

CALENDAR

Tuesday	01-Apr-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	02-Apr-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall Midday Prayers at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	03-Apr-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	04-Apr-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	06-Apr-25	9am Holy Communion by Extension at St John the Baptist 10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's 6.30pm BCP Evensong Service at St Andrew's
Monday	07-Apr-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	08-Apr-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	09-Apr-25	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	10-Apr-25	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	11-Apr-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday <i>Palm Sunday</i>	13-Apr-25	9am Palm Sunday Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Palm Sunday Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	14-Apr-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall 7.30pm Holy Week Compline Service at St Andrew's
Tuesday	15-Apr-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Holy Week Compline Service on Zoom
Wednesday	16-Apr-25	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 7.30pm Holy Week Compline Service at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	17-Apr-25	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall 6.30pm Benefice Maundy Thursday Meal at The Wilshere Hall 7.30pm Tenebrae Service at St Andrew's
Friday <i>Good Friday</i>	18-Apr-25	10.30am Good Friday Walk of Witness starting at St Mary's, St Margarets 2pm The Way of the Cross, a Passiontide Service at St John the Baptist
Sunday <i>Easter Day</i>	20-Apr-25	5.30am Easter Day Dawn Service at St Mary's, St Margarets 9am Easter Day Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Easter Day Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	21-Apr-25	<i>[Bank Holiday]</i>
Tuesday	22-Apr-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	23-Apr-25	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	24-Apr-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	25-Apr-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	26-Apr-25	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	27-Apr-25	9am Sung Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	28-Apr-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	29-Apr-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	30-Apr-25	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

Holy Week



St John the Baptist
Great Amwell



St Mary the Virgin
St Margarets



St Andrew
Stanstead Abbots

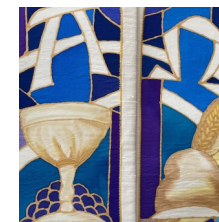
The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ APRIL 2025

'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' (John 6:35)

We have been studying the gospel of John in our Life Groups, and we have just looked at the first 'I am...' statement that Jesus makes. Jesus has just fed over five thousand people with just five loaves and two fish, and the crowd come looking for more. Jesus says 'I am the bread of life.' He tries to lead them into thinking about spiritual things, spiritual food, rather than just worrying about their stomachs! The bread of life has several important connections within the life and work of Jesus. At this time of year, as we remember the Last Supper, we remember Jesus's words as he broke bread: 'this is my body, broken for you', and as he blessed and shared wine: 'this is my blood, which is shed for you'. We remember that in his death, in the breaking of his body and the spilling of his blood, Jesus pays the price for our sins, and in his resurrection, he makes us new and brings us healing. Jesus's invitation is universal and timeless: 'Everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day' (John 6:40).

It is always a privilege to go into our schools and to share the Easter story with our youngest children. They have a great fascination for the small bread roll that I take with me and break as we remember together those words: 'This is my body broken for you.' They are quick to make the connection between this bread and the daily bread that we ask God to give us when we say the Lord's Prayer. Of course, the bread and wine are not just for the Last Supper, or even just for Communion; the spiritual food that Jesus wants us to have is daily, because he wants us to walk with him and be fed by him constantly. In John's narrative of the Last Supper he shares the words of comfort that Jesus gave his disciples on that dark night; words which can offer us strength in times of pain and difficulty as well, as we recognise the promise that Jesus is with us always: 'I am the way and the truth and the life' (John 14:6).



May you know the truth of God's love for you, walk in the way of Jesus Christ, and be filled with the life of the Holy Spirit, this Eastertide and always!

Vicar of the Benefice: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest
25 Hoddesdon Road, Stanstead St Margarets, Herts. SG12 8EG
07488 914972 / 01920 870115 / Email: vicar@3churches.net

NEWS & NOTICES

The Three Villages Magazine **NOW FREE**

2025 marks the fourth year The Three Villages has been active. Across our print and online formats, we have worked hard to build community as we share local news and information, showcase local talent and support local businesses. 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 (01920 870115) or text (07488 914972) for a copy. If you haven't already picked up your FREE copy of the March issue from the back of church, please do! Thank you for your continued support.

Institution, Induction and Installation of Rev'd Sarah

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Institution, Induction and Installation of Rev'd Sarah on 22nd March so special. It was a lovely service with excellent refreshments together afterwards.

Make Lunch Club (Easter holidays)

We will be running Make Lunch Club over the Easter holidays on the following dates: Monday 7th April, Friday 11th April and Monday 14th April. Join us for fun, friendship and some yummy food too. Email makelunch@3churches.net to book your place!

Bishop Alan's Open Garden

The spring opening of Bishop Alan's garden raised nearly £5,000 for the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. Summer opening hours to be announced later this year.

Funeral for Kathleen Gifford

There will be a funeral service for Kathleen Gifford on Monday 28th April, 2pm at St Andrew's. All the church family are invited as we celebrate her life.

ELECTORAL ROLL 2025

This year is the complete renewal of our Electoral Rolls for our two parishes. This means every person who wishes to have their name on the new Rolls, whether you have previously been registered or not, must apply for enrolment.

Contacts for more information and forms are as follows: **Electoral Roll**
Sue Vaughan (vaughansue1@gmail.com)
Great Amwell with St Margarets

Lynne Griffiths (lynne.griffiths@ntlworld.com)
Stanstead Abbots



FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

Consultation on the next Bishop of St Albans

When Bishop Alan retires at the end of May, there will be a vacancy in the episcopal See of St Albans. We are being invited to participate in the consultation process for the new Bishop of St Ablans. We have been asked to take the time to consider and respond to three key questions:

- * What fills you with joy and hope about the ministry and mission of the Church in the Diocese of St Albans?
- * What are the challenges and frustrations, and what would you like to see change?
- * What gifts, qualities and experience do you think are needed in an incoming bishop?

Submissions can be made online or by completing a form and posting it to the diocesan office. You can find the online form here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7xmj36>. If you need a PDF form to complete and post, please email admin@3churches.net.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Baptisms

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

Weddings

- Naomi Ross & Jon Lester on 24th May at St Andrew's.
- Alice Anderson & Adam Carlson on 8th August at St John the Baptist.
- Verity Dent & Steve Hawksbee on 20th September at St Margarets.

Deaths

- Dorothy Matthew on 11th February.
- Jeanette Nix on 14th February.
- Kathleen Gifford on 1st March.
- Maureen Delaney on 20th March.



UPCOMING DATES IN MAY

- 25th ~ Rogation Sunday, 11am Morning Prayer Service at St James' Church and Beating the Bounds Walk afterwards
- 29th ~ Ascension Evening Prayer Service, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, St Margarets



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