

CALENDAR

Saturday	01-Aug-26	2pm Summer Art Exhibition at St Mary's, St Margarets
Sunday	02-Aug-26	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist
9th Sunday after Trinity		10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's
		2pm Summer Art Exhibition at St Mary's, St Margarets
Monday	03-Aug-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
		12pm Make Lunch at The Wilshere Hall
		7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margarets
Tuesday	04-Aug-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house
		7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	05-Aug-26	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets
		Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Friday	07-Aug-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	09-Aug-26	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion at St Andrew's
10th Sunday after Trinity		
Monday	10-Aug-26	12pm Make Lunch at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	11-Aug-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house
Wednesday	12-Aug-26	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets
		Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	13-Aug-26	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Sunday	16-Aug-26	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion by Extension at St Mary's, St Margarets
11th Sunday after Trinity		
Monday	17-Aug-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
		12pm Make Lunch at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	18-Aug-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house
		7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	19-Aug-26	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets
		Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets
Friday	21-Aug-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	23-Aug-26	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion by Extension at St John the Baptist
12th Sunday after Trinity		Midday South African Braai at St John the Baptist
Monday	24-Aug-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
		12pm Make Lunch at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	25-Aug-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house
		7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	26-Aug-26	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets
		Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets
Friday	28-Aug-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	29-Aug-26	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	30-Aug-26	10.30am 5th Sunday Benefice Holy Communion at St Andrew's
13th Sunday after Trinity		
Monday	31-Aug-26	Bank Holiday



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ AUGUST 2026

'Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.' (Isaiah 55:1-2)

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is constantly teaching his disciples and the crowds who follow him to think beyond the material things of this world and look to the invisible. He desperately wants them to see deeper than the surface. He wants them to realise that life is not made up of the food that you eat, the clothes that you wear, the house you live in, the riches in the bank. The foundation of real life, life and all its fullness, comes down to the invisible things; faith, hope and love. Above all it is made of a relationship with the God who made us and loves us. That doesn't mean that God doesn't care about our physical needs, it means that he understands that we need to feed our bodies and our souls, and God promises to provide for both.

This has been a very long hot summer already. The ground is thirsty and the grass is tinder dry. Even some of the shrubs in the garden are looking like this drought might be too much for them. There have been a devastating wildfires in Europe and here. We desperately need rain. We need days and days of heavy refreshing rain.

But even more than that, we need God. We need the heavy, refreshing rain of the Holy Spirit in our Church, our families, our community and our world! We need to be drenched in the love of God, filled up with his power and holiness, overflowing from us into this thirsty land. We need to pray for spiritual as well as physical rain! We need to pray!

God is in control, but he waits for us to say yes. God waits for us to consent to his plans. God waits for us to sit quietly enough to ask for his intervention. God waits for us to trust him with and in every detail of our lives. Then God acts.

We need to pray! We need to talk to God! We need to listen...

'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' (John 4:13-14)



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

The Three Villages Magazine

Our FREE local community magazine publishes quarterly in March, June, September and December. 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 reminder

In a change to previous information, Make Lunch will meet in the summer holidays, EVERY MONDAY. Join us for fun, friendship and some yummy food too. Meeting 12–2pm at The Wilshire Hall on the following MONDAYS: 27 JUL • 3 AUG • 10 AUG • 17 AUG • 24 AUG. Be sure to book your place by emailing: makelunch@3churches.net.

Reminder of annual leave

Rev'd Sarah will be on annual leave from Saturday 8th August to Saturday 29th August. There will be some changes to regular services during this time, so please do check the calendar overleaf carefully.

Life Groups in August

Please note that there will be no Wednesday or Thursday Life Groups during August. Sessions will go back to normal in September.

Reminder for Make Church

There will be no Make Church this month, but we will be back to normal on 20th September and then meeting every 3rd Sunday of the month at St Andrew's.

SUMMER MINIATURE ART EXHIBITION & SILENT AUCTION

You're warmly invited to a special art exhibition and auction at St Mary's, St Margarets

Preview Evening (cheese & wine)

Friday 31st July, 7–9pm

Exhibition Days

Saturday 1st August, 2–5pm

Sunday 2nd August, 2–5pm



Discover a collection of unique miniature artworks on the theme of Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets by local artists, then place your bids! You can also vote for your favourite artwork for our People's Choice Award. Highest bidder takes home the artwork, with all proceeds going towards supporting the church.

Do come along and support this community event!

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Summer Sunday afternoons at St John the Baptist

Throughout August, St John the Baptist will be open from 3–5pm on Sunday afternoons, with refreshments available. Everyone is warmly invited to come and enjoy conversation, refreshments and the beautiful surroundings of the church.

South African Braai at St John the Baptist

On 23rd August, following the 10.30am Benefice Service, we are having an authentic South African braai (barbecue) in St John's churchyard. This has been a really popular event previously, so do come along and join us. Everyone is welcome!

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Baptisms

- Jaxson & Luka Taylor on 30th August at St John the Baptist.
- Hallie Mills on 4th October at St Andrew's.
- Ellis Batty on 11th October at St Andrew's (during 10.30am service).
- Calanthe Sweeting on 15th November at St Andrew's (during 10.30am service).

Deaths

- Harry Alvey on 20th June.
- Shaiquarn Ansell-Forde on 15th June.



UPCOMING DATES IN SEPTEMBER

6th ~ 6.30pm BCP Evensong at St Andrew's

12th ~ Bike n Hike, 9am to 5pm (we hope to open all the churches)

20th ~ Make Church, 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