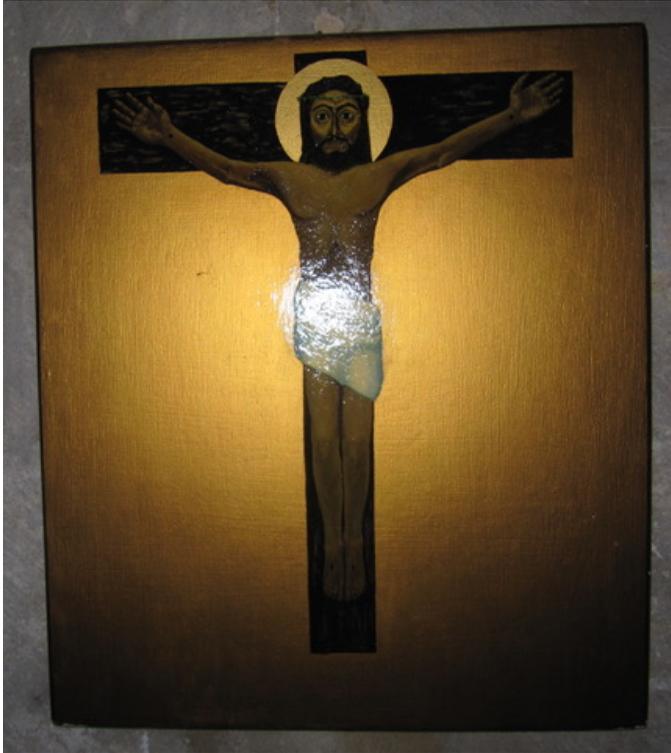


Prospect

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



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Litlington + Steeple Morden
Tadlow + Wendy**

March 2022

Prospect

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

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

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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

Licensed Lay Minister Mr Cyril Harris
10 Silver Street, Litlington 01763 852107

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

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

As I write, the first tentative signs of Spring can be detected, with just a little bit of greenery appearing on some trees and bushes. The birds sound like they are upping the volume in the early mornings. Soon, they will be waking us all up with full throttled chirps.

This time of year reminds me of a walk I did with others a long time ago when at theological college. I recently returned there briefly, hence the cover photo this month. The walk was in the company of a student who had previously been a lecturer in botany. We were amazed at his deep knowledge of plants, birds and insects. He stopped us, as in the very far distance he spotted some birds. We could barely see them, but he knew at once they were red kites, which were relatively rare in those days. We had binoculars, and sure enough he was right. At many of the roadside and field side bushes, we stopped as he identified for us all the plants, and identified the eggs of insects on leaves. At his house, he had a beautiful cabinet of shells, which I think was Victorian, inherited from an ancestor. Knowledge of the natural world appeared to run in the family. As someone not very good at distinguishing plants and insects, I greatly admire those who have studied these things.

By Gerard Manley Hopkins:

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –

When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.
What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

Shamus Williams

Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

Feb 13th In loving memory of Joe Holroyd, from all the family. RIP
If you would like the lights switched on please contact Cynthia Worboys 853217.

St Catherine's, Litlington

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

Mar 10th In memory of Arthur Goddard RIP
If you would like the lights switched on (£5 per evening) please contact David or Gilly McKee 852380.

LENT STUDY GROUP



Come and join this year's Lent study group.
All are very welcome.

We'll meet together at **St Catherine's Church, Litlington** at 11:30am on March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th and April 5th. Each day is independent of the others, so come for one or all of the dates.

The theme this year is "The Women of Holy Week", to be followed by Midday Prayer. We'll finish with lunch. Please bring your own packed lunch, although soup, tea and coffee will be provided.

Further information will be displayed on church notice boards in the Shingay Group closer to date.

Mask wearing will be optional (providing the law doesn't change) and social distancing encouraged.
See you there.

St Peter and St Paul's Church News

EASTER EGG APPEAL

We are hoping to be able to send Easter Eggs again this year to children in Cambridgeshire Refuges.

If you are able to contribute this would be greatly appreciated - we are looking for just ordinary chocolate eggs, which would be passed on by Mothers' Union. The Refuges can accept 50 and any surplus eggs will be received with enthusiasm by HomeStart.

Please contact Gilly McKee (852380) or Anne Hassall (853490). We look forward to hearing from you!

CAFE CHURCH

Café Church will re-open on Friday, 4th March, in Steeple Morden Church. We will be open weekly in term-time from 9am to 11am to serve refreshments and have a chat, with toys for the children. We look forward to seeing you there.

PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Queen's 70 years of service

Village Flower Festival

3rd, 4th and 5th June 2022

The Church of St Peter & St Paul is organising a Village Flower Festival in the church to celebrate the Queen's life of service.

