

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

November 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 November

Due to the new Lockdown measures for November, it is with regret that St John's will once again have to put-on hold services. Instead, we will be live streaming from St John's. Please make sure you are signed up to our mailing list to get up to date information regarding the services.

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



Primary School Applications

The deadline for MPS Primary School forms for us to process will be December 31st – (the Church form, photo, plus the school form from MPS). You can 'post' your forms in the church post box which is near the coffee lounge door. The completed school form will be returned to you on 10th January so that you can submit it before the deadline of 15th January.

Vicar's letter OMN November

The autumn is here after a summer of enjoying the warm days and the great outdoors, which has been a lifesaver especially this year. Now the mood is changing as the weather and the autumn chill changes our focus to cosy nights in rather than warm days outside. As the earth "falls asleep" and the harvest is passed, our forbearers began to turn their attention to the past, to those who had died. Our pagan ancestors feared the dark nights and the spirit world they believed came out in earnest as the nights grew longer. The last vestige of this is probably all the spooky goings on of Halloween, something ever more prominent commercially year on year. The Church, quite rightly, took the moral high ground and proclaimed that the season was a time to celebrate the faithful departed, the saints, as well as praying for our own loved ones who had died. Life and death weren't so far apart in our consciousness then, and dying was a commonplace, ordinary experience, unlike today when it is hidden away behind the closed doors of hospital and hospice. The period between All Saints' Day and Advent is called Kingdom Season, a time to yearn for the fulfilling of God's kingdom and the reign of Christ as king over all creation. Solemn at times, but never gloomy, Kingdom Season reminds us that God will have the final say in all things and his perfect will will be fulfilled, not just for you and me, but for all of creation. Political power and armed might are merely human things that are answered by the humility found in Christ on the Cross. Nothing has a greater power than the love for us that Jesus poured out on the Cross. God's word is the last word. Full stop.

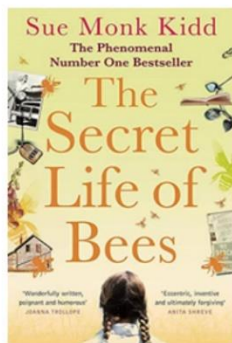
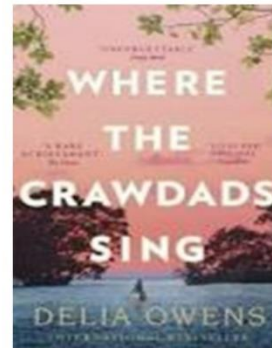
So we pass into a time to remember the dead, those we love and those who have been forgotten. Heroes and heroines of the Faith, as well as ordinary men and women like you and me. We have all been shaped in our Christian journeys by those who are now gone. They have handed on to us in big ways and small what it means to be a Christian and how to live that out in our daily lives. Parents, grandparents, Sunday school teachers, and countless others have helped make us who we are and taught us to claim Christ for our own. Remembrance is not a celebration of war, it does not glory in violence and death; rather it honours those men and women who have made the greatest sacrifice of all so that we may be free. This year our observance of Remembrance will be fairly lowkey and socially distanced, but it will be marked as we remember the ultimate sacrifice paid by women and men faced by aggression and conflict. Violence unleashed because of human sin, greed, hatred, and insecurity. These rise again and again to kill and maim a world of innocents because we haven't learnt the lesson of the value of peace and justice for all. It takes an occasion like Remembrance to renew our commitment to keep working for peace that will change and heal our divided world. All this crowned by the Feast of Christ the King on the 25th who is the beginning and the end of all things. We submit to his gentle rule and turn our lives over to him so that we too may be transformed and become more and more like him. He holds all things in his hands and all will one day stand before him when he judges the world. Then will come a time when both the living and the dead are reunited and live forever in his New Jerusalem. Let us look forward to that day and give thanks for all those who have gone before us. Michael



St John's Reading Group November 2020

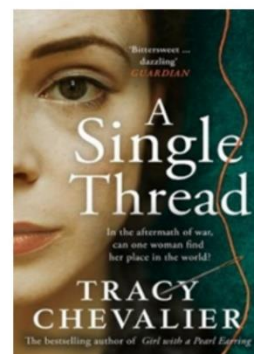
The clocks have gone back – and Autumn is well and truly here. So now that gardening does not occupy quite as much time, we have the wonderful excuse to catch up with some reading.

