

Aldenham

Church - Newsletter

At the heart
of Christmas



Dec 2021 - March 2022



Bethlehem at night

St. John The Baptist Church, Aldenham WD25 8BE



HIRE US

Our iconic church and church hall are often used for events other than religious purposes and we welcome all enquiries!

The Church Room

Is ideal for:

- Smaller meetings and Committee groups
- Social groups and Children's activities
- Music practice or rehearsals

And has:

- Separate entrance
- Good toilets (one disabled and baby changing)
- Small grand piano and another keyboard
- WIFI
- Kitchen facilities
- Heating

The Church

Suitable for:

- Larger groups
- Concerts and recitals - superb acoustics

And has

- Its own kitchen facilities
- WIFI and streaming capabilities
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- Grand piano and organ
- Children's area
- Comfortable seating for over 100 people.

So if you are looking for somewhere to meet then look no further than here.

Email info@aldenhamchurch.com

To get in touch or look on the website for more information..

**KEEP UP
TO DATE
WITH
THE
NEWS**



Our weekly information sheet is sent by email as well as being available in church on Sundays. It tells you what is happening at church each week; recorded services, times of services and other news as well and is the ideal way to keep up to date. If you are not already receiving your copy please let us know your email address by sending it to:

info@aldenhamchurch.com

(You can opt out at any time.)



Christmas carols

What would Christmas be without carols?

The well-known carols are synonymous with Christmas. The words and tunes are so well known and most of us will remember them from childhood years. We will have heard them sung in church or at school or perhaps carol singers coming to our door or on the radio or television. They are very much part of Christmas each year.

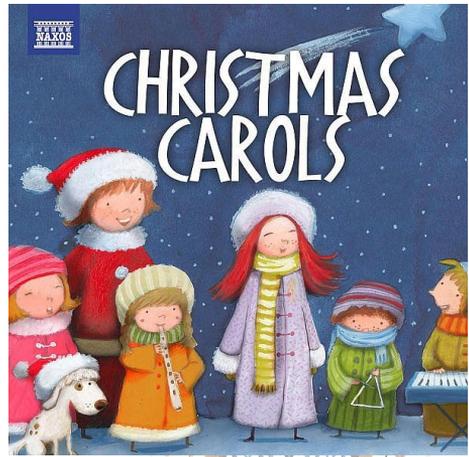
Carolling dates back to the middle ages, when beggars wandering the streets seeking food, drink or money would sing holiday songs which became known as carols. Sometimes the carols would be accompanied by dancing. It is thought they were introduced to England from France. The tradition of carol singers going from door to door came about because carols were banned from churches by the Puritans. Oliver Cromwell even thought Christmas Day should be a solemn day.

I wonder though if you have really thought about the words and lyrics of the carols as you have sung or listened to them. Most of the carols convey the true religious meaning of Christmas. Some are very old and come from as early as the 4th century and some by much more modern Victorian writers. They were mostly written by well-known

Christian poets, like Charles Wesley who wrote 'Hark the herald angels sing.' Christina Rossetti wrote 'In the bleak midwinter' and Mrs S.F. Alexander wrote 'Once in Royal David's City.'

We all have our favourites I am sure and 'Silent night' would be one of the carols that is high on everyone's list. It conveys not only the silence and peace of the night but also the way that God is breaking into this darkness with the birth of a baby. The baby sleeps in Mary's arms and is born to save us all. The mind cannot fully grasp this, so the music and words transcend our understanding to bring us this sublime truth.

Wishing you God's Peace and Joy this Christmas



PLEASE BECOME A FRIEND!

Do you have connections with the church or just love the building? Do you want to see it thrive and continue to be the 'jewel' of Aldenham village? If so, you can help by becoming a

“Friend of Aldenham Church”.

The annual donation is a minimum of £15 per year (more is always very welcome of course!). We will send you a copy of the Newsletter and a Friends Newsletter as well as keeping you up to date with all the news about the church activities.

You don't need to be a Christian or attend any services to help us, FRIENDS OF ALDENHAM CHURCH come from any and everywhere to help us as the church receives no financial help from anywhere other than the generosity of people!.

To join please contact Sue Barnard at suekenbarnard@aol.com or there is more information about the church on the website at:- www.aldenhamchurch.com where you can find

this leaflet to download on the 'Donate' page.



