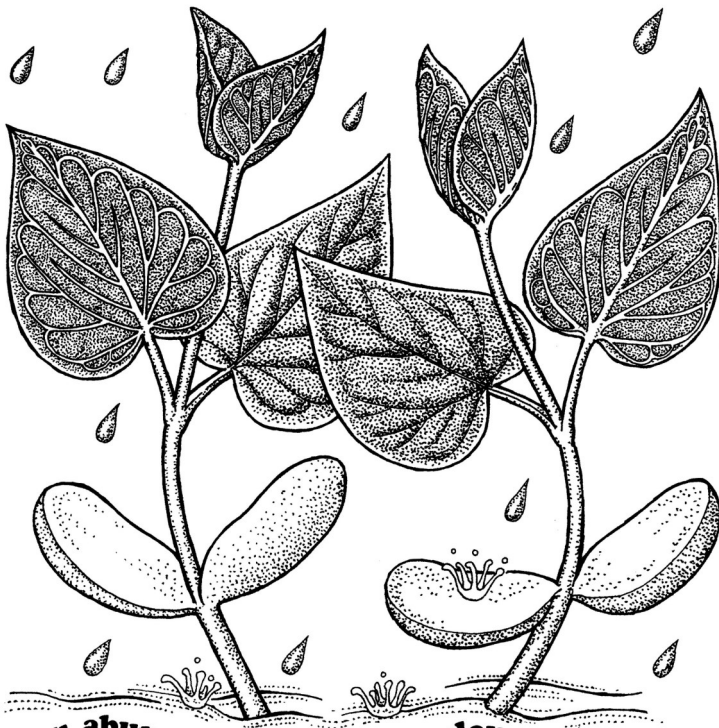


Prospect

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



**You abundantly water the ploughed fields,
You settle
its furrows and soften the earth
with showers. You bless its growth. Ps 65:10**

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

April 2024

Prospect

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

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Associate Priest & Prospect Editor	Revd Ann Bol, 36 Hillfield, Foxton, Cambridge CB22 6RZ 01223 871058 RevAnn801@gmail.com

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Cicely Murfitt is also a member of the Ministry Team

Bellringing	Kathy Tear, Guilden Morden 01763 853651
	Paul Newman, Litlington 01763 244167

Prospect Production

All advertising & editorial copy to:	Ann Lynn shingayprospect@aol.com 07710577753 (please leave a message)
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Advertising enquiries:	Mrs Gillian McKee, Hill House, Cheyney Street, Steeple Morden SG8 0LR 01763 852380 shingayprospectadverts@gmail.com
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Deadline for May edition - 15 April

Please send all material for inclusion direct to Ann Lynn please.

Letter from our village churches

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:11-13

Are you a half empty or a half full sort of person? When faced with difficulty or adversity do you feel discouraged helpless weak and defeated?

Why me?

Why now?

What next?

When people close to us experience loss or distress, do we “feel sorry for them” and embrace their hopelessness or is it possible to provide positive comfort and reassurance to them to help them through a difficult or troubling time?

It is too easy to avoid reaching out to someone, on the basis that our own glass is half empty or even run dry. It can be difficult to know what to say and we may be fearful of saying the ‘wrong thing’ at the ‘wrong time’. Your problems may seem worse than theirs. Our good fortune and contentment, compared with their misfortune, could be regarded as gloating in the teeth of their current struggles.

Contentment and pleasure can be an elusive condition in this world of strife and pressures. It is too easy to lose sight of the comfort and pleasures that we have been blessed with and enjoyed at various times in our lives. Those precious memories of happy times, friends, family can be eclipsed by the drama and crisis of the moment so that life no longer holds the magic and joyful anticipation we crave or believe we deserve. I would venture to suggest that life is not about waiting for the storm to pass. It is more about learning to dance, with others, in the rain.

Following the joy and fulfilment of the Easter promise it beholds us to step back for a moment and reflect on the blessings we have received from God and all that He has bestowed upon us in our lives. The rich tapestry of all that we have experienced with God’s help, will provide us with the resilience and inner contentment to reach out and help others in filling their glass.

Perhaps it is not about whether the glass is half full or half empty but more about what is actually in the glass.

