

# Helpful Information and Contacts

## February 2019 Villages Magazine

Items for the next edition should preferably be emailed to [admin@3churches.net](mailto:admin@3churches.net) or left at the Vicarage by 15th January 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](mailto: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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.greatamwellscouts.org.uk). Group Scout Leader – Julie Greaves  
[gsl@greatamwellscouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@greatamwellscouts.org.uk) or 0845 6344183

**1<sup>st</sup> Stanstead Abbotts & St. Margarets Scout Group:**

(Scout H.Q., Marsh Lane, Stanstead Abbotts: [www.StansteadAbbottsScouts.org.uk](http://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

**Carpent 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.salhs.org.uk). For details of membership contact: [admin@salhs.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@stmargaretsburytennis.co.uk) or come along to a social morning.

# Lunches for Charities in Wilshere Hall at 1pm

## November raised £120 for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

### **Thursday 6th December for Isabel Hospice**

If you have a life-limiting illness, Isabel Hospice can care for you and your family.

All their care is free and can be provided in your home, at their Living Well community hubs or their

In-Patient Unit. They work alongside other healthcare providers and aim to increase the number of people they help over the next five years. Most patients have cancer, however, they are caring for more people with other life-limiting conditions.

They rely heavily on donations from our community, as well as income from fundraising events and from their 16 shops. This year the Hospice must raise around £5 million so that they can continue to care for more people, earlier in their journey. .



### **Thursday 3rd January for Botswana Partnership Project for young people with diabetes, hosted by a local 18 year old**

Next Easter, a group of diabetic teenagers including myself, and NHS staff will be travelling to Botswana to help young people with diabetes. Whilst there, I will be part of a diabetes camp where we will share experiences of growing up with type 1 diabetes with the young people of Botswana. Together we will learn more about management of diabetes and take part in team challenges. Following the camp, we will return to the capital, Gaborone, to help decorate the children's hospital.

The project requires me to raise £2500 by February 2019 to cover the cost of flights, accommodation and food, but also to contribute to the diabetes camp, and to take over much needed supplies and resources. To November, I've raised just over £1200 by organising a quiz, with a plan to do another; taken part in the National Three Peaks Challenge; and given presentations to tell people about my involvement. I still have much to raise, and hope this lunch will help me reach my goal.

### **Thursday 7th February for Battersea Dogs and Cats Home**

From the moment they welcomed their first stray dog in 1860 they have been placing their animals at the centre of everything they do. More than three million



animals later, they're still working hard to achieve their vision that every dog and cat should live in a home where they are treated with love, care and respect.

Their expenditure in 2017 was £34.8 million, resulting in £50,000 being invested every day to care for the dogs and cats at 3 centres.

## **BATTERSEA**

# Evergreen Club of the Three Villages

We are busy preparing an exciting programme of outings and entertainments for 2019. All residents of the Three Villages who are over 60 are welcome to come and join our friendly, warm venue each Monday from 2pm-4pm at Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall for a good tea and excellent company.

Many thanks and every good wish for the festive season and thanks for your help.

*Rosemary Imroth*

## JUST FRIENDS (New name, but same outlook)

We are only meeting once during December for coffee and Christmas nibbles and then revert to the each week of the month on a cycle at different venues: **Week 1 Thursday Afternoon Tea** at the Parish Centre, Sacred Heart, Ware at 3pm, (3<sup>rd</sup> January)

**Week 2 Wednesday Coffee Morning** at the Parish Centre, Sacred Heart, Ware at 10.45am, (12<sup>th</sup> December and 9<sup>th</sup> January).

**Week 3 Tuesday Lunch** at the Beefeater in Ware at 12.30pm (15<sup>th</sup> January) to book a place contact Mary.

**Week 4 Wednesday Coffee** in Van Hages at 11am, (23<sup>rd</sup> January). 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.

## LIVE MUSIC SESSION AT THE RED LION

Monday 28th January 2019 8.30pm - 11:00 p.m.

Musicians welcome (and audience!)

