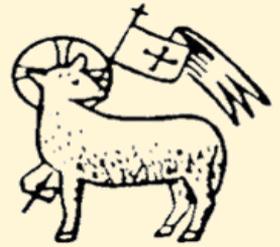


# Aldenham

Church - Newsletter



December - March 2023

**St. John The Baptist**  
*Always a welcome here!*



# Have you been into our church building?

**You are welcome!**

**Dogs are welcome!**

**All faiths are welcome!**

**Walking boots are welcome**

We have met people who have lived in and around the village for many years who have admired the outside of the church but never been inside thinking it is somehow, reserved for its members.

**Not True!**

It is true that the building is locked up most of the time for security reasons but when open you are all welcome to come and admire our ancestors skill.

Our 750+ year old building is amazing and has lots of historical interest.

Admire our 13th century font, our beautiful mosaic floor and stunning stained glass windows.

We are open every first Saturday in the month for coffee morning from 10.30 - 12.00 or if there is a small group that would like to visit then do get in touch to:

**[churchwarden@aldenhamchurch.com](mailto:churchwarden@aldenhamchurch.com)**

(Also open for services at 10.30 and 6.30 on Sundays of course!)

***We hope to see you!***

## Music Exams at Aldenham!

Once again both the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music and the London College of Music have chosen us as their venue for the Autumn exams.

It is such a brilliant use of the building and a huge boost to our funds.

We look forward to their return again in the Spring.

Huge thanks to Gary for his contacts with them and to Annie for organising all the stewards who look after the students so well.

If you would like to volunteer next time do get in touch please.



[www.aldenhamchurch.com](http://www.aldenhamchurch.com)



**Follow, like and share us!**  
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If you have some good pictures for us to share, please send them with any text to  
**[info@aldenhamchurch.com](mailto:info@aldenhamchurch.com)**

# 'Always **winter** but never **Christmas**'



## **Imagine the prospect of such a winter!**

The winter months stretching ahead with nothing to look forward to, or to anticipate and really enjoy. No Christmas lights, no cards, no Christmas trees, no parties, Christmas songs or carols. And the 25<sup>th</sup> December being just an ordinary day; cold and in the middle of winter. It is actually very hard to imagine such a winter, particularly here in the northern hemisphere.

If you have read C.S. Lewis's *Nania Chronicles* and particularly 'the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' you will know this is exactly what the white witch was trying to trick the four children of the story into believing. Nania was under her spell; it was cold, frozen, white with snow as in the depths of winter. Then Aslan the lion is introduced into the story and there is a hint of thawing. There is a visit by Father Christmas but it is Aslan, the lion, who makes all the difference and the children are slowly drawn to meet him. It is a highly symbolic story or allegory in which Aslan represents Christ.

Thankfully we do have Christmas every year, because at the centre of Christian faith is the conviction of the birth of Jesus Christ into the world, celebrated each Christmas.

This was no ordinary birth, it is seen and known by the writers of the Gospels and countless Christians right down through the centuries as nothing less than God entering this world as a human being. It is of course a mystery in the sense that Jesus Christ was conceived in the womb of Mary in a miraculous way and born into this world as fully human but also fully divine and coming from God. God in human form, God incarnate.

Once we have grasped this truth then the celebration of Christmas Day in the middle of winter is the 'most wonderful day of the year.' It is, of course, only one day although the Church has always tried to make it a festival of the 'twelve days of Christmas,' now sadly neglected in present day Britain.

Whether it is one day or twelve days, we need to take to heart the message of Christmas 365 days of the year. The Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit is with us throughout the year in whatever circumstances we face, in our own personal lives and the life of the world. We can try to think of it as 'always Christmas but never winter' in our hearts and minds.

