

Prospect

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



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

July/August 2023

Prospect

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

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Vacant

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

Letter from our village churches

Do you remember as a child, kneeling down by your bed, hands clasped, to say your prayers? I can just about remember that far back but I do have fond memories of encouraging my own children to do the same, gently introducing the ideal of daily prayers to them by snuggling them into me and suggesting that we ‘chat to God’ about our day.

Do people still do that with their children now?

I was struck by a podcast I was listening to where the actor James Norton spoke about his teenage years at boarding school. Describing himself as spiritual rather than religious (despite playing the vicar in Granchester!), he spoke of daily prayers with the priests who ran his school and how they helped shape his day. He said that giving thanks for the good things that had happened allowed him to focus positively on the day ahead, whilst sharing problems he was experiencing helped him cope better. If things seemed especially bad there was always a senior brother who would happily pray with him, bringing a calmness and order to whatever teenage angst was bothering him.

Aside from public prayers as part of our pattern of worship, prayer tends to be a very personal act and I’m not sure that it’s always something people feel happy about sharing – it’s not generally something that comes up in conversation very often (unless, of course you’re a member of the clergy when it’s obviously part of the job description!). And yet it is incredibly important. Not only as the backbone of our Christian lives when we use that direct line to God to express concern, ask for help and, of course, to give thanks, but also as a way of processing our day and making sense of life.

It is difficult, I find, not to be overwhelmed by all the devastating disasters and awful events across the globe and feel that we should be putting them to the forefront of our prayer life. But there should be a time and place in our prayers to lift up our hearts and give thanks for the small things that have brought a smile to our face, too.

Just think of a 12 year old James Norton thanking God for a good run at cricket, or having his favourite pudding for tea ... what would you give thanks for? For me, as I write this, I’m thankful for a particularly tasty salmon pate that I’ve just had for lunch and for being disturbed by my three-year-old granddaughter impatiently shouting “Granneeeee!” from the next room. Life is good!

Ann Lynn

Prospect and website editor

News from our villages

You might notice some new additions to the usual articles we carry in Prospect this month.

In an attempt to bring you more 'meat' in your parish magazine, we asked around for some extra contributions and I'm pleased to say that we have a number of new volunteers.

So a big thank you to:

Iola Urquhart who will be providing us with a tasty seasonal recipe each month for the resurrected *In the Kitchen* feature;

Perry Littleboy, nature-lover extraordinaire who has agreed to share his monthly nature musings with us for *In the Countryside*. Perry is based near Bassingbourn and his articles have been well received in the Bassingbourn Village Voice;

Ann Bol for news of marriages and births within the parishes and our new back page feature for children. Not exactly a new contributor, but a very welcome addition to the other material she supplies each month!

Of course there's a continued and grateful thanks to **Yasmeen** and **Dominic Brigstocke** for their valued tips *In the Garden*, and all our other regular contributors throughout the year.

If you'd like to write anything for Prospect, or to draw our readers' attention to events happening in the Shingay area, please feel free to contact me.

Ann Lynn, shingayprospect@aol.com

Christian Aid Week 2023

Cynthia is happy to report that £153.50 was raised with her recent Rummage Sale.

Many thanks to everyone who supported this event.

The weather was fantastic for an open air sale.

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. We have a wide variety of activities to choose from and interesting speakers throughout the year.

We will be organising a Games Evening at our meeting on July 20th and August 17th will be our usually laid back, indulgent Afternoon Tea in a member's garden.

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.



"Hatches & Matches"



Welcome to our new page highlighting the special occasions in our churches – the Christenings and Weddings.

Our first wedding this summer was between Sarah Miller and Phillip Crow on May 13 at St Peter and St Paul Church in Steeple Morden. They are seen above with David and Lorinda Crow, outside the church.

And this year's first Christening. Susannah Elspeth Bowen is seen below with her parents, Ben and Annie (our Church Warden), and surrounded by church members, family, and friends.



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Confirmation 2023

The annual Confirmation Service was taken by Bishop Stephen on June 4th at All Saints Church, Melbourn this year.

Seven candidates confirmed the promises made for them as children by their parents, publicly declaring their faith in Jesus Christ, as their Saviour and Lord. It was a joyous occasion, shared with friends and family. Bishop Stephen was in his usual fine form, determined to shower the candidates with holy water from the baptismal font.

