

CALENDAR

Sunday <i>Sunday next before Lent</i>	02-Mar-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 John the Baptist
Monday	03-Mar-25	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	04-Mar-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	05-Mar-25	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall Midday Ash Wednesday Service at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	06-Mar-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	07-Mar-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	09-Mar-25	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	10-Mar-25	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	11-Mar-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	12-Mar-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	13-Mar-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	14-Mar-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>	16-Mar-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-Mar-25	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	18-Mar-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	19-Mar-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-Mar-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	21-Mar-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	22-Mar-25	5pm Institution, Induction & Installation of Rev'd Sarah at St Andrew's
Sunday <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i>	23-Mar-25	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	24-Mar-25	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	25-Mar-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	26-Mar-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-Mar-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	28-Mar-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	29-Mar-25	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	30-Mar-25	9am All Age Eucharist for Mothering Sunday at St John the Baptist 10.30am All Age Service for Mothering Sunday at St Andrew's
Monday	31-Mar-25	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 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 ~ MARCH 2025

We live in difficult times. But the times have often been difficult, hard, full of wars and rumours of wars, famine and disaster. Are these times any different from those our grandparents or great grandparents lived through? And how do we respond to difficult times? Do we become overwhelmed by the storms around us?

LIVING HOPE

The Lent Resources from the Church of England this year are called 'Living Hope' and encourage us to journey through this Lent by exploring what God's Living Hope means in our everyday lives and in our community. There are daily readings and reflections for the 40 days of Lent, available through the Living Hope booklets, or you can download the Everyday Faith app, or sign up for emails direct from the Church of England.

I encourage you all to set aside just five minutes a day to turn off the news or put down your phone, and spend some time seeking God's hope in our troubled world, His perspective on our lives and community, and you will find His hope and peace.

At Teddy Club today, I shared the parable of the foolish man who built his house on the sand and the wise man who built his house on the rock. We love a song with actions, but the message in Matthew's Gospel (7: 24–27) is clear; in this life it rains and it pours, and flood and storm will come, but the wise person puts their trust in God, who is our rock and our redeemer.

*Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Saviour,
and my hope is in you all day long.*
(Psalm 25: 4–5)

Sign up for emails at <https://tinyurl.com/8t3e5mw>
or scan the QR code (right).



SCAN ME



Find the
Everyday Faith app on Apple
App Store or Google Play.

Priest in Charge: 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.

We have plans for 2025:

- * From March 2025 onwards our print magazine will be FREE;
- * We are increasing our print run by 100% to increase our distribution;
- * We are finding more ways to reach out to those that might not be able to get out and collect a copy of the print magazine: you can now call (01920 870115)/ text (07488 914972) for a copy;
- * We have welcomed two new members to our team, bringing fresh ideas and experience.

If you haven't already picked up your FREE copy from the back of our church, please do. Thank you for your continued support.

Warm Welcome Spaces coming to an end

Spring is almost here, so our Warm Welcome Spaces will come to an end on 31st March. Thank you to everyone who helped with these groups, which provide such an important service to our church and wider community.

5th Sunday: Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday falls on a 5th Sunday, but we will be having two special services, one in each parish. Please see the calendar for details.

Ash Wednesday Service at Haileybury

There will be a Sung Eucharist Service at Haileybury College Chapel at 8pm on Ash Wednesday (5th March). All are invited to join this special service.

Items looking for a new home

A washing machine, tumble drier and stair-gates are available for anyone who needs them. Contact admin@3churches.net if you are interested.

INSTITUTION, INDUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF REV'D SARAH AS VICAR OF THE BENEFICE

Following the expiry of the Suspension of the Patron's right of Presentation and following consultation with the Patrons, PCCs and the Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest as the current Priest-in-charge, Rev'd Sarah has been appointed Vicar of the Benefice. She will be Instituted by Bishop Jane, and Inducted and Installed by Archdeacon Janet on Saturday 22nd March 2025 at 5pm in St Andrew's church, Stanstead Abbots. Invitations have been sent out via email, so please do RSVP by 8th March to admin@3churches.net.

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Warren Cousins Book

The Churchwardens have been sent a copy of a new book celebrating the Warren Cousins 50 years. It is well produced and covers their visit to England in 2023. There is much about St John's Church. A copy is in the church and available for anyone to take a look.

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.

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

- Alan Roynon on 19th January.
- Dorothy Matthew on 11th February.



UPCOMING DATES IN APRIL

13th April ~ Palm Sunday Services

14th to 16th April ~ Compline
Services: 7.30pm at St Andrew's (14th), on Zoom (15th) and at St Mary's, St Margarets (16th)

17th April ~ Maundy Thursday
6.30pm Benefice Maundy Thursday Meal at The Wilshere Hall; 7.30pm Tenebrae Service at St Andrew's

18th April ~ Good Friday
10.30am Good Friday Walk of Witness & Reflective Service from St Mary's, St Margarets to St Andrew's; 2pm The Way of the Cross at St John the Baptist

20th April ~ Easter Day
5.30am Dawn Service at St Mary's, St Margarets; 9am Eucharist Service at St John the Baptist; 10.30am Holy Communion Service at St Andrew's



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