

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

April 2022

50p

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**The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist Parish Church Malden**
Church Road, Worcester Park KT4 7RY

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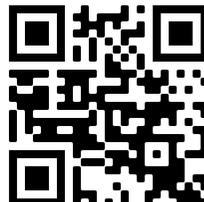
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

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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 April



St John's is OPEN

St John's has now re-opened for worship so please see the Parish Mailing for details. Live Streaming of services will continue so you will be able to see services live via our YouTube Channel.

Sunday 8am - Said Eucharist

Sunday 9.45am - Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 11am — Said Eucharist

The midday Eucharist on Wednesdays has been moved to 11am to cater for the Mothers' Union which on the 1st Wednesday of the month will have a coffee morning at 10am followed by the Eucharist at 11am .

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

Vicar's Letter

As we round the corner of Lent and head straight into Passiontide and Holy Week, we have an opportunity denied to most of us these past two years of lockdown and Covid restrictions. As Church we “do” Advent and Christmas largely for the wider community, those who only join the worship of the Church occasionally. Christmas is easy, the focus is on the new-born King, the baby Jesus taking centre stage. Holy Week and Easter are different. Of course we will have a few visitors joining our services, but not like we would see at a typical Christmas. That is probably largely down to the fact that Christmas comes every year wrapped up in the nostalgia of Christmases past and because the baby makes so few demands upon us. Christmas is shiny, bright, and fun. Holy Week is hard work, disturbing and challenging as we walk alongside Jesus to his horrible death on the Cross. The cruelty meted out to him and the injustice of it all is hard to bear, so it should come as no surprise that Holy Week and Easter are down to us, committed Christians and fellow pilgrims to experience. Easter itself is drowned out in an avalanche of chocolate to be consumed and, more often than not, the sheer joy of the arrival of spring.

But Holy Week and Easter have long functioned as a time of revival for Christians, the discipline of Lent refocussing our attention on what really matters- the saving death and new life of Christ offered to us all. It is the joy of that, the celebration of God's decisive action in human history in the Resurrection, that fills the Church with colour and praise after a drab season of self-denial and restraint. The difference is meant to be as

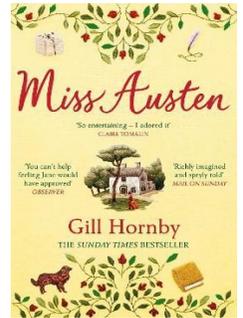
stark as two different sides of the same coin. It is my hope that the joy of Easter will be something we all can experience this year with renewed gusto! The upcoming services try to cater for a variety of needs, ages and preferences. We hope there is something here for everyone. This is important because it is our worship that will revitalise our spiritual selves after such a long, difficult time. St. John's needs to find its feet again and rediscover the joy of worshipping altogether again. Our future depends on moving forward in confidence as we return to many of the things we used to do, as well as try new things. The services through Easter include a Messy Easter for children and a return to the ancient Easter Vigil of Holy Saturday. The Vigil will be a laid-back affair with the lighting of the Holy Fire and a simple Eucharist. Easter Day offers something for all ages, enabling families to worship together. The Stations of the Cross are a reflective opportunity to follow in Jesus' footsteps through the drama of Good Friday, and the Choir will enrich the Last Hour service with the traditional music we have been accustomed to. There is something for all tastes and I hope you will find something that speaks to you in this most holy of times.

Happy Easter when it comes,

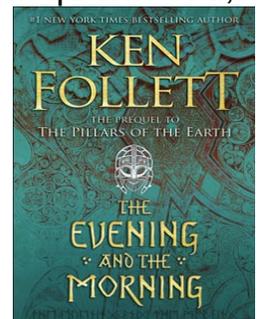
Michael.

St John's Reading Group April 2022

When we met in March, we discussed **Miss Austen** by Gill Hornby. A very 'gentle' book for anyone searching for something different to read. This book is set in 1840, and it follows Jane's sister Cassandra in her attempt to preserve her sister's reputation. Cassandra goes in search of Jane's (reimagined) lost letters and Ms Hornby tells her story with great empathy and wit, establishing Cassandra as an 'Austen heroine'. This novel will transport you to a different era and it is a joy to read. The close bond between Jane and Cassandra is very moving – the 'plight' of two unmarried sisters who try and make their way in a world which is very much male dominated. There is a map of Kintbury and a list of characters although with several Marys and Elizabeths it can be rather confusing. The book was enjoyed by the group and an average score of 8/10 given. How many of the Jane Austen novels have I not read?

