

CALENDAR

Advent & Christmas
services/events
are in bold

Sunday <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	01-Dec-24	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's 4pm Advent Carols at St James'
Monday	02-Dec-24	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer (TBC)
Tuesday	03-Dec-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	04-Dec-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	05-Dec-24	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	06-Dec-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	07-Dec-24	2 to 6pm Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's, St Margarets
Sunday <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	08-Dec-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's 2 to 6pm Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's, St Margarets
Monday	09-Dec-24	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	10-Dec-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	11-Dec-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	12-Dec-24	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	13-Dec-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	14-Dec-24	8.30am Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall (TBC)
Sunday <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	15-Dec-14	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 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight at St John the Baptist
Monday	16-Dec-24	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	17-Dec-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	18-Dec-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	19-Dec-24	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	20-Dec-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	22-Dec-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight at St Andrew's
Monday	23-Dec-24	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	24-Dec-24	3pm The Christmas Journey starting at St Margarets Train Station
Wednesday	25-Dec-24	11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion at St John the Baptist 10.30am Christmas Day Service at St Andrew's <i>Boxing Day Bank Holiday</i>
Thursday	26-Dec-24	
Friday	27-Dec-24	
Saturday	28-Dec-24	8.30am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall (TBC)
Sunday <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i>	29-Dec-24	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion by Extension at St Mary's, St Margarets
Monday	30-Dec-24	12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	31-Dec-24	<i>New Year's Eve</i>



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ DECEMBER 2024

One of the great joys of working in our schools is visiting the Early Years classes and sharing stories with them. At this time of year, I bring the Nativity figures, and tell the story to the children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1. They always have such great questions, and this year, the question that came up twice really struck me: 'How do you know all about Jesus?'

I replied, 'When I was little, my parents had a Nativity set and I learned the story, and when I was at school we did Nativity plays, and in the Bible you can read all the stories about Jesus, including the story of his birth at the very first Christmas.'

But the question left me wondering how many people still don't really know the story of Jesus. In Year 1, we talked about the gifts that the Three Kings brought, gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold for a King, frankincense for a priest, and myrrh for someone who would die. In our telling of the Nativity story, we remember that the baby Jesus grew up into a man, and that 'he died and rose again, which is very sad and very wonderful, in an Easter kind of way'.

How many people don't know the story, or only know the Nativity part of the story? When I answered the question, another followed: 'How did your parents know?'

Well, of course, their parents told them as parents, and family, and Church family have been doing so for 2000 years. We keep telling the story afresh every year; finding the joy and hope and love of God in the retelling.

I've had the joy of some sneaky previews of the Nativity plays that will be performed in the coming weeks, and I know that these children are getting excited about their part in retelling the story once again. May we have fresh ears to hear it and generous hearts to share it!



Priest in Charge: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest

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NEWS & NOTICES

The Three Villages Magazine

If you haven't already, please do pick up the December issue of The Three Villages Magazine. It is available for £1 at the back of the churches, so please pop your money into the honesty box. If you have a spare 5 minutes, it would be a great help if you could complete the Future Plans Survey: deadline 14th December. Find a print version in the bag of the magazine or scan the QR code to complete it online. Deadline is 14th December. Thank you!



Men's Breakfast and Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall

There will now be a Men's Breakfast every second Saturday of the month for men only **and** a Benefice Breakfast every last Saturday of the month, which is open to everyone. Both start at 8.30am in The Wilshere Hall.

Warm Welcome Spaces

Don't forget our Warm Welcome Spaces: Coffee Morning on Monday mornings, 9-11am at The Wilshere Hall – offering a warm drink and a fun activity!; The Community Hub Drop-in on Wednesdays, 10.30-11.30am at St Mary's, St Margarets – offering a cuppa and chat, as well as practical help if needed.

Carols from Easneye

All Nations are holding a special service on Wednesday 4th December, 7.30pm at All Nations. They will have an international choir singing favourite carols, a Christmas Art Exhibition by former students, and Christmas gifts and books for sale. Everyone is welcome!

Light of Love Services



The Lights of Love services are designed to remember precious babies gone too soon. Join us on Thursday 5th December, 7pm at Holy Trinity, Bengoe or Monday 16th December, 7pm at Holy Trinity, Bishops Stortford.

WARE CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

Christmas Day, 12:30 to 3pm
The Age Concern Riverside Hall, Ware

If you, or someone you know, is looking for a welcoming place to be this Christmas, you're invited to join us! The meal is free, though donations are welcome and will help keep future events going. Transport can be arranged and if people cannot make it to the hall a lunch can be delivered to their home. To sign up, simply call 01992 531833. We look forward to celebrating another lovely Christmas with old friends and new!

Ware Christmas Together Team

FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

The Big Quiz Night for Tearfund

Thank you so much for supporting the Tearfund Big Quiz Night on 16th November! 26 people attended in 4 teams, raising a total of £130, and a great time was had by all! Nationally 10,910 people attended at 255 churches raising a wonderful total of £50,598! Many thanks for supporting this worthy cause.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Our Christmas Tree Festival is almost here and we look forward to welcoming you! We are still looking for raffle donations. If you have anything to donate, please take it to the vicarage or church by Friday 6th December.

If you would like to give to our 'gift tree' for struggling local families, come along and take a tag from the tree. You then bring your wrapped present with the tag attached back to the church/pass to Rev'd Sarah by 15th December.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Baptisms

- Maeva Osbourn on 5th January 2025 at St Andrew's.
- Jude Merry on 12th January 2025 at St John the Baptist.

Weddings

- Penelope Elsom & Jack McBride on 14th December at St John the Baptist.
- Naomi Ross & Jon Lester on 24th May 2025 at St Andrew's.
- Alice Anderson & Adam Carlson on 8th August 2025 at St John the Baptist.
- Verity Dent & Steve Hawksbee on 20th September 2025 at St Margarets.

Deaths

- Mary Louise Grethe on 5th October.
- Michael Cater on 30th October.
- Monica Eden-Green on 16th November.

UPCOMING DATES IN JANUARY

- 3rd ~ Make Lunch Club, 12pm at The Wilshere Hall
- 5th ~ Epiphany Evensong, 6.30pm at St John the Baptist (TBC)



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