

CALENDAR

Tuesday	01-Jul-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	02-Jul-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall Midday Prayers at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	03-Jul-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	04-Jul-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday <i>3rd Sunday after Trinity</i>	06-Jul-25	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's 6.30pm BCP Evensong Service at St Mary's, St Margarets
Monday	07-Jul-25	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	08-Jul-25	7.30pm The Bible Course at St Mary's, St Margarets 9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	09-Jul-25	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	10-Jul-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	11-Jul-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday <i>4th Sunday after Trinity</i>	13-Jul-25	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	14-Jul-25	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	15-Jul-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	16-Jul-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall Midday Prayers at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	17-Jul-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	18-Jul-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday <i>5th Sunday after Trinity</i>	20-Jul-25	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 4pm Patronal Festival Evensong at St James' Church
Monday	21-Jul-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	22-Jul-25	7.30pm The Bible Course at St Mary's, St Margarets 9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	23-Jul-25	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
Friday	25-Jul-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Saturday	26-Jul-25	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday <i>6th Sunday after Trinity</i>	27-Jul-25	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	28-Jul-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	29-Jul-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	30-Jul-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall Midday Prayers at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	31-Jul-25	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ JULY 2025

The MAP... do you know where you're headed? Mission Action Planning: Where is God taking us next?

It's been a busy year with lots of celebrations, including 'the Vicaring' and our recent Confirmations. God is at work in our Benefice and the wind of the Holy Spirit is definitely blowing: bringing people in and bringing change. One of the tasks of a church, of the Body of Christ, is to catch that wind and discern together where it is taking us, where God wants us to go, what plans He has for us and His world.

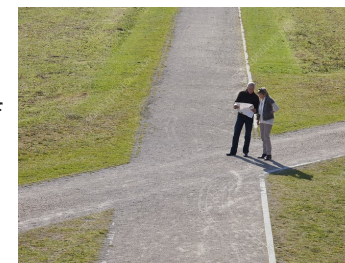
Sometimes this kind of planning is done by the Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) and the Ministry team, but sometimes it needs to be explored by the wider Church Family together. It seems to me that it is now a time and season for us to stop and ask those questions, and gather our thoughts about where we need to focus our prayers and efforts next.

So much is happening in our Benefice in terms of work in the community, with the schools, through the Foodbank and at Make Lunch Club. There are so many things that we have started in the last few years; did you know that we now have four or five Life Groups meeting every week?

One of the things that has been waiting to happen next is the introduction of a service that really welcomes families into the church, at a time that works for them, and in a way

that is open and inclusive to everyone. I am really pleased to share with you our plans for 'Make Church', a fresh expression of Church that will happen monthly on the third Sunday at 4pm, starting in September. It's exciting to be at the point where we can say 'Now it's time for this!' and I look forward to sharing more details with everyone.

But what else is God calling us to? Where is the heart of God in each of our three churches? What might God be nudging us towards? How might we bring His presence to our community in the coming months and years?



On Monday 28th July everyone is invited to join the PCCs at 7pm (venue TBC) for a MAP meeting. It's an opportunity for us to consider our vision and values and to pray for our Benefice and our churches, for our community and everyone in our villages. We will discuss how we might build on the firm foundations God has laid down for us in this place, and consider what next, how and when?

Please come along! This is open for everyone to join in, as we seek the path ahead together.

Vicar of the Benefice: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest
25 Hoddesdon Road, Stanstead St Margarets, Herts. SG12 8EG
07488 914972 / 01920 870115 / 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 (01920 870115) or text (07488 914972) for a copy. Copies of the June issue are available to collect at the back of each church.

Great Amwell Parish Hall



There is now a page dedicated to Great Amwell Parish Hall on our website. You can view it at: 3churches.net/great-amwell-parish-hall or scan the QR code (left). Hire of the hall is available to residents of the parish.

Make Lunch Club

Make Lunch Club will meet in the summer holidays! Join us for fun, friendship and some yummy food too. It meets 12–2pm at The Wilshere Hall on the following: JULY: Friday 25th, Monday 28th; AUGUST: Friday 1st, Monday 4th, Friday 8th, Monday 11th, Friday 15th, Monday 18th, Friday 22nd, Friday 29th. Email makelunch@3churches.net to book your place! If you are able to volunteer to help, please do get in touch too.

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.

CURIOUS ABOUT THE BIBLE? JOIN THE BIBLE COURSE!

We have just started running *The Bible Course New Edition* – a friendly, 8-week Bible Study group for anyone who wants to explore the Bible, whether you're familiar with it or not. Come along for video teaching, open discussion and a fresh look at the Bible's big story. Alternate Mondays (dates: 23/6, 7/7, 21/7, 4/8, 1/9, 15/9, 29/9, 13/10), from 7.30pm at St Mary's, St Margarets.

Contact Rev'd Sarah if you'd like to come along, so we have a booklet ready for you! Don't worry if you've missed the first week, the format of the course means it's easy to catch up.

**The
Bible
Course**
NEW EDITION

FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

VJ Day Celebrations on 17th August

As a reminder, if any of you have relatives who didn't return from the war until August or later, and if you have details of their war history including photos that you are happy to share, please do get in touch. Our VJ Day celebration tea at St John the Baptist Church will be held on 17th August from 2.30 to 4.30pm.

August services: change to normal service rota

There will be a change to the normal service rota while Rev'd Sarah is away during August. There will be Benefice Services on three consecutive Sundays: Morning Prayer on 10th August at St John the Baptist; Holy Communion by Extension on 17th August at St Mary's, St Margarets; and Morning Prayer on 24th August at St Andrew's.

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

- Kathleen Gifford on 1st March.
- Maureen Delaney on 20th March.
- Elizabeth Clarke on 30th March.
- Angela Jarrett on 1st May.
- Vera Prior on 3rd May.



UPCOMING DATES IN AUGUST

3rd ~ South African Braai, from midday at St John the Baptist.

17th ~ VJ Day Celebrations Tea, 2.30 to 4.30pm at St John the Baptist.

9–30th ~ Rev'd Sarah away on Annual Leave



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