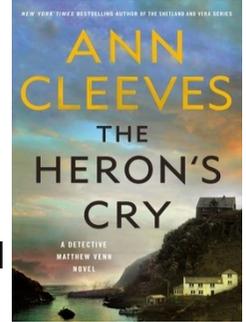


Our next choice for the April meeting is a completely different read. It is **The Evening and the Morning** by Ken Follett. Although rather a tome, it is quite a quick read, following the author's easy style. It is a prequel to the brilliant must-read novel **Pillars of the Earth** (1989) which is about the building of a cathedral in the fictional town of Kingsbridge and set in the 12th century. This prequel is set in 997CE at the end of the Dark Ages with England facing attacks from the Welsh in the west and the Vikings in the east. Desperate and brutal times. Good read so far....



For May, we have selected the latest Anne Cleeves novel,

The Heron's Cry, the second in the Two Rivers Series, with Matthew Venn as our new detective. Set in North Devon, Matthew is called out to a rural crime with an elaborately staged murder. We have become used to the Shetland & Vera series so a new venue is an interesting departure. We enjoyed the first novel, *The Long Call*, so look forward to this new choice.



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7th April at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

Happy Reading!

Marilyn



St John's Knitting & Crochet Group will meet on Thursday 28th April from 2.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. We continue to knit/crochet items for Romania – and woolly hats, scarves and mitts were requested by The Romanian Aid Foundation recently. Would you like to brush up on your knitting skills – or learn to crochet? New members and beginners always welcome. Tea, cake and biscuits always on hand so do join us!

Marilyn

END OF RED ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN

The Red Envelope campaign is now closed. The following is based on the text that I read out in church at the 0945 on February 27th. Most of what I said is good news. We should all be very thankful: a big thank you to all those who have responded and donated.

As I am sure you all will appreciate, 2020 and 2021 were both very difficult years financially. We lost income as a consequence of the church being closed, loss of the Fairs, and so on. But more seriously our regular income, given through the Bank each month has fallen for a variety of reasons: people have moved away, sadly passed away, and some had to stop or reduce giving. It could have been a lot worse. So we felt that we had to run the Campaign, and I have to say that it is the first for a number of years. The reality is that our regular income from giving has been eroding for a long time, and it is essential that it is encouraged from time to time. So in October we gave out Red Envelopes, and we have given out 110 in total.

We have had a good response and this resulted in pledges of about £7,000 per annum; most people can Gift Aid and so the total increase is just under £9,000 per annum. We have started to see this coming through in the bank statements from November onwards. But it is still early days and so have to be patient as some people give quarterly or six monthly, so we have yet to see the full impact of the pledges made. It is very heartening to also say that a number of new people have joined the Free Will Offering Scheme and so the load is being shared more widely.

Of course, there are a substantial number of people we have not heard from, and there are some obvious reasons for this: we can only hope that they will hear the plea we have made, and may be moved to help in the future. I am very pleased to say that we have greatly strengthened the Stewardship Team, and I must pay tribute to Jane who has taken on the role of Stewardship Leader. The impact of this Campaign on the church finances will clearly be beneficial. I also have to say a very big thankyou to all the donors who have given some very generous donations. The 2021 accounts will show one off donations of about £27,000, a value which is, I think, unprecedented. But the reality is that our normal running income and expenditure account is likely to show a deficit of £7,000 in 2021. So our day to day finances are still very precarious and far too reliant on one off donations or

legacies. What we need is adequate sustained regular income.

This Campaign has pledged a good increase which needs to be fully realised, and so I do ask all of you who have responded to carefully check that your bank has actually acted in accordance with your pledge. Alastair, Jane and I have tried very hard to thank all donors, but if for whatever reason we have missed you, please excuse the mistake and accept our thanks here and now.

We are all clearly facing difficult increases in cost of living and expenses, and so is St. John's. We continue to keep a very close review of church Finances, but the invasion of Ukraine will clearly bring problems to us all. We should all be very thankful for what has been achieved, but recognise that the future will be difficult.

Thank you for your time and attention. If you have any questions about any aspect of the Free Will Offering Scheme or Giving, please ask Jane, Sheri, myself, Treasurer Alastair or the Wardens – we are here to help. Or contact us via email at stewardship@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk.

Richard Burkett

Revision of the Electoral Roll 2022

A formal notice of revision of the Electoral Roll will be placed in the Church website on Sunday 20th February 2022. Preparation of the revised Roll will commence on 6th March 2022 and be completed by 26th March 2022..Those already on the Electoral Roll need do nothing.

