

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

December 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

Please send any articles or other material to:
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Copy date for the magazine is the 15th of the month and
please only send submissions in Microsoft Word.

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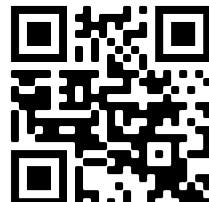
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

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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.

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

Dear Friends, as I write this December is just around the corner and already Advent and Christmas loom large. The Church's year ends on Christ the King on the 26th November as we welcome eight children joining us at the Lord's Table as they make their first communion. This is a milestone for them in their own journey of faith, one that may become more important as they grow up and make their own ways in the world. That closeness and connection with Christ the Eucharist embodies, may be a source of strength and comfort as life unfolds and takes many twists and turns in the future. I know how important that is to many of us in our own spiritual experience. Alongside our adults and young people who were confirmed in October, St. John's is fulfilling its goal laid down in our Mission Action Plan to become an inclusive "Eucharistic community for all ages", something that underlines the importance of the sacrament and St. John's own style of worship, both traditional and forward-thinking. So please do join me in thanking God for his goodness as he gifts us with this unique responsibility and opportunity to share our faith afresh with all generations.

With even more people joining us at the altar for Communion, this Advent and Christmas promise to be even more special and meaningful this year. For some the seasonal round is old hat and all too often the spiritual dimension is drowned out by the wider message of buy, buy, buy as consumer pressure mounts, but the Team and I have planned the season with an eye to offer something for everyone. There will of course be our normal pattern of Sundays in Advent, but this year we kick things off with a bang. St. John's has been invited by the organisers of the Plough Green Christmas Tree committee to come and sing carols at the official lighting on the 2nd December between 4:00 and 6:30pm. We will be given a specific time slot closer to the date. On top of that, all proceeds from the evening will be given to our Angel Project, helping provide gift cards for children across the community so that every child can receive a present at Christmas. This is a fantastic development and I encourage everyone who can, to come and take part in this magical community event.

The following day is Advent Sunday and, in addition to our 8:00 and 9:45am Sunday services, we will be holding an Advent Carol service at 6:30pm. Evensong no longer draws the congregation it once did, but we hope the Advent Carol service will strike that traditional chord that many enjoy. More carols follow on the 7th as Malden Parochial are holding their carol services at 9:00am and 6:00pm, with a special invitation for anyone at St. John's to come and celebrate with our schoolchildren. Our own Christmas Carol service will be on the 17th at 6:30pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Thanks to popular demand Baby Jesus on Tour will begin from Advent Sunday as Baby Jesus visits schools and homes across the parish to spend the night. So many children, of all ages, enjoyed this last year and we've extended the time to cover the whole of Advent so everyone gets a chance to host him and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. The list to host will be available in Church, just leave your name and a contact number so transport can be arranged. Hopefully he will appear in Church on Christmas Eve just in time for the Crib Service!

Messy Christmas Christingle will be on the 10th starting at 3:00pm. There will be a chance to make your own Christingle and decorations, with St. John's Christmas tree available to decorate by some of our other young people who may find the crafts a bit young for them. Both groups gather later for a few carols and then we will enjoy lovely Christmas refreshments in the Coffee Lounge.

For those who would like to look at the Christmas story afresh, there will be an informal study group using the popular Paula Gooder's book, *Journey to the Manger*, on Wednesdays after Communion at 11:45am in the Coffee Lounge beginning on the 22nd November. Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be available for this relaxed, social occasion. Anyone free who would like to explore the themes around the birth of Jesus are welcome to join us, no previous experience necessary

As the 4th Sunday of Advent is Christmas Eve this year, there will not be an 8:00am service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Last year we had two people for 8:00am and the previous year no one. Four services on Christmas Eve is just a bit too much when there are other opportunities to make your Christmas Communion either at Midnight Mass or Christmas Day at 9:45am when we are usually thin on the ground anyway. The Christmas Day event rolls on as usual in the Church Hall for all those on their own on Christmas Day. I will be popping in to thank all the volunteers on St. John's behalf and catch up with the merrymakers, but I'm sure there are still opportunities to help on this important occasion and places to join if you or someone you know will be alone on Christmas Day. The doggy bag alone is worth it, but there will be entertainment and the full works for Christmas Dinner to boot. Please speak to Pat Lovegrove if you would like to help or be a guest.

We will wrap up the Christmas season on Epiphany, which falls this year on the 7th January. As we commemorate the gifts of the Magi to the Christ Child, we will also be collecting money for our own Epiphany gifts to cover the increasing cost of candles, altar bread, wine and other items for our worship services. Do keep an eye on the Parish Mailing and Pew leaflet as these and other things will be advertised as we travel through Advent to celebrate the gift of Christ given at Christmas. December is usually a pressurised time of expectation and demands that can obscure the true meaning behind the glitz and wrapping paper. I encourage you to make a little time and space for yourself to engage with the gift we've all been given so that he can enrich your holiday anew this year.

