

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

April 2021

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Old Malden News

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Parish Website:	www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	
Parish Office:	administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	

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



Services for April

Good News!



St John's is open again from Thursday 1st April (Maundy Thursday).

To book you need to be a subscriber to our mailing list, link and QR code below. If you have any problems booking please call the

Parish Office 0208 3302817

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



OMN April Letter

In a few days time we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's definitive "Yes!" to all that Jesus has done for us. His example, teaching, and ministry are all vindicated as the Father has undone the worst that the human heart can devise, the fear and self-interest that brought the religious authorities and Roman power together to murder their maker and redeemer. His death was designed to eliminate the threat Jesus posed to the status quo, but death itself was undone, and not just for Jesus but for us all! Life would never be quite the same, and this eternal life would be for all people, not just the lucky few.

Holy Week and Easter celebrations are being held in less than ideal conditions. We are just beginning to come out of lockdown and restrictions still bite. I wonder if any of us will remember how to sing when the time comes and we are free to do so? This is not as it should be, Christmas and Easter joy reigned in with only muted joy against a backdrop of loss, sickness, and death. But we still celebrate the momentous moments of our faith story, marking the milestones of Jesus' earthly life and all that he has given us in himself. Even in grey times there is still joy.

As we move into April and new life springs up all around us, our hearts are buoyed by the change of weather, the longer days, and the freedom to be out in nature as she sings her new song of rebirth and new life. And while I know we will enjoy and be reassured by nature's show once again, we should probably try to see and appreciate it with fresh eyes and not take things for granted as we once may have done. How often have we been swept on by the busyness of life and not noticed the beauty of creation around us? Lockdown has taught us much about what is actually important in our lives and what should be our priorities. There is a deeper sense of community across the parish, of helping neighbours and strangers in need. We also have had time to focus on family and friends as never before. At St. John's we have had to find new ways to connect with each other and the community. Technology has facilitated much of this, but we do so long for meeting again face-to-face and

sharing laughter and simply enjoying each other's physical presence as never before. A friend of ours has shared that he misses most of all things the little conversations round the water cooler and the kettle at work, something he'd never rated as anything worthwhile before. That is something I understand very well and makes me long for a return to normality for us all. I am especially looking forward to St. John's day when we celebrate our patronal festival with a barbecue for everyone afterwards. To share a glass and food in good company is priceless and something we have all missed as a church family. We will keep our fingers crossed and pencil in the 27th June!

As we reopen and things begin to return to some sense of normality, it is my hope and prayer that we will be ready for the new life that will come to St. John's after so many months of restrictions and precautions. After something as terrible as Covid, things won't ever be exactly the same if for no other reason than some of us are missing, casualties of Covid, but also because we also have been changed by this experience. We have lost and we have gained much. When Mary Magdalene met the risen Christ she did not recognize him, nor did the two followers of Jesus on the road to Emmaus. None of them "expected" to see Jesus alive, but there could well be more to it. Jesus' risen life has continuity with his earthly life, his body bearing the scars of his crucifixion; but his life after the resurrection was not simply a return to the old life. It was instead something new, something different, something far more dynamic than merely living and breathing. Eternal life is like that because it is shot through with the power of God, a life that neither sin or death can mar. This life is Jesus' gift for us, something we only have to accept as ours.

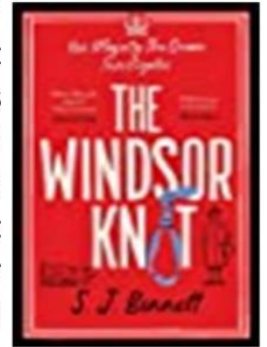
St. John's is passing through a time of darkness and loss into the bright golden sunshine of God's new day. We too can be filled with the love and power of God as we rebuild our life together as the people of St. John's. It will take time, but we will do it, all with God's help!

He is Risen, alleluia! See you in Church, Michael.

