

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

December 2024

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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020 8330 2817
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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
For parties, receptions, meetings etc
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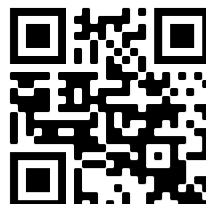
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

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PCC Treasurer	Mr Peter Chugg	07941 842957
Parish Administrator	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
Safeguarding Officers	Mrs Sally Pusey Mrs Margaret Barrington	020 8330 2817 020 8330 2817
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

Christmas is coming, I don't have to tell you that. The days have been ticking down since Harvest marked the turn of the year as we tidied summer away and began the journey through autumn. Remembrance, Christ the King, and then bam it's Advent, all in their orderly procession through the Church's year. For many Christmas will be the highlight, for others it will be difficult and lonely, a Blue Christmas for the bereaved missing a loved one or for anyone who just finds all the merriment and extravagance hard to deal with. I have know both kinds of Christmas and bits in-between. The season comes with a burden of expectations and the weight of Christmases past, especially in light of our childhood nostalgia when Christmas was experienced as a time of magic and delight. So how does one make the most of Christmas without letting all the pressure transform you into a Grinch?

The first thing is to set your limits, decide what you will and will not do. Take part in what you want to, not what others expect you to do. That's a hard one, especially in extended families vying for your time and attention. When I was four months old (and the first grandchild on both sides of the family), my mother blotted her copybook by refusing to leave the house on Christmas Day. She wasn't prepared to travel from one end of the state to the other simply for everyone to see yours truly. Her sisters-in-law were eternally grateful as it set the pattern for the grandparents to travel and make the rounds at Christmas. I always share this story with new parents as I have seen the stress it places on them to meet unrealistic expectations.

For those who find Christmas too commercial or anyone who would be alone on the day, there is our own Christmas Day event that has been going strong for over fifty years. There is a traditional Christmas dinner, entertainment, and presents for all and volunteers are very much an integral part of the celebration. If you would like to take part, please contact Pat Lovegrove or the Parish Office.

I've heard it said many times that Christmas is for children. From the perspective of all the gifts, the special activities in school, and all the decorations at home, that rings true; but impoverishes the rest of us. Yes, we

come with our own memories of Christmas when we were young, but all the froth and bling, the social whirl and gift-giving aren't what is at the heart of the Christmas story. The modern celebration of Christmas today is full of the Victorian re-creation of an imaginary past, (thank you Prince Albert for the Christmas tree!) and an industrial revolution that enabled far more people across society to enjoy what had once been the preserve of the wealthy elite. Today we have Amazon and the manufacturing power of China to fulfil our every demand, from lights, decorations, and presents. What once was intended to add to the celebration of Christ's birth has long since overshadowed it. The great gift God gave of himself and the poverty of the manger in Bethlehem is just a footnote in the Christmas story. What we need is a way not to throw the baby out with the used wrapping paper!

This calls for a little time and space in a busy season, a chance to carve out a moment to reflect on what it really means to be given the gift of God himself. Not just two thousand years ago, but now. Does God's love embodied in a helpless baby make a difference to your life, to our world? Is that gift of love worth sharing and, if so, who needs it? Most importantly, are we willing to share it? That is what lies at the heart of Christmas. So I would commend to everyone to find an opportunity either in Church or at home to spend some time this Christmas with that baby and listen to what he has to say to your heart. It could just make all the difference in the world, so don't miss out.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas,

Michael

St. John the Baptist, Old Malden

Advent Carol Service

"I Bring You Good News!"

