

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

January 2022

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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:
St John the Baptist Parish Office
020 8330 2817
administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk

Advertising and Distribution:
Janet Flemming
020 8640 9377
Janet.flemming15@gmail.com

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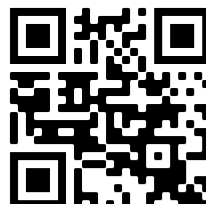
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Tel: 020 8942 8321

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

Directory

Vicar	The Revd Michael Roper gore_lodge@yahoo.co.uk	020 8337 8830
Asst Priest	The Revd Milly Broome m.broome@hotmail.co.uk	020 8337 1572
Reader & Choir Director	Mrs Marilyn Burkett m.c.burkett@btinternet.com	020 8337 6017
Pastoral Asst	Mr Anthony Pullen tony@pullen.me.uk	020 8949 6784
Organist	Mr Barry Eaton	020 8949 1708
Church Wardens	Mrs Lynn Sanger Mr Mike Broome	020 8715 2066 020 8337 1572
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
PCC Treasurer	Mr Alastair Harris	020 8241 1087
Parish Administrator	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
Safeguarding Officers	Mrs Vanessa Spreckley Ms Marie McGuire	07918 051099 07535 878107
Church Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Steve Clarke	020 8337 2392
Hall Bookings	Mrs Pat Sutton	020 8942 8321
Parish Website:	www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	
Parish Office:	administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	

To receive the Parish Mailing please scan the
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Services for January



St John's is OPEN

St John's has now re-opened 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 - Said Eucharist with hymns

Wednesday 11am — said Eucharist

The midday Eucharist on Wednesdays has been moved to 11am to cater for the Mothers Union, who 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

Vicars Letter

I write this on a dreary rainy afternoon in early December, such is the nature of deadlines for publishing the parish magazine. I don't have a crystal ball to predict the future and with the news full of Omicron and the very real possibility of another wave of Covid infections, it may well feel as if this winter too has melted away into disappointment and grey clouds. I would take exception to that, at least as far as St. John's is concerned. We have emerged from lockdown with renewed energy and a fresh determination to plough on with confidence. I can say this because we have across our congregations forged a way through the uncharted and kept true to our course and moved forward in spite of the challenges.

Thankfully we made the decision ages ago to stick with wearing masks and we rely on common sense to keep St. John's as safe a place as possible. To that end the Churchwardens and I re-evaluate our Risk Assessment regularly with the developments in the virus as they come. It looks likely that there may be another lockdown after the Prime Minister has fulfilled his promise to let the Nation celebrate Christmas with family and friends. If Omicron leads to as many hospitalisations as predicted then we will need to play our part in minimising its impact on the NHS. God willing we may just avoid that scenario and be able to continue gathering in person for worship. Only time will tell.

Meanwhile there is much to be thankful for. Over half of our normal congregation has returned to Church and we have welcomed a number of new individuals and families through baptisms and people moving into the area. We have also

managed to attract our uniformed organisations to two Parade services at Harvest and Remembrance. We are planning a big celebration with them all for St. George's Day in April, so watch this space. As we draw new families into our church life, we have felt the need to offer a more informal Sunday service, the "Worship for All" service enables children to remain in Church with their parents and allow families to worship together once a month. It has also helped take the pressure off our Children's leaders as it is a big ask, especially with a lack of enough volunteers, to provide something for a wide age range as usual. The Bereavement Café has also been a fantastic addition to our pastoral care in the Parish and we hope and pray that whatever restrictions await the New Year, we may be able to continue this important support in person. There is so much to look forward to but we may have to tread carefully as we wend our way to better, brighter days. God is with us and always will be. Let us keep confidence in Him and we will get there.

With Every Blessing for the New Year,

Michael.

Anniversaries in 2022

- 1922 *The BBC celebrates its centenary*
- 1872 (150th anniversary): *Publication of Middlemarch, by George Eliot.*
- 1947 (75th anniversary): Beginning of the Cold War
- 1797 31 January Franz Schubert (Birth, 225 years ago)
- 1922 1 February Birth of the opera singer, Renata Tebaldi
- 1952 6 February 70th anniversary of Elizabeth II becoming first queen regnant of the UK and the Commonwealth
- 1810 7 February Birth of Charles Dickens
- 1587 8 February Mary Queen of Scots beheaded 435 years ago
- 1872 16 March 150 years since the first FA Cup final
- 1732 31 March Joseph Haydn (Birth, 290 years ago)
- 1797 3 April Johannes Brahms (Death, 125 years ago)
- 1912 14 April 110 years since RMS Titanic hits an iceberg in the North Atlantic (sinks morning of 15 April)
- 1932 23 April Opening of the Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon
- 1820 12 May Birth of Florence Nightingale, – National Nurses Day
- 1953 2 June The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the first major international event to be televised
- 1922 10 June Birth of Judy Garland
- 1882 18 June Igor Stravinsky (Birth 140 years ago)
- 1948 22 June Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Docks in Essex
- 1502 4 August 520 years ago, Christopher Columbus set sail from Spain
- 1862 22 August Claude Debussy (Birth 160 years ago)
- 1997 31 August 25 years since the Death of Princess Diana

