

Prospect

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



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

February 2024

Prospect

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

Rector

Vacant

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Prospect Production

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

Letter from our village churches

Dear Friends,

I cannot recall the last time St. Valentine's Day fell on the same day as Ash Wednesday. This year they both fall on Wednesday, February 14th. I mentioned that fact to my wife, Jennie. Her instant response was that no doubt I would use that as an excuse not to buy her any chocolates that day!

As the first day of Lent approaches, it is traditionally the time to think about giving something up. Going without something we enjoy throughout Lent is a regular part of many people's lives, whether Christian or not. Denying oneself chocolate, or crisps, or curries or whatever is good discipline. Alcohol is often considered too but of course those who have just endured a 'dry January' may feel Lent comes a little too soon to give that up - again!

The forty days of Lent remind us of the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness. Here he 'fasted for forty days and forty nights and afterwards he was famished'. Our churches take on a barren look throughout Lent with no flowers or decoration, reflecting the wilderness that Jesus endured for those forty days. The mood of our worship tends to copy that.

But in Matthew's gospel we are encouraged to 'put oil on your head and wash your face' when you fast so that others will not know you are fasting, only your heavenly Father in secret. Only you will know what will do you good to go without for those long weeks of Lent, so quietly determine to discipline yourself and deprive yourself - in secret.

Perhaps I shall still need to buy those chocolates for Valentine's Day after all.

Your Friend in Christ, Ian Friars

Just a reminder that the Parish Pantry is in the porch of the church, should you have donations, or if you should be needing food.

If you are in a position to donate, items required are:
Tinned Meat, Pies, Veg, Potatoes & Fruit
Cereals
UHT Milk
Sugar
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Pasta
Pasta sauces
Mug shots
Pot noodles
Individual wrapped cakes

Location:
St Peter & St Paul Church
Steeple Morden
SG8 0NJ



For more info:
Sam Carroll
07494 588663
sdcarroll849@gmail.com

GIVE WHEN YOU CAN, TAKE WHEN YOU NEED

News from the Villages

Group Christingle Service 2023

The Children's Society has gratefully acknowledged the collection from the service which amounted to £85.50. Thank you to everyone who attended. Lovely decorated oranges with candles were shared.

Young bellringers have been training since September 2021 and regularly attend Monday practice nights at St Catherine Church, Litlington, Cambridgeshire.

Tower Captain Paul Newman and Ian Hayden have taken them through the ART's level one training scheme and we are so proud of what they have achieved that we wanted to show the local clergy what they could do.

We invited the Rev'd Helen from St Peter and St Paul Church, Bassingbourn, the Rev'd Ann Bol from the Shingay Group of Churches, and Kirsty Carter, Church Warden at St Catherine's Church, Litlington, and Parish Counsellor in Bassingbourn, to come to the tower to meet the young learners. Our visitors also took hold of a rope for a first lesson in ringing, and we presented them with copies of *The Voice of the Church*, a guide to the relationship between ringers and the Church of England, published earlier this year by *The Ringing World*.

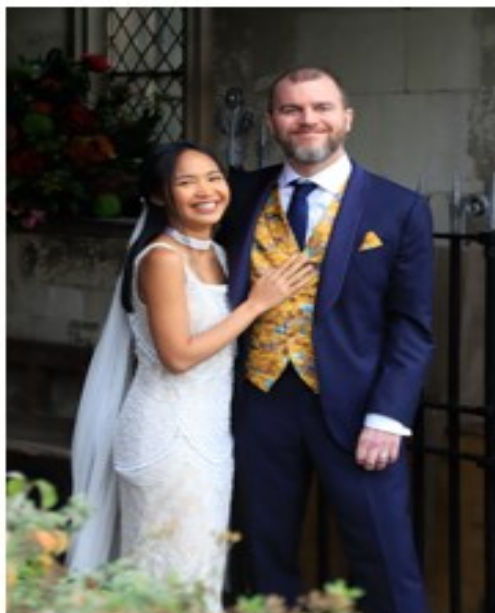
The inside cover of this book gives 10 top tips for things the clergy can do to engage with bellringers and number 1 is to visit a ringing practice night, so that is now ticked off for our local church leaders.