Enquiries: Leah Pybus 07895 655757

## 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.



# St John the Baptist, Great Amwell Carol Service

## with Our Choir

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm

### at St John the Baptist Church, Great Amwell

Come along and join in a selection of carols and readings.

Then enjoy a **glass of mulled wine and mince pies.**

We look forward to welcoming you!



## STANSTEAD ABBOTTS CEILIDH SOCIETY

At the Parish Hall, Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbotts

**On Sunday 16th December, doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm**

**Concert with**

**'VICKI SWAN & JOHNNY DYER (swan-dyer.co.uk)**

Stunning contemporary folk and incredible musicianship

They will be supported by **'THE RED LION PLAYERS'**

**On Sunday 20th January,**

**doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm**

**BARN DANCE with 'TAKE THE BISCUIT'**

All tickets £7 in advance (£9 on the door)

Phone [01920 877588](tel:01920877588) or [01920 870558](tel:01920870558),

tickets online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)



Soft drinks and snacks available - bring your own alcohol

**BRINGING LIVE MUSIC TO STANSTEAD ABBOTTS**

# Stanstead Abbots Local History Society

What a fire it was! It must have been seen right down the Lea Valley! And about 200 villagers were there on Easneye Hill on a clear, moonlit night to witness the event. It was November 11<sup>th</sup> and we were gathering to join with the national celebrations of the ending of the First World War 100 years ago.

We want to express big votes of thanks to Nicholas Buxton and the Buxton Estate for the use of their land; to the committee (including 3 SALHS members) who organised the event, to our Scouts who provided lighting etc. and to Mass, mien host of the Red Lion, who - with his team - did such a great job of keeping us all fed. Thanks everyone for a memorable and special evening.

And all this followed a packed Remembrance Day Service earlier in the day at St Andrews. What an encouragement it was to witness well over 100 of our young people participating in this moving tribute to the fallen (42 in number) from our village. Terry Collins, our SALHS rep was there to lay a wreath for us.

All of this came just 2 days after we had welcomed Richard Thomas at our monthly SALHS meeting. He opened the eyes of the 68 of us who were there to the multitude of fascinating facts concerning the River Lee/Lea as it flows from Luton to Leyton. Not least about its spelling! Apparently its *Lee* if it's from official, government sources - and *Lea* if it's from anywhere else!

Now, looking forward:- on **December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm** we have our (members-only) **Christmas Party**. Bring your own food to share; drinks and entertainment provided. Then, in the New Year, on **January 11<sup>th</sup>**, we'll welcome **Robin Wood** who'll be talking about "**Windmills & Watermills**" - of which we've had an abundance in this area.

Finally, please also make a note of **February 8<sup>th</sup>** when, **Tim Turner**, our popular speaker from **Sworders Antiques** will be with us again. His visits provide the opportunity to search out the potential treasures from your attics. So, bring them along and get them valued!

As usual, please check out our website: [www.salhs.org](http://www.salhs.org); there's always something new! We wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year

*Bob Hunt (Chair and PR)*

## **A BIG THANK YOU**

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who provide me with the items to fill the magazine each edition and for their patience when I chase them or change deadlines! Without you these pages would be very empty!

*Katrina Dukes – Magazine editor*



**The Hoddesdon Women's Club Ch  
& Friends Present their Annual  
Concert of Carols and Christmas Music**



**On: Monday 17th December 2018  
St Margaret's Church at 7.30pm.**

TICKETS £5, available from  
Maureen Harwood on 01992 460250  
and Ruth Swallow on 01992 462151



Mince Pies and Mulled Wine will be available

**Ware Christmas Together  
Christmas Day meal**

Organised and run by members of local churches and others.  
Come and join with others in a Christmas Day Lunch.  
Come as a Guest, or as a Helper who joins in with the Lunch

**Christmas Day**

**Riverside Hall, Priory Street, Ware - 12 noon – 3pm.**

**If you are not able to come you can have a  
Christmas Lunch delivered to your home**

TRANSPORT CAN BE PROVIDED

The event is provided free of charge.



HELPERS NEEDED ON CHRISTMAS DAY  
FOR TRANSPORT AND DELIVERY,  
ASSISTING AND EATING WITH GUESTS.