Everyone is invited to join in and further details will be in the April Prospect or from Gilly on 852380 or Anne on 853490.

Environmental issues linked to climate change dominate the news and the question of how one gardens sustainably has become important.

“We are now painfully aware that we face a climate and biodiversity crisis, and that every effort counts.”

Keith Weed, Royal Horticultural Society President.

I am guessing that he means that every one of us can do something towards a more sustainable way of gardening, so that the sum total of our efforts will make a difference. And this is likely, as the Wildlife Trust mention that, in England, private gardens in total occupy over 10 million acres, more than all the nature reserves put together. So, we each have a part to play in slowing down climate change and increasing biodiversity.

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth, from the tiniest bacteria, plants and animals to a whole ecosystem. The greater the variety there is, the bigger the chance of stability and survival from extinction.

The earth is warming up, causing climate change, and it is most likely due to too much CO₂ being produced by our lifestyles. We need to think of ways to reduce this by changing the way we do things, including how we garden and what we expect of it. We may have to come to terms with the fact that a large immaculate lawn, weed free borders, pest free plants and moss free paths are simply unsustainable because they don't encourage biodiversity, and to produce such a garden requires products such as petrol, weed killer and insecticides which increase CO₂ emissions.

Reducing the use of petrol driven machinery will cut CO₂ output. But a return to using hand tools may not be practical in a large garden. So instead, designing it to minimise the use of petrol-driven lawn mowers and hedge cutters might be possible. Turning areas of lawn into wildflower meadows and planting shrubs which do not need regular trimming will certainly help. And does one really need a leaf blower when a rake will do the job just as well, and far more quietly?

The production of bedding plants, the petunias, lobelias, geraniums and other half hardy plants we love to use in hanging baskets and other containers, invariably use a lot of energy. Such plants require more heat

and light than seeds sown straight into the open ground. Unless they are grown at the garden centre where we buy them, the additional cost of transporting them to the place of sale will also create carbon dioxide. One alternative is to buy them from a local grower, the other is to sow the seeds ourselves. These half-hardy plants are surprisingly easy to grow from seed indoors on a warm windowsill. March is the perfect time to start them off. Hardy plants which require no heat could be used instead. Trailing nasturtiums, stock, sweet peas, shrubs such as lavender or hardy fuchsias can be substituted for containers.

Reducing the need for plastic will also greatly help the environment. Nowadays, plants are increasingly sold in grey plastic pots which can be recognised by recycling machines, unlike the black ones. Plastic pots which cannot be recycled can always be re-used after washing. It might be worth finding out if local gardening clubs or horticultural groups can make use of them.

Perhaps it is time to question our usual habits and see if there are better, more sustainable ways of growing and enjoying our gardens.

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PATIENTS' FRAGMENTED MEMORIES INSPIRES PHIL'S BOOK

A hospital chaplain and former curate in the Shingay Group who spent hours chatting to patients with dementia was so moved - he turned their memories into poetry.

The Rev Phil Sharkey, of Cambridge's Addenbrooke's and Rosie Hospitals, listened intently to the fragmented recollections of 30 patients, and crafted key words into verses they might like to have written.

And when Covid struck, Phil found himself at home and working via Zoom and telephone, he returned to each poem and wrote in poetic reply, to show Addenbrookes core values of "Safe, Kind and Excellent". These replies to the patients feature in the book as "reflections" of the original poems and reassure the patient that they are listened to.

Now the collection, the result of a poetry and spirituality initiative funded by the Royal Voluntary Service, has been turned into a book called 'Words to Remember – Poems Lost and Found'.

It was launched on National Poetry Day (7 Oct) and has been found to be of especial interest to the caring professions and people who live with loved ones with dementia. It is now being used for teaching in Addenbrooke's and it is hoped a course can be developed to share the learning across Chaplaincy nationally.

'Words to Remember – Poems Lost and Found' is published in-house by Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and is available in ring-bound paperback priced £10 by following this link: - <https://shop.act4addenbrookes.org.uk/collections/books/products/words-to-remember>

All proceeds go to Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust.



STEEPLE MORDEN BOWLS CLUB

We are SMBC and this year in April, with the lifting of restrictions, we will open up our bowls club for the new season. if you want to try us out just turn up at the bowls club or contact us at the numbers below. All you need is a flat sole pair of shoes and it will not cost you anything whilst trying it out, so why not give it a go! Please contact D Holt 852636 (Secretary) or M Mckee 852855 (Qualified Coach).

Steeple Morden Primary School needs you!

Volunteers are needed to work with small groups of children on construction and problem solving activities.

As a school, we would love to offer groups of children the opportunity to apply their problem solving skills to construction activities.

