

Prospect

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



Path in Guilden Morden

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

June 2020

Prospect

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

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Deadline for joint July/August edition - 15th June.
Please send all material for inclusion direct to
Alex da Costa rather than via the Rector. Thank you.

At this stressful and testing time for all of us, I am sure that like me you are thinking of all the essential workers, not least of course those who are caring for the sick. One of the many groups of essential workers I feel very grateful for are all the postal and delivery people. I am writing just following the very limiting loosening of the conditions allowing people to leave their homes, but I am very conscious of the categories of people who are still unable to leave their homes at all. This made me think that there may be things to learn from the experts in isolation in the monastic tradition, or to use one of my favourite words, those who live the “eremitic” life. Most of us are eremitic these days.

One of the greatest and most well-known of the Desert Fathers is St. Anthony. Some of his sayings can be found in a document called the *Apophthegmata*. Here are a few: Someone asked Anthony, “What must one do in order to please God?” The old man replied, “Pay attention to what I tell you: whoever you may be, always have God before your eyes, whatever you do, do it according to the testimony of the holy Scriptures; in whatever place you live, do not easily leave it. Keep these three precepts and you will be saved.” Anthony said, “I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and I said groaning, “What can get through from such snares?” Then I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Humility.’” A brother said to Anthony, “Pray for me.” The old man said to him, “I will have no mercy upon you, nor will God have any, if you yourself do not make an effort and if you do not pray to God. Anthony said, “Whoever hammers a lump of iron, first decides what he is going to make of it, a scythe, a sword, or an axe. Even so we ought to make up our minds what kind of virtue we want to forge or we labour in vain.”

These sayings may be 1700 years old, but I find them helpful at this strange time having to be at home so much.

Our services using Zoom continue on Sundays at 10am. Look at our website for further details www.shingaychurches.co.uk.

with my thoughts and prayers,
Shamus Williams

Pauses in Services and Events

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice.

There are a lot of prayer resources available online. Please see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer>.

I also recommend Bishop Dagmar's regular videos, which you can find on the Diocesan website www.elydiocese.org. And you can watch recordings of our own online services by going to Youtube and searching for "shingay churches"

Book Cafe, Cafe Church, and House Group

There is no Litlington **Book Cafe** at St Catherine's this month.

It is also with regret that **Cafe Church** at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Steeple Morden will be in abeyance until further notice. Cafe Church is a valuable facility for people of all ages to meet, chat, make new friends and relax with good coffee, tea and cake as well as goodies for the children.

We look forward to being back as soon as possible.

House Group meets in Steeple Morden on Mondays for a time of Bible study, reflection, discussion, prayer and fellowship. Regretfully, the Group is temporarily in abeyance but will re-start as soon as possible. For information ring Anne on 853490.

Donating to the Churches

In last month's "Prospect", there was an appeal for funds for Steeple Morden Church. A big thank you to all those who sent donations in for their Gift Day/Spring Fair.

We are very conscious at this time that there are many individuals and families who are struggling financially, with reduced income through jobs furloughed, or redundancies, as well as small and large businesses going under. We want therefore to be as sensitive as we can in asking for your financial contributions. As you may imagine, the giving for each church is heavily affected by not being able to receive cash collections at services in church. If you **are able** to help by setting up a standing order and/or keeping aside donations in cash to give at a later date, this would be a huge help.

Every parish in the Church of England is expected to contribute towards the costs of ministry. These include paying the stipends of stipendiary clergy and the costs of housing them, as well as national costs such as training ordinands. These contributions by parishes do not contribute to the costs of bishops or cathedrals as they are paid for separately by The Church Commissioners. In addition, there are local costs for every parish. Here in The Shingay Group of Parishes, this includes maintaining our historic church buildings. Just paying for basic insurance cover for these costs many thousands of pounds each year. Repairs to historic buildings are very expensive. At the moment we are unable to raise funds through activities such as concerts or Fetes.

If you are a UK tax payer, Gift Aiding will greatly enhance your gift, so please contact, where shown, the appropriate treasurer below to do this. Thank you. May God bless your giving, large or small.

Our **Shingay Group account** pays for the expenses of the clergy for their ministry, and such things as Communion wafers and Communion wine used at services, palm crosses, photocopying for special services, books to help candidates for Confirmation etc. The account details are:

Sort Code: 60-13-08

Account No: 58834710

Account Name: Shingay Group of Parishes

Treasurer: George Lynn georgelynn12@aol.com

Donating to the Churches (cont)

Or you may prefer to give to your individual parish church, for which the bank details are on on the next page.

