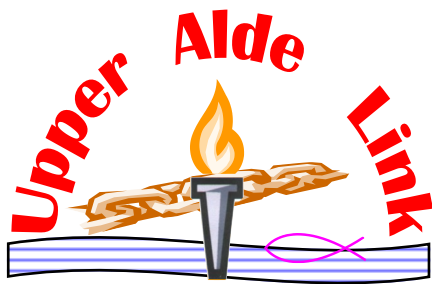


December
January 2025



**A Happy & Healthy
Christmas and New Year
to all our Readers**

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

CHRISTMAS IN THE UPPER ALDE VALLEY



Sunday 15 th December	5pm Carol Service @ St Mary's Sweffling
Friday 20 th December	7pm Carol Service @ St John's Badingham
Sunday 22 nd December	10am Carol Service @ St Michael's Rendham 3pm St Peter's & CCF Carol Service @ St Peter's Cransford 5pm Carol Service @ St Mary's Dennington
Christmas Eve	4pm Crib Service @ St John's Badingham 5pm Carols & Crib Service @ St Peter's Bruisyard 11.30pm Midnight Mass @ St Mary's Sweffling
Christmas Day	10am Christmas Communion @ St Mary's Dennington
First Sunday of Christmas 29 th	10am Benefice Communion @ Cransford
New Year's Day	11am Holy Communion for a New Year @ Rendham
Sunday 5 th January	11am Celebrating the Epiphany @ St John's Badingham

**PLEASE ALSO REFER TO THE SUNDAY SERVICE ROTA FOR
ADDITIONAL SERVICES - PAGE 11**

December 24 January 25

Letter from our Priest in Charge

This year Sunday 1st December is the fourth Sunday before Christmas, not only is it the first day of Advent it is also the beginning of a new year for the church. The liturgical year is the cycle of seasons and festivals that are celebrated based on the life of Christ. It is the day when many will reach for their Advent calendars in eager anticipation of what lies behind each little door. Advent the countdown to Christmas can so easily be a time we are taken up with decorating the house, frantic shopping and present wrapping not to mention the other 101 things are on our to do list. If we are hectically rushing about during advent we will be too exhausted to celebrate Christmas.

Advent means arrival, it is about waiting to celebrate the arrival of Jesus in a manger as well as learning to wait in the tension of now and not yet for Jesus to arrive again, in the fullness of time. It is good in all the busyness to find time to wait and watch and to ponder what it means to you that Love came down at Christmas. The 14th century mystic Mother Julian of Norwich pondered on the life of Jesus and concluded, in her book Revelations of Divine Love, that Love was his meaning. This encapsulates the belief that, God the source of all Love came in baby Jesus to be with us. Our human



response to Love is love and at the heart of our advent preparations is love. Ask yourself, are you getting fraught, are you too busy, what is it all for? When you slow down you become aware that all the frenzied activity is for the people you love most. Then we approach Christmas with grateful hearts for the gift of the people we love and continue to share Christmas with, as well as remembering, with love, those we have celebrated Christmas with in years gone by.

I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas for the first time in the Upper Alde Benefice. There will be space during Advent to wait together expectantly on Wednesdays at Midweek Holy Communion at 11am (see rota), there plenty

plenty of Carol Services where we can sing traditional Carols and hear the familiar Christmas Story. When the waiting is finally over we can celebrate Christmas together at services of Holy Communion. May your Christmas festivities be filled with peace, joy and love.

Rev'd Claire.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

To receive the new Weekly Link news sheet via email please send your email address to revclairekiddy@gmail.com

You can now find the Upper Alde Churches on Instagram and Facebook

Cransford News

There was a good turnout for Remembrance Sunday at St Peter's, and the names of the fallen from both Cransford and Bruisyard were read out before the two minutes silence. The Rev Claire had arranged for a recording of Reveille before and the last post afterwards to be played, a moving innovation. Cransford was fortunate in that only four men fell in the First War and none in the second, unless I am mistaken. Other parishes in the Benefice were not so lucky. Apart from The Falklands, Northern Ireland and Afghanistan no British servicemen have been involved in fighting for many years. Long may this continue. Our Lord commanded us to turn the other cheek, by this meaning do not retaliate, and tolerate an alternative view. I do not think he meant we were not allowed to defend ourselves against aggression. The case for pacifism is weak, so long as people like Hitler and other aggressors threaten. St Paul said of evil "Resist, steadfast in the faith" Our parents and grandparents did, and so should we.

A date for your diary, Sunday 22nd December, Our United Carol Service at 3 pm.

Patrick

Cransford Village Hall News

28th November at the Village Hall

Library van: 28th November 10.30 – 11.10am

Dales Fruit Drop: Continues every Thursday morning. 11.30 – 12.00midday

Christmas Coffee Morning 14th December 10.30 - Noon
In aid of Village Hall . Carols, soup, rolls and mince pies
Lucy Parish Clerk

Badingham

FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2024
BADINGHAM CHURCH CHANCEL

7pm

'CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT'

Followed by Mulled Wine and seasonal nibbles

We hope you will join us

EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME

BADINGHAM CHURCH
TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER
(CHRISTMAS EVE) 2024

'CRIB SERVICE'

4PM

The service is very informal and lasts for about half an hour.

