

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

December 2025

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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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Copy date for the magazine is the 15th of the month and
please only send submissions in Microsoft Word.

ST JOHN'S HALL

411 Malden Road
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Large and small halls available for hire with kitchen facilities
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Reasonable Rates - Recently Redecorated

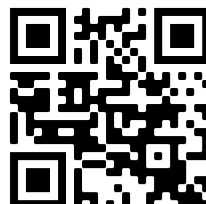
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

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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 December



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 (except August).

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

Vicars Letter

As I write I realise that I am already late! The shops have had Christmas on the go since September, and, to my astonishment, Waitrose was selling “live” Christmas trees the week before Remembrance Sunday. The sight of which made me utter a rather rude phrase, and then a sense of relief that I wasn’t wearing my collar. I like a good joke, but there are limits!

Retailers of course promote all things Christmas as soon as possible, knowing that their bottom line for the year depends on how much money we all spend over the festive season. Mince pies won’t last until Christmas, which is the point. You’ll eat them and have to go back and buy more as Christmas gets underway. It is a sad state of affairs that we have gotten to the point where the global economy depends on endless consumption and spending, especially when it relates to celebrating the birth of Christ. To my mind it all rather misses the point. I blame the Victorians. Until the Industrial Revolution and the rise of the middle class, the conspicuous consumption around Christmas was left to the nobility and the local squire, as our poorer ancestors looked on hoping for a few crumbs from their tables. As prosperity trickled down into the middle class, they in turn emulated the wealthy as best they could, who followed the fashion set down by Victoria and Albert. Anyone for a Christmas tree? Much of our contemporary celebration of Christmas finds its roots in this Victorian revival.

As children we used to marvel as our great-grandmother, who died in 1992, recounted her own childhood Christmases when they counted themselves lucky to receive a few boiled sweets, nuts, and apple or two, and possibly a handmade doll as their Christmas haul. We thought it something almost unimaginable with the avalanche of presents spilling out from under our own Christmas trees at home. I still have relatives who decimate their credit ratings just to ensure that everyone does well out of them at Christmas, such is the pressure of keeping the children happy and being generous.

Christmas comes with enough pressure of its own without the financial

demands it makes. There is the lack of time to get ready and do all the things we'd like to do before the big day. This year I started quietly ticking off the list in November, getting things ready before December breaks upon us. We keep a quiet Christmas at the Vicarage. We don't entertain, apart from a small lunch with a couple of friends on New Year's Day. Presents are limited to one or two between us, and we don't see the family until after Christmas. Unlike many of you, I'm not torn between seeing my family versus the in-laws as it is far too expensive to travel home in December. Many of you will have a difficult time negotiating family expectations, especially if there are grand children involved. Others will opt for a quiet day alone, or join the jolly celebrations down the Church Hall for St. John's Christmas Day event.

At its heart the most important gift we give at Christmas is ourselves! Simply being with others, those we love, our families and friends, and with new friends in the community around us. It isn't about presents and spending money, it isn't about decorations and getting it all picture perfect. It isn't even about the food, dare I say it. In the giving of ourselves we mirror the greatest gift, the gift God gives us in himself, in his Son Jesus Christ. It was given without the glitz and glamour we wrap Christmas in today. It was homespun and understated, appearing in a little village in the backwaters of ancient Judea. A gift so quietly given it could almost have gone unnoticed had it not been for a few shepherds and angels. But it was this gift alone that would begin to change things, to make a real difference as this baby grew to be the man he was destined to be. Those who accepted the gift found their lives transformed, those who passed it by missing out, nevertheless it was freely given then just as it is today, to the longers and seekers wanting to be part of God's ongoing transformation of our world and the lives of all we share it with. We all have a part to play in God's big plan, and it starts with us simply being present, being there for one another, being ourselves. So let us all be a gift to one another this Christmas! Let us help each other celebrate that greatest of gifts and make him our own!

Happy Christmas!

The **Red Chair** is back in church and reminds us that globally, **every 11 minutes a woman or girl dies at the hands of a partner or family member**. She should be here, sitting on this chair, or on one of the other many such chairs which are set up in churches and public places throughout the world during the **16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence**. The 16 Days focuses attention, but it should be remembered that sadly, domestic violence happens all the time, every day, and that **1 in 3 women, and 1 in 6 men are suffering**, or have suffered, from such abuse. Domestic abuse is a pervasive issue affecting individuals and families of all backgrounds and causing lasting damage and trauma.