*Wishing you a very Happy and joyful  
Christmas*

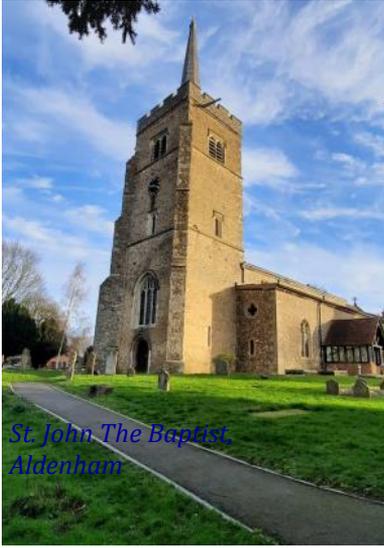
*Robert Fletcher*

### **Vicar's 'House for Duty' position.**

*The retirement age for clergy in the Church of England is 70. Our Vicar, Robert, by a special arrangement with the Diocese of St Albans has been given a further two to three years working in a part time role.*

*His working hours are now three days a week. Sundays and two other days which will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This is under an official arrangement called 'house for duty,' enabling clergy to work on this part time basis while remaining at the Vicarage.*

*The parish is still part of the Team with Radlett and Shenley and will continue to operate in the same way with all the Sunday services and pastoral services - Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and offering pastoral care where it is needed.*



St. John The Baptist,  
Aldenham

The churches of Aldenham, Radlett and Shenley are united as a 'Team Ministry'. The clergy work together sharing responsibilities and information as well as taking services in times of absence. On the next three pages there is some background information about its origins and the people involved.

## Though we are many...

The well-known icon written by Andrei Rublev, of three figures seated at a table, is often presented as an image of the Holy Trinity; the three Persons of the One God, gathered in harmony and inviting the viewer to the table. It is also known as *The Hospitality of Abraham*, who is visited by three angels in Genesis 18 (though note his wife Sarah did much of the cooking!). What is clear is that the image depicts something good and of the divine nature in multiplicity. Being and working *together* is part of the very character of God.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2005 an Order in Council was made in person by Her Majesty The Queen at the Court of Buckingham Palace, specifically concerning our very own villages working together. In that declaration, the churches of Aldenham, Radlett, and Shenley, were united into a single Team Ministry. A Team Council was created, made up of clergy, lay ministers, and Churchwardens. This Council meets to discuss matters of common concern and to coordinate resources and services across the three parishes, working together as one.



St. Martins, Shenley

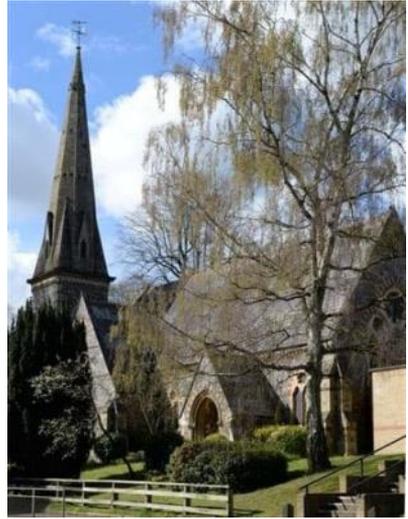
St. Paul was quite keen on working together, with lots of different skills being put to God's purposes across a wide area. He was a tent maker and part-funded the Church with this work. Paul relied on traders of cloth, ship owners, scribes, and homeowners to nurture the fledgling faith across the Mediterranean peninsula.

Across our Team there is a huge diversity of gifts and skills. We have accountants, artists, lawyers, medics, civil servants, children, theologians, maintenance people, parents, financial investors, administrators, historians, musicians, health and safety experts, carpenters – the list goes on!

Prior to ordination your clergy were variously: a waiter, an HR professional, a civil servant, a sandwich maker, a teacher, a bartender, a butcher, and a painter & decorator. You'll have to ask us which ones did which jobs!

St. Paul takes us further in saying that working together for the Gospel is like being many different parts of one body (1 Corinthians 12). Diversity and unity is a good and holy thing.

