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
Email: njwinter@whd.co.uk

Curate: The Revd Mary Brown
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Tel: 01728 467454

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

## Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice – Sunday 29th November 2026

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aldeburgh | | | No service |
| Aldringham | 6pm | Advent Carol Service | Revd Sarah du Boulay and Revd Mary Brown |
| Friston | 9.30am | Benefice Holy Communion | Revd Sarah du Boulay and Revd Mary Brown |
| Knodishall | | | No service |

## A message from Revd Sarah du Boulay

Dear friends,

I think you all know that you can look forward to many puppy-themed introductions over the next few months! Following on from Mary last week introducing you to her gorgeous puppy Agnes, I am preparing to collect young Rupert from his breeder this Saturday.

It's been 10 years since I have had a puppy, so there has been a lot of preparation to do. Re-reading books, registering with vets, arranging the house so it is safe and practical, buying the equipment I will need, fencing bits off the garden for him, making sure I have the support I need for his first weeks in his new home. As well as mentally preparing myself for the disruption he will undoubtedly bring (together with incredible amounts of love and joy). And I haven't even dared to tell Mabel yet that she will be sharing her home with a new puppy (her Great Nephew, no less).

What a great analogy the puppies are for the liturgical season we are about to enter. Advent is, after all a time of preparation – practical, mental and spiritual. Last week Mary spoke of the need to spend time, restful time, with God in worship. The need to build relationship. To ready ourselves. To spend time doing what is important. To focus on what is important. To be ready and open to all that it brings. All in the name of Jesus. Because God is with us, and like a puppy, He can't, and shouldn't be, ignored or put to the back of our priorities. This is our chance to refocus, to love, to prepare and to rest.

With prayers as always

Sarah

## Readings for Sunday 29th November 2026

**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.

**Isaiah 64:1-9**
64 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Mark 13:24-end**

24 ‘But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
[26]Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. [27]Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
28 ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29]So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30]Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. [31]Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
32 ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33]Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. [34]It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. [35]Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, [36]or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37]And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

**✝ 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/UCLecK8GovYoaYzIgyOElKZg

St Edmundsbury Cathedral Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/stedscathedral

**Sermon by Revd Sarah du Boulay**
**Sunday 22nd November 2026**

I don't know about you, but when I hear the name 'The Queen', I NEVER think of Camillia. I always think Elizabeth II. Now this is no judgement call on either women, I suspect it's purely down to habit. For most of my life, Elizabeth II as Queen. And when I hear the name 'The King', I rarely think of Charles – again, I think of Elizabeth II. There's like a big blank in my head for any monarch other than her. It's funny isn't it what our brains do and what we get used to. So I wonder then, when you hear the words *Christ the King*, what picture comes to mind? Does he have a face? Do you immediately think of Elizabeth II?!Perhaps you picture a throne, a crown of gold, a royal decree, or a distant ruler sitting high above the noise and mess of our world. Kings in history—and kings in our own day—often rule from afar. They command from palaces, surrounded by guards, wealth, and power.

Yet on this Sunday, the final Sunday of the Christian year before Advent begins, our readings turn that picture upside down. They remind us that our ultimate King does not rule from a distance, nor by force, nor at the expense of the weak. Instead, they show us our King who comes close, who bears all authority in heaven and on earth, and who identifies himself with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and the imprisoned.

In **Ezekiel 34**, God speaks to a people in exile, worn down by leaders who fed themselves while neglecting the flock. The false shepherds ruled with harshness and greed, leaving the scattered sheep vulnerable. And then God makes a promise that changes everything: *"I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out."* Not an underling. Not a distant governor. *I myself.* God steps into the role of shepherd—binding up the injured, strengthening the weak, judging fairly between fat sheep and lean sheep, and appointing one shepherd, a servant like human king David, to feed them and walk among them.

That promise as we know, finds its fulfilment in Jesus. When we turn to **Ephesians 1**, Paul prays that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened so we can see the immeasurable greatness of God's power—the very power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him at God's right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion. Notice what Paul is saying. Christ's kingship is not one rival power among many. He is not merely competing with earthly empires, ideologies, or anxieties for a slice of our loyalty. He is exalted above every power that claims to shape our lives or our future. And yet, Paul tells us, this cosmic

King is also *head over all things for the church*, which is his body. The one who fills all in all is intimately joined to his people.

