

Aldenham

Church - Newsletter



April - July 2022



Aldenham Church,
St. John The Baptist



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
- PA system with radio mics, Bluetooth and CD player
- Grand piano, keyboard and organ
- Children's area
- Comfortable seating for over 150 people.

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

Email info@aldenhamchurch.com

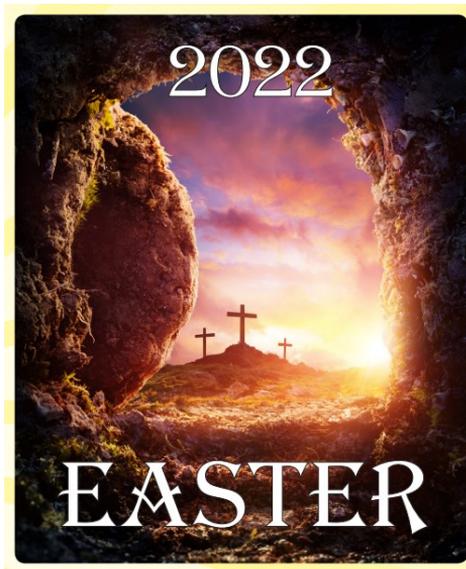
to get in touch or look on the website for more information.

**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.)

LIFE THROUGH DEATH



Spring is such a lovely time of the year. The new vibrant life appearing after winter. The blossom and spring flowers adding wonderful colour to the green shoots and leaves beginning to appear. The miracle and wonder of 'new life' bursting out all around us.

This new life and growth can only appear each spring because of what has gone before – decay and death. The leaves falling off the tree in the autumn turn to bud which produces the new leaf. The seed planted in the ground can only grow because it has first died.

This fundamental principle of 'life through death' runs through the whole of nature and life.

It's not surprising therefore that it is at the heart and centre of the Christian faith. On Good Friday (15th April this year) we look back and remember the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. Then on Easter Day (17th April) we remember and celebrate his Resurrection from the dead. Death was not the end but a new beginning!

Through the remembrance of Christ's death and resurrection we discern nothing less than the very character and nature of God – what God is actually like! The crucified Jesus is one of the most accurate picture of God we have – the God who has entered this world of pain, suffering and death. Then we see a totally different and transformed picture of Easter Day. The power, the miracle, the mystery of new life – Jesus is alive again. The same man appearing in the same person, nature and personality but not at all easily recognised!

This was the experience of the first disciples of Jesus (as the Gospels tell us) and it is true to our own experience if we can see and perceive it. New life through death. Jesus, risen from the dead. Easter Day is God's answer to Good Friday!

Wishing you are very happy and joyful Easter.

Robert Fletcher (Vicar)





ALDENHAM
GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

PLANS FOR NEW PRACTICE GROUND

The Club has acquired the lease on the field to the South of the clubhouse, which will allow us to create appropriate practice facilities for the first time in the Club's history. This will allow us to offer long and short game practice facilities, individual and group coaching and a six hole academy course.

This will be subject to a planning applications and public consultation but will include:

- The draining and remodelling of the existing field to provide a 290 yard practice ground surrounded by a six hole Par 3 academy course.
- A new pond, which will improve the club's water harvesting management as part of our sustainability programme.
- The conversion of the existing practice area into a specialist short-game area.

There will be no buildings or lighting located within the new facility and the road spur seen on the map will be only a temporary access during construction. A ball machine will be located on existing club land with only the artificial teeing areas in the new facility. Access to the new practice ground will be via code-controlled gates level with the existing putting green.

Remodelling the land will have some construction impacts for a limited amount of time but we want to ensure that the finished facility has a positive effect on the character of the area.



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY OR ENTER YOUR WORK!



ALDENHAM

art

Festival

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
9th-11th September 2022

Friday and Saturday 10.00am - 5pm, Sun 12 noon - 4.30pm
Entry by donation, home made cakes and refreshments available.

PREVIEW NIGHT
Thursday 8th September, 6:30 - 9.00pm

Sparkling Wine, Wine & Soft Drinks
Served with Canapes

suggested minimum donation of £5 per adult.

