

# THE BRIDGE

May 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)

From the Reverend Martin Percival

## Influence in High Places

I sometimes think that it would be fun to have friends in high places! How about Buckingham Palace. Imagine being able to get your name included in the list for the next state banquet. You might find yourself talking about horses to the Princess Royal, or about plants with the Prince of Wales.

Alternatively imagine having a cousin who was a private secretary to the Pope. You could drop round at the Vatican any evening and all the Swiss Guards would salute you. You might find yourself playing Scrabble in Spanish into the small hours.

Perhaps it's not your thing. After all, however venerable and influential they might be, they are only human like the rest of us.

However, what if you had a brother standing face to face with God? What if Almighty God, Creator of the Universe, had your brother in his presence all the time, and whenever your brother spoke to God,

he mentioned you? That would be something.

This month we celebrate that forgotten festival called the Ascension. For Christians it means our Lord Jesus returning to his Father, to be in his presence always. But who is this Jesus, who returns to the Father? He is our brother: 'the first-born of many brothers and sisters', as St Paul calls him. He is our brother and he mentions us to God at every moment. He 'always lives to intercede' for us, as the letter to the Hebrews says. He shares my human nature and yours; and he shows it to the Father and says: 'Father, if you love me, then you must love John, Sally and Joyce, and Michael and Susan and the rest, for they are my sisters and brothers!' And God must answer, 'Yes: that's the whole point; for I sent you into the world, so I that I might see and love in them what I see and love in you!'



That is what Christians celebrate on the feast of the Ascension: having our brother praying for us in the presence of God. That is very encouraging, for how can God possibly refuse any request of Jesus.

## Bishop of Dunwich

On Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Bishop of Dunwich, Bishop Mike, is coming to take Holy Communion in Sweffling at 9:30am. Everyone is invited to the service and to meet the Bishop afterwards over a cup of coffee.



If any one would like to arrange for home Holy Communion, or for hospital or sick visiting, please contact Rev. Martin Percival (contact info' on front cover) or one of the Churchwardens who will pass on your request.

## Five in a Bar

On Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in St. Mary's Church our local A capella group "Five in a Bar" will be performing a concert in aid of church funds. The group sings regularly at many local events, including welcoming Father Christmas to Snape Maltings, and was featured in the BBC Coast Programme, when it visited Orford Lighthouse. It will be a most enjoyable evening, so ring Sheila Tesh (663518) or Suzanne Stevens (664074) to book.

Cost £7.00 adults, £3.50 children to include interval refreshments. It is an evening not to be missed!

## Easter Celebrations

We again held the Memorial Lily Festival In St. Mary's church. More than 60 names were on the memorial scroll, which was superbly calligraphed and illuminated by Jill Abbott. More than 100 lilies (oriental, longiflorum and arum)

were arranged in church on Easter Saturday, together with a beautiful Easter Garden. By the time of the Festival service of Holy Communion on Easter Sunday morning, the church was filled with the scent of the flowers. A large congregation joined together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with hymns and readings. The Benefice choir sang the introit "This Joyful Eastertide" and the anthem "God so loved the world" from Stainer's "Crucifixion". The Rev. Martin Percival presided at the Eucharist. Following the service, and again on Easter Monday, the church was open to view the lilies. In addition to parishioners we had visitors from Felixstowe, Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds and Southwold to name but a few. It was a wonderful opportunity to sit quietly in church and pray and remember our family members and friends. All of the visitors, commented what a beautiful church we have – how warm and welcoming. Many stayed for more than an hour enjoying and talking about the Church and the Village. Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for this special Festival, took part in the Service or were in church to welcome visitors and serve refreshments.



## Interregnum - an update -

As at the time of going to press, there have been no applications to fill the vacancy left by the Rev Olanczuk when he retired from our Benefice. The Rev Martin Percival has agreed to continue to take the service of Holy Communion in Sweffling on the first Sunday of each month and Morning Prayer on the third Sunday will be taken by one of the elders. There is a meeting of the churchwardens with the Rural Dean in Framlingham on May 24<sup>th</sup>, to discuss how to proceed from here. We are very grateful to Martin and Linda for their continued support of the work of the church in this Benefice. If anyone in the village is in need of the services of a priest, please contact Martin directly, his details are on the first page of The Bridge, or alternatively, speak to one of the churchwardens (663402 or 663518) who will be pleased to help you.

