

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

February 2021

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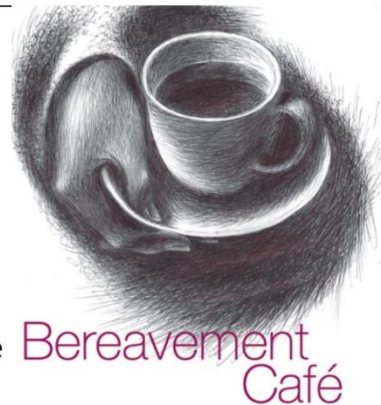
Services for January

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



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>



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!

OMN February Letter

A leap of faith. I'm not talking about something overly theological like "coming to Christ" and making a commitment to follow him. I'm thinking about something much less important in the grand scheme of things. I took a leap of faith last week that some might count as foolhardy. I booked a fortnight's holiday in Cornwall for the end of August. The nightly news isn't the most encouraging, but we do see a light at the end of the tunnel as the vaccine roll out continues apace. It seems a lot of people have already had the same idea and all of our favourite places have already been booked. I did panic just a little, not wanting to spend yet another holiday on the Costa del Malden, but I found one vacancy tucked away on the Roseland peninsula in Cornwall far from the crowds and very, very quiet. So long as we are out of a national lockdown we should be able to go, but I have, for the first time ever, taken out cancellation insurance just in case. If the summer holds it may well be a great success for all those seaside communities struggling for visitors. But that's a big "if", there are no guarantees. More importantly though was my determination to hang on to a bit of normality, as well as having something to look forward to. We all need something to hold on to as we find our way through this devastating mess Covid has enveloped the world in. It helps our mental health to have something to plan for, something to daydream about and distract us if only for a few moments from the reality we've lived with for almost a year now. So I will be thinking about a sandy beach, a warm(ish) sea, and the peaceful, green countryside of Cornwall.

Much closer to home, I've been thinking about St. John's and what recovery may look like. Worship is key and live-streaming of Sunday's service will resume soon as though we aren't likely to have a congregation again until the Government has declared it entirely safe to gather. I am confident that the summer will see more of what feels normal even though we may still be social distancing and wearing our masks. The more people who can be vaccinated the sooner that will be.

Beyond Covid we must be ready for the all the busyness of church life as services and activities start again with gusto. I look forward to all that pent up energy getting back to work making St. John's an exciting place to be, to experience once again the enthusiasm and joy of being gathered together in our church home. So many things have been put on hold and others have continued as much as possible. The Angel Project was a welcome success for Malden Manor Primary School and the Children's Centre with over 100 children receiving a present this Christmas. In February we will launch a new appeal for the Food Bank to help them through this difficult patch after Christmas. St. John's is well-placed to raise money for other charities and very successful at it too! Thanks to our new

Grant Chasing Task Group we will begin to raise the funds needed to carry out the building work to repair the crumbling Tower and address the damp that has spread inside our church building. Exploratory work will help us map the extent of the damage. I remain confident that we will be able to raise the money we need with a bit of patience and a lot of prayer. Ask and ye shall receive!

Our “Initiative 2022” aims to channel our energies to fulfilling our desire to be more sustainable, to become even more welcoming and inclusive of all ages and backgrounds in our worship, and grow our mission and service to our community, especially in areas of deprivation. Covid has raised awareness of particular needs and we look forward to opening our Bereavement Café when we can. We are also just looking at what we might be able to do to support families experiencing domestic violence, both locally and with other partners in the Deanery and ecumenically. The fallout from the pandemic and lockdown will colour our lives for some time, but we do have resources we can draw on to help us all make sense of what we are going through and how to put things back together as we emerge from the crisis.

By thinking about and planning for the future we can all find something at St. John’s to look forward to and be a part of. There are old, familiar things to look forward to and new opportunities to explore. The important thing is that we, as a church and as individuals, have something to look forward to. We need an outlet for our energy and a focus for creating something positive out of this tragedy that is not over yet. We all have something to offer and we all can help make a difference and get St. John’s back on track and build the future God is calling us to make a reality. That is a real leap of faith, but we know that God will not disappoint us. All we have to do is step up to the challenge and meet him half way. It will take a bit of courage, a lot of determination, and even more prayer, but we will get there!

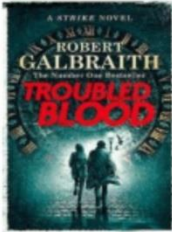
All the best, Michael.



St John's Reading Group February 2021

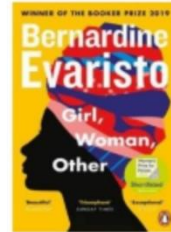
As I look out of the window and see the glistening snow,
I relish the thought of finding a few hours to sit and read.

Our St John's Reading Group continues to meet on Skype every month as we continue throughout the lockdown restrictions. Let me know if you wish to join us!



At our January Skype, we discussed two books:
Robert Galbraith's 'Troubled Blood' and '**Girl, Woman, Other**' by **Bernadine Evaristo**.

