

# Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist, Malden

**March 2020**

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# Old Malden News

**The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist Parish Church Malden**  
Church Road, Worcester Park KT4 7RY

Please send any articles or other material to:  
St John the Baptist Parish Office  
020 8330 2817  
administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk

Advertising and Distribution:  
Janet Flemming  
020 8640 9377  
Janet.flemming15@gmail.com

## **ST JOHN'S HALL**

411 Malden Road  
Worcester Park, KT4 7NY

Large and small halls available for hire with kitchen facilities  
For parties, receptions, meetings etc  
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Tel: 020 8942 8321

## St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

# Directory

Vicar	The Revd Michael Roper	020 8337 8830
Asst Priest	The Revd Milly Broome m.broome@hotmail.co.uk	020 8337 1572
Reader & Choir Director	Mrs Marilyn Burkett m.c.burkett@btinternet.com	020 8337 6017
Pastoral Asst	Mr Anthony Pullen tony@pullen.me.uk	020 8949 6784
Organist	Mr Barry Eaton	020 8949 1708
Church Wardens	Mrs Lynn Sanger Mr Mike Broome	020 8715 2066 020 8337 1572
PCC Secretary	Mrs Amy Chan	020 8330 2817
PCC Treasurer	Mr Alastair Harris	020 8241 1087
Parish Administrator	Mrs Amy Chan	020 8330 2817
Safeguarding Officers	Mrs Vanessa Spreckley Ms Marie McGuire	079 18 051099 07535 878107
Church Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Steve Clarke	020 8337 2392
Hall Bookings	Mrs Pat Sutton	020 8942 8321
Parish Website:	<a href="http://www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk">www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk</a>	
Parish Blog:	<a href="http://stjohnschurchmalden.blogspot.com">http://stjohnschurchmalden.blogspot.com</a>	
Parish Office:	<a href="mailto:administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk">administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk</a>	

# Parish Calendar for March

Morning Prayer is said on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.45am

<p><b>Lent 1</b></p> <p>1    08.00 Said Eucharist                 09.45 Sung Eucharist                         with Little Fishes            11.30 11Up Group            12.30 Sunday Lunch Club</p> <p>3    10.00 Holy Communion                 10.30 Community Coffee                         Morning            20.00 PCC Meeting</p> <p>4    09.30 Toddler Group</p> <p>5    14.00 Tea and Chat                 20.00 Reading Group</p> <p>6    18.30 Junior Choir                 19.30 Adult Choir</p> <p>7    19.00 Murder Mystery</p> <p><b>Lent 2</b></p> <p>8    08.00 Said Eucharist                 09.45 Sung Eucharist                 11.30 Thirty Minutes</p> <p>9    20.00 Julian Group</p> <p>10   14.00 Mother's Union</p> <p>11   09.30 Toddler Group</p> <p>12   14.00 Tea and Chat</p> <p>13   18.30 Junior Choir                 19.30 Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>Lent 3</b></p> <p>15   08.00 Said Eucharist                 09.45 Sung Eucharist with                         Little Fishes and Ministry of                         Wholeness</p> <p>18   09.30 Toddler Group</p> <p>19   14.00 Tea and Chat</p> <p>20   18.30 Junior Choir                 19.30 Adult Choir</p> <p>21   09.30 Church Cleaning</p> <p><b>Mothering Sunday</b></p> <p>22   08.00 Said Eucharist                 09.45 Sung Eucharist Parade                         Service</p> <p>25   09.30 Toddler Group</p> <p>26   14.00 Knitting and Crochet                 Group                 14.00 Tea and Chat</p> <p>27   18.30 Junior Choir                 19.30 Adult Choir</p> <p><b>Passion Sunday</b></p> <p>29   08.00 Said Eucharist                 09.45 Sung Eucharist</p>
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## February Letter 2020

One of the joys living in England has been gardening, not something I knew very much about before moving here twenty odd years ago. So inexperienced was I that I couldn't tell you what a plant or tree was until it either bloomed or the leaves came out. Even now I often have to look things up on the internet. Getting to know each vicarage garden as I moved parishes has been quite an education, learning how to look after plants that have been in place many years; seventy year old roses round the windows at Epsom, the English bluebells filling the garden at Mortlake, and the old lime trees at Egham Hythe.

