

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

January 2021

50p

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St John the Baptist Parish Church Malden**
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Church Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Steve Clarke	020 8337 2392
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Parish Office:	administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	

To receive the Parish Mailing please scan the QR code with your smart phone camera



Services for January

Due to the new restrictions, it is with regret that St John's will once again have to put-on hold services. 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.

OMN Letter January 2020

Dear Friends,

Yesterday, 4th January, the internet was awash with educated predictions as to just what the Prime Minister would say and what the new restrictions would be. It made for a very disconcerting afternoon, but it was inevitable. About 4:00pm thick, swirling storm clouds rolled overhead, the most beautiful and yet disturbing I have ever seen. They came almost on cue to cap a dreary day, a dreary day like so many others. But beyond these storm clouds the sky was still bright blue, the sun shining its fading rays above, oblivious to the gloom beneath.

Mr. Johnson said nothing new. We have been here before. But then we were at the beginning of spring with the promise of better days to come. Today we prepare to face the winter, our lives now well stuck indoors. I don't know about you, but I hate to be stuck indoors, to have my wings clipped and not be able to come and go as I please. To be unable to visit people face to face and share a cup of tea is rather unbearable for an extrovert. It's like being sent to your room as a child and someone forgot to call time and let you out! I am old enough and wise enough too to know that I'm not the easiest person to live with; the battle over loading the dishwasher continues apace. Lockdown in the Maldives might be a romantic idyll, but I have my doubts. We joke about a patio extension or new flower bed, but chances are the cat will bump us both off and live the high life off the life insurance! She's had enough of us being under paw 24/7 and wants her peace and quiet back. And who can blame her?

The truth is that lockdown then and now is hard for everyone, perhaps in different ways and for different reasons, but a challenge nonetheless. The stress and uncertainty plays on our minds, loneliness and fear impacts our mental health. Hardly anyone is unscathed in my experience. But I have been surprised at just how resilient people have been through it all. It may be the British stiff upper lip or the "keep calm and carry on" attitude that carries you. For others it may be a deep abiding faith in God that buoys the spirit through the storm. In any event we may still find that we need to talk to someone or ask for a bit of support. There is no weakness in that, it is a sign of strength to ask for help. The Ministry Team and I continue to offer that support so do contact us if you wish. That's what we're here for!

As bleak as the announcement felt yesterday, there was more than the hint of dawn on the near horizon. The vaccination programme will protect the most vulnerable and turn the tide on Covid. As more of us receive our jabs the virus will be painted into a corner and rendered far less a threat than it is at the moment. We just need to be patient and persevere, the light is coming and it is there for all to see. Every passing day brings us closer. All we have to do is continue to be careful and not take unnecessary risks in the meantime. It is with that in mind that St. John's closed for Christmas, a very difficult decision, but the wisest in view of the escalating infection rate across the Parish. We will proceed carefully and open when we are sure it is safe to do so. In the meantime we are exploring ways of keeping in touch and bringing people together virtually. People need to feel connected and to have space to share. Watch the weekly mailing for news of developments.

One way I have managed lockdown is to plan for the future. I haven't stuck to specific dates, but I have laid the ground work for a late summer holiday, a repeat visit home to see my

father, and have also started sharing my thoughts about how St. John's can recover and move forwards when it is safe to do so. Last month I presented a paper "Initiative 2022" to the PCC. A rather lackluster title and more a work in progress and discussion starter than anything else. It is a collection of ideas and opportunities to help us regain our momentum in the areas of worship, mission, and sustainability. I will be sending it out on the Mailing soon and ask that everyone have a read. Something may strike you as being of interest for you personally, or you may have fresh ideas to share. There is plenty of scope to get involved and make a difference. Nothing is written in stone and we are in this together. So do share your thoughts when the time comes.

This latest lockdown has extended our "fallow" time as we wait for liberation and plan for the future. This is a time to do those things we want and need to do, things to keep our minds occupied and lift our spirits. The same is true for our life together as St. John's! Let us use this time wisely and make the most of what it offers. Heaven knows come the summer we may be so busy making up for lost time that no one will care about the dishwasher!

Keep safe and keep smiling,
Michael



"A great big "Thank you!" from the bottom of my heart to the good folks of St. John the Baptist and the wider community for making our Angel Project such a success this year! Together we raised £2,200 for Christmas gifts for children across Old Malden and Malden Manor!