The candidates were:

Fan Harrison, to the right of Bishop Stephen, below (from our Group of Shingay Churches);

Kay Jagels and Ian Hack (from the Orwell Group of Churches);

David Blundell, Trevor Margereson, Anna Moore and Martin Young (from the Melbourn/Meldreth Group).



Pictured after the Confirmation, with Bishop Stephen of Ely.



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2 September

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Café Church

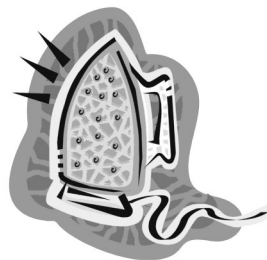
In Steeple Morden

Café Church will be open from 9am
on the following Fridays –
7th and 14th July

Then there will be no further Café Church until
8th September
(after the school holiday)

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

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The organ grinder's busy again this month, so I'm afraid you've got her monkey again.

A combination of arthritis and family commitments has meant that certain parts of our garden have suffered neglect over the last year or two, and it's astonishing to see how quickly - and dramatically - nature reasserts itself.

The squirrels were busy last autumn, burying walnuts in preparation for the winter ahead (they're hilarious to watch, as they check to make sure no one is watching where they put them) and now the ones they forgot have taken the opportunity to grow. So, all over the place are now small walnut trees popping up in the borders and flower pots. And walnuts grow at a prodigious speed, four feet a year. In no time they form substantial saplings which all need cutting down, or we'd soon be living in a forest.

We're fortunate still to have a mature elm tree happily alive at the bottom of our garden. They were once very common around here – most of the really old houses in the villages are built of elm wood. And our tree is a veritable nuisance. It sends up vigorous suckers wherever it can, all over the lawn, beside the fruit trees and within the shrubberies. It's a continuous job to go around and cut these back because, if you turn your back for a moment, they're suddenly towering over you and robbing the apple and plum trees of the nutrients and water we'd prefer reached our fruit.

We're also seeing ash trees growing in the hedges, the seeds blown there by the wind. These can grow to thirty metres, which is gloriously dramatic in open woodland but a real problem in a small garden. They need cutting back to the height of the hedge, where they'll happily live and grow if you pollard them back every year.

The other tree which is a menace is the elderberry. The birds eat the berries and then excrete the seeds all over the garden. Then elder saplings pop up here and there, quickly forming multi-stemmed trees. The flowers and the berries are good for wild life, but it's yet another task keeping it under control and preventing it taking over.

Other tree seeds which germinate easily are conkers (horse chestnuts), which will sprout if you stick them in a pot of damp compost and again grow prodigiously. Less successful round here because of our chalky soil are acorns, which I observed last autumn actually sending down roots and starting to grow on the damp ground in the park in Letchworth, and sweet chestnuts, the leaves from which have the most beautiful serrated edges.

What this all demonstrates is that, were we to abandon our gardens for more than a few years, and were the farmers to stop ploughing, the fields and gardens around here would, within a generation, quickly return to the native woodland which once covered the whole of England.

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Steeple Morden Primary School

Do you want to make a contribution to children's education?



We are currently looking for associate governors, who do not have children at the school, to join our friendly governing body in September 2023. Being a school governor is an important community role that supports the school and is a rewarding way of making a voluntary contribution to the lives of local children in education.

We are particularly looking for someone with skills and experience in:

HR

Finance

Health & safety

No knowledge of education is required, although useful. Enthusiasm and commitment are also key to any governor role.

The Governing Board operates at a strategic level and is not involved in the day-to-day running of the school. We are responsible for both the conduct of the school and for the promotion of high standards.

The full Governing Body meets six times a year. There are also committee meetings, school visits, training, background reading and other requirements expected of governors.

Steeple Morden School is a friendly community school with high standards and expectations, following a philosophy to 'be brave, be kind, be the best you can be.' It is a Church of England (voluntary controlled) school with approximately 180 pupils attending.

If you think a governor role could be for you, then please contact Karenza Nutley (chair@smpsgovernor.co.uk) for more information.

