St John the Baptist, Aldenham

Sunday 4th October 2026

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

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

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
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 (BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER)

Also to be broadcast live or to catch up with on this link:
https://youtube.com/live/G7MR4ZAIYdw?feature=share

Please use the pink Holy Communion books to follow and join in the liturgy.

Children are invited to join Sunday School during the first hymn.

Opening Hymn: 388 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun	**Sermon** *by Rev John Castle* *"The Parable of the Wicked Tenants"*
First Reading: Isaiah 5: 1 - 7 *read by Monica Laws*	**Offertory Hymn:** 297 Lord Jesus Christ (Living Lord)
Gradual hymn: 499 Thy kingdom come, O God	**Communion Hymn:** 294 Just as I am, without one plea
Gospel: **Matthew 21:33-46** *read by Rev John Castle:*	**Closing Hymn:** 495 God is working his purpose out

You are 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; Mia and Michael Walters who were married on 5th September. (Do let us know if there is someone to remember here – with their permission)*

Readings at the Morning Service

First Reading: *Isaiah 5:1-7*

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

[2]He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watch-tower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

[3]And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
[4]What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

Gospel: *Matthew 21:33-46*

Jesus said, [33] 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. [34] When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. [35] But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. [36] Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. [37] Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." [38] But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." [39] So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. [40] Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' [41] They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

[42] Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"?

[43] Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. [44] The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized
that he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared
the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

6:30pm EVENSONG

Opening Hymn: 374 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds	**Creed** *(p22)* **Lesser Litany and Responses**
Confession / Absolution *(p18)*	**Collects**
Lord's Prayer / Preces and Responses	**Address:** *Rev John Castle*
Psalm: 122 *(p514)*	*"Walking the Talk"*
OT Lesson: Proverbs 2: 1 - 11 *read by Jill Gillam*	**Second Hymn:** 408 Love divine, all loves excelling
Magnificat *(p19)*	**Prayers**
NT Lesson: 1 John 2: 1 - 17 *read by Martin Jeens*	**Closing Hymn:** 245 God that madest earth and heaven
Nunc Dimittis *(p21)*	**Blessing**

NOTICES

***Next Sunday**: 10:30am All-Age Service (see below), 6.30 pm Evensong*

***Children's Church** is held on the first Sunday of every month at the 10.30 service.*

Coffee Concert 3rd October: Many thanks to all who helped with refreshments and welcome at this concert, the proceeds of which are all going to Macmillan Cancer Support. You can watch it at:
https://youtube.com/live/ZsipWjOsCO8?feature=share

Harvest: Next **Sunday, 11th October** we will have an All-age non-eucharistic service, followed by lunch at the Golf Club. We'll be collecting food for the Borehamwood Foodbank. Please bring **only** the following items (NO pasta or baked beans! And no fresh produce):

Urgently needed		*Also needed*	
Rice (500g/1kg bags)	Tinned Fruit	Jams, Peanut Butter, Honey	Tinned Tomatoes
Tinned Carrots	Tinned Custard	UHT Milk (1l)	Cereals
Crisps	Coffee	Porridge	Tinned Peas
Tinned Rice Pudding	Cooking Sauces (Jars)	Biscuits	Tinned Sweetcorn
Tinned Hotdogs	Tinned Fish	Spaghetti Hoops	Tinned Potatoes
Tinned Meatballs	1 ltr Carton Juice	Teabags	Savoury Biscuits
Tinned Meat			

If you'd like to join us for **lunch** at the Golf Club, please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church, or e-mail Jill Gillam jillgillam@hotmail.co.uk. **The deadline is 4th October**. The cost per person is £27 for 2 courses or £34 for 3, and we are asked to make our choices from the menu at the back of church.

Looking ahead:

November and December are busy times! Here's what's coming up:

1st November (All saints)

At **10.30 am** in our BCP Communion Service we will welcome Arthur Holland-Hibbert into membership of the Church through baptism.

At **6.30 pm** we will be holding a **Memorial Service** where we will remember those we have loved and lost through death, with well-known hymns, poems and music from the choir. All are welcome, and we will particularly be inviting those who have been bereaved in the past year.

15th November: after the morning service we'll be welcoming Parker Bowman and Bonnie Coates at a special baptism service at 12.30 pm.

22nd November: During the Morning Service we will be welcoming Isla McIvor through Baptism. This will be an all-age Service of the Word (no communion).

29th November: The Morning Service will be Holy Communion (Common Worship) in place of the usual 4th Sunday slot.

December

Highlights will include the Commemoration of those lost in HMS Aldenham during the Morning Service on Sunday 13th December, the Carol Service on Sunday 20th December, and the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. More details to follow.

Pastoral Care: *Please contact Sue Barnard or Jackie Wilson 07949 587828 or via the website contact box. The Vicar,* ***Rev John Castle,*** *will be pleased to visit anyone by request. His usual working days are Sunday, Monday and Wednesday, but he can also visit at a mutually convenient time.*
Tel: 01923 723864 Email: vicar@aldenhamchurch.com