



Alde Sandlings Benefice

Aldeburgh, St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church,
Aldringham, St Andrew's Parish Church,
Friston, St Mary's Parish Church
Knodishall, St Lawrence's Parish Church

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Sunday 23rd July Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice this Sunday

Aldeburgh	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Aldringham	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Friston	10.00am	Holy Communion
Knodishall	9.30am	Holy Communion

A Message from our Priest in Charge, Revd Sarah du Boulay

Dear Friends,

A well-loved poem by the late, great Spike Milligan has been buzzing around in my head recently. And I'd like to share it with you:

Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner,
And someone saw my grin,

When he smiled I realised,
I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile,

And I realised its worth,
A single smile, just like mine,
Could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin,
Don't leave it undetected,
Let's start an epidemic quick,
And get the world infected!

With prayers (and smiles),

Sarah

Collect

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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.

First Reading

Genesis 28.10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Second Reading

Romans 8.12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my

barn.” ’ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

**Sermon by Revd Sarah du Boulay,
Sixth Sunday after Trinity, 16th July, at Aldringham**

Michael Green was an English theologian, who was a Senior Research Fellow at Oxford University and an Advisor in Evangelism to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. He wrote:

Chapter 13 brings the first half of Matthew’s Gospel to an end. The person of Jesus has been brought very clearly before us, together with a variety of responses to him. And those responses have been sharpening in intensity. Matthew has grouped together a number of parables for some reason, but what?

We are reminded that a parable is the comparison of two subjects for the purpose of teaching. It proceeds from the known to the unknown. It is an every day story with a spiritual meaning. Jesus taught in parables for at least three good reasons:

- 1) The teaching in parables comes after widespread rejection of Jesus’ message and his person by the rulers at the time. Its use enables him to continue to hold and intrigue the hearers at a time of great opposition. No doubt he had spoken in parables before, but now, against a background of sharpened claims and consequent polarization, the parables form an ideal vehicle for his continued ministry.
- 2) Secondly, Jesus valued parables because they were an instrument of revelation. The parable revealed truth to those who were hungry and concealed it from those who were too lazy to look for it, or too blinded by hatred and prejudice to discern it.

- 3) The third reason Jesus taught in parables was that they were a spur towards decision. The kingdom cannot be understood from the outside. The parable was meant to challenge people to think again. It was meant to be a mirror in which they could see what they really looked like. It was intended to draw the hearers to decision, and to give them room to do so – precisely like the incarnation itself.

Green says that This collection of parables, then, provides a fitting end to the first half of the Gospel, and each one of these seven parables faces the reader in one way or another with the question, ‘What will you do with Jesus?’

Titled: What is your response now?

This is the most significant parable of all. It is not just ‘a farmer’ who went out to sow his field. It is (literally) ‘the farmer’, and he comes bringing the precious seed which can transform the soil. The kingdom comes when the soil and the seed get together. It is a marriage of seed and soil. The seed is the word of God proclaimed by the Sower of God. And the kingdom begins to come in a life when the ‘soil’ receives the seed of the word for itself. Then it begins to germinate and shoot.

So those who hear with faith ask themselves a series of questions as the story progresses. ‘Has the word bounced off me, like seed off the hard track that traverses the field? Has it begun to grow in me, so that I could face pressure, laughter from business associates, expulsion from social circles? And our children and grandchildren are growing up now. We must not be so ascetic; it’s not fair on the kids. We must be a bit more like everyone else, with the cares, the riches, and the pleasures of life! Or am I just a very ordinary church member, but in my small corner producing some fruit, albeit only thirtyfold? Maybe God has given me a rather wider ministry and I can see growth sixtyfold? Maybe he has put me in responsible leadership; does he see hundredfold growth in me?’

Those were the sorts of questions the original hearers and readers of the parables would have been asking themselves. The Sower is the same. The seed is the same. The different results depend on the soils, how we respond to the Sower and his seed. What fruit we produce will depend entirely on that. In this first parable we have a reflection of what was happening in the mission of Jesus, and the varied responses to which it drove the hearers. The parable is a mirror: it shows people where they stand. It is held up to the faces of Jesus’ hearers. It was held up to Matthew’s readers. And it is no less challenging today.

You know that recently I have been preaching about now being a time of transition in our benefice. Things are changing, whether we like it or not. Cycles come to an end, new beginnings happen – like growth in nature, there are different seasons for different things. We continually need to ask ourselves how we will respond to this change? How will we respond to the call of God? If we are here to worship Him, what does that look like, in all its nuances and challenges and beauties.

(Gather in flowers) – see what can grow on good ground? How beautiful, ready to self-seed, nourishing, enriching their environment etc. Is this what grows from the seed scattered on our own ground? Again, I ask – what is your response now?

Post Communion

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his
love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

ALDEBURGH CHURCH NEEDS YOU

We have always had an incredible team at Aldeburgh, but over the years due to poor health, frailty etc, our numbers are sadly diminishing. These wonderful volunteers are **essential** to our worship and church wellbeing. To keep our services regularly flowing, we **desperately** need your help. We cannot do it without you.

**WE NEED:
SACRISTANS
SERVERS
SIDESPEOPLE
FLOWER ARRANGERS
CHURCH CLEANERS**

If you can help at all, or have a question, please speak to a sidesperson or contact Claire

admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk

Friston Classics on the Green 2023

A wonderful July afternoon was had by all that attended the annual ever popular Classics on the Green at Friston. There were more visitors (and first timers) and they came earlier - the Grove Road parking was half full before 3pm! And the weather held.

