

A stylized, painterly illustration of St Gabriel's church in Aldersbrook. The church is a large brick building with a prominent square tower and a tall, pointed spire. The architecture features Gothic-style windows with intricate tracery. The entire scene is framed by a festive border of green pine branches at the top and bottom, adorned with gold Christmas baubles and white snowflake cutouts. The church's facade is decorated with strings of warm white lights. In the bottom left corner, a small figure of Santa Claus is visible. A semi-transparent grey box in the upper left contains the title and subtitle, and a yellow banner in the bottom left corner announces the Christmas Market.

St Gabriel's Aldersbrook

Parish Magazine
Advent 2022

Christmas Market
2nd & 3rd December

St Gabriel's Aldersbrook

Our Mission Statement

Inspired by the Archangel Gabriel:

Through our worship we draw closer to God. In our lives we are messengers of God's love for all, seeking to bring wholeness, hope and joy in the communities where we live and work.

Vicar: Fr Martyn Hawkes

0208 89890315 email: vicar@stgabrielsaldersbrook.org.uk

Parish Hall

For information and bookings contact Nick;

07828 582366, email aldersbrookstgabriels@gmail.com

Website <http://stgabrielsaldersbrook.org.uk/>

We are also on Facebook and Twitter

Regular Service Pattern:

1st Sunday of the Month: 8.30am Holy Communion

10.00am All-age Parish Eucharist

2nd, 3rd Sunday: 10am Parish Eucharist

4th Sunday: 10am Parish Eucharist

5pm Evening Service, followed by shared meal

Wednesday 11am Holy Communion

Times for Prayer:

Evening prayer: Mon-Thu 5pm in church and on Zoom

Wednesday 9.30am Prayer hour

2nd Tuesday 7.00pm Adoration of the blessed sacrament

4th Tuesday 7.30pm Contemplative prayer

The church is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10.00 till noon

Hidden & Revealed

I've lived and worked in a number of parishes in London, and they all had their uniqueness – from Hackney marsh, to the Isle of Dogs, to Finsbury Park. In all of those places there were plenty of people doing very well, and significant numbers whose lives were a real struggle and lived on or below the poverty line. In each the church had a small, but significant role in offering support and assistance to the poorest – a homeless families project, a breakfast club, a youth club, an after-school club. It hardly touched the sides, but it was something.



In 11 years of ministry in Aldersbrook St Gabriel's has had plenty of community involvement – summer holiday club, after school club, 0-5 carers group, foodbank collection, charity fundraising etc. But, in an area like ours with lower density of housing, and high proportion of owner-occupied dwellings than any of the places I described above it has never been obvious to me if there was need to do more to meet the needs of people struggling just to make ends meet.

We're all so very aware of times being hard, of the cost of living skyrocketing, of fuel bills increasing and of wages failing to keep pace with inflation, and benefits not even close to meeting basic needs. People must be suffering, and I'm sure people are even in leafy Aldersbrook, but that suffering feels to me to be more hidden here than in any place I've worked before. Do we need warm spaces, hot soup, internet access now or in the uncertain future ahead? I have no way of knowing.

I'm writing this simply to invite a conversation – times will get tougher, there is no question about that. Things that are now hidden will probably be revealed, and I'd like for those of you who are aware of more of the hidden suffering to seek answers to that together where we can. St Gabriel's is fortunate enough to have buildings where people can gather to support one another in times of good or ill. We've had some amazing celebrations over the past few months here: from A Taste of Aldersbrook, to the Pub Night. But, we're also here to meet the needs of those who are hurting, and if you have thoughts of how that could happen for the Aldersbrook and wider community then we're open to hear your ideas.

God bless,

Martyn

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2-to-1 and small groups) and from age 2 for dance classes.**

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Christmas Dates:

Sunday 4th December 7.30pm:

Aldersbrook Community Choir
Concert

Saturday 9th December

Redbridge Brass - The Snowman
(Sold Out)

Saturday 17th December

Redbridge Brass Christmas
Concert

**Friday 2nd 7-9pm & Saturday 3rd
December 12-3pm:**

Christmas Market

**Mon 19th to Wed 21st December
7pm:**

Carol Singing around Parish

Friday 16th December 6.30pm:
Christingle Service

Sunday 18th December 6pm:
Carol Service

Friday 24th December

4pm: Christmas Eve Crib Service

11:30pm: Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10am: Christmas
Communion

Meditation and Reflection

An invitation

to a time of being in silence and stillness
for people of all faiths and goodwill

At St Gabriel's Church:

a peaceful, welcoming and calm space
in Aldersbrook

Thursdays at 11.45

Please arrive by 11.40



Followed by tea and coffee.

