



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 7th April Second Sunday of Easter Day/Annunciation

Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice this Sunday

Aldeburgh	8.00am	Holy Communion	Prebendary Derek Johnson
	10.30am	Family Service	Led by Elder Fran Smith
Aldringham	11.00am	Holy Communion	Prebendary Derek Johnson
Friston	10.00am	Holy Communion	Very Revd Christopher Lewis
Knodishall	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Led by Elder Ros Macallister

A message from our Curate, Revd Mary Brown

Dear friends,

What a joy it was to celebrate Easter with you last weekend. The churches were all so beautifully decorated, thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

So much happened across the benefice from Good Friday onwards. On Good Friday we had children making Easter gardens, ecumenical services and an ecumenical walk of witness, four moving reflective services for the hour before the cross. Then on Easter Eve some of us handed out Easter eggs on Aldeburgh High Street.

On Easter Sunday we had a joyful sunrise service in Thorpeness, where we were joined by representatives from across the Benefice, what a super way to start the day of celebration - I loved it! Then later in the morning each church enjoyed a joyful Easter service.

I hope that you feel as encouraged as I do, with your spirits lifted, as we come out of Lent into the 50 days of Eastertide - traditionally 50 days of feasting and celebration - who is with me in wanting to bring back this tradition?

May you go out rejoicing into this new season, remembering that the risen Lord Jesus Christ has called you by name.

Mary

Collect

We beseech you, O Lord,
pour your grace into our hearts,
that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion
we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection;
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

Isaiah 7.10-14

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10.4-10

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor

taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1.26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon by Revd Mary Brown - Easter Day

Hallelujah, Christ is risen - he is risen indeed hallelujah!

I hope you have all taken a moment to look around the church and see how very beautifully decorated it is? A big thank you and well done to everyone who was involved in decorating and getting ready for today.

If you had come into the church on Friday, you would have seen that it was completely bare, with no decorations, no flowers, no fabrics.

On Friday we remembered Jesus 'death on the cross. We took down all the decorations and stripped the church bare to show that we were sad, mourning, as we remembered Jesus 'death.

Then today we walked into church and wow - amazing decorations everywhere, a complete transformation. Something has changed!

Most of us already know the Easter story, and whether or not you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead, you know that that is what the church celebrates today.

But the disciples, who we heard about in our gospel reading, Peter, John, Mary, and the rest of the disciples who appear later in the chapter, didn't know what was coming. They went to Jesus 'tomb on the morning of the third day expected to find Jesus 'body, dead lying where they had left him.

It can be hard for us, who know this story so well, to imagine what it was like for those first disciples on that morning. So I wonder if you can think of a book you've read, or a film you've seen, or even a play or a TV program, where the ending was not at all what you expected? Can you remember the surprise or shock you felt as the characters' lives took shape in ways you weren't expecting? And then the 'ah-ha 'moment as you thought back over the story so far and saw how it was leading there all along.

For the disciples, Easter morning was a bit like that, just even more so because this wasn't a story, this was real life.

Of course, the disciples had known that Jesus was special. They had said that he was the Messiah, the holy one sent by God to save his people. They knew he was a king, and they knew that he had come to win a battle, but what they didn't know, what they hadn't yet understood, was how he would fight that battle, and what he would be defeating. Jesus claimed his crown in a way that none of them expected and fought against an enemy they didn't

realise could be defeated. Jesus 'fight was against death, and he won it by dying and rising again from the dead!

Jesus had told his disciples that this was what would happen, but it was just too hard for them to understand, until they encountered the empty tomb and the risen Christ and had their own 'ah-ha' moments as everything he had taught them slotted into place.

For us, 2000 years later, having heard these accounts lots of times, it is hard to find this surprising, it's hard to enter into the shock and joy of this moment, but having the church go from bare to beautiful can help us remember that this week is one of contrasts - from death to life, from sadness to joy.

In assemblies this week we played a game of pass the parcel to help us understand why the resurrection mattered then and why it still matters today. We're going to do something similar now, and I'll need some volunteers to come and help me...

In each of these bags there's a prop that represents some way in which Jesus 'death and resurrection was a world changing event, worth remembering 2000 years later. With each prop there's a verse from the Bible to help us work out what it represents. Most of these are from the two readings we have heard from Isaiah and Acts.

Loaf of bread:

On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines. Isaiah 25:6

Jesus told us that he was the bread of life and the water of life. And in our Isaiah reading the prophet tells us that God will prepare a feast for all people. Through Jesus' death and resurrection God provides us all with all that we need for life, both physical and spiritual.

A high vis jacket:

On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Isaiah 25: 7-8

By dying and rising again from the dead Jesus took away the power of death, he defeated death, and offers us new life with him that would last for ever. The Bible tells us that because of Jesus 'death and resurrection, even death can't separate us from God's love.

A box of tissues:

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces Isaiah 25:8

By dying and rising again Jesus brought in the Kingdom of God, where there will not only be no more death, but also no more sadness, because there will be no more things to be sad about. This is the future we can look forward to in Christ and because of Christ.

