

Prospect

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



A local field after the harvest

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

October 2021

Prospect

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

Rector & Prospect Editor

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In addition to the above persons, also Ministry Team members:
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Deadline for November issue - October 15th.
Please send all material for inclusion direct to
Alex da Costa rather than via the Rector. Thank you.

As you may know, Harvest Festival as a service in churches is not really as old as you might imagine. Robert Stephen Hawker, the eccentric Parson of Morwenstow in coastal North Cornwall, is credited with creating the Harvest Festival we celebrate today. Two weeks prior to this first Harvest Festival service, a notice went up in the village which read: "Let us gather together in the chancel of our church, and there receive, in the bread of the new corn, that blessed sacrament which was ordained to strengthen and refresh our souls." On the 1st October 1843, "Parson Hawker" gathered his parishioners for the very first Harvest service thanking God for providing such plentiful food. The local corn bread was taken at communion during this service. Although Christians had always given thanks for the Harvest, Parson Hawker turned it into the annual ritual it now has become. News of his Harvest service was spread through church magazines and then universally adopted.

Thanksgiving for the harvest may nevertheless be traced back a very long way indeed. Americans remember annually the first harvest they enjoyed in the "New World", but in the Old Testament, there is described a thanksgiving that hugely pre-dates that one. The main harvest festival is called Succot, and many Jews still set up little tents outside their homes, and even sleep in them for the week of the festival. These are intended as a reminder of the fragile dwellings they had to use in the years living in the desert after leaving Egypt. They also remind people of the temporary dwellings farmers used during the harvest season. It made me think that perhaps our farmers here would like to try that as convenient for them, as they are hardly at home during harvest anyway!

We may now extend our prayers of thanksgiving for the harvest to include our prayers of thanks to God generally. As well as the harvest, can you think of some things you'd like to thank God for in your own life?

Shamus Williams

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH NEWS

CAFE CHURCH and OPEN AIR CAFE

Cafe Church will re-start in October and will be on the first Friday of the month initially, with the Open Air Cafe continuing on the third Saturday, weather permitting. If wet, it will be in the church. Dates for your diary are therefore -

Cafe Church, 9.30-11.30

1st October

5th November

Open Air Cafe, 10.30-12.30

16th October

We look forward to seeing you!

HARVEST LUNCH

Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to join the Harvest Lunch in the church after the Harvest Festival on 3rd October. It will again be a bring-and-share lunch so please ring me so that we can discuss what you can contribute, unless you would prefer to pay £3.50 instead. This is always a very enjoyable occasion and there is always an excellent choice of good food. The lunch will be at 12 noon and will follow the service which will be at 11am. Please bring your own two plates, knife and fork, glass and something to drink.

Dry goods for donation to Jimmy's will be gratefully received or, if you are unable to be there on Sunday, leave them in the church on Saturday.
Many thanks!
Anne Hassall (853490)

THANK YOU

Thankyou to everyone who came and supported the Cream Teas fundraiser on Sunday September 5th at 24 Cheyney Street Steeple Morden, bought raffle tickets...and enjoyed the sunshine! The afternoon raised a record £818 for Steeple Morden church funds. Grateful thanks also to all those who worked so hard on the day and who made cakes, lent tables and chairs and helped to put up and dismantle the tents. All good!

TIME CAPSULE – March 2020 to December 2021

The St Peter & St Paul Church Time Capsule covering March 2020 to December 2021 will be a fascinating record for future generations. We are hoping that individuals, families and clubs across the village will take part in leaving details of life in Steeple Morden during the pandemic. Hopefully it has been a once in a lifetime experience for us all. Please think about how you can contribute – if you would like to talk about it please ring Gilly (852380) or Anne (853490).

shingaychurches.co.uk

ST MARY'S CHURCH NEWS

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday 2nd and 3rd October

Our celebration this year will be different, without a Food Fayre, but we can open the church to all visitors and invite Gifts of money in cash and through Gift Aid to support the running costs of the enormous building. We plan on displaying over- the- top seasonal decorations for your enjoyment and interesting memorabilia and photographs.

Saturday 10 - 4 and Sunday also 10 - 4 including Harvest worship for all the family. Gifts of groceries will be forwarded to the local Food Bank.

