

# Prospect

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



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

**September 2020**

# Prospect

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

## Rector & Prospect Editor

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**Deadline for October issue - September 15th.**  
**Please send all material for inclusion direct to**  
**Alex da Costa rather than via the Rector. Thank you.**

The advice or laws surrounding trying to control the spread of the virus is complicated, and fast-changing. One feature has been the contexts in which people are expected to cover their faces. That got me pondering the rich seam of symbolism in the Bible surrounding face covering.

“As Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the commandments in his hands, he did not know that the skin of his face had become radiant while he conversed with the LORD. ... the children of Israel ... were afraid to come near him. ... he put a veil over his face. Whenever Moses entered the presence of the LORD to converse with him, he removed the veil until he came out again. On coming out, he would tell the children of Israel all that had been commanded. Then the children of Israel would see that the skin of Moses' face was radiant; so he would again put the veil over his face until he went in to converse with the LORD” (Exodus 34). The mere afterglow of God's glory was something that the people of Israel could not tolerate, so Moses wore a veil to shield them from it. The humility that they demonstrated is in many ways admirable. Unlike many people today, the ancients knew that God was utterly holy, and they were not.

Charles Pope has written, “How different this understanding is from that of us moderns, who manifest such a relaxed and comfortable posture in the presence of God in His holy Temple! Almost any sense of awe and holy fear has today been replaced by an extremely casual disposition, both in dress and in behaviour. If the ancient Jewish practice was at one extreme, we are clearly at the other.” However, it would be a dubious position to hold that God expects the kind of fearsome reverence manifested in ancient Israel. Jesus came to grant us access to the Father through the forgiveness of our sins. We were made to know God, to be able to look on His face and live. Sin made us incapable of doing this, so the veil that Moses wore was one that ultimately needed to be taken away. “And we, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3

Of course, we wear face coverings or “veils” for quite a different reason today, but trying to look positively at this necessity which is not very comfortable for most of us, on a spiritual level we might try to view it as a sort of lesson in humility in the presence of God. We might also long and pray for it to be a temporary necessity, and look to the day when we can all be free to celebrate our unveiled faces again.

*Shamus Williams*

# Calendar of Services

## 6th Sept (Trinity 13)

8.30am	Abington Pigotts	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Litlington	Family Service
11.00am	Guilden Morden	Morning Prayer
11.00am	Zoom Service	

## 13th Sept (Trinity 14)

8.30am	Wendy	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Litlington	Morning Prayer
10.45am	Steeple Morden	Morning Prayer
11.00am	Zoom Service	

## 20th Sept (Trinity 15)

9.30am	Litlington	Parish Communion
9.45am	Steeple Morden	Family Service
10.30am	Wendy	Morning Prayer
10.30am	Guilden Morden	? United Service at Chapel, to be confirmed
11.00am	Zoom Service	

## 27th Sept (Trinity 16)

8.30am	Abington Pigotts	Parish Communion
9.30am	Litlington	Parish Communion
11.00am	Zoom Service	

Please note that due to current fluctuating circumstances, this list may need to be changed. See church notice boards in case this is necessary.  
Thank you.



# Cambridge Historic Churches

## Ride & Stride, Saturday Sept 12 2020

'Never Needed More'..... churches have been sorely missed by people as a place of community, celebration and remembrance these past months. However, crucially during this period, churches themselves have also lost very considerable fundraising opportunities which will have long term impacts.

**This is why Ride & Stride will take place again this year on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, as it is one of the few major fundraising events that can go ahead with social distancing and other measures being followed.**

What happens, and how can I help?

Get your family and friends to sponsor you on a cycle ride or walk from church to church on Sept 12<sup>th</sup>. Churches in the Shingay Group ie Guilden Morden, Abington Pigotts, Litlington, Steeple Morden and Wendy and many churches further afield eg Barrington, Meldreth, Melbourne and beyond in the Ely Diocese are churches you can visit.

**All the money you raise, if possible Gift Aided, goes to Cambridge Historic Churches Trust who collect the Gift Aid and then return 50% of what you raised to your nominated church.**

Full information of this event and sponsorship forms can be downloaded from <https://camhct.uk/rideandstride/> or call Peter Furmston 01763 852125 or David McKee 01763 852380 who can forward you copies.

**Hope to see you on the ride!**

# St Peter & St Paul, Steeple Morden

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Because of Covid-19 it has, regretfully, been decided that it is not possible to hold a Festival this year. We are hoping for a bumper one next year, so please put your thinking caps on and help to make 2021 a great success.

We have decided instead to organise Advent Windows around Steeple Morden, and details will be in the Steeple Morden Parish Newsletter. We are hoping for 24 volunteers!

## MEMORIAL BENCH FOR KATH LUNNESS

A new bench seat has been installed in Steeple Morden churchyard for the benefit of parishioners. It has been donated by the Lunness family in memory of Kath Lunness and also to mark the 50th anniversary of the Lunness family moving to Steeple Morden in August 1970. Many parishioners will remember that Kath ran the village Over 60's Club for more than 30 years. Over their long involvement with the village, the family has also participated in organising past flower and produce shows, the village gymkhana, Car Heaven and the 355th Fighter Group memorial.

## Floodlight Diary

### **St Mary's, Guilden Morden**

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

### **St Catherine's, Litlington**

*If you would like the lights switched on, please contact Pam Sharp 852425 or John Jenner 242127. The cost is still only £5.*

### **St Peter & St Paul, Steeple Morden**

Aug 8th To celebrate the 90th Birthday of John Lunness and also of the 50th Anniversary of the arrival to Steeple Morden of the Lunness Family

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

Planning for an eye-catching spring and summer floral display starts now. Bulbs play a vital part in bringing colour to the garden in the early months of the year, and in order to do this most need to be planted in the autumn. I use the term “bulbs” very loosely, and am including, corms, rhizomes and tubers in this description. I like these types of plants because they are fairly low maintenance, needing little attention from year to year, and if they are planted in the right place, they will multiply and self-seed. Bulbs, especially the smaller ones, are usually planted in drifts over a large area or in clumps to get the best effect, rather than singly. However, those with very showy flowers, such as tulips or the Imperial fritillary, are often planted in rows and geometric patterns to produce a formal display.

Everyone is familiar with the snowdrop, that tough yet beautiful white flower that emerges in the late winter, bringing with it a promise of spring. In this region, they seem to do well anywhere, in bright or shaded areas of the garden. Buttercup yellow winter aconites (*Eranthis hyemalis*) are less well known and flower around the same time as snowdrops. I find that both these bulbs seem to grow better if they are planted in the green in January or February, rather than as dormant bulbs in the autumn, so I won't dwell on them further.

There are a number of small flowered plants which bloom soon after the snowdrops and winter aconites and these are available from bulb merchants and garden centres to plant now. You're probably familiar with hybrid crocuses, the large showy goblet shaped flowers that appear in spring, but may have not come across the dainty *Crocus tomassinianus* whose delicate lilac colour provides a much more subtle display.

Winter flowering *Cyclamen coum* are hardy plants produced from saucer-shaped corms which will grow well in shady areas under deciduous trees but like winter sun. They seem to thrive in humus rich soils which don't get waterlogged. These cyclamen have beautiful, marbled, dark green and silver leaves, with flowers held above them on small purple stems. *Cyclamen persicum* are bigger flowered, sold as winter container plants or for indoor displays because they are not hardy, and will only grow outside in a very sheltered frost-free spot. They can be easily confused with the hardy *Cyclamen coum* and *hederifolium*.

Another unusual bulb worth trying is Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa luciliae alba*), a small plant about 10-15 cm tall. Plant groups of 75 to 100 bulbs per square metre to produce a carpet of star-shaped, white flowers. *Chionodoxa* like a reasonably fertile, well-drained soil and a sunny position. Other *chionodoxa* varieties produce flowers ranging from pink and pale to deep violet blue shades.

Camassias are good plants for wild-flower meadows and naturalistic planting, producing loose cones of star-shaped flowers and narrow strap shaped leaves growing to between 30 to 120cms, depending on the species. The white through pale blue to violet flowers appear in late spring for several weeks, and these plants tolerate a wide range of growing conditions except heavy shade.

Finally, spring would not be spring without tulips and daffodils. Two tulips I can recommend, “Angelique” and “Abu Hassan”, are both late flowering varieties. Multiheaded daffodils are a lovely addition to a garden, especially the white flowering “Thalia” and “Minnow”.

To encourage you further to grow a wider range of bulbs, I would like to add that spring flowers provide much needed nectar for the insect population, and this alone is a good reason to be planting bulbs now.

## In the Hedgerows

*Alexandra da Costa*

With the harvest in and the faint smell of autumn just emerging in the mornings, this is a wonderful time of year to enjoy wild foods that are fairly easy to identify. This year's fair spring brought a glut of greengages in August, followed by a wonderful crop of damsons that should still be good in early September. Almost every hedgerow is laden with a few trees bearing the distinctive small blue fruits (about double the size of the smaller blue sloes on spiky blackthorn). Mouth-puckeringly sour, you won't want to eat these fresh, but cooked up with sugar they are delicious in crumbles, make excellent jam and even fruit leather. No need to stone them either, just warn people to look out for the pips!

Of course, blackberries are in full swing too. If you don't want jam or pies, you can add desert apples to make a compote for an excellent alternative with a bit less sugar. It goes very well with natural yoghurt or on porridge in the mornings. (Email me if you want a recipe - see front cover.)

For the more adventurous, rosehips are beginning to ripen and make a syrup full of Vitamin C. Those of a certain vintage will remember its benefits being touted during the second world war. I'm determined to make it for the first time this year. For the mischievous and young at heart, the hairs inside the hips can be used for itching powder. I sat detention for that one.

And once the first frost comes, sloes are ready to be used for sloe gin or vodka. Autumn is a time filled with the bounty of creation! (*Though please be respectful of landowners' property, keep to footpaths, obey foraging laws and be sure of your plant identification.*)

# ASHWELL PATIENTS' GROUP

## TESTING FOR CORONAVIRUS

If you have suspected coronavirus symptoms you can book either a drive-through or mail-order test. Visit [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) and enter your details to book a test, or for anyone who needs additional help, call 119 between 7am and 11pm or 18001 0300 303 2713 if you have hearing or speech difficulties.

You will be sent a booking code. The booking system will only show you details of test locations which are available in the following 24 hours. The coronavirus test centre can help you book a test, answer your enquiries about the testing process and what to do once you have your result, or chase up any delayed results.

Hertfordshire's mobile test sites are all open 10am to 4pm and are as follows:

- on Thursdays in Watford at the Central Watford Leisure Centre, WD17 3HA
- on Saturdays in Hertford at County Hall, Pegs Lane, SG13 8DQ,
- on Saturdays at Tesco, Shire Park, Welwyn Garden City
- on Sundays in Watford at the Central Watford Leisure Centre, WD17 3HA
- on Mondays in Stevenage, off Six Hills Way, SG1 2DF. Please follow the signs to the test centre to ensure that you do not join a queue for the Household Waste Recycling Centre.

**PLEASE TAKE A MOBILE** to the test centre.

Tests are effective if people are swabbed in the first three days of having suspected symptoms. The nose and throat swab test cannot detect whether someone has had coronavirus in the past. Symptoms of coronavirus are: a new continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss of or change in a person's sense of taste or smell.

When all available slots have been booked at a particular site, that location will not appear on the national list. Additional capacity is added regularly so check-in on the website throughout the day if you are not successful in booking a local drive-through or mail-order the first time you try.

## FLU VACCINATION

As you will have heard in the new this year the flu jab will be available free to a wider range of patients. Our surgery is awaiting guidance from the NHS so details about how the vaccinations will be offered are not yet available. However patients will be notified by post, email and text. Details will also be posted on Facebook and our website about how to book. We are planning to make booking as easy as possible for patients. With risks associated with Covid19 still present it is important to protect ourselves and the NHS as far as possible so please do have your flu jab when they become available.

## LEARNING MORE ABOUT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

New Leaf College is an online source of free courses about improving health and wellbeing. These are provided via Zoom and are fully interactive. Topics covered include such things as healthy living, dealing with isolation, living with long term conditions, sleeping well, understanding depression. See [www.newleafcollege.co.uk/Courses/Course-A-Z](http://www.newleafcollege.co.uk/Courses/Course-A-Z).



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# **Litlington Congregational Church**

## **Meeting Lane SG8 0QF**

Our friendly regular Sunday services commence at 11am. All are welcome.

The service calendar is on the Church noticeboard  
or at Litlington Post Office.

### **Sunday 27th September 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 Gwen Biles 01763 852533.

## **Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary**

*[www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com](http://www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com)*

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
Sun 6th	Café church online. Follow the link for the church <a href="http://www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com">www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com</a>	
Sun 13th	11.00am	Service at Litlington led by Dexter Slatter
Sun 20th	10.30am	Joint service with St Mary's at the Chapel led by Tony Frost
Sun 27th	10.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving and Communion with Tony Frost. Offerings for the food bank will be received.
Other activities using the church schoolroom and café area have not yet started. However, measures are being put in place, with the aim of being able to offer the facilities for use in October.		



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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 or Heather Watts 852727 for further information.



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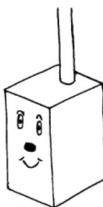
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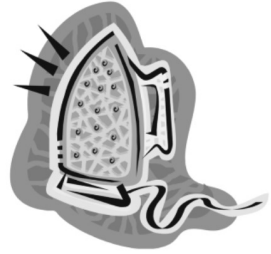


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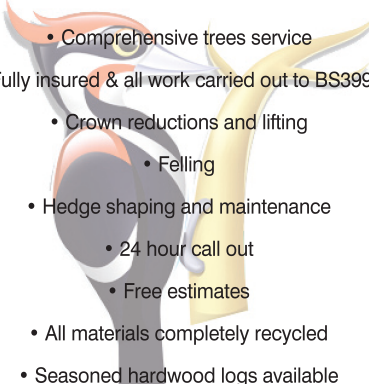


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