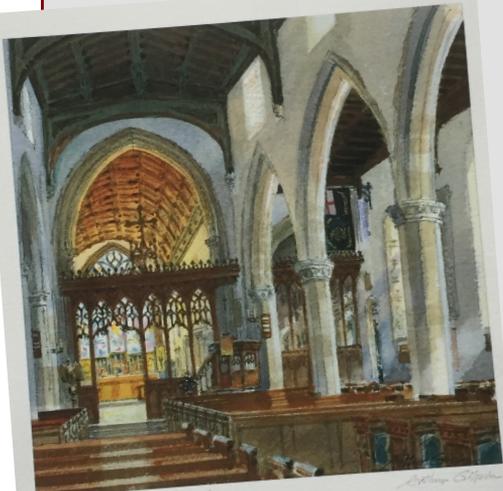
Please be a

**Friend of
Aldenham Church**

St. John the Baptist,
Church Lane, Aldenham, Herts
WD23 8BE

Friends Contact
Sue Barnard

info@aldenhamchurch.com





Your Church Choir needs YOU!



For more than three-quarters of a millennium, our church here in Aldenham has resounded to the sound of hymns, psalms, and canticles. Music is an integral part of our worship, and we carry on an Anglican musical tradition which is increasingly rare in the wider Church. During the pandemic, most of us have keenly felt the absence of singing from the regular services, and as restrictions have lifted, we have all welcomed the return of congregational singing.

Directed by our Organist and Choirmaster, Gary Eyre, the Church Choir is a small but dedicated group of singers who lead and support the congregation and vicar in this musical tradition. Following resumption of sung services, we have welcomed a number of new members to our ranks, but to allow us to expand our repertoire and to support every service fully, we still need to grow.

If you have previous experience singing in a choir, church or otherwise, and if you enjoy singing and would like to support our musical tradition, we would very much welcome you. We practise on Fridays at 7:30pm at the church in preparation for the regular Sunday morning and evening sung services, as well as for special services or occasions. Why not come along and find out more, or contact Gary via the Church website <https://aldenhamchurch.com/choir-organ/>



In time of need, we have Pastoral Care!

Pastoral care of members of the church and wider parish community is a priority for us.

We have a Church pastoral care group who have been trained to respond to anyone in need - whether it be illness, bereavement, personal difficulty or a practical need.

We are here to help and support in whatever way we can. If you would like to talk to one of our group please contact:

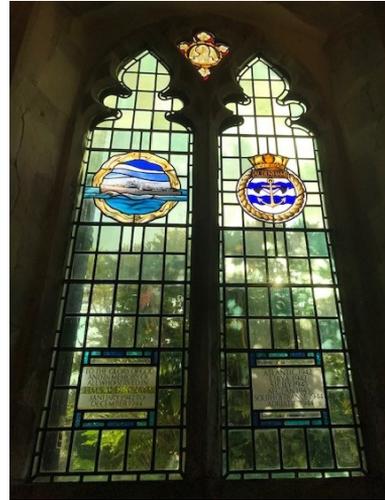
Vicar 01923 854209 - Annie Wiggs 07810 264099 - Sue Barnard 01923 852754

I have attended a course in 'spiritual direction' and would be very happy to offer such assistance to anyone who would like to explore or know more about this, please contact me. [Robert Fletcher \(Vicar\)](#)

HMS ALDENHAM ASSOCIATION



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The Association was created from the ship, HMS Aldenham, a hunt class Destroyer which was sunk in the last few months of World War 2.

The Association is looking for new members, not necessarily Naval as we are now a gathering of like minded people both male and female.

Our visits include the likes of Pangbourne Naval College, to commemorate the Falkland Islands War and other places. **The highlight is 'Aldenham Sunday' which commemorates the sinking of the ship on the 14th December 1944. This is a military turn-out with standards displayed and a church service having local dignitaries in attendance, all taking place in the church under the memorial window in the South Aisle. (Seen above)**

After the service there is usually a buffet lunch in Aldenham Social Club opposite the church.

Why not come and visit us when we meet at Aldenham Social Club on the last Sunday in the month at 11.00am?

For more information please contact me at eykie@btinternet.com.

Look forward to seeing you.

Alan - Chairman -
HMS Aldenham Association



Aldenham Village Residents Association

As we mentioned in the June newsletter, we have set up the Aldenham Village Residents Association (AVRA), with two important aims in mind. First, to work for the betterment of Aldenham Village and Village Residents and to build good relations with its neighbours in surrounding or nearby areas within the parish of Aldenham. Second, to promote and represent the interests of Aldenham Village in consultation with the local authority, other public bodies, the local MP and such other individuals or organisations as are relevant to achieve the Association's aims.

Over the last few months, we have been busy with implementing the plan, which was agreed with Residents in the spring. The plan fits within an overall strategy, which is to give Aldenham Village a clear identity, improve its amenities and make it a green village for the enjoyment and wellbeing of current and future residents as well as visitors.

