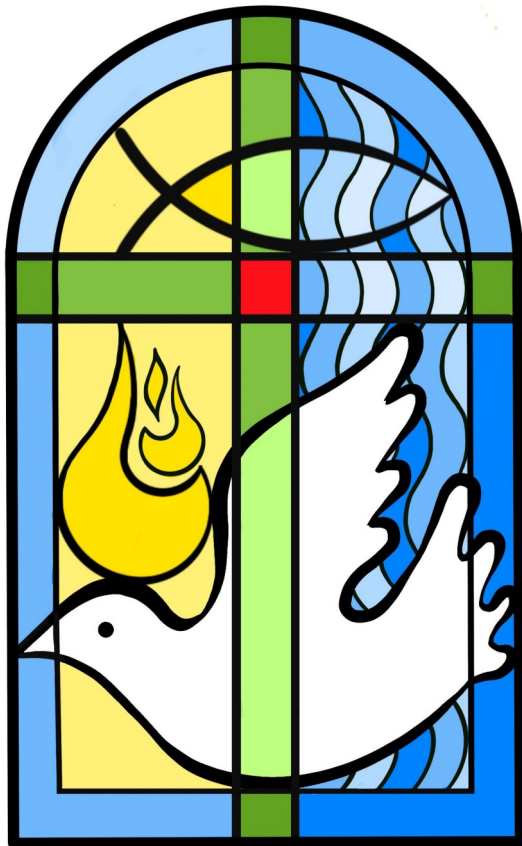


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**The Parish Magazine
of the Shingay group of Parishes**



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

July & August 2024

Prospect

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

Rector

Vacant

**Associate Priest &
Prospect Editor**

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Prospect Production

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01763 852380
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Deadline for September edition - 15 August
Please send all material for inclusion direct to Ann Lynn please.

Letter from our village churches

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

Mid-summer and the holidays are just around the corner. We take them so much for granted and feel rightly aggrieved if we have to work. But holidays, as we know them are a fairly modern invention. The word "holiday" comes from the Old English word meaning "holy day" and referred to special religious days and religious observance.

In medieval times, the Christian Church held holy days and feast days throughout the year. No one was allowed to work on holy days, instead they would gather together to pray and share a meal in honour of a saint or celebrate a special feast such as Easter. These few days provided a short break from the heavy ordinary work of every day and an opportunity to participate in community activities.

Anything resembling a holiday of the kind that we know and love was reserved for the very wealthy. Only they had the time and money to travel, visit friends, or take part in sporting activities such as hunting or jousting competitions, or parties. Then again, they might choose to go on a holy pilgrimage – a long journey made to holy shrines and other sacred places as an act of religious devotion.

In Tudor England, Christmas celebrations lasted 12 days from December 25 to January 6. This was the time when all work could be stopped except for looking after animals. There were community celebrations and feasting as people looked towards the lengthening of daylight and the onset of spring. Sadly, in Scotland it was very different: Christmas was banned for 400 years.

In 1871, the Bank Holiday Act gave workers a few days paid holidays a year, in addition to Sundays. This was later extended to include half-day breaks on Saturdays – the beginnings of a weekend. Day-trips out began to be a possibility for the ordinary people.

In 1939, a new law said that everyone must have a week's paid annual holiday. For some this gave them an opportunity to earn a little more by taking a "working holiday". Many families from London's East End would journey to Kent for the hop-picking season, boosting their annual income a little. By the 1950's, two weeks paid holiday was common and by the 1980's, most people received four weeks paid leave each year.

Whether they are holidays or holy days, they give us an opportunity to pause, to recharge our batteries, and to reflect on what life has to offer.

May this time be blessed and fulfilling for you this summer.

Rev Ann Bol, Shingay Group of Churches

www.shingaychurches.co.uk

News from the Villages

It is the summer fund-raising season for the village schools with a cinema evening and summer fair to look forward to.

Guilden Morden Primary School PTFA are holding a Summer Fair on Saturday, July 6th, 11 - 3 in the school grounds to celebrate the transfer of pupils to the new school building 50 years ago in 1974.

There are lots of activities and attractions planned—look out for posters around the village.

In Steeple Morden, the primary school PTA has organised a Sundown Cinema event for the evening of 6th July. Bring along chairs, blankets, beanbags and join them on the school field for an evening of family entertainment.

The pop-up open air cinema will be screening the blockbuster *Wonka*, with a bar and barbeque on offer alongside the usual popcorn and ice cream. Again, look out for posters around the village for details of how to buy tickets.



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Proceeds in aid of Church Funds

"Hatches & Matches"

Those special occasions continue in our churches, as we celebrate Christenings and Weddings over the summer.

- Our first wedding this summer was between Anna Hazell and James McCarthy on May 23rd at St Mary's Church, Guilden Morden.

They are seen here taking their first kiss as husband and wife. This was truly a joy-filled day.

- On June 8th at All Saints Church, Wendy, we celebrated the marriage of Tracey Hazel and Timothy Whitehead.

