

**For church matters please contact the churchwardens:  
Geoffrey Abbott (663402) or John Tesh (663518)**

## **THE BRIDGE**

**April/May 2024**

**Church and Village magazine for Sweffling**

**Village website: [www.sweffling.onesuffolk.net](http://www.sweffling.onesuffolk.net)**



On Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup>, at a service in Dennington Church, the Benefice said a formal goodbye to the Rev. Martin and Mrs Linda Percival. Martin served as Priest in charge of our Benefice since 2017/8 and Dennington church was packed with family and friends, and parishioners from all six churches wishing to say thank you to Martin for his ministry and to him and Linda for their pastoral care. Each church had contributed towards a leaving gift of a voucher for a hotel stay of their choice and for flowers and an art book for Linda, painting being one of her hobbies. After the service everyone enjoyed a glass of wine or juice and delicious savoury and sweet finger food provided by the parishes. We will

very much miss their regular presence in our parishes but, as they still live locally, we will still meet them as friends. We wish them every blessing and happiness as they start the next phase of their lives.

### **Thank you from Martin and Linda:**

We have returned from our break in Oxfordshire and would like to thank everyone for their support over my time as part time Priest-in-Charge and also at my final service at Dennington. It was so good to see such a large congregation.

Linda and I were really surprised and most grateful for the very kind gift of a holiday voucher and the flowers and book. We have arranged a three-day break in Worcestershire in June around the time of our wedding anniversary. *Martin*

### **Update on Interregnum**

On Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, the first of the official meetings leading up to advertising the vacant position of Priest-in-Charge of the Benefice, was held in Bruisyard Village Hall. The Rural Dean, the deputy Rural Dean and the Lay Chairman of Loes Deanery, and the Churchwardens, members of the PCCs and congregations of the six churches were present. The meeting was held to clarify what the parishes would like, or could afford, for a new incumbent. Following on from this, a second meeting will be held on April 4<sup>th</sup> with the Archdeacon, the Rural Dean and Churchwardens, in order to further this process. In the meantime, each parish is responsible for organising clergy, lay readers or elders to cover their own services. As it is not possible at this time to ascertain how long the interregnum will last, a list of Sweffling services through until September 2024, together with those taking the services, is printed on page 7 of this edition of The Bridge.

### **Easter Message:**

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus met with his disciples for what was their Last Supper. In humility and love he washed his disciples' feet. He really was the Servant King. Jesus knew what lay ahead of him and he prepared his friends. Later he was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane by Roman Guards and on Good Friday, following his trial, the crowds called for him to be crucified! He died on the cross, next to two thieves.

The light seemed to have gone out. The hope of the world seemed to have been taken away.

To many today it may seem that the light of our nation has dimmed. However, Easter Day brings both light and hope to us all. It is the day when God raised Jesus from the dead. The Resurrection story reminds us that God defeated both sin and death as His Son was raised in glory from the dead. Light and hope returned to the hearts of the disciples and we are all reminded that God knows us all by name and welcomes all the departed with the Easter promise of eternal life.

This Easter, live in the light and hope of the Resurrection story and be light and hope in your local community, to your neighbours and families and friends. Be light and hope to those in need and try to follow Christ's example of being a servant to all.

*(abridged from an Easter message from the Vicar of St. Peter's Church, Sherringham)*

### **Easter Sunday Service and Lily Festival**

**March 31<sup>st</sup> is Easter Sunday**, and as it is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month there will be a Benefice Service of Holy Communion **at 10.00 a.m. in Sweffling**. The service will be conducted by the Rural Dean, the Rev. Chris Davey, who is Rector of Framlingham.

**EVERYONE** is invited to this Festival Service, for which the church will be decorated with lilies, each given in memory of a family member or friend.

Please see back page for of the Bridge for details for the lilies. Each lily will cost £4.00.

Please give the names of those to be remembered together with the money for the lilies to Diana Smith (663578) or Sheila Tesh (663518).

### **Obituary**

It is with tremendous sadness that we record the death of Zoe Harold (nee Lummis) at Ipswich Hospital on February 25<sup>th</sup> 2024, having been diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) in January 2024. Zoe grew up in Sweffling, with her parents, Audrey and Rob, and brother Zak. Zoe did a pre-nursing course at Suffolk College, followed by a three-year nursing course at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, where she then worked for many years. Latterly she worked as a teaching assistant at Sir Robert Hitchams Primary School in Framlingham. She met her future husband, Gavin, when she was 16 and he was 17 and they were together for almost 38 years. They had three children, Matthew, Amy and George. Zoe was an extremely caring person, always smiling and ready to help. She was held in affection by so many people and impacted so many lives, as evidenced by the fact that between 250 and 300 people attended her funeral service at Seven Hills crematorium on March 11<sup>th</sup>. We send our deepest condolences and prayers to Audrey, Zak, Gavin and family. Zoe will be greatly missed.