1772 21 October Birth of poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge

1922 4 November 100 years since the British archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun. On 26 November, he reached a second sealed door and discovered the famous treasures.

1952 25th November Agatha Christie's murder-mystery play The Mousetrap opens at the Ambassadors' Theatre in London later becoming the longest continuously-running play in history

1822 10 December Cesar **Franck**, Belgian-French composer, organist and music teacher (**200th anniversary** of his birth)

1822 27 December 200th birthday of Louis Pasteur, French biologist, microbiologist and chemist

These are just a small selection of anniversaries coming up in 2022.



You will find many more

MCB

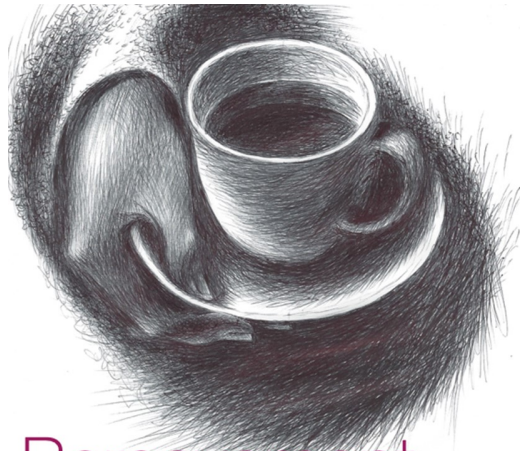
SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Our Sunday Lunch in December was excellent with a Christmas meal and entertainment. We were extremely grateful to the cooks Ian and Heather, to George and Angela who did all the washing up, to Maureen, Anne, Jean and Lyn who set up, served made tea etc. The entertainers - The Garden Girls - (who brought their own fan club with them) were great singing medleys of Christmas songs. This group of four was formed during lockdown practising in their gardens, hence their name.

We would also like to thank all our volunteer cooks who can be relied upon to provide a two course meal each month. We are in the process of filling in the rota for 2022 and have a few gaps at the moment. If you fancy helping us in this way please let me know.

Also if anyone living on their own and local would like to join us as a guest please get in touch. It is always a lovely sociable day.
Pat Lovegrove





Bereavement Café

Our Bereavement Cafe project has been accepted as one of the Co-op's local charities for the next 12 months. Co-op members are able to nominate the Bereavement Cafe as their charity and we will receive 2% of every purchase. I would like to encourage you to nominate us and to become a member if you aren't already one. It costs £1 to become a member and anyone can join in-store or online at <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>

We are still in the planning stage looking for volunteers to help with refreshments and anyone who would also like to take part in the training provided by our sponsor the Princess Alice Hospice. Until we are up and running, support is available from me or any member of the Ministry Team for anyone who has lost a loved one.

If you might be interested in taking part, please speak to Michael.

Thank you!

Stewardship.....another perspective.

I remember how struck I was when I arrived at St. John's at just how well organised things are here. There are so many people doing all sorts of jobs that together everything seems to run like a well-oiled machine. This is not the case in many other places and I know quite a few of my clergy colleagues who would give their right arm to enjoy the teamwork that helps make St. John's such a special place. There is even an anonymous Vestry "elf" who regularly irons my alb! I suppose they took one look at me and realised my ironing skills were non-existent and are determined to do their best that I at least am presentable for Sunday mornings. Thank you very much whoever you are! It is much appreciated.

Another thing I noticed early on is that we don't talk about money very often in Church. I assumed it is because money is rather vulgar and British folks don't think we should talk about it. After all Church is about far more than money, and it is an uncomfortable subject. After much discussion with the Finance Committee and the realisation that St. John's has been spending its reserves at an increasing pace, I was encouraged to bring the topic out in the open and meet it head on. I know some are very uncomfortable with that and I appreciate your viewpoint, but I am also aware that we are living on borrowed time and we will shortly face a day of reckoning. Hence the launch of our new Stewardship scheme and the Red Envelope appeal. In the past, St. John's has relied on a few very generous donors to keep us in the black, as well as the continued support of a number of our congregation. It is thanks to substantial

donations that we have managed to minimise our debt recently, though we still have to budget for a shortfall of about 15k a year in order to meet our financial commitments. In spite of belt tightening and lockdown, we nonetheless ran at a loss last year. Which begs the question of how can we turn this around?

Everyone from the Finance Committee to the fundraising Team have worked hard to navigate the circumstances inflicted by the pandemic and lockdown. They have maximised the opportunities presented and made sound decisions to minimise our expenditure. So far we have had a limited response to the Red Envelope appeal with over half of those already in the FWO not responding. We have put together a budget for next year that is a matter of educated guess work and hope for the best, but we aren't certain that the current level of giving will remain. Thankfully we have had a few new people join the Scheme as well as several increases in giving from those who have responded. As things stand at present, Just 9 donors of the 45 who responded, have pledged about 40% of our anticipated income from Free Will Offering. We look to see a decent uplift if everything comes right, but that isn't clear yet. We can but hope!

In any event, if we look at our expenditure from a different perspective we may be able to see more clearly what the implications are for the future if we cannot get our Parish finances onto a stable foundation. The Budget for 2021 is set at 104k with a break even scenario in mind. That depends on a lot of factors, namely a stable stream of income through Stewardship as well as the return of our fundraising events, namely the Summer and Christmas fairs. Our predicted

expenditure has increased as our new Parish Administrator works five days a week and not just four, as well as through half-term, unlike her predecessor. Already Sally has taken on new responsibilities and jobs and this will likely increase.

By far the largest call on our finances is the 72k we give as our Parish Support Fund. This goes to the Diocese and on to the Church Commissioners in Westminster. 27,342 is paid to me as my stipend. In addition there are further costs to maintain clergy housing, pay for training, services provided by the Diocese (Safeguarding, administration, etc.), as well as supporting the $\frac{3}{4}$ parishes across Southwark that are unable to pay for stipendiary ministry themselves. At this rate we are due to run out of our unrestricted reserves within three years and will then be unable to pay our Parish Support Fund. That will raise serious questions about the viability of St. John's and whether or not we can actually afford a full-time paid priest. As one of the wealthiest communities in the Deanery it would be very unfortunate to renege on the commitment we have held to thus far with the Diocese, especially when in spite of lockdown parishes have honoured their pledges with only a 2% drop with many parishes increasing their own giving. Practically it would mean me going cap in hand to the Bishop to beg for my job. Both of my previous parishes have been in deprived areas and were underwritten by the wider Diocese because of the nature of the outreach and service to their communities. This support was withdrawn from my previous parish in Epsom and they are now to become part of a united benefice with a wealthy neighbour.

I am confident that we can solve the financial challenges we face, but it will take a willingness and openness to talk about

money, to ask questions about our expenditure and giving, as well as be honest with ourselves about our commitment to St. John's and what we have to offer our community. We are uniquely placed to do great good but it will take all of us doing our bit in giving of our time, energy, or financial resources in order to make our vision for St. John's come to fruition. I encourage you to speak to Richard Burkett, Alastair Harris, or Jane Bransgrove from our Stewardship and Finance teams if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns. Many Thanks, Michael.

St John's Crochet & Knitting Group – 2022

Hopefully you found some extra time for your knitting & crochet projects over the Christmas and New Year. If not, you may wish to join us and re-kindle your enthusiasm for your creative talents.



Our group is gradually getting back to pre-lockdown days and we continue to welcome anyone interested in knitting

and crochet. Perhaps you feel a little rusty and would like to renew your skills or you may wish to learn to knit or crochet – we welcome new members and beginners too.

Our meetings take place on the last Thursday afternoon of the month from 2.00pm in St John's Coffee Lounge at church.

You will be welcome to join us – lots of tea, cake, biscuits..

Marilyn Burkett

John's Crochet & Knitting Group – 2022



Fair Trade Hamper

A big thank you to the generous people who donated items for the beautiful hamper and to those who bought tickets for the raffle .

The hamper was won by
Lindsay Marshall.





How much do you know about the books we read?