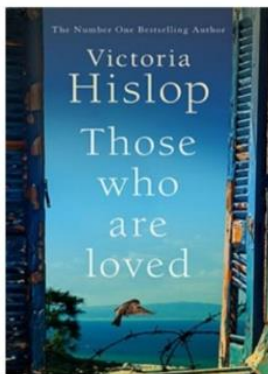


St John's Reading Group April 2021

In view of all the 'Royal Revelations' recently, it seemed very timely that at our March meeting we were to discuss a light-hearted crime novel entitled

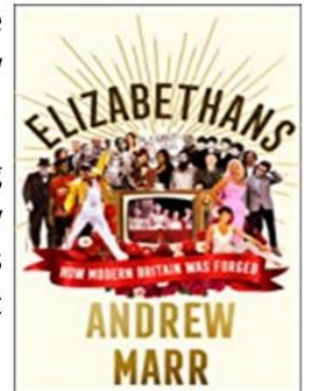


'The Windsor Knot' by S J Bennett. When a young man is found murdered in one of the guest apartments in Windsor Castle, Her Majesty is able to act as unofficial sleuth to help discover the perpetrators of this crime. Is her own safety at risk? The book was an interesting departure from our usual crime novels but was enjoyed by the group with an average score of 8/10.



Our second choice for March, **'Those who are loved' by Victoria Hislop** was rather more serious and a heart-wrenching tale of a family in 20th century Greece – beginning with the 1941 Occupation. For many years, politics and Civil War divided the family with life threatening consequences. Ms Hislop is well known for her love of Greece and this novel shows just how much research she has carried out. Maybe stretching credibility at times that all these events should happen to one family – but, nevertheless a good page-turner, harrowing at times. Also with an average score of 8/10. A good novel for lockdown

Our choice for April is a departure from the novels which usually feature in our selection: we have chosen **Andrew Marr's 'Elizabethans – how modern Britain was forged'**.



The book was serialised recently on TV and it raises some interesting issues which will be good for discussion. It is certainly modern history through which many of us have lived – not necessarily just the politics but it focuses on the human beings whose lives had a direct or indirect impact on us and on our society.

Our next choice for May will be **'Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell'**, who won the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2020 with this novel. We are taken us back in time to the first era of Elizabethans with a story about William Shakespeare's family, and notably 'Hamnet', William and Agnes' son. The author takes us back to the courtship of William and Agnes, relationships with Will's family and the devastating family tragedy. It is a beautifully written and imaginative novel and I look forward to re-reading it. Published in paperback on April 1st.

Our next zoom⁸ meeting will be on Thursday 1st April at 8.00pm.

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

Marilyn

BIRD SONG IN LOCKDOWN

There is no doubt that the enforced Lockdown has brought many problems and issues that have challenged and troubled us. It has also changed our behaviour, and I have felt the need for a daily walk to replace the weekly trip to the gym. We are very fortunate in living in a rural area, and there are some very pleasant walks around our neighbourhood. One of the real joys of this is to listen to birdsong, and I have always been interested in the great variety of different sounds that one hears. It is easy to identify the song of robins, blue tits and other common birds. But after that I was really lost as I could hear the song but had not the slightest idea of what birds they were. Yes, I have listened to CD's and recordings, but somehow my recollection is nowhere good enough to identify an unknown song when outdoors. Those days are over, as I now have an amazing app on my mobile phone which can identify birdsong. It has been a complete revelation and a real joy to experience. It is called "BirdNET" which can be downloaded to any Android phone. Sadly there does not appear to be an equivalent for iPhone. To use this app, one has to record a few seconds of bird song, and then submit it for analysis by an expert system in a remote university, and then usually within a few seconds one gets a response. It will identify the bird type, and give a confidence rating, mostly "almost certain", but sometimes "likely" or "uncertain". It then supplies a link to further information on the internet, and adds it to the list of all observations made and can present them on a map of the local area. One has to get a good recording with as little background noise such as vehicles or people. Yes, sometimes it does come up with "human" as identification ! I have been using this app since May last year, and now have over 90 observations logged in our local area.



