

Prospect

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



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

May 2024

Prospect

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

Rector Vacant

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

Letter from our village churches

*“Grandma, why do you always put scrunched up plastic bags in your wellies?”
“To keep the scorpions out, of course.”*

Old habits die hard! This habit was drummed in on my first stepping foot into West Africa. Every crawling thing seemed to be so much bigger there and, of course, hazardous.

Nobody here believes that centipedes are over 4-6 inches in length, with extra-long legs to move them very fast. If you go to the Natural History Museum at Tring, you will see them. However frightening and dangerous they may be, they are all God’s creatures.

Here, God’s creation has come alive with birds singing, trees blossoming, roses about to flower and tiny centipedes scuttling about.

It is impossible not to smile and to thank God for all the joy they bring. And to thank God also for the things we haven’t got. Imagine trying to be alert enough to keep children running about barefoot, safe from scorpions, snakes and all sorts of hidden dangers. If you step on a column of ants, they will be all over you before you can blink.

As our weather warms up, creatures and diseases will migrate north. The Asian Hornet is already here. Aren’t we lucky to be living here with so few dangerous creatures and a National Health Service nearby just when we need it.



*Cicely Murfitt
Ministry Team
Shingay Group of Churches*

“Hatches & Matches”

We’ve had a quiet couple of months in the area of hatches and matches, but Spring is upon us and there are now several christenings (baptisms) and weddings booked well into the Summer. So, watch this space.

If you have an enquires yourself, please contact Rev Ann to talk through what we can offer and what you would like. Contact details inside the front cover.



**There's no Litlington
Book Cafe in May
because we have the**

**St Catherine's Church
Bank Holiday
Fete!**



**at 12.30pm
on Monday 6th May
come along and see us for all our
usual fun and stalls
(and cake, lots of cake!)**



News from the Villages

A request from St Mary's

Is there anybody reading this with some time to spare who could help us with the gardening and the housework in the church and the churchyard? We are short of man and woman power! If you would like to help out in any way please get in touch with Christine Furmston 852125. Thank you.

Carl Williams ("Gogsy")

Robin, Linda, Sean and Natasha and wider family would like to thank everyone for their kind words and acts following the loss of their eldest son and brother, Carl, on 5th March 2024, after a short illness.



ABINGTON PIGOTTS SPRING PLANT SALE

In aid of the Village Hall and Church

Sunday May 12th

Abington Pigotts Village Hall

10 am - 2 pm

A perfect start for your garden this spring - come and enjoy a bacon buttie or a piece of cake and pick up some lovely home grown plants



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.



Members will take over the meeting on May 16th.

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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St Catherine's Church Litlington Book Cafe

10am — 12noon

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No Café in May ... Church Fete on 6th May ... Next café on 1st June

We have a selection of
freshly brewed coffees,
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Café Church In Steeple Morden

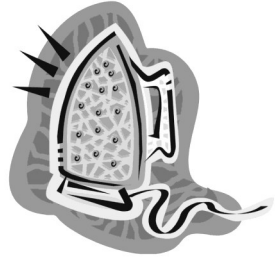
**Café Church will be open from 9am
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It's still bulb planting time! No, I've not gone completely mad – I'm talking about summer flowering bulbs, rhizomes and tubers such as gladioli, eucomis, nerines, lilies, crocosmias, cannas and even dahlias. The planting season for these starts in February indoors, later outdoors, and goes through to the end of May.

You might be thinking, why bother with these bulbs? Well, the summer flowering ones are rather flamboyant and can create a very exotic looking border if you plant them with big leaved plants like fatsia and bananas. They also extend the flowering season well into autumn.

Let's start with something familiar; crocosmias, or montbretias as they used to be called. There's the well-known red flowered variety called 'Lucifer'. It has arching sprays of tubular flowers and long sword-shaped bright green leaves. But not all of us are tempted by something so 'loud'. Try 'Emily Mackenzie' which has orange flowers with blotches of red in a ring around the petals. 'George Davison' is smaller and a gentle shade of orange to yellow whilst *Crococsmia pottsii* 'Culzean Pink' is not really pink but more a peachy colour. All these varieties thrive in a sunny position in soil that is moist but well-drained and flower from July to September.

To create an exotic looking border, try putting together cannas, eucomis, lilies, and gladioli. Some cannas are much hardier than others; we grow a dark purple-brown leaved variety with orange flowers and leave it in the border right through winter. It starts to emerge in April and will flower from August onwards right through to when the frost turns the plant to mush. We then cover it with wood mulch and let it overwinter in situ. Cannas will reach 2 metres or more in the right conditions.

The leaf colour varies from plain mid green, striped green and yellow, multicoloured orange, pink, purple and green stripes right through to the deepest brown. They can have cream, yellow, pink, peach, orange or red flowers. They prefer a sheltered position where their leaves will not get torn by strong winds and require the same growing conditions as crocosmias.

Eucomis, also known as the pineapple lily is fairly easy to grow and is somewhat tender. Grow them in front of cannas, where they can enjoy a lot of sun. Their strappy leaves and cylindrical arrangement of flowers on a stout stem provide a nice contrast. Flowers are usually purple or white. They will need lifting in winter if you want to ensure their survival and stored in a frost free place.

I have never been a great fan of the hybridised gladioli so often seen at flower shows. However, there are some beautiful more delicate varieties. *Gladiolus byzantinus* has bright pink small lily like flowers arranged along mid green stems. *G. murielae* (also known as *Acidanthera murielae*) have nodding white flowers with a maroon base on long stems. I hope I've given you some ideas for enhancing the flower borders this summer.

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SALMON TERIYAKI STIR FRY

This is a beautiful time of year and there is nothing more glorious than the seasonal flowers and the new birth that Spring brings with it. However, this time of year can be quite confusing when it comes to deciding what to bake or cook. It's hard to separate the warm winter comfort favourites that we all know and love from the seasonal Summer salads and barbecues that are fast approaching. The lovely thing about this recipe is that it is warm and comforting whilst being light and healthy. Stir-frys are hugely adaptable and can be a great way to use as many different vegetables as you want, so feel free to adapt it to make it your own.

(SALMON)

- 4 salmon fillets
- 4 sheets of foil
- 2 tbsp mirin
- 2 tbsp honey
- 2 tbsp sweet chilli jam
- 4 tbsp soy sauce
- 3 tsp ginger puree
- 1 tsp garlic puree
- 2 tsp sesame oil

(STIR FRY)

- 250g Pak choi (2 large Pak choi)
- 100g mange tout
- 100g baby corn
- 3 garlic cloves (grated)
- 100ml fish stock/vegetable stock
- 1 tbsp sesame oil
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 250g noodles of choice (I use dry, egg noodles)

METHOD:

Begin by preheating the oven to 200C / 180C fan alternatively if you have an Air Fryer set it to 200C for 14 minutes on the air fry setting.

Combine all the ingredients for the salmon marinade in a small bowl and mix well. Take each salmon fillet and place it in the middle of a sheet of foil and carefully turn up the sides of the foil to make a box around the fillet. Before you spoon out a couple of tablespoons of the marinade onto each salmon fillet, keep some aside to add to the noodles later. Carefully scrunch the top of the foil over making sure there are no holes or rips and if using the oven, place the fillets on a baking tray and cook for 20 to 30 minutes. If you are using an air fryer, place the fillets in the air fryer and start it as you usually would. Chop your vegetables. Heat the sesame and vegetable oil in a wok and add the grated garlic cloves, stir-frying for a few minutes to soften. Add the vegetables and stir fry until the leaves start to wilt and soften. Add in the fish/vegetable stock and the noodles and cover for a few minutes, you want the pak choi stems to be tender but still have a bit of a bite. Dish up the stir-fry and place the salmon fillets on top of the noodles, please take care when removing them from the foils as it will all be very hot. When adding the salmon at the end I like to pour the leftover sauce from the foil on top of the stir-fry noodles and salmon dishes for some extra flavour.

AN AFTERNOON OF HAPPY TRAD JAZZ

**Steeple Morden church is hosting the
Rockin' Chair Band
in Steeple Morden Village Hall on
Sunday, 16th June.**

**The concert and afternoon tea will be from
2.30 to 5pm, with doors opening at 2pm.
It will be a memorable afternoon!**

**Tickets are £15 each and will be available from
Prothero's Garage, Anne Hassall (01763 853490)
and Annie Urquhart (01763 853829).**

Steeple Morden Primary School

The Governors of Steeple Morden Primary School are pleased to announce that they have appointed a new Headteacher to replace Mrs How.

Mrs Alex Housden will take up her position as Headteacher in September. The recruitment panel were impressed by Alex's passion and commitment during the interview process and we are confident that she will be a great addition to the school. Alex is currently deputy head of a church school in Cambridge and she will be visiting the school during the summer term to get to know her new Steeple Morden family.

