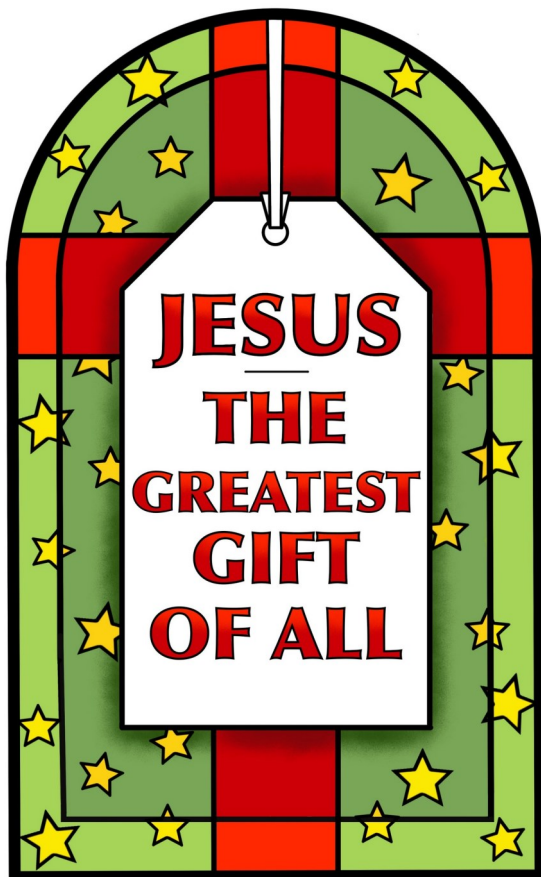


Prospect

*The Parish Magazine
of the Shingay group of Parishes*



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

December 2024/January 2025

Prospect

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

Rector Father Sam Perez, The Rectory, 18 High Street, Guilden Morden, Royston. rector.shingaychurches@gmail.com
Day off Thursday

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

Licenced Lay Minister Cyril Harris, 10 Silver Street, Litlington. 01763 852107

Fiona Davis, 1 Silver Street, Guilden Morden
01763 852454

Mike Birrell, 3 Town Farm Close, Guilden Morden
01763 852174

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)

Advertising enquiries: Mrs Gillian McKee, Hill House, Cheyney Street,
Steeple Morden SG8 0LR
01763 852380
shingayprospectadverts@gmail.com

Deadline for February edition - 15 January
Please send all material for inclusion direct to Ann Lynn please.

Letter from our Rector

Why is it Christ-mas?

Sociologists have been describing the Western culture of the past few decades as Post-Modern and Post-Christian. These categories mean many things I cannot explain in a brief way. But it also means that today we assume much of the Christian faith in our society when in fact we do not know much about it.

As December begins, I can wish you Happy New Year! I am not jumping ahead to the end of the month. Rather, I am referring to the new liturgical year. The liturgical year is the calendar of the life of the Church which holds major festivities in our society such as Christmas, Easter, Ash Wednesday, or Three Kings Day (very famous in The Netherlands, Belgium, France or Spain).

The liturgical calendar begins with the season of Advent, which comes from Latin and means arrival. This is a season of four weeks in which we prepare ourselves to welcome the arrival of Jesus Christ. Traditionally we celebrate Jesus' birth with a service of Holy Communion (Christ Mass) right when the day becomes 25th December.

Historically speaking, we do not know when Jesus Christ was born. If you come to the services of the Benefice you will soon hear the Christmas story and how unconventional it was. So it is not surprising that we do not know the exact day when someone as important as Jesus was born.

So why do we celebrate it then?

If I had to choose, I would pick a summer day when we can all go to the beach and have some mojitos under a Palm tree to wish happy birthday to Jesus. And this is where the liturgical calendar becomes exciting!

Almost everything we do in church has a meaning. We do things to mean things. Historically speaking, Christmas is celebrated on the last darkest day of the year, coinciding with the winter solstice, and while this natural event changes somewhat, the point of the church is that after the dark comes light. In the Bible Jesus is called the Sun of Righteousness. After the dark, the Sun of Righteousness shines forth, bringing us ever closer to the light of spring and summer. The liturgical year therefore unites science, astronomy in this case, with religion.