For more information please ring Christmas Together  
on **01920 420642**

**If you would like to help – or would like a Christmas dinner - each of  
the relevant forms are available from each of the churches or the  
Vicarage.**

# 1st Stanstead Abbots & St Margaret's Scout Group



Each year all our boys and girls take part in variety of activities and trips in the lead up to Remembrance to help them understand more about it, support our local community and the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Once again our Scouts prepared and delivered boxes of poppies and collection tins to local businesses and volunteer collectors. Then both the Scouts and Cubs created a fantastic poppy art installation over the doors of HQ using recycled plastic bottles.

On Remembrance weekend itself, the Beavers visited the RAF Museum at Hendon while our Cubs travelled into London with Panther Pack watching the Lord Mayor's Show and visiting the Natural History Museum and Jaguar Pack visiting HMS Belfast and Tate Modern - all before returning to the village for sleepovers.



Then on the Sunday morning, almost the entire Scout Group attended this year's Remembrance Service and Parade at St Andrew's Church joining many families and members of our local community for the Act of Remembrance.

On other nights and weekends, we've seen our Beavers learning about micro light aircraft, Cubs on Night Hikes and learning about Diwali, Scouts in an indoor carpet bowling competition, as well as all the girls and boys enjoying lots of teamwork and creativity challenges and, of course, lots of Halloween and Bonfire night fun for



everyone. The lead up to Christmas looks set to be packed with yet more fun, challenge and adventure for all our girls and boys.



To find out more about the Scout Group's recent activities and how to join or volunteer, please visit [StansteadAbbottsScouts.org.uk](http://StansteadAbbottsScouts.org.uk)

*Fiona McKenzie-Smith*



# 'LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS'

St. Margarets Parish Church  
is celebrating the birth of Christ with

## WINDOW DISPLAYS OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS



Saturday,  
December 15<sup>th</sup>  
10am - 4pm

Bring your friends and family.  
Refreshments available.

Activities and competitions for children and adults.

## 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.**



## “The Standing Silent Soldier”

To commemorate the end of the First World War “The Standing Silent Soldier” has been placed on the island at Great Amwell. Thanks go to Thames Water, Great Amwell Parish Council and The Amwell Society, Universal Signs and Thomas Precision Engineers (Stanstead Abbots) and Norbury Building Supplies (Hertford).

[Also to Ann Hardy, Seth Adams, Martin and Sue Vaughan.]

### Poppy Appeal 2018 A Big Thank You



At the time of writing, we had just finished counting the Poppy collection money and the interim total is £10,553.53 – with more money to come! This already beats last year’s total by over £500 and represents a really great effort by everybody concerned – the Scouts preparing and delivering the boxes, all the collectors and businesses, the team counting the money and above all, everyone in the villages who gave so generously to this cause in a special year. So thank you all!

*Anne Sauntson (local Poppy Appeal co-ordinator)*

## Thank You for Your Support

An exhibition of WW1 photographs and a presentation was organised by Maureen & Derrick Harwood (on behalf of the 3 Churches) on Friday the 9th November at the Wilshere Hall.

A profit of £246 will be going to The Royal British Legion.

The photographs, which were on boards with narratives, were then put on display in St Margaret's Parish Church on Saturday 10th November, where quite a few of the local population were able to come in and view them.

The boards, measuring 1metre x 1.5 metre, are now being stored in the Harwood's garage. If any school or such like would like to use them please contact them on 01992 460250



## Mad Chatters

This 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 **31st December**, then **28th January**

## Armchair Singers Singalong for Body and Soul A week of Christmas Song Taster Sessions

2pm-3pm each day

10th to 17th December

All ages welcome,

especially those with breathing problems

at Nigel Copping Community Building

Hoddesdon Road

Tea/coffee provided

For more information

contact Gabby: 07875 221543



## Poppy Wreath Collection for Remembrance Sunday

Many thanks to the few remaining loyal "The Ex-Royal British Legion ladies" (plus 4 friends) for once again supporting this good cause. This year's total was £106, which will be forwarded to Anne Sauntson for the Royal British Legion, with the monies raised from the local poppy sales. Well done to all involved and please keep supporting this wonderful cause.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year ahead.

