

Prospect

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



*There has been a good display of poppies this year.
These ones were snapped on the road to Ashwell.*

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

July/August 2020

Prospect

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

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Deadline for joint July/August edition - 15th June.
Please send all material for inclusion direct to
Alex da Costa rather than via the Rector. Thank you.

What's Your Name?

Shortly before “lockdown” began, a dear friend from schooldays died of cancer. To me, his name was Christopher, or Chris, though at school he was sometimes called Harry, because of the glasses he wore, and so looked a little like the comedic actor at that time called Harry Worth. Only after Chris died did I discover he was known by some as Stanners. When you conduct funerals as I do, you soon learn that most people either don't use their first given name, or are known by a nickname they acquired in their youth. I have been reading “Dark Salt Clear” by Lamorna Ash, which documents time spent in the Cornish fishing village of Newlyn. The author spends a week on a fishing boat, and it is only when she gets given a nickname that she feels really accepted by the crew. There is a gory description of gutting rays. They require a stab apparently. She gets the knack, and is nicknamed “Raymundo”.

I think Jesus was keen on giving people nicknames. Two brothers he gave the name Boanerges, which means “Sons of Thunder”. They were a bit “full on”, I imagine. Simon he gave the name Peter, which means “rock”. If you know what Peter did when Jesus was arrested, he could not be described as being a rock, and yet that nickname may have been the spur for Peter to be more rocklike later. I suppose it's possible to acquire a nickname that is based on something horrible about a person, and schoolchildren can sometimes give a cruel nickname to some teachers, but I think usually these names are really about affection. If you have a nickname, you may not like it, but maybe you will be helped if you think of it as a term of affection.

At the time of writing (12th June), four of our church buildings Abington Pigotts, Guilden Morden, Litlington and Steeple Morden, are about to be opened for individuals to enter for prayer. We don't know when church services will resume, but very simple funerals only are now permitted, with restricted numbers allowed to attend. In the meantime, our services using Zoom continue on Sundays at 10am. Look at our website for further details www.shingaychurches.co.uk.

GOOD NEWS! Ann Bol and Shamus are delighted to be able to let you know that Ann has completed her curacy successfully. This follows a

Rector's Letter (cont)

recent review meeting with the Director of Ministry. Needless to say, many forms were required to be filled out, especially by Ann, but also by Shamus! We are both very happy to be able to announce additionally that Ann is being granted "Associate Priest" status, which means she is able to continue ministering in The Shingay Group of Parishes. Many congratulations to Ann. Please pray for her continuing ministry with our churches here.

with my thoughts and prayers,
Shamus Williams

Pauses in Services and Events

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice.

There are a lot of prayer resources available online. Please see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer>.

I also recommend Bishop Dagmar's regular videos, which you can find on the Diocesan website www.elydiocese.org. And you can watch recordings of our own online services by going to Youtube and searching for "shingay churches"

Book Cafe, Cafe Church, and House Group

There is no Litlington **Book Cafe** at St Catherine's this month.

It is also with regret that **Cafe Church** at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Steeple Morden will be in abeyance until further notice. Regretfully, **House Group** is also temporarily in abeyance but will re-start as soon as possible. For information ring Anne on 853490.

Tribute to Fred Abram

Many people in the village will be saddened to learn that Fred Abram has passed away. Fred was a loyal member of the congregation of Steeple Morden church. A great 'traditionalist', and active supporter of The Prayer Book Society he always attended services conducted from 'The Book of Common Prayer' and was less than enthusiastic with modern wording and change.

Fred was a longstanding committee member of The Friends of the church. He was a champion raffle ticket seller, and always gave his enthusiastic support to fundraising events. His financial support for both the church and The Friends will be greatly missed.

Fred was also a founder member of the Morden and District (MAD) Writers' Circle and remained involved for the thirty-plus years of its existence. Whatever his often contentious and always spiritedly expressed views, no-one could have cared more or worked harder for the Circle. Fred helped devise our constitution and our quirky logo with its back-to-front quill. He was a meticulous secretary, editor of the newsletter and the creator of a fiendish annual quiz. Most importantly he wrote, and has had at least two titles published. His MAD friends and fellow-writers will miss him enormously.

...

ROTARY CLUB ROYSTON VIRTUAL BALLOON RACE

Don't let the Lockdown get you down when you could be reaching for the sky! The Rotary Club of Royston is launching an exciting new competition which will help a well-known local charity while at the same time offering an eco-friendly way to have fun (and maybe win a prize, too). It's called a Virtual Balloon Race and it will take off on September 14. Virtually take off, that is, because these aren't real balloons!

Balloons won't be ready for sale until early July but you can find out more at the Royston Rotary Club website www.roystonrotary.com/balloonrace.htm "Go on, have a go," says Tony. Lockdown needn't take the fun out of fundraising!"

High Summer: this area gets little rain, in comparison to other parts of the country. So watering plants is essential in hot weather, unless the garden consists of mainly drought tolerant plants. Vegetables, like pumpkins, courgettes and cucumbers need copious amounts of water supplied at regular intervals and the soil should not be allowed to dry out completely in between watering. An upturned, 2 litre bottle, (recycled plastic ones) attached to a watering spike, stuck into the ground next to each plant is a good way of supplying a continuous source of water. Similarly peppers and aubergines also benefit from a regular watering to produce well-formed vegetables.

Most plants will be more productive if they are given a high potash feed every week. Liquid seaweed contains many trace elements, such as magnesium, needed by plants in their growth and this can be absorbed through their leaves to produce healthier crops. A diluted solution of it applied every 10 days or so will help, especially in drier conditions.

Powdery mildew often affects plants in late summer. It is a fungus that appears as white powdery patches on leaves, stems and flowers. High air moisture content in conjunction with very dry soil creates perfect conditions for this fungus and it can be discouraged by ensuring that earth around plants remains moist by covering with a mulch of shredded bark or grass clippings and watering well. A humid atmosphere can also be avoided by watering the base of the plants rather than the leaves, especially in the evening.

As our environment continues to change, with drier summers and less rainfall, drought tolerant plants will become an important feature of our gardens out of necessity. Whilst it is difficult to grow vegetables without using lots of water, by choosing the right sorts of ornamental plants it is possible to have a garden which relies mainly on rainfall.

I am in the process of getting rid of the lawn in the front garden as I don't have the time or resources to maintain a perfect lawn. Borders containing drought tolerant shrubs and herbaceous perennials, surrounded by gravel paths, will eventually replace it. The Beth Chatto gardens in Essex is famous for its dry garden and is well worth a visit to see how beautiful this type of planting can look. (<https://www.bethchatto.co.uk/gardens/gallery/gravel-garden.htm>)

Drought tolerant plants require a well-drained soil which does not become waterlogged in the winter as constant water around their roots will

lead to them rotting. Mixing grit and compost into a heavy soil will help the soil structure and increase drainage. On the other hand, sandy soils will need additional organic matter such as compost and mulches to retain water in the summer. Once the soil has been modified, planting can begin. September is a much better time for this than July and August when there is more chance of rain and it isn't too hot.

So, what to plant? Lavender, rosemary, thymes, ornamental grasses, sedums and rock roses (Cistus) are popular and easy to find, but there are many more choices. The RHS website has a good section on drought resistant plants (<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=397>).

Please do have a look at my blog, which I will be updating throughout the summer, if you would like more information about drought tolerant gardening, growing vegetables and garden activities suitable for children. 'Yasmeen's gardening blog' at <https://yasgarden.blogspot.com/>

So, until September, happy gardening and stay safe and well.

Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

May 30th For Shirley and John RIP Lawrence on the 65th anniversary of their marriage.

If you would like the lights switched on, please contact Pam Sharp 852425 or John Jenner 242127. The cost is still only £5.

St Peter & St Paul, Steeple Morden

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

Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com

In spite of the pandemic, we want you to know that Guilden Morden Congregational Church is still very much active and available. Because of the restrictions we are unable to operate as we have done in the past and we can't open the church building. However, we are finding new ways of reaching out to our community.

Tony delivers a service each Sunday that you can access either via facebook or via our website www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com If anyone would like to have a prayer included, please let Tony know. Also on the website, Tony has included a thought for the week.

We are still actively collecting for the foodbank which is operating once again in Royston. Please let either Tony or Sandy know if you have anything you wish to contribute/drop off.

For any further information or updates please visit our website or facebook page, or contact either Tony Frost (tonyfrost.gmcc@gmail.com 07415230763) or Sandy Watkins (sandy@inteserv.co.uk, 01763852869)

This is obviously a challenging time for all of us. If you are in need of help or advice please contact us on the above numbers.

Litlington Congregational Church

Meeting Lane SG8 0QF

In accordance with Government instructions, all Sunday services have been temporarily cancelled. Further information will follow as soon as they are able to recommence.

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. Contact Gwen Biles 01763 852533.

