

CALENDAR

Friday	01-Aug-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshire Hall
Sunday <i>7th Sunday after Trinity</i>	03-Aug-25	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am All Age Service with Blessing at St Andrew's 12.30pm South African Braai at St John the Baptist 6.30pm BCP Evensong Service at St Andrew's
Monday	04-Aug-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshire Hall 7.30pm The Bible Course at St Mary's, St Margarets
Tuesday	05-Aug-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	06-Aug-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshire Hall Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	07-Aug-25	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshire Hall
Friday	08-Aug-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshire Hall
Sunday <i>8th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10-Aug-25	10.30am Benefice Morning Prayer at St John the Baptist
Monday	11-Aug-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshire Hall
Tuesday	12-Aug-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	13-Aug-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshire Hall Midday Prayers at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	14-Aug-25	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	15-Aug-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshire Hall
Sunday <i>Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	17-Aug-25	10.30am Benefice Communion by Extension at St Mary's, St Margarets 2.30pm VJ Day Celebration Tea at St John the Baptist
Monday	18-Aug-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshire Hall
Tuesday	19-Aug-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	20-Aug-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshire Hall Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets
Friday	22-Aug-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshire Hall
Sunday <i>10th Sunday after Trinity</i>	24-Aug-25	10.30am Benefice Morning Prayer at St Andrew's
Monday	25-Aug-25	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
Tuesday	26-Aug-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	27-Aug-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshire Hall Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets
Friday	29-Aug-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	30-Aug-25	10am Benefice Breakfast followed by working party at The Wilshire Hall
Sunday <i>11th Sunday after Trinity</i>	31-Aug-25	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's 2pm Make Lunch Club Party at The Wilshire Hall



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ AUGUST 2025

August has arrived, and for many of us with small people in our daily lives it's the long summer holidays! A time to take life at a different pace and to enjoy some rest and relaxation. Even for those who have long left school, there is a quieten down of the many activities of the early summer as we hit August. In our Benefice, the service pattern is changing as I spend some time away.



In the last few weeks, we have had the beautiful reading from Luke 10:38–42; The story of Martha and Mary. Jesus comes to visit them, and Martha is busy with the preparations for food and hospitality, while Mary sits at Jesus's feet and listens. Jesus is asked by Martha to send Mary to help, but he refuses, saying Mary has 'chosen the better part' and she must stay and listen.

Our lives are a complicated mixture of resting in God, of listening and praying, and of getting out and serving God in the world. We each have to engage with the call of Mary, the call to a deeper spiritual life, to read our Bibles, learn more, listen more to the quiet voice of God in prayer and reflection. But we also need to respond to the call of Martha to get out into the world and share the love and forgiveness of God in practical ways. There is a balance of being and doing to find. We need both!

This month is a good one to consider how these things balance in your life. Are you being called to get out and serve our community? Are you needing to rest and refresh yourself in God? There are opportunities for both. You might want to look at the St Albans website and think about some of the retreats on offer through the 'Year of Spiritual Renewal' (scan the QR code to find out more) or you might like to ask us about getting busy with the Make Lunch team!

Do take some time this August to consider your personal walk with God and whether you have the balance of being and doing right for this season, and let me know what you discover and do about it!



SCAN ME

Vicar of the Benefice: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest
25 Hoddesdon Road, Stanstead St Margarets, Herts. SG12 8EG
07488 914972 / 01920 870009 / Email: vicar@3churches.net

NEWS & NOTICES

The Three Villages Magazine **NOW FREE**

In case you didn't know, our community magazine is now FREE. Also 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.

Bike 'n' Hike 2025 on 13th September

Bike 'n' Hike is a fun day out where you get sponsored to visit beautiful historic churches by cycling, walking, or any mode of transport. Half of the money you raise goes to a local church of your choice with the other half going to Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. If you are interested in finding out more, including receiving our special family route map, please get in touch!

St James' Church

Don't forget St James' Church is open 2.30–5pm on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer until September.

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 19th July and 31st August for people to go and look at the beautiful gardens. Entrance is £5 per person (children free) and dogs on leads are welcome.

August Services: changes to normal rota

Please note the changes to the normal services rota owing to Rev'd Sarah's leave.

New landline

Please note the new landline number for the Benefice is 01920 870009.



MAKE LUNCH CLUB

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

12–2pm at The Wilshire Hall

JULY: Friday 25th, Monday 28th

AUGUST: Friday 1st, Monday 4th, Friday 8th, Monday 11th, Friday 15th,
Monday 18th, Friday 22nd with a party on Sunday 31st (2–5pm)

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



FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

VJ Day Celebrations on 17th August

Our VJ Day celebration tea at St John the Baptist Church will be held on 17th August from 2.30 to 4.30pm. We look forward to welcoming you!

VJ Day Celebrations on 15th August

The Amwell Society have a talk by Tim Vaughan for VJ Day on Friday 15th August, starting at 8pm at Great Amwell Parish Hall. The talk is open to non-members and members alike.

Make Church **NEW**

We are looking forward to the start of our NEW Make Church initiative at St Andrew's. Make Church is an interactive, inclusive and joyful church session designed especially for children of all ages and abilities – and their grown-ups too! The first session will be on Sunday 21st September, starting at 4pm. Come as you are: let's Make Church together!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Baptisms

- Arthur Olley on 21st September at St John the Baptist.

Weddings

- Alice Anderson & Adam Carlson on 8th August at St John the Baptist.
- Verity Dent & Steve Hawksbee on 20th September at St Margarets.

Deaths

- Philippa Blair on 8th July.



UPCOMING DATES IN SEPTEMBER

7th ~ Harvest Praise Evensong,
6:30pm at St John the Baptist

14th ~ Harvest Festival Service,
I lam at St James' followed by
Harvest Lunch at The
Haybarn, Stanstead Bury
Farm

21st ~ Make Church first session!
4pm at St Andrew's

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