

## CALENDAR

<b>Sunday</b>	01-Jan-23	9am BCP Morning Prayer Service at St John the Baptist 10.30am All Age Service at St Andrew's
Monday	02-Jan-23	Bank Holiday
Tuesday	03-Jan-23	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	04-Jan-23	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	05-Jan-23	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	06-Jan-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 10.30am Bible Study (The Goldsmiths)
Saturday	07-Jan-23	
<b>Sunday</b>	08-Jan-23	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	09-Jan-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 9.30am Warm Welcome Space & Lunch at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	10-Jan-23	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	11-Jan-23	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets Midday Taizé Service at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	12-Jan-23	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	13-Jan-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 10.30am Bible Study (The Goldsmiths)
Saturday	14-Jan-23	
<b>Sunday</b>	15-Jan-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	16-Jan-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 9.30am Warm Welcome Space & Lunch at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	17-Jan-23	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	18-Jan-23	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets Midday Holy Communion at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	19-Jan-23	10.30am Life Group at The Wilshere Hall
Friday	20-Jan-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 10.30am Bible Study (The Goldsmiths) 6.30pm New Year Bring & Share Supper at The Wilshere Hall
Saturday	21-Jan-23	
<b>Sunday</b>	22-Jan-23	9am Eucharist at St John the Baptist 10.30am Holy Communion at St Andrew's
Monday	23-Jan-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 9.30am Warm Welcome Space & Lunch at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	24-Jan-23	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom
Wednesday	25-Jan-23	10.30am Community Hub Drop-in at St Mary's, St Margarets Midday Taizé Service at St Mary's, St Margarets
Thursday	26-Jan-23	10.30am Benefice Coffee Morning (The Red Lion)
Friday	27-Jan-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 10.30am Bible Study (The Goldsmiths)
Saturday	28-Jan-23	9am Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	29-Jan-23	10.30am Benefice Service at St John the Baptist
Monday	30-Jan-23	9.30am Online Benefice Morning Prayer 9.30am Warm Welcome Space & Lunch at The Wilshere Hall
Tuesday	31-Jan-23	9.30am Prayer Group 7.30pm Life Group on Zoom



St John the Baptist  
Great Amwell



St Mary the Virgin  
St Margarets



St Andrew  
Stanstead Abbots

## The 3 Churches Benefice

### NEWS & NOTICES ~ JANUARY 2023

*'God Knows' by Minnie Louise Haskins*

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".  
And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".  
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.  
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.*

As we stand on the threshold of a New Year, I'm not sure that I could put that sense of the unknown any better than Minnie Louise Haskins. There are some years when you know something of what's going to happen, and there are some where such huge events, such life changing events, cause you to realise that we really have no idea what's around the corner. There are things we plan that don't happen, and things we never anticipated, or dreaded and inevitable enough to completely ignore.

There's a great wisdom in this poem, which recognises that we never know more than a step or two ahead what is in store. God seldom maps out the details of our path. To walk in faith is to walk trusting that God has it mapped out and planned. To walk in faith is indeed to put your hand in the hand of God, to listen for his voice, to talk with him and to trust him in all the journey, over all the hills and valleys. If believing is the foundation of our life, trusting is the forward motion, the active daily work of faith. It takes practise and a constant supply of the Holy Spirit bringing peace and hope.

*So heart be still:  
What need our little life  
Our human life to know,  
If God hath comprehension?  
In all the dizzy strife  
Of things both high and low,  
God hideth His intention.*

*God knows.*

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## NEWS & NOTICES

### Epiphany Carols on Saturday 7th January

The Cambridge Fundraising Choir are performing Epiphany Carols on Saturday 7th January, 6pm at St Mary's Church, Ware. The concert will feature music by Rutter, Poston and Howells. Money raised will go to Cancer Research UK and Brain Tumour Research. Tickets can be purchased from: <https://tinyurl.com/Epiphany23> or on the door for £10.

### New Year Bring & Share Supper at The Wilshere Hall

A New Year Bring & Share Supper will be held on Friday 20th January at The Wilshere Hall. 6.30pm for 7pm start. Soft drinks provided, but bring your own wine/beer! £1 per person. Contact Lynne Heraud (07527796277 or [lynneheraud@yahoo.com](mailto:lynneheraud@yahoo.com)) if you'd like to come.

### Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall

The next Men's Breakfast at The Wilshere Hall on Saturday 28th January, as normal. These breakfasts run every last Saturday of the month.

### Warm Welcome Spaces

Don't forget that we now have two Warm Welcome Spaces for anyone that needs them: Monday Coffee Morning & Lunch at The Wilshere Hall, 9.30am to 1.30pm; 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](http://www.threevillages.com)) for all the latest about what is happening in the villages.

## THE 3 CHURCHES NEW-LOOK WEBSITE

Our new-look website launched at the start of December.

There are some new features, such as:

- a Diary page showing what is happening each month in a clear format;
- a What's On page listing all our regular services, groups and meetings;
- a News & Notices page where you can find the latest news sheet.

If you haven't already done so, do check it out by scanning the QR code (right) or visiting [www.3churches.net](http://www.3churches.net).

Thanks to Matthew Pattman for all his hard work!



## FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

### UPDATE: St John the Baptist's Church Tower

The contractor, Universal Stone, finished the tower repair work on time and to the satisfaction of the Architects, Carden and Godfrey: it has been a pleasure to work with both firms and they are highly recommended. The repair work has been kept within the budgeted cost, has been excellent in quality and the tower scaffolding came down in time for Christmas.

### Rev'd Chris Briggs

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the death of Rev'd Chris Briggs on the 21st December. As Chaplain at Haileybury, Chris regularly lead services at St John the Baptist. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Jo, and their children, Matthew, Richard and Katie.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month:

### Baptisms

- George and James Jewitt on 8th January at St John the Baptist.
- Renee Douglas on 22nd January at St Andrew's.
- Cherry Wyndham on 29th January at St James's.
- George Klust on 5th February at St Andrew's.

### Deaths

- Patricia Sheffield on 7th December
- Rev'd Chris Briggs on 21st December



## UPCOMING DATES IN FEBRUARY

- 22nd ~ Ash Wednesday Services at St John the Baptist (including the school) and St Mary's, St Margarets
- 23rd ~ Ash Wednesday Service at St Andrew's (including the school)
- 26th ~ 1st Sunday in Lent

## 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](http://www.3churches.net)