

Helpful Information and Contacts

May 2019 Villages Magazine

Items for the next edition should preferably be emailed to admin@3churches.net or left at the Vicarage by 12th April at the latest please. Copy can also be given to Lynne Heraud, 27 Cappell Ln.

The Magazine Editor / Administrator works on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9.15am until 2.15pm and can be contacted on 01920 870115 or at admin@3churches.net.

Need a lift to a hospital appointment or a visit??

If you need a lift to take you to a hospital appointment, hospital visiting etc, or short-term help with shopping, dog-walking (eg. during or following an illness), or would like a visit or a prayer
call 3 Churches Careline: 07986 014452 between 9am and 6pm (except in an emergency) We'll do our best to help

citizens
advice

Need Help with a Problem???

Contact the **East Herts Citizens Advice Service**
Council Office, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford SG13 8EQ
Open: Mondays Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am – 2pm
Adviceline telephone service is also available

Monday – Friday 10am-4pm Tel: 03444 111 444

Also sessions in Ware, Bishops Stortford, Buntingford, Sawbridgeworth.

For details of these and online advice, go to www.ehcas.org.uk

Hire the Wilshere Hall

The hall next to St Andrew's Church is available for both one-off and regular bookings. The ground floor room seats 40 around tables, and up to 70 if tables are not required. It has a well-equipped kitchen area. There are toilets, including disabled, and some parking. For bookings contact: Maureen Freeman on 01920 870632.



Have you just moved in?

Or know someone who has?

We provide a pack to welcome people into the Villages. It has information about bin days, doctors, children's activities.... If someone has moved in near you, please ask the Vicarage for a pack for you to give to them, a good way to introduce yourself! They are kept at the Vicarage so we can endeavour to keep them up to date!



Regular Clubs, Groups and Meetings in the three villages

Saturday Coffee: St Margaret's Church every Saturday, 10.30am - noon

Lunch for Charity of host's choice: 1pm 1st Thursday every month (see p.3)

Stanstead Abbotts Brownies: Mondays 5.45pm-7pm (Wilshere Hall, Cappell Lane Stanstead Abbotts) – for girls aged 7 to 10 years.

Guider in charge: Helen Payne 01920 462676

1st Stanstead Abbotts Guides: Monday 7.30-8.45pm (Wilshere Hall also) - for girls aged 10-14. Please contact 1stsaguides@gmail.com.

Beaver Scouts: Boys and girls aged 6 to 8 year olds

Cub Scouts: Boys and girls aged 8 to 10 ½ year olds

Scouts: Boys and girls 10 ½ to 14 year olds

Great Amwell Scout Group: (Scout HQ, London Road, Ware)
www.greatamwellscouts.org.uk. Group Scout Leader – Julie Greaves
gsl@greatamwellscouts.org.uk or 0845 6344183

1st Stanstead Abbotts & St. Margarets Scout Group:

(Scout H.Q., Marsh Lane, Stanstead Abbotts: www.StansteadAbbottsScouts.org.uk)

Group Scout Leader: Paul Stretch 01920 320100

Bingo for the over 60's: Every Friday 2.30pm – 4.00pm in Folly View Community Centre. New players welcome, just turn up.

Evergreen Club: Every Monday afternoon 2-4pm in the Stanstead Abbotts Parish Hall. Transport can be arranged. Contacts: 01920 424140

Carpet Bowls: 7.30pm Tuesdays in the Parish Hall, Great Amwell and every Monday in Stanstead Abbotts Parish Hall (not during the summer months)

Great Amwell Women's Club: Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday 7.30pm – 10.00pm in the Parish Hall, Great Amwell. Club Secretary: Dulcie Fordham, Contact number for enquiries: 01920 466689 (Christine)

Herts Wheelers (cycling club):- Weekly Sunday club rides for various abilities normally starting in Ware. Contact membership@herts-wheelers.org.uk

Amwell Society: Quarterly talks in the Parish Hall, Great Amwell, as well as theatre trips, walks and other activities locally. For details of membership contact William Brown 01920 872450 (Chairman)

Stanstead Abbotts Local History Society: Chairman; Bob Hunt. Regular meetings about the history of our locality for both members and non-members. Details of events on the website: www.salhs.org.uk. For details of membership contact: admin@salhs.org.uk.