Thanks must go to those workers hidden away and perhaps under-appreciated in the village hall (and the cake-makers) and marshalling Chequers Corner and Grove Road parking. Thank you to Margaret and William Reeve for the use of their field, without which the event could not happen. Again, well done to the Friston team for making this all happen. There is an awful lot of organising that goes into these events.

Counted so far are:

Collections on village green £2,040 (2022: £1,973)

Village Hall refreshments £1,242 (2022: £900)

Revd Sarah, and Revd Mary had fun meeting visitors, and some of the exhibits!



Summer Alde Sandlings Benefice Service

Our next benefice service will be on **July 30th**, at Aldeburgh Parish Church. **Please note this service will start at 11.00am.** This is always a joyous occasion for all the whole benefice to worship together. We greatly look forward to seeing old friends, and welcome new friends.

Welcome Committee at Aldeburgh Church During August

As we all know Aldeburgh attracts a lot of visitors, especially during the summer months. We are very lucky that lots of people also visit Aldeburgh Parish Church. Wouldn't it be nice to give them a warm welcome and chat, and maybe offer a cup of tea or coffee.

Can you help? We are asking for volunteers to meet and greet every Saturday in August from 10am – 2pm – 2hr slots.

Please do sign the rota on the notice board in the church if you would like to be part of this, or contact Claire

admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk

Weekly Benefice Newsletter

If you would like something added to the weekly newsletter that is relevant to the Benefice, please do let Claire know and we will do our best to include it the following week.

All requests by 4pm on Thursday please

Food Banks at the East of England Co-op

Foodbanks provide a valuable service to those in need in our communities. The Aldeburgh Co-op and Solar in Leiston are doing a grand job in collecting food donations, which are collected regularly and distributed. So please look out for the various collection baskets.

<https://www.eastofengland.coop/community/foodpoverty/foodbank-support>

† Fairfield Centre Prayers †

The united churches hold prayers at the Fairfield Centre at Aldeburgh, every third Sunday of the month at 6pm. **All very welcome**

† **Pilgrims Together on Wednesdays on Zoom** †

The worship starts at 6.30pm (Zoom call opens from 6.10pm) and the call is then left open after the worship time for people to catch up. People are welcome to email pilgrimstogether473@gmail.com to receive a copy, be added to our mailing list, or for the Zoom links.

Pilgrims @ Thorpeness Outdoor Summer Celtic

Worship Gatherings

Sundays throughout July and August starting Sunday 2nd July, 10am by the Duck Pond next to the Meare, in the centre of the village. Please bring your own chair. All are welcome!

† **Church of England and Diocese Online Worship** †

There are many online services you can view from the Church of England and our cathedral. Here are some links below.

Church of England website

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online/weekly-online-services>

Church of England Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/thechurchofengland/>

Church of England YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLeck8GovYoaYzIgyOEIKZg>

St Edmundsbury Cathedral Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/stedscathedral>

£££ Ways to donate to our churches within the £££ Alde Sandlings Benefice

Your donations REALLY mean so much to us at this challenging time. No matter how small your donation is, it helps us keep our doors open, support our ministry and mission, and to help preserve our church buildings. THANK YOU SO MUCH

Just click on the link to support any of our churches -

<https://www.aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk/ways-to-donate-to-the-churches-within-the-alde-sandlings-benefice/>

† Morning Prayer across the Benefice †

Revd Sarah is bringing the benefice together in prayer each morning from 9-9.30am. People are very welcome to join, no regular commitment required, just pop along when you wish.

Monday – Friston

Tuesday - Knodishall

Wednesday - Aldringham

Daily at Aldeburgh, Monday to Saturday

Dates for your Diary

Lunchtime Classical Concert Series Aldeburgh Parish Church Monday 31st July 2023 at 12 noon

The highly successful Lunchtime Classics Concert Series in aid of Save the Children continue in 2023.

Helen Stanley (Violin)
Nadia Lasserson (Piano)

Programme includes works by Mozart, Schubert and Stravinsky

Looking forward to welcoming you all.
Admission is free- with a retiring collection for
Save the Children

ALL VERY WELCOME



Save the Children
100 YEARS

AFTERNOON CLASSICS - SATURDAY 5TH August, 5pm

Come and join us at **Aldringham church** for a magical concert of Mozart, Vivaldi, Mendelssohn, and some choral classics performed by some talented students from Pro Corda's Junior Chamber Music course, who have been studying at Pro Corda's home at the beautiful and historic Leiston Abbey. No need to prebook, free entrance. Retiring collection. Refreshments in the churchyard afterwards.

EVERYONE WELCOME

ALDRINGHAM ANIMAL SERVICE

SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 3pm

The popular annual animal service will be held in the churchyard on 13th August. Last year we had donkeys, sheep, tortoises, snails and of course dogs. So, do bring your favourite pet, and bring a chair.

**You and your animal friends (and human ones)
are most welcome**

ALDEBURGH PARISH CHURCH AUGUST FRIDAY MARKETS 2023

This August we will have two Friday markets on the
11th and 25th August, from 10am – 1pm.

The proposed stalls are as follows:

Vegetables, Plants, Fruit and Flowers, Cakes and Savouries, Jams etc,
General Bric a Brac. Household items. Tombola and Games.

All the churches in the Alde Sandlings are invited to have their chosen stalls to raise funds for the churches.

Please contact admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk if any church members of the Alde Sandlings Benefice would like to have a stall.

Toys, prizes for the tombola, jewellery, scarves, and good quality bric a brac needed. Cakes and produce too (please bring on the day)

ALL VERY WELCOME

**Next Sunday, 30th July - Eighth Sunday after Trinity
Benefice Service at Aldeburgh at 11am**