Prospect

The Parish Magazine of the Shingay group of Parishes



St Catherine window (detail) at Litlington Church

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

October 2020

Rector's Letter

Shamus Williams

St. Luke's Day, October 18th, falls on a Sunday this year, so we'll be thinking about him at services that day. There's an old tradition that the sun shines on St. Luke's Day, a "St. Luke's summer". It is thought that the sun appears before the autumn storms.

There is much that can be said about St. Luke and his two books in the New Testament, his gospel, and The Acts of the Apostles.

Part of a Malcolm Guite poem about St. Luke:

"We turn his page to find his face revealing
The wonder, and the welcome of the poor.
He breathes good news to all who bear a burden
Good news to all who turn and try again,
The meek rejoice and prodigals find pardon,
A lost thief reaches paradise through pain,
The voiceless find their voice in every word
And, with Our Lady, magnify Our Lord."

I like the fact that St. Luke is patron saint of both doctors and artists. So often science and art have been presented as opposites or irreconcilable, which I don't believe. We need both, and I rejoice in both. I think this tough time we are living through has demonstrated that indeed we need both more than ever in order to live fulfilling and healthy lives. Thank God for our health professionals and scientists, and thank God too for all in the arts helping us to reflect more deeply on all that is happening, and giving us joy through the arts. How we long for full scale live theatre and music performances to resume. We think of all who are struggling to fulfil their artistic ambitions at this time.

Canon Tim Biles has summarised much of this well, "St Luke, patron saint of doctors and artists, all seeking the truth, which is beautiful; St. Luke who expresses God's determination that there be justice for women and for the poor; St. Luke who inspired the carols we still sing, calling us to kneel in awe before the child who was God in Christ, born to reconcile the world. Blessed St Luke's tide! And may his summer shine on us all!"

Shamus Williams, 01763 853067

A reminder that if you are interested in the services on Zoom, just drop me an email: **shamuswilliams@waitrose.com** and I can send you the details you'll need. At present, approx. 80 local people receive weekly or fortnightly emails about this. On 25th October at 10am (the clocks change that weekend), we intend to try to livestream the service at Guilden Morden church, so there won't be a Zoom service that day. Again, if you'd like the details, let me know.

Calendar of Services

4th October (Trinity 17)				
8.30am	Steeple Morden	Parish Communion (PB)		
9.30am	Litlington	Family Service(Harvest)		
10.00am	Wendy	Harvest Service		
10.00am	Guilden Morden	Family Service (Harvest)		
11.00am	Zoom Harvest Service			
6.00pm	Abington Pigotts	Harvest Service		
11th October (Trinity 18)				
9.30am	Litlington	Morning Prayer		
10.00am	Abington Pigotts	Morning Prayer		
10.00am	Guilden Morden	Parish Communion		
11.00am	Steeple Morden	Harvest Family Serrvice		
11.00am	Zoom Service			
-				
18th October (Lu	ike the Evangeli	st)		
8.30am	Abington Pigotts	Parish Communion(PB)		
9.30am	Litlington	Parish Communion		
9.45am	Steeple Morden	Morning Prayer		
11.00am	Wendy	Morning Prayer		
11.00am	Guilden Morden	Morning Prayer (United Service)		
11.00am	Zoom Service			
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Calendar of Services (cont)

25th October (Last after Trinity)				
10.00am	Guilden Morden	Group Communion		
	In place of Zoom today, it is hoped this service will be live streamed.			
1st November (All Saints' Day)				
8.30am	Steeple Morden	Parish Communion(PB)		
8.30am	Abington Pigotts	Parish Communion		
9.30am	Litlington	Family Service		
10.00am	Guilden Morden	Parish Communion		
11.00am	Zoom Service, focusing on Remembrance of the departed			

Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

July 30th In memory of Paul Moran's father RIP on the first

anniversary of his death

July 31st Birthday of John Lawrence RIP with love from Shirley

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

<u>St Peter & St Paul, Steeple Morden</u>

Sept 12th To celebrate the return to Steeple Morden of Lorinda

Crow

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

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.

Sunday 11th October Church Anniversary Service

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.

Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com

OCTOBER		
Sun 4th	10.30am	Family service in the Chapel
Mon 5th	10.30am	Mens Guild Zoom Meeting
Sun 11th	11.00am	Service at Litlington
Sun 18th	11.00am	Joint service at St Mary's
Sun 25th	10.30am	Communion service with Tony Frost. Please bring your own bread and wine.

Measures to enable the start of other activities in the Chapel and schoolroom are now in place, and we plan to open from October 5th. However, activities may only take place subject to the current government rules and guidelines, and subject to the successful completion of a joint risk assessment.

In the Garden

Yasmeen Brigstocke

A few years ago, I got interested in the idea of straw bale gardening because I discovered a book in David's Bookshop about this unfamiliar cultivation technique. At the time, I had just started volunteering at a community garden in the heart of Cambridge. The ground available for gardening there was pretty poor, being right next to the tall brick walls of a 60's block of flats. So I suggested that we could bring in some straw bales and try growing vegetables and flowers in them using the method described in this book. Sadly, the idea was rejected by the health and safety advisers and my manager, who said that people throwing cigarette butts out of their flat windows might set them on fire, and so it was too risky. I thought no more about it until last year, when this same manager posted a number of photos on line showing her wonderful crop of vegetables using straw bale gardening. Unsurprisingly, this has rekindled my interest in this cultivation method and I shall be trying it next year.

Using straw bales as a growing medium has a number of advantages. To start with, they are relatively cheap and fairly easy to obtain in this part of the world. Secondly, the quality of soil in your garden doesn't matter and you don't need a lot of space; one can use a couple of bales or dozens. No digging or bending down is required because of their height.

The science behind this is that adding fertiliser and water to a straw bale enables the bacteria living in it to quickly multiply and start the process of decomposition. Rather like a compost heap, it will become a rich warm medium to grow plants in. As a bonus the used bales will eventually turn completely into compost that can then be used on the garden.

The method seems relatively simple; position the bales in a sunny area of the garden which gets at least 8 hours of summer sunshine, with the straw ends on the top surface, not along the sides. This allows the water to penetrate the bale more easily. Do not untie the bale.

Next, sprinkle a mugful of a high nitrogen fertiliser (lawn fertiliser is recommended) evenly over the top of the bale and then water it really well so that it is saturated. There should be water running out from the bottom of the bale.

Water the bales every day for one week, only applying a mugful of fertiliser on alternate days. During the second week apply half a mug each day and water it in thoroughly. At the end of the two weeks add a mug of

balanced fertiliser such as Growmore (where the NPK values are equal) The inside of the bale should become very warm as the bacteria break down the straw and can reach a temperature of 50°C (125°F) or more. Leave the bales to cool down for a few days before planting, which can begin once the temperature has decreased to around 23°C k(75°F). (Composting thermometers can be bought online.)

Dark clumps will form on the bales where the decomposition of the straw takes place and sometimes toadstools will also emerge and should be removed, though they are apparently not harmful. Small vegetable plants such as tomatoes, courgettes, and brassicas can be inserted into holes made in the top of the bale. Seeds can also be sown, but these will need to be supported on paper towels cushioned on a layer of ready-made compost and also covered over with it. Regular watering is essential to keep the bales from drying out.

I hope this may be something you might like to try out next year and if you do I would really like know how you get on!

For further reading: Straw Bale Gardening by Joel Karsten.



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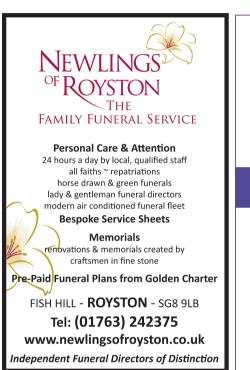
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