



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

Priest in charge: The Revd Sarah du Boulay
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Sunday 5th November Fourth Sunday before Advent/ All Saints Day

Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice this Sunday

Aldeburgh	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Family Service
Aldringham	11.00am	Service of the Word
	5.30pm	Evening Prayer
Friston	10.00am	Holy Communion
Knodishall	9.30am	Morning Prayer

Dear Friends,

I have had some very exciting conversations recently with people who would like to be confirmed.

Confirmation is when a person confirms the promises which were made when they were baptised – usually as a baby or a child. It is a chance to affirm these promises and commit oneself to a life following Jesus Christ. It is open to anybody from aged 10 (ish) to 110, and is a very special service, where friends, family and church family all gather (together with a bishop) to support and pray for you.

Often confirmation happens in early adulthood, but sometimes people decide much later on that they would like to be confirmed. We have a few

people in this benefice who have made the decision to be confirmed, and the invitation is open to anybody and everybody who hasn't already been confirmed.

Do let me know if you would like a chat about the possibility – we are aiming to start our preparation after Christmas, with a special service at some point in 2024. As I said – a very exciting opportunity!

With prayers,

Sarah

Collect

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
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

Revelation 7.9-end

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

Second Reading

1 John 3.1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5.1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Sermon by Revd Mary Brown,
Last Sunday after Trinity, 29th October at Knodishall**

What a wonderful coincidence - or God-incidence - that today is Bible Sunday. You may have noticed in all three of our readings that the theme running through them was the celebration of scripture, and that is because today, the last Sunday after Trinity is the day that the church decides to celebrate the Bible, to celebrate the fact that God has given us his word. The conference that I was at in America was a conference for Bible translators (before you ask, no I'm not a Bible translator and how I ended up there is a long story for another time) mainly for people working for Wycliffe Bible Translators and SIL. Most of the people I spent the week with spend their days translating scripture into languages that are yet to have scripture in them, and many of which are yet to be written down at all. This is work that can take decades just to translate one of the four gospels.

What I think is helpful for me to take from that, and what I hope to pass on to you, is that I sat there through the conference thinking 'what a privilege' that we have the Bible in our language, and that we have had the Bible in our language for centuries. Whereas there are Christians in the world that only have access to the Bible in a second language.

So as we listen Bible Sunday to this story of the people of Israel in the book of Nehemiah having a massive celebration because they have rediscovered scripture and are listening to it for the first time; as we listen to the gospel of Matthew telling us that God's word will never pass away; as we listen to St Paul telling us in Colossians to preach scripture to one another - it is important that we remember and are grateful for the privilege that it is to have God's word in our language.

The other thing that struck me in the conference was that though the Bible has been in English for centuries, it doesn't always mean that we understand it. There is a difference between the Bible being written in words that we recognise, and being written in a way that we really understand. This was a real challenge to me, to make sure that in the work that Sarah and I are doing, in the work that our elders are doing, in the work that we are all doing as Christian brothers and sisters to one another, that we do that work of helping each other to really understand the Bible.

That's reflection number one from my time away!

After the conference my mum, who had asked if she could come on holiday with me, joined me. We hired a camper van and drove from Denver to Las Vegas. A few of you know just how far that is! I don't think I had quite understood how far it was - there is a difference between looking at a map and actually doing that long a drive! It was amazing. We mainly drove through the state of Utah; 80% of Utah is public land, that means there is no-one living there, it is vast empty wilderness. Most of it is 5000 meters above sea or higher. A lot of it is dry scrub land, similar to dessert, and the rest is national forrest. A lot of places we went were the most wild places I have ever been in my life. I've done a lot of hiking before, but in Europe you are never too far from habitation, even up a mountain. Our first big hike was in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, in the Roosevelt National Forrest, just outside the Rocky Mountain National Park. This is a place where there are brown bears, moose, lynx, and other wild creatures. (I was quite glad that the only wild creatures we actually encountered were chipmunks. Although I would have liked to have seen the others from a safe distance, maybe through binoculars!) Because Sarah had asked me to share reflections today, I was really aware during my holiday that I would need to have something to say! So I stood there in the camper van on the first day, having done a seven hour hike, doing the washing up, asking God what he wanted me to say today.

