



The Three Villages Magazine

COVERING GREAT AMWELL, ST MARGARETS AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Building Community in Print and Online
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Issue 15

September 2025

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Find out more about Sweet Designs by Jennie in our business spotlight
- Discover a tasty new French & Jupps collaboration
- Read about the amazing charitable work of Small Acts of Kindness

**NOW
FREE!**

Bike 'n' Hike 2025

Saturday 13th September
9am to 5pm



Bike 'n' Hike is a fun day out where you get sponsored to visit beautiful historic churches by cycling, walking, or any mode of transport on a route of your choice.



- ⇒ Have fun visiting churches in your area
- ⇒ Raise funds for your local church
- ⇒ Help save other churches in Beds and Herts too

Take part and help your church – half of what you raise goes to your local church!

Bike 'n' Hike Family Map

Sign up & collect or print a specially designed Family Map for a circular route between our three churches. Route starts at any of the churches and can be done on foot or bike.

Our three churches will be open for pit stops along the way!

Email admin@3churches.net for next steps

MAKE CHURCH

A new kind of church for children and families!

☆☆ **NEW THIS SEPTEMBER** ☆☆

Every 3rd Sunday of the month

4:00pm at St Andrew's Church, Stanstead Abbots

Make Church is an **interactive, inclusive and joyful** church session designed especially for **children of all ages and abilities** – and their grown-ups too!

- 👏 Interactive activities
- 🎵 Lots of songs & music
- 👐 Sensory experiences
- 🏃 Movement and play
- ❤️ A space for everyone



Upcoming Dates (2025)

- 21st September
- 19th October
- 16th November
- 21st December

Whether your child loves to move, listen, sing, make noise, or explore quietly, they'll find a place at **Make Church**.

Parents and carers are part of the experience too, and we hope you'll leave encouraged and inspired.

Come as you are: let's MAKE CHURCH together!

Questions? Contact: vicar@3churches.net



The Three Villages Magazine

COVERING GREAT AMWELL, ST MARGARETS AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Issue 15

September 2025

From the Editor...



Cover: Abbotts Lake
© Nicholas Cox

Welcome to the September issue! The Three Villages Magazine is a joint venture between the three Parish Councils of Great Amwell, St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots, and The 3 Churches Benefice. It is intended as a community resource that is accessible to everyone. The online and print formats provide a platform to share local news and information, showcase local talent and support local businesses.

In this issue, we have an important update on the Neighbourhood Plan; a Charity Focus on the fantastic work done by Small Acts of

Kindness; a fascinating look into a new French & Jupps collaboration; updates from our Parish Councils, local schools and community groups; and the very last in the highly popular Local Historic Faces & Places series.

Our cover showcases a wonderful photograph of Abbotts Lake taken by Nicholas Cox, who has lived in Stanstead Abbots since 1989 and is an active member of our community. If you would like to enter a photograph for the next cover, please send your images to threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com. We are looking for seasonal images of the local area.

Do you have an interesting story or an upcoming event to promote? We would love to hear from you! Looking ahead to the last print issue of the year, the approximate deadline for submissions is 3rd October (December Issue). Alternatively, we can also promote your upcoming event/share your news on our News & Events blog. Please do get in touch!

Continued thanks are offered to Willowthorpe Care Home, our generous sponsors. We have also been kindly supported by a grant from French & Jupps, Stanstead Abbots Parish Council and Great Amwell Parish Council.

Please do check out our website (www.thethreevillages.com), subscribe to our News & Events blog for all live events and important up-to-date news, and follow us on Facebook.

Thank you for your continued support.

Anna Bond

Editor

THE THREE VILLAGES TEAM

Jim Aitken-Ballard	Rosemary Imroth
Anna Bond	Clare Maynard
Julia Davies	Mandy McCarthy
Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest	Lyn Paddon

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CONTACT US

General enquiries: threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com

Print: print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com

Web: threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com

Online: www.thethreevillages.com



The Three Villages Magazine

FROM THE VICAR

This September marks 5 years since my family and I arrived in the vicarage and I began working as the Priest in Charge. Our move was in COVID times and the start was pretty rocky, with constant changes in what we could do and who we could meet with. However, with the enthusiasm and work of the whole church, we have come out of that season as a strong and mature church community, engaging in the life of the villages and trying to love our neighbours in all sorts of practical ways. We have been running a Foodbank Hub delivering to local people for 4 years, we have just completed our third summer of Make Lunch Club, providing healthy meals and a good amount of fun and games twice a week for families who need support over the holidays, and our Warm Spaces Coffee Morning now runs all year round! Then there's the partnership with Bobtails so that we host Teddy Club in The Wilshire Hall at St Andrew's, and of course our involvement with and in the schools. There's lots happening, and that's just the outreach and social action.



What about church itself? We had a great Mission Action Planning meeting in July, looking at our future plans and it opened up a new vision of ourselves as 'one church, three buildings'. We have three beautiful churches and we each tend to have a favourite 'home church', but we are continuing to work together and building our sense of being one church community, part of the Universal Church. This August, while I have been away, we scheduled just one service in the Benefice each Sunday, rotating round the three churches. As I write this it has yet to happen, but I look forward to coming back and discovering how it has opened up that vision of unity in difference, because that is the core of God's vision; unity in diversity, a whole world of unique and varied peoples working together for the good of all.



September brings the change of season and it's a great time for starting new things, and so we are excited to introduce Make Church, a new service particularly aimed at families. It has come about because we realise that families don't find Sunday mornings an easy time to come; Sunday mornings are filled with football and rugby, or cricket at St Mags! So we're going for the sweet spot of 4pm, after the shops close when you're remembering that Sundays are different from the rest of the week! And coming to church with the old folk is great; many of us remember going to church with Granny, but if it's not aimed at children it can be difficult for everyone. It has also come about because families have asked for it; parents have said 'We really want to come to church!' So Make Church is designed for families, looking to be inclusive and engaging, with some modern music that will be familiar to our children in the village

schools. It's a space where all the family can come and experience God's presence, worship together, belong and grow! And with tea provided afterwards, what more could you want for on a Sunday evening? Once a month, every third Sunday, 4pm at St Andrew's Church. See you there!

To find out more about what we have going on across our Benefice, do visit our website 3churches.net, follow us on Facebook (@3 Churches Benefice) or grab a paper copy of our monthly News & Notices sheet from any of the three churches.



Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest
Vicar of The 3 Churches Benefice



The 3 Churches Benefice

LOCAL HISTORIC FACES & PLACES: THE GOLDSMITHS

This is the final contribution to our 'Local Historic Faces & Places' series. Over the past eight issues we've looked at a wide range of folk who have influenced the lives and buildings of our villages. However, apart from Nikki Fibbens in Issue 9 (March 2024), they have all been grey-haired men from way, way back.

So this seemed the right time to feature two people who've lived in our village for the last 55 years and only moved out at the beginning of this very year. Furthermore they are both published authors; one has authored over 30 books, while the other has had her life story published and re-published eight times. They are Martin and Elizabeth Goldsmith, formerly of Mill Race near St Andrew's Primary School.