St Margaretsbury Tennis Club: A friendly club with social sessions on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday mornings, plus a juniors section, coaching available, and opportunity to play match tennis in local leagues. Details from secretary@stmargaretsburytennis.co.uk or come along to a social morning.

Lunches for Charities in Wilshere Hall at 1pm

March lunch raised £90 for Herts and Essex Samaritans.

Thursday 4th April is for Herts Rape Crisis Centre



Hertfordshire.

This charity supports survivors of any kind of sexual violence at any time in their lives, with free and confidential counselling for females over 18 and survivors of rape, sexual assault and/or childhood sexual abuse no matter how old they were when this occurred. The service is available to residents of

Thursday 2nd May for Herts and Essex Air Ambulance

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance is not part of the NHS and receives limited Government funding.

They are a Charity and rely on the money we donate. The public's support provides a free life-saving Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) for the critically ill and injured of Essex, Hertfordshire and surrounding areas.

Their Pre-hospital Care Doctors and Critical Care Paramedics provide advanced medical care on-site that is normally only found in the Emergency Department. Once stabilised, patients are rushed to the most appropriate hospital for their needs. This early intervention makes a dramatic difference to each patient's survival.

Throughout the year there are many imaginative and exciting fundraising opportunities for you to take part in: for more information look at their website

www.ehaat.org



Memory Café at Willowthorpe

**A FREE Event held on the first Tuesday of each month
2.30pm - 4pm.**



**At Willowthorpe, High Street,
Stanstead Abbots, SG12 8AS**

This is aimed at people who live with Dementia, as well as their families and carers.

A chance to meet others in the same position in a relaxed environment.

Want to meet other villagers?

Mad Chatters is a 'drop in' with no commitment, so folk can come and meet new friends. We just chat. It may also be that some within the group decide to go to the theatre together or whatever. So be it. Someone said it's for church folk –yes, the Vicar is often there, but it is for absolutely anyone in the 3 villages. You are very welcome to join us on the last Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Red Lion restaurant. We next meet on **29th April**

Evergreen Club of the Three Villages

Should we have spare capacity on our outings that you see promoted, would you like to accompany us on our trips? Attending Club Members get precedence'.

Contact Ann Hardy if you wish to attend: 01920 870526, 07850 458366, annhardy@greatamwell.com

Come along and join in with the Evergreen Club?

Do come and join us on a Monday afternoons from 2-4pm, at Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall, Roydon Road. We also have outings throughout the year. And if you would like to be collected, phone Ann Hardy, 01920 870526
A nice tea and good company costs £1 each time you come

Teddy Club is Moving!

From 25th April Teddy Club baby and toddler group will run from its original home at Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall. Due to exciting changes at the ever-growing Bobtails Playgroup we are moving to have our own space with toys all suitable for the younger children and babies. Come and visit us on Thursday mornings from 9.15am-11.15am. For £2.50, drinks and snacks are included for the children and we will now be serving toast for a small charge to go with your cup of tea or coffee to help with our fundraising efforts. There's lots of activities for you and your little ones to join in with including arts, crafts, sensory/messy play, puzzles, games, dressing up, imaginary play, singing and we now have space for indoor running around and ride-ons! Parents, grandparents, childminders, all carers are welcome to our friendly village group. Come and have some breakfast and make some new friends!

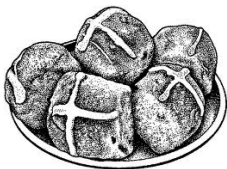
Debbie Gilbert – Teddy Club Leader (contact through Bobtails Playgroup on 01920 871273)

The Meadow, Stanstead Abbots

Our next volunteer session in the Meadow will be on **Saturday 8th June** between **10am-12noon**.

We need to remove the soil and plants from the raised beds and fill them up with new plants. We would love any villagers to bring cuttings or plants. Hope to see you there.

For more information please contact juliadavies890@btinternet.com or ginitrower@btinternet.com



“Palm Saturday”

April 13th from 10.00am

Members from the 3 churches will be in Stanstead Abbots High Street, giving out bags that include a palm cross, a hot cross bun and Easter eggs!