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SUMMER BERRY SWISS ROLL *serves 8*

I absolutely love baking and I thoroughly enjoy incorporating seasonal flavours into my bakes. This recipe combines the glorious tastes of British seasonal summer fruits especially my favourite, as nothing beats a juicy strawberry. This recipe is perfect for garden parties, barbecues or just a nice afternoon snack.

INGREDIENTS:

Sponge: 4 eggs

100g plain flour

100g caster sugar

Compote: 350g of mixed berries

Filling: 300ml double cream

Assortment of fresh berries (keep some for decorating the top of the roll)

METHOD:

Begin by heating your oven to 200°C/ 180°C fan.

Line a 23cm by 33cm tin with parchment paper.

Firstly, start by making your compote filling. For the compote you may use whatever berries you like, but I use a mix of strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, blackcurrants and redcurrants. Put all the berries into a pan and simmer on a low heat for about half an hour, stirring frequently. I don't add sugar to the berries as I think they provide their own sweetness.

Whilst your compote is simmering, whisk your eggs and sugar together until the mixture is thick and has reached a ribbon stage. Carefully fold in the flour and pour the mixture into the lined tin and level it out. Bake the sponge for 10-12 minutes then remove it from the oven and leave it to cool.

After the compote has been simmering for about half an hour and most of the berries have broken down causing it to thicken, remove it from the heat and leave to cool. Whilst the sponge and the compote are cooling, put all your double cream into either a bowl or a standing mixer and whisk it until it becomes a nice spreadable consistency and is no longer runny. If you wish you could add 50 grams of caster sugar to the cream before you whisk it if you prefer it to be sweeter, it is entirely optional.

Once the sponge has cooled place it on a damp tea towel sprinkled in caster sugar (this is how my mum taught me to do it) and spread most of the fruit compote and cream onto the top. Leave a few centimetres width from the edge so the filling doesn't spill out when you roll it. Use the damp tea towel to roll the sponge, being careful to avoid cracks. Decorate the top of the Swiss roll with the rest of the whipped cream and the compote, finishing it off with a few fresh berries on top and a dusting of icing sugar.



2nd July (Trinity 4)		
10:00am	Litlington	Group Communion *
9th July (Trinity 5)		
10:00am	Abington Pigotts	Group Communion *
16th July (Trinity 6)		
8:30am	Wendy	Holy Communion
10:00am	Abington Pigotts	Family Service -Joint with Litlington
10:00am	Steeple Morden	Children's Service
10:30am	<i>Guilden Morden</i>	<i>United Service at GM Chapel</i>
23rd July (Trinity 7)		
10:00am	Guilden Morden	Group Communion *
30th July (Trinity 8)		
10:00am	Litlington	Group Communion, with the Band

And Tuesdays

**Morning Prayer at Litlington Church,
10:00am**



4th, 11th, 18th and 25th July
and
1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th August



followed by tea, coffee, and biscuits.
Come, join and have a chat.

of Services

6th August (Transfiguration)		
10:00am	Wendy	Group Communion
13th August (Trinity 10)		
10:00am	Steeple Morden	Group Communion *
20th August (Trinity 11)		
10:00am	Abington Pigotts	Group Communion
27th August (Trinity 12)		
10:00am	Guilden Morden	Group Communion *
3rd September (Trinity 13)		
8:30am	Steeple Morden	Prayerbook Communion
10:00am	Litlington	Holy Communion
10:00am	Guilden Morden	Holy Communion
Please see church noticeboards in case of changes to this list.		
* = Communion by extension		

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Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

- 21st May The lights were shining in memory of Christopher Cheatle who died on October 4th 2022.
This would have been his 82nd birthday.
Remembered with love from all the family, Catherine, Ali, Thomas and Benedict Greenlaw.
- 10th June Remembering Tom Jones with love on his birthday from Gillian and all the family.
- 19th June Bernice Lois Bartlett celebrating 100yrs old

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 242127

S Peter & S Paul, Steeple Morden

- 27 May In loving memory of Ian Wallace Symington RIP on his birthday

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



**Happy 100th Birthday
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Family**



A swarm of bees in May

Is worth a load of hay

A swarm in July

Is not worth a fly. (J Ray – English Proverb 1670)

That is because the Queen and her attendant swarm will find their new home and spend the rest of the summer building their stores to survive the winter. For the beekeeper, they will not produce enough honey to harvest for the store cupboard.

Towards the end of July, most of our songbirds will fall silent as they begin their moult, when they will skulk around in the bottom of hedges trying to avoid detection, whilst they are at their most vulnerable. But we still have a few weeks of their song yet.

Our Whitethroats have a song as scratchy as the brambles in which it is having its second brood. I can not help trying to translate what my garden birds are singing, like the well-known, “*Little bit of bread and no cheeeeeeese*,” of the Yellowhammer. Our Song thrush seems to repeat: “*Peeuw, Peeuw, Peeuw, Peeuw*,” like a child with an imaginary pistol, then, “*JD JD JD*,” followed by “*Wheat, Wheat, Wheat, Rebbit, Rebbit, Rebbit; Repeat, Repeat, Repeat*”. It makes no sense to me, but then I **am** sure our Blackbird is fluent in French. His refrain seems to be: “*Aujourd’hui Aujourd’hui, Oui, Oui, S’il vous Plait*,” and then inexplicably, every now and again, he will shout “*Ayatollah*,” at the top of his voice! And, of course, the Great Tit has his monotonous, “*Teacher, Teacher, Teacher*,” the original tell-tale tit. When you are out and about, create your own soundscape; try and locate where each call is coming from, distance and direction, and start learning your bird song, one by one. It is a much speedier way of identifying your bird than waiting for it to show itself.

The Cuckoo will leave us this month (their offspring follow in August and September), having laid between 10 -15 eggs in the nests of their particular foster species, whether Meadow pipit, Reed warbler or Dunnock.

“In April I open my bill

In May I sing night and day

In June I change my tune

In July far far I fly.”

For a bird that has a pretty heathen approach to procreation, it is curious how one joyfully anticipates its spring arrival and how diminished the landscape feels without its call.

Keep your eyes open for the butterflies this month, such as the *Nymphalidae*, like the Comma, with its deeply scalloped wing (the comma refers to the tiny white hieroglyph on its underwing), Red Admiral, Peacock, Tortoiseshell and

In the Countryside *continued*

Painted Lady; the *Pieridae*: the Brimstone (butter yellow, from which the word butterfly originates) and the Orange tip, the Large, Small and Green-veined Whites; and the *Lycaenidae*, like the Common Blue and Brown Argus.

By 30th July 2022, all barley, wheat and peas had been cut and carted off the fields around here. August, both pre and post-harvest, holds in its hot hands the wonderfully warm colours of dry sand to pale gold, blonde and ... well, yes, straw-coloured, depending on the light. I find myself just staring, mesmerised, by the clean fields about us, undulating, cloud-shadowed in the sunshine: it is such a rich, heart-filling landscape.

First thistle blooms are the flares that signal high summer, with the purples of the Knapweed and the Mallow and the mauve of the tall Comfrey; the flashes of white of the Hedge bindweed and Achillea and the yellow of the Ragwort make up the colour palette of July. Jonathan Tulloch (*Glimpses of Eden*) tells me that Comfrey flower takes 40 minutes to fill back up with nectar after a bee has visited!

It always amazes me how quickly our lawn's flowers recover in the aftermath of a cut. Within a day or so, Clover, Self heal, and Bird's-foot trefoil and Black medic are all flowering again and attracting bees. (Bird's-foot trefoil takes a whole day and a night to replenish its nectar.)

Hornets (*Vespa crabro*) are unfairly pilloried. The queens are huge at 2 ½ inches long and hooped in yellow and terracotta red. You may see their nests spilling out of bird nestboxes, intricate paper-like structures made out of surrounding plant materials and other fibers. Like that other giant of high summer, the Southern Hawker Dragonfly, at 3 inches long with lime green spots on a dark body, the Hornet is an apex predator on other insects, but will not sting unless you provoke it, which is fair enough. Dragonflies come from the sub-order, *Anisoptera*, which means unequal wings.

As July turns to August, you will find absolute quiet in the evenings. Quiet, that is, apart from a pair of randy woodpigeons clattering their wings in the Willow and the odd disputatious Crow defending its patch of stubble.

