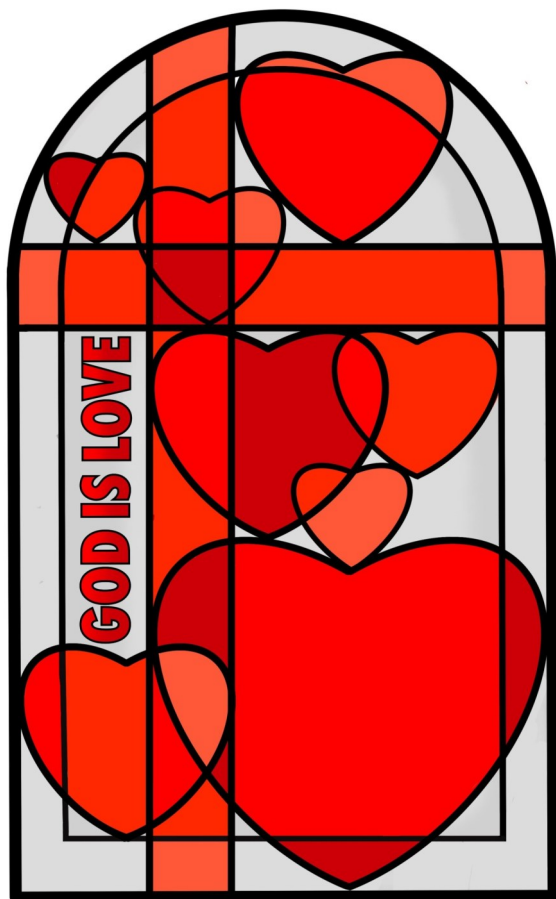


Prospect

*The Parish Magazine
of the Shingay group of Parishes*



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

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

New, blue, and cold

In my Andalusian culture it is customary to receive the year with something blue and something new. Spanish gypsies, that is, Roma people or travellers in England, also like breaking old dish plates as a way to express their desire to send away the old bad things of the previous year. I have had some encounter with this beautiful people-group and I have always found that very intriguing.

During this month we leave behind the lights of Christmas and the mince pies, and we come back to dark and cold days, stripped of all festivities. It is no wonder that in this month we experience the Monday blues, and it is no wonder that January is considered by psychologists the most depressing month of the year.

Because of the strong Roman Catholic influence formerly present in Spain, there are still families who observe the festivities of Christmas until Candlemas, which this year falls on 2nd February. In this month of January we celebrate the feast of Epiphany, which means revelation or unveiling. One of the biggest Epiphany when Jesus was born was the arrival of wise people who came to Jesus to pay him homage. They brought him gold, frankincense and myrrh. This is really not a "Christmas" theme. This comes after Christmas. It comes at the feast of Epiphany. Much of what happened is embellished by later traditions, but what is certain is that the gifts were three and they meant something important. Gold showed that these oriental travellers found in Jesus a king. Frankincense recognised Jesus as high priest who intercedes to the Father for us, and myrrh suggest that they knew he was going to suffer, because myrrh was a symbol for death and mourning, not a very nice gift for a toddler!

I am originally from a place called the Shire of Gibraltar, which belongs to the province of Cadiz, in Southern Spain. Cadiz is very well-known for low-cost and extremely eloquent carnival festivals of rhyme and songs. It has been going on for a few centuries now and the genius of the lyrics is superb.

I love Gaditan (from Cadiz) carnivals, because in the most depressing month of the year, we Gaditan people laugh at the world, laugh at the things that go wrong in the world and condemns injustices with satire and insults in songs. These things in my life help me to remember that life is not easy, but how I face it, really makes the difference.

For me, it is not so much what new things am I going to take up this year, but how am I going to look at the things I already do. I think this year, when I walk through the meadows, I will try to look at the beauty of the birds, and the sky and not bother that much about how muddy is my priestly uniform.

Musings from our Churches

What colour should it be?

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

Have you ever wondered why some of the fabrics in the church are periodically changed to a different colour? They might be gold or white or red or purple or green or black or entirely absent. These colours are usually seen on the fabric hanging on the front of the high altar (table) at the front of the church and on the fabric hanging from the lectern on the pulpit (where the preacher stands).

If you were to join a Communion Service you would note that the items placed on the altar and used during the service follow the same colour scheme, as do the robes and stole (scarf) the priest is wearing.

Are the colour changes random or are they rotated? What's it all about?

Just as we associate different colours with the seasons of the year, for example browns and reds and oranges in the autumn, pastel colours in the spring, the colours used in the church are also representative of a specific church (liturgical) season, mood or special occasion.

