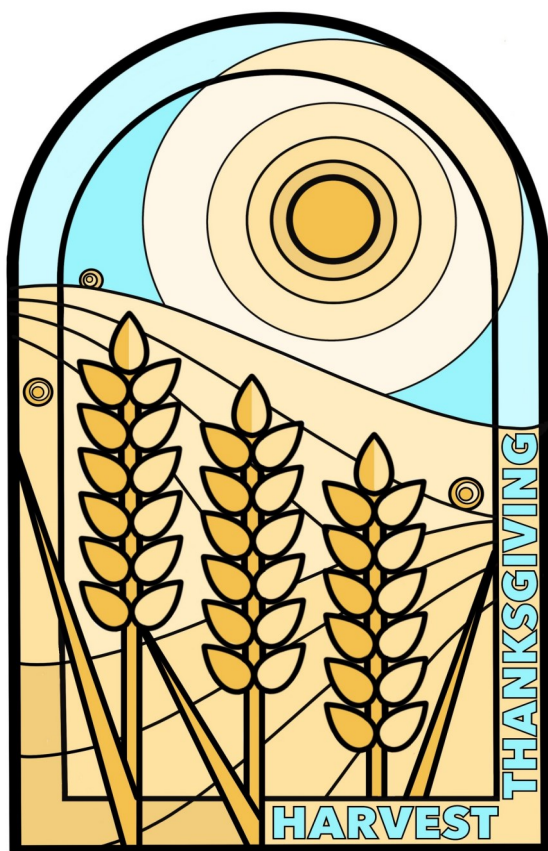


Prospect

The Parish Magazine
of the Shingay group of Parishes



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

September 2024

Prospect

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

Rector Vacant

Associate Priest & Prospect Editor Revd Ann Bol, 36 Hillfield, Foxton, Cambridge CB22 6RZ
01223 871058 RevAnn801@gmail.com

Licenced Lay Minister Cyril Harris, 10 Silver Street, Litlington. 01763 852107

Fiona Davis, 1 Silver Street, Guilden Morden
01763 852454

Mike Birrell, 3 Town Farm Close, Guilden Morden
01763 852174

Cicely Murfitt is also a member of the Ministry Team

Bellringing Kathy Tear, Guilden Morden 01763 853651
Paul Newman, Litlington 01763 244167

Prospect Production

All advertising & editorial copy to: Ann Lynn
shingayprospect@aol.com
07710577753 (please leave a message)

Advertising enquiries: Mrs Gillian McKee, Hill House, Cheyney Street,
Steeple Morden SG8 0LR
01763 852380
shingayprospectadverts@gmail.com

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

Letter from our village churches

While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him. (Luke 5:12-13)

The Leprosy Mission works in Africa and Asia to diagnose, treat, care for, and advocate for people affected by leprosy, a bacterial disease spread by droplets from the nose or mouth and not by touch. It is rampant in 120 countries with about 200,000 new cases a year.

Have you ever heard of Alice and Wellesley Bailey? Probably not, but 150 years ago they founded a society which has helped millions of people, most of whom live in extreme poverty. For most of the existence of the Leprosy Mission, there was no cure for the condition. Medically there was very little that could be done for sufferers who were often ostracised from their families and their villages. The mission could only offer love, care and acceptance.

Praise God a cure was discovered 40 years ago, but sufferers have to be found in the early stages of the disease before damage has been done and those who live in remote villages are often missed. When diagnosed, they have to walk for miles to make their way to the leprosy hospital. We should count ourselves very lucky that we do not have leprosy, and should pray that it never becomes widespread here.

The last indigenous case of leprosy in the UK died in 1798. Since 2015 there have been an average of 5 new cases each year among people entering the UK from countries in which it is prevalent. Even in the USA, there are 100 cases each year. Try this experiment: fold your hands into fists. Now try to pick something up, try to eat, or brush your teeth. It can't be done. This is what leprosy does to hands and feet because the nerves are damaged. Because there is a lack of sensation, injuries such as cuts can often go unnoticed. Infection will enter and damage the limb and amputation may be required. You will probably face reconstructive surgery for your fingers and hands.

That was not a good prospect for Rajisha in India, a very bright girl just finishing school exams. She had to walk about 60 miles alone because her mother was unwell and her father had to keep working in order to feed the family. Once at the Leprosy Mission, Rajisha had reconstructive surgery on her hands with drugs paid for by the World Health Organisation. She awaits surgery on her other hand. She wants to be a nurse. Why not pray for her and all the other sufferers and pray that leprosy never spreads in this country.

