

CALENDAR

Thursday	01-Aug-24	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	02-Aug-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	04-Aug-24	9am All Age Eucharist Service at St John the Baptist 10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's
	<i>10th Sunday after Trinity</i>	
Monday	05-Aug-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	06-Aug-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	07-Aug-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Prayers at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	08-Aug-24	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	09-Aug-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	11-Aug-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Andrew's Midday South African Braai in St John's Churchyard
	<i>11th Sunday after Trinity</i>	
Monday	12-Aug-24	<i>[no Online Benefice Morning Prayer]</i> 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	13-Aug-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	14-Aug-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Prayers at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	15-Aug-24	<i>[no Life Group at The Wilshere Hall]</i>
Friday	16-Aug-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	18-Aug-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Morning Prayer Service at St Andrew's 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets
	<i>12th Sunday after Trinity</i>	
Monday	19-Aug-24	<i>[no Online Benefice Morning Prayer]</i> 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	20-Aug-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	21-Aug-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Prayers at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	22-Aug-24	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	23-Aug-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	25-Aug-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Andrew's
	<i>13th Sunday after Trinity</i>	
Monday	26-Aug-24	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
Tuesday	27-Aug-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	28-Aug-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Prayers at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	29-Aug-24	<i>[no Life Group at The Wilshere Hall]</i>
Friday	30-Aug-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club Party at Walford House Meadow
Saturday	31-Aug-24	8.30am Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ AUGUST 2024

This summer sees the return of the Olympics to Paris, and after an exciting, early summer filled with football, the next part with games of all kinds should be an exciting one! The Make Lunch Club Team are gearing up for another marathon of welcoming children and families, every Monday and Friday at The Wiltshire Hall, and appropriately the theme is the Olympics. We will be exploring the 5Ds: Direction, Distraction, Dedication, Determination and Decoration. These are the qualities that elite athletes need to consider and master in order to achieve the goals they seek.

The idea that our lives are like a race is older than I first thought, with the book of Ecclesiastes (9:11) bringing us the idea:

*The race is not to the swift
or the battle to the strong,
nor does food come to the wise
or wealth to the brilliant
or favour to the learned;
but time and chance happen to them all.*



This passage is a profound contrast to the sense of the glory of winning that we will encounter over the summer. It talks about the pursuit of wisdom rather than wealth or fame, and is just as relevant today as when it was written perhaps 2,500 years ago. The more well known 'running the race' memory verse is from Hebrews 12:1-3: *'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.'*

St John the Baptist School has the core of this as their Vision Verse and it is central to their mission, but it is good to look wider than the race itself. It is good to notice the 'witnesses' and remember that we travel life in company. It is good to remember the core reason that we belong rests in Jesus and his sacrifice for us. It is good to consider his dedication and determination, his laying down of the path, and his presence with us on route. And it is good to acknowledge that we, like Jesus, may face opposition as we seek the goals of his Kingdom!

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest

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NEWS & NOTICES

The Three Villages Magazine

The latest issue (June) of The Three Villages Magazine is available for £1 at the back of the churches. Please do pick up a copy!

Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall

The next Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall is on Saturday 31st August at 8.30am. These breakfasts run every last Saturday of the month and everyone is welcome!

The Bishop of St Albans' Hidden Garden

The Bishop of St Albans will be opening his garden (Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans AL3 4HS) every Sunday between Sunday 9th June and Sunday 11th August for people to come and look at the beautiful gardens and the summer display. Entrance is £5 per person (children free) and dogs on leads are welcome. There will also be plants for sale on some weekends. All money raised is donated to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

Changes to regular groups & services in August

Owing to Rev'd Sarah's leave, from 11th to 31st August, there are a few changes to regular groups and services this month. Please do check the calendar for more details.

Make Lunch Club Party

At the last meeting on 30th August, there will be a special party held at Walford House Meadow for all our Make Lunch Club families and our amazing volunteers. The bouncy castle is booked!



MAKE LUNCH CLUB

Make Lunch Club will meet in the summer holidays!
Join us for fun, friendship and some yummy food too.

12 to 2pm at The Wilshere Hall

JULY: Friday 26th, Monday 29th

AUGUST: Friday 2nd, Monday 5th, Friday 9th, Monday 12th,
Friday 16th, Monday 19th, Friday 23rd and Friday 30th*

Email makelunch@3churches.net to book your place!

* Location on Friday 30th: Walford House Meadow

FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

South African Braai ~ 11th August

On 11th August, commencing at noon, we are having an authentic South African braai (barbecue) in St John's churchyard, accompanied by South African wine and organised by Graeme and Paola. Everyone is welcome!

Quiz Night ~ 18th October

On 18th October, 7pm for a 7.30pm prompt start at Great Amwell Parish Hall, we are holding the St John's Quiz, including a fish or chicken and chips supper. Vegetarian option available. Bring your own drink and glasses. Raffle. Entry fee £20 per person. All money raised goes to the St John's Church Heating Replacement Fund. Contact Bryan Brace to book your tickets (bjbrace122@gmail.com).



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Weddings

- Laura Saunders & Matthew Jenks on 10th August at St Andrew's.
- Stephanie Power & Nicholas Thomas on 7th September at St Andrew's.
- Keeley Smith & Jon Dann on 19th October at St Mary's, St Margarets.
- Penelope Elsom & Jack McBride on 14th December at St John the Baptist.

Deaths

- Colin Marsh on 7th May.
- Mary Morris on 12th May.
- David Pullen on 21st May.
- John Alford on 18th July.



UPCOMING DATES IN SEPTEMBER

- 15th ~ Harvest Songs of Praise, 18.30pm at St John the Baptist
- 22nd ~ Benefice Harvest Festival Service, 11am at St James' Church followed by lunch
- 29th ~ 5th Sunday Benefice Holy Communion Service, 10.30am 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