1. Who has won the Women's Prize for fiction 2021? and with which novel?
2. Who wrote 'A Three Dog problem'?
3. The path to war begins with one false step' - which book tells this story and give the author
4. Name the sequel to 'Normal People'
5. Who is the greedy, chauvinist and materialistic husband of Katharina?
6. Who is the author of 'The Christmas Pig'?
7. What does Apsley Cherry-Garrard describe in his book 'The Worst Journey in the World'?
8. Which fictional school was created by the cartoonist Ronald Searle?
9. Find the title of Anthony Doerr's latest novel.
10. The title of which D. H. Lawrence book is also a meteorological phenomenon?
11. Name the Bennett sisters
12. Who does Madeline Bray marry?
13. In 1991 the sequel to *Gone with the Wind*, written by Alexandra Ripley, was published. What was the title?
14. Who wrote 'On Beauty' and 'White Teeth'?
15. Give the title of Richard Osman's second novel
16. Name the second novel by the author of 'A Gentleman in Moscow'.
17. Which book won the Booker Prize in 2021? And the author?
18. Name the sequel to 'The Long Call'.
19. What is the occupation of Caleb Plummer?
20. Name the landmark 1967 novel by Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez?

21. Name the new Kate Scarpetta thriller
22. Recent novel about the Titanic. And the author?
23. Carrie and The Shining were both successful films. Who wrote the novels on which they were based?
24. Which best-selling novelist was the youngest member of the British House of Commons in 1969?
25. What is the surname of the children in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe?

TITLES OF BOOKS WITH Vowels omitted:

DVDCPPRFLD

THNGHTMNGR

THBKPR'SPRMS

MNSFLDPRK

THSCRTGRDN

THMDNGHTLBRRY

Answers next month.

Happy Reading

Marilyn



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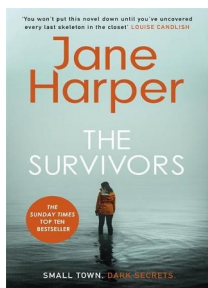
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St John's Reading Group

January 2022

When we selected '**Our Man in Havana**' by Graham Greene as our book of the month, we could never have foreseen the wide range of comments on this 'modern classic'. Some loved it but many did not: it achieved a 1/10 but also a 10/10 and all scores in between. It also led to a discussion on what constitutes a 'classic' novel and a 'modern classic'. Interesting! Very much a story of its time, (1958), it is the story of a vacuum cleaner salesman, Mr Wormold, who is 'recruited' to act as a spy with his 'Atomic Vacuum Cleaner' as a front for a secret weapon. Both comical and satirical, provides us with a glimpse of Cuba just before the revolution and at a time when spies were thought to be everywhere.



When we meet in January, we shall discuss Jane Harper's latest novel '**The Survivors**'. Ms Harper is a popular author with the group and we have read 'The Dry', 'Force of Nature' and 'the Lost Man' – all set in Australia. The heat of the desert has certainly warmed us in our mid-winter months but this time, we must prepare ourselves for the icy waters of the Tasmanian Sea as a body is found on the beach. It has been described as 'a character study centred around a murder linked to a mystery of the past'.

Hopefully a good Christmas read!

Our choice for February is '**The Vanishing Half**' by Brit Bennett – a book which was Shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction 2021. Stella and Desiree are identical twins who grow up in a small black Southern community but when they are ages sixteen, they run away. Their lives then take completely different paths as the novel explores race, identity and gender.



A recent article in the arts column of The Times suggested some 'alternative' explanations of comments made by book critics. I set out a few of them here:

Dazzling prose: too many adverbs.

Atmospheric: nothing happens, boring.

Gothic: there's an old house in it.

Brimming with empathy: treacly, sentimental.

Long awaited: the author took so long to write this one, no one can remember the previous volume.

Gut-wrenching: the dog dies.

Enchanting/delightful: twee story set in a middle-class Mediterranean holiday destination. Recognise any of these?

Our January meeting will be on Thursday 6th January at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. Happy Reading!

Marilyn

Friends of St John the Baptist Church

The Parishioners of St John's would have been holding its annual Maeldune Fair this June on Plough Green which has been sadly cancelled (for the second year running) due to Covid.

As well as a successful community event both for the residents of Old Malden and the parishioners of St John's, the Fair is also our main fundraiser and the means by which St John's raises vital funds to support its mission to the wider community as well as helping to maintain our historic church building.

St John's faces a very difficult financial future as a consequence of the pandemic and has suffered a great loss of income.

If you would have been with us on the green with your families, old and young, enjoying all the activities and spending your money, we would be grateful if you could instead consider making a donation by visiting the Donations Page on St John's website <https://stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk/giving/>

or, you can send a cheque payable to the PCC of St John the Baptist, Old Malden, and send it to the Parish Administrator at: St John the Baptist, Church Road, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 7RY.

We hope to see you all at the Maeldune Fair in 2022.

Thank you. St John