Cicely Murfitt, Ministry Team, Shingay Group of Churches

"Hatches & Matches"

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



- (Top right) On June 30th, we gathered for the christening of Skyla and Gracie Covell, at St Catherine's in Litlington. A really happy celebration with family and friends.



- (Top left) Later the same afternoon, at Saints Peter & Paul Church in Steeple Morden, the christening service of Tommy Chaffey, seen here with his mum, Kelly, and big sister Lilly Mae.



- (Bottom left) On July 14 at Saints Peter & Paul Church, Steeple Morden, Maisie Langmead was christening was celebrated with family and friends, many of whom had travelled from USA. She is seen here with parents, Steven and



Ashley, and brothers: Jacob and Sam.

- Then our final wedding for the season at St Michael & All Angels, Abington Pigotts, between Melissa Griffiths and Sean Ireson. A wonderful day of celebrations and preparations for a married life together.

If you have an enquires yourself, please contact Rev Ann Bol.

News from the Villages



IT'S TIME TO THINK CHRISTMAS TREE!

We're holding our Christmas Tree Festival again in Steeple Morden church so whether you're planning a tree as an individual, family, club or organisation we look forward to welcoming you.

The Festival will run from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th November.

Details will be published, but meanwhile can be found from Anne Hassall, 01763 853490.



Church News

ASK THE RECTOR

In preparation for the arrival of our rector to our Group of Parishes, you are invited to ask him questions you might want to know about him

ABOUT HIS LIFE

Fr Sam is originally from Spain, but where exactly? How much influence has his culture in his life?

ASK, AND IT
WILL BE
GIVEN TO
YOU

MATTHEW
7:7

HOW TO ASK

follow the QR code on the right and post your questions there. We cannot guarantee that all will be answered, but we will try

SCAN THE QR CODE



Q&A



We are delighted to announce that The Revd Samuel (Sam) Perez Criado, currently Assistant Curate in the Benefice of Hartford and Houghton with Wyton is to be Incumbent (Rector) of The Shingay Group of Parishes. Sam will be instituted on 2 October at 19:00 in Litlington Church.

Please hold Sam and his family in your prayers as they settle into their new home in Guilden Morden, and as Sam prepares to join us in October as our new Rector.

News from the Villages

CHURCH GARDENING

We are looking to improve our efforts at St Mary's and so we are putting out some dates for working parties. Please respond to our requests if you can and if you have some free time. The village would be most grateful.



1st Steeple Morden Guides need another adult leader. We meet every Wednesday evening during term time. This is a fantastic volunteering opportunity, giving you the chance to get creative, have fun and be an inspiring role model to girls and young women. Please contact Lis steeplemordenguides@gmail.com or 01767631695 for more information.



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September is a great time for making a flower meadow. Hardy annuals can be sown now to produce a beautiful early summer display of flowers which are useful for cutting, and some are suitable for drying or pressing and making into pictures. Edible flowers and leaves can be added to salads, but be careful to avoid the poisonous ones! This month is good for germinating seeds because there should be more rainfall and the soil is still warm from the summer.

You don't need a big area; a large container will work if space is limited. The main thing is to make sure the plot gets sunshine for more than 4 hours a day otherwise the plants won't grow and flower well. The soil should be free from weeds, dug lightly and raked to produce a fine-grained surface which the seedlings can easily push through.

Mix all the seeds you want to sow together in a small bowl with some dry sand to make it easier to scatter the seeds thinly over the prepared area or container. Once sown, I press the seeds into the soil with the flat end of a rake or by gently stamping over the area using my feet. Water after sowing, ideally using a very fine spray head on the watering can so that the seeds don't get washed into clusters leaving gaps. Seedlings start to appear after about 7 – 10 days depending on the temperature. If we have a dry September, then the area will need watering every couple of days until the seedlings are a few centimetres high.

The varieties of annuals to sow need to be hardy in order to survive the winter; you can buy a hardy annual mixture from various seed companies or make your own. I use the following list of plants:

Calendula officinalis (pot marigolds). You don't have to stick to the single bright orange ones – 'Snow Princess' is a creamy white with a dark centre. Then there's 'Sherbet Fizz' with lovely pale apricot petals whose undersides are a sort of rich brown colour. The petals are edible.