I moved to Egham in the February when the garden was still rather bare. At the back of the house stood an old apple tree, a Cox's Orange Pippin. It was an old, almost ancient tree by the look of it, a relic of the old Vicarage garden as the neighbours have one of the same. In March it slowly came to life, covered with tiny, bright green leaves. It wasn't much to look at and I had no idea what it was at the time. Come May it was covered in large, pinky-white blossom. In bloom it was the showpiece of the whole garden and gave one a real lift to the spirit as it was living proof that summer was really on its way. Flowers gave way to more leaves, then tiny apples appeared. Over the long, wet summer I watched them grow larger and larger. Autumn saw a huge haul of delicious apples. Even in winter the tree was majestic, gnarled and wizened like some sort of modern sculpture.

Our faith is like the apple tree. It stands there day after day, a part of our lives. Sometimes it flares up into glorious, colourful life. The Spirit moves us and we well up into life, real eternal life. At other times it fades into the background, almost unnoticed. Sometimes it is taken for granted.

Faith, like the apple tree, is a gift, something to be nurtured and enjoyed. As Lent begins, we have the opportunity to re-evaluate our own spiritual wellbeing and revitalise our relationship with God. We may take something new on or give something up. We might join the Lent group or study the Bible. Prayer may come to the foreground as we seek to open that channel of communication with God; as we follow his Son on the long, hard road towards Jerusalem and the events that wrought salvation itself.

What is important is that we do something that will feed our spiritual selves and deepen our faith. For in the depths of winter we need to feed our souls so that, come Spring, they may burst into bloom yet again and fill us with awe and wonder. This Lent let us dig deep and drink deeply that we might be renewed and fill this place anew with his love.

## **Regular Services at St John's**

### **Said Eucharist**

8.00am Sunday  
a simple celebration of Holy Communion;  
about 40 minutes

### **Sung Eucharist**

9.45am Sunday  
a celebration of Holy Communion with music  
and ceremony; about 75 minutes  
first and third Sunday with *LITTLE FISHES*  
third Sunday with Ministry for Wholeness

### **Thirty Minutes**

11.30am second Sunday  
a lively service for pre-school children;  
about 30 minutes

### **Midweek Eucharist**

10.00am first Tuesday  
a simple celebration of Holy Communion;  
about 30 minutes

### **Morning Prayer**

8.45am Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
(term time only)  
a quiet time of prayer and readings; about 15 minutes



# Organ Recital

given by  
Barry Eaton

Saturday 25 April  
At 7.30pm

Includes works by Walther, Walond, J.S.Bach and Vierne

Admission by Programme: £9.00

(includes a light refreshment)

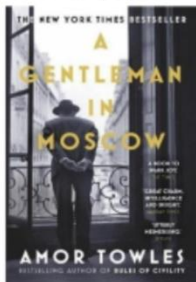




## St John's Reading Group

March 2020

For February – our choice was 'The Man with No Face' by Peter May. An interesting read set in 1970s Brussels just as Britain was joining the EU. Neil Bannerman, a Scottish newspaper reporter is sent to Brussels and is to stay with a former colleague called Slater. However, Slater becomes a victim of a double murder when a British Cabinet Minister is also killed. The only witness is Slater's autistic daughter and she alone is able to identify the killer. However, all this depends on her artistic talent as she draws the killer – except for his face. She has a rapport with Bannerman who is determined to protect her. The end of the book is very dramatic and tense and we agreed that it would make a good film. Average score of 8/10. Peter May's latest novel, 'A Silent Death' also has good reviews, described as a thriller with lots of suspense. It may be on our list when it is issued in paperback!



At our March meeting we shall discuss 'A Gentleman in Moscow' by the American author Amor Towles. This is a very unusual book in that it is set entirely in the Metropol Hotel, Moscow where, just after the Russian Revolution, Count Alexander Rostov is under 'house arrest'. Following a Bolshevik tribunal, Rostov is convicted of being an unrepentant aristocrat. Once a very honoured guest at the hotel, he is now reduced to being a waiter but he faces everyday with great dignity and strength of character. He comes to realise what is important in his life. So far, a

fascinating read and beautifully written.

For April, we shall be reading – Our Friends in Berlin by Anthony Quinn.

Perhaps one of the most eagerly awaited novels of 2020 is Hilary Mantel's final book of the trilogy following Wolf Hall and Bring Up the Bodies – The Mirror & The Light. Ann Boleyn has been executed and Thomas Cromwell is relishing his powerful position now that the troublesome Ann has been removed. But times are precarious in Henry's England. How long will Thomas' star be in the ascent? The Mirror & The Light's publication date is 5<sup>th</sup> March. (I have it on order!)



Our next meeting of the Reading Group will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm in the Coffee Lounge at church.

|

*Marilyn Burkett*

## BIBLE QUIZ

This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on the flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while playing his banjo. Elaine Vicks mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving that she brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot ... that's a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The truth is, from answers we get, that we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help - books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without numbers, and punctuation or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you to compete. Remember there are 24 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in the paragraph.

*How many of the 24 can you spot?*

## Sustainable Fish

FISH 4 EVER is sold on our Traidcraft stall. With the maximum of 4 steps between catching the fish and canning it, Fish 4 Ever guarantee full traceability of their fish from the sea to your plate. There is a unique code on the side of every can, which allows you to track and trace your fish - and even thank the fisherman who caught it for you! There is a choice of 6 different varieties.

## Plastic in Traidcraft Teabags

The dreaded **P-word**. *Plastic*. Not only is it littering our oceans and harming our wildlife, but now it's cropping up in our morning brews. Traidcraft's great taste award winning tea is packaged locally at Ringtons, a family run business, dating back to 1907: however their stance on sustainability certainly doesn't sit in the past. They have been testing a new, more environmentally conscious teabag material on a trial basis, and the results are looking promising. This new teabag material (PLA) contains bio-plastic, which has been made from plants. This is a step in the right direction.

In the meantime why not opt for the Traidcraft loose tea for a 100% plastic free tea making experience. All sold on the Traidcraft stall.

ST JOHN'S FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE PRESENTS

# A MURDER MYSTERY EVENING



*Think you can do as well as  
Sherlock Holmes or DCI Jane Tennison?*

Come and join us  
for an evening of fun and  
good food whilst solving the  
clues to find out whodunnit!!

**Saturday 7th March 2020**  
**Church Hall in the Malden Road**  
**7pm for a 7.15pm start**

Tickets £10  
(reduced for children & students)  
Available in church

## A Musical Genius



Long, long ago when pocket money was just 2/6d per week – I decided that if I saved up for four weeks, I would have enough money to buy one of those EMI Classics for Pleasure LPs costing 10/6d. It did depend on Mam or Dad volunteering the extra 6d of course. Well, my very first choice was Beethoven's 6<sup>th</sup> Symphony – The Pastoral. Why am I thinking of this

now? Well, this year marks the 250<sup>th</sup> year since Beethoven's birth in Bonn in 1770. How many of us who took piano lessons will remember the great sense of achievement in progressing to 'Für Elise', one of the Bagatelles or even 'The Moonlight Sonata'? This was real music – much more exciting than the arpeggios and scales.

Beethoven was already 21 when Mozart died and 39 when Haydn died and they must have had a great influence on his music. However, Beethoven moved on to another dimension. His music was explosive, hard-hitting: the symphonies experimenting with huge orchestration, his choral music very challenging to sing and his later Chamber Music very complex. If his manuscript books are anything to go by, his scribbled compositions reveal a very messy composer but perfectly reveal the tortured soul that he was. His deafness was already apparent when he was just 32 and there are so many accounts of his disastrous conducting when he couldn't hear the musicians in front of him.

This year, musicians world-wide are celebrating the life and works of this colossus: there are many Beethoven-themed concerts planned. If you like Beethoven Marathon-style, then perhaps the five piano concerti in a row are for you and The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire has selected 32 of its students to play all 32 Piano Sonatas in one day. When he died, Beethoven's headstone had only a single word – 'Beethoven'. Such was his fame at the time it was all that was needed.

Whenever I go to my fridge, I face the above image on a fridge magnet which I bought at one of his many homes in Vienna. His genius challenges and reminds me that there is so much of his music I have yet to hear. So let's make it a good celebration year. Listen to at least one of those Nine Symphonies.

*Marilyn Burkett*



**VE Anniversary Afternoon Tea  
at the church hall**

Sunday 10th May 3:30 for 4pm



## MOTHERING SUNDAY



Mothering Sunday is a special time to say thank you to all mothers and caregivers. It falls on the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is 22 March this year. For many it is a glad occasion, triggering happy memories and rejoicing in family love, but for others it is a sad reminder of the sorrow of childlessness or the pain of struggling to raise children in the face of poverty or disease. The Mothers' Union seeks to nurture hope in a hurting world and members mark the day with ethical gifts to 'Make a Mother's Day', by supporting parents and children around the world, regardless of their faith and background, enabling mothers to improve life for their families.

Lent is also the time when the Bishop of Southwark seeks support for his annual Lent Appeal, to aid several areas of need within this diocese and far afield. Again this year St John's MU plans to offer simple lunches on Fridays in Lent, with homemade soups, bread and cheese, tea or coffee. A donation of at least £3 is invited, with cakes as an extra. These lunches will be in the Church Lounge, between 12 noon and 2 p.m., beginning on 6 March. We all know that as we endeavour to follow Christ we will encounter calls to give money to many a worthy cause: the MU cooks offer a wholesome meal in pleasant company and their efforts have provided a large part of St John's response to the Bishop in recent years. If you are free Friday lunchtimes, please support our effort.

### A PRAYER FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

Nurturing God, who gave us an example of unconditional love, we give thanks for our parents, families and friends. Thank you for those who care for us, who sit by quietly, supportively and let us make our own mistakes, who are willing to forgive and encourage us.

Loving God, we pray for those who find Mothering Sunday a difficult day, those who have had difficult experiences of their mother or father, or whose family life is full of conflict, bitterness and recrimination, assure them of your love and bring them peace.

Empathetic God, we pray for those who find Mothering Sunday difficult because they have lost a child, or because they are unable to have much-wanted children. We pray for those who struggle to bring up children alone.

Loving God, whose son died on a cross, be with all those who need you and assure them of your love.

Caring God, we pray for those throughout the world who live in conditions like those experienced by the prodigal son when he lost his money, those who do not have enough water or food or shelter, those whose children die of starvation.

Show us how to care. Amen

At the end of January, St John's Knitting & Crochet Group celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> birthday in style with a beautiful cake, card and colourful balloon. We are delighted to welcome knitters and crochet fans from the congregation but also from the wider parish. You are welcome to join us – the last Thursday afternoon of the month from 2pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.



#### **Revision of the Electoral Roll**

A formal notice of revision of the Electoral Roll will be placed in the Church on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Preparation of the revised Roll will commence on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and be completed by 18<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Those already on the Electoral Roll need do nothing.

Those wishing to be placed on it should collect an application form from the porch or from Steven Clark and return it to Father Michael Roper by no later than 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

S. Clark – Electoral Roll Officer 0208 337 2392

## **Fairtrade Fortnight** **24th Feb-8th March**

By the time you read this Fairtrade Fortnight will be well under way.



What is Fairtrade

Fortnight? For two weeks each year thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks and who grow the cotton in our clothes, people who are often exploited and underpaid.

Fairtrade Fortnight in 2019 focused on the people - in particular the women - who grow the cocoa in our chocolate. £1.86 is the amount a cocoa farmer in West Africa needs to earn each day in order to achieve a living income. Currently, a typical cocoa farmer in Cote d'Ivoire lives on around 74p a day. Almost all cocoa farmers in West Africa live in poverty. For the women the situation is even worse. They may plant and harvest on the farm, look after children, carry water, collect wood, cook and clean for the family, and transport the cocoa beans to market but often with fewer rights than men.

This is why Fairtrade are campaigning for a living income to become a reality for cocoa farmers in West Africa. If we can work together with governments, chocolate companies and retailers to make the commitments and policies necessary, then we can make it happen.

At St Johns on 8th March after 9.45 service we will have a Fairtrade Bonanza with our tea and coffee. There will be home made Fairtrade cakes and biscuits. Samples of chocolate to try out and buy to support the cocoa growers. Also samples of Fair-trade wine from our local Co-op shop. Opportunities to make a donation to the work of Traidcraft Foundation.



friends of  
MANOR PARK

# REVIVIFY MANOR PARK! FUND OUR NEW PLAYGROUND

Join our community crowdfund campaign to help raise funds to pay for an amazing new playground in our Manor Park.

The community working together with Kingston Council, local businesses and the Mayor of London to help fund a better playground.





**Dear Neighbour,**

We're writing to let you know about our crowdfund campaign, to raise funds for a brand-new playground in Manor Park, and how you can take part.

**Our existing playground is past its sell-by date.** Our current equipment is not very exciting, it doesn't spark the imagination, or stretch a child's ability. It's looking tired and shabby, and needs replacing.