Between Christmas and Easter, we seem to be constantly changing from one colour to another depending on the emphasis of that particular week or month.

Green: is used during "ordinary time", between the main festivals and seasons. This covers most of the year and represents growth.

Red: is used to either mark Saint's days where it represents their death as a martyr, or to represent the flames of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

White: represents purity and joy, and is often used during celebrations such as baptisms, weddings, and some funerals. White used for celebration can be used on its own or alongside gold. It can also be used on Saint's days for those who did not die as martyrs.

Gold: is used for the key celebrations for example Christmas Day and Easter Sunday.

Purple: is used during times of saying sorry and preparation or waiting, during reflective seasons such as Advent (prior to Christmas), and Lent (prior to Easter).

Black: is often used to represent mourning and remembrance, and is often worn at funerals although can be substituted with white or purple.

On Maundy Thursday (the Thursday before Easter) many churches will often remove the coloured furnishings and decorations altogether, to remind us that Jesus was left to face the bare wooden cross alone on that first "Good Friday".

Musings from our Churches

Why bother with all this?

Using colour is one of the most visible ways that the church can communicate the rhythm of the church year. It offers a visual expression of the church's life, accentuating the mood or celebration of the season, and a promise of what is coming. It also serves as an exterior sign that invites us to an interior reflection that can deepen our understanding of our faith.

So why not pop in to one of our churches and take a look – there are a lot of colour changes during the early months of the church's year. And if you'd like to see or know more, just ask.

Revd Ann Bol, Associate Priest

Shingay Group of Churches

Hatches & Matches

Are you planning to get married in a church; or is someone wondering about a christening (baptism). All enquiries are welcome. Please contact Fr Sam or Rev Ann to talk through what we can offer. Contact details are inside the front cover.

Café Church In Steeple Morden

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

31 January, 7, 21 & 28 February, 7 March

We do not meet during school holidays.

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

Village News

Clothes for Under 5s

We are collecting clothes in good condition for children under 5. The church will pass all contributions to Mothers' Union for refugees in Cambridgeshire and Mary's Child and they will be invaluable for children in need.

If you have clothes that you can contribute please bring them, by the end of February, to 78 Hay Street, Steeple Morden or ring Anne on 01763 853490. Many thanks!

The Children's Society's Annual Group Christingle Service

Thanks to Ann and Fiona for the delightful Christingle service at St Mary's on December 8th. I hope everyone who attended enjoyed the service as much as I did as we journeyed round the church on our way to Bethlehem. The oranges, the sweets and the candles never lose their attraction on a dark winter afternoon.

We have been able to send £139 to the Children's Society so far. Please remember to continue collecting for the Society by popping some money into your blue plastic money box.

Thank you all very much. *Cynthia*

Call for volunteers

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.

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*

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Shingay Group of Churches

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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

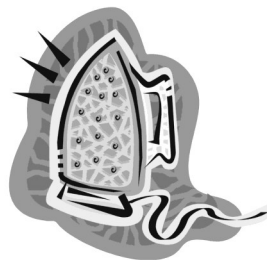
theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

The Mordens WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

We are a small, friendly group of ladies meeting on the third Thursday of the month, usually in Guilden Morden Village Hall at 7.30pm. We have a wide variety of activities and interesting speakers throughout the year. 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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Triple Layer Brookie

As the first recipe of the New Year, I knew I wanted to bring you all something extra special. This recipe is beyond rewarding and so luxurious and indulgent that you will always want to make it. I can't think of a better way to show someone special how much they mean to you this Valentine's Day, than by baking them the most delicious, sweet treat of all time!

Ingredients

Cookie Base:

120g unsalted butter
100g granulated sugar
100g dark brown sugar
1 large egg (room temperature)
1 tsp vanilla extract
160g plain flour
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
A pinch of salt
150g dark chocolate chips

Brownie Layer:

85g unsalted butter (melted)
130g dark chocolate (chopped roughly)
20g cocoa powder
80g plain flour
150g granulated sugar
2 large eggs (room temperature)
Pinch of salt

Extra:

16 Oreos (You could use another type of biscuit in this layer instead, such as Biscoff or you could leave the biscuit layer out completely if you want)

Begin by greasing a 20cm (8 inch) square cake pan and line with parchment paper. At this point, you could also preheat your oven to 160° if you want to bake your brookies immediately. However, I like to make the cookie layer and brownie layer in one day and chill them in the fridge overnight separately to develop their flavour better and then I bake them the next day. It is entirely up to you which way you want to do it, neither way is better or worse than the other, I just prefer the taste with the development of the flavour overnight.