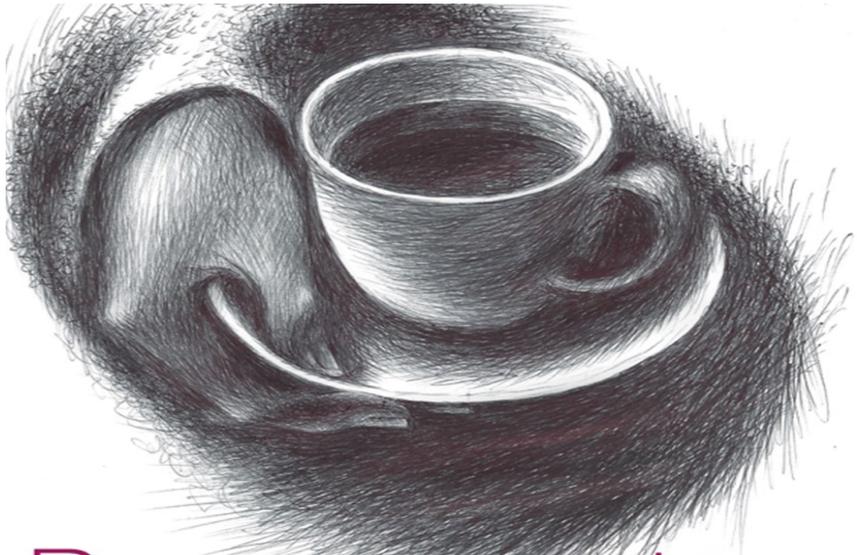
Those wishing to be placed on it should download an application form from the website or pick up one from the church's porch at the appropriate time..

S. Clark – Electoral Roll Officer 0208 337 2392

April Sunday Services

3rd – 5th Sunday of Lent <i>Passion Sunday</i>	Said Eucharist Sung Eucharist	8:00am 9:45am
10th - Palm Sunday	Said Eucharist Procession and Liturgy of the Palms Eucharist with Dramatic Reading of the Passion	8:00am 9:30am 9:45am
10th - Messy Easter	Children's Crafts and the Story of Easter	4:00pm
13th - Wednesday in Holy Week	Holy Communion	11:00am
14th - Maundy Thursday	Festal Eucharist <i>followed by the Watch</i>	8:00pm
15th - Good Friday	The Last Hour <i>with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament</i>	2:00pm
	Stations of the Cross	8:00pm
16th - Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter <i>Lighting of the Easter Fire and Paschal Candle</i>	8:00pm
17th - Easter Day	Festal Eucharist of the Resurrection	9:45am





Bereavement Café

Thank you to everyone who supported the Bereavement Cafe through the Co-op community Charity scheme! You raised over £1,100! The next meeting will be in the coffee lounge at St. John's on Tuesday 19th April 2:00- 3:30pm. We have been very fortunate to be trained and supported by Princess Alice Hospice, who will continue to work with us to provide this needed service for our community.

Need Help with Reading the Bible?

Maybe you could use the daily notes from Bible Reading Fellowship?

Wanting to start daily Bible reading but unsure of where to start? Looking for a change to your current notes but not quite certain of what you're looking for?

Here are handy summaries and grid below should give you an overview of each of the Bible reading notes, who they are written for and what you can find inside!

New Daylight: BRF most popular series, New Daylight is for everyone on their daily journey with God

New Daylight Deluxe: all the content of New Daylight, but with bigger text

Guidelines: Guidelines is aimed at church leaders and students, and provides more in-depth study for today's mission and ministry

The Upper Room: written by its readers all over the world, The Upper Room focuses on finding God in daily experience

Day by Day with God: this series is written for women, by women who have themselves found the Bible a source of strength and inspiration for life

Bible Reflections for Older People: these Bible reflections aimed at older people will bring hope, assurance and sustenance to the reader

If you are interested see Anne Beales who arranges a supply of the notes directly from BRF. As we are a BRF group at St John's we get the notes at a reduced rate.

Anne Beales

anne.beales8@gmail.com 07816221076

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BACK TOGETHER AGAIN AT LAST!

How lovely it was to see 50 people in the church hall on 13 February for the first time in over two years, for our Vintage Afternoon Tea. We have missed our social events- and Zoom just isn't the same- and we raised £462 for St John's!

The Fundraising Team was delighted to be back in organizing mode and prepared sandwiches, home-baked scones (thank you Beth) and cakes. Debra unpacked her beautiful vintage china, linen tablecloths and cake stands and, with Richard's help, transformed the hall into a posh tea room.



Our guests were welcomed with a glass of prosecco (thank you Jane) and Lynn had arranged musical entertainment by Nick and Sarah - perhaps a little too loud for some! There was plenty of chat while everyone enjoyed the occasion.

When the last crumbs had been eaten and doggy bags filled, several people pitched in to help clear up and Billy did a sterling job with the washing up. We realized by 6:30 that we were out of the habit of

organizing social events as we were all ready to collapse for the rest of the evening. So we need more practice! **The next events for you to look forward to are the barbecue on 15th May , jumble sale 9th April and the summer fair on 25th June.** Further details to follow.

If anyone would like to join the Fundraising Team, please speak to one of us. It is fun and we would appreciate some help.

The Fundraising Team (Lynn, Debra, Beth, Janet F, Lisa and Mary).