We couldn't have done it with you, so please share this so everyone may know you made it happen! "

2021 This year, 2021 will be the 21st year of the 21st century.....

and there are many significant and interesting anniversaries ahead of us. Here are just a few:

- Jan: 50th anniversary of the 1st One Day Cricket match Eng v. Aust (Melbourne CC)
120th anniversary of the death of Giuseppe Verdi, composer
500th anniversary of the excommunication of Martin Luther
50th anniversary of the inauguration of JFK as 35th President of the USA
- Feb: 50th anniversary since UK Decimalisation of currency
90th anniversary of first Highway Code publication
- Mar: 20th anniversary since opening of the Eden Project in Cornwall
150th anniversary since the opening of the Royal Albert Hall by Queen Victoria
75th anniversary of Churchill's speech referring to an 'Iron Curtain'
240th anniversary of the discovery of Uranus by William Herschel
- Apl: 10th anniversary of the wedding of the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge
275th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden between the Jacobites & the King
300th anniversary of Sir Hugh Walpole as the first 'Prime Minister'
400th anniversary of the return of the Mayflower from Massachusetts
115th anniversary of the birth of Isambard Kingdom Brunel
140th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Fleming
60th anniversary of the first man in space – Yuri Gagarin
- May 70th anniversary of the opening of The Royal Festival Hall London
225th anniversary of Edward Jenner's smallpox vaccination
350th anniversary of Thomas Blood's attempt to steal the Crown Jewels
200th anniversary since the death of Napoleon
640th anniversary of The Peasants' Revolt
60th anniversary of the first American in space – Alan Sheppard
- Jun: 45th anniversary of the Viking lander on Mars
- Aug: 75th anniversary of free milk to all children in state schools under age of 18
30th anniversary of Berners Lee describing the world wide web
150th anniversary of the birth of Ernest Rutherford
- Sep: 115th anniversary of the birth of H G Wells
230th anniversary of the birth of Michael Faraday
- Oct: 50th anniversary of London Bridge sale to USA
210th anniversary of the writing of Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility
- Nov: 75th anniversary of Sir Peter Scott's opening of Slimbridge
250th anniversary of the meeting between Stanley and Livingstone
50th anniversary since the availability of 1st commercial microprocessor
- Dec: 90th anniversary of opening of Abbey Road Studios by Sir Edward Elgar
230th anniversary of the death of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
53rd anniversary since 1st manned space mission to orbit moon ('Earth Rise')
450th anniversary of the birth of Johannes Kepler
- 230th anniversary of the birth of Charles Babbage →

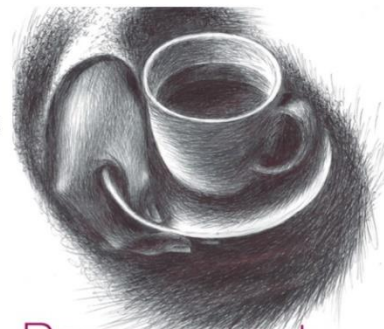
In addition to Verdi & Mozart's anniversaries, there are several other composers to be remembered:

50th anniversary of the death of Stravinsky
110th anniversary of the death of Mahler
280th anniversary of the death of Vivaldi
400th anniversary of the death of Sweelinck
100th anniversary of the death of Saint-Saens
100th anniversary of the death of Humperdinck
350th anniversary of the birth of Albinoni
180th anniversary of the birth of Dvorak
210th anniversary of the birth of Liszt

The current situation in which we find ourselves will surely go down in history and hopefully we shall emerge from this present crisis with renewed appreciation of all that is good in our lives and the potential of every human being.

Marilyn

Our Bereavement Cafe project has been accepted as one of the Co-op's local charities for the next 12 months. Co-op members are able to nominate the Bereavement Cafe as their charity and we will receive 2% of every purchase. I would like to encourage you to nominate us and to become a member if you aren't already one. It costs £1 to become a member and anyone can join in-store or online at <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>



Bereavement
Café

We are still in the planning stage looking for volunteers to help with refreshments and anyone who would also like to take part in the training provided by our sponsor the Princess Alice Hospice. Until we are up and running, support is available from me or any member of the Ministry Team for anyone who has lost a loved one. If you might be interested in taking part, please speak to Michael. Thank you!

BOOK Quiz answers

1. In which of Shakespeare's plays did 'Desdemona' feature? **Othello**
2. Who wrote 'The Nine Billion Names of God'? **Arthur C Clarke**
3. What is the theme of 'Lockdown' and 'La Peste'? **Plague, pandemic**
4. Which of Hilary Mantel's novels is set at the time of the French Revolution?
A Place of Greater Safety
5. Give the title of Robert Harris' latest novel. **V2**
6. The 'Portrait of a Lady' was set in ...? **New York**
7. The musical 'Kiss me Kate' was based on which play? **Taming of the Shrew**
8. Where does 'at a snail's pace' come from? **Richard III**
9. Jeeves was the perfect butler. Who was his employer? **Bertie Wooster**
10. Which novel features the anti-heroine 'Becky Sharp'? **Vanity Fair**
11. Name the March sisters. **Beth, Jo, Meg, Amy.**
12. Name the pig in Charlotte's Web. **Wilbur**
13. Who wrote 'Hamnet'? **Maggie O'Farrell**
14. Give the title of Barack Obamas' recent book. **A Promised Land**
15. 'Christmas is Murder' is a new novel by ?? **Val McDermid**
16. 'The World's Worst Parents' is a child psychology book. True or false? **False – it is a children's book by David Walliams**
17. Commissario Brunetti features in novels by which author? **Donna Leon**
18. Who wrote 'The Foundling'? **Stacey Halls**
19. What is the sequel to 'The Fire Court'? **Ashes of London**
20. Give the title of Ann Patchett's latest best seller. **The Dutch House**

