

THE BRIDGE

July 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

Something for all the family

Sweffling Fete: Saturday 18th August 1-4pm on the Townland Meadow

Fun Dog Show
(details inside)



Traditional stalls and sideshows

Bouncy Castle

Games for all ages



Face painting

Tractor Rides



BBQ lunches

Homemade teas

Beer tent with skittle alley

Pimms

Ice creams



Grand Draw at 3.30pm



Make it a full afternoon of fun, food and laughter with friends.

In aid of St Mary's Church and Village Amenities and to benefit our village.

Charity no: 269437

From the Reverend Martin Percival

The late snows of winter now seem a distant memory as I write this page on a beautiful summer morning. I am definitely a summer person. Sunshine, warmth and light make me feel glad to be alive. It can never be too hot.

The differences in the seasons can be reflected in our spiritual lives too. There can be times

when the journey of faith seems quite a struggle. Those episodes that are more than the occasional "off" day but long periods when everything seems dull, dark and depressing and little appears to be going right with one obstacle piling upon another blocking out any glimpse of the road ahead.

Such bleak times are not confined to spiritual lightweights. The Bible tells us of the occasion when the great prophet Elijah

was in the darkest of depths. Elijah was in opposition to Ahab, King of Israel, who had turned from the ways and worship of God to the pagan deity Baal. Elijah was in fear for his life and had fled to the wilderness where he prayed for death. He had no more energy in his body. He had no passion left in his soul. He felt alone and isolated. He had had enough.

The Lord heard his prayer and answered but not in the way that Elijah expected. Elijah was given what God knew he needed. Time to rest and recover in body and in spirit. Then, after his journey of 'forty days and forty nights' he eventually came to Mount Horeb where God spoke to him. Not in the wind, earthquake or fire but in a still, small voice. God's voice telling him what was to be done and who was to help him to do it. Energised and enthusiastic once more, Elijah obeyed.

I hope that you are enjoying the longer, warmer days. I hope that you are full of energy and enthusiasm for what God has planned for you, for our congregations and for the wider community. If, however, your spirits are flagging and your efforts seem to be ineffective and



unappreciated turn, as Elijah did even in despair, to God. Turn to God with your prayers and he will answer. Turn to God and he will provide exactly what you need, whether it is some time out or a friend to share your burden or simply to know that you are not on your own. This is not an empty promise. This is something really worth believing and celebrating.

Fun dog show

Sweffling Fete
18th August 1-4 pm.

Open to all dogs, pedigree and crossbreeds. Come and have fun with your dog—lots of rosettes and goodies to be won. 

Entries from 1pm judging from 2pm. £1.50 per class. 4 for £5.00.

Best pedigree

Best crossbreed

Best condition

Best puppy (must be under 12 months)

Golden oldie (8 years and over)

Dog with waggiest tail

Child's best friend (child handling dog must be under 14years)

Lovely lady

Fabulous fella

Multiple dogs (2 or more)

Best rescue

Dog judge would like to take home
Best in show (all 12 winners from previous classes to compete)

All dogs must be kept on lead.
Please clean up after your dog

Use the 121 Bus Service



A reminder that the 121 bus calls at Sweffling on the first Tuesday of each month 9.57 outside the church in The Street; picking up passengers through the village.

The route goes to Woodbridge and on to Ipswich, returning from the Cattle Market at 13.40

Next Dates: Tuesday 3rd July & Tuesday 7th August

This service relies on passengers supporting regularly and is in danger of being cut if support falls.

Jill Abbott

Very many congratulations

...to Jonathan Stevens who has successfully completed his BA (architecture) at the University of the Arts, Norwich, gaining a first-class honours degree. He has also been awarded the Vice-Chancellor's prize for the high standard of his work.



The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (SHCT)

Sponsored Ride and Stride day will take place this year on Saturday, September 8th,



between 9am and 5pm. The aim of the day is to encourage cyclists or walkers to visit as many of our beautiful Suffolk churches as possible, and to be sponsored for doing so. Half the money raised goes the SHCT, who use the funds to provide grants for the repairs and/or refurbishment of churches in need, the other half is returned to the church nominated by the cyclists/walkers. Last year Richard Stevens rode on behalf of Sweffling Church, but we would like to encourage many more people to take part. If you need an excuse for a day out in the Suffolk countryside this is it! Why not cycle or walk as a family? Each church is manned, so that visitors can be logged in. Most provide refreshments, and many have toilet facilities. If you would like a sponsor form and a list of churches that will be open, in order to plan your route, please contact Sheila Tesh (663518). If you cannot actively take part but would like to help by sitting in church for a period to greet visitors, please also contact Sheila, as she will be drawing up

a rota for this. You can even be sponsored for sitting in church! If you cannot take part but would like to sponsor someone, please look for the list of participants in the next edition of The Bridge.

Pilgrimage to Peterborough Cathedral



Regrettably the Pilgrimage to Peterborough, planned for August 23rd, has had to be cancelled. The Rev. Olanczuk had booked a large coach, based upon numbers in previous years, but this year numbers are down and the coach company does not have a smaller coach available on that day. Any one who has already paid will receive a full refund.

Thank You, Sweffling Village

Diana Smith writes:

"I want to say a very big thank you to all the people who have done so much for me by helping in the garden and visiting me. I am much better now ... but still room for improvement. I hope it won't be too long before I can get back to how I was before.



With very best wishes to you all."



Together with this month's Bridge, you should have received an envelope...

PLEASE SUPPORT...

Sweffling Fete

**Saturday
August 18th
1-4 pm**

Enclosed are 4 books of draw tickets for you to sell to family and friends - 20 chances to win quality prizes.

Each book has 5 x 50p tickets = £2.50 — 4 books = £10

Please use this envelope to return money and counterfoils to:

Adrian Kinsey ['Lagh Logan', The Street 664085] or
Pam Fagan ['Culvercote' Glemham Road 664093] or
bring them to the Fete on the day (before 3pm.)



Thank You



Interregnum news

There have been two applicants for the half-time post of Priest-in Charge of the Upper Alde Benefice. The candidates will be visiting Sweffling on the afternoon of Monday, July 23rd between 4pm and 5pm and interviews for the position will take place on Tuesday, July 24th.

6 WEEKS TO GO!

Sweffling Fete - needs your support

Requests from Stallholders for delivery of goods prior to the fete:

Books

Paperbacks and hardbacks, fiction and non-fiction including children's books. Please start collecting but don't deliver until August - details in the next Bridge.

Bric-a-brac

Caroline Weatherby would like good quality, clean bric-a-brac including china and glass. Please deliver to Holly Bank, The Street. 664112

Bottle Tombola

Mary & Anthony Wilkinson would like new bottles of all shapes and sizes : drinks, food, beauty preparations etc. for their bottle tombola which will give a prize every time. Please deliver to Wayside, Glemham Road 663256

Cakes

Pam Fagan would like cakes, cookies, pastries or pies to her house just before the event or to the field on the day. Culvercote, Glemham Road, 664093

Clothes

Sue Smith would like nice quality, clean clothes, handbags and shoes to be delivered to her house, (can be left in the porch). You can also bring items to the fete on the day.

Corner House, Rectory Road, Sweffling

Jewellery

Hannah would like all types of jewellery, plus jewellery boxes/ pouches and accessories such as scarves, belts and hair decorations.

Please take to Jill Abbott at Dernford Barn, Glemham Road - phone first 663402

Preserves and Produce

Please bring fresh produce to Julia and Kirstin's stall on the day.

Prize Draw

Monica Petzel 07775676185 or Sharon Chin 663203 would like offers of prizes especially from local businesses in return for a mention on the day. Please return ticket counterfoils, with money and any unsold tickets preferably before 18th August, or to the fete on the day.

