

Prospect

**The Parish Magazine
of the Shingay group of Parishes**



Early daffodils outside Wendy Church

**Abington Pigotts + Guilden Morden
Litlington + Steeple Morden
Tadlow + Wendy**

April 2021

Prospect

The Parish Magazine of the Shingay group of parishes
www.shingaychurches.co.uk

Rector & Prospect Editor

Canon Shamus Williams MA
The Vicarage, 18 High Street, Guilden Morden, Herts SG8 0JP
01763 853067 *Day off normally Monday*

Associate Priest

Revd. Ann Bol
36 Hillfield, Foxton, Cambridge CB22 6RZ
01223 871058 RevAnn801@gmail.com

Retired Priest

Revd. Judi Clarke,
8 Munkman Close, Potton, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2BY
01767 262132 judi195@btinternet.com

Readers

Mr Cyril Harris
10 Silver Street, Litlington 01763 852107

Mr Keith Stott,
Whitcroft, Church Lane, Abington Pigotts 01763 853514

Ministers of Communion by Extension

Mr Mike Birrell
3 Town Farm Close, Guilden Morden 01763 852174

Mrs Cicely Murfitt
10 Silver Street, Guilden Morden 01763 852526

Pastoral Assistants

Mrs Christine Furmston
19 Thompsons Meadow, Guilden Morden 01763 852125

Bellringing

Mr Alan Boyd, Guilden Morden 01763 852354
Mr Paul Newman, Litlington 01763 244167

Prospect Production

All advertising & editorial copy to:

Dr Alex da Costa
alexdacosta@me.com 07496 163453

Advertising enquiries:

Mrs Gillian McKee
Hill House, Cheyney Street, Steeple Morden, Herts SG8 0LR
shingayprospectadverts@gmail.com 01763 852380

Deadline for May issue - April 15th.
Please send all material for inclusion direct to
Alex da Costa rather than via the Rector. Thank you.

At the time of writing, we are hoping for a real, though gradual improvement in what is possible in terms of meeting up with family and friends. As you may imagine, it has been hard for couples who have had to postpone weddings, sometimes several times, as well as postponed christenings, and funerals where only a very limited number of people are allowed to attend. I hope it will be possible to resume services in church buildings from Holy Week (details in centre pages). Assuming we do that, I hope we can continue some online services for those still unable to meet, through some livestreamed services, and/or recordings of services. Zoom has its fans and its detractors. It is certainly not everyone's cup of tea, but using it has been a help in keeping us worshipping together as best we can. We have been very fortunate in enjoying live music at these online services together.

I read today a reflection by Canon Jessica Martin, who works at Ely Cathedral. She describes the feeling of anticipating meetings "in the flesh" again better than I could, so let me quote her:

"As tentative plans begin for meetings in person later in the spring, I realise I am not just excited. I am apprehensive. As with driving in traffic, I wonder if I have forgotten how to meet people face to face? What will it be like to be in company with other people? What will it be like to be sharing space, to be feeling the crackle of energy which every living body seems to have around it, the sense of presence which no online encounter, however clear the screen, however good the sound, can replicate?...When people try to describe encounter with God, when they reach for the language for that indescribable experience, they often talk about being 'in God's presence'. That sense of a living there-ness, of being intensely known and companioned – it's rare, and when it happens it's overwhelming enough for it to be a bit of a relief when it fades. And yet you can spend the rest of your life longing for it again.

We were not made to be alone, or to keep a hygienic technological distance from each other's bodies. It may be necessary, but it's not good for people to subsist at such distance from each other. Touch vivifies and soothes, heals (and sometimes harms); bodies in a shared space will subtly mirror each other in a mutual, wordless language.

The distant promise of God's presence keeps us hoping, praying, loving, serving, wanting. One day, God promises, you will be caught up in the presence of life, and never be alone again. From time to time, as a gift, God comes close even in our alienated spaces, filling them with fire and light and wind.

So in these early days of spring we long for each other through the glassy screens, waiting for the days when we can meet face to face."

Reflecting on Jessica's words, I thought this all connects to Easter, and the presence of Jesus after the Resurrection, when his disciples knew his presence with an extraordinary intensity. Happy Easter.