One of the greatest early revelations was the identification of a wren. I have often heard this usually very loud pretty song whilst walking to church, but had never been able to identify the bird, as often one does not see it, and being a wren they are small and easily hidden. But there are many around the church, by the Hogsmill river, and down in six acre meadow. It is amazing to find that such a big sound can come from Britain's smallest bird. I have identified about 15 different species so far, and on many occasions have been lucky enough to see them, look at the picture on the phone and verify that it is correct. I have been pleased to hear a coal tit, dunnock, nuthatch, chiffchaff, goldfinch as well as the delightful long-tailed tits. Whilst out walking, if I hear a new bird song, I will try to see it, and then get out the phone to try to identify it, which is usually quite quick. I really want to identify a woodpecker or cuckoo, and with spring here I feel very hopeful. It has been a real revelation and joy to gain greater understanding of this wonderful world of bird sound all around us. An important part of the marvellous Creation that God has given us and we really must try and protect all of it for future generations.

Richard Burkett



The PTAs of Malden Parochial &
Malden Manor Primary Schools Present



THE EASTER TRAIL



It's time to hop along through Old Malden this Easter for an egg-citing trail!

If you are a family with children, or adults looking for something different to do when you are out for a walk, then this is the trail for you.

Follow the directions from Hooky Street Coffee Co, through the Hogsmill Nature Trail, finishing near Miller & Carter on Plough Green. Along the way solve the clues to discover what the Easter Bunny loves.

Trail kits will be sold at Hooky Street Coffee Co* for £3.00 (cash only). The trail runs from **Wednesday 31st March – Monday 19th April**. Open to everyone and all proceeds go towards the Malden Parochial and Malden Manor Primary School PTAs.

*For opening times go to facebook.com/hookystcoffeeeco/

A big thank you to our sponsors



Children must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult. Please ensure that you socially distance and follow government guidelines in relation to Covid-19. The trail takes roughly 1 hour to complete and please also respect noise levels.

St John's on **You**Tube



**Did you know that you can still keep up to date with services
at St John's if you can't get to a service?**

**The Live Streaming of services has resumed so you will be able to see Sunday
services live via our YouTube Channel.**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJBOMry5u57ROosux4tfCKQ>



It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Derek Cordle MBE in January at the age of 89 in Nottingham, where he lived his last years. He was a lovely sensitive man who touched and influenced the lives of many at St. John's with his strong Christian faith.

Here are some recollections of how widely his 'outreach' spread, how he started many things we now take for granted and the warmth of people's regard.

Richard Burkett: "Derek's life of influence started well before he came to St. John's ... I first met Derek when I was a very young lad at Sunday School at Holy Trinity, Tooting, where he was one of the teachers, and so introduced me to the Bible and Christianity. I am very grateful to him for doing that. I well remember the little exercise book to stick stamp-sized coloured images from Bible stories in after each week's lesson. Derek also helped run the Youth Club, which I went to as a teenager, and he was on the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at HT, which I joined for a short while.

"I met Marilyn at HT, and she remembers Derek when she joined the Sunday School teaching team. I moved away in 1969 and lost contact with Derek and wife Celia. However, Marilyn and I were delighted to meet them again when we joined St. John's in 1990 and found, not surprisingly, they were both involved with life here." Celia herself taught at Sunday School in Old Malden. In expressing his regard for Derek, Peter Knight, vicar at St John's (1992-2002) for most of the last decade when Derek and Celia lived locally, referred to requirements highlighted in Micah 6:8: "I remember Derek as a thoughtful, gracious gentleman with a deep spirituality and a strong commitment to social justice. He was the very incarnation of our call to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God. I am deeply grateful that he touched my life."

