

# THE BRIDGE April/May 2025

## Church and Village magazine for Sweffling

Village website: [sweffling@onesuffolk.net](mailto:sweffling@onesuffolk.net),

The Rev. Claire Kiddy, [revclairekiddy@gmail.com](mailto:revclairekiddy@gmail.com), Tel: 07469 718695



Easter is the oldest and most important festival in the Church's year, when we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a moveable feast and is held in the Western Church between 21 March and 25 April, on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the northern spring equinox. Until 663AD, the various branches of the Christian church had disputed when Easter should be celebrated,

but at the Synod of Whitby held between 663 and 664, it was agreed that the date of Easter would be calculated using the above method, as used by the Roman Church. Eastern Orthodox Easter is celebrated approximately one month later, based upon the Gregorian calendar. This year, Easter Sunday falls on one of the latest dates possible, the latest being April 25<sup>th</sup>. In 2026, Easter Sunday will move forward to April 5<sup>th</sup>. Whatever the date, we are reminded of the new life that Christ offers, in secular symbolism of eggs, chicks, lambs and baby rabbits, as well as seeing new life springing up all around us in nature.

### REVD. CLAIRE WRITES:

Today the sun is shining, the birds are singing and daffodil buds are opening to reveal their golden trumpets. I hope the same can be said when you read this in April! Spring really does seem to lift the spirit, days are longer and signs of new life are everywhere.

Lent mirrors rather well the season of winter turning to spring. We begin Lent with a reminder of our own mortality, that we are here just for a season and that to enjoy the life to come we are reliant on God. So Lent begins in quite a dark, bare place, rather like winter, but transformation takes place through Lenten disciplines, and new life emerges in us. Turning our focus towards God, the Creator of all that is, reminds us of the part we play in his creation and the consequences of our sinfulness.

Humankind failed to believe that Jesus came to turn people back into a right relationship with God. After three years of ministry on earth, in a time of political turmoil, fear, and disbelief, Jesus was crucified, died and was buried. Good Friday was the darkest of days, but out of it new life burst from the tomb, Jesus overcame death and rose to new life, bringing resurrection life and hope for all who turn to him. This light and life we see bursting forth in the season of spring. The celebration of Easter lasts right up until Pentecost/Whitsun which this year is June 1<sup>st</sup>, so plenty of time to enjoy Easter eggs!

I appreciate not everyone will be celebrating the Christian festival of Easter but I suspect, if the sun is shining during the Easter weekend, people will be full of the joys of spring. The warmer weather and longer days mean we can all enjoy the great outdoors, and how lucky we are to have the beautiful Suffolk countryside on our doorstep. *Revd Claire*

### LENT STUDY COURSE:

The Lent Group began on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm at the Rectory in Orchard Rise, Badingham and comprises five sessions. Dates in April are 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The York Course entitled "The Sacraments – Responding to God's loving invitation", is being used, which has been written by Dr Jane Williams, one of the founders of St Mellitus College. Each session lasts for an hour during which time we listen to an audio recording which prompts our discussions and reflections on the questions posed. If you would like to come, please let Rev. Claire know. If you haven't been so far, you are very welcome to join the group for any or all the remaining sessions.

### ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING (ACM) AND CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLE

The ACM will be held in church on Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Every 5 years the Electoral Roll for St. Mary's Church, Sweffling has to be revised. If you would like to be included on the Roll, which entitles you to vote on matters affecting the church in our village, forms can be obtained from Sheila Tesh (663518). If you are already on the Roll, Sheila will ensure that you receive a form. All forms have to be completed before the Annual Church Meeting.

### EASTER MEMORIAL LILY FESTIVAL, Sweffling, Weekend of April 20<sup>th</sup>.



At Easter we will again be having lilies given in memory of family and friends. Please see back page of the Bridge for details. 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) by April 7<sup>th</sup>, so that the lilies can be ordered, delivered and be in full bloom by Easter.

Details of the Church Services Sweffling and in the Benefice during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday can be found later in The Bridge.

### ACC SPRING FLOWER SHOW

We are planning to hold the Spring Flower Show in Sweffling Hut on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Exhibits to the hut between 9.00 and 10.00am. Judging at 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. No previous experience necessary; new exhibitors welcome. Enquiries, ring Lynda on 663325

### VILLAGE LITTER PICK

In order to make our village even more beautiful than it is, the annual village litter pick will take place on the morning of Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>. Audrey Lummis will be at Sweffling Hut from 10.00 a.m. and will have supplies of the necessary equipment, so that litter can be picked hygienically. She will also take note of which roads people will volunteer to clear of rubbish. However, if you cannot make that morning, please feel free to clear a stretch of the village whenever it is convenient, and let Audrey know, so that the clearing up is not duplicated. You can contact Audrey on 663465. Thank you.

### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The draft minutes of the meeting of the PC held on March 11<sup>th</sup> have been posted in the Village notice board at the end of Holden's Lane. Please consult these for detailed information of the proceedings. Matters discussed included traffic calming on the B1119

and through the village, flood management, Jubilee field and planning application for proposed campsite at the top of Holden's Lane.

Meetings are open to all village residents. The next meeting will be held in Sweffling Hut on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m. This will be the Annual Parish meeting at which all the various village organisations are invited to present a report of their past year's activities. It will be followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting. If you would like to request that an item be added to the agenda for this meeting, please contact the Parish Clerk, e-mail [sweffling.clerk@outlook.com](mailto:sweffling.clerk@outlook.com)

#### **VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL:**

There will be three vacancies for Parish Councillors during this year, due to relocation of current councillors. The Parish Council meets bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September and November, usually on the second Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. These are volunteer positions, but the smooth running of village matters is reliant upon the services of the councillors.

If you would like to consider doing something for our village by serving on the council, please contact the Parish Clerk, Peter Grogan, on [sweffling.clerk@outlook.com](mailto:sweffling.clerk@outlook.com) or the chairman, John Tesh, on [john.tesh@talk21.com](mailto:john.tesh@talk21.com) for more information.

#### **SWEFFLING WHITE HORSE BOWLS CLUB**

We are very fortunate in Sweffling to have a bowls green. Most of our members come from either Sweffling or Rendham but as other local villages do not have such a facility we are your local club for all the surrounding area.

Our season is due to start. We will have teams in both the Woodbridge and the Saxmundham Leagues and as well as cup competitions we will have a team in the Fynn Trophy for the 2025 season. Our first league game will be on Tuesday 22nd April away at Framlingham Castle. Our first home game will be on Tuesday 29th April against Laxfield and is due to start at 6.30pm. Come along to watch.

Last year we ran a couple of taster events for the youngsters and their parents that were gratefully supported by the ACC. We hope to run similar events this year. We are also arranging an Open Weekend on the 12th/13th April. Experienced players will be available to guide and coach new comers to the sport. All are welcome to this, you do not need special equipment as bowls will be provided all we ask is that you wear flat soled footwear as heels are not allowed on the green. Come along and give it a try. Lawn Green Bowling is a sport for all, any age or ability.

We are a small friendly club, the green is situated next to the Village Hut in Sweffling and we will always welcome new members. As we have teams in the three competitions we have opportunities for players of all abilities and those with no experience of bowls. For more information you can contact our Club Secretary, John Stanley by email at [arthurjohnstanley@gmail.com](mailto:arthurjohnstanley@gmail.com) or by phone on 01728664073 or his mobile 07484793594.

#### **SWEFFLING TENNIS CLUB**

The Sweffling Tennis club has its AGM on 31st March at the Sweffling White Horse. News and updates will be circulated to members after this and information posted on the board outside the court. Dates for events such as the BBQ or tennis evenings will be shared via Laura Parsons-Mann, and the tennis notice board so watch out for updates.

The club is thriving and welcomes new members young and 'older'! Please contact Sue Rusack 07904 088794 for information.

#### **LENT CHARITY SOUP LUNCH**



The Lent Soup Lunch, held in the Hut on March 15<sup>th</sup>, was a most enjoyable occasion. There were 10 delicious home-made soups from which to choose, ranging from pheasant and vegetable to smokey black bean and tomato. Plenty of vegetarian and gluten free options were available. There was no limit to the variety and quantity that one could have, although no-one managed to sample all 10 varieties!

Together with the proceeds from the raffle, the lunch raised £286 which has been sent to Tear Fund for famine relief. Thank you to everyone who helped by making soup, setting up the Hut and washing up, donating raffle prizes, and to those who supported the event.



#### **BRIDGE NATURE NOTES April – May 2025**



I heard my first Chiffchaff this year on the 7th of March. This was not in Sweffling, but not far away. The first in Sweffling was soon after, on 9<sup>th</sup>. You may remember that we were having an amazing spell of warm, sunny weather, so it felt right to have a lot of birdsong. Many of our resident birds were in good voice, especially a particularly fine Songthrush in the centre of the village, which attracted a lot of comment. Chiffchaffs are the first of our summer migrants to return, and it is normal to have them singing so early. They travel much less far than other species, about as far as the Mediterranean. Some, increasingly, may spend the whole

winter here. Although they are so small, roughly the size of a Bluetit, but slimmer and browner, they sing high in the twigs, and as the leaves are not yet out, they are much easier to see. There are always several in and around the village, singing all through the spring, so listen out for them

