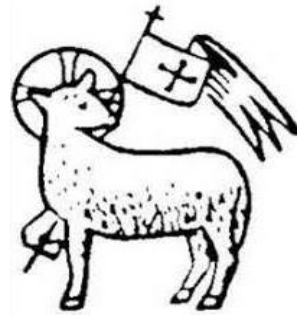


St John the Baptist, Aldenham

Sunday 7th December 2025

The Second Sunday of Advent

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP) – 6:30pm Evensong



Collect of the Day

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

10:30am HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)

Also to be streamed live and after on this link:

<https://youtube.com/live/Qa6RI6wAnQw?feature=share>

We are delighted to welcome The Revd. Diane Clark to celebrate and preach.

The Publication of Marriage Banns

The celebration of the Advent Ring and lighting of the second candle.

Opening Hymn: *NEH 15 The Lord will come, and not be slow*

Lord's Prayer

Collect for Purity / The Commandments / Prayer for the King / Collect

Epistle: *Romans 15.4-13, read by Alan Lambert*

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

Continued over →

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: *NEH 5 Hark, a herald voice is calling*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Gospel: *Matthew 3.1-12, read by the Minister*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be unto Thee, O Lord, for this thy Holy Gospel

Creed

Sermon

Offertory Hymn: *NEH 408 Love Divine, all loves excelling*

Bidding Prayers

Confession / Absolution / Comfortable Words

Sursum Corda / Sanctus / Benedictus

Prayer of Humble Access /

Consecration of the Sacrament / Agnus Dei

The Administration of the Sacrament

Communion Hymn: *NEH 407 Lord, thy word abideth*

Final Prayers / Blessing

Final Hymn: *NEH 9 Lo! He comes with clouds descending*

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

6:30pm EVENSONG

We welcome The Rev'd Ollie Blease to lead us in worship.

Opening hymn: *NEH 7 Hills of the North, rejoice!*

General Confession / Absolution

Lord's Prayer / Preces and Responses

Psalm: *Ps. 11*

OT Lesson: *1 Kings 18.17–39 read by Valerie Turner*

Magnificat

NT Lesson: *John 1.19–28 read by Mark Bassett*

Nunc Dimittis

Creed

Lesser Litany and Responses

Collect for the Day, Second and Third Collect

Address

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

Prayers

Closing Hymn: *NEH 466 Thou whose almighty word*

Blessing

PRAYER LIST

Please **pray** for: Fiona McGuinness, Isla Hart, Natalia, Rostislav Myslov, Lucy Haslar, and John Chapman.

NOTICES

Next Sunday: 10:30am HMS Aldenham Service; 6:30pm Evensong.

Children's Church will be held on the first Sunday of every month. Therefore this Sunday is the next opportunity to welcome young people to church at 10.30 and then to spend some time in the church room with the team.

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.

The Bells, the bells!

Having undergone some essential restoration which included the clappers reshaping so that the ends are spherical again. The Ground pulleys being completely overhauled and all the bells having their bearings checked for wear which meant that the third bell required a new pair of bearings fitted due to faults found. (In progress in the picture). The 'set' of the bells has been corrected where necessary and minor adjustments to the fall of the ropes was carried out. Our bells are popular to many ringing teams, and this essential work will ensure their continuance for many years.



The cost was around £8,000 + VAT towards which we have a grant of £1200 and donations of around £4,000 so we are some way towards meeting this cost.

Christmas Decorating.

HELP needed please on Friday 12th for Christmas Tree and church decorating for the festive season. Please come at 10.30 to join the 'gang' and enhance our church.

Nine Lessons and Carols - 21st December 6.30pm

The choir will shortly begin rehearsing for the Carol Service and would like to invite any budding choristers to join them for the big event.

Any Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, and Basses would be most welcome. We offer a friendly, warm atmosphere and no auditions!

There are two main rehearsals on consecutive Fridays at 7.30pm-8.30pm - 13th and 20th December - with a run through before the service on 21st December.

Please see or contact Joan for further details.

CONTACT INFORMATION

General questions or queries - info@aldenhamchurch.com

More information and diary - www.aldenhamchurch.com.

Donations – through the website at www.aldenhamchurch.com/donations or via BACS to Barclays a/c no. 90100668 sort code 20-74-09

St. John the Baptist, Aldenham Parish Church