



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

Rector: The Revd Sarah du Boulay

Email: revd.sarah@btinternet.com

Tel: 01728 582213

The Revd Nichola Winter

Email: njwinter@whd.co.uk

Curate: The Revd Mary Brown

Email: revd@mary-brown.co.uk

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The Revd Johanna Mabey

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Sunday 28th April Fifth Sunday of Easter

Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice this Sunday

Aldeburgh	10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Sarah du Boulay
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Led by Elder Julian Worster
Aldringham	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Led by Elder Sheila Brechin
Friston	10.00am	Service of the Word	Revd Mary Brown
Knodishall	9.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Nichola Winter

A message from our Curate, Revd Mary Brown

Dear friends,

On Sunday 26th May at 3pm Alde Sandlings Benefice has the great privilege of hosting the deanery Confirmation Service. Those from our benefice who are being confirmed are starting confirmation classes this week. In Confirmation a person confirms the promises made when they were baptised: for those who were baptised as infants, this means making for themselves the promises that their parents and godparents made then on their behalf; for those who were baptised as older children or adults, it means reiterating the promises they made at their baptisms.

Here are the promises the candidates will make:

- To continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and in the prayers
- To persevere in resisting evil, and in the face of sin to repent and return to the Lord
- To proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ
- To seek to serve Christ in all people
- To acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice.

These are big commitments, not things we can do alone, but only in the power of the Holy Spirit - this is why during the service, when the Bishop places his hands on the heads of the candidates he will pray for the Holy Spirit to rest upon them.

A service of Confirmation, is a chance for the congregation to celebrate the faith of those being confirmed and to commit to supporting them in their walk with Christ. During the service the Bishop will ask the congregation if we will uphold those being confirmed in their life in Christ - I hope that we will answer with a resounding **with the help of God, we will!**

We don't need to wait for the service to commit to supporting the confirmation candidates. Would you join me over the next month in praying for them as they prepare? If you are not sure how to pray for our confirmation candidates, why not start with some words that the Bishop will use during the service: *May Christ dwell in their hearts through faith, that they may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.*

With prayers,

Mary

Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good
desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Genesis 22.1-18

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.' The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord : Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Second Reading

Acts 8.26-end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Gospel Reading

John 15.1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and

burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Sermon by The Very Revd Christopher Lewis Fourth Sunday of Easter, 21st April at Friston

Ministers/clergy are often called 'Pastors', exercising 'pastoral' ministry. That implies that the people have some similarities to a flock, and that kind of terminology has a good biblical basis, even if you are not sure that it is the ideal description. The bible has many references to shepherds and sheep, quite reasonably as sheep were all over the place. In today's Gospel, which comes just after a man who was born blind is healed of his blindness by Jesus, Jesus refers to himself as the good shepherd.

I once was in the West Bank in Israel (anyone who has been there cannot but pray today) and I walked through the desert to the monastery at Mar Saba. One goes through the area called 'shepherds fields' which are nice and green, and then on into the desert ...and there I saw a real shepherd (it was desert, but if you looked carefully sideways-on, there were blades of grass). The shepherd was sitting on a rock, singing. Wandering around were goats and sheep, looking much the same. That is worth remembering if you classify some people as sheep and others as goats. Occasionally the shepherd got up and threw stones to get his animals back into line. That done, he returned to his rock and his singing. My job back then was teaching in a theological college, trying to train people for ordained ministry. Maybe, I thought, this was what we ought to produce, rather than the rather churchy pastors we were manufacturing! It reminded me of the head of the monastic 'Community of the Resurrection', who once said 'God is not half as religious as the curate', meaning that God was interested in the world, the creation, the welfare of all – rather than only in churchy things.

That's about shepherds, but what about sheep? Some people definitely feel that we have got sheep wrong. Here's a very odd piece I once read in *Private Eye*; it comes from Wales, the land of my fathers: I quote: 'In her speech to the local council, during which she declared that the public had quite the wrong impression of sheep, Mrs Williams said: "Sheep are cunning and vicious bullies. We demand a six-mile fence to be built around us to keep them out. They roll over cattle grids, tiptoe down railway lines by night, cavort in the cemetery, eat the flowers off the graves and, in the morning, go to sleep in the local Health Centre. Even large dogs have no effect on them - for they know no fear. My neighbour,

Mrs Jenkin, found three of them in her kitchen, and one large black-face snatched a chocolate ice out of her daughter Myfanwy's hands before being pushed out of the house.”

It is possible that Mrs Williams was prone to exaggeration. But she may be offering Christianity something it needs, in order to correct the usual picture of sheep as woolly and obedient, like cuddly toys. In fact, I must admit to a wish to track Mrs Williams down and seat her opposite one of those pious clergy (they do exist) who talk about 'my flock'.

The serious point to be made after these reflections is that the shepherd/sheep model of 'ministry' needs to be examined with care. It was certainly appropriate for Jesus to speak of sheep and shepherds after his curing of the man born blind, but we need to work at what his teachings and action mean for us. Not only do shepherds come in all kinds of shapes and sizes, but also sheep are often hard to distinguish from goats and are by no means docile.