The Red Chair is in church during the 16 Days of Activism but the Mothers' Union **RISE UP** Campaign is continuous. The Red Chair is part of the circle during meetings, both here and in MU meetings throughout the world. Some local boroughs have also taken up the challenge of making everyone aware of these frightening statistics using posters in prominent places.

The symbol of the **RISE UP** campaign is the dove: itself the symbol of peace, purity, hope, renewal, transformation and new beginnings. *'Oh that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away and be at rest.'* (Psalm 55:6) And of course, the Dove is the symbol of the Holy Spirit.

You are invited to light a candle in the Lady Chapel and pray for those women and girls who are abused or even die at the hands of a family member, and for ourselves as we respond.

RISE UP against such abuse

We pray ...

for your compassion as we seek to **Respond** –

for your wisdom as we become better **Informed** -

for your gentleness as we try to **Support** –

for your strength as we hope to **Empower** –

and for the mark of your Holy Spirit that **Unites** us together to work and **Pray** unceasingly, until situations change and freedom, life and love are restored to all.

In your dear and powerful name we cry out to you together.

AMEN.

Standing against domestic abuse



Charles Dickens'

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



as told by

Alastair K Daniel

with songs from

Louise Howlett



Saturday 20 December 2025: 1930-2045h
St John's Hall, 411 Malden Road,
Worcester Park KT4 7NY

Price: Adults £9; Children/concessions £5
Family Ticket £24
including seasonal refreshments

Tickets are limited: for more details,
or to make a reservation, call 020 8330 6558
or contact Alastair through his website: www.storytent.co.uk

ORANGE the WORLD

I never thought that I was particularly lucky, not especially so, but actually – I am. Because I have never experienced violence against as a woman. Not in my family home growing up, not in my own home when I got married and had my own family, not in my school, my workplace or my social environment. And I am certain that neither has any of my closest female friends and family. But it is a sad fact that on average, one in three women will experience violence.

In Afghanistan, 90% of women will experience violence. That is appalling; there's not much we can do about it from here, here and now, except to keep them in our prayers. But HERE, in our educated, liberated, CIVILISED West, it should never, ever happen. But it does.

In 2008, the then Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon, launched the campaign, UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence Against Women. The signature colour of the campaign is orange. As a bright and optimistic colour, orange represents a future free from violence against women and girls, But as we get closer to 2030, it seems to be getting worse, not better.

The name of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, a global initiative by UN Women, calling for prevention, awareness and Accountability, is “Orange the World”. It starts on the 25th November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) and runs until the 10th December (Human Rights Day). People everywhere are called upon to wear the colour orange or use the colour orange to highlight the campaign.

One action is to light up public buildings orange; orange is for a new dawn for all those living with violence. Egypt have led the way and light up the Sphinx and Pyramids; we know that Blackpool have already agreed to light up their famous tower. In Australia, the authorities have been asked to light up the Sydney Opera House - what a statement that would make! Here in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, the main staircase of the Guildhall will be lit and the top of the Charter Quay building.

Many of you know that I am a member of Inner Wheel, one of the largest women's voluntary service organisations in the world, and we are very much behind this campaign. New Malden Inner Wheel has held a coffee morning and Kingston Inner Wheel had an “orange” stall at their Christmas Fair – profits being donated to our local Women's Refuge. And we will wear our orange scarves and badges, and light our orange candles to show our total support.

Bobby Child
Kingston Inner Wheel



Eco Church/Life Style

We are aiming to apply for a Eco Church Award in line with CofE plan for churches to be carbon neutral by 2030.

At the moment we are looking at the survey - a framework for action to help us respond faithfully to the climate and nature crisis. The survey is a self assessment for churches to connect with environmental issues and to respond with practical action in the church, in peoples lives and the local and global community.

The Survey is a free online award scheme encompassing all areas of church life through five categories namely:

- 1) Worship and Teaching. Embedding creation care in worship prayer and learning.
- 2) Building and Energy. Finding energy-efficient ways to manage our places of worship
- 3) Land and Nature. Nurturing spaces for people and nature.
- 4) Community and Global Engagement. Transforming local and global communities and ecosystems
- 5) Lifestyle. Living joyfully and sustainably.

