

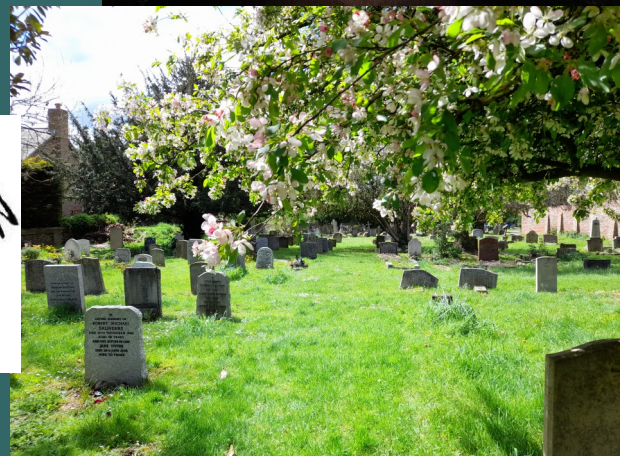
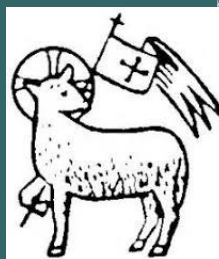
**Welcome to St John the Baptist  
Church**

**Aldenham WD23 8BE**



# Hello and Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in the role of Vicar at our beautiful Grade 1 listed church set in the delightful village scene of Aldenham. While being close to Watford, Radlett, Shenley and St Albans, we are also within easy commuting distance of London.





## The Role

Our long-standing vicar retired at the end of May 2024 and we are keen to meet and welcome our new vicar. We are feeling positive about the journey ahead. The vacancy is for a House for Duty priest at Aldenham, comprising Sunday and two days during the week. Those two days are entirely flexible. You will be part of the friendly and supportive Team Ministry of Aldenham, Radlett, and Shenley. The vicar from St Martins, Shenley will also provide an additional day of support to Aldenham. You can be assured of a warm and welcoming reception and plenty of love and support from our congregation, Churchwardens, volunteers, choir and organists, Team Ministry and the PCC!

## Our Vision

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 and welcoming, valuing, caring for and respecting all people.

### Could this be you?

What sort of priest are we looking for?

- An encouraging leader who is a good listener and can help us grow our congregation including the expansion of our children's church
- A visible, accessible and engaging team player to take on the task of serving the whole community through pastoral and kindly care
- A priest who welcomes celebrating our predominantly traditional forms of worship
- A priest who welcomes having a church choir and an established musical tradition
- A thoughtful and engaging preacher at Sunday services, supporting the congregation in coming closer to Christ in their daily lives in trust, love and service
- Someone with good time management, communication and IT skills



occasional 'Swap Round Sundays' when the vicars of each church preach in a different church in the team ministry. The Team Ministry is led by a Team Rector, which position is presently in vacancy with leadership presently shared between the priests of Radlett and Shenley.

## 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 1 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 full time. This will continue for the next two years and his successor will be found.



*"Our Church is very inclusive and supportive to people from different walks of their life's, and even to those, coming overseas and finding peace and feeling welcomed." JB*

## Our commitment to you

- A modern 4 bedroomed detached house with a garden, giving the opportunity to make a life and home in the picturesque village of Aldenham
- A warm and welcoming church family excited and eager to work with you
- A supportive and dedicated PCC that welcomes new ideas and recognises the value and richness that a part-time vicar can bring
- Hardworking and enthusiastic volunteers
- A beautiful, medieval church in which to lead worship

## The Benefice

The benefice comprises the three ecclesiastical parishes of Aldenham, Radlett and Shenley. The Team Ministry of Aldenham, Radlett and Shenley was formed in 2005. Aldenham, Radlett and Shenley are neighbouring villages located within a few miles of each other (and linked by the 602 bus route!)

