

Aldenham Church

St. John The Baptist

MISSION ACTION PLAN

2023-2026



Introduction

St John the Baptist Church, Aldenham offers a traditional style of worship within a beautiful Grade I listed, medieval building. The worship is mainly choral led by a small, dedicated choir. There is a good, well-established fellowship of believers who meet mainly for Sunday services and other social activities. The age demographic of the congregation is mainly of older people with many being in their 60's, 70's and 80's. It is also quite eclectic, drawing at least two thirds from outside the parish.

The pandemic has had considerable effects on the life of the church. For about two years pre-recorded services were offered online and we are now working towards live streaming the services. After the disruptive lockdowns and difficulties over the administration of Communion, there has been a return to most of the normal practices but there is no Sunday school being offered and the Family services are not well supported by young families.

The long-standing Vicar has moved into a House for duty position and is therefore not working full time. This will continue for the next two years, after which it is hoped that a full time successor will be found.

Revision process of the MAP

The congregation were invited to use flip charts to record their comments and suggestions under the three Diocesan Living God's love headings - Going deeper into God, Transforming Communities and Making new disciples. The wider parish community were asked to complete a questionnaire and although there was limited responses it was positive and helpful.

A core group was convened to analyse all the responses and produce this MAP.



Vision statement

To be a church that points the way to Jesus Christ by:

- Nurturing church members and visitors in worship and prayer
- Reaching out to the community, especially through the pastoral services of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals
- Welcoming, valuing, caring for and respecting all people

Priorities

- To deepen and enrich the prayer and spiritual life of members of the church,
- offering more Quiet mornings and advertising the Zoom Bible study and Contemplative prayer meetings.
- To put more energy and emphasis on reaching out to new families and young people.
- To increase community engagement, using the resource of the church building and churchyard.
- Maintain the Church building and churchyard to a high degree of excellence.
- Provide well-coordinated pastoral care.
- Working closely with the other Team clergy and parishes of Radlett and Shenley.

Goals

- Sustain the position of a full-time stipendiary Vicar to follow the present 'house for duty' arrangement.
- Develop extra services across the church year to engage and involve families and young people in services and social activities. This would build on the anniversary services for Baptisms and Weddings
- Actively look and try to identify people who can help to take on some of the church positions and responsibilities and enable them to learn and train alongside others. Successors for Church Wardens, Treasurer and Stewardship chairperson, Verger, and PCC members also need to be identified in the near future.
- Continue to work on projects to maintain and enhance the building and churchyard, particularly the establishment of a green wildflower area in the field at the top of the churchyard.
For this project to approach local schools to ask if they would like to be involved.
- More use of the church building for activities that draw in members of the community, alongside the Art festival, concerts and social events.
An open day in the summer months.
- To increase the opportunities for people and passers-by to visit the church building by opening the church more often with the help of stewards.

General questions or queries - info@aldenhamchurch.com

More information and diary - www.aldenhamchurch.com.

Donations - Barclays A/c No. 90100668 Sort Code 20-74-09

St. John the Baptist, Aldenham Parish Church