‘Death Café’



When I was asked to organise this I said ‘What is that?!!!’ It turns out to be very fashionable in London and various other cities! (There are 1,622 in UK and more than 7,000 around the world) Apparently people want to talk about aspects of death as it’s not a topic of usual conversation nowadays. The

Death Café movement says ‘Our objective is ‘to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives.’ It is a discussion Café, not a counselling session

So we have started one in the Village Café. The next is on **April 25th at 6.30pm – 8.00pm**, and every 4th Thursday as long as it proves helpful.

Then we will start one for folk more able to come in the afternoon on **9th May at 2.30pm – 4.00pm**, also in the Café.

Tea and coffee available, and free cake!

If you want to have an opportunity to discuss things about death, dying, funerals etc then just drop in during that time. There will be cards with discussion starters on each table to help the conversation get going (yes, they even produce ‘Grave Talk’ cards!)

There will not be a speaker each time (though we may organise eg a talk about wills by a solicitor if that is asked for) but there will usually be a (retired) palliative care nurse, someone who has supported her husband as he died and can also talk about bereavement, and myself, to answer any questions as best we can.

Just drop in any time and we’ll see how it goes.

Anne (Revd)

Stanstead Abbots Local History Society

Edinburgh Way in Harlow was named after the Duke of Edinburgh. I didn't know that. According to our March speaker, David Devine, Prince Philip came to Harlow in 1952 for a big opening ceremony. At that point in the talk, SALHS member, Richard Atkins, remarked how he had been with a crowd of schoolchildren waiting to cheer the Prince along the roadside. Philip, however, turned the wrong way and missed the kids altogether. He may have had the sun in his eyes!

We also learnt that the M11 was originally going to pass to the west of the town i.e. between us and Harlow. The designation of Stansted as London's third airport changed all that and drew the motorway to the east of the town to service the airport. Consequently all the A414 traffic now has to crawl along the aforementioned Edinburgh Way to get to the M11!

Thank you David, it was quite a learning curve about our nearest and biggest neighbour - and how it plans to get larger!

Our next meeting, on **Friday April 12th** at **7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Roydon Rd**, promises to be something completely different.

Marion Hill will be coming to speak on "**Hertfordshire and the Slave Trade**"

Ron Dale's must-have book on our area (available from the Village Pharmacy) records the epic role that the Buxtons of Easneye Mansion played in the Abolition Act of 1833. That, together with Thomas Clarkson's anti-slavery "vision" at Wadesmill (see the roadside plaque there), means our area was critically involved in both the pursuit and the ending of the notorious slave trade. An evening not to be missed!

In the following month, on **May 10th** we'll have our Annual General Meeting. The formal bits are quickly dealt with so that we can get on with the refreshments and wine etc! There will also be an engaging talk on our High Street by long term residents.

As always, a reminder to check our website: www.salhs.org.uk - but also take a look at the excellent website of one of the oldest buildings in our parish, St James' Church, at www.stjamesoldchurch.org.uk



Bob Hunt (Chair and PR)

JUST FRIENDS

We meet each week of the month on a cycle at different venues: **Week 1 Thursday Afternoon Tea - NEW VENUE** - at the Village Cafe, High Street, Stanstead Abbots, SG12 8AS at 2.30pm, (4th April)

Week 2 Wednesday Coffee Morning at the Parish Centre, Sacred Heart, Ware at 10.30am, (10th April).

Week 3 Tuesday Lunch at the Beefeater in Ware at 12.30pm (16th April) to book a place contact Mary.

Week 4 Wednesday Coffee in Van Hages at 11am, (24th April). We sometimes have outings and visits to the cinema, theatre etc. For more information contact Judy Heilpern Brown 01920 871743 or Mary Hallett 01920 870527.

Don't forget anyone of any age who is widowed or divorced or separated is welcome at any of our meetings.



Dementia-Friendly Film Screenings

New for this year, Hertford Theatre are holding special monthly Film Screenings designed for those living with dementia and memory loss and their friends, families and carers, however, anyone is welcome to attend, especially

those who may benefit from a more relaxed environment at the cinema.

There will be no adverts or trailers and the lighting will be slightly raised throughout the screening. Ticket price is £5 with one carer free, who will be responsible for the people they accompany to the film, it also includes a free pre-film cup of tea or coffee and biscuits.

The 1.30pm screenings coming up are:

24th April **Breakfast at Tiffany's**

22nd May **The Dam Busters**

19th June **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**

Bookings in advance can be done online at www.hertfordtheatre.com or by calling the box office on 01992 531500.