We are delighted to have new ringers as we have three parish churches to ring for.



"Hatches & Matches"

You'd think it'd go quiet in the cold winter months but life goes on, as do those special life-marking events.



On November 18, friends and family of William Pye gathered in the Church in Steeple Morden for a Blessing of Will's marriage to Muse. It was bitterly cold outside, but the church was filled with the warmth of their love for one another, and the love of friends and family. It was such a special day!



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.

February 15th we will be holding our Annual Meeting.

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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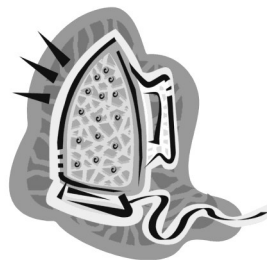
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David Attenborough has, for quite some time, been making us all aware that wildlife around the world is under threat from the activities of mankind. After thirty years of living in South Cambridgeshire, we too are beginning to notice changes in the presence of animals and birds which is directly affecting us.

Yes, the blackbirds, robins, great tits and magpies are still around, and the squirrels are finding increasingly ingenious ways to steal seeds we put out for the birds. The muntjac deer are helping themselves to just about everything. But now we have black squirrels as well as grey in our garden. However, there are other areas where the creatures we used to regularly appreciate are no longer in our garden.

Perhaps the saddest loss are the swifts which, every spring, would come and repair their nests in the old cart shed and raise their young. Not only did their arrival herald the start of the warm weather in late Spring, but the sight of them swooping for insects was breath taking. And there was a moment of joy in the late summer when the whole brood would take to the air for the first time and the garden was filled with a dazzling, aerodynamic display. But no more. Several summers ago, they didn't come back and we haven't seen them again.

Similarly, the bats, who shared the barn with the swifts. Summer evenings were enlivened by their flitting backwards and forwards in the twilight and we would be rewarded in the autumn by the discovery of a collection of discarded, indigestible moth parts littering the barn floor. But no longer; they disappeared last year.

Late at night, we would regularly be disturbed by hearing something scuffling and snorting by the cats' food bowl left out at the back door, and would investigate to discover a badger eating the left overs. On other occasions, one or two hedgehogs would be amble by, similarly helping themselves. And although, on a few occasions, we have rescued hedgehogs in trouble and released them, we have not seen a hedgehog roaming the garden for a few years.

And it's not just these regular garden visitors which we have lost. When we moved to the Mordens all those years ago, we would occasionally see woodpeckers, both red and green, looking for insects on our trees. And when did we last hear a cuckoo?

So, though the garden is still full of life, something is missing. The presence of many of the animals and birds which used to excite us is gone. Is it because of climate change, hotter summers and colder winters, or alteration in land use? Have too many insects been killed with pesticides? We'll probably never know. But we will continue to avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides and keep areas of the garden messy with piles of branches and leaves to encourage wildlife. This will at least provide places for insects, small mammals and invertebrates to flourish, in the hope that, one day, we might see some of our favourites return.

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Ashwell & Bassingbourn Patients Group

NOTES FROM OUR JANUARY MEETING

We are delighted to announce that the long-awaited new phone system is to be installed at the end of January. The main advantage is that it will offer patients the option of being called back once they are at a certain point in the queue. You will not lose your place if you choose this option.

We are also moving towards something called "Total Triage". This will mean that requests for appointments, however they are made, will be recorded in a single format enabling doctors to determine the order for seeing patients based on perceived need. It is believed that this will allow us to make the best use of the limited resources available to us.

We have a new Practice Nurse who is an Advanced Care Practitioner with the ability to prescribe. A great addition to our team. We also now enjoy the services of a Pharmacist who, in collaboration with Dr Howe, can monitor and adjust our prescriptions as necessary. He can also carry out medication reviews.

Thankfully the heating at Ashwell has now been repaired so patients and staff can enjoy a pleasanter environment. We have also provided some chairs with arms in both surgeries to assist patients with mobility problems.