In the meantime, we have secured the services of an interim Headteacher for this term. Mrs Alana Brown is Headteacher of a primary school in St Neots and has been released by her governors to support us during this term. Mrs Brown will be in Steeple Morden each Monday and Tuesday. We are delighted that Mrs Daniels has agreed to continue as co-head for this next term, she will combine her role as co-head with teaching her Year 5 class.

The Governors hope that all our Steeple Morden families will support our new appointments over the forthcoming months.

A foodie special

QUIZ NIGHT

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Calendar of Services

5th May (Easter 6)

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

12th May (Easter 7)

10:00am	Guilden Morden	Group Communion

19th May (Pentecost)

8:30am	Wendy	Holy Communion*
10:00am	Abington Pigotts	Family Service with Litlington
10:00am	Steeple Morden	<i>tba</i>
10:30am	Guilden Morden	United Service <i>at GM Chapel</i>

26th May (Trinity Sunday)

10:00am	Litlington	Group Communion

2nd June (Trinity 2)

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.

Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

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

9 April For Marie Willmott RIP on her birthday with love from all her family

10 April In loving memory of Ben Briers RIP

29 April In loving memory of Kath Lunness RIP on her birthday

If you would like the lights switched on (£5 per evening) please contact

David or Gilly McKee 852380

And Tuesdays ...

Morning Prayer at Litlington Church

7th, 14th, 21st, 28th May and 4th June



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The poet, Emily Dickinson, said, "I hope you love birds too. It is economical. It saves going to heaven." Well, I am not sure she is right, but certainly May is the "heaven-on-earth" month, with bird song at its peak and flowers galore.

Gerard Manley Hopkins coined the neologism, "shivelights" which describes the sharp lances of sunshine through trees. Certainly, walking under the Horse chestnuts and Lime trees on a sunny day sends shivelights over your clothes and skin.

In May, the Dog daisies will be in full flower and by the end of May, the Dog roses will be too. "When Lupins flower, the bees will swarm," is an old country saying - the plant's name derives from the Latin for wolf, as the flower has a wolf-like fang.

Half the world's Bluebells apparently grow in Britain. I did not know that fairies trap passers-by in Bluebells flowers, so be warned. It's also said that if you wear the flowers as a garland, you are compelled to speak the truth. Pages on book spines and feather fletching on arrows were glued by the sticky sap from mashed bluebells,

Lords and ladies, or Cuckoo pint or Friar's cowl (*Arum maculatum*) come in to flower this month. The erect purple spike is revealed as the leaf opens, and this smells of rotting meat. The stench attracts Owl midges (also called the Moth fly) which fall through the hairs into a "kettle" where the true male and female flowers are.

Eventually the bristles will wither and the midge can then fly out carrying pollen to the next flower. Later in the year, the pollinated flower will become bright red berries on a stalk, poisonous to us but apparently not to pheasants.

Also this month and next, you may see Caterpillar cobwebs all over a Hawthorn or Blackthorn hedgerow. They are very obvious, with all the leaves completely eaten up. This is the work of the Ermine moth caterpillar.

The 12th May is Beltane, the Gaelic May Day festival, marking the beginning of summer (about midway between the Spring and Summer Equinox). One would hang Birch and mountain ash over your door to keep out the "old witch". Presumably young witches are welcome. One might also leave food by any "fairy tree" as an offering to ward off the fairies and prevent them from stealing your milk.

On 29th May, it is Oak Apple Day or Royal Oak Day or Shickshack Day. John Lewis-Stempel in *The Wood* writes that the day was celebrated to mark the formal restoration of King Charles II and also in memory of the Oak tree in Boscobel in which he hid after the battle of Worcester in 1651 (hence the ubiquitous pub name "The Royal Oak".) Children would wear oak leaves and oak apples in their lapels and if not, they could be kicked and punched and thrashed with nettles. Over time, Shickshack Day became a day of licentiousness, this being the countryside and all!

May's full moon (the Flower moon) is on 23rd May.