A bar of soap:

'That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced...All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'
Acts 10:37 & 43

This reminds us, as Peter preached about in our reading from Acts, of our baptisms, which we are going to be reminded of in today's service, that by dying on our behalf and then rising again Jesus washed us clean. And that through his death and rising from the dead Jesus' took away the power of every bad thing we've ever done or will ever do.

A telephone:

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Mark 15:38
Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence Hebrews 4:16

This one isn't from our readings today, but if you were in church on Friday you will have heard that first verse read during the hour before the cross. By dying and rising again Jesus made it possible for any and all of us to approach God with confidence. His death tore in half the curtain that hung in the temple and represented the necessary separation of God from his people. So the phone is here to represent that in Jesus we all have confident and free access to God.

An easter egg:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

On the way out today, we have easter eggs for everyone. Today this egg is representing the new life that we are all offered in Christ, and the great love of God for us, which he showed us through Jesus' who is God incarnate, the Son of God, choosing to give his life for so that we might live with him.

Thank you all for your help. So we've seen that through Jesus' death and resurrection. God has provided for us everything that we could ever need, God has made us safe, even safe from death, God has made a way that when

Jesus comes again there will be no more sadness, God has washed us clean so that we can confidently approach him, because God loves us so much that he gave his Son, he gave himself for us.

Our Isaiah reading ended with these words:

'This is our God, we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation'

The good news of Easter is that the Lord for whom humanity had waited has come, we no longer need to wait, instead we can rejoice in the salvation he has given us!

As we think about how we might respond to Jesus' resurrection. Let's take a quick look at what happened to Mary in our John reading. Mary was heartbroken at the thought that someone had taken Jesus' body. She stood outside the tomb weeping, not knowing what to do. She was one who was waiting for the Lord as Isaiah has said. And in her sadness, her desperation, her unknowing, Jesus came to her. At first, she didn't recognise the risen Jesus, but when he called her by name, she knew that it was him. Mary would not have found Jesus if he had not come to her and called her name.

The good news for us today, is that Jesus is still standing here, waiting for each of us, gently calling each of us by name. If we listen we can hear Jesus calling us by name, into his compassionate, generous, abundant, never failing love. Which he displayed for us on the cross.

So as you go about your day today will you turn around and see Jesus, resurrected, glorious, offering himself to you? Amen

Post Communion

God most high,
whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh:
we thank you that in this sacrament of our redemption
you visit us with your Holy Spirit
and overshadow us by your power;
strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of obedience
and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

† 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

** Weather permitting, we are prayer walking around Friston and Knodishall. Please speak to Revd Sarah and Revd Mary for more info.

The Alde Sandlings Benefice Lent Challenge

For those who took part in the Lent Challenge, please do hand over your collection to a church warden or sidesperson in the church you worship in. Many thanks!

NOTICE OF THE ALDE SANDLINGS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

FRISTON

Will be held on Sunday 5th May at 11.00am

ALDRINGHAM

Will be held on Tuesday 7th May at 3pm

KNODISHALL

Will be held on Sunday 12th May at 10.30am

ALDEBURGH

~~Will be held on Sunday 28th April at 12 Noon~~

NOW

Wednesday 22nd May at 6.30pm in The Church Hall

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>

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

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

Your donations REALLY mean so much to us. If you would like to donate this Christmas, please click on the link below.

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/>

† 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>

† 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

† 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.

Saturday 20th April 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.

Confirmation Service

Would you like to come forward for Confirmation?

We are planning for this service to happen on the 26th May. 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**

FIRST AID TRAINING SESSIONS

Aldeburgh Parish Nurse Ali will be offering some First Aid training sessions at Aldeburgh Church Hall on:

Tuesday 23rd April 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Friday 10th May 1.30pm – 3.30pm



The subject to be covered will be Emergency First Aid
Looking at specifically the following:

- Difference between a cardiac arrest & heart attack
- What to do if someone's unconscious
- How to recognise & what to do if someone stops breathing
- How to give CPR
- How to use an AED (defibrillator)

This opportunity is available to all. If you would like to enrol, please contact Nurse Ali by email: nursealicherry@yahoo.co.uk
or phone on 07870 946475

**Next Sunday, 14th April
Third Sunday of Easter**

**FROM UKRAINE
WITH LOVE**

CONCERT

**Saturday 11th May, 18:30
St Peter and St Paul's Church,
Aldeburgh**

**In aid of bringing home those killed both Ukrainian & Russian
and the Military Hospital in Odessa**



Tatiana Belousova (mezzo-soprano) and **Natalia Stepanova** (soprano) will perform arias from popular operas as well as traditional and contemporary Ukrainian songs, together with Natalia's 6-year old son, Andre.

They will be accompanied by **Birgitta Kenyon** on piano who will also play well-known piano solos.

**Tickets available on the door: £12.50 adults, £8 Under 14's. Please scan or visit:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/voicesquad/t-avdepal>**