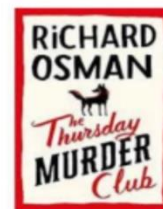
'**Troubled Blood**' was a popular read and in many ways it is a perfect lockdown read. All 927 pages! This is the fifth Cormoran Strike & Robin Ellacott novel so the characters are very familiar to us and you may well have met them in the TV



adaptations of the novels. If you like Galbraith's style, this novel does not disappoint. Cormoran is visiting his sick aunt in Cornwall when he is approached by someone searching for any information about her mother, Margaret Bamborough, a doctor who went missing in 1974. It is a challenging case to pursue especially after a time lapse of 40+ years. Cormoran's detective agency has taken on extra staff and new cases, but after a great deal of 'sleuthing', the mystery disappearance of Margaret eventually reveals new leads and tracing the staff at the former surgery is a challenge. Then there is the developing relationship between Cormoran and Robin.... The novel scored an average of 8/10.

'**Girl, Woman, Other**' was read by fewer members of the group but was enjoyed by those who did read it. An amazing array of characters exploring experiences of 21st century women from the African diaspora. This novel is totally original and quite refreshing in its honest portrayal of life – don't let the lack of punctuation deter you.

For February, we selected **Richard Osman's** bestseller: **The Thursday Murder Club**. Four retired professionals meet to solve a murder. Book at bedtime on BBC Radio 4 this week. This book has been in the best-seller lists for many weeks. Is it the striking cover which attracts readers to it?



For March – a light-hearted crime novel entitled '**The Windsor Knot**' by **S J Bennett**. We shall now discover what keeps the Queen busy when not on official duties.

Take care and keep safe – and make some extra time for your reading.

Marilyn

New Years Honours local news

John Bangs, son of Margery Bangs has been awarded an OBE for services to

Carers in the New Year Honours List In earlier days he was a chorister

was confirmed by F.Michael Hewlett and an enthusiastic member of

1st Old Malden Scout Group.

Proud Mum Margery Bangs



World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer (formerly known in this country as Women's World Day of Prayer), is due to be marked later than usual this year in this area. The international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative is run under the motto 'Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action', and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

The World Day of Prayer worship service has a special annual theme which is developed by women of a different country each year. A national committee then prepares an order of service on that theme. This year it has been written by the women of the South Pacific ocean nation of Vanuatu and the theme is 'Build on a Strong Foundation.'

St. John's, Worcester Park Baptist Church and St. Mathias Catholic church join together each year to hold this service and this year it is St. John's turn to host the event. The service was due to be held on Friday, 5th March but, taking into account the current situation, we are going to postpone it until later in the year when we hope we can do justice to the women of Vanuatu's hard work. So, watch **this space!**

Janet Jeal 9

Local Photography

It's always lovey to see local photographers taking pictures of our wonderful wildlife. Here is Old Malden at her finest!



CHRISTMAS DAY EVENT 2020

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic throughout 2020, and government guidelines, this event could not take place with everyone together. However, thanks to our volunteer cooks we were able to deliver 20 traditional Christmas meals to those who were on their own and who would have been at the Hall.

Many people from the church and local community came together to make the day as happy as possible. A huge thank you to Jill and Kate who spent the morning cooking at the Hall getting the meals ready for delivery. (Jemma, who had done much of the organising beforehand, should have been there too but very disappointedly had to self isolate at the last moment.) They had also prepared sandwiches for everyone to have on Christmas evening. As well as the meal each recipient received a personal gift, a table decoration and a 'stocking' of goodies.



So THANK YOU to the 9 drivers who delivered the meals; to those who donated a gift; to St. John's Flower Team who made the table decorations; to Iluska Beaton and all her friends within the community who donated items for the 'stockings', which included mini Christmas cakes by Lynn. Also thank you to New Malden Rotary Club for financial help.

Everything was most appreciated by the recipients as the following comments show:

"I did enjoy the delicious lunch that was delivered on Christmas Day, and what a lovely surprise to get so many other goodies and presents as well. Thank you very much for organising it all and to all the helpers, cooks and parishioners who made it possible. I'm sure it lit up the day for all of us who are living alone in this lockdown."

"Just a few lines to thank you all so much for the wonderful food and gifts that you sent. All of these things have been greatly appreciated. You have all spent so much time and thought giving to others, truly an unforgettable Christmas."

During the morning the Mayor of Kingston made a quick visit to the Hall to thank the cooks and had hoped to deliver a meal herself but this was not possible due to restrictions.

Again Thank You to everyone who contributed in any way to make this a great community act.



Snow Day

A little bit of snowy joy was spread in Old Malden on Sunday 24th January by a lovely covering of snow.

Alfie Chan (13) managed to capture some brilliant shots of St John's.

Well done Alfie!



Fair Trade Fortnight 22 Feb-7 March 2021

In 2021, Fairtrade Fortnight will feel very different. 2020 has been a hard year for everyone and we know that physically campaigning and meeting people will continue to be challenging in 2021.

