

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

August 2025

50p

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Old Malden News

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

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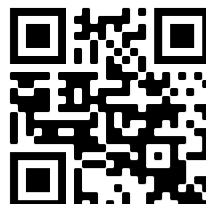
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
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Parish Office:	administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	

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



Services for August



St John's is OPEN

St John's is open 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

Coffee hosted by Mothers' Union after the first Wednesday service of the month.

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

At the end of July we held a discussion as part of our Wednesday Group around the recent legislation regarding Assisted Dying. It was an opportunity for everyone to share their thoughts and opinions about this controversial topic, that sadly reflects the reality of individuals and families struggling with terminal illness and the quality of life near life's end. Death is a very difficult thing for most people to talk about, especially in our Western society where the reality of death is usually hidden away behind hospital or care home doors. It isn't something we deal with until we absolutely have to, when someone we love dies. In order to help us prepare for and deal with death when it comes, the Ministry Team and I aim to facilitate a café-churchstyle discussion called Grave Talk, a Church of England initiative that enables us to reflect on what kind of decisions we want in the way of end-of-life care, as well as plan our own send off to make sure we get what suits us best. The presentation also outlines what legal/financial things need to be done when someone dies as this often takes people by surprise and can be a very daunting task. Having a checklist of things to do and making our wishes known to family and friends now can prevent a lot of headaches in the future. In spite of the seriousness of the topic, Grave Talk aims to be a congenial, light-hearted sharing of thoughts and opinions in a supportive atmosphere. Everyone will be welcome to join us for this, so do lookout for this in the coming months.

As part of my role I of course take a lot of funerals. Over the years I have seen services evolve to meet the changing needs of grieving families. One positive development is that the family and friends of the person are taking more and more of a role in the service itself. There are poems, readings, and personal tributes that make the service much more personal to the person who has died than was once the case. I often wonder what funerals will actually look like in the future, as people move away from the traditional English service we all know. I am clear that the Church must and will evolve as needs change, and have always tried to work with families to create the perfect send off that speaks to their hearts, and not the typical one-size fits all service that loses sight of the individuality of the person we mourn. I often ask undertakers what they think the future holds as we travel back from the crematorium. Recently I asked one senior colleague what he saw as the most pressing need that change has brought and he said without hesitation that it was Direct Cremation, a recent development where the deceased is cremated without a service or gathering. It seems that our uncertain financial times have made people want to avoid the expense of a funeral, while others don't want a fuss at all. I suppose it's a bit like eloping to Gretna Green to get married, but the undertaker pointed out that now they, undertakers, are dealing with families who felt after the fact that they haven't had closure, that they hadn't really had a chance to say good-bye.

Now I don't envision a traditional send off for myself when I am lowered into a hole in the red clay of south Devon, but I do see how important it is to facilitate the grieving process for those I leave behind. I don't want a Victorian funeral but something more personal and relevant to the way I've lived my own life. At St. John's Milly and I always endeavour to make each funeral and memorial service a personal celebration of life. We encourage families to take part in ways that speak to them. We don't use the occasion to hold forth and "evangelise" a captive audience as some of our clergy colleagues do. Instead, we talk about the life and personality of the one we mourn, giving thanks for the love we have received from them, and highlighting how we have experienced something of God's love for us through them. It is vitally important that we can see God's love at work in one another, while also finding comfort in our loss through the love and care of those who mourn with us. I realised a long time ago that a funeral done well can make a real difference helping others begin to get to grips with their grief and begin to put their lives back together.

A good officiant, whether faith-based, Humanist, or Civil, should be able to do this well if we put families first. Unfortunately, in those cases where there isn't a service of any kind, this can be much harder for those grieving. With this in mind I told my undertaker friend that we at St. John's can and do offer a variety of services/opportunities to meet this need for closure regardless of time passed. We can say simple prayers together in a small, intimate gathering, bury ashes, or create a personalised memorial service at an appropriate time for those who want something more. On Sunday 2nd November we will hold our Annual Community Memorial service for those who have died this year. Names are read out as we remember those we love, followed by tea and cake refreshments. Everyone is very welcome to join us for this inclusive service.