Sunday, 1st December 4:00pm

Messy Christingle

Sunday 15th
December
@ 3:00pm

*In aid of the
Children's
Society*

St. John the Baptist, Old Malden

*Crafts,
Carols, and
Refreshments*

*Everyone
Welcome!*

St. John the Baptist, Old Malden

Christmas Eve Crib Service

@3:00pm

*The Joy of Christmas
for Young and Old.*

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve @ 11:30pm

St. John the Baptist KT4 7RY

*Share the
Magic of
Christmas
with us!*



Alastair K Daniel tells
A Blanket of Tales:
Stories for a Winter Evening

A seasonal celebration of story
followed by refreshments
In aid of the work of
The Church of St John the Baptist, Old Malden

Saturday 21 December 2024: 1930-2045h
St John's Hall, 411 Malden Road,
Worcester Park KT4 7NY

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

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



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

From left to right: Liz, Anthony, Monica, Edward, Marilyn and Richard.



With thanks to the photographer: John Eggitt

It must be very unusual for three couples in one church congregation to be celebrating their Golden Weddings within one year, let alone within seven weeks!

Marilyn Taylor met Richard Burkett at Holy Trinity, Tooting and were married there on 10th August 1974.

Monica Henn met Edward Drake while on holiday in Torremolinos and were married at St Nicholas, Pyrford on 7th September 1974.

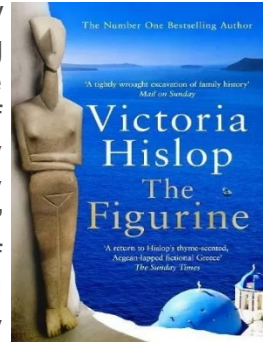
Elizabeth Miles met Anthony Pullen in the choir at St Michael & All Angels, Southfields and were married there on 28th September 1974

St John's Reading Group

December 2024

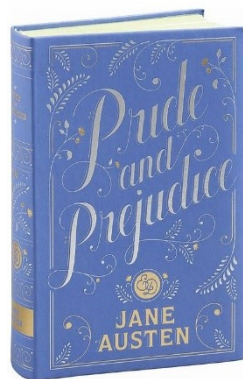


Our choice for November was 'The Figurine' by Victoria Hislop. Imagine a summer-time reading book in the middle of winter. It is interesting for the historical background and for exploring the topic of the illegal trade in antiquities, but otherwise, very predictable. It is a story of love, betrayal, and family relationships. For many, it was a very 'readable' story, for others, rather pedestrian. If you like lots of adjectives to describe the blue skies and sea and memories of summer holidays, then this book may be for you. As for the characters - lots of 'goodies' and 'baddies'..... an average score of 6½.



Our choice for December is far more engaging – 'The Postcard' by Anne Berest. An international bestseller translated from the French, it is a deeply moving story about a Jewish family's struggle against antisemitism in wartime France and their search to maintain their identity in the face of such cruel persecution. The story begins when the Berest family receive a mysterious anonymous postcard with an image of the Opera Garnier on one side, and the names of four relatives who were killed in Auschwitz on the other. Many years later, Anne decides that she must discover the truth as to what happened to her family and thus begins the quest. A beautifully written book which is difficult to put down.

For January, we turn to a favourite Jane Austin classic, *Pride and Prejudice*. This is Jane's second novel written in 1813 and is often described as a novel of manners, following the character development of Elizabeth Bennet. It is one of the best-loved books, but maybe we have focussed too much on TV and film adaptations rather than the beauty of the text. So here is our opportunity to re-read this great novel.



Thinking ahead to the New Year, our choice for February is Ben McIntyre's *The Spy and the Traitor*.

If you like historical novels, then Hilary Mantel's '*The Mirror and the Light*'

Is a must read and the TV rendering of it is brilliant so far. The wily Thomas Cromwell is definitely a challenge to all who meet him.

If you are a fan of Ken Follett, then the latest novel in his Kingsbridge series is now in paperback. Set in 1792, *Revolution* is in the air. *The Armour of Light* is a 735 page sequel to *A Column of Fire*. Just the book for a dark winter's evening.

Next month – a review of the new Booker Prize winner, '*Orbital*'. I must have had a premonition that it would win so it's next in line to read.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 5th December from 7.30pm
Happy Reading.