Regarding the plan, we have persuaded the County Council to install welcome signs at both ends of Church Lane – these will say “Welcome to ALDENHAM VILLAGE: please drive carefully. The local police have run some speed tests along Church Lane to gauge how serious is the speeding problem. We have had the pot-holes along Church Lane repaired and arranged for more litter bins around the Church and Village Green to be provided by the Council. On the litter front, our excellent team of volunteers have been working very hard to keep things under control – many thanks to all of the team.

After some correspondence, the Elstree Aerodrome Consultative Committee (EACC) has agreed to allow AVRA to be represented on the Committee. This is an important step, as it will allow us to provide direct feedback on the noise pollution problems from planes and helicopters flying over the village and allow us to try to influence the Aerodrome's policies and practices.

Looking forward, the AVRA social events team are planning a Village Fete to coincide with the special Bank Holiday in June that is celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Fete is very likely to be on Saturday June 4th or Sunday June 5th 2022. The social events team are looking for more volunteers – if you would like to help, please come forward.

Aldenham is a beautiful village and it has a unique and historic character and place within the parish of Aldenham. We look forward to the Association making a positive contribution for the wellbeing of Aldenham residents and the wider community.

For more information see our website at:

www.aldenhamvillage.co.uk or email info@AldenhamVillage.co.uk.

Steven Haberman, Chair, AVRA Committee

November 12th 2021

MAP

Mission Action Planning

MAP is used widely in the Church of England and is a tool for each parish church to assess where they are going. A Road Map, if you like. We call this 'vision' in church language. Here at Aldenham we have

produced two MAP's in the past 10 years and it's time to work on another to cover the next five years. It's a process in which I hope all members of the church will be part. It's important that we do 'own' the church MAP and can work towards implementing the plans with action.

The aim will be to work out achievable priorities and goals and then delivering them in the forthcoming five year period. This should challenge and help us to be focused on what we are about as a church set in the parish of Aldenham and in the wider team ministry of Radlett, Aldenham and Shenley.

One of the main challenges we face is the change that will be taking place next summer as I will be working less hours on a 'house for duty' basis. I will be turning 70 next year which is the maximum retirement age of clergy in the Church of England.

The Diocese are, however, allowing me to stay in post here for another two years on a three day a week basis (Sundays and two other days). This will require some very careful thought and planning for our MAP.

We start with a meeting of the PCC on Thursday 20th January with a facilitator from the Diocese to help us start the process. The aim will be to have a MAP in place by the summer which will enable us to move forward in our mission and ministry. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas or comments about this very important MAP for our church and parish.

Thank you

Robert Fletcher (Vicar)



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Great Team Effort Yields Results !

As many of you will have gathered from all the signs around and about, our church is now an Examination Centre for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. Our organist and choirmaster, Gary Eyre had been in contact with several examination boards after he had initially arranged to get us off the ground with the London College of Music. This was as a result of the LCM asking for venue suggestions when they were unable to secure their normal placement due to the Pandemic. Gary quickly made contact with them and our first bookings were soon organised through the LCM representatives, Christine and David. Gary's contacts in the world of music have been so valuable in this process and he has known both of these reps for some time.

The ABRSM were grateful for Gary's first email and he did a great job 'selling' our beautiful church as an excellent centre for their examinations. However, at this stage they advised him that they had found a different venue in the centre of Watford, but would keep his email on file. Having left it a month or two, Gary contacted them again and added even more 'selling points'. To his delight they responded to ask if we were still interested and so, the system got going!

After tremendously hard work from Gary, Ken Haslar and Roy Adcock, the first session was held on Monday November 15. We were awarded no less than 13 half day sessions spread over 3 weeks and a brilliant team of volunteers from our church community and wider friends have learned very swiftly the ins and outs of this Steward's role. They are being wonderful and take everything in their stride and I and everyone offer them a huge thank you. Keeping candidates, parents and examiners all happy and calm is indeed a challenging task!

I am optimistic that this event was a resounding success and the ABRSM and LCM will continue using our church for these exams long into the future.

This is a huge success for team St John the Baptist!

Annie Wiggs



Legacies and Wills

Many years ago the church was the beneficiary of a bequest from Miss Nellie Whitley and her sisters. This amounted to nearly £287,000 and has been used to pay for many projects, repairs, improvements and running the church.

This extremely generous bequest has contributed enormously to the financing of the church for its life, ministry and mission in the past

Over the years the church has received many smaller bequests which have also been hugely appreciated. It is a way of thanking God for all the blessings we have received in this life, as well as helping finance the church for the future; to safeguard and preserve the inheritance of our Christian faith and witness for future generations.