Over twenty years I have taken hundreds of funerals and memorial services, all different to reflect the uniqueness of the person who died. From standing room only crowds, to ones with no one attending, for families who wanted everything with no expense spared to those where fees were waived because the family could not afford a service at all. Each and every one a privilege for me to take, and something we all deserve so I would remind everyone to not be afraid to ask for what you need when the time comes so that those you leave behind can find that healing and wholeness they need when you are gone.

With Every Blessing,
Michael

Sharing a prayer – A night collect

Chris Benson

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I feel very blessed to be able to sink gratefully into bed at the end of the end of the day and generally be asleep within only a few minutes. But it was not always so; and even now, if some anxiety is on my mind, the brain starts churning, and sleep can occasionally be elusive. That's when this prayer can be helpful. It comes from the Church's ancient and beautiful night service of Compline, the last service of the monastic day. Compline disappeared from Anglican liturgies at the time of the Reformation, but was revived in the 1928 Prayer Book, and now has an assured place in Common Worship, although sadly underused.

The prayer's opening words, "Be present," are striking. Of course we know intellectually that God is always present, everywhere and with everyone. But so often that presence seems elusive, especially in "the silent hours of the night," perhaps because we don't know quite what it looks like. The priest-poet R S Thomas writes of it as a "great absence / that is like a presence," the paradox that it is when God seems to have utterly deserted us (or rather, when our preconceptions and assumptions about him have been proved wrong) that he is most truly with us.

And then we pray that we may be protected. As with the Collect for Grace in my last article, of course we would love God to mend the electrical fault that threatens to burn the house down, foil the burglar trying to break in, or calm the storm trying to blow the roof off, but this is not necessarily the kind of protection God has in mind for us. Rather our prayer is that whatever

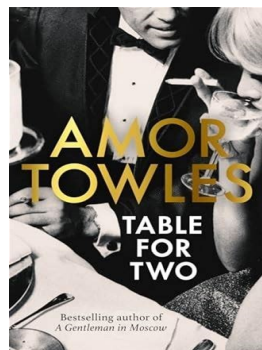
happens, despite “the changes and chances of this fleeting world” – its uncertainties, troubles, frustrations and setbacks – we can always find “repose”, rest and peace on his “eternal changelessness”.

The prayer rather charmingly suggests that God is like the most comfortable bed we can imagine. It would be going too far to claim that it acts like an effective sleeping tablet, but we can still sink into God’s enveloping, loving softness knowing that he is always, unchangingly, there for us. Jesus, God *with* us (Matthew 1.23), is our guarantee.

St John's Reading Group 2025

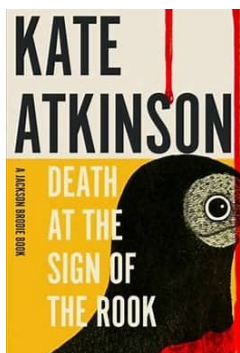
AUGUST

At our July meeting, we discussed a collection of short stories by Amor Towles entitled **Table for Two** – the author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *The Lincoln Highway*. This comprises six stories based in New York City and a novella set in Golden Age Hollywood. This choice was a departure for the group as we do not usually select short stories but they certainly provided us with a good discussion.



The six short stories proved to be the most interesting – the peasant Pushkin's 'capitalist' enterprise with a lovely twist at the end, the young man who 'forged' signatures for first editions, the painting that was cut up and the pieces distributed to family members, the mystery of the skating husband whose wife is convinced he is having an affair.....

Most of us would have preferred more short stories than the longer novella at the end. It was interesting to a point but confusing with so many characters. However, the collection is very well written with tongue-in-cheek humour. The overall score was 6½/10.