## Suffolk Coastal Rural Debt Centre

This year St. John the Baptist in Saxmundham are setting up a rural debt centre in conjunction with Christians Against Poverty (CAP). Together with other local churches, a team is being put together to offer debt support, advice and friendship to those dealing with the challenges of debt.

CAP was set up in 1996 by John Kirkby. John believed he should focus his expertise on helping people in financial need. By 1998 the first Church based debt centre

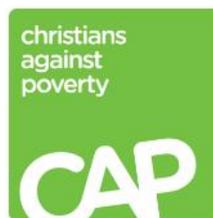
was open and CAP begun helping people all over the country to become debt free, gain control of their financial situation and to grow in confidence. CAP supports the running of budgeting courses, job clubs, release groups and debt centres in local communities. Christians Against Poverty have a vision to have 1000 CAP projects around the country by 2021. Here in the Suffolk Coastal area, we want to be part of that vision.

In and around our rural communities there are pockets of financial poverty and high levels of debt. There is a financial burden

felt by many as they struggle to make ends meet with bills, credit card debt and everyday life, with some not knowing where to turn. The St. John's Saxmundham rural debt centre will offer personalised one to one support as well as group support to those who want help to become debt free. They will be able to visit referred clients in their home to support with the practical elements of dealing with their debt as well as offering each family a trained befriender who will be able to offer support and friendship through the process and beyond.

Christians Against Poverty are always looking for people who want to support their work. If you would like to support the work of CAP please visit [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org)

In Saxmundham, there will be an information evening in the coming months before the launch planned



for this summer, and they are on the lookout for people willing to help run this project. If you are interested please contact [stjohnsyncwork@talktalk.net](mailto:stjohnsyncwork@talktalk.net)

Kirsty Christmas  
Youth & Community Worker at  
St.John's in Saxmundham  
(and Future Debt Centre Manager!)

## Sweffling Church Annual Parish Meeting

This meeting was held in St. Mary's Church on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm. At the meeting, Mr. Geoffrey Abbott and Professor John Tesh were elected as Churchwardens. Elected to the Parochial Church Council were Mrs Jill Abbott, Miss Teresa Coleman, Mrs. Pam Fagan, Dr. Anne Fitzgerald-Robbins, Mr. Dennis Littlejohn, Mrs. Catharine Loveridge, Mrs. Diana Smith, Mrs. Sheila Tesh (Secretary). Professor Tesh will continue as acting treasurer until a new treasurer is appointed. Data Protection Officer is under discussion to address the new General Data Protection Regulations which come into force in May 2018, and Dr. Fitzgerald-Robbins will act as Safeguarding Officer for the Parish and Benefice. Professor Tesh reviewed the financial situation and explained that although during 2017 income had balanced expenditure, one instalment of the 2017 Parish share to the Diocese had not been paid until 2018. The vestry refurbishment had been completed and paid for, thanks to the legacy from the late Mrs. Pauline Stevens.

During the year, almost £1000 had been raised for charities at home and overseas, and it was agreed that this outreach forms an important part of the work of the church in Sweffling. Mr. Abbott reviewed the work of the church and thanked all those who had helped in any way to maintain the worship and the everyday running of the church and churchyard. The topic of "Christians Against Poverty" (CAP) was discussed, which had been discussed at the previous week's Deanery Synod meeting. Local arrangements are in the process of being finalised and soon as information is available it will be circulated in the Bridge.

## Sweffling Fete

What will your family do at the fete this year?

- \* run a stall - e.g. jewellery, garden produce etc ?
- \* run an activity - e.g. face painting ?
- \* run a game or competition with prizes ?