This year, this most special of services, will be in the church chancel.

It will be cool but cosy and we will not have to battle rain, snow, wind or whatever the elements choose to throw at us.



As always we will finish with hot fruit punch, mince pies and nibbles.

PLEASE COME ALONG AND BRING ALL THE FAMILY



**Saturday 18th January 2025
BADINGHAM VILLAGE HALL**

COFFEE AND BACON ROLLS

10am - 12 noon



We hope you will join us for a tasty treat and a chance to get together and chat

We also have vegetarian and vegan options

**'DEER PARKS OF SUFFOLK, WITH A FOCUS ON
BADINGHAM AND IT'S PARKS'**

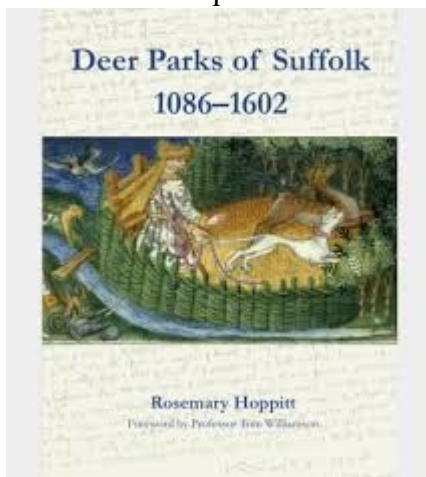
By Dr. ROSEMARY HOPPIT.

This event had to be postponed in June but we are so pleased that we have been able to re-arrange it for

FRIDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2025

It will be in the village hall and is to raise funds for the repairs needed to the church roof.

Please put the date in your diary and watch out for full details in the new year and the next Link and Echo.



We would like to say thank you to the many people who help to care for and maintain and who support our lovely village church in so many ways throughout the year and to wish all parishioners, their families and friends a happy, blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Victor Warne, Churchwarden
on behalf of Badingham PCC.

Foodbank Collection

There is a box for Foodbank Donations in the Chancel. Requests for help from the Foodbank nationally are at an all time high, so any items you could donate would be most welcome. All tinned, dry and Packet goods are needed, also personal hygiene items and Petfood. Festive treats such as sweets and biscuits are also welcomed, but these must be left in the Church by 10 DECEMBER, in order for them to reach the local depot and be distributed before the Christmas Holiday.

CHURCH BOOKSHOP.

There will be a Christmas Event at the Bookshop on Sat. 14 th Dec. 10-12.

Lots of lovely Books on sale, many suitable as Christmas presents. Also Festive refreshments for everyone.

Do come and join in.

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to support the Bookshop.

Patricia

Bruisyard

Many thanks to Marye Tilney- Bassett for her house to house poppy selling for the Royal Legion.



The harvest supper on 26th October in the village hall was well attended and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all involved. Half the proceeds will go to St Peter's Church amounting to £288.

There will be a Christmas Fair on 30th November at St Peter's Church, Bruisyard, from 10am to 12 noon.

The crib service will be held at St Peter's on 24th December at 5pm.

Rupert and Sally

St Michael's Rendham

We are deeply sorry to report the death on October 19th of Tory Lawrence (Lady Oaksey), who was well-loved in Rendham. A distinguished artist, she and her partner Maggi Hambling have supported the Church for many years. Her painting of St Michael's, which hangs in the church as well as one in the Village Hall, together with the memory of her outstanding flower arrangements, will long be remembered.

On 13th October our Harvest Festival Service of Choral Evensong took place, conducted by the Rev. Claire Kiddy. Our Benefice Choir sang Thou visitest the earth and Rejoice in the Lord alway. Lovely floral arrangements adorned the Church and in the porch, and everyone enjoyed the refreshments afterwards. The Remembrance Service on 10th November taken by Prof. John Tesh included the reading of the names of those from Rendham and Sweffling who lost their lives in World Wars I and II as well as two poems beautifully read. The window sills were decorated with poppy arrangements, in particular the moving salute to the Fallen with the very apt title Flanders Fields by Lesley Bennion. We would like to thank all those who so generously contributed to the large boxes of food which were gladly received at the Saxmundham Food Bank.

From now on we are to have an extra midweek service of Holy Communion on the first Wednesday of each month. This simple said service will next be celebrated at 11.00am on 4th December. Sadly we shall not have a service on Christmas Day, but on Sunday 22 December there will be a special Carol Service at 10.00 am.

Our Christmas Coffee Morning in Rendham Village Hall from 9.30

am - 12 noon will be in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice. Stalls include Christmas Gifts, Produce, Raffle and Books and delicious hot butties from the kitchen. A visit from Santa in on the cards! Please do come and support this wonderful organisation.

Charles and Frances

Dennington

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Remembrance Sunday Service on 10th November. The wreaths were laid and the names read out and the Last Post played. Also many thanks to Little Oaks Nursery

who had created their own delightful wreaths. The collection was donated to the Royal British Legion.

