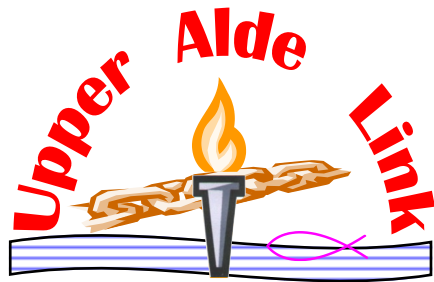


**February
March
2025**



CANDLEMAS
Presentation of baby Jesus at the Temple



February 2nd
If Candlemas day is clear and bright,
Winter will have another bite,
If Candlemas day brings cloud and rain,
Winter is gone and will not come again

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

Services for February

Sunday	2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion	Dennington
Candlemas	5	9.30am	Holy Communion	Sweffling
Epiphany	4	9.30am	Matins	Bruisyard
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Badingham
Wednesday	5th		No Midweek Communion	
Sunday	9th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Cransford
Epiphany	5	9.30am	Matins	Rendham
		11.00am	Family Service	Dennington
Wednesday	12th	11.00am	Communion	Sweffling
Sunday	16th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Bruisyard
Epiphany	6	9.30am	Matins	Sweffling
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Badingham
Wednesday	19th	11.00am	Communion	Cransford
Sunday	23rd	9.30am	Holy Communion	Rendham
Epiphany	7	9.30am	Matins	Cransford
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Dennington
Wednesday 5th March		11.00am	Communion & imposition of Ashes	Rendham

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

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February - March 2025

I am writing this on a Sunday evening in January and I have been thinking during the weekend of new beginnings. I have tried to think of a different theme in case you thought I was still writing about a new year in February/March when you read this, but a new year is not on my mind. Yesterday we had a wedding in Bruisyard and it was a marvellous occasion, made even more perfect by the picturesque haw frost and blue skies. A wedding celebrates the beginning of a marriage and it looks forward to the happy couple spending the rest of their lives together. Inevitably for guests it is a reminder of other weddings they have been to, particularly by those who have been blessed with a happy marriage for they share the joy of the couple in anticipation of all that is to come for them.

Also this weekend I have been preparing to attend the Ministry Development Programme run by the diocese. All clergy at some point will attend the course, I and 15 others have been invited to be part of this years cohort and the course will continue at various points in the year. This will be the beginning of a new adventure and I know that when a group of clergy get together like this new bonds and friendships are forged and through it we are reformed and refashioned. I am sure there will be lots of joy involved but these formational experiences can often be quite painful.

In all new beginnings we are tempted to look ahead and try to predict what might happen, somehow it seems a new beginning is easier if we know what to expect. In life it seems we often try to look ahead rather than staying in the moment. Winter is one of those times when we want to look ahead to spring but in doing so are we failing to stop and notice some of the delights of winter. Snowdrops are one such delight, yet how often when the first snowdrops appear people will refer to spring being on its way rather than just appreciating the winter flower in it's own season.

In recent years instead of wishing it was spring I have been intentional about developing a love of winter. I confess I still don't like icy roads or bitter winds but I do love the bare trees. I like standing under a tree and seeing a blue sky, I like seeing the bare twigs and thinking about different routes we take in life and I love looking across the fields at bare hedges

and trees in the distance making up a rich tapestry. The other day as darkness was falling I was delighted to see from the Rectory window an owl sitting on the bare branch of a tree. The apple tree in the garden is bare and yet the red apples on the grass look very pretty from the window and are



being enjoyed by flocks of birds.

It is good sometimes to dwell in the present, Be still and know that I am Lord, says the psalmist. Concentrating on the present moment helps us to trust in the God who is with us in all our beginnings and endings.

Revd Claire

Message from your Priest in Charge

In March I will have been in post for six months. Since September I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know a bit more about each village. I am now curious to find out what it is you are looking for in their parish church. I am really interested to find out the thoughts of all the villagers, regardless of whether you wish to come to services or not. Please go into your village church during March and add your thoughts to a collage of ideas. Post it notes will be provided for each of the six churches. Thank you.

Cransford News

It has been a busy festive season with people from both our churches carol singing around the village on the 19th of December. Sonia Hunt played her guitar and led us. We finished when it was too dark to see at about 4 pm. We visited any house with lights showing and many opened the door and joined us. The United Carol Service took place on 22nd December. It was a good turnout with our friends from the Christian Fellowship Church in the village, in all about 50 in the congregation. It was good to see a full

church, with many not regular church goers, summoned by the bells. We all went to Dennington for our Christmas Day service, quite a change for us from St Peter's. The biggest church in the Benefice with wonderful heating. We are grateful to Claire who has managed to adapt to our six different churches, not an easy task, with twelve churchwardens. How she can remember all our names is impressive. With a new priest and a new king, 2015 will be an encouraging fresh start for us all.

