



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

Email: revd.sarah@btinternet.com

Tel: 01728 582213

The Revd Nichola Winter

Email: njwinter@whd.co.uk

The Revd Johanna Mabey

Email: rev.johannamabey@gmail.com

Sunday 27th November Advent Sunday

Advent Carol Service at Aldringham

Today (Saturday 26th) at 6pm

All very welcome

Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice this Sunday

Aldeburgh	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Aldringham	11.00am	Morning Prayer ***
		Patronal Festival
Friston	9.00am	Holy Communion
Knodishall	9.00am	Service of the Word

*** Aldringham 11.00am this Sunday ***

Sheila Brechin will be commissioned as an elder after this service on Sunday. All welcome. Please pray for Sheila and her ministry.

An update from Rev'd James Marston

It was early one morning this week, as I was checking my bilges and swabbing the decks, when my thoughts turned to the east coast of happy and recent memory.

Now settled in to both riparian and metropolitan life and looking forward to taking up my new post, I thought it would be an appropriate time to thank you all once again, not only for the last three or so years of experience and support, but also for the generous collection and send off. I was very touched. So far, I've bought a television and become a member of Kew Gardens.

As you might imagine I've been busy adjusting to life again in London and exploring my new context. So far, I've been to Hampton Court and the National Archives at Kew where I visited an exhibition on treason in which I came across the Act of Supremacy of 1534 – a document which enabled the Elizabethan religious settlement and the origins of the Church of England.

I've also visited Barnes, where I shall be exercising my ministry as associate priest, only to discover there's several people who know someone, or know someone who knows someone, in the Alde Sandlings.

In other news I have found a parking space for my little blue sports car and have driven it around the area in a bid to get used to the traffic and find a kebab shop.

As I prepare for this new stage in my vocational journey, I have been able to go to a nearby church "as a punter", an experience priests need every now and again to refresh and inspire their own inner life. And as use this time betwixt and between to pause and reflect on the faith which we share, I am reminded, once again, that God and His love, is everywhere, present in all areas and aspects of life.

God is present and evident, it seems to me, through our human relationships, the beauty of the world around us, the communities of which we are part and in which we live; and, when times are tough, God is alongside us guiding us through.

It is our job, as Christians, to journey in faith and to share this love with each other and with everyone we encounter as much as we can – and part of the work of a priest is simply to encourage that process of sharing.

I thank you again for your support, kindness, and prayers, as I continue this extraordinary journey.

James

Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious
majesty to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Isaiah 2.1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Second Reading

Romans 13.11-end

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24.36-44

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Sermon preached by The Very Revd Christopher Lewis at Aldeburgh. Sunday before Advent/Christ the King

Christ the King. The message is clear in today's readings, yet it is also mysterious. In the first lesson from Jeremiah, the prophet looks ahead while carrying a message from God that we shall find a king. In St Paul's letter to the Colossians, the promise is that we may live in the 'kingdom of his beloved Son'. And then the Gospel of Luke with Jesus on the Cross under the inscription 'This is the king of the Jews'. All mysterious because we must be looking for a particular kind of king. What kind? There was once an interview with the ballerina Anna Pavlova (as in 'pavlova'!) after she had danced a spontaneous dance. The interviewer asked what the dance meant. The reply was along the lines of 'You idiot; if I could explain what the dance meant, I need not have done it.' So we have to look at what Jesus actually did and did not do. Jesus' actions and significance are not to be reduced to the immediate and mundane. We need to meet him along with a new world of interpretation.

What is Jesus really like? Well, sort-of like a king yet not. It is perhaps rather like when we describe God as father to people who may have had unsatisfactory fathers, so also here...there is some uneasiness. 'King' is helpful, to a degree. And we would have to ask what sort of king anyway: a constitutional monarch, a cycling Scandinavian king, a monarchy reinstated after chaos as in Spain?

How do we get nearer to the heart of it? So here are three points concerning God the monarch, Christ the King.

First, God is like a monarch because he reigns. We are not singing Isaac Watts' hymn today, but it is helpful: 'Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does his successive journeys run'. All those stories about kings being asked what they do all day. 'I reign' – or better the gossipy story about our late Queen, with the Queen Mother wondering whether the Queen should have another drink at lunch time: 'My dear...Do you think that is wise, as you have to reign all afternoon?' No doubt monarchs have to do things, but the most important thing about them is that they are there. So Christ is everywhere, spreading love and opposing suffering. God is supreme and he loves us, longing for us to return his love. Because he is there, he cuts human follies down to size and then points us in the right direction of love.

The meanderings of all sorts of others are passing phenomena. As we have seen, Prime Ministers and the like are but clouds blown along by the wind. Whereas God, in spite of the efforts of Richard Dawkins (well, actually maybe he helps) is there and constant, not blown off course.