The July full moon, the Hay moon (or Buck or Thunder moon), is on 3rd July, but August is a more interesting lunar month. There is a Super Full Moon on 1st August, the Sturgeon moon, and another on 31 August which, as the second full moon in a month, also makes it a Blue Moon! The Micro New Moon is on 16 August.

The point in the Moon's orbit closest to Earth is called its perigee, while the point in the orbit furthest from Earth is known as its apogee. When a full moon or a new moon occurs around the apogee, as in August it's called a Micro moon, Minimoon or Apogee Moon. A Full or New Moon that occurs around its perigee is called a Super Moon.

COMMUNITY PLAY

The Morden Players are looking for actors of all ages, 12 years and up, to take part in PALS, a brand-new short play for this autumn, 2023. No experience needed, just enthusiasm!

To see a script contact Sarah Harrison novel@sarah-harrison.net

01763 853171 07976657504
or FB messenger

To get involved do join us at the Pightle (scout hut) Bogs Gap Lane, Steeple Morden SG8 0PR on Friday July 14 at 7.30pm or Sunday July 16th 2.30pm

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Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

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

July and August 2023

If you would like to have a chat with Tony, he is hosting an "Open Church" every Monday morning in the Chapel between 9.30am and 11.30am

Sun 2 nd	10.30am	Café style service. Come and join us for croissants and coffee in our relaxed style of worship. All welcome
Mon 3 rd	10.30am	Men's Guild
Tue 4 th	14.00pm	COGS
Wed 5 th	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group
Sun 9 th	11.00am	Joint service at Litlington
Wed 12 th	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group
Sun 16 th	10.30am	Joint service with St Mary's at the Chapel
Wed 19 th	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group
Sun 23 rd	12.00 noon	Prayer walk and picnic, meeting at the Chapel at 12 noon
Wed 26 th	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group
Sun 30 th	10.30am	Communion service in the Chapel
Wed 2 nd	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group
Sun 6 th	10.30am	Café style service. Come and join us for croissants and coffee in our relaxed style of worship.
Mon 7 th	10.30am	Men's Guild
Wed 9 th	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group
Sun 13 th	11.00am	Joint service at Litlington
Wed 16 th	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group
Sun 20 th	10.30am	Joint service with URC Ashwell in the Chapel, Theme "Share your story"
Wed 23 rd	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group
Sun 27 th	10.30am	Communion service in the Chapel
Wed 30 th	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group

Other group meetings:

Bridge Club Mondays at 19.30pm

Knit and Natter Alternate Tuesdays at 10.00am

Local History Group Wednesday 2nd August 15.00pm

Home group Zoom meetings Wednesdays 20.00pm.

Contact Emily for details, emilymwilkinson@doctors.org.uk

Anyone wishing to book the rooms for social activities contact Gerry Watkins 01763 852869

LITLINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH DIARY

JULY

Sun 2nd	11.00am	Reverend John Whittle
Sun 9th	11.00am	Mrs Fiona Davis (Joined by Guilden Morden Congregational Church)
Sun 16th	11.00am	Mr Frank Pearson
Sun 23rd	11.00am	Reverend John Whittle (Communion Service)
Sun 30th	10.30am	Mr Tony Frost (Service at Guilden Morden Congregational Church)

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Orwell & Wimpole

Hazel Smith 01763 852602
Christine Furmston 01763 852125
Hilary Sharp 01763 852272
Anna Burwitz 07592783566
Maggie Galan 01223 207307

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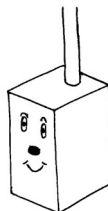
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Jesus told lots of stories, called parables. Each parable also had a special message for people to hear. **The Parable of the Lost Sheep** tells how a shepherd noticed that one of his sheep was missing. Every sheep in his flock was important to him so he left the flock to find the one that was lost. He searched and searched and finally found it. He was so happy, he carried the sheep home and celebrated with his friends how wonderful it was that his sheep was found and now home with the rest of its flock.

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B	★	N	◀
C	✂	O	▲
D	◆	P	✂
E	✂	R	☉
F	✂	S	✂
G	●	T	✂
H	✂	U	✂
I	⊗	V	✂
J	☾	W	✂
K	+	Y	✂
L	◀	Z	✂