A stunning collection of over 400 original, contemporary and traditional works of art to browse and buy at affordable prices.
Get great art and help preserve the fabric of this ancient building.

St. John the Baptist Church
Church Lane, Aldenham, WD25 8BE (Near Radlett, Bushey and Watford)
www.aldenhamartfestival.org.uk

In association with **Aldenham Golf & Country Club**

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Email: events@aldenhamgolfclub.co.uk



ALDENHAM
GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

ENTER ON-LINE AT WWW.ALDENHAMARTFESTIVAL.ORG.UK

QUESTIONS ABOUT WAR

The Russian invasion of Ukraine raises some very searching questions. As I write, two weeks since the start of the war, it still seems unreal. 'Mankind cannot bear too much reality' wrote T.S Eliot. This is the worst kind of reality and tragedy unfolding before the world.

1. **Political - how did we get here?** Wars are always very complex and can be precipitated by historical grievances. The grievance here seems to stem from 'perestroika' and 'glasnost' under Mikhail Gorbachev causing the break-up of the Soviet Union, the end of the Soviet bloc of nations and the end of the cold war. Since then, in this short period of some 30 years, the resentment of President Putin and his regime has fuelled the decision to seize back control firstly of Crimea and now the Ukraine. Is it too simplistic to say this is mainly about historical anachronistic grievances, leading to malign aggressive power and greed?

2. **Religious - how can two mainly Christian countries be at war?** Russia has 80% and the Ukraine 50% Christian populations. There always seems to be a church building in the background of television news. As with the second world war the church seems to be complicit and silent; powerless to do anything about it. During the last world war however, there were many Christians speaking out and trying to stand up to the evils of war but the sheer complexity and propaganda of the war made it very difficult. I have no doubt this is true of the present war in Ukraine. What we don't see or hear much about though are the Christian churches and communities that are helping and supporting one another where they can. The role of Poland and other bordering countries in taking in refugees is a very Christian response to the war; human compassion at it's best.

3. **Theological - Where is God to be found?** This is perhaps the most searching question of all. It's the perennial question of how to reconcile a loving God with human suffering and particularly when it is man-made, as opposed to disease and natural disasters. The terrible suffering touches us at the deepest level so that we question our faith in a loving God. Where is God to be found in this terror and suffering? There are of course no real answers but we do have to search for some theological understanding. Here are some haunting words by the late Austin Baker, Bishop of Salisbury '**The crucified Jesus is the only accurate picture of God the world has ever seen.**' The Christian view of God is that everything we read about Christ in the Gospels and the New Testament tells us what God is like. The Cross of Christ shows us the very worst of which humanity is capable and of a God who goes on loving and suffering with us in our world. It is a love that knows no end and goes on forever.

Robert Fletcher

UKRAINE:

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The people of the Diocese of St Albans and of the Parish of Aldenham are standing with Ukraine.

Across the country, everyone wants to do their bit to support those who have been forced to flee their homes because of the conflict. There is extensive information on the St Albans Diocese website about how we can all help in this crisis by offering: Financial support; Accommodation Support or other supportive services.

With the situation changing rapidly it is difficult to be up to date with the information in this newsletter so please go to this link for the latest news.

www.stalbans.anglican.org/supportukraine

Thankyou!

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)*



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Celebrations



Aldenham will be celebrating this momentous occasion both at the church and the village as a whole.

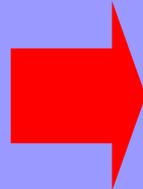
At Church

A special service of thanksgiving at 10.30 on Sunday 5th June. (Which is also Pentecost). There will also be more bell ringing than usual and the church will be open all afternoon for visitors who may be in the village for other celebrations.

At the social Club on SATURDAY 4th

Games and Barbecue during the day and a singer from 5-9.00pm. Details still to be finalised.

On the village green on Sunday 5th June



We are 'Planting a tree for the Jubilee' in fact not just one tree but quite a few!

Our churchyard is a beautiful and ancient place where you can sit and reflect or have some quiet time with your favourite book. Bearing in mind the Queen's Green Canopy scheme (QGC, details of which are available on www.queensgreencanopy.org), we think that now is an excellent time for us to replace the trees which have died, fallen or been felled over the last few years.

