

THE BRIDGE

April 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

From The Reverend Martin Percival

It's not the fact that Jesus was dead following the crucifixion that makes Him unique.

He certainly wasn't the first or the last to die the horrible death inflicted by the Roman government to those considered to be its worst criminals. Jesus' death doesn't set Him apart in any way other than maybe its drama and its gore. It's not that Jesus died that is significant. It's the Resurrection that sets Jesus apart. He died ...so will each of us ... but Jesus didn't stay dead!

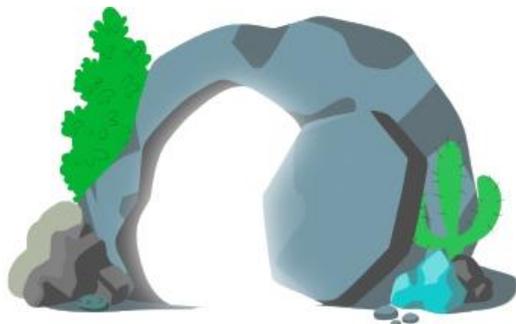
This can mean everything!

First, it means that we can trust Jesus Christ. The resurrection means that Jesus Christ is what He claimed to be. It means that He was deity...God in the flesh. Easter means that Jesus was telling the truth when He said, "I and my Father are one." (John 10:30) And if we can trust Him for that, it is a lot easier to trust Him when He said that He came to save us from our sin. We can trust Him when He says that if we believe in Him we'll be saved. Jesus meant what He

said ... and He said that there is no other way to salvation except through Him.

Second, the resurrection means that God has provided everything we ever need to have fellowship with Him. Romans 4:25 says that Jesus was given to die for our sins, and he was raised from the dead to make us right with God. When Jesus died, he paid the price for our sins - suffering spiritually and physically the whole way. When He was raised from the dead, He demonstrated God's power to conquer death and his desire to share that victory with all who will trust in Him. The resurrection is living proof that anyone can be saved by trusting in the cleansing power of Jesus' blood.

Third, the resurrection means that Christ is the living companion of every person who puts his trust in Him. Jesus said in Matthew 28:20...



"...I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

A grandfather was walking with his grandson and after a while he paused, looked down at the boy and asked, "How far are we from home?"

"Grandpa, I don't know," said the boy.

"Well, do you know where you are?" asked the Granddad.

"No, grandpa, I don't know," came the little boy's reply.

Then the grandfather said good-naturedly, "sounds to me like you're lost." The youngster looked up at his grandpa and said confidently, "Nope, I can't be lost . . . I'm with you!"

And that's how it is for us. Because of the resurrection, we can know that no matter how far out in the forest our lives go, we are never lost because the living Lord Jesus Christ - God in the flesh, raised from the dead by God as a means of providing for our salvation - our Saviour is always with us.

That's what Easter means. And that's something worth giving our lives for!

Souper!

The Lent Soup Lunch, held on March 17th, was a most enjoyable time. There were ten different soups to choose from, including gluten-free and vegetarian varieties. This year no-one managed to sample all of them, although some came close! With the raffle and the bring-and-buy stall, the current total raised from the lunch is £307. This will be added to the £286 raised from the

"First Thursday" suppers at the Sweffling White Horse and will be sent directly to the doctor in charge of the hospital in the Gambia to buy mosquito nets and anti-malarial drugs. Thank you to everyone who supported either or both events.

Upcoming Events

Easter Day Service and Lily Festival

Following the Festival Holy Communion at 9:30am on Easter Day, the church will remain open until 4pm, and be opened again on Easter Monday from 10am until 4pm for visitors to view the lilies and Easter garden and to read the memorial scroll. Refreshments will be available.

The Annual Church Meeting

...will be held on April 24th in church at 6pm. The meeting is open to everyone to attend.

Please note that there will be a special Agenda Item relating to Fete-2018, so please come along.

Concert

Saturday, May 5th: "Five-in-a-Bar" Concert in St. Mary's Church, Sweffling. "Five-in-a-Bar" are our local a cappella singing group, as



seen on TV, and they have offered to perform a concert in aid of church funds. The concert will begin at 7:30pm. Tickets are £7 adults, £3.50 children... to include interval refreshments. Please contact Sheila Tesh (663518) or Suzanne Stevens (664074) to book.

... another Concert!

On Thursday, April 26th, at 7:30pm, Woodbridge School choirs, together with members of other choirs, professional singers and orchestra are performing "A Child of our Time" in Ely Cathedral. Tickets can be obtained from the Cathedral: <https://tickets.elycathedral.org/> or by telephone on 01353 660349. Cost £20.00, £15.00, and £10.00 (unreserved). Lia Schreiber from Rendham and Eleanore Fitzgerald and Sheila Tesh from Sweffling are singing in this iconic work about the Holocaust.



