

The Parish Magazine of the Shingay group of Parishes



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



Prospect

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

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Letter from our village churches

"He who moves not forward, goes backward." (J W von Goethe)

Change. We so often resist it. Sometimes passively, just hoping that by doing nothing, the call for change will disappear. Sometimes actively, by pushing against it, fighting all that compels us to be different.

Yet often, a different approach can have beneficial consequences.

When the Pandemic struck in 2020, we were all forced to stop, think, and change how we did things. For many of us, it gave us a chance to re-evaluate our priorities. For example, being kept away from family and friends helped us to realise just how truly important these relationships are.

Sadly, many watched life being prematurely snatched away from loved ones and strangers, alike. These devastating loses highlighted the frailty of life and brought about a realisation that life is for living. And some of us even learned new skills which have enhanced our lives going forward.

In the Christian calendar there are times when we are called to reflect on transformational change: Lent is one of these times. Lent is the 6-week period leading up to Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday. It is a time to slow down, to contemplate and to examine ourselves as Christians and disciples for Jesus.

This, of course, is a life-long process that continues until our last breath, but Lent provides us with a regular opportunity to grow and deepen our spirituality by engaging in the regular discipline of prayer and study, and deep reflection.

In a similar way, when a church is "in vacancy" (when there is no Lead Vicar or Rector in a parish), this is a time for the church to reflect and examine its role in the community in which it inhabits; to consider how it might do things differently in future. This is where we, in the Shingay Group of Churches, currently find ourselves. Now is the time for all of us in the villages to consider what kind of church, what kind of ministry, we aspire to have in the future. When these questions have been answered, we will then have a better idea about the kind of Rector we need to help us to get there.

"I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good, to give you a future and a hope." JEREMIAH 29:11

Rev Ann Bol Associate Priest Shingay Group of Churches

EASTER EGGS WANTED

For the past few years we have been sending Easter Eggs to children in refuges and last year, due to the generosity of many, we sent 60 or so.

These go via Mothers' Union on a confidential route. We are looking for just ordinary chocolate eggs and if you are able to contribute they will be received with joy and

gratitude. The Refuges can accept 50 and any surplus will be received with enthusiasm by HomeStart.

For further information please contact Anne Hassall (853490), Annie Bowen

(cw.annieb@gmail.com) or Gilly McKee (852380). We look forward to hearing from you!



⁺ VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Prospect is looking for a new editor!

Time commitment is approx one day per month, an ability to use a computer publishing package is essential .

Interested?

For further details please contact Ann Lynn shingayprospect@aol.com

www.shingaychurches.co.uk

Lent Study with light soup & bread lunch

Where: St Catherine's, Litlington

When: Tuesday mornings throughout Lent

What time: 11:00 am – 1:00pm



We will be following the Lent Study: "Surrounded by Grace".

The essence of the Good News, as given to us through Jesus, is the unearned favour or grace on offer from the all-powerful Creator of the world. This study is based on St John's Gospel and explores the question of what is grace in a modern context.

From the story of Jesus turning the water into wine at the wedding in Cana to his conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well, John's words affirm that the Lord's favour extends to all no matter how insignificant we see ourselves or our problems.

Come and explore this with us.

<u>Outline</u> 7/3Grace to overcome what was. 14/3Grace for the times when life's too hard 21/3Grace for the broken heart 28/3Grace when things are chaotic.

Each study is self-contained so come to one or every Tuesday.



We also hold a short (30min) service of Morning Prayer every Tuesday at 10:00am, so feel free to join us for that as well.

Or just come to the Lent Study and lunch.

We would love to see you, whichever you decide to do.

Fancy Bellringing?

We have been fortunate to have a group of young rookie Bellringers attending weekly training at Litlington church and their dedication has certainly paid off.

Three of the youngsters are now ringing solo and will soon be able to join the band for church service ringing.

A core group of ringers have to cover Bassingbourn, Litlington and Guilden Morden churches and it is not possible to ring at all three towers on a Sunday morning. New adult ringers are needed to supplement our numbers.

Bell ringing is a more challenging activity than people imagine and it helps to keep you fit. It usually takes about a



year to become proficient in controlling the speed and striking of the bell and then to develop skills in ringing methods.

Please contact Paul Newman on 07831 175459 if you would like to have a taster session.

Diane and David Donnelly



www.shingaychurches.co.uk

St Catherine's Church Litlington Book Cafe 10am — 12noon

Held on the first Saturday of each month in Church

4th March, 1st April

We have a selection of freshly brewed coffees, specialist teas and a range of freshly-baked cakes and biscuits.

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In The Garden

Yasmeen's a bit busy this week so she's handed over to the undergardener again. Apologies.

Those of you who've been enjoying my contributions to this gardening column will know that I'm keen on high returns for little effort. With that in mind, this time of year is dominated by the emergence of Spring bulbs and so I'll share my thoughts about them.

I love bulbs; if you go out into our garden at Christmas, there's nothing going on. But a week later, at New Year, you can be sure to find the first signs of daffodils and snow drops pushing up through the frozen ground, bringing the promise of longer days and warmer weather in the months ahead.

