

# Prospect

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



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

**February 2021**

# Prospect

The Parish Magazine of the Shingay group of parishes  
[www.shingaychurches.co.uk](http://www.shingaychurches.co.uk)

## Rector & Prospect Editor

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

I am sure you are all aware of the serious situation regarding the virus, and the general instruction to "stay at home". There is a new rule which is staying in your home village, town or city. This would affect us in terms of those who lead services and would also affect our group services. It is estimated that the majority of Church of England churches have decided to have online services only for the time being, and we decided to do that from mid-January. Ely Cathedral will be online only on Sundays, and both our bishops will be worshipping online only. I believe all the churches of our deanery have made the same decision. During the period when services in churches has been permitted, The Shingay Group has been one of the few groups of churches which have had church services in the buildings throughout. Our congregations are mainly elderly, and the virulence of the new form of the virus has to be taken seriously, so I believe this is the ethically right decision now. To be honest I would far rather worship together in our buildings than on Zoom, as well as celebrate the Eucharist in person, but I believe this is the responsible decision at this time. We will of course review this as things develop, and seek to resume worship in church as soon as it is safe to do so. Please see [www.shingaychurches.co.uk](http://www.shingaychurches.co.uk) for up to date details of services in case of change, and contact me for Zoom service access details. At the time of going to press, no decision on worship details for the last Sunday in February.

Wednesday 17th February is the beginning of Lent, and we aim to have a simple service online at 10am. During Lent, if you are a parent or carer of children, you might like to look at new Church of England material produced for children at home. See <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/i-am-parent>.

For grown ups, the Faraday Institute's seminars online may be of interest:

9 February 2021 Prof. Robert Koons [University of Texas] - How the Quantum Revolution Vindicates Aristotle's Metaphysics

23 February 2021 Dr Bethany Sollereder [Oxford] - Theology Past the Tipping Point: God's goodness in a world of rapid change.

9th March 2021 Dr Mirjam Schilling [Oxford] - From Biology to Theology: How viruses challenge our perception of good and evil.

The seminars will be held as Zoom Webinars and are free to attend. All are welcome. More information can be found at [faraday.institute/seminars](http://faraday.institute/seminars)

*Shamus Williams*

# Calendar of Services

**Sunday services in church are currently suspended, but worship continues online. Do join us!**

## **7th February (2 before Lent)**

10.00am	Zoom Service

## **14th February (next before Lent)**

10.00am	Zoom Service

## **Wednesday 17th February (Ash Wednesday)**

10.00am	Zoom Service

## **21st February (Lent 1)**

10.00am	Zoom Service
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It is expected that we will review at this point whether or not to resume services in church buildings

## **TRANSPORT TO COVID VACCINATION CENTRES**

For residents who do not have access to their own transport. Both Royston & District Community Transport and North Herts Community Transport have drivers carrying out transport to vaccination appointments. Both are chargeable (Royston 55p per mile, N Herts 45p per mile with a minimum £5 per journey). Both cover our area and Bassingbourn to Letchworth.

Royston & District Community Transport

<https://www.roytrans.co.uk/>

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North Herts and Stevenage Community Transport Scheme

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01462 689402

## **ST MARY'S NOTICES**

### **THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

On behalf of the Society may I thank everyone who has used a collecting box in 2020? The grand total raised was £455 which was slightly up on the previous year.

Please continue to use your boxes in 2021. It is much appreciated.  
Thank you. Cynthia 853217

### **APPRECIATION**

We are deeply grateful for all the volunteer grass mowing, clock winding and church housekeeping that has continued to happen during these difficult times. This is involving over 40 loyal villagers and it does not go unnoticed. Many many thanks.

Mike and Christine  
Church Wardens

### **STEEPLE MORDEN ADVENT WINDOWS**

An enormous thank you to everyone who took part in the Christmas Advent windows in December. It was wonderful to see our community come together and transform our village into a real life advent calendar, all thanks to your hard work and endless creativity. There is certainly no shortage of artistic talent in Steeple Morden! By decorating your window, you helped to lift our spirits and brighten what was a rather gloomy year. Once again - thank you for all your efforts. James & Katie Styles

### **DEARDS ROYSTON ROTARY TRUST**

Do you know a person, or an organisation, in Royston or the surrounding villages who needs a helping hand? If so, the Rotary Club of Royston might well have the answer. The club is open for applications to The Deards Royston Rotary Trust, which was founded by a well-known Roystonian more than 20 years ago. Alfie Deards made a generous legacy to the club – and other bequests to organisations in the town – with no strict stipulations as to how the money should be spent. If you would like to make an application for help from the trust, or if you would like to recommend another applicant, please contact [deardstrust@roystonrotary.com](mailto:deardstrust@roystonrotary.com).

