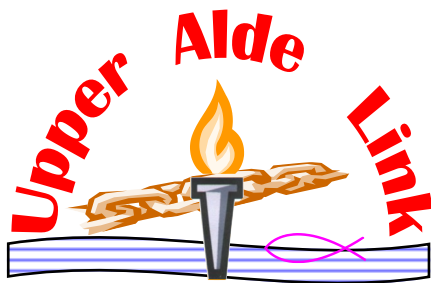


February
March
2024



**Church News and Views for the Parishes
of
Badingham Bruisyrd Cransford Dennington Rendham & Sweffling**

Services for February

Sunday	4th	8.00am	Holy Communion	Dennington
Epiphany	5	9.30am	Holy Communion	Sweffling
		9.30am	Matins	Bruisyard
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Badingham
Sunday	11th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Cransford
Epiphany	6	9.30am	Matins	Rendham
		11.00am	Family Service	Dennington
Ash Wednesday 14th		7.00pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes	Sweffling
Sunday	18th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Bruisyard
Epiphany	1	9.30am	Matins	Sweffling
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Badingham
Sunday	25th	11.00am	Benefice Service	Dennington
Lent	2	Farewell & Thanks to Martin & Linda		

Articles for publication should be with the editor by the 15th of the preceding month.

Editor: Victor Warne 5 Mill Road Badingham Woodbridge Suffolk IP13 8LG
01728 638357 or Email copy in the text, not attach: suffolkmicrowaves@btinternet.com
The Editor reserves the right to edit or omit any item submitted.

A copy of this LINK is available by Email. It is updated and in colour with electronic Links to other publications and videos. If your computer is on line, click on the coloured text to activate that link. Happy browsing!

To receive the electronic copy, send your Email address to suffolkmicrowaves@btinternet.com

February - March 2024

From the Reverend Martin Percival.

There is a saying in which the life of the Christian community is perfectly defined - The Church gathers for worship and scatters for mission.

That picture is worth remembering. Week by week Christians meet together to worship God and then go their various ways both to tell others the good news of the kingdom and to serve them in whatever way God calls. Thus, in George Herbert's poetic phrase, we offer God praise 'Seven whole days not one in seven'. I hope, such a sketch of how to be a Christian is not new to you and already second nature to all who are reading this magazine. Many folk have passed on this vision of the Church's life faithfully in every generation.

At the heart of discipleship, often going without being noticed, there has to be a regular pulse and rhythmic beat. The gathering and scattering of Christian people is like breathing in and breathing out and is like the work the lungs do (which also we take too much for granted) which sustains life.

Nor can worship and mission ever be separated. They stand and fall together. Worship without mission is not just lame and watered down, it is not the genuine article. Nor can mission without worship ever be effective. Too often we mislead ourselves and think mission is an optional extra for the minority, but it is not. It is not a dimension artificially added to a Christian life from time to time when occasion demands. No, it is an indispensable part of the inner structure of the life of every disciple every day.

What is true, though, is that unless both worship and mission are strong and equal partners in the enterprise of Christian witness then our discipleship will be too weak to share in the Easter victory. Which points us to the heart of the matter, especially during Lent, which is the cost of discipleship. Being a follower of Jesus is a way of living and loving - God and others - but always with a cost to self. To be a Christian is morally challenging but also demanding in total commitment. So in the weeks ahead we hear Jesus saying again, 'take up your cross and follow'.

Just as the continuity between worship and mission must never be broken or separated nor must the continuity between Jesus' resurrection and his death. Ultimately Good Friday and Easter are not two separate events in Jesus' life but together the single unifying centre which gives meaning and power to everything he did and continues to do. That is the truth for our own lives and the truth we long to share with any who will listen and hear..

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU

The Rev. Martin Percival will be retiring at the end of February 2024. He has served as House for Duty Priest for the six churches in our Benefice since his appointment in 2018 and we cannot express enough our thanks to him for his ministry and pastoral care during this time. Under his guidance our churches have continued to flourish and we will greatly miss his thought-provoking sermons and wise advice, tempered, as always, by his sense of humour. Who will keep us updated with the Cricket, Rugby and Golf results now? He has brought our churches closer together in fellowship and we look forward to this fellowship continuing after he retires. Our thanks also go to Linda, who has supported Martin unceasingly throughout his ministry. Both have become good friends to many in the Benefice and for this we are very thankful.

