

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

August 2023

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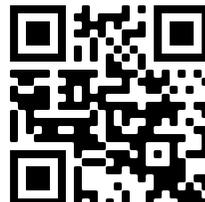
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

Directory

Vicar	The Revd Michael Roper gore_lodge@yahoo.co.uk	020 8337 8830
Asst Priest	The Revd Milly Broome m.broome@hotmail.co.uk	020 8337 1572
Reader & Choir Director	Mrs Marilyn Burkett m.c.burkett@btinternet.com	020 8337 6017
Pastoral Asst	Mr Anthony Pullen tony@pullen.me.uk	020 8949 6784
Organist	Mr Barry Eaton	020 8949 1708
Church Wardens	Mrs Lynn Sanger Mr Mike Broome	020 8715 2066 020 8337 1572
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
PCC Treasurer	Mr Alastair Harris	020 8241 1087
Parish Administrator	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
Safeguarding Officers	Mrs Sally Pusey Ms Marie McGuire	020 8330 2817 07535 878107
Church Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Steve Clarke	020 8337 2392
Hall Bookings	Mrs Pat Sutton	020 8942 8321
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 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

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

It is now well and truly Summer! I reflected on that as I watched Year 6 at Malden Parochial make the Bubble Walk on their last day of primary school. For all of them it marks a big transition as they complete the first phase of their education, and then look forward to a new school in September. Each child has been part of what makes our own church school so special, shaped by the learning opportunities and the hard work of a dedicated teaching team. St. John's has also played our part, becoming a church home as we marked the seasons in worship and prayer together in our ancient building, as well as weekly collective worship in school. Many of us have been School Governors and staff at MPS, doing our bit to make God's love real for each and every child entrusted to our school community. I would like to say to all of Year Six that all of us at St. John's wish them well in the future and remind them that St. John's is always home for them as well, wherever life may take them.

Another transition has been saying farewell to Mrs. Pavlis, our Head Teacher for almost thirteen years. Susan came to us at a difficult time for the School and poured herself into getting us back on track. She has built a dynamic team who have gone above and beyond out of loyalty to her, and more importantly, out of love and care for the children. Susan led the School through all the uncertainty and changing guidance during the pandemic, keeping MPS open against the odds. She and the staff helped our children achieve a "Good" result in our most recent Ofsted inspection under the new Government criteria, keeping Parochial among the highest achieving schools locally. Personally, I am very grateful to her for welcoming me and sharing the School with me as Vicar of St. John's, renewing the ties between Church and School while sharing God's love with our wider school community. It has been a privilege and we wish her well for the future.

In September, Lucy McMullan takes the helm as our new Head Teacher. She has already met with Governors and most of the staff, as well as attended St. John's on a Sunday to see what our Church is like and meet some of us. I hope you all will join me as we join Lucy in the next stage of our School's development, and recommit ourselves to serve the children

and families who are members of the extended family that is St. John's. It promises to be an exciting time!

In the meantime I would like to encourage everyone to make the most of the Summer, to find opportunities for much needed rest and a recharge of our batteries. It's a wonderful time to enjoy the outdoors and to meet friends and family. In Church we have our £10 Challenge to consider and I hear that many of you are being very creative while raising money for St. John's. I hope it proves to be a bit of fun for all ages, giving everyone an opportunity to do something different to help the Church. We aim to collect your largesse during our Harvest Festival on 1st October, so we still have time to take part but don't leave it too long and miss out.

Sundays in August, we celebrate the Transfiguration of Christ on the 6th and the Virgin Mary gets a look-in on the 13th. The next Worship for All will be Sunday 20th as Harvey Howlett provides the input for the 9:45am service. July's All-age is a tough act to follow as Children's Ministry did a stellar job presenting the Parable of the Sower, but I'm sure Harvey will come up trumps too!