Lifestyle category is about our churches encouraging people to act as individuals and households-creating creation care into daily lives. The church is encouraged to play a role in educating and informing individual church members about the actions they can take

Here is part of the survey on Lifestyle

Theme 3: Personal choices

7. Our church recognises the current global, industrialised food system as largely unsustainable. While many people have limited choices about what they eat (e.g. due to cost), food is one of the biggest contributors to UK carbon emissions. We encourage:

Choose all that apply

mainly plant-based diets

consuming less meat and dairy products

locally sourced foods including veg boxes where possible rescue initiatives for food that would otherwise be thrown away campaigning for a sustainable food system
No action on food

8. Our church recognises that transport is one of the three biggest contributors to carbon emissions in the UK and encourages:

Choose all that apply

active transport such as walking and cycling where possible

ways to increase use of public transport where possible ways to reduce personal car use (e.g. car sharing) alternatives to flying

No action on transport

9. Our church recognises that personal choices about how we use our money - including banking, pensions, and investing - have a significant impact on climate and nature. Our church promotes:

Choose all that apply

information about financial choices that are positive for climate and nature

banking with providers having robust policies on climate and nature protection and not funding the fossil fuel industry

divestment from funds and pensions with an interest in fossil fuels

credit unions and other purpose-driven finance institutions that work for positive social and environmental impact

No action on money

10. Our church recognises that consumption of goods and services has a significant impact on climate and nature. Our church encourages individuals and households to reduce their consumption and make ethical choices by promoting:

Choose all that apply

sustainability comparison websites such as Ethical Consumer

local cooperatives and sharing initiatives (e.g. community fridge)

lending/borrowing initiatives (e.g. a Library of Things)

use of surveys and apps to monitor and reduce consumption (e.g. Creation Care survey) buying fairly traded goods where possible

use of local repair cafe

No action on consumption patterns

11. Our church recognises that the waste we produce as individuals and households has a significant impact on climate and nature, and promotes:

Choose all that apply

continuously reducing the consumption of materials and resources

avoiding the use of disposable and single-use plastics wherever possible re-using or buying second-hand wherever possible

recycling materials and equipment wherever possible

composting food waste either at home or via a collection scheme working towards sending zero waste to landfill

minimising wastewater

other

No action on waste promoted

St John's Knitting & Crochet Group for December 2025

If you would like to learn to crochet or knit, you are very welcome to join us.

St John's Knitting & Crochet Group meets on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Coffee Lounge from 2.00 - 4.00pm -

As Christmas Day falls on a Thursday this year, we shall not meet.

However, we shall meet twice in January: on Thursday 8th January and on our 'Birthday' on January 29th.

Open to all - do come and join us!

Crochet 'granny squares' are very much in vogue at the moment so if you would like to create some for yourself - this may be your opportunity.

You can also bring along your projects - tapestry/embroidery - a good opportunity to chat, drink tea and relax. Good for your 'mindfulness' time.

Do join us!

Marilyn



How well do you know characters in the Bible?

C

This month, we reach the letter C and here are a few names which you may recognise...

Cain Brother of Abel

Cyrus Persian King

Caesar Roman Emperor

Caiaphas Presiding over Sanhedrin at Jesus' trial

Caleb
Land Representing tribe of Judah during journey to the Promised

Candace Queen of Ethiopia

Cephas name of Simon

Chuza managed household of Herod Antipas, his wife was Joanna

Cleopas one of 2 disciples who meet Jesus on road to Emmaus

Cornelius first Gentile to be converted to the faith in Acts, a centurion

You may think of others.....

MCB

MCB



Autumn 2025

URGENT OUR CURRENT SITUATION

Following Fr Michael's Sermon on 19 October 2025, in order to meet all our budgeted commitments for 2026, we need to see an annual increase in giving of **£5,000 plus the Gift aid**. This is because in the last 12 months we have seen a significant decline in giving with people moving away or simply stopping their giving without explanation.

There are also a number of people (39) who have not increased their monthly giving in many years. Please see the table below to illustrate how your donation has fallen in value as a consequence of inflation.

Year	2015	2020	2024
Gift	£20.00	£17.47	£14.90

The work of St John's church is made possible by 'giving'. We do not receive any funding from the Church of England, we rely on 'Planned Giving', by standing order, cash or through the Parish Giving Scheme. To support all we do at St. John's, we currently need income of at least £2,400 **each week**.

Are you new to St John's and would like to begin giving ?