Then we arrive at **Matthew 25**, and the vision becomes startlingly concrete. The Son of Man comes in his glory, seated on his throne, and all the nations are gathered before him. Sheep and goats are separated—not by party affiliation, social standing, or religious pedigree, but by how they treated *"one of the least of these who are members of my family."*

*"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."*

Both groups—the righteous and the unrighteous—are surprised. *"Lord, when was it that we saw you?"* That surprise is worth sitting with. It is easy to honour Christ the King in hymns, banners, and lofty prayers. It is much harder to recognise him in someone asking for help at the food bank, in a neighbour facing loneliness or illness, in a stranger seeking shelter, or in someone caught in difficult circumstances. In Matthew's Gospel, the King's throne room is not just at the end of time; his presence is made known right now in the vulnerable and overlooked.

So what does it mean to live under the reign of this King today?

First, **trust his care when you feel scattered or worn down**. Ezekiel speaks to people who feel lost or bruised. Ephesians reminds us that Christ's resurrection power is at work toward us who believe. If you feel stretched thin, weary, or unsure of the road ahead, your King is not a detached monarch ignoring your distress. He is the Good Shepherd who seeks out the lost and strengthens the weak.

Second, **let go of rival powers that demand your fear or devotion**. In a world loud with competing voices, promises of quick fixes, and cycles of outrage, Christ is seated far above all rule and authority. Following him frees us to live with quiet hope, courage, and integrity rather than fear.

Third, **look for the King in the least of these**. Christ the King calls us to a kingship of service. Every act of quiet generosity, hospitality, mercy, and solidarity with those in need is not a side project of faith—it is how we welcome the King himself.

As we stand on the threshold of Advent, waiting once again for the coming of Christ, we look to a King who came in humility, reigns in power, and calls us to love in truth. May God open the eyes of our hearts to see him clearly, to trust him fully, and to serve him faithfully in the people right in front of us.

Amen.

**Pilgrims Together**

Pilgrims Online Sundays

Sunday Zoom Gathering Night Prayer 8.15pm (open from 7.45pm)

**Zoom Link:**

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/376110700?pwd=Q0Q3TUNya08zVGNoUkl2aUc5a0hVZz09

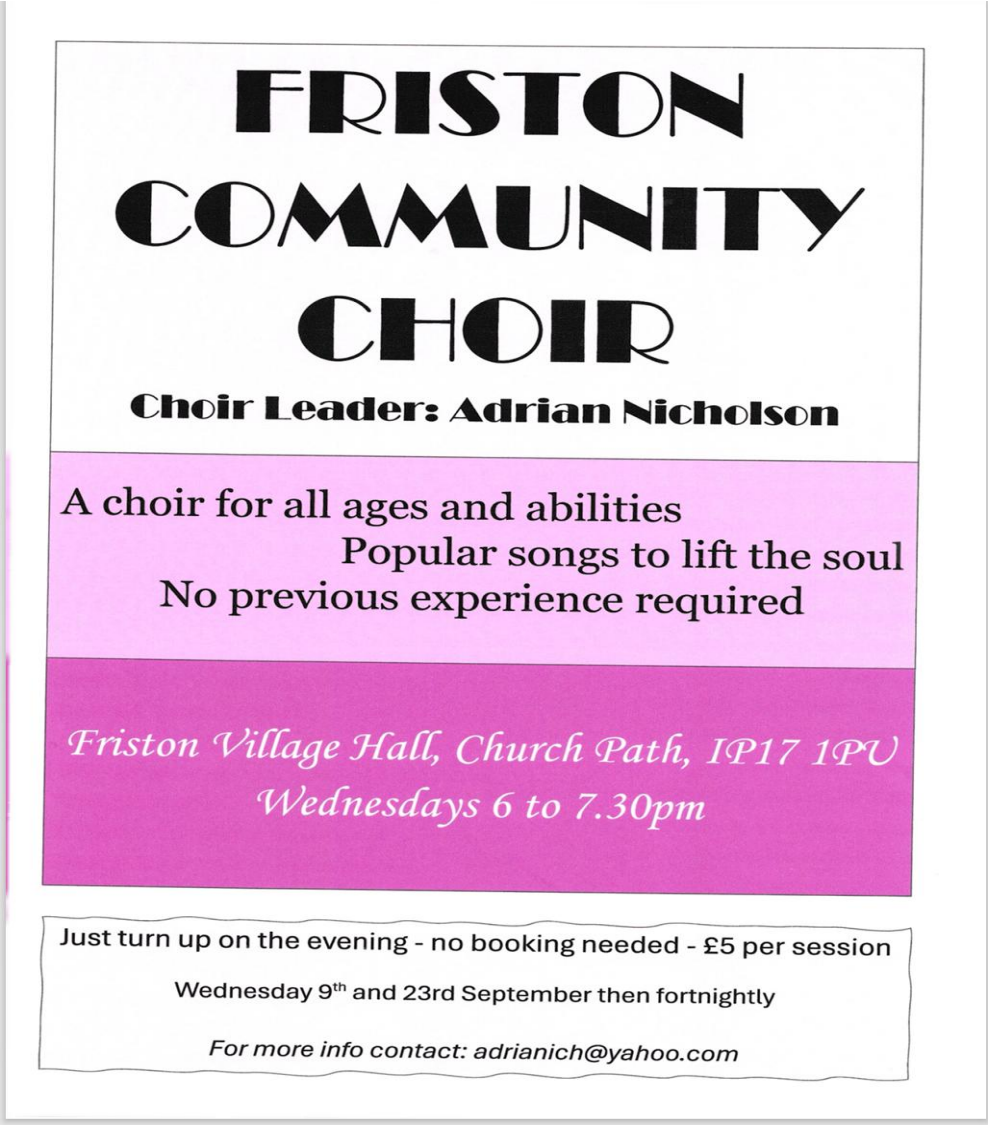
**Food Banks at the East of England Co-op**