With Every Good Wish for Advent and Christmas,

Michael

Have you seen the Red Chair in the Lady Chapel?

The Red Chair Project was adapted in 2022 from a very successful campaign in French churches called *Une Place pour Elles*. The Project, from Restored, the Christian Network to End Domestic Abuse (CNEDA), has been adopted by the Mothers' Union during their annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign.

The chair is to remind 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 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.

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 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

Do take home a copy of the prayer to use at home.

My sponsored walk



My thanks to all those who kindly sponsored my walk in response to the “£10 Challenge”, enabling me to raise £650 plus another £88 in Gift Aid – far more than I was expecting or even hoping!

I was fortunate in having a reasonable day for the walk – dry and neither too hot nor too cold. My plan was to begin by fortifying myself spiritually by attending the 11am Wednesday Eucharist. However, on arriving at St John’s I discovered that it had had to be cancelled as Fr Michael was doing duty at a funeral, so, slightly earlier than planned, I set off for Worcester Park Station, and using £3.68 of my initial £10, I bought a single ticket to Leatherhead, and arrived there at 11.37.

From there I walked through Leatherhead via North Street and Church Street, pausing at the medieval church of St Mary and Nicholas (now taken over by Holy Trinity Brompton and renamed prosaically as “Leatherhead Parish Church”) arriving just before midday. I then headed north-east, crossing the A24 near the junction with the A243 and the M25 by the nearby footbridge.



St



At last in countryside, I walked up the bridleway south-east of Ashted and about 12.30 joined the Thames Down Link footpath, which runs between Westhumble and Kingston. This led me through the outskirts of Ashted. I made a slight detour to view another ancient church, St Giles, which I reached shortly after 1 p.m. In nearby Ashted Park it was time for a sandwich!

Refreshed, I once more crossed the A24 and then the railway line near Ashted Station (1.45) and then I was on more familiar ground, walking up the path on the boundary between Ashted Common and Epsom Common, passing the Stew Pond to reach the entrance to Horton Country Park around 2.15. The animals at Hobbledown Farm (right) gave me a good look as I passed.

With the end now seeming quite close I walked through the Castle Hill Nature Reserve, and emerged near the William Bourne pub at 3.15 – tempting, but with rain now threatening I



was anxious to get to the end. The path along the Bonesgate Stream and the Hogsmill River, by Tolworth Court meadows, took me up to Kingston Road, and I arrived back at St John's, rather hot and sweaty, just after 3.30.

It had been an enjoyable and interesting walk, doubly satisfying in that I was boosting church funds in the process.

As well as the many family and friends who contributed to my "Collection Pot", I am most grateful to Alastair Harris for pointing me at this very easy way of raising money, and facilitating the transfer of the funds to St John's.

Chris Benson



St. John the Baptist, Old Malden

Advent Carol Service

"I Bring You Good News!"

Sunday, 3rd December 4:00pm



Would you like to learn how to crochet a 'granny square'?



If so, you could come along to St John's Knitting & Crochet Group on the last Thursday afternoon of the month - next meeting on Thursday 30th November from 2pm-4pm. The following meeting is on December 28th at 2.00pm

Easy instructions as you go along just bring a ball of DK yarn and a 4mm crochet hook.

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

Do join us!

Marilyn

Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*)

pink, white, or marbled. The flowers are insignificant (please see the second photo) - they are the little green buds in the centre of the red bracts.

The colours of the bracts are The Poinsettia is the most popular flowering pot plant in the world. It is particularly well known for its red and green foliage and is widely seen at Christmas - please see the first picture below. It originates from Central and Northern America - Guatemala to Mexico - growing in "tropical dry forests". The Poinsettia was first described by Europeans in 1834.

The red attractive parts are bracts which are actually modified leaves; these are normally flaming red, with some cultivars being orange, pale green, cream, created through "photoperiodism" meaning that they require darkness (at least fourteen hours at a time for 6 to 8 weeks in a row) to become red, making it an ideal plant to grow in the short daylight days leading up to Christmas. The plants also benefit from abundant light during the day for the brightest colours. I think that the Poinsettia developed the photoperiodism so that they produce their flowers and subsequently seeds during the cooler months of the Central American winter, giving their seeds the best chance to germinate.

Poinsettias are in the family of plants known as Euphorbiacea and so is the rubber tree. Poinsettias, like rubber trees, produce latex sap, although the latex produced by Poinsettias is not suitable for the production of rubber.