Advance Notice



The Bishop of Dunwich will be taking the morning service in Sweffling at 9:30 am on Sunday May 20th. Everyone is invited to come and chat with Bishop Mike over a cup of coffee after the service.

Sponsorship

Suzanne Stevens' son, Timothy Stanford, is running in the Paddock Wood half marathon on April 8th in aid of



Parkinson's UK. If you would like to sponsor Timothy you can do so at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/timothy-stanford>

Diana Smith's daughter, Tracy, is taking part in the London Moon Walk on 12th May. The walk is 26 miles over the London marathon course and takes place at night. Tracy is walking in aid of Cancer Research and if you would like to support Tracy, please contact Diana on 663578.



Holy Communion at home

If you cannot come to church, or know of someone who would like to receive Holy Communion in their own home, please contact one of the churchwardens (Geoffrey Abbott 663402) or John Tesh (663518) and they will arrange this.



April dates & times for church services in Sweffling and Rendham are listed on the back page!

NATURE NOTES

The large bird of prey, the Buzzard, seems to continually be on the increase. It is true that their habits of soaring in the open, making their loud 'mewing' call, make them more conspicuous, but many people I have spoken with agree that they are seeing them even more often. They are not highly specialised hunters, and it is well known that they will feed on the ground, particularly on freshly ploughed land in search of worms. In fact, I heard (from Rendham) of one which actually followed the plough for most of a day.

Another ground-feeding bird, the Lapwing, has done the opposite, and is in serious decline.



I seldom see them feeding on the fields around here, even in the winter, when many Continental birds usually visit. During the cold spell there were a few flying over the valley, and on snowy days we saw a few standing around near the roadside along the A12. Fewer still now nest on the farmland of East Suffolk as they used to. To see them in spring, and to watch their

amazing tumbling courtship displays, needs a visit to the coastal marshes such as Hollesley, Boyton or Minsmere levels. Be warned that they do nest early though, so the display is easy to miss.

Primroses must be a feature of most Nature Notes around this time.



There were a few to be seen even before the snow, but by now they will be coming into full show. They are common among many of our lanes – I recommend Dead Man's Lane between Rendham and Benhall. There are even some along bigger roads such as the B1119, where they have been able to escape the winter salt-spreading. A few weeks later another of my very favourites, the Cowslip, is to be seen, not as widespread in our valley, but still most welcome.

By now the long-tailed tits, great garden favourites, will have left their groups and formed up into pairs for breeding. They nest early, and have already started nestbuilding by March. We have watched one around the house,

especially the window frames, hunting for beak-fulls of spiders' web. This is a main constituent of the nest in these birds. The nest is usually built in a well-protected site in a thorny bush such as Bramble or Berberis, I presume as extra protection at this time of year before the leaves are out. Ours seem to be using the Gorse bush which we planted to stop people driving into the pond (this has worked so far and nesting would be a bonus). The nest is a rugby-ball in shape, closed at the top but with a small opening in the side. Other nesting materials are moss, a lining of fine feathers, and flakes of lichen woven into the outside, thought to be extra camouflage for such a vulnerable structure. The spiders' web is just as important. Often as many as twelve young tits will be reared in this nest, which as it is not open at the top will become very cramped. The web allows the whole thing to expand as necessary, so that all these fledglings can emerge undamaged, except perhaps for the occasionally slightly bent tail.

Geoffrey Abbott

The Alde Community Council

The Alde Community Council Flower Show

...is on 7th April in Sweffling Hut
at 2:00pm.

Admission 50p (includes tea/coffee).
Presentation of cups at 3:30pm
followed by Raffle.

All entries to be at the hut between
9am and 10am.

Entry form over the page!.

The Summer Party
is on June 23rd at Rendham Barns by
kind permission of Charles and
Morvyth Seely. Details to follow.

The members draw took place at
the AGM on 13th March at Sweffling
White Horse.

1st prize. L.Bennion, 2nd prize.
A.Hart, 3rd prize. T.McKee, 4th
prize. J.Stanford.

SWEFLING Parish Council

**The annual litter pick will be on
Saturday 7th April, same day as the
ACC Spring Flower Show.**

This is an opportunity for anyone to
help clear the litter from around the
lanes surrounding our village.

As always volunteers are asked to
gather at The Hut at 10am and will
be supplied with gloves, bags and
litter pickers.