At this time of year I will be lighting the fire in the living room. I am always struck how coals ignite and burn so much hotter when brought close together, and so easily grow dim when pushed apart. Perhaps there is something of the Holy Spirit in that unity, the faith firing up inside God's Church as we rejoice in one another's gifts and our mutual faith together.



*Christchurch, Radlett*

It all begins by gathering around the table, hosted by the Host himself, our Lord Christ. Let us reach out to pass the bread and wine around, sit higgledy-piggledy to eat with our neighbours, and be warmed by the fire of God's love, reaching out into our communities through the churches gathered as one.

### **Rev'd. Oliver Blease**

Vicar of Christ Church & St. John's

**Some more information about our clergy follows on this page and the next.**

### **Robert Fletcher (Vicar of Aldenham Church)**

I was brought up in Chalfont St Peter, Bucks but the church I remember most while growing up was St James, Gerrards Cross.

After leaving school at the age of eighteen, I started working in the shipping business, eventually becoming a shipbroker in the city of London. I worked there for about seven years before being asked to work in the Aberdeen office, with the offshore supply ships and business relating to the North Sea oil.

It was in Aberdeen that I started attending a church, St Devenick's, Beildside which was to change my life completely. I realised there was far more to the Christian faith than I had previously understood and I became increasingly more involved in the life of that church, to the point of realising that I needed to offer myself for ordination. It was a huge decision but in a sense it was made for me - this is what a calling into the church feels like.

I came south to study at Ridley Hall theological college in Cambridge and once qualified, I went to serve a first curacy at Chalfont St Peter, which off course was a huge surprise, having lived my formative years there. I then moved to Bushey to serve a second curacy which was to be a highly providential move in that I met my wife, Caroline at St James's Church.

We then moved to Welwyn Garden City where our two first children were born and in the year 2000 came to Aldenham where I have served as Team Vicar for the past 22 years. These have certainly been some of the best years of my life, living in such a beautiful place where our three children have grown up and within such a loving and supportive Church community.



## Rev'd. Oliver Blease (Vicar of Christchurch, Radlett)



He grew up largely running around on other peoples' farms in Cheshire. He retired from his position as a rugby union scrum half when he got to university and saw that most people were as wide as he was tall. Following a degree in law he went off to Australia where he had a series of temporary jobs which brought him in close contact with the criminal underworld. In a barristers' chambers he provided research to counsel on anti-corruption, extortion, homicide, and terror-related offences. Later he worked for a cabinet minister responsible for prison reform, crime prevention, and anti-corruption.

All the while, God was quietly sowing the seeds of ministry. Oliver began as chief lightbulb changer at the Old Cathedral in Melbourne, and graduated to reading the lessons, leading prayers, and taking a course in preaching. As this vocation to ministry grew he moved back to the UK to care for a family member who had a long-term illness. A life in ministry was explored and tested further with the Church and after a few years he took a degree in theology at Oxford and completed a Master's degree at Durham whilst training for the priesthood at Ripon College Cuddesdon.

Following a joyful curacy in Royal Wootton Bassett the family moved mid-pandemic to Radlett, where Oliver is gradually learning to grow things, mainly dahlias and, God-willing, the congregation. He is married to Mariama, an educationalist working for a City Livery Company and also priest ministering in the diocese of London. Mariama chairs the board of Days for Girls UK, supporting women and girls around the world with access to menstrual products and healthcare information.

She is the author of *Inequality and Flourishing: A Theology of Education* (London: SPCK, 2022).

## Rev'd. Sarah Marshall (Vicar of St. Martins Shenley)

For those of you who haven't met me yet, Hi! I'm Rev Sarah Marshall, the new vicar at St Martin's, Shenley and I've been in post here since mid-August, but only just moved into the Rectory in Shenley a couple of weeks ago!

