



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
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The Revd Nichola Winter
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The Revd Johanna Mabey
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Sunday 23rd November Sunday next before Advent/ Christ the King

Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice this Sunday

Aldeburgh	11.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Nichola Winter
Aldringham	11.00am	Family Service	Revd Mary Brown
Friston	9.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Nichola Winter
Knodishall	9.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Mary Brown

Dear friends,

I often talk about God's calling on our lives, and how sometimes this calling is a lifelong one (ordination, marriage, parenthood etc), and sometimes this calling can change or be 'seasonal' (3 years as a Church Warden, changing roles within a community or a job). It is always important to be alert and to listen to what God is saying to us all, and to respond if we are able.

With this in mind, I am thrilled to say that we will be recommissioning our Lay Elders on 7th December in Aldeburgh Church at 3pm. Please do come along if you are able to support them in their ministry, and to meet Archdeacon Rich who will be leading and preaching. This will be a real celebration of Lay Ministry in our Benefice.

And in the meantime, please do pray for Ros, Marie, David, Jill, Jules, Catherine, Fran and Susan.

With my prayers as always

Sarah

Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Second Reading

Colossians 1.11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Gospel Reading

Luke 23.33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Sermon by Revd Sarah du Boulay
16th November – Second Sunday before Advent

Any Bob Dylan fans? Back in 1965 he wrote a song called the Times They Are A-Changin'. It begins with these lyrics:

Come gather 'round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You'll be drenched to the bone
If your time to you
Is worth savin'
Then you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'

We may not like it, we may deny it, we may resist it but the reality is that now, 60 years later, things are changing. Our world is changing, the church is changing, our lives are changing. Sometimes changes are welcome. A birth, a marriage, a flourishing relationship, good health, warm weather...

But there are days when change brings loss or the fear of loss. There are days when our life is forever changed, the world is different, and nothing is like it used to be. You and I know those days. We could each tell stories about those days. They are stories about the death of a loved one, the diagnosis, a divorce, the job that was lost. They are stories of dreams and hopes that never came true.

These are the days when the temples of our life and world fall. It is not just our individual temples, however. As a country, a church, a community - Temples are falling everywhere.

We all have temples. Some have been given to us, others we have built for ourselves. Sometimes our temples are people, places, values and beliefs, institutions, dreams. Regardless, they are the things that we think structure and order our lives, give meaning and identity, provide security and stability. At least we think they do, until they fall.

In today's gospel some were speaking about the physical temple, its beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God. It gave identity and meaning to their community. It was the center of Jewish life. Jesus looks at it and says, "The

days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” Jesus is speaking about more than just the physical temple in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem temple includes every temple you and I have.

So what do we do on the day our temple falls?

Change has a way of pushing us into the future. Many people will begin looking for signs about the future. What will happen now? What do I do? How do I get through this? If we are not careful we will soon be living in a future we do not yet have. We will be living in a future created in our heads. That is not Jesus’ response. When Jesus describes things that will happen, he is not asking us to speculate about the future. He is offering signs that call us to be faithful in the present.

Sometimes, after our temple falls, we look for a scapegoat, someone to blame or even demonize. We look for someone or a group who does not think, act, or believe like we do. That is not Jesus’ response.

Some people will simply give up and walk away in despair. They can see nothing left. All is lost and the situation is hopeless. That is not Jesus’ response.

Some will become angry, resentful, and fight back. Others will say this is God’s will or maybe even God’s punishment. Many will look for easy answers, quick fixes, something that will prop up the old structures and ways of doing things. Again, these are not Jesus’ response.

Jesus’ response is just the opposite. Be still, be quiet, do not be led astray. Do not allow your life to be controlled or determined by fear. Do not listen to the many voices that would cause you to run and go after them. Endure he says. Be faithful, steadfast, persevere here and now. Jesus is calling us to be present and faithful in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. If we cannot find God here, in our present circumstances, even in the midst of our temple ruins, we will find God nowhere.

Jesus is calling us to the virtue of stability. We are to remain fully present, faithful, no matter how uncomfortable life may be. In so doing we discover that God has always been with us – in the changes, chances, and chaos of life; in the pain, loss, and disappointment; in the destruction of our temples.

Endurance, perseverance, stability are the ways in which we offer God the fallen stones of our temples. Stone by stone God rebuilds our life. Stone by stone God restores the original beauty of our life and world. Stone by stone

a new temple arises from the rubble. Stone by stone we become the temple of God. We no longer have temples. We no longer need them. We are the temple. That is the story that needs to be told. That is our opportunity to testify.