It is never a difficult task and open
to all age groups. A short walk along
some of the lanes in and around
Sweffling can be a great experience,
and by clearing the litter that will
have accumulated over the winter it
can remain a pleasant experience
for all.

So if you are fit enough to walk we would love to see you do your little bit for our environment. Come along and join us for an hour or two on Saturday morning.

All equipment provided, including hi-viz jackets. Questions to Audrey, please, on 663465

Could you benefit from a better bus service?

Some people from Sweffling and the surrounding villages of Great Glemham, Bruisyard and Rendham are trying to get a bus service established in this area. At present they are exploring the possibility. If you think you would use a bus service through Sweffling could you please contact Councillor Audrey Lummis on 663465 as she is kindly acting as our liaison with this group.

Broadband for Sweffling

I recently attended a meeting with an official from Broadband for Suffolk, BB4S, together with Councillors from Bruisyard and Cransford. At present most of the properties in Sweffling are served by a Fibre To The Cabinet, FTTC, solution through the cabinet at Rendham exchange. Whilst this can provide a better service here in Sweffling compared to our neighbours in Bruisyard or Cransford there are still areas in our parish with very poor speeds. This is mainly due to the dependence on the old telephone lines that carry the signals to each premises. A new cabinet has been installed along the B1119 opposite Bridge Farm and when that goes active, sometime

this summer, most premises will benefit from slightly higher speeds. To address the problems in out lying areas BB4S and their partners, BT Openreach, are proposing a Passive Optical Network, PON, solution. This will eventually provide a Fibre To The Premises, FTTP, service to properties along both Low Road and Woolnough Lane. Unfortunately this Superfast solution will not be available until 2019.

The next meeting of Sweffling Parish Council is scheduled for Tuesday April 10th at 7.30pm in The Hut. All are welcome.

Taxi!

One of the great things about living in Sweffling is the way people rally round and help. One of these ways is Sweffling Taxis. If you ever find yourself without transport and in need of assistance, there is a set of people who are prepared to help you out.

If you would like to add your name to this list... or get a list of people you could call upon, please ring Pam Fagan – 664093.



A rare winter visitor

The moonlight...?

When I stood and viewed the snowman
Through my window, late last night
I strangely felt paternal
As I checked that he's alright
Some further snow was falling
Making all around him, smooth
And it might have been the moonlight
But I swear I saw him move...

Robbie.



Items can be placed in **THE BRIDGE** and on the Village Website by sending an email to sweffling@outlook.com

Cut-off date for **THE BRIDGE** is three-days before month-end.

Alde Community Council

Rendham – Sweffling – Bruisyard

SPRING FLOWER SHOW – APRIL 7th

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

=====

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

Dates in April+

Sun 01 Apr	09:30	Sweffling Easter Day Lily Festival & Holy Communion
Sun 01 Apr	11:00	Rendham Holy Communion by extension
Mon 02 Apr	10-4pm	Sweffling Easter Day Lily Festival
Sat 07 Apr	10:00	Village Litter-Pick
Sat 07 Apr	14:00	ACC Spring Flower Show
Sun 08 Apr	09:30	Rendham Morning prayer
Tue 10 Apr	19:30	Parish Council Meeting
Sun 15 Apr	09:30	Sweffling Morning Prayer
Sun 22 Apr	09:30	Rendham Holy Communion
Tue 24 Apr	18:00	Sweffling. Annual Church Meeting
Thu 26 Apr	19:30	"A Child of our Time" in Ely Cathedral
Sun 29 Apr	10:00	Badingham Benefice Holy Communion
Sat 05 May	19:30	Sweffling Church. "Five-in-a-Bar" Concert
Sun 06 May	09:30	Sweffling Holy Communion

Lessons learned from the movies

- If staying in a haunted house, women should investigate any strange noises wearing their most revealing underwear.
- If being chased through town, you can usually take cover in a passing St Patrick's Day parade - at any time of the year.
- All beds have special L-shaped top sheets that reach up to armpit level on a woman but only

waist level on the man lying beside her.

- All grocery shopping bags contain at least one stick of French bread.
- It's easy for anyone to land a plane, providing there is someone in the control tower to talk you down.
- Once applied, lipstick will never rub off - even while scuba diving.
- The ventilation system of any building is a perfect hiding place. No one will ever think of

looking for you in there and you can travel to any part of the building without difficulty.

- You're likely to survive any battle in any war unless you make the mistake of showing someone a picture of your sweetheart back home.
- Should you wish to pass yourself off as a German officer, it will not be necessary to speak the language. A German accent will do.