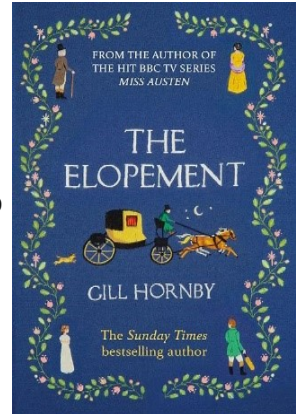


For August we are reading **Death at the Sign of the Rook** by Kate Atkinson – this is the sixth Jackson Brodie novel and rather reminiscent of an Agatha Christie set. In an isolated county house, Burton Makepeace, a group of various characters has gathered for a murder mystery weekend and is marooned by a snow storm. Dark humour, murder, hidden secrets prevail – but 'fiction' soon takes a chilling turn. There are many questions that need answering!

For September, we shall be reading **The Women** by Kristin Hannah.

Set against the background of the Vietnam War, it is such a gripping read and difficult to put down. A good read.

If you have read and enjoyed Miss Austen *Godmersham Park* and are enjoying the Jane Austen anniversary – then you may enjoy Jill Hornby's latest novel, *The Elopement*. Set in 1820, it is a family saga, introducing Fanny, Jane Austen's niece, who marries a local landowner with several children of his own. One of these children, Mary falls in love – and the elopement is planned. Ms Hornby's research is comprehensive and you can be instantly transported back to Georgian England. A great summer read. My follow-up read to this novel will be *Mansfield Park* which I do not remember reading. A Jane Austen summer for me then.



As I write this, Wimbledon tennis commences its second week – so after that, more time to read and try to re-energise the garden after all the heat.

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

So why not discover a new book – or re-read a classic. Make it a good summer read!

Marilyn

Maeldune Summer Fair - 21 June 2025

Another bright, sunny day dawned as we celebrated our annual Maeldune Festival on Plough Green.

The Worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston, Councillor Noel Hadjimichael, opened the fair at 11 o'clock and soon people were trying their luck at the coconut shy, the bottle tombola and various games, buying jewellery, toys, plants and books or admiring the art of spinning wool. Our visitors enjoyed hot dogs, chilled drinks, cakes & fruit cups. Lovers of 'toilet humour' tried their luck at lobbing toilet rolls into a toilet pan, which turned out to be fiercely competitive! Local Community Police kindly security-marked bicycles and visitors bought bricks which will be used to help restore our historic church building.

Entertainment in the arena was provided by children from Malden Parochial School - who danced round the maypole and sang - and the 'New Mugs' group from New Malden played crowd pleasers on their ukuleles.

At 3 o'clock the raffle was drawn and everyone tidied up for another year. Over £3,000 was raised towards the upkeep and restoration of St. John's and to support outreach activities.

The organising team would like to thank everyone who supported our fair and especially:

The Royal Borough of Kingston, especially the Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Neil Hadjimichael

The Community Police

Miller and Carter

Chessington Garden Centre for assistance with transport

Ross Fruiterers for donating and supplying fruit

Local businesses for donations for the Silent Auction

The children, staff and families from Malden Parochial School

The 'New Mugs' ukelele group

Members of our congregation and local community for running and supporting the fair.

We'll see you in 2026!

The Fundraising Team

Heritage Open Days 2025

12th - 15th September

St. John's will once again be participating in Heritage Open Days when the church will be

open as follows.

Friday 12th - 11.00am to 4.00pm

Saturday 13th - 10.00am to 5.00pm

Sunday 14th - 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Monday 15th - 11.00am to 4.00pm

Volunteers will be required to welcome visitors to the church. If you are able to help

during any of the times listed above please speak to me or fill in the rota in church later

this month.

Pat Lovegrove (02089427699 or patlovegrove4@gmail.com)



SUMMER PROJECT - KNIT A POPPY

For the past few years, we have made poppies for the Remembrance Service as we decorate the church.

