



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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Sunday 21st September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Services in The Alde Sandlings Benefice this Sunday

Aldeburgh	8.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Sarah du Boulay
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Very Revd Christopher Lewis
Aldringham	11.00am	Holy Communion	Revd Sarah du Boulay
	5.00pm	Evensong	Revd Sarah du Boulay
Friston	9.30am	Service of the Word	Led by Elder Marie Szpak
Knodishall	9.30am	Harvest Festival	Led by Elder Ros Macallister

A message from our Rector, Revd Sarah du Boulay

Dear friends,

With all that is happening in the world at the moment, I want to share with you a sonnet called 'Peace' by Malcom Guite. These words have been running through my head and forming the basis of many of my prayers.

Not as the world gives, not the victor's peace,
Not to be fought for, hard-won, or achieved,
Just grace and mercy, gratefully received:
An undeserved and unforeseen release,
As the cold chains of memory and wrath
Fall from our hearts before we are aware,

Their rusty locks all picked by patient prayer,
Till closed doors open, and we see a path
Descending from a source we cannot see;
A path that must be taken, hand in hand,
Only by those, forgiving and forgiven,
Who see their saviour in their enemy.
So reach for me. We'll cross our broken land,
And make each other bridges back to Heaven.

With my prayers as always

Sarah

Collect

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading

Jeremiah 8.18-9.1

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick.
Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: 'Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?' ('Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?') 'The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.' For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

Second Reading

I Timothy 2.1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all-this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Gospel Reading

Luke 16.1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer." Then the manager said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty." Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty." And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. 'Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.'

**Sermon by Revd Sarah du Boulay,
14th September – Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Some of you may know that every year I volunteer a day at the Suffolk Show, to work in the Diocesan tent. We welcome thousands of people who come in for a tea or coffee, a quiet sit down and a chat. Dogs are welcome and you won't be surprised to hear that I have started a doggie ministry, and offer treats to any dog and their owner who pass by! Some people are regular church goers (and some are even from our benefice here). Some come into the church tent every year at the show, and some are complete newcomers who have been attracted by what we offer. Some conversations are very surface level, about the weather and what they have enjoyed at the show, but others go much, much deeper – it's almost impossible to predict. I love going. It's not only a chance to connect with people from across our diocese but a chance to talk to complete strangers about the love of God.

One thing that is always popular is the Smuppets – a group of people from an Ipswich church who tell Bible stories with puppets and modern music. Both children and adults are completely smitten with them and people just passing by will stop to watch and listen. It's extraordinary! – the group even comes to Messy Church at Aldeburgh most years where they have exactly the same effect on people. One of their most popular songs is about the parable of the lost sheep. Now I have to admit that it's the one song I find incredibly annoying and have to leave the tent when they play it. The verses tell the story but the chorus is a man's voice shrieking 'I Lost My Sheep!' 7 times in a row (demonstrate). It's an earworm, and I even woke up with it in my head this morning – you're welcome!

When we talk about the parable of the Lost Sheep, it occurs to me that all too often we look at it from a 'self' point of view. We reassure ourselves that whatever we do, however far we stray, Jesus still loves us enough to find us and save us. We are that lost sheep from time to time and we are hugely important in God's eyes.

This is true, absolutely, and we should never forget just how much each and every one of us is valued by God. But to leave this parable here is to miss the wider picture. The even more important picture. This parable isn't about 'self'. It's about those who are outside the church community – those who don't believe or don't come to church or who choose not to engage, or who simply haven't heard.

Those of us who are Christians or who come to church regularly are members of the 99. All equally important in the eyes of God, all created and valued and loved. And God will continue to love and save and look after each one of us 99 sheep. Remember, when the shepherd goes off to look for the one, he doesn't kick out the other 99. As one of a group, they are enabled to look after themselves, within the structures that the shepherd has provided to keep them safe (that's also the reason that most wild animals live in herds). We can directly link this to us here in church right now. It's why it's so important for us all to come to church regularly to meet with other worshippers and to be with each other, learning from each other and helping each other. And right at the beginning of the parable we heard today? We hear that the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. We welcome the 'outsider' into our church family and we remember that actually, none of us are perfect – to some extent we are all sinners and we are all equally welcome here.

This is all important, but this parable is about the one sheep who is not in church with the others (I know I'm mixing my metaphors here). This sheep doesn't come to church, doesn't profess to believe, doesn't engage with church or God, or Christianity. This sheep is lost. And this parable tells us explicitly that Jesus' mission was not only to love and guide those who knew him, but to actively seek and serve those who are lost. To go outside the relative safety of the sheep pen (or church), to engage with and help other people. And not only this, but He calls all believers to adopt a similar heart of compassion and to actively reach out and care for those who are spiritually lost. That's our mission – to follow in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd and to be brave and to leave our sheep pen and go out into the community.

It's big and it's scary out there, and it's much easier for us to stay here in our safe little church, minding our own business and doing the things we enjoy and find encouraging. And it is important to feed ourselves, absolutely. But only so that then we are stronger to go out and take God's message into our community. It's the spiritual equivalent of putting on your own oxygen mask before helping others in the event of a plane crash!