I'm sure you'll see lots of Poinsettias in the shops this Christmas.

Merry Christmas!

Keith Marshall





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.

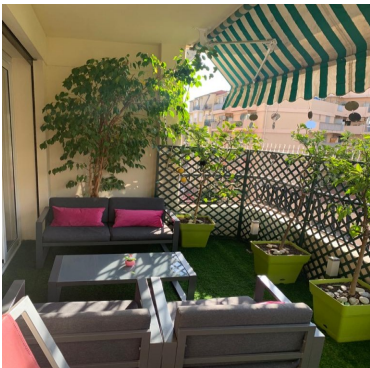
December 9th - Gerry McBride an ex army veteran and member of the British Legion, will give a talk on the ex servicemen graves in St John's churchyard.

January 13th - A talk by Richard Barratt on Steel and metals production, applications and trends.

February 10th - A talk by Neil Stafford on his career on the Railway.

March 9th - A talk by Paul Henry on an introduction to the history of books, from the beginnings on papyrus, through medieval bindings to mass produced paperbacks etc.

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**The Parish Church of
St John the Baptist,
Malden
(Church Road)**

**Service of
Nine
Lessons &
Carols**

**Sunday 17th
December
2023
at 6.30pm**

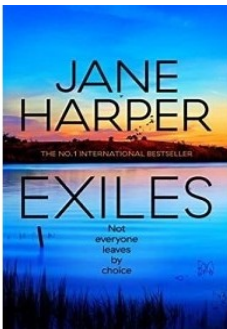


St John's Reading Group

December 2023

At our November meeting, we discussed John Grisham's novel, **The Partner**. John Grisham is a prolific author and has a long list of novels to his name. When Patrick Lanigan 'dies' in a tragic car accident it has major repercussions. Just weeks after his 'death', 90 million dollars go missing from his former firm. Is there a connection? The shipbuilding magnate, Benny Aricia has devised a plan to defraud the US government but does not include Patrick in his plans. Patrick discovers the plan and decides to launch a daring plan of his own: to fake his death, take on a new identity and flee to South America. Four years go by – Patrick is in a new relationship with Eva and together they steal 90 million dollars from the firm's off-shore accounts. Aricia hires private investigators to track Patrick in a desperate bid to regain the stolen money. Patrick and Eva have a contingency plan to fall back on if Patrick is discovered and Eva takes full control of the money. When Patrick faces the FBI, a count of murder, his former wife and various law courts, his future is uncertain. He had a plan but.....

Read and discover what happens. With a twist at the end which leaves you wondering. An average score of 7/10.



For December we are reading another of Jane Harper's novels entitled **Exiles**. We have read several Jane Harper novels within the group – notably **The Dry**. This has been described as the third and final Aaron Falk mystery. A year previously, a young woman has disappeared at the local food and wine festival, leaving her young baby in a pram in the festival's car park. Whilst visiting friends, Aaron Falk becomes involved in the investigation.

For our January meeting we shall be discussing Isabel Allende's 'The House of Spirits' which was her debut novel written in 1982. The novel details the life of the Trueba family across four generations and is set in the post-colonial and political upheavals of Chile. It was made into a film in 1983 and it starred Jeremy Irons and Meryl Streep. It has a large number of characters so we are set for a challenge.



If you are an avid reader of the Cormoran Strike novels, then the seventh in the series was published in September. Entitled 'The Running Grave', it is another hefty tome. Sir Colin Edensor, a retired civil servant, approaches Cormoran Strike and Robin Ellacott's detective agency seeking help to rescue his son Will from the Universal Humanitarian Church (UHC), which has been deemed a cult but claims to be a benevolent charity. With numerous characters and many twists and turns, it promises to be an interesting read – hopefully more accessible than the previous novel in the series.

The bookshops are heaving with so many tempting books so I hope that your Christmas List will contain some exciting new reads. Our next Reading Group (Christmas) meeting will be on Thursday 7th December at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. This will be our 'bring and share' festive food evening!

Marilyn

CHRISTMAS DAY EVENT 2023

Invitations are now being sent out for our Christmas Day Event at the St. John's Hall. This 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 are extremely grateful to Jemma, Gill and Kate who have once again volunteered to do all the cooking. We also have a number of others 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)

Donating a gift (wrapped and marked for male or female)

Setting up on Christmas Eve from 4.00pm

Clearing up at the Hall at 5.00pm on Christmas Day

It would also be a great help if others could offer help in the preparation and shopping beforehand.

Please contact Steve Clark (8337 2392) for transport help.

All other offers of help please contact Pat Lovegrove (8942 7699) or lovegrove276@btinternet.com.