In the liturgical year we start with Jesus, and we finish with him because he is the centre of all Christian life. My prayer for this new liturgical year is that we may be able to see the Sun of Righteousness shining greater in our hearts everyday as a community.

Happy Jesus' Birthday!

SOS – Can you help the Refuges in Cambridgeshire again?

Steeple Morden church is collecting clothes for the under 5s in the Fenlands. There is a particular need for under 5s, but if anyone can contribute toiletries or household cleaning supplies for the mothers these, too, would be very welcome.

Mothers very often arrive in refuges with nothing, so Mothers' Union give each one the basics on arrival – toothpaste, soap, shower gel, etc. - and when they leave they get basic household things – washing powder, washing up liquid, cloths, pot brush etc. Nothing big.

If you can help, please ring Anne (01763 853490).

Many thanks!

Candles for Ukraine

We are collecting used candles, tea lights, scented candles – anything that can be melted down by a firm in Swindon to make new candles for lighting and heating in Ukraine.

There will be a box at the back of Steeple Morden church and we will collect them until the end of December. All contributions will be invaluable - many thanks!

**Ask the Rector – 7pm Friday 6 December,
St Catherine's Church, Litlington. Please just drop in!**

Café Church In Steeple Morden

Café Church will be open from 9am
on Fridays during term time.

6, 13, 20 December
10, 17, 24, 31 January

We do not meet during school holidays.

Everyone is welcome for tea, coffee, home-made cakes,
toys for the children and chat.

Call for volunteers

Do you know your Insta from your TikTok? Do you enjoy browsing the internet? More importantly, would you like to see more news of our churches circulated to everyone, not just those who come to church?

We would like to form a group of volunteers to help us publicise the good news that's happening in our parishes. If you have any experience of social media, web design, graphic design, writing (or are simply keen to help and are willing to be trained) please get in touch at shingayprospect@aol.com.

Work won't start until after Christmas—what better way to start the new year than bringing a little light into everyone's lives by sharing the work of the Shingay churches?

Ann Lynn



Congratulations to Cyril Harris who was recognised for 25+ years as a Licenced Lay Minister at a special service in Ely Cathedral on Saturday 5 October 2024.

You can watch a recording of the service, which celebrated 564 years of long service awards across the diocese, on the [Cathedral YouTube Channel](#).

Church News

Congratulations to everyone who organised and contributed to the annual Christmas Tree Festival at SS Peter & Paul, Steeple Morden, over the last weekend in November.

The trees were decorated by old and young alike with a strong representation from both Steeple and Guilden Morden Primary Schools. Trees were crocheted and knitted, featured tiny mice and a rainbow of sparkles ... there was even one with decorations made from old copies of Prospect!



Shingay Group of Churches

DAILY BIBLE READING

Every day at 10.00 am for One Year

GATHERING FOR READING

St Mary the Virgin, SS. Peter & Paul, St. Catherine

Fr Sam

WHERE WE READ TOGETHER

We shall meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday

mornings in the churches (above) at 10.00 am

During very cold seasons, on Christmas, New Year and

other special occasions we shall meet on Zoom with

prior notification. Times will change according to

availability.

MATERIALS NEEDED

A Bible

NRSV

A Dictionary (optional)

Oxford Dictionary

A notepad (optional)

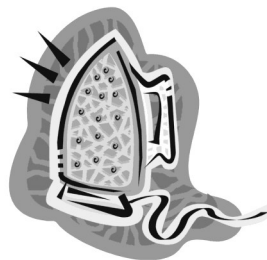
for special verses

A pen (optional)

to mark or write

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BACON, BRIE AND CRANBERRY SAUSAGE ROLLS

Happy festive season to you all! This Christmas, I thought I would share a savoury festive favourite amongst my family with you. These treats are delicious and indulgent and such an easy way to enjoy some festive flavours. They can be made larger or smaller depending on the occasion and are ideal starters to hand around at any Christmas party, not to mention they would perfectly complement your Christmas dinner. They are a brilliant opportunity to enjoy some family baking as they are super easy to make, so everyone can get involved!