Sadly Hazel Watts passed away on 6th October aged 95 years. Before Hazel became housebound she was a regular member of our congregation and a wonderful flower arranger – she will be greatly missed. Sending our thoughts and prayers to all the Watts family. Her funeral was held in a packed church on Friday 8th November.

Changes to our rota of services

From December our 11.00 Holy Communion service will now be held on the second Sunday of the month – starting on 8th December. The Family or Matins service will be on 4th Sunday – although for December we will have our Carol Service in the evening.

Candle-lit Carol Service Note change of Date

Our Carol Service will be on 22nd December at 5.00 pm – followed by the usual mince pies and biscuits and mulled wine. It is always lovely to see lots of people there and to start feeling the specialness of Christmas.

Christmas Day

On Christmas Day we will have a Holy Communion Service at 10.00 am – do come along if you can.

Wishing everyone all the very best for Christmas and the New Year

Sweffling

Harvest in Sweffling

On Sunday October 6th, we celebrated Harvest with a Festival Thanksgiving service of Holy Communion, at which a large congregation enjoyed singing the familiar harvest hymns and listening to Rev. Claire's Harvest message. The windows were decorated with flowers and berries but, as in previous years, instead of fresh produce we asked for donations of food suitable to take to the Social Supermarket in Saxmundham. The village was extremely generous with their gifts and, later in the following week, we were able to fill the

car with boxes of dried and tinned goods, toiletries etc.. There were so many gifts that we almost doubled the supermarket stock. Needless to say, the lady in charge was very grateful for the donations and asked for her thanks to be passed to the village.

The Service was followed later by the Harvest Lunch, at which 40 people enjoyed a delicious home-cooked two course meal. The profit from the lunch and the raffle amounted to £430, which was sent to Tear Fund to help relief in Gaza.

Safeguarding Training,

The two Elders from Sweffling Church, Professor John Tesh and Dr. Anne Fitzgerald have successfully participated in the Leadership Safeguarding Training Course held in Saxmundham during October/November. John has also attended an Elder's training day held at Framlingham College at the beginning of November.

Stir-Up Sunday.

On November 17th, Sweffling Celebrated Stir-Up Sunday a week early by having a family service of Morning Prayer during which Dr. Anne Fitzgerald made a Christmas Pudding. She was assisted in this by eight enthusiastic children, who added and mixed the ingredients. All the congregation then stirred the pudding and made their Christmas wish. The pudding had 12 ingredients and, whilst making it, Anne described 12 ingredients that would make a good recipe for life. Whilst it was cooking we had prayers, including special prayers for Safeguarding Sunday, and sang a hymn. After the service, the pudding was shared amongst everyone. it was really delicious!

“CHRISTMAS BRASS” CONCERT in SWEFFLING CHURCH FRIDAY DECEMBER 6TH, 7.30 P.M.

Leiston Royal British Legion Brass Band will play our annual concert of popular and Christmas music, with Sing-along Christmas Carols.

The perfect start to Christmas

Tickets: Adults £8.00, Children £4.00 to include interval

Refreshments. Book with Diana (663578) or Sheila (663518) or pay at the door

**SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS BY
CANDLELIGHT** Sunday 15th December at 5.00 p.m. followed by
Coffee and Mince pies.

DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 1st December Advent Sunday	8am BCP Communion @ Dennington 9.30am BCP Communion @ Sweffling 9.30am Morning Prayer@ Bruisyard 11.00am Communion@ Badingham
Sunday 8th December Second Sunday of Advent	9.30am BCP Communion @ Cransford 9.30am Morning Prayer@ Rendham 11.00am Communion@ Dennington
Sunday 15th December Third Sunday of Advent	9.30am Communion@ Bruisyard 11.00am Communion@ Badingham 5pm Carol Service @ Sweffling
Sunday 22nd December	9.00am said Communion@ Bruisyard

JANUARY SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 5th January Epiphany	8am BCP Communion@ Dennington 9.30am BCP Communion @ Sweffling 9.30am Morning Prayer @ Bruisyard 11am Celebrating the Epiphany Badingham
Sunday 12 th January Epiphany 1	9.30am BCP Communion @ Cransford 9.30am Morning Prayer @ Rendham 11am Holy Communion @ Dennington
Sunday 19 th January Epiphany 2	9.30am BCP Communion @ Bruisyard 9.30am Epiphany Carol Service @ Sweffling 11am Holy Communion @ Badingham
Sunday 26 th January Epiphany 3	9.30am BCP Communion @ Rendham 9.30am Epiphany Carol Service @ Cransford 11am Morning Prayer @ Dennington

MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION HELD ON A WEDNESDAY

4 th December	Communion with Advent reflection @ Rendham
11 th December	Communion with Advent reflection @ Sweffling
18 th December	Communion with Advent reflection @ Cransford
1 st January	Holy Communion for a New Year @ Rendham
8 th January	Holy Communion @ Sweffling
15 th January	NO MIDWEEK COMMUNION
22 ND January	Holy Communion @ Bruisyard
29 th January	Holy Communion @ Cransford



Epiphany



The Wise Men find Jesus Thanks to the Star

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

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The Editor reserves the right to edit or omit any item submitted.

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