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"St. John's Angel Project: If you would like to make a donation to buy a gift card for a local child this Christmas please check our donations page on our website. Thank you very much!"

GRAND DRAW WINNERS

My thanks to all who bought tickets for the Christmas Fair raffle. I am sure you will want to know who won, so here is the list:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1 st Prize Luxury Fair Trade Hamper | Detlef Golletz |
| 2 nd Prize Fruit Hamper | David-Pillau Family |
| 3 rd Prize Champagne | Lynn Devos |
| 4 th Prize Ralph Lauren toiletries | Marilyn Burkett |
| 5 th Prize Coffret of bath products | David Owen |

Thank you, too, to all who donated the prizes.

Janet Jeal



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Advent & Christmas at St. John's!

Advent Sunday- 3rd December
 Holy Communion 8:00am and 9:45am
 Advent Carol Service 4:00pm
 Baby Jesus on Tour

2nd Sunday of Advent-10th December
 Holy Communion 8:00am and 9:45am
 Messy Christingle 3:00pm

3rd Sunday of Advent-17th December
 Holy Communion 8:00am and 9:45am
 Christmas Carol Service 6:30pm

4th Sunday of Advent-24th December
 Holy Communion 9:45am
 Children's Crib Service 3:00pm
 Midnight Mass 11:30pm

Christmas Day-25th December
 All-Age Communion Service 9:45am

Plough Green Xmas Tree Lighting-
 2nd Dec St. John's Singers 4:00-6:30pm

Advent Course- Wednesdays 11:45am

Malden Parochial Carols-
 December 7th 9am & 6:00pm

Angel Project Presents for local
 children and families (*see website*)

Christmas Day Event-St. John's Hall
for anyone on their own at Christmas
 Christmas Dinner and entertainment

St. John the Baptist, Church Road
KT4 7RY



What A Challenge!

Back in June I think most of us were a tad surprised when Father Michael announced a £10 Challenge based on the Parable of the Talents in Matthew's Gospel. Panic! 'I haven't the foggiest how to use a £10 note over the summer to raise lots of money for the Parish'.

Well, in the end we were all very pleasantly surprised! From selling garden produce, to putting on an evening of personally written and performed songs and ballads, making food wraps or sachets of home-grown lavender, crocheting or knitting bags and bottle holders, holding coffee mornings, baking cakes or crumbles, making jams or flavouring gin, selling stuff on eBay, investing on the Stock Exchange as a beginner, bridge-playing....

Wow, we really do have huge gifts of imagination and, dare I say, talent.

And while some 'Challengers' raised funds from among us as a congregation, many raised from outside. The purchaser on trust of some garden produce thought it had come from New Malden Methodist Church, so left a donation there. Later, partially realising the error of their ways, they left another donation at Christ Church New Malden. It was only subsequently, when dog-walking past St John's, that they realised it was us and finally donated to us as well. So nearby congregations benefited too!

Congratulations and thanks to all 36 Challengers who took part. At the time of writing, we have raised over £2,500. This is an amazing total, which the PCC will put towards the much-needed replacement of our printer-copier.

I'd like to 'call out' two particular contributions: our Challenger with the highest return was Chris Benson, who chose an epic sponsored walk all the way from Leatherhead to St John's. And Chris Beales has created a truly wonderful series of greetings cards depicting flora and fauna he photographed in our own churchyard. Sales of these will continue for good, so we will feel the benefit of Challenge 2023 for a long time to come – a lasting gift.

Now, do get thinking about and planning for what you will do for Challenge 2024.

Alastair H , Treasurer



Christingle

10th December

3:00pm

Art, Crafts, Carols, and Food.

In Aid of the Children's Society



St. John the Baptist, Old Malden

Christmas Eve Crib Service

@3:00pm

*The Joy of Christmas
for Young and Old.*



**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.



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 December 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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TLM CARPENTRY



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- ✦ **BESPOKE WARDROBES, CABINETS & SHELVING**
- ✦ **DOORS & IRONMONGERY**
- ✦ **ROOF STRUCTURAL WORKS**
- ✦ **DECKING & FENCING**
- ✦ **FLOORING - LAMINATE, ENGINEERED, PARQUET**
- ✦ **KITCHEN INSTALLATIONS**
- ✦ **STAIRCASE WORKS**
- ✦ **WINDOW RESTORATIONS**
- ✦ **FURNITURE MAKING & RESTORATIONS**
- ✦ **GARAGE DOOR INSTALLATION**
- ✦ **ALL ASPECTS OF 1ST FIX & 2ND FIX CARPENTRY**

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Fully Qualified Local Carpenter - Public Liability Insurance - Free Estimates