

February
March
2026



Palm Sunday



**Jesus riding on a
young Donkey into
Jerusalem**

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

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES

<p>Sunday 1st February Candlemas White</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Sunday 8th February The second Sunday before Lent Green</p>	<p>9.30am BCP Communion – St Peter’s Cransford 9.30am Morning Prayer – St Michael’s Rendham 11am Holy Communion – St Mary’s Dennington</p>
<p>Sunday 15th February Sunday next before Lent Green</p>	<p>9.30am BCP Communion – St Peter’s Bruisyard 9.30am Morning Prayer – St Mary’s Sweffling 11am Holy Communion – St John’s Badingham</p>
<p>Sunday 22nd February First Sunday of Lent Purple</p>	<p>9.30 am BCP Communion – St Michael’s Rendham 9.30 am Morning Prayer – St Peter’s Cransford 11am Sunday Morning Prayer – Dennington</p>

Ash Wednesday 18th February

11am Holy Communion with imposition of ashes @ St Peter’s Bruisyard.

After the service a Lent Soup Lunch will be served in the Hare Chapel.

7pm Holy Communion with imposition of ashes @ St Marv’s Dennington

MARCH 2026 SUNDAY SERVICES

<p>Sunday 1st March Lent 2 Purple</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Sunday 8th March Lent 3 Purple</p>	<p>9.30am BCP Communion – St Peter’s Cransford 9.30 Morning Prayer – St Michael’s Rendham 11am Holy Communion – St Mary’s Dennington</p>
<p>Sunday 15th March Lent 4 Mothering Sunday Purple</p>	<p>9.30 am BCP Communion - St Peter’s Bruisyard 9.30am Morning Prayer – St Mary’s Sweffling 11am St John’s Badingham</p>
<p>Sunday 22nd March Lent 5 Passiontide begins Purple</p>	<p>9.30am Holy Communion - St Michael’s Rendham 9.30am Morning Prayer – St Peter’s Cransford 11am St Mary’s Dennington</p>
<p>Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday Red</p>	<p>Altogether for 5th Sunday 10am Benefice Communion – St Peter’s Bruisyard</p>

February March 2026

From the Rector

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February can seem a month caught between the seasons – Christmas is packed away yet still the days are short and wintry, but if we look closely we notice the light lingering a little bit longer each day. We see signs of hope, bulbs are beginning to push through the cold ground and snowdrops appear, almost unnoticed at first.

In the church calendar, February brings the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. It's a moment that can easily be overlooked, but it holds something deeply precious, Simeon and Anna two elderly



figures who have waited faithfully for years and finally they see what they have long hoped for: the light of God coming into the world.

Light is a powerful image at this time of the year. We are all weary of darkness by February...dark mornings, dark evenings and sometimes dark news that weighs heavily on our hearts, yet Candlemas reminds us that God's light does not wait for perfect conditions. It shines into ordinary, imperfect, even difficult circumstances. February is also a month when we're invited to pause and reflect. Before we step into spring, Lent calls us to reflect once again on Jesus's journey to the Cross...there's time to ask yourself simple but important questions.... Where have I noticed light recently? Who has helped me see hope when I struggled to find it myself? How might I be a small bearer of that light to others?

In our villages light often shows itself in very practical ways: neighbours check in on one another, meals are shared, lifts offered, conversation flows over a cup of tea or over the garden fence. These moments matter more than we sometimes realise. They are reflections of God's care, lived out in everyday faithfulness.

As we move through February and into March may the signs of spring fill our hearts with hope and our eyes be focussed on the light of God's love already at work in our communities.

Spring is a season which propels us forward as green shoots appear. Popular terms come to mind – 'spring forward' 'spring in my step'. Where will these new signs of life take you to this year?

Revd Claire



Easter Services in Advance

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

Badingham

Carol Service and Crib Service

It was lovely to be joined by so many people for The Carol Service and The Crib Service. Your generous donations meant that we collected £117.50 for The Children's Society to support their amazing work – thank you everyone who contributed and who came along and helped to make the services so special.

BADINGHAM AND SUFFOLK ANGEL ROOFS

A Talk with Photos

Kindly given By Dr. Sarah Cassell

Friday 6th March

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

Ann 638288 and Badingham Café.

Sarah has published many papers and throughout her training and career has gained vast experience in Art History from the UEA, The Courtauld Institute, The Norfolk Museums Services, Moyse's Hall Museum and volunteering for The Churches Conservation Trust. She is currently planning an exhibition about 'The Making of The Angel Roof', for summer 2026.

Sarah writes - Amongst the most distinctive features of some Suffolk parish churches are their early fifteenth century to mid-sixteenth century open timber roofs. These were often designed with angelic carvings, some of which have been lost to iconoclasm. Carved angels form, or are/were attached to, the beam ends or principal timbers, at prayer, or carrying musical instruments, symbols of Christ's Passion, implements of the Mass or heraldic devices. Angel roofs proliferated across Suffolk in the wake of the unveiling of Richard II's prestigious remodelled roof at Westminster Hall (c. 1393-9). I will consider why Badingham's nave roof is an outstanding example.



SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2025

BADINGHAM VILLAGE HALL

10am – 12 noon

*Please join us for
a chance to get-together, chat and enjoy each other's company*

We also have Vegan and Vegetarian options.

Proceeds for Badingham Church Roof

Church Flowers – We have a willing band of volunteers who do an amazing job of keeping the flowers in the church fresh but we will always welcome more help. You do not need to have great skill, we just like to keep the flowers at the altar fresh. We have a Flower Rota and it means taking a turn once or twice a year. If you would like to help please contact Ann 638288 or Rosemary 660405 to find out more.

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 were delighted early in December to be told that the Heritage Fund had increased our Development Fund Grant by £38,693. which will enable us to engage a fund-raising consultant, who will help us with grant applications, and a quantity surveyor. Both very necessary. They have also extended our Development Phase period and our aim is to submit our delivery phase application by May 2026. Arising from the Activity plan we have had a report from Suffolk Wildlife Trust and hope to have a meeting with everyone involved in the churchyard maintenance (when the weather and conditions permit) to discuss the churchyard management from a natural history point of view and are arranging a talk on 'Angel Roof Churches in Suffolk' with a special reference to Badingham, details of the talk are in this edition of The Link / Echo.

Christmas Timeline

There is a presentation of the 'Christmas timeline' in Badingham Church. Space did not allow it to be installed until after Christmas Day, so it will stay until a week after Candlemas (2nd February). The church is open seven days each week from 9am until 6pm.

Bell Ringers

The Mulled Wine & Minced Pies bestowed on the Bell Ringers:- David, Edward, Kate, Audrey? & Jason on Sunday 18th January were well appreciated. Thank you

Cransford News

THE SNOW-DROP, WINTER'S
TIMID CHILD,
AWAKES TO LIFE, BEDEW'D
WITH TEARS.
- MARY ROBINSON -



Already we are fed up with winter, and the brief delight of a fall of snow is forgotten. There is no pleasure in frost and being mid January, and there is a long wait until Spring.

On the 18th December St Peter's and the Christian Fellowship held their joint Carol Singing around the village, our voices aided by Sonia Hunt's guitar until darkness prevented us from seeing the Carol sheet. On the following Sunday we held the joint Carol Service at the Christian Fellowship Church. There a good turnout of about 50 people who enjoyed the comfortable and warm building followed by tea and scones.

We trust in the coming year we can make progress with raising funds for church tower repairs. There is still a long way to go. Let us hope 2026 will be a peaceful year, and although world events may seem remote from Cransford, they affect us all. The snowdrops are just showing green spikes, so spring is round the corner.

Patrick

Talk in aid of St Peter's, Cransford - Britain's Secret Army in East Suffolk

We will welcome Chris Pratt, the curator of the Museum of the British Resistance Organisation, at Parham Airfield, to talk to us on Thursday 12th March. Chris will reveal the remarkable story of Britain's Secret Army, set up during the Second World War. This underground resistance network was made up of local men, and Auxiliary Units were trained in underground resistance, should the country be invaded and occupied. The scheme included a network run by locals in this area, members were sworn to secrecy, keeping even their families in the dark. This will be a fascinating glimpse into war time Suffolk.

ate: Thursday 12th March. **Venue:** Cransford Village Hall. **Tickets:** £10 - pay on door. **Email:** Lucy McDowell to book ticket:

mcdowelllucya@gmail.com

Ticket includes glass of wine / soft drink and nibbles.

Bruisyard News

Our coffee morning on the 29th of November was a great success and it was good to see many people enjoying the Christmas stalls , drinks and mince pies and carols played by Charles Seely .