If you would like to help us make additional poppies – here is a straightforward pattern for a knitted poppy:

You will need red DK yarn plus a black ball/or button plus 4mm needles (size 8)

4 Petals required for each poppy.

Using red yarn

Row 1 RS knit

Row 2 KFB (knit forward and back into next stitch), k to last 2 sts. KFB, k1 (7 sts)

Row 3 as 2nd row (9 sts)

Row 4 as 2nd row (11 sts)

Rows 6-8 Knit

Row 9 Slip 1, k2 together, pass slip stitch over, k to last 4 sts, k2 together twice (7 sts)

Rows 10-12 knit

Row 13 as row 9 (3sts)

Row 14 Cast off.

Centre using black yarn: cast on 16 sts and then cast off.

Weave in the ends of the petals, assemble the petals into a circle and use the ends to sew together. Coil the black into a circle and sew into the centre of the petal (or use a black button).

Marilyn

St John's Knitting & Crochet Group - August 2025

Work in progress.....

Would you like to learn to crochet? If so, come along and join us on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Coffee Lounge.

A 4mm crochet hook and a ball of DK yarn is all you need.

Our August meeting will be on Thursday 28th August from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

Maybe you would like to learn to knit? Learn how to follow a pattern...Open to all - do come and join us!

Bring along your summer project!

Or bring your embroidery or tapestry! Or just come along for a friendly chat and cup of tea.

Marilyn

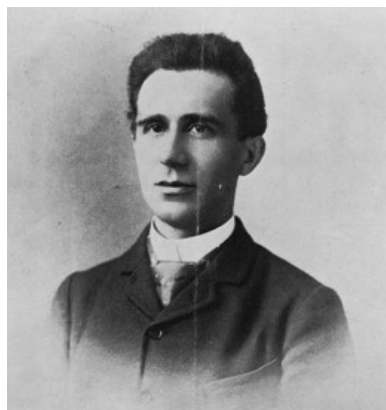


Hog's Bristle, Tin Foil and Soot: a brief History of Early Sound Recording 1860 – 1924, Part 3

Last month I described the innovations of Thomas Edison with his **Phonograph** and those of Alexander Graham Bell with his Volta Laboratory Associates and their **Graphophone**. Washington DC in the 1880s seems to have been a hotbed of sound recording and playback innovation. But the eagle-eyed among you will have noted that we don't use either of the above inventions in today's "vinyl revival" era. Nor, indeed, were they used for most of the twentieth century.

Emile Berliner c.1875

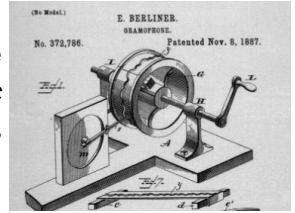
Into the maelstrom of invention and experiment happening in the USA at this time comes a young German émigré by the name of Emile Berliner. Born in Hanover in 1851 he emigrated to the New World to avoid being drafted in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. Although from a merchant family, invention was his real interest and he studied physics at night school after moving to Washington.



He was inspired to start work on recording technology after seeing Bell and Tainter's Graphophone of 1886. He was also aware of de Martinville's work with the Phonautograph in 1860s Paris. Interestingly his first sound machine, built in 1887, used a cylinder covered in lamp-black as the Frenchman had done and also traced its grooves laterally (side-to-side). But Berliner did two things differently. First, he added oil to the lamp-black which gave a better surface to the cutting stylus. Second (a more significant development) he then made a stereotyped copy of the recording engraved onto metal by a photoengraving process. The resultant metal recording could be played back on another device with a stylus following the lateral grooves and making a diaphragm vibrate. Neither the Phonograph nor the Graphophone had techniques for duplicating recordings at this stage nor for many years later. If they

wanted multiple copies the poor recording artist had to repeat their performance many times.

For his new invention Berliner borrowed from de Martinville's *phonautograms* and *phonautographic records* called his device a **Gramophone** on his patent application in late 1887.



Quite quickly Berliner realised that the duplicating function could be improved if copies were stamped out from a matrix and that the matrix would be easier to make if the recording surface were a flat disc rather than a cylinder. So he did just that and with the help of an assistant also produced machines that would reproduce these new disc records.