If you would like to, you are welcome
to bring your lunch.

Close 1pm

*Queries: contact Lesley or Heather,
or email aldersbrookstgabriels@gmail.com*

Private classes
also available

Classes available in Aldersbrook, E11

YOGA

Lesley



email Gemma:

yogaontheflats@gmail.com

Instagram:
[@yogaontheflats](https://www.instagram.com/yogaontheflats)

W H E N :

Mondays 8pm

Tuesdays 9:30am

Wednesdays 6:15pm (prenatal)

Wednesdays 7:30pm

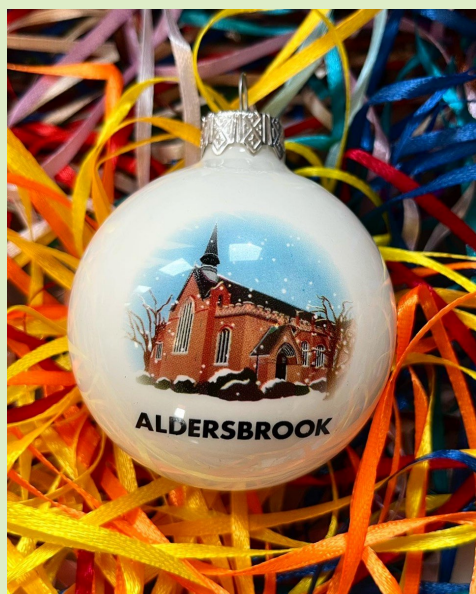
friends of



An update on the Friends of St Gabriel's...and a request for help!

On October 8th 2022 St Gabriel's hosted the much-anticipated Taste of Aldersbrook dinner. With 160 guests, the night was (probably) the largest dinner ever held in the church and the biggest event since the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to mark one hundred years since the dedication of St Gabriel's.

Tickets had sold out in only a few days back in June and as expected Chef Duncan Cruickshanks' locally-sourced fine dining food was amazing, and the church looked fantastic decorated with flowers and candles. With a bar and raffle we raised over £6000 to put towards the hall renovation scheme. Thanks to all the chefs, suppliers, sponsors, donors, volunteers, musicians and guests who made this night so special.



The Friends have also launched the 'Aldersbrook bauble', a limited-edition tree decoration designed by Muriel & Me with original artwork showing St Gabriel's in the snow. This is the perfect gift for local friends and families! You can buy these for £12 at the St Gabriel's Christmas market or online via the church Sum Up page, (<https://st-gabriels-church.sumupstore.com/product/aldersbrook-christmas-bauble>)

We have also created a new leaflet about the Friends and are encouraging people to sign up for regular giving.

However, the Friends Committee now needs new helpers with ideas and initiative to organise events and activities in 2023 and beyond. Can you help us top A Taste of Aldersbrook? Do you have ideas for fun events in the church? Please get in touch with us at friendsofstgabriels@gmail.com.

Georgina Brewis

Children's choir for Christmas!



Open to all age 6+

St Gabriel's Church E12 5HH

4 Sundays from 11.30 – 12.15

13th, 27th Nov, 4th, 11th Dec

with performances in two special services

Christingle: Friday 16th Dec 6.30pm

Carol Service: Sunday 18th Dec 6.00pm



For more information or to book a place

Fr Martyn: 07743 785884

aldersbrookstgabriels@gmail.com

Request for Items for Christmas Market

With our bumper Christmas Market coming up on Dec 2nd and 3rd we are now collecting good quality toy's, books, clothes and bric a brac.

People can start to deliver to the church. Things can be left at the back of the church in the corner. The church is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 12, also after church on Sundays. We need cakes, sweets and bottles to be donated as well.

Kevin Thomas

Christmas Quiz

1. What colour are mistletoe berries?
2. Stollen is the traditional Christmas fruit cake in which country?
3. In the Simpsons what breed of dog is 'Santa's little helper'?
4. Which country gives Britain a Christmas tree each year in thanks for our support in WW2.
5. What does Jack trade for some magic beans?
6. Who wrote the Snow Queen?
7. In which sea or ocean is Christmas Island located?
8. How many sides or points does a snowflake have?
9. Who was the first British king to broadcast a Christmas message?
10. Name the 2 reindeer whose names begin with C.
11. How many windows are there in an advent calendar?
12. When does Advent begin?
13. How many ghosts are there in, 'A Christmas Carol'?
14. In the movie Elf, what is the first rule of Christmas?
15. Finish this quote from the Morecambe and Wise Christmas special. "No. I'm playing all the right notes, but..?"

