

# THE BRIDGE

March 2018

Until a new Rector is appointed, please contact The Rev. Martin Percival for pastoral matters. 01728 668537 or 07789 417050 or email: [revmepercival@gmail.com](mailto:revmepercival@gmail.com)

## Lenten Reflection

There is a saying in which the life of the Christian community is perfectly defined - The Church gathers for worship and scatters for mission.

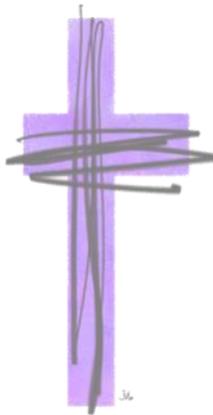
That picture is worth remembering. Week by week Christians meet together to worship God and then go their various ways both to tell others the good news of the kingdom and to serve them in whatever way God calls. Thus, in George Herbert's poetic phrase, we offer God praise 'Seven whole days not one in seven'. I hope, such a sketch of how to be a Christian is not new to you and already second nature to all who are reading this magazine. Many folk have passed on this vision of the Church's life faithfully in every generation.

At the heart of discipleship, often going without being noticed, there has to be a regular pulse and rhythmic beat. The gathering and scattering of Christian people is like breathing in and breathing out and is like the work the lungs do (which also we take too much for granted) which sustains life.

Nor can worship and mission ever be separated. They stand and fall together. Worship without mission is not just lame and watered down, it is not the genuine article. Nor can mission without worship ever be effective.

Too often we mislead ourselves and think mission is an optional extra for the minority, but it is not. It is not a dimension artificially added to a Christian life from time to time when occasion demands. No, it is an indispensable part of the inner structure of the life of every disciple every day.

What is true, though, is that unless both worship and mission are strong and equal partners in the enterprise of Christian witness then our discipleship will be too weak to share in the Easter victory. Which points us to the heart of the matter, especially during Lent, which is the cost of discipleship. Being a follower of Jesus is a way of living and loving - God and others - but always with a cost to self. To be a Christian is morally challenging but also demanding in total commitment. So, in the weeks ahead we hear Jesus saying again, 'take up your cross and follow'.



Just as the continuity between worship and mission must never be broken or separated nor must the continuity between Jesus' resurrection and his death. Ultimately Good Friday and Easter are not two separate events in Jesus' life but together the single unifying centre which gives meaning and power to everything he did and continues to do. That is the truth for our own lives and the truth we long to share with any who will listen and hear.

From the Reverend Martin Percival

## “Walk the Walk” for Breast Cancer

Diana Smith's daughter, Tracy, is taking part in the London Moon Walk, over the marathon course but at night, on May 12th. Diana has a sponsor form and if you would like to support Tracy and breast cancer research please contact Diana (663578).

## 2018 Upper Alde Benefice Pilgrimage

This year's Benefice pilgrimage will be to Peterborough Cathedral on Thursday August 23rd, leaving the Townland Meadow at 8am. and returning at 5.30pm. The cost will be £30 per person, to include a full tour of the cathedral. Other tours are available at extra cost, viz. Tower tour and Rooftop tour each £10 adults, £8 concessions, Precincts and Deanery Garden tour, £8 adults, concessions £6. Book your place now with Sheila Tesh (663518). Money with booking please. If you would like to reserve a place in the cathedral refectory for lunch, also let Sheila know. The day is open to everyone, you do not have to be a church member to book a place.

## A Warm Welcome

Sweffling has had some new residents over the last few months and we bid you all a warm welcome. We hope you will be very happy here and will join in the many activities Sweffling has to offer. It's a great place to live!

## All Are Invited

...to a Passover Presentation at 7:30pm on Maundy Thursday 29th March in St Johns Church, Saxmundham. (Coffee served from 7pm) This 45-minute visual presentation of 'Christ in the Passover' is led by a speaker from the organisation, 'Jews for Jesus'. They will explain the significance of the Passover, how it is celebrated in Jewish Culture and how Christ fulfils the Passover as the Lamb of God who takes away **the**

sins of the world. This presentation has helped hundreds of churches around the world to deepen their Communion experience and to enhance their Easter celebration.