For October, our choice was **Where the Crawdads Sing** by **Delia Owens**. A murder mystery, romance and a celebration of nature set in North Carolina. The majority of the group really enjoyed this novel: some lovely atmospheric descriptions and imagery of the marshlands with the story of Kia, aka 'the marsh girl'. Her gifts were many and she collected feathers and shells – ultimately illustrating her own books. Abandoned by her mother and siblings and deserted by her brutal abusive father, Kia's story was one of survival. The unexplained death of a very popular young man – the town's Romeo was indeed a mystery. How could he have fallen from the fire tower with no tracks or footprints around his body? Was it an accident or murder? Suspicion falls on, yes, Kia. A very clever dénouement too. It is a beautifully written story of survival and love which still features in the best-selling charts and a very memorable read. Our average score was 8/10.



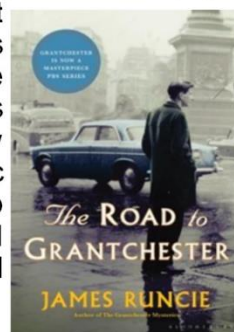
Our choice for November is **The Secret Life of Bees** by **Sue Monk Kidd**. Set in South Carolina, this is a heart-warming and moving novel embracing some of the social issues of racial prejudice. It seems that the Carolinas are popular at the moment!

At long last, **Tracey Chevalier's A Single Thread** has now been published in paperback. Over the years, Ms Chevalier has been a popular author with our Reading Group – so we look forward to having this book as our choice for December.

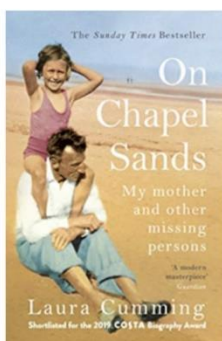


One of our previous titles by this author was 'Remarkable Creatures' based on the life of the Victorian paleontologist, Mary Anning. The film 'Ammonite' has just been released but reading the reviews indicate that it is a very 'creative' interpretation of Mary's life. Hopefully there are some wonderful views of the Jurassic Coast!

I have just finished reading a book recommended by Faith entitled '**The Road to Grantchester**' by **James Runcie** – a 'prequel' to the popular Grantchester series of books and TV adaptations. It relates the story of young Sydney Chambers, his wartime experiences at Monte Cassino and how those experiences led to his coming to faith. We learn of his inner struggle and the dark secret which is eventually revealed. Sydney is a very likeable and sympathetic character and the early days of his ministry are by no means easy. I enjoyed this book very much – and I think that some of the group have also read it and thought the same.

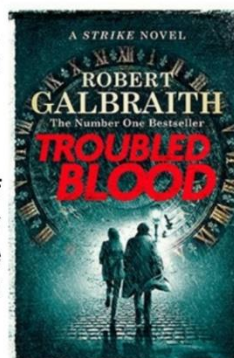


At the moment, I am reading '**On Chapel Sands**' by **Laura Cumming** which was shortlisted for the 2019 Costa Biography Award. It tells the story of the author's mother – how she came to be kidnapped for a few days, her difficult childhood and how she eventually discovered who her real parents were. Her childhood was certainly unhappy and it all seemed to be shrouded in secrecy. I remember that the novel was Radio 4's book of the week when it was first published. Needless to say, it has been on my book pile for some time!



Another tome from **Robert Galbraith** in the Strike series has been published entitled '**Troubled Blood**'. Not sure how it can be described as a number one bestseller when it has only just been published.....

Nevertheless, I have added it to my long list. Maybe a future title for the group?



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 but at least we can carry on reading!