Foodbanks provide a valuable service to those in need in our communities. The Aldeburgh & Leiston Co-op supermarkets 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

**✝ 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 aldesandlingsbenefice@outlook.com and we will do our utmost to arrange a visit.




**£££ 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/

## EXCITING NEWS FOR ALDEBURGH!

### BBC CHORAL EVENSONG – A SPECIAL OCCASION AT ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH

We are delighted to announce that **BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong is coming to St Peter and St Paul's Church, Aldeburgh!**

This is a wonderful and very special opportunity for our church and our local community to be part of a BBC Choral Evensong recording, bringing the beauty and tradition of this much-loved service to listeners across the country.

**MONDAY 30th NOVEMBER**
**3.30pm – 4.30pm**
**St Peter and St Paul's Church, Aldeburgh**

We would love to see the church filled to capacity for this exciting occasion, so please do come along, bring your friends and family, and help us give the BBC a really warm Aldeburgh welcome!

**Please arrive by 3.10pm** to allow time to be seated and ready before the recording begins promptly at 3.30pm.

**EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME – PLEASE DO JOIN US!**

Let's make this a truly memorable occasion for our church and community.

ST MARTIN'S VOICES

# O RADIANT DAWN



A concert of words and music reflecting on the journey through Advent, including works by Benjamin Britten, Imogen Holst and James MacMillan.

## ST MARTIN'S VOICES
DIRECTED BY **ANDREW EARIS**

| MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER AT 7PM | ALDEBURGH PARISH CHURCH | TICKETS £15 (£12.50 CONCESSIONS ) |
|---|---|---|

Tickets via QR code from St Martin's Voices website
Aldeburgh Parish Church, Victoria Rd, Aldeburgh IP15 5DY

stmartinsvoices.com/aldeburgh

**A special musical evening in Aldeburgh**

Do join us for what promises to be a beautiful evening of music on Monday 30th November at 7pm, at Aldeburgh's St Peter and St Paul's Church.

*O Radiant Dawn*, performed by the wonderful **St Martin's Voices**, offers a lovely opportunity to pause, reflect and enjoy some uplifting music as we begin the Advent season.

Tickets are available online (see poster above for details) or on the door on the evening.

We would love to see you there, so please do come along and support this special concert!



