



## **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 19th November Second Sunday before Advent**

### **Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice this Sunday**

Aldeburgh	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Morning Prayer
Church Café	4.00pm	Fairfield Centre Prayers
Aldringham	11.00am	Holy Communion
Friston	10.00am	Holy Communion
Knodishall	9.30am	Morning Prayer

Dear Friends,

As we journey our way through Kingdom Season (the period between All Saints Day and Advent), we are reminded once again what the kingdom of God looks like, and reflect on the reign of Christ in both heaven and earth.

In morning prayer recently, we have been re-reading the story of the nativity which has felt like a really good opportunity to pull us into the realness of the story without all the glitz and glamour which usually surrounds the season. Because the story of the nativity is at its heart, a very simple and very earthy, real story. When the divine Jesus is born as a tiny human baby, we are shown very clearly what the Kingdom is, and how we are part of it. The now and the not yet.

It's beginning to look a lot like Advent, and then very soon it will be Christmas. But I encourage you to bed down in Kingdom Season for a while – there's a very good reason why it comes just before Advent in the liturgical year, and that is to ground us in the 'reason for the season'. To remind us what Advent and Christmas really are all about.

With prayers,

Sarah

## **Collect**

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil  
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:  
grant that we, having this hope,  
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;  
that when he shall appear in power and great glory  
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;  
where he is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **First Reading**

### **Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end**

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

## **Second Reading**

### **I Thessalonians 5.1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

## **Gospel Reading**

### **Matthew 25.14-30**

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your

talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

### **Sermon by Revd Nichola Winter, - Third Sunday before Advent/Remembrance Day, 12<sup>th</sup> November at Friston**

Remembrance Sunday is always a key date in the year; rightly so - and long may it continue. Our service today shares many elements with countless others taking place throughout the country. We pray that our acts of Remembrance may proceed peacefully and that differences be put aside.

Today, we remember before God those who have died in the service of their country in the past. We remember our armed forces, wherever they may be serving. We remember and pray for those who seek to enable other countries struggling to create the conditions in which free and fair democracy can thrive. Perhaps today, almost more than ever, those prayers are so desperately needed.

None of us needs reminding that it is over one hundred years since the outbreak of WWI. The number of survivors of that great war has dwindled with every passing year; none are now left and yet the will to remember continues. Despite the cynics who claim that it didn't turn out to be the war to end all wars, there is a very real sense today that we must not forget what was lost and what was gained.

I come from a generation whose first hand experience of war has been limited. And yet I cannot fail to recognise and honour the heroism of those who have fought, those who died and those who survived later conflicts. I was taught geography at school by a man who had been taken prisoner during the Second World War. He suffered torture and was badly injured but the delight and energy with which he taught us was inspiring. He never lost hope for the generations to come. His calling was to teach, inspire and build for the future.

At an Act of Remembrance at Aldeburgh Hospital last week we considered poppies and their significance as symbols of remembrance. It has been suggested that the cult of the poppy as an icon has got out of hand, with displays of poppies becoming more and more outlandish and elaborate. One person, in a bid to counter this, has set up what he calls 'Poppy Watch' in which he says he:

"tries to gently remind people that each of these poppies stands for someone who died alone, terrified, in agony, far from home, often for no good reason. It used to be a case of sticking a few pence into a tin for a paper poppy which you stuck in your lapel, and then you had to nurse it through the week as it got all tattered, grubby and dog-eared. It was fragile, and everyone's was the same - maybe that was the point."

Poppies need to be worn with pride - and with a degree of solemnity if we are to retain their true significance and meaning. When it comes to 'remembrance', God is not satisfied with half-hearted response. Throughout the Bible, challenges to recall God's laws are not taken lightly. The Biblical notion of remembrance extends far beyond nostalgic recall. Disciplined remembrance is institutionalised in biblical faith because we are called to interpret our present circumstances in the light of God's known faithfulness in the past. Forgetfulness was seen as one of humankind's greatest spiritual maladies – in psalm 103 the psalmist calls for the people 'to forget not all his benefits.' When the people benefited from fresh experience of God they responded in wholehearted obedience, but forgetfulness led to wandering from God. There was a sense in which the people were called to walk backwards into the future, always keeping an eye on the past through the festivals and through meditation on God's law and acts.

