

## CALENDAR

<b>Sunday</b> <i>Candlemas</i>	02-Feb-25	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's 6.30pm BCP Evensong Service at St Andrew's
Monday	03-Feb-25	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	04-Feb-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	05-Feb-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
Thursday	06-Feb-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	07-Feb-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday</b> <i>4th Sunday before Lent</i>	09-Feb-25	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	10-Feb-25	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	11-Feb-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	12-Feb-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	13-Feb-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	14-Feb-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday</b> <i>3rd Sunday before Lent</i>	16-Feb-25	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
Monday	17-Feb-25	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	18-Feb-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	19-Feb-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	20-Feb-25	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	21-Feb-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Saturday	22-Feb-25	8.30am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
<b>Sunday</b> <i>2nd Sunday before Lent</i>	23-Feb-25	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	24-Feb-25	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	25-Feb-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	26-Feb-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
Thursday	27-Feb-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	28-Feb-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer



St John the Baptist  
Great Amwell



St Mary the Virgin  
St Margarets



St Andrew  
Stanstead Abbots

## The 3 Churches Benefice

### NEWS & NOTICES ~ FEBRUARY 2025



This year, Easter falls late and so in thinking about what to tackle in our Life Groups, it seemed a good opportunity to explore the Gospel of John, and to discover what the 'disciple-whom-Jesus-loved' has to say regarding the life of Jesus. John's Gospel is 21 chapters of not just eye-witness testimony, but of reflection and theology. So we have started the journey!

The Tuesday evening Zoom Life Group and the Wednesday daytime Life Group are both exploring John in bite-sized pieces, which will see our weekly groups travelling to Easter and beyond to explore the whole Gospel. The timing of the sessions will mean that we can explore the chapters where Jesus approaches his death and passion as we too approach Passiontide and Easter. The Thursday fortnightly Life Group are approaching the Gospel through the 'seven miraculous signs' of Jesus, which John chose to fulfil his purpose in writing his Gospel: 'these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.' (John 20:31)

John's Gospel is fascinating, as it tells you clearly what it is for, but hidden alongside that simple explanation is a complex structure and in depth planning. Why not take a look at the Bible Project's explanation of the structure of John's Gospel as a starting point? (See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-2e9mMf7E8>).

Maybe coming to a Life Group isn't something that you have done before? You are welcome to join us and try it out! Maybe you can't fit it in your schedule, so what about doing it in your own time? There's a new app called 'The Word one to one' that takes you through the whole of John in bite-sized pieces. Maybe you could find a friend to share it with?



SCAN ME

It would be wonderful to have everyone in our congregations exploring the Gospel of John, and going deeper into their understanding of Jesus of Nazareth, Rabbi, Teacher, Lamb of God, Messiah, Son of Man, King of Israel, Son of God!

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest  
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07488 914972 / 01920 870115 / Email: vicar@3churches.net

## NEWS & NOTICES

### The Three Villages Magazine

If you haven't already, please do pick up the December issue of The Three Villages Magazine. It is available for £1 at the back of the churches, so please pop your money into the honesty box. Thank you!

### Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall

This month there will be a Benefice Breakfast on Saturday 22nd February, which is open to everyone. It starts at the slightly later time of 9.30am in The Wilshere Hall.

### Warm Welcome Spaces

Don't forget our Warm Welcome Spaces: Coffee Morning on Monday mornings, 9–11am at The Wilshere Hall – offering a warm drink and a fun activity! The Community Hub Drop-in on Wednesdays, 10.30–11.30am at St Mary's, St Margarets – offering a cuppa and chat, as well as practical help if needed.

### Open Garden: dates for your diary

The Bishop of St Albans will be opening his garden (Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans AL3 4HD) on two weekends in February for people to come and look at the display of snowdrops. Those who came to visit in the summer will know that the garden is delightful, it also has an appeal to visitors in the spring as the snowdrops herald the end of winter. Spring opening days are 15 and 16 February and 22 and 23 February, 2–4pm, subject to the snowdrops. Entrance is £5 per person (children free) and dogs on leads are welcome. Please wear footwear suitable for the time of year. All money raised is donated to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

### Hope in Action: new group

We have partnered with Coffee and Coping Hertfordshire to support their new group: Hope in Action. This group concentrates on addiction in all forms, for concerned family members as well as addicts. It runs on Wednesdays, 5–6.30pm in St Mary's Church, St Margarets. No booking required – just drop in!



## CONFIRMATION COURSE

We have several candidates for confirmation and we are planning a course starting in the next few weeks.

If there is anybody who has not been confirmed and would like to explore this, please get in touch with Rev'd Sarah.

## FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

### Electoral roll renewal 2025

In 2025 there must be a complete renewal of the Electoral Roll, not just a revision. Every person who wishes to have their name entered on the new Roll, whether it is entered on the present roll or not, must apply for enrolment. Further information and forms will be coming soon.

## PRAYER MINISTRY

The Ministry Team is always happy to pray for anyone, so do call or email if you have prayer requests.



At St Andrew's we have Prayer Ministry after the 10.30am Sunday Service for anyone who would like prayer. Please do come to the front for the Team to share your concerns, and pray for and with you.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

### Baptisms

- Henry Porterwood on 22nd February at Haileybury.

### 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

- Alan Roynon on 19th January.



## UPCOMING DATES IN MARCH

5th ~ Ash Wednesday

9th ~ First Sunday of Lent

30th ~ Mothering Sunday



## USEFUL LINKS

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

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

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