We wish him and Linda a very happy retirement and our prayers and blessing go with them as they start the next phase of their lives. Martin's last service will be on February 25th. More information later.

Cransford

On the 17th December we joined our friends at the Cransford Christian Fellowship Church for a joint Carol Service. It was a well attended occasion with much hearty singing, followed by mince pies and cakes. Many thanks to all who contributed. On Christmas Day we joined other parishes for the Benefice Holy Communion, our last with Martin. The mild weather continues , and already aconites are appearing , and pushing their luck. some spikes of snowdrops showing through last years fallen leaves. We were promised snow for January, but as I write this sunny days with the occasional frost. The fruit trees need hard frost but I am not holding my breath.

Martin will be sadly missed, and we wish him and Linda a contented and well deserved retirement

Patrick

The Christmas Social evening was enjoyed by a good number of Cransford friends and neighbours plus a few visitors which was lovely to see. The hall looked very festive despite it being a bitterly cold night.

500 mixed spring bulbs have been planted around the hall following a donation from East Suffolk Council so we are hoping for a splash of colour as they become established.

A Parents and Tots group is being established which will be held in the Cransford Christian Fellowship Church each Tuesday morning between 9.30 and 11.30am starting at the end of January, it will be lovely to see some of the young members of the area, all are welcome so please spread the word. Contact Sonia on 07427 438160.

Planning is well underway for 2024 activities so if you have ideas for inclusion do let us know. Things on the cards so far are:

February

Coffee morning - Tuesday 13th

Get Crafty - Wednesday 21st

Parents and Tots - every Tuesday (Cransford Christian Fellowship Church)

March

Coffee morning - Saturday 16th

Get Crafty - Wednesday 6th & 20th

Book launch of Rachel Fulcher's book "A Weed Lovers Garden" will be held at the village hall on Saturday 23rd at 3.30pm - refreshments will be provided

St Michael's Rendham

The Farewell service for the Revd Martin Percival, who has been our Priest in Charge for a total of thirteen years, will be at 11.00 am at Dennington, thus replacing the normal 9.30 am Holy Communion service at Rendham.

All our six parishes will wish to attend this to express our thanks to him for all his work for us for so long. We shall all miss him and Linda and wish them both a very long and happy retirement.

We are sorry to report that Anne Hounsell, a much loved member of our congregation, passed away peacefully on Friday 12th January. A celebration of her life will be held in St Michael's Church at 2.00 pm on Monday 5th February, and afterwards at the Village Hall. A full appreciation of her will appear in the next issue.

A very big thank you to the volunteers who carried out a thorough cleaning

of our church in November, including the replacement of all our chandelier lights with LED bulbs. We were sorry not to have had a service on Christmas Day, there being a Benefice Service at Bruisyard instead - but there were lovely festive flowers in our church all over the Christmas period.

On Easter Sunday, 31st March, the Benefice Service will be held at Sweffling at 10.00 am. However, we will be having our Rendham Service, to include the Memorial Lilies and the reading of the names of those commemorated, on Sunday 14th April at 9.30 am

Our coffee morning on Saturday 2nd December was very successful and raised a large sum for the British Red Cross. Thank you to all who helped and participated in this event which included the presence of Father Christmas.

Badingham

COFFEE & BACON ROLLS

SATURDAY 17th FEBRUARY

&

SATURDAY 16th MARCH

VILLAGE HALL

10am - 12 noon

Vegetarian and gluten free is available.

**Join us for a tasty treat with your morning coffee and a chance
to meet up with old friends
and to make some new friends.**

Everyone is welcome

CRIB SERVICE

Thank you everyone who braved the wind and joined us for our Crib Service on Christmas Eve. It was lovely to see so many people.

Father Martin commented at the end that he had taken many open air services over the years but never one in quite such a gale force wind!

Our collection for The Children's Society was £103.20. All

contributions to support the valuable work that they do is always appreciated.

FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS

Thank you also everyone who donated to the food bank over the Christmas season.

The collection point will remain in the church while the weather is so cold.

Thank you Patricia, who makes sure that the contributions are taken to the Food Bank centre in Eye each month.

Walking through the churchyard on a very cold, frosty but beautifully bright morning in early January it was lovely to see the first snowdrops beginning to flower, a reminder that spring is somewhere in the not too far distance.

SUNDAY 31ST MARCH
EASTER SUNDAY
BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE
AT SWEFFLING CHURCH
EVERYONE WELCOME

Please keep an eye on the notice boards for details of time or contact
Ann - 638288

ALSO

If anyone who would like transport
please get in touch with Ann - 638288

As many of you will know, our Priest in Charge, The Reverend Martin Percival is retiring at the end of February. His last service will be on Sunday, February 25th, 11 am at Dennington Church. Everybody will be most welcome to this service.

It is hoped that our normal pattern of services in Badingham will continue at 11am on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

Dennington

Christmas already seems a long time ago but we had a wonderful carol

service on the 10th December. The church was so beautifully decorated and we had a fantastic congregation and luckily enough mince pies and mulled wine to go round. Thank you so much to everyone who decorated the church, brought refreshments and to all those who did a reading. The school carol service was on 18th December and it was wonderful that there were so many people there. On Christmas Day we had a short service of carols and prayers and again it was lovely that so many people came along.

Martin's Retirement Service 25th February

Very sadly Martin Percival is going to retire at the end of February. We are so grateful for all that he has done for us over the last 5 years and wish him and Linda all the very best for the future. His last service in the Benefice is on 25th February and this will be at Dennington at 11.00am followed by refreshments. Please do come along if you can so we can make it very special for Martin and Linda. Not only has he had to juggle all the services in the benefice, but also cope with all the restrictions that happened during the Covid pandemic and he brilliantly kept everything going! It has also been fantastic that he has been able to take so many assemblies for the school in the church. We are all extremely grateful and will miss both Martin and Linda a great deal!

For services in March please look on the Dennington website and the notice board.

Sweffling

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRIEST

Preliminary discussions have started with the Rural Dean, with a view to appointing a new priest for the Benefice. During the period of inter-regnum services continue as before, with services taken by the Archdeacon, Bishop Mike, retired priests or lay elders. Enquiries about visiting the sick, home communion, baptisms, weddings and funerals should be addressed in the first instance to the churchwardens, More information later in The Link

REPORTS OF CHRISTMAS IN SWEFFLING

The Christmas Brunch and Market was held on November 25th. As

usual the bacon (and egg) rolls and coffee were delicious and thoroughly enjoyed by the large number of people who attended. The stalls were well-supported as was the raffle. It was a most enjoyable morning. Very many thanks to all who helped in any way or provided raffle prizes. A total of £778 was raised for Church Funds - well done everyone!!

The Christmas Brass Concert was held in church on December 8th. The band had a new conductor, who had selected a programme entirely based on Christmas music. It was an excellent evening, with many popular favorites tunes as well as Christmas carols for everyone to sing, and in which the audience joined enthusiastically. The mince pies and tea/coffee in the interval were delicious and the raffle proved a great success. A real start to Christmas celebrations in the Village. Next year's concert will be on **Friday December 6th. Book that date.** A treat not to be missed.

Christmas Services. For the **Carols by Candlelight service** on December 17th the church was beautifully decorated and the Christmas tree looked amazing. A large congregation listened to the Christmas story unfold in the nine lessons and enjoyed singing familiar carols which were led by the Benefice Choir. The Choir also sang three solo carols, which were much appreciated. Thanks to everyone who participated and to the Rev. Percival for leading the service.

Christmas Eve Midnight Holy Communion by extension was taken by Professor John Tesh. Although we were not a large congregation it was a quiet and thoughtful service with which to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas before the excitement and activity of Christmas Day.

LENT SOUP LUNCH: SATURDAY MARCH 23rd

SWEFFLING HUT 12.00 noon – 2.00p.m.