The Team Ministers are a close-knit group encouraging and supporting each other in the whole mission of the church, sharing resources for baptism, confirmation and marriage preparation. Joint Team services take place two to three times a year (especially around holiday periods) and there are







## Aldenham Church

The origins of St John the Baptist, Aldenham (also known and usually referred to as 'Aldenham Church') can be traced back to the Saxon times, but nothing now remains of the original building. The current Grade I listed building dates back to 1220. The Purbeck font at the west end of the church and the lady chapel also date back to the 13th century. Alterations and additions were made each century up until the present day and much of the woodwork was added in Victorian times.



On October 16th 1940, the spire and several of the windows were damaged by a bomb. The replaced stained glass window behind the high altar depicts this, whilst another window depicts the sinking of HMS Aldenham (a Hunt Class Destroyer) in 1944. A special memorial service is held as part of the morning service in December each year which is extremely well attended by family members and naval cadets in addition to the church congregation.

A church room and choir vestry were built to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the church and are currently used to hold meetings by small groups and for our Children's Church. The newly installed air source heat pump in this area is a welcome and warm addition!

The tower houses a belfry with an attractive sounding ring of 8 bells, plus a Sanctus bell. The bells are rung on a regular basis for Sunday services as well as special occasions under the leadership of a very enthusiastic tower captain and we regularly attract ringers from other churches. The bell-ringers practice on a Monday night.



*"Since I joined Aldenham Church a couple of years ago I have found everyone so friendly and approachable." PR*

## The Vicarage

The original Georgian vicarage (now a private residence), still adjoins the church although the garden gate is now blocked up. Just a short walk away, the current vicarage was built in the grounds of the original one and the comfortable 4 bedroom home comes with off-road parking for several cars and a good sized garage. There is a large low maintenance garden with a small orchard. The village is regularly served by the 602 bus route for easy reach of Radlett and Watford with speedy train connections into London (around 20 - 25minutes) or out to Luton airport and the North.



## Church Personnel

We currently have 2 Churchwardens and 9 PCC members which includes an assistant Churchwarden, Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, Health & Safety Officer and a Deanery Synod representative. The PCC is a dedicated team welcoming new ideas and ever encouraging the expanding band of hard working volunteers that make this beautiful, ancient building a joy to worship in or come together on other occasions.

Addition pastoral support is provided by experienced and long-standing members of our church family.

## Our Community

The population of Aldenham is around 1,677, Radlett around 8,487 and Shenley is around 4,722. Aldenham was the original church of the area, until Christ Church was built in the 1860's in response to the increased population in Radlett, due in no small part to the coming of the railway.

## Worship

Each part of the team ministry caters for a different style of worship, with Aldenham offering services mainly in traditional, choral led forms. Many of our congregation are retired and live outside the parish.

Sunday services are held on a weekly basis at 10:30am and 6:30pm and include Matins, Holy Communion from the BCP, Common Worship Holy Communion and a Family Service (with and without Holy Communion on the second Sunday of the month). Our Sunday morning services usually attract a congregation of between 40 - 60 people.





One of the Churchwardens is a commissioned Lay Leader of Worship and regularly leads evensong and matins as well as leading the Liturgy of the Word at the Eucharist from time to time. There are full rotas of lectors, sacristans, and leaders of intercessions.

Other members have successfully embraced leading our worship as and when required and the congregation are involved in choosing the hymns for Sunday morning worship.

Other services held throughout the year include Harvest Festival, a Pet Service, Christingle and the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols.

In addition, joint services are held throughout the year with the other churches in the team ministry, including a procession of witness on Good Friday which is held in Radlett. The Remembrance Day service is held outside at the war memorial in the neighbouring village of Letchmore Heath and is well represented by the local community. It features a parade by the local army cadets led by a bagpiper.

We always welcome baptisms, weddings, funerals and other family services. We also have a fine memorial garden for the internment of ashes and the mounting of memorial plaques. The churchyard has plenty of space for burials as well. The churchyard is well maintained by both professional and volunteer gardeners.



### Music

As well as a fine ring of bells welcoming parishioners at all services, music is provided for services by our small but dedicated choir, led by our talented Acting Director of Music who is also our main organist. We also benefit from the support of two deputy organists. The choir is enlarged for special occasions coming together to help celebrate highlights in the year, for example, Easter and Christmas. We are very proud of our music at Aldenham and the choir practices most Friday evenings and before the services to ensure choral support for the services in the wonderful acoustic space of the church.