This would be along the northern and western boundaries of the churchyard (ie from the corner near the Lychgate to the junction of the church land with that of the Manor House) with three larger trees, Hornbeam (pictured), Pinus and Catalpa or similar. We will also be enhancing the churchyard with two more suitable flowering trees, one near to the corner of the adjoining wall of the old vicarage and the other near to the Lychgate.

This will be carried out in the next couple of months, being one of the best planting times and carried out by professional tree planter who will advise and assist with the aftercare.

People have already been generous to offer funding for this project - would you like to help as well?



Aldenham Village Residents Association

Over the last few months, the Aldenham Village Residents Association Committee has 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. As part of the plan, we have started

the process of applying to register our village green (under the Commons Act 2006) to protect it against any encroachment or development.

Looking forward, the AVRA Social Committee, led by Ian Cundy, is planning a Village Fete to coincide with the special Bank Holiday in June that is celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Fete will be held on Sunday June 5th 2022 and will have a 1950s theme. The Social Committee is also 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 both of Aldenham residents and the wider community. Steven Haberman, Chair, AVRA Committee, February 25th 2022



Flying the flag!

We hope that you have noticed the flag flying on the tower at the church. It is not there all the time but just on special occasions. These have been Easter Sunday, St Georges Day, Patronal Festival, Remembrance Day and Christmas Day and on these days we would fly the St George's flag. We also have a special Sunday to remember HMS Aldenham, sunk in WW2, when we mark the occasion with a special service and fly the white ensign.

This year of course, we have an extra day for the Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and will be flying the Union flag in honour of this great occasion.



Legacies and Wills

Many years ago the church was the beneficiary of a bequest which 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 but is diminishing.

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 please? 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

Happenings at the church

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. We are also considering 'live streaming' some of the services from church as well soon to extend our mission to those that cannot attend or live away. This is currently under discussion with the PCC and congregation.

Re-using the churchyard

We are delighted to say that the Diocese have granted our request to reuse some of the original churchyard for burials again. In fact the first space has already been used!

Window and wall.

The window by the South porch has now been restored and is back to its former glory and more importantly water tight. Particular thanks to Ben and his team for a great job.

As reported before we now wait for the wall to dry out before assessing for any repair work to the plaster on the surrounding wall.

Trees for the Jubilee

See separate article.

If you would like more information about any projects at the church please contact us on: info@aldenhamchurch.com

www.aldenhamchurch.com



Follow, like and share us!
@Aldenhamstjohnbaptist

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

Church Heating

A vital project for the church and the focus of our fundraising this year.

As previously reported we have applied to the Diocese to upgrade the heating both in the church and the adjoining church room.

After much investigation and research the decision to install an Air Source Heat Pump in the church room has been approved and will be carried out shortly.

This is not a good solution in the church with its lofty spaces and draughty gaps. Despite the huge rise in energy prices replacement of the current oil fired, (as seen in pic)



totally inefficient boiler with a gas alternative is still the best solution. We are awaiting approval for this but very much need it in place for next winter.

This is a costly business involving a new gas supply to the church and alterations to a lot of the pipework and to fund it all we somehow have to find around:

£50,000

(See the last newsletter for more information, available on the website in the 'News' section or sign up to receive regular information.)

DONATE

Can you 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. But there are the green bottles and plates for any cash you may have o spare.



We always collect Gift Aid where we can!

Music Exams at Aldenham!

As reported last time we were delighted that both the London College of Music and the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music have chosen to use the church for their music exams. They were with us last Autumn and have returned again in March. It is a great use of the whole of the church buildings and puts our church firmly on the musical map.

If you or your children are taking exams, please make sure their teachers choose us as the exam centre !



JOIN US!

