

Prospect

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



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

December 2021-January 2022

Prospect

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

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01223 871058 RevAnn801@gmail.com

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

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In addition to the above persons, also Ministry Team members:
Mr. Mike Birrell, Mrs. Fiona Davis, Mrs. Cicely Murfitt

Bellringing Mr Alan Boyd, Guilden Morden 01763 852354
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Prospect Production

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

At the time of writing, Covid rates locally remain high. For this reason, at churches where carol services have packed out congregations (Abington Pigotts, Litlington and Steeple Morden), it seems wise to me to see how things look in December. If things don't look too good, possibly we will try to hold these outside at an earlier time of day. Singing is one of the most hazardous things in terms of virus transmission, so singing carols inside is not necessarily going to be a good idea.

On a happier note, nothing is going to prevent us celebrating the true meaning of Christmas, carol services or no carol services.

Christmas now seems to be on two levels: the commercial, religiously meaningless winter festival detached from the story of the birth of Jesus, and the infinitely deeper, life-giving real meaning of Christmas. I know which I prefer. It's a bit like the old Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas", said by some to have been written in a sort of code at a time when Catholics were persecuted and had to be very careful what they said about faith.

"On the First day of Christmas my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree," symbolising God (true love) and Jesus Christ (the partridge).

Second day: Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Third day: Three French hens represented the three gifts of faith, hope and love.

Fourth day: Calling birds were the four gospels.

Fifth day: Five golden rings were the Books of Moses.

Sixth day: Geese a-laying stands for the six days of creation.

Seventh day: Swans a-swimming were the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Eighth day: Maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Ninth day: Ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit such as love, peace and kindness.

Tenth day: Lords a-leaping represent the 10 Commandments.

Eleventh day: Pipers piping were the 11 faithful apostles.

Twelfth day: Twelve drummers drumming represented the points of the Apostles Creed.

Happy Christmas.

Shamus Williams

Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

- Oct 21st In loving memory of Linda Davies on the 3rd anniversary.
RIP
- Oct 31st Remembering Linda Davies on her birthday RIP
- Nov 4th In loving memory of Nick Best on what would have been his
89th birthday, from Dorothy. RIP

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

- Nov 9th For Sheila Robinson RIP – you are forever in our thoughts,
Mum, we love you always. from your family x

*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

- Nov 13-16th The lights shine in remembrance of John Hornbrook who
died a year ago and dearly missed by his family & friends
- Nov 16th In loving memory of Ian Symington RIP
- Dec 17th In memory of my beloved grandson Sam Clarke on his
birthday, Nan
- Christmas Eve In loving memory of Kath Lunness RIP and Frank & Muriel
Huffer RIP

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



CAFE CHURCH

We are back!
Café Church will be open for business as usual on

5th, 12th, 19th and 26th November.

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If you are able to volunteer to help from time to time we would
be delighted.

Please ring Gilly (852380) or Anne (853490)



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Last month I made some suggestions for suitable trees to grow for the “Queen’s Green Canopy - Plant a tree for the Jubilee”. So, I thought it might be useful to write about how to incorporate trees into a garden scheme. It’s a good idea when planting trees to think about what to plant with them, though some look perfect on their own as a focal point, just surrounded by lawn or a wildflower meadow. But such a tree needs to be something special and provide interest throughout the year to earn this prominent place. I hesitate to suggest a silver birch because they are almost too popular, yet varieties such as *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* ‘Grayswood Ghost’, which has one of the whitest stems, looks too amazing not to mention.

I like to underplant trees with bulbs such as snowdrops, winter aconites or wood anemones because they add interest, without being labour intensive. They can be planted as random clumps or in a distinct circle surrounding the tree, forming a beautiful carpet of colour to cheer up a grey spring day. And they will come up year after year and increase in numbers if they like the soil conditions. The bulbs need not only be those that flower in the early months of the year. *Crocus sativus*, cyclamen and colchicums are all fascinating autumn flowering bulbs that will liven up the otherwise difficult to manage spot underneath a tree, especially at a time when many herbaceous plants are dying down. *Crocus sativus* is the saffron crocus, whose bright red stigmas (three pointed strands which poke out from the middle of the pale lilac flower) can be collected, dried and used in cooking. It’s a favourite spice in Middle Eastern food. But be careful not to confuse them with colchicums though, as the latter are poisonous.

Alliums are good companion plants for apple trees because they ward off pests and diseases such as wood borers and scab. This family of bulbs includes chives, leeks, garlic, ransomes, as well as the ornamental Dutch alliums – *Allium hollandicum*. ‘Purple Sensation’, *Allium ‘cristophii’* and *Allium sphaerocephalon*. Growing bulbs in the grass around trees also weakens the competitive nature of grass, making it easier for a young tree to take hold.

The use of neatly clipped evergreen shrubs can complement the shape of a deciduous tree such as a flowering cherry, especially in winter.

In the Garden (cont.) *Yasmeen Brigstocke*

Box or Euonymus japonica make good geometric shapes, such as spheres or cubes, and tolerate the low light levels under the tree canopy in the summer.

Trees can also be used as supports for climbers, especially in an informal woodland situation. A climbing rose or clematis trained into the midst of a tree such as a magnolia can extend its attractiveness through the summer; the beautiful display of magnolia flowers will have finished by the time the climbers begin to flower. Be careful not to choose a very vigorous variety of clematis or rose to avoid swamping their host. And plant the climbers away from the stem of the tree to avoid too much competition.

Lastly, you could consider planting a Christmas tree to decorate outside, year after year!