If you have anything you wish to include in the display please contact Christine 852125 or Cynthia 853127

ST MARYS IS LOOKING FOR SOME NEW ANGELS.



Our cleaning teams and our gardening teams are **desperately seeking some new recruits.** Working in teams of two every couple of months usually covers the basic tasks. The plaster falls off the walls faster than we can sweep it up. The weeds grow faster in the churchyard borders than we can cut them down. If you can spare a few hours we would love to hear from you. Details from Christine

852125 and Cynthia 853127

LITLINGTON BOOK CAFÉ

10am– 12noon

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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



19th – 21st November 2021

St Peter & St Paul,
Steeple Morden

Have you started planning your tree? We're hoping for a bumper number of trees this year so please send your form in soon, so that we can start planning. Details are available if you haven't received them already. Please contact Anne (853490), James (852226) or Gilly (852380) if you have any queries.

It has been a strange gardening year. Many of the seedlings I started early in spring didn't do well, some just perished whilst others lingered on looking pale and sickly. Did you have similar experiences or was it just me? I am guessing that the numerous frosty spring nights were the cause of a poor fruit crop; hardly any plums and the number of apples were well down on the usual haul.

Some of my friends, both here and up north, mentioned that tomato blight has destroyed their plants this summer. It certainly affected the few that I grew outdoors, but luckily the majority were in the greenhouse and didn't suffer the same fate. However, they didn't crop as prolifically as usual. The variety "Apero", a red cherry type, and the Italian "Costoluto Fiorentino", a medium, deeply ribbed slightly flattened shaped are delicious and have done reasonably well.

The hawthorn tree in my garden is looking very poorly and I noticed that the hawthorns in hedges around the village aren't too good either, bearing few, rather wizened berries. I am wondering if they are suffering from rust or fireblight. I am hoping that clearing the ground around the tree and spreading well-rotted manure and mulch might help it recover.

On the positive side, many shrubs and other trees have grown really well, benefiting from the wet weather, and many perennials have been flowering for a long time this summer.

It's already time to plan for next year. Flowering hardy annuals can be sown now in well cultivated and raked open ground to produce colourful meadows next year. Many will also make good cut flowers. You could try using one of the wildflower or meadow mixes available from most of the big seed suppliers. I did a little experiment in early June by clearing a patch of ground where we had had a small bonfire. This was then roughly dug and raked to produce a fairly fine textured area of earth of around two metres diameter. Then I scattered an annual seed mix I got from Sainsbury's as evenly as possible over the area and, using the head of the rake, pressed the seeds into the soil. After watering the area well, I constructed a web of string tied around thin garden stakes to deter the cats. It took a couple of weeks for the seedlings to germinate as it didn't rain much during that time. But the result has been quite a pleasing mix of plants that flowered in succession over a period of two months. So next year I hope to try the same over a larger area. You can see the results on my blog at <https://yasgarden.blogspot.com/>

October is a good time to plant bulbs. A long succession of flowers can be obtained if a few different varieties are planted in the same container. Choose one that is at least 30 cms deep to allow for tulips, which require deep planting to do well. The bottom layer consists of tulip bulbs buried some 8- 10 inches (15-20cms) below the rim. Then place daffodil bulbs a couple of centimetres above the tulips and the top layer can be crocuses or dwarf irises (*Iris reticulata*) placed 5cms deep. Choose late flowering tulips, and mid-season daffodils. Crocuses and irises will flower around late February to March. Pansies or primroses can also be planted at the top to cover the bare soil until the bulbs appear.

Hopefully these suggestions will provide flowers through the spring and early summer but in the meantime enjoy the beautiful autumn colours.

Re-inventing the Guilden Morden Over 60's Club.

Although a non-participant, I was sad to learn of the recent demise of the over 60's club in Guilden Morden. The causes are unsurprising: aging current members, lack of new members, the term 'Over 60's' unappealing, and of course Coronavirus.

Since the beginning of the pandemic community organisations of this kind have become more important and have been identified as significant for our well-being and mental health. I am looking at ways to rename and rebrand, and hopefully re-instate this group. My preliminary investigations have been met with positive responses and offers of help received. I am making no promises at this stage, but to keep this initial interest going, I would appreciate your comments to the questions below. Please send to me Pauline Robbins, either by email at pauline.robbins@btinternet.com or, call me on 01763 852798, or drop a note through my door at 14, High Street, Guilden Morden.

1. Are you interested in attending a monthly gathering aimed at people over the age of 60?
2. What would make you interested in attending?
3. Have you attended the club in the past? If not, why not?
4. Would you be prepared to help run the club?

Many thanks in advance for reading this.

Pauline Roberts



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3rd October (Trinity 18)

9.30am	Litlington	Family Service (Harvest)
10.00am	Wendy	Parish Communion (Harvest)
10.00am	Guilden Morden	All-Age Worship (Harvest)
11.00am	Steeple Morden	Family Service (Harvest)
6.00pm	Abington Pigotts	Harvest Service

10th October (Trinity 19)

9.30am	Litlington	Parish Communion
10.00am	Abington Pigotts	Morning Prayer
10.00am	Guilden Morden	Morning Prayer
10.45am	Steeple Morden	Parish Communion
12.30pm	Litlington	Baptism

17th October (Trinity 20)

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

24th October (Last Sunday after Trinity)

10.00am	Steeple Morden	Group Communion for all parishes
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31st October (4 before Advent)

10.00am	Guilden Morden	Group Communion for all parishes, with Baptisms
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Services

7th Nov (4 before Advent)

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	Abington Pigotts	Baptism
6.00pm	Steeple Morden	Remembrance of the Departed Service

PB = 1662 Prayer Book

Please see church notice boards or website shingaychurches.co.uk in case of the need to change any of these services at short notice. Thank you.

Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

- Aug 12th The lights were shining for Bill Davies RIP with love from Brenda, Jez and all the family.
- Sep 11th Congratulations to Derek and Jane Symon on their wedding Anniversary.
- Remembering Peter Wilson.

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

- Sep 16th In loving memory of Valerie Jackson RIP on the day of her funeral.

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.

Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com

SEPTEMBER		
Sun 3rd	10.30am	Family Harvest Festival Service
	12.00 noon	Harvest Lunch. Two course meal to celebrate a successful harvest. Contact Sandy on sandy@inteserv.co.uk for lunch tickets. Further details on the website/ Facebook.
Mon 4th	10.30am	Men's Guild in the schoolroom
Wed 6th	9.00am-11.00am	Mix and Match for parents and toddlers
Sun 10th	11.00am	Service at Litlington.
Wed 13th	9.00am-11.00am	Mix and Match for parents and toddlers
Sun 17th	10.30am	Joint service with St Mary's, in the Chapel
Wed 20th	9.00am-11.00am	Mix and Match for parents and toddlers
Sun 24th	10.30am	Service in the Chapel
Wed 27th	9.00am-11.00am	Mix and Match for parents and toddlers
Sun 31st	10.30am	Communion Service with Sunday Club
Home group Zoom meetings Tuesdays 8.00pm. Contact Amanda for details ajenieman@gmail.com		

This past 18 months or so has been extraordinary for each of us. For me, the arrival in the village to take on the ministry at the Congregational church was exciting but also tinged with a little trepidation, and my plans to get to know the church and the community here started well – until Covid19 hit, and everything changed. Although I've met a lot of people, particularly whilst out dog walking, Covid has meant that I haven't really been able to get to know the community very well. Thankfully, the Covid restrictions have now been eased and I am able to make visits to people's homes. With this in mind, I would like to properly introduce myself to you – not only as the minister of the Congregational church, but also as someone who is interested in what is going on in the village. I don't expect everyone to come flocking to the church to hear me preach! (Although you are most welcome to do so if you want – and I'd love to see you). But I would love to be able to put names to faces and get to know something of your life. So I'm putting myself out there. If you want to chat or share something about yourself please get in touch with me. A phone call, text message or an email is all it takes. I look forward to chatting with you.

Tony Frost, Congregational Church Minister

Tel : 07415230763

Email : tonyfrost.gmcc@gmail.com

Litlington Congregational Church

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

OCTOBER

Sun 3rd		Reverend Angus McCormick
Sun 10th		Mr John Iles and Mr Frank Pearson
Sun 17th		Mr Cyril Harris
Sun 24th		Mrs Sandra Galton
Sun 31st	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 Peter Shoard 01763 853427.



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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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Christine Furrison 01763 852125

Hilary Sharp 01763 852272

Anna Burwitz 01763 256371

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