

CALENDAR

Wednesday	01-Apr-26	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets 7.30pm Compline at St Mary's, St Margarets 6.30pm Maundy Thursday Meal at The Wilshere Hall 7.30pm Tenebrae Service at St Andrew's 10am Good Friday Walk of Witness & Reflective Service from St John the Baptist/10.30am from St Mary's, St Margarets ending at St Andrew's 2pm The Way of the Cross, a Passiontide Service at St John the Baptist 5.30am Easter Day Dawn Vigil at St Andrew's Church 9am Easter Day Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Easter Day Communion Service at St Andrew's
Thursday	02-Apr-26	
Maundy Thursday		
Friday	03-Apr-26	
Good Friday		
Sunday	05-Apr-25	
Easter Day		
Monday	06-Apr-26	[Bank Holiday]
Tuesday	07-Apr-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	08-Apr-26	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Thursday	09-Apr-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	10-Apr-26	12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall 9am Communion by Extension at St John the Baptist 10.30am Morning Prayer St Andrew's
Sunday	12-Apr-26	
2nd Sunday of Easter		
Monday	13-Apr-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margarets
Tuesday	14-Apr-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	15-Apr-26	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Thursday	16-Apr-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	17-Apr-26	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Saturday	18-Apr-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Andrew's 10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets 4pm Make Church at St Andrew's
Sunday	19-Apr-26	
3rd Sunday of Easter		
Monday	20-Apr-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	21-Apr-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	22-Apr-26	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets 9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall
Thursday	23-Apr-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	24-Apr-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion St Andrew's 11.45am APCM for Stanstead Abbots at St Andrew's
Sunday	26-Apr-26	
4th Sunday of Easter		
Monday	27-Apr-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margarets
Tuesday	28-Apr-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	29-Apr-26	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Thursday	30-Apr-26	

Holy Week



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ APRIL 2026

Tea light, Palm leaf, 20 pieces of silver, Jug & bowl, Bread & wine, Pipe cleaner crown, Cross, Cloth, Stone. These are the Godly Play objects that I have been taking into school to help share the Easter Story. There are, of course, so many ways to remember the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus. We tell it in so many ways, not just at Easter, but every Sunday as we break bread and share wine. We repeat Jesus's words: words about bread broken and wine outpoured, words of sacrifice and covenant, words of remembering and sharing.



I have started the story this year by acknowledging the familiarity, the fact that we've heard it before so many times, but also that every year we come to it afresh. This is the mystery of the word of God; that every time we hear the story, we are invited to go deeper, to wonder again what it means to us today. I continue to be surprised with new insights, fresh ways of seeing, complex connections with what I know and experience in my life, in our community and in the world. Last year, I was struck by John's description of Jesus's arrest in the garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, 'Who is it you want?' 'Jesus of Nazareth', they replied. 'I am he,' Jesus said. When Jesus said 'I am he,' they drew back and fell to the ground. (John 18:4-6)

'I am he.' The power of Jesus's words was enough to literally blow them over. This is not the story of a man unable to extricate himself from the violence heading his way. This is the story of the Son of God, whose very words hold the power to still the storm, to raise the dead, and certainly to escape arrest, torture and death. The power is there, but it is not used; in fact, Jesus commands Peter to put his sword away when he tries to fight off the arresting soldiers. Later, Pilate challenges Jesus, 'Don't you realise I have power either to free you or to crucify you?' And Jesus replies, 'You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.'

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus presented himself, willingly, as a sacrifice to pay the price for our sins. He died to put sin to death and He rose again to bring us new life. This is our faith! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Vicar of the Benefice: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest
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NEWS & NOTICES

The Three Villages Magazine **FREE**

If you or someone you know is not be able to get out and collect a copy of the print magazine, you can now call or text (07488 914972) for a copy. Copies are available to collect at the back of each church.

Make Lunch Club during Easter School Holidays

Make Lunch Club will be back during the Easter Holidays on Monday 30th March and Friday 10th April, 12 to 2pm at The Wilshere Hall. If you feel called to help with Make Lunch Club, please do get in touch with the Vicar. That doesn't have to be volunteering at the sessions; it might be providing a pudding or praying for the team. To book a place or find out more, email makelunch@3churches.net.

Electoral Roll reminder (revision year only)

If you would like to be added or removed from the Electoral Roll, please contact the following: Lynne Griffiths by 8th April (Stanstead Abbots) or Sue Vaughan by 19th April (Great Amwell with St Margarets). Thank you!

Maundy Thursday Meal

Are you coming to the Maundy Thursday Meal? If so, would you be able to provide a shepherds pie or a cake/traybake? If you are able to help, please contact Lynne Heraud on 07527 796277 or email lynneheraud@yahoo.com.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Monday 30th March

7.30pm Compline at St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots

Tuesday 31st March

7.30pm Easter Meditation on Zoom (see Online Zoom Services in Useful Links)

Wednesday 1st April

Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's Church, St Margarets

7.30pm Compline at St Mary's Church, St Margarets

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

6.30pm Maundy Thursday Meal at The Wilshere Hall

7.30pm Tenebrae Service at St Andrew's

Good Friday 3rd April

10/10.30am Good Friday Walk of Witness & Reflective Service from St John the Baptist/St Mary's Church, St Margarets to St Andrew's
2pm The Way of the Cross, a Passiontide Service at St John the Baptist

Easter Sunday 5th April

5.30am Dawn Vigil at St Andrew's

9am Easter Eucharist at St John the Baptist

10.30am Easter Holy Communion at St Andrew's

FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

New Bishop of St Albans announced

The Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey, currently Bishop of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury, has been announced as the next Bishop of St Albans. Bishop Andrew returns to the Diocese in which he was born and baptised, describing the appointment as 'a homecoming' and saying he is thrilled to be joining a fine team. Read the full announcement here: <https://tinyurl.com/4jk42zbu>.

PRAYER MINISTRY

The Ministry Team is always happy to pray for anyone. If you have a prayer request, please don't hesitate to get in touch by phone or email and we will be very happy to support you.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people and their loved ones in your prayers this month:

Baptisms

- Emilia Taylor-Ward on 3rd May at St John the Baptist.

Weddings

- Lynsey Walls & Andrew Jones on 17th July at St Mary's, St Margarets.

Deaths

- Martin Goldsmith on 2nd February.
- Spencer Jack Harvey on 12th March.



UPCOMING DATES IN MAY

3rd ~ Annual Parochial Church Meeting for Great Amwell with St Margarets, 10.15am at St John the Baptist

10th ~ Rogation Sunday
11am Morning Prayer Service at St James, followed by a 'Beating the Bounds' walk

14th ~ Ascension Day
Evening Prayer Service, 6pm at St Mary's, St Margarets

17th ~ Make Church, 4pm at St Andrew's

24th ~ Pentecost

31st ~ Trinity Sunday
9am Holy Communion at St James;
10.30am Benefice Eucharist Service at St John the Baptist

USEFUL LINKS

Online Zoom Services & Events
www.tinyurl.com/3churcheszoom

A Church Near You
Benefice Page
<http://tinyurl.com/3churchesBenefice>

The 3 Churches Website
www.3churches.net