Marilyn



CHRISTMAS DAY EVENT 2024

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 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)

Setting up at the Hall on Christmas Eve from 4.00pm

Clearing up 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 for transport help 07584513858 or steadysteve95@gmail.com

All other offers of help please contact Pat Lovegrove - 8942 7699 or





Volunteers Needed

The Restore Project team are looking for volunteers to help tell others about the project, and why we are doing it.

The team needs **YOUR** help

- putting together a dedicated web-site, leaflets and brochures.
- distributing leaflets and brochures to local shops and businesses, emailing information.
- liaising with the Grants Committee to see what supporting literature grants require

If you can help please contact

<administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk>



Be an Angel!
Help us make a local child's
Christmas extra special!

Last year, with your help and that of our community, you raised £4,200! This ensured that 195 children in need across Old Malden and Malden Manor received a gift at Christmas. Families were given an Argos gift card valued at £20, with the families at Malden Manor Children's Centre receiving a £30 card. Last year for the first time we were able to help families from all three local primary schools, as well as our local nursery schools. It was a big challenge, but I hope we can meet the need again this year. So, if you'd like to help us meet this goal, please be an Angel and donate what you can!

If you would like to take part, please donate online or in Church in an envelope marked "Angel Project", by the 15th December.

Thank you!

Fr. Michael

Donate using the QR code below
or via our website:

<https://www.stjohnsoldmalDEN.org.uk/angel-project-2024/>





The Men's Thing

Here is the 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 14th - A talk by Paul Henry on ceramics.

A tour through the basics of pottery tracing the development of ceramics from hand pinched pots to industrial mass-produced dinner services. Paul studied in Stoke on Trent, working part time in a pot bank and went on to having his own studio for thrown ware.

January 11th -A talk by Oliver Detlef a British Airways Pilot

February 8th– To be confirmed

March 8th -To be confirmed

April 12th—A talk by Benjamin Jackson- Hog's Bristle, Tin Foil and Soot: a Brief History of Early Sound Recording 1860 – 1924.



LET US ALL RISE UP ...

Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the greatest threats to human life, affecting many individuals, families and communities across the world. GBV is violence and abuse carried out against anyone.

1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. Women and girls are disproportionately affected.

Domestic violence is widespread, affecting individuals and families of all backgrounds, and walks of life. It is not determined by gender, sexuality, ethnicity or religion

As part of a global 16 days of activism (25 November – 10 December) Mothers' Union is taking an active rôle in promoting awareness of GBV and are now responding all year round.

RISE UP is an acronym for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. **Everyone**, not just Mothers' Union members, is asked to

RESPOND by

INFORMING others and raising awareness with literature, posters, signposting to support sites

SUPPORTING women and children seeking refuge by providing gifts and provisions

EMPOWERING people through training and specific safeguarding training

UNITING with others through a call to action: an opportunity to affirm commitment to ending domestic violence

PRAYER and reflection through a global wave of prayer, and the RED CHAIR initiative:-

The Red Chair initiative, 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.

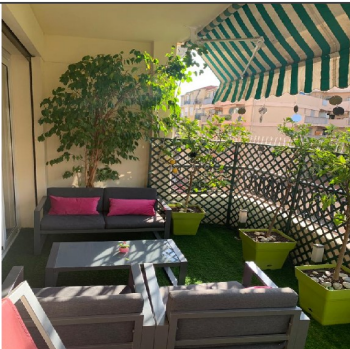
The chair is to remind us that globally, *every 11 minutes a woman or girl dies* at the hands of a partner or family member. She should be here, sitting on this chair, or on one of the other many such chairs which are set up in churches and public places throughout the world, during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence.

You are invited to visit the Red Chair, reflect on the staggering prevalence of domestic violence, then take one of the prayer sheets for use in church and at home.

Standing against domestic abuse

To find out more please go to www.mothersunion.org and/or www.restored-uk.org/redchair

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Patrickgriley@hotmail.com

St John's Knitting & Crochet Group

It is still not too late to start your 'Christmas Knitting', (or Crochet).