# Floodlight Diary (cont)

## **St Mary's, Guilden Morden**

December 9th In memory of Arthur Lawrence RIP

December 14th Happy 25th birthday to Niles Beadman. The floodlights have shone for Niles every year since he was born.  
(This is a record)

December 18th In memory of Kenneth and little Andrew Pratt. RIP

December 23rd Congratulations to Philippa and John Edge on their 26th wedding anniversary

December 28th In memory of Kathleen and George Pratt RIP

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

## **St Catherine's, Litlington**

December 11th For Lisenna Carter RIP - loved and missed by Sonia x.

December 25th To celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

January 3rd For Sheila Allen RIP - loved and remembered by all her family.

January 5th Remembering our Mothers, Hilda Williams RIP on her birthday and Florence Cannadine RIP on the anniversary of her death - Robin and Linda

January 31st For Bill Newman RIP - treasured memories. Loved and always in our thought. Audrey.

*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**

December 21st In loving memory of Vincent & John Merrill RIP

December 22nd In loving memory of William & Eva Merrill RIP

December 24th In loving memory of Frank & Muriel Huffer and Kath Lunness RIP

January 9th In loving memory of Kathleen Goddard RIP

February 20th In loving memory of Stan Clarke RIP a dear husband and Dad always in our thoughts.

*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](http://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 February. Although the regulations permit face to face services we are aiming to provide online services. Please refer to our website (link above) or our facebook page for more up to date information.

## FEBRUARY

Mon 1st	10.30am	Men's Guild Zoom Meeting
Sun 7th	10.30am	Family service via Zoom
Sun 14th	10.30am	Zoom service joined by Litlington
Sun 21st	TBC am	Joint service with St Mary's
	2.30-3.30pm	Sunday school via Zoom
Sun 28th	10.30am	Zoom Communion service led by Tony Frost

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.

## Litlington Congregational Church Meeting Lane SG8 0QF

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

The service calendar is on the Church noticeboard or at Litlington Post Office. Due to coronavirus, it is possible that there will be no services held at the Church for all or part of the month of February 2021. Please see the Church Notice Board and Litlington Live for updates.

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.

The beginning of another growing year! So much to look forward to in the garden, even if otherwise, things aren't so great. The latest news bulletins that I have read have mentioned that German and French haulage companies are refusing to bring goods into the UK and this might lead to shortages. So, this year I am concentrating my efforts on growing vegetables and trying to be as self-reliant as possible.

I have sown the first batch of peppers in mid-January, as they take quite some time to develop into productive plants. Aubergines, tomatillos and tomatoes I sow at the end of the month. I use a heat mat to maintain a reasonably high temperature for quick germination and grow lights, because there just isn't enough sun at this time of year. You don't have to start plants off so early. Up to the end of March is fine for the above-mentioned plants, but they will crop later. Last year we had a huge amounts of cherry tomatoes from a variety called 'Koralik'. They kept producing well into October outdoors, but they weren't the tastiest variety I have ever grown. So this year's choice includes the cherry tomato 'Apero', 'Ferline' and 'Black Russian'. I can recommend purple tomatillos, as they are delicious in salsas and salads and are very easy to grow. Once they are picked off the plant they also can be stored in their paper husks for a couple of weeks without any problem.

This year I am attempting to grow a number of vegetables under cloches to speed up their growth and protect them from the weather. I noticed last year how much better the yellow courgettes did when grown under a cold frame, than those grown out in the open. I am starting off some hardy lettuce in modules in the greenhouse and will transplant them into beds once they are large enough and less likely to be damaged by slugs and snails. Carrots seem to do really well in our raised beds which are about a metre high. I think it's because they are above the height at which carrot flies hover and so aren't damaged by them. My daughter also grew carrots very successfully in a large window box after removing the spring bedding. I was surprised at how well they did in the pre-used compost.

