

FTW BENEFICE

FAULS - TILSTOCK - WHITCHURCH



SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Immanuel, Fauls
Christ Church, Tilstock
St Alkmund's, Whitchurch

OUR CLERGY & READER

Rev Chris Precious
Rev Pippa White
Rev Sue Armstrong
Reader - Jane Rylands



PASTORAL LETTER

Dear readers,

As Valentine's Day approaches, our culture turns its attention to romance, affection, and the celebration of those we hold dear. It's a warm and joyful moment in the year, filled with hope and wonder, yet often overshadowed with false Hollywood images of finding the one, the soulmate. We are challenged to a deeper invitation: to reflect on what our souls truly long for ... the love at the very heart of our faith.

When Jesus was asked to name the greatest commandment, he didn't hesitate. He spoke of love — love directed first toward God, and then flowing outward toward our neighbour, held together by the simple but challenging phrase: "as yourself." Valentine's Day, for all its cards and roses, becomes a timely reminder that love is not merely a feeling but a calling. It is the daily work of aligning our hearts with God's heart. The challenge of seeing those around us through God's eyes.

To love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength is to place Jesus at the centre of our desires and decisions. It means allowing God's grace to shape our priorities, our habits, and our hopes. This love is not abstract; it is lived out in our prayers, our worship, and through all the quiet choices we make when we think no one is watching.

Jesus binds love of God to love of neighbour so tightly, that one cannot exist without the other. Our neighbour is not only the person we naturally care for, those who look, sound and act like us. It's also the one who challenges us, interrupts us, or differs from us in ways we cannot simply ignore. To love them "as ourselves" is to recognise their dignity, to seek their good, and to extend compassion even when it costs us something; especially when it costs us something.

This Valentine's Day, may we enjoy the celebrations, but may we also hear Christ's gentle call to a wider, deeper love — a love that more truly reflects the God who loves us.

With every blessing, Rev Chris

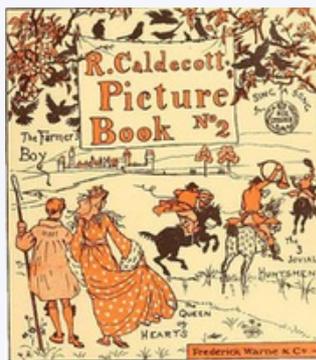
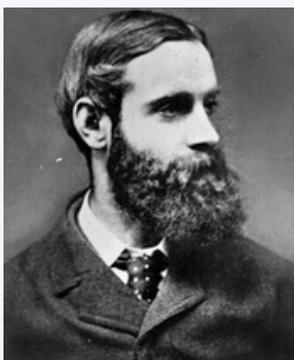
CALDECOTT FESTIVAL
Whitchurch
Saturday 21st March
10am-4.30pm

180th birthday of Mr Randolph Caldecott

Randolph was born in Bridge Street, Chester on 22nd March 1846. He was a British artist and illustrator. From early childhood Randolph drew. On leaving school at fifteen he became a bank clerk, his first job was at the Whitchurch and Ellesmere Bank and he took lodgings at Wirswall. Many of his later illustrations incorporate buildings and scenery from the Whitchurch area. His love of riding led him to take up hunting and many of his drawings and sketches show humorous hunting scenes. After six years at Whitchurch, Randolph moved to the head office in Manchester of the Manchester & Salford Bank. He took the opportunity to study at night school at the Manchester School of Art and practised continually, with success in local papers and some London publications. Encouraged by his ability to support himself by his art, Caldecott decided to quit his job and move to London in 1872 at the age of 26. Within two years he had become a successful magazine illustrator working on commission.

Two books illustrated by him, priced at a shilling each, were published every Christmas for eight years. Caldecott also illustrated novels and accounts of foreign travel, drew cartoons, made sketches of the Houses of Parliament and exhibited sculptures and paintings in oil and watercolour in the Royal Academy and galleries.

His birthday will be celebrated in Whitchurch at various locations within the town on the 21st March, more details can be found on www.caldecott.org.uk.



DOGS WELCOME AT
 ST ALKMUND'S CHURCH
 Rev Pippa's dog, Freddy, is a regular member of our Parish, and you are most welcome to bring your four legged friends with you into the church to look around.



TALK TO US
TEL: 01948 667102
 Email: ftwstalkmunds@gmail.com
 Website: www.stalkmunds.com
 FTW Benefice Office,
 St Alkmund's Church,
 Church street, Whitchurch,
 SY13 1LP

LENT LUNCHES
Holy Immanuel Fauls -
Fauls Church Hall
 3rd March,
 10th March, 17th March,
 24th March
Churches Together Whitchurch
Watergate Centre
 4th March—Hosted by
 St George's Church
 11th March—Hosted by
 St John's Church
 18th March—Hosted by
 St Alkmund's Church
 25th March—Hosted by
 Beacon Church



A huge thank you to everyone who knitted, crocheted or bought hats and mittens. We were able to give two large bags of adult hats and mittens to the Shrewsbury Ark. We were taken on a tour of the marvellous facility which allows the homeless to get indoors, rest and be fed during the day. We also donated £50 which has been matched by a generous benefactor.