We made an amazing £940.60 . Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this happy event and all who came to visit St Peter's and to view the improvements to the Hare Chapel.

The Crib Service was also a happy event held this year on the 20th . The church had been wonderfully decorated and thanks to all who helped and for all who attended and especially the children who as always helped to make the service so magical. The crib service raised £163 for the charity ' We See Hope'

Wishing everyone in the Benefice a very Happy New Year

Rupert and Sally

St Michael's Church Rendham

Over Christmas, our Carol Service and Communion Service on Christmas Eve were both well attended and very happy occasions.

On 6 December our Christmas Coffee Morning was a huge success, raising over £1,000 for forthcoming repairs for the church. Very

many thanks to Lesley Bennion and to all who worked so hard to achieve this, and especial thanks for two exceptionally generous donations. Looking back over the past year, we would like to say how grateful we are to all those who have cut the grass, arranged the church flowers, rung the bells for services and cleaned our parish church. Thank you all for giving up so much of your time.

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful 2026.

Charles and Frances

Dennington

Christmas already seems a long time ago but we had a wonderful carol service on the 14th 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 Holy Communion service and again it was lovely that so many people came along.

At all these services we have been extremely lucky to have Brook Hoadley playing the organ for us, for which we are extremely grateful! He and Sue are now moving to Edinburgh to be nearer their family which is very exciting for them but we will miss them hugely – as friends and

church members as well as providing such delightful music! Brook has been playing the organ at Dennington since May 2014 – for our normal Sunday services, weddings, funerals, baptisms and school services and has also been a great help choosing our hymns. Sue has always been there to help with putting out hymn books etc., meeting and greeting people, providing beautiful flower arrangements and being beside and supporting Brook all the time. All I can say is an enormous thank you from us all and the best of luck and every happiness in Edinburgh!



Sweffling

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AND MARKET: On November 29th, the Village Hall was full with people enjoying delicious bacon (and egg) rolls and freshly brewed tea and coffee. Stalls were busy, and we are very grateful to all those who made, wrapped, baked, cooked and generally contributed in so many ways. We have to say a special thank you to Ladybird nurseries who generously donated pansy and wallflower plants to the plant stall. Thank you to everyone who manned stalls, spent the morning in the kitchen and to those who came and supported this very successful event, which raised £806 for church funds

CHRISTMAS BRASS CONCERT: Having to cancel the concert in 2024 due to severe weather conditions, it was great to welcome the Leiston Royal British Legion Brass Band to Sweffling Church on December 12th 2025. The theme was entirely Christmas and the audience enjoyed an eclectic programme of popular Christmas music and carols, expertly played by the band. The programme was enhanced by the narrative between the musical items, which set the pieces into context. Overheard was the comment “It was the best concert yet!” Delicious mince pies and tea/coffee were enjoyed in the interval and there was a Christmas Raffle. Many thanks to the Band, who turned out in force, to the mince-pie and tea and coffee makers, to those who donated raffle prizes, to the local businesses who advertised in the programme and to those who supported the concert. If you couldn't be there, you missed an excellent and enjoyable evening. Make sure you are there this year!

Proceeds will be donated to St. Mary's Church.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: The Church was beautifully decorated and the large Christmas tree looked splendid for this special Christmas service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Many thanks to all those who helped in any way. The Benefice Choir led the singing of the well-known carols and also performed three choir items. Thank you to Charles Seely and the choir members for adding to our worship. The Christmas story was unfolded through the nine lessons – thank you to all the readers and to the Rev. Claire for leading the service. Mince pies, tea and coffee were served after the service, so thanks also to the cooks.

CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION:

The midnight service of Holy Communion was led by the Rev. Claire. it was a time of quiet reflection on the real meaning of Christmas before the bustle of Christmas day. We welcomed visitors from other churches in the Benefice, as well as friends from Sweffling.

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE: The Epiphany Carol Service, led by John Tesh, was held on Sunday, January 18^h and followed a similar pattern to the Christmas Nine Lessons and Carol service. The readings foretold the coming of the Magi to Bethlehem, the presentation of their gifts to the Christ child, the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt, their return to Nazareth and the revelation of Christ not only to Jews but also to Gentiles. The Epiphany hymns and Christmas carols were chosen to complement the readings. It was a fitting conclusion to Christmas worship in the village.

