

## CALENDAR

<b>Sunday</b> <i>All Saints/All Souls</i>	03-Nov-24	9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's 3pm All Souls' Memorial Service at St Andrew's
Monday	04-Nov-24	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	05-Nov-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	06-Nov-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday All Souls' Memorial Service & Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	07-Nov-24	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	08-Nov-24	8.30am Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Saturday	09-Nov-24	9am Remembrance Sunday Eucharist at St John the Baptist
<b>Sunday</b> <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	10-Nov-24	10.30am Service of Remembrance at Amwell Lane War Memorial (outside) 10.30am Service of Remembrance at St Andrew's (starting in church)
Monday	11-Nov-24	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	12-Nov-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	13-Nov-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	14-Nov-24	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	15-Nov-24	7pm The Big Quiz for Tearfund at The Wilshere Hall
Saturday	16-Nov-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
<b>Sunday</b> <i>2nd Sunday before Advent</i>	17-Nov-24	10.30am Morning Prayer Service at St Andrew's 10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Monday	18-Nov-24	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	19-Nov-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	20-Nov-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	21-Nov-24	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	22-Nov-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist
<b>Sunday</b> <i>Christ the King</i>	24-Nov-24	10.30am Holy Communion Service at St Andrew's
Monday	25-Nov-24	9am Coffee Morning at The Wilshere Hall (Warm Welcome Space) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	26-Nov-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	27-Nov-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	28-Nov-24	9am Teddy Club at The Wilshere Hall 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion) 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Friday	29-Nov-24	8.30am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Saturday	30-Nov-24	



St John the Baptist  
Great Amwell



St Mary the Virgin  
St Margarets



St Andrew  
Stanstead Abbots

## The 3 Churches Benefice

### NEWS & NOTICES ~ NOVEMBER 2024

If you go into any supermarket from now onwards, you'll know that Christmas is nearly here! The tinsel and the lights, Santa and all his crew; they're out in force. It's all downhill from here to Christmas at high speed! So where does Advent find itself? Squeezed out in the excitement to get to the main event? Well, we are planning to press the pause button and slow things down with our Advent Course!

This year we are exploring Advent through the Archbishop of York's Advent book, *Do Not Be Afraid, the joy of waiting in a time of fear*, written by Rachel Mann. Waiting is a central theme of Advent, as we wait both for the baby Jesus who came at Christmas (the waiting for something that already happened) and as we wait for the coming again of the Risen Jesus in all his glory at the end of time! Watching and waiting is important, but sometimes really hard as well.

Archbishop Stephen introduces the book saying: 'Throughout the book, Rachel uses her wonderful gifts as a poet, priest and theologian to turn our attention to different modes of waiting, but always keeps the focus on Jesus. He is the one we wait for. He is the one who is waiting for us. She reminds us that those famous words of Isaiah, "Do not be afraid..."', are not just a quotable piece of wisdom to adorn a social media post: they are an abiding call from God to trust ever more deeply in him, perhaps most especially when the world seems closest to falling apart. In this book, Rachel returns again and again to the awesome trustworthiness of Jesus who, as God-with-us, knows the cost of being human from the inside, but equally brings us back home to the Father in love and forgiveness.'

Our Course, covering the book over four weeks is designed to follow the four weeks laid out in the book, but because we meet fortnightly we are taking our time and starting in November, online on Tuesday 5th, in person on Thursday 7th. The course is designed so that it doesn't matter if you buy the book and read ahead, if you revisit it afterwards, or if you just come along without the book; we'll cover the key themes and explore them together. So please join us in watching and waiting with JOY!

Do not fear, for I am with you,  
do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.



(Isaiah 41:10)

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## NEWS & NOTICES

### The Three Villages Magazine

If you haven't already, pick up your latest issue of The Three Villages Magazine. It is available for £1 at the back of the churches. Please do pick up a copy!

### Men's Breakfast and Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall

There will now be a Men's Breakfast every second Saturday of the month for men only **and** a Benefice Breakfast every last Saturday of the month, which is open to everyone. Both start at 8.30am in The Wilshere Hall.

### The Big Quiz Night for Tearfund

The Big Quiz Night for Tearfund will be held on Saturday 16th November, 7pm at The Wilshere Hall, St Andrew's Church. Join us for an epic evening of poverty-beating, community-building fun! Every penny raised will go to Tearfund, who work tirelessly to fight extreme poverty throughout the world. The details: £5 per person with teams of up to 8 people. Bring your own drinks & snacks. Get tickets in advance from Pete (peter.melrose@ntlworld.com) or purchase (in cash) on the door!

### Warm Welcome Spaces

Once again this year, we are offering Warm Welcome Spaces to those who are in need over the cold winter months. There will be:

- \* 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.
- Warm Welcome Spaces will run from 4th November until February half term.

### 'Cups on a String'

Thank you to everyone who hosted or helped on the night for 'Cups on a String'. It was a great evening and a wonderful way to share the work we are doing.



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICES

9am Eucharist Service at St John the Baptist

10.30am Service of Remembrance at  
Amwell Lane War Memorial

*This is an outdoor service, so please wrap up warmly*

10.30am Service of Remembrance at St Andrew's Church

*This service will start inside the church and then move outside to the war memorial, so please bring warm layers*



## FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

### St John's Quiz Night Success!

We raised £1000 (net of expenses) for the heating fund, taking into account the raffle that included prizes donated by Inter Alia, Van Hage, George IV pub, Tesco, Leafy Oaks Garden Centre and a couple of individuals. We had an anonymous donor who paid half the cost of the fish and chips. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraising event.

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

7–8th December  
St Mary's, St Margarets



If you would like to sign-up to be a tree holder or are free to be a general volunteer on either day, please do get in touch! We plan to have a 'gift tree' for local families that will find Christmas a struggle financially. If you would like to give a gift to a local child, please join us.

### UPCOMING DATES IN DECEMBER

1st ~ Advent Carols, 4pm at  
St James's Church

7th & 8th ~ Christmas Tree Festival,  
2–6pm at St Mary's, St Margarets

15th ~ Carols by Candlelight,  
6.30pm at St John the Baptist

22nd ~ Carols by Candlelight,  
6.30pm at St Andrew's

24th ~ The Christmas Journey, 3pm  
starting at St Margarets Train Station  
and ending at St Andrew's Church

24th ~ Christmas Eve Midnight  
Holy Communion,  
11.30pm at St John the Baptist

25th ~ Christmas Day Benefice  
Service, 10.30am at St Andrew's

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

#### Weddings

- Penelope Elsom & Jack McBride on 14th December at St John the Baptist.
- Naomi Ross & Jon Lester on 24th May 2025 at St Andrew's.
- Verity Dent & Steve Hawksbee on 20th September 2025 at St Margarets.

#### Deaths

- Mary Louise Grethe on 5th October.



### 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)