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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The Revd Nichola Winter
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The Revd Johanna Mabey
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Sunday 3rd December
Advent Sunday

Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice this Sunday

Aldeburgh	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Family Service with Baptism
Aldringham	11.00am	Service of the Word
	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service by Candlelight
Friston	10.00am	Holy Communion
Knodishall	9.30am	Morning Prayer

A message from Revd Mary Brown

On Friday we entered the season of Advent, the beginning of the church year. This season calls us to prepare for the coming of Christ, by looking forward to his second coming, and by recalling and celebrating his first coming.

It can be easy in this season to skip ahead to Christmas. Decorating, shopping for gifts, planning meals, and attending parties can overtake.

The seasonal liturgy of Advent calls us to cast aside darkness and choose light. This is particularly poignant as the nights draw in and the days get shorter. In this first week of Advent let's keep our focus on the return of

Christ - preparing our hearts and minds for his return with eager anticipation.

I look forward to celebrating Advent with all of you this year.

With prayers,

Mary

***** Reminder, that the Wednesday Holy Communion at Aldeburgh will now be at 10am from 6th Dec*****

Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading
Isaiah 64.1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence-
as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Second Reading
1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Reading
Mark 13.24-end

'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you

know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Sermon by Revd Nichola Winter - Sunday next before Advent/Christ the King - 26th November at Aldeburgh

There is scarcely a grander or more widespread image used in the Bible than that of 'king'. A king was impressive in appearance, honoured and respected by his people; a dispenser of protection, justice and mercy, and a symbol of power and authority. The Hebrew-Aramaic word for king, melek, is one of the most commonly used words in the OT, occurring approx 2700 times. In the NT the Greek word, basileus, occurs more than 125 times. Add in associated words such as kingly, kingdom, the verb to reign, and the motif of kingship weaves its way through the entire fabric of the message of the Bible.

By far the most common reference in the Bile is to human kings and kingdoms. The first reference comes in Genesis 14:1 – the four Mesopotamian kings who did battle against kings near the Dead Sea. The final reference comes in Revelation 21:24 – the kings of the earth who will honour the heavenly Jerusalem by bringing their splendour into it. Between these two, we see human kings of all varieties – Solomon in all his glory, and yet self- destructing in the end; models of faith such as Hezekiah, David and Josiah; Jeroboam, Ahab and Manasseh as embodiments of wickedness in Israel and Judah, and sundry other foreign kings and emperors, most of whom are symbols of evil. We'll all be able to recognise parallels with our own times...

The Israelite kings had to meet strict criteria, as spelt out in the book of Deuteronomy. The king must be chosen by God; he could not be a foreigner; he must not accumulate horses (that is, he must not trust in military strength); he must not take many wives, lest his heart be turned aside; he must not accumulate wealth; he must write a copy of the law for himself – and he must read it and obey it. So the intention was that the king could not be a law unto himself – he was accountable, subject to God's law. And the prophets were there to confront them when they sinned. Over and over again prophets such as Nathan, Gad, Elijah, Isaiah, Amos, Jeremiah confronted the kings. Contrast this with the ancient Near East concept of a king, such as that in Egypt, where the kings, or pharaohs, were considered to be gods themselves. The biblical king was not God; but he was to obey God.

But what about divine kingship? One of the most important ways in which the Bible speaks of God is that he rules as king. God's eternal reign as king is repeated many times. Yahweh's kingship will extend to other nations as well and they will come to worship him in the end.

In the NT we meet the concept of Jesus as king. Indeed, at the beginning of Matthew's gospel, as if to spell out his credentials, we read the genealogy that traces Jesus' origins back to King David. And so it is in the person of Jesus Christ that the images of human and divine kingship are finally – and uniquely – merged. Jesus is named as king by those who fear and persecute him – this is the reputation that precedes Jesus when he comes to stand before Pilate. Appearances can be misleading and we can almost imagine the thoughts going through Pilate's mind – this unprepossessing individual a king? It seems so unlikely. And yet the culmination of Jesus' kingship will be found in the book of Revelation – here he is king of kings and Lord of Lords. The powers of evil will be overcome by God's victory; and the Bible concludes with a wonderful picture of the kingdom of heaven – the hope of things to come.

We stand today at the end of the church's year. The season of Advent is almost upon us, and our thoughts move on from nationalistic remembrance to a remembrance of the divine nature of our king, and the kingly nature of our God. The reason we are here this morning is that we want to pay tribute to our king, to the God in whom we live and move and have our being. God, our King, seeks us out. He loves us unconditionally. Even if we waver, he does not let us go. His gentle hand guides us, encourages us, keeps us on track when our wilful spirits might lead us astray through the ‘clouds and thick darkness’ that Ezekiel speaks

of. We live out our tribute in endeavouring to serve our King through our service to others. Feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, clothing the naked.

We cannot help but sing Christ our King's praise. That's why we're here today. At a Thanksgiving Service recently, tribute was paid to the deceased and she was described as someone who enjoyed and looked forward going to church. And this had caused surprise... What a sad picture it presents if we only appear to go to church out of a sense of duty. Church attendance isn't like collecting air-miles – ten miles for a communion service, twenty for a matins and then we're on the way to salvation. We need to be here because we want to be – because our hearts overflow with love for the king who cared so much for humanity that he came to share it with us. And to be killed by it. But such is his divine nature that his death was not an end; in the same way, death for each follower of Christ is not an end but a new beginning. God in Christ has been here before, and if we can hold on to him, he will hold on to us. Sinful human-kind is re-presented with the vision of salvation and eternal joy that our loving Creator wants for us. Who could fail to be moved by such a concept? Whose heart cannot long to sing out in triumph?

There is a prayer written by HG Wells, perhaps better known for other forms of writing than prayer – but life is full of the unexpected:

O God, our Leader and our Master and our Friend, forgive our imperfections and our little motives, take us and make us one with thy great purpose, use us and do not reject us, make us all servants of thy kingdom, weave our lives into thy struggle to conquer and to bring peace and union to the world. We are small and feeble creatures, we are feeble in speech, feebler still in action, nevertheless let but thy light shine upon us, and there is not one of us who cannot be lit by thy fire and who cannot lose himself in thy salvation. Take us into thy purposes, O God, let thy kingdom come into hearts and into this world. Amen.

Post Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Sunday, 10th December
Second Sunday of 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/UCLecK8GovYoaYzIgyOElKZg

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

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

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.

This Saturday 16th December 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

ALDEBURGH PARISH CHURCH

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S

Invites you to CHRISTMAS

Messy Church

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 16th 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

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 or Claire Turner at admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk

Safeguarding at The Alde Sandlings Benefice

The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the Church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary, report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

The Alde Sandlings Safeguarding Officer:Mrs Fran Smith – admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk

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