Tracey was escorted down the aisle by her German Shepherd, Jura. The couple departed on horse-back. A wonderful day!



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Café Church In Steeple Morden

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

We do not meet during school holidays.

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

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.

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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What a crazy summer we are having. I hope that, by the time you read this, the sun will be shining, and we can all be outside relaxing in its warmth. Here are some hints and tips to keep your garden looking lovely through July and August.

I must admit I am grateful for the rain at this time of year as it reduces the amount of watering required for newly planted flowers and shrubs. The moist soil has meant that their roots have been able to grow out quickly without being stressed. Even though it may rain, many containers still need watering as they just don't capture enough of the rain. And you can feed the plants at the same time using an organic liquid fertiliser, such as seaweed or comfrey.

Liquid feeds are really useful in August when the ground may become rather dry. Rose growers use them, watering the leaves (a foliar feed), to keep the shrubs looking their best and helping them to re-flower in the early autumn. Repeat flowering roses will also need deadheading to encourage more buds.

Many plants including several hardy geraniums will flower again if you get rid of the old blooms and give the plant a trim. Foxgloves and sunflowers may also produce more flowers if you remove the ones that have dropped their petals and are going into seed production mode. Lavender benefits from being trimmed back, as soon as the bees and other insects have finished with the flowers, as this gives the plants time to branch out making them more dense, and stopping them getting too leggy.

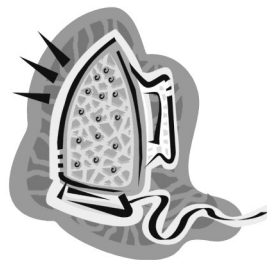
Summer is a great time to observe the insects that are pollinating plants, including the vegetables and fruit we need. Growing a patch of weeds and wild flowers in your garden will greatly help this essential population of creatures to find food. Allowing daisies, buttercups and clover to grow in the lawn (rather than weedkilling them) provides valuable feeding grounds for numerous insects. The Big Butterfly count starts on Friday 12th July and goes through to Sunday 4th August. It's a lovely activity to take part in, and great for children. It makes you stop for just fifteen minutes and take in your surroundings, and that in itself can be so beneficial for wellbeing. You can find the website on line.

If you've been mulching the borders in Spring, you'll find that the mulch is now decaying down to produce a good compost around the plants. There's no harm in adding some more now as it will retain the moisture in the soil and will replenish the organic matter for the fungi and microbes to break down into useful food for plants. Scientists and horticulturists are discovering many new things about the relationship between soil and plants which I will write about in the autumn.

But until then I hope you have a very enjoyable and relaxing summer.

Yasmeen Brigstocke Website: Yasmeenart.net Instagram: [yasmeenfarooqui1773](https://www.instagram.com/yasmeenfarooqui1773)

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CHEDDAR, BACON & SPRING ONION SCONES

To mark the first anniversary of sharing my favourite recipes with you all, I knew I wanted to find something special to commemorate the occasion. If you know me, you will be familiar with my love of scones – this classic, delicious treat is so versatile that I don't think there is anything about them to dislike. This gorgeous recipe can be enjoyed for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and even dinner and can be served with jam, homemade chutneys or cheese. They are a huge statement bake for any summer picnic or party and are bound to be a crowd favourite .

Ingredients:

500g self-raising flour
125g butter, cubed
90g mature Cheddar cheese (grated)
10g Parmesan cheese
100g bacon, cooked and finely shredded
2 spring onions, finely chopped
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 egg

Approx. 200ml milk

Preheat your oven to 190°C and line two large baking trays with greaseproof paper. Leave the baking trays in the oven while you make your scones.

Sift the flour into a mixing bowl and add your cubed butter. Rub the flour and butter together with your fingers until the mixture resembles fine crumbs, the messier the better in my opinion. In between rubbing the mixture shake the bowl occasionally so the larger crumbs appear on the surface. Add in the bacon, spring onions, and most of the cheese. Then add the salt and pepper seasoning and mix until combined.

Mix the egg and milk together, and gradually add in a little until the mixture forms a sticky dough. Gently pull it together making sure to not overwork or knead the mixture, scones don't like being over-handled. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and push down until about 2 or 3 cm thick. I used a 5.8cm cookie cutter to get about 15 scones out of the dough but feel free to use whatever size you wish! Alternatively, press the dough into a rough circle and cut it like a cake into about 10 pieces instead. Sprinkle the rest of the cheese on top of the scones and place them on the hot baking trays from the oven. Bake for about 15-20 minutes until golden brown and leave to cool fully.

Then enjoy!



Calendar of Services

7th July (Trinity 6)

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

14th July (Trinity 7)

10:00am	Guilden Morden	Group Communion

21st July (Trinity 8)

8:30am	Wendy	Holy Communion
10:00am	Steeple Morden	Children's Service
10:30am	Guilden Morden	United Service <i>at GM Chapel</i>

28th July (Trinity 9)

10:00am	Litlington	Group Communion*

4th August (Trinity 10)

10:00am	Wendy	Group Communion*

11th August (Trinity 11)

10:00am	Steeple Morden	Group Communion*

18th August (Trinity 12)

10:00am	Abington Pigotts	Group Communion

25th August (Trinity 13)

10:00am	Guilden Morden	Group Communion

1st September (Trinity 14)

10:00	Wendy	Group Communion*
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Please see church noticeboards in case of changes to this list.

