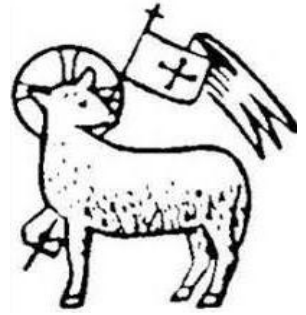


St John the Baptist, Aldenham
Sunday 25th January 2026
The Festival of the Conversion of Paul



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

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

10:30am HOLY COMMUNION (COMMON WORSHIP)

We are delighted to welcome back The Ven. Jonathan Smith to celebrate and preach.

**Please refer to the Mass of St Thomas booklet for the music.*

Opening Hymn: *NEH 155 We sing the glorious conquest.*

**Gathering, Prayer of Preparation, Summary of the Law
Confession and Absolution**

***Gloria**

Collect

Epistle: *Acts 9.1-22, read by Alan Lambert*

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

→The Epistle continues over→

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

Gradual Hymn: *NEH 4:52 Stand up and bless the Lord*

Gospel: *Matthew 19:27–end read by the Minister*

***Acclamation:** *Glory to you, O Lord!*

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

***Accl.:** *Praise to you, O Christ!*

Sermon – The Ven Jonathan Smith

Creed

Prayers of Intercession *led by the Churchwarden, Mark Jones*

Peace

Preparation of the Table

Offertory Hymn: *NEH 272 All for Jesus! All for Jesus!*

***Preface**

***Sanctus and Benedictus**

Eucharistic Prayer

***Accl.:** *Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again!*

***Accl.:** *Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.*

Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

***Agnus Dei**

Prayer before Communion / Distribution of Communion

Communion Hymn: *NEH 295 Let all mortal flesh keep silence*

Closing Hymn: *NEH 478 Ye watchers and ye holy ones*

Blessing / *Dismissal



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

PRAYER LIST

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

Please let us know if there is anyone to add to our prayers (with their permission)

NOTICES

Next Sunday: 10:30pm Holy Communion (BCP) and Sunday School;
6:30pm Evensong

Children's Church will be held on the first Sunday of every month, the next being on Sunday 1st February – next week.

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.

6:30pm EVENSONG

We are delighted to welcome back The Revd. Sarah Marshall to lead us in worship.

Opening hymn: *NEH 205 Christ is made the sure foundation*

General Confession / Absolution

Lord's Prayer / Preces and Responses

Psalm: *Ps. 119, v. 41-48*

OT Lesson: *Ecclesiasticus 48: 1 - 10 read by Mark Bassett*

Magnificat

NT Lesson: *Colossians 1.24—2.7 read by Sue Barnard*

Nunc Dimittis

Creed

Lesser Litany and Responses

Collect for the Day, Second and Third Collect

Address -Revd Sarah Marshall

Second hymn: *NEH 463 Thine for ever, God of love*

Prayers

Closing hymn: *NEH 339 Be thou my vision*

Blessing

All checked!

The church goes through many tests and inspections through the year. Just recently the lightning conductor has been checked and the latest done today is the PAT testing. All 126 of the appliances in the church have safely passed and have the right label. We are safe!



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