

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

December 2022

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

ST JOHN'S HALL

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Large and small halls available for hire with kitchen facilities
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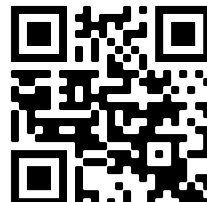
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

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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

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

As Advent begins we start moving quickly towards Christmas itself. After the pandemic there will be pressure and expectations to make up for lost time and enjoy what the season has to offer to the fullest. Because of the recent muted celebrations some of us may well feel a bit cheated, especially now as the cost of living crisis bites and people have less money in their pockets to spend. Deep down we all know that Christmas isn't about the money we spend or the gifts we give, but about that most precious gift of all that God gives to us in himself in the birth of Jesus, God made human for us. That is the beating heart of our celebrations and St. John's will continue its centuries old witness to that simple fact and awe-inspiring mystery that God should become one with us in all the messiness and uncertainty that human life can hold.

The services to come are a mix of old favourites and a few new offerings to help us make the most of what the season offers us spiritually. The way ahead is well-trod, but we may still be surprised at what we find along the way if we but make a little time and space to do so. Sundays mark a gentle escalation of expectation as we set the scene for the birth of Christ, recalling how we got to this point of needing a Saviour as well as looking ahead to his return in his second coming to judge the world and usher in his reign of peace and justice.

For children and families we will be holding our first Christingle service in many, many years on the 11th December, beginning with a Messy Christingle workshop at 3:00pm and finishing with a short service of Christmas carols as St. Lucia brings the light to kick off our celebrations. A collection will be taken in aid of the Children's Society and their vital work with children and young people across the United Kingdom. Sunday 18th our 9:45am service will be December's Worship for All service, our theme being "Getting Ready". At 6:30pm we will hold our annual Nine Lessons and Carols service as we get into the Christmas spirit in that most traditional of ways.

St. John's will be busy on Christmas Eve as we prepare for the big night. Margaret Barrington and the children will debut a new take on the old story of the holy birth at 3:00pm at the Crib service, with Midnight Mass following at 11:30pm. Christmas Day offers two options like Sundays with a quieter 8:00am service of Said Communion, and a relaxed, all-age appropriate service at 9:45am. As Christmas falls on a Sunday (Hurrah!!!!) that will mean that the next Sunday will be New Year's Day. Paracetamol will be available for any intrepid attenders suffering the ill-effects of too much celebration!

An innovation this year will be *Baby Jesus on Tour* as the baby makes his way round the parish through December arriving just in time for the Crib service on Christmas Eve. This is something I did in my first parish with young and old alike enjoying the opportunity to spend some time at home hosting the Baby Jesus, before passing him on to his next host. If you'd like to welcome him into your home, do put your name down on the rota when it becomes available on Advent Sunday.

In October our local schools and the Children's Centre were asking if we were doing the Angel Project appeal this year. As you can imagine there are even more families needing a bit of support at Christmas this year, given the financial situation as prices rise and expectations remain the same. I have every reason to be confident that between our congregation and the wider community we will successfully meet the challenge and be able to provide Argos gift cards worth £20 for each child as well as a £30 one for the families with small children who use the Children's Centre at Malden Manor. If you would like to support this please check our website for the Appeal Button that will enable you to contribute online, or speak to one of the Ministry Team or Churchwardens.

Finally I would like to say so many of you have been very generous to me, especially at Christmas. The Christmas presents come in droves and I have appreciated it very much, but I would ask that you all save your money for other things. I know money is tight for many and we are all watching our smart meters trying to cut down on our energy bills. American politicians embraced the concept of "Manifest Destiny" in the 19th Century as that nation expanded from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean; my waistline is doing the same and I need to avoid temptation. So rather than give me anything, I would much rather people support the Angel Project or the Christmas Day Lunch so that everyone can enjoy the day. I feel well-loved and appreciated already so be good to yourselves instead. Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Michael

16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence and Abuse:

25 November – 10 December 2022



How does our Christian faith guide our understanding?

