

CALENDAR

Thursday	01-Oct-26	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	02-Oct-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	04-Oct-26	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist 11am Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St James 12.30pm Harvest Lunch at Stanstead Bury Farm (tickets £20) 6.30pm Harvest Praise at St John the Baptist
	18th Sunday after Trinity	
Monday	05-Oct-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	06-Oct-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	07-Oct-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	08-Oct-26	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	09-Oct-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	11-Oct-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Morning Prayer with Baptism at St Andrew's 2-5pm St Andrew's open for quiet prayer
	19th Sunday after Trinity	
Monday	12-Oct-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margarets
Tuesday	13-Oct-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house
Wednesday	14-Oct-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	15-Oct-26	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	16-Oct-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	18-Oct-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
	Luke the Evangelist	
Monday	19-Oct-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	20-Oct-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	21-Oct-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
Friday	23-Oct-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	25-Oct-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
	Last Sunday after Trinity	
Monday	26-Oct-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	27-Oct-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	28-Oct-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
Friday	30-Oct-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	31-Oct-26	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ OCTOBER 2026

Plan your future with confidence!

That was the bold headline on an email this morning. Of course, it was about financial planning; not about planning with hopes and dreams, planning a future path with a young adult, planning care for an elderly relative, not even about planning what to do today! It was about planning a secure financial future in our uncertain world. Everything we read in the newspapers, everything we scroll through, all the news features on the screen is full of uncertainty, anxiety and fear. Fear of war in the Middle East, of the growing power of Russia, of a Chinese takeover, oil prices, food prices, El Nino, climate change, AI. It is possible to sink into despair in the face of all this fear.

But God calls us to be different. He calls us to build our lives on the rock. To live with him as the foundation, to open his Word, to listen and to pray, and to know his comfort and his peace, daily. In the parable of the wise man building his house on the rock, Jesus described what happens in life; both the foolish and the wise men build their houses, and both experience the storms of life, with its wind and rain, lightning and thunder. But the wise man, with God as his foundation, stands firm.

The prophet Isaiah brings us God's words of reassurance: "Do not be afraid, because I've redeemed you. I've called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I'll be with you; and through the rivers, they won't sweep over you. When you walk through fire you won't be scorched, and the flame won't set you ablaze." This life is full of trouble and sorrow, but it does not need to be full of fear. We are called to trust in the Lord, trust in the Lord with all our hearts. This is a daily requirement, sometimes an hourly remembrance, and in times of distress we need to call on God with every breath... but every time God tells us "do not be afraid", he also tells us he is "with us always". This is our daily bread: to trust in God!

Harvest time is a good time to remember that, and to remember the blessings we have; blessings of family and community, of home and safety, of food in abundance, and above all the blessings of life in all its fullness, purpose from heaven, and the eternal hope that comes from knowing Jesus. So join us this Harvestide as we celebrate the blessings, come and hear God's wisdom for times of trouble, and...

*May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.
May He bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.*



Vicar of the Benefice: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest
25 Hoddesdon Road, Stanstead St Margarets, Herts. SG12 8EG
07488 914972 / Email: vicar@3churches.net

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.

Baby Loss Awareness Week (9th to 15th October 2026)

We will be marking Baby Loss Awareness Week and supporting all those affecting in the following ways:

Ribbon Display at St Andrew's: we will be holding a Ribbon Display outside St Andrew's Church. Please do feel free to add your own ribbon of remembrance during the week.

Ribbon Run: Rev'd Sarah will be completing a Ribbon Run on Sunday 11th October, starting at 3pm from St Andrew's, to raise funds for Sands (JustGiving link coming soon!). The church will also be open from 2–5pm for quiet prayer.

Saying Goodbye Service at St Albans Cathedral: Saying Goodbye (part of the Mariposa Trust) will be hosting one of their special services on Monday 12th October at 7pm in St Albans Cathedral. This is for anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss. Note: this is a family event where babies and children are invited to come with their families.

Rev'd Matthew Austin, Chaplain at Haileybury

We are very pleased that Rev'd Matt is covering the Sunday services in half term, while Rev'd Sarah is away. We are happy to be building our relationship with Haileybury, who are patrons of St John the Baptist, Great Amwell.

Bishop Andrew's Reflection: 'We're on our Way'

To read Bishop Andrew's reflection on resilient faith and the power of deep roots, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mtc3r7p2> or scan the QR code.



HARVEST FESTIVAL



Our Harvest Festival service at St James's Church will be held at 11am on Sunday 4th October, which will replace the normal 10.30am service at St Andrew's.

After the service, why not join us for a delicious Harvest lunch at the Haybarn, Stanstead Bury, starting at 12.30pm? Tickets for lunch are £20. Book by scanning the QR code (right) or visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/4dkydah3>.



FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

St John the Baptist Reminders

Quiz Night – will be held on at 7pm on Friday 16th October at Great Amwell Parish Hall. £20 per ticket includes dinner. Teams of up to 8. For more information, please contact Bryan (bjbrace122@gmail.com).

The Mayflower Society – will be visiting in the morning on Saturday 3rd October.

Eco Church Bronze Award for St Mary's, St Margarets

We're happy to share that St Mary's, St Margarets, has been awarded A Rocha UK's Eco Church Bronze Award. Thank you to Lyn Paddon and Jen Jackson for all their hard work in helping reach this milestone.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Baptisms

- Hallie Mills on 4th October at St Andrew's.
- Ellis Batty on 11th October at St Andrew's (during 10.30am service).
- Shay Oliver & his parents Lauren and Shay on 1st November (during 10.30am service) at St Andrew's.
- Calanthe Sweeting on 15th November at St Andrew's (during 10.30am service).

Deaths

- Shaiquarn Ansell-Forde on 15th June.
- Harry Alvey on 20th June.
- Winifred Ashman on 20th August.



UPCOMING DATES IN NOVEMBER

1st ~ 3pm All Souls Memorial Service at St Andrew's

4th ~ Midday All Souls Service at St Mary's, St Margarets

8th ~ Remembrance Sunday: 10am Service at St John the Baptist before moving to war memorial; 10.30am Service at St Andrew's before moving to war memorial

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

22nd ~ Benefice Communion & Commissioning at St John the Baptist

29th ~ First Sunday of Advent: 4pm Advent Carols at St James

USEFUL LINKS

Online Zoom Services & Events
[www.tinyurl.com/3churcheszoom](https://tinyurl.com/3churcheszoom)

A Church Near You
Benefice Page
<http://tinyurl.com/3churchesBenefice>

The 3 Churches Website
www.3churches.net