

# Prospect

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



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

**November 2023**

# Prospect

The Parish Magazine of the Shingay group of parishes  
[www.shingaychurches.co.uk](http://www.shingaychurches.co.uk)

## Rector

Vacant

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**Deadline for December/January edition - 15 November**  
**Please send all material for inclusion direct to Ann Lynn please.**

# Letter from our village churches

**November is here, and in two weeks' time we commemorate Remembrance Sunday. Many will gather at local memorials; others will reflect quietly at home.**

During WWI, given the huge numbers killed it was decided that the dead were to be buried where they fell. There were also very many who were never found or identified. The building of local memorials gave families a focal point to remember their loved ones in the absence of a grave. These memorials also recognised, for the first time, the immense cost paid by ordinary men and boys who volunteered to serve – their names permanently engraved in stone in their local communities for all to see.

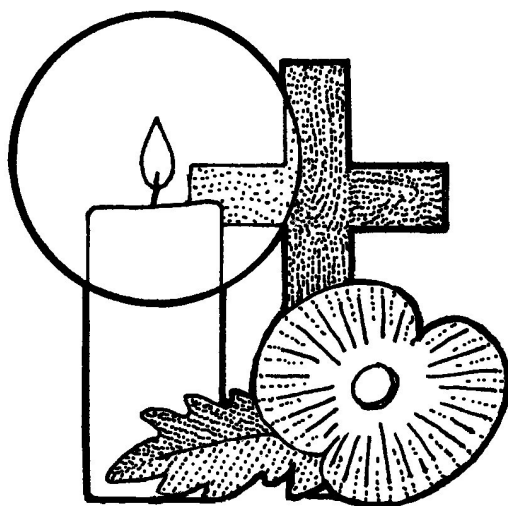
This was “the Great War”, the “war to end all wars”, but then WWII happened. In many cases, the names of another generation of men and boys were added to these stone memorials, and they too would be remembered every year on Remembrance Sunday.

Sadly, since then there have been further conflicts resulting in loss of life or permanent disability. We no longer add names to the local stones but we never-the-less remember the costs paid by young men and women who have and do serve their country.

And, of course, civilians are often targeted too: some as they go about their daily lives, others as they endeavour to keep those around them safe.

As we gather around these solitary Standing Stones in our respective villages on Remembrance Sunday, there continues to be much to be remembered as we reflect upon the values and traditions of freedom, human dignity and peace that motivate those who serve on our behalf.

*Revd Ann Bol,  
Shingay Group of Churches*



# News from our villages

## **HARVEST LUNCH   Sunday 8 October**

Thank you to all those who helped in preparing, cooking and supporting the Harvest Lunch on Sunday 8 October held at Guilden Morden Church following the Harvest Festival Service in Steeple Morden.

The delicious hot lunch of shepherds or cottage pie and fruit tarts was attended by nearly 40 people and the profit made of £165 has been donated to Jimmy's Night Shelter. The food collected at the Service has been delivered to local food banks at Biggleswade and Royston.

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

***Ceremony at the Memorial in: Abington Pigotts 9:30am***

**Airfield tba**

**Guilden Morden 10:55am**

**Litlington 10:55am**

**Odsey tba**

**Steeple Morden 10:00am**

**Wendy 9:30am**





# "Hatches & Matches"

Now that we are entering the winter months, all has gone quiet in the area of hatches and matches, but we are still available to answer your enquiries about christenings (baptisms) and weddings, and book your preferred dates.

Please get in touch with Rev Ann to talk through what we can offer and what you would like. Contact details inside the front cover.



## Licensed Lay Minister – Mike Birrell

Congratulations to Mike Birrell, who was admitted and licensed as a Lay Minister (LLM), previously known as Readers, at Ely Cathedral on Sept 30.

## Found

Gold locket on public footpath between Tadlow village and Tadlow Bridge.

Tel: 07815 973817

The Church of St Peter & St Paul

# *STEEPLE MORDEN CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL*

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Friday 9am to 4pm (including Café Church)  
Saturday and Sunday 11am to 4pm

Christmas Tree & Toy Service  
on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 4pm



(We are collecting good  
condition 2<sup>nd</sup> hand toys  
for Women's Refuges)

*Join us for tea, coffee and cake  
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**ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH STEEPLE MORDEN  
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***or on the door. For more information contact David McKee 01763 852380***

**Organised by The Friends, on behalf of the PCC  
with all proceeds going to the running of the church**

**theWI**  
**INSPIRING WOMEN**

**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 making a miniature Christmas tree table decoration at our meeting on 16th November.