Further ahead we look forward to September and the Season of Creation as we celebrate God's gifts to us in his Creation. Blessing of the Backpacks will take place at the end of the 9:45am service on the 3rd September as we prepare for the beginning of the new school year and move full cycle once again! Make the most of the Summer, it won't last long! *Michael*

Raffle results from the Maeldune Fair

1st prize: £100 -- Krissie D'Souza

2nd prize: Luxury Fairtraid Hamper -- Des Bransgrove

3rd prize: Bottle of Champagne -- Deborah Harris

4th prize: Box of toiletries -- Lucy McMullan

5th prize: Bottle of prosecco -- Jane Endean

Many thanks to all who bought tickets. We made £340!!



The Hover Fly

Only when the sun shines
the hover fly, tiger striped
waits.

Then, friendly, in your face,
homes in,
quietly hums and hangs
in mid-air
static,
except for the glimmer of wings.

Without due warning freefalls
and plummets
on an invisible current
of air.

Crash lands on the meadowsweet
to feed.

© Sue Burley

Alpine Plants

Alpine plants live in very harsh conditions. The harshest conditions are in the Alpine tundra which is above the tree line, which in the Alps is above 2,000 metres. The highest mountain in the UK is Ben Nevis which is approximately 1,345 metres.

It is colder and windier on top of a mountain when compared to the valleys, the sun is more intense and the snow can be on the ground for much longer. For plants to survive, they need to adjust to these conditions, and some of the ways they adapt are:

- Thick cushions that nestle close to the rock to reduce the plant's exposure
- Small leaves with hairs or a thick layer of wax to protect the leaves
- Large aromatic flowers that lure the pollinators
- Long shoots that hold onto rubble and boulders.

One of the most endearing features of alpine plants is the large flowers which, in comparison to the small plant, make the plants so attractive.

Alpine plants include gentians, dwarf campion, dwarf rhododendron, alpine clematis and edelweiss.

As you may be aware, the Alpine environment is coming under pressure from climate change, with glaciers melting and the plants retreating up the mountains - another reason to tackle climate change.

Keith Marshall





A Notable 400th Anniversary

2023 marks the 400th anniversary of the death of William Byrd, unquestionably one of the finest composers England has ever produced. His music – in almost every genre of his day – stands as a wonderful monument, not only to his talent, but also to his ability to navigate the perilous path of a Roman Catholic in the protestant



England of Elizabeth I and James I. That path led, at best, to prejudice, harassment and heavy fines, and at worst to torture and execution, a fate suffered by some that Byrd knew personally, and with whom his association got him into potentially serious trouble.

Little is known of his early life – even the year of his birth is uncertain, although it is now thought probable that it was 1540. He was born in London near St Paul's Cathedral (the vast Gothic building destroyed the Great Fire of 1666), and since two his brothers were choristers there, it is likely that this was also where William also received his early musical education. During his teenage years he seems to have become a pupil of Thomas Tallis, the greatest composer of the previous generation. It may have been Tallis who was responsible for getting him his first job, as organist and master of the choristers at Lincoln Cathedral, in 1563, when he would have been about 23.

Byrd's family were protestants, but while at Lincoln he met and married a Catholic woman, Julian Burley, and it may have been through her that he became attracted to the Roman Catholic faith, or perhaps had pre-existing Catholic leanings confirmed. Julian (then a woman's name) was regularly cited for recusancy – failing to attend Anglican services. Musicians have not infrequently fallen out with church authorities over the centuries, and Byrd was among them, as the increasingly puritan cathedral clergy in Lincoln took exception to his elaborate organ playing, and perhaps his compositions. His surviving keyboard music shows that he must have been a formidable virtuoso. So when a coveted post became available at the

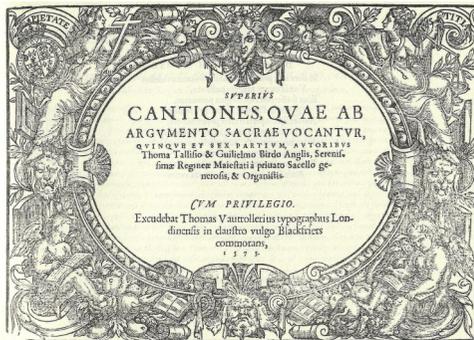
Queen's Chapel Royal, Byrd did not hesitate to take it and move to London.