Carolyn Mellanby

Wendy

Shingay Group of Churches



SPRING FAIR
SATURDAY 20 APRIL
STEEPLE MORDEN CHURCH
10am to 1pm

Refreshments & Stalls

Cakes - Preserves - Plants - Raffle

Pictures - Clocks - Tombola - Antiques

we shall also be collecting gift envelopes

Café Church In Steeple Morden

**Café Church will be open from 9am
on the following Fridays –
19th, 26th April, 3rd, 10th May**

**We do not meet during school holidays
Everyone is welcome for tea, coffee, home-made cakes,
toys for the children and chat**

"Hatches & Matches"

We've had a quiet couple of months in the area of hatches and matches, but Spring is upon us and there are now several christenings (baptisms) and weddings booked well into the Summer. So, watch this space.

If you have an enquires yourself, please contact Rev Ann to talk through what we can offer and what you would like. Contact details inside the front cover.

News from the Villages

A request from St Mary's

Is there anybody reading this with some time to spare who could help us with the gardening and the housework in the church and the churchyard? We are short of man and woman power! If you would like to help out in any way please get in touch with Christine Furmston 852125. Thank you

Volunteer Treasurer urgently required.

The HERON voluntary transport scheme has been running for over 30 years in local villages and it now needs a Treasurer to take over from Moyra. The work takes about half a day per quarter.

The tasks include the collation of the quarterly returns of the volunteer drivers' mileage expenses made by the five Village Coordinators; entering the details onto Excel spreadsheets; issuing cheques to the coordinators for these claims; reclaiming the amount from the County Council and preparing the Heron Group's simple Annual Accounts and short financial report. Support is available. There are two committee meetings per year.

More information is available from our retiring treasurer at:
herontreasurerbass@gmail.com

The Mordens WI

We are a small, friendly group of ladies meeting on the third Thursday of the month. usually in Guilden Morden Village Hall at 7.30 pm.



April 18th Margaret Gillam will use textiles and costumes to show us "The Colours of Palestine" Members will take over the meeting on May 16th.

If you would like to join us at any of our meetings, or to know more about The Mordens WI, please contact Joyce on 01763 852087. Transport can be arranged.



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St Catherine's Church Litlington Book Cafe

10am — 12noon

Held on the first Saturday of
each month in Church

6 April, 1st June

We have a selection of
freshly brewed coffees,
specialist teas and a range
of freshly-baked cakes and biscuits.
Our extensive second-hand book
stalls offer books for sale for all the family.



**There's no Litlington
Book Cafe in May
because we have the**



St Catherine's Church

Bank Holiday Fete!

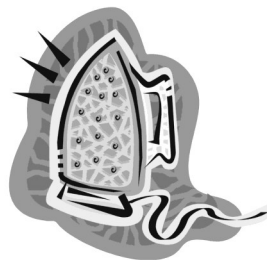
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on Monday 6th May

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Did you know that huge numbers of sunflowers were planted around Chernobyl to clear the water and ground of radioactive elements after the nuclear disaster? The sunflowers were successful in absorbing radioactive cesium and strontium, storing them in their stems and leaves. Plants are amazing at their ability to solve some of the problems we human beings create.

Okay.. so, what's this got to do with our gardens? Well, as we get more rainstorms our environment is being affected by the sudden deluges of water. All hard surfaces, being impermeable, such as roofs, patios, pavements and tarmac or concrete driveways channel water rapidly into drains and the sewage system. The problem occurs when the drains can't cope with this sudden influx of water and flooding occurs, sometimes so bad that sewage and other wastes resurface.

So, the quantity of rain is a problem but so is its quality. Rain washes down dust, and toxins created by vehicles as well as bacteria and animal faeces and becomes very polluted. Harsh rainfall also leaches fertilisers and other chemicals out of the soil and into rivers and streams, where they cause algal blooms, depleting the amount of oxygen and sunlight for the plants and animals that live there.

By designing our gardens to slow down the rate at which rain ends up in drains and using plants to clean the water, we can help counter the problems that torrential rain causes. Firstly, we can ensure that our driveways are made of permeable materials so that the rain soaks into the soil. An existing impermeable drive needs to have areas around it that can soak up the water quickly. Areas of gravel will do, but better still are borders planted with vegetation that can tolerate sudden influxes of water.

Rainwater pouring down from roofs can be collected by diverting it from the drainpipes into water butts or other larger containers such as underground tanks.

