

CALENDAR

Wednesday	01-Feb-23	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	02-Feb-23	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	03-Feb-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house
Saturday	04-Feb-23	
Sunday	05-Feb-23	9am All Age Service at St John the Baptist 10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's
Monday	06-Feb-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 9.30am Warm Welcome Space & Lunch at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	07-Feb-23	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	08-Feb-23	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets Midday Taizé Service at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	09-Feb-23	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	10-Feb-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house
Saturday	11-Feb-23	
Sunday	12-Feb-23	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	13-Feb-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 9.30am Warm Welcome Space & Lunch at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	14-Feb-23	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	15-Feb-23	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	16-Feb-23	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	17-Feb-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house
Saturday	18-Feb-23	
Sunday	19-Feb-23	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
Monday	20-Feb-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 9.30am Warm Welcome Space & Lunch at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	21-Feb-23	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	22-Feb-23	9am Ash Wednesday Service at St John the Baptist (inc. school) 10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets Midday Ash Wednesday Service at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	23-Feb-23	9am Ash Wednesday Service at St Andrew's Primary School 10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	24-Feb-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 11.00am Life Group at the Goldsmith's house
Saturday	25-Feb-23	9am Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
Sunday	26-Feb-23	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	27-Feb-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 9.30am Warm Welcome Space & Lunch at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	28-Feb-23	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom



The 3 Churches Benefice

NEWS & NOTICES ~ FEBRUARY 2023

At the General Synod meeting in February, the House of Bishops will present its findings and conclusions on the journey so far in the Living in Love & Faith process, and will ask Synod to vote on the proposal to provide for the blessing of same-sex partnerships in churches. Over the last six years the Church of England has been exploring its response to the changing thoughts and attitudes of society to same-sex relationships, and this is the next step which the Bishops recommend to Synod.

People within the Church of England hold varied and opposing views, with some rejoicing in this decision, some angry that it doesn't go far enough, and some despairing that we are considering this change at all. Within our Benefice, it is likely that we hold the same breadth of conviction and depth of feeling about same-sex relationships.

This Lent we are giving everyone an opportunity to talk about the issues, experiences and theology which shape our views. We are committing to explore together, without prejudice, the way we think and feel, the changing culture around us, and the deeper understanding of being human that science may give us. We will use scripture, tradition, reason and experience to consider how we understand God to be working today; we will be doing theology together, making sense of God's love in the world today.

We will meet together to explore the concepts of Living in Love & Faith on Sundays in Lent from 5–6.30pm. I encourage you all to come, not because we will find a definitive answer which resolves everything, but because we need to be prepared to listen and learn from each other; to journey together.

As a Benefice we have not always been inclusive, as individuals we have not always been loving and welcoming. What we commit to is seeking God's perspective in love and faith.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

John 3:16–17

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest

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NEWS & NOTICES

Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall

The next Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall on Saturday 25th February, as normal. These breakfasts run every last Saturday of the month.

Warm Welcome Spaces

Don't forget that we have two Warm Welcome Spaces for anyone that needs them: Monday Coffee Morning & Lunch at The Wilshere Hall, 9.30am to 1.30pm and Wednesday Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's Church, St Margarets, 10.30-11.30am followed by the midday service.

The Three Villages Magazine

The December Issue of The Three Villages Magazine is now available for £1 at the back of the churches. Please do pick up a copy! If you haven't already done so, do subscribe to the News & Events blog (www.threevillages.com) for all the latest about what is happening in the villages.

The 3 Churches Foodbank Hub: donation request

The 3 Churches Foodbank Hub are in need of the following: tinned rice, tinned fruit and toiletries. Donations can be made to Sue at 8 Millers Lane or call 07487 350918. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

St Andrew's Card Marking Group

St Andrew's Card Making Group meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1pm in The Wilshere Hall. The cost is £4 per session to cover materials used and two cards will be made each session. We have a break midway for refreshments, which is included in cost. New members welcome – please contact Janet Dance 07941096834.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES 22ND FEBRUARY

We will be holding the following Ash Wednesday Services:



* 9am at St John the Baptist Church
(including St John the Baptist Primary School)



* Midday at St Mary's Church, St Margarets

LIVING IN LIGHT & FAITH



LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

During Lent, Living in Love & Faith sessions will be held 5–6.30pm at St Mary's Church, St Margarets. They will run on Sundays 5th, 12th and 26th March, but there will be no meeting on 19th March owing to Mothering Sunday.

How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church? We will explore these matters by studying what the Bible, theology, history and the social and biological sciences have to say, and by telling the real-life stories of followers of Christ with diverse experiences and convictions.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

Baptisms

- George Klust on 5th February at St Andrew's.
- Cherry Wyndham on 12th February at St James's.
- Jacob Taylor on 12th March at St Andrew's.

Deaths

- Rev'd Chris Briggs on 21st December
- John Wilson Todd on 21st December
- Evelyn Ira Green on 26th December



UPCOMING DATES IN MARCH

5th, 12th, ~ Lent Sessions
26th March

19th March ~ Mothering Sunday

22nd March ~ Great Amwell Parish
Hall AGM, 7pm start

USEFUL LINKS

Online Services & Events
[www.tinyurl.com/
3churcheszoom](http://www.tinyurl.com/3churcheszoom)

A Church Near You Benefice Page
[www.tinyurl.com/
3churchesACNY](http://www.tinyurl.com/3churchesACNY)

The 3 Churches Website
www.3churches.net