



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 10th December Second Sunday of Advent

Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice this Sunday

Aldeburgh	10.30am	Holy Communion
Aldringham	11.00am	Holy Communion
Friston	6.00pm	Carol Service
Knodishall	9.30am	Holy Communion

A message from Revd Sarah du Boulay

Dear Friends,

It's wonderful to be back and worshipping with you all again.

This year, I have decided to read the whole of the Gospel of St Luke for my advent study. 24 days of advent = 24 chapters of the Gospel, the idea being that by Christmas Day, I will have read the whole of Jesus's life, and will know EXACTLY what it is that we are celebrating on 25th December. It's not too late for you to catch up if you'd like to join me.

As I write, we are midway through our special festive services. The Advent Carol service at Aldringham, and Christingle at Aldeburgh were particular joys, and I am really looking forward to the Carol services at Friston (10th) and Knodishall (19th), as well as hosting carol services for both Aldeburgh Primary and Coldfair Green primary schools.

All details of our Christmas worship are printed on the wonderful card produced by Claire (available in all 4 parish churches). Do come along to any benefice services you are able – try a parish different from your own and meet new friends. And compare the mince pies and mulled wine at each one!

With prayers,

Sarah

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us, and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

First Reading

Isaiah 40.1 - 11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Second Reading

2 Peter 3.8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

Gospel Reading

Mark 1.1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Sermon by Revd Mary Brown – Advent Sunday 3rd December at Aldringham's Advent Carol Service

Christina Rossetti's poem entitled 'Advent Sunday' begins and ends with these lines:

*BEHOLD, the Bridegroom cometh: go ye out
With lighted lamps and garlands round about
To meet Him in a rapture with a shout.*

This is what the church season of Advent is about, preparing ourselves for the moment when Jesus Christ, the bridegroom of his Church, returns. Repenting in readiness, preparing to meet him with joy. Looking forward to the fullness of his Kingdom.

In our six readings this evening we have heard an unfolding story. The readings have focused on the theme of light, on Jesus who comes as the Light of the World, illuminating even the deepest darkness.

We began with the desperate cries of Psalm 13 - How long O Lord? Will you forget me forever? The Psalmist finds himself in that deep darkness, feeling forsaken by God. He cries out for mercy, cries out for the Lord to remember him and save him.

Next, we heard Isaiah 45 and God's reminder to his people of his creative power. He formed the light and creates darkness. He stretched out the sky, he put the stars in place. God is mighty, all-powerful.

Which makes our next reading from Isaiah 40 even more surprising. This God we have heard about, who is powerful, who created the universe, comes to comfort his people, to care for them like a shepherd cares for his flock. We heard the line 'He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.' This text tells us that the Lord chooses to pay for the sin of his people so that his coming will be good news. He does what the psalmist in our first reading was longing for, and uses his mighty power to save.

In Isaiah 60 we see this message reiterated. 'Arise, shine, for your light has come'. The Lord comes and dispels the darkness as his glory rises upon his people like the sunrise in the morning.

And again in our reading from Isaiah 9, a reading so familiar to many of us. 'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.' And what is this light? The child that is to be born to them, the child who will be called

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
The saviour who will reign on an eternal throne, ending all wars and bloodshed, bringing justice and righteousness forever. This is the Lord for whom we wait during Advent. This is the bridegroom that we are to greet with a joyful shout. Our Lord Jesus Christ whose first coming defeated the darkness and brought light, and whose second coming will bring us to live in his kingdom forever.

Our final reading tells us something of what preparation for the return of Christ looks like. First Paul is quick to reassure us that we do not need to be afraid of Christ's return. We who are in Christ are children of the light, who live in the light and therefore will not be surprised when Christ the Sun of Righteousness comes to cast out darkness once and for all.

And because of this Paul calls us to be prepared, to be ready, to be alert, to get dressed in a godly armour of faith, love and the hope of salvation.

Paul reminds us that Christ died for us, so that we might live with him.

And he encourages us to encourage one another and build one another up.

Through this advent season may we do just that, remind one another of who it is we are waiting for, help each other to stay alert and prepared for Christ's return, and call one another up to faith, love and hope.

*For BEHOLD, the Bridegroom cometh: go ye out
With lighted lamps and garlands round about
To meet Him in a rapture with a shout.*

Amen

Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:

give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Next Sunday, 17th December
Third 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/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

† 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 link.

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>

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

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 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



CHRISTMAS DATES AT THE CHURCHES OF THE ALDE SANDLINGS BENEFICE

ALDEBURGH PARISH CHURCH

Tuesday 5 th December	6.30pm	Benefice Christingle Service
Sunday 17 th December	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve Sunday 24 th December	10.30am	Holy Communion Service
	3.30pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Day Monday 25 th December	10.30am	Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

ALDRINGHAM PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 3 rd December	11.00am	Service of the Word
	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service by Candlelight
Thursday 14 th December	6.00pm	Carols on the Green
Sunday 17 th December	11.00am	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve Sunday 24 th December	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Christmas Day Monday 25 th December	9.30am	Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

FRISTON PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 10 th December	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve Sunday 24 th December	10.00am	Service of the Word
Christmas Day Monday 25 th December	10.00am	Christmas Day Holy Communion Service

KNODISHALL PARISH CHURCH

Tuesday 19 th December	7.00pm	Village Carol Service at Knodishall Village Hall
Christmas Eve Sunday 24 th December	11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS

Alde Sandlings Website - www.aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk