

Prospect

The Parish Magazine
of the Shingay group of Parishes



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

December/January 2026



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

Funeral directors only: if the Rector cannot be reached, contact assistant priest, Revd Ann Bol (01223 871058)

Associate Priest

Revd Ann Bol, 36 Hillfield, Foxton, Cambridge CB22 6RZ 01223 871058

RevAnn801@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Minister & Ministry Team

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

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

shingayprospect@aol.com

I wish I knew your name

When shopping recently, I was queuing to go through the cashier and noticed that the member of the staff was very friendly to the customers.

Then my turn came. I happened to have bought bleach to use at a sermon and some chocolates too. This was perfect recipe for Augustine (not his real name) to comment on it: "Are you planning to have them together?" He said in a lovely African accent.

I went along with the joke and started offering hypothetical situations in which I offered bleach to drink to my guests and cleaned with chocolate.

As I was leaving, I said: "I hope you have a good day, Augustine."

Acknowledging his name melted his heart. He reached his hand to the chest and thanked me for addressing him by his name.

He explained to me that it meant a lot to him when people acknowledged him by his name and that he was also very happy to talk to people like me. Then he said: "I wish I knew your name. He wanted to correspond with the same courtesy.

"My name is Sam" I said. "Well, Sam, thank you and have a great day yourself too."

Thinking about this little interaction I was reminded of the message of Christmas, which we celebrate in the month of December. At Christmas we rejoice for the birth of Jesus. It is Jesus' birthday. But what does that mean?

It means that the creator of the whole universe has chosen to be in relation with us. The God, we cannot see, has known us by name. In return humankind has said, "I wish I knew your name." And God responded with his only Son. "My name is Jesus (which means God saves). "My name is Emmanuel (which means God-with-us).

Fr Sam

For those wishing to contact Fr Sam, he is available for calls on 01763 664032 at the following times:

Mondays 2.30pm-4.00pm

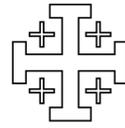
Tuesdays 3.30pm-4.00pm

Wednesday 3.30pm-4.00pm

Fridays 2.30pm-3.30pm

Saturdays when not at Ask the Rector or other ministry events 10.30am-12.00noon

Sundays 3.00pm-4.00pm





News from the parishes

New Cambridge Singers concert

Many thanks to everyone who came and supported the concert in church on 8 November when we welcomed the return of the New Cambridge Singers who set the scene for Remembrance Sunday with a programme of choral music for Reflection and Consolation.

The evening raised over £700 for the church and a further £282 for the Royal British Legion from the retiring collection.

Lovely music enjoyed by a very generous audience. Thankyou.

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

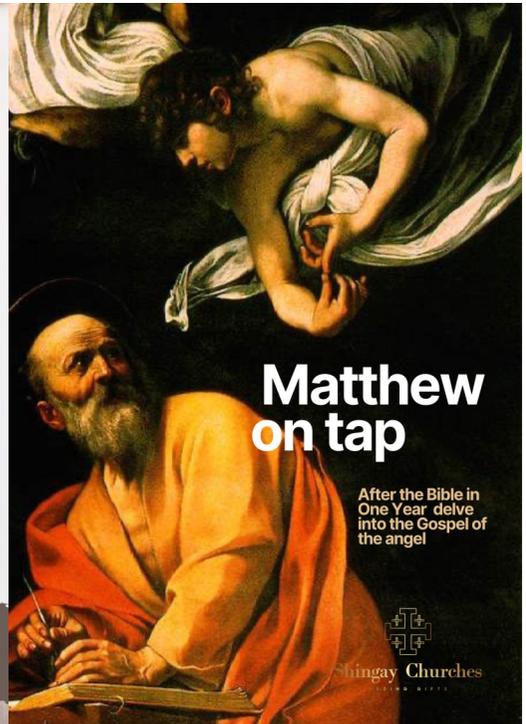
The 5 yearly inspection of St Mary's church building, on behalf of the Diocese, will be taking place on 2 and 3 December. Please look out for extensive ladder activity and please steer clear of the roof!



 Shingay Churches
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**Matthew
on tap**

After the Bible in
One Year delve
into the Gospel of
the angel

 Shingay Churches

News from the parishes

After devoting months of getting together for the Shingay Churches Bible in One Year, a group of readers from St Catherine's, St Peter & St Paul, St Mary's, St Michael and All the Angels and All Saints' churches gathered to celebrate reaching the end of their mission with a lunch together at the home of Fr Sam and Rebekah. Thank you to all who took part over the year.



Candles for Ukraine

Huge areas of Ukraine are often without electricity. Temperatures can be minus 30 degrees.

The Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership is melting down old candle stumps to make new ones, which will then be taken to Ukraine.

Please donate any candle ends that you have and leave them in the box at the back of Steeple Morden church. We will be passing them on at the beginning of January.



Café Church In Steeple Morden

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

5, 12, 19 December 9, 16, 23, 30 January

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

Christmas at

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Friday 5th December, 12 noon - 5pm

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Ashwell and Bassingbourn Patients Group

Notes from our meeting

We have extended our admin team which should make contact easier and mean less paperwork for doctors enabling them to see more patients.

As you know, like most other practices, we have an online appointment-booking system. To match demand to our doctors' availability we used to pause access to the form once our daily capacity was reached. Since September, however, the government has insisted that access to the online form be open all day on working days irrespective of surgeries' ability to cope and with no extra resources. This has led to massive overload. In November 2024 we received around 1400 online appointment requests; we anticipate that this November the figure will rise to well over 2000. Not surprisingly this volume of demand is putting a great strain on our resources. We will have to see how we are able to manage.

If you have a repeat prescription we are in the process of introducing supplies for 6 months meaning that you won't need to submit a repeat request, the pharmacy will have your order ready. You should also get a reminder of the need for a medication review 8 weeks beforehand which will enable you to complete any preliminary tests in good time. It's important to respect the review deadline as your prescription will not be renewed until this has been completed.

Ashwell Frailty Hub is thriving with 20 regular members. It takes place every Thursday afternoon in Ashwell URC Hall from 2 until 4pm. It offers the opportunity for supervised exercise and social activities. A new link has been forged with Ashwell School with year 3 pupils coming in once a month. Sounds fun!

Thanks to the charity "Wheels For Martin" we now have wheelchairs available in waiting rooms at Ashwell and Bassingbourn. This means that if you are bringing someone in who needs a wheelchair you won't have to unload yours from your car.

We are delighted to tell you that a tree has been planted at Ashwell Surgery in memory of Dr Fergus Moynihan.

Our Charity Of The Year for 2026 is The Garden House Hospice. As you may have read in the local press, our hospice, like most others in the country, is strapped for cash. Facing a significant shortfall, there is a distinct possibility of redundancies and reduced services. Hospices only receive around 30% of their funding from the NHS, the rest they have to find themselves, so The Garden House needs all the help it can get.



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St Catherine's Church Litlington Book Cafe

10am — 12noon

Held on the first Saturday of
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6 December
3 January

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MY CHRISTMAS PISTACHIO BUNS

Ingredients:

Dough

300ml whole milk (warmed to 40°)
14g instant yeast
70g granulated sugar
85g butter (room temperature)
2 large eggs (whisked)
700g plain flour
½ tsp salt

Pistachio Filling

110g butter (room temperature)
140g pistachio spread or crème (or any other pistachio flavouring would do)
120g caster sugar
100g chopped pistachios

Cream Cheese Icing

200g cream cheese
120g pistachio spread
55g butter (room temperature)
350g icing sugar
½ tsp vanilla extract

Begin by warming the milk to about 40° Celsius and pour it into a large bowl along with the yeast and sugar. Mix to combine and set it aside for about 10 minutes or until the mixture becomes foamy. Add in the butter and eggs and beat in your stand mixer for approx. 30 seconds to combine or mix the ingredients together with a wooden spoon/spatula. At this point the butter and eggs will still be visible, but this is okay. Add in half of the flour to the mixture along with the salt and beat again until it forms a shaggy dough. Next switch to the dough hook attachment and knead on a low speed for about 10 minutes, alternatively turn the dough out onto a floured surface and knead by hand. Whilst kneading add in the remaining flour until the dough is soft and smooth and comes away from the sides of the bowl, it should be tacky not sticky. Shape it into a smooth ball and place it into a large, lightly oiled bowl and cover with cling film or a tea towel to rise at room temperature for two hours. Alternatively, it can be left to rise in the fridge overnight to be made the next day.

For the filling combine all the ingredients in a bowl and mix well. Pistachio paste or spread can be found in many affordable supermarkets or can be made at home with finely ground, shelled pistachios, melted white chocolate, and whole milk.

To make the rolls grease a large baking dish and spread a thin layer of filling along the bottom (this will caramelise the bottoms of the buns while baking which will make them taste incredible), set aside for now. To check your dough is ready it should spring back slowly when gently pressed, it can then be turned out onto a lightly floured surface and roll into a rectangle measuring 20 x 12" and should be about half an inch thick. Once you have rolled out your rectangle, spread the rest of the pistachio filling over the dough and sprinkle your chopped pistachios on top. Using a knife or pizza cutter, cut 12 equal strips from one long side of the dough to the other long side of the dough, the rectangle should be landscape and the cuts vertical. Roll each strip tightly and place in the baking dish. I placed mine in a 1-2-3-4-1-1 formation to look like a Christmas tree! Cover the tray again and leave to rise at room temperature for another half hour.