[www.jewsforjesus.org.uk/about-us/](http://www.jewsforjesus.org.uk/about-us/)

## Ballet success

Together with four other pupils from the Saxtead School of Dance, Eleanore Fitzgerald successfully auditioned for the English Youth Ballet's next production in Norwich. They will be taking part in a new ballet, especially written and choreographed for the EYB, entitled "Cinderella in New York". Performances will take place at the Theatre Royal, Norwich, on Friday and Saturday, May 25th and 26th. Please contact Anne Fitzgerald for further details or to arrange tickets.

## Bishops' visits

On Sunday February 4th A large congregation welcomed Bishop Martin, the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, to Sweffling to take our morning service of Holy Communion. He spoke encouragingly of the need to be faithful in prayer and to use all our talents and work together during the period of interregnum. After the service there was time to chat to the Bishop over a cup of coffee and home-made cakes.

Looking forwards, on Sunday May 20th Bishop Mike, the Bishop of Dunwich, will come to Sweffling to take our morning service. Everyone is invited to come along at 9:30am. Again, there will be the opportunity after the service to chat with the Bishop.

## Call for voices

Are you a soprano, alto, tenor or bass? The Benefice Choir is looking for new voices in all ranges. We sing for Church Festivals (Christmas, Easter, Harvest), at Benefice services when there is a fifth Sunday in the month and occasionally at weddings. We practice before each special service on Tuesday and/or

Thursday at 7:30 pm. If you enjoy singing and would like to join, please contact Charles Seely (663467).

## Sweffling and Rendham Church Services for March Including Easter

Sunday March 4th Sweffling 9:30am. Holy Communion. The Rev. Martin Percival

Sunday March 11th Rendham 9:30am. Morning Prayer Mr. Rupert Wallis

Sunday March 18th Sweffling 9:30am. Morning Prayer Prof. John Tesh

Sunday March 25th Rendham 9:30am. PALM SUNDAY Holy Communion The Rev. Martin Percival

Maundy Thursday, March 29th  
Bruisyard Church 7pm. - Holy Communion

Good Friday March 30th Cransford 10am. - Walk of Witness from Cransford Chapel to Cransford Church. Joint Service in Cransford Church followed by hot cross buns.

Easter Sunday April 1st Sweffling Lily Festival. Holy Communion 9:30am. Reading of the memorial scroll. The church will be open after the service until 4pm and again on Easter Monday Rendham 11am. – Holy Communion by extension

## Easter Lilies Festival

Sweffling will again be holding a memorial Easter Lily Festival. Lilies can be purchased in memory of family or friends but please place your orders by Friday March 16<sup>th</sup> at the absolute latest; this gives the lilies time to open for Easter. The names of those being remembered will be written on an illuminated scroll which will be read out at the Easter Day Service of Holy Communion (April 1st) at 9:30am. The church will be open on Easter Sunday and Monday for visitors between 10am

and 4pm. The cost per lily will be £3.50. Please contact Diana Smith (663578) or Sheila Tesh (663518) if you would like to purchase a lily or lilies.

## Events in Bruisyard Village Hall in March

Space precludes the listing of BRUISYARD's events over the next two months. However, you can see all on their website... [www.bruisyard.com](http://www.bruisyard.com)

... but ...

## Thank you

John and Teresa would like to thank you all for supporting the Soup and Sweet lunches over the past year. We made £930 profit, which will be shared as follows: Air ambulance £280, Bruisyard Church £250, B.S.A.C. £250, Bike Active £150.

## Interment of ashes

It is with sadness that we record the death of Mrs. Joan Allen, who lived for many years in the village and was a great supporter of church and village activities. Joan's ashes will be interred in Sweffling Churchyard in her husband's grave on Saturday April 7th at 12noon. Those who knew Joan are invited to pay their last respects. The Rev. Betty Mockford, a friend of the family, will officiate.

## Interregnum up-date

There was no response to the advertisement placed on the Diocesan website for a half-time priest to replace the Rev. Olanczuk in this Benefice. It has been decided, therefore, to cast the net wider and advertise nationwide in the Church Times. In the meanwhile, the Rev. Percival will continue to minister in the Benefice and we are very grateful to him and Linda for their support. Should anyone require the services of a priest, please contact Martin. His contact details are on the frontispiece of The Bridge.

## Lilies

Monday 10am–4pm. St. Mary's Sweffling open to view and smell the lilies. Refreshments will be available

## The Lent Course

...led by the Rev. Martin Percival, began on February 19th, and will continue each Monday evening until March 26th. The theme for the course is "Joy and the Gospel". Except for March 5th, we meet at Bridge Farm, Sweffling at 7:30pm. On March 5th the group will meet at the Old Rectory, Cransford, same time. Comfortable surroundings and good coffee – welcome to everyone.