Martin and Elizabeth Goldsmith

Let's look at the life and career of Martin first. Born into a Jewish family he was challenged by Christianity at boarding school. On leaving he did his two years National Service in the Royal Navy where he trained to be a Russian interpreter. Afterwards he studied at Worcester College, Oxford, where he became a committed Christian. After his degree at Oxford he studied theology in Bristol and then served for ten colourful and amazing years with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and South Thailand. It was in exotic Singapore, in the early 60s, that Martin married fellow OMF missionary, Elizabeth Hoyte. By the time they were transferred to Malaysia they had two children, Andrew and Margaret. Returning to the UK in 1970, Martin served 24 years full time, then 30 years part time, on the staff of All Nations Christian College where Martin pioneered many courses and lecture programmes. They also had the joy of having a third child, Ruth, and eventually seven grandchildren.

In his autobiography, *Life's Tapestry*, Martin writes warmly about settling into Stanstead Abbots and the pleasure he drew from 'normal village life' – especially from their roles in the life of St Andrew's Church. Alongside his lecturing, Martin also developed a wide-ranging speaking, teaching and preaching ministry both around Britain and in many countries in all continents. At the same time they developed a much appreciated writing career, with many of their 30 books being translated into a wide range of languages. He has also featured in a number of TV interviews, mainly about Christian mission. As he tells it himself, Martin's 91 years of life has been a total commitment to sharing the Christian message and lifestyle – with people of every major religion, particularly Islam. We are sad that recent ill health has caused the Goldsmiths to move nearer their family on the south coast.

Elizabeth's own stirring story has been well told in her oft reprinted autobiography, *God Can Be Trusted*. This includes an account of her early years of being confined in the same Japanese prisoner camp as the famous athlete Eric Liddell of *Chariots of Fire* film fame. (See her incredible account of her release from imprisonment on page 19).

Besides her tutoring and teaching responsibilities at All Nations Christian College, Elizabeth was well known to village parents through her busy baptismal preparation classes. She was a familiar figure cycling up and down the High Street while visiting families! She also served for many years as a Lay Minister at St Andrew's Church in addition to travelling and teaching alongside Martin on his frequent overseas tours.

They will both be greatly missed both at St Andrew's Church and at All Nations Christian College.

Rev'd Dr Bob Hunt

Editor's note

A big thank you to Bob for the fantastic Local Historic Faces & Places series. It has been so enjoyable to read! There are a few ideas in the works for the next series... so watch this space!

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Great Amwell Parish Council

Great Amwell Parish Council re-elected Parish Councillors T. Foy and R. Hewson as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, at its Annual Meeting held in May 2025.

The Parish Council has made representations to Hertfordshire County Council (as Highway Authority) requesting it to cut back overgrowing vegetation impeding pedestrians using the footway along the:

* B181 between the Amwell Roundabout and Hillside Lane; and

* A1170 (Amwell Hill between its junctions with Madgeways Lane and Lower Road.

Great Amwell Parish Council has been an active partner with the Parish Councils of Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets in producing the proposed Neighbourhood Plan (NP) that is now the subject of a formal examination and consultation process.* The NP covers not only the parishes of Stanstead Abbots and Stanstead St Margarets, but also part of the parish of Great Amwell. This is because the NP is based on defined settlement areas. The settlement of Stanstead Abbots includes, for planning policy purposes, that (residential) part of Great Amwell covering River Meads, Amwell Lane and The Folly Estate. Only electors covered by the Plan can ultimately vote on whether, or not, it is adopted.

Great Amwell Parish Council meets every second Thursday in each month (except in August) in the Parish Hall, Hillside Lane at 8.00pm. The Annual meetings of the Parish and Parish Council in May commence at 7.30pm.

Jeff Hughes

* You can read more about this on page 16.

St Margarets Parish Council

St Margarets Parish Council continue to raise flooding issues with Highways and were pleased to see that drainage issues for Lawrence Avenue/Station Road junction were investigated in July 2025.

Housing plans for the Rye Common field which runs parallel to St Margarets Road surfaced on social media and caused some concern with residents. As the Neighbourhood Plan was being inspected at that time (part of the Regulation 16 process), the Parish Council were satisfied that this was merely a reaction by the land promoters who were wanting to further promote and raise the profile of the land. No planning application has been submitted to date.

We are monitoring commuter parking issues in Lawrence Avenue, Sanville Gardens and Hoddesdon Road, with the assistance of the Ware Safer Neighbourhood Team and are discussing options with Hertfordshire County Council.

If you are interested in getting involved with the Parish Council then please contact the Clerk on 07422 582172 or at clerk@stansteadstmargaretsparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Christina Whellams

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE THREE VILLAGES: WE'RE NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

Whether you're a long-time resident or new to the area, our Instagram page is designed to bring us all a little closer.



Follow us today!

You can find us at [@thethreevillages](https://www.instagram.com/thethreevillages/)
<https://www.instagram.com/thethreevillages/>

Please give us a follow, like a post or two and share our page with your friends, family and neighbours. We're excited to share even more with you – one post at a time!

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Stanstead Abbotts Parish Council

Stanstead Abbotts Parish Council has a limited budget to make grants on a discretionary basis to voluntary organisations and community groups that provide services that benefit the economic, environmental and/or social wellbeing of residents of the Parish of Stanstead Abbotts. This includes, but is not limited to:



- Capital grants for equipment
- Revenue grants to pay running costs and salaries for one year
- Funding for events
- Funding for projects

In deciding on the allocation of grants, the Parish Council will consider the Stanstead Abbotts Parish Council Grant Application Policy, the financial status of the organisation/group and who in the community will benefit from the grant.

To enable the Parish Council to make this assessment, please ensure that you provide all the required information to support your application. The deadline for submission of applications for the financial year 2025–26 will be 30th September 2025. All applications will be considered at the November council meeting.

You can view the Grant Application Form and Policy on our website: stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk/grant-applications/. Email your completed form to clerk@stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Sarah Neighbour

AN UPDATE FROM OUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

It's been 12 months since I was elected as your Member of Parliament, and I have been working every day to fight for what matters to you. On your behalf, I have challenged Government Ministers on a range of issues, including improving access to healthcare services, reducing immigration, supporting our small businesses and tackling frustrating roadworks.

I know many residents are concerned by threats to the Green Belt in our area, and this was the subject of my first question to the Prime Minister. Frankly, I am outraged that the Government has removed protections for unrestricted sprawl around villages while at the same time increasing mandatory housing targets for our local councils. I've repeatedly spoken out against this in Parliament, and I continue to push for housing to be placed in the right areas and with the necessary public infrastructure to match.

Lots of residents have also told me how worried they are about flooding. Again, this is something I have raised in Parliament and I have met with the Environment Agency to put your concerns around their management of water courses and flood defences directly to them.

Over the last year, I've enjoyed attending several events across the three villages, such as the Harvest Festival at St James' Church, and I regularly hold in-person surgeries and drop-in events to discuss issues and concerns.

Please get in touch if you'd like to meet me:

- * By email: lewis.cocking.mp@parliament.uk
- * By post: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
- * By phone: 019929845335

Lewis Cocking, MP



Recent visit to Stanstead Abbotts Scout Group

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A NEW FRENCH & JUPPS COLLABORATION SEES LOCAL INGREDIENTS INTO LOCAL PINTS



French & Jupps
Roasted Malts

When we wrote this article back in July, the days were long and the warmth of summer was truly upon us. Here at French & Jupps, this time of year marks the natural rhythm of our barley harvest. You might think this is a little earlier than the traditional September harvest festival, and you'd be right! That's because we work with winter barley, which matures in July. For centuries, our maltings has been transforming this locally grown barley sourced from farmers in nearby Hunsdon, Watton-at-Stone and through to Hertford into the finest malt.