We gave a bag of children's items to Foodbank to go in the Christmas boxes and a donation of £30. We gave £50 to The Children's Society and £50 to Crisis at Christmas. This year we sent £40 to the Depaul organisation which provides a train ticket so that youngsters can get to a safe shelter or hostel. That donation is also matched by a benefactor.

We will be knitting again after Christmas – it will still be winter!
 Doreen, Sharon and Wendy



85 Years of Air Cadets celebrated!

On the 5th Feb, it was the 85th anniversary - to the day - of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets. Originally called the Air Training Corps, it was set up by Air Commodore Chamier to encourage interest in aviation, to educate young men in military protocols, and to improve fitness. Today, the Cadets also learn about cyber security and military tactics in space, but the heart remains the same. Four young cadets swore their joining oaths at St. Alkmund's, and we hope they will make lots of fun memories in the years to come! If you are able to give any time as an adult volunteer to the Cadets, we would love to have you! After being sworn in we accompanied the Cadets up into the bell tower where the bell-ringers were practising and they were allowed to have a little go.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

On Tuesday 27th January, children from the Whitchurch Junior CofE Academy, planted a cherry tree in their school grounds. This was to mark the Holocaust Memorial Day, and allow the children and school now and in the future to honour the call never to forget the atrocity that was the Holocaust.



Every Tuesday inside St Alkmund's Church

9am-11am

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE



TIME TOGETHER
Food, fun and friendship
In Bargates Hall at 2pm

18th February
4th & 18th March
1st & 15th April
6th & 20th May
3rd & 17th June
1st & 15th July

BECOME INVOLVED AT ST ALKMUND'S CHURCH

Would you like to become involved with St Alkmund's Church, some of the areas that you could consider -

- Bell ringing
- Choir singers
- Flower arranging
- Sides persons
- Worship assistants
- Music system assistants

For more information contact the church office
ftwstalkmunds@gmail.com
01948 667102

Thank you!

from Rebecca Simms

Just wanted to say a huge thank you to anyone who supported the 'Bird Quiz'. There were 19 correct entries. The winner was picked at random by a friend. I didn't recognise the name and it turned out to be one of my husband's colleagues. A fantastic sum of £250 was raised. However, the winner asked for the £20 prize to be given to Pancreatic Cancer UK too. Therefore I've been able to send them £270. Many thanks again for supporting a cause close to our families hearts.



A series of classical music recitals in St Alkmund's Church.

In collaboration with Whitchurch Town Council.

Free lunchtime concerts twice a month.

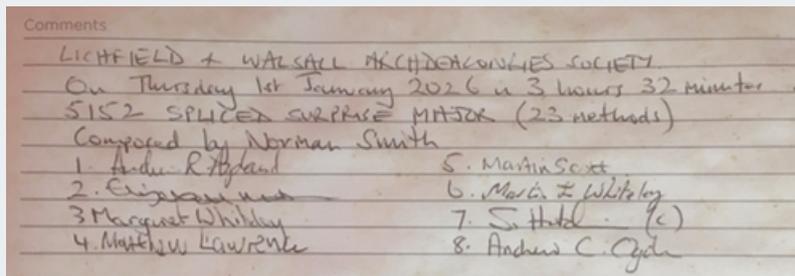
More information on Facebook fridays@one

Organised by St Alkmund's Musical Director, James Kellas.

MAILING LIST
Would you like to go on the FTW mailing list and be notified of upcoming events. Email ftwstalkmunds@gmail.com to add your name to the list

Shropshire Association of Church Bell Ringers Centenary Peal - 1st January 2026

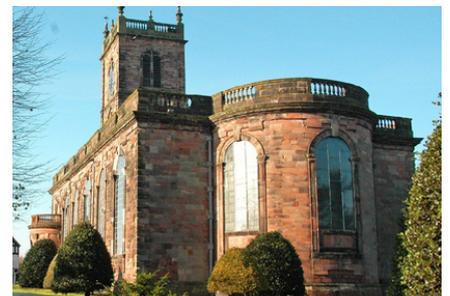
The Shropshire Association of Church Bell Ringers (SACBR) was formed in 1926 and the first peal ever rung by an association band was here at St Alkmund's on 6th August 1926. Thus, it was most appropriate that SABCR's centenary year started with a peal at St Alkmund's, Whitchurch. It was rung by members of the Lichfield and Walsall Society with the band including Matthew Lawrence, a former Ringer Master of SACBR. A peal comprises at least 5040 changes which is the maximum number of changes on 7 bells when the order of the bells is different every time. On this occasion, the visiting band rang an extremely demanding composition called 23 Spliced Major. The association has a full programme of other events planned during the year to celebrate this milestone. **Malcolm Monie, Tower Captain, St Alkmund's Church**



Holy Immanuel Church, Fauls
www.holy-immanuel-fauls.yolasite.com



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"Thought for the month"

What is true love? Love that transforms us...