We can all tell the story of the day our temple was destroyed. Too often, however, we believe and live as if that is the end of the story. It will be if we run away, scapegoat, respond with anger, or try to put it back together like it used to be. But it does not have to be the end of the story. The greater story is how we discovered God next to us in the temple ruins and how, stone by stone, God rebuilt what we could not. It is the ongoing story of God recreating life out of loss and ruin, a story of God rejoicing and delighting in his people.

This story is the holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to you. It is real, sacred, and true. Trust that story, tell it over and over to yourself, proclaim it to all you see, and then go live that story.

The line it is drawn
The curse it is cast
The slow one now
Will later be fast
As the present now
Will later be past
The order is
Rapidly fadin'
And the first one now
Will later be last
For the times they are a-changin'

Post Communion

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week
Sunday 30th November
First Sunday of Advent

† 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>

Always wanted to sing?

Why not join Friston Community Choir!

Held fortnightly on Wednesdays 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Friston Village Hall, Church Path, Friston IP17 1PU

£5 per session. For more info email

Briony Sones: fristonvillage@gmail.com **ALL WELCOME**

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, 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-church-within-the-alde-sandlings-benefice/>

† Home Visits †

Not everyone can get to church as they were once able to, due to an illness 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.

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 Alde Sandlings, Dates for your Diary

- Morning Prayer throughout The Alde Sandlings Benefice Weekly at 9am - Aldeburgh – Every Monday – Wednesday and Friday.
Aldringham – Every Thursday – Friston – Every Monday
Knodishall – Every Tuesday.
- Aldringham – Advent Carol Service, November 30th at 6pm
- Aldeburgh – Benefice Christingle Service, December 6th at 4pm
- Aldeburgh – Re Commissioning our Elders Service, December 7th at 3pm.
- CHRISTMAS DATES LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

† Pilgrims Together †

Pilgrims Online Wednesdays

Wednesday Gathering to Worship, Reflect and Pray

Saturday 6th December Community Breakfast

9.30 @ The Parrot

As before, a delicious breakfast bap and coffee / tea combo for £7.50 is on offer at the Parrot. Please do invite friends along.

Following the Pilgrim breakfast event, friends may then choose to organise their own walk locally.

Saturday 20th December Encounter, Pilgrims' Faith Cafe @ The Outside Inn, Parrot Pub 9.30 - 10.30

Come and join us for coffee, tea & croissants; chance to explore questions about faith, chance to reflect, to listen & share thoughts.

Pilgrims @Thorpeness - Sunday 21st December 4pm

Pilgrims will be leading Community Carols round the Christmas Tree in front of the boathouse.

All are welcome to any of the Pilgrims events.

**Re Commissioning of our
Lay Elders Service
Sunday 7th December at 3pm
at Aldeburgh**

Do come along and support our Elders for this service, as they continue to support the Alde Sandlings Benefice. **All very welcome**



**CHRISTMAS DATES AT THE
CHURCHES OF
THE ALDE SANDLINGS BENEFICE**

ALDEBURGH PARISH CHURCH

Saturday 6 th December	4.00pm	Benefice Christingle Service
Saturday 13 th December	10.00am	Christmas Messy Church
Sunday 21 st December	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Eve	10.00am	Holy Communion
	3.30pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Day	11.00am	Christmas Holy Communion Service

ALDRINGHAM PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 30 th November	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service by Candlelight
Wednesday 10 th	6.00pm	Carols on the Green
Sunday 21 st December	11.00am	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Day	11.00am	Christmas Morning Family Service

FRISTON PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 14 th December	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service
Christmas Day	9.30am	Christmas Holy Communion Service

KNODISHALL PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 21 st December	3.00pm	Village Carol Service at Knodishall Village Hall
Christmas Day	9.30am	Christmas Day Service

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS
Please visit Alde Sandlings Website -
www.aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk for all other service times



**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 13th 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**



Job Vacancy Interim Centre Manager at The Fairfield Centre, Aldeburgh

The Fairfield Centre in Aldeburgh has been the community hub for many years, supplying a venue for many local groups and associations. An exciting position has become available for the post as interim centre manager. This role would give great job satisfaction for the right candidate. Do you have good organisation skills and self-motivation to take on this role? And of course a good sense of humour! Come and join the team to keep the continued work already being done and develop future potential within this vital part of the Aldeburgh Community.

The job entails:

- The day to day running of the centre, including upkeep and management of service provision.
- Managing bookings and liaising with clients.
- Working alongside the Aldeburgh Church Parochial Council in the running of the centre.
- Establishing good relationships within the town and the local community.
- Advertising the centre and its activities.

The post is for 10 hours a week at a rate £13 per hour from 6th January 2026 to 30th June 2026, with potential to continue after this date.

For more information, please see www.aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk or email admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk .

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter to admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk .

Deadline for applications: 27th November 2025
Interviews: 1st December 2025

We look forward to hearing from you!