Could you consider a bequest to the church in your own Will? It would be a lasting benefit to the future of this church and community and help to pay for all the essential work to keep this building as the 'Jewel of the village'

THANK YOU

More work at the church

North Path lights

These are now installed and working and a light in the Lych gate has also be installed to light your way up the path.



WIFI and Streaming.

The WIFI is now up and running and you can log onto the 'Guest' WIFI without a password. With full fibre connection church users can utilise this facility for 'streaming' as well.

Re-using the churchyard

After much debate it has been discovered that the new piece of land acquired many years ago would be the subject of much legal work for it to be consecrated for burials or burial of ashes. This would take some time to finalise but the

www.aldenhamchurch.com



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@Aldenhamstjohnbaptist

If you have some good pictures for us to share, please send them with any text to
info@aldenhamchurch.com

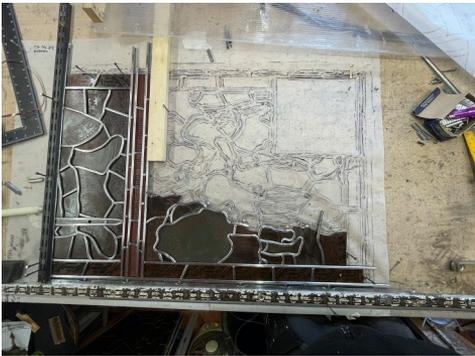
process has started. However, the current churchyard has a lot of empty space and an application has been made to the Diocese to re-use some of this instead. The faculty has been approved by the DAC committee and is now awaiting the final stages of approval.

Heating

See the article on another page.

Window

Visitors to the church will have seen that the window by the South Porch



has now been removed and is being restored by a local expert. It should be returned to us before Christmas so we can enjoy its beauty once more. You may remember that it has been letting water badly enough to cause considerable damage to the plasterwork on the inside wall. Once sufficiently dry the wall will be assessed for suitable repair and renovation.

If you would like any more information about any of these projects please contact us on: info@aldenhamchurch.com

DONATE

Help us please!

Text!

ALDENHAMCH to 70580 to donate £5

Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £5 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text ALDENHAMCHNOINFO to 70580.



General donations

If you would like to make a donation you can do so on line with the following Bank details:
St John The Baptist Aldenham Parish Church.
Account no 90100668 Sort Code 20-74-09.

Stewardship

Better still make a regular donation by joining our Stewardship Scheme. Please contact Cath Baker for more details of this on: cathbaker@gmx.co.uk.

Become a Friend

Friends of the church come from far and wide and will receive regular information from the church. A minimum donation of £15 per year is all it takes. Contact Sue Barnard to join suekenbarbarnard@aol.com

In Church

Using our 'Tap and Pay' system is easy and a great alternative to a cash collection.

We always collect Gift Aid where we can!



GOING GREEN again!

In the last issue we reported that we had changed all the light bulbs in the church to LED bulbs making around a 75% reduction in the power used.

Now it is the turn of the heating.

The church room has been heated by ancient electric panel radiators which are very hot to the touch, expensive to run and difficult to control being either ON or OFF. In line with our aims to make the room more available to outside letting, the PCC have agreed to the suggestion from the Diocese and suppliers that the fitting of an Air Source Heat Pump is the ideal way forward!

This technology is easy to control, has low maintenance costs and considerable lower energy requirements thus making it yet another GREENER solution to the needs of the church.

The church heating has different needs and the current oil burning boiler which is at least 70 years old is no longer fit for purpose being only about 35% efficient. Having sought advice from several sources a heat pump of any description is not suitable for heating the huge and airy space we have as the units and power requirements would be huge! As a result the PCC have agreed that even with the current problems with gas it is the only sensible way forward. The current pipework in the church is considered to be adequate and will remain undisturbed with only the crypt being affected by the work. The envisaged boiler would also come ready to be converted to Hydrogen use should this be the way forward in the future.

We have applied for permission for both of these upgrades to the Diocese and we hope for an early agreement to carry out the work.

The combined cost of both of these is in the order of £60,000 but VERY necessary.

More news on upgrading our church next time!



FOR SALE at the back of the church.

1. Stained glass, brilliant booklet about our lovely windows - £4
2. List of burial plots booklet - £4
3. Framed Pictures of church from an original watercolour by Arthur Gilpin - £10 each
4. Commemorative Mugs (2 sorts) - £8 each
5. Postcards - 5p each
6. Bookmarks - 50p each
7. Pens - £1 each
8. Guide Book to the church - £4
9. Dennis Day Goes Latin - Great CD of music - £5 each
10. Cards or notelets - £1 each.