Last year our climbing French beans, which we always start off in pots, grew very quickly and were finished by late July, so this year we are going to sow seeds in batches over several weeks. We start them in the greenhouse in mid-April and plant them out in late May. This year we will do the same but sow another batch in May and June so that we have a



## **In the Garden (cont.)** *Yasmeen Brigstocke*

good supply throughout the summer and into the autumn. We found that the flat climbing French beans “Helda” were the easiest ones to grow and produced a really large amount of beans very quickly.

All the vegetable beds get a thick layer of well-rotted manure in February to feed the soil and make it more moisture retentive. So there's plenty to be getting on with now, especially if you have some extra time to spare during this lockdown.

### **Allotments available in Steeple Morden**

Want to grow your own food and know it is fresh and chemical-free? Or maybe you want to grow your own cut flowers or herbs. Did you know that during all the lockdowns and tiers it has been permitted to cultivate your allotment?

If you would like to grow your own in 2020 Steeple Morden community allotment site on Station Road, has plots available for 2020. Fresh air, exercise and a friendly, helpful group of fellow growers await you.

We are in a beautiful spot on the edge of the village, with car parking spaces and that all important water supply. The soil is good and the site is run by and for plotholders mucking in together.

A few plots have just become available for 2020. To make one of them yours, call Nettie on 01763 853843, email [nettieth@outlook.com](mailto:nettieth@outlook.com) or join our Facebook group ‘Steeple Morden Allotment Society’ and send me a message.

### **Steeple Morden Primary School: Governor**

We are currently looking for a new co-opted governor, who does not have children at the school, to join our friendly governing body. Being a school governor is an important community role that supports the school and is a rewarding way of making a voluntary contribution to the lives of local children in education. If you think a governor role could be for you please contact Karenza Nutley ([chair@smmsgovernor.co.uk](mailto:chair@smmsgovernor.co.uk)) for more information by the end of February.

## MORE TREES FOR STEEPLE



Since our last update, parishioners have planted 23 new native trees around the village including hornbeams, alders, silver birches, pussy willow and field maples.

The second batch of around 60 trees are due to be delivered towards the end of January.

Sadly, because of lockdown we sadly cannot have gatherings to plant trees on the two larger sites, including the conservation area and recreation ground, which creates a bit of a logistical challenge. Instead the trees will be planted in line with current advice regarding Covid-19 from the Tree Council - based on the provisions of lockdown for volunteering, and counting as their daily exercise outdoors session for people from the same household or socially distanced pairs of willing volunteers.

Our neighbours in Ashwell have taken an interest in the project and a short article will feature in the February edition of Ashwell Village News (which you can buy from Steeple post office or view online at <https://tinyurl.com/Ashwell-Village-News>)

Thanks are due to all those villagers who have joined in the project in any way and to the Parish Council for supporting it both financially and practically, especially Cllrs Sacha Wheatley, Keith Austin and Angela Chambers. We are also very grateful to local native tree nursery Herts Native Trees <https://www.hertsnativetrees.co.uk/> for their advice and donating free delivery and extra trees for the initiative. Also thanks are due to Anna Pye for creating our project symbol.

This will hopefully not be the end of planting more trees in our lovely village. This year we will investigate further the idea of a small, informal community orchard on the rec/conservation area. And thanks to efforts by our District Councillor, Heather Williams, we will survey District Council-owned land in the village for possible planting sites, once Covid-19 regulations allow.

Nettie Traverse-Healy

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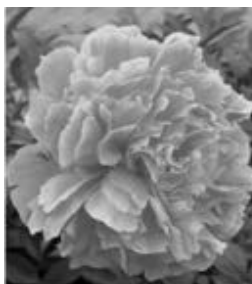


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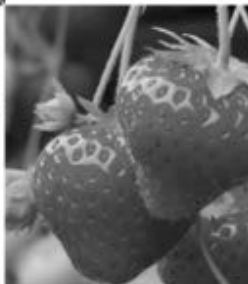
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The Trustees of the 'Wheels for Martin's Friends' charity would like to hear from anyone who needs help with obtaining a permanent wheelchair or mobility aid. Call Peter Furmston 852125 or Heather Watts 852727 for further information.



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Anna Burwitz 01763 256871

Maggie Galan 01223 207307

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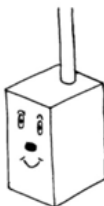
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