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU With many regrets, just before Christmas, we said goodbye to Jill and Geoffrey Abbott, who have now moved to Framlingham. Both Jill and Geoffrey have been very active and supportive members of the village and will be greatly missed. Jill has been both Parish Clerk and a Parish Councillor. She has organised and masterminded so many events in the village Hall, especially during and after lockdown, has been fete organiser and has always participated in church and village activities. Geoffrey served as church warden for many years and has been all things natural history in the village. He has agreed to continue writing Nature Notes for The Bridge (see later in this edition). We wish them every happiness in their new home but as they have not moved far away, we hope that we shall still see them frequently in church and at village 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 5th, 9.30 a.m.. If you would like to order a lily or lilies, please contact Diana Smith (663578) or Sheila Tesh (663518) by March 18th, or as soon as possible afterwards, as the lilies have to be ordered in good time in order to be open by Easter Day.

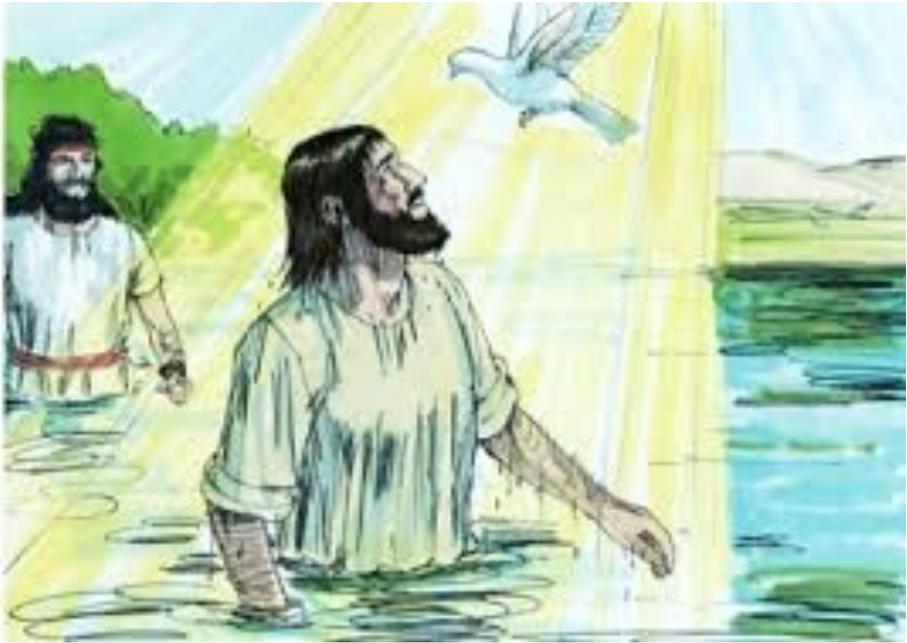
Each lily will cost £5.00. Please give the names of those to be remembered together with the money for the lilies. The church will be open for visitors on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday (10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.) to enjoy the lilies and remember our loved ones. We hope to serve refreshments to visitors.

LENT CHARITY SOUP LUNCH: The annual charity soup lunch for famine relief will be held in Sweffling Hut on Saturday, March 14th between 12.00 noon and 2.00 p.m. As much home-made soup and bread as you can eat. Wide variety of soups, including vegetarian and gluten free options. £6.00 for adults, £3.00 for children. Raffle.

If you can't be there but would like to make a donation, or to give a raffle prize, please contact Sheila Tesh (01728 663518 or john.tesh@talk21.com)

REPAIRS TO THE CHURCH ROOF

There is an ongoing problem of rainwater leaking into the church, where the roof abuts onto the church tower. This is causing damage to the ceiling in the southwest corner of the body of the church. The Churchwardens and PCC have approved a major repair to the church roof/tower abutment, and the necessary List B approval has been obtained from the Diocese for the work to go ahead. This will require scaffolding to be erected and specialist roofing contractors have been appointed to carry out the necessary roof and lead work. The proceeds donated to the church from the 2025 fete will be deployed to help offset the cost of these repairs, which could be in the region of £10,000, depending upon what the roofers uncover when they start work. When the external repair work has been completed it will be necessary to carry out internal repairs to the ceiling, yet to be approved and costed.



Baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan
Jesus spends Forty Days & Night in the Desert



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.