LIVE MUSIC SESSION AT THE RED LION

Monday 29th April 8.30pm - 11:00 p.m.

Musicians welcome (and audience!)

Enquiries: Leah Pybus 07895 655757

1st Stanstead Abbots & St Margaret's Scout Group



It's been another busy month for all our girls and boys with lots of fantastic opportunities for them to learn new skills, go on visits and trips, make new friends, take part in adventures and challenges, try new activities, learn new things and enjoy some of their favourite regular activities.



20 Forest and Woodland Beavers took part in a new local District Beaver event, hiking from Stanstead Abbots to Ware via Post Woods, along with dozens of other girls and boys.

8 Scouts, along with 6 Scouts from Great Amwell, travelled 200 miles by train, with their leaders, to Devon for "March march". Joining up with over 70 Devon Scouts, and their leaders, for a 2-day hike

across Dartmoor and wild camping on the moor, was certainly an adventure they will all remember.

Meanwhile, 44 Jaguar and Panther Cubs joined over 200 Cubs from Ware and District for a day of indoor and outdoor activities and challenges at Amwell View School to celebrate Baden Powell's birthday, finishing with a huge parade.

Back at HQ, there have been lots of activities



taking place, including our Panther Pack Cubs making balloon rockets and our Woodland Beavers building and designing catapults for our Colony competition and, of course, lots of pancake making.

Please join us to watch all our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts parade through Ware on Sunday 28th April 2019 to celebrate St George's Day, our patron saint, along with all the Scout Groups in



the District

To find out more and how to join or volunteer, please visit StansteadAbbottsScouts.org.uk

Fiona McKenzie-Smith

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

Go wild in your garden!

**Spring has arrived; so it's a perfect time to heading out into the garden!
This year, why not turn it into a wildlife haven?**

Together, the UK's 24 million gardens cover a much larger area than all of The Wildlife Trusts' nature reserves combined, making them a vital place for wildlife. It's not hard to manage your garden for wildlife and it will make a huge difference.



A pond – even a small one – will not only keep animals hydrated, it also provides a habitat for many insects. Plant native nectar-rich flowers like verbena, scabious or knapweed to attract butterflies and other pollinators into your garden. Create plenty of hidey holes for different species with bug hotels, nest boxes or hedgehog

houses. Make use of your walls and garden borders to create more room for wildlife. A green, living boundary like a hedge or a climbing plant along your wall can bring the riches of flowers, scent, berries and colours throughout the year.

Don't worry about "perfection". The most beautiful gardens aren't sterile or overly manicured - they are dynamic, alive with wildlife, just like a natural landscape. Most importantly, enjoy it! Reap the fruits of your labour, sit back and observe your new garden residents and visitors! **Learn more about gardening for wildlife on**

hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlife-gardening.

Frieda Rummenhohl- Communications Officer

Food Bank Collection

We collect for the local Food Bank in Hertford. They would like dry foods of all sorts, long-life liquids, and tinned foods – they help people who are sent by Social Services, CAB etc, when they cannot afford to feed their family until the next cheque comes in. At the moment they particularly need special Christmas food treats and toiletries. Please put your contributions in the box in the Co-op or in the churches, and we will then take the contents to Hertford.

Thank you for your support, people are being really generous. Please keep it coming as help is still needed in these particularly trying financial times.



Stanstead Abbotts Parish Council News

STOP PRESS This year's Stanstead Abbotts Parish Meeting will be at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall on May 9th. On the panel to discuss the many issues which have been raised this year will be Richard Neville the Community and Customer Engagement Manager from Greater Anglia. Come and find out about plans for our trains - if you wish to let him have your question in advance of the meeting please contact the Chairman of the Parish Council, Julia Davies on juliadavies890@btinternet.com

Card making classes

Card-making classes are in the Wilshere Hall, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 1.00-4.00pm; £3 per session. All materials are provided and whatever you create is yours to take home with you. Come and give it a try. For further information please contact Janet Dance on 01920 871262.



STANSTEAD ABBOTTS CEILIDH SOCIETY

At the Parish Hall, Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbotts

On Sunday 14th April,

Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm

SPRING CONCERT with DAN WALSH

All tickets £7 in advance (£9 on the door)
Phone 01920 877588 or 01920 870558, for
Tickets and enquiries.