9

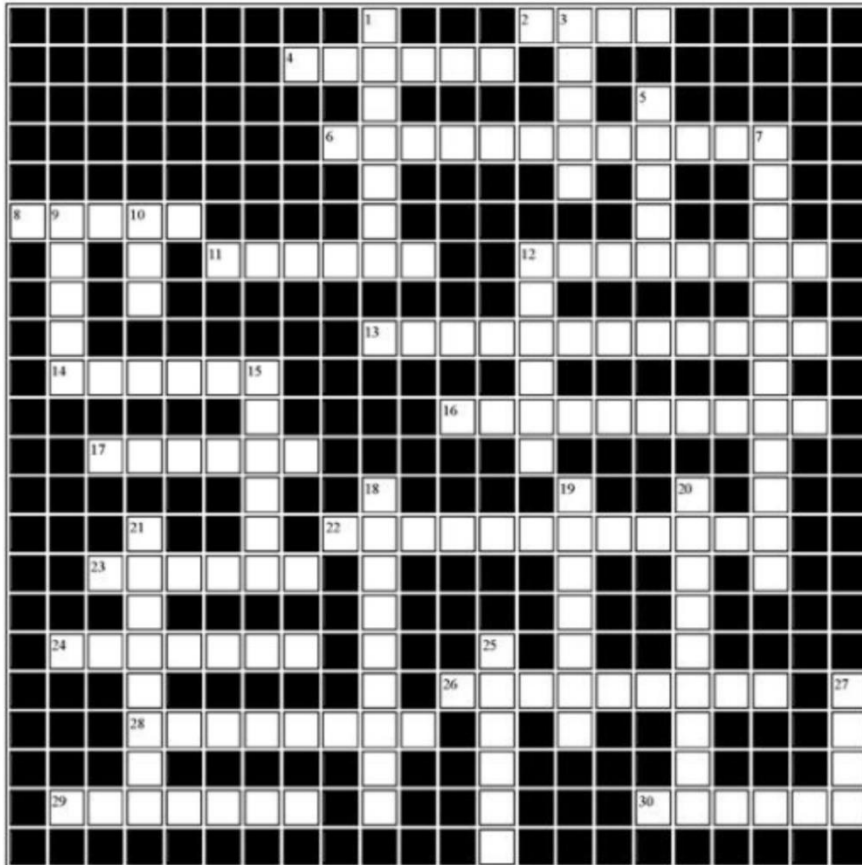
Take care and keep safe – and catch up with your reading.

Marilyn

Quiz Corner!

Have a go, just for fun for the little ones and big ones

Autumn Crossword Puzzle



Across

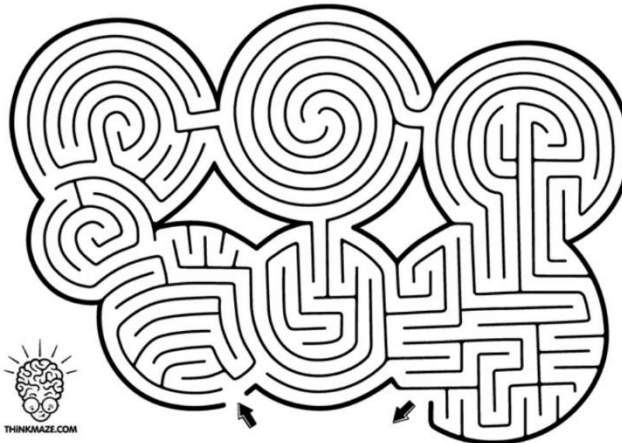
2. another word for autumn
4. a little cold
6. what you say on Halloween (3 Words)
8. this keeps your neck warm
11. they show the many colors of fall
12. a large amount
13. a house with a ghost (2 Words)

Down

1. birds do this when it gets cold
3. the nut from an oak tree
5. the color of bark
7. American holiday in November
9. food that is harvested
10. a color on the Korean flag
12. another word for fall

STARS AND CONSTELLATIONS

ACRUX	CANCER	HADAR	PROXIMA CENTAURI
ALDEBARAN	CANOPUS	HERCULES	REGULUS
ALPHA CENTAURI	CAPELLA	HYDRA	SAGITTARIUS
ALTAIR	CAPRICORNUS	LALANDE	SCORPIUS
ANDROMEDA	CASSIOPEIA	LEO	SIRIUS
ANTARES	CEPHEUS	LIBRA	SPICA
AQUARIUS	CORONA BOREALIS	ORION	TAURUS
ARCTURUS	CYGNUS	PERSEUS	URSA MAJOR
ARIES	EPSILON ERIDANI	PISCES	URSA MINOR
BARNARDS STAR	EPSILON INDI	POLLUX	VEGA
BETELGEUSE	GEMINI	PROCYON	VIRGO



Fourth note on the Seychelles—
Malcolm Sutton

In the old days, Mahe had been primarily a plantation island. Wherever there was any remotely level ground, there was a coconut plantation. In practice, this meant that you could tell the income of a plantation from the acreage of his plantation. The maths followed a fairly basic route. Coconut palms would generally be planted at about 200/acre. Every palm would, on average, produce 50 nuts per year and, you know that the “coconut intervention board” (for want of a better name) would pay, say, 50p/nut. Thus that plantation would have an income of £5000.

