

CALENDAR

Thursday	01-May-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	02-May-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	04-May-25	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist followed by APCM 10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's 2.30pm VE Day Celebration afternoon tea at St John the Baptist 6.30pm BCP Evensong Service at St John the Baptist
Monday	05-May-25	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
Tuesday	06-May-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	07-May-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	08-May-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	09-May-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	11-May-25	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's followed by APCM
Monday	12-May-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	13-May-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	14-May-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	15-May-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	16-May-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	18-May-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	19-May-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	20-May-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	21-May-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	22-May-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	23-May-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>	25-May-25	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 11am Rogation Sunday Service at St James
Monday	26-May-25	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
Tuesday	27-May-25	9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	28-May-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	29-May-25	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall 7.30pm Ascension Day Evening Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets
Friday	30-May-25	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Saturday	31-May-25	10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ MAY 2025

'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.' (2 Corinthians 5:17)

What an incredible promise we find in these words from Paul's letter to the Corinthians! In Christ, we are not simply improved versions of our old selves – we are made entirely new. The old, with its burdens of guilt, shame and brokenness, has been cast aside. Through the grace and love of Jesus, we are given a fresh start, a new identity and a renewed purpose.

This transformation isn't just a one-time event; it's a continual process of renewal. As we walk daily with Christ, He reshapes our hearts, our desires and our vision for the world. Where there once was despair, He plants hope. Where there was anger or bitterness, He nurtures peace and forgiveness. Each step we take with Him leads us further into the abundant life He promises.

This verse reminds us that no matter our past – no matter what we've done or what's been done to us – God is in the business of restoration. He is the Master Craftsman, lovingly shaping our lives into testimonies of His grace.

As we embrace our new identity in Christ, we are called to live out this transformation. Let us be people of joy, of compassion and of courage. Let us extend the same grace to others that we ourselves have received.

So, take heart today. If you are in Christ, you are a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come. Rejoice in that truth – and walk boldly into the life He has prepared for you.



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NEWS & NOTICES

The Three Villages Magazine **NOW FREE**

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.

St James's Church spring clean

There will be a spring clean at St James on 3rd May (9.30–11.30am). If you are free to come along to help, it would be greatly appreciated. Jobs will vary in size and exertion levels, so there will be a task for everyone!

'Church sitting' at St James

We are still looking for some more volunteers to 'church sit' during May to September, 2.30–5pm on Sunday afternoons. You can volunteer in pairs if you would like. If the weather is nice, you can sit outside in the sunshine to welcome visitors and supply them with an information sheet, if they would like one. If you are interested please do be in touch with Suzy Richardson (suzy.richardson@btinternet.com).

PA to the Archdeacon of Hertford

The deadline for applying to this vacancy is 7th May! If you would like all the details, please visit: <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/vacancies/pa-to-the-archdeacon-of-hertford/>.

Rogation Sunday on Sunday 25th May

A Rogation Sunday Service will be held at the old Parish Church of St James, starting at 11am, with a led and family friendly 'Beating the Bounds' walk afterwards. If the weather is nice, why not bring a picnic! This replaces the 10.30am Service at St Andrew's.

CONFIRMATION



On Wednesday 11th June, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, we will have a Service of Confirmation led by Bishop Rob Wickham. If you are interested in being baptised or confirmed, please contact Rev'd Sarah as soon as possible. We are planning confirmation preparation sessions for Monday 28th April, 5th May, 12th May, 19th May, 26th May and Wednesday 4th June.

We have four candidates who we hope will be coming for confirmation, so please do pray for them as they prepare for this special day.

FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

VE Day Celebrations on 4th May

On Sunday 4th May, commencing at 2.30pm, we shall be serving cream teas at St John the Baptist Church to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. Please do come along.



Summer at St James's Church: save the date!

An event is being organised for Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th June at St James's Church. There will be churchyard tours, cream teas and a chance to look around the historic church from 2–5pm both days. On Saturday at 4pm, there will be a 'Songs for a Summer Afternoon' concert by the Priory Choir. Tickets for the concert will be £10. Booking information will be coming soon.

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

- Kathleen Gifford on 1st March.
- Maureen Delaney on 20th March.
- Elizabeth Clarke on 30th March.



UPCOMING DATES IN JUNE

8th ~ Pentecost

14th & 15th ~ Summer Event at St James's Church.

22nd ~ Patronal Evensong, 6.30pm at St John the Baptist

29th ~ 5th Sunday Benefice Service, 10.30am at St James's Church



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