While the first Chiffchaffs were singing, there were still groups of Fieldfares 'chack-chacking' over the fields. It does seem a little odd to have this overlap in migrating species, but there are no strict dates, and this will always happen. Another first in the sunny spell was the bright yellow Brimstone butterfly. These always brighten up a spring day. These very yellow individuals are the males, which usually appear first. The females are duller, a yellowish white. Both have spent the winter hibernating, as adults, in the shelter of a thick bush such as Ivy, where the underside of the folded wing looks very like a yellow leaf. Brimstones are very strong fliers. They must do a





lot of travelling between the flowers they visit for nectar in our gardens and the caterpillar food plant where they lay their eggs. This is a shrub called Buckthorn, very scarce in Sweffling ( I have only found one in the wild here, although there may be a few in garden hedges ). Look out for these lovely butterflies through April, as well as the other colourful species which hibernate as adults - Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, and Comma.

Some spring wildflowers are very early and attract attention, such as Celandines. Look for



them alongside the ditches around the village. Primroses have also been showing for several weeks along many of our verges. A little later, by May, Bluebells are also a favourite – we do have some of the wild form in our hedges and verges, and in some of our small local woodlands. (There are good shows in some of the larger East Suffolk woods, such as Captain's Wood, near Sudbourne). In one of our local woods I was shown last year a population of perhaps the commonest of our woodland orchids, the Early Purple Orchid, which is sometimes found with Bluebells. This has a spike up to a foot high, with slightly loosely arranged orchid flowers of a red-purple

colour. We have relatively few orchids locally (there are a couple of species around the ponds in Pound Farm woods) so it is always a pleasure to see them, with their slightly exotic look. *Geoffrey Abbott*

#### **DEFIBRILLATOR IN SWEFFLING:**

The yellow defibrillator cabinet and defibrillator have now been installed at the entrance to Sweffling Hut car park. The cabinet is not locked, at the request of the British heart Foundation, so that everyone can access it if needed, 24 hours a day. Training is available online (BHF) and via any smart phone by scanning the QR code on the posters in the village notice board or the church porch. Leaflets giving more information and the QR code are available from Amanda's egg shed. For those who prefer to have group training, it is planned to hold a training morning, with coffee and cake, in Sweffling Hut, in conjunction with St. John's Ambulance Brigade, and we hope everyone who can do so will take advantage of the training. Details of the training will be on the village website and circulated around the village. **Please take up the training and make our community a more resilient one for the future.**

*Amanda Daniel*



#### **80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF V.E. DAY**

Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2025 is the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. It has been suggested that on or around this date towns and villages commemorate this occasion in some way.

We need to know whether Sweffling would be interested in joining the celebrations by holding, for example, a Bring and Share Tea Party, as for the coronation, on either Bank Holiday Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Weather permitting this could be on the Townland meadow, or in the Hut or pavilion if wet.

Could you please contact Sheila Tesh, as soon as possible, with your opinion about this – Yes or No. If positive, what, when and where it should be.

Tel. 01728 663518 or e-mail [john.tesh@talk21.com](mailto:john.tesh@talk21.com)

#### **HUT EVENTS:**

If you get this Bridge in time you can catch some events at the end of March.

**Wednesday March 26th 10 -12noon.**

**Rural Coffee Caravan** - free refreshments with a great source of information.

**Wednesday March 26th 7.30 - 9.30pm**

**FIRST OF FOUR ILLUSTRATED TALKS BY GEOFFREY ABBOTT: SWEFFLING WILDLIFE.**

Session 1 - Woods and Hedgerows.

£10 to include refreshments, (£25 for first 3 talks Mar/Apr, 4<sup>th</sup> talk free of charge)

Pay on the door.

**Saturday March 29th 10am -1pm.**

**Silk Dyeing Workshop - Tutor Liz Eaton.**

Drainpipe dyeing for a silk scarf or decorative fabric.

Cost £25 + charge for silk (different sizes and quality).

10 places - Booking essential - phone Liz 01728 663613

**Tuesday 1st April 2 - 4pm**

**iPad Session with Wendy Gilbert. £15 refreshments included.**

Baffled by new technology? Discover how to navigate apps, manage settings, and make your iPad work for you. This course will help you to use your iPad for communication, entertainment, and productivity. Wendy is a patient and friendly tutor who has been teaching basic digital life skills for many years.

**Wednesday April 2nd 7.30 - 9.30pm**

**ILLUSTRATED TALK by Geoffrey Abbott:Sweffling Wildlife.**

Session 2 - Rivers, ditches and ponds.

£10 to include refreshments, (£25 for all 3 talks Mar/Apr).

**Wednesday April 9th 7.30 - 9.30pm.**

**ILLUSTRATED TALK by Geoffrey Abbott: Sweffling Wildlife.**

Session 3 - Fields and verges, clay lands and sands.

Sweffling and the Sanderlings.

£10 to include refreshments, (£25 for all 3 talks Mar/Apr).