Berliner Gramophones c.1888



Like the early Phonographs this Gramophone was a pretty crude device. Furthermore Berliner was still experimenting with a material for his records. Initially he used zinc and later copper, although these tended to produce noisy results. He tried celluloid which was better but wore out too quickly and then hard vulcanised rubber.

Berliner disc c.1892

Eventually he settled on a combination of shellac, powdered grit (as a filler) and lamp-black again (as colour). As with the other competing sound technologies the early shellac discs didn't have very good recording quality. In fact some of the first discs had the words of the songs printed on the back in case they couldn't be heard! (All the discs were single-sided) But over time the process was improved, the quality improved and Berliner founded a number of companies in North America and his native Germany.



Maiden Lane 1898

He also got one of his agents to start one in Great Britain in April 1898 which was called simply The Gramophone Company. A few years later it became HMV, later still EMI and is now part of Universal Music Group. Berliner's agent chose premises in Maiden Lane, Covent Garden and this was Britain's and indeed Europe's first recording studio. The building survives and a Westminster Council green plaque marks this chapter in the recording history.



So by the mid 1890s there was a format war – the first of many in the audio and audio-visual world. On the one side was Edison's Phonograph and the American Graphophone Company both selling cylinders (and most could be played on either type of machine). Cylinders could be pre-recorded or blank so the customer could make their own recordings if they were skilled enough. But the wax surfaces were delicate and they couldn't be reproduced in large numbers. On the other side was Berliner's various companies selling flat disc records. These could only be offered as pre-recorded items but could be easily duplicated in their hundreds and later thousands. At this stage it was by no means clear which side would win.

To be continued

Ben Jackson



St. John's weekly get together for all those who would enjoy a cup of tea, piece of cake, and meeting new people! Run by St. John's volunteers every week on **Thursdays from 2:00-4:00pm** at the **Church Hall 411 Malden Road**



THE RESTORE PROJECT IS NOT OVER YET!

Phase 1, the buttress repair may be over but there is still a need to complete repairs to;

- The tower brickwork
- The broken tower roofing & parapet
- The leaking nave roof & dormer window
- The leaking vestry roof
- Internal damp.



The overall cost of repairs remains about £450,000, although this sum has been reduced by our ability to fund the buttress repairs from grants from Marshall's Charity and the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust.

Nevertheless, to make the overall project financially feasible it is being undertaken in stages (Phases).

Repairs apart, we want to expand our community support by

- Opening our building to wider community use as a hub for use by heritage, nature, and environmental organisations.
- Building on our current social care activities, such as supporting carers' of family members and friends with dementia, and offering ways of helping people prepare for the death of loved ones (Dying Matters/ GraveTalk).
- A greater involvement with our local schools by hosting school groups exploring our rich historical and natural heritage.

These are dependent on having structurally safe and sound buildings.

The next stage is PHASE 2, which will;

- Complete the repairs to the tower and tower parapet
- Repair the pitched nave roofs
- Start at least one new activity benefiting our local community – a dementia carers support group is most timely as is the hub.

Estimated cost for the tower repair is £227,000 (ex VAT), the roofs £60,500 (ex VAT), totalling £287,500 plus VAT £57,500. Costs for the social care and hub activities will be on top. Final tenders will up-date these estimates.

To fund Phase 2, our grants committee is putting together applications to a number of external funding organisations. It is a time-consuming

complex process, requiring explaining who we are, what we do, what we want to do, the need for urgent building repairs, how our social activities will benefit the community, our partnerships (what our hub users will do), and providing detailed costs and other financial details.

All grant giving organisations have strict rules stipulating;

- what they fund
- how much they will give
- how much the applicant (**us**) must raise themselves prior to making an application.

While we have so far been successful in raising our own funds, we have also had to employ architectural and advisory professionals and fund Phase 1.