Christmas
Market

Saturday 3rd December 12-3pm

HOT DOGS

ENTRY £1.00 ADULTS, CHILDREN FREE

50th Birthday Treat

When the Vicar turned 50 at the back end of December last year plans for a party got shelved by Omicron. So, nearly 10 months later he finally got round to celebrating with a local race: the second annual running of the 50km Epping Forest Ultra: An out and back from the Golden Fleece Pub up towards Epping and back.

In doing so, he and Jenny Griffiths, Deputy Church Warden of Wanstead Parish raised over £1500 for the Felix Project - a London based eco-poverty charity who turn end of sell-by produce from supermarkets into provision for people in need.

Martyn said 'If I do that one next year it'll be because I have forgotten how hilly it was!'. Target time 4 hours 30: finishing time 4.29.09. phew!

Many congratulations to them, and others like Rob Spread (3rd finisher) and Carly Eley from Aldersbrook who also completed the run.

Lesley Bond



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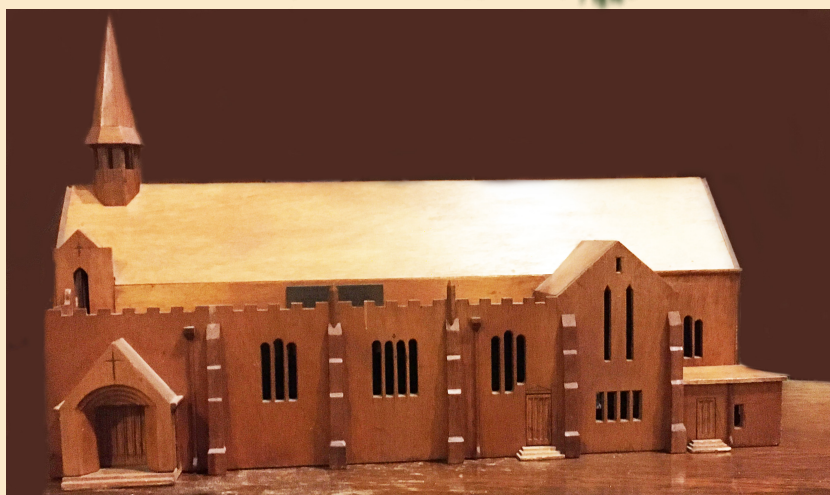
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contact email: sophie@babyballers.com

The Golds Church

Sitting within the church is a wooden model of St Gabriel's. This model has had many homes within the church in the years that I have been a member of St Gabriel's and I have always admired it. However, I knew nothing about its creator or when it was made until an email about another issue led to the story of its creator and the continued link between his family and St Gabriel's.



Bill and Mary Golds were married in 1937 and bought 101 Dover Road for £750 (those were the days). Bill was an engineer's pattern maker and Mary was a S/H typist. During the war Bill was in a reserved occupation working for Green & Silley Weir, ship repairers in the Royal Albert Dock. Their daughter Carolyn was born in 1942, followed by her brother John in 1944 and finally Andrew came along after the war in 1948.

The 1950s were a very happy time for the Golds family growing up in Aldersbrook. Mary was always involved with the church. She was one of those volunteers and workers that all churches need. She would be there cleaning the brass, decorating with flowers and helping out behind the scenes with events. Mary was a regular church goer but Bill was a bit on the quiet side. He was not a churchgoer but was happy to help Mum if she needed it. Carolyn was in the Guides and became a Sunday School teacher at St Gabriel's. John and Andrew were both in the Cubs and Scouts and had many friends in Aldersbrook. Andrew also sang in the choir under organist Terry Porter. So all 3 children have always had a connection with St Gabriel's.

The 3 children grew up, married and made their homes elsewhere, Carolyn to Berkshire, John to Yorkshire and Andrew, still quite local in Highams Park. They never lost their fond memories of Aldersbrook and St Gabriel's.

Bill passed away in 1977, Mary in 1986 and Carolyn died in 1999. For years the family gave the church some money to buy flowers for the church in their memory, a tradition that John and Andrew continue to this day.

So, what does all this have to do with a model of St Gabriel's. Bill Golds, as mentioned, was not a regular churchgoer but his big contribution is that he made the model church which is still in the church. This was made in 1968 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the building of the church to replace the old 'tin church'. This beautiful model, made with such love, is a testament to the contributions of all the family and friends of St Gabriel's who have made an impact over the years.

Who knows what other treasures lie within with links to families of St Gabriel's?

Sara Bertrand

Tin in a Bin

It is hard to know what to say at this point in the year as we face mounting financial uncertainty nationally, particularly hitting those already vulnerable members of society.

So I will start off by saying Thank You! A huge thank you to everyone in Aldersbrook who has supported Tin in a Bin over the last few years. A small project which started in December 2019, there are now more than 50 collection points working together to help the most needy in Redbridge, Leytonstone and Manor Park. Between April and December 2020 at the height of the pandemic, the network provided almost 25,000kg of food and essential supplies. And the donations continue, supporting the work of local foodbanks, homeless shelters and other local charities.



