

Christ Church

Tilstock

(Whitchurch Rural)



Christ Church is the Parish church of Tilstock. Dated 1835, by Edward Haycock

The church, originally a chapel dedicated to St Giles, was rebuilt in 1834, by a bequest of Francis Earl of Bridgewater, Rector of Whitchurch. It is constructed of red brick with some red sandstone ashlar and cement-rendered (later alteration) dressings. The church has a slate roof covering a 5-bay nave and chancel in one with partly integral west tower, in a classical style.

The Tower has a steep pyramidal roof with fish scale slates and a cross finial. There are louvred round-arched belfry openings to east and west. With a circular painted wooden clock below the belfry to the west.



The Pair of west doors have diagonal boarding with a radial fanlight all set in a stone arch with hood-mould. There is a stone half-H panel above west doorway inscribed:

"CHRIST CHURCH / ERECTED ANNO DOMIE / MDCCCXXXV / FROM DONATIONS BY THE LATE / EARL OF BRIDGEWATER".



Nave and chancel have round-arched small-paned cast-iron windows with stone cills and brick arches.

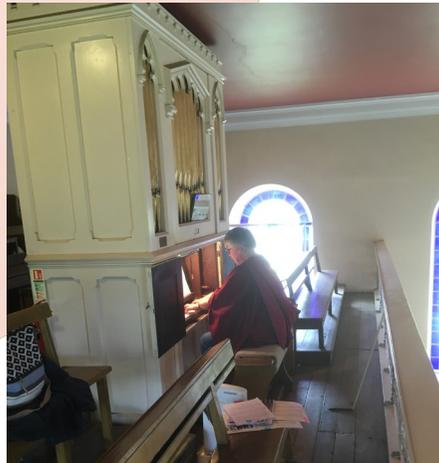


A Pair of west windows flank the tower. The Central round-arched east window has a cement-rendered architrave and stone cill, and a lower small round-arched window to the left.

The interior is mainly 1835, with some later fittings. Christ Church has a moulded plaster cornice and ceiling rose.



The early 19th century west gallery has 2 cast-iron Doric columns supporting both frieze and cornice, with a cast-iron balustrade which has 6 panels. The Gallery also houses the Gothic organ case.



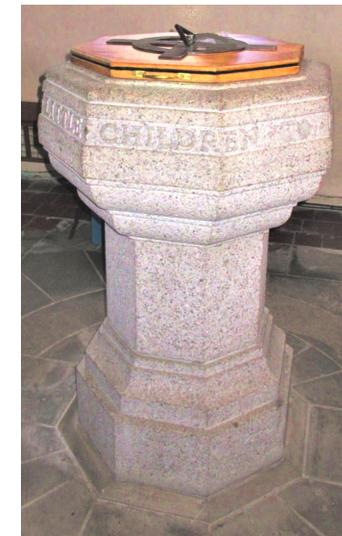
Points of Interest:

This church stands near the site of an earlier chapel dedicated to Saint Giles. Tilstock became a separate ecclesiastical parish in 1844. The present building is a classical version of Christ Church, Ash, the plan of which is almost identical.

A beautiful gilt Icon painted, tripartite reredos sits at the back of the altar, which has 19th Century wrought-iron and wooden altar rails.



There is a step up to the patterned tiled chancel.



The splendid octagonal stone font with wooden cover is situated close to the west doors, it's bowl is inscribed: "*SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME*".