During the two weeks of Fairtrade Fortnight 2021, individuals, groups and companies come together to celebrate the people in developing countries who grow our food, but who are often underpaid and exploited.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us more than ever how interconnected we are globally. This interconnection is at the very heart of the Fairtrade message and is where our role begins. We are part of the Fairtrade movement and we have the power to drive long-term change, not only with our shopping choices but with our support in spreading the message. We just have to do this a little differently in 2021!

Choosing to buy [fair trade](#), ethical food and drink is an everyday choice, and is the simplest way to change the world. Through fair trade, farmers and growers can earn enough to feed their families, send their children to school, and provide a future for their local community. This Fairtrade Fortnight, we are invited to join Traidcraft on a journey stretching forty years of UK fair trade, fighting for them and fighting with them. So let us choose to buy fair trade goods from the collection of [Fairtrade Fortnight special offers and discounts](#).

All our favourite [fair trade food](#), snacks, and treats, all available to buy from St John's. Contact Anne Beales anne.beales8@gmail.com. (Delivered safely to your door step.) From the very finest fair trade brands like [Divine Chocolate](#) and [Zaytoun](#), to a wide range of Traidcraft's own [fairtrade chocolate](#), [coffee](#), [tea](#), [biscuits](#), and more – there's a world of quirky flavours and ethical bites waiting to be discovered and celebrated. As well as face masks and laundry needs.

Sadly we won't be having our usual Fairtrade coffee morning in the extension with our Fairtrade wine donations from the Co-op, and the home made goodies from our amazing cooks. However maybe we can do a communal virtual get-together sometime during the Fortnight. Watch this space....The St John's Beaver Group will be looking at what Fair Trade means in one of their Zoomed sessions, thanks to Louise Dibble. However free samples of Traidcraft Jelly Babies will be difficult.

Anne Beales 13



VACCINATION THE BUZZ WORD FOR 2021!



We start the New Year very much focused on vaccination. Being

quite old, I've had my first jab, and it's good to see more and more people are having the same. Also because I'm quite old, I remember the small pox vaccinations. My older son was vaccinated, but by the time, three years later we got to my younger son, we no longer had to do have it done. Small pox had been eradicated. Completely.

Perhaps one day we can say the same about the Coronavirus, but meantime, there WAS one piece of good news at the end of last year and it has to do with the eradication of something else – polio.

Polio has been around since about 1916, and the Salk vaccine was developed in 1954. Quite quickly we in the U.K., the rest of Europe and most of the western world were immunized and polio disappeared for us. But it remained in the developing and third world countries. In 1985 polio was endemic in 125 countries, affecting nearly 1,000 children a day.

So in 1985, Rotary International began its fight against polio, with the promise to rid the world of this terrible disease. Since then, and still today, ordinary Rotarians right across the world are raising money to make this happen. In my Rotary Club, Kingston upon Thames, we continue to make donations and fund-raise – even during lockdown.

And, after getting the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, governments and non-governmental organisations and other wonderful supporters like Bill Gates involved, we are so very nearly there. At the beginning of last year, from those 125 countries there were just three left – Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria.

In 1996, 75,000 children in Africa were paralyzed by polio, and that year the African heads of state committed to eradicating it from the continent. Rotary and Nelson Mandela started the "Kick Polio out of Africa" campaign, which led to more than 30 countries holding their first national immunization day. Rotarians have contributed nearly US \$890 million towards the eradication of polio in the African region, 9 billion doses of the oral polio vaccine have saved an estimated 1.8 million cases of polio.

And this is where the good news comes in – on the 25th August 2020 the WHO announced to the world that the Nigeria is now officially polio free. The last cases of wild polio were

recorded in Nigeria in August 2016, and this means that polio is eradicated from the African region, all 47 countries.

Just two countries to go then! And Rotary continues to work towards fulfilling its promise. We should spare a thought for the thousands of volunteers who have tackled difficult terrain by foot and bicycle to reach all the children, some in very remote and dangerous areas and often at great personal risk.

So our End Polio Now campaign carries on, with every £1 raised by Rotary generously trebled by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. I hope that if you come across any Rotary fundraising for this you will support us. As a Rotarian, I think that of all the good things we do, this is the one of which I will be most proud, to have rid the world of polio.

Bobby Child



About four years ago at the annual parish meeting the late Liz Sealy advocated Easyfundraising as a painless way to add to one's giving to St John's. She said her regular deliveries from Sainsburys brought 50p each week.

I went home and promptly looked into this. Many retailers are willing to give a small percentage from each sale to a charity nominated by the purchaser. So I duly signed up to give to St John's Old Malden - Repairs Fund. Doing so proved easy enough for my limited online skills. The individual amounts are tiny but I see that mine recently passed £200, without actually costing me a penny. How could I object to Sainsburys, John Lewis, and many other retailers helping St John's?

If you shop online, please consider whether you could add to your giving in this painless way.

Faith Bowers

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