aldwickbaptistchurch

Vision: Loving God, Loving Each Other, Loving Lost People

ABC NEWS

Aldwick Baptist Church



'Breakfast on the beach anyone?'

Sunday 28th December 2025

Series: When God asks the question.

Part 8 – 'Do you love me?'

John 21: 1-19

Derek Robinson

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE – Join us as Claire leads us in worship, and Derek concludes our series, *"When God Asks the Question",* with one of the most personal and powerful questions Jesus ever asked: "Do you love me?" It's the question He asked Peter… And it's the question He asks each one of us today. How will you answer?

Of course, we do hope you can join us for the service in the church but if you can't actually join us, you will be able to access the service at any time by going to - https://www.aldwickbaptist.co.uk/category/current-sermons

NEXT WEEKEND'S FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE – 4th January 2025. Join us for our monthly family service as Simon and his band lead us in inspiring worship! John, of course, will also return with one of his epic dramas which we hope will challenge you, bring light into your life and make you smile.

BREAKFAST TIME – 9:30AM (All Ages Welcome) - Before the service, we invite you to Breakfast Time, open to everyone! This is a relaxed and welcoming space to share food, friendship, and conversation. It's a place to build relationships, show hospitality, and extend kindness and generosity - helping everyone feel valued and that they truly belong. As friendships grow, it's also an opportunity for conversations about faith to naturally develop over time. Don't miss this chance to connect, celebrate, and worship together!

THE SPARE CHAIR

At a small country church, a woman named Margaret always kept one extra chair at her table — even when it was just her. Her family had grown up and moved on, and she now lived alone. When asked why, she simply said, "You never know who the Lord might bring to the door."

One Christmas Eve, as snow began to fall, her neighbour knocked — a young single mum whose plans had suddenly fallen through. Margaret welcomed her in, and over tea and mince pies, laughter returned to a house that had once seemed too quiet. That chair, once symbolic, now had a purpose.

From that night on, the woman and her little boy became regular visitors — and eventually, regular churchgoers too.

Margaret never preached a sermon — she just kept a chair open.
Sometimes that's all God needs to do something wonderful.

THE CHALLENGE - As we step into a new year, perhaps you have a **spare chair**, a **free evening**, or a **warm welcome to offer**.
Why not ask God to fill it — not just with company, but with the joy of a new friendship waiting to begin?

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."– *Hebrews 13:2 (NIV)*

This week's poem

As 2025 draws to a close, we reflect on the year we've shared — the joys, the sorrows, the empty chairs around our tables, and the quiet strength of God's presence with us through it all. In John 21, after the confusion of the cross and the wonder of the resurrection, Jesus meets His disciples in the simplest of ways — at breakfast. He restores, He feeds, He calls them forward.

May this poem be a moment to pause, to remember, and to look ahead with hope — trusting that Christ will meet us again in 2026, and that our church family table still has seats waiting to be filled.

By the Breakfast Fire

The coals were warm, the dawn was near,
As Jesus called, "Come, breakfast's here."
A year's worth of memories in silence hung,
And grace was served with bread hard-won.

We've known the joy, we've felt the sting,
The empty chair, the missing ring.
Some dear to us have slipped away —
Their laughter now in heaven's day.

We've broken bread, we've shared the load,
We've walked together down this road.
Through prayers and tears, through hope and song,
God's love has gently led us on.

And now we turn to what's ahead,
With dreams to plant and words to be said.
May 2026 bring open hearts —
New friends to join, fresh healing starts.

So if one seat feels quiet and bare,
Let's set it still — and say a prayer.
That God would fill it, in His time,
With someone new, by love and sign.

And like that morning on the shore,
When grace was served, and hope restored —
May we, like Peter, rise again,
To follow Christ through joy and pain.

TAB (The Aldwick bard)

Prayer Wall ... and finally

Please pray for:

- Frank Yorkston who is still in a lot of pain from his right hip - this means Frank is really struggling at present. Please pray for urgent action by the medical staff and healing.
- Helen, David, Hayley and Daniel as they mourn the loss of Ernie. Pray that amidst the sadness they can look back fondly on the happy times they spent together.
- Cilla, Tony, Briana and Alexander as they have to adjust to life without Matt.
- Joy Smith who has been unwell for some time. Please pray for healing.
- Marie as she adjusts to life in a wheel chair but that the Lord that she is at home and still very cheerful.
- Roy Edwards (Mary's dad) who is still in St. Richard's hospital. Pray too for Mary.
- Joyce Kaufman as she approaches Christmas without Peter by her side.
- Joyce Filby who is having difficulting walking at present.
- Simon, Nicky and the girls as they take a short break. Pray for peace and rest.

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