*Iris Lyon*

## Stanstead Abbots Online

[www.stanstead-abbots-online.co.uk](http://www.stanstead-abbots-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!

**DECEMBER and JANUARY EVENTS : Please find out more details on each of these on their website – [www.isabelhospice.org.uk](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk)**

**DECEMBER**

**Saturday 1st - Isabel Hospice Hertford 'Lights of Love' at Hertford Castle: 4pm start** Join us and remember a loved one this Christmas at the Lights of Love remembrance ceremony. There will be carols and readings and a small silver paper star for you to take home. You can make a dedication in the name your loved one, and view it in our Book of Love. Call 01707 382500 to make a dedication or go to [www.isabelhospice.org.uk/bookoflove](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk/bookoflove)

**Sunday 9th – Festive 5 at Stanborough Green, Welwyn Garden City** Garden City Runners are hosting their annual Festive 5 event once again. This is a local friendly 5 mile route through the town, where you can dress up, pop on a Santa hat and join in the fun! Working in partnership with Isabel Hospice, we would love you to sign up and raise as much sponsorship as possible! Just £6 as a member of an affiliated running club or £8 for unaffiliated runners. Over 18's only. Sign up at [www.gardencityrunners.org.uk](http://www.gardencityrunners.org.uk)

**Tuesday 18th - Carols in the Chapel, Haileybury College Chapel, Hertford Heath** Join Isabel Hospice for a wonderful evening of carols in the beautiful candlelit chapel at the prestigious Haileybury, the perfect way to celebrate the festive season. £20 per person.

This year, friends and members of Ware Choral will be performing and we will be inviting the audience to sing along to their favourite Christmas Carols. There will be mince pies and mulled wine and a chance to win a luxury Christmas hamper announced on the night!

Tickets [www.isabelhospice.org.uk/carolsinthechapel](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk/carolsinthechapel) for £20 each.

**JANUARY**

**Saturday 20th - 10k Run in aid of Isabel Hospice, Essendon Country Club, Bedwell Ave, Essendon, Hatfield, AL9 6HN** Join us at Essendon Country Club for a 10K Race and 5K family fun (run/walk) Saturday 20th January at 8.30am. Hosted in a totally traffic free environment, this event is perfect for all abilities. Refreshments will be available and there will be a medal for every finisher! 10K entry fee £15, 5K entry fee £10. FREE PARKING. Enter online at [www.essendoncc.com](http://www.essendoncc.com) or call 01707 260360.

**Saturday 26th - Isabel Hospice Jumble Sale, Thundridge Village Hall, SG12 0TU**

2pm entry and 20 entry fee. Great bargains to be had.

# From the Vicar

## Revd Anne Donaldson



'Christmas is for the children' I still hear sometimes. I feel like joining the panto "O no it's not!" Sure Jesus did welcome children in a way revolutionary for His day (when Rabbis were not supposed to have anything to do with children) but Jesus didn't leave His heavenly comforts and glory just for children but for love of absolutely everyone – and that includes *you*, whatever you think of yourself, or whether you acknowledge Jesus or not – that's how amazing His love is.

Jesus was born for you, lived for you, taught for you, died for you, rose to life again for you, and sent His Holy Spirit for you. All because He loves you so much.

He could have stayed in heaven – He had no need to come to mankind at all. He came because of His great love. Greater love than we will ever be able to know or understand – far deeper, stronger, and less selfish than the best human love can ever be.

What makes me believe this? Because I read it in the Bible, and my experience of the Bible is that it is reliable – and because of my experience of God.

Experiencing God isn't because I'm a priest – I responded to God and obeyed His call to work for the Church because of my experience of His love. Remember what it felt like when you were first in love? It coloured everything about your life and brought it alive in a new way. That's how I felt when I first experienced God. My (non-religious) boss noticed it and asked me what had happened, and I described to him how 2 elderly ladies had asked if they could pray for me ('yeah, sure – whatever') and suddenly God was real eventhough I couldn't see Him. So real. My boss went out and bought doughnuts – 'have one of those' he urged. But I was coeliac and needed to keep to a gluten-free diet. 'You never know' he said. I ate one – and nothing happened!! The secretary went out at lunchtime and bought me a sandwich – nothing happened! I eventually went back to Barts hospital – 'you are in remission' they said, 'come back when it returns'. That was in 1978

I have experienced God many many times since, as have so many others in these villages. He is always there, but we often don't allow Him to get through to us. He longs to show us His love, and how hurt He must be that we don't give Him the space in our lives to do so.