This year, that timeless cycle beautifully converged with our launch of 'Wickaman', our new 4.1% ABV English IPA. This collaboration beer is a project that truly brings the journey from grain to glass full circle, right here in the heart of our community. As Great Britain's oldest maltster, established in 1689, our enduring commitment lies in celebrating and connecting with the rich heritage of British ingredients, the brewing community and craftsmanship. We

believe this strengthens the entire local brewing and agricultural ecosystem, and we're proud to share that 'Wickaman' is our latest example of that commitment.

It was this dedication that led us to a fantastic partnership with BrewBoard brewery from South Cambridgeshire and The Green Man pub in Thriplow, a freehouse in the heart of the village since 1822, to craft our collaboration. The result is a beer brewed entirely with British ingredients, including English-grown hops from Hukins Hops, a fantastic fifth-generation hop grower. Every ingredient, from our malts to hops, and every individual involved – from farmer, maltster to publican – is a part of that regional provenance.



Brew day at BrewBoard Brewery

Needless to say the concept behind 'Wickaman' is deeply rooted in hyper-regional eco-provenance. As Nicholas Tregidgo, Head Brewer at BrewBoard, puts it, 'As we look forward to a more sustainable future, we're proving that by looking to our own backyards, we can harness a wealth of exceptional ingredients to produce an excellent beer.' This isn't just about crafting a great beer, it's about making your pint as sustainable as possible. By using ingredients exclusively from the South East, including the malt produced right here at our maltings in Stanstead Abbots, Nick and the team at BrewBoard have significantly minimised transportation miles, resulting in a lower carbon footprint for every glass.

Beyond the beer itself, this initiative aims to highlight the skilled hands that cultivate British crops and the vital role of the Great British pub as a community hub. When you enjoy a glass of 'Wickaman' you're not just tasting a delicious English IPA, you're connecting with generations of brewing heritage and supporting a network of dedicated producers right here in our county and the South East.



Groundswell Launch Day

For those eager to try it, 'Wickaman' made a high-profile debut at the Hertfordshire Groundswell Agriculture Festival, where Prince William was even seen enjoying a pint! Beyond this exciting launch, 'Wickaman' is now available through BrewBoard's tap room in Cambridge, online and at The Green Man in Thriplow. It promises to capture generations of brewing heritage while offering a contemporary twist with bold flavours built upon a distinguished malty foundation, thanks in no small part to the expertise and tradition right here in the three villages. We hope you'll raise a glass with us!

To find out more about French & Jupps, explore our maltings and learn about our Great British brewing heritage, we invite local residents of the three villages to join us for our last tours of 2025 on Monday October 27th. Learn more about the champion brewers we work with and the rich history of British malting, right here in Stanstead Abbots. Contact James Marinos to book your spot (james.marinos@frenchandjupps.co.uk).

CELEBRATING HARVEST FESTIVAL

As the fields around the three villages begin to turn and the scent of ripening crops fills the air, it is time once again to come together and celebrate the fruits of our land and labour. The Harvest Festival, taking place on Sunday 14th September, is fast becoming a much-loved tradition that brings our villages together to honour the season, our farmers and our community.

The day begins with a Harvest Thanksgiving Service at 11am at St James' Church on Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots. The historic church will be filled with songs of gratitude, prayers and a celebration of the bounty we enjoy thanks to our local growers and producers. Whether you're a long-time resident or new to the area, this warm and welcoming service is a wonderful way to reflect on the season and give thanks for our blessings.



St James' Church decorated for Harvest Festival



A lunch spread of local, seasonal ingredients

Following this special service, the celebration continues with a Harvest Lunch at 12:30pm in the Haybarn at Stanstead Bury Farm, just a short stroll away. This is where the true flavour of the festival comes to life – quite literally – as guests are treated to a feast prepared using locally grown, seasonal ingredients. From freshly harvested vegetables to handmade bread and locally sourced meats and cheeses, the lunch is a showcase of the best our countryside has to offer.

This isn't just a meal – it's a tribute to some of the people who make our village special. Local farmers, gardeners, bakers and small-scale producers work tirelessly throughout the year, and the Harvest Festival is our opportunity to say thank you. Supporting local producers not only helps our rural economy thrive, but also ensures a sustainable future rooted in care for the land and pride in our produce.



Tickets for the lunch are priced at £15 and booking is essential, as space is limited and demand is always high. You can book your place via Eventbrite by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/bdhk9a26>, or by scanning the QR code (left).

What makes the Harvest Festival so special is its sense of belonging. It's a day where people from across the three villages come together not just to celebrate food, but to celebrate each other. Neighbours chat over hearty plates, families share stories and friendships are rekindled: all under the rustic beams of the lovely hay barn, surrounded by the sights, smells and tastes of the season.

So mark your calendars for Sunday 14th September, book your tickets for lunch and come along for a day of gratitude, good food and great company. Let's celebrate all that we grow, nurture and build together – right here in our own backyard.

A traditional celebration for everyone in the three villages!



Lunch in the beautiful Haybarn

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CHARITY FOCUS: SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS

Connecting communities and making a difference for 10 years, one small act of kindness at a time

This year, Watford-based charity Small Acts of Kindness is celebrating 10 years of connecting communities with kindness. Since its foundation, over 105,000 people have experienced a small act of kindness: feeling cared for, less lonely and warmer in their homes.

Founded by Lynne Misner, Small Acts of Kindness reduce loneliness and isolation for older and vulnerable people, with a particular interest in helping those who are cold in their homes. They do this by sourcing, packing and distributing helpful gifts and information.

In January 2015, the very first Warm in Winter gift bags were put together and distributed to older people who had been identified as vulnerable, in the Watford area. From those first 50, Small Acts of Kindness has grown to source, pack and distribute over 15,000 gift bags a year, with a family of 450 active volunteers and working with more than 150 community partners from the voluntary, statutory and private sectors.

Small Acts of Kindness became a registered charity in 2018. In 2021, the charity received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK, and in 2022 extended their reach into Bedfordshire.

From collaborating with community partners, groups and organisations, to helping create a culture of kindness among individuals, families, school children and business teams, they are making a lasting and meaningful difference to thousands of people, one small act of kindness at a time.

Lynne Misner comments: *It is an honour and a privilege to be the Chief Executive at Small Acts of Kindness. I remember so vividly our very first Warm in Winter gift bag delivery, the nights spent packing with friends and family, and the heartfelt thank you notes from those very first recipients. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved and thankful to everyone who has been part of our amazing journey so far. We have built an incredible and committed team that sits at the foundation of everything we do. The many acts of kindness that I witness on a day to day basis, through our volunteer family, partners, donors, funders and supporters amazes me. We have reached thousands of individuals that have all been touched by our work, but there are still thousands more who need support. Thank you to everyone who has performed a small act of kindness, helping us to make a difference across our community.*



As they reach 10 years of working to keep older people warm in their homes, now more than ever they need your help, to continue making a difference. As part of their celebrations, Small Acts of Kindness have launched their Warm this Winter campaign. By donating £35 for a Warm in Winter gift bag, containing essential items including a blanket, hat, gloves, socks, soup, porridge and hot drinks, as well as an information pack, you can help to keep an older person warm this winter. You can donate via their website (www.smallactsofkindness.co.uk/warm-this-winter-landing) or by scanning the QR code (below).

If you, or someone you know is over 55 and cold in their home, you can request a Warm in Winter gift bag by calling 01923 372717 or email giftbags@smallactsofkindness.co.uk.



UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



St Andrew's Church of England (VC) Primary School

Summer term has been a wonderful term at St Andrew's Church of England (VC) Primary School; full of enjoyable learning, summery trips and sports events!

Nursery have been learning about 'People Who Help Us'. They have been looking at the work of a farmer and how important they are in our community. They were lucky enough to have a visit from one of our school governors, who told us about the animals on her farm and showed us different crops she has grown.



Year 1 explored the human body, focusing on their sense of taste! They began the week in Design Technology by making their own delicious fruit salads, which tied in perfectly with their science learning. Later, they carried out an exciting experiment where they were blindfolded and couldn't smell while tasting different foods. It was surprising how tricky it was to guess the flavours without all of their senses! Everyone enjoyed sharing their guesses and discovering how our senses work together when we eat. Children also labelled the parts of the body and matched them to the five senses.



Year 2 have been learning how to use various tools and techniques with clay to make different models and effects. They have now carefully painted the shell imprints in their clay models which were all different and unique. The children were proud to take them home to show their families. The children have also been planting sunflower seeds as part of their Science topic on plants and learnt the key things plants need to grow. They have to look after their sunflower as there is a prize for the tallest sunflower at the end of term.

Year 3 excitedly visited the Roman baths in Welwyn. The children were able to show off their Roman knowledge and also learn a lot more about Roman life through a series of activities at the Mill Green Museum.



In Geography, Year 5 have been learning about our local area. We looked at a map and survey of Stanstead Abbots High Street from 1949, which lists all of the shops that were along the High Street at that time. We then visited to see what shops and businesses are there now, and discussed the similarities and differences. The children were lucky enough to be given a presentation followed by a tour of The Maltings. They learnt about what is made there and were even allowed to taste some products containing malt!

Michael Speed, Headteacher

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Online is the place to go for the latest news and information about up-coming events in the three villages of Great Amwell, St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots.



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UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



St John the Baptist CE VA Primary

As always our Summer Term has been packed with activities focussed on broadening our curriculum and enhancing the children's experiences. Events were kicked off by our choir's participation in the Hertford and Ware Schools Music Association's Music Festival. The children performed the cantata 'From Ghana with Love' as part of a mass choir, with our pupils Ivy Steventon and Carter Davis performing solos in two pieces. Sophie Alligan, Evelyn Allen and Zoe Hernandez helped narrate the story.

In May, we commemorated the events of VE Day, marking the 80th anniversary. Children came dressed in 1940s attire, or wearing red, white and blue. In the morning, the children learnt about the history of VE Day, including hearing stories from those who were there on the day that peace was declared, obtaining a first-hand account. Then, in the afternoon the children joined up in their house groups to participate in different activities. The children's favourite was learning to jive. Years 5 and 6 are looking forward to working with the Stanstead Abbotts Local History Society in the Autumn Term, to learn about the impact of the war on our village.

The children enjoyed our sports week held each June, where children are given the opportunity to try out two different sports each day. 'Although we enjoyed all the sports during Sports Week, our Year 6 favourites were lacrosse, which most of us had never done before, and boxing where we used gloves and pads to learn the different moves. It was hot work! The Veena Vibes dancing was really good fun and the boys definitely out danced the girls – we have the video to prove it! All in all, it was a really fun week and we loved the opportunity to try new things.' (Report by Year 6).

The children have also been out and about exploring as part of their curriculum work. Reception went to Lea Valley Animal Park, linked to their topic on animal habitats. We couldn't take Years 1 and 2 to the Amazon rainforest for their topic work, so we thought of the next best thing and went to Kew Gardens. The children enjoyed climbing to the top of the Palm House and looking down on all the layers of the rain forest. I was really impressed with how quickly they could name them. Years 3 and 4 went to St Albans Cathedral to learn about this incredible place of worship and the Roman history of St Albans. Year 5 visited the British Museum to find out more about the Mayan Civilisation. Using the money they had raised through their mini-enterprise project 'Make £5 grow', Year 6 part funded their trip to Walton on the Naze to celebrate their excellent assessment results.



As we come to the end of the school year and look forward to another exciting year ahead, it has been good to reflect on our recent Ofsted inspection report which stated, 'Pupils enjoy coming here. They take pride in their work and know adults want them to succeed.' We look forward to welcoming our new intake of pupils and inviting in those parents looking for a place for September 2026.

Lydia Hunt, Headteacher

UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College

Tonwell Satellite Provision

Amwell View School, a community special school for pupils with severe learning difficulties, opened a third Satellite Provision for ten pupils, in the village of Tonwell.

As mentioned in our previous update, the site was Tonwell St Mary's Primary School, and it is a beautiful building with a chapel which was built in 1858. The building was last used as a church in the early 2000's and then it was used as a primary school until August 2024. Amwell View School's main site, based in Stanstead Abbots, has significantly grown over recent years, from 80 pupils in 2005 with 181 pupils on roll 2025. The Tonwell Satellite has made room for another class.

Class Teacher Tonwell 1, Hayley Warrington said:

The Tonwell Satellite base has provided many fantastic opportunities for pupils to grow their confidence, social and communication skills in a new setting and within the wider community. Over the year, pupils have experienced shopping in local supermarkets, attending the school's new allotment, swimming at Hartham leisure centre, visiting the zoo, attending sports trips with other schools and much more. They have flourished in the new environment and many parents have commented on the visible increase in confidence their young people have shown. We are really proud of how the pupils have adjusted to the new satellite base and are excited for more peers to join them in the near future.

Janet Warrington
School Business Manager



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The Three Villages Magazine

MEMORIAL FOR QUIZMASTER TERRY COLLINS

In Loving Memory of Terry Collins, Quizmaster Extraordinaire



27th March 1945 – 15th May 2025

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Terry Collins, the Quizmaster behind our magazine's puzzle page. For countless readers across the three villages, Terry's clever quizzes were a highlight in our print magazine.

Terry was a big part of the community in other ways too. We share here a glimpse of the Celebration of Life held for Terry:

Terry was a warm, intelligent and quietly humorous man, deeply connected to those around him. A lover of history, nature, music, sport and storytelling, his life was marked by curiosity and commitment – to his marriage, his work and the causes he cared about. He was deeply loved by his wife Glenis, with whom he shared 55 years of joyful companionship.

Born in Clevedon, Somerset during wartime evacuation, Terry grew up in Deptford, South London. He left school with a love of English and History, which would shape much of his personal and volunteer life. His early career began in the civil service, before he explored film editing, and then found his way to Woodhouse Hume where he met Glenis. They married in 1970 and eventually settled in Stanstead Abbotts, their forever home.

Terry's career spanned roles at EMI, Greater London Council, Tesco and Asda, where his talents in planning and productivity were put to great use. He later worked with Hertfordshire Police before retiring in 2010.

In retirement, Terry's love of history and nature truly flourished. He volunteered for the Royal Gunpowder Mills and was instrumental in forming the Stanstead Abbotts Local History Society, where his impressive research into local WWI soldiers became a treasured legacy. Rev'd Bob Hunt recalls his dedication, attention to detail and how his work enriched the entire community.

Terry was also a key figure in the RSPB's South East Herts group, serving as leader from 1985–1990. As Phil Blatcher shared, Terry's leadership style was intelligent, approachable and quietly inspiring. He organised holidays, quiz nights (famously throwing Smarties to winning teams) and even earned the affectionate nickname 'El Tel'.