Spring bulbs are really good value in the garden. By their nature, they spread and produce more plants without us having to do anything. Plant a dozen daffodils this year and they'll soon multiply exponentially to give a really good display in just a few years. I've found that the best place to put them is under the leaf canopy of trees which are bare now but which will become much more dense later in the year and thus unsuitable places for many other plants.

You can leave the daffodils there to die down after flowering so that the nutrients from the leaves are returned to the new bulbs forming underground and ready to appear the following year. How you choose to spread them, once they are dormant, is down to your patience and strength. If you're in a hurry, it's perfectly effective to use a spade to turn over a short trench of turf, disturb the soil underneath and place the bulbs about four inches deep before replacing the grass. But that can result in a rather formal arrangement with the bulbs in a row and if you're feeling more creative, perhaps buy a bulb planter (a sort of round spade which you can push into the ground to dig a single hole) and plant the bulbs in a pleasing pattern. Because some daffodils come up earlier than others, you can organise them to flower from the beginning of February right through to April.

Snow drops also seem to do very well around here; a few planted years ago have now become generous drifts across the flower beds. When they get too numerous and tightly grouped together, it's time to split them up. Snow drops don't transplant well as bulbs (they're small and dry out too easily), so you plant them 'in the green'. That means digging them out when they have leaves, splitting up the bunch and transplanting small groups of the entire plants. They will look



Floodlight Diary

St Mary's, Guilden Morden

9 February	A beacon of light celebrating the first birthday of Elliot Martin Vaughton who has brought so much joy into so many lives
13 February	In loving memory of Joe Holroyd from Pat and all the fami- ly. RIP dearest Joe.
5 March	Thinking of Violet Haskell, with love, on what would have been her 90th birthday. Cynthia and John. RIP

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

St Catherine's, Litlington

16 February In Memory of Bill and Rene Hazelwood RIP

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

10 March In memory of Arthur Goddard RIP

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

In The Garden continued

rather sad and wilted for a while, but invariably come up in their new position the following year.

But the queen of Spring bulbs are the tulips; bright and spectacular, in a wide range of colour. They're less resilient than the ubiquitous daffodils; a spell of hot weather or extreme cold and wet weather will make their displays less impressive, and they don't generally do as well if left in the ground year after year.

But a couple of dozen new tulip bulbs put at least six inches deep in a large pot of compost in the Autumn (it takes ten minutes, if that) will, with no effort or attention, reward you with a magnificent burst of colour the following April. Easy.

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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.

On March 16th our speaker, Stephen Stackhouse, will tell us about "Life in a 1970's 5 star hotel kitchen"

Trevor Chapman will talk about "Better health through better hearing" on April 20th.

Our May 18th speaker, Peter Furmston, will tell us about "The Cosmetics Business"

If you would like to join us, or to know more about The Mordens WI, please contact Joyce on 01763 852087.

Transport can be arranged.

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Calendar d

5th March (Lent 2)

Sur March (Lent 2)					
8:30am	Steeple Morden	PB Communion			
9:45am	Litlington	Holy Communion			
10:00am	Guilden Morden	Family Service			
12th March (Lent 3)					
10:00am	Litlington	Group Communion *			
19th March (Mothering Sunday)					
8:30am	Wendy	Holy Communion			
9:30am	Litlington	Family Service			
9:30am	Abington Pigotts	Family Service			
9:45am	Steeple Morden	Family Service			
10:30am	Guilden Morden	United Service at Chapel			
26th March (L	ent 5)				
10:00am	Wendy	Group Communion			
Please see church noticeboards in case of changes to this list.					
*= Communion by extension		PB = PrayerBook			

of Services

And Tuesdays

Morning Prayer at Litlington Church, 10:00am

7th March 14th March 21st March 28th March



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



Then, maybe stay on for Lent Study and lunch.

A message from Rev Ann Bol:

You will note that the pattern of services has changed

The number of services on offer each Sunday is reducing, for at least a 4-month trial period. Parishes have been "paired" with adjacent parishes to minimise distances to travel: Abington Pigotts with Litlington; Steeple Morden with Wendy; Guilden Morden already "rotates" with the Congregational Chapel. Each pairing will have a Communion and Family Service every month, and there will be at least two Group Services each month. The rotation of the services will be strictly adhered to, and identical for each church. These changes have been made because:

- the Archdeacon and Rural Dean feel that without a larger team, our current service pattern is unsustainable, and the number of services we have each week will discourage future applicants to the role of rector; and
- the availability of our ministry team is reducing moving forward.
 I pray for your understanding and support during this time of change. *Ann*

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The box collection will take place around the villages in February/March this year.