On Sunday 26th January was the Epiphany Carol Service at St Peters. There was a good crowd, and Epiphany carols are just as good as Christmas Carols, if not better. The Anglican tradition of hymn singing is one of the glories of going to church, whether you have a good voice or not. The winter solstice is well and truly over, and the days are getting longer. Easter beckons and the shops are already selling Easter eggs. Oh dear.

Patrick Grieve

Badingham

DEER PARKS OF SUFFOLK WITH A FOCUS ON BADINGHAM AND ITS PARKS

**Kindly given By Dr. Rosemary Hoppit
Friday 28th February**

Badingham Village Hall

Doors will open at 7pm
you will be welcomed with a
glass of wine/soft drink and a
finger buffet.

The talk will begin at 7.45
To raise funds for the repair of
Saint John's church roof

Tickets £10 from
Tanya 663992, Ann 638288,



Badingham Café.

SATURDAY 15th FEBRUARY
AND
SATURDAY 15TH MARCH 2025
BADINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

10am – 12 noon

Please join us for

COFFEE AND BACON ROLLS

And a chance to get-together and chat

We also have Vegan and Vegetarian options.

Proceeds for Badingham Church

The Carol Service and The Crib Service collected £45.00 for The Children's Society – thank you everyone who contributed.

Just a reminder – there is a collection point for The Food Bank in the Church Chancel. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and very welcome.

Badingham Church Roof Repairs – we are progressing with The Development Phase of our project with initial support of The National Lottery Heritage Fund and with thanks to the National Lottery players.

We are currently seeking tenders from Architects and Project Managers. Many hours work are involved and we have a way to go. We hope for a successful outcome!

March 29 th. **Fairtrade Stall and Coffee morning**, 10-12 In the Chancel. The Laxfield Fairtrade Group are bringing their products to the Church, they have a fantastic range of Chocolate,tea/coffee,sugar etc plus lots of other delicious items and treats to buy, All purchases will support small producers. Come along and have a cup of Fairtrade Coffee.

St Michael's Rendham

On Saturday 7th December the Christmas Coffee Morning took place in the Village Hall, and was a huge success, raising over £1000 for the St Elizabeth Hospice. Warmest thanks to all who decorated the hall, helped,

cooked, served and donated gifts and produce, including the surprise visit from Santa. And on Sunday 22nd December the Rendham Carol Service at 10.00 was well attended. Our choir led the singing, and we all enjoyed the refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall, which were so ably organised by Denis and Jill Moore.

As we have come to the end of the year it is only right for us to thank all those who have given such support to St Michael's in 2024, in flower arranging, cleaning and of course our bell ringers who summon us to our services and especially the maintenance of the churchyard. We have heard from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust that a group of



botanists who spent several hours in the churchyard in 2024, have discovered we have 272 species of wild plants growing here.

A Happy New Year to everyone!

Charles and Frances

Bruisyard

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make our coffee morning such an enjoyable event and thanks to the generosity of everyone we made £592.30.

So many thanks also for all the support to decorate the church for Christmas and for such support for our crib service which raised £289.38 for the charity 'We See Hope'

Again thanks to all who made the After Christmas supper so enjoyable and for half the proceeds given to St Peters which amounted to £93.88 .

Happy New Year to everyone,

Rupert and Sally

Dennington

During the Christmas period our Church really comes to life and this year was no exception.

The Little Oaks Playschool held two nativity plays in the Church chancel which were well supported by parents as was the Primary Schools Carol service. For the Parish carol service on December 22nd well over 100 people came to enjoy the familiar carols and readings with a few words from Reverend Claire Kiddy and followed by an opportunity to chat over a mulled wine and mince pie. On Christmas day nearly 50 of us enjoyed a benefice communion service. All these services emphasised the importance of our wonderful Church in bringing the community together in celebration as it has done for a thousand years.

February and March are quieter months but perhaps you could make a note in your diaries for April 26th when we will be holding a special meeting for the whole community to discuss an application to the Lottery for the Church.

More on this in the next news.

The end of the year seems a good moment to thank the many people who support the Church;- The members of the Parochial Church Council; Those who decorate the Church with flowers; the cleaning team who often brave a chilly church to keep it looking well cared for – we often get notes in the visitors book commenting on this; Jim Carpenter who cares so beautifully for the Churchyard; Janet Catchpole who has cared for the rosebeds with David and is now retiring; The Bellingring team led by Matt Lunn and David Mann – nothing better than to hear the Church bells ringing across the fields; Brook Hoadley for playing the organ so wonderfully and caring for it. And now of course we have The Reverend Claire Kiddy to guide us in worship as the Upper Alde Benefice's Priest in Charge. Enormous thanks to all of these and of course new volunteers would always be welcomed with great friendliness and companionship..

Sweffling

RETIREMENT OF BISHOP MARTIN:

Bishop Martin, the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich, will retire at the end of February. His Farewell Service will be held in the Cathedral in Bury St. Edmunds at 3.30 p.m. on February 2nd. Unfortunately, because of the seating capacity of the cathedral, it is invitation by ticket only, but it will be live-streamed, [facebook.com/stedscathedral](https://www.facebook.com/stedscathedral), and you can find an order of service on the Cathedral website.

It is unlikely that a new bishop will be appointed before Autumn 2025. In the

meantime, responsibility for the diocese will be assumed by two retired bishops, Graeme Knowles and Tim Stevens.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES IN SWEFFLING

The Christmas Brunch and Market held on November 20th was very well attended. Those who attended enjoyed delicious bacon rolls, with the option of one of Amanda's fresh eggs, and tea or coffee. There were stalls selling cakes, home-made marmalade and pickles, beautiful accessories, mystery parcels, Christmas gifts and the usual raffle. Lyz Franklin had a stall selling items to support the Ipswich Outreach Charity (see below). It was a time to catch up and chat with friends and enjoy good food and drink.

The morning was very successful, with a total of £536.70 being raised for Church funds. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way and to those who supported.

Christmas Brass Concert. Unfortunately, due to the forecast of severe windy conditions on the evening of December 6th, the decision was taken to cancel the concert. Several of the Band members travel long distances and it was considered sensible not to expose the band and audience to the risk of fallen trees etc. in the dark. It is hoped that a Spring 2025 Concert might be organised in its place. Keep a lookout for news!

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop: Jill Abbott organised a wreath-making workshop in Sweffling Hut on December 7th. It was a very successful and productive time, and the fruits of the workshop have graced several house doors in Sweffling over the Christmas period. Jill provided all the materials and the expertise and, as a result of the day, has made a donation of £67 to Church funds, for which the PCC is very grateful.

Carols by Candlelight. The Church was full for the Christmas Carol Service on Sunday December 15th at 5.00 p.m., led by Rev. Claire. The church was beautifully decorated with window arrangements of cyclamens, foliage, glitter and candles, and the Christmas tree shone out in the candlelight. The congregation enjoyed singing familiar carols and listening again to the unfolding of the events leading up to and including the time of Jesus' Birth in

Bethlehem. The Benefice Choir led the singing and also sang three solo items. After the service mincepies and tea/coffee were served. The collection of £165.36 has been donated to the Children's Society.

Christmas Eve Midnight Holy Communion. A small but dedicated congregation joined with the Rev. Claire in celebrating the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve. It was a quiet, reflective service, which prepared those present for the hectic events to follow on Christmas Day.

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 20th, 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 7th, 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.

LENT in the Upper Alde Benefice

ASH WEDNESDAY. March 5th: Holy Communion Rendham 11.00 a.m., Dennington 7.00 p.m.

LENT CHARITY SOUP LUNCH will be held in Sweffling Hut on March 15th, 12.00 noon – 2.00 p.m. As much home-made soup and bread as you can eat. Vegetarian and Gluten free options. 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).

LENT STUDY COURSE: Rev. Claire will be holding a Lent Study course at the Rectory, Badingham, on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 p.m., commencing March 18th, and on Wednesday evenings, starting on March 19th, time to be confirmed. Please contact Rev. Claire for further details

Services for March

Sunday	2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion	Dennington
Epiphany	Last	9.30am	Holy Communion	Sweffling
		9.30am	Matins	Bruisyard
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Badingham
Ash Wednesday 5th 7.00pm Communion & Imposition of ashes Dennington				
Sunday	9th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Cransford
Lent	1	9.30am	Matins	Rendham
		11.00am	Family Service	Dennington
Wednesday	12th	11.00am	No midweek communion	
Sunday	16th	9.30am	Holy Communion	Bruisyard
Lent	2	9.30am	Matins	Sweffling
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Badingham
Wednesday	19th	11.00am	Communion with Lent reflection	Bruisyard
Sunday	23rd	9.30am	Holy Communion	Rendham
Lent	3	9.30am	Matins	Cransford
		11.00am	Holy Communion	Dennington
Wednesday	26th	11.00am	Communion with Lent reflection	Cransford
Sunday	30th	10.00am	Benefice HC	
Lent	4			
Mothering Sunday				



The angel of the Lord warns Joseph that Herod is going to search out his Son to kill Him, and that they must go to Egypt, where they would stay until Herod dies.