Whilst the dough is rising preheat the oven to 180° Celsius. After the second prove, uncover the rolls and transfer them to the oven to bake for about 25 minutes but each oven may differ so keep an eye on them. The rolls should be lightly browned and baked all the way through, leave them to cool for 20 minutes before decorating.

The cream cheese icing can be made by beating together the butter and cream cheese for about a minute, then add in the pistachio paste and beat for another minute. Finally add the icing sugar and vanilla and beat slowly until combined. When the buns have cooled, spread over the cream-cheese icing and enjoy warm and gooey with a hot drink by the fire. While pistachio may not be a traditional Christmas flavour these buns are the perfect recipe to share with loved ones in this cold season. The beautiful nutty flavour would pair perfectly with a warm winter drink or make comforting dessert for after your Christmas dinner! I can't think of a cosier way to enjoy the festive season with the people you love than sharing this delicious home-made treat!

Happy Baking and Merry Christmas!

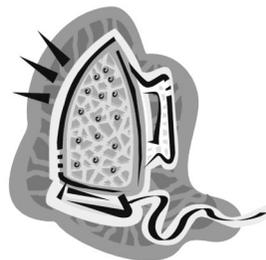


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Calendar of Services

30 November (Advent Sunday) Year A

8:30am	BCP Holy Communion	Steeple Morden
6:30pm	Service of Music and Readings by candlelight for Advent Sunday	Litlington

7th December

10:00am	Little Saints Communion	Wendy
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14th December

10:00am	Group Communion with laying on of hands	Litlington
4:00pm	6 Lessons & Carols Service	Abington Pigotts
4:30pm	Christingle and Children's Christmas Service	Guilden Morden

21st December

10:00am	Group Communion	Abington Pigotts
10:00am	Children's Nativity Walk <i>please check church noticeboard for starting point.</i>	Steeple Morden
10:30am	United Service at CM Chapel	Guilden Morden
4:00pm	6 Lessons & Carols Service	Wendy

24th December

tbc	Candle-light Carol Service with and in GM Chapel	Guilden Morden
4:00pm	6 Lessons & Carols Service	Steeple Morden
4:30pm	Candle-light Carol Family Service	Litlington

24th December

11:30pm	Midnight Holy Communion	Litlington
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25th December

10:00am	Group Christmas Communion	Guilden Morden
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28th December (Christmas 1 / Holy Innocents)

10:00am	Group Communion	Guilden Morden
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4th January

10:00am	Group Communion	Steeple Morden
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Calendar of Services

11th January

10:00am Group Communion Wendy

18th January (Christian Unity Sunday)

tbc tbc tbc

25th January (4 before Lent / Conversion of Paul)

10:00am Group Communion Abington Pigotts

1st February

8:30am Holy Communion Wendy

10:00am Holy Communion with AP Litlington

10:00am Holy Communion by extension Guilden Morden

8th February (2 before Lent/ Sexagesima)

10:00am Group Communion with laying on of hands Steeple Morden

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Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

22 Nov	Remembering Barbara Haines on the anniversary of her passing one year ago. With love from Brian and all the family.
17 Dec	In memory of Cliff Waldman. With love from his Dad, family and friends.
23 Dec	Cynthia wishes to celebrate the 90th birthday of her only brother John Peckett.
23 Dec	Cynthia also wishes to celebrate the 13th birthday of her teenage great-granddaughter, Mia Rose.
25 Dec	THE MOST SPECIAL BIRTHDAY.

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

9 Nov	For Sheila Robinson RIP - loved wife, mother and grandmother. Much loved and missed by all the family.
22 Nov	For Lisenna Carter RIP - miss you always. Love Sonia

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 Nov	In loving memory of John Hornbrook, a wonderful husband, father, grandfather & friend.
16 Nov	In loving memory of Ian Wallace Symington RIP.
17 Dec	In loving memory of my beloved Grandson Sam Clarke RIP on his birthday, Nan.
21 Dec	In memory of Vincent & John Merrill RIP.
21 Dec	In loving memory of Frank Huffer RIP on his birthday.
22 Dec	In memory of William & Eva Merrill RIP.

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



And Tuesdays ...

Morning Prayer at Litlington Church

Tuesdays at 10am

2, 9, 16, 23 December 6, 13, 20, 27 January 3, 10, 17, 24 February
followed by tea, coffee, and biscuits at 10.30am
Come, join and have a chat.

