

CALENDAR

Monday	01-Apr-24	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	02-Apr-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	03-Apr-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house
Thursday	04-Apr-24	
Friday	05-Apr-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	07-Apr-24	9am All Age Eucharist Service at St John the Baptist 10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's
<i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>		
Monday	08-Apr-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	09-Apr-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	10-Apr-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	11-Apr-24	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	12-Apr-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 12pm Make Lunch Club at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	14-Apr-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion Service at St Andrew's
<i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>		
Monday	15-Apr-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	16-Apr-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	17-Apr-24	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Taizé at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	18-Apr-24	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	19-Apr-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Sunday	21-Apr-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Morning Prayer at St Andrew's 10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets 12pm Great Amwell with St Margarets APCM at St Mary's, St Margarets
<i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>		
Monday	22-Apr-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 7.30pm Stanstead Abbots APCM at The Wilshere Hall, St Andrew's
Tuesday	23-Apr-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	24-Apr-24	11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	25-Apr-24	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	26-Apr-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Saturday	27-Apr-24	9am Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	28-Apr-24	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion Service at St Andrew's
<i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>		
Monday	29-Apr-24	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer
Tuesday	30-Apr-24	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ APRIL 2024

*He broke death's awful chains
When he came to life again
He is A-L-I-V-E, He is alive!*

(From 'Amazing Love' by Chris Fuller)

This Holy Week, I have been in and out of school at both St John the Baptist and at St Andrews. I have shared the Easter story with Nursery, Reception and Year 1 through Godly Play. I have been stunned by the amazing Year 3-4 and 4-5 Easter plays, with the children acting and singing the story of Jesus's death and resurrection. And I have led the Holy Week services for both schools in the churches. It's been a busy week!

Much of this work is hidden from the congregations at our churches and, as a result, it can feel like we are not passing on the story of Jesus to the next generation. So it's good to share with you that as a collective worship team, we are sharing the story of God's love with over 400 children every week. We know they hear it and that the seeds of the Gospel are sown, and we trust God with their germination!

As we come to the beginning of the Easter holidays, we are also preparing for another three sessions of Make Lunch. It has been a year since we started opening our doors to families in need of food; which can be both physical and spiritual. We shared some of our stories of the last year with our Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) Lead, Alex Hall, who has supported us on the journey and led our yearly review. She is so pleased with our work that she has awarded us Gold Club status! Thank you to all of our team and our supporters for your amazing work!

Sometimes we don't see the fruits of our labour for God, but this week I also got a general message from a Prison Chaplain thanking everyone who works in schools and churches sharing God's love. She spoke about the seeds of God's love coming to fruit in the complicated and difficult lives of the women she cares for. The memories of worship and welcome from God's family help bring people in the darkest places back to God. God who loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him would not perish, but have everlasting life! Alleluia!

Jesus is alive you know! He's risen from the dead!

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest

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NEWS & NOTICES

The Three Villages Magazine

The Three Villages committee is looking for some new members! Are you interested in being involved in this joint project between the Parish Councils and our Benefice, which aims to build community, one issue at a time? If you would like to know more, please email threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com. Also, the latest issue (March) is now available for £1 at the back of the churches.

Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall

The next Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall on Saturday 27th April, as normal. These breakfasts run every last Saturday of the month.

Bishop of St Albans: Open Garden

The spring opening of Bishop Alan's garden raised over £2,000 for the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust. The garden will be open again during the summer from early June to mid August – information on the exact dates will be made available after Easter.

Warm Welcome Spaces

Spring is finally here, so our Warm Welcome Spaces are closing their doors as the warmer weather arrives. Thank you to everyone who helped run these sessions, which make a real impact to many in our community.

Life Groups

Now that Lent is over, our Life Groups will return to their normal days and times: Tuesday at 7.30pm on Zoom and alternate Thursdays at 10.30am at The Wilshere Hall (first week back is 18th April).



T L G transforming lives for good

Make Lunch Club



Make Lunch Club is back this Easter Holidays! Join us for fun, friendship and some yummy food too. We meet on Mondays and Fridays, from 12 to 2pm at The Wilshere Hall. Come along for the following dates:
Friday 5th April
Monday 8th April
Friday 12th April

Email makelunch@3churches.net to book your place!

FROM THE CHURHWARDENS

St John's Church Quiz: date for the diary

The St John's Church Quiz will be held on Friday 18th October this year, with money raised going towards the Heating Replacement Fund.

PRAYER MINISTRY

The Ministry Team is always happy to pray for anyone, so do call or email if you have prayer requests. At St Andrew's we have Prayer Ministry after the 10.30am Sunday Service for anyone who would like prayer.

Please do come to the front for the Team to share your concerns, and pray for and with you.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Baptisms

- Freddie Gorry on 14th April at St John the Baptist.
- Myles and Milly Torrington on 23rd June at St Andrew's.
- Ruby and Theodore Marson on 7th July at St John the Baptist.
- Mason Rush on 21st July at St Mary's, St Margarets.
- Fatima Carmara Clarke on 1st September at St John the Baptist.

Weddings

- Laura Saunders & Matthew Jenks on 10th August at St Andrew's.
- Keeley Smith & Jon Dann on 19th October at St Mary's, St Margarets.
- Penelope Elsom & Jack McBride on 14th December at St John the Baptist.



Deaths

- David Shaw on 19th March.

UPCOMING DATES IN MAY

6th ~ Bank Holiday

12th ~ Rogation Sunday Service,
10.30am at St James's Church

19th ~ Pentecost Sunday

26th ~ Trinity Sunday

27th ~ Bank Holiday



USEFUL LINKS

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

A Church Near You
Benefice Page
<http://tinyurl.com/3churchesBenefice>

The 3 Churches Website
www.3churches.net