Ingredients:

- 350g Pork Sausage Meat
- 1 tsp Onion Granules
- 1 tsp Sage
- 6 Streaky Bacon Rashers
- 4 tbsp Cranberry Sauce
- 100g Brie
- 500g Ready to roll Puff Pastry
- 1 Egg



Preheat the oven to 180° and line two baking trays with parchment paper. Next, combine the sausage meat, onion granules, and sage in a bowl and mix well until fully incorporated.

Lightly flour a work surface, remove the pastry from the packaging, and then roll out until the thickness has halved. Cut the pastry down the middle of the long side, then split the cranberry sauce evenly between the two halves and spread thinly leaving a small border along the edge. Split the sausage meat evenly between each, forming a cylinder shape down the middle. Cut the brie into long thin strips and try to push it into the sausage meat as much as possible to avoid it seeping out too much then layer the bacon rashers, cut up to half the width of the pastry, and lay them on top of the sausage meat. If the bacon is along the bottom, you will get a soggy bottom as I found out the hard way!

Whisk an egg and lightly brush the pastry edge with the egg wash. Roll the pastry so that both sides meet at the egg wash and crimp all the edges with a fork. I sliced each roll into 6, however at this point, you can cut more or less depending on the size and preferred number of rolls. The baking time will vary depending on the size of your sausage rolls so please keep an eye on them in the oven.

Brush each roll with egg wash and score each one before baking in the oven for 20 to 25 minutes. Serve with cranberry sauce warm or cold and enjoy. Happy Baking!



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It comprises: Tables, Seating for 120, Kitchen, Cooker, Fridge, Dishwasher, Stage, Parking. There is also limited Crockery & Cutlery. A projector and Audio system is available to hire and Induction Loop.

For full details and how to book log on to the following site

<https://hallbookingonline.com/steeplemorden>

or use the QR code



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Last year's RSPB Christmas cracker gave me the following "joke": When should you buy a bird? When it is going cheep! Well, I hope that has got you into the spirit of Christmas!

2023 was a "Waxwing winter" when many thousands flew in from Scandinavia, rather than the usual few hundred. This unusual migration is called an "irruption" (sic). You will probably see them feeding on Cotoneaster or Rowan berries and may be alerted to their presence by the sound of their trilling call. But they are absolutely and unmistakably beautiful: somewhere between a sparrow and a blackbird in size, they are "pinky-buff and crested" (how the British Trust for Ornithology puts it) with the crest being the bird's most striking feature. The name, Waxwing, comes from bright red and yellow spots on their wing, whilst in Germany, they are known as "silk tails" for the delicate yellow band spun across their tail feathers. The Latin name for Waxwing is, wonderfully, *Bombycilla garrulus*, as *Bombycilla* comes from the Greek, Bombyx, for silk. And *Garrulus*? Certainly, listening to their call on the Chirp app makes them sound very chatty! And fearless. You can approach them closer than you think you should. I have never, ever seen a Waxwing (top lip trembles). Perhaps this winter will treat me. Last year they were seen in Bassingbourn and they were also observed at one of the car parks at Addenbrooke's hospital.

You may well see a Blackcap on your feeder, unusually for a migrant Warbler. Known as the Northern Nightingale (though silent now), but in Yorkshire as the Coal-Hoodie, their song in Spring is fast and melodious, though with the odd scratchy note thrown in. But the ones we see now are **not** our overwintering Blackcaps, left over from the summer (ours are on a cushy billet in North Africa). These are different birds that arrive in from South and Central Europe and they have evolved a different migration route and will return to their breeding grounds in Spring.

In December and early January, you can walk down to the reedbed below Wimpole Hall, south of A603, at 3.30 in the afternoon and over the next 30 minutes you may see hundreds of starlings murmuring, like watching wisps of black smoke with the film spool reversed. Instead of the smoke being blown apart and dissipating, the wisps are blown together as the birds fly in from the surrounding countryside in tens and twenties, then forming larger and larger clouds, which will settle eventually in the reed bed.