Also available from www.ticketsource.co.uk



Soft drinks and snacks available - bring your own alcohol

BRINGING LIVE MUSIC TO STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

REUNION OF ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Another reunion will be held this year for Great Amwell pupils circa 1945-1955 on Wednesday June 5th 2019.

We will be meeting at George IV Pub 11.30am-12noon, St John's church will be open for us too from noon until 1.00pm

The back room at the Pub has been booked for us to have lunch, and the inevitable catch up!

Please contact Jennifer on 01438 358404 for more details.

Do pass the word round, we always have such fun!



Keyless Vehicle Theft –

Advice for Owners of Keyless Vehicles

We frequently receive reports from Hertfordshire residents whose “keyless” vehicles have been stolen. If your vehicle uses a vicinity key, please follow the below advice. What is a vicinity key? A vicinity key operates the vehicle to which it belongs using an automatic signal. You only have to be near to the vehicle for it to detect the key is present and unlock. The key (or signal) only has to be present to enable you to press a button to turn on the engine.

Keyless theft: how it works

This is where a vehicle is stolen without the thief having physical access to the key. Thieves use a signal boosting device which picks up and boosts the signal detected from your vicinity key to the vehicle, making your vehicle think the key is nearby. You can see it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pffcngJJq0>

Protect Your Vehicle:

Keep vicinity keys in a signal blocking pouch which stops the signal from your key. You can source Police approved ‘Secured By Design’ signal blocking pouches via:

<http://www.securedbydesign.com/?posttype=product&s=signal+blocker>

or on www.owlprotect.uk <https://owlprotect.uk/defender-signal-blocker-pouch-keyless-car-entry-start.html>

Keep keys away from the front of your property; upstairs and hidden away is preferable. Check your Manual or with your Dealer if it is possible to switch the key’s signal off. For additional security, consider purchasing a steering wheel lock. If your vehicle has an alarm or immobiliser, ensure these are enabled. If your vehicle doesn’t have a Tracker, consider fitting one. A dual band tracking device works on VHF/UHF and GPS to ensure that one tracking system can still function if criminals use GPS blocking techniques to avoid detection. Purchase devices to ‘Thatcham’ and ‘SBD’ approval. Vehicles equipped with tracking devices are often promptly recovered. Check regularly for software updates for the car.



For help with debt –
CAP (Christians Against Poverty)
0800 328 0006 (free call)

UPCOMING EVENTS: For more details on any events below please look at their website – www.isabelhospice.org.uk

APRIL

Saturday 6th – Spring Charity Ball, Rhodes Arts Centre, South Road, Bishops Stortford, CM23 3JG: 6.30pm – 12 midnight

East Herts District Chairman's Spring Charity Ball come and join us for a fun night with dancing and dinner. Dancing to music of the decades with Déjà vu. Tickets £50.00 Black Tie or Lounge Suit

Tickets from Chairman's office 01992 531402

Sunday 7th – Herts and Soul Spring Concert, Herts and Essex High School, Warwick Road, Bishops Stortford, CM23 5NJ: 6pm

Join us for a night of amazing music! There will be a wonderful show of pop, rock, soul, Motown folk, jazz and musical theatre. Tickets £12.00 Students £6.00. For ticket enquiries please email website or call 07903009569. Tickets are also available on the door.

Tuesday 9th – Drop In Coffee Morning, Markwell Pavilion, Bishop Stortford, CM23 2EL: 10.30am - 12.00pm

Join us for a coffee and a catch up on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. There will be cake, coffee and a quiz in friendly company!

Sunday 14th – Brighton Marathon, Preston Park, Brighton, BN1 6SD: 9.45am – 5.00pm

This seaside marathon on the south coast is one of the most popular in the UK! With the electric atmosphere and awesome crowds this is a fantastic event to be a part of. We have guaranteed places for our supporters to join the tens of thousands of runners who will be taking on this challenge. The event village will become a hive of activity and celebration as runners reunite with friends and family and enjoy the live footage, eating, drinking and fantastic atmosphere. Join Team Isabel and receive a **FREE** running vest, fundraising advice, support and materials and certificate. Registration fee: £50. Min sponsorship: £500. Contact Megan by [email](mailto:) or call 01707 382544 with any enquiries.