The reasons for campaigning against violence against women and girls are many; any number of individuals and groups will find themselves drawn together to champion such a cause. For us as **Mothers' Union**, however, we need a distinctive voice as we join with others to support 16 Days of Activism and our Global Day of Action. We find this distinctiveness at the heart of our vision: that of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships.

God exists in, and created, equality of relationship. The relationship of the Trinity illustrates this powerfully; each distinct from but equal to the other; relating together in loving agreement. The equality of human relationships is established at the beginning of creation:

‘God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God, he created them;

male and female he created them.’ *Genesis 1:27*

All are created in the likeness of God, whatever our gender; as such all are entitled to be treated as God’s precious children, whose image we reflect.

‘There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.’ *Galatians 3:28*

Any culture of violence against one another, whether physical or emotional, is a distortion of relationships as originally intended: equality and respect in the sight of God.

Throughout the Old Testament, God's attitude to women is positive and pastoral. There are many instances of women in positions of influence and leadership; provision is also made for those in positions of vulnerability, as in *Deuteronomy 26:12*. A woman's choice in marriage is highlighted in *Genesis 24:57* and other examples, whilst in Proverbs 'wisdom' is personified as a woman.

Where instances of violence against women are recorded, they are described as a wrongful action with negative consequences, for example, the rape of Tamar by her half brother in *2 Samuel 13*, which led to serious family conflict and bloodshed. God's position remains constant.

Within Jewish society, attitudes began to change towards women through the times of exile and intermingling with other cultures. The religious leaders attempted to protect the purity of their race through more restrictive laws, many of which had a negative effect on the lives of women. Hence, by the time of Jesus' birth, Jewish men would pray every morning and thank God that he had not made them a Gentile, a slave, or a woman.

However, Jesus radically challenged this culture through his actions and teaching. He treated women as completely equal to men calling them 'Daughters of Abraham' (*Luke 13:16*). He openly conversed with women, met their needs and included them amongst his followers and supporters. He disregarded Jewish edicts when he healed the woman suffering from a haemorrhage, choosing compassion over the letter of the law. He revealed his divinity to Martha (*John 11:25-26*), and chose to appear first to Mary Magdalene after his resurrection (*John 20:10-18*).

In a situation where violence against a woman was allowed under Jewish law – that of the woman caught in adultery – Jesus averted the aggression with wisdom and compassion, using the situation to challenge her accusers without condoning her wrongdoing.

Thus, the arrival of Christianity transformed life for women. The New Testament indicates that they played a significant role in the life of the early church. They were involved in leadership roles alongside Paul and others; they used their

homes for gatherings of believers and had important input into the missionary growth of the church. Relationships between Christian men and women were surely ones of equality and mutual respect.

Within the marriage relationship, the sometimes-controversial edict by Paul for wives to submit to their husbands (*Ephesians 5:22*), becomes less so when seen in the context of the previous verse, *submit to one another out of reverence for Christ*, and the instruction to husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church (v.25), that is, to be prepared to lay down their lives for them. With this perspective there is no room for violence or abuse of any sort: whether psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional.

However, history has unfolded since New Testament times, both in the church and the world: there can never be any justification for violence against women. In our campaigning against it, we seek to follow the example of God. We look for inner change within perpetrators as they are enabled to conduct equal loving relationships, respecting women as made in the image of God.

We build our campaign on God's command: to love our neighbour as ourselves. Where this is followed, there will be no place for violence against anyone.

'Gender-based violence is one of the greatest injustices in our world today... The Church is already supporting and caring for those affected; it must continue in that work and must condemn the notion that such violence is ever acceptable. The Church must be an advocate for restored relationships of mutual respect and love, modelling the reconciling love shown by Christ to all people.'

