

## CALENDAR

|                                        |           |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>                          | 01-Nov-26 | 9am All Age Eucharist at St John the Baptist<br>10.30am Baptism Service at St Andrew's<br>3pm All Souls' Memorial Service at St Andrew's                             |
| <i>All Saints' / All Souls' Sunday</i> |           |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Monday</b>                          | 02-Nov-26 | 9am Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning<br>9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer                                                                                       |
| <b>Tuesday</b>                         | 03-Nov-26 | 9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house<br>7.30pm Life Group on Zoom                                                                                             |
| <b>Wednesday</b>                       | 04-Nov-26 | 10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets<br>10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall<br>Midday All Souls' Memorial Service at St Mary's, St Margarets |
| <b>Thursday</b>                        | 05-Nov-26 | 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Friday</b>                          | 06-Nov-26 | 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Sunday</b>                          | 08-Nov-26 | 9am Said Eucharist at St John the Baptist<br>10am Remembrance Service at St John the Baptist<br>10.30am Remembrance Service at St Andrew's                           |
| <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>              |           |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Monday</b>                          | 09-Nov-26 | 9am Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning<br>9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer<br>7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margarets                                |
| <b>Tuesday</b>                         | 10-Nov-26 | 9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house<br>7.30pm Life Group on Zoom                                                                                             |
| <b>Wednesday</b>                       | 11-Nov-26 | 10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets<br>10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall<br>Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets              |
| <b>Thursday</b>                        | 12-Nov-26 | 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Friday</b>                          | 13-Nov-26 | 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Sunday</b>                          | 15-Nov-26 | 9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist<br>10.30am Baptism Service at St Andrew's<br>10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets                                  |
| <i>2nd Sunday before Advent</i>        |           |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Monday</b>                          | 16-Nov-26 | 4pm Make Church at St Andrew's<br>9am Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning                                                                                              |
| <b>Tuesday</b>                         | 17-Nov-26 | 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer<br>9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house<br>7.30pm Life Group on Zoom                                                    |
| <b>Wednesday</b>                       | 18-Nov-26 | 10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets<br>10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall<br>Midday Prayer at St Mary's, St Margarets                      |
| <b>Thursday</b>                        | 19-Nov-26 | 10.30am Advent Life Group at The Wilshere Hall                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Friday</b>                          | 20-Nov-26 | 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer<br>7pm Clewer Initiative Talk on Modern Slavery at Nigel Copping Centre                                                        |
| <b>Sunday</b>                          | 22-Nov-26 | 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion incl. commissioning of Pastoral<br>Care Team at St John the Baptist                                                                  |
| <i>Safeguarding Sunday</i>             |           |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Monday</b>                          | 23-Nov-26 | 9am Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning<br>9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer<br>7.30pm Monday Life Group at St Mary's, St Margarets                                |
| <b>Tuesday</b>                         | 24-Nov-26 | 9.30am Prayer Group at Sue Hardwick's house                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Wednesday</b>                       | 25-Nov-26 | 10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets<br>10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall<br>Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets              |
| <b>Thursday</b>                        | 26-Nov-26 | 10.30am Advent Life Group at The Wilshere Hall                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Friday</b>                          | 27-Nov-26 | 9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Saturday</b>                        | 28-Nov-26 | 10am Benefice Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Sunday</b>                          | 29-Nov-26 | 9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist<br>10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's<br>4pm Advent Carols at St James                                                       |
| <i>Advent Sunday</i>                   |           |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Monday</b>                          | 30-Nov-26 | 9am Warm Welcome Space Coffee Morning<br>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 ~ NOVEMBER 2026

*God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:  
may we who have shared at this table  
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth  
be welcomed with all your saints  
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*



The Post Communion Prayer for All Saints Day gives us a sense of past, present and future, which is a good way to open our season of remembrance. The prayer begins with God the source of holiness and giver of all good things: our God, who is the creator and sustainer of the universe; our God, who is holy and just; our God, full of mercy and love. In some ways He is the beginning and the end, the past, the present and the future. The prayer is written to be used after communion, as we have shared the bread and wine which sits at the heart of our remembering of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The prayer describes us, who have shared communion with one another, as strangers and pilgrims. It seems odd to describe each other as strangers, after all we tend to think of ourselves as Church family, friends and neighbours. We work hard not to be strangers to one another! You need to notice the next phrase in order to understand it properly: we are 'strangers and pilgrims here on earth'.