**An exciting playground for ALL our local children.** Imagine how amazing it would be if we had a brand-new playground, catering for a wide age range. A dedicated play area for infants, and an adventure play space for the under 14s.

**The community working with Kingston Council.** As part of Kingston Council's playground improvement programme, they've got us off to a great start by allocating £140,000 towards this crowdfund campaign. Our campaign target is £195,000, leaving us £55,000 to raise.

**And that's where you come in....**

We're looking to you - the community, to back this campaign with small individual pledges, we'll then approach local businesses to help boost this. We also hope that the Mayor of London will make a generous donation, as he did last time.

**How much will the new playground cost in total?** Depending on final designs, created with the help of community workshops and public consultations, the total playground cost will be £250,000-£300,000. This £195,000 will enable us to build the first phase by January 2021 with extra elements added as the additional funds are raised. The more we raise, the better our playground will be.

**How to make a pledge: It's really easy....**

Visit our spacehive crowdfund page or use the QR code below.

**Many thanks for your support,**  
Simeon Linstead and Fiona Sowell,  
from the Friends of Manor Park team

Email: [team@ourmanorpark.org.uk](mailto:team@ourmanorpark.org.uk)

[ourmanorpark.org.uk](http://ourmanorpark.org.uk)



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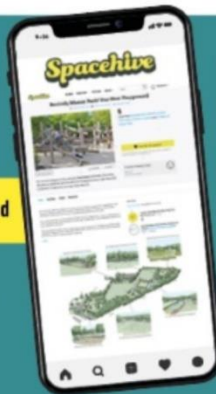


[www.spacehive.com/revivifymanorpark-ournewplayground](http://www.spacehive.com/revivifymanorpark-ournewplayground)



**Spacehive**

MAYOR OF LONDON



**MAKE A  
PLEDGE  
TODAY.**

## A job in the Seychelles

In my last note regarding my time on Ascension Island, I indicated that I would shortly start to record aspects of my work/visit to the Seychelles. So far, I have recounted stories of a young married/unmarried engineer, working in far flung lands. The difference on this occasion was that I was married and Pat said something like “you either take me with you, or I am going home to Portland”. So, we ended up by Pat accompanying me, but at our expense, since a parsimonious British Government was not prepared to pay for my wife to come with me.

I had already had two rough postings to Nepal and Ascension Island and the powers that be thought, perhaps, that I was due something less demanding. The Government was in the process of spending some of its foreign aid budget on building a runway in the Seychelles – on the island of Mahe – and they wanted someone with airfield construction experience to be on hand – and who would report independently back to HQ on the progress etc. So, as you might imagine, I was viewed by the local management of the job as a spy. I suppose that I was.

The reader will realise that this project was going to open up the Seychelles to tourism. No runway existed and the only way of getting there was by boat. So our journey there was quite romantic. We flew to Delhi and then took another flight to Bombay from whence we took a passenger/cargo boat to Karachi en route to the Seychelles. Those were the days when people travelled first/second/third class. There was a further class of passenger who travelled steerage. Predominantly poor Indian workers who were travelling to East and South Africa for work. They travelled in the hold and, every day the hatches were opened to allow fresh air in and to expel “foul” air. Pat, who gets sea sick in the bath, found going on deck at these times to be a struggle and she often went to our cabin. In fact, we dined at the purser’s table and towards the end of our five day journey down the

Indian Ocean, he said “I thought you were travelling with your wife, but I have yet to see her”. Anyway, we got there eventually and about the only thing of note that we saw were flying fish.

The job itself was technically quite interesting. Mahe is a volcanic island with limited flat ground available for airfield construction. The solution was to create some flat ground. This was achieved in the following manner. Just offshore from Mahe was a small island, a sacrificial lamb so to speak. The plan was to blast some part of this island away and to use the rock to create a bund around the perimeter of a future runway. Then, using huge dredgers, to pump coral sand from the lagoon outside of the bund, into the runway area to a height of some feet above sea level, and then to compact the sand to create a foundation for the runway itself. At the time, the only other runway to have been built on reclaimed land in this fashion was the one in Hong Kong.

**To be continued...**



The Winner of the St John's  
Christmas Quiz 2019 is

**Chris Benson**

Special commendation for observation to The  
Burleys, the only entry that got all the photos.

Well Done!

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