It is critical we continue fundraising to meet the grant giving organisations rules. However, the success of the Restore Project is not only dependent on monies from grant giving organisations, but on us too.

We acknowledge and thank everyone who has donated to the Restore Project – well done!

St John's Word Search No 3 Churchyard flowers

R	G	L	D	T	U	F	T	E	D	V	E	T	C	H
D	A	V	L	D	A	N	D	E	L	I	O	N	I	P
R	Q	G	Z	E	C	S	G	S	B	Z	N	T	G	U
A	N	J	W	E	W	H	U	D	N	E	R	X	P	C
E	M	H	Y	O	E	D	I	C	T	E	R	V	T	R
B	B	M	L	W	R	H	E	T	O	I	M	M	U	E
S	L	C	P	A	C	T	L	E	O	R	L	X	P	T
T	U	Q	F	R	D	E	N	K	P	B	C	K	R	T
A	E	D	O	V	S	Y	F	A	B	S	H	H	I	U
O	B	E	T	E	E	W	S	W	O	D	A	E	M	B
G	E	Y	L	Q	E	J	O	M	Q	U	D	W	R	E
B	L	B	X	A	L	F	D	A	O	T	I	V	O	B
Y	L	S	E	L	F	H	E	A	L	C	W	L	S	Z
S	L	I	D	O	F	F	A	D	H	O	K	B	E	H
H	C	A	K	K	F	B	R	I	Y	L	J	C	F	G

BEEORCHID

BLUEBELL

BUTTERCUP

CROCUS

DAFFODILD

DANDELION

GOATSBEARD

LADYSMOCK

MEADOWSWEET

NETTLES

PRIMROSE

RAGWORT

SELFHEAL

SPEEDWELL

TOADFLAX

TUFTEDVETCH

Find the words in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other. MCB.

Malden Manor Primary and Nursery school are looking for a community (non parent) governor to join our team. We are a passionate, enthusiastic and friendly group of governors who work together with the SLT to strategically lead the school.

We are volunteers who meet as a Full Governing Body 4 times a year and also attend committee meetings twice a term. These meetings are held in the evening, either virtually or in person. Meetings are between 1- 2 hours in length. (Usually on a Monday). Preparation in reading papers for these meetings is required.

As well as meeting, we also come into school to see for ourselves the wonderful things that are happening at Malden Manor.

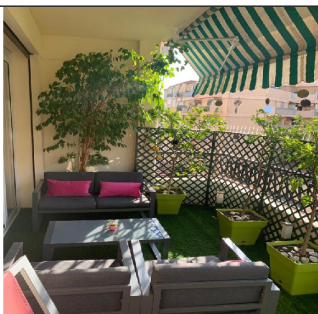
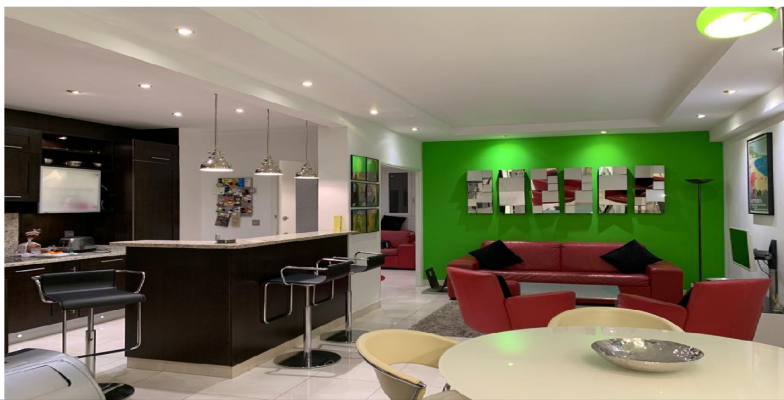
You do not need to have any experience - full training will be provided and we have a wealth of experience between us to guide a new governor. All we ask is that you are able to give a little of your time to support a local school.