The twelve apostles whom Jesus was sending out into the unknown in today's Gospel, were a varied crew who had a considerable capacity for getting the wrong end of the stick. In this case, they were his sheep, but most were to become shepherds themselves. They frequently misunderstood Jesus and got his life and ministry wrong, but they were trained by being with him and being taught by him and that was an experience for us to follow and study as best we can while praying for God's guidance.

Clergy come in a variety of shapes and sizes, which is good as their representative ministry is in many situations. People have tried to re-invent religious gathering in numerous ways in every age, but have found that trained leaders (call them shepherds) are not only desirable but necessary. I was talking to a Muslim once who said that a great problem for mosque congregations is the lack of good trained imams/leaders ...and indeed, the absence of a structure or organisation like a deanery or a diocese.

Yet the value of Rectors and Curates, of representative ministers/shepherds, does not mean that things can just motor on in the way they have in the past. Women, of course, bring new perspectives. Yet perhaps even more important is the fact that it is now emphasized that all Christians are ministers, all have a calling. Ask the question: 'which is most important – baptism or ordination?' The clear answer: baptism is the most important, one of the two central sacraments of the Church. Among other consequences of that truth, is that ministry/shepherding in the Church ought to be mutual and indeed outward looking. I hope that you see it as your role to help the Rector in her tasks.

Ministry being for all, means that the Church is a community which looks outwards. It was William Temple who said that the Church is the only organisation which exists for those who are not its members. Well, there's a thought! A bit of an exaggeration, because it has a role (of course) to care for those who are its members. But his saying is a reminder that the church faces outwards, whether that is in reaching out to the young with education, or to those who are badly off, with a food bank, or in care for refugees who have fled their countries... or in all sorts of other ways, the Church being part of a wider community.

The Church, local and universal, is a strange and wonderful institution: agonising at times, but a place where heaven and earth meet. Remember St Paul writing in love and in anger to the Corinthians about the life of the Church. The Church is the best we can do in following in the way of Jesus, not just as individuals but together. In each place it is blessed by God the Father and works in the power of the Spirit, following the example of Jesus Christ. He is the shepherd and we are the sheep.

Post Communion

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

† 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.

† Home Visits †

Not everyone can get to church as they were once able to, due to an illness or reduced mobility. We fully understand that this can be incredibly isolating for some. If you, or you know of someone that would like a home visit from one of our Elders, please do let us know. Or if you would like home communion, please do let a member of clergy know. Please contact them directly or email admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk and we will do our utmost to arrange a visit.

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

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

Would you like to join the Aldeburgh Team?

Nominations for churchwardens, deputy churchwardens, deanery synod representatives, and to join the PCC are open on 9th May. All nominations need to be to Revd

Sarah by 14th May. Please do email

admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk if you have any questions.

**Fund Raising Quiz Night for
The Fairfield Centre**
Friday 31st May at 7pm at the
Fairfield Centre.



£7.50 per person, inc Supper. Bring your own drinks.
Teams of up to 6 people. To book at table, please contact Linda
on 07885 453145 or email info@thefairfieldcentre.co.uk
Please inform of any dietary requirements when booking.

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>

£££ 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 links.

Saturday 4th May Community Breakfast and Local Ramble starting 9.30 @ The Parrot

As before, a delicious breakfast bap and coffee / tea combo for £7 is on offer at the Parrot, before we head out to explore local paths.

Come just for breakfast and a catch-up with folk, come for just the ramble or come and enjoy both. To help with timing, if coming only to ramble then we generally head from The Parrot around 10.30am. Please do invite friends along.

Saturday 18th May 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.



ASCENSION DAY BENEFICE SERVICE

Our benefice service will be held at
Friston Parish Church at 10am on
Thursday 9th May.

ALL WELCOME!!

**Next Sunday, 5th May
Sixth Sunday of Easter**

FRISTON GOES GREEN

SATURDAY 11th MAY - 10.00am - 4.00pm.

**PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL EVENT
ON FRISTON VILLAGE GREEN
IN AID OF ST ELIZABETH'S HOSPICE**

- ❖ SELECTION OF PLANTS
- ❖ VEGETABLES & HERBS (grown by locals)
 - ❖ HOMEMADE CAKES & SCONES
 - ❖ HOMEMADE JAM & MARMALADE
- ❖ TOP QUALITY REUSABLE & NEW ITEMS

PARKING IS AVAILABLE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

**REMEMBER ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
ST ELIZABETH'S HOSPICE**



Contact:

marieszpak2051@gmail.com

for more information

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>



St Andrew's Parish Church Aldringham



CHORAL EVENSONG

Second Sunday of Every
Month at 5.30pm (May - August)

YOU ARE ALL MOST
WELCOME



Alde Sandlings Benefice

**Lunchtime Classical
Concert Series
Aldeburgh Parish Church
Thursday 23rd May 2024
at 12 noon**

The highly successful Lunchtime Classics Concert Series in aid of Save the Children continue in 2024, with the return of the Lighthouse Trio.

Masumi Ogura (Clarinet)
Janet Coles (Cello)
Nadia Lasserson (Piano)

In a programme of hitherto neglected Romantic works by Robert Kahn, Paul Juon and Friedrich Wilhelm Voigt

**Looking forward to welcoming you all.
Admission is free- with a retiring collection for
Save the Children**

ALL VERY WELCOME



Save the Children
100 YEARS

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