We are fortunate to boast a fine Harrison & Harrison organ and a Bechstein piano both used extensively in all services as well as at our monthly concerts and on other occasions.



### Communication

Our Worship is supported by a weekly Pew Sheet (which also contains notices and a "Dates for your Diary" section) emailed to those on our Electoral Roll and many others on our contact list. The Pew Sheet is also uploaded to our website.

A Newsletter is usually produced every four months, available on-line and delivered in hard copy to local (and some not so-local) residents. It contains more details about what is happening in the church and local community.

The building has excellent WIFI and PA systems and our Sunday Morning services and other occasions are live-streamed.

We have an active 'Friends of St John the Baptist' which allows people nationally and internationally to forge and maintain links with the church.

### Social Life

The church is not just a place for worship. Aldenham Church hosts an extremely popular art festival every September which floods the church with colour and people as well as generating a healthy income for the church.

A family quiz is held at the Aldenham social club next door every June which is also well attended.

On the first Saturday of each month, the church is filled with music and cake for the extremely popular Coffee/Concert mornings which have become an established part of the local calendar within the local community.

Hot drinks and sweet treats are also served after every Sunday morning service by a team of enthusiastic volunteers, providing the opportunity for the congregation to come together after the morning worship.





*"Simply beautiful in every respect.*

*Gentle, prayerful, cheerful and harmonious." MB*



### **Our Neighbours**

The only other place of worship in the parish is Bhaktivedanta Manor which houses the head quarters of the Hare Krishna community as well as providing for the wider Hindu Community.

The Camphill Village Trust has one of its communities in the parish. A number of the residents attend and help out at the services. They are a very special part of our congregation and there is a good relationship between the church and the Trust.

In the neighbouring hamlet of Round Bush, are the Alms Houses. The Vicar of Aldenham is the ex-officio Chair of the management committee for these.

### **Education**

There are a number of private schools and a nursery in the parish. Nearby Watford, Radlett and St Albans offer state run schools at both primary and secondary school level and the University of Hertfordshire is situated a short drive away in Hatfield.

### **Leisure and Recreation**

As well as providing snacks and drink, the social club opposite the church has an established cricket club and offers a decent hall for hire.

Aldenham Golf Club is close by in the village. It is a popular venue for Sunday lunch as well as a round of golf (and drinks!). It also has rooms for hire for weddings etc.

Personal shopping is well catered for in the local area, with a garden centre at Round Bush, a farm shop at Battlers Green and all other items can be easily purchased from Watford, Radlett or St Albans.

### **Finances**

Aldenham Church has a healthy stewardship programme and many generous donors. Church income is enhanced by the many social events that take place. Combined, this has recently provided for a long overdue major upgrade to the Victorian heating system, the ongoing upkeep of the churchyard, a restoration of several of the stained glass windows as well as a continuing programme of maintaining our ancient building. Refurbishing of the boundary wall is the next project and the possibility of major upgrades to the entrances and other ideas are all being considered. We have always met our Parish Share commitments.

At least three times a year the church and its facilities are hired by musical examination boards over what is typically a two week period. We are the Watford centre for the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music and the London College of Music. Our volunteers steward the examinations. This is a valuable source of income for the church and helps foster good relationships with the local community and raise the church's profile.

**As you might imagine the upkeep of the church is not without its challenges and expenses but of course the most important part of a building is its occupants!**





Thank you for reading our profile, we have a lot more information on our website - or scan here! We hope that you share our vision and pray that we will hear from you soon.



For an informal conversation and application details please contact the Archdeacon of St Albans, Charles Hudson: [archd@stalbands.anglican.org](mailto:archd@stalbands.anglican.org)  
Tel: 01727 818121.

For details of this vacancy including this parish profile, please visit the diocesan website: [www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/vacancies](http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/vacancies)

**Closing date for applications:** Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 12 noon.

Appointment to this position is subject to satisfactory enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

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*"A welcoming, thoughtful, kind and inclusive community of worship, prayer, care and the arts, in an exceptionally beautiful church and setting." HB*