I've come straight from my curacy in the Tring Team Parish, which was made up of 1 large market town church and 4 smaller village churches. Prior to my 'calling', my main career was spent working as a Human Resources Manager for telecommunications companies, during which time I also gained a Masters Degree in HR Management. I also studied theology and trained for priesthood whilst working full time in this HR role.

I'm married to Chris and we have two sons Samuel (13) and Noah (10). It probably goes without saying, but my family are truly wonderful, they've been so supportive and daily I thank God for them. Throughout this whole journey, moving schools (twice) and moving

home (three times), they've not moaned once and regularly help me out in services. They are my absolute rock.

So what can I say of my experience so far?... well 3 months in and I am loving it. The support, prayers and encouragement from the entire Aldenham, Radlett & Shenley parish has been wonderful and hugely appreciated. I'm also keeping myself pretty busy after also being appointed Assistant Dean of Women's Ministry in the Diocese of St Albans.

If I've not bumped into you so far, I really hope to meet you soon and if you see me around please do say 'hi'.



*Some of the Aldenham, Radlett and Shenley Team Ministry. Left to right - Matthew Rheinberg, (Churchwarden, Shenley), Jeremy Newton (CW, Radlett), George Verghese (CW, Radlett), Anne Finney (CW, Shenley), Rev'd. Sarah Marshall, (Vicar of Shenley), Rev'd. Robert Fletcher, Vicar of Aldenham), Rev'd. Oliver Blease (Vicar of Radlett), John Hayes (Lay Minister, Shenley), Eileen Bigg (Radlett Reader). There are of course one or two missing from this picture!*

# No MAP

**We launch out again on another three year cycle, but think for a moment what it was like for those early Christians who certainly didn't have the luxury of a MAP. (Mission Action Plan)**

Professor Gossip paints a graphic and sombre picture of what life was like for them.

"There'd be slaves with wounded self-respect being healed in a loving atmosphere where they were no longer someone's goods and chattels, even perhaps in a position of leadership in the church, some ordinary folk generous with what little they had (not many wise, noble or mighty were called) just undistinguished people facing a bleak, lonesome and perilous life – cut off many of them from their families by their new found faith, ostracised and left out, in their own home town from its life, out of step with those around them, irritating and exasperating them by their behaviour – a daft impossible lot, not worth bothering with – some were hostile and angry, people were cruel and human life very cheap, with grim possibilities always near, they faced their dangerous days with courage trusting in their saviour".

Compare that with the comfortable lives we all lead!

*Bob Clark*

*Thank you to everyone who completed the MAP survey in the last issue and left some enlightening comments on the sheets in church about our forthcoming Mission Action Plan.*

*The PCC and sub committee are still considering this and we hope to publish it in the next issue. ED*



## **Confirmation Service in Sept.**

We were delighted to welcome the Rt. Revd. Bishop Alan Smith, Revd Oliver Blease and Revd. Sarah Marshall to our confirmation service held in Sept. A lovely evening with some social time afterwards.

The following week the younger Confirmees delighted us by reading the lessons for us the following week at Aldenham.



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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](http://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 or 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)*



**BAPTISMS**

**WEDDINGS  
FUNERALS**



**St. John's Aldenham is here!**

**Contact: [info@aldenhamchurch.com](mailto:info@aldenhamchurch.com)**

# HARVEST FESTIVAL

Massive thanks and congratulations to everyone who grew, contributed and arranged the amazing displays for the Harvest Festival. The vast majority of the flowers came from peoples own gardens or allotments which was a huge tribute to the green fingered skill of everyone.

The church looked magnificent and many people came to admire and have some refreshment with some delicious cakes on offer as well.



## Church Verger

For many years Michael Bromley has been our Church Verger. It's an old term which used to mean ' the official who carries the mace or 'verge' before a dignitary.

In more recent times it is used for the title of the person who is present at services, especially Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals to make sure everything is set up correctly and put away afterwards, as well as being a welcomer on behalf of the church. It is a very valuable ministry to the church and we are very grateful to Michael for doing this so conscientiously for the church.