Committee members have been involved in various NHS events which will influence how our Group operates.

We are developing various community links including with Ashwell and Bassingbourn primary schools which we hope will improve communications and be of benefit to patients.

Café Church In Steeple Morden

Café Church will be open from 9am
on the following Fridays –

2, 9 & 16 February

We do not meet during half term

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toys for the children and chat

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VALENTINES DAY DINNER

CREAMY PENNE ALLA VODKA

This month's recipe is a simple yet delicious, romantic Valentine's dinner for two. After a dry January, this recipe is an excellent way to use up alcohol left over from the Christmas holidays. Feel free to experiment with other types of alcohol such as brandy left over from the Christmas pudding - or if you are continuing your dry January just omit the alcohol completely.

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- ½ onion (finely chopped)
- 3 garlic cloves (crushed)
- ¼ tsp chilli flakes
- 100g tomato puree
- 5 tbsp vodka
- 100ml double cream or mascarpone
- 200g penne pasta
- 25g grated parmesan (plus extra to serve)

Method:

Begin by cooking your pasta in salted water following the instructions on the packet. Once the pasta is cooking, heat the oil in a large frying pan and add in the onion with a pinch of salt and gently fry for about 10 minutes over a low heat until softened. Next, add in the garlic and chilli flakes to cook for a further 30 seconds. Stir in the tomato puree making sure everything is completely coated before adding in the alcohol – make sure to cook it out for a few minutes to avoid the alcohol taste overpowering the sauce. Quickly stir through the cream/mascarpone and feel free to season the sauce however you'd like.

Drain the pasta but be careful to keep the pasta water as you may need it later.

On a low heat add the pasta, parmesan cheese and some of the pasta water to the sauce and stir it until covered and glossy. If it looks a little thick or dry, continue to add the pasta water until it reaches your desired consistency. As soon as you are ready, plate it up and sprinkle with a little parmesan cheese to serve!

This recipe is very adaptable so can be made and served however you like, it can be enjoyed with garlic bread, salad or anything else you want!

Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

December 2 Remembering Bill Davies on his birthday from all the family RIP

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

January 3 For Sheila Allen RIP – loved and remembered by all her family.

January 5 In Memory of Hilda Williams RIP on her birthday and Florence Cannadine RIP – lovingly remembered by Robin and Linda Williams and family.

January 31 In Memory of Bill Newman RIP - Treasured Memories. Bill was a Church Warden and Tower Captain at St Catherine's Church for several years.

February 14 For Alice Parrish on her 18th Birthday. Alice is the daughter of Michael and the late Julia (nee Sharp) Parrish and grand daughter of David and Pamela Sharp.

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

January 9 In loving memory of Kathleen Goddard RIP

January 15 In loving memory of Michael Freeman RIP on the occasion of his birthday

January 17 In loving memory of Pamela Newbury RIP

February 20 In loving memory of Stan Clarke RIP on his birthday, dearly missed by all the family

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

Calendar of Services

4th February (2 before Lent)

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

11th February (Next before Lent)

10:00am	Steeple Morden	Group Communion
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14th February (Ash Wednesday)

7:00pm	Litlington	Ashing + Holy Communion (<i>tbc</i>)
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18th February (Lent 1)

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>

25th February (Lent 2)

10:00am	Abington Pigotts	Group Communion*
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3 March (Lent 3)

8:30am	Steeple Morden	Matins/Morning Prayer
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 tbc = to be confirmed*

And Tuesdays ...

Morning Prayer at Litlington Church



6th, 13th, 20th and 27th February; 5th March

followed by tea, coffee, and biscuits.



For some weeks now, the Dunnocks (*Prunella modularis*) have been courting with their thin, almost scratchy song, each phrase never more than 3 seconds long. It also has a piercing short contact and alarm call which I have sometimes mistaken for a Kingfisher's whistle. Although an unexciting, small brown and grey bird, its sex life is anything but dull. Three or four females will form their own family with two or three males and will swap their partners freely. DNA tests show that a nest of four or five nestlings can each have a different father. All very Bohemian.