Zoe's family have set up a fund-raising page with JustGiving for "Cure CJD", a disease for which there is currently no treatment. If you would like to donate, type "Amy Harold" into the JustGiving search box and take it from there.

### Parish Council News:

Meetings of the Sweffling Parish Council were held in Sweffling Hut on 13<sup>th</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024. At the start of the March meeting the chairman asked the council to stand in silence, in support of Cllr. Audrey Lummis and in memory of her daughter Zoe, whose funeral was the previous day.

For both meetings reports were received from the District Councillors. The main items for discussion at both meetings were reports regarding flooding in the village, maintenance of the Jubilee field and financial statements. Minutes from both meetings have been posted on the Parish Council notice board.

For the February meeting Cllr. Ashurst had prepared an interim report of the situation in the village following the October 2023 floods, and a copy of this report has been posted on the Parish Council notice Board. Cllr. Ashurst has sent this update for The Bridge:

Following the flooding in October last year there has been an increased focus in the village to understand the cause and potential to protect ourselves from future flooding. As part of this, there have been a number of activities taking place and many remain on-going:

- Attending the Framlingham flood meeting (January 20th) - given the damage that Framlingham suffered the town Council invested in a consultant to advise on the cause of the flooding and potential best practice to avoid damage in the future. In conjunction with this, an open meeting was scheduled which gave the town the opportunity to hear from and question a panel of representatives from the Environment Agency, The Highways Department, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the County Council Flood Management team and local councillors from all parties. The extent of the damage in Framlingham was more extensive but appeared to be similar in nature to that experience in Sweffling.
- Village 'walk around' - a group from the village have looked at all the areas in the village which suffered damage and the potential cause of flooding to better understand what work could be undertaken to prevent flooding in the future - this is happening more frequently and doesn't need to be of the order of magnitude of Storm Babet to cause issues.
- Engagement with local landowners to understand what issues they are seeing and measures they could take to help the village.

This is very much work in progress and the next steps include a joint meeting with representatives of the Environment Agency, The Highways Department, local land owners and members of the village to understand what work is required, ownership and what, if any, work could be undertaken by the village itself.

Updates on this activity will be provided in the minutes of the Parish Council meetings.

### Jubilee Field Update:

The field has received its first cut in March 2024 by the same contractor as last year. At this stage of the agreed maintenance cycle all of the field was mown. Following this cut, the designated wild flower areas will not be mown again to allow the flowers to grow, bloom and seed. After the flowers have seeded these areas will again be cut together with the rest of the field. During this time, the centre of the field and the equipment areas will continue to be mown.

Steve Ashurst and a small band of helpers have been planting/replanting trees along the boundary on the south side of the Jubilee field. Hopefully this year, with the ground being

wet at the time of planting, the success rate of the new plantings will be good. Many thanks to everyone who has helped in any way.

Steve, wearing his parish council hat, has taken over responsibility for the Jubilee field, so if you can offer any help or have any questions, please contact [ashurst.stephen@talk21.com](mailto:ashurst.stephen@talk21.com)

The annual inspection of the fitness and play equipment on the field has been carried out and everything was found to be satisfactory.

### Sweffling White Horse Bowls Club:

Our season starts on Tuesday 23rd April, St George's Day, and runs through until early September. This year we will be playing in Division 1 of the Woodbridge League and Division 2 in the Saxmundham League. We also compete in the Fynn Trophy and various Cup competitions throughout the season. So, there are opportunities for players at different levels and abilities.

We will be running an Open Weekend on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th April. Come along if you wish to try Lawn Bowls for the first time or if you would like to return to the sport. The green will be open from 10am on those two days and some players will be available to assist. You do not need any special equipment except flat shoes. Heels are not allowed on the green.

More information can be obtained from our Secretary, John Stanley on 01728 664073, or 07484793594, or at [arthurjohnstanley@gmail.com](mailto:arthurjohnstanley@gmail.com)

**Sweffling Tennis Club** is a thriving community tennis club, and welcomes new members from Sweffling, Rendham and surrounding villages.

The annual BBQ will be on Friday 31st May from late afternoon. Details will be circulated nearer the time. There will be a tennis coach for the first two hours, who will initially focus on younger members, so any children who would like to take up, or improve their tennis, do come along and get some free tuition. If you are not a member and would like a taster session please contact Sue Rusack.