A few anagrams: BOOK TITLES

TYOHBED THE BODY

LTSMEISIL LIMITLESS

TEDAROAMOROYGWOLLBID TOMORROW WILL BE A GOOD DAY

TITLES OF BOOKS WITH Vowels omitted:

THSTMNTS TESTAMENTS

THBYTHMLTHFXNDTHRS THE BOY, THE MOLE, THE FOX AND THE HORSE

THBKPRFLPP THE BEEKEEPER OF ALEPPO

RBCC REBECCA

Hope you enjoyed the quiz

Marilyn 'Happy Reading'.....



St John's Reading Group January 2021

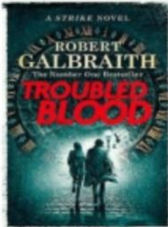
Let me begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year! I'm sure that we all hope that 2021 will be a better and happier year for everyone and that we shall all be able to meet up with one another once again very soon.

Our St John's Reading Group continues to meet on Skype every month as we continue throughout the various lockdowns and restrictions. At least we can continue reading!

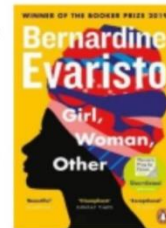
Our choice for December was **Tracey Chevalier's A Single Thread**. Publication in paperback had been delayed for several months but it was well worth the wait. A very straightforward read and a good story. Ms Chevalier captures English life in post WWI England and the difficulties faced by young women in a society still coming to terms with the new role of women in the home and the workplace.



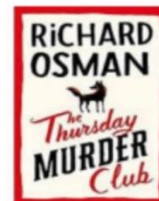
Violet Speedwell has lost her fiancé and her brother in the war but is determined to make a new life for herself. Violet moves to Winchester and one lunchtime, she goes into the cathedral and is enchanted by the work of the broderers and their fine needlepoint. She joins the group and learns how to embroider the cushions and kneelers in the cathedral. Beautifully written and researched, as always, this novel explores the friendships and relationships of a very likeable young woman. A gentle read which I am sure you will enjoy. Our average score was 8/10.



For January we have a choice: the fans of **Robert Galbraith** who are not daunted by a large tome, will be able to read '**Troubled Blood**' – the alternative is '**Girl, Woman, Other**', the joint Booker 2019 prize-winner by **Bernadine Evaristo**. So we shall have an interesting discussion in January!



For February, we have selected **Richard Osman's** bestseller: **The Thursday Murder Club**. Four retired professionals meet to solve a murder. More crime and surely a coincidence that it meets on a Thursday?



Hopefully Father Christmas will have delivered some new books to add to your collection. Take care and keep safe – and make some extra time for your reading.

Marilyn

Christmas Day Event

The Christmas Day event was a bit different this year, unfortunately St John's couldn't host it in the Church Hall as in previous years due to the local restrictions and protecting our most vulnerable friends and neighbours. However, we still managed to get a hot Christmas

Dinner and some goodies to those who were celebrating Christmas on their own this year. Many Thanks to the cooks, Jill and Kate, the drivers and to all of those who donated gifts. Hopefully we will all be able to celebrate again next year.



A Tale of Mr FOX

I'm sure many of you will have read – or have heard of many stories in 'literature' about foxes: The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse, Aesop's The Fox and The Grapes, La Fontaine's Renard, Mr Tod in Beatrix



Potter – and of course, the TV personality, Basil Brush to name just a few. However, you may not have heard of 'The Fox and The Christmas Tree'? Maybe a story yet to be written – but here is a preview!

As we were decorating one of the yew trees in our churchyard for Christmas, we were aware that a very determined fox was getting closer and closer. He was so attracted by the box of Christmas baubles that he approached very near – as we tried to dissuade him, he kept running round behind us and round the tree. Then he made a break for it, running off with the bag of decorations. With Richard in hot pursuit, the bag was retrieved but once again the fox returned, eyeing us very closely. He was very persistent and no amount of hand clapping and shooing away did any good. From experience in our own garden, foxes seem to be very partial to plastic wires on garden lights and anything bright and shiny. Mr Fox was still keeping an eye on us as we left and was definitely very bold. As we approach Twelfth Night, we wonder whether he will come to see us once again. We shall definitely keep an eye on the bag this time!

Marilyn¹³

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