and calls us into his company.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son,

who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

MATTHEW 1:18-end

Mary conceives a child by divine grace, and to the worried Joseph there appears a dreamlike messenger with strange words of assurance. This strange circumstance is safe in divine hands. '...and she will call her son Immanuel.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your Salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