Why not come along to St John's Knitting & Crochet Group which meets on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Coffee Lounge from 2.00 - 4.00pm.



SPECIAL NOTE: as the last Thursday in December happens to be Boxing Day, our Knitting & Crochet Group will meet on Wednesday 18th DECEMBER.

Open to all – do come and join us! Learn to knit, follow a pattern, take up crochet! Or just come along for a friendly chat and cup of tea.

Do join us!

Marilyn

Inner Wheel is 100 years old this year! And to celebrate, Kingston Inner Wheel has set a challenge of singing 100 Christmas Carols or Songs – 100 for 100. Not an easy thing to do, but we're confident of doing it – with a little help from our friends – actually quite a lot of help!

We are incredibly grateful to some local organisations who are going to "donate" the carols and songs they sing or play at their own Christmas parties and events.

Huge thanks to Voices of Hope, Kingston Young Carers, Anstee Bridge, YORDA Adventures, Kingston WelCare – and our own Choir. The carols the Choir will sing at the rehearsal for our Carol Service will be donated to help Kingston Inner Wheel reach the target.

Hopefully we'll make good progress at our own Christmas Carols Evening on Wednesday, 4th December.

Bobby Child
Kingston Inner Wheel





Kingston Inner Wheel Club invites you to

Graham Child
CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Wednesday 4th December 2024
7.30 pm

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

Tickets £8.50 each



Contact: Bobby Child : 07946 532 846
or Lynda Rowland : lynrow9761@btopenworld.com



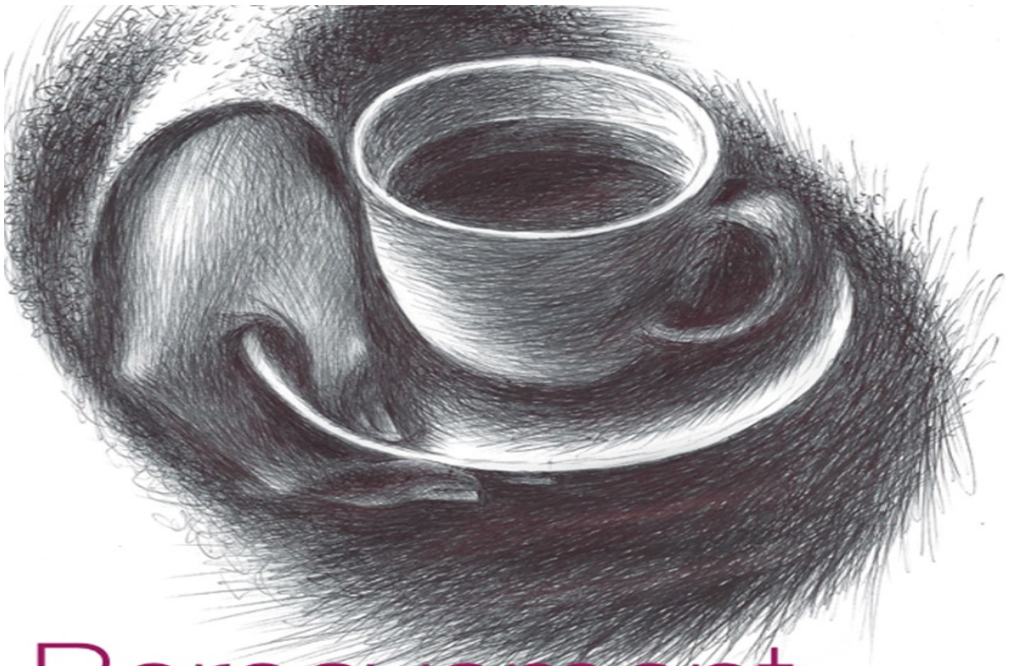


**There are boxes on the church porch bench for
your donations to the Foodbank.**

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

Please donate if you are able.

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



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 17th 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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