Music was Terry's constant companion, from playing bass in a skiffle group to memorising lyrics and collecting songs. His final choices, Meet on the Ledge, Imagine, and You'll Never Walk Alone, speak to his spirit: hopeful, heartfelt and full of meaning.

Terry loved food, books, a good glass of red wine and walks with his beloved white Samoyed dogs. Travel with Glenis brought him joy, particularly to Scotland and Italy. He was a keen Liverpool FC supporter and, above all, a man who lived quietly but deeply, touching lives in ways that will not be forgotten.

Our community magazine extends heartfelt condolences to Terry's family, friends and all who found delight in his work. Within The Three Villages Magazine his quizzes sparked more than just answers – they created connections, fuelled imaginations and made our community a brighter, more engaged place.

Terry will be much missed, but remembered with gratitude and fondness.

The Three Villages Team

MEET A LOCAL: JAIMIE DUNN

If you live in or around Stanstead Abbots, there's a good chance you've seen the Maltings Locksmiths Ltd van around the village – or maybe even called them in a pinch. Behind the company is local resident Jaimie Dunn, a friendly, experienced locksmith with a deep-rooted connection to the community he serves.

'I have lived in and around the area for over 30 years,' says Jaimie. 'I am now living in Stanstead Abbots and have based the business there.'

Jaimie runs Maltings Locksmiths Ltd, located in The Maltings at Stanstead Abbots.* The company specialises in all kinds of domestic and commercial lock issues, as well as door and lock replacements, lockouts and a variety of other security problems. 'We work closely with the community, giving advice and offering free surveys to help people keep their property and belongings safe.'



With many years of experience under his belt, Jaimie is also an accredited member of SafeContractor and the Master Locksmiths Association, offering peace of mind to his clients. His approach is not just about fixing locks, it's about keeping people safe and making a stressful situation easier to handle. 'Helping people from a desperate situation to a calm one (when locked out), fixing things and seeing happy faces' is what he says he loves most about his work.

That caring attitude is likely shaped by his previous service in both the Military and the Police – an achievement of which Jaimie is rightly proud. These roles provided a strong foundation for his current career, blending technical skill with a clear sense of responsibility and public service.

So, what keeps Jaimie motivated? 'My beautiful wife (Mandy), son (Maxim) and solving problems,' he says. It's a simple but powerful combination: family and a love for what he does.

When he isn't working or helping out with security surveys, Jaimie enjoys the best of village life. His favourite places to eat locally? 'Either the Red Lion or the Taste of Raj – both in the High Street.' And his go-to shop? 'Probably the Co-op, as I seem to spend a lot of time in there!'

Jaimie's love of humour and imagination shows in his taste in entertainment. His favourite books are any book by Terry Pratchett, while his top film choice is the comedy classic *Anchorman*. And if he had the chance to host a dinner party with anyone, living or dead, he has a thoughtful and eclectic guest list in mind: 'Robin Williams (funniest man to ever live), Stephen Fry (intelligent wit), Winston Churchill (motivational), and my Uncle David (gone now, but the voice of reason for many things when he was alive).'

When asked how he would describe his personality or outlook on life in just three words, Jaimie replies without hesitation: 'Positivity creates Happiness'. It's a phrase that perfectly captures his upbeat, can-do attitude and the way he approaches both his work and his life in the village.

And what's his favourite thing about living in the area? 'The people, the atmosphere and the convenience of having travel routes close to hand.'

From emergency callouts to everyday security advice, Jaimie's role in the community is a vital one, but it's also clearly a job he loves. With his professional experience, community spirit and warm personality, it's easy to see why Maltings Locksmiths Ltd has become a trusted local name.

So next time you see Jaimie around the village – or find yourself in need of a locksmith – you'll know there's a friendly face nearby who's always ready to help.

*You can check out Maltings Locksmiths Ltd at maltingslocksmiths.co.uk

The Three Villages Magazine

REGULAR CLUBS, GROUPS AND MEETINGS IN THE THREE VILLAGES

1st Stanstead Abbots Brownies: Mondays 5.45–7pm (The Wilshere Hall) for girls aged 7 to 10 years. Guider in charge: Helen Payne (01920 462676).

Great Amwell Scout Group: Squirrels: boys and girls aged 4–5 years old, Beavers: boys and girls aged 6–8 years old, Cubs: boys and girls aged 8–10½ years old, Scouts: boys and girls aged 10½–14 years old. All groups meet at Scout HQ, 142 London Road, Ware SG12 9NH. For details visit www.greatamwellscouts.org.uk or call 01920 320142.

1st Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets Scout Group: Age groups as above. All groups meet at Scout HQ, Marsh Lane, Stanstead Abbots SG12 8QT. For details visit www.stansteadabbottsscouts.org.uk or follow on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Community Hub Drop-in: Offers a safe space for anyone in the community who is in need of a listening ear or practical help. During winter months this is a Warm Welcome Space. Meets every Wednesday, 10:30–11:30am at St Mary's Church, St Margarets.

Great Amwell Women's Club: Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday 7.30–10pm at 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.

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

Stanstead Abbots Local History Society: Chairman, Rosemary James. Regular meetings for both members and non-members. For details visit: www.salhs.org.uk. For membership details email: admin@salhs.org.uk.

St Margaretsbury Tennis Club: A friendly club with social sessions on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturday and Sunday mornings, plus a junior section, coaching available, and opportunity to play match tennis in local leagues. For details contact: secretary@stmargaretsburytennis.co.uk or come along to a social morning.

'Armchair Singers' for everyone: A chance to eat, drink, sing and quiz all in one afternoon. Fun, fun, fun. Held in the Nigel Copping Community Centre every Monday 1.30–3.30pm. Singing for health and well-being. All ages welcome. For more details please contact Gabby Hanley (07875221543).

St Margaretsbury Cricket Club: A friendly cricket club that welcomes all ages and abilities. Email info@stmcc.org.uk for more information.

St Margaretsbury Football Club: A Chartered Standard local football club for Youth, Ladies' and Men's football, with youth starting from 6 years upwards in non-competitive leagues, and more competitive as they move up into Under 18s', Ladies' and Men's Football. Contact: Club Secretary Louise Huggett at stmargaretsbury@outlook.com or 07958 636388.

Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall Table Tennis Club: A friendly club meeting on Friday afternoons from 2pm, and Thursday evenings from 7.30pm with the opportunity to play in local leagues. For further details please call 07841 583256 or email saphttc@yahoo.com – or just come along!

Carpet Bowls Club: Our Carpet Bowls club meets every Tuesday from 7pm in Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall. We are an all-inclusive sport, suitable for all ages and abilities. Our members range in age from 9 to 90. No need to bring any equipment, everything is provided. First night is free. Come along and give it a try! For more details contact Pete (Tel: 07429142525 / Email: pmcook1@hotmail.co.uk).

St Andrew's Church Card-making Group: We meet in The Wilshere Hall starting at 1pm on the first and third Tuesdays every month. 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 on 07941096834.

Just Friends: a group for widows, widowers and divorced or separated people. We meet as friends to support each other, arrange activities and share names of trusted tradespeople. Meeting every 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday. If interested, please contact Mary (maryhallett14@gmail.com / 07899 861297).

Bell Ringing at St John the Baptist, Great Amwell: We meet every Thursday at 7.30pm until 9.00pm. A new skill for all ages to stimulate the brain and keep you fit. Just come along or contact Frances Adams 07876 496654 / fmadams50@yahoo.co.uk.

