

St. Mary's Church, Sweffling Annual Report to Parish Council 2023

The Church is excellently led by the Rev. Martin Percival, Priest in Charge of Sweffling, which is part of the Upper Alde Benefice. A minimum of two services are held each month, a celebration of Holy Communion on the first Sunday and a service of Morning Prayer on the third Sunday of each month. Sunday School is also held for any children who attend church on these occasions. Church services are well supported - regular and new members are made welcome as are visitors to Sweffling. At the end of each service coffee, tea and biscuits are served, and this gives an opportunity for an informal get-together and chat.

The Church has a very positive outreach policy, regularly raising and donating funds to the Sweffling Gambia Project and Tear Fund for famine and disaster relief. When necessary, additional fund-raising events are held to help if natural or man-made disasters happen. Church members are also involved in other charity fund-raising causes and so far this year over £1200 has been donated.

The church and village magazine "The Bridge" is produced bimonthly, covering church and village news and events. It is delivered free of charge to every house in Sweffling and mailed to a number of ex-villagers who appreciate being kept up-to-date with village happenings. It is also posted on the village website. Thanks to those involved in its production, those who write articles or reports or send in details of future events. The editors are always looking for items to include.

During the year a number of events are organised, including the Lent Soup lunch, Easter memorial Lily festival, Harvest Lunch, The Christmas Brunch and Market, and the Christmas Brass Concert.

In summary, the church in Sweffling is very active, welcoming and a real asset to the village.