Our God reigns. If we are tempted to domesticate him, make him into a pet who runs errands and finds parking places for us in the High Street, then we should be brought up short and forced onto our knees, because he is not a household God; he is a King. If we try to manipulate him and use him for our own selfish ends, then tough, because he is constant and above such pettiness. Just as our King Charles the third prevents politicians from being president, so God prevents us from carrying through some of our silly ambitions. He loves us and his love should challenge us and keep us humble.

Point one: Christ the King reigns, whatever comes. We know that he is here and cares deeply. We see that in his life, his dance.

Then second point: he is like a monarch because he is a sign of unity. A Queen or King is no monarch if she or he is not monarch for all. I am not sure how we describe our society: multi-cultural or melting pot – but whatever the description, there is no doubt that the king is a sign that the nation is meant to be one. In an age of fractious individualism, he stands for the collective, for community and for unity. Christ is king for all, and that is the basis of all Christian ethics: all are God's children, and he cares for all: terrorists, journalists, clergy, your neighbour.

God reigns. God unites. And then point 3: he is like a monarch because he holds before us a vision of the way the kingdom should be. The Church may be/should be a helpful arrangement, but the present and future hope is the Kingdom of God, a kingdom longed for throughout the

bible and beyond: a place of peace and justice, of love and truth, where swords become plough-shares. When the country has had what the book '1066 and all that' calls bad kings, it has suffered from confusion about the ideal before us. It has sometimes struck me as odd that on Maundy Thursday when the King or Queen distributes Maundy money, he or she does not also actually wash the feet of his or her people as Jesus did. That would be a good sign. I expect that the many advice-giving courtiers think it would be beneath his dignity. Anyway, the point remains that Jesus Christ can be referred to as a king because he sets before us a vision of what true life is like in a kingdom. I have a cartoon of Ascension Day, with Jesus vanishing as it were on high, with the disciples down below saying 'Don't go Jesus; we want more specifics on how to run the Church.' Well, he didn't leave those specifics. Instead what he brought was a longing for the Kingdom of God, a kingdom where all follow his way.

Three points. Christ the King as he was on earth and is at the right hand of God the Father:

- 1: He reigns.
- 2: He is a sign of unity.
- 3: He introduces us to the kingdom of God.

If we have a good experience of monarchy, then monarchy helps in our understanding of God. There are other metaphors, but for today, God the monarch; Christ the king.... is enough. Amen

Post Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Next week - Sunday 4th December
Second Sunday of Advent**

NOTICES

† Wednesday Holy Communion at Aldeburgh †

Change of time

As you are aware, we now have fewer practising clergy available to take services of Holy Communion. As a result, I will be celebrating Wednesday morning BCP more often at Aldeburgh, which is a complete joy for me, but has necessitated in needing to change the time of this service, so that I can be there after Morning Prayer at Aldringham. In consultation with the regular congregation, this service will now start at **10.30am**, with immediate effect. Hopefully it won't make too much difference to people attending, but it will make life much easier for the person celebrating. Rev'd Sarah

† 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 – Friston

Tuesday - Knodishall

Wednesday - Aldringham

Daily at Aldeburgh, Monday to Saturday

† 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>

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.

Youth Club – We need your help!

The Youth Club is back! 7pm to 9pm on Monday evenings during term time for 10–14-year-olds. We are thankful that the Youth Club is as popular as ever. We **really need** some more volunteers to help on these evenings. There is a rota in the west porch that you can add your name to, if you can help (after the summer holidays) or you can contact Fran Smith at admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk

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

† Pilgrims Together on Wednesdays on Zoom †

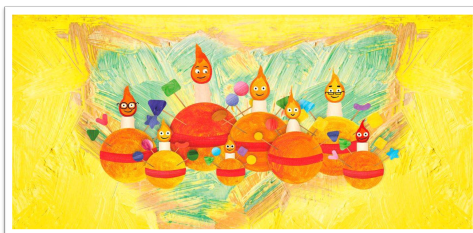
The worship starts at 6.30pm (Zoom call opens from 6.10pm) and the call is then left open after the worship time for people to catch up. People are welcome to email pilgrimstogether473@gmail.com to receive a copy, be added to our mailing list, or for the Zoom links.

Saturday 3rd December Community Breakfast and Local Ramble starting 9.30 @ The Parrot

As before, a delicious breakfast bap and coffee / tea combo for £6.50 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. (You don't need to book in advance, you can decide on the morning.) To help with timing, if coming only to ramble then we generally head from The Parrot around 10.30am. Please do invite friends along.

ALDE SANDLINGS BENEFICE
CHRISTINGLE CELEBRATION
at ALDEBURGH PARISH CHURCH

TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER AT 6.30PM
EVERYONE WELCOME



**The
Children's
Society**

Please do check our website for updates www.aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk