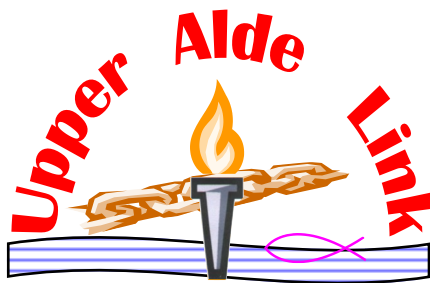


April May 2026



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

APRIL SUNDAY SERVICES

Easter Sunday 5th April White	8am Lighting of Easter fire & Communion– St Mary’s Dennington 9.30am BCP Communion – St Mary’s Sweffling 11am Holy Communion – St John’s Badingham 5pm Easter Praise & Thanksgiving
Sunday 12th April The second Sunday of Easter White	9.30am BCP Communion – St Peter’s Cransford 9.30am Morning Prayer – St Michael’s Rendham 11am Holy Communion – St Mary’s Dennington 6.30pm Taize - St Mary’s Sweffling
Sunday 19th April The third Sunday of Easter White	9.30am BCP Communion – St Peter’s Bruisyard 9.30am Morning Prayer – St Mary’s Sweffling 11am Holy Communion – St John’s Badingham
Sunday 26th April The fourth Sunday of Easter White	9.30 am BCP Communion – St Michael’s Rendham 9.30 am Morning Prayer – St Peter’s Cransford 11am Holy Communion – St Mary’s Dennington

MAY 2026 SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 3rd May The fifth Sunday of Easter White	8am BCP Communion - St Mary’s Dennington 9.30am BCP Communion – St Mary’s Sweffling 9.30am Morning Prayer – St Peter’s Bruisyard 11am Holy Communion – St John’s Badingham
Sunday 10th May The 6 th Sunday of Easter White Rogation Sunday	9.30am BCP Communion – St Peter’s Cransford 9.30 Morning Prayer – St Michael’s Rendham 11am Holy Communion – St Mary’s Dennington
Sunday 17th May Sunday after Ascension White	9.30 am BCP Communion - St Peter’s Bruisyard 9.30am Morning Prayer – St Mary’s Sweffling 11am Holy Communion St John’s Badingham
Sunday 24th May Pentecost Red	9.30am Holy Communion - St Michael’s Rendham 9.30am Morning Prayer – St Peter’s Cransford 11am Holy Communion - St Mary’s Dennington
Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday White	Altogether for 5 th Sunday 10am Benefice Communion – St Peter’s Cransford

February March 2026

From the Rector

07469 718695

I am writing this late on Mothering Sunday Evening, the day has been full of joy and surprises. The biggest one was walking into Badingham Church for the service to find my son, Henry sitting in a pew. He had driven over from Swaffham to surprise me. I was overjoyed to see him, the day certainly didn't turn out how I had expected it to.

Reflecting back on my day led me recall the book by CS Lewis called Surprised by Joy, an account of his surprise at falling in love later in life and his delight in his wife named, Joy. What is it to be surprised by joy? It can be a seemingly simple thing. Each year I am surprised at just how much joy daffodils bring, they seem to brighten up the day for so many people. They are a joyful sign of new life emerging from the depths of winter and although we know that the bulbs will emerge from the ground in spring there is still the element of surprise in seeing the bright yellow flowers in so many places. Out and about people seem more joyful – spring is coming isn't it lovely, you hear people say.

Yesterday we had a wedding at St Peter's Bruisyard, as expected it was joyful. Talking to people afterwards I sensed people had been surprised by joy, the power of the Holy Spirit had touched people deeply. This is the kind of joy which is not fleeting but has the power to change lives, maybe not immediately but it remains on our hearts ready for the stirring of the Spirit.

Mary Magdalene was surprised by joy on that first Easter morning. Having been distraught at finding the stone rolled away from the tomb, fearing the body of Jesus has been removed she runs to tell the disciples. They return to the tomb and Mary stands outside weeping and encounters the risen Lord. At first, Mary thinks the man is the gardener but when Jesus speaks she knows it is her Lord, she is surprised by joy and her life is immediately changed forever. This is the joy of Easter.

As we prepare to celebrate Easter are our hearts open to receive the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Perhaps you have an expectation of how Easter will be, perhaps you have traditions you like to observe, perhaps it is just a bank holiday weekend. To be surprised by joy, in a life giving way we first experience Good Friday, for new life emerges from the darkness of death.

The season of Easter lasts from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday, it is a

joyful season and yet it is often forgotten that we celebrate Easter for 50 days. What is it for us to live in the light of the resurrection? Jesus' victory over death transforms our daily life, giving us hope and purpose in our daily lives with the promise of eternal life. The resurrection means we catch moments of eternal life here and now, we catch glimpses of the glory God's Kingdom in the here and now. These are the moments when we are surprised by joy.

I wish you all a happy and blessed Eastertide.

Revd Claire

Easter Services

There is hope there will be extra service on Good Friday but not yet confirmed.

Maundy Thursday 2nd Apr, 7pm Mass of the Last Supper at Dennington

Good Friday 3rd Apr. 10am Walk of Witness :

from St Peter's Cransford to the Christian Fellowship

Easter Day 5th April

8am Light of Easter Fire and first Communion at Dennington.

9.30 am BCP Communion at Sweffling

9.30 am Easter Morning Prayer at ?

11am Holy Communion at Badingham

5pm Easter Praise & Thanksgiving at Rendham

Bruisyard News

On the 24th we had a wedding at St Peter's, such a joyous occasion and a full congregation of mainly young people who were so happy. And we have another wedding next week.

The Spring has at last sprung and the churchyard looks wonderful with the daffodils at their best .

We will have a Strawberry tea in the churchyard on the 27th of June .

Rupert and Sally.

St Michael's Rendham

Our Easter Service on Sunday 5th April will be at 5.00 pm, when the names of those who the lilies commemorate will be read out, as in previous years. Please stay for the wine and nibbles after the Service.

On Saturday 18th April, we are holding our **Spring Coffee Morning** in the Village Hall. Cakes, Plants, Produce and Books. **SAVE THIS DATE!** There will be a chance to meet representatives of **Neighbourhood Watch** and **Suffolk Police**. Traditional bacon butties will be on offer.

We are aware that the trees on either side of the church porch need attention regarding some of the older branches and this is in hand.

Charles and Frances

Cransford News

April is the cruellest month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land (TS Eliot)
In the merry month of May With all the rosebuds swelling (Trad)
At last, Spring is sprung, and the sun has got some warmth in it. There is much to look to which we can look forward, starting with Easter celebrations.

On the 3rd of April The Procession Of Witness takes place, this year setting off from St Peter's at 10 am and finishing at the Christian Fellowship Church, where a service takes place. Be ready for April showers. So far it has been a wonderful spring, the garden full of wild flowers; Snowdrops almost over, but crocus, violets, aconites and primroses. No lilacs, but bluebells and daffodils soon to cheer every one up.

The world is a sorry place, but in Cransford we are blessed with peace and tranquillity. The only noise is that of woodpeckers, robins and ploughing. There are five new family size houses being built in the village. We look forward to getting to know the newcomers and to welcoming them in our small community.

PATRICK

Badingham

CHURCH BOOKSHOP BIG BOOK SALE! SAT April 18th 10-1 pm In the Churchyard. Refreshments available Loads of Books will be on Sale, including unusual Books and Subjects which have been donated, and are of higher value. Cash only

Patricia

Talk about Badingham and Suffolk's Angel Roofs – It was great to see the village hall so full. We enjoyed a fascinating talk by Dr Sarah Cassell on the roofs of Suffolk's churches, and of course our own Badingham roof. I think we will all look up more in future as we enter these historic buildings to see what we might otherwise miss.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped get ready, prepare food for the delicious buffet, clear the hall at the end or in any other way, most of all thank you everyone who came.

We raised £445.00 for the roof repair.

What's in a Name? – This half-term activity project, which was part of our activity phase of the development grant of our Lottery grant, explained how pictures and symbols were used to create families own, personal Coat of Arms. We had a busy time and fun designing a coat of arms for our own families and everyone left with their own personalised Coat of Arms on a shield. It was run by our Activity Consultants, Flying Geese, and we are grateful to the NLHF and Lottery players for the funding to do it.

COFFEE AND BACON ROLL MORNING

SATURDAY 25th APRIL
BADINGHAM VILLAGE HALL
10am – 12 noon

*This will be our last coffee morning until the Autumn
so please join if you can*

We have Vegan and Vegetarian options.

Proceeds for Badingham Church Roof

In January we made £75.50 and in February we made £90.47.
Thank you, workers, and all who came along for your support

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

Easter Pilgrims

The Essex Leg of the Pilgrims Cross will be joining us in Badingham Church for their coffee break on the Tuesday 31st March, on their way to Harleston, having left Framlingham after breakfast. They will finish their pilgrimage at Walsingham on Good Friday where they will join pilgrims from various parts of the country and they will all celebrate Holy Communion together on Easter Day. Everyone is invited to join us in welcoming them, timing can be a bit hit and miss but about 10.15am at the church. If you would like to join them for a small part of their walk, please do so at Badingham Village Hall, again timing is a bit difficult but just after 10am. There will have to be very short safety instructions at the village hall before you all leave,

Please join us if you can, either at the church or the village hall, there will be plenty of coffee and cake.

Ascension Day, Thursday 14th May, - There will be a service of Holy Communion at 7pm in Badingham Church followed by refreshments. Everyone will be welcome.

A date for your diary MID SUMMER CELEBRATION SATURDAY 20th JUNE 2026. 2 – 4pm.

Despite being the hottest day of the year, this was a very successful event last year so please put the date in your diary, there will be more details in the next Link and Echo.

Update on Saint John's Badingham Church Roof Repairs.

Much of what is happening at the moment is behind the scenes, taking many hours and involves preparing the approximately 15 documents that will be needed for our mid-term review with the NLHF on 6th May.

We are also preparing and sending of as many grant applications as possible, because the cost of the repairs is well over £1,000,000 and we will need to raise about £200,000 in match funding.

The VAT recovery scheme has ended so this match funding has to cover the 20% VAT that previously we would have been able to claim back. A steep mountain to climb.

Thank you everyone for your support to this point, we need all your prayers.

Sweffling

ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

The APCM will be held in church on Wednesday April 22nd at 6.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

EASTER MEMORIAL LILY FESTIVAL, SWEFFLING, Weekend of April 5th and 6th

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 £5.00. Please give the names of those to be remembered together with the money for the lilies to Diana Smith (663578) or Sheila Tesh (663518)

as soon as possible, so that the memorial scrolls can be prepared. The names of those to be remembered will be read out at the Easter Sunday morning service at 9.30 a.m.

This year we plan to have a pop-up café on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, so that visitors can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a scone or cake, whilst also enjoying the beauty and scent of the lilies. On Easter Sunday the café will be open after the service from 11.15 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. and on Easter Monday from 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m.

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

CHURCH ROOF REPAIRS

The cement seal between the church tower and the nave roof has deteriorated over time, and there has been an ingress of water to the inside of the church at that point, causing damage to the internal plasterwork. The PCC has approved remedial work to be done, the necessary permissions have been obtained from the church authorities and work should commence mid-April. Scaffolding will have to be erected and the cost of the repairs to the roof is estimated to be approximately £12,000. This does not include the cost of repairing the internal damage. The work should not necessitate the closure of the church, so services will continue as normal.

Julian and Sandy Rowe are organising a Bygones Rally on May 10th, and are kindly donating the proceeds towards the cost of the church repairs. More details can be found later in The Bridge. Please support this if you can.

EASTER LILIES We will again be having memorial lilies, each one given in memory of family and friends. Their names will be written on memorial scrolls, which will be read out at the service on Easter Day, April 5th, 9.30 a.m.. If you would like to order a lily or lilies, please contact Diana Smith (663578) or Sheila Tesh (663518) as soon as possible so the scrolls can be prepared.

Each lily will cost £5.00. Please give the names of those to be remembered together with the money for the lilies. The church will be open on Easter Sunday following the service until 5.00 p.m. and Easter Monday (10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.) to enjoy the lilies and remember our loved ones.

Don't forget the "POP – UP" cafe that will be in church on Easter Sunday and Monday. Come and view the lilies and enjoy tea/coffee, cakes and scones.

BYGONES RALLY

Townlands Meadow, Sweffling, IP17 2BL, Sunday May 10th, 11.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Vintage and Classic Cars
Tractors
Stationary engines.
Motor cycles, Autocycles
And Pushbikes

Traditional Music Players
The Spinners and Ruggers
Table Top Displays
Fairground Organ

Light refreshments

Admission free, Collections to St. Mary's Church Roof Repairs

Dennington

It is wonderful to be writing this with the sun shining and everything looking and feeling so spring-like!

Our Easter Day service will be at 8.00 am starting with the lighting of the Easter Fire outside the church and then continuing with Holy Communion inside.

Messy Morning - will be on 9th April from 10am - 12am Please book with Claire.

Important Date for the Diary. A Talk by Roy Tricker Friday 5th June at 6.00 pm

Anyone who has heard one of Roy's talks before will know how fantastic they are and we are extremely lucky that he can come to us. The talk will be followed by drinks and nibbles in the garden of Corner House (weather permitting) thanks to Anne and Bob Lawrence. Tickets will be for a suggested donation of £10 which will go towards repairing the church roof.. Please book tickets - vmaberly@gmail.com or 07885 756425 or 01728 638627

Holy Week & Easter Services

<p>Maundy Thursday 2nd April</p>	<p>7pm Mass of the Last Supper – St Mary's Dennington</p>
<p>Good Friday 3rd April</p>	<p>10am Walk of Witness from St Peter's Cransford to Cransford Christian Fellowship.</p> <p>7pm Tenebrae Service at St Mary's Sweffling</p>
<p>Easter Day 5th April Alleluia Christ is Risen 8am Lighting of the Easter Fire & the first Communion of Easter at St Mary's Dennington Followed by breakfast.</p>	<p>9.30am BCP Easter Communion at St Mary's Sweffling 11am Holy Communion at St John's Badingham 5pm Easter Praise & Thanksgiving with Memorial Lilies at St Michael's Rendham</p>

<p>March 31st Easter Family Fun at Badingham Churchyard 11am-12.30</p> <p>Make an Easter Garden Easter Trail Create a bug house</p> <p>Easter refreshments</p>	<p>Messy Morning 9th April 10am – 12 at Dennington Church</p> <p>Easter themed Crafts – Games – Sensory play</p> <p>Easter refreshments Helpful if you book revclairekiddy@gmail.com Children to be accompanied by an adult</p>
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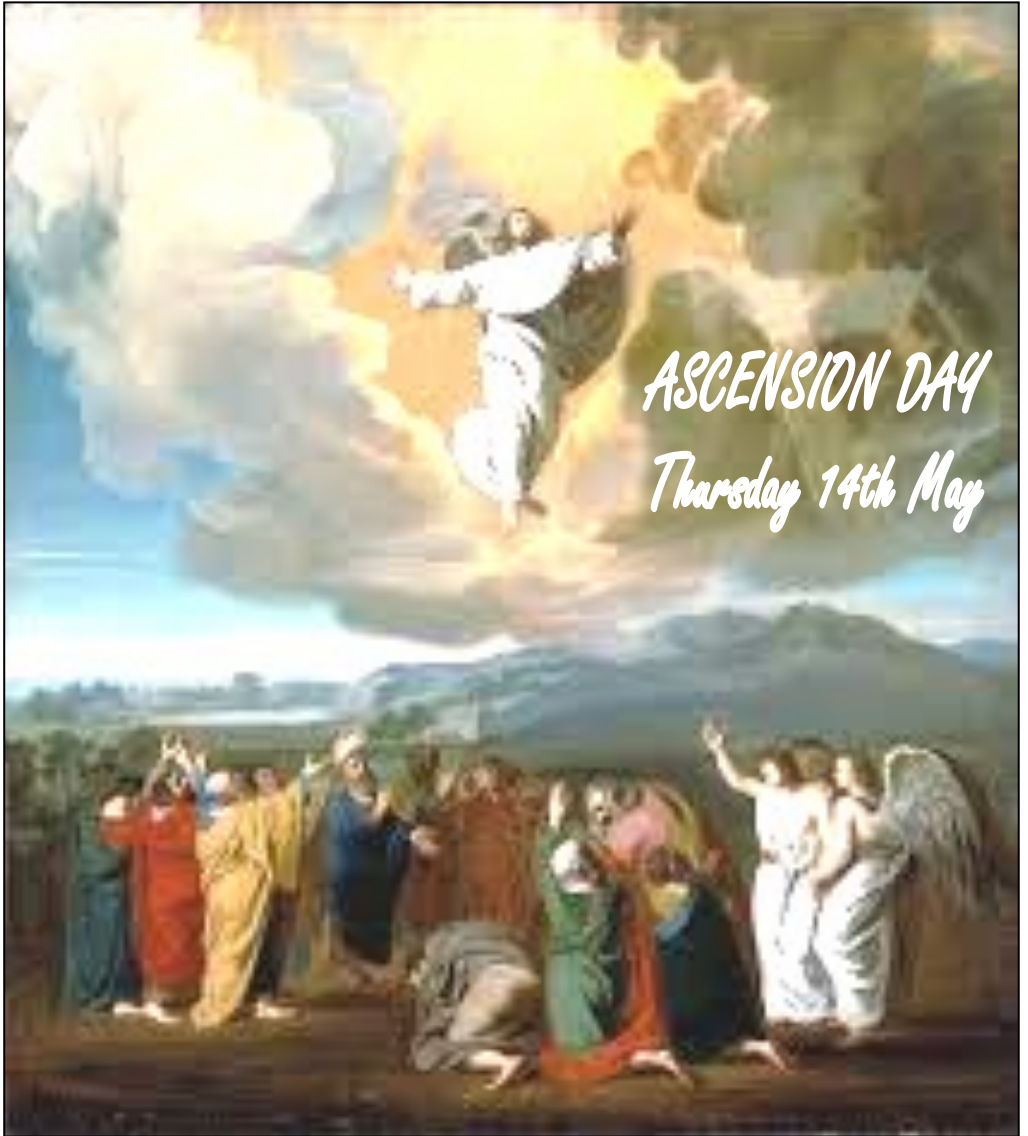
Rector of the Upper Alde Benefice Revd Claire Kiddy. revclairekiddy@gmail.com

07469718695

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ASCENSION DAY
Thursday 14th May

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

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