The Chapel Royal was not (and, strictly speaking, still is not) a building, but an organisation of clergy and musicians who attended the royal court wherever it happened to be. Working as a "Gentleman" of the Chapel Royal allowed

Byrd much more scope to compose the music he wanted (for the Queen was an ardent music lover, and wanted none but the best in her Chapel Royal), and also to cultivate powerful contacts at court who were able to protect him when his Catholicism put him and his career at risk. Indeed, he seems to have enjoyed the protection of the Queen herself.

Byrd was also able to maintain his professional relationship with Tallis, and in 1575 the Queen granted the two of them a 21-year monopoly on the printing of music and music paper. The first result of this collaboration was the 1575 *Cantiones Sacrae*, to which each composer contributed 17 motets, one for each of the years of the Queen's reign, all of them, significantly, in Latin, rather than English as officially favoured by the Church of England. Two further *Cantiones Sacrae* publications came out in 1589 and 1591. At this time also he began publishing English songs, largely intended for solo voice accompanied by viols. Several of the texts set by Byrd, such *Quomodo Cantabimus* ("How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?") betray his longing to see the Catholic faith restored in England, yet, whether from necessity or conviction, he seems to have remained unflinching in his loyalty to the protestant monarchy, and he continued to write fine music to English texts for the Anglican services of the Chapel Royal.

Around 1594 Byrd went into semi-retirement. He moved to the village of Standon Massey in Essex, where he built up contacts with local Catholic gentry and certainly attended clandestine illegal celebrations of Mass in their homes. Remarkably (given that even possessing such music could put one under the suspicion of the authorities) between 1592 and 1595 he published settings of the Mass in three, four and five parts which would have been used in these services



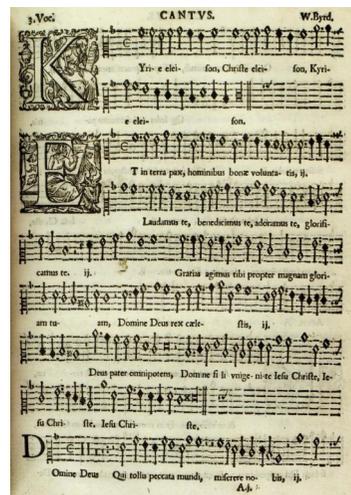
with whatever singers (and, probably, instrumentalists) were available. Even more risky, since they were solely intended for the Roman Rite, were Byrd's two volumes of *Gradualia* (1605 and 1607), settings of the seasonal texts appropriate to the various feasts of the Church's year.

Byrd spent the rest of his long life in Standon Massey. His name crops up in several lawsuits concerning property in the area. He was heavily fined several times for recusancy, but seems to have kept enough powerful friends to ensure that he was otherwise protected. He continued to compose keyboard music and songs, and died on 4 July 1623 from heart failure at very ripe old age for the time, probably around 83.

Byrd's music covers a wide range of expression, from the deeply personal sense of loss in his lament on the death of his old master Tallis, *Ye Sacred Muses*, and the profound spirituality of his Mass settings and Latin motets, through to the grandeur of his "Great Service", a magnificent setting of the canticles for morning and evening prayer, for two five-part choirs. There is rejoicing in his English anthems, like *Sing Joyfully*, and wit and humour in his secular songs, such as *My Mistress had a Little Dog*, and *In Fields Abroad*, with its suggestive *doubles entendres*. Many of the instrumental pieces show an affection for the lively popular tunes of the day.

400 years on, William Byrd's music continues to delight and inspire players and singers, and those who listen to them, and to demonstrate the power of music to transcend religious divisions.

Chris Benson





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Church**

Jumble SALE



**Saturday
30th September
10am - 12pm**

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**HERITAGE OPEN
DAYS 2023
8th - 11th September**



St. John's will be OPEN for
Heritage Open Days as follows:

Friday 8th	- 11.00 am to 4.00pm
Saturday 9th	- 10.00 am to 5.00 pm
Sunday 10th	- 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm
Monday 11th	- 11.00 am to 4.00 pm

Volunteers will be required to welcome visitors to the church. If you are able to help during any of the times listed above please fill in the form in Church (available later in August) or contact Pat Lovegrove (8942 7699) email: lovegrove276@btinternet.com. You do not need to have knowledge of local history or architecture, just be friendly and welcoming.