Monday 15th – 'Virgins, Weeders and Queens' Stocking Pelham Hall, Stocking Pelham, Buntingford, SG9 OHT: 11.30am – 5pm,

A History of Women in the Garden. An amusing and informative talk by Dr Twigs Way - well known garden historian. Coffee is available on arrival followed by the talk and a delicious lunch in the marquee. Tickets cost £37.50 and include coffee and Lunch with wine.

If you have any enquiries please contact either Suzanne Coleman on 01438 798 869 or Barbara Doherty on 01279 842140.

**Join us at Hertford County Yacht Club
and try sailing for free on
Saturday 18th May 2019,
10:30am to 15:30pm**

Sail around our lovely lake, experiencing the joy of wind and water with some of our experienced sailors. Try lots of different boats and maybe have a go yourself, in one of our single-handed dinghies.

Watch the action from our lakeside garden and enjoy hot and cold drinks and home-made cakes, at very reasonable prices.

We will provide buoyancy aids and all you need are trainers and for the adventurous, spare clothes, just in case!

If you really like it, we will talk to you about RYA accredited training courses, joining our friendly club and becoming a regular sailor.

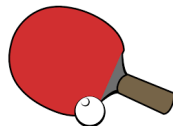
Please note under 18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Hertford County Yacht Club, Marsh Lane, Stanstead Abbots SG12 8H

For more information, please see our website: www.hcyc.co.uk

**STANSTEAD ABBOTTS PARISH HALL
TABLE TENNIS CLUB**

If you are interested in trying something different, please consider table tennis! Our club meets twice a week at the Parish Hall in Roydon Road (next to St Andrew's School) and is open to all adults.



Friday afternoons from 2 pm to 3.30 pm is our well established session - which started under the auspices of EHDC's Forever Active initiative, encouraging over 50's to be more active. Thursday evenings from 7.30pm is our club night for the local league - yes, we have a team which has been playing this season, and it would be great if some more experienced players would join us!

All abilities are welcome, at both sessions, and all equipment is provided. The cost is £3 per session, and your first session is free! Please wear suitable shoes and a dark top. For further information please call 07588 016148 or email saphhc@yahoo.com.

Stanstead Abbots Online

www.stanstead-abbotts-online.co.uk

The best online resource for the village of Stanstead Abbots, with news and wide-ranging information on the amenities, events, activities and businesses within the village.

Regularly updated. Take a look and add it to your favourites!

From the Vicar Revd Anne Donaldson



Dear friends

This month we celebrate Easter – as you will be well aware with all the chocolate eggs in the shops!! Whilst I enjoy chocolate like so many others, there is so much more to Easter than that!! Eggs remind us of new life. Jesus died on the cross and rose to new life so we can receive new life from Him. There is no other source of new life! Jesus said He is ‘the Way, the Truth, and the Life’ And He said that He came so we might ‘have life, life in abundance’. O boy there are times when we so want new life!!

The wonderful thing is that this new life is for free. Jesus paid the price so He could simply give life to us. It’s His gift because He loves each of us so much. He must love us to die so horribly and in such agony for each of us!

That’s new life in this life, as well as after death. It makes such a difference to daily life. I used to describe it as what it was like to live in black and white and then live in full colour – glorious technicolor (sorry younger folks, that’s an old time thing!!) The life I led was the same as the old life before I had given my life to Jesus / asked Jesus into my life – whatever expression you prefer! But after Jesus was in my life somehow there was a new dimension eventhough the content was the same: I caught the same train and did the same job etc etc, but it was all so different

Since then there have been times when life has been difficult – such as we all know. Then we can feel drained. And then Jesus comes and helps: comforts, gives guidance and strength..... There’s nothing like it!

And there are times when life is really great, and I am not an exuberant person!! But Jesus helps me really enjoy things

In other words Jesus’ new life in me helps me cope with difficult times and enjoy the good times. That’s great in my book!! Life feels so different with Jesus in it than it did without Him.

And that is due to His great love that took Him to the cross for me, and brought Him new life.

And this can be yours too if you haven’t already found His new life. All you need to do is ask Him!! Couldn’t be simpler.

I pray you all have a wonderful and joyful Easter

Anne

Church News

Transport to Church. If you would like a lift to church please phone one of the Churchwardens (see back cover of this magazine).