Stormwater planters are an attractive solution to slowing down the rate of water run-off and acting as filters. These containers should not be watertight and need to be placed by a drainpipe which can empty the rainwater into them. During a heavy downpour the water from the drainpipe will flow into the planter temporarily creating a pool and permeate down through the soil and out through holes or a pipe at ground level into surrounding borders. Stormwater planters need to be at least 30cms deep and filled with plants that can tolerate fluctuating amounts of water around their roots, such as daylilies, asters, astilbes, and shrubs including dogwood, sea buckthorn and blackcurrants. These plants and the soil around them will absorb some of the pollutants brought down by the rain.

Like the use of sunflowers at Chernobyl, we too can employ plants in our gardens to combat problems in our environment which humanity has created.

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RHUBARB AND CUSTARD BLONDIES

So I will be completely honest with you all for a moment. When I first heard of this flavour combination I was immediately skeptical and I did have a rather difficult time convincing myself to try it.

This combination has been around for many years now and I think it is safe to say that it is iconic – whether you remember those boiled sweets or even just stewed rhubarb topped with a delicious custard. I wanted to bring you a seasonal recipe again not only because the ingredients are more accessible to everyone, but I think it's a brilliant way to celebrate the British seasonal crops. While a rhubarb and custard blondie might be a new experience for you or even if it isn't, I found that the tangy rhubarb and creamy custard paired perfectly with the sweet, fudgy blondie!

Ingredients:

	3 eggs
180g rhubarb	125g plain flour
300g granulated sugar	75g custard powder
2 tbsp water	200g white chocolate chips
200g unsalted butter (melted)	100g custard

Method:

Start by chopping your rhubarb into small pieces. Add it to a pan with the water and 50g of the sugar and place over a medium heat, stirring occasionally until the rhubarb softens. Once the rhubarb has softened, which should take around 5 minutes, set the pan aside for now and let it cool.

Preheat the oven to 180° C /160° C fan and line an 8" square tin with baking parchment. Put your melted butter and remaining sugar in a bowl and beat until smooth. Next, add in the eggs and beat again until they are incorporated into the mixture and then add in the plain flour and custard powder and beat again until combined. Lastly, fold in the white chocolate chips/chunks and pour the mixture into the previously lined tin making sure to spread it out evenly.

Next, I made my custard. However, if you are using premade custard then you can also measure yours out at this point. Dollop the rhubarb mixture from the pan and the custard over the top of the blondie batter and swirl them both through using a knife or a cake skewer.

Bake for about 35 – 40 minutes or until there is a small wobble in the middle. Leave them to cool fully before portioning and serving. If you want your blondies to be denser and fudgier I recommend chilling them in the fridge for a few hours for best results. The quantities of this recipe can of course be doubled or halved depending on how many blondies you want to make. Happy baking!



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Ashwell & Bassingbourn Patients Group

Total Triage is an NHS approach to how surgeries deal with appointment requests from patients.

Our practice will be adopting this approach in the coming months having observed it successfully in action in other practices.

It means that however a patient seeks to make an appointment – online, by phone or in person – their details will be noted using a structured form which will then be passed to one of our doctors for assessment or “triage”. They will then speedily decide which is the most appropriate course of action to be followed, which could be to see (or speak by phone to) the appropriate member of our medical team (doctor, physician's assistant, nurse, clinical pharmacist, physiotherapist, social prescriber), see one of our village pharmacists, attend the Urgent Care Centre or A&E, or be referred to hospital. The patient will then be informed in timely fashion.

The aim is to make the processing of appointment requests more efficient by ensuring that a patient's needs are met in the most appropriate way and by making the best use of the resources we have available.



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Calendar of Services

7th April (Easter 2)

8:30am	Wendy	Holy Communion*
10:00am	Litlington	Holy Communion* with Abington Pigotts
10:00am	Guilden Morden	Holy Communion

14th April (Easter 3)

10:00am	Steeple Morden	Group Communion*
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21st April (Easter 4)

10:00am	Abington Pigotts	Family Service with Litlington
10:00am	Steeple Morden	Holy Communion*
10:00am	Guilden Morden	United Service <i>at St Mary's</i>

28th April (Easter 5)

10:00am	Abington Pigotts	Holy Communion
---------	------------------	----------------

5th May (Easter 6)

8:30am	Steeple Morden	Prayerbook Matins
10:00am	Litlington	Holy Communion* with Abington Pigotts
10:00am	Guilden Morden	Holy Communion

Please see church noticeboards in case of changes to this list.