The history timeline boards will tell the very long and interesting history of St. John's and Maeldune over many centuries from Early Iron Age to present time.

HOD's continue to celebrate all aspects of local heritage, with hundreds of events taking place locally and nationally - all of them free. For details about all other participating venues go to www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Heritage Open Days is supported by The National Trust and People's Postcode Lottery.



Surrey Churches Preservation Trust

SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE ***Saturday 9th September 2023***

This annual sponsored event for Surrey Churches Preservation Trust takes place on Saturday 9th September and cyclists and walkers visit as many participating churches as possible during the day. Any money raised is divided in two – half to their choice of church and half to the Trust for distribution to Surrey churches in need.

In recent years several families have had an enjoyable day out whilst participating in this event, so it would be good to have many others taking part this year helping to raise money for St. John's Restoration Project.

Sponsorship forms available in church.

SIR CHARLES ALFRED ELLIOTT (1835-1911)



Photo gravure.

Survey of India Offices, Calcutta, February 1901.

SIR CHARLES ALFRED ELLIOTT, K.C.S.I.

From a photograph by Messrs Johnston & Hoffmann.

If you walk around St John's Churchyard, you cannot fail but notice the beautiful red sandstone Celtic-style cross just beyond the extension. This is a memorial to the illustrious Sir Charles Alfred Elliott (1835-1911) K.C.S.I., CB. Although he did not live in the parish, his family selected our churchyard for his burial and his memorial. Our burial records and the memorial cross also list the additional family members buried here: Charles Alfred Elliott/died May 28th 1911, also his second wife, Alice Elliott/died March 8th 1930 and Charles' sister, Blanche Ellen Elliott, sister (1839-1923) /died 14th March 1923. Also named on the memorial are Mabel Edith Elliott/died August 27th 1952, also Doreen Alice Elliott/died March 1st 1966, and Frank Louis Dumbell Elliott, son/died March 26th 1939.

The memorial records that Sir Charles was a former Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. He had a very interesting career as many national newspaper obituaries record.



Sir Charles was born in 1835 in Brighton. His father, Henry Venn Elliott was a priest and his mother, Julia, was a poet. He was educated at Harrow and Trinity College Cambridge and at the age of 21, he joined the Indian Civil Service at the first open competition of 1856. Serving in the North West Provinces with the 20th Hussars (late 2nd Bengal European Cavalry), he assisted in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny in 1857, being mentioned in despatches and earning a medal of which he was always very proud. On the 24th May, 1878, he was given the Order of the Star of India. From 1879-85 he was Secretary to the Government of N W Province. He was a very good organiser and gained special thanks for assisting with the Famine Commission in 1878-80.

In the meantime, he married Louisa Jane Dumbell on the Isle of Man in 1866.

He remarried in 1897 to Alice Louisa Murray who born in Belfast in 1846. They were married 23 years until Charles' death.

Charles Alfred served as Lieutenant Governor of Bengal for five years, carrying out many judicial reforms, not without opposition against a growing force of local opposition. On his retirement in 1895, he returned to London and became a member of the London School Board as a co-opted member and then as a co-opted member of the Education Committee of the London County Council. He became a manager of the 'Jews Free School' in Bell Lane in 1905.



In this photograph of 'Indian Civil Servants', Charles Alfred is seated in the front row, second from the right.

His opinions were very much of the 'old school' and he sometimes failed to recognise the strength of the opposition against him – he was 'little disposed to consider Indian tradition or conviction'. He continued to involve himself in Indian affairs and was a regular letter-writer to The Times on controversial issues.