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3.00 PM

SUNDAY

14th DECEMBER 2025

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YOU WILL RECEIVE A WARM WELCOME



**FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS WILL BE
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Litlington Congregational Church

All are welcome at our friendly services

7th Dec	11.00 am	Mrs Davina Calbraith-Communion Service
14th Dec	3.00 pm	CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE
21st Dec		No service on this day
28th Dec	11.00 am	CAFE SERVICE- In Church Hall
4th Jan	11.00 am	Mrs Sandra Galton- Communion Service
11th Jan	11.00 am	Mrs Davina Calbraith (Joined by GM Congregational Church)
18th Jan	11.00 am	CAFE SERVICE-In Church Hall
25th Jan	10.30 am	Mr Tony Frost - At GM Congregational Church

HALL HIRE: Our hall is available for your meeting or event for a voluntary donation. The 7.4 m X 5.7 m room has an independent entrance and a separate kitchen, toilet, large lobby area, car park and garden. Chairs and tables are available. It will accommodate up to 30 people for meals and up to 45 for meetings and buffets.

Heron Self Help Scheme



A volunteer scheme for **Cambridgeshire residents only** offering emergency transport to the doctor, hospital, etc.

For help contact your co-ordinator as shown below.

The charge for this service is 30p per mile payable to the driver.

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Guilden Morden	Christine Furmston	01763 852125
Litlington & Abington Pigotts	Hilary Sharp	01763 852272
Bassingbourn & Kneesworth	Michelle Freeman	07971645558
Orwell & Wimpole	Maggie Galan	01223 207307

Please give at least 48 hours' notice if at all possible and only request help between 9 am and 6 pm, and not on Bank Holidays, except in extreme emergency.

CAN YOU HELP US TO HELP THOSE WHO NEED OUR SERVICES?

We are in urgent need of volunteer drivers in all villages. A mileage allowance is paid, and insurance cover provided.

Please contact one of the above, as appropriate, if you can help.



Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

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.

Monday 1st Dec 10.30 – 12.00 Men's Guild

9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. Come and have a chat with our minister, Tony

7.00 for 7.30pm Local Vocals sponsored by GMCC

Tuesday 2nd Dec 2.00 – 4.00pm COGS

Wed 3rd Dec 9.00 – 10.45am Fun4Tots A friendly group for little ones aged 0 – 4 and their parents and carers

Sunday 7th Dec 10.30am Café Church

Monday 8th Dec 9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. Come and have a chat with our minister, Tony

7.00 for 7.30pm Local Vocals sponsored by GMCC

Tuesday 9th Dec 2.00 – 4.00pm COGS

Wed 10th Dec 9.00 – 10.45am Fun4Tots A friendly group for little ones aged 0 – 4 and their parents and carers

Sunday 14th Dec 3.00pm Carol Service Joint at Litlington Congregational Church led by Tony Frost

Monday 15th Dec 9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. Come and have a chat with our minister, Tony

7.00 for 7.30pm Local Vocals sponsored by GMCC

Wed 17th Dec 9.00 – 10.45am Fun4Tots A friendly group for little ones aged 0 – 4 and their parents and carers

Sunday 21st Dec 10.00am Joint service with St Mary's

Monday 22nd Dec 9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. Come and have a chat with our minister, Tony

7.00 for 7.30pm Local Vocals sponsored by GMCC

Wed 24th Dec 4.30pm Carols by Candlelight Service

Sunday 28th Dec No service

Home group Zoom and face to face meetings Tuesdays 7:45pm

Contact Emily for details emilymwilkinson@doctors.org.uk

Anyone wishing to book the rooms for social activities please contact Gina Ferrari ginaferrari57@gmail.com

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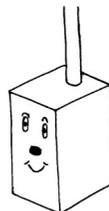
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| 30 November | 6.30pm | Service of Music and Readings by candlelight for Advent Sunday at St Catherine's, Litlington |
| 14 December | 4pm | 6 Lessons and Carols at St Michael & All Angels, Abington Pigotts |
| 14 December | 4.30pm | Christingle and Children's Christmas Service at St Mary's, Guilden Morden |
| 21 December | 10am | Steeple Morden Nativity Walk, please check church noticeboard for starting point. |
| 21 December | 4pm | 6 Lessons and Carols at All Saints', Wendy |
| 24 December | 4pm | 6 Lessons and Carols at St Peter & St Paul's, Steeple Morden |
| 24 December | 4.30pm | Candlelit Family Carol Service at St Catherine's, Litlington |
| 24 December | 11.30pm | Midnight Holy Communion at St Catherine's, Litlington |
| 25 December | 10am | Christmas Communion at St Mary's, Guilden Morden |

May this festive season bring you peace and joy. Merry Christmas!