Eschscholzia californica, (Californian poppy) These dainty plants have blue green filigree foliage and their crinkled flowers are usually orange and red, but a more appealing range include blush pinks, cream and apricot.

Ammi visnaga, (Queen Anne's Lace) – a bit like cow parsley but not invasive. This plant will give height to the area. It's great for cutting and pressing too.

Consolida regalis (Annual delphinium – larkspur). Loose spires of flowers in purple, lilac, pink and white are around 75cms tall and are wonderful for cutting.

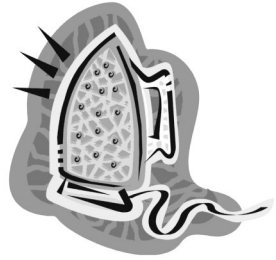
Clarkia amoena, (Godetia). Open, cup shaped, delicate flowers on slender stems and lance shaped leaves. Quite a wide range of colours and heights vary from 30 to 90 cms.

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

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DELICIOUS APPLE CHEESECAKE CRUMB CAKE

I thought I would share an autumnal classic with you all to celebrate the beginning of my favourite season. Whilst this recipe may look slightly daunting, it is a very easy bake! This recipe is made entirely without eggs and can also be made with dairy-free ingredients for a vegan cake.

Ingredients

Crumble topping:

125g plain flour
150g granulated sugar
80g butter
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp vanilla extract
Pinch of sea salt

Cream cheese filling:

250g cream cheese
1 tbsp brown sugar
1 tbsp corn flour

Apple filling:

2 large baking apples
1 tbsp ground cinnamon

Vanilla cake layer:

250g granulated sugar
120g melted butter
170g plain yogurt
2 tsp vanilla extract
1½ tsp baking powder
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
150g buttermilk
375g plain flour

Preheat your oven to 180°C, grease a 10-inch round cake pan with butter, and line the base with parchment paper.

To make the cinnamon crumble topping combine all of the ingredients in a large mixing bowl and rub together until the mixture resembles bread crumbs and no lumps of butter remain. Set the crumble mixture aside for now and in another medium bowl, toss the chopped apples and sugar together.

To make the cream cheese filling, whisk the cream cheese, brown sugar, and cornflour until smooth and fluffy. Set this aside with the other mixtures.

To make the cake batter, begin by melting your butter in a saucepan over low heat. Once the melted butter has cooled a little whisk in the sugar, yogurt, and vanilla until combined.

In a stand mixer whisk together the dry ingredients, salt, baking powder, and bicarbonate of soda. Once the dry ingredients have been evenly distributed pour in the butter mixture and whisk again to combine. At this point, the cake batter may look very wet try not to panic as the flour will resolve this! Next, add in the flour and the buttermilk and whisk again until fully incorporated.

To assemble the cake, pour half of the cake batter into the cake pan and spread out evenly to the edges, try to keep the top as level as possible so that you get a nice, even bake. Spoon all the cream cheese mixture onto the cake (continued overleaf)

In the Kitchen *continued*

batter and once again spread it to the edge of the pan with a spatula, followed by the rest of the cake batter repeating the process.

On top of the second layer of cake batter add the apple mixture and finally sprinkle the crumble topping evenly over the apples.

This recipe requires a long baking time, but I promise you it is worth it, it needs about 70/80 minutes in the oven however I would recommend checking it anytime after around 50 minutes.

A general rule I tend to follow is as soon as I can smell the cake baking in the oven, I will check on its progress by slightly opening the door and inserting a skewer into the centre. If there is no wet cake batter on the skewer then the cake is ready, it will not come out completely clean though as there is a wet cream cheese mixture in the layers. Once out of the oven leave to cool slightly and then dig in! This cake is so delicious it can be enjoyed warm with custard, cream, ice cream, or simply by itself as it is perfect alone. Happy Baking!



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A
Midsummer
Night's
Dream

W. Shakespeare

This month, the farmers are busy preparing the seedbeds for sowing next year's winter wheat and barley against the clock of wetter autumns. The grain harvest was pretty well in the sheds by the end August and yet the Harvest moon (September 17th and a Super moon this year) is the full moon closest to the Autumn Equinox (22nd September) and Michaelmas Day, on 29th September, was when harvest should have finished fifty years ago. Our seasons and the farming calendar have shifted some 4 or more weeks earlier. Michaelmas Day is the feast day of St Michael, the Archangel who wrestled with Satan. You would roast a goose which had been fed on the grain left to lie in the field after the corn had been cut.

In our gardens, the walnuts start to fall (if the Squirrels and Crows don't harvest them first) and the apples ripen. Every Bramley apple (the UK's most popular cooking apple) comes from a tree that originated from grafts of a single parent tree in Southwell, Nottinghamshire, now 200 years old. Apples are extremely heterozygous, meaning every pip will grow into a different tree with unique characteristics and fruit. The Victorians loved them and made hundreds of cultivars, many of which are now lost. Apple orchards have declined by 56% since 1900, as many orchards were on the outskirts of towns and cities which have since expanded massively.

Our two most common Ladybird species are the 7-spotted (seven black spots on red wing cases) and the invasive, Harlequin (many different hues and markings, but as well as the white "cheeks", it has a distinctive white triangle on the very top of its head). Despite their seemingly ungainly flight, Ladybirds have been recorded flying at 37 mph which is as fast as a horse can gallop. They have also been recorded travelling as far as 74 miles in a single flight (I have puzzled over how this could possibly be measured!). They reach altitudes of 3,600 ft in order to catch a following wind to disperse to new feeding grounds rich in aphids.

The Gatekeeper butterfly is still flying in September. One of our last butterflies to emerge, it looks like a Meadow Brown but is smaller and more orangey. In fact, it is also called the Hedge Brown and likes bramble flowers and Ragwort flowers and flutters around tall vegetation that borders field gates and hedges. You can also see the Common Carder bee, with fur the colour of honey. This bee has two generations each year and the nest persists well into October/November. These nests are often targeted by a brood parasite: the Field cuckoo bumblebee, which do not collect pollen for their offspring (and so have no pollen baskets or, indeed, a worker caste) but instead it lays its eggs in the Common carder's nest.

The Yellow-legged Asian Hornet is an invasive species from Asia and first arrived in Europe in 2004 and, since 2016 (Tetbury, Gloucester), the UK. Asian hornets are principally predators of insects, particularly pollinating insects, including honey

Harvest Thanksgiving



Harvests are in so now is a time to reflect and give thanks for God's generosity and goodness.

GROUP COMMUNION HARVEST FESTIVAL

10 am Sunday 22nd September

(all food donations to go to Jimmy's Night shelter)

Followed by

HARVEST LUNCH at 12.30

All welcome

£5 per head (children under 15 free)

Please contact Carolyn Mellanby Carolyn.mellanby@btinternet 07866 041518 or your church warden in order to secure a place.

Offers of contributions – Shepherd's pie or fruit crumble /pie for 8— would be very welcome.

Abington Pigotts will also be celebrating Harvest

on October 6th at 4:00pm

Come and join us for prayers, reflection, and some good old Harvest Hymns.

We will again be gathering canned and dry goods for Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge. These items will be collected in the churches before and during the two services.

In the Countryside *continued*

bees. The fear is that hornet populations will have a serious impact on our insect diversity. The **Asian hornet** can be distinguished easily from our native hornet — it has a black abdomen with only a few bars of yellow/orange at the (dangerous) end of the body. The extremities of the legs are yellow and it has an orange face. By contrast, our **European hornet** resembles a large wasp, with a yellow and black stripes and a brown thorax. The face is yellow and brown and it is larger than the Asian hornets.

All suspected sightings of the Asian hornet should be reported. Photos or video and location should be emailed to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk or you can download an app on to your smartphone "Asian Hornet Watch" which has a GPS in the app which will send the location of your suspected sighting.

Calendar of Services

1st September (Trinity 14)

10:00	Wendy	Group Communion*
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8th September (Trinity 15)

10:00am	Litlington	Group Communion
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15th September (Trinity 16)

10:00am	Guilden Morden	United (& Group) Family Service <i>at St Mary's</i>
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22nd September (Group Harvest Festival)

10:00am	Wendy	Holy Communion followed by Lunch
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29th September (St Michael & All Angels)

10:00	Steeple Morden	Group Communion *
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2nd October (Wednesday evening)

7:00pm	Litlington	Institution and Induction Service of Rev'd Samuel Perez as Rector of the Shingay Group of Churches
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6th October (Trinity 19)

10:00am	Guilden Morden	Holy Communion
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4:00pm	Abington Pigotts	Abington Pigotts Harvest Service
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Please see church noticeboards in case of changes to this list.