He retired to Fernwood, Wimbledon Park. On the 1911 census, Fernwood was recorded as having 23 rooms with 8 servants. Charles led an active life until his health began to fail. He was S.W. Member of the House of Laymen and of the Representative Church Council, Chairman of Toynbee Hall and J.P. for Surrey. He died during the parish Eucharist at St Paul's Church, Wimbledon on May 28, 1911, aged 75, In his will, probate was granted to Dame Alice Louisa Elliott, widow, and his son, the Revd Henry Venn Elliott, Clerk (in Holy Orders) – the sum of £85,386 12s 4d and re-sworn as £85,424 2s 4d. This would be the equivalent of over £8 million today. On the 1921 census, Alice was living at Coombe Manor Park. Alice died in 1930 leaving

Charles' funeral at St John's was conducted by the Suffragan Bishop of Southwark, Cecil Kingston on 1st June 1911. In the Evening Mail of February 1912, he was described as 'a true-hearted friend, a distinguished member of the Indian Civil Service and an exemplary servant of the state and of the public.'

His children were: Alfred Charles Elliott (b.1870), Claude Aurelius Elliott, Frank Louis Dumbell Elliott (1874-1939) who became Assistant Commissioner in the Metropolitan Police, Henry Venn Elliott, Julius Marshall Elliott (b.1872) and Mary Ann Elliott.

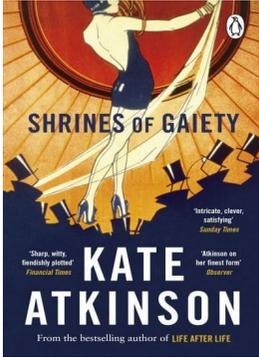
Fernwood became part of the Wimbledon Park Estate and was re-developed in the 1930s. I have yet to track down any photos of the house but have contacted the Friends of Wimbledon Park, Wimbledon Library having no record of the house.



Sources: *British Newspaper Obituaries*, *Ancestry*, *Find My Past*, *The Genealogist*,
St John's Burial Records

St John's Reading Group

August 2023

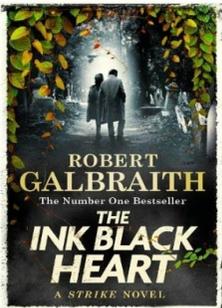
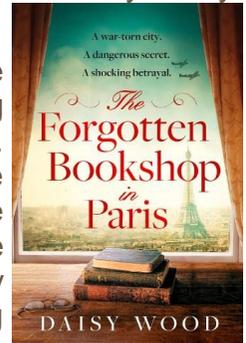


For July we selected Kate Atkinson's new novel **'Shrines of Gaiety'** – set in 1920s London. As the nightclub owner, Nellie Coker is released from Holloway Prison for contravening alcohol licensing laws, we find ourselves in a different world. With her six children and many additional characters, it would be easy to become overwhelmed by all the names. However, night-club life, rival owners, gangsters and corrupt policemen, as well as the young girls trying to find fame in the big city, all add to the local colour. It is told with some quirky

humour too and most of us found it to be a good read with an average score of 8/10.

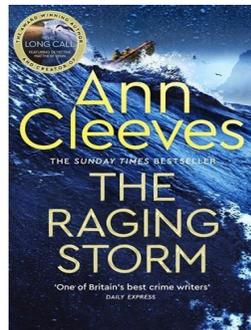
For August, our choice is *The Forgotten Bookshop in Paris* by Daisy Wood.

Set in wartime Paris in 1940, Jacques and his wife are forced into hiding. All he holds dear is disappearing before his eyes but he still has his beloved bookshop. One night a young woman and her child knock on the door and beg for refuge. Risks have to be taken but life is so precious. It seems a familiar theme as I read *The French Baker's War* recently. That was written by Michael Whatling. Still on WWII, an extremely moving and sometimes harrowing read, is *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay. It was recommended to me by a French guide when I was on holiday in France recently.



Looking ahead to our August reading so we shall be ready in September, there is a choice. If you favour a long read, then Robert Galbraith's *Ink Black Heart* is now a hefty tome in paperback – or on more modern classic lines, then we have selected *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

There are lots of 'summer reads' in our bookshops now – even if the summer weather seems to be rather unreliable at the moment. If you a fan of Anne Cleeves and the Matthew Venn series, then you may like to watch out for The Raging Storm, the latest in the series.



Then there are always the favourite classics to revisit: Pride and Prejudice never fails. I may select another Brontë novel this summer.