ASHWELL PATIENTS' GROUP

TESTING FOR CORONAVIRUS

If you have suspected coronavirus symptoms you can book either a drive-through or mail-order test. Visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus and enter your details to book a test, or for anyone who needs additional help, call 119 between 7am and 11pm or 18001 0300 303 2713 if you have hearing or speech difficulties.

You will be sent a booking code. The booking system will only show you details of test locations which are available in the following 24 hours. The coronavirus test centre can help you book a test, answer your enquiries about the testing process and what to do once you have your result, or chase up any delayed results.

Hertfordshire's mobile test sites are all open 10am to 4pm and are as follows:

- on Thursdays in Watford at the Central Watford Leisure Centre, WD17 3HA
- on Saturdays in Hertford at County Hall, Pegs Lane, SG13 8DQ,
- on Saturdays at Tesco, Shire Park, Welwyn Garden City
- on Sundays in Watford at the Central Watford Leisure Centre, WD17 3HA
- on Mondays in Stevenage, off Six Hills Way, SG1 2DF. Please follow the signs to the test centre to ensure that you do not join a queue for the Household Waste Recycling Centre.

PLEASE TAKE A MOBILE to the test centre.

Tests are effective if people are swabbed in the first three days of having suspected symptoms. The nose and throat swab test cannot detect whether someone has had coronavirus in the past. Symptoms of coronavirus are: a new continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss of or change in a person's sense of taste or smell.

When all available slots have been booked at a particular site, that location will not appear on the national list. Additional capacity is added regularly so check-in on the website throughout the day if you are not successful in booking a local drive-through or mail-order the first time you try.

TRACING If your test is positive you will be contacted by someone from the NHS Test and Trace team and will be told to self-isolate for 14 days. Genuine contact tracers will:

- call you from 0300 013 5000
- send you a text message from “NHS”
- ask you to sign into the NHS test and Trace website
- ask for your full name and date of birth to confirm your identity, and postcode to offer support while you are self-isolating
- ask about your coronavirus symptoms
- ask you to provide the name, telephone number and/or email address of anyone you have had close contact with from 2 days before your symptoms started
- ask if anyone you have been in contact with is under 18 or lives outside the UK

Search online for “NHS Test and Trace – how it works” for more information. **You will NEVER be asked to disclose bank details or ring an expensive phone number beginning with 09 or 087** by a genuine Test and Trace team member.



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The Trustees of the 'Wheels for Martin's Friends' charity would like to hear from anyone who needs help with obtaining a permanent wheelchair or mobility aid. Call Peter Furmston 852125 or Heather Watts 852727 for further information.



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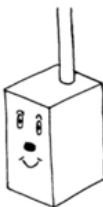
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More trees for Steeple

Steeple Morden Parish Council are funding a project to add more trees in and around our lovely village. This is great news because, as well as being beautiful, trees provide a home for wildlife, clean pollution from the air, and absorb and store carbon to help with climate change. (They also make us feel good!)

Artwork by local artist Anna Pye

Please get involved now to make it happen!

We'll be sourcing a range of native UK trees of various sizes. What we need is your ideas for where to plant them, and/or offers of help to plant this coming winter. Or maybe you have space in your garden for a tree? Are you a landowner who could offer space for trees?

We hope you'll join in, and that thinking about trees will give you something positive and hopeful to look forward to.

Reply now using the form below, or reply online at <http://tiny.cc/kcq4qz>

Tick as many boxes as you wish, and add at least one method of contact. Thank you!



Yes, I'd like to help with more trees for Steeple Morden:

- ☐ I would like to offer a space for a tree/trees in my garden. (Ideally where visible to the whole community if possible, eg front garden or alongside a path or road). Add your address below:
.....
- ☐ I have a suggestion below for a possible public space in the village for a tree/s to be planted:
.....
- ☐ I am a local landowner and would consider a tree/trees being planted on my land, or allowing trees to be tagged in my hedgerows to grow into mature specimens.
Location of land
- ☐ I/We would like to volunteer to help plant trees this autumn/winter.
- ☐ I/We would like to adopt and care for a newly planted tree for its first few years.

Your name: Email address:

(Your contact details will **only** be used to contact you about the project.) Phone no:

Please return this form to: Steeple Morden Post Office, or Nettie Traverse-Healy, 46 Station Road, or Sacha Wheatley 95 Hay Street - or email your reply to sacha@steeplemorden.org
Or you can respond online at: <http://tiny.cc/kcq4qz>