** = Communion by extension*

And Tuesdays ...

Morning Prayer at Litlington Church

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th April; 7th May.

followed by tea, coffee, and biscuits.

Come, join and have a chat.



Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

When two people request the church is floodlit on the same date, the lights are switched on for two days.

The price is only £5 to have the lights switched on for an occasion or a person.

Please contact Pam Sharp 852425 or John Jenner 242127

S Peter & S Paul, Steeple Morden

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 13 January | In loving memory of my brother Alex Darts RIP from Marina |
| 1 February | In loving memory of my father, George Elliot RIP on his birthday from Alison |
| 10 March | In loving memory of Arthur Goddard RIP |
| 11 March | In loving memory of Blanche Channing RIP, wife of Major A. Channing USAF who served with the 355 th Fighter Group |
| 10 April | In loving memory of Ben Briers RIP |
| 29 April | In loving memory of Kath Lunness RIP on her birthday |

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



ABINGTON PIGOTTS SPRING PLANT SALE

In aid of the Village Hall and Church

Sunday May 12th

Abington Pigotts Village Hall

10 am - 2 pm

A perfect start for your garden this spring - come and enjoy a bacon buttie or a piece of cake and pick up some lovely home grown plants



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This is the greening month, like watching a speeded-up water painting unfolding, faster and faster, our countryside becoming verdant, but with so many different tones and nuances of green. As the year progresses to late summer, most of these shades will turn into a uniform green, but for now it is like a colour sample, with every adjective employed, and some that should not be adjectives. Juniper green, Chartreuse green, Olive green, Sage green, Emerald green, Lime green, Pear green, Basil green, Parakeet green and even Crocodile green and Kelly green!

I learnt the following from a David Attenborough post. Plants rooted in the soil have a small negative charge. The higher up the plant, the greater the electrical charge. This creates an electrical field around the plant, which the bees will pick up on. The bees have a positive charge and, as the bee approaches the flower and lands, the positive and negative fields cancel each other out at the very moment when the negatively-charged pollen will jump across onto the positively-charged bee. The second result is that the flower now has a changed electric field, which the next bee that approaches will detect. The plant is telling the bee that there is no nectar to be had and that the bee should come back later, when the nectar has been refilled. Is that not amazing? Other plants have a more mechanical solution. One reader told me that she had read that when a Hoverfly lands on a Speedwell flower, its weight triggers two ripe stamens to move upwards to brush pollen on to the fly's belly.

The delicate white flowers of Stitchwort is the needlepoint through our hedgerow bottoms, with White dead nettles and above the startlingly white froth of Black-thorn. Even the Forget-me-not's heart turns from yellow to white, when it has been pollinated by a passing bee. According to thehappygardens on Instagram last year, apparently bees sleep between five and eight hours a day, sometimes in flowers, ("where the bees sucks, there sleep I, Under a cowslip bell I lie") and they like to sleep with other bees and hold each other's feet! I bet this is the only image you remember from this entire article.

At the very beginning of the month, listen out for the arrival of the Willow warbler and Blackcap (extraordinarily, I have heard the first Blackcap on 7th April in 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and in 2020, it first sang for me on 8th April!). Whitethroat a week later; our Swallows 14th – 19th and the Cuckoo from 23rd – 27th.

The Pink moon (after the flowering Creeping phlox) or Budding moon, or Awakening moon, or Paschal moon is on 24th April. Unfortunately, this will diminish the impact of the Lyrid meteor shower (22-23 April at its best), first recorded in 687 BC!

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Guilden Morden Village Hall

The **Village Hall Management Committee** currently have a number of vacancies:

- [Secretary](#)
- [Chairperson](#)

Guilden Morden Village Hall is operated as a charity to provide a meeting place for village activities. These include parish meetings, WI, pilates, yoga, fitness classes and other club meetings and AGMs. The hall has a kitchen with full cooking facilities, also a changing room with showers for village sports clubs. It is also used for fund-raising activities by village organisations plus private functions.