Philip Welsh (vicar 1981-1987): “Memory fades a bit over 35 years or so, but the news of Derek Cordle’s death brings back to me a vivid and fond recollection of his friendship and good humour, his quiet and steady loyalty, his clear convictions as a Christian, and the many ways he gave so much to the life of the parish. We learn of his death with sadness, but remember his life with gratitude, and with love to Celia and their family in their loss.”

John Eggitt: “Derek was always supportive of our Scout Group through the membership of both his sons, Dave and Daniel. He would act on our behalf when he was a member of the PCC and was always available to assist in loading and unloading the Scout van when we attended camps.”

In the late 1970s Derek was a church warden at St John’s but he had various other roles and involvements over time. He and daughter Elizabeth campaigned about the burden of developing country debt and he was involved in fair trade initiatives and Christian Aid collections.

Anne Beales: “Derek started Chris and me on the Traidcraft route! Also the Interfaith interest. He introduced the church to One World Week back in Peter Knight’s time. That was the first service I ever went to at St John’s. Chris had been to a few others and thought I might be interested!”

Ken Lowes, still with links to St John’s while worshipping elsewhere, says Derek got him into a long-term involvement with KCAH, Kingston Churches Action On Homelessness, and was founder and organiser of Julian prayer meetings.

Pat Lovegrove: “Derek got us involved in Heritage Open Days from 1997-2000 but we had previously been part of London Open House in 1996 at his instigation. He encouraged our Heritage Day sponsored bicycle rides and, while on the PCC and Outreach (previously Community Care), involved us with the Ace of Clubs community for the homeless and vulnerable in Clapham, Churches Together in New Malden and Worcester Park, ecumenical Lent groups and mission projects.”

Celia wrote the following tribute for his funeral: “Derek loved life. He was a city person who enjoyed interaction with other people and the theatres, cinemas, museums and concert halls of London, where we used to live, and here in Nottingham. But he also liked walking.



“We enjoyed historical walks in the various towns and cities. But my most cherished memories, through the years from our earliest days together at Holy Trinity church in Tooting, are of those taken in the countryside, together or with family and friends.”

In retirement he accompanied Celia on visits and research trips for her degree qualifications up to PhD level. As a life-long Fulham fan Derek was used to ups and downs of life and always concerned about those who were less well off.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Celia, Elizabeth, Dave and Daniel. Let us wish that they will all “Go well”, one of Derek’s favourite sign-offs on letters and notes. St John’s stalwart Margery Bangs can have the appropriate last word: “Derek was a very pleasant chap who got on well with everyone.”

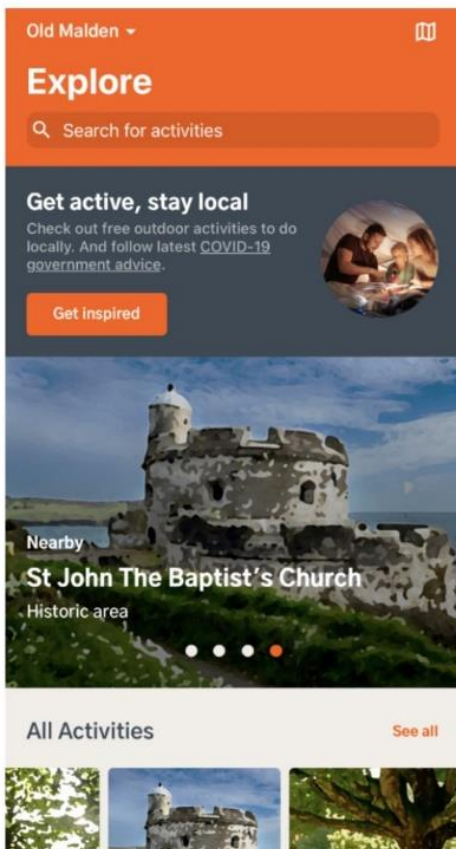
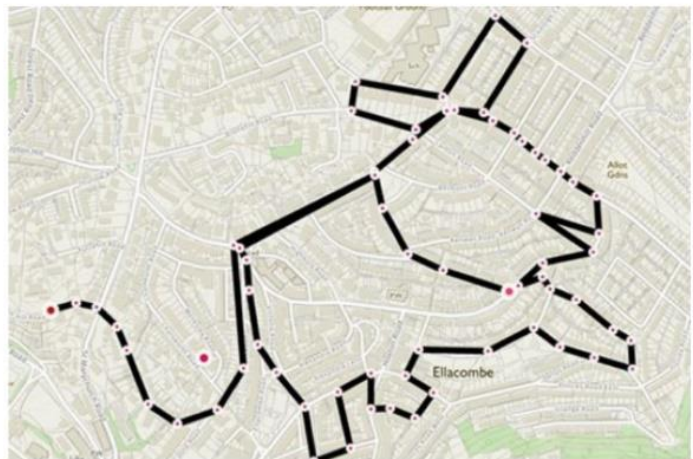
Derek touched many people’s lives and we have written this tribute based on those memories we have found so far. If you have any further recollections that you would like to celebrate and share, we would be very pleased to hear from you and publish them in future editions of OMN.

