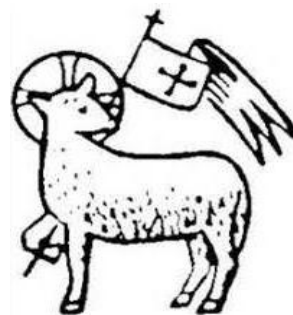


# St John the Baptist, Aldenham

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## The Third Sunday of Advent

10:30am HMS Aldenham Service – 6:30pm Evensong



### Collect of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### 10:30am HMS Aldenham Service (Matins)

*We are delighted to welcome John Hayes to lead us in worship.*

*We warmly welcome the members of the HMS Aldenham Association to join us today.*

### Publication of Marriage Banns

#### \*The Advent Ring 3

#### \*HMS Aldenham Ceremonies

*(see separate sheet which includes Eternal Father strong to save)*

#### Confession / Absolution

#### Lord's Prayer

#### Preces and Responses

*\*(omit the Venite)*



**In place of the Psalm:** *NEH 186 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord*

**First Lesson:** *Isaiah 35.1–10, read by a member of the Fongho family*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful

heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Instead of the Te Deum: God, we praise You; God, we bless You (separate sheet)*

**Second Lesson:** *Matthew 11.2-11, read by the Churchwarden Mark Jones*

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

*Instead of the Jubilate Deo: Hymn NEH 334 All people that on Earth do dwell*

**Creed**

**Lesser Litany and Responses**

**Collect for the Day, Second and Third Collect**

**Intercessions:** *The Churchwarden, Mark Jones*

**Hymn:** *NEH 12 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry*

**Address by John Hayes**

**Final Hymn:** *NEH 485 Thy hand, O God, has guided*

**Blessing**

**\*The National Anthem** *(first verse)*

*Please be invited to remain in the Church for coffee after the service.*

## **6:30pm EVENSONG**

*We welcome back The Rev'd Philip Green to lead us in worship.*

**Opening hymn:** *NEH 388 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun*

**General Confession / Absolution**

**Lord's Prayer / Preces and Responses**

**Psalm:** *Ps. 12*

**OT Lesson:** *Isaiah 5.8 – 21 read by Sue Barnard*

**Magnificat**

**NT Lesson:** *Acts 13.13 - 31 read by Martin Jeens*

**Nunc Dimittis**

**Creed**

**Lesser Litany and Responses**

**Collect for the Day, Second and Third Collect**

**Address by Revd Philip Green**

**Second Hymn:** *NEH 6 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes*

**Prayers**

**Closing Hymn:** *NEH 490 Judge eternal, throned in splendour*

**Blessing**

## **PRAYER LIST**

*Please **pray** for:*

*Fiona McGuinness, Isla Hart, Natalia, Rostislav Myslov, Lucy Haslar,  
and John Chapman.*

## NOTICES

*As announced last week, we shall be interviewing our candidate for the position of Vicar of Aldenham on 17th December. As part of this exercise, there will be an observed Bible Study group with the candidate on the morning of the 17th (time to be confirmed) for a small group of members of the congregation. We still have one or two places in that group, so if you would like to be part of this aspect of the interview day, please let Ken or Mark know, ideally by email as early as possible.*

*Thank you.*

*Next Sunday: 10:30am Family Service (non-communion); 6:30pm Evensong.*

*Children's Church will be held on the first Sunday of every month.*

*Parking is available in the Social Club Car Park for the Morning Service. Please leave the space outside the church for those less able.*

*Pastoral Care If you need care or assistance at any time, please do not hesitate to contact Sue Barnard or Jackie Wilson. This can be done either in person on Sunday, through the contact box on the website or by calling Jackie on 07949 587828.*

### INFORMATION and contact details.

*General questions or queries - [info@aldenhamchurch.com](mailto:info@aldenhamchurch.com)*

*More information and diary - [www.aldenhamchurch.com](http://www.aldenhamchurch.com).*

***Donations – through the website at [www.aldenhamchurch.com/donations](http://www.aldenhamchurch.com/donations)***

*or via BACS to Barclays a/c no. 90100668 sort code 20-74-09*

*Or better, please consider becoming a regular contributor with a monthly amount through the Stewardship Scheme. Just email us as above for more details.*

*Thank you for your support.*

***St. John the Baptist, Aldenham Parish Church***