Coffee and Coping Hertfordshire: A community support hub that aims to build community, curtail loneliness in the older generation and help support our veterans. Meeting every Wednesday at 12–1.30pm & 5–6.30pm and Friday at 12–1.30pm in The Ashlea Room, Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall.

Hope in Action: a group concentrating on addiction in all forms, for concerned family members as well as addicts. Meeting at St Mary's Church, St Margarets every Wednesday from 5–6.30pm.

If you would like to add a club, group or meeting to this list, please send details to print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com.

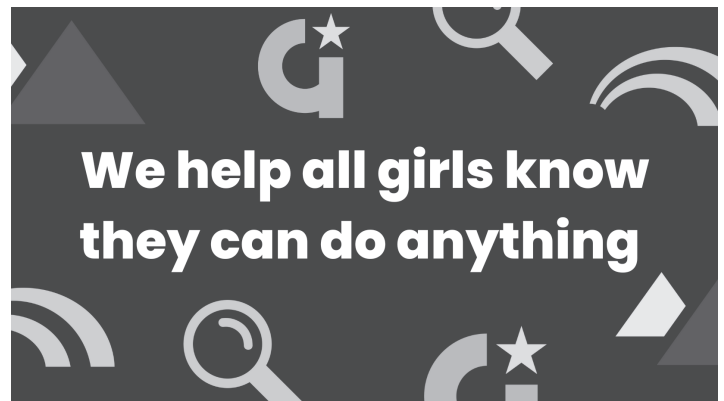
1ST STANSTEAD ABBOTTS BROWNIES

The Brownies had a busy summer. We went paddle boarding, played putting, and had an activity day at Cuffley Camp that included archery and zip wiring. Then we had Ware carnival where we were dressed up as the rainbow in Wizard of Oz. Then finally we had our pack holiday to Skreens Park Activity Centre, with a Disney theme. While we were there we drove pedal carts, did low ropes and crate stacking and, as it was very hot, we had a huge water fight in which all the leaders got drenched!

We sadly lost one of our Young Leaders as she was going off to university.

We are always looking for volunteers to join our team. If you want to have fun and help girls aged 7 to 10 have adventures then contact me (helen.mhjrpayne@btinternet.com).

Helen Payne, Leader



APPLEFEST IS BACK!

Join Scott's Sponsored Walk

ST ELIZABETH'S PRESENTS

AppleFest

FREE ENTRY
(Donations welcome)

SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
11 am - 3.30pm

ST ELIZABETH'S
EST 1903

- Apple picking & tasting
- Refreshments & BBQ
- Local live music
- Fun for all the family!

St Elizabeth's, SG10 6EW | fundraising@stelizabeths.org.uk

St Elizabeth's Centre is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (No. 11087989) Registered Charity No. 1176777

Join us for an afternoon of apple picking, live entertainment, refreshments, BBQ and fun for all the family. We also have a number of stalls including our very own social enterprises.

When: Saturday 27 September 2025, 11am–3:30pm

Where: St Elizabeth's Centre, Perry Green, Much Hadham

Entry: Free (donations gratefully received)

Come along and join the fun!

- ♦ Apple Picking & Tasting: Wander the orchard and taste the harvest.
- ♦ Live Music & Entertainment: Celebrate with tunes and family-friendly performances.
- ♦ Refreshments & BBQ: Savour light bites, cooked treats, and drinks.
- ♦ Local Stalls: Browse stalls featuring goods from St Elizabeth's own social enterprises, alongside crafts and produce.

AppleFest blends enjoyment with community spirit and fundraising. Proceeds from donations and stall sales support St Elizabeth's mission – helping children and adults with learning disabilities, epilepsy and other complex needs live full, meaningful lives.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Louisa Stone

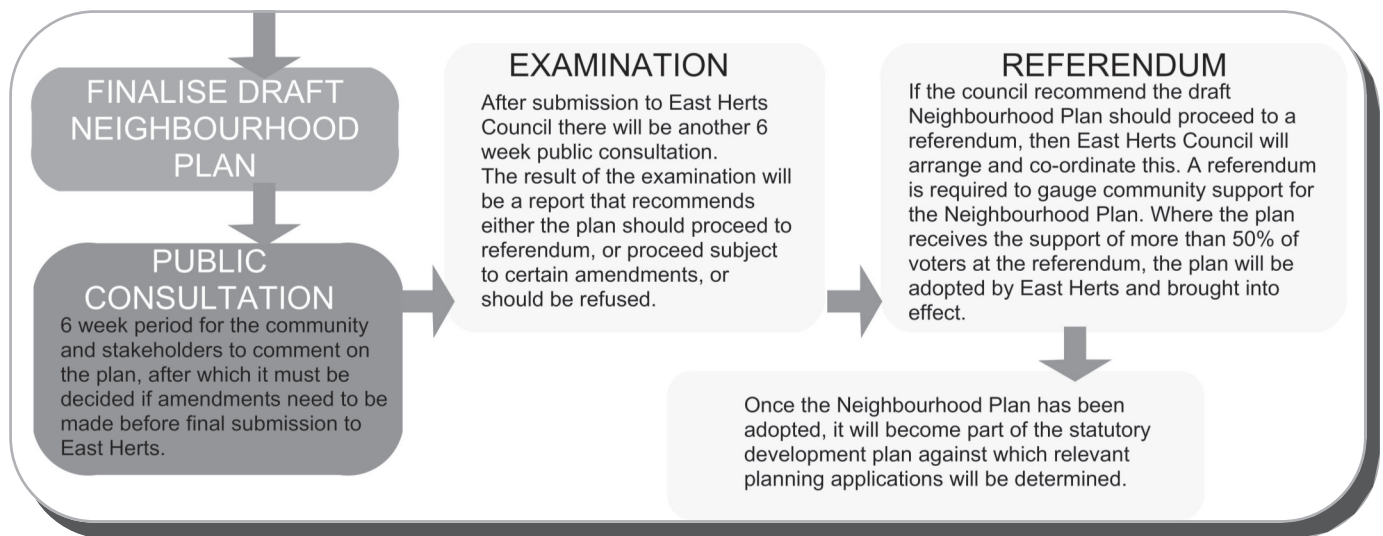
St Elizabeth's Centre | www.stelizabeths.org.uk

The Three Villages Magazine

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Good news for everyone in Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets – our Neighbourhood Plan is moving ahead.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is now being carefully reviewed by an independent examiner. This is a vital stage in the process, ensuring that everything put forward meets legal and planning requirements, and reflects the wishes of our community.



Snap shot of where we are in the process

What's happening now?

The examiner is going through all the submitted documents, including the Consultation Statement and the Evidence Base. He has produced a Clarification Note, to make sure everything is in order to which the Steering Group Members are responding. If you'd like to take a look at the details yourself, all the relevant documents are available on the East Herts District Council website. You can access at the Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets | East Herts District Council page here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxey2mx>.

What's next?

Once the examiner completes his review and (hopefully) gives the green light, we'll move on to the Referendum Stage. This is when you, the residents of Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets, get to vote on whether the plan should be officially adopted. You will be able to cast your Yes/No decision in a ballot at your usual Polling Station.

Why it matters

The Neighbourhood Plan is all about shaping the future of our villages – protecting what we love, guiding appropriate development and making sure that our voices are heard in the planning process. Thank you to everyone who has taken part so far.

Stay tuned for updates on the referendum date and, in the meantime, we encourage you to take a look at the plan documents.