Whatever your choice, let me know if you have any brilliant recommendations you would like to share.

Our next Reading Group meeting will be on Thursday 3rd August at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. Remember – it is never too hot (or wet) to read!

Marilyn



St John's Knitting & Crochet Group will be meeting on the last Thursday afternoon of the month, 31st August, in the Church Coffee Lounge. Beginners welcome. Would you like to learn to crochet? Or knit?

Bring your knitting or crochet and enjoy a cup of tea (or two) with cake and biscuits.



Marilyn



The Men's Thing

Following our re-launch meeting a few weeks ago, we can now announce a programme of talks which will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the Church extension.

Tea, Coffee and biscuits etc will be available from 10.00am.

We start on Saturday 12th August with a talk by Fr Michael on his family history.

9th September – Talk to be confirmed.

14th October we have a talk on our Heritage, more details to follow.

11th November - Tony Pullen will talk about the history of cameras.

December 9th - Gerry McBride an ex army veteran and member of the British Legion will give a talk on the ex serviceman graves in St John's churchyard.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE TO THE RED ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN

We want to thank all those who have responded to the recent Red Envelope Campaign which was launched on May 7th and concluded on June 18th. We received over 50 responses, and the pledges made indicate that this should bring, over the next few months, an increase of about £11,000 annually to income. This will be boosted by additional Gift Aid. A very big thank you to the many people who increased their giving. It is also very good to report that whilst some people indicated that they would like to maintain their current level of giving, and that is fine, no-one declared a decrease. There were also 15 new givers joining the scheme, and so this helps spread the load.

We also asked if you could transfer from your current ways of giving, often by Standing Order, to the new scheme called PGS: Parish Giving Scheme. Thirty people have joined this scheme so far, and this will help ensure that Gift Aid is automatically recovered every month rather than having to make a manual claim to HMRC every quarter. PGS has the additional advantage of reducing the workload for the Treasurer and Gift Aid secretary.

This increase, roughly 10% of our total overall income, is most welcome, and will greatly assist our vision in service of the local community and St. John's. We also recognise that this has been made under the current difficult and demanding economic circumstances: we can only hope that inflation reduces over the next few months to give price stability for St. John's and all of us. It is most important that the pledges made in this campaign are actually realised. If you have not yet joined PGS, please consider doing so as it is so beneficial. If you have any questions or need help with any aspect of this Campaign, please ask the Stewardship Team or Treasurer. As we have done recently, we will hold Question and Answer sessions in the Coffee Lounge after the 0945 service, and will also offer similar opportunities for the 0800 congregation. So, once again, many thanks to all who responded, and it is still not too late to join in and take part in this campaign to put St. John's on a sound financial basis for the future.

Stewardship Team

Jane Bransgrove Richard Burkett

(stewardship@stjohnsoldmalDEN.org.uk).

The Maeldune Fair

Midsummer had arrived and once again it was time to prepare for the Maeldune Fair. Seeds were planted, cakes were baked, raffle tickets were printed, sausages were sizzled, bottles were sorted, jewellery was displayed, tartan was woven, fruit was chopped, ice cream was chilled, marmalade had matured and coconut shies were erected, We were ready to go!

The weather was warm and sunny and friends from our local community were pleased to take a break from their errands to browse at the book stall, try their luck on a tombola or enjoy tea and cake.

We are grateful to the Deputy Mayor of Kingston for joining us, as well as to businesses for supporting the event, including:

- Miller and Carter
- Chessington Garden Centre
- Ross's Fruiterers, greengrocers, Worcester Park
- Butchers Corner, Worcester Park

Business was brisk and takings were on a par with last year. Thank you to all the stallholders and volunteers, as well as to everyone who helped to make the day a success.





**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.

500g bags of rice

pot noodles

Instant mash (packets are better)

Tinned potatoes

Tinned spaghetti

Tinned meat (including chicken, ham , beef)

Small bottles of squash

small pasta sauce

Tinned vegetables

Small packets of biscuits

Extras including : ketchup, mayo, pickle, small bottles of oil, mayonnaise,
pickled beetroot.

Shampoo shower gel

Toilet rolls



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 September 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.



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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