If so, we encourage you to be involved in the ministry of our church. This is only possible thanks to the generosity of church members. We want everyone at St John's to share in God's grace of giving. Please consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), as this will enable you to give regularly. To find out more about PGS <http://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish>. Sign-up is easy through the PGS website or telephone service, on 0333 002 1271 .

Are you currently giving to St John's and would like to increase your current donation?

If you are already giving, then please review your giving? It makes sense to do this annually and adjust your giving according to changed circumstances, or to respond to a current need or opportunities. If you are giving via your bank and

wish to increase, please consider joining PGS .

To balance our budget for 2026 , we need:

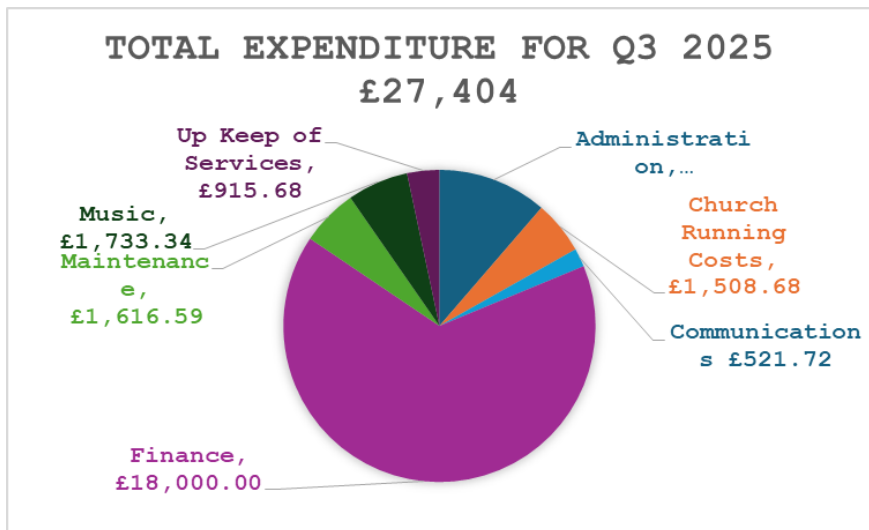
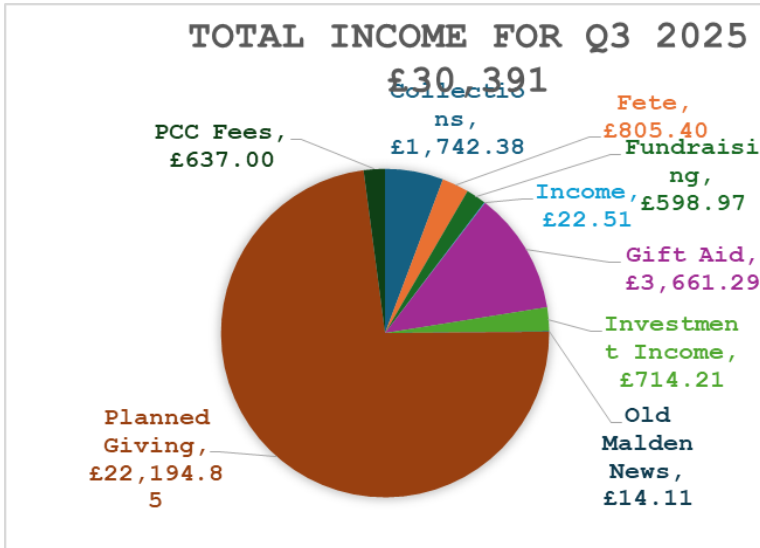
- All current regular givers increasing their giving by 5%, particularly if you have not increased your giving for a number of years
- 6-10 new people join PGS

The PCC and our Treasurer take very seriously the need to exercise robust financial management. If we cannot balance next year's budget, we will have to consider making some stark choices and cut back on expenses. We are already having to delay some expenditure and if our expenditure continues to rise to what is expected in the annual budget, then we could be in deficit by £5,000 or more at year end 2025.

In the words of Rev Dr Sam Wells, " If you don't give because no one's ever asked you, I'm asking you now. If you don't give regularly because you've never got round to it, I'm saying today's the day. If you don't give much because you think St John's doesn't need it, I'm telling you that it does. If you don't give a lot because you don't have a lot, I'm saying you giving something is an example to everyone else. If you don't give more because no one's ever said thank you, I'm thanking you right now. "

Fr Michael, PCC, & Stewardship: J Bransgrove & R Burkett :
stewardship@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk

Where did we spend your money in the last quarter?



The main points to note are:-

Whilst there was a surplus of income by just under £3,000 some £4,500 of that total income was as a result of various fund raising activities and other income streams which can not be planned for. Without this there would have been a deficit of £1,500

Details on Expenditure

- Parish Support Fund. This is what we contribute to the diocese which funds the vicar's salary, cost of running the vicarage, training and support functions. Within this it is expected that the richer parishes support the poorer ones within our diocese. Ideally, we should be contributing £23,600 p.q.
- Administration. This is mainly the cost of the parish administrator, plus items such as telephone, printing, stationery and bank charges.
- Maintenance is another large item increased this quarter by the fact that the cooker in the kitchen had to be replaced unexpectedly.
- Utilities is the cost of the gas and electricity used which is obviously lower during the summer because of the fact we are not having to heat the church.
- Music. This covers the cost of having an organist and also a director of music plus other items in connection with having music at our services.

On the income side we are really relying on our members who are committed to giving us donations on a regular basis plus the gift aid that we can claim back on the vast majority of those donations. Maintaining this level of income is always hard work as we will always be losing regular givers because of natural wastage. (Death, people moving away from the parish as examples.) But it is this number that we rely on when doing the budget for the forthcoming year and all the other income that we have received is not guaranteed so cannot be relied upon. Ideally, we would like to use these additional funds to help make improvements to the church and the services which we offer to the community but as you can see the majority are being used just to maintain the status quo.

And **Finally**, would you like to write the next quarter's update like this for the OMN? We are looking for a person to be the deputy treasurer to help the treasurer out with some of the activities. So if you enjoy numbers, and clearly you do if you have read this much of the article, then please contact Peter Chugg (treasurer@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk) who will be more than happy to talk you through the type of things you would be doing. It is also an excellent way to improve your presentation and communication skills whilst at the same time helping out your Church.

Malden Parochial School's Transformative Christian Vision

Reflecting the Kingdon of God by Enriching and transforming Lives

Two years into her headship Mrs Lucy McMullan is proud to share the recent inspection result of Malden Parochial School. The full report can be found on the school website, in summary the notable strengths indicate that the **deeply embedded Christian vision transforms the lives of both pupils and adults.**

The school is praised for its inspirational collective worship, its strong sense of community, and the flourishing of pupils and staff supported by meaningful relationships and strong leadership. Religious education (RE) is highly valued and effectively taught, although the source notes the need to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of RE by leaders and governors. Overall, the school successfully integrates its core Christian values of **love, joy, peace** and **wisdom** into the curriculum, governance, and culture, fostering a sense of justice, belonging, and aspiration among pupils.

Pupils and adults are valued as unique individuals, flourishing through strong relationships. Leaders ensure a deep culture of care and belonging, prioritising the well-being of both staff and pupils, with staff overwhelmingly reporting that they feel loved, listened to, and appreciated.

Pupils develop a strong sense of justice, demonstrating compassion by regularly supporting the local foodbank and sensitively standing against racism. This strong commitment to dignity and respect flows directly from the school's vision.

The curriculum intentionally nurtures curiosity and connection, often starting lessons with time for pupils to wonder and ask deep questions. This intentional planning helps pupils successfully notice, reflect, and make sense of the world around them. Pupils leave the school confident and well-prepared for the future.

Lucy welcomes visitors, please contact the school office if you would like to drop in. There are limited places available for pupils please contact Miss Reeve in the office to find out more.

The 150th Anniversary of the Enlargement of the Church

A service of CHORAL EVENSONG

To celebrate

The Consecration of the Main Nave

Sunday 7th December 2025

At 6.30pm

Sung by St. John's Choir (augmented)

Music by

Stanford, Tertius Noble and Charles Wood



Kingston Inner Wheel Club invites you to

Graham Child

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Wednesday 3rd December 2025

7.30 pm

The Methodist Church
49 High Street
New Malden, Surrey
KT3 4BY



Tickets £8.50 each

Contact: innerwheelclub-kot@hotmail.co.uk



**Park Lane
Stables
RDA**



CHRISTMAS DAY EVENT 2025

Invitations have now been sent out for this very important community event at St. John's Hall. This very enjoyable friendly event is for anyone who lives on their own and lives locally. If you know of anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day and would like an invitation, please get in touch. The day commences at 12.30 and ends at 5.00pm. We have a number of people who have offered to help on the day.