1st April (Maundy Thursday)

6.00pm	Steeple Morden	Holy Communion
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2nd April (Good Friday)

2.30pm	Litlington	Service for Good Friday
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4th April (Easter Day)

8.30am	Wendy	Parish Communion
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8.30am	Abington Pigotts	Parish Communion
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9.30am	Litlington	Parish Communion
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9.45am	Steeple Morden	Parish Communion
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11.00am	Guilden Morden	Parish Communion
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11th April (Easter 2)

8.30am	Wendy	Parish Communion
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9.30am	Litlington	Family Service
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10.00am	Abington Pigotts	Family Service
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10.00am	Guilden Morden	All-Age Worship
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10.45am	Steeple Morden	Parish Communion
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18th April (Easter 3)

8.30am	Abington Pigotts	Morning Prayer
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9.30am	Litlington	Parish Communion
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9.45am	Steeple Morden	Family Service
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10.00am	Wendy	Morning Prayer
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11.00am	Guilden Morden	Parish Communion (United Service)
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Services

25th April (Easter 4)

10.00am	Litlington	Group Communion
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2nd May (Easter 5)

8.30am	Steeple Morden	Parish Communion(PB)
8.30am	Abington Pigotts	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Litlington	Family Service
10.00am	Guilden Morden	Parish Communion

This list of services in churches is provisional because of the pandemic. If changes need to be made, details will be posted on church notice boards, and on www.shingaychurches.co.uk

SOS - Can you help the Refuges in Cambridgeshire?

We have been asked, through Mothers' Union, if anyone has clothes or toys for under 5s in the refuges. There is a particular need for under 5s, but if anyone can contribute toiletries or household cleaning supplies for the mothers these, too, would be very welcome.

The mothers very often arrive in the refuges with nothing, so Mothers' Union give each one the basics on arrival – toothpaste, soap, shower gel, etc. - and when they leave they get basic household things – washing powder, washing up liquid, cloths, pot brush etc. Nothing big.

If you can help, please bring donations to the Steeple Morden Spring Fair on 24th April. Otherwise please leave them in Steeple church, but no earlier than the 21st April, or ring Anne (853490). Many thanks!

Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

Feb 18th Don Mackarsie. Aged 90. RIP.

Feb 28th Peggy Mackarsie. Aged 89 in 2020. RIP.

If you would like the lights switched on please contact Cynthia Worboys 853217.

St Catherine's, Litlington

Mar 13th Anniversary of the death of William John Lawrence RIP, always known as John. In loving memory Shirley, Tony and family.

Mar 18th To wish Tony Lawrence a Happy 65th Birthday with love from Mum.

Mar 22nd In memory of Betty Pike RIP on the day of her funeral.

Apr 7th For Owen and Michaela Griffiths on their wedding anniversary. Welcome to Litlington, Owen and Michaela!

If you would like the lights switched on, please contact Pam Sharp 852425 or John Jenner 242127. The cost is still only £5.

St Peter & St Paul, Steeple Morden

Apr 10th In loving memory of Ben Briers RIP.

Apr 29th In loving memory of Kath Lunness RIP on her birthday.

If you would like the lights switched on (£5 per evening) please contact David or Gilly McKee 852380.

Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com

Given the current situation and the lack of certainty concerning future regulations, the following is a diary of events and services we would like to plan for April. Although the regulations permit face to face services we are also continuing to provide online services via Zoom. Please refer to our website (link above) or our facebook page for more up to date information. For those wishing to join a “service” zoom meeting the code is 933 0302 5193 passcode 2c1h3G.

APRIL

Sun 4th	10.30am	Easter Sunday family service via zoom, with children's activities, led by Tony Frost
Sun 11th	11.00am	Service at Litlington. If we are unable to hold a service at Litlington there will be a zoom service at 10.30am led by Tony Frost
Mon 12th	10.30am	Men's Guild via Zoom
Sun 18th	10.30am	Joint service with St Mary's at the Chapel and via Zoom
	2.30-3.30pm	Sunday school via Zoom, led by Sandy Watkins
Sun 25th	10.30am	Communion service in the Chapel, and via Zoom led by Tony Frost.

Home group Zoom meetings Tuesdays 20.00pm.
Contact Amanda for details

Measures to enable the start of other activities in the Chapel and schoolroom are now in place, and the buildings will be available for general use once the strict regulations have been relaxed sufficiently for activities to be allowed.

Litlington Congregational Church

Meeting Lane SG8 0QF

Our friendly regular Sunday services commence at 11am. All are welcome.

Sunday 4th April 11.00 am Easter Sunday Service

Due to coronavirus, it is possible, although increasingly unlikely, that there will be no services held at the Church for all or part of the month of April 2021. Please see the Church Notice Board and Litlington Live for an update.