## The Lent Soup Lunch

will be held on Saturday March 17th in Sweffling Hut between 12noon and 2pm. A variety of homemade soups and bread, as much as you can eat, including vegetarian and gluten free options. Cost £5.00 for adults £2.50 for children. Proceeds to the Bakary Medical Centre, The Gambia. Jill and Geoffrey Abbot send the money directly to the doctor in charge of the Centre and it is used to buy mosquito nets and anti-malarial drugs.

## The Pancakes and Coffee morning

...in aid of the British Heart Foundation was very enjoyable. More than 200 pancakes were cooked and eaten with a variety of toppings and accompanied by freshly brewed coffee or tea. Together with the raffle and the Bring and Buy Stall £266 was raised for the BHF and this amount, together with a number of donations, has been sent to the BHF via Jonathan Tesh's Virginmoneygiving page. Jonathan is running in the "London Big Half" marathon on March 4th and we wish him every success. He has sent this message:

"Thank you very much to everyone who helped or supported the Pancake morning and for your kind donations.

Your support makes all the difference to me and really helps the British Heart Foundation continue their life-saving work."

## Nature Notes

Among the Goldfinches on the bird feeder this February have been the hoped-for numbers of Redpolls. I get a lot of pleasure from these tiny brown finches with their bright crimson red forehead patch, and males with increasingly pink breasts as they come into spring plumage. Unfortunately, one of them flew against a window and appeared stunned for a while. My advice if this happens, if the bird seems to be uninjured, is to put it carefully into a small box and keep it warm and dark for about half an hour (in the dark it will keep completely still). Almost invariably it will completely recover, and fly off when released, as this Redpoll did. Holding it for a moment gave me a chance to see how very bright and glossy the forehead really was, somehow surprising in a British bird.



Our Redpolls (strictly speaking they are called Lesser Redpolls) breed in Britain, including East Anglia, in heathland and areas of Birch. Many from the North move south in the winter, which is when we see more of them here. There is however another Redpoll (confusingly called the Common Redpoll, but known

Items can be placed in **THE BRIDGE** and on the Village Website by sending an email to

more helpfully in older bird books as the 'Mealy Redpoll') which breeds in Northern Scandinavia, and migrates here in winter in very small numbers. A few have been seen in Sweffling gardens, on feeders with the Lesser Redpolls. They are slightly larger and noticeably paler, somewhat 'frosty' looking, with greyer rather than rusty-brown backs. Only a few single Siskins on the feeders this winter.

As well as the early spring song of birds, the 'drumming' of a woodpecker has been conspicuous, very clear and travelling for quite a distance. It is made by vibrating the beak on a particularly resonant branch. The short, very sharp burst denotes the Great Spotted Woodpecker, which many people have seen in their gardens. The other black-and-white woodpecker, the tiny Lesser-Spotted Woodpecker makes a higher pitched and considerably longer sound. This bird has become alarmingly scarce – I have not seen one in the garden here for over ten years. At risk of repetition, the drumming has the same function as song in other birds, Advertising the territory of the male bird. The Green Woodpecker, more likely to be seen on the ground than on a tree trunk, does not normally drum, but instead makes the loud 'yaffling' call for which it is known.

After an overnight snowfall, I like to get out and see what the tracks say about what has been around. A single file of small prints may denote a Fox, walking by putting its rear feet in the prints of the forefeet. (Cats also do this, so look for the actual shape of the paw, with their four toes together at the front and no claws showing. Muntjac too, can be distinguished by the tiny cloven hoof print). Rabbit prints are everywhere, with the two long hind feet placed in front of the small forepaws, so that the track appears to be going in the wrong direction. Hare print are similar but larger, with longer hind feet, and often with much greater distances between each print.

Geoffrey Abbott

## Chilli night at The Hut.

The first chilli night at The Hut was a great success and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported the event. Together we raised over £400 for The Hut. The sale of tickets for the night and the raffle raised most of this but I must say a big thank you to a number of people from our village who could not attend but still gave a donation. You know who you are, and you are truly appreciated.

Kirstin Stanley, on behalf of The Hut Committee.