Now, Mrs Broomhead, was from an old Seychellois family and her brother-in-law subsequently became prime minister, ousting the previous playboy pm, James Mancham.

Well, the family had a plantation and a visit to it was arranged. The plantations were very similar to those of the West Indies and southern US. It was almost serfdom. The labour all lived with their families on site and were paid once a year with tokens which could be used in the plantation shop. It was really interesting looking around the place, seeing the saw mill, the sugar cane “crusher” etc etc. People would say it was a harsh sort of life. In many respects it was, but you need to bear in mind that life was very simple. A man could literally lie down on the beach with a fishing line tied to his toe and just wake up when his dinner was hooked. If he wanted a drink, then all he needed to do was pick up a coconut and open it.

If you wanted something stronger, then you tapped a palm for its sap. Provided you drank it within a day or so, it was fine, but if you left it for a

couple of days, it would ferment and blow your brains out.

Whilst the island was self sufficient for the simple things in life, it was poorly served for the finer things. There was little in the way of fresh meat and only limited fresh vegetables. However, there was plenty, albeit of a limited variety, of fresh fruit. So, it was the norm, once every month or so, when a refrigerated boat docked, for there to be the equivalent of a wild west stampede, as people rushed to the shops to try to get some more interesting items for their diets.

I have referred earlier to the reason why voodoo was prevalent. I started off by being very dismissive of the whole thing. Well, the Northolme had local staff and one of them – a cook called Violet - took exception to her treatment by Mrs Broomhead and little effigies of Mrs Broomhead were found with pins stuck in them. This then resulted in Violet being sacked and a priest being called in to conduct an exorcism. It was all very creepy.

But then Mrs Broomhead was a powerful figure and one final note about her related to the chief of police – an Englishman who rather fancied himself with the ladies. At one stage, we saw the amply endowed Mrs Broomhead, leaning over the top of a half opened stable door, shouting at the Chief of police, something to the effect that he had a single room and that visitors to his room were unwelcome. He moved out shortly afterwards.



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

OLD MALDEN NEWS: 100 YEARS AGO.

November 1920

From a Letter by the Vicar the Rev. C.P. Fynes-Clinton

My Dear People,

I want to prepare you beforehand for the Statement of our Financial position, and consequent appeal, which the Churchwardens are sending out to you shortly. It only requires a moment's thought to realise that the 'housekeeping' expenses of the Church have increased in the same way as those of your homes; and therefore that we cannot pay our way on the same allowance that you gave us before the war. I am confident you will realise this, and that you will see that the Church is supplied with the wherewithal to carry on. What is required is that every one who uses the Church should adopt one of the means suggested to support it. Then all will be well.....

50 YEARS AGO

November 1970

Money is the Root.....but before long, alas, we shall need someone to 'tend the roots'. Anyone good at figures (and able to cope with decimal currency) please ask the Vicar or Churchwardens for more details of this vital job – Church Treasurer – which post becomes vacant next year.

As we read the above, we can recognise some familiar issues ! We are very lucky to have a good Treasurer at the moment, so we are in a better position than 50 years ago. But in 1920, this country and the world was recovering from the dreadful Spanish Flu and the on-going effects of World War 1. We are extremely fortunate to have avoided a similar devastating war, but we are still in the grips of this terrible Covid Pandemic. And, of course, our need for money is as great now as it was then. We are very thankful for those supporting us now, and can only echo the request above from the Rev. C.P.Clynes-Finton which is still so true: and we do not need to struggle with decimal currency !

Bee Orchid Project news



A pigeon has already been pecking chunks out of the leaves of this, our first Bee Orchid, which is now fifteen years old. So protective mesh is now round all eleven orchid sites. But all eleven are showing leaves already. And October is a month earlier than the leaves have ever been seen here before.

The ten new plants that suddenly appeared in November 2013 were all ready to flower in the following June or in 2015.

Orchid seeds are microscopic, containing only an embryo, but no food supply. They are said to need many years of growth before being mature enough to flower. All the thousands of seeds produced last summer were nevertheless removed to be certain, next November, whether mature plants are starting to appear by some other means. Close-up photographs of the orchid sites reveal half a dozen seedlings from previous years. As the year proceeds we may need to watch and record those. But before Christmas we need only record that all eleven sites appear to contain at least one mature plant.