To make the cookie dough. In a bowl beat together the butter and sugar on a medium speed until light and fluffy, it should take about five minutes. Reduce the speed to low and beat in the egg and vanilla for another minute or so and then fold in the flour and chocolate chips. Press the cookie dough into the lined pan and then either place it in the fridge or bake in the oven on its own for five minutes or until just starting to colour on top.

For the brownie batter. Melt together the butter and chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of simmering boiling water or, alternatively, in the microwave for short 30-second bursts at a time stirring in between. Note, the butter and chocolate melt

In the Kitchen *continued*

more evenly if both are cut up into similar-sized smaller cubes. Set the mixture aside to cool for now and whisk together the eggs and sugar until thick and mousse-like, this may take about five minutes. Next, add in the chocolate mixture and whisk until just combined, and then fold in the dry ingredients. At this point, you could add in a bunch of chocolate chips to get an extra chocolatey fix if you're feeling fancy, but you don't have to! Set this aside for now and layer your Oreos (or another biscuit of choice if using any) on top of the cookie dough and pour the brownie batter slowly over the top.

Bake in the oven at 160° for about 20-25 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out with just a few moist crumbs stuck. It should not wobble in the centre. Allow the brookie to cool completely on a wire rack before chilling in the fridge overnight for extra-fudgy results. Then all that's left to do is to portion and enjoy! This recipe is absolutely stunning and definitely a must-try bake! If you are wondering about the pinch of salt in both the cookie and brownie mix, it subtly balances out all the sweet flavour and doesn't lead to a salty bake at all. I hope you give this recipe a go and have loads of fun with it. Happy Baking!



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For gardeners this is such an exciting and busy month. So many decisions to be made about what to grow this year and so much preparation still to complete.

When deciding what and how much to grow it may be worth looking at what time you have available to grow things well. There's something quite sad about successfully growing dozens of seedlings but watching most of them wither away because there's not been enough time to pot them up or plant them out. I know too well that seed catalogues are just so appealing that there's the desire to buy lots. But you must resist – try to limit yourself to what you know you have time to grow. But that doesn't mean you can't experiment. Have you tried growing loofah or chickpeas? Green chickpeas are delicious. How about striped small aubergines that are really tasty and quite easy to grow?

If you do plant too much, surplus seedlings can always be given away or swapped. We have a few seed and plant swapping sessions planned this year in Guilden Morden, so do look out for them.

Pruning is a major activity in February - something to be carried out on milder days. It's a good time to shape shrubs and trees whilst they have no leaves because it's much easier to see their structure and all dead and diseased material can be got rid of. The bright stems of dogwood and willow should also be cut down to leave three or four buds so that the plants will grow young stems from them and maintain the vibrant colours. Hydrangeas such as 'Annabel' also need the old flowering stems removed down to about 30cms. Clematis and shrubs that flower in spring and early summer should not be pruned now, as this year's flowers will be lost. After pruning, an application of organic general fertiliser will provide nutrients for encouraging new growth.

Fruit trees including apples, quince and pears (but not stone fruit like plums or apricots) should be pruned back to three or four buds of last year's growth. This will help the tree produce larger fruit in the coming season. If you are growing peaches or apricots these will need protecting against fungi spread by the rain.

The importance of providing nectar and pollen for insects in early spring cannot be underestimated. These creatures will pollinate the fruit and vegetables plants later on in the year so we are dependent on them. Early flowering shrubs such as winter honeysuckle, mahonias, viburnums, forsythia and spring bulbs all produce food for a whole range of insects including bumblebees, which will be active on warm days.

It's not too late to be adding well-rotted compost, leaf mould and mulch to all the beds in the garden. By summer all this material will be breaking down to give plants a good supply of nutrients, and will also help retain soil moisture. Let's hope the weather will be kind and that this is a productive year in the garden.

Calendar of Services

2nd February (Candlemas/Presentation of Christ)

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

9th February (4 before Lent)

10:00am	Steeple Morden	Group Communion

16th February (3 before Lent/Septuagesima)

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>

23rd February (2 before Lent/Sexagesima)

10:00am	Abington Pigotts	Group Communion

2nd March (Next before Lent/Quinquagesima)

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

5th March (Ash Wednesday)

7:00pm	Steeple Morden	Holy Communion & Ashing

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

= Communion by extension

And Tuesdays ...



Morning Prayer at Litlington Church 10am

4th, 11th, 18th and 25th February; 4th March

followed by tea, coffee, and biscuits at 10.30am

Come, join and have a chat.



Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

13 February In loving memory of Joe Holroyd RIP from Pat, Richard and Joanna

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

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

5 January For Hilda Williams RIP on her birthday and for Florence Cannadine RIP on the anniversary of her death. With love from Robin and Linda Williams

17 January For Audrey Newman on her Birthday with love from her family.

31 January For Bill Newman RIP - treasured happy memories and love from all his family.

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

9 January In loving memory of Kathleen Goddard RIP

15 January In loving memory of Michael Freeman RIP on his 75th birthday

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

20 February In memory of my wife on the anniversary of our marriage 60 years ago from Bob Champion

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

<https://hallbookingonline.com/steeplemorden>

or use the QR code



My name is Claire and I am the Mobile Community Warden for The Mordens, Litlington, Bassingbourn and surrounding villages. I have been in the post since May 2023 and I look forward to many years providing support to the residents of our local community. I provide daily calls (Monday-Friday) and a weekly visit which can be tailored to individual needs. The visits can involve anything from making calls or arranging appointments on the members behalf, helping with paperwork, small errands or just visiting to enjoy a chat. My role has led to some wonderful friendships with our members and that is something I truly cherish. The scheme can also provide a sense of security for individuals and family members who may or may not live nearby which is a real sense of comfort. We can also take couples, perhaps a partner is unwell and you just need a regular chat? If you are interested in hearing more about the scheme or would like to meet to talk about how it could work for you please contact me on 07841 025107 or visit our website at mobilewardenscheme.co.uk

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For more information about the Mobile Warden scheme and how to apply for yourself, a friend, neighbour or relative please contact the Warden on:



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

Tel: 07841 025107

mobilewardenscheme@gmail.com
www.mobilewardenscheme.co.uk

Litlington Congregational Church

FEBRUARY

All are welcome at our friendly services

2nd	11.00 am	Mr David Freeman (Communion Service)
9th	11.00am	Mr Thomas Dodd (Joined by Guilden Morden)
16th	11.00 am	Mr. Peter Godbert
23rd	10.30 am	Mr Tony Frost (At Guilden Morden 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.

Contact:- litcchurch@aol.com

SAY ONE FOR ME

We have an arrangement whereby the minister and congregation will say prayers on your behalf. Are you, or somebody you know, unwell, grieving, having a difficult time or a concern or need? There is a Prayer Box to the left in the front Church porch for you to post your prayer request. Using card or paper show the date and the name of the person for whom we should pray and the reason. If you prefer, a first name will suffice. Alternatively, send an email.

With God nothing is impossible Luke 1. 37.



Heron Self Help Scheme

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

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Guilden Morden	Christine Furmston 01763 852125
Litlington & Abington Pigotts	Hilary Sharp 01763 852272
Bassingbourn & Kneesworth	Anna Burwitz 07592783566
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.

An expression I was brought up with was, “there’s a bit of weather coming.” It never boded well. And February is the month for “a bit of weather.” So spare a thought for the farmers who have to be out in it, preparing the land for spring sowing, or tending their stock, or the most benign outdoor February job, “drawing” a ditch: digging out collapsed banks, and wielding a billhook to cut back brambles and vegetation that might block the channel.

A lazy wind, in Yorkshire, is a cutting, cold wind; lazy, because it doesn’t pass around you, it goes through you. And in February, we get those days, when ice covers the ponds and you can see the frog spawn beneath, and you worry that the tiny, twitching embryos (which take but between one and three weeks to hatch) may not survive. The ones nearest the ice may well not and if the pond freezes solid, all may be lost as they are deprived of oxygen. Long periods of cold will persuade the frogs and toads to delay spawning. The danger is periods of warm weather (as we had at the beginning of February last year) followed by a cold snap, unanticipated by the amphibians.

In February, you can look for signs of Spring, for it is everywhere. They say that Spring travels from South West to North East across the country at the speed a person can walk. However, different species travel at different speeds. (My British Beekeepers’ Association Magazine tells me that data shows that the appearance of frogspawn travels up the country at 1 mph; whereas Hawthorn leafing travels at 6.3 mph, however Hawthorn flowering at only 1.9 mph; swallows arriving above your house at 2.4 mph.)

But at the beginning of February, Snowdrops and Aconites sparkle amongst the grasses, and when they are over, it is the turn of the Dog violets, Primroses and Daffodils. The early Cherry (or Cherry Plum: *Prunus cerasifera*) precedes the Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) by a few weeks and then the hedges are confettied in white. There is a sense of excitement in the air, of anticipation.