My bird feeder shows an interesting species hierarchy of dominance. The Goldfinch will see off both Great tit and Blue Tit, thanks to its heavier beak. You never notice just how large the Goldfinch bill is until you look through binoculars. It takes each sunflower seed in its bill and shucks off the seed coat before swallowing it. They are courageous little birds and will always fight off the initial attempt of even the much heavier Greenfinch to muscle in on a feeding station. They try to seize the Greenfinch's bill in theirs, but it always ends with the Goldfinch defeated and flying off. Meanwhile the little Blue tits, almost at the bottom of the hierarchy, duck and dive to seize any opportunity on the peanut station. Here Great tits will try and "mantle" their position against Blue tits by half opening their wings, a bit like a child protecting his plate of food from a hungry sibling by spreading out his elbows! The current RSPB Magazine tells us that in winter, there are more Blue tits visiting a typical suburban garden than you think. Up to 100 individuals, both resident and nomadic, may visit your garden and the nomadic ones have regular beats and will probably visit your garden at the same time every day. The blueness of their blue bits is key to success as a mating male, as it reflects ultraviolet radiation. The most timid feeders are the delightful Long-tailed tit families, where last year's young, parents, aunts and uncles forage together and sleep all huddled together, with the parents taking the coveted middle spots and the youngsters on the outside.

Late winter is when young trees are in danger of having their bark chewed by Muntjac. Forage is thin on the ground and tree bark makes an essential substitute. Speaking of the devastating impact of Muntjac on one's garden's herbaceous plants, I thought I would ask around my village as to what plants are particularly favoured by Muntjac and which ones are shunned. This might help with some planting planning for next year. Favourites seem to be Azalea, Bluebell leaves, Camelia, Roses, Cowslips, Crocus, Grape hyacinth, Perennial geraniums, Harebells, Tulips and, strangely, Yew. Those that seem to be less palatable to the deer are the Borage family (such as Comfrey), Buddleia, Erigeron (Fleebane); Hellebores, all herbs in general and the smellier Salvias, Crocosmia, Daffodils, Bluebells and Snowdrops, Euphorbias, Jasmine, Primulas, Rhubarb, Fuschias, Paeony, Dahlia and Hosta, although with the last two, their patience is tested sorely enough by slugs. The RHS

In the Countryside *continued*

has a list of plants that Muntjac may eschew unless they are on their knees, but it also says that nothing beats 5ft high fencing. It also states that Muntjac are “curious feeders” and will notice recent additions to your garden, and sample them!

What signs of Spring are there, other than the loss of all your beautiful Camelia buds to Muntjac? The snowdrop will be blooming early in the month to coincide with Candlemas, the festival on February 2nd celebrating Christ’s Presentation at the Temple. The bonny flower is known as Candlemas Bells and symbolizes Christ as “the light of the world,” or they are the “purification flower” as the feast also celebrates the Purification of the Virgin Mary at the Temple of Jerusalem, and young women would dress in white and walk in the Procession. Frogspawn should also be evident by now. Frog spawn looks like bulging eyes and forms clumps whereas toad spawn looks like a beaded necklace wrapped around vegetation in slightly deeper water. Look in ponds and areas of still water which can include water-filled tractor tyre marks. If you want to spot frogs and toads migrating to water to breed (frogs will hop, up to 20 times their body length; toads will be walking), then peak times are mild damp evenings on a waxing or a full moon, sometime between January and April. There is something primordial in hearing the croak of mating toads at night, emanating from a patch of tar-black water, the ripples of their mating antics caught by the moonlight.