All information and membership forms are available from Sue Rusack at [SueRyderR@rusack.myzen.co.uk](mailto:SueRyderR@rusack.myzen.co.uk).

### “Men at Work” Group

The inaugural meeting of the 'Men at Work' group kicked off with a Sherry and Tapas evening at The Hut on Wed 28<sup>th</sup> February, attended by twelve locals. Four very different varieties of Sherry were sampled along with Tapas including Serano ham, chorizo, olives and Manchego cheese with breadsticks. An illustrated talk on relevant points of interest was given before the tasting. It was a very enjoyable evening.



The group plans to meet again on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m. for a Wine & Cheese night. Prior booking is essential by contacting Mike Smithson at [mikesmithson.ms@gmail.com](mailto:mikesmithson.ms@gmail.com) or by phone on 07753 825938. Also see the village website and facebook postings.



## Nature Notes. April - May

What an extraordinary start to the year we have had! February has broken all records for temperature and rainfall, so that spring flowers, both in gardens and in the wild, have been amazingly early. At the time of writing there are already masses of Primroses in the roadside verges and ditches around the village. Later on in April and May there will be Cowslips in many of the same places, but I expect that again they will be very early.

Celandines are another harbinger of spring, again flowering sooner than usual, with the flowers opening wide on sunny days. There are plenty of them along the roadsides through the village, especially along the Gull near the Village Hut, where the banks are quite damp (some nearby residents might say that that is a considerable understatement!). A close relative of the Celandine is the Kingcup, or Marsh Marigold – a misnomer, as it is really a member of the Buttercup family. These are not common in Sweffling, but are abundant and spectacular in the wet ditches



below Dodd's Wood.

Insects, too, have been appearing very early, some coming out of Hibernation already. By late February we had seen several different bumblebees, as well as Peacock and Brimstone butterflies, on warm, sunny days. The other early species to watch for are Comma and Small Tortoiseshell. My favourite spring insect is the Bee Fly, a fat, furry, ginger hoverfly which looks remarkably like a bumblebee. Watch for it hovering low over early flowers, especially Pulmonaria, with its long sucking tongue sticking straight out in front of it.

I think that this weather will also have speeded up the arrival



of some of the migrant birds. I am predicting that we will hear the first Chiffchaffs before the end of March. These birds mostly winter around the Mediterranean, and so have less far to travel than the other migrants. They have also had Southerly winds lately, which will probably help them along. Listen out for the very distinctive 'chiff-chaff' song, from a tiny, slim, pale brown bird. They sing from high in a tree, especially from a dead

branch, and can be found in any of the local woods, and along the street through the village.

The bird-feeders in the garden are still pretty busy. On the Nyger seed, which always attracts a number of Goldfinches, we have seen in the past some of the small finches, Redpolls and Siskins. For a couple of years these have not turned up, but in early March a neighbour told me that he had seen some Siskins. Sure enough, a week later a pair appeared on the Nyger seed. The male was getting into his breeding colours, green and



bright yellow with a neat black cap. These may be winter visitors, or staying to breed in the Sandlings forests.

*Geoffrey Abbott*

## Sweffling Hut Events

**Chat and Craft – change of dates:** The first Monday of the month 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon is normally the regular booking for “Chat and Craft with Cake”. However, as April 1<sup>st</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> are both Bank Holidays, the dates for these months have been moved back to April 8<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>. Bring your own craft or just come for a chat - ALL WELCOME.

## Swapshops are back!!

**Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12.30 with a plants and garden paraphernalia Swapshop.** For example: split perennials in newspaper or pots, potted annuals, house plants, seeds, produce etc.. There will be a separate swapping category for garden tools or more valuable items. Bring your own goods to swap before 11.00 a.m. Receive a ticket for each item. When time is called at 11.15 a.m. you can exchange for things you really want.

Hot and cold drinks and luscious cakes will be on sale whilst you wait and chat.

**Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – 2024 Fete Planning Meeting 7.00 p.m. at the Hut** (see below)

**The Rural Coffee Caravan visits Sweffling Hut every 4th Wednesday of the month.**

**Next visits are April 24<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon**

If you would like the opportunity for some company and a catch-up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake, come and visit. There is a great source of information, should you need it, plus free refreshments.

For more information e-mail <[info@ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk](mailto:info@ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk)> or phone 01379 855338

**Friday May 25<sup>th</sup>, 7.00 p.m., Blues Night at the Hut**

An exciting performance by experienced local. Rock and blues performers with a light supper. Details to be published later. All proceeds in aid of Hut Funds.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Summer Stuff Swap Shop**

**ADVANCE NOTICE , more information to follow.**

For events and the Sweffling Calendar go to the village website, [sweffling.onesuffolk.net](http://sweffling.onesuffolk.net) Look out for the new Spring/Summer Hut Events programme delivered to your door after Easter.