Stanstead Abbots
St Margarets

Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

WEBSITE: www.stansteadabbotsneighbourhoodplan.uk

EMAIL: sa.neighbourhoodplan@gmail.com

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: SWEET DESIGNS BY JENNIE

Sweet Designs By Jennie is based in Stanstead Abbots and run by Jennie Asis who creates bespoke cakes, cupcakes, cheesecakes and other baked goods, as well as running fun, friendly cupcake decorating classes.

Jennie's passion for baking started as a young child when she often made cakes and other treats alongside her mother. This continued as a hobby until she had her own children and wanted to create a business from this passion that would work around her family. During lockdown, baking was a pastime for many, Jennie included, but it was also the start of a dream career and Sweet Designs By Jennie was born. After completing her Food Hygiene course and registering her business with the local authority, she opened in 2021. Jennie started creating custom-made cakes and cupcakes, then launched the cupcake decorating classes soon after. It was at this point that Jennie realised that a dedicated workspace was needed and she had her garage converted into a purpose built cake room with a storage room for the ever increasing collection of cake making equipment.



The cupcake decorating classes were originally intended to be a secondary aspect of the business alongside the baking, however they quickly became very popular and currently Jennie runs on average four classes per month and often takes on bookings for private classes too. Seasonal periods such as Christmas see Jennie holding as many as 20 dates with various design options to choose from. There are many returning customers, some having attended over 30 classes, which keeps Jennie on her toes keeping up with the demand for new and exciting class designs! The sessions are perfect for those who

are new to cupcake decorating as well as anyone with more experience. There are varying themes and designs, covering a range of fondant and piping techniques, ideal for learning skills to use at home or just for enjoying as a fun afternoon out.



One of Jennie's biggest sellers is her layer cakes, which are celebration cakes tailored to customer's requests. With a range of flavours and fillings available, these are perfect for those who want a personalised cake at an affordable price. Alternatively, cupcakes are a great option and can be customised to any theme and occasion. These are offered in multiples of six, offering better value the more that are ordered. Perfect for a little treat for the weekend or a bigger celebration.

All Jennie's products are baked fresh for each order or class, no preservatives or additives are used. The recipes have all been created and adapted by Jennie personally. Gluten and dairy free options are available, and Jennie has had extensive experience and training in baking with allergies in mind. Creating new products and experimenting with flavours is a real passion of hers, using family, neighbours and even the postman as taste-testers to perfect each new product. Community involvement is very important to Jennie; she often donates cakes and vouchers to local schools and charities, building relationships with other local businesses and organisations.



From her cake room to the community, Jennie is spreading smiles through every bake!

If you'd like to contact Sweet Designs By Jennie she can be found on Facebook or Instagram, or you can email on sweetdesignsbyjennie@yahoo.com.

The Three Villages Magazine

POEM BY RONNIE BENTLEY

The Carousel

Golden horses that fly through the air
Each coloured with individual flare
Twisted brass poles that shine in the sun
Filled with children and parents, smile everyone
Up and down, around and around
Dancing in time to that musical sound
A world of coloured excitement all in one place
A moment to breathe, to step back from the race
Where time just stops, but the word keeps spinning
Where life's about the journey, not just the winning
A place memories are made, future stories to tell
Of fleeting glances, of four hoofed dances
Of wind in your hair, of life with no care
Of father and son, of mother and girl
Riding upon...
The Carousel



By Ronnie Bentley (The Rye House Poet)

RECIPE: CHOCOLATE FRIDGE CAKE

This is a really simple and easy sweet treat – and no baking required! Another great recipe to get the kids involved. If you don't like raisins, you could use other dried fruit or even throw in some nuts! I did a mix of raisins, mini fudge squares and mini marshmallows just because I had them leftover.

INGREDIENTS

250g digestive biscuits
150g salted butter
50g caster sugar
200g milk chocolate
100g raisins (or whatever you like!)

METHOD

1. Place the butter in a saucepan and heat gently until melted.
2. Stir in the sugar, then add the chocolate and stir continuously over very low heat until melted and the mixture is smooth, then remove from the heat.
3. Add the raisins to the pan, then take a few biscuits at a time and break them between your fingers into small chunks as you add them to the pan. Stir well until all the biscuits are coated in chocolate.
4. Line a 20cm shallow square tin with baking paper, then add the mixture and press it down as flat and smooth as you can. [Optional: sprinkle on some toppings, such as a handful of raisins or some chocolate chips]
5. Leave to set in the fridge for a couple of hours (or freeze for 20 minutes).
6. Optional topping: if you like things really chocolatey, you could melt about 150g chocolate in a bowl over a pan of gently simmering water, then spread over the top and leave to set again.
7. Cut into squares. Store in an air-tight container and they will last up to 5 days (if you can resist).



Anna Bond

REMEMBERING VJ DAY

In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, we asked Elizabeth Goldsmith to share her experience of VJ Day in Japanese-occupied China...



Parachutes over
Block 23, where
Elizabeth lived

How could I ever forget the sight of American paratroopers floating down towards us out of a deep blue sky?

I was 11 years old and living in China because my parents were Christian missionaries in that vast land. My Father was an experienced surgeon who expressed his dedication to Jesus Christ through his skilled hands, his warm heart and his teaching about the One true God who loves everyone in the world. Together with my four brothers and a sister,

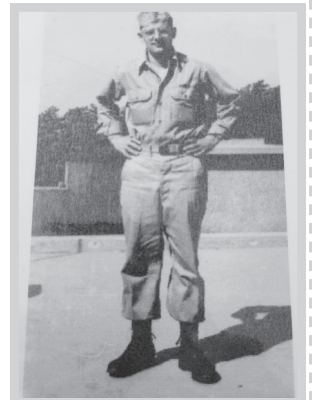
I had been at a boarding school for missionary children in N.E. China. Despite the dangers from Japan making huge incursions all along the coastal area of China, my parents continued their sacrificial work 1,000 miles inland.

Then came the shock of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Overnight, all foreigners were considered 'enemies' by the Japanese forces. They swept into our school, took our Headmaster away for questioning, and announced that we were all prisoners of the Imperial Japanese Army! Forced to move from place to place, we finally landed up crowded into a Civilian Assembly Centre, together with all the foreigners in the Beijing area.

1,400 people from all walks of life were crammed into a compound, which had been built for just 200 Chinese Bible students. We were supplied with just the coarsest of foods, which dwindled as the months and years dragged by. With no new clothes and little school equipment, our teachers struggled to keep up their courage. We went barefoot all summer to save our shoes; then, come autumn, our feet had grown and we had to squeeze into shoes belonging to someone else! Shortage of water meant that our mattresses crawled with bedbugs. And my childish diary repeated day after day, 'No bread! No bread!' Donkey meat was a rare treat! Worst of all, hardly any letters arrived from my parents in distant Lanchow.

One of my memories was trying to hang out the washing on bitterly cold winter days. The large sheets were the worst. They flapped in the wind like huge birds and then froze solid, proving almost impossible for a child to lift down. One of my brothers was set to making coal balls out of the meagre coal dust which the Japanese allowed us. He had to mix it by hand with some mud, roll it into balls, and then set them out in rows to dry.