Richard Burkett and Roger Jeal

GetOutside



Now the weather is improving and we are heading into spring, I was looking to further improve my walking and happened to stumble across this great walking app 'Get Outside'. If you are like me and have walked the same route for what seems like a lifetime, you may find some new and interesting new routes through this website. All you need to do is enter your postcode and off you go. There are some interesting activities too, such as Map Art, walk to create a pattern on your map.



As with everything at the moment, please check local government advice on travelling and stay local when you walk.

Happy Walking!

Amy Chan

Scan the QR Code to download the app





St. John's virtual Coffee Morning

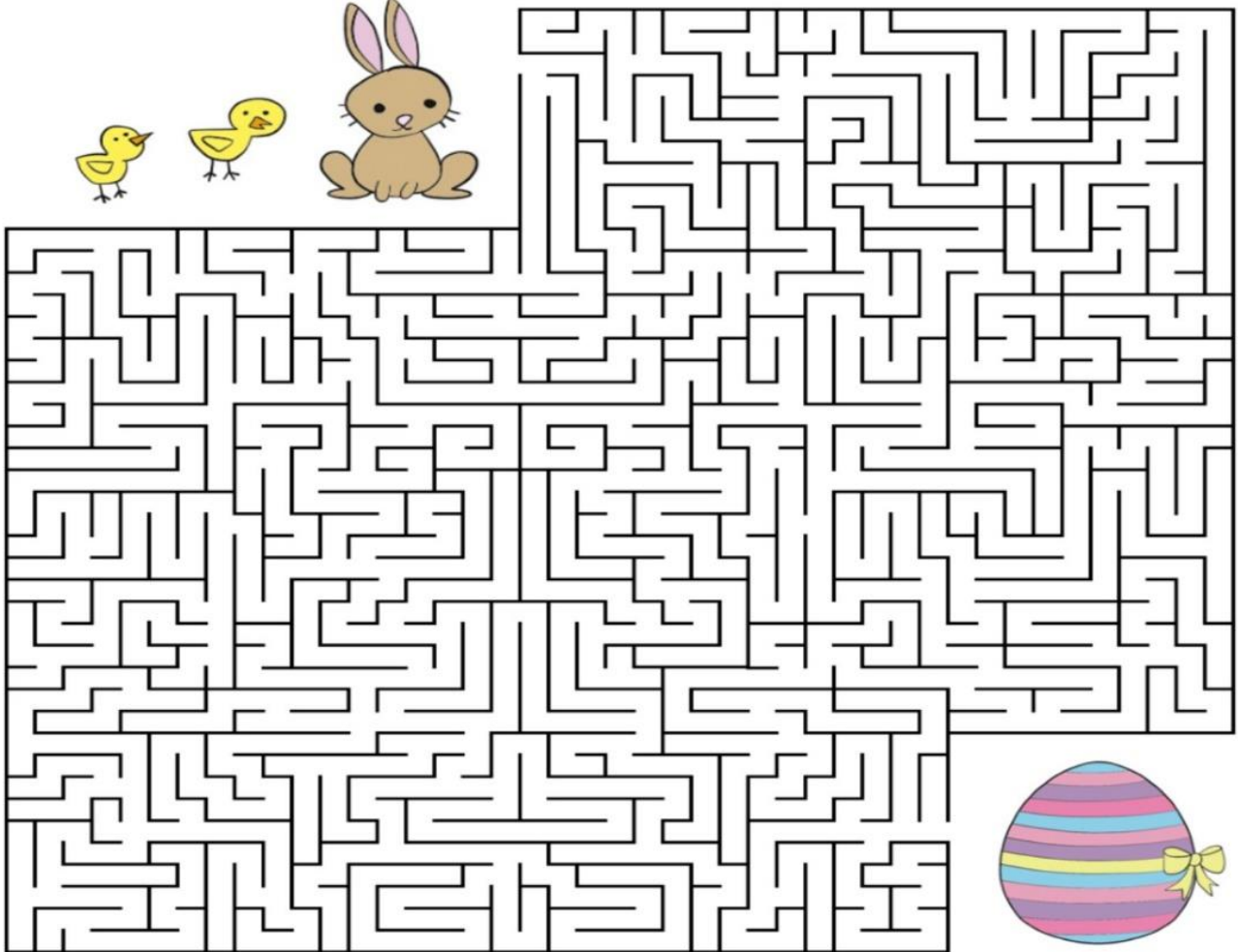
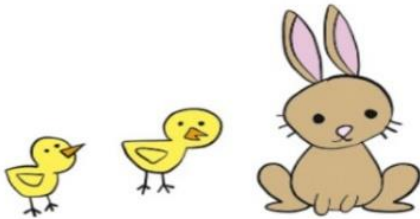
Sunday at 11am
Via Zoom