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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[www.newlingsofroyston.co.uk](http://www.newlingsofroyston.co.uk)**





# St Catherine's Church Litlington Book Cafe

10am — 12noon

Held on the first Saturday of  
each month in Church

4 November,  
2 December, 6 January

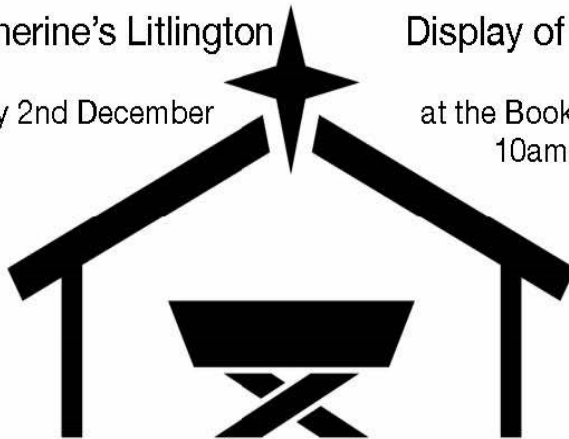
We have a selection of  
freshly brewed coffees,  
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of freshly-baked cakes and biscuits.  
Our extensive second-hand book  
stalls offer books for sale for all the family.

St Catherine's Litlington

Saturday 2nd December

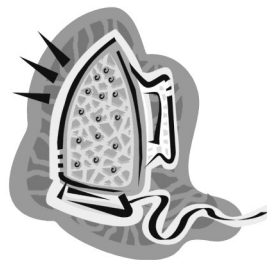
Display of Cribs

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If you have a crib you would like displayed please contact  
Sue Jenkins [suehjenkins@gmail.com](mailto:suehjenkins@gmail.com)

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**As I write, there's a storm raging over large parts of England causing flooding and loss of life. These strangely harsh weather conditions are not only difficult for us but also for plants.**

A plant can often survive if the stems and leaves are damaged, as long as the roots remain healthy and intact. One of the worst problems for many plants is to be drenched with huge amounts of rain which doesn't drain away. Like us, plant roots need air to live and so, if they are only surrounded by water, they basically drown. Worse still, if heavy rain is followed by extremely cold weather it will freeze the roots, causing them to rot. So, many plants will survive cold weather well as long as they are in well drained soil where their roots are not constantly sitting in a puddle of water without any air.

So how can we protect our plants from extreme weather conditions?

The first is to make sure that all container plants are moved into areas sheltered from severe cold and wet. Those grown in containers will not survive as well as plants in the ground because the soil will be colder. Plants which have thick, fleshy storage systems, called rhizomes or tubers, such as cannas, dahlias, ginger lilies and begonias, can all be lifted out of their pots, shaking off most of the soil, and stored in thick paper bags or potato sacks. The stems and leaves should be cut off to avoid rot and moulds spreading into the plant. They can be left to over-winter in frost free, cool places indoors, such as garages or porches, and re-planted in spring. If space is available, the whole container can be moved to a frost-free area and the plants left in place. However, the soil should be kept barely moist to avoid rot.

Last year, I accidentally left half a dozen dahlias in the ground and they survived the minus 12 degree winter temperature, grew back and, as I write in late October, are still in flower. The area had been mulched annually for several years and the dahlias were also protected by the hardy evergreen shrubs that were growing around them. Mulching with compost, bark or even straw and newspaper, provides a good layer of protection against frosts. It's possible that the natural decaying process that occurs in these mulches creates a small amount of heat which will also protect the roots.

Mulch also acts as a sponge to soak up the rain when it falls, holding it and slowing down the process of it reaching the soil below. This is especially useful when it is spread over clay soil because it reduces waterlogging around the roots. For this reason, in autumn I try to spread as much mulch over the beds as I can. Grit can also be added to heavy soils to help stop compaction and waterlogging. It creates more air pockets in the soil and this is beneficial because, as I have already mentioned, roots need air to survive.



## In The Garden *cont.*

Wrap up tender plants such as cordylines and phormiums with garden fleece to stop them freezing. Take cuttings of plants such as salvias, and pelargoniums, which aren't very hardy, and grow them indoors or in a frost-free greenhouse to ensure that you have plants for next year. I have also discovered that by covering with fleece, winter vegetables such as cabbages, broccoli, and cauliflowers grow more vigorously and produce better crops in spring. Hopefully, we will have a milder winter than last year, but if not, at least this time we will be better prepared for it.



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## SAUSAGE PLAIT

This particular recipe is a great adaptation of one of my favourite foods. This showstopping sausage plait is a great meal for dinner, to enjoy for a celebration, or to wrap up as a snack and take with you to watch the fireworks on bonfire night.

