

CALENDAR

Tuesday	01-Sep-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	02-Sep-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 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Thursday	03-Sep-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	04-Sep-26	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist
Sunday	06-Sep-26	10.30am All Age Holy Communion at St Andrew's 6.30pm BCP Evensong at St Andrew's
<i>14th Sunday after Trinity</i>		
Monday	07-Sep-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	08-Sep-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	09-Sep-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 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Thursday	10-Sep-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	11-Sep-26	9am Bike n Hike 2026 (churches open as pit stops until 5pm)
Saturday	12-Sep-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
Sunday	13-Sep-26	10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
<i>15th Sunday after Trinity</i>		
Monday	14-Sep-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margarets
Tuesday	15-Sep-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	16-Sep-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 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Thursday	17-Sep-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	18-Sep-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
Sunday	20-Sep-26	10.30am Morning Prayer at St Andrew's 10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets 2pm Make Lunch Party at The Wilshere Hall 4pm Make Church at St Andrew's
<i>16th Sunday after Trinity</i>		
Monday	21-Sep-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	22-Sep-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	23-Sep-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 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	25-Sep-26	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Saturday	26-Sep-26	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
Sunday	27-Sep-26	10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
<i>17th Sunday after Trinity</i>		
Monday	28-Sep-26	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margarets
Tuesday	29-Sep-26	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	30-Sep-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



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ SEPTEMBER 2026

As we start to move into autumn, we're reminded of the beauty in change. Over these next weeks, the leaves will begin to turn, the air cooler, signalling the end of summer and the start of the new season. We've had some really high temperatures over the summer months, but it looks like the promised longed-for rain should arrive soon. It would be good to think that our gardens will have a refreshed greenness. By the time you read this, most crops will have been harvested and the fields will have a definite 'autumn' look, and we have Harvest Celebrations on the horizon.



This time of year marks the return of children to school, a period of fresh beginnings and renewed routines. For many this will be a new school, or even a new place of further education. Families will be getting used to new timetables, different activities to factor into already busy lives as the September term gets under way.

Celebrations are in sight too, as our Diocese looks forward to the Enthronement of our new Bishop when the Rt Revd Dr Andrew Ramsey takes on the role of the 11th Bishop of St Albans. Another 'new term' beginning in September.

For many, the anticipation and hopes of the start of term (whether actual or a memory), with the many beautiful changes around us, brings optimism of the new season taking us from the long, sometimes too hot, days of summer to the coolness of winter.

In the midst of these changes, we can find opportunities for growth and reflection. Just as nature undergoes transformation, so do we in our spiritual journeys. Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens'. It's a time to consider the ways we can deepen our faith and renew our commitment to one another and to God.

Whether it's the excitement of new school experiences or the quieter moments of reflection as the days grow shorter, we are united in faith and purpose. As a church we continually evolve, with new people and projects, changes in the way things happen. We have the opportunity to appreciate the joy of discovery and experiences, as the seasons change.

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.

Make Lunch: thank you

Thank you to everyone who was involved with Make Lunch session over this summer. We welcomed many families and were able to provide a good lunch along with fun activities. The hard work of our volunteers is much appreciated.

Summer Miniature Art Exhibition and Silent Auction

Thank you to everyone involved in our recent Summer Miniature Art Exhibition and Silent Auction at St Mary's, St Margarets. So far we have raised a NET figure of £831.76, which will go towards the upkeep and work of the church. We hope to have a final total soon. It was a lovely event with many people asking already if we were going to do it again next year!

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? Tickets for lunch are £15 and can be booked by scanning the QR code (right) or visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/4dkydah3>.



Diocese vacancies

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

BIKE 'N' HIKE 2025 12TH 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 by cycling or walking (or any mode of transport), as well as raise funds for a local church of your choice and Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. We have a special family map, which gives a lovely circular route around our churches.



Email admin@3churches.net for your map.



FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

The Mayflower Society visit to St John the Baptist

The Mayflower Society is coming for a visit on the morning of 3rd October. Society members are all related to those who went to America from Southampton and Plymouth in 1620 aboard 'Mayflower', including Richard Warren who was married at St John's to Elizabeth Walker in 1610. They had five daughters who followed with their mother to America in 1623. Elizabeth bore two sons after arrival in America before Richard died in 1628. Elizabeth lived into her 90s and after her husband's death became a business women of some note, a difficult and unusual achievement in a male dominated society.

Quiz Night

St John's Quiz Night will be held on at 7pm on Friday 16th October at Great Amwell Parish Hall. All monies raised will go towards the Damp Course on the left of the stained glass window. £20 per ticket includes dinner. Teams of up to 8. For more information, please contact Bryan (bjbrace122@gmail.com).

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Bishop Andrew and his family: for the installation and enthronement on Saturday 19 September.

Baptisms

- Hallie Mills on 4th October at St Andrew's.
- Ellis Batty on 11th October at St Andrew's (during 10.30am service).
- 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.



UPCOMING DATES IN OCTOBER

4th ~ Benefice Harvest Festival Thanksgiving Service, 11am at St James' Church, followed by 12.30pm lunch at Stanstead Bury

16th ~ Make Church, 4pm at St Andrew's

16th ~ St John's Quiz Night, 7pm at Great Amwell Parish Hall



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