From looking skywards, now cast your gaze downwards. Mosses are at their best in January because of all the moisture in the air. They can hold a huge amount of water and thereby create their own humid microclimate where they grow.

Woodlice and slugs like to hide beneath it, and Blackbirds like to scuff it all up in their hunt for food, but moss is also home to microscopic creatures with names straight out of Doctor Who, like rotifers, tardigrades and nematodes.

Tardigrades are often referred to either as “Moss Piglets” or “Water Bears” because they look like little bears with eight puffy legs, with little claws, and two eyes, a nose and a mouth! I have learned that tardigrades can live for a hundred years, withstand extreme heat and cold, and you can find them everywhere. They protect themselves by going into a type of hibernation called cryptobiosis. They roll up into a dried little ball, and just stay dormant, with no sign of life until they are wetted. Scientists have rehydrated them from a piece of moss in a museum collection that was a hundred years old. They’ve been frozen and defrosted, put under pressure, subjected to very high temperatures and survived.

The Christmas calendar used to start with fasting from 1st to the 24th December, followed by the twelve days of celebrations, feasting and jollity. On the Twelfth Night (5th January), you must go a-wassailing. The tradition in the West Country is to sing to your apple trees to bid them good health and scare away the evil spirits, ensuring a productive apple harvest come next autumn. (There is also the house-visiting wassailing where you go door to door, singing and offering a drink from your wassail bowl. This has largely been replaced by carol singers!) The Twelfth Night is also Epiphany Eve, the night before the feast day celebrating the Three Magi’s visit to the Christ child. The second Sunday after Epiphany is Plough Sunday, when the plough is blessed in front of the congregation (with prayers for a fruitful crop growing year) and the following Monday is called Plough Monday, which marks the end of the festivities (the plough was dragged from house to house in a pageant, with much singing and drinking... again) and the beginning of the agricultural year... the celebrations are over, so now back to your fields! Plough Sunday (12th January) is one book-end to twin with Harvest Festival, thanking God for the fruits of the year’s labours (which will be on 6th October in 2025).

In midwinter, if you have binoculars, you can see the Great Orion Nebula which sits just below Orion’s belt (three stars in a line at an angle). Also the Andromeda Galaxy, a barred spiral galaxy and the nearest large galaxy to the Milky Way (it is twice the size of our Milky Way). It is some 2.5 million light years away but can be seen through binocs if you look at the Andromeda constellation.

The December Full Moon is the Cold Moon and is on 15th, the day after the peak of the Geminid meteor shower (look to the constellation of Gemini), with the Ursid meteor shower at its peak on 22nd December. The January Wolf Moon is on 13th.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a healthy and successful 2025,

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. We have a wide variety of activities and interesting speakers throughout the year.

We will hold our Christmas meal on December 12th at a local venue.

On January 16th "At our Mother's Knee" will be an evening of fond memories from our childhood - reminiscing about things our Mothers said or did and funny tales about them. Bring a photograph for a "guess whose Mother" quiz.

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. Mary's Guilden Morden

Christmas Market

Saturday 7th December

10am – 2pm

**Craft stalls, Christmas gifts, drinks and of
course Father Christmas will be there**

Calendar of Services

1 December (Advent Sunday)

8:30am	Steeple Morden	BCP Communion
10:00am	Wendy	Group Communion

8 December (Advent 2)

10:00am	Steeple Morden	Group Communion
4:30pm	Guilden Morden	Christingle/Children's Service

15 December (Advent 3)

10:00am	Wendy	Group Communion
10:30am	Guilden Morden	United Service <i>at GM Chapel</i>
4:30pm	Abington Pigotts	6 Lessons and Carols

22 December (Advent 4)

10:00am	Abington Pigotts	Group Communion
10:00am	Steeple Morden	Walking Nativity
4:00pm	Wendy	6 Lessons and Carols

And Tuesdays ...



Morning Prayer at Litlington Church 10am

on 3, 10 & 17 December

7, 14, 21 & 28 January

followed by tea, coffee, and biscuits at 10.30am

Come, join and have a chat.