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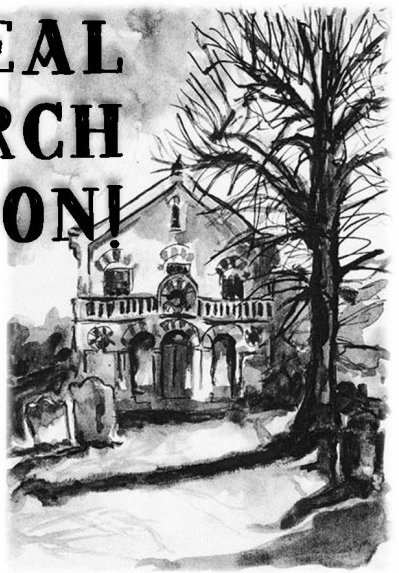
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Pre-Bank Holiday Extravaganza

Plant Sale

Saturday & Sunday 25th & 26th May

10 to 2pm

Litlington Congregational Hall

Proceeds to the Chapel



Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

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

May 2024

Make a note in your diary for a celebration of community activities in **The Ideal Church Exhibition** in the Chapel on 23rd June. The Sharing table at the front of the church is continuing to provide a well-used service, so please keep bringing your donations of any spare items that you can.

Sun 5 th May	10.30am	Café style service. Come and join us for croissants and coffee in our relaxed style of worship. All welcome
	19.30pm	Drink and Think at The Edward VII. A chance to share and listen to views on a range of issues both serious and light-hearted
Sun 12 th May	11.00am	Joint Service with Litlington at Litlington
Sun 19 th May	10.30am	Joint service with St Mary's at the Chapel
Sun 26 th May	10.30am	Joint Communion Service with Litlington at the Chapel

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 14th May
 Men's Guild Monday 13th May 10.30am
 COGS Tuesday 7th May 14.00pm
 GG Film Club Friday 17th May 19.00pm
 Local History Group Thursday 2nd May 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 Gerry Watkins 01763 852869

Litlington Congregational Church

May 2024

All are very welcome at our services

5th 11am Mr Mike Birrell- Communion Service
 12th 11am Mrs Sandra Galton (Joined by Guilden Morden Congregational Church)
 19th 11am Mrs Sylvia Jordan
 26th 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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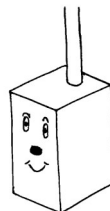
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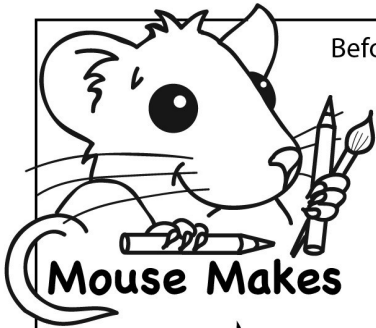
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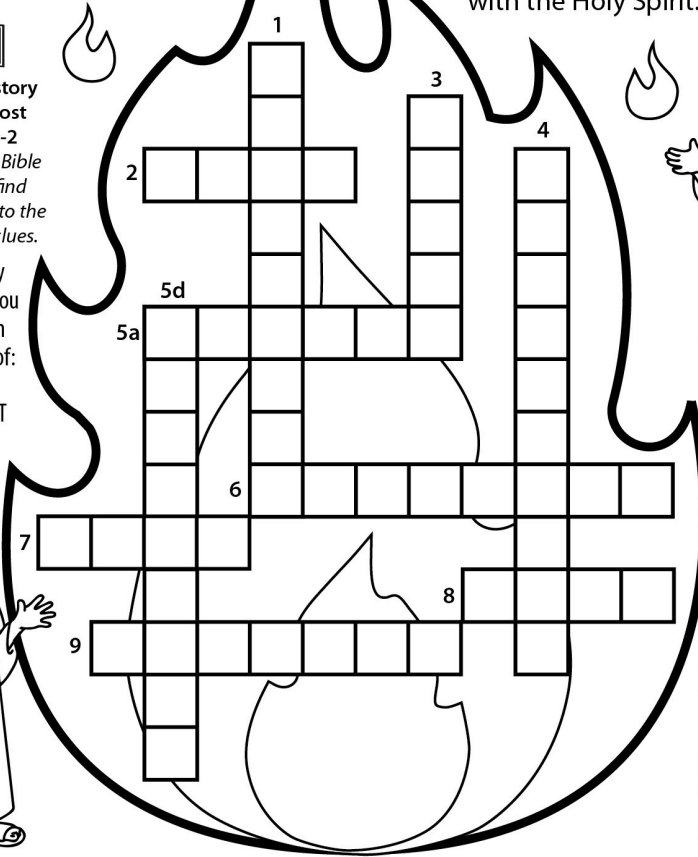
Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
has come upon you, and you will be my
witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...

...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
they were all together in one place,
and they were all filled
with the Holy Spirit."



READ the story
of Pentecost
in Acts 1-2
Look up the Bible
verses to find
the answers to the
crossword clues.

How many
words can you
make from
the letters of:
DAY OF
PENTECOST



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- 5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*

- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*
- 9 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*