You see, God's heart towards those who are living away from him is not to be angry with them, but to search them out and save them. And we have the privilege of working alongside him to do the exact same thing. (Maybe we could consider ourselves to be spiritual sheepdogs). There are many different ways this can happen, and together, as individual parishes and as a

benefice, we are going to be exploring this together more fully over the coming year.

So who can still remember that song? (Sing a bit). As annoying as it can be, it is helpful that it does stick in our heads because the mission to go and find lost sheep should always be something we are thinking and praying about. The beauty of the smuppets is that they present the stories of the Bible in attractive and engaging ways and when they have performed inside the tent, they take the puppets outside and go and chat to those who are passing. I guess, living out that purpose of being spiritual sheepdogs. My prayer for us as a benefice, is that we will take the truth of this parable and apply it to our own lives in the days, weeks and years to come.

Post Communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Servers and Sacristans URGENTLY needed at Aldeburgh Parish Church

**We really need volunteers to assist with the
Holy Communion services at Aldeburgh. Can you help?
Full training will be given, and you can do as many or as
few Sunday services as you can manage.**

Please speak to a member of clergy or email
admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk

† 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>

The 2025 Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride

The Annual Sponsored Ride and Stride took place last Saturday. Various members of the congregations of The Alde Sandlings took part, whether it was walking, cycling, driving, or registering the visitors to each church. It is always an event that brings people together and a chance to visit the beautiful churches in our area of Suffolk. Mary Sidwell, a loyal contributor, has very kindly shared some photos from her day.



All Saints, Gt Glemham Church – who also had an art exhibition



Methodist Church at Knodishall



St Margaret's, Leiston – The sheep marble bench



The recorders at Aldeburgh



Job Vacancy
Children and Families' Worker
The Alde Sandlings Benefice

The Alde Sandlings Benefice, in the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, are pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for a children and families' worker based in the four parishes of Aldeburgh, Aldringham, Friston and Knodishall.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the development of a mission and ministry programme for children and families within the benefice, enabling them to develop their faith and participate fully in the life of the church. The role includes overseeing the existing work with children and families across the benefice and may include some youth work. You will work in consultation with the Rector, PCCs and ministry teams.

This is a full-time role (37.5 hours per week) with a salary of £30,000 per annum, plus agreed expenses. Own transport essential. Formal training in children's ministry preferred.

For more information and an application pack, please contact:
Rev. Mary Brown: admin@aldeparishchurch.org.uk - Closing date: 30/09/2025

Safeguarding: conditional offers will be made pending the successful completion of an enhanced DBS check.

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>

Ideas for Aldeburgh Church's Card Corner

Calling on our photographers out there. We are reaching out for those perfect shots of Aldeburgh Church inside and outside that with your permission we can get the photo printed on cards to sell at our card corner display for church funds. You don't need to be a David Bailey. iPhones (or other smart phones) are absolutely fine. Just catching the perfect photo for cards to sell showing Aldeburgh Church at its best.

Also calling our talented children to design a Christmas Card for Aldeburgh Church to sell this Christmas. It can be of baby Jesus, the Nativity or of Aldeburgh Church, or Christmas at Aldeburgh. So spread the word and ask your neighbours, grandchildren and friends to get creating.

Please send a photo of your entry to
admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk

Christmas Card Designs to be sent by the 31st October.
The judges will choose the best and a prize will be given to the winner along with a copy of the card.



ALDEBURGH PARISH CHURCH

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S



Invites you to **HARVEST**



**COME AND CELEBRATE HARVEST AND THE
AUTUMN SEASON. THERE WILL ALSO BE LOTS
OF HARVEST CRAFT MAKING & SOME VERY
SPECIAL GUESTS WILL ALSO BE JOINING US
FOR ALL AGES**

**at the CHURCH HALL
SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER
10am till 12 Noon**



ALL WELCOME



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

Please email

admin@aldeburghparishchurch.org.uk



Evensong Services

We are pleased to inform you that the Evensong services are returning to Aldeburgh and Aldringham. Aldeburgh's will be the first Sunday of the month starting in June at 6pm and Aldringham's will be every 3rd Sunday of the month. Last Evensong's are in September, returning in spring 2026.

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 – Harvest Festival Service, September 28th at 11.00am
- Aldeburgh – Harvest Festival Service, October 5th at 11.00am
- Aldeburgh – Messy Church – October 25th 10-12 noon
- Aldeburgh – Benefice All Souls Service, November 1st at 6pm
- All Benefice – Remembrance Day Services, November 9th at 10.50am
- Aldeburgh – Contemporary Worship Deanery Service - November 9th at 6.00pm
- Aldringham – Patronal Service, Thursday, November 20th at 6pm
- Aldringham – Advent Carol Service, November 30th at 6pm

If you would like to donate any dry produce (tins, pasta, packets of dry foods) for the Harvest Festivals (no unopened packages) please do take them to the church you worship in. There will be a box at the back of the church at Aldeburgh for you to place your items in.

† Pilgrims Together †

Saturday 4th October 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.

Pilgrims Online Wednesdays Returns

Wednesday 8th October Gathering to Worship, Reflect and Pray
6.30pm (open from 6.10)

All are welcome to any of the Pilgrims events.

Next Week

**Sunday 28th September
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**