## Crafts, Cakes And Coffee

SATURDAY 24th MARCH 10-12am  
SWEFFLING VILLAGE HUT  
IP17 2BT

Come and sell your crafts and produce.  
£10.00 a table, which must be booked in advance.

For more information or to book a table ring Jean 01728 663334/Pam 01728 664093.

Coffee, tea and CAKES available.

All proceeds to Sweffling HUT maintenance fund.

## Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday 13th March at 7.30pm in The Hut. All are welcome.

We have miles of public footpaths around our village that are enjoyed by many. We ask that people respect the fact that others use these and if walking dogs we clear up every time after our animals. We would also ask that people respect private properties and drives. Some areas around Sweffling village have no right of way through these properties and therefore no public access across them. Some, but not all, have signs indicating that the land is private. Most of the public footpaths are marked with way finding posts. If you discover damaged posts this can be reported to the district council.

We are about to lose the benefit of free green garden waste collection, the brown bins. In Dec. 2017 Suffolk Coastal decided to introduce a charge for collecting garden waste. The cost will be £43 per year per bin (approximately £1.63 per fortnight). The first paid-for collection will be in May 2018. Residents are able to subscribe for the new service from 1 March 2018. You can register your interest, and find out much more about the service, online at [east.suffolk.gov.uk](http://east.suffolk.gov.uk) Garden Waste Scheme.

great fun, space was limited and eventually it was agreed to move to the Townland Meadow, which, by this time, had been tamed from an overgrown field into a walking and playing space, with a tennis court and a pavilion, complete with kitchen and toilets. This gave more opportunity over the years for additional activities such as Morris Dancers, Samba dancers, pony and tractor rides and dog shows but the fete has always remained essentially a village fun day. As the income from the fete grew, the decision was taken to

divide the proceeds, with half now going to the church and half to village amenities. The church, however, continued to provide the insurance cover for the fete, as it does today. The share of the money going to the church is still used to help maintain our historic church building and old churchyard, to pay for insurance, heating, and to contribute to the costs of the ministry

in our parish. In 2017, the proportion of the proceeds was again adjusted with the church receiving approximately one third of the proceeds and the remainder being divided between the Townland Trust, the Village Hall, the Memorial Garden, the Jubilee Field, a contribution towards the cost of printing The Bridge and a reserve towards future fetes. Unlike some other villages, our fete is run for the benefit of village amenities. There are many other fundraising activities in the village that support charities and Sweffling is extremely generous in support of these causes. The church plays a major role in fund raising for external charities such as Tear Fund, The Children's Society, the Bakery Community Hospital in the Gambia, Mental Health Trust and The British Heart Foundation. Other individuals and groups also arrange

STOW (Supporting Tanzanian Orphans and Widows)

## Beetle Drive!

**Thursday 22nd March 2018 at 6 pm**

Hotdogs, wine, beer & squash, followed by the  
Beetle Drive with a break for ice cream, cake & coffee!

**St Johns Church Hall, Saxmundham**

(Parking available up the church drive or Waitrose)

Adults: £5, Children: (6-16 years) £2  
Family ticket (2 adults, 2 children): £12

To book tickets phone 01728 663583 or pay on the door




## A Short Recent History of Sweffling Fete

Going back in living memory, the summer fete in Sweffling used to be held in the Rectory garden and raised money to help with the maintenance and up-keep of the church and churchyard. It was a typical village affair with many similar stalls to those that we have today – cakes, produce, handicrafts, sideshows etc. However, as the fete increased in size and popularity it moved from the Rectory into Sweffling Street, and for many years was known as “The Street Fair”. The road was closed, and stalls were set up along the road, and in gateways and gardens of the houses lining the Street. Most years there was a theme to the fair and stall holders dressed in appropriate fancy dress. Although it was

events to support different charities, such as the Bygones Day, lunches and suppers in the Village Hall.

Over the years fete day has seen brilliant sunshine, torrential rain and gale force winds but it has endured and provided fun and entertainment for the village and visitors alike, as well as raising much needed cash for the village.