**= Communion by extension*

Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

May 26th Remembering with love Dorothy Best on her birthday. Susan and Richard.

June 6th D Day 1944. Remembering all the fallen heroes in World War II.

June 10th In memory of Tom Jones on his birthday with love from all the family.

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

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 01763 321347

S Peter & S Paul, Steeple Morden

August 10th In loving memory of Jean Elliott RIP on her birthday from her daughter Alison

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

And Tuesdays ...

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6th, 13th, 20th, 27th August



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If you are caught outside in a sudden summer shower, and you have to pick the right tree under which to stand, Jonathan Tulloch gives this advice. *“Beeches are probably the most watertight, followed by Chestnuts and Oaks. Birches, hawthorn and even pre-dieback Ash trees are too leaky.”* So now you know! Just don't ever stand under a tree if there is thunder and lightning.

Last year seemed to be a very good year for butterflies and moths, it is thought thanks to the very varied weather over the Spring and Summer. I felt rather foolish, as I kept seeing what appeared to be a bright orange butterfly flying around my garden. I thought it must be a Large Tortoiseshell (as its flash of orange colour seemed to be not so very different from the common Lesser Tortoiseshell that we have). I looked it up, only to discover that the Large Tortoiseshell became extinct in the UK in 1960s. What I was seeing was not a butterfly at all, but a moth; in fact, it was the spectacular Jersey Tiger moth. Gardeners World in 2023 stated that moths may account for more pollination than bees, pollinating 33% of all pollination. Some moths camouflage themselves by looking like a bird dropping, as birds have an aversion to droppings (as a disease carrier). In butterflies, this mimicry is adopted by the Comma butterfly caterpillar. It feeds on Stinging nettles, Wild hops and Elm. It has the usual Nymphalid (the family of the Comma butterfly) defense mechanism of spines and whilst most of the body is orange, its rear end looks as if a splurge of white paint has been poured on it. Sitting on a nettle leaf, it looks very much like a bird's dropping

The Hummingbird hawkmoth is always mesmeric to watch, as it (apparently) effortlessly hovers and manouevres, very unlike usual butterfly or moth movements. With a fat thorax, bright orange hindwings and a beak-like proboscis which it manouevres into trumpet flowers like Valerian, Salvias and Honeysuckle. Most are visitors from Southern Europe adapted to flying at temperatures of 45 degrees. Some do breed here but they struggle to survive our winters. They emit an audible hum as they beat their wings at eighty times a second.

And whilst still on the subject of flying insects, the Thunderbugs can be an irritant as, when the wind drops, they will land and walk through your arm hairs. And then, when there is a breeze, they are gone. Unlike the Horseflies, or Clegs in Yorkshire and Scotland, or to give them their full name, the Notch-horned Cleg (*Haematopota pluvialis* – “blood-drinker of the rains). If you see a horse galloping around a paddock in maddened circles, it is attempting to escape the Horsefly.

In the night sky between 17th July and 24th August, the Perseid meteor shower should be evident. This is caused by debris from Swift-Tuttle comet and is a favourite amongst astronomers (it is also known as the Great Comet of 1862) for its high hourly rate of meteors.

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Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

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

July 2024

The "Sharing Table" in the front porch of the Chapel is still very much in use, so please place any spare foods that you have on the table so that others may make use of them. Packets and tins are especially welcome.

Sun 7 th July	10.30am	Café style service. Come and join us for croissants and coffee in our relaxed style of worship. All welcome
Sun 14 th July	11.00am	Joint Service with Litlington at Litlington
Sun 21 st July	10.30am	Joint service with St Mary's at The Chapel
Sun 28 th July	10.30pm	Communion Service

Group meetings:

Fun4Tots Wednesdays from 9.00am to 11.30am
 Bridge Club Mondays at 19.30pm
 Community Choir Mondays at 19.00pm
 Knit and Natter Alternate Tuesdays at 10.00am from 9th July
 Men's Guild Monday 1st July 10.30am
 COGS Tuesday 9th July 14.00pm
 Local History Group Wednesday 3rd July 15.00pm
 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 Gina Ferrari
ginaferrari57@gmail.com

Litlington Congregational Church

July 2024 *All are very welcome at our services*

7th	11am	Mr Peter Godbert
14th	11am	Dr. Christine Macleod (Joined by Guilden Morden Congregational Church)
21st	11am	Mrs Jackie Hall
28th	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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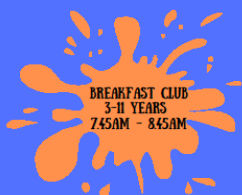
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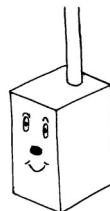
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