

CALENDAR

Friday	01-May-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	03-May-26	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist
<i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>		10.15am Great Amwell with St Margaret's APCM at St John the Baptist
		10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's
		6.30pm Book of Common Prayer Evensong at St Andrew's
Monday	04-May-26	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
Tuesday	05-May-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house
		7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	06-May-26	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margaret's
		10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
		Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margaret's
Thursday	07-May-26	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	08-May-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	10-May-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
<i>Rogation Sunday</i>		11am Rogation Sunday Service at St James' followed by 'Beating the Bounds' walk
Monday	11-May-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
		7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margaret's
Tuesday	12-May-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house
		7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	13-May-26	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margaret's
		10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
		Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margaret's
Thursday	14-May-26	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
		6pm Ascension Day Evening Prayer at St Mary's, St Margaret's
Friday	15-May-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	17-May-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
<i>7th Sunday of Easter</i>		10.30am Baptism Service at St Andrew's
		10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margaret's
		4pm Make Church at St Andrew's
Monday	18-May-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	19-May-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house
		7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	20-May-26	9am to 3pm Experience Pentecost at St John the Baptist
		10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margaret's
		10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
		Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margaret's
Thursday	21-May-26	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall
		9am to 3pm Experience Pentecost at St Andrew's
		10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	22-May-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	24-May-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
<i>Pentecost</i>		10.30am Holy Communion St Andrew's
Monday	25-May-26	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
		7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margaret's
Tuesday	26-May-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house
		7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	27-May-26	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margaret's
		10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
		Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margaret's
Friday	29-May-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
		12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Saturday	30-May-26	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	31-May-26	9am Holy Communion at St James'
<i>Trinity Sunday</i>		10.30am Benefice Eucharist at St John the Baptist



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ MAY 2026

They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

As we continue through Eastertide, and on to Ascension Day and Pentecost, it is a good time to reflect on what it means to be the Church today; to be a disciple of Jesus. The early Church in Acts devoted themselves to four disciplines: learning more about Jesus, supporting one another, remembering all that Jesus did through his death and resurrection by sharing communion, and praying. When we come to our Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs), we will be thinking about how we have devoted ourselves to over the last year, as well as how we have shared the love that we have experienced from God with our community, inviting others in and sharing the good news.

It is a common misconception that as a Vicar, you really just work Sundays and the rest of the week is quiet. Hopefully, my report at the APCM shows how much goes on through the whole of the week in our Benefice. Sunday is really like a shop window; it only shows some of what is available because most of the stock is inside and most of what happens for us as a church family is happening through the rest of the week on the other six days.

I was struck by the next part of the Acts passage: *'Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day, the Lord added to their number, those who were being saved' (Acts 2:46-47)*. Day by day: that is how God works in our lives and in our church family. There is not a holy part of the week and an unholy part; God is present in all of it. He calls us to seek and recognise Him in the every day, and to practice those holy habits of reading the Bible, fellowship, communion and prayer day by day.

This is the challenge of discipleship, of being apprenticed to Jesus. But it comes with an exciting promise, both for our own growth in faith, and that the Lord will add to our number those who are being saved! If we want to see our churches thrive, we need to be active in our faith day by day.

So what about an audit of your own life? Which of the four disciplines might you struggle with? How could you commit to developing it? I wonder if there's something that already happens in the diary that might help you on your way. Maybe you want a chat about what it means for you to go deeper into God? Or about what stops you? We are all called by God, but sometimes we need help to listen to His quiet voice and to step out in faith.

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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.

Ascension Day Service

On Thursday 14th May, we will have a special 6pm Ascension Day Evening Prayer Service at St Mary's, St Margarets. Please do come along and join us.

Make Lunch Club in half term

During the May Half Term, we will be holding one Make Lunch Club session on Friday 29th May, 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.

5th Sunday Services on 31st May

Sunday 31st May is a 5th Sunday, so we have two special services for the Benefice. See the calendar overleaf for details.

Monday Life Group

At Monday Life Group we will be looking at the Book of Genesis. In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth – what a great place to start! Genesis is full of God and His relationship with real people living complicated lives. Please do come along and join us at St Mary's, St Margarets (see calendar for dates).

ROGATION SUNDAY

SERVICE AT ST JAMES'S CHURCH

I I am at St James's Church, Stanstead Abbots**
All are welcome at this thanksgiving service in the historic old Parish Church of Stanstead Abbots.

Followed by...

'BEATING THE BOUNDS' WALK

Starting 12pm (approx.) at St James's Church

A short, led walk suitable for families.

Do wear sturdy shoes, bring a bottle of water and why not bring a picnic!

** This replaces the normal 10.30am service at St Andrew's

FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs) will be held on the following dates...

- For the Parish of Stanstead Abbots: Sunday 26th April at midday (after the 10.30am service) in The Wilshere Hall
- For the Parish of Great Amwell with St Margarets: 3rd May at 10.15am (after the 9am service)

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible as we hear about the good things we have achieved over the past year: in the churches, our schools and the community.

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 17th May at St Andrew's (during 10.30am service).

Weddings

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

Deaths

- Martin Goldsmith on 2nd February.
- Spencer Jack Harvey on 12th March.
- Pam Emery in February, aged 97.



UPCOMING DATES IN JUNE

19th ~ Madrigals Concert at Amwell Pool on Lower Road/Amwell Lane, starting at 9pm

21st ~ Make Church, 4pm at St Andrew's

28th ~ 6.30pm Patronal Choral Evensong at St John the Baptist, followed by smoked salmon and Pimm'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