What came to mind was a section from the book of Job. If you are not familiar with the book of Job...it is theological complicated...some people get really cross with it...and some find it comforting. I'm one of the people who find it comforting.

Terrible, terrible things happen to Job and he spends 37-ish chapters having a back and forth argument with three friends who come to comfort him, and with God. Job calls God out, saying 'where are you?' 'What is going on?' 'Why are you letting this happen?' Some commentators see Job as a courthouse scenario where God is the one on trial, Job has put God in the witness stand and said 'stand up for yourself'. What we get in chapters 38 and 39 is God's reply to Job. So far in 38 God has talked about how he made creation, and asked Job if he was there when he did that. Then he moves on in the same theme, having talked about mountains and seas and dust and stars, then he then describes how he cares for the wild animals in the wilderness. (read Job 38:39-39:18) This is God saying to Job: 'I am looking after all these wild animals that you can't even imagine trying to tame'. That is what really struck me when I was walking in this wilderness, I felt in awe of how wild the places we were in were, how far we were from habitation. When we were walking in the Canyonlands

National Park in Utah we walked for maybe an hour and a half at a time without seeing another person. We'd had to read all the guidance, we had our ten essentials packed. The guidance is basically: 'you won't be found, if something happens to you it could be days or more before a ranger finds you, this is how vast the place you are in is.' Knowing that this is the domain of the wild animals, this is where the bears are, this is their domain not ours, we are the guests here. It is so usual for humans to be the guests. Normally we are the ones in control and the animals get to live with us. So having that turned on its head just brought to mind for me this section of Job, and how big God is. Though this isn't our domain, it is God's. There is nowhere we can go that is not God's domain. That is what Job and a lot of the Bible tells us. The very bottom of the ocean, the tops of the mountains, it is all God's domain, he is big enough for that to all be his. He is present enough that he is even looking after the wild animals when they give birth to their young. He cares enough that he does not leave even the wild animals to their own devices.

This could make us really afraid, and I did feel quite afraid at times on our trip! On one of the nights in Utah I thought I would go and watch the sunset, but my Mum was really tired, so I left her in camper van and set out alone. As I was going I walked past a notice board that reminded you that in this area there were black bears and mountain lions. It gave details instructions as to what to do if you encountered one. I thought I would be ok - I could make lots of noise - I could scare off a mountain lion with rocks and sticks as it suggested...couldn't I...? About 10 minutes in I realised I could not keep going, I was absolutely terrified, so I turned tail and walked as quickly as I could back to the campsite. We are meant to be awestruck, we are meant to be scared in the wilderness.

But in being awestruck by God we can be reassured. As I was preparing to share this with you, I was reminded of meeting a naval officer on placement last summer who told me that he had been listening to Brian Cox's Radio 4 programme, Infinite Monkey Cage, which was talking about how big the universe was. And it had made him feel like there was no hope, he might as well just give up, he wasn't sure what the point was in being a naval officer, in being a husband, in being a father, if the universe was so big and he was that insignificant.

That really stayed with me because my reaction is the opposite. I think if the universe is so big, then wow!, how amazing that I am looked after by God. I am so small. I am like a baby, I can't look after myself. How wonderful that I get to rely on God. How wonderful to get to be in the hands of the God who is so big that he can care for this entire universe so

I am so infinitesimally small. I'd like to offer you this reassurance that I found in being in the wilderness and being reminded that God cares even for the wilderness.

I wonder if what we can take away from this, and what I definitely took away from it, was a reminder to take prayer seriously. God is big enough to care for the wild animals on the mountain, but that doesn't mean that he is too big to care for us. Everything we want to talk to God about, he cares about. He is willing and able to listen. He is there wherever we are. If we find ourselves metaphorically or literally at the bottom of the sea, or at the top of a mountain, he still cares. Nothing is too small for God who is big enough to hold everything. Nothing, nothing, can separate us from the love of God.

