

CALENDAR

Monday	01-Aug-22	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	02-Aug-22	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	03-Aug-22	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets Midday Holy Communion at St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Thursday	04-Aug-22	
Friday	05-Aug-22	
Saturday	06-Aug-22	
Sunday	07-Aug-22	9am All Age Service at St John the Baptist, Great Amwell 10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's, Stanstead Abbots
Monday	08-Aug-22	
Tuesday	09-Aug-22	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	10-Aug-22	
Thursday	11-Aug-22	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	12-Aug-22	
Saturday	13-Aug-22	
Sunday	14-Aug-22	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist, Great Amwell 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Stanstead Abbots
Monday	15-Aug-22	
Tuesday	16-Aug-22	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	17-Aug-22	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets Midday Taizé Service at St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets 10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Thursday	18-Aug-22	
Friday	19-Aug-22	
Saturday	20-Aug-22	
Sunday	21-Aug-22	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist, Great Amwell 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Andrew's, Stanstead Abbots 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets
Monday	22-Aug-22	
Tuesday	23-Aug-22	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	24-Aug-22	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets Midday Taizé Service at St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Thursday	25-Aug-22	
Friday	26-Aug-22	
Saturday	27-Aug-22	9am Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	28-Aug-22	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist, Great Amwell 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Stanstead Abbots
Monday	29-Aug-22	
Tuesday	30-Aug-22	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	31-Aug-22	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets Midday Holy Communion at St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ AUGUST 2022

In the last week, the Harvest has begun. Driving through the beautiful countryside around our villages, the combine harvesters have been out and the wheat is gathered in. We and the farmers are thankful for a harvest gathered and storehouses filled. But in the news, we see the tense negotiations between Russia and the rest of the world as attempts are made to free the grain in silos in Ukrainian ports. Millions of tons of grain; the food needed to sustain nations across the world, needed to prevent famine, lie waiting to be released.

Into this world picture, our gospel reading for the last Sunday in July says so much (The Parable of the Rich Fool, Luke 12:16–21). Greed on the scale of the state of Russia is easy to see and rightly condemned. Greed that leads to conflict and invasion, death and destruction: this we see with horror, and against this we pray daily. But this parable is about a rich man, not a tyrant or a madman. It's about a man who has planned ahead and has managed his estate; it's about a man who's been wise and prudent, and thinks how blessed he is with this great harvest. There's much in the way he behaves that is easy to understand and praise. Surely he is a wise steward of what God has given him? So where did he go wrong? Why does he get rebuked by God?

God gave us two Commandments from which everything else hangs: To love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength; And to love our neighbour as ourselves.

When the man is blessed he chooses to hold onto that blessing. He doesn't look out of his window and consider his neighbour. He doesn't look up and seek God to ask him how his blessing might bless others. He forgets that we are told to tread lightly in this world, remembering that all we have comes from God, and to act generously in word and deed.

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

Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall

There will be another Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall on Saturday 27th August at 9am. These breakfasts happen every 4th Saturday of the month.

Reunion of St John the Baptist Primary School

Another reunion will be held this year for St John the Baptist Primary School past pupils circa 1945–1955. This will be held on Wednesday 28th September at the George IV pub from 11.30am onwards. Please contact Jennifer Searle on 01438 358404 or 07960 381 339 if you are able to come & would like some lunch too!

Pete Melrose's 60th Birthday

You are cordially invited to pop in and join Pete and Rachael at The Oak any time between 6pm and 8.30pm this coming Saturday 30th July. We'll be having tapas and drinks. You don't have to eat if you don't want to, but feel free to join in if you do! Please pass this invitation on to other people – Pete knows.

The Three Villages Magazine

The next issues of The Three Villages Magazine will come out at the start of September, so if you haven't already done so, please do collect a copy of Issue 2 from the back of church or at various locations in the three villages.

Community Hub Drop-in

The new Community Hub Drop-in, running at St Margarets' Parish Church every Wednesday from 10.30–11.30am, started back in June. It has already been able to support a number of people from the local community. This is an opportunity for outreach – to see what needs there are in our community and where we need to focus our service to the community as a church. If you feel that this is something you would like to support then please contact Rev'd Sarah.

NOTICE OF HOLIDAY ~ 4TH TO 24TH AUGUST (INCLUSIVE)

While Rev'd Sarah is on holiday, there will be a few changes to the normal rota. There will be no Online Morning Prayer on Mondays and Fridays, so the last Online Morning Prayer is Monday 1st August. It will resume again on Friday 2nd September. It will be a Taizé Service each Wednesday at St Mary's during this period, except on 10th August. Cover has been arranged for Sunday Services on 7th, 14th and 21st August.

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Quiz Night for St John's Tower Repair Fund

The fundraising Quiz Night for St John's Tower Repair Fund will take place on 14th October in the Great Amwell Parish Hall, 7pm for a 7.30pm prompt start. Tickets cost £15 and include a supper, which will be either fish/chicken and chips or a vegetarian option. Bring own drinks and glasses. Book (indicating food option) with Bryan Brace (01992 447845 / bjbrace122@gmail.com) or Richard/Margaret Mellor (01920 460474 / richardmellor@btinternet.com).

Point of contact

If there are any issues during Rev'd Sarah's holiday (4th to 24th August, inclusive), please contact the respective Churchwardens who will be able to help. Thank you!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Thanksgiving Services

- Trevor Paddon on 2nd August at St Mary's.
- Rosetta Dodge on 2nd August at St Mary's.
- Jean Walker Long on 17th August at St John's.

Weddings

- Talya Bentley & Jay Parrish on 8th September at St Andrew's.
- Amy Barrett & Matthew Hurt on 17th September at St John's.



UPCOMING DATES IN SEPTEMBER

16th September ~ Pilgrim Walk

28th September ~ Reunion of St John the Baptist Primary School, (pupils circa 1945 to 1955) at George IV pub.

USEFUL LINKS

Online Services & Events
www.tinyurl.com/3churcheszoom

A Church Near You
Benefice Page
www.tinyurl.com/3churchesACNY

The 3 Churches Website
www.3churches.net