He was born because He loves us so much. Please find the time in the hustle and bustle of Christmas and New Year to let Him show you that. See p21 and 14 for just a couple of ways to do so. Happy Christmas

*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 Welcomed

George Stebbing  
Mia Dixon

21st October at St Margarets'  
28th October (St Margarets')

### We offer our condolences to the families and friends of

Elsie Sapsed  
Alan Green  
Jean Bronson  
George Bourn

2nd November (St John the Baptist)  
2nd November (Ware Cemetery)  
17th November (St John the Baptist)  
17th November (St John the Baptist)

## St Andrew's church is praying for:-

Millers Lane  
Glenmire Terrace  
Marsh Lane  
Netherfield Lane, Maple Close  
Hunsdon Road, Kitten Hill  
Roydon Road  
Thele Avenue  
Woodcroft Avenue  
Trotters Gap

- week beginning 2nd December  
- week beginning 9th December  
- week beginning 16th December  
- week beginning 23rd December  
- week beginning 30th December  
- week beginning 6th January  
- week beginning 13th January  
- week beginning 20th January  
- week beginning 27th January



## 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:

5th December	Emmas Crescent	2nd January	New River Avenue
12th December	Hillside Crescent	9th January	Scott Avenue
19th December	Field Way	16th January	Gilpins Gallop
26th December	Frenchs Close	23rd January	Folly View
		30th January	Emmas Crescent

# Christingle Services

This is about the light of Christ coming into dark lives. Collections this year to go to 'Herts Young Homeless'. Children love this service and taking a Christingle home with them (the parts they haven't already eaten!) Adults enjoy the symbolism and the children's faces!

**All being held on Sunday 9th December**

9.30am - St John the Baptist, Great Amwell

11.00am - St Margarets' Parish Church

4.00pm - St Andrew's, Stanstead Abbots



## Carol Services

Sunday 9th December, 6.30pm  
at St John the Baptist, Great Amwell

Sunday 23rd December, 6.30pm,  
Carols by Candlelight at St Andrew's

Sunday 23rd December, 6.30pm,  
9 lessons and Carols at St Margarets'



## Christmas Services

See the posters in the shops and some leaflets in the pubs, and on the website ([www.3churches.net](http://www.3churches.net)) – or contact the Vicarage for details.

### Children's services on Christmas Eve

**4.00pm Crib Service** at all three churches

St John the Baptist, Great Amwell

St Margaret's Parish Church, Hoddesdon Road

St Andrew's Church, Cappell Lane, Stanstead Abbots



**At all 3 children who wish can come dressed as their favourite character in the Nativity scene, or dress up on arrival**

### Midnight Services on Christmas Eve (24th December)

11.00pm Midnight Communion at St Andrew's

11.30pm Midnight Mass at St John the Baptist



### Christmas Day Service (25th December)

10.30am Christmas Family Communion at St Margarets'

Everyone is very welcome at the Lord's Table for Communion or to ask a blessing – or welcome to stay in their seats if you wish!

# Dates for your 2019 diary

'Space to Think' (about marriage) day	9th February
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	6th March
Clocks change	Night of 30th March
<b>Mothering Sunday</b>	31st March
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	14th April
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	18th April
<b>Good Friday</b>	19th April
<b>Easter Day</b>	21st April
Annual Parochial Church Meetings	8th April Stanstead Abbotts 26th April Gt Amwell with StMargarets 30th May
<b>Ascension</b>	9th June
<b>Pentecost (Whitsun)</b>	14th September
Historic Churches bike ride	13th October
<b>Harvest</b>	20th October, 3.30pm
<b>Memorial Service</b>	Night of 26th October
Clocks change	10th November
<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	1st December
<b>Advent Sunday</b>	Tuesday December 24th
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	Wednesday December 25th
<b>Christmas Day</b>	
<b>Services at St James'</b>	Rogation Service 19th May at 10.15am (TBC)
	Patronal Evensong 21st July at 4.00pm
	Advent Carol service 1st December at 4.00pm
	8.45am Holy Communion services in June & Sept.