# ALDEBURGH PARISH CHURCH
# ST PETER & ST PAUL'S

## Invites you to CHRISTMAS

Messy Church



**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**
**SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER**
**10am till 12 Noon**

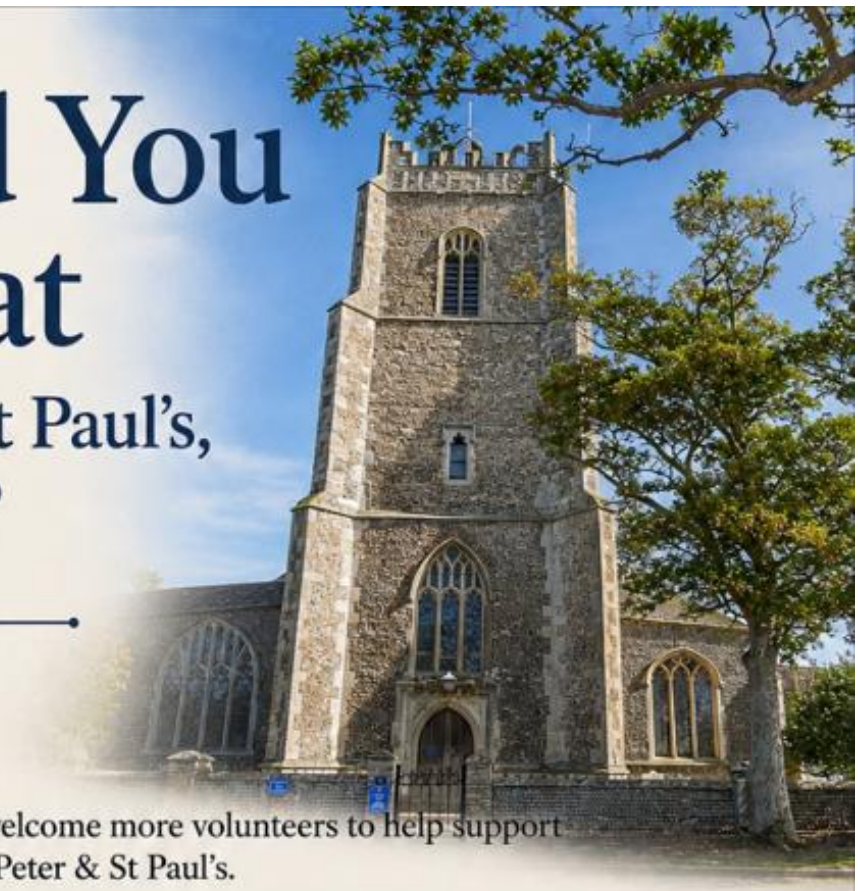
**ALL WELCOME**

**NO CHARGE. JUST PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING,**
**SO WE HAVE ENOUGH MATERIALS.**

**Please email Fran Smith at**
**aldesandlingsbenefice@outlook.com**

# Could You Help at

## St Peter & St Paul's, Aldeburgh?



Our church is looking to welcome more volunteers to help support the life and ministry of St Peter & St Paul's.

There are opportunities to serve in a variety of ways, including as a sacristan, server, welcomer, flower arranger, cleaner, choir member, or in other practical roles around the church. Some roles require a little training, but support will always be provided.

Whether you can help regularly or occasionally, your time and gifts would be greatly appreciated. Serving is a wonderful way to support our church family and play a part in the life of our church.

- Sacristan
- Server
- Welcomer
- Flower Arranger
- Cleaner
- Choir Member
- Other Practical Roles

If you'd like to find out more—with no obligation—
please contact Jodie, Benefice Administrator,
who will be happy to put you in touch with the relevant team.

aldesandlingsbenefice@outlook.com

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."*

— 1 PETER 4:10

# Joy at Christmas

**Carols, Songs, Music and Poetry**

**To Celebrate Christmas**

**Presented by**

**Joy Marsh**

**and**

**Gill Thomas - Pianist**

**On Saturday 12th December 2026 3pm**

**at**

**St Andrews Church**

**Aldringham IP16 4QT**



**Donations to:**

**St Andrews Church**

**Brain Tumour Research**

FOLLOWED BY

FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS

Save the Children
100 YEARS

**Lunchtime Classical Concert Series**

Aldeburgh Parish Church

Monday 4th January 2027, 12 noon

The highly successful Lunchtime Classics Concert Series in aid of Save the Children continues in 2027.
Admission is free, with a retiring collection in support of Save the Children.
**All are very welcome**



Alde Sandlings Benefice

# Advent & Christmas 2026

Come and share the joy of Christmas with us.
Everyone is warmly welcome.

