

February Diary Dates

Tue 24th 9.00am	Little Stars Toddler Group at St Alkmund's
Wed 25th 12.30pm	Funeral of David Welch at St Alkmund's
2.00pm	Home Bible Study at Judy Bellingham's
7.00pm	Choir practice at St Alkmund's
Thur 26th 11.30am	Songs of Praise at Greenfields Care Home
7.00pm	Bell ringing practice at St Alkmund's
Fri 27th 1pm	Lunchtime Recital

FTW NOTICES

LIVE STREAMING: We are reviewing our Livestream provision and will not be streaming services for the moment. Service times in our churches can be seen on: <https://www.stalkmunds.com/> where any future streaming provision will be notified.

TIME TOGETHER for those with memory loss or dementia and their family members or carers: meets next on the 4th March 2026 at 2.00pm in Bargates Hall.

LUNCHTIME RECITALS: continue at St Alkmund's Church. These are free lunchtime concerts, usually twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Fridays. Join us on Fridays @ ONE for classical music in the beautiful St Alkmund's Church in Whitchurch, our next date is an organ recital on the 27th February, when we welcome Harry Brown.

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS COLLECTION: Can anyone that has not collected their original photographs—please contact the church office on 01948 667102 to arrange collection.

VISITING BELL RINGERS: On the 8th March we welcome a group of visiting bell ringers who will be ringing the St Alkmund's church bells from midday until 12.45pm.

CHURCHES TOGETHER LENTEN SERVICE: will be held on the 12th March at 7pm in St Georges Church.

FAULS COFFEE MORNING: On Saturday 14th March in the Church Hall 10.30am-midday.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: Service will be held at all three of our FTW churches on Sunday 15th March.

SUNDAY 29th MARCH - BISHOP SARAH will be joining us on Palm Sunday when we welcome her to St Alkmund's for a Benefice visit. Noah the donkey will also be making his annual visit. We hope you can join us and please do invite family and friends.

MAKING PALM CROSSES: if you would like to take some palm leaves to make Palm Crosses—the leaves plus the instructions are at the back of church. Please return the crosses to church before Palm Sunday (29th March).

LENT LUNCHES -DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Holy Immanuel Fauls in Fauls Church Hall at 12.30pm
3rd March, 10th March, 17th March, 24th March

Churches Together

- 6th March—Hosted by St George's Church
In Bargates Hall at 12.30pm
- 11th March—Hosted by St John's Church
In Watergate Centre
- 18th March—Hosted by St Alkmund's Church
In Watergate Centre
- 25th March—Hosted by Beacon Church
In Watergate Centre



THE PARISHES OF FAULS, TILSTOCK & WHITCHURCH

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

"This Benefice takes its safeguarding responsibilities seriously"



❖ 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, Fauls may be made to: Fauls 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 22nd February 2026

1st Sunday of Lent Shropshire Day



9.30am	Fauls	Holy Communion
10.00am	Whitchurch	Holy Communion <i>With Prayer for Healing</i>
4.00pm	Whitchurch	Brick Church
6.30pm	Whitchurch	Sung Evensong

SHROPSHIRE DAY

The ceremonial county of Shropshire celebrates Shropshire Day in February, this is the feast day of Saint Milburga, the county's patron saint. St. Milburga. Milburga was a daughter of King Merewalh, whose kingdom covered parts of the Midlands including the modern counties of Shropshire and Herefordshire. Milburga became a nun at the monastery of Much Wenlock, founded by her father and Archbishop Theodore of Canterbury, who eventually installed her as abbess. She was sought in marriage by a neighbouring prince, who was willing to use violence to compel her. She escaped across a river which then miraculously became so swollen that the prince was unable to ford it. She was noted for her humility, her gift of healing and is said to have had a mysterious power over birds; they would avoid damaging the local crops when she asked them to. She died on 23rd February 727 and so 23rd February, her feast day, is now celebrated as Shropshire Day.

Sunday 1st March—2nd Sunday of Lent

8.00am	Whitchurch	Holy Communion BCP
9.30am	Fauls	All Age Worship
10.00am	Whitchurch	Worship Together
11.00am	Tilstock	All Age Worship
4.30pm	Whitchurch	Sung Evensong

COLLECT: PRAYER FOR TODAY

Loving God

We give you thanks and praise for our county of Shropshire; for its unique blend of stunning, peaceful landscapes, its rich industrial heritage, and for its deep historical roots. Help us to nurture and value all that is good, to build up strong bonds of belonging in our towns and villages, where people care for one another and for our environment. Bless all who live and work here, and all who come to visit. Help us to seek the common good in all we do, that together we may build on the solid rock of your love, made known to us through your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Our readings at the beginning of Lent are all concerned with doing right or wrong, and knowing the difference. In the ancient tale of how evil came into the world, the first human beings in the Garden of Eden succumbed to temptation.

A reading from the book of Genesis

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.' ³Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' ²The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM 32

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
³While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.
⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD', and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
⁶Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.
⁷You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.
¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

ROMANS 5:12-19

Paul's words are complicated to hear, as he draws new meaning from the old story of Adam. Humanity has been innately sinful since the beginning of time, but through one new man, Jesus, we are now not condemned for our sins. God's gift of righteousness offers us the possibility of a new and free life.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned - ¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

MATTHEW 4:1-11

In the first garden of the world, Eve could not resist the temptation to please herself and not God. When Jesus faced the temptation to bring in his kingdom by using the levers of worldly power, he was strong to resist. He always chose God's ways, not those of humankind.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' ⁴But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' ⁷Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; ⁹and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' ¹⁰Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.