## ALPHA

Did you find that Christmas made you want to know more of what it was all about?? What was Jesus born to do? Why did He feel the need to come? Did you find yourself asking "What do I believe about all of this?"

Alpha provides an opportunity to hear more about what Christians believe, and to think through what you believe.

We start another Alpha on 9<sup>th</sup> January 8pm in the Wilshere Hall (but may move to someone's home if numbers permit) No need to book, just turn up – with no commitment to come the next time.....

## St James church website

Please take a look at the website of our local historic church at  
[www.stjamesoldchurch.org.uk](http://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 few services held there each year.

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



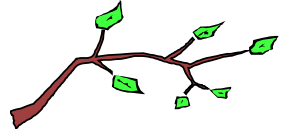


# Advent Carols by Candlelight

**Sunday 2nd December, 4pm** at St James Church, Roydon Road. Please wrap up warm if it is a cold night!  
See the November magazine for more details

## Missing You Trees

Are you missing a loved one? For whatever reason you are apart, there is an opportunity to mark this over the coming weeks by either putting their names on a 'tree' at the back of each of the churches from 2nd December. They will then be remembered in our prayers throughout the Advent and Christmas season. Tags are provided.



### Regular evening Home Group

Elizabeth Goldsmith (01920 422065) hosts the **Home Group** on alternate Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the Wilshere Hall these have now stopped during Advent and resume on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Anyone is welcome to join the group at anytime. (Please check the diary pages for the actual dates).



**Bible  
STUDY**  
Join us!

## 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.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday.

**We next get together on 8th December and 12th January 2019**



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

## **#FollowTheStar: A journey through the 12 days of Christmas**

[www.churchofengland.org/followthestar](http://www.churchofengland.org/followthestar) invites everyone to travel in the footsteps of the Wise Men to meet Jesus. Offering fourteen daily reflections – beginning on Christmas Eve and finishing on the Epiphany (6 January).

*Archbishops Justin Welby & John Sentamu write* “We invite you to sign up for our daily emails to take the life-changing Christmas journey. Each one includes a picture, a short Bible passage, a simple prayer and an action to reflect on.

For many of us, Christmas brings up so many emotions, memories and expectations. We have one nativity story, but it can seem like we all have very different Christmases. For you it might be a time of joy and togetherness. Or perhaps it's all about planning and to-do lists. Many others can find it a sad and lonely time – nagged by the feeling that your Christmas is not like those ‘perfect’ ones we see in the media. But just like the unexpected assortment of people who were invited to meet the baby Jesus, **#FollowTheStar** doesn't ask you to be perfect.

*It says: come just as you are to take the life-changing Christmas journey. Wherever you are this Christmas, you are invited to follow the star and to be with Jesus. You are welcome. You are deeply known and truly loved.*

Mary and Joseph and all those caught up in the Christmas story were surprised by the astonishing way that God chose to live among us.

Each Christmas we are reminded of God's longing to surprise us with his gift of joy, love and new life. It's the greatest present we can receive and share with others! We pray this will offer a path for your journey closer to Jesus – and we wish you every blessing this Christmas.

More than 33,000 **social action projects** run or supported by churches, according to figures setting out for the first time the full scale of the Church of England's service to communities. The findings show that 80 per cent of congregations are involved in one or more forms of social action. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: “these figures spell out for the first time the sheer scale and range of our churches' commitment to their communities. We are doing more to love and help people in need than at any time since 1945. We don't just do this to be ‘nice’ but because our faith in Jesus Christ compels us to act.”

Amongst many projects, data gathered shows that the biggest area of work is in food banks - with 60 per cent involved in either running or supporting food banks through volunteers, donations and providing venues.