Our hall is available for your meeting or event for a voluntary donation. The 7.4 X 5.7 metre room has an independent entrance and a separate kitchen, toilet, large lobby area, car park and garden. Chairs and tables available. It will accommodate up to 30 people for meals and up to 45 for meetings and buffets. Contact Gwen Biles 01763 852533.

St Peter & St Paul Church

Spring Fundraiser

**We will be
taking
donations for
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Saturday 24th April 2021

10am - 12 noon

**St Peter & St Paul Church
Steeple Morden**

Treasure Hunt

Preserve & Cake Stalls

Plant Stall

Raffle

**Take away Tea, Coffee, Cakes and Cream
Teas.**

Gardeners sometimes find shaded parts of the garden a problem, because it's an area where little seems to thrive. Firstly, there's dry shade underneath the dense canopy of an evergreen tree or shrub, like a yew or viburnum. But if leaf mould and compost is added regularly to the area, it's possible to grow some ground cover like Lamiums (dead nettles) which have rather pretty variegated leaves and pink or white flowers in spring. You might be able to grow Vinca minor, which also has a variegated form and lilac flowers in spring. The yellow edged leaves bring a bit of brightness to an otherwise dark area. Sometimes I don't grow anything in dense shade; instead I cover it with bark chips and piles of small logs which will decompose to improve the soil underneath and provide homes for a number of bugs and other creatures like newts and toads.

Not all shady areas remain sunless throughout the year. Often the sun filters through the bare branches of trees in winter, giving bulbs like snowdrops, cyclamen and wood anemones a chance to burst into flower before the leaves unfurl and block out the light. Apart from bulbs, there are spring flowering herbaceous perennials which will grow very happily under trees, protected from the summer sun.

Brunnera macrophylla, with its heart shaped mid green leaves produces clusters of blue forget-me-not flowers around early April through to late May. The varieties "Hadspen cream" with variegated foliage has especially good, intense blue flowers and those of "Jack Frost" are decorated with a network of silver grey veins.

Another shade loving plant is the aptly named "Love lies bleeding" or Dicentra spectabilis. The heart shaped flowers which hang from gently arching stems, are either deep pink, crimson or white with a tear drop shape extending downwards from them. Their foliage is also beautiful, but dies down in late summer when the soil becomes too dry.

Ferns are great for shady areas, and the Hart's tongue fern, Asplenium scolopendrium will tolerate dry shade if given enough water in its first year of growth.

There are many shrubs which will grow well in shade and include evergreens such as the Christmas box, Sarcococca, Euonymus varieties Viburnum davidii and spotted laurel, Aucuba japonica crotonifolia. Their

In the Garden (cont.) *Yasmeen Brigstocke*

role in the garden, apart from filling up a space where other things will not easily grow, is to provide a strong structural backdrop.

The problem that plants often face growing in the shade is the competition for moisture and nutrients which are being taken up by nearby trees and hedges. They require a moisture retentive soil rich in the minerals they need.

So, in order for plants to flourish in shaded areas, it is important to look after the soil in which they grow. Mulching with bark, straw or compost yearly in winter is very beneficial because it will retain water in the drier months. Avoiding the use of pesticides and herbicides to kill off all the creatures and fungi which live in the soil will enable these organisms to turn this organic matter into a material that plants can use to grow and be healthy. They also help aerate the soil enabling plants to absorb the nutrients they need and promote better root growth.

So ditch the chemicals and make shady areas a rich green tapestry of textures to enjoy.



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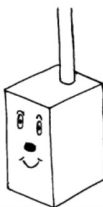
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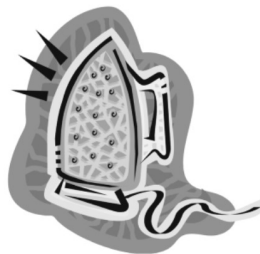
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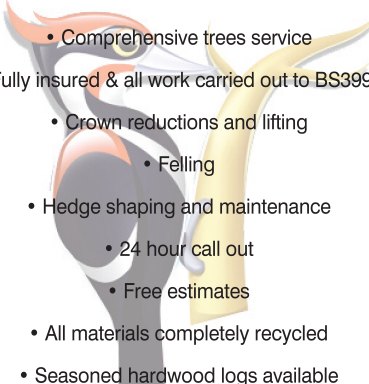


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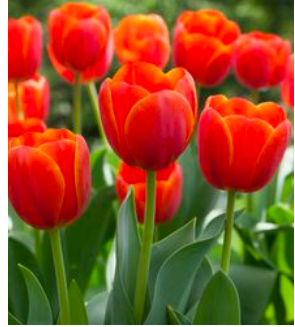
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