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

An evening of tales from Hans Christian Andersen
and a song selection inspired by his work

Nettles, Nightingales and a Naked Emperor

with storytelling from Alastair K Daniel
and music from Louise Howlett

followed by seasonal refreshments



Saturday 17 December 2022: 1930-2045h
St John's Hall, 411 Malden Road, Worcester Park KT4 7NY

Price: Adults £8; Children/concessions £4; Family Ticket £20
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

Nettles Nightingales and a Naked Emperor - after two years absence, Alastair Daniel and Louise Howlett return to St John's Hall on Saturday 17 December (7.30-8.45pm) with a fundraising evening of song and story inspired by the work of Hans Christian Andersen. Price: Adults £8; Children/concessions £4; Family Ticket £20 - 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

St. John the Baptist, Old Malden

Advent & Christmas

27th- Advent Sunday

4th- 2nd Sunday of Advent

11th- 3rd Sunday of Advent

Messy Christingle @3:00pm

18th- 4th Sunday of Advent

Nine Lessons & Carols@ 6:30pm

24th- Christmas Eve

Children's Crib Service@ 3:00pm

Midnight Mass@ 11:30pm

25th- Christmas Day

Said Holy Communion@ 8:00am

Festival Sung Eucharist@ 9:45am



Be an Angel!

Help Us Make a Local Child's Christmas Extra Special!



We have 96 children across Old Malden and Malden Manor who will go without this Christmas.

Help us make the holidays that much brighter!

A donation of £20 buys one child an Argos Gift Card so that their parents may buy something they really want.

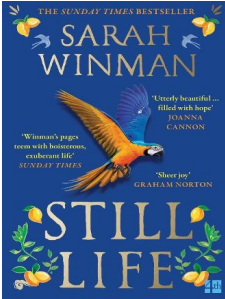
All proceeds go to the Angel Project.

Sponsored by St. John's, Old Malden.

Thank you!



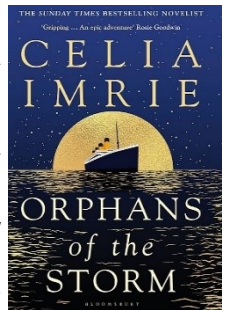
St John's Reading Group December 2022



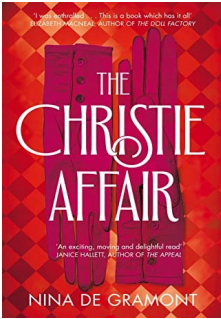
Our book for November was **Still Life by Sarah Winman**. The novel begins in Florence just as WWII is ending and Ulysses Temper is befriended by a couple of Italians who will have a great impact on his life. Returning to post-war London, he leads a colourless life until he is contacted by an Italian notary who reveals that he has come into an inheritance. A new life beckons in Florence as he sets off with an old friend, his ex-wife's child and a parrot.

In addition to lovely descriptions of Florence and its gastronomic delights, it is a novel which focusses on love and relationships. It has many humorous anecdotes and as the book progresses, we rejoice in the way of life enjoyed by our protagonists. Some of the profanities, we felt, were unnecessary but they did not detract us from the thread of the novel. Mostly enjoyed by all with an average score of 8½ out of 10.

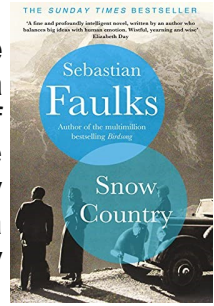
At our December meeting, we shall discuss **Celia Imrie's Orphans of the Storm**. This novel is based on the real-life story of the survival of two infants who had been taken from their mother in Nice by their father and taken on the Titanic. The young boys were in the last lifeboat to leave the Titanic. Marcelle goes to New York, where she confirms that she is the boys' mother. She takes them back to France with her where they both grow to adulthood.



The novel includes historical research by Fidelis Morgan and some follow up details and bibliography. An interesting read.



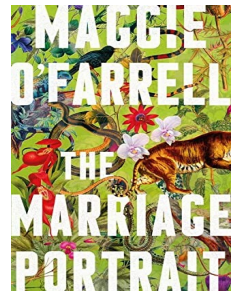
For January, we have selected **The Christie Affair** by **Nina de Gramont**, a mystery based on the disappearance of Agatha Christie in 1926. Our choice coincides with the latest research by Lucy Worsley who has also written a book about Ms Christie accompanied by a TV series.