Suddenly it becomes a description of the Church as a whole, of the body of Christ, of us corporately. We are called to journey like pilgrims, travelling together, relying on God and each other as we journey through the joys and sorrows of life. The 'stranger' part becomes a description of our relationship with this world. We are called to have such a pilgrim attitude as we travel, that we do not become too friendly, too settled, too entrenched in this world that we forget where our real home is.

All Saints' Day reminds us of the invitation that we have been given to the feast in heaven. It challenges us to fix our eyes on Jesus and to continually remember where we will make our journeys end: the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem! That is the promise of the death and resurrection of Jesus; that we too have a place in heaven, that our invitation is sent and our ticket is paid for in full.

All Saints' Day calls us to remember with thanks all those who have run the race before us and to reflect on where we are on our journey with God today; then to remember to keep our eyes on the prize of heaven, confident in the knowledge that Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners, and that all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved!

Vicar of the Benefice: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest  
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## NEWS & NOTICES

### The Three Villages Magazine

Our FREE local community magazine publishes quarterly in March, June, September and December. 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 or text (07488 914972) for a copy. Copies are available to collect at the back of each church.

### All Souls' Memorial Services

On Sunday 1st November, we will hold an All Souls' Memorial Service, 3pm at St Andrew's. We will also have an All Souls' Memorial Service on Wednesday 4th, 12pm at St Mary's, St Margarets. Please do email any names for remembrance.

### Warm Welcome Spaces

Once again this year, we are offering Warm Welcome Spaces. There will be: Coffee Morning on Monday mornings, 9–11am at The Wilshire Hall, offering a warm drink and a fun activity; and 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. These spaces are free and open to all.

### Confirmation Classes

We are really pleased to have Rt Rev'd Dr Jane Mainwaring, Bishop of Hertford coming to St Mary's, St Margarets on Wednesday 9th December for Confirmation. We have three candidates from our Wednesday midday congregation. Classes run through November on Wednesdays, 1–2pm, at St Mary's, St Margarets. If anyone would like to explore Confirmation or a renewal of Confirmation promises, even if you can't make the daytime sessions, please speak to Rev'd Sarah.

### Talk on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking: Friday 20th November

Modern slavery and human trafficking can be difficult to see, but they are present in communities across the UK. Join us on Friday 20th November, 7pm at the Nigel Copping Centre for an evening talk from The Clewer Initiative, an organisation working with churches and communities to raise awareness of modern slavery and help people recognise and respond to exploitation. Everyone is welcome to come along and learn more about this important issue.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER



10am at St John the Baptist Church, Great Amwell  
and

10.30am at St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots



**Both services start in church** before moving outside to the war memorial.

## FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

### St John's Quiz Night

At St John's recent Quiz Night, just over £1000 was raised. Thank you to everyone who came along to support this event: it was a great success!

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 5TH & 6TH DECEMBER

Our Christmas Tree Festival is returning to St Mary's, St Margarets on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December from 2 to 6pm. Our 'Carols amidst the Christmas Trees' service will be at 5pm on Sunday 6th December. If you would like to sign up for a tree spot, have any tombola prizes to donate or are able to help over the weekend, please do get in touch! We will be setting up on Friday 5th December, so please could tombola prizes be dropped off then or in the week before to the vicarage. Thank you!



### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people and their loved ones in your prayers this month:

#### Baptisms

- Shay Oliver & his parents Lauren and Shay on 1st November at St Andrew's (during the service).
- Calanthe Sweeting on 15th November at St Andrew's (during the service).

#### Deaths

- Winifred Ashman on 20th August.
- Jean Bullen on 2nd October.
- Elizabeth Pazzi-Axworthy on 16th October.



### UPCOMING DATES IN DECEMBER

5th & 6th ~ Christmas Tree Festival, 2–6pm at St Mary's, St Margarets

6th ~ Carols amidst the Christmas Trees, 5pm at St Mary's, St Margarets

13th ~ Carols by Candlelight, 6.30pm at St John the Baptist

20th ~ Carols by Candlelight, 6.30pm at St Andrew's

~ Make Church, 4pm at St Andrew's

24th ~ The Christmas Journey: The Nativity Story Reimagined, 3pm at St Margarets Train Station and ends at St Andrew's

~ Midnight Holy Communion, 11pm at St John the Baptist

25th ~ Benefice All Age Holy Communion, 10.30am at St Andrew's

27th ~ Benefice Holy Communion by Extension, 10.30am at St Mary's, St Margarets

### 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)