**In order to continue to do so, the fete needs the support of everyone – new ideas, volunteers to man stalls or sideshows, run the raffle, serve the teas, bake the cakes etc. etc. So, whether you're a Seasoned-Stalwart or a Fete-First-timer, please offer to help out this year. Help in any capacity will be greatly appreciated, and not least as part of the planners. Please contact Adrian Kinsey [664085] or John Stanley [664073], who are acting as co-ordinators until a new Management Council can be formed for FETE-2018.**

## Townland Trust

Anyone who has recently moved into the village might not be aware of the Sweffling Village Charity, The Townland Trust. The present Townland Trust has grown from 2 old charities:

1. Leggett's Gift – On 20th April 1568, Henry Leggett charged that the income from a piece of land, 40 shillings at that time, should be distributed amongst the poor of the village, together with other money subscribed by other inhabitants of Sweffling. It was originally used to buy coal for the winter and bread.
2. Feoffes Estate - In 1699, Ezra Crisp conveyed to the Rector, as trustee, and his successors, and other trustees, two houses and 6 acres of land in Sweffling, for the purpose of keeping in repair and good order the church and churchyard, and for payment of other charges on the inhabitants of the parish of Sweffling.

Over the years the charities have been amalgamated and evolved into what is now known as the Townland Trust. It is

registered as a charity with the Charity Commissioners.

The Trust now holds assets as investments accrued from the sale of land and property over the years, one cottage, currently known as Rodwell's Cottage and the Townland Meadow and pavilion.

Income comes from rent from the property, interest on investments, a small amount of rent and fees from the meadow and donations from the fete. The calls on the income of the Trust are to maintain its assets and to pay any costs of the charity (insurance etc.). After these have been discharged some or all of the remainder of the income can be divided between the church and the needs of the village. The income is divided on a 50:50 basis.

The Townland Trust is independent of the church and any other village organisation. The Rector, by default, is the chairman of the trustees but this post can be delegated by agreement of the other trustees. There are normally 4 other trustees. There is no time limit to the service of a trustee. Under the conditions of the Trust, trustees and their families are not permitted to benefit from the Trust.

Money from the Trust can only be used for the benefit of Sweffling Church or Sweffling residents. Anyone from the village in any form of need can apply to the Trust for assistance. The amount of grant given is at the discretion of the trustees and is confidential. Grants do not have to be repaid if the applicant's circumstances change at a later date. As people do not always like to approach the Trust themselves, if you are aware of anyone who might benefit by help from the Trust, please have a quiet word with one of the trustees.

Currently the trustees are: The Rev. Jonathan Olanczuk (until such time as a new Rector is appointed), Andy Franklin (663600), Sandy Rowe (663753), Veronica Southey (663509) and Sheila Tesh (663518).

# Dates in March+

Sun 04 Mar	09:30	Sweffling Holy Communion. Rev. Martin Percival
Sun 11 Mar	09:30	Rendham Morning prayer. Mr.Rupert Wallace
Tue 13 Mar	14:00 9:30	Juniper Barn: Meet, chat and play Parish Council meeting
Wed 14 Mar	19:00	Alde Community Council AGM
Sat 17 Mar	12-2	Lent Soup Lunch
Sun 18 Mar	09:30	Sweffling Morning Prayer. Prof. John Tesh
Thu 22 Mar	19:00	Suffolk Coastal Filling Station
Sat 24 Mar	10-12	Crafts, Cakes And Coffee
Sun 25 Mar	09:30	Rendham Palm Sunday Communion. The Rev. Martin Percival
Mon 26 Mar	19:00	Sweffling Tennis Club AGM
Tue 27 Mar	14:00	Juniper Barn: Meet, chat and play
Thu 29 Mar	19:00	Maundy Thursday. Bruisyard Church Holy Communion
Fri 30 Mar	00:00	Good Friday - Walk of Witness
Sun 01 Apr	09:30	Sweffling. Easter Day Lily Festival & Holy Communion
Sat 07 Apr	14:00	ACC Spring Flower Show

**Alde Community Council**  
Rendham – Sweffling – Bruisyard

**SPRING FLOWER SHOW – APRIL 7<sup>th</sup>**

For full details about classes and groups, and for the Rules, please contact

**Jenny Tyson on 663571**

Please fill in this ENTRY FORM and take on the day with your exhibits

Admission Fee: 20p per entry  
 - cash with entry form -

YOU CAN ENTER ANY NUMBER OF CLASSES, BUT ONE EXHIBIT ONLY PER CLASS

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**ENTRY FORM**

Name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel.No. \_\_\_\_\_

Age (for 16s and under)

\_\_\_\_\_

Tick for Group 1 (under 10s) \_\_\_\_\_

Tick for Group 2 (10-16s) \_\_\_\_\_

Classes Entered \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cash enclosed \_\_\_\_\_