## SWEFFLING FETE PLANNING MEETING

**Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>, Sweffling Hut, 7.00 p.m.**

**All welcome for drinks and snacks for an informal chat about ideas and plans for Sweffling Fete to be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August. Please come and show your support.**

## Update on Macmillan Coffee Morning, held in September 30<sup>th</sup> 2023

Lynda Newson writes: I am very pleased to report that I managed to obtain some matched funding for the Coffee Morning in the amount of £750.00, which brings the total raised last year to £1,521.15.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way

## MEMORIAL GARDEN – HELP WANTED

We are looking for folk willing to join our team of grasscutters. Normally volunteers work in pairs, taking on the task just one month each season. If you think you are able to help us to keep the garden looking beautiful, please contact Pam on 01728 664093 or Diana on 01728 663578. Thank you very much.

## Sweffling Bygones Museum Open Day Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> 11.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

Vintage and Classic Cars	Tractors
Stationary Engines	Motorbikes and Auto Cycles
Display of Push Bikes.	Household bygones
Traditional Music Players	The Spinners and Ruggers
Private exhibitions and demonstrations.	1900's Working Kitchen
Horticultural and Agricultural Bygones.	Light Refreshments

Admission Free but collections for East Anglian Air Ambulance  
All exhibits subject to availability

## SWEFFLING CHURCH SERVICES DURING INTERREGNUM APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2024, FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS

Date	Time	Service	Conducted by
March 31st	10.00 a.m.	<b>EASTER SUNDAY and LILY FESTIVAL</b> <b>Benefice Holy Communion</b>	The Rural Dean
April 7th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	The Rev. Deidre West
April 21st	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Prof. John Tesh
May 5th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	The Archdeacon of Suffolk
May 19th	9.30 a.m.	Morning prayer	Prof. John Tesh
June 2nd	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Bishop Mike
June 16th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Prof. John Tesh
June 30th	10.00 a.m.	<b>Benefice Holy Communion</b> <b>Badingham</b>	To be confirmed
July 7th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	The Rev. Deidre West
July 21st	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	Prof. John Tesh
August 4th	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	The Archdeacon of Suffolk
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	To be confirmed
September 1st	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	The Rev. Deidre West
September 15th	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer	To be confirmed

St. Michael's Church, Rendham, have Morning Prayer on the second Sunday in each month and Holy Communion on the fourth Sunday of each month, all at 9.30 a.m.



**EASTER LILIES:** At Easter we will again be having lilies, each one given in memory of family and friends. Their names will be written on a memorial scroll, which will be read out at the service on Easter Day. If you would like to order a lily or lilies, please contact Diana Smith (663578) or Sheila Tesh (663518) by March 25th, or as soon as possible afterwards, as the lilies have to be ordered in good time in order to be open by Easter Day. Each lily will cost £4.00. Please give the names of those to be remembered together with the money for the lilies. The church will be open on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday (10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.) to enjoy the lilies and remember our loved ones.

## ALDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL SATURDAY APRIL 6<sup>th</sup> SWEFFLING HUT

Exhibits to the Hut from 9.00-10.00am,  
Judging from 10.00am.  
Entry forms in village halls and on village websites.  
Show opens at 2.00pm. Entry £1 (includes tea/coffee)  
Under 12s free.  
Presentation of cups at 3.00pm followed by Raffle.  
Any enquiries ring Lynda on 663325



## Phoenix singers

**Saturday, 11 May 2024, 7.30pm**  
**Snape Maltings Concert Hall**



**Ralph Vaughan Williams**

## A SEA SYMPHONY

**with Beccles Choral Society and Lambeth Orchestra**

Tickets: £20, £25 and £28 from choir members,  
[phoenixsingers@outlook.com](mailto:phoenixsingers@outlook.com), Snape Maltings box office,  
01728 687110, and [brittenpearsarts.org/whats-on](http://brittenpearsarts.org/whats-on).  
reg. charity no. 1076549

Please e-mail any news items, events or short literary items for consideration for inclusion in the April/May edition to [john.tesh@talk21.com](mailto:john.tesh@talk21.com) before March 12th. The editors welcome contributions for The Bridge but reserve the right to edit. Accuracy of the content is the responsibility of the submitter. We are limited to 8 pages and so may not be able to publish everything we receive. Dated items of village interest will be given priority. Please include your name and contact details in case we need to get in touch. **The Bridge is sponsored by St. Mary's Church and is delivered free to all houses in the Village.**