



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 4th December Second Sunday of Advent

Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice this Sunday

Aldeburgh	8.00am Holy Communion
	10.30am Service of the Word
	<i>Coffee from 10am</i>
Aldringham	11.00am Service of the Word
Knodishall	9.00am Holy Communion

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

A message from our priest in charge, Rev'd Sarah du Boulay

Dear Friends,

I'm back! I had a suitably 'thin' time away, and really switched off and reconnected to God on a personal level, which was wonderful. I want to say a big thank you to everybody (especially to Claire), who held the fort while I was away.

Advent is, as we all know is a time of watching, of waiting, and of preparation. Not just for Christmas, and celebrating the birth of the Christ Child, but also looking to Jesus' second coming. And so, looking forward, we are already thinking about our Christmas celebrations and about what 2023 will look like for us as a benefice, and representatives of God's Church in our communities.

Do let me know if you have any ideas, plans, or feel God's call in any way. I'd be delighted to hear from you!

With every blessing,

Sarah

Canon John Tipping

It is with great sadness that we must tell you that our dear friend and brother in Christ, Rev'd Canon John Tipping, died on 24th November after a very short illness. We are all dreadfully sad and are already missing him, with his quiet wisdom, humour, and extraordinary generosity. Please pray for Elizabeth and all their friends and family as they learn to live without him. John's funeral will be held at Aldeburgh on Friday 16th December at 11am.
May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us, and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered in running the race that is
set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

First Reading

Isaiah 11.1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Second Reading

Romans 15.4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3.1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Sermon preached by Rev'd Sarah du Boulay at Aldringham on Advent Sunday

You may not know that I am a huge fan of musicals. My current favourite is Hamilton – a hip hop musical about the founding fathers of America – specifically Alexander Hamilton. It is both sung and rapped, and although you will be pleased to hear I'm not planning on doing either for your amusement this morning, there is a particular song with a lyric which threads its way through the story. The song is called 'My Shot' and the refrain says:

I'm not throwing away my shot.
No I'm not throwing away my shot.
Just like my country I'm young, scrappy and hungry,
No I'm not throwing away my shot.

Now, to not throw away one's shot refers of course to the discipline of duelling with pistols. A gentleman, it was said, would not take a shot at his combatant, but would 'throw away his shot' by aiming the pistol straight up,

and firing harmlessly into the air. Hamilton, we know, eventually lost his life by doing just this in a duel, when Aaron Burr, his opponent and one-time friend took aim, and shot him. BUT. During his life, Hamilton was known for working non-stop. For producing prodigious amounts of governance, laws, and the constitution. He took every opportunity available to him and he made his life count. Although not remembered particularly fondly (at least until the musical arrived), his influence, even 300 years after his life, is still felt every single day by Americans. What a legacy.

I am not throwing away my shot.

This is it my friends. We are not rehearsing here. This is the only life we have, and we need to make it count. In Advent we remember the period leading up to Jesus' birth, 2000 years ago, absolutely. But we also look to his second coming. And his second coming is going to be a lot less comfortable for all of us than his first was. And we can't say we weren't warned!

Advent is, of course, a time of waiting. But waiting is not an inactive state. Waiting is very much proactive. Waiting is about looking forward. About preparing. About making ready. And what are we to make ready? Nothing less than Christ's kingdom here on earth! The time is now, the day is here. (Sorry, another musical reference from *Les Miserables*, written about the students revolution in France, and the search of one character, Jean Valjean, for redemption).

Well. Our redemption has already been won, and our salvation assured, but we still need our own revolution!

I am not throwing away my shot.

In another time, a man called Andrew was fishing alongside his brother, Simon. A man watched them for a while, then called them to come, leave their nets, leave their businesses, and to follow him. They obeyed. Depending on your Gospel source, Andrew was the very first disciple. It's an act of astounding bravery. Andrew had followed the teachings of John the Baptist. He knew the Messiah was coming. He was waiting and he was ready. He continued to work, to hone his skills and to listen for his calling. And when it came, he went. Astounding.

Of course, today being the first Sunday of Advent, we are also thinking about the patriarchs. The patriarchs in the Bible are Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – three men who were the heads of families or tribes during Old Testament times. Founding Fathers if you will. People who were faithful to their beliefs

and were hugely proactive in not only living out their beliefs, but teaching and leading others to do the same.

The Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Saint Andrew. Alexander Hamilton. All patriarchs of a sort. All people who believed. Who worked. Who made ready. Who were brave and who made a difference.

I am not throwing away my shot. This is my shot. This is your shot. This is our shot. It's quite literally now or never. All of our readings from Scripture have told us the same. Therefore, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Post Communion

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility
and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Benefice Prayer Walking with the Pilgrims & Friends

The Benefice prayer walking has begun! A beautiful morning spent in the village of Friston. Started with prayer outside the church and then moved out around the village. As we walked, we prayed and knocked on doors to give Benefice Christmas cards and a personal invitation to come and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Met so many lovely people! A real privilege to journey with you both
this morning Rev'd Sarah and Marie. Gail Southgate



**Next week - Sunday 11th December
Third Sunday of Advent**

Congratulations Sheila

On Sunday 27th November the congregation of Aldringham Parish Church witnessed Archdeacon Jeanette commission Sheila Brechin as an elder.

We all pray for Sheila in her ministry.

Thank you to Amanda Fraser for the lovely photos



Update from Rev'd Jo Mabey

My darling husband Rob and his mates are bravely sea swimming every day during December (without wetsuits!!) to raise funds for The Blossom Appeal.

This appeal is helping to fund a dedicated breast cancer care centre at Ipswich hospital. It was instigated by Miss Mortimer who is the surgeon caring for me. Indeed, I may be one of the first patients to benefit from the new centre when it's completed next year.

As well as putting up the star on top of Aldeburgh church, Rob has once again put a Christmas tree on Aldeburgh beach near the South Lookout.

As in previous years, all are welcome to use the pens and labels provided there to write a Christmas message in memory of a loved one.

I know times are tough for many, but if you would like to make a donation to the Blossom Appeal, please use the link below. Even the smallest amount will make a huge difference.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/blossom-fund-raiser>

Thank you so much for your support, prayers, and love as I prepare for my surgery next week.

Love and Peace,
Jo



NOTICES

£££ Kagera Appeal £££

The collections for all services that took place at Aldeburgh on Sunday 20th November were to be given to the Diocese Kagera fund. The final total was £400. Many thanks to all those who donated.

† 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 †

Rev'd 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.

Sunday 11th December Pilgrims leading Carol Singing @ Chris' festive afternoon at the Parrot from 3pm-5pm

Mince Pies and roast chestnuts too!

Saturday 17th December 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.

Sunday 18th December, by the Meare, Thorpeness,

Carols round the Tree 4pm onwards