Michael has also worked tirelessly over many years in helping to keep our churchyard looking so good, particularly in his care for the Remembrance Garden.

*Pat Bromley will take over this mantle of responsibility for the time being but if you would like to help with this important role, please contact us.*

# 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 dedicated group of singers who lead and support the congregation and vicar in this musical tradition. Following the 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/>



## Join Us!

**For coffee, tea, cake,  
biscuits 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.



**And of course - CAKE!**

*A perfect Saturday  
morning!*



## Christingle Service

**December 24th at 4.00pm**

After three years of having no service in Church, this year the service will take place at **4.00pm on Christmas Eve.**

This is very much a service for children, parents and families, at a time that works for most people. So please join us as we start our celebrations of Christmas this year with a live service in the Church.

## New bench for the church!

We have a lovely new bench on the North path leading to the Lych Gate which is dedicated to the memory of Jean Stewart, who as you many of you will know was a member of the church for many, many years.

She ran a club called the 'Welcome Club' for the elderly of the parish at Letchmore Heath Memorial hall. There was always teas, cakes and games and at one time there were many people attending.

After the numbers dropped off the meetings were held in the Church Room and after Jean's death it staggered on but finally closed some-time before the pandemic.

There was about £550 left in its accounts and it was decided to buy the bench with this money.

We are very grateful for another place for people to stop and admire the beauty of the churchyard.



# Legacies and Wills

## Gifts in Wills

After providing for loved ones, a gift in your will to the Church is a lasting and valuable way to continue to support your church family. It is also a way of thanking God for all the blessings we have received in this life.

All legacies that have been left to Aldenham church are greatly appreciated. One specific legacy left to the church many years ago has helped to pay for many projects, repairs and improvements. With the passage of time that legacy is, of course, diminishing.

Every gift left to the Church, however large or small can make a significant difference in helping finance the church for the future, to safeguard and preserve the inheritance of our Christian faith and safeguard it for future generations.

Could you consider a gift to the church in your own Will please?

**THANK YOU!**

# ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY MURDERED



The name Archbishop of Canterbury doesn't usually engender great passions in the human breast, but in 1381 it did. After years of very poor government the populace rose in rebellion. The Prior of Bury St Edmunds was murdered in his own priory and a mob under the leadership of Wat Tyler entered London, captured mild Archbishop Sudbury, the Chancellor of the unpopular government and seen as its figurehead, took him to tower hill, beheaded him and placed his head over tower bridge. In time order was restored and those deemed responsible for the rebellion met their various fates in the assize presided over by the notorious judge Jeffries.

News travelled very slowly in those days and how long it took to reach Aldenham is anyone's guess. What would life have been like there at that time? The church would have been the focal point of the village and the impoverished priest, an important person, would have been a leader of the community. Church services would be in Latin which no-one, not even the priest, understood, as a consequence he would probably have mumbled the service. Everyone attended confession.

So how did people learn their faith? The walls of the ancient church (it must have been Norman with small windows) would have blazed with frescoes depicting scenes from scripture and the lives of the saints. Most prominent of all in bright colours would have been the last judgment with paradise opening for the good and flaming hell with devils tormenting the naked damned. Travelling friars, often good preachers, brought the faith alive for those who came into contact with them. But it was all against a back ground of pardoners selling pardons "hot from Rome", sham relics supported by episcopal letters from the bishops recommending their wares, friars keen to give pardons for money or a good meal. Bishops neglected their dioceses which were in a deplorable condition and devoted themselves instead to the service of the state. If rectories stood empty or occupied by persons guilty of scandalous behaviour or underpaid substitutes, nothing was done about it. Gone was the religious zeal of the monasteries, the monks lived comfortable lives of the well to do. The church owned a third of the land in England, but used it for its own good, not for the benefit of all.

Against this back ground the church surprisingly conferred on mankind a vast and lasting benefit by filling England with great cathedrals, minsters, abbeys and churches of outstanding beauty. Through elaborate tracery, huge windows and marvellous stained glass, light poured into the buildings offering for posterity structures of outstanding beauty which would stand to the lasting praise and glory of God.

*Bob Clark*

# **Aldenham Village Residents Association**

The Aldenham Village Residents' Association Committee has continued to implement 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.

We have responded to the Hertfordshire County Council's plans for parking restrictions along Church Lane, and are awaiting the outcome. It appears that the feedback from Village residents was largely negative, and the Council is having a re-think.

The Association AGM was on September 7<sup>th</sup> at Aldenham Golf Club: we had a good attendance and a lively discussion.

I am very pleased to report that, after representations from the Association, the County Council has installed road signs welcoming visitors to Aldenham Village at the 2 ends of Church Lane.

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  
November 16<sup>th</sup> 2022

## **More news on the Double Yellow Lines throughout the village!**

As reported in the last issue and separately by email to members of the church and villagers the proposal for yellow lines throughout Church Lane is not finalised yet.

A notification from the Council saying they were going to implement the scheme met with immediate reaction from villagers and church alike. No reference was made to all the many objections that had been raised or the results of the 'survey' which was at best disappointing.

More objections from us all, Councillor Clapper and Oliver Dowden MP, have resulted in a further hold on the project with a promise of a proper consultation to find a good compromise to the 'problem'.

The church does acknowledge there maybe a need for a small area of the road to have restrictions of some sort but not the overkill that is suggested.

We can only hope for a sensible outcome to this in some modified form.

# The church boiler project.

## The Installation

The installation of the new boiler is well under way now in the crypt, new flue mounted outside and a new water supply run as well from the refreshment area at the back of the church.

There have been one or two hitches of course but mostly overcome by the excellent engineers from the installation company.

We have also had to dig a trench around the church for a water supply to be fed from the refreshment area which has caused a few problems finding the entry into the crypt. A much bigger trench will be dug for the gas installation from the road. This will come under the boundary wall and into the terminal box which will be located behind the sign board near the West door. From there it will go under the path and into the crypt following the access made for the water supply.

The biggest hold up is with the Gas supply. Having dug up some of the road the supply pipe was not where it should have been and Fulcrum have gone away to apply for a road closure to connect us and the Manor House next door at the same time. This may take some time and at the time of publishing



we are still waiting!

Fortunately the old boiler is still working so we are having to top up the

oil carefully to keep it going. The mild weather so far has helped of course!

The old and the new pictured here, bit of a difference and less than 30% efficient to more than 90% efficient!



### The Cost

## £60,000

Aldenham church is fortunate to have some legacies and this has enabled us to pay for the work so far. BUT this money MUST be recouped as it provides a vital income through the interest received to cover the monthly deficit in our outgoings over income.

You may know that the church does not receive any help from the Central Church of England or Diocesan funds and has to raise all its finance through the generosity of people and events that are put on. So far the profit from the Art Festival has been earmarked plus some generous donations already received, but there is long way to go!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE!**

If you would like to make a donation you can do so by any of the methods in the box to the right.

(If you are donating specifically for the heating please use 'heating' as the reference.)

We do thank you for your support in this, the biggest expense the church has had to make for a long time, but so necessary!

## You can help without it costing you a penny!

Go to:

[www.easyfunding.org.uk](http://www.easyfunding.org.uk)

Sign up with them choosing 'Aldenham church St Johns' as your chosen charity to support. Please note that you do have to download the Donation Reminder to make it work but it is perfectly safe and then makes it easy for you to find the stores that are part of the scheme.

Every time you shop on line with any of over 6,000 suppliers you will be making a donation to us without any cost to yourself. (Just a couple of extra clicks!)

It really does work and has been tested with great success and will be a good source of income in the future.