**Wednesday April 23rd 10 -12 noon.**

**Rural Coffee Caravan** free refreshments plus a great source of information.

**Tuesday April 29th 7.30 - 9.30pm.**

**ILLUSTRATED TALK by Geoffrey Abbott**

Session 4 - Wildlife in Our Gardens.

**FREE EVENT** - with refreshments (donations to the Hut).

**MAY/JUNE EVENTS AT THE HUT** will be published around Easter and delivered to your doors but save the date of the Blues Night - back by popular request:

**'The Blyth River Blues Band'** (same band - new name) Saturday 7th June 7pm.

#### **FUTURE OF THE SWEFFLING WHITE HORSE**

The future of the Village Pub is under discussion at the moment. Mark and Marie have owned the pub for the last 15 years and have built up a unique business but they are now

looking to move on. They have been trying to sell the pub and also the associated campsite for the last three years but they have had no success, so they are now exploring other ways to move forward. If you go to their website [www.swefflingwhitehorse.co.uk](http://www.swefflingwhitehorse.co.uk) you can read further information from Marie and also access a questionnaire which they urge you to complete as soon as possible, in order to assess the interest in keeping a pub within the village.

### COMMUNITY BUS – Picks up from your address

You may not be aware that there is a Community Bus Service, which is available for all residents of East Suffolk District Council area. Transport is provided Monday to Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the booking office is open 8.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can also book through the web site. Non-profit organisations can also hire their vehicles. The buses are labelled Communities Connect in yellow and the contact details are 01728 830516 or 01728 635938 to ask for the bus to call, and opening hours start at 8.45 a.m. The web site is still [www.cats-paws.co.uk](http://www.cats-paws.co.uk) and they are based on the Masterlord Industrial Estate in Leiston. The drivers are all volunteers and are very friendly and helpful with shopping etc.. At least one Sweffling resident uses the service several times each week and is very satisfied. The funding is from fund raising, grants and Suffolk Council. The vehicles are all wheelchair accessible and are for people who can't easily use public transport, have no access to a car or live in a rural location.

### CHURCH SERVICES – Sweffling and Rendham; April - May 2025

Date	Venue	Time	Service
April 6th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
April 13th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	PALM SUNDAY Morning Prayer
	HOLY WEEK see below		
April 20 <sup>th</sup> EASTER SUNDAY	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	MEMORIAL LILY FESTIVAL
	Rendham	5.00 p.m.	EASTER THANKSGIVING
April 27th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 4th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
May 11th	Rendham	11.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
May 18th	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
May 25th	Rendham	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
June 1st	Sweffling	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

There is a midweek service of Holy Communion on each Wednesday at 11.00 a.m. which rotates around the benefice as follows:

1st Wednesday – Rendham, 2nd Wednesday Sweffling, 3rd Wednesday Cransford, 4th Wednesday Bruisyard.

### Services in the Benefice during Holy Week will be:

**Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 7.00 p.m.** Holy Communion, Dennington

**Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 10.00 a.m.** Walk of Witness, Cransford, from Parish Church to Christian Fellowship Chapel. Short service followed by hot cross buns.

**2.00 p.m. Sweffling** Short devotional service - The Last Hour by the Cross

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**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, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 9.30 a.m.. If you would like to order a lily or lilies, please contact Diana Smith (663578) or Sheila Tesh (663518) by April 7<sup>th</sup>, 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.



### ACC SPRING FLOWER SHOW SATURDAY APRIL 5<sup>th</sup> SWEFFLING HUT

Entry forms in Village Halls and on Village websites. Show opens at 2pm. Presentation of cups at 3pm followed by Raffle. Enquiries ring Lynda on 663325. New exhibitors welcome,

### PHOENIX SINGERS CONCERT. “ENTENTE”

Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> Framlingham College Chapel. 7.00 p.m.

Works for voices and organ by Fauré and Elgar

Tickets £15.00, under 18's free to include after-concert refreshments, from [phoenixsingers@outlook.com](mailto:phoenixsingers@outlook.com) Hall Farm Butchers and choir members

## FURTHER AHEAD

A “**TAIZE**” service is being planned for the **end of June 2025**, in St Mary's Church, Sweffling. **Taize worship** is a simple, meditative form of evening worship, and involves readings and periods of silence, interspersed with simple repetitive chants. If you have already experienced a Taize service and would like to help with the singing, please contact Amanda (663341), Sheila (663518) or Caroline (664112).

### SWEFFLING FETE 2025

The provisional date for Sweffling Fete has been set for August 16<sup>th</sup>. **BOOK THE DATE.** Please be thinking about how you might help. It is the most important fundraising event for all village activities. More information to follow.

**CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AND MARKET: Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 10.00a.m.**

**CHRISTMAS BRASS CONCERT: Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 p.m.**

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 May 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.**