From Local Church Registers

We offer our condolences to the families and friends of

Jeremy Daish	Barleycroft, Waterford	4th March (St John the Baptist)
Jacky Hill	formerly of Madgeways Cl	8th March (St John the Baptist)

St Andrew's church is praying for:-

Wedding couples and Marriage	- week beginning 7th April
Baptism and Welcome families	- week beginning 14th April
High Street, Arthurs and Abbotts Courts	- week beginning 21st April
South Street	- week beginning 28th April



St Margaret's Parish Church

**is open throughout the year
every Saturday morning for coffee / tea and cakes,
10.30am – 12.noon Please pop in.**

The Folly Community

As part of these villages, the community on The Folly are trying some new initiatives including prayers each week for different roads in the community on the dates below:

3rd April	Hillside Crescent	10th April	Field Way
17th April	Frenchs Close	24th April	New River Avenue

Daytime Study Group

There is a Study group which meets on alternate Friday mornings 9.30am to 10.30am in the Vicarage, 25 Hoddesdon Rd (children still welcome to come and play). (check diary pages for the actual dates). **Currently reading Philipians**

Regular evening Home Group

Elizabeth Goldsmith (01920 422065) hosts the **Home Group** on alternate Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the Wilshere Hall. Anyone is welcome to join the group at anytime. (Please check the diary pages for the actual dates).



Palm Sunday Service 14th April

On Palm Sunday we use palm leaves folded into crosses to remind us that Jesus was welcomed into the city of Jerusalem by people waving palm branches - and then killed there, on a cross, less than a week later.

- 10.00am Walk starting from station car park to
10.30am Communion Service for all three churches at St Andrew's Stanstead Abbots, with a reading of the whole 'Passion' story



Good Friday 'Three Hours'

This year at St Margaret's Parish Church we are following the events of Thursday and Friday in Matthew's Gospel

Noon	The Last Supper
12.30pm	Gethsemane and arrest
1.00pm	The Sanhedrin
1.30pm	Two Disciples' reaction
2.00pm	Pilate and the soldiers
2.30pm	The Crucifixion
3.00pm	Isaiah ch.52 v.13 to ch.53 v.12 is read

There will be a hymn at the start of each section. For the sake of those deep in thought, please could you come and go during the hymns. Thank you. Chairs will be available for you to use whilst waiting.

Easter Services

LAST SUPPER – Thursday 18th April

The Passover meal Jesus enjoyed with His disciples. Also His time of prayer in the Garden before allowing Himself to be arrested.

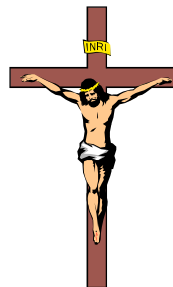
- 8.00pm In the Wilshere Hall
next to St Andrew's church,
Cappell Lane



GOOD FRIDAY - Friday 19th April

Possibly the most important day in the Christian year. The day on which Jesus was crucified was 'good' because He who was sinless took our sins on Himself, and died for those sins, so that those of us who go to Him in sincere sorrow may be forgiven, and reunited with God.

- 10.15am Short service at St Andrew's,
starting with prayers in High St
- 12noon-3pm Three Hour Vigil at St Margarets -
please see page 17 for details
(please come / go during the hymns)
- 7.30pm "The Way of the Cross"
choral service at St John's



EASTER DAY - Sunday 21st April

After being dead for three days, and being shut in the tomb, Jesus rose again, promising a new life for those who decide to follow Him. A life without fear of death; and a life with hope, meaning, purpose, joy and peace, in all the ups and downs of everyday life.

- 9.30am Family Eucharist at St John's
- 10.15am Communion for all ages together
at St Andrew's
- 11.00am Family Communion
at St Margarets'

Celebrate this great day



Services at St James Church, Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots during 2019



Short Service then Boundary Walk

19th May at 10.15am

(lifts home from various places around the route!)

Midsummer Holy Communion

16th June at 8.45am

Patronal Festival Evensong

21st July at 3.00pm

Harvest Holy Communion

15th September at 8.45am

Advent Carols ❄❄❄ 1st December at 4.00pm

Help Us Celebrate Easneye 150!