But all our problems faded on that unforgettable day! Looking back, I believe there were many times when God miraculously protected us. Word had come to the American forces that, if forced to surrender, the Japanese guards had been ordered to kill all their prisoners. Also, it was well-known that there were Chinese guerillas hiding in the surrounding hills. Given the opportunity, they might have captured our prison camp and held us for ransom. So, the paratroopers had expected to fight their way to gain control of our Internment Camp. But we prisoners had watched their coming, and a huge crowd rushed towards the main gates, gathering in size as we ran. The Japanese soldiers on guard could have shot at us, but they hesitated. The crowd kept going and ran on, out through the gates to find their liberators. God had kept the guards from shooting at us! Deliriously happy, the crowd found their rescuers and lifted them shoulder high. Triumphant they bore the seven paratroopers back to the Camp. Once more, the Japanese guards could have shot at us, but God protected us again!



Peter Orlich, one of the
brave rescuers

I learned afterwards that, arriving at the gates, the American Major leaped to his feet and demanded to know where the Japanese Commandant could be found. Then, carefully checking both his pistols, with a high sense of drama he strode through the office doors. Whether the Commandant knew that the war was nearly over, I cannot tell. But after a long hesitation, he reached for his samurai sword and laid it on the desk. He had surrendered!

We children were oblivious of this drama. We found ourselves beyond those high walls for the first time. Everyone was shouting and crying and laughing and hugging each other. Hardly able to believe what was happening, the joy and excitement was infectious. I remember that our little gang of kids found a small stream nearby. We jumped into the water, screaming and splashing each other in wild abandon. Food! Freedom! For us the war was over. A few days later, the second atom bomb hastened the Japanese total surrender. We were free at last!

Elizabeth Goldsmith

The Three Villages Magazine

GREAT AMWELL PARISH HALL

Did you know that residents of Great Amwell with St Margarets can hire Great Amwell Parish Hall?

Great Amwell Parish Hall is set in the picturesque village of Great Amwell, located in the centre of the village and serves the residents of Great Amwell with St Margarets. The hall was built in 1986 and is available for hire by residents in the Parish of Great Amwell with St Margarets.

The hall may be hired for various functions, family events and children's parties, meetings, quizzes, small workshops, band practice, church events, societies, funeral receptions, weddings and carpet bowls. Unfortunately it cannot accommodate parties wanting inflatable play items such as bouncy castles or climbing frames.

If you would like to find out more about the hall, including capacity and facilities, or to make a Booking Enquiry, please visit 3churches.net/great-amwell-parish-hall/ or scan the QR code above.



Elizabeth Hawkins

QUIZ NIGHT AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH



FUNDRAISING FOR ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH
DAMP COURSE ON THE WEST WALL
ON THE LEFT OF THE STAINGLASS

FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER
7PM FOR A
7.30PM PROMPT START

GREAT AMWELL PARISH HALL
GREAT AMWELL
WARE SG12 9SG

IT'S QUIZ TIME!



CHOOSE FROM:

FISH AND CHIPS / CHICKEN AND CHIPS / VEGETARIAN
PLEASE STATE YOUR CHOICE OF FOOD WHEN BOOKING

TICKETS ARE £20 PER PERSON
INCLUDING DINNER

BRING YOUR OWN GLASS,
DRINKS, KNIFE, FORK & NIBBLES

FOR TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT
BRYAN BRACE (01992 447845 / bjbrace122@gmail.com) OR
RICHARD/MARGARET MELLOR (01920 460474 / richardmellor@btinternet.com)

DIRECTORY OF USEFUL NUMBERS

THE 3 CHURCHES BENEFICE

Vicar

Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870009/07488 914972

Lay Ministers

Mrs Lynne Griffiths 01920 460668

Mrs Rachel Melrose 01920 422092

Great Amwell with St Margarets

Churchwardens: Mr Richard and

Mrs Margaret Mellor 01920 460474

Assistant Churchwardens: Mr Martin and

Mrs Sue Vaughan 01920 877779

Mr Bryan Brace 01992 447845

Organists: Mrs Jill Hall 01279 842328

Mrs Lynda Harrington 01992 422398

PCC Secretary: Mr Richard Mellor 01920 460474

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Lyn Paddon 01920 487717

St John the Baptist, Great Amwell

Treasurer: Mr Richard Mellor 01920 460474

Baptism enquiries: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115

Wedding enquiries: Mrs Alex Richardson 01920 871391

St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets

Primary contact: Mrs Lyn Paddon 01920 487717

Treasurer: Mrs Lyn Paddon 01920 487717

Baptism enquiries: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115

Wedding enquiries: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115

Stanstead Abbots

Churchwardens: Mr Peter Melrose 01920 422092

Mr John Woodward 07942 674994

Organist: Mrs Lynne Griffiths 01920 460668

PCC Secretary: Mrs Michele Ross 07783 443332

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Michele Ross 07783 443332

St Andrew, Stanstead Abbots

Treasurer: Mr Edward Trower 07919 003949

Baptism enquiries: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115

Wedding enquiries: Mrs Lynne Griffiths 01920 460668

PARISH COUNCILS

Stanstead Abbots

Parish Council Clerk: Ms Sarah Neighbour 07943 602877

Great Amwell

Parish Council Clerk: Mr Jeff Hughes 07736 172533

Stanstead St Margarets

Parish Council Clerk: Ms Christina Whellams 07422 582172

SCHOOLS

Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College,

Stanstead Abbots 01920 870027

St Andrew's C of E (VC) Primary School,
Stanstead Abbots 01920 870097

St John the Baptist CE VA Primary School,
Great Amwell 01920 870135

CHURCH/PARISH HALLS

Great Amwell Parish Hall:

Mr Denis O'Donoghue 01920 739222

Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall:

Mr Andrew Day 07588 016148

The Wilshere Hall, St Andrew's Church:

Ms Maureen Freeman 01920 870632

NATIONAL & LOCAL HELPLINES

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Telephone Advice Service 111

24-hour National Domestic Abuse Hotline 0808 2000 247

Herts Domestic Abuse Hotline 08088 088 088

Samaritans (Freephone) 116 123

The Three Churches Foodbank Hub 07487 350918

East Herts Citizens Advice Service 03444 111 444

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) 0800 328 0006

Anne Robson Helpline: Time to Talk 0808 801 0688

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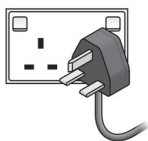
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~
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The 3 Churches Benefice

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Whether it's feedback, a story idea or if you're interested in getting more involved, please do drop us a line.

This magazine is made for our community – by our community – and your voice matters.

General enquiries: threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com

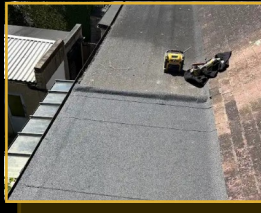
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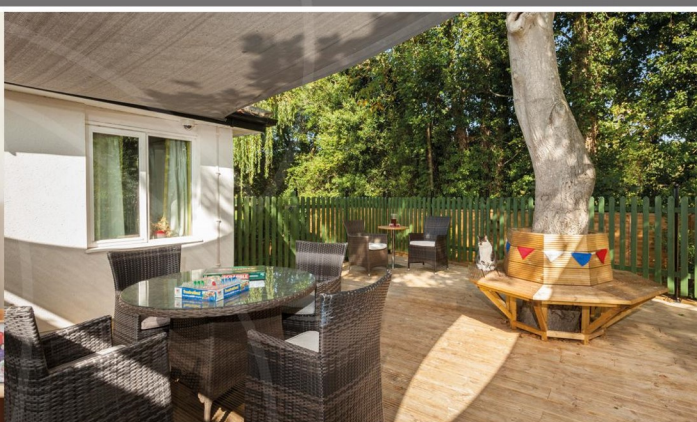
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