Post Communion

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Sunday, 12th November Third Sunday before Advent – Remembrance Sunday

Lest we forget ...

If you haven't seen it yet, as we approach Remembrance Sunday, St Andrew's at Aldringham have once again created their 'Field of Remembrance' honouring the men of the parish who have given their lives in the service of their Country over the years.



The unique display of a biography of each of those being remembered has been created to remember the fallen as sons of the parish and not just names in a book.

Why not take a walk around the churchyard and look at the 'Field of Remembrance' which will be on display from 4th to 19th November.

After this the biographies are on permanent display inside the church in the parish 'Roll of Honour and Book of Remembrance'.

All Souls/Remembering the Loved

Unfortunately the weather permitted some of our services going ahead on Thursday evening. Aldringham however went ahead, and we thank Elder Sheila Brechin for leading this service.

Thank you also to everyone that attended and organised the service including a full choir.



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

† 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/UCLeck8GovYoaYzlgyOEIKZg>

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/>

† Fairfield Centre Prayers - Café Church †

Every third Sunday of the month at **4pm**.

Relaxed and informal with tea, toast, activities, chat and worship.

All ages very welcome

† Worship at The Alde Sandlings †

We are asking for volunteers to deliver prayers of intercession during the services at any of the churches you worship in. The prayers can be written by the person delivering them, they can be taken from a book, or they can be written by someone else, i.e. a member of the clergy. Training can be given. Any member of the congregations can take part in the service in this way. If you would like to deliver the prayers, please either speak to a member of clergy, church warden or email

admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk

Would you like to come forward for Confirmation?

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptised. If you were baptised at a christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ. At a confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you. There will be some confirmation meetings giving you the opportunity to discuss your lifetime journey of faith coming up in the benefice. If you think this would be something that you wish to explore further, please speak to a member of clergy or contact

admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk

† 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 – Aldeburgh & Friston

Tuesday - Knodishall

Wednesday – Aldeburgh

Thursday – Aldringham

Friday - Aldeburgh

Knodishall Parish Church Proposed Plans for Toilet Extension

Church of Knodishall: St Lawrence

In the parish of Knodishall with Buxlow

NOTICE IS GIVEN that we are applying to the Consistory Court of the diocese for permission to carry out the following:

Construction of a single-story extension housing a fully accessible toilet on the south side of the church, to adjoin the nave wall at the point marked by an existing blocked doorway; introduction of kitchenette in southwest corner of nave.

*Copies of the relevant plans and documents may be examined at
St Lawrence Church Knodishall*

**If you wish to object to any of the works or proposals,
you should send a letter stating the grounds of your
objection to The Diocesan Registrar at**

The Diocesan Registry

c/o Birketts LLP

Providence House

141-145 Princes Street

Ipswich

IP1 1QJ

angie-long@birketts.co.uk

Aldeburgh Choir

Do you like to sing? Come and join our church choir.

Our services are every Sunday at 10.30am. We also hold special extra services at Christmas and other events in the church calendar. The choir plays an essential role to our worship. So, the more the merrier, even if you are just visiting us. Want to give it a go?

Contact: admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk For more information.

† 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.

Saturday 11th November Community Good News Faith Cafe @ The Outside Inn, Parrot Pub 9.30 - 10.30

A time for conversation, a hot drink and a croissant. A time to share and offer our thoughts and stories. Acts of kindness and good news within the Outside Inn and taken out into the outside world.

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>

ALDE SANDLINGS BENEFICE CHRISTINGLE CELEBRATION at ALDEBURGH CHURCH



Come share
the light this
Christingle

**The
Children's
Society**

TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER AT 6.30PM

A SERVICE FOR ALL OF THE FAMILY

Please do check our website for news and updates www.aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk