

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

October 2020

50p

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Old Malden News

**The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist Parish Church Malden**
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To receive the Parish Mailing please scan the QR code with your smart phone camera



Services for October



In order to come to a service at St Johns, you must now book a place through our online booking system. Please sign up to our mailing list to receive the information on booking

<http://eepurl.com/gNz4Tf> or scan the QR Code

Sunday 4th October

9.45 Sunday Eucharist

16.00 The Late Service—Holy Communion

Wednesday 7th October

12.00 Communion Service—especially for the elderly and vulnerable

Sunday 11th October

9.45 Sunday Eucharist

16.00 The Late Service—Holy Communion

Wednesday 14th October

12.00 Communion Service—especially for the elderly and vulnerable

Sunday 18th October

9.45 Sunday Eucharist

16.00 The Late Service—Holy Communion

Wednesday 21st October

12.00 Communion Service—especially for the elderly and vulnerable

Sunday 25th October

9.45 Sunday Eucharist

16.00 The Late Service—Holy communion

Wednesday 28th October

12.00 ⁵ Communion service—especially for the elderly and vulnerable

October OMN Letter

Twenty years ago I naively went about organising a narrowboat holiday for seven people to navigate our way round the Avon Ring. I'd never been on a narrowboat before; and didn't really give much thought to what a strenuous week's holiday it would be with a 129 locks and 109 miles to cover. The start in leafy Worcestershire was idyllic. The pace of life slowed to a crawl and gave one time to appreciate the beauty of nature. What I didn't enjoy, and hadn't expected, was sailing through the outskirts of Birmingham into the Wast Hill Tunnel, a mile and a half of utter darkness and claustrophobia. On and on we went with no end in sight. There was no light at the end of the tunnel because the tunnel didn't seem to have an end. The map told us there was so we kept to it until finally a spec of light appeared. Eventually we emerged into the lush, green countryside again.

Autumn has always been my favourite season with October my favourite month. I love the colours and the nip in the air. When British Summer Time ends the days are short and the nights long. This year though I am NOT looking forward to the autumn changes. With the recent news and the measures instituted again by the Government, we find ourselves faced with a long, dark winter as Covid infections increase and the future looks more uncertain. We were very lucky to have lockdown as spring came and to have the great outdoors over the summer. We had loads of time outdoors in nature, many of us have had a good clear out of the loft or the garage (to such an extent the charity shops were turning away donations, and our gardens never looked better! In spite of it all we have had a decent summer after all.

Now as we move indoors again as the seasons change, we may feel apprehensive or even depressed, but the weeks and months ahead do not need to be laden with gloom. I would like to encourage everyone to think about what you could do if we find ourselves facing further restrictions and limitations especially the new "Rule of Six". At the moment churches are still open and are likely to remain so unless things get worse. But if we aren't allowed to meet family and friends as we have been doing, what can we put in place to keep that contact going? What can we do to fill those early evenings when it's too wet or too cold to be outdoors? I have a multi-gym and a stationary exercise bike that are collecting dust. I know what I should be doing and the health benefits I would get if I used them. What is it that you want to do but haven't had time to do it? Find something or start a project that will keep you busy and help you cope. Our mental health is often last on our list of priorities, but we all need to take care of ourselves.

I know many people have valued the contact from members of the Ministry Team. These "life lines" have been reassuring and helped us keep in touch with one another. If you feel stressed or alone please do get in touch with us. We are here for you. And I know that you, in turn, are "life lines" for others. The family of St. John's will continue caring for each other and do all we can to help the wider community too. Our Harvest gifts, in food or cash donations, will help local families and individuals put food on the table. We will keep looking out for and helping our neighbours, especially the most vulnerable in our community. Together we will steer our way through whatever challenges the new season brings.

We are very fortunate in that we know what we can do to keep ourselves and our families as safe as possible. Our ancestors weren't so lucky. In the midst of the cholera epidemic of 1854 in Soho, Dr. John Snow realised that people who got their drinking water from the pump in Broad Street got sick far more than their neighbours who got their drinking water further afield. The authorities were slow to believe him, but he removed the handle from the pump and the outbreak eased. His theory about contaminated water was dismissed for decades afterwards. With Covid-19 we know what we need to do. We need to wash our hands often and keep our distance from other people. We should wear a face mask when we can't stay two meters apart. The increase in cases is down to people not observing these simple guidelines. As long as we are mindful and consistent we will be doing our best. There is so much misinformation online and rumour spreading that there is some confusion and doubt, but we will continue to follow the science and the guidelines issued by the Church of England and the Government. It is in all our best interests to do so.

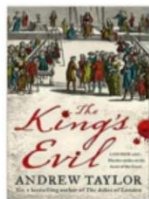
Our Sunday and Wednesday services will continue as they have started. The 4:00pm Sunday service is attracting children and their families which is very good news! Our new booking facility using Eventbrite will enable you to book a specific Sunday weeks ahead of time. A reminder will go out with the weekly mailing each week until we get used to using it regularly. Please be mindful of others who may not be able to book if the same people are booking week after week. There should be plenty of opportunity between the three services for you to attend a Communion service. Looking ahead, Christmas will likely look and feel different this year with the restrictions in place, but we are hoping to record our Christmas Carol service in early December with our choir and Barry Eaton so that everyone can enjoy this important part of our Christmas celebration. Other services will be live streamed as normal with places available to book if you'd like to attend in person. So please watch this space!

Keep safe and take care, Michael



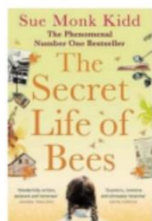
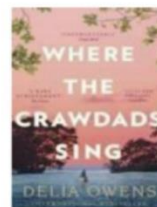
Thank you to all those who have contributed towards the Betty's Tea and biscuits present for all the members of staff at Malden Parochial School! I've received a number of appreciative emails and a lovely card thanking St. John's for our generosity and kindness. It was a great boost to morale and a bit hit with the teachers and staff. Altogether we raised £120.

St John's Reading Group October 2020



Our September choice was **The King's Evil by Andrew Taylor** (James Marwood and Cat Lovett No.3 in the series). The Great Fire is still a recent memory and vast swathes of London are still in ruins. A body has been found in a well in the grounds of Clarendon House, the home of the former First Minister. James Marwood has been called in to hush up the crime to avoid scandal – but he has a personal interest as the body is that of Edward Alderley, cousin to Cat Lovett. Cat becomes a prime suspect especially as she has disappeared. However, James is also called upon to carry out a special mission for the King which involves a trip to Cambridge and the Fens to bring a young girl, Frances, back to London. Sadly, Frances has scrofula, 'The King's Evil' and maybe his healing touch will work wonders. The identity of the child is also a mystery. Maybe one of the King's illegitimate children? This book was a good read and enjoyed by the group: 8s, 9s and 10s. We are given an excellent vision of 17th century London, the ways of court and society. This is a good historical novel and to be recommended.

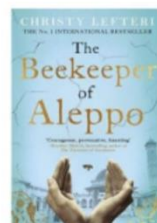
For October our choice is **Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens**. A murder mystery, romance and a celebration of nature, set in North Carolina. A beautifully written story of survival and love which has featured in the best selling charts for several months now.



Our choice for November is **The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd**. Set in South Carolina, this is a heart-warming and moving novel embracing some of the social issues of racial prejudice.

We hope that **Tracey Chevalier's A Single Thread** will be published at the end of October as planned so that we are able to select it for our December read.

At the moment I am reading **The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri** – described as 'a powerful testament to the triumph of the human spirit.' Nuri, a beekeeper is married to Afra, an artist. They live in the beautiful city of Aleppo but when war comes and their livelihood shattered, they are forced to become refugees. This is their story as they make the perilous journey through Turkey and Greece, hoping to reach Britain. It is heart-rending and makes one realise that our present restrictions are but nothing in comparison to the lives that so many have to lead in order to survive. The author worked at a refugee centre in Athens as a volunteer for Unicef and so she would have encountered many cases such as Nuri's and Afra's. What a hard world we live in!



If you are a fan of Hilary Mantel, you may have read that sadly her 'Mirror and the Light' did not make it onto the short list for the Booker Prize this year.

The following titles made it to the shortlist:

Diane Cook - The New Wilderness

Tsitsi Dangarembga - This Mournable Body

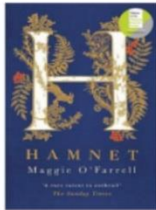
Avni Doshi - Burnt Sugar

Maaza Mengiste -The Shadow King

Douglas Stuart - Shuggie Bain

Brandon Taylor - Real Life

Four on the list are début novels – and the topics covered include climate change, dementia, racism and homophobia. We shall see.....



A novel which is the recent winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction 2020 is Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell. Hamnet was Shakespeare's only son and died at the young age of 11, possibly from bubonic plague. It is thought that Shakespeare's play, Hamlet had some association with his son although there is also speculation about Romeo and Juliet and Twelfth Night. Maybe an interesting read?

So we have plenty of choice for our Autumn reading.....

We still meet together on Skype on the first Thursday of every month to discuss the book of the month and any others we may have read. We miss our coffee and cake and our coming together We look forward to meeting up again in the New Year. Until then, take care and keep safe – and catch up with your reading.

Marilyn



Don't forget the St John's Quiz!

Log into St John's website to find links to the current quiz:

<https://www.stjohnsoldmalDEN.org.uk/how-do-i-get-involved/quiz-corner/>

If you would like a paper copy please email the Parish Office:

administrator@stjohnsoldmalDEN.org.uk

REPORT ON HERITAGE

OPEN DAYS 2020



Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic this year many venues that usually take part in Heritage Open Days were unable to open or could only produce virtual tours online. However, St. John's was able to Open as usual, following government guidelines for social distancing, using hand sanitiser, masks worn and with a one way system in place. We were able to welcome just under 100 visitors, many of whom were extremely pleased to be able to see inside the church, after walking by it for months during their daily lockdown exercise walks.

This year's theme was 'Hidden Nature' and Chris Beales had produced a very informative display including information about the hidden stream and stag beetles. Also using QR codes to lead to further information about nature and the history of St. John's and surrounding area. Two leaflets had also been produced to find 'hidden nature' inside the church and in the churchyard.

Thank you to Anne Beales who ran the Traidcraft Stall throughout Open Days and Thank You to all the Welcomers. It was good to have such lovely weather and, after all the months of keeping away from everyone, so lovely to see and talk to so many friends and visitors.

A few comments from visitors:

'...thanks for opening to the public during these testing, uncertain times.' *'...so nice to be able to visit a REAL heritage building.'* *'Lovely to be back.'* *'Wonderful. Thank you St. John's.'* *'Lovely to see inside of church.'* *'Thank you for 1937 memories.'*



This last comment was from a visitor whose parents had been married at St. John's in July 1937 and we were able to show the mention of the marriage in Old Malden News. It is very important that we continue to keep copies of OMN as in time they become historical documents.

Pat Lovegrove

Sunday Lunch Club

An update from Iluska Beaton who has been cooking and delivering the Sunday lunches over lockdown.

Help much needed...

So very sadly the Sunday Lunch Club still can't meet, there are so many this is sad for, often it is the only real catch up they all have and it's been so long since they have all been able to get together for a much needed catch up and natter.

So I find myself again asking for your help, I will continue to cook them all a Sunday Lunch and deliver it to each of them at home until they can meet in the hall again. Your donations towards food, packaging and goodies are so vital and really appreciated by all.

I have a list of things I need again, bits on Amazon, packaging, bulk buy biscuits etc, food and equally if you want to write a card or two I will pop them in the bags. This month I am hoping to pop a small posy of flowers in each bag to cheer them all up and bring some colour in. If anyone knows anyone who can help that would be amazing.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Iluska Beaton

Please email administrator@stjohnsoldmalDEN.org.uk if you can help and we will pass on your message.



wave of Prayer



We heard last month how St John's Mothers' Union is not a stand-alone group of parochial, inward-looking people but is part of the Kingston Archdeaconry and Southwark Diocese. This month we will find that the members of St John's are just a very few of the over 4,000,000 members worldwide of what the Archbishop of Canterbury calls the "5th Instrument of the Anglican Communion". MU was founded in the

Winchester Diocese in 1876 and very soon spread further, through members who were wives of clergy, colonists, servicemen and civil servants. The earliest known branches to exist outside the British Isles were in Christchurch, New Zealand, and in London, Ontario, Canada, both founded before 1888. Branches were soon added in Australia, China, India and Japan. Today, Mothers' Union is present in over 83 countries in every continent throughout the world, and membership is open to every colour, creed and gender.

The commitment of every member praying daily at midday for the work of Mothers' Union was started in 1914 and continues to this day having become an integral spiritual part of the organisation. In 1920 the Wave of Prayer was set up whereby every day, every member throughout the world prayed for the members and work in particular dioceses: a daily office. Dioceses were linked together then in twos and threes, always with a UK diocese as part of the group. Nowadays, there are far more overseas dioceses than there are UK ones but the groups of four and five geographically diverse dioceses are still united in prayer. The Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer, where dioceses are linked in a prayerful relationship, predates the Anglican Diocesan links by some 65 years!

When members, from whichever country, are admitted into the Mothers' Union, they promise to read the Bible and pray daily. They also promise to uphold the Five Objects, the third of which is



"To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service."

This promise is kept faithfully by every member. Thus at midday, wherever they are, members will use the daily midday office to pray for the world and the work of the Mothers' Union. As it is always midday in some part of the world, "the voice of prayer is never silent, nor dies the strain of praise away": The Wave of Prayer throughout the world.

Southwark Mothers' Union links are with Phulbani in India, Harare in Zimbabwe, Ekiti and Ogori-Magongo in Nigeria and Machakos in Kenya from 31st August to 2nd September every year, every MU member throughout the world prays for these six dioceses. It is hugely empowering and spiritually uplifting to know that for these 72 hours there will always be



someone, somewhere, praying for us and our work with families and communities.

Phulbani is in the Odisha district of North India just west of the Bay of Bengal and is a centre of tourism. It is particularly famous for its folk art and production of wild plants and herbs. It was once the transit route for the salt trade. Its literacy levels at 76% are higher than the national average.

The Women's Fellowship, affiliated to the global Mothers' Union, has a number of ongoing activities which address the issues faced in the area. Members work to address gender inequality and, in particular, tackle gender-based violence head-on. They also fund a computer training institute offering places to young people from vulnerable communities, like the Dalits and other tribal groups.

Harare is the capital of Zimbabwe, and on independence from the British Commonwealth in 1980, had a thriving economy with trading links throughout the world. Since then, however, population numbers have dropped and the economy is in tatters following successive autocratic leaders. The Anglican Church in Zimbabwe is thriving despite these privations and the MU is a strong force for good in the country. They purposefully seek out and engage with vulnerable people through work in hospitals, prisons, maternity clinics and on the streets. They run feeding programmes, orphan care projects, women's workshops, health awareness and malaria prevention courses to help to rebuild relationships, self-esteem and a sense of belonging. They also have a project to help women to learn better ways to grow food.

Kenya is one of the most advanced economies in Africa, but also suffers high inequality: very rich, very

poor, with little in between. Agriculture and tourism are the main industries. MU came to Kenya in 1918 but only for Europeans: the first African members joined in 1956. The diocese of **Machakos** was formed in 1985 when the Diocese of Nairobi was divided. The organisation runs parenting courses, marriage preparation, vocational skills training and savings and credit groups. Of special concern are the cultural and social practices that effect women and girls which persist in many rural areas despite



national legislation in 2011. Female genital mutilation is rife, as are gender-based violence and marriage as early as 11. When this happens, the young girls are also taken out of education as well as being subjected to the rigors of beatings and maternity. The members of Machakos Diocese run the Daystar Hostel which provides a safe place for vulnerable girls from across Kenya to finish their education, learn vocational skills, or stay while they negotiate reconciliation that allows them to return to their own family/community.