### **Ingredients:**

500g sausage meat  
60g Spanish chorizo  
1 red onion (finely chopped)  
1 stick celery (finely chopped)  
3 garlic cloves (finely chopped)  
½ tbsp rosemary (fresh or dried)  
2 tbsp tomato puree  
Pinch of salt and pepper  
A little plain flour, for dusting  
1 x 475g pre-rolled puff pastry  
1 egg, beaten

### **Method:**

Preheat the oven to 210°C / 190°C fan and line a large baking tray with baking parchment.

In a bowl, mix the sausage meat, chorizo, red onion, celery, garlic, rosemary, tomato puree, salt and pepper together with either a spatula or hands until completely combined. Set the mixture aside for now and lightly flour your work surface.

On your work surface, unroll the puff pastry sheet and place your sausage filling down the middle third, so that you have about a third of pastry left either side. Leave a couple of centimetres of pastry without the sausage filling at the top and bottom of your sheet. Cut diagonal lines (lengthways) on either side of the sausage mixture until you get to the bottom corners of the pastry.

Fold the top and bottom sections of pastry over the filling first and then fold each diagonal strip of pastry over each other, making sure to cover as much of the sausage filling as possible. You may find that it helps to stick the pastry together with the beaten egg to hold it in place. Finish by brushing the top of the sausage plait with some more of the beaten egg. Bake in the oven for about 45 minutes until the pastry has puffed up and turned a golden-brown colour, and the sausage meat has completely cooked through. Allow the sausage plait to cool a little and then enjoy!

*Feel free to add any seasoning you'd like to your sausage plait - I don't because my family seem to enjoy it very much without. Play around with the recipe to make it your own, you can add in anything you want and take away anything it is entirely up to you.*

# PARISH PANTRY

Local Food Bank



Just a reminder that the Parish Pantry is in the porch of the church, should you have donations, or if you should be needing food.

If you are in a position to donate, items required are:

Tinned Meat, Pies, Veg, Potatoes & Fruit  
Cereals  
UHT Milk  
Sugar  
Flour  
Pasta  
Pasta sauces  
Mug shots  
Pot noodles  
Individual wrapped cakes

Location:  
St Peter & St Paul Church  
Steeple Morden  
SG8 0NJ



For more info:  
Sam Carroll  
07494 588663  
[sdcarroll1849@gmail.com](mailto:sdcarroll1849@gmail.com)

**GIVE WHEN YOU CAN, TAKE WHEN YOU NEED**



## Guilden Morden Congregational Church Sharing Table

Did you know about our sharing table? This table has been running for quite a while now and has proved very successful.

The slogan is: 'Bring What You Can... Take What You Need.'

We would be very grateful if you are able to donate food to the table. Equally if you need to use the table, please do so. You can enter with discretion by the side gate, so no one needs to know you've been there.

# Sarah's Farm Shop

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# Calendar of Services

## 5th November (All Saints Day)

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

## 12th November (Remembrance Sunday)

tba	Airfield	
tba	Odsey	
9:30am	Abington Pigotts	Remembrance Ceremony & short service
9:30am	Wendy	Remembrance Ceremony & short service
10:00am	Steeple Morden	Remembrance Ceremony only
10:55am	Guilden Morden	Remembrance Ceremony & service for the Mordens
10:55am	Litlington	Remembrance Ceremony & service

## 19th November (2 before Advent)

8:30am	Wendy	Holy Communion *
10:00am	Abington Pigotts	Family Service -Joint with Litlington
10:00am	Steeple Morden	Children's Service
10:30am	Guilden Morden	United Family Service <i>at St Mary's</i>

## 26th November (Christ the King)

10:00am	Litlington	Group Communion *
4:00pm	Steeple Morden	Christmas Tree Service

## 3rd December (Advent Sunday)

8:30am	Steeple Morden	Prayerbook Communion
10:00am	Guilden Morden	Advent Sunday Service

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

\* = Communion by extension

# And Tuesdays ...

## Morning Prayer at Litlington Church



10am 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November

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



## Floodlight Diary

### St Mary's, Guilden Morden

21 October For Linda Davies from all the family RIP

31 October Remembering Linda Davies on her birthday from all the family RIP

We ask for Peter Wilson to be remembered with love on October 17th  
(no floodlights)

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

1 November In loving memory of Ann Lattion RIP on her birthday on All  
Saints Day

2 November And All Souls Day

16 November In loving memory of Ian Wallace Symington RIP

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



**The eleventh of the eleventh is not only a date to honour those who went out to fight and die for their country.** It is also the Christian feast day celebrating the death of St Martin of Tours. Saint Martin was a Roman soldier who was baptized as an adult and became a bishop in Gaul. He is best known for the tale whereby he cut his cloak in half with his sword, to give half to a beggar who was dressed in only rags in the depth of winter. That night Martin had a vision of Jesus Christ wearing the half-cloak. Martinmas was an important festival that marked the end of harvest and the start of winter, with the slaughter and preparation of and curing of pigs and cattle and geese. Bonfires were lit and there was feasting on 'Martinmas goose' or 'Martinmas beef', drinking the first wine of the season, and "mumming". Mumming was the practice of disguising yourself (by wearing your partner's clothes or adding padding) and going round to your neighbour's house to act out a sketch or show. When the hosts have identified you (they were allowed to prod and poke you, and ask questions), you could remove your disguise and share a drink with them.

Autumn is the season for the fungi. This month you may well find the Shaggy inkcap, (*Coprinus comatus*) growing in your lawn. The fruiting mushroom first appears as a thick grey thumb-like object pushing through the grass. It has the woolly, shaggy look that gives it its alternative name of lawyer's wig. At this stage the cap completely encases the stem but over the course of a few days the cap opens into a bell shape. It then darkens and dissolves into a black inky mess. Some of the common edible mushrooms that you can find in November include Bay Bolete, Cep, Chanterelle, and Hedgehog Fungus. However, it's important to note that there are also poisonous mushrooms that grow during this time, such as the Death Cap (smells sickly sweet but then rancid when old, though at the button stage it is virtually odourless) and the beautiful, elfin Fly Agaric (red skin with white spots). Do use the *Mushroom Diary* online as a good source of information.

Large twiggy bundles can be seen up in the branches of some silver birches. They look like very large and scruffy squirrel dreys. These are a gall caused not by a wasp (like the marble-sized oak apple gall) but by a fungus, *Taphrina betulina*, that is the cause of these virescences. They are lateral buds that are produced as haphazard side-shoots which, over many years, generate these large clumps, also called Witch's Broom. It doesn't effect the tree and will create a microhabitat of its own for wintering insects.

It seems to me these last few years, that leaves have turned and dropped later than before. I wrote in my journal for 13th November last year, "Autumn colours are at their best, with Cherry dropping yellow tears on the wet grass. Beech, hawthorn and hazel make up the colour spectrum of Cadmium to



## In the Countryside *continued*

Bronze. And leaves do have their order of falling, the Dogwood is all down, then Cherry and Hawthorn and Silver Birch. Hazel will be next to fall and yet Apple is still green. And the Walnut is in the process of changing its mind, then its tunic."

Although we had over a foot of rain (310 mm to be exact) between 20th October and 23rd November last year, it was very mild, with only a couple of ground frosts by the third week of November. And yet this is the time that European Hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) traditionally start to hibernate, when their food of beetles, caterpillars and worms are scarce. Their ideal temperature for hibernation is 4°C and hibernating at 10°C will use up body fat twice as quickly. They will build their nest, called hibernacula (my word of the month) for the winter, out of dead leaves and dry grass, with walls of 10 cm thick, which will be found under sheds, in piles of brushwood or compost heaps and even in old rabbit burrows. Their heart rate will decrease from 190 beats per minute to around 20, and their body temperature, normally 35°C, falls to 10°C or less, and their breathing slows to a breath very few minutes. They will emerge in mid March to early April, and have their litter of urchins or hoglets at the end of April. Nocturnal, they walk around 1 – 2 miles a night searching for food, and will live 4 – 5 years. Each spine is made of Keratin, which is what our hair and nails are built of.

There are two other birds we see often around our waterways at this time of year. One is the Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus* (Green footed Gallinule) flashing its white tail markings when unsure and looking out for danger. It has the most ungainly flight, but will roost in trees at night not far from water. They are found worldwide and have a variety of names. In Scotland they call it the Stankie, but other names are Marsh hen, Swamp chicken and Skitty coot! The other bird we are seeing more often is the Little Egret, (*Egretta garzetta* which translates as Egret Egret!) a startlingly white small heron with feet that have been dipped in custard. In the breeding season it has a long white neck plume, which were more valuable than gold in 19th Century as fashion accessories. These birds only started breeding in the UK in 1996, on Brownsea Island in Dorset, and have been moving northwards ever since.

