

CALENDAR

Sunday	01-Mar-26	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist 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 Lent</i>	
Monday	02-Mar-26	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margarets
Tuesday	03-Mar-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	04-Mar-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	05-Mar-26	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	06-Mar-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
Sunday	08-Mar-26	10.30am Holy Communion St Andrew's
	<i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	
Monday	09-Mar-26	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house
Tuesday	10-Mar-26	7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	11-Mar-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	12-Mar-26	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	13-Mar-26	9am Mothering Sunday Service at St John the Baptist
Sunday	15-Mar-26	10.30am Morning Prayer at St Andrew's 10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets 4pm Mothering Sunday Make Church at St Andrew's
	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	
Monday	16-Mar-26	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margarets
Tuesday	17-Mar-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	18-Mar-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	19-Mar-26	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	20-Mar-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
Sunday	22-Mar-26	10.30am Holy Communion St Andrew's
	<i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	
Monday	23-Mar-26	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house
Tuesday	24-Mar-26	7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	25-Mar-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
	<i>Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	
Thursday	26-Mar-26	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	27-Mar-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	28-Mar-26	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	29-Mar-26	9am Palm Sunday Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Palm Sunday Holy Communion St Andrew's
	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	



St John the Baptist
Great Amwell



St Mary the Virgin
St Margarets



St Andrew
Stanstead Abbots

The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ MARCH 2026

During Lent we remember the 40 days and 40 nights that Jesus spent in the wilderness. It is traditionally a season of repentance and review; a time to think about where we are on our journey with God and to consider how we might walk closer and listen more carefully to God's quiet voice. We remember the words of James 4:8: 'Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.'

'Draw Near' is the title of this year's daily reflections for Lent, which encourage us to develop the habits that we need to grow in Christ: habits of prayer and reading the scriptures, sharing communion and offering ourselves in service, sharing the good news with those who have yet to hear it, and taking part deeply in the events and remembrance of Holy Week. These habits will bring us closer to God, and allow him to draw closer to us, so that we can really celebrate the Resurrection.

**DRAW
NEAR**
LIFE-GIVING LENT
HABITS FOR LENT

Lent has already started, and I hope that many of us are already reading or listening to the daily reflections, but it's not too late to start if you haven't. However, it is important to remember that Lent is not about proving our devotion to God. It is not about earning our forgiveness or God's love. God loves us already. God loved us from the beginning. God will love us no matter what. So what is Lent for? It is a season in which we claim the forgiveness and love of God, whilst remembering the cost of that love and forgiveness. God's love for us is perfect love, love that drives out fear.

Lynne reminded us in her sermon on the 1st Sunday of Lent, that God's love does not depend on our performance; it is not coercive or bargaining or manipulative. God's love is patient and kind, generous and sacrificial. In Lent we seek to be filled with that love from God and to share it, and through that sharing to be made whole. 'This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about – not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.' (1 John 4:9–10, *The Message*)

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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.

Make Lunch Club (Easter Holidays)

Make Lunch Club will be back during the Easter Holidays on Monday 30th March and Friday 10th April, 12 to 2pm at The Wilshere Hall. If you feel called to help with Make Lunch Club, please do get in touch with the Vicar. That doesn't have to be volunteering at the sessions; it might be providing a pudding or praying for the team. To book a place or find out more, email makelunch@3churches.net.

Celebration of Life for Martin Goldsmith on Sunday 22nd March

A Celebration of Life for Martin Goldsmith has been planned for Sunday 22nd March, 3pm to 6pm at Revelation Fellowship, 104 The Hornet, Chichester, PO19 7JR. If you plan to attend in person, please do reserve a spot via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2asjsytn>. If anyone would like to attend in person, but is unable to drive, we hope to be able to hire a minibus that would leave from St Andrew's at 12pm (TBC). Please do let us know if you would like a space on the bus. For those that are unable to attend in person, the service will be accessible virtually at the time and also to be viewed afterwards. As soon as a link is available, we will share it via email. As a Benefice, we plan to screen the service in The Wilshere Hall and welcome anyone who would like to come along to join us in fellowship. We will gather at 2.45pm in the Wilshere Hall, with the service stream starting at 3pm. For those that would like to do so, the family is asking for gifts to be given to St Wilfrid's Hospice, Bosham or to All Nations College. You can give via this link: <https://martingoldsmith.muchloved.com/>. Please continue to hold Elizabeth and the family in your prayers.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday 15th March for Mothering Sunday to honour/remember the mothers and maternal figures in our lives.

We will have the following special services:

9am Mothering Sunday Service at St John the Baptist
10.30am Morning Prayer at St Andrew's
10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
4pm Mothering Sunday Make Church at St Andrew's

We look forward to welcoming you!



FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

Draw Near: Life-Giving Habits for Lent

A reminder that Draw Near Booklets are available for FREE in the churches, so please do pickup a copy. Each week a different contributor explores a different aspect of Christian discipleship: worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news with others.

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 at St Andrew's.

Deaths

- David Hopkinson on 8th December.
- Florence Reynolds on 10th December.
- Martin Goldsmith on 2nd February.



UPCOMING DATES IN APRIL

1st April ~ Midday Holy Communion & 7.30pm Compline at St Mary's Church, St Margarets

2nd April ~ 6.30pm Maundy Thursday Meal at The Wilshere Hall; 7.30pm Tenebrae Service at St Andrew's

3rd April ~ 10/10.30am Good Friday Walk of Witness & Reflective Service from St John the Baptist/ St Mary's Church, St Margarets to St Andrew's; 2pm The Way of the Cross, a Passiontide Service at St John the Baptist

5th April ~ 5.30am Dawn Vigil at St Andrew's; 9am Easter Eucharist at St John the Baptist; 10.30am Easter Holy Communion 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