Children and young people

'Let the children come to me' are the words of Jesus.

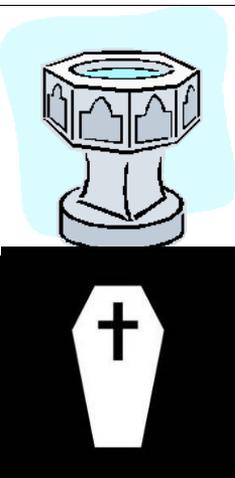
We are very keen to start Sunday school again after the interruption of the past 18

months of the pandemic. We need parent helpers and of course children to resume our Sunday School which was always once a month on the fourth Sunday.

The seeds of faith are planted when we are young and the hope is that children will be brought to church and learn about the Christian faith. Sadly this doesn't happen very often these days and there are many who miss the opportunity of a faith and belief that will help and sustain them throughout life.

Children and young people are welcomed and helped to learn and grow in the faith through Sunday school or 'children's church' as it is sometimes called. This is where so many of us started our Christian journey. It is so important for children and the next generation to find their place in the church and grow up with an understanding of Christian faith.

If you can help or would like to know more about Sunday school, please contact the Vicar or email - info@aldenhamchurch.com.



BAPTISMS

WEDDINGS

FUNERALS



St. John's Aldenham is here!

Contact: info@aldenhamchurch.com



JOIN US!

For coffee, tea, cake, biscuits, a chat and more on the 1st Saturday in the month. Explore our beautiful building and its ancient history or make use of our WIFI for a couple of hours of peace and quiet.

For more - see the weekly information (Pew) sheet on: www.aldenhamchurch.com/news



Special Service Days

12th Dec 10.30am

HMS Aldenham Service

19th Dec 6.30pm

Nine lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christingle Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

10.30am Crib Service

2nd January 10.30am

Epiphany (brought forward from 6th January)

6th February 10.30am

Swap round of clergy Sunday

13th February 10.30am

Celebration of Marriage Service

27th March 10.30am

Mothering Sunday

At the heart of Christmas



FOR HIRE

The church and church room are both available for your events.

Contact info@aldenhamchurch.com for more information.

Services at the Church

The main morning service at 10.30am and Evensong at 6.30pm are now running in church according to the latest Church of England guidance.

We ask that face coverings are still worn and that everybody's personal space is respected. Singing hymns is now allowed but Communion will continue to be given without kneeling with the wafers intincted with wine, (options available.) Special sanitizing care is given to the administration of these. Refreshments are now being served after the morning service in the hospitality area with everyone welcome.

Pre-recorded services are still available via the Pew Sheet and also on the website.

More information will appear in our weekly bulletins and forthcoming Special days are mentioned on the previous page.

Otherwise normal services will remain as:

1st Sunday	BCP Communion
2nd “	Family Service
3rd “	Matins
4th “	Common Worship Communion
5th “	Matins

From the Registers:

Weddings

30th July

Lucy Marsh and Charles Glaridge

14th August

Sarah Rodgers and Matthew Sutton

4th Sept

Joshua Sheen and Clare Lehovsky

Funerals

28th September - Helen Lack

GET IN TOUCH...

TEAM VICAR

Robert A Fletcher

01923 854209

r.a.fletcher@outlook.com

CHURCHWARDEN

Ken Haslar

ken@aldenhamchurch.com

TREASURER - Jill Gillam

jillgillam@hotmail.co.uk

CHURCH SECRETARY

Linda Lambert

lindalambert30@btinternet.com

STEWARDSHIP

Catherine Baker

cathbaker@gmx.co.uk

FRIENDS - Sue Barnard

suekenbarnard@aol.com

TOWER MASTER

(Bellringers) Roy Adcock

royadcock98@gmail.com

ORGANIST/CHOIR MASTER

Gary Eyre

admin@aldenhamchurch.com

WEBSITE

info@aldenhamchurch.com

NEWSLETTER - Ken Haslar

info@aldenhamchurch.com

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

enquiries@aldenhamchurch.com

VISIT US AT

www.aldenhamchurch.com

for information about the church and what's on!

Address for post:

The Vicarage, Church Lane,

Aldenham, Radlett, Herts

WD25 8BE or send us your email

to receive the latest information.





Christmas

SUNDAY LUNCHES

Our Christmas Sunday lunches offer a chance to gather with friends and family.

All you will need to do is relax and get into the Christmas Spirit.

5th, 12th and 19th DECEMBER
£30.50 ADULTS | £15.00 UNDER 12'S INCLUDING GIFT
AVAILABLE 12:00-15:00



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