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17th February
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17th March
Members Meeting
(members organise to give
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Everyone is welcome. If anyone
wishes to join an event, please
contact Joyce on 01763 852087.

Afternoon Tea
Sunday 12th December
Litlington Village Hall



12pm-1:30 or 2pm-3:30

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Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com

December 2021		
Sun 5 th	10.30am	Café style service. Come and join us for croissants and coffee in our relaxed style of worship. All welcome
Mon 6 th	10.30am	Men's Guild – in the Schoolroom, followed by Xmas lunch
Wed 8 th	9.00am-11.00am	Mix and Match for parents and toddlers
Sun 12 th	16.30pm	Carol Service at Litlington
Wed 15 th	9.00am-11.00am	Mix and Match for parents and toddlers
Sun 19 th	10.30pm	Joint service with St Mary's in the Chapel
Wed 22 nd	9.00am-11.00am	Mix and Match for parents and toddlers
Fri 24 th	16.30pm	Carols by Candlelight. Join us for carols and a showing of "Our Christmas Story", the film we have been making with the children from the Sunday Club. And stay on for mulled wine and mince pies.
January Sun 2 nd	10.30am	Café style service
Home group Zoom meetings Tuesdays 8.00pm. Contact Amanda for details, ajgenieman@gmail.com		
Anyone wishing to book the rooms for social activities contact Gerry Watkins 01763 852869		

Litlington Congregational Church

You will receive a warm welcome at our Sunday services which commence at 11.00 am unless shown otherwise.

DECEMBER

Sun 5th		Mr Frank Pearson
Sun 12th		Christmas Carol Service Mr John Iles
Sun 19th		Mr Michael Resta-Tutor from All Nations Christian College Ware
Sun 26th		No service
Sun 2nd		Mr Peter Shoard
Sun 9th		Ecumenical Service Canon Shamus Williams and Mr Tony Frost
Sun 16th		Mr Mike Birrell
Sun 23rd		Reverend John Whittle
Sun 30 th	10.30am*	Mr Tony Frost

* To be held at Guilden Morden Congregational Church, Pound Green, Guilden Morden, SG8 0JZ

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 :- litlingtoncchurch@aol.com

5th December (Advent 2)

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

12th December (Advent 3)

8.30am	Abington Pigotts	Parish Communion(PB)
9.30am	Litlington	Parish Communion
9.45am	Steeple Morden	Morning Prayer
3.00pm	Guilden Morden	Christingle Service

19th December (Advent 4)

9.30am	Litlington	Parish Communion
10.00am	Steeple Morden	Nativity service
10.30am	Guilden Morden	United Service in Chapel
4.30pm	Guilden Morden	Carol Service
6.00pm	Abington Pigotts	Carol Service (*see note)

24th December (Christmas Eve)

4.30pm	Steeple Morden	Carol Service (*see note)
4.30pm	Litlington	Carol Service (*see note)
11.30pm	Litlington	Group Midnight Communion

**Note: Carol Services as indicated will only take place at Abington Pigotts, Litlington and Steeple Morden if deemed safe at the time. A possibility is having the service outdoors, in which case the time of the service may change. Please see church notice boards nearer the time.*

Services

25th December (Christmas Day)

8.30am	Abington Pigotts	Parish Communion
9.45am	Steeple Morden	Parish Communion
9.45am	Litlington	Parish Communion
11.00am	Guilden Morden	Parish Communion

26th December (St. Stephen)

11.00am	Guilden Morden	Holy Communion (PB) (said)
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2nd January (observed as Epiphany)

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

9th January (Baptism of Christ)

10.30am	Litlington Chapel	Ecumenical Service
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16th January (Epiphany 2)

8.30am	Abington Pigotts	Parish Communion (PB)
9.30am	Litlington	Parish Communion
9.45am	Steeple Morden	Family Service
10.00am	Guilden Morden	Parish Communion

23rd January (Epiphany 3)

10.00am	Steeple Morden	Group Communion for all parishes
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Calendar of Services (cont)

30th January (Epiphany 4)

10.00am	Guilden Morden	Group Communion for all parishes

6th February (4 before Lent)

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

ogs – Communities of Guilden Social



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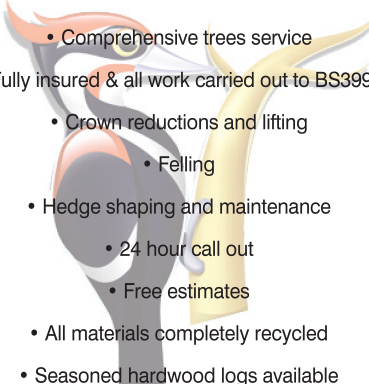


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The Trustees of the 'Wheels for Martin's Friends' charity would like to hear from anyone who needs help with obtaining a permanent wheelchair or mobility aid. Call Peter Furmston 852125 or Heather Watts 852727 for further information.



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Christine Furmston 01763 852125

Hilary Sharp 01763 852272

Anna Burwitz 01763 256871

Maggie Galan 01223 207307

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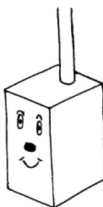
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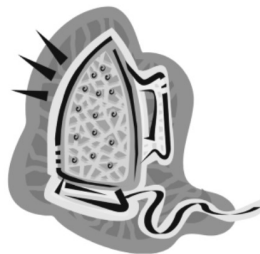
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The Rota covers an 8-month period March to October, so we can accommodate any time that suits your availability.

If you would like to volunteer, or need more details, please contact Pat Heavey