

CALENDAR

Monday	01-Jul-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	02-Jul-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	03-Jul-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	04-Jul-24	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	05-Jul-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	07-Jul-24	9am All Age Eucharist Service at St John the Baptist
	6th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's
Monday	08-Jul-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	09-Jul-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	10-Jul-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Taizé at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	11-Jul-24	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	12-Jul-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	14-Jul-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
	7th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am Holy Communion Service with Baptism at St Andrew's
Monday	15-Jul-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	16-Jul-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	17-Jul-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	18-Jul-24	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	19-Jul-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	21-Jul-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
	8th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am Morning Prayer Service at St Andrew's 10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Monday	22-Jul-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	23-Jul-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	24-Jul-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Taizé at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	25-Jul-24	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	26-Jul-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Saturday	27-Jul-24	8.30am Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	28-Jul-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
	9th Sunday after Trinity	10.30am Holy Communion Service at St Andrew's 4pm St James's Patronal Festal Evensong
Monday	29-Jul-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	30-Jul-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	31-Jul-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Taizé at St Mary's, St Margarets



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ JULY 2024

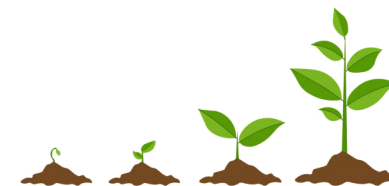
The summer is here and it's Baptism Season! I have had several people comment that it is lovely to have the opportunity to welcome more families into church for Baptism, especially after the restrictions of the last few years.

But there is also another reason why we are able to welcome more people, which is a changing theological understanding of what Baptism for children might mean. Within the liturgy, week on week, we remind ourselves that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven and to bring us to eternal life.' God so loved the world... not God so loved the church. God's love is for everyone! Something that comes across when we welcome families without setting obstacles in the way.

One of the great privileges of meeting families as they seek Baptism for their children is to see the signs of God's presence weaving through their lives. It is a privilege to listen to their stories, because it is so often a chance to hear them talk about God's quiet work in their lives: His gentle call through their experiences of childhood, growing up, and now into parenthood. Having a child raises so many questions about how to be a good parent and how to bring up your children, along with a deeper understanding of the miracle of new birth.

Baptism is a marker on our journey with God, and where that marker sits on the road varies from person to person, but the journey is not restricted to the person being baptised; parents, godparents and the wider family mark their own journeys with God when they commit to exploring faith together. Inviting family and friends to the service means everyone has an opportunity to hear about God's love for them and, equally importantly, to come into God's presence and experience the sacred space created by the Holy Spirit in a unique way.

Please do look in the diary and remember in your prayers the families, friends and godparents of those children coming to Baptism. As we sow seeds of God's love generously into the lives of families, our prayers for them encourage those seeds to grow.



Priest in Charge: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest
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NEWS & NOTICES

The Three Villages Magazine

The latest issue (June) of The Three Villages Magazine is available for £1 at the back of the churches. Please do pick up a copy!

Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall

The next Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall is on Saturday 27th July at 8.30am. These breakfasts run every last Saturday of the month and everyone is welcome!

The Bishop of St Albans' Hidden Garden

The Bishop of St Albans will be opening his garden (Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans AL3 4HS) every Sunday between Sunday 9th June and Sunday 11th August for people to come and look at the beautiful gardens and the summer display. Entrance is £5 per person (children free) and dogs on leads are welcome. There will also be plants for sale on some weekends. All money raised is donated to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust.

Great Amwell Village Games ~ 27th July

Join us for an afternoon of fun at the Glebe Field behind Great Amwell Parish Hall on Saturday 27th July, 5pm to dusk. Bring along a picnic and enjoy games, races, fireworks and more!

St James's Patronal Festal Evensong ~ 28th July

On Sunday 28th July, we are celebrating the Feast of St James the Apostle with Choral Evensong at St James's Church with music provided by the East Herts Church Choirs Association. Come and join us at 4pm for a music-filled traditional evensong. Refreshments will be served afterwards at Stanstead Bury Farm.



MAKE LUNCH CLUB

Make Lunch Club will meet in the summer holidays!
Join us for fun, friendship and some yummy food too.

12 to 2pm at The Wilshere Hall

JULY: Friday 26th, Monday 29th

AUGUST: Friday 2nd, Monday 5th, Friday 9th, Monday 12th,
Friday 16th, Monday 19th, Friday 23rd and Friday 30th

Email makelunch@3churches.net to book your place!



FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

South African Braai ~ 11th August

On 11th August, commencing at noon, we are having an authentic South African braai (barbecue) in St John's churchyard, accompanied by South African wine and organised by Graeme and Paola. Everyone is welcome!

New Churchwardens Sworn-in

At the end of June, our new Churchwardens were sworn-in. We offer heartfelt thanks to Lyn Paddon, Janet Dance and Rosemary James who have stepped down. We welcome Peter Melrose as the new Churchwarden of Stanstead Abbots. Richard and Margaret Mellor, as Churchwardens for the parish of Great Amwell with St Margarets, will now also officially cover St Mary's, with Lynda Harrington as Assistant Churchwarden, and with Lyn Paddon continuing to help behind the scenes.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Baptisms

- Ruby and Theodore Marson on 7th July at St John the Baptist.
- Hannah Klust on 14th July at St Andrew's [during the 10.30am service]
- Fatima Carmara Clarke on 14th July at St John the Baptist.
- Mason Rush on 21st July at St Mary's, St Margarets.

Weddings

- Laura Saunders & Matthew Jenks on 10th August at St Andrew's.
- Stephanie Power & Nicholas Thomas on 7th September at St Andrew's.
- Keeley Smith & Jon Dann on 19th October at St Mary's, St Margarets.
- Penelope Elsom & Jack McBride on 14th December at St John the Baptist.

Deaths

- Colin Marsh on 7th May.
- Mary Morris on 12th May.
- David Pullen on 21st May.

UPCOMING DATES IN AUGUST

11th ~ South African Braai at St John the Baptist churchyard, from noon.

11th to 29th } ~ Annual Leave for Rev'd Sarah

30th ~ Make Lunch Party at Walford House Meadow



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