

St John the Baptist, Aldenham

Sunday 8th March 2026

The Third Sunday of Lent

10:30am Family Service with Communion —

6:30pm Evensong



Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace;

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 FAMILY SERVICE with HOLY COMMUNION

We are delighted to welcome back The Revd. David Lawson to lead us in worship.

Opening Hymn: *NEH 461 There's a wideness in God's mercy*

Greeting, Prayer of Preparation

Confession and Absolution

The Gloria

Collect

Epistle: *Romans 5.1–11, read by Bella Frankish*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

→ service continues over

Second Hymn: *NEH 64 Be thou my guardian and my guide*

Gospel: *John 4.5-42, read by the Rev David Lawson*

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.' Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought

him something to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

Sermon – Rev Lawson

The Creed

Prayers of Intercession *led by Jill Gillam*

Lord’s Prayer

Peace

Preparation of the Table

Offertory Hymn: *NEH 95 When I survey the wondrous Cross*

Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer of Humble Access

Breaking of the Bread

Distribution of Communion

Communion Hymn: *NEH 294 Just as I am, without one plea*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Hymn: *NEH 235 Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go*

Blessing

Dismissal

PRAYER LIST

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

(Do let us know if there is someone to remember here – with their permission)

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

6:30pm EVENSONG

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

Opening hymn: *NEP 636 Great is thy faithfulness*

General Confession / Absolution

Lord's Prayer / Preces and Responses

Psalm: *Ps. 40 vs. 1-10*

OT Lesson: *Joshua 1.1-9 read by Martin Jeens*

Magnificat

NT Lesson: *Ephesians 6.10-20 read by Valerie Turner*

Nunc Dimittis

Creed

Lesser Litany and Responses

Collect for the Day, Second and Third Collect

Address - Rev Sarah

Second hymn: *NEP 647 Will you come and follow me*

Prayers

Closing hymn: *NEP 626 Amazing grace*

Blessing



NOTICES

THANK YOU to everyone who helped or supplied cakes for the concert on Saturday, and to those hosting the district bell ringing session in the afternoon!

Next Sunday: 10:30pm Matins; 6:30pm Evensong

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

Parking, unfortunately the Social Club Car Park cannot be made available for the Morning Service any longer, we hope this is temporary.

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.

CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

General questions or queries - info@aldenhamchurch.com

More information and diary - www.aldenhamchurch.com

Donations can be made 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