



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
Tel: 01728 467454

The Revd Johanna Mabey
Email: rev.johannamabey@gmail.com

Sunday 14th December Third Sunday of Advent

Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice this Sunday

Aldeburgh	11.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Nichola Winter
Aldringham	11.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Sarah du Boulay
Friston	<u>6.00pm</u>	Carol Service	Revd Nichola Winter
Knodishall	9.30am	Holy Communion	Revd Sarah du Boulay

A Message from our Rector, Revd Sarah du Boulay

Dear friends,

Did anybody else take on the Magnificat challenge I suggested last week? I have been thinking a lot of the person of Jesus – the Son, our Saviour, the Word of God, the Son of Man, I Am. The myriad of ways in which he is referred to and refers to himself in the Gospels, and what each one means for us. Of course, this is all semantics and who Jesus really is, is much deeper and beyond our own comprehension. But it all helps us to build a picture. To develop our relationship, to deepen our faith.

I wonder who Jesus is to you? I wonder if you have a picture or symbol in your head when you think of him? I wonder whether one of his 'names' strikes you that bit more than others? And I wonder what God is saying to each one of us, in this moment, through this?

With my prayers as always,
Sarah

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Isaiah 35.1 - 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Second Reading

James 5.7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

† 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>

Sermon by Revd Mary Brown

7th December – Second Sunday of Advent

This sermon was given at a baptism.

Today we have the absolute joy of baptising Bodhi.

When Bodhi and I spent some time together preparing for today, there happened to be a box of dinosaurs and farm animals next to us, so I improvised a role play. Bodhi was represented by a horse, and all the bad things in the world were represented by a dinosaur (I'm sorry if I gave dinosaurs a bad deal in this, but it was a t-rex so it's probably ok...) The dinosaur would try and attack the horse, and in would step the farmer, who would chase the dinosaur away with the words 'you can't have him, he is mine!' As the role play went on, Bodhi added extra characters, so he was with a lot of other horse and cow friends, all being protected by the farmer against the bad dinosaur.

Whilst this analogy is far from perfect, it does speak to a few key things about baptism. **One** of the first things I will do in the baptism part of this service is sign Bodhi with the sign of the cross on his forehead and say the words 'Christ claims you as his own, you are his.' Whilst the language of belonging to a person might sit uncomfortably with us at first, when we understand who this person is - who Jesus Christ is - it is a wonderful comfort.

- Our first reading described Jesus - Jesus is the shoot that grows out of the stump of the tree at the beginning of that reading. Isaiah tells us that Jesus is wise, he understands, he is strong, and he gives good advice, he tells us that Jesus is righteous and just and faithful. That means that whenever Jesus makes a decision it is the right decision, it means that everything he does is good, and it means that he will always be with us, and always keep his promises to us, he never lets us down. Because Jesus is fully human he completely understands us, because Jesus is fully God he is completely able to look after us.

Secondly this role play nodded to the theme that runs throughout the Bible, of God as our good shepherd, leading us, the sheep, away from danger and into safety.

- We see this in Psalm 23, which starts: 'the Lord is my shepherd'
- We see this with David, the shepherd king
- And then Jesus uses this theme to teach his disciples who he is:
 - in the parable of the lost sheep in Luke 15 - Jesus is the shepherd who

leaves the 99 sheep in the pen and goes out onto the mountain side to find the one sheep that is lost, rejoicing and carrying it home on his shoulders when he finds it

- in John 10 Jesus says 'I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep'
- Jesus teaches us that he has done exactly what the farmer was doing in our role play, he stood in front of us, faced danger on our behalf, and brought us into the safety and goodness of his kingdom.
- Jesus did this by dying on the cross for us, when he died on the cross he was laying down his life for us, standing between us and death. When he rose from the dead he was winning new life for us, defeating death once and for all, and making a way for us all to join him in his good kingdom.
- Our first reading ended with a beautiful description of the future that Jesus won for us, a future where my analogy wouldn't work anymore, because there the dinosaur would lie down with the horse, the wolf will lie down with the lamb, the creatures that were dangerous will become safe, that's how good God's kingdom is - Isaiah tells us that there will be no more hurt and no more destruction - in the kingdom of God where Jesus Christ reigns in justice and righteousness all the bad things are no more. This might sound like a nice dream. But remember what I said earlier about Jesus? He is faithful to keep all his promises, and this future is something he has promised, which means it isn't a fantasy, it really is going to happen.

Thirdly, there was Bodhi's addition of other animals into the role play. When he did this, he was unknowingly making it more accurate. In baptism we welcome the person being baptised into the God's big family, the church, the body of Christ. Being in Christ is not something we ever do alone, we are together in Christ with all those in the family of God.

- In the second reading from Romans, Paul told us to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed each one of us. Later in the service you will all have the opportunity to welcome Bodhi, to greet him as a member of this family of God.
- Paul tells us that everyone is welcome into God's family, whoever they are. Maybe you're here today listening to this and thinking that you are not sure you can welcome Bodhi into the God's kingdom because you are not sure that you have been welcomed in yourself, well it is never too late, and never too early, Jesus stands here ready to welcome you in as well.

Our third reading is absolutely perfect for a baptism because it is about John the Baptist, baptising people in preparation for Christ's first coming. John told the people 'repent, for the kingdom of heaven is come near'. To repent means to turn around, in this case to turn away from all the bad things the world, the bad things we do, the bad things other people do, and to turn towards Jesus. In a moment Bodhi's parents and godparents are going to stand at the front and make some promises on Bodhi's behalf, they are going to say that they turn away from bad things, and turn towards Jesus.

John told the people that gathered around him that his baptism was to prepare them for Jesus's coming: 'prepare the way of the Lord'. Advent is all about preparing for Jesus, preparing to celebrate Jesus' first coming as a baby born in Bethlehem, and preparing for Jesus' second coming, when he will return and make all things right, just like we heard in that reading from Isaiah.

There is no better way to prepare for Jesus' coming than baptism, baptism that represents being washed clean and being welcomed into God's family.

After I baptise Bodhi I am going to say some extra words that remind us all of our baptisms, so that as we allow this Advent season to prepare our hearts and minds for Christ we can be reminded that because of his death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead, we are already safe in his good kingdom.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Next Week
Sunday 21st December
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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-churches-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.
- CHRISTMAS DATES LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

† Pilgrims Together †

Pilgrims Online Wednesdays

Wednesday Gathering to Worship, Reflect and Pray

6.30pm (open from 6.10)

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.

Christmas Cards at Aldeburgh Church

Our selection of Christmas cards are now on sale in the card corner. These include some wonderful Christmassy designs by the children of Aldeburgh Primary School.

A Message from Aldeburgh United Charities

Here at the Aldeburgh United Charities, we are busy getting the Christmas Day lunch boxes together.

If you or anyone you know are struggling financially to have a nice Christmas this year, we can help. We are

giving a box with all you need for Christmas lunch

including - turkey (or a vegetarian option) stuffing, gravy and vegetables, followed by Christmas pudding, chocolate and much more.

Please apply to - treasurer@aldeburghunitedcharities.co.uk

Giving your - Name, phone number, email and address.

We look forward to hearing from you by Tuesday the 16th of December.

Kind Regards, Rob Mabey, AUC chair.





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