Calendar of Services

24 December (Christmas Eve)

4:00pm	Steeple Morden	6 Lessons and Carols
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4:30pm	Litlington	Family Carol Service
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4:30pm <i>tbc</i>	Guilden Morden	Carols by Candlelight at GM Chapel
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11:30pm	Guilden Morden	Midnight Communion
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25 December (Christmas Day)

8:30am	Wendy	Holy Communion
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10:00am	Steeple Morden	Holy Communion
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11:00am	Litlington	Holy Communion
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29 December (Christmas 1)

10:00am	Guilden Morden	Group Communion
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5 January (Epiphany)

10:00am	Wendy	Group Communion
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12 January (Baptism of Christ)

10:00am	Litlington	Group Communion
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19 January (Church Unity Week)

10:30am	<i>tbc</i>	Group Service
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26 January (Epiphany 3)

10:00am	Abington Pigotts	Group Communion
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Please see church noticeboards in case of changes to this list.

Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

21 October In loving memory of Linda Davies RIP

31 October Remembering Linda Davies again on her birthday. With love from Brenda, Jez and all the family.

4 November In loving memory of Michael (Mick) Best, on his birthday. Forever in our hearts. Susan, Richard and family

19 November Remembering Hilda Williams RIP

2 December Remembering Bill Davies From all the family RIP

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

1 November Thinking of Jay Balani and Kumar RIP on Diwali - the Festival of Light, The Targett family.

8 November For Jewel (Dusty) Lawrence nee Bonnett on the day of her funeral. Jewel passed away peacefully on October 22nd at the age of 89.

9 November Sheila Robinson RIP. Mum, you are always in our thoughts and prayers. We miss you. Your loving family.xx

22 November In Loving Memory of Lisenna Carter RIP. Miss you Mum. Love Sonia

29 November in Loving Memory of Margaret Jenner on the day of her funeral at St Catherine's Church

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 321347*

S Peter & S Paul, Steeple Morden

12 & 13 November In loving memory of John Hornbrook, a wonderful husband, father, grandfather & friend

16 November In loving memory of Ian Wallace Symington RIP

17 December In loving memory of my beloved Grandson Sam Clarke RIP on his birthday, Nan

21 December In memory of Vincent & John Merrill RIP

21 December In loving memory of Frank Huffer RIP on his birthday

22 December In memory of William & Eva Merrill RIP

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Litlington Congregational Church

December & January

All are very welcome at our services

Our 11.00 a.m. varied Sunday services are led each week by a different minister followed by refreshments and a chat

DECEMBER

1st	11.00 am	Mr. Frank Pearson
8th	11.00 am	Mrs. Sandra Galton (Joined by Guilden Morden)
15th	3.00 pm	CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
22nd	11.00 am	A service by the congregation
29th	10.30 am	Mr. Tony Frost (At Guilden Morden Congregational Church

JANUARY

5th	11.00 am	Mrs. Fiona Davis
12th	11.00 am	Mr. David Jordan (Joined by Guilden Morden)
19th	11.00 am	Mrs. Sandra Galton - Communion Service
26th	10.30 am	Mr. Tony Frost (At Guilden Morden Congregational Church)

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is urging anyone eligible for their COVID-19, flu, RSV or pneumococcal vaccines to make sure they've had them this winter. Please check if you, or someone you care for, is eligible - each vaccine has a slightly different eligibility criteria as follows:

- Flu vaccine – for anyone aged 65 or over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2025); have certain long-term health conditions; are pregnant; live in a care home; are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance; or live with someone who has a weakened immune system.
- COVID-19 vaccine – for anyone aged 65+; those aged between six months and 64 years who are at increased risk of getting seriously ill due to a health condition or treatment; people who live in a care home for older adults, and those who are pregnant; and frontline health and care workers.
- RSV vaccine – for anyone who is pregnant, or aged 75-79.
- Pneumococcal vaccine – for anyone 65 or over (only one dose is needed).