If you would like to get involved, the Tin in a Bin network always welcomes new volunteers to sort and bag donations on a Wednesday and Saturday; there are Duke of Edinburgh volunteering opportunities; companies are invited to get involved through Corporate Volunteering Days; or you can put out a bin in your front garden! For more information on any of these possibilities, please contact Sue Patterson: 07939 035173

If you'd like to give, but you're not sure what to donate, these items are always in demand:

- Tinned meat, chilli, curry, pies etc
- Canned fish
- custard, rice pudding & fruit
- long life milk
- jam, honey, choc spread
- dried pulses & tinned vegetables
- rice & pasta
- tomatoes & pasta sauces
- biscuits and snacks
- tea, coffee, hot chocolate
- sanitary products, nappies (size 3+), baby wipes

Quiz Answers

1. White, 2. Germany 3. Greyhound
 4. Norway 5. A cow 6. Hans Christian Anderson 7. Indian Ocean 8. Six 9. George V 10. Cupid and Comet
 11. Twenty four 12. The 4th Sunday before Christmas 13. Four, Marley and the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future 14. Treat every day like Christmas 15. Not necessarily in the right order

You can find Drop-off points 96 Harpenden Road, 36 Dover Road, 92 Herongate Road, 50 St Gabriel's Close, 28 Clavering Road, 90 Wanstead Park Avenue - and of course at the church.

Helen Bonnick

Sesame Pilates and Yoga

Monday - St Gabriels Church Hall - 7pm-8pm

Thursday - Zoom Class- 11am-12pm

Friday - 10am - TBC



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Hall Users

Group	Type	Date	Time	Contact Email
Wanstead Park Preschool	Pre-school	M→F	8am-12.30pm	manager@wansteadparkpreschool.onmicrosoft.com
Hot Shots Football	Children's Football (5-11 years)	M&Th	3.15-4.30 Mon & 4-5 Thur	mcnike13@aol.com
Beavers	Children's Uniform Group	Mon	5.30-6.30pm	21stefs.beavers@gmail.com
Keep Fit with Tom	Adult Fitness	Mon	6.15-7.15pm	tmmidixon@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates	Adult Fitness	Mon	7-8pm	sesameseed@hotmail.co.uk
Yoga	Adult Fitness	M&Tu	Mon 8-9pm Tue 9.30-10.30am	yogaontheflats@gmail.com
Knit & Natter	Adult's Art & Craft - Held in the Church	Tue	1.30-3pm	ronfiler91@gmail.com
Dance	Children's & Young Peoples Dance (2 1/2 years +)	Tue&F	4-7pm Tue & 3.30-6.30 Fri	sara@variationsdancestudio.co.uk
Scouts	Young People's Uniform Group	Tue	7.15 to 8.45pm	21stefs.scouts@gmail.com
Preschool Carers Group	Parent & Carer Children's group (up to 4 years) in Church	Wed	12-1.30pm	aldersbrookstgabriels@gmail.com
Make it, Do it	Children's Arts & Crafts Group (5-11) Upstairs Hall	W&Th	3-4.45pm	makeitdoitlondon@googlemail.com
After School Club	Children's group (5-11). Held in the Church	Wed	3.30-4.30pm	kevinoliver724@gmail.com
Rainbows	Children's Uniform Group	Wed	4.30-5.30pm	wansteadrainbows@hotmail.com
Brownies	Children's Uniform Group	Wed	5.45-7.15pm	4thwansteadbrownies@gmail.com
Karate	All Ages Martial Arts	Wed	7.30-8.30pm	carlaine1@btinternet.com
Tai Chi	Adult Fitness. Held in the Church	Thur	10.30-11.30am	hart278@btinternet.com
Meditation & Reflection	Adults: Spiritual Reflection	Thur	11.45-1pm	<u>aldersbrookstgabriels@gmail.com</u>
Yoga with Caroline	Adults Fitness	Thur	1-2.15pm	redbridgeyoga@gmail.com
Guides	Young People's Uniform Group	Thur	6.15-7.15pm	sarah_girlguidingwanstead@hotmail.com
Rangers	Young People's Uniform Group	Thur	8-9.30pm	sarah_girlguidingwanstead@hotmail.com
Cubs	Children's Uniform Group	Fri	7.15-8.45pm	ahamadur21efs@outlook.com
Babyballers	Toddler & Children's Football (16 Month-5years)	Sat	8.50-11.30am	https://babyballers4.classkids.co.uk/ Sophie@babyballers.com

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