Abington Pigotts Church:

Sort Code: 20-73-26

Account No: 50100609

Account Name: Abington Pigotts Church

Treasurer: Elizabeth Eayrs elizabethayrs@hotmail.co.uk

Guilden Morden Church

Sort Code: 20-73-26

Account No: 80432253

Account Name: Guilden Morden PCC

Litlington Church

Sort Code: 20-73-26

Account No: 50585734

Account Name: St. Catherine's Litlington PCC

Treasurer: John Jenner johnjenner@btopenworld.com

Steeple Morden Church

Sort Code: 20-73-26

Account No: 00835668

Account Name: St.Peter and St.Paul Steeple Morden

Treasurer: Peter Garner peter@thegarner.info

Tadlow Church

Sort Code: 30-90-79

Account No: 01063327

Account Name: Tadlow PCC

Wendy Church

Sort Code: 20-73-26

Account No: 4093627802

Account Name: Wendy (All Saints) PCC

shingaychurches.co.uk

The longest day is fast approaching, and I am so grateful for the bright evenings and the sunny days enabling us to sit out in the garden. It is interesting to see how plants have been responding to the weather. Light, temperature and humidity are the three key elements that determine how well a plant grows and whilst there has been plenty of sunshine, we have not had much rain. Without copious watering, seeds will be struggling to germinate in the dry soil. So, it is important to provide enough water after sowing seeds or bedding out young plants. Raised beds tend to dry out more quickly than expansive borders and will benefit from a thick layer of mulch to retain the moisture and deter weeds. I prefer to use shredded woody material, but grass clippings will be fine if kept away from the growing vegetables.

It's best to water borders and raised beds early in the morning for a number of reasons. Firstly, it stops plants from wilting as the sun comes up and dries out the soil. It also creates a humid atmosphere around them, which keeps the temperature from becoming too high in the strong sunlight. (Plants grow best around 18 -25 degrees) Watering in the morning means that by sunset the soil will be dry again, making it harder for slugs and snails to move around and forage on your plants. After a very cold or frosty night, spraying plant leaves, before the sun's rays fall on them, will help to reduce the damage caused by the low temperatures.

So that's the theory, but in practice I have rarely manage to water my garden before midday and as a result the potato plants we've been growing were scorched by the cold nights we experienced in early May. My husband reassures me that they will recover whilst I mutter about wishing I had put fleece over them.

Tender vegetables grown under cover, such as runner beans, courgettes, pumpkins and tomatoes can be planted out in raised beds or borders now that night time temperatures are higher, and the chance of a frosty night is pretty slim. However, it is important to acclimatise them slowly. This can be done either by transferring them from the windowsill or greenhouse to a cold frame or by planting them under a cloche or polytunnel. To begin with, keep them covered all the time and then start removing the covering during daylight hours and putting it back in the evening for several days until they become used to being outdoors. This also applies to half hardy bedding plants such as cosmos and petunias. It's not too late to sow spinach, runner and French beans, kohlrabi and herbs, but all of these will need to be watered every day unless we have rain. Lettuce seeds will not germinate if the temperature is higher than 25 degrees at any point during a day or two after sowing, so chose a cool spell to sow the seeds and use cold water.

This year I am sowing courgette and pumpkin direct into the ground to see what the difference is between them and the ones I started off in pots indoors.

I am also sowing vegetables such as carrots, beetroot and parsnips, broccoli and cabbage for a good supply during the autumn and winter as I am unsure whether we will have some sort of lockdown again as the weather gets colder.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all the farmers and horticulturists who grow the food we eat. We are so used to taking it for granted that there will always be fresh fruit and vegetables in the supermarkets. Growing them myself has certainly taught me that it is not an easy task to produce food which is available every day of the year.

Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

Mar 22nd In loving memory of Frank VanderBorgh. RIP.

Apr 30th In loving memory of Peter Dellar, loving husband, father and grandfather on the day of his funeral. RIP.

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

Apr 5th In loving memory of Derrick Jackson RIP – loved and missed by Betty, Christine, Yvonne and all the family.

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

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

Let's Pull Together

Would you like to HELP those in self-isolation, especially those more vulnerable to the virus?

If you would like to contribute essential supplies for those unable to access them or help in other ways please speak to, or email, Lizzie Glanville - 07984 549272, lizzieglanville@hotmail.co.uk, or join the facebook group 'Steeple Morden and Villages vs Corona virus'.

Do you NEED HELP? Are you worried about being isolated and lonely during the Coronavirus pandemic or not being able to get essentials?
Are you a NHS STAFF MEMBER who needs practical support while working even harder than usual?