Many have already generously volunteered their time and talents and the programme of events, stalls and sideshows is

shaping up nicely. If you would like to be involved in any way please contact the co-ordinator. There are several jobs still to fill for example putting up gazebos early on the day; running a children's game; selling tickets for a 50:50 draw and more. Please contact Jill Abbott 663402

NATURE NOTES

The internet is well named. Being a net, it is full of holes, through which fell last month's Nature Notes. Apologies to any regular readers.

The churchyard in Sweffling is one of our most important and interesting habitats. In spring there was a fine show of flowers which I hope people noticed. Although not in themselves spectacular (such as the Orchids at Cransford), many of these are plants which are found no-where else in the parish. As in many other villages, the vegetation of the churchyard probably goes back to the Middle Ages and beyond, and represents a habitat (in our case short ancient grassland on a sandy soil) which has now disappeared in the rest of our local countryside. Other grassland, apart from a few roadside verges, has been improved by fertilisation, and the introduction of more productive grasses for the benefit of grazing or haymaking, and most of the

original flora lost. I consider that such a site, apart from its obvious function as a churchyard, has an enormous value, and should be treasured and maintained.

The trouble with this is that the area may sometimes look untidy and unmanaged. By now, in July, the churchyard has lost most of its earlier spring flowers, (which I hope to talk about next spring) and is mostly dominated by the grasses. There are still interesting plants to be found, such as Ox-eye Daisies and the delicate yellow Ladies' Bedstraw, but leaving it completely uncut would be to the detriment of the plants for next year. Hence the occasional mowing that the PCC go in for. There will be a cut in mid-July, followed by another in early winter so that the site is tidy and the vegetation short for next spring. Apologies to all the neighbours for the noise, especially of strimmers! By cutting to this schedule while avoiding excessive 'manicuring' we hope to have the best of both worlds.

Not only many of our native plants benefit. A number of butterflies whose caterpillars feed on grasses; Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Ringlet will be seen here. Other butterflies such as Common Blue (Bird's Foot Trefoil) and Small Copper (wild Sorrel) also find their food plants here.



It's Dragonfly time again around the pond, with several of the bright blue or red Damselfies appearing first, followed by a common Dragonfly, the pale blue Broad Bodied Chaser. On warm days as early as May I watched some of these emerging from the larvae which climb out of the water up the stem of a Rush. The back of the larva case splits open, and the adult Dragonfly pulls itself out, wings and all. At first it is limp and helpless, with straggly wings, but gradually the body fills

out and the wings expand. This takes a few hours, but then the fully formed insect can fly, lacking only the final colour which takes a couple of days to develop. The largest and most spectacular Dragonfly of all, the Emperor, which is a brilliant electric blue, is also here. Although normally associated with larger ponds and lakes, it does sometimes find a home around garden ponds.

Geoffrey Abbott



Dates in July+

Sun 01 Jul	9:30am Sweffling Holy Communion with the Rev. Martin Percival
Sat 07 Jul	12:30-4 Rendham Village Fete
Sun 08 Jul	9:30am Rendham Morning Prayer
Sun 15 Jul	9:30am Sweffling Morning Prayer
Sun 22 Jul	9:30am Rendham Holy Communion with the Rev. Martin Percival
Sun 29 Jul	10am Benefice Holy Communion in Cransford
Sun 05 Aug	9:30am Sweffling Holy Communion with the Rev. Martin Percival
Sat 18 Aug	1-4pm Sweffling Fete

English as a foreign language...

The bandage was wound around the wound.

The farm was used to produce produce.

The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.

We must polish the Polish furniture.

The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.

Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.

At the Army base, a bass was painted on the head of a bass drum.

When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.

I spent last evening evening out a pile of dirt.

The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.

They were too close to the door to close it.

The buck does funny things when the does are present.

A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.

To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.

The wind was too strong to wind the sail.

After a number of Novocain injections, my jaw got number.

Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

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.