Nigeria, in which the final two of Southwark's link dioceses are situated, is Africa's most populous nation (just over 170 million). Just over half are Muslim, with 40% Christian and the rest having indigenous beliefs. The economy is largely based around oil, yet 60% of Nigerians still live in extreme poverty. MU has been present in Nigeria since 1908, today with a membership of around 60,000 – more than in the whole of Europe and North America put together! Members are very active in creating opportunities for women and young girls to reach their full potential. **Ekiti**, in the south east is one of the oldest dioceses in Nigeria. The vision of the diocese is: "Raising godly people that are heavenly conscious through committed pragmatic evangelism, discipleship and Christian giving."

Members are actively involved in projects and programmes that revolve around educating and increasing awareness of the importance of family life, and the role that young people have to play.

Ogori-Magongo is north of Ekiti and only became a diocese in its own right in 2009. MU members are actively involved in outreach to the needy, including widows and the aged, income generation projects, and Bible study and evangelism. Members in both dioceses are now focusing on working with Green Anglicans to combat climate change and prevent/prepare for natural disasters. Also by adopting Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL), they will in future accurately collect statistics of lives transformed through their initiatives.



Dance shown in a wall painting



Water conservation

God of grace, enable your servants to carry out your mission on earth through the work of the Mothers' Union worldwide. May we always see the world through the eyes of Christ, speak to those we meet with the words of Christ, and take with us on our journey the peace of Christ. Amen.

THE SMALL BEATITUDES (by Joseph Follet)

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves:
they will have no end of fun.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill:
they will be saved a lot of bother.

Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses:
they will be valued most by those about them.

Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves too seriously:
they will be valued most by those about them.

Happy are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown:
you will walk on the sunny side of the street.

Happy are you if you can be kind in understanding the attitudes of others even
when the signs are unfavourable:
you may be taken for a fool but this is the price of charity.

Blessed are those who think before acting and pray before thinking:
they will avoid many blunders.

Happy are you if you know how to hold your tongue and smile even when people
interrupt you or tread on your toes:
the Gospel has begun to seep into your heart.

Solar panels and the season of creation

I at last managed to get to church on Sunday 6th, to discover that it was themed “Season of Creation” and the sermon touched on how the earth’s resources are being overused and how pollution is creating lasting damage and it brought to mind a recent experience of mine. This story needs some introduction.

About 10 years ago, we installed a number of solar panels from which we benefit from the amount of electrical power that we generate. In view of my personal background it was not surprising that I should decide to keep a record of the amount I generated every day – and I have done so ever since, so that I know which has been the best day, the worst day, the best month etc. Now, until recently, the maximum amount that had been generated was about 20 kwh in the day, one hot and cloud free day in mid June a few years ago. Imagine my surprise, when during lockdown, we generated in excess of 22 kwh one day on the 5th of May. Early May does not have the longest period of sun and neither does the sun climb so high and yet we had generated some 10% more than we had ever done before.

Furthermore, the generation during May 2020 exceeded the most we had ever generated in any month by some 10%.

This then causes one to speculate on why this had happened and the reasons seem very clear to me. Firstly, there had been a huge reduction in the number of vehicles on the roads during that period with a commensurate reduction in low level pollution and, secondly, there was hardly any flying taking place with a corresponding reduction in higher level pollution.

So, talk of reducing ones carbon footprint as far as we are concerned has been shown to have quite marked and dramatic effects. I was so amazed by this that I attempted to get a letter printed in the Telegraph, but I was unsuccessful.

Malcolm Sutton

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