Snowdrops are toxic, so most mammals avoid digging up the bulbs. But wood mice have a wide range of diet including bulbs and seem to be able to withstand the poison of snowdrop bulbs. It is interesting to note that the four common critters in our garden do have different diets so as not to outcompete each other. Shrews eat worms and beetles; Field voles, our most abundant mammal eats just grass and if pushed, moss; a Bank vole has a wider diet that includes leaves, fruits, seeds, fungi flower and roots and, as I say, the Wood mouse forages across all vegetative matter including bulbs.

The Honey bees are active on days above 10° and the dawn chorus is just beginning to warm up, with Song thrush, and its cousin, the larger Mistle thrush, Robin, Blue

In the Countryside *continued*

and Great tits, Blackbirds, of course, and the Cock pheasants are crowing their “Kurk, Kurr, Kuk” challenge and whirring his wings. The same call is made at dusk, before he flies up to his habitual roost. And if another Cock should challenge his territory, watch how the wattles around their eyes and beak will become engorged in crimson blood. Like Red deer stags, they will walk parallel to each other, sizing each other up, and then launch an attack, jumping three foot in the air in order to rake the other’s breast with his spurs.

If you hear the really faint “tuning” of a bird and you don’t recognise its song but it sounds soft, hesitant, almost as if the bird is quietly whistling to itself under its breath, you will likely find the puffed up ball and beady eye of a Robin. This is their warm up to their Spring breeding singing. It is termed the bird’s “subsong”.

The Snow Moon is not till 28th February, so there should be plenty of dark, frosty nights to see the Andromeda Galaxy (best to try with a telescope) near the Andromeda and Cassiopeia (above your head, the large M, on its side) constellations. Also, on 16th February, Venus (misnamed the “Evening Star”) will reach its greatest brilliance after sunset at a magnitude of -4.8. *Perry*



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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.

Sunday 2nd Feb	10.30am Café style service. Come and join us for croissants and coffee in our relaxed style of worship. All welcome.
Monday 3rd Feb	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 a 7.30pm start Community Choir
Tuesday 4th Feb	2.00 – 4.00pm COGS
Wed 5th Feb	9.00 – 11.30am Fun4Tots
Sunday 9th Feb	11.00am Joint at Litlington Congregational Church
Monday 10th Feb	9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. Come and have a chat with our minister, Tony 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start Community Choir
Wed 11th Feb	9.00 – 11.30am Fun4Tots
Sunday 16th Feb	10.30am Joint Service at St Marys
Monday 17th Feb	9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. Come and have a chat with our minister, Tony 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start Community Choir Wed 19th Feb 9.00 – 11.30am Fun4Tots
Sunday 23rd Feb	10.30am Communion Service with Litlington Congregational Church
Monday 24th Feb	9.30 - 11.30am Open Church. Come and have a chat with our minister, Tony 7.00 for 7.30pm start Community Choir
Wed 26th Feb	9.00 – 11.30am Fun4Tots
	Other group meetings:
Bridge Club	Mondays at 19.30
Community Choir	Mondays at 19.00 for a 19.30pm start
History Group	Wednesday 5 Feb at Steeple Village Hall
Knit and Natter	Tuesday 4 and 18 Feb
Photographic Club	25 February 2025
Sewing Group	13 February every 2 nd Thursday
Home group	Zoom and face to face meetings Tuesdays 20.00
	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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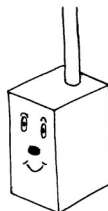
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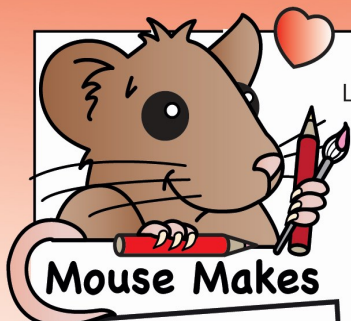
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"Love is

_____.
love is _____.
 It does not, _____
 it does not _____
 it is not _____.
 it does not _____

_____ others, it is not self -

_____ it is not easily
 _____ it keeps no record of

Love delights in

_____ it always

_____ from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____;

His _____ never come to an end; they are new every _____.

Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand... the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how _____
 and how _____
 and how _____
 that **love** is.
 Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.
 whoever _____
 in **love** _____
 in God, and God _____ in them.

1 John 4:16

Give _____ to the Lord, for He is

_____ his steadfast **love** endures

_____ Psalm 136:1

HOW DOES
 GOD **LOVE** ME?

God sent me a saviour:

He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him.

1 John 4:9

God gave me His spirit:

He has given you the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His **love**.

Romans 5:5

God called me His child:

See what great **love** the Father has for us that He would call us His children.

1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:

LOVE the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul** and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

LOVE your neighbour the same as you **love** yourself.

Matthew 22:39

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