With things opening up again please help raise much-needed donations for St John's Old Malden - Repairs Fund when you plan ahead and arrange things to do! From booking staycations and getaways to tickets for concerts or other fun activities, remember to use #easyfundraising to raise FREE donations for us. Book now: <http://efraising.org/fx3w1QPP7u>

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Fighting back against plastic

Plastic – specifically plastic waste – has been in the news quite a bit lately. But not only in the news: it's been found in the rivers and oceans, the air, the soil, with effects on the environment, wildlife and human health that are still not fully understood. The plastic we see all too often as litter – food wrapping, bottles, and bags – is only the tip of an iceberg. These products break down into microscopic particles which remain in the environment for generations.

Recycling of course is a great help, but it is only part of the answer. Not all plastics are readily recyclable, and the industry's capacity to recycle even those that are is limited. The UK exports – unsustainably – a vast amount of plastic rubbish, much of it to countries where regulation is lax. There are disturbing reports of plastic waste ostensibly sent for recycling that ends up piled up in rubbish tips, or burnt in heaps out in the open.

Clearly, therefore, a better answer is to use less plastic in the first place, and this is an area where all of us can do our bit. Below are some things we have tried. I am not suggesting that everyone should do all of them! But doing *anything*, no matter how little, is better than nothing.

Shopping

I expect all readers of OMN are already among those people who always take their own bags to the supermarket. Even so, one can still come away from one's weekly shop with a fair amount of plastic packaging. Buying loose fruit and vegetables (take some extra bags to put them in), rather than pre-packaged ones is a start, but fruit and vegetables from a local supplier such as Ross, or Sutton Community Farm, or from a national organic supplier such as Abel and Cole or Riverford will come with little or no plastic around it.

A welcome trend on the high street is the appearance of “zero waste” shops, where one can take and fill one's own containers with dry goods and cleaning products. Refillogic in Surbiton and the recently-opened Honey and Bamboo in Ewell are local examples.

Bathroom

It's been said that every plastic toothbrush ever made still exists. Perhaps some have been incinerated but there must be billions of them around the world, and it's been estimated that each one will take around 1000 years to decompose. For some time now I've been using bamboo toothbrushes. There are several brands available (I'm currently using Bamwo). You can even get bamboo heads for electric toothbrushes (but I haven't tried them).

Toothpaste normally comes in plastic tubes, but here too alternatives are available: one is

toothpaste tabs, tablets of toothpaste you chew into a paste and then use like any other toothpaste, but I am finding toothpaste in a recyclable glass jar (Ben & Anna) easier to use. Both products are available with or without fluoride. Ben & Anna also make deodorant in a cardboard tube – much better than a plastic dispenser.

Shampoo does not have to come in a plastic bottle. I have found a shampoo bar from Earth Kind very satisfactory (especially for travelling), if a bit pricey, but if you are firmly wedded to liquid shampoo, you can refill your bottle. I recently bought a five-litre carton of shampoo from Faith in Nature which will save me throwing out twelve 400ml bottles.

Similarly, don't throw away your liquid handwash dispensers, refill them – the St John's Traidcraft stall will sell you a five-litre carton of very nice-to-use handwash, which, while not cutting out plastic entirely, considerably reduces one's usage.

Laundry-Laundry liquid bottles can also be refilled, but for much of our general washing we use Eco-egg. It's an egg-shaped container filled with special mineral pellets that goes in with the washing, and works well on most washing (heavily stained or soiled washing still needs soaking). It is also claimed to be particularly good for people with skin problems, and as an eczema sufferer for many years, I have certainly noticed an improvement since we started using this system. The pellets need replacing every 7-10 weeks, depending on usage.

Kitchen-The convenience of ready meals has to be weighed against the fact that usually these come with a fair amount of packaging – better to cook from scratch where possible.

We have virtually abandoned clingfilm in favour of Beeswax Food Wrap, a cotton fabric impregnated with beeswax and natural oil and resin. It's washable and can be reused many times

Bottled water is of course not a good idea – what comes out of the tap is perfectly wholesome. If you want fizzy water, one can carbonate one's own tap water, but only at a price. Sodastream is the market leader (although compromised by its activities in the Israeli-occupied West Bank); Bibo is the alternative, but neither is cheap at around £70, plus the ongoing cost of the gas cylinders (the empty ones get returned).

We often use ice cream cartons for the freezer, and Indian takeaway containers acquired during lockdown are also good – in fact when we go to our local Indian we take one or two (when we remember) to bring home any leftovers.

We are currently trialling a washing up brush with a wooden handle – not bad, but we think there may be better ones out there. It's important to let the handle dry out between uses. Perhaps readers of OMN have their own suggestions for cutting down our plastic usage. If so it would be good to share them. Chris Benson

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