All ideas are welcome and will be discussed at the fete planning meeting to which you, (especially arrivals to the village) are all invited.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> may  
7.30pm in Sweffling Hut  
- with Wine and nibbles!



enquiries to Jill Abbott 663402  
[jillabbott402@hotmail.com](mailto:jillabbott402@hotmail.com)

## ACC Spring Flower Show

If you would like to see photographs taken at the ACC Flower Show on April 7<sup>th</sup>, they can be found on the Rendham



Website using this address:-

<http://rendham.onesuffolk.net/picture-gallery/events/alde-community-council/acc-spring-flower-show-2018/>

## Bus Service 121

Please continue to support this bus service which runs on the first Tuesday of the month to Ipswich via Woodbridge; 09:57 at the Church returning from the Cattle Market at 13:40.

Mr Morse of 'Fareline Coaches' has agreed to keep running the bus until further notice - with the hope of more financial support. This is Sweffling's only bus service to the larger towns and we don't want to lose it.



## Bygones Museum Open Day

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 11am-4:30pm

Vintage and Classic Cars, Traditional Music Players, Household Bygones, Tractors, Stationary Engines, Private Exhibits and Demonstrations and much more.

Lunches and Refreshments available

Admission Free but donations to East Anglian Air Ambulance

ALL EXHIBITS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

## Diana

As many of you will know, Diana Smith recently had a fall and has severely injured her back. The good news is that she is home now and making progress. She thanks everyone for all their good wishes and says she would welcome any visitors.

## English Youth Ballet

A reminder that the English Youth ballet are performing a new Ballet "Cinderella in Hollywood" at the Theatre Royal, Norwich on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May. A number of the pupil's from the Saxeade School of Dance, including Eleanore Fitzgerald from Sweffling, have been selected to take part. If you would like to go to see this ballet, please contact Anne Fitzgerald-Robbins (664074) for further details.

# NATURE NOTES

At this time of year, everything in the natural world seems to be changing particularly fast, with spring flowers appearing, insects emerging, and seasonal changes in bird life. By the end of April, most of our common migrant birds were arriving. Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps have been in song for several weeks, and others like Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat are here and will be singing in May. A few Swallows are here, but I hope there will be more. A good place to see early Swallows is always the Ladybird plant nursery at Gromford, where they nest in the potting sheds.



stitchwort

Along the verges the Primroses are still flowering, but are much less obvious now that other plants are growing higher and masking them. The Cowslips, which appeared a little later, have taller stems and so are now showing well. They seem to be commoner on the verges and field boundaries on the clay soil of our district, and less so on the sandy areas. Where they grow together, these two do sometimes hybridise,

producing a cross with a multiple head of Primrose-like flowers, but on a taller stalk like a Cowslip. This, confusingly, resembles a third species, the Oxlip, which is much scarcer and in Suffolk confined to woodlands further to the west. The hybrid is called the 'False Oxlip', and I have seen the occasional specimen in woods in Sweffling. The spring flush of wildflowers in our hedgerows and verges also includes the brilliantly white Stitchwort, with its narrow, grass-shaped leaves, growing amongst the emerging young grasses. Also white, but with smaller less conspicuous flowers and broader leaves, is the so-called Garlic Mustard (alias Jack-by-the-Hedge, Hedge Garlic and various other names). It is a member of the cress family, but its leaves, when crushed, do smell very strongly of garlic.

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cowslip



Garlic Mustard is the chief food-plant of the caterpillars of the Orange Tip butterfly, which is conspicuously on the wing on sunny days at this time of year. A small white butterfly, it is the male which has the bright orange wing-tips. The female's wings have grey tips, and both have grey-green and white

marbled undersides. I rarely see the caterpillars, but they are long, thin, and pale green, matching very well the seed pods of the food plant. I also often mention in spring the Brimstone butterfly, the male with its bright butter-yellow colour, and the female a pale yellowish white. Camouflage here takes the form of the butterfly, when at rest with the wings closed, looking very like the underside of a pale green leaf. The caterpillar's food plant is a shrub called Buckthorn. I have only found one specimen of this in Sweffling, in an old hedge, but Brimstones are known to travel very widely and are likely to be seen passing through any garden.