## Aldeburgh

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church

Saturday **5th** December — **4pm**
**Benefice Christingle Service**

Saturday **12th** December — **10am**
**Christmas Messy Church** · In the Church

Sunday **20th** December — **6pm**
**Christmas Carol Service**

Wednesday **23rd** December — **10am**
**Holy Communion**

Thursday **24th** December — **3.30pm**
**The Blessing of the Crib**

Thursday **24th** December — **11.30pm**
**First Communion of Christmas**

Friday **25th** December — **11am**
**Family Christmas Communion**

## Aldringham

St Andrew's Parish Church

Sunday **29th** November — **6pm**
**Advent Candlelit Carol Service**

Sunday **13th** December — **6pm**
**Carols on the Green**

Sunday **20th** December — **11am**
**Christmas Carol Service**

Friday **25th** December — **11am**
**Family Christmas Communion**

## Friston

St Mary's Parish Church

Sunday **13th** December — **4pm**
**Christmas Carol Service**

Friday **25th** December — **9.30am**
**Family Christmas Communion**

## Knodishall

St Lawrence's Parish Church

Sunday **20th** December — **3pm**
**Village Carol Service** · At Knodishall Village Hall

Friday **25th** December — **9.30am**
**Family Christmas Day Service**

## Pilgrims Together

Saturday **19th** December — **6pm**
**Carols round the Christmas Tree** · At Thorpeness

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

## ALDE SANDLINGS BENEFICE

Aldeburgh · Aldringham · Friston · Knodishall

aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk

## What's On Across The Alde Sandlings Benefice

**Weekly Worship**

**Morning Prayer at 9am**

**Monday**
- Aldeburgh

**Tuesday**
- Knodishall

**Wednesday**
- Aldeburgh

**Thursday**
- Aldringham

**Friday**
- Aldeburgh

**Holy Communion Service every Wednesday at 10am**
**Aldeburgh Parish Church**

## Dates for Your Diary

**Sunday 29th November at 9.30am**
**Benefice Holy Communion Service**
Friston Parish Church

**Sunday 29th November at 6pm**
**Advent Carol Service**
Aldringham Parish Church

**Monday 30th November at 3.30pm**
**BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong recording**
Aldeburgh Parish Church

**Monday 30th November at 7pm**
**O Radiant Dawn, St Martin's Voices Concert**
Aldeburgh Parish Church

**Friday 4th December at 7pm**
**Quiz night**
Knodishall Village Hall

**Saturday 5th December at 4pm**
**Christingle Service**
Aldeburgh Parish Church

**Sunday 6th December at 3pm**
**Benjamin Britten Thanksgiving Service with Britten Pears Arts**
Aldeburgh Parish Church

**Saturday 12th December, 10am – 12pm**
**Christmas Messy Church**
Aldeburgh Parish Church

**Saturday 12th December at 3pm**
**Joy at Christmas concert presented by Joy Marsh and Gill Thomas**
Aldringham Parish Church

**Sunday 13th December at 6pm**
**Carol Service**
Friston Parish Church

**Sunday 13th December at 6pm**
**Carols on the Green**
Aldringham

**Sunday 20th December**
**Carol Services**
**11am** Aldringham Parish Church
**3pm** Knodishall Village Hall. The British Legion Band are providing music for the carols. Mulled wine and seasonal nibbles will be served afterwards.
**6pm** Aldeburgh Parish Church

**Christmas Eve at 3.30pm**
**Crib Service**
Aldeburgh Parish Church

**Christmas Eve at 11.30pm**
**Midnight Mass**
Aldeburgh Parish Church

**Christmas Day Services**
**9.30am** – Knodishall and Friston
**11am** – Aldeburgh & Aldringham

**Sunday 27th December at 11am**
**Benefice Service**
Aldeburgh Parish Church

**Monday 4th January at 12pm**
**Concert in aid of Save the Children**
Aldeburgh Parish Church

**Friday 15th January at 7pm**
**Quiz Night**
Aldeburgh Church Hall

**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-safeguarding.aldesandlings@outlook.com

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