

## CALENDAR

Monday	01-Sep-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 7.30pm The Bible Course at St Mary's, St Margarets
Tuesday	02-Sep-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	03-Sep-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshire Hall Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	04-Sep-25	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshire Hall
Friday	05-Sep-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday</b>	07-Sep-25	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist
<i>12th Sunday after Trinity</i>		10.30am All Age Service with Blessing at St Andrew's 6.30pm Harvest Praise Evensong Service at St John the Baptist
Monday	08-Sep-25	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshire Hall
Tuesday	09-Sep-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	10-Sep-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshire Hall Midday Prayers at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	11-Sep-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshire Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	12-Sep-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	13-Sep-25	9am to 5pm Bike 'n' Hike
<b>Sunday</b>	14-Sep-25	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
<i>Holy Cross Day</i>		11am Harvest Festival Service at St James's Church 12.30pm Harvest Festival Lunch at Stanstead Bury Farm (ticketed)
Monday	15-Sep-25	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshire Hall
Tuesday	16-Sep-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 7.30pm The Bible Course at St Mary's, St Margarets
Wednesday	17-Sep-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Thursday	18-Sep-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshire Hall Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Friday	19-Sep-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshire Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	21-Sep-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
<i>14th Sunday after Trinity</i>		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 *NEW*
Monday	22-Sep-25	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshire Hall
Tuesday	23-Sep-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	24-Sep-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshire Hall Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	25-Sep-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshire Hall
Friday	26-Sep-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	27-Sep-25	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshire Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	28-Sep-25	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
<i>15th Sunday after Trinity</i>		10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	29-Sep-25	9am Monday Coffee Morning at The Wilshire Hall
Tuesday	30-Sep-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 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



## The 3 Churches Benefice

### NEWS & NOTICES ~ SEPTEMBER 2025

As summer draws to a close and we step into September, there's often a sense of new beginnings. Schools and colleges reopen, routines resume and, after the (hopefully) quieter pace of the summer months, life begins to gather momentum again.

In the life of our benefice, this month marks a time of reconnection. Many of our church groups and activities begin again, and it's a joy to see our three churches returning to the rhythm of shared worship, prayer and service. Whether you've been away on holiday, had a summer full of visitors, or simply enjoyed the long light days, September is an opportunity to return – not only to church, but to the deeper things of faith that sustain us.

A new beginning we are excited for is our Make Church initiative designed specially for families, with the first session on 21st September, from 4pm at St Andrew's. It has come about because we realise that families don't find Sunday mornings an easy time, but that many would like to come along to church. So we're going for the sweet spot of 4pm, after the shops close when you're remembering that Sundays are different from the rest of the week! Make Church is inclusive and engaging, with some modern music that will be familiar to our children in the village schools. It's a space where all the family can come and experience God's presence, worship together, belong and grow! And with tea provided afterwards, what more could you want for on a Sunday evening? We are hopeful that this new kind of church will be a success.



As harvest time begins to appear on the horizon, we also give thanks: for the fruits of the land, and for the fruits of faith and fellowship we see in each of our churches. September is a time of sowing and reaping: of planting new ideas, welcoming new faces and trusting that God is at work in every corner of our benefice.

So as we step into this new season, may we do so with hope and confidence. Let's pray for those beginning new chapters – in education, in work, or in life – and for our churches, that we might grow together in faith, love and service.

Vicar of the Benefice: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest  
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07488 914972 / 01920 870009 / 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 or text (07488 914972) for a copy. Copies are available to collect at the back of each church.

### Bike 'n' Hike 2025 on 13th September

Bike 'n' Hike is just around the corner, so if you haven't already, do get signed up! It is a fun day out where you get sponsored to visit beautiful historic churches as well as raised funds for a local church of your choice and Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. Email [admin@3churches.net](mailto:admin@3churches.net) for your map and forms.

### The Bible Course \*reminder\*

The Bible Course is starts back up again on 1st September.

### An Evening of Wonderful Music

Enjoy the Galliard Trio playing Beethoven, Elgar, Dvorak, Vaughan Williams and more in the beautiful, historic church of St Mary's, Ware, 7.00pm on Saturday 4th October. To book your ticket (£12) and find out more see the website here: <https://bedshertshct.org.uk/events/>.

### Diocese vacancies

There are two vacancies in the Diocese Property Team. Find out more here: <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/vacancies-role/diocesan-roles/>.

## **MAKE CHURCH – STARTING THIS SEPTEMBER!**

Looking for a place where your child can explore faith through movement, music, creativity and sensory play? Make Church is a new monthly gathering for children and families that's all about being together, having fun and growing in faith – with no need to sit still or be quiet (unless you want to)!

📅 Starts Sunday 21st September at 4pm

📍 St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots  
Then every 3rd Sunday each month!

Especially designed for children of all ages and abilities.  
Expect songs, movement, hands-on experiences  
and a warm welcome for parents and carers too.

♥ Come as you are. Let's **MAKE CHURCH** together. ♥

## FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

### Harvest Festival on Sunday 14th September

Our Harvest Festival service at St James's Church will be held at 11am on Saturday 14th September, which will replace the normal 10.30am service at St Andrew's. After the service, why not join us for a delicious Harvest lunch? Tickets for lunch are £15 and can be booked by scanning the QR code (above) or visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhk9a26>.



### St John the Baptist: dates for the diary

\* Maintenance Day at St John's ~ Saturday 11th October starting at 10am, weather permitting. Bring your own tools and lunch. There is work in the churchyard (removing self sets, tidying behind the church, strimming paths, mending the gates, removing low branches and ivy etc.) and work in the church (cleaning the nooks and crannies, polishing brasses, cleaning the boiler house etc.) Please do come along to help if you can!

\* St John's Quiz to raise funds to repair the south wall ~ Friday 17th October in the Parish Hall. Commencing at 19:30. Fish & chip supper. Bring your own drinks i.e. usual format. Raffle. £20 per head.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

### Baptisms

• Arthur Olley on 21st September at St John the Baptist.

### Weddings

• Verity Dent & Steve Hawksbee on 20th September at St Mary's, St Margarets.

### Deaths

• Philippa Blair on 8th July.  
• Daphne Everett on 2nd August.



## UPCOMING DATES IN OCTOBER

11th ~ Maintenance Day, 10am at St John the Baptist

17th ~ Quiz Night, 7.30pm at St John the Baptist

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

31st ~ Make Lunch Club, 12pm at The Wilshire Hall

## USEFUL LINKS

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

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

The 3 Churches Website  
[www.3churches.net](http://www.3churches.net)