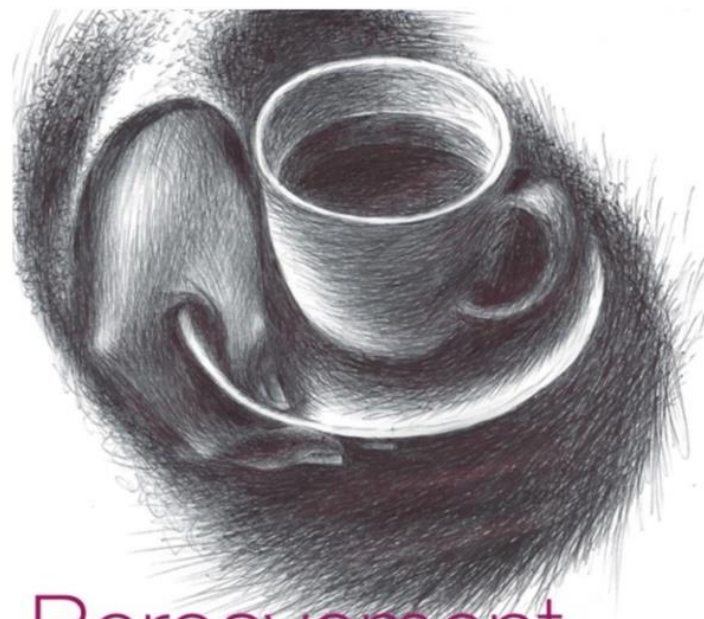


Join us at 11:00am on Zoom!

Meeting ID: 850 3291 8410 Password: 413247

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Bereavement Café

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!



St John's Church Old Malden



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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



A big Thank You to everyone who has signed up to Easy Fundraising, we raised £37 last month alone and brings our total to **£2138.65** since we joined !

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