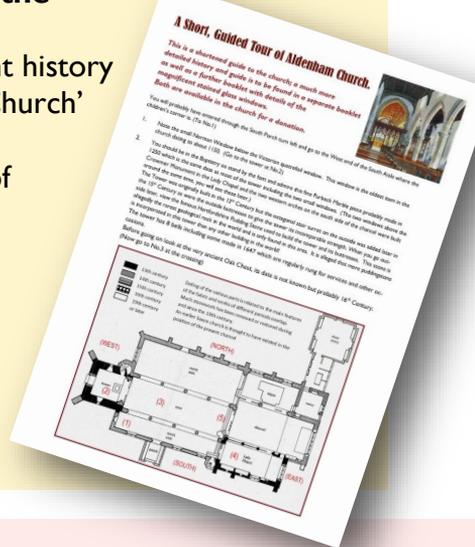
For coffee, tea, cake, biscuits, chat and more on the 1st Saturday in the month from 10.30 - 12.00

Explore our beautiful building and its ancient history by making use of our 'Short Guide to the Church' boards'.

Make use of our WIFI for a few moments of peace and quiet.

Have a play on our piano or enjoy the churchyard maybe with a good book and a coffee.

A perfect Saturday morning!



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. Postcards or bookmarks - 5p each
5. Pens - £1 each
6. Dennis Day Goes Latin - Great CD of music - £5 each
7. Cards or notelets - £1 each.
8. Other items also for a donation of your choice!





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 2 years

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



Your Church Choir needs **YOU!**

For more than three-quarters of a millennium, our church 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 keenly felt the absence of singing from the regular services, and as restrictions lifted, we 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/>



Special Service Days

10th April

Palm Sunday - 10.30am Parish Communion
with the Blessing of Palm Crosses

15th April

Good Friday - 2.00pm
'The Seven Last words of Jesus'
A team service at Christchurch, Radlett.

17th April

Easter Day - 10.30am
Parish Communion Service

15th May

Matins followed by the Annual Parish
Church Meeting

5th June

Pentecost and Queens Platinum Jubilee
Communion Service

12th June

Trinity Sunday Family Service

26th June

Patronal Festival Communion service.



Services at the Church

The main Sunday services are at 10.30am and Evensong at 6.30pm

Communion will at the time of writing, continue to be given without kneeling with the wafers intincted with wine, (options available.) Special sanitizing care is given to the administration of these and there are no other Covid restrictions in place at the moment. (Subject to Government legislation.)

Refreshments are 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 and the order of services appears in our weekly bulletins and forthcoming Special days are mentioned opposite.

Otherwise normal services will remain as:

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

STOP PRESS

We are delighted to announce that the Revd. Sarah Marshall has been appointed the new vicar at Shenley.

More news on this and the team in the next issue.

From the Registers:

Baptisms

27th Feb - Santanna Smith

Thanksgiving for birth

6th March - Anne Kirsten

Funerals

14th February Nicola Thomas

9th March Francis White

10th March John Keeley

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, or send us your email to receive the latest information.

Address for post:

The Vicarage, Church Lane,
Aldenham, Radlett, Herts
WD25 8BE



We are really looking forward to the summer of 2022 and have plenty to shout about. The clubhouse refurbishment and extension were completed last year and is looking great. We are really pleased to see increasing numbers of local residents popping into the club for a coffee and cake or a bite of lunch. It won't be long until the terrace is bathed in sun and evening drinks are on the cards as well.

Our courses are getting better and better, we would say that, but this is echoed by members and guests who are eagerly anticipating what is coming in the season ahead. Whether you are a regular golfer looking for membership options or a more infrequent player and just want a one-off round, we have a golfing option for you.

The Swing Room opened last summer, and we are now offering custom fitting for Titleist, Ping, Calloway and Taylormade clubs as well as Scotty Cameron and Odyssey Putters. Book your session now and get the perfect club for you. Junior coaching camps will once again run over Easter and during the Summer.

Our plans for enhancing the practice facilities are underway following the club securing the lease for the neighbouring field which will further enhance the club and local sporting facilities.

We are also available for private event bookings, from smaller intimate gatherings in the Match Room to large celebrations in the Aldenham Suite we can accommodate most event enquiries. Don't forget we now offer civil ceremonies as well. Pop down and have a look around, you won't be disappointed.



ALDENHAM
GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

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