Listen out for the Cuckoo, which should have arrived by now. I have heard reports in late April, but not yet the actual bird. The Swifts will be here any day now – I always reckon the first week in May.

Geoffrey Abbott

## Sweffling Tennis Club

Spring is here: so it's time to dust off those tennis rackets and get some fresh air and exercise!

Sweffling Tennis Club extends its welcome to all and hopes in 2018 to increase the use of this great local facility. New members are very welcome. For more details please contact Steve Ashurst (663232), Sue Rusack (663496) or Lynda Newson (663325).



The Annual Fun Day and BBQ will be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May between



12-4pm on the Townlands Trust Meadow. Tennis, field games and BBQ. Come along and join in the fun. Bring whatever you would like to BBQ, salads and soft drinks provided.

Arrangements will be made for future coaching sessions, new members are very welcome, not to mention the gathering of the Rusty Rackets. For any further information please contact Sue Rusack (663496).

## Vandalism in Sweffling

There has been an outbreak of vandalism in the village. Glass in the old telephone box has been smashed, heads have been pulled off daffodil bulbs or stems broken and tree branches have been snapped. Could everyone please keep a watchful eye to ensure that this does not continue.

Please contact the Chairman of the Parish Council, John Stanley, if you become aware of any further wanton damage. The matter has been reported to the police.

### English Around The World

#### *Cocktail lounge, Norway:*

LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR.

#### *At a Budapest zoo:*

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUITABLE FOOD, GIVE IT TO THE GUARD ON DUTY.

#### *Doctors office, Rome:*

SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES.

# Dates in May+

Sat 05 May	19:30	Sweffling Church. "Five-in-a-Bar" Concert
Sun 06 May	09:30	Sweffling Holy Communion with the Rev. Martin Percival
Tue 08 May	19:00	Parish Council Meeting in the Hut
Sun 13 May	09:30	Rendham Morning prayer with Mr. Rupert Wallis
Sun 20 May	09:30	Sweffling Holy Communion with Bishop Mike
Sun 27 May	09:30	Rendham Holy Communion with the Rev. Martin Percival
Sun 03 Jun	09:30	Sweffling Holy Communion with the Rev. Martin Percival

### *Hotel, Acapulco:*

THE MANAGER HAS PERSONALLY PASSED ALL THE WATER SERVED HERE.

### *Car rental brochure, Tokyo:*

WHEN PASSENGER OF FOOT HEAVE IN SIGHT, TOOTLE THE HORN. TRUMPET HIM MELODIOUSLY AT FIRST, BUT IF HE STILL OBSTACLES YOUR PASSAGE THEN TOOTLE HIM WITH VIGOR.

### *Dry cleaner's, Bangkok:*

DROP YOUR TROUSERS HERE FOR THE BEST RESULTS.

### *Sign in men's rest room in Japan:*

TO STOP LEAK TURN COCK TO THE RIGHT.

### *In a Nairobi restaurant:*

CUSTOMERS WHO FIND OUR WAITRESSES RUDE OUGHT TO SEE THE MANAGER.

### *On a poster at Kencom:*

ARE YOU AN ADULT THAT CANNOT READ? IF SO, WE CAN HELP.

### *In a City restaurant:*

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AND WEEKENDS.

### *In a cemetery:*

PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING FLOWERS FROM ANY BUT THEIR OWN GRAVES.

### *On the menu of a Swiss restaurant:*

OUR WINES LEAVE YOU NOTHING TO HOPE FOR.

### *In a Tokyo bar:*

SPECIAL COCKTAILS FOR THE LADIES WITH NUTS.

### *Hotel lobby, Bucharest:*

THE LIFT IS BEING FIXED FOR THE NEXT DAY. DURING THAT TIME WE REGRET THAT YOU WILL BE UNBEARABLE.

Items can be placed in **THE BRIDGE** and on the Village Website by sending an email to [sweffling@outlook.com](mailto:sweffling@outlook.com)

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