The day to day running of the hall is managed by volunteers who make up the **Village Hall Management Committee** on behalf of the Parish Council.

It is responsible for:

- [Hire of the hall](#)
- [Maintenance of the building and safety checks](#)
- [Management of income, expenditure and appropriate licenses](#)

The committee only meet 3-4 times per year, the rest of the business is done via email which minimises the time needed from the volunteers.

If you use the hall or live in the locality and are interested in supporting the village please come along to our **AGM at 7:30pm on Monday 13th May** or contact:

gmvillagehall@gmail.com

Guilden Morden Village Hall
AGM - Annual General Meeting
7:30pm - Mon 13th May 2024
(Village Hall)

Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Annual Report

Financial Report

Election of the Management Committee 2024-25

Appointment of Chair

Other Elected Members

Representative Members

Appointment to Roles

Any Other Business

Annie Jones Counsellor



Are you feeling sad, anxious or angry?

Life can be difficult.

Sometimes we all need some extra support.

I have many years of experience helping clients to overcome a wide range of challenges, including:

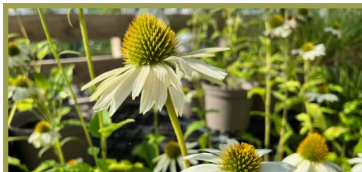
Anxiety • Depression • Loss • Relationship Issues

I also help clients to deal with the impact of traumatic experiences.

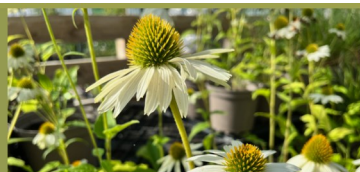
I welcome clients to my peaceful practice room in East Hatley.



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Further information can be found on our Facebook page and website.

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Guilden Morden Congregational Church

www.guilden-morden-congregational-church.weebly.com

April 2024

If you would like to have a chat and a cuppa with Tony, he hosts an "Open Church" every Monday in the Chapel between 9.30am and 11.30am. The sharing table at the front of the church is a well-used service, so please continue to donate any items that you can.

Sun 7 th April	10.30am	Café style service. Come and join us for croissants and coffee in our relaxed style of worship. All welcome
Sun 14 th April	11.00am	Joint Service with Litlington at Litlington
Sun 21 st April	10.30am	Joint service with St Mary's at St Mary's
Sun 28 th April	10.30am	Joint Communion Service with Litlington at the Chapel

Fun4Tots Wednesdays from 9.00am to 11.30am
 Bridge Club Mondays at 19.30pm
 Community Choir Mondays at 19.00pm
 Knit and Natter Alternate Tuesdays at 10.00am from 2nd April
 Men's Guild Monday 8th April 10.30am
 COGS Tuesday 2nd April 14.00pm
 GG Film Club Friday 19th April 19.00pm
 Home group Zoom meetings Tuesdays 20.00pm.

Contact Emily for details, emilymwilkinson@doctors.org.uk

Anyone wishing to book the rooms for social activities contact Gerry Watkins 01763 852869

Litlington Congregational Church

April 2024

All are very welcome at our services

7th	11am	Mrs Jackie Hall
14th	11am	Mrs Fiona Davis (joined by Guilden Morden Congregational Church)
21st	11am	Mr Thomas Dodd - Communion Service
28th	10.30am	Mr Tony Frost- At Gulden Morden

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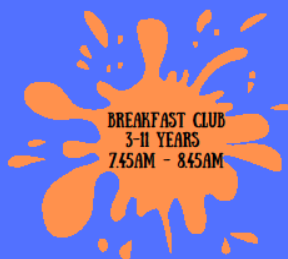
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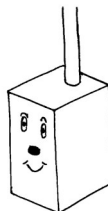
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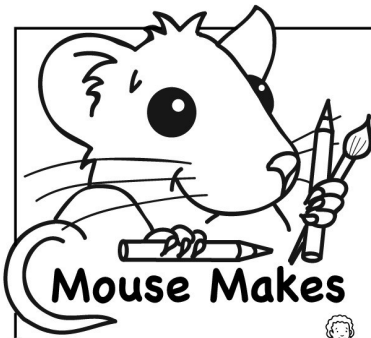
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Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered.



He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



READ

the story in **John 21**



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch? Read John 21: 11



Colour in all the fish

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