Phone or email Alex da Costa - 07496 163453, alexdacosta@me.com - who will work with Lizzie to put you in touch with someone willing to help. (If you get voicemail, I promise to call back after 6pm at the latest.)

Coronavirus is contagious. If helping others, make sure you spread only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance) from those self-isolating. Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water or use sanitiser. Leave any items on the doorstep.

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We have a folding wheelchair in St Mary's Church, provided by 'Wheels for Martin's Friends', which is available for short term loan. Please call Cynthia Worboys on 853217 if you need to borrow it. The Congregational Church in Guilden Morden also stores a chair for short term loan.

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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Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com

In spite of the pandemic, we want you to know that Guilden Morden Congregational Church is still very much active and available. Because of the restrictions we are unable to operate as we have done in the past and we can't open the church building. However, we are finding new ways of reaching out to our community.

Tony delivers a service each Sunday that you can access either via facebook or via our website www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com If anyone would like to have a prayer included, please let Tony know. Also on the website, Tony has included a thought for the week.

We are still actively collecting for the foodbank which is operating once again in Royston. Please let either Tony or Sandy know if you have anything you wish to contribute/drop off.

For any further information or updates please visit our website or facebook page, or contact either Tony Frost (tonyfrost.gmcc@gmail.com 07415230763) or Sandy Watkins (sandy@inteserv.co.uk, 01763852869)

This is obviously a challenging time for all of us. If you are in need of help or advice please contact us on the above numbers.

Litlington Congregational Church

Meeting Lane SG8 0QF

In accordance with Government instructions, all Sunday services have been temporarily cancelled. Further information will follow as soon as they are able to recommence.

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.



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The charge for this service is 30p per mile payable to the driver.

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Guilford Morden

Litlington & Abington Pigotts

Bassingbourn & Kneesworth

Orwell & Wimpole

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Christine Furmston 01763 852125

Hilary Sharp 01763 852272

Anna Burwitz 01763 256871

Maggie Galan 01223 207307

Please give at least 48 hours' notice if at all possible and only request help between 9 am and 6 pm, and not on Bank

Holidays, except in extreme emergency.

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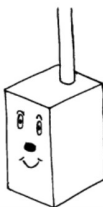
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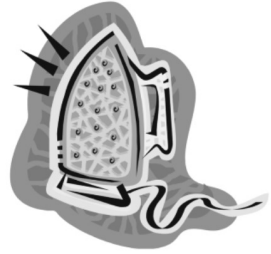
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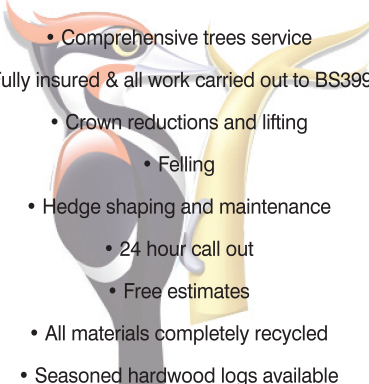
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More trees for Steeple

Steeple Morden Parish Council are funding a project to add more trees in and around our village. This is great news because, as well as being beautiful, trees provide a home for wildlife, help to clean pollution from the air, and absorb and store carbon to help with climate change. They also make us feel good, and we could all do with that at the moment.

Now we need you to get involved to make it happen

We have money to buy a range of native UK trees and guards. What we need now is your ideas for where to plant trees, and/or offers of help to plant them at the end of this year (when we hope it will be safe to do so). We hope you'll join in, and that thinking about trees will give you something positive and hopeful to look forward to. Thanks to Anna Pye for the lovely original artwork for the project!

Please reply now using the form below.

Tick as many boxes as you wish, and add at least one method of contact. Thank you.



.....

How I can help with more trees for Steeple Morden

☐ I would like to offer a space for a tree/trees in my garden. (Ideally where visible to the whole community if possible, eg front garden or alongside a path or road). Add your address below:

.....

☐ I have a suggestion below for a possible public space in the village for a tree/s to be planted:

.....

☐ I am a local landowner and would consider a tree/trees being planted on my land, or allowing trees to be tagged in my hedgerows to grow into mature specimens.

Location of land

☐ I/We would like to volunteer to help plant trees this autumn/winter.

☐ I/We would like to adopt and care for a newly planted tree for its first few years.

Your name: Email address:

(Your email address will **only** be used to contact you about the project.) Phone no:

Please return this form to: Steeple Morden Post Office, or Nettie Traverse-Healy, 46 Station Road, or Sacha Wheatley 95 Hay Street - or email your reply to sacha@steeplemorden.org