If you have a couple of hours each week to spare and feel you could offer support with this (or any other activities in school) please email the office, speak to someone on the gate or contact Mrs Seward (details below).

Volunteer helpers in school are truly invaluable.

We are committed to stringent safeguarding procedures and all volunteers are subject to a full enhanced DBS check.

Contact the school office on 01763 852474 or Catherine Seward on cseward@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk



LENT LUNCH

Friday 8th April 2022

AT GILDEN MORDEN VILLAGE HALL

12.30 for 1.00 o'clock

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Tickets £8.00 available from:

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Jill Hillman 853400

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TUNS TALKS

@The Three Tuns

This year's topics are on a wide variety of subjects that will, hopefully, appeal to many of us. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to present a talk. There's no need to book, just come along. Refreshments will be available, Pub open from 10.00am.

Tuesday

15th March at 10.30 am

The work of a listening volunteer for The Samaritans.

Presenter, Listener and Trainer - Avril Cooper.

Tuesday

29th March at 10.30 am

Behind the scenes at The Sun's Dear Deidre problem page.

Presenters - Counsellors Jane Allton and Cath Thomas.

Tuesday

12th April at 2.00 pm

The Role of a Magistrate (Justice of the Peace)

Presenter - local Ashwell pharmacist Brian Deal.

Tuesday

10th May at 10.30 am

Where have all the pub-goers gone?

Presenter - Regional CAMRA representative Keith Rowland from Steeple Morden.

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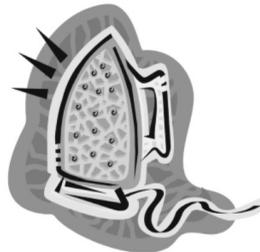
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Calendar of

6th March (Lent 1)

8.30am	Steeple Morden	Parish Communion (PB)
8.30am	Abington Pigotts	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Litlington	Family Service
10.00am	Guilden Morden	Parish Communion
12.30pm	Litlington	Baptism

13th March (Lent 2)

9.30am	Litlington	Parish Communion
10.00am	Abington Pigotts	Family Service
10.00am	Guilden Morden	All-Age Worship
10.45am	Steeple Morden	Parish Communion

20th March (Lent 3)

8.30am	Abington Pigotts	Parish Communion (PB)
9.30am	Litlington	Morning Prayer
9.45am	Steeple Morden	Parish Communion
10.30am	Guilden Morden	United Service at Chapel

27th March (Lent 4 and Mothering Sunday)

10.00am	Guilden Morden	Group Family Service
12 noon	Litlington	Baptism

Services

3rd April (Lent 5)

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

Please see church notice boards in case of changes to this list.

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Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com

March 2022		
Wed 2 nd	9.00am-11.00am	Mix and Match for parents and toddlers
Fri 4 th	14.00pm	World Wide Day of Prayer
Sun 6 th	10.30am	Café style service. Come and join us for croissants and coffee in our relaxed style of worship. All welcome
Mon 7 th	10.30am	Men's Guild – in the Schoolroom
Wed 9 th	9.00am-11.00am	Mix and Match for parents and toddlers
Sun 13 th	11.00am	Joint service at Litlington
Wed 16 th	9.00am-11.00am	Mix and Match for parents and toddlers
Sun 20 th	10.30am	Joint service with St Mary's in the Chapel
Wed 23 rd	9.00am-11.00am	Mix and Match for parents and toddlers
Sun 27 th	10.30am	Communion Service in the Chapel
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		

Cogs - Communities of Guilden Social

(Formally the Guilden Morden Over 60's Club)

Details to Follow soon.....watch this space!

Pauline Robbins 01763 852798, pauline.robbins@btinternet.com

Litlington Congregational Church

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

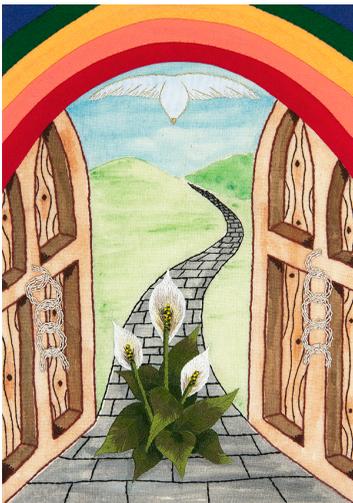
MARCH

Sun 6th		Mr Michael Resta
Sun 13th		Reverend John Whittle (Joined by Guilden Morden Congregational Church)
Sun 20th		Mrs Sandra Galton
Sun 27th	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 : litcchurch@aol.com



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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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Anna Burwitz 01763 256871

Maggie Galan 01223 207307

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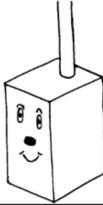
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