

CALENDAR

Thursday	01-Jan-26	New Year's Day
Friday	02-Jan-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall 10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Saturday	03-Jan-26	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist
Sunday	04-Jan-26	10.30am All Age Holy Communion Service at St Andrew's 6.30pm Book of Common Prayer Evensong at St Andrew's
<i>2nd Sunday of Christmas</i>		
Monday	05-Jan-26	10am Funeral for David Hopkinson at Woollensbrook, followed by 11am Service at St Andrew's 7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margarets
Tuesday	06-Jan-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	07-Jan-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
Thursday	08-Jan-26	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	09-Jan-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	11-Jan-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion St Andrew's
<i>Baptism of Christ</i>		
Monday	12-Jan-26	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	13-Jan-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	14-Jan-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
Thursday	15-Jan-26	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	16-Jan-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	18-Jan-26	10am **Altogether Sunday** (incl. meeting, Communion & lunch) 4pm Make Church at St Andrew's
<i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i>		
Monday	19-Jan-26	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	20-Jan-26	7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margarets 9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	21-Jan-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
Thursday	22-Jan-26	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	23-Jan-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	25-Jan-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion St Andrew's
<i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i>		
Monday	26-Jan-26	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	27-Jan-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	28-Jan-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
Thursday	29-Jan-26	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	30-Jan-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	31-Jan-26	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ JANUARY 2026

Happy Christmas! ¡Feliz Navidad! Joyeux Noël! Frohe Weihnachten! Buon Natale! God Jul!

Christmas has yet to arrive as I write this, but it lasts in the church for 40 days, so all of January counts as Christmas in the Church calendar! As we tip over into 2026 and a new year begins, it is a great opportunity to look back and see where we've come from, and to look forward and wonder where God will lead us in the year ahead. I am not talking about any New Year's resolutions (ideas for a healthier and more efficient life), but rather thinking about the path God has laid out ahead of us this coming year, and wondering how we might tune into God's quiet voice so that we hear and know His will for us each day. How do we play an active part in working with God, especially when we consider that Jesus specifically taught his disciples to pray; 'Your kingdom come, Your will be done'? What does it mean to walk in God's will? How do we catch the glimpses of the kingdom?

I am reminded of the Bible verse: 'Unless the Lord builds the house, the labourers labour in vain!' (Psalm 127:1). Whatever we do in the year ahead will not flourish, unless we are doing it because God has led us to it. Whatever plans we make need to be made in God's timing and with His blessing.

This is true of our individual lives, but also of our life together as the Church in this place. One of the strongest themes that came out of our Mission Action Planning meeting was the desire to see children and young people in our churches, but one of the clearest points of progress that was obvious from that meeting, and from the ongoing life of our Church Family, is that we are one Church, in two Parishes, with three buildings. Most of us have a favourite Church, a favourite building. Most of us have a subgroup of all the Church that we know and love especially, but more and more we are being drawn into the life of the whole Benefice.

In order to take this whole life further, we are having a dedicated Sunday on the 18th January to do some housekeeping for the whole Benefice, to share the concerns and the triumphs of our life together. We're going to look at the challenges and opportunities, and try to discern together what God is calling us to in the year ahead and beyond. So I encourage you to set aside the time to join us and share the conversation, join us in prayer and worship, and stay for lunch and fellowship.

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.

Warm Welcome Spaces

Please do join us at our Warm Welcome Spaces: Morning Coffee Morning on Monday mornings, 9–11am at The Wilshire Hall, offering a warm drink and a fun activity; and 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. These are FREE and open to everyone.

Benefice Breakfast

Please note there is an additional date this month, so there will be two Benefice Breakfasts: Saturday 3rd January and Saturday 31st January.

St Andrew's Card-making Group

St Andrew's Card-making Group meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1pm in The Wilshire Hall. The cost is £4 per session to cover materials used and two cards will be made each session. We have a break midway for refreshments, which is included in cost. New members welcome – please contact Janet Dance 07941096834.

Note on calendar

Please note the changes to regular groups on Monday 5th January.

ALTOGETHER SUNDAY

18TH JANUARY AT THE WILSHIRE HALL

A chance for the Benefice to come together – three churches, two parishes, one family – to do some housekeeping. We will think about the situation over the whole Benefice in terms of the future, our finances, our mission and our vision.



Programme

10.00am Coffee & tea – The Wilshire Hall

10.30am Benefice Meeting (Mission • Opportunities
• Next Steps • Finances)

12.00pm Service of the Word with Communion

1.00pm Shared lunch – The Wilshire Hall

We encourage you all to put aside this time so that we can come together to pray, plan, share fellowship and grow as one Benefice family.

FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

Christmas Tree Festival

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Tree Festival. We had a record turnout of 160 people and the 'Carols amidst the Christmas Trees' brought in 50 people. We were able to raise £638 (gross total), which will go towards the upkeep of the church.

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

• Charlotte Adams and Taylor Smith on 4th September 2026 at St Andrew's.

Deaths

- Lesley Charlton in September.
- Carol Knight on 30th September.
- Betty Grace Wright on 15th October.
- Christopher Sagers on 1st November.
- Errol Uttridge on 17th November.
- David Hopkinson on 8th December.
- Florence Reynolds on 10th December.



UPCOMING DATES IN FEBRUARY

15th ~ Make Church, 4pm at St Andrew's

16th ~ Make Lunch Club, 12pm at The Wilshire Hall

18th ~ Ash Wednesday

20th ~ Make Lunch Club, 12pm at The Wilshire Hall



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