I would like to give a large THANK YOU to everyone who continues to support this charity. If anyone is interested in becoming a Box Holder please contact Janice Cook for more details. 01763 852243



Easter Lunch

<u>Wednesday 5th April</u> Guilden Morden Village Hall 12:00pm for 12:30pm

f8.00 Adult 2 course lunch and tea/coffee Individually priced children's selection and free squash Children's Fancy Dress and prize Entrance f1.00 Open choice Children's Lucky Dip £1.00 Ages 2-4 years 5-7 years Raffle Tickets: Jill Hilman 01763 853400 Debbie Louch 07710 690450

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Diane Knight 33 Cheyney Street, Steeple Morden, SG8 0LR

Tel 01763 853073

(please don't phone between the hours of 6 - 7 p.m.)

Mobility Assistance

We have a folding wheelchair in St Mary's Church, provided by 'Wheels for Martin's Friends', which is available for short term loan. Please call Cynthia Worboys on 853217 if you need to borrow it. The Congregational Church in Guilden Morden also stores a chair for short term loan.

The Trustees of the 'Wheels for Martin's Friends' charity would like to hear from anyone who needs help with obtaining a permanent wheelchair or mobility aid.

Call Peter Furmston 852125 for further information.

Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary

www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com

March 2023

Following the fire in the Chapel there are no services or meetings able to take place on the premises until later in April. The information below is our best forecast at this moment, but please visit our website (see above) for the most up to date information.

Wed 1 st	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group, meeting in the village hall			
Fri 3 rd	14.00pm	World Day of Prayer Service at Litlington Chapel			
Sun 5 th	10.30am	Café style service to be held in Guilden Morden Primary School. Join us for refreshments in our relaxed style of worship. All welcome			
Mon 6 th	10.30am	Men's Guild in the village hall			
Tue 7th	14.00pm	COGS in the village hall			
Wed 8 th	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group, meeting in the village hall			
Sun 12 th	11.00am	Joint service at Litlington			
Wed 15 th	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group, meeting in the village hall			
Sun 19 th	10.30am	Joint service with St Mary's in GM Primary School			
Wed 22 nd	9.00am-11.00am	Baby and Toddlers Group, meeting in the village hall			
Sun 26 th	10.30am	Joint Communion Service with Litlington at GM Primary School			
Other group meetings: Locations TBA Bridge Club Mondays at 19.30pm Knit and Natter Alternate Tuesdays at 10am (village hall) Local History Group Wednesday 1 st March (SM village hall) Film Club Friday 17 th March (GM village hall) Home group Zoom meetings Tuesdays 20.00pm.					
Contract A.	Contact Amondo for dataila, sinaniaman@ymail.com				

Contact Amanda for details, ajgenieman@gmail.com

LITLINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH DIARY MARCH

Sun 5th11.00 amReverend Angus McCormick (Communion Service)Sun 12th11.00 amReverend Janet Wootton (Joined by Guilden Morden
Congregational Church)Sun 19th11.00 amMr Michael RestaSun 26th10.30 amMr Tony Frost (Service at Guilden Morden
Congregational Church)

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.

Contact : litcchurch@aol.com



Home-Start Aquathon

Home-Start are very aware that everyone in our local community, like us, have found it hard to raise funds over the past few years and we really want to help you raise funds for your school/organisation/club through our Home-Start

Aquathon event.

If you need to raise funds for equipment, a project or a trip, we can help you. All you need is a team of 6 swimmers to swim in relay on the night and gain sponsorship. Our Aquathon will take place on **SUNDAY 23rd APRIL between 6.00pm – 10.00pm** at Royston Leisure Centre.

Any sponsorship gained will be split 50/50 with Home-Start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire and your school/organisation/ club.

So pick your swimmers from teachers, PTA members, coaches, leaders, children, parents, family members and come and have some fun. We will organise paper sponsorship forms and online funding pages for your team. It is not a race, so please come along and have fun!

Contact Tracy on 01763 262262 or email <u>events@hsrsc.org.uk</u> if you would like to get involved.



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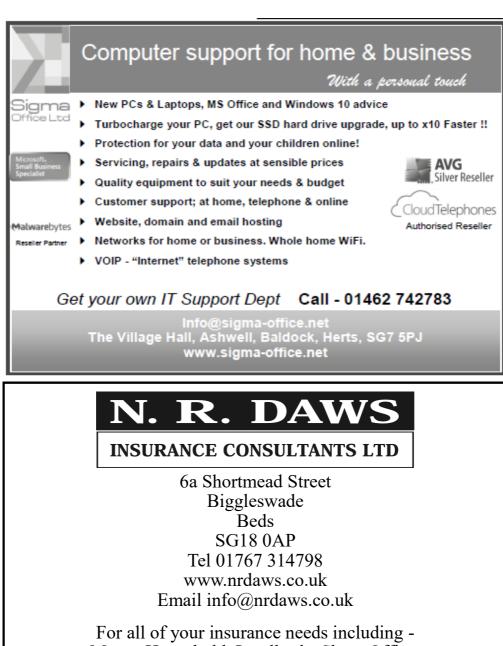
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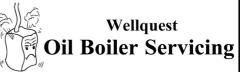
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STEEPLE MORDEN CHURCH 10am to 1pm

Refreshments and stalls