There are many other ways in which you too can help:

Drivers are required to take guests to and from the Hall (12.15 and/or 5.00pm) Setting up at the Hall on Christmas Eve from 4.00pm Clearing up at 5.00pm on Christmas Day

Please contact Steve Clark for transport help 07584513858 or steadysteve95@gmail.com

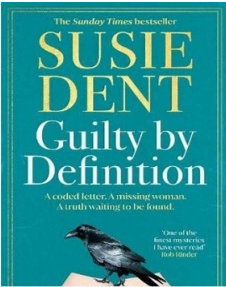
All other offers of help or if you would like to attend the event please contact Lynn Sanger on 0208 715 2066



St John's Reading Group

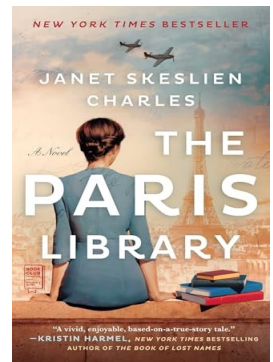
DECEMBER 2025

At our November meeting we discussed Susie Dent's *Guilty by Definition*.



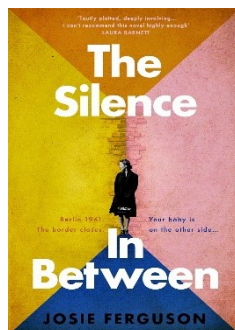
If you enjoy deciphering cryptic clues then this book may interest you. It is unusual with enigmatic anonymous messages from 'Chorus'. Susie Dent has woven her story around a team of four editors of the Clarendon English Dictionary who have their own secrets and things happening in their personal lives. Martha's sister, Charlie who was on the point of completing her PhD went missing 10 years ago. Mysterious postcards begin to arrive - are they further clues? Most of the group enjoyed this murder mystery as it was different. It achieved an average of 7/10.

Our choice for discussion at our December meeting will be *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles. The novel has two time eras - one begins in 1939 Paris and the other in 1983 Montana. Odile Gustafson is the elderly neighbour living in Montana - but she has an amazing history. This novel begins with her life at the American Library in Paris just at the time when war is imminent. We learn of the real-life characters who, under the American librarian, Miss Reeder, create the Soldiers' Service to deliver books to servicemen and who with her loyal staff (including Odile) will risk their own lives by delivering books to Jewish readers after they were forbidden from entering the library. The author has researched the history of the library and became aware of the bravery and dedication of the staff who kept the library open. Lily is the young adolescent in 1980s Montana who becomes friends with her neighbour Odile who is someone who has a mysterious past. As their relationship develops, not only do we see the value of their friendship but also we learn more about her past life. This is a



thought-provoking novel and a good read.

Our choice for our January meeting is *The Silence In Between* - set in 1961 Berlin and flashbacks to wartime Berlin. There are devastating consequences for a family when the Berlin Wall goes up almost overnight. On the other side of the Wall, in the East, a new-born baby is in hospital but the parents are trapped in the West. A daring plan to rescue the child has to be devised. It is a memorable read, sometimes quite disturbing but very emotional. It is a debut novel by Josie Ferguson and was shortlisted for the Waterstones Debut Fiction Prize.



For February, we are in the process of selecting a 'Classic' novel - there are so many titles from which to choose and far more challenging than one might think. Dickens or Jane Austen? Oscar Wilde or Virginia Woolf or maybe Tolstoy or Dostoevsky? I am still not sure of the outcome.....

At the moment I am reading 'Home Front' by Kristin Hannah - set in the time of the Iraq War. Jolene is in the military, a helicopter pilot and is deployed into active service, leaving her two young children and husband at home. The War has a devastating effect on her family when her Black Hawk helicopter is shot down and Jolene has severe injuries which means her life will change forever. A novel of loyalty, duty, strength of character and heroism. A good read for train journeys!

Enjoy December and your visits to bookshops, even if you are purchasing for family and friends.

You may find inspiration for your own Christmas list!

Sharing a prayer – God with us

Chris Benson

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today.*

Familiarity, it is said, ‘breeds contempt’. Well, perhaps not contempt, but the fact is that familiar words can easily wash over us without us giving them a thought as to their true meaning. And that is perhaps especially true of carols, where many of the words of the best-loved ones come very close to being sentimental and anodyne.

This is not true of the splendid words of *O little town of Bethlehem*, written by Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), Rector of Boston’s Trinity Church and later Bishop of Massachusetts. These lines get right to the heart of Christmas, presenting it not as an event in the remote past, but as something we are involved in today. St John says that ‘The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.’ We should never restrict the ‘us’ just to John and his contemporaries: ‘us’ means ‘us’ *now*, 2025. Jesus seeks a place within each of us.

But before he can find that place we have, as another hymn puts it, to ‘prepare we in our hearts a home where such a mighty guest can come’. Welcoming a visitor to our home usually calls for preparation: cleaning and tidying, clean sheets on the bed. Welcoming Christ into our hearts is no different. Christmas is a time to take stock of our failings and weaknesses, acknowledge them frankly before God, and cast them out, in the certain knowledge that forgiveness is freely available, so that we can look forward to the coming year with new determination to know, love and serve him better.

Obviously we don’t know the date of Jesus’s birth, but it’s appropriate that the Church placed it at the turn of the year when days are shortest and

nights longest. Many folk traditions celebrate this time with fire, light and rituals of new life. For Christians too, Christmas is a time to seek renewal, to bring new life and light into our lives through Christ, reborn within each of us, enabling us to move forward into another year with hope and trust that his inward presence will guide and support us, whatever life's joys and troubles.

Happy
Christmas
from all at
St John's





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!

PUZZLE NO.6 SAINTS

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

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 CATHERINE
 CHRISTOPHER
 CUTHBERT
 GEORGE
 JOAN
 LUCY
 OSWALD
 PETER
 SWITHIN

BEDE
 AIDEN
 BRIGID
 ANDREW
 CECILIA
 CLARE
 DAVID
 HILDA
 JOSEPH
 PATRICK
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MARY
 COLUMBA
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 HUGH
 JUDE
 CHAD
 PAUL
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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.



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**



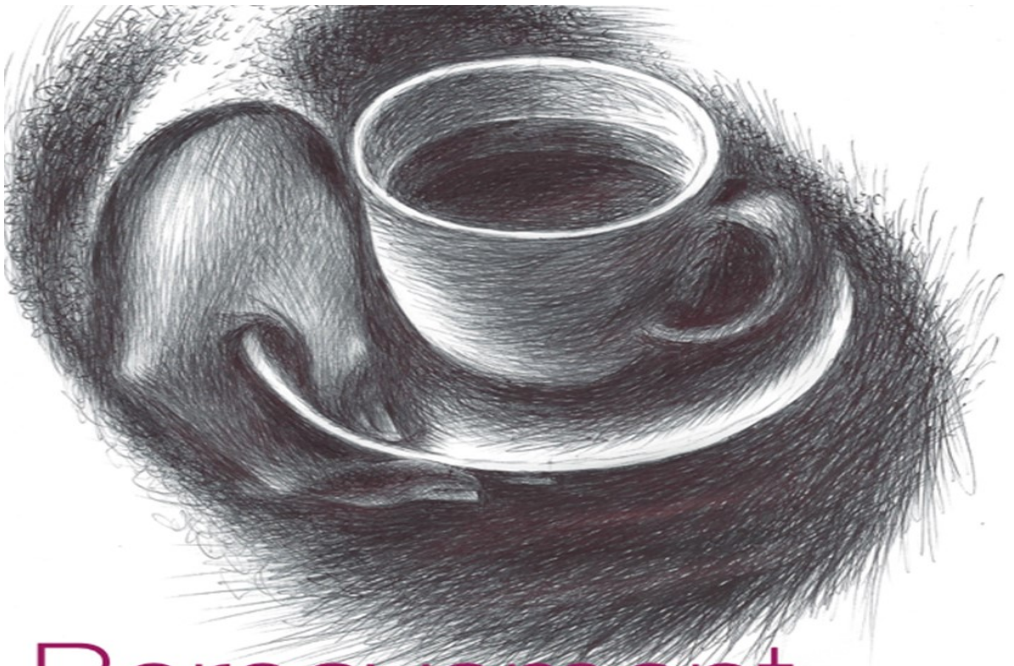
The Men's Thing

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. Men and women are all welcome.

December 13th - Alastair Daniels will give a talk titled:- Folk and Fairy Tales and the Oral Tradition.

January 10th - Post Christmas chat session.

February 14th - A talk by Malcom Sutton titled Life and work on a desert island.



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 December 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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