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



**3.00 PM
SUNDAY
15th DECEMBER 2024**

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Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

December 2024 and January 2025

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

Every Friday at 10.00am in the Chapel you are also welcome to join an informal gathering of those praying for our villages and our world.

Sunday 1 st Dec	10.30am Café style service. All welcome.
Monday 2 nd Dec	10.30 – 12.00 Men's Guild 9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. 7.00 for a 7.30pm start Community Choir
Wed 4 th Dec	9.00 – 11.30am Fun4Tots
Sunday 8 th Dec	3.00pm Litlington Congregational Church Carol Service
Monday 9 th Dec	9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start Community Choir
Tuesday 10 th Dec	2.00 – 4.00pm COGS
Wed 11 th Dec	9.00 – 11.30am Fun4Tots
Sunday 15 th Dec	10.30am Joint Service with St Marys 4.00pm Carol Singing around Guilden Morden village
Monday 16 th Dec	9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start Community Choir
Wed 18 th Dec	9.00 – 11.30am Fun4Tots
Sunday 22 nd Dec	10.30am Communion Service
Monday 23 rd Dec	9.30 - 11.30am Open Church.
Tues 24 th Dec	4.30pm Candlelit Carol Service with the Community Choir
Sunday 29 th Dec	No Service
Sunday 5 th Jan	10.30am Café style service. All welcome.
Monday 6 th Jan	10.30 – 12.00 Men's Guild 9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. 7.00 for a 7.30pm start Community Choir
Tuesday 7 th Jan	2.00 – 4.00pm COGS
Wed 8 th Jan	9.00 – 11.30am Fun4Tots
Sunday 12 th Jan	11.00am Joint at Litlington Congregational Church
Monday 13 th Jan	9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start Community Choir
Wed 15 th Jan	9.00 – 11.30am Fun4Tots
Sunday 19 th Jan	10.30am Joint Service at St Marys
Monday 20 th Jan	9.30 – 11.30am Open Church. 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start Community Choir
Wed 22 nd Jan	9.00 – 11.30am Fun4Tots
Sunday 26 th Jan	10.30am Communion Service with Litlington
Monday 27 th Jan	9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. 7.00 for 7.30pm start Community Choir
Wed 29 th Jan	9.00 – 11.30am Fun4Tots

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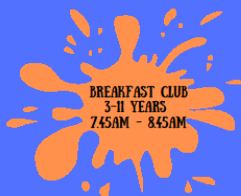
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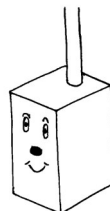
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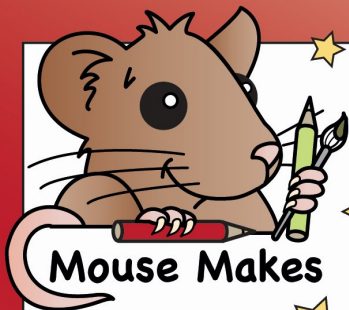
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I am the ___ Y
and the ___ U ___
and the ___ I ___.
No one comes to the Father
except through me."
John 14:6

"The child to be born
will be called
H _____, the
_____ of _____"
Luke 1:35

"For unto you is born
this day a
S _____
who is
_____ R _____
the _____ R _____"
Luke 2:11

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"She will bear a son,
and shall call his name

_____ for he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said,
I am the

_____ and the life."
John 11:25

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CHRISTMAS

SERVICES

8th December

4:30pm Guilden Morden Christingle/Children's Service

15th December

4:30pm Abington Pigotts 6 Lessons and Carols

22nd December

10:00am Steeple Morden Walking Nativity

4:00pm Wendy 6 Lessons and Carols

24th December (Christmas Eve)

4:00pm Steeple Morden 6 Lessons and Carols

4:30pm Litlington Family Carol Service

4:30pm (tbc) Guilden Morden Carols by Candlelight at
GM Chapel

11:30pm Guilden Morden Midnight Communion

25th December (Christmas Day)

8:30am Wendy Holy Communion

10:00am Steeple Morden Holy Communion

11:00am Litlington Holy Communion

Please see inside for a full list of services during December