And so we should not overlook the obvious – people forget what they do not call to remembrance. We need to keep awake, to allow what has gone before to inform what will come. Not for nothing does Jesus tell the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. It was Samuel Johnson who observed that we need more often to be reminded than to be informed. Our acts of worship – weekly, daily – are a reminder of God's love for us and our response to that love. We keep the lanterns of our faith burning through our worship; we make sure our lamps have the oil they need so that we may keep the light of faith shining. This act of remembrance commemorates the response of those who have died in the service of their country. We remember their response to the call to serve, and the possibility that they might be called to lay down their lives in that service.

The passage from Paul's letter, so often read at funerals, speaks of the transformation that will occur at death as we finally reach our spiritual home. Jesus reminds us that we never know when the final call will come - we need to be prepared and ready. Today we remember those who have fought so that we might have an earthly place to call home. It is a tremendous privilege and one we forget at our peril. We live in an age when modern transport and general mobility creates an increasingly rootless society. Wars and ethnic cleansing have made millions homeless; fundamentalist nationalism is on the increase and ethnic groups demand the right to return home and defend their land. It is crucial that we recognise that need to belong, the need to have a place to call home. To destroy the concept of home is to destroy humanity itself.

And so, wars continue but we cannot give up the fight, the struggle for stability and peace on earth. As long as injustice remains there will be those who will fight for justice. The outcome may be unpredictable; it may be painful. But Paul reminds us that none of the dangers or troubles of life can make the true Christian forget the love and victory of Christ made known to human beings in his death and resurrection.

We are in the season of All Saints and All Souls and one of the opening morning prayers feels particularly appropriate at Remembrance in these difficult times:

Blessed are you Sovereign God, ruler and judge of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. In the darkness of this age that is passing away may the light of your presence which the saints enjoy surround our steps as we journey on. May we reflect your glory this day and so be made ready to see your face in the heavenly city where night shall be no more...

Today, we offer our prayers, our remembrance and our lives in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Post Communion**

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament  
you give substance to our hope:  
bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Next Sunday, 26th November**  
**Sunday next before Advent**

## **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/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/>

## **† 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**

## **† 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

## † 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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.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](mailto:admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk) For more information.

## **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>

† **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](mailto:pilgrimstogether473@gmail.com) to receive a copy, be added to our mailing list, or for the Zoom links.

**Saturday 2nd December Community Breakfast starting 9.30 @ The Parrot, then supporting the Village Christmas Fete @ Dolphin from 12 noon**

As before, a delicious breakfast bap and coffee / tea combo for £6.50 is on offer at the Parrot. Come for breakfast and a catch-up with folk. (You don't need to book in advance, you can decide on the morning.) Please do invite friends along. A group from Pilgrims will then be supporting the village Christmas fete at the Dolphin from noon.

**ALDE SANDLINGS BENEFICE  
CHRISTINGLE CELEBRATION at ALDEBURGH CHURCH**



Come share  
the light this  
**Christingle**

**The  
Children's  
Society**

**TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 6.30PM**

**A SERVICE FOR ALL OF THE FAMILY**

Please do check our website for news and updates [www.aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk)

## THE FAIRFIELD CENTRE - ALDEBURGH

**The Fairfield Centre is looking for a few enthusiastic, community minded local residents to join the Fairfield Centre Management Committee.**



The Fairfield Centre is ideally placed to serve our community of Aldeburgh. We are especially looking for energetic individuals who are willing to help our Centre grow.

Do you have the enthusiasm, imagination, sense of humour and love for our local area to apply?

If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, please contact Linda Lumpkin at [info@thefairfieldcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@thefairfieldcentre.co.uk) or Claire Turner at [admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk)

## ALDEBURGH PARISH CHURCH

### ST PETER & ST PAUL'S

Invites you to **CHRISTMAS**



**COME AND LISTEN TO THE CHRISTMAS STORY  
THERE WILL ALSO BE LOTS OF CHRISTMAS  
CRAFT MAKING & MUCH MORE FUN  
FOR ALL AGES**

**at the CHURCH HALL  
SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
10am till 12 Noon**

**ALL WELCOME**

**NO CHARGE. JUST PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU  
ARE COMING, SO WE HAVE ENOUGH MATERIALS.**

**Please email Fran Smith at  
[admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk)**