**= Communion by extension*

And Tuesdays ...

Morning Prayer at Litlington Church 10am

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th September and 1st October



followed by tea, coffee, and biscuits.

Come, join and have a chat.



Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

2 August remembering Bill Davies on his birthday. RIP

6 August Teri and Tim were saying a final farewell to Tim's Mum, Bernice Lois Bartlett. RIP

The church floodlights will be busy over the next few weeks. 1934 was a baby boom year in Guilden Morden. 8 babies were born between June and October so there will be plenty of 90th birthday celebrations.

We wish to remember them all; those who have gone before and those who are still with us:

Marjorie, Derek, Doreen, Freda, Peter, Barbara, Brenda and Cynthia.

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

6 August In Memory of Kumar Balani with love from all the family.

6 August For "King Kumar" from the Targett family (the lights were on on 7/8/24)

17 August For Kumar Balani on his Birthday. Rest in Peace.

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 321347*

S Peter & S Paul, Steeple Morden

8 August In loving memory of John Lunness RIP on his 94th birthday

23 August In loving memory Clare Parrish (Huffer)RIP

24 August In loving memory of Ann Lattion RIP

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St Catherine's Church Litlington Book Cafe

10am — 12noon

Held on the first Saturday of
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7th September, 5th October

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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.

Café Church In Steeple Morden

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

We open again on 13th September.

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. **On 19th September Donna Attis will tell us about "A Smallholding
Experience"** . 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.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

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

If you would like to have a chat and a cuppa with Tony, he hosts an "Open Church" every Monday morning in the Chapel between 9.30am and 11.30am. Every Friday at 10.00am in the Chapel you are also welcome to join an informal gathering of those praying for our villages and our world.

Sun 1 st Sept	10.30am	Café style service. Come and join us for croissants and coffee in our relaxed style of worship. All welcome
Sun 8 th Sept	11.00am	Joint Service with Litlington at Litlington
Sun 15 th Sept	10.00am	Joint service with St Mary's at St Mary's
Sun 22 nd Sept	Time TBA	Taize service, followed by "Think and Drink"
Sun 29 th Sept	10.30am	Communion Service, joined by CompassionUK

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 3rd September
 Men's Guild Monday 2nd September 10.30am
 COGS Tuesday 3rd September 14.00pm
 Local History Group Wednesday 4th September 15.00pm
 Photographic Club Tuesday 17th September 19.00pm
 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

September 2024 *All are very welcome at our services*

- 1st 3pm SONGS OF PRAISE Bunyan Meeting, Mill Street, Bedford, MK40 3EU
- 8th 11am Mrs Sandy Watkins(Joined by Guilden Morden Congregational Church)
- 15th 11am CAFE SERVICE with Mrs Jackie Hall. This service will include refreshments, games, music , discussion, chat and family activities. Adults and children are very welcome.
- 22nd 11am Mr David Freeman
- 29th 11am Mrs Sandra Galton- HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

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 : litchurch@aol.com

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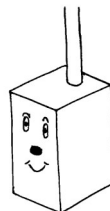
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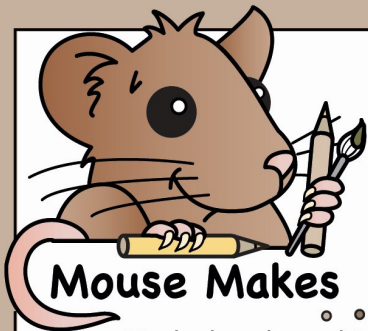
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 May all the peoples praise you!
 The land yields its harvest;
 God, our God blesses us."

Psalm 67:5-6 NIV

"God ... has shown kindness by
 giving you rain from heaven
 and crops in their seasons.
 He provides you with
 plenty of _____. He fills
 your hearts with joy."

Acts 14:16-17 NIV

"Honour the Lord with your wealth
 and the first part of your harvest."

Proverbs 3:9 ERV

"Let us fear and respect
 the Lord our God.
 He gives us autumn and
 spring _____
 at the right time.

He makes sure that we
 have the harvest at
 just the right time."

Jeremiah 5:24 ERV

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Find the words from the questions too!