Soon after sunset is the best time to see Venus (closest to the Southern horizon) then Saturn and Jupiter, aligned with the Moon from 7th November to 13th. There are two meteor showers mid month, the Taurids and the Leonids meteor shower. These are made up of debris shed by a comet entering Earth's atmosphere. At the end of the month, you can see (cloud permitting) the International Space Station passing West to East around around 5.25 pm on 25th, 27th and 29th, or 6.15 pm on 24th 26th, 28th or 30th. The Beaver moon or the Mourning moon is on 27th November.



# Steeple Morden Primary School

*"Steeple Morden is a caring school. The values of 'be brave, be kind and be the best you can be' shine through. Adults care deeply about pupils." Ofsted 2022*

## Prospective Parents Event



Tuesday, 7th November  
2pm — 3pm

For parents and carers of children due to start  
school in September 2024



Join us to find out what we have to offer to your child.

Please email us if you would like to join our event for prospective parents  
so that we can provide you with all the necessary information.

**Steeple Morden Primary School**

7 Hay Street, Steeple Morden, Nr. Royston, Herts, SG8 0PD

Tel: 01763 852474

Email: [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)

"Be brave, be kind, be the best you can be."

## Café Church In Steeple Morden

Café Church will be open from 9am  
on the following Fridays –

**3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th November**

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

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**We meet every Monday at 7.00pm in the chapel.**

**Join now and be ready to sing some great  
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**If you would be interested in joining,  
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**[ajgenieman@gmail.com](mailto:ajgenieman@gmail.com)**



# Christmas Coffee Morning

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

10:00 till 12:30

Christmas Fayre Tea Coffee and a Chat

Lots of Christmas goodies and Raffle

All are welcome

**Litlington Congregational Hall**

Meeting Lane All proceeds to the Chapel



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christmas  
wreath

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**Thursday 30th November**  
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## Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

[www.guilden-morden-congregational-church.weebly.com](http://www.guilden-morden-congregational-church.weebly.com)

### November 2023

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.

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.00am-11.00am	Fun4Tots
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Café style Service. Come and join us for croissants and coffee in our relaxed style of worship. All welcome
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Men's Guild
	19.00pm	Community Choir
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup>	14.00pm	COGS
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am-11.00am	Fun4Tots
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Joint service at Litlington
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	19.00pm	Community Choir
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am-11.00am	Fun4Tots
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Joint service at St Mary's
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	19.00pm	Community Choir
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00am-11.00am	Fun4Tots
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Communion Service
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	19.00pm	Community Choir
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am-11.00am	Fun4Tots

#### Other group meetings:

Bridge Club                      Mondays at 19.30pm

Knit and Natter                Alternate Tuesdays at 10.00am

GG Film Club                  Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Nov at 19.00pm

[Local History Group](#) [Wednesday](#) 1<sup>st</sup> Nov at @ SM Village Hall

Home group Zoom meetings Wednesdays 20.00pm.

Contact Emily for details, [emilymwilkinson@doctors.org.uk](mailto:emilymwilkinson@doctors.org.uk)

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



# LITLINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH DIARY

## NOVEMBER

5th November	11.00 am	Reverend John Whittle
12th November	10.45 am	Remembrance Service at St. Catherines Church Litlington
19th November	11.00 am	Reverend Angus Mc Cormick - Communion Service
26th November	10.30 am	Mr Tony Frost <b>At Guilden Morden Congregational Church</b>

### *All are very welcome at our services*

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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Hazel Smith 01763 852602  
Christine Furmston 01763 852125  
Hilary Sharp 01763 852272  
Anna Burwitz 07592783566  
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.

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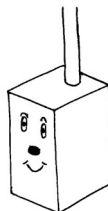
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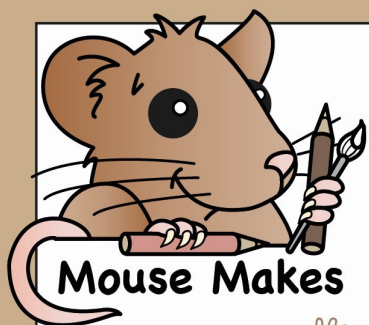
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with thanksgiving, present your  
\_\_\_\_\_ to God."

*Philippians 4:6-7 NIV*

"The \_\_\_\_\_

is \_\_\_\_\_

to all who \_\_\_\_\_

on him in \_\_\_\_\_."

*Psalms 145:18*

"For where two or three \_\_\_\_\_

in my name, there  
I am with them."

*Matthew 18:20*

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continually, \_\_\_\_\_  
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*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

"Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_  
your sins to one another and  
\_\_\_\_\_ for one another,  
that you may be healed."  
*James 5:16*

" \_\_\_\_\_  
yourselves  
to prayer, being  
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*Colossians 4:2*