If you are interested or know anyone else who might be and have any further questions, please email the clerk to the Governing Body at: clerk@maldenmanor.rbksch.org

Rachel Lambert
Chair of the Governing Body



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Browse the website or call/email Patrick on 07968 695697

Patrickgriley@hotmail.com



**There are boxes on the church porch bench for
your donations to the Foodbank.**

**Foodbanks are now vital to so many people
and our support is really important.**

Please donate if you are able.

Tinned meat, Long-life milk, Coffee, Rice, Pasta
sauce, Squash, Instant mash, Tinned vegetables,
Pot Noodles, Oils, Ketchup and mayonnaise,
Sanitary towels, Toilet paper, Washing up liquid,
Household cleaning products, Washing machine
tablets, Shaving foam , Men's and women's
deodorant, Tinned potatoes, Crisps and treats,
Tinned tomatoes, Shampoo and conditioner,
Tooth paste and toothbrushes, Biscuits, Jam ,
Pasta , Cereals, Pulses, Baked beans , Soup ,Tea.



UHT Milk Appeal

Thank you for your generous donations as our UHT Milk stock is running low.



Tinned Meat

Thank you for your generous donations as our Tinned Meat stock is running low.



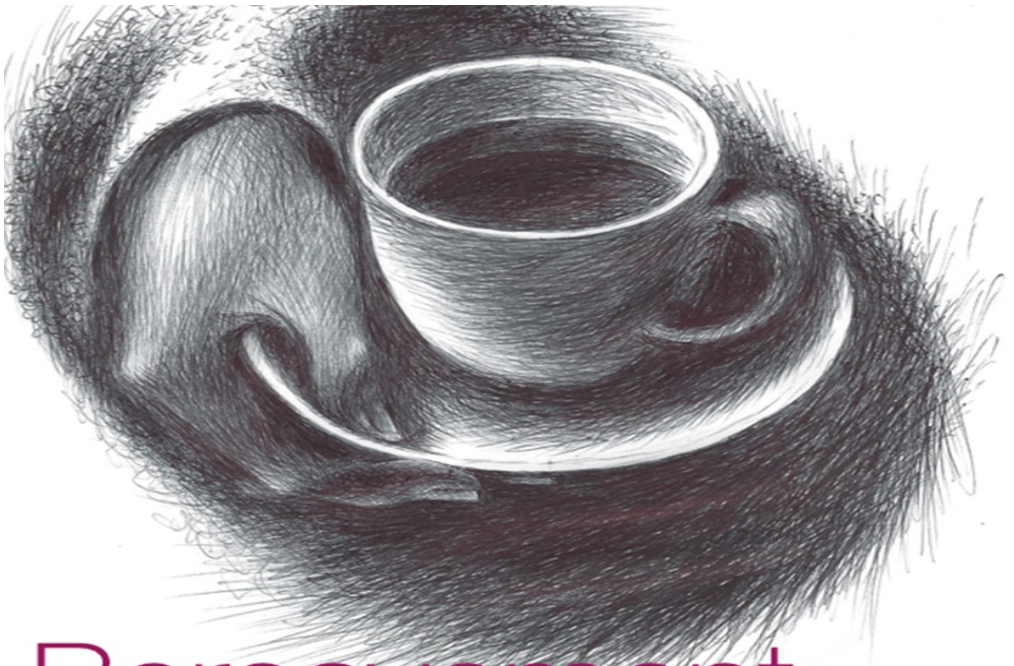
The Men's Thing

Spring/summer programme of talks held on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the church extension. Tea, coffee biscuits etc. available from 10am for a 10.30am start.

August 9th - Coffee, cake and chat.

September 13th- Paul Kohler MP, talking about his first year as an MP.

October 11th - A talk by Peter Chugg, The Day in the Life of a Race Officer.



Bereavement Café

In partnership with Princess Alice Hospice , St John's runs an informal support group for all those experiencing the loss of a loved one. The next meeting will be in the coffee lounge at St. John's on Tuesday 16th September 2:00- 3:30pm.



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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