We have even made a choice for February which is Sebastian Faulks' **Snow Country**. This novel is described as 'a landmark novel of exquisite yearnings, dreams of youth and the sanctity of hope – an epic love story of timeless resonance'.

So maybe some ideas for your Christmas Book list?

After the success of Maggie O'Farrell's novel Hamnet, I see that it is going to be adapted for the theatre for the RSC. Her new novel, (still in hardback) tells the story of Cosimo de' Medici's third daughter, Lucrezia, in 1560s Florence as she learns to navigate an opaque Florentine court and an enigmatic new husband. A future title, maybe?



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 1st December at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge, with our usual 'Christmas eats' and Quiz sheet! Another year of wonderful reading!



St John's Knitting & Crochet Group will be meeting in December as usual, on the last Thursday afternoon of the month. (December 29th).

If you are tired of watching TV or it is too cold to go walking or shopping, then join us at St John's Church Coffee Lounge from 2.00pm-4.00pm.

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

You are most welcome to join us.

Another consignment of blankets, hats, scarves, mittens and jumpers is on its way to Romania – so thank you for all your knitting and crochet donations!

Marilyn



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

**Service of Nine
Lessons &
Carols**

**Sunday 18th
December 2022
at 6.30pm**

50 YEARS AGO

From the Vicar, Fr. Hugh, in Old Malden News October 1972

“Christmas is Coming.....The geese are getting fat’. And everywhere there will be lonely people spending Christmas entirely on their own.....But not (we hope) in this parish.

*Last year in O.M.News I asked that if any of you know of people who would be alone for Christmas you would let the Clergy know, or do something about it yourself. Perhaps you did? Certainly, I was pleased to welcome three people who might otherwise have had nowhere to go. This year, following the example of a Surbiton parish, the Community Care Committee and the Church Council have agreed that this is a **parish responsibility**: and accordingly arrangements are being made for anyone who has nowhere else to go for Christmas to come to St. John’s Church Hall (The Institute) on Christmas Day....”*

I believe this first event was a resounding success with 70 people catered for and many volunteers from St. John’s and the wider community contributing through donating goods, cooking, serving, entertaining and general help.

50 years later this important event is still taking place and has done for every year in between. A fantastic achievement. Even during the pandemic in 2020 meals were delivered to many of our usual guests and last year, with restrictions, we were able to have some guests at the Hall and some meals delivered.

Nowadays we usually cater for no more than 50 people, including helpers. This event is by invitation only and as our guest list is getting smaller, due to various reasons, we would like to invite more people who may be on their own this year. We would also like to invite any elderly couples who may be struggling. Please let us know of anyone in this position so an invitation can be sent to them.

This year we already have cooks and helpers on the Day but 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 5.00pm on Christmas Day

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

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

Another Jumble Sale Success!

A big thank you to all who made this possible - those who donated, sorted & set -up, helped sell and finally clear away on the Saturday.

It was our most successful Jumble Sale yet, raising a much needed £815 for Church funds.

It was an exceptional sale as a lot of quality items had been donated unexpectedly, for which we were grateful.

The Fundraising Team

Remembrance Sunday 2022

As every year, poppy wreaths from St John's congregation and the Uniformed Groups were laid at our War Memorial in our churchyard on Remembrance Sunday. Following the two minute silence, prayers were said to remember before God all those who have died for their country in war.

Our commemoration was very much curtailed during the past two years due to Covid - but it was wonderful to be able to welcome back our uniformed groups for a special 'Parade' service for Remembrance Sunday. Lovely to see a full church once again!

Remembrance in The Lady Chapel with our Book of Remembrance



In St. John's graveyard there are 14 graves of servicemen who died during the First or Second World War. Following the Act of Remembrance at the war memorial, a group of young people laid a small posy of flowers on each of these graves, to acknowledge the sacrifice these men had made.

Matthew McGuigan and Harry Thomas
laying posies on the Oatway family grave.





**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 20th 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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