In 1869, Lady Hannah Buxton wrote to her favourite grandson who, with his parents and siblings, had recently moved into their newly built house at Easneye in Hertfordshire; in that letter she proved to be prophetic as she wrote '....This may be a residence of Buxtons for how long, for how short a time also; but we look on to generations to come, and you may suppose what are my desires and hopes concerning it – that it may ever be inhabited by faithful servants of God in and through Jesus Christ, and that it may ever be a habitation of God in the hearts of the inhabitants by the Holy Spirit, and Christ be honoured, confessed and served, and this place be a fountain of blessing in the church and in the world.'



Almost a century after this was written All Nations moved into Easneye House in 1964 and over the decades thousands of students from many countries have trained with All Nations and the college has sent them out to serve in Christian mission all around the world.

On **Saturday 18th May** All Nations are planning to host a special day of celebration at Easneye to mark the 150th anniversary of Hannah's letter (and of the dedication service which she desired and which took place in the house on 15th May 1869).

The college will publicise more details in due course, but please save the date in your diary.

Calling blokes of Stanstead Abbotts.

(sorry ladies, your time will come)

Fancy a Full English Breakfast served with ketchup and a large helping of attitude? Then you are very welcome to join us on the **2nd Saturday of each month at St Andrew's Church, Wilshere Hall 8:30am - 10:00am.** Cereal, tea, coffee, juice, eggs, bacon, beans (etc.) and your chance to put the world to rights. No previous experience necessary - just a big appetite and a sprinkling of opinion if you want.



If you would like to have a serious munch, challenging debate on Christian issues, and the chance to meet other locals, book your place (so we can make sure you really do get stuffed) by phoning the Vicarage on 01920 870115 by midday on the Wednesday before the 2nd Saturday.

We next get together on 13th April 2019

Would you be willing to 'staff' St James' Summer Open afternoons?



suzy.richardson@btinternet.com

St James is open on Sundays from June to September, 2.30pm – 5.00pm. It is ideal to have someone there to welcome visitors. Those who take part in that rota say it provides a lovely quiet afternoon. Take a book if you like, and maybe something to drink (there is no water supply there) If you would be willing to be on the rota please contact Suzy Richardson 01920 870651, 07783 968204,

St James church website

Please take a look at the website of our local historic church at

www.stjamesoldchurch.org.uk

Not only does it give information on its history, its care by The Churches Conservation Trust, but also details of upcoming events, including those of the five services held there each year.

Both the church itself and its website are well worth a visit!

Responding to news of the **mosque attacks in New Zealand** the Bishops of The Diocese of St Albans made this statement:

“Following the murderous and cowardly attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, NZ yesterday evening in which 49 people killed, we send our prayers and condolences to those who are grieving the deaths of their loved ones and those who have been injured. There is no place for violent or verbal attacks in any country and we urge all people of goodwill to resist racist and Islamophobic sentiments and acts. We stand in solidarity with the Muslim communities in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire knowing they will share in the grief we and so many feel today and that this attack will cause great anxiety in their communities. This is a time when we need to draw together and stand firmly for the rule of law and the dignity of all people. We commit ourselves to work together for the common good”.

+Alan St Albans, +Richard Bedford and +Michael Hertford (The Bishop of St Albans, The Bishop of Bedford, The Bishop of Hertford)

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York call for every parish and diocese to hold their local MPs, politicians and the members of the Government and civil servants in their **prayers**.

The Bishop of St Albans, Dr Alan Smith called for a reduction in **gambling advertising**, and to introduce a levy for gambling firms to help fund research and treatment programmes to combat addiction. Churches were also called on to encourage members to write to MPs expressing their own concerns about gambling advertising (www.WriteToThem.com), to be vigilant and to report adverts that target children (www.ASA.org.uk/make-a-complaint) and to be places where people struggling over gambling can be pointed to help (www.NHS.uk/live-well). Bishop Alan told Synod that 55,000 children were problem gamblers, and were being ‘groomed’ by gambling adverts.

Great British Spring Clean 22 March – 23 April 2019

We are calling on #LitterHeroes across the country to help improve the environment on their doorstep. We’re aiming to inspire 500,000 people to join forces - in partnership with community organisations, businesses and the government - to collect and safely dispose of litter from our streets, parks and beaches, recycling as much as possible.

So join us, as we prepare to stand together and declare that litter pollution, including single-use plastic – which degrades the beauty of our environment and threatens to harm wildlife – is not acceptable.