I doubted that this other orchid (the first you see as you walk to the church door) would ever come up again. Last year it was repeatedly trampled underfoot. An ant-hill was built over the top of it. It did not even attempt to flower. It then vanished completely. Having a food storage tuber under the ground, however, seems an effective survival strategy. And just how effective will be clear if and when it produces flowers next June.

Remember, the aim of our Project is to discover whether in November 2021 all eleven Bee Orchids will multiply. That is what the first one appeared to do in 2013, after eight years.

Please be part of this little bit of science. To help record what you see in the next 12 months I will be available after the services I attend, clipboard in hand, covid permitting of course.

Chris Beales



Don't take part in doing those worthless things that are done in the dark. Instead, show how wrong they are. The light will show what these things are really like.
Ephesians 5:11, 13



In November members of the Mothers' Union beseech their churches to join them in the Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, during which Mothers' Union joins with other organisations worldwide to draw attention to the many forms of gender violence, of which women are the main though not the only sufferers, and which sadly occur within all countries and cultures.



The sixteen days last from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until 10 December (Human Rights Day), and includes the International Day of Action against Domestic Abuse on 5 December. For the Mothers' Union this is a focused extension of regular efforts to end such violence and to support those affected, including those in Refuges.

Gender-based violence arises from unequal power relations between men and women and the underlying beliefs and values. Violence may be physical, mental, emotional, or psychological with threats or mockery; it may be economic, denying access to financial resources, property, health care, education, employment, and participation in economic decision-making. There may be coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty in public or private life.

It is easy for us to be shocked to hear of female genital mutilation in Africa, or human trafficking of south-east Asians, but not to think of gender violence nearer home. We know there is domestic abuse in the UK but too easily imagine it is unlikely in our 'neck of the woods'. Yet in the UK and Ireland in the year up to March 2019 2.4 million adults suffered domestic abuse and 80 women were killed by partners or ex-partners. While the police receive daily phone calls about domestic violence incidents only a tiny proportion result in court hearings. People just get away with it - in all levels of society. It is sobering to read that domestic violence figures are much higher in affluent Western societies than in South-East Asia, that one in ten women across Europe have suffered domestic abuse and one in twenty have been raped. Domestic violence is a greater risk to women aged 15-44 than cancer, road accidents or war! And those were the figures before covid-19 restrictions left many households even more stressed with isolation, loss of income, etc.

The Mothers' Union recently made a submission to the House of Commons Scrutiny Committee on the Domestic Abuse Bill, currently going through Parliament, asking firstly for reconsideration of 'no recourse to public funding' where a person's immigration status is unclear when that would mean either a return to the perpetrator or destitution. Secondly, the submission asked for faith to be seen as an important element both in understanding some cases and in the value of faith-based organisations in supporting survivors.

For those willing to think about these matters, there is a wealth of material on the Mothers' Union/Resources website, including helpful advice for anyone trying to support someone who has suffered any form of domestic abuse. On the more public front, the Bishop of Gloucester,

the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, is giving a lead on these matters, supported especially by the other female Lords Spiritual. Meanwhile we could write to our MP: there is advice on this on the above website. Many will already be 'on the side of the angels' but it strengthens their stand over an issue when they know they have constituents' support.

*Transforming God, we pray for all who live in fear of violence and despair that life will ever change. Bring to an end their suffering; restore their sense of worth.
Merciful God bless those working with perpetrators of gender-based violence. Give them your resources to bring about lasting transformation of lives.
Lord of the nations, we pray for governments as they deal with gender-based violence.
May they make policy and law with wisdom and discernment. Amen*

The Lord God has told us what is right and what he demands:
"See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern,
and humbly obey your God." *Micah 6:8 (CEV)*

Sunset at The Plough , Autumn 2020

By Simeon Linstead



Wildlife on our doorstep

I came across these wonderful pictures taken by Pauline Humphries on the Old Malden Facebook page, showing our wonderful wildlife on our doorstep. They show a lovely Robin captured at The Hogsmill and the swan and Heron on the pond at The Hamptons.





Please send in any photos you take on your walks around Old Malden. It is especially lovely to see our local area in the changing seasons.

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