**PLEASE CONSIDER THIS** as it will not only help with the heating but also longer term funding for the church.

It works with anything you buy on line including click and collect purchases, house/car insurance, small and large items - pretty much anything!

Stores such as Tesco, John Lewis, Amazon, Asda, Iceland, Ebay and hundreds more all support this and it won't cost you a penny!

You can also get your family to support us in this way, certainly my daughters and son do a lot more on line shopping than I do!



THANK YOU!

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 to spare at the back of the church.*



## News from the tower.

There were two unexpected pieces of work in the tower this year.

Firstly, checking the bells before the peal for the Queen's Jubilee, it was found that one of the pins, that hold a clapper in place, had sheared into two. Half of it had come out onto the belfry floor.

This was the Tuesday of the week of the two Jubilee Bank Holidays, Thursday and Friday. A trip to Loughborough and Taylors Foundry was called for to have it mended and refitted in time for Saturday. This was achieved and a well struck peal was rung by a visiting band.

The other event causing extra work in the tower was the death of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

If we are asked to ring for a funeral, there is a choice of open or half muffled ringing. Some ask for open ringing in celebration of the person's life while others prefer the more sombre sound of half muffled ringing. The latter is when a leather pad (shown in picture), is tied to one side of the clapper to give a soft sound, like an echo. For a Monarch's funeral it is strongly suggested that fully muffled ringing, with the tenor bell only half muffled be rung.

I was at the preview night of the Art Festival when the death of the Queen was announced to all present. The first action was to raise the flag to half-mast and then toll the tenor bell 96 times, one note for every year of the Queen's life.

The following day was spent applying the two muffles per bell, except the tenor, to allow for full muffled ringing for the duration of the period of national mourning. The sound produced is strange as only the one note of the tenor bell is really heard. Personally, having heard fully muffled ringing, I will not be sorry to never hear it again. Half muffled ringing is so much more distinct in the sound that it produces.

If you know of anyone who wants to come and see what we do, please tell them to get in touch with Ken or myself. Bell ringing is open to all and is fun - and good exercise!

*Roy Adcock*



  
**ALDENHAM**  
GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

**Christmas Carvery**

**Sunday 11th December**

Looking to meet up with family or friends before Christmas? Join us for our Christmas Carvery, all you need to do is sit back, relax and get into the Christmas Spirit!

2 Course - £28.00  
3 Course - £33.00  
Under 12s - £16.00

To book please call or email Callum on 01923 853 929  
events@aldenhamgolfclub.co.uk

# Aldenham Art Festival 2022

## Success at an historically sad time!

The 4<sup>th</sup> Art Festival at Aldenham will be remembered as the time we sadly lost Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The news came through about half an hour after the Preview Night had started when there were quite a few people present including the Mayor of Hertsmere. He called everyone to order to announce the news and some moments of silence and reflection, with a multi faith prayer led by Archdeacon Jane Mainwaring who was also present, were held.

The evening continued with drinks and canapes served in an excellent way by the staff of Aldenham Golf Club who also provided it all and supported us in many other ways to the sound of live music from AF and friends.

The subsequent open days saw many members of the public come along and admire the amazing standard and variety of work that was on display. A massive 83 artists exhibited and with no less than 550+ pictures on show there was a lot to choose from. 70 pictures were sold at a value of around £6,000 and considering the state of the economy and the death of our monarch, this was a great result.

All this has enabled a £5,000 surplus to be put into the church funds to help the cost of replacing the antiquated boiler helping to preserve this magnificent Grade 1 listed building for the future.

Huge thanks to everyone for their support in all ways and we look forward to next time when once again we hope to stage what is, one of the biggest Art Exhibitions in the area.

*Ken Haslar*



**ALDENHAM**  
GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

## Christmas Afternoon Tea

Sunday 18th December

Fancy an extra dose of mulled wine and mince pies?  
Join us for our Festive Afternoon Tea!

