

CALENDAR

Monday	01-Jun-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	02-Jun-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	03-Jun-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	04-Jun-26	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	05-Jun-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	07-Jun-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion Service at St Andrew's
		<i>1st Sunday after Trinity</i>
Monday	08-Jun-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09-Jun-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	10-Jun-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	11-Jun-26	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	12-Jun-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	14-Jun-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion Service at St Andrew's
		<i>2nd Sunday after Trinity</i>
Monday	15-Jun-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	16-Jun-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	17-Jun-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	18-Jun-26	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	19-Jun-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	21-Jun-26	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 Make Church at St Andrew's
		<i>3rd Sunday after Trinity</i>
Monday	22-Jun-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	23-Jun-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	24-Jun-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
Friday	26-Jun-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	27-Jun-26	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	28-Jun-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion St Andrew's 6.30pm Patronal Choral Evensong at St John the Baptist
		<i>4th Sunday after Trinity</i>
Monday	29-Jun-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	30-Jun-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom



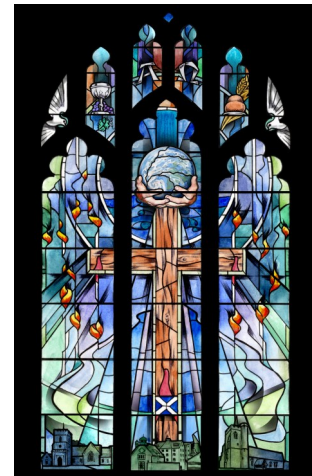
The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ JUNE 2026

Our young people have been in the news over the last few days as the problem of unemployment for school and university leavers hits the headlines. It is a changing world we live in, particularly over the last decade. I was interested to read today that these changes are not a surprise for academics who have been exploring our changing culture as we move from the 'modern era' to the 'postmodern' age. Debate over the last 50 years has highlighted the fact that for students in particular, the path ahead is no longer obvious, a single track to take, but a field of possibilities to be navigated. Life is more unsettled and fractured, and needs to be negotiated as you travel. It's less of a single trainline to follow and more about a series of interweaving and uncertain paths. You can't plan for this shifting future, you have to learn to be flexible and adapt. That means that the way we teach children has to change too, as we teach the resilience, flexibility and adaptability that are important in life, and give children opportunities to develop them.

In the week before Pentecost, the children from our schools came to church to explore and Experience Pentecost. They had a great time, and the feedback from them was wonderful, not least in the bunting they decorated and left in our churches. They were reflecting on where they would like the Holy Spirit to blow and bring change, and some of their bunting contains profound thoughts about the things in their lives where they want to see that change.

If I wanted to give our children one thing with which to negotiate an uncertain and changing world, it would be faith in the God who made it. I am struck that research says the world has changed, and it has, but it is also the same as it has always been; it rests in God's hands. If I were to give one skill to our children, it would be to listen to the wind of the Holy Spirit and be prepared to be blown by Him. This is what we all need; to be ready for whatever God calls us to, at whatever age. Jesus's words to Nicodemus remind us of this: 'The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.' (John 3:8).



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.

Madrigals Concert at Amwell Pool

This years' Madrigals Concert at Amwell Pool on Lower Road/Amwell Lane will be held on Friday 19th June, starting at 9pm, with donations going to the Isabel Hospice. Do come along and enjoy this magical evening of music and support and amazing charity.

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 24th, Monday 27th, Friday 31st; AUGUST: Monday 3rd, Friday 7th, Monday 10th, Friday 14th, Monday 17th, Friday 21st, Monday 24th, Friday 28th. Be sure to book your place by emailing: makelunch@3churches.net.

Summer Miniature Art Exhibition

We are planning a Summer Miniature Art Exhibition and auction to raise funds for St Mary's, St Margarets. It will be held on Friday 31st July (7–9pm), Saturday 1st August and Sunday 2nd August (2–5pm). Come along and discover a collection of unique miniature artworks by local artists, then place your bids! Highest bidder takes home the artwork. Information for artists: canvas size A6 or smaller, entry fee £5 and the theme is 'Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets'. If you are interested in submitting an artwork and want to know more or are able to help with setting up/refreshments/generally, please do get in touch!

Bishop's Garden Summer Opening

Bishop Andrew has graciously agreed to the Bishop's Garden being open to the public for four Sundays: 28 June, 5 July, 12 July and 19 July. Entrance £5, dogs on lead welcome, no toilet facilities. All money raised will be donated to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

ALL NATIONS BIG PICNIC ON SATURDAY 13 JUNE, 2–5PM

Tea & Tours | Ice Cream | Fun & Games | Live Music | The Story of Easneye

Bring your picnic and take one final opportunity to enjoy the beautiful college and grounds, and to say goodbye to the current students and staff. It would be really lovely to have as many of the Benefice family as are able to come, as we say goodbye to our long-time neighbours. If you need a lift there, please be in touch.

FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

Patronal Choral Evensong at St John the Baptist

On Sunday 28th June, starting at 6.30pm there will be a very special Patronal Choral Evensong at St John the Baptist, followed by smoked salmon and Pimm's. Do come along and join us!

Summer Sunday afternoons at St John the Baptist

Throughout July and 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Baptisms

- Hannah Dewbrey & Daniel Snook on 19th July at St Mary's, St Margarets (during 10.30am service).
- Joshua Lester & Ffion Rampersaud on 26th July at St Andrew's (during 10.30am service).

Weddings

- Lynsey Walls & Andrew Jones on 17th July at St Mary's, St Margarets.

Deaths

- Kathleen Parperis on 2nd May.
- Jennifer Perkins in May.



UPCOMING DATES IN JULY

19th ~ Make Church, 4pm at St Andrew's

25th ~ Patronal Festival Evensong, 4pm at St James'

24th, 27th & 31st ~ Make Lunch Club, 12pm at The Wilshere Hall

31st ~ Summer Miniature Art Exhibition: Preview Evening with cheese & wine, 7pm at St Mary's, St Margarets



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