February is a capricious month. We had the Beast from the East for the first few weeks in 2021, and winds of 76 mph on 18th February 2022. But we will have a few gloriously warm of 11° to 15° days when the Skylarks will be singing above the fields, Buzzards sky diving or “kettling” in display flights, the Greater spotted woodpeckers will be drumming on tree and telegraph posts and the Aconites and Lesser Celandine will be humming with bees. Lesser Celandine are a small low growing perennial, with shiny star-like buttery-yellow flowers. With its glossy heart-shaped leaves, the plant symbolized joys to come and reawakening. It is almost impossible to get it out of your lawn because the plant grows from root tubers and spreads mainly by “tubercles” or bulbils that form at the base of the leaf (axil) and rapidly colonises disturbed soil. There was a concept known as the Doctrine of Signatures, before the development of modern science. People used to attribute cures and remedies based on the appearance of a plant. One of the Lesser celandine’s common names is Pilewort, because the tubers and bulbils look not unlike a bad case of hemorrhoids. The Tudors used to grind the root up and treat their piles with the powder. I prefer its other names of “Brighteye” and “Spring Messenger”!

Finally, the full Snow moon is on February 24th.

Litlington Congregational Church

February

All are very welcome at our services

4th February	11.00am	Mrs Sandra Galton – Communion Service
11th February	11.00am	Mrs Jackie Hall
18th February	11.00am	Mr David Jordan
25th February	10.30am	Mr Tony Frost - At Guilden Morden Congregational Church

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.

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Guilden Morden Congregational Church

February 2024

If you would like to have a chat and a cuppa with Tony, he hosts an "Open Church" every Monday morning in the Chapel between 9.30am and 11.30am. A big thankyou goes to all those people who donated so generously at the Christmas Carols by Candlelight service raising £329.01. This is being split equally between the Centrepont charity and the church. The Sharing table at the front of the church is providing a well-used service, so please continue to donate any spare items you can.

Sun 4 th Feb	10.30am	Café style service. Come and join us for croissants and coffee in our relaxed style of worship. All welcome
Mon 5 th Feb	10.30am	Men's Guild
Tues 6 th Feb	14.00pm	COGS
Wed 7 th Feb	9.00am-11.00am	Fun4Tots
Sun 11 th Feb	15.00pm	Joint Service at Litlington Chapel
Wed 14 th Feb	9.00am-11.00am	Fun4Tots
Sun 18 th Dec	10.30am	Joint service at St Mary's
Sun 25 th Feb	10.30am	Communion service in The Chapel
Wed 28 th Feb	9.00am-11.00am	Fun4Tots

Other group meetings:

Bridge Club Mondays at 19.30pm

Community Choir Mondays at 19.00pm

Knit and Natter Alternate Tuesdays at 10.00am from 13th

[Local History Group](#) [Wednesday 7th February](#) 14.00pm at SM Village Hall

GG Film Club Friday 2nd Feb, and Fri 16th Feb, 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

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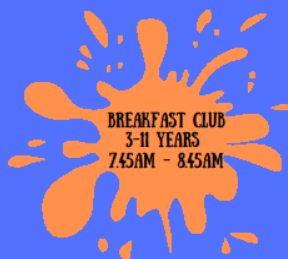
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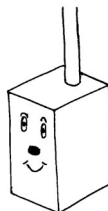
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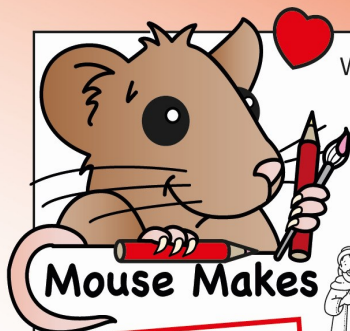
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AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?
_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

_____ Genesis 19:26

Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

_____ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

_____ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

_____ Matthew 1:5



FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E	E	Z	R	E	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	R	ABRAHAM
S	V	Q	S	L	R	Z	J	I	B	O	A	D	A	M	ADAM • AQUILA
R	E	B	E	K	A	H	O	J	R	A	O	Q	N	O	BOAZ • ELKANAH
U	I	S	A	A	C	A	S	A	A	Z	P	R	N	S	ELIZABETH
T	H	A	Q	N	H	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	EVE • HANNAH
H	R	U	T	A	E	V	P	O	A	I	E	B	H	I	ISAAC • JACOB
S	A	R	A	H	L	T	H	B	M	A	R	Y	S	D	JOSEPH • MARY
P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	Q	U	I	L	A		PRISCILLA
															RACHEL
															REBEKAH • RUTH
															SARAH
															ZECHARIAH