Serving all of your Christmas favourites in bite size portions, add prosecco on arrival for £26.00 per bottle.

£19.95 Per Person

To book please call or email Callum on 01923 853 929  
events@aldenhamgolfclub.co.uk

# HIRE US

**Our beautiful 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
- Toilets (one disabled with baby changing facilities)
- Small grand piano and another keyboard
- WIFI
- Kitchen facilities
- Heating/Air Con

## 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.
- Toilets
- Step free access

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

Email [info@aldenhamchurch.com](mailto:info@aldenhamchurch.com) to get in touch or look on the website for more information.

[www.aldenhamchurch.com/hire-us/](http://www.aldenhamchurch.com/hire-us/)

## Special Service Days

**Sunday 11th December 6.00pm.**

Nine lessons and carols

**Christmas Eve**

4.00pm Christingle

9.00pm Holy Communion

**Christmas Day**

10.30am Family Communion

**Sunday 1st January**

10.30am New Years Day

Parish Communion

**Sunday 8th January**

10.30am Epiphany Family service

**Sunday 5th February**

10.30am Candlemas Parish Communion

**Wednesday 22nd February**

Ash Wednesday

**Sunday 19th March**

Mothering Sunday Family service

## Keep in touch?



Our weekly Pew sheet is sent by email as well as being available in church on Sundays. It tells you what is happening each week; details of the Sunday 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](mailto:info@aldenhamchurch.com)

*(You can opt out at any time.)*

# Services at the Church

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

Communion is now offered with the option of the intincted wafers or separately with the chalice.

Refreshments are served after the morning service in the hospitality area with everyone welcome.

More information and the order of services appears in our weekly email bulletins and special service days are mentioned opposite.

More information can also be found on the website at [www.aldenhamchurch.com](http://www.aldenhamchurch.com).

Scan the code for easy access!

Otherwise normal services will remain as:

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



We always welcome enquiries for Baptisms, weddings, funerals and other occasions including letting the church and church room for other purposes.

Please contact us for more information.

## Baptisms

2nd October Charlie Simmonds  
23rd October Ryan Willis  
30th October - Ivy Margerrison

## Weddings

17th September  
Nigel Burkett and Judith Kalnina

## Funerals

14th July - Brian Helborough  
18th October - Anne Perry

## GET IN TOUCH...

### TEAM VICAR

Robert A Fletcher  
01923 854209  
[r.a.fletcher@outlook.com](mailto:r.a.fletcher@outlook.com)

### CHURCHWARDEN

Ken Haslar  
[ken@aldenhamchurch.com](mailto:ken@aldenhamchurch.com)

### TREASURER - Jill Gillam

[jillgillam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jillgillam@hotmail.co.uk)

### CHURCH SECRETARY

Linda Lambert  
[lindalambert30@btinternet.com](mailto:lindalambert30@btinternet.com)

### STEWARDSHIP

Catherine Baker  
[cathbaker@gmx.co.uk](mailto:cathbaker@gmx.co.uk)

### FRIENDS - Sue Barnard

[suekenbarnard@aol.com](mailto:suekenbarnard@aol.com)

### TOWER MASTER

(Bellringers) Roy Adcock  
[royadcock98@gmail.com](mailto:royadcock98@gmail.com)

### ORGANIST/CHOIR MASTER

Gary Eyre  
[admin@aldenhamchurch.com](mailto:admin@aldenhamchurch.com)

### WEBSITE

[info@aldenhamchurch.com](mailto:info@aldenhamchurch.com)

### NEWSLETTER - Ken Haslar

[info@aldenhamchurch.com](mailto:info@aldenhamchurch.com)

### GENERAL ENQUIRIES

[enquiries@aldenhamchurch.com](mailto:enquiries@aldenhamchurch.com)

### VISIT US AT

[www.aldenhamchurch.com](http://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,  
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