The Annual Lent Soup Lunch, in aid of the hospital we support in the Gambia, As much home-made soup and bread as you can eat.

Adults £6.00, children £3.00

If you can help by making soup or giving a raffle prize, please contact Sheila Tesh (663618) or Jill Abbott (663402). All proceeds to the Gambia.

ACC SPRING FLOWER SHOW

SATURDAY APRIL 6th 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,

Who's Who in the Upper Alde Benefice

		01728+	Email
Com. Minister	Victor Warne	638357	suffolkmicrowaves@btinternet
Elders	Ann Foster	638288	annandbobfoster@gmail.com
	Victor Warne	638357	suffolkmicrowaves@btinternet
Churchwardens	Robert Foster	638288	annandbobfoster@gmail.com
	Victor Warne	638357	suffolkmicrowaves@btinternet
Secretary	Alan Barlow	638420	
Treasurer	Alex Tedder		

Benefice **Anne** **fitzgeraldannie@msn.com**
Safeguarding **Fitzgerald**

Bruisyard

Com. Minister	Rupert Wallis	638393	wallis2eb@me.com
Elders	Rupert Wallis	638393	wallis2eb@me.com
	Angela Carlton		carltonangela@yahoo.co.uk
Churchwardens	Rupert Wallis	638393	wallis2eb@me.com
	Sally Wilton		sal.wilton@gmail.com
Secretary	Sally Wilton		sal.wilton@gmail.com
Treasurer	Richard Pawle	638329	richardpawle@hotmail.com

Cransford

Elders	Patrick Grieve	663510	patrick.grieve1@gmail.com
	?		
Churchwardens	Patrick Grieve	663510	patrick.grieve1@gmail.com
	Hector Wykes-Sneyd	01449 761862	htws@sw-s.co.uk
Secretary	Caroline Grieve	663510	patrick.grieve1@gmail.com
Treasurer	Patrick Grieve	663510	patrick.grieve1@gmail.com

Dennington

Elder	Charles Boscawen	638768	
Churchwardens	Veronica Maberly	638627	vmaberly@keme.co.uk
	Robert Rous	638712	robert@denningtonhall.co.uk
Secretary	Julie Steward	638272	juliesteward@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer	Robert Rous	638712	robert@denningtonhall.co.uk

Rendham

Com. Minister	Charles Seely	663467	c.mseely@btinternet.com
Elder	Charles Seely	663467	c.mseely@btinternet.com
Churchwardens	Frances Hill	664021	frances@rendham.plus.com
	Charles Seely	663467	c.mseely@btinternet.com
Secretary	Sally Wilton	638393	sal.wilton@gmail.com
Treasurer	Richard Pawle	638329	richardpawle@hotmail.com

Sweffling

Com. Minister	John Tesh	663518	john.tesh@talk21.com
Elders	John Tesh	663518	john.tesh@talk21.com
	Anne Fitzgerald		fitzgeraldannie@msn.com
Churchwardens	John Tesh	663518	john.tesh@talk21.com
	Geoffrey Abbot		gbtabbott@hotmail.com
Secretary	Sheila Tesh	663518	john.tesh@talk21.com
Treasurer	John Tesh	663518	john.tesh@talk21.com

Services for March

The UPPER ALDE BENEFICE is now without a Priest in Charge so our Holy Communion Services may/will be by extension.

Sunday	3rd	8.00am	Holy Communion	Dennington
Lent	2	9.30am	Holy Com.	Sweffling
		9.30am	Matins	Bruisyard
		11.00am	Holy Com.	Badingham
Sunday	10th	9.30am	Holy Com. x Ext	Cransford
Lent	3	9.30am	Matins	Rendham
Mothering		11.00am	Family Service	Dennington
Sunday	17th	9.30am	Holy Com. x Ext	Bruisyard
Lent	4	9.30am	Matins	Sweffling
Mothering		11.00am	Holy Com. x Ext	Badingham
Sunday	24th		Holy Com. x Ext	Rendham
Lent	5		Matins	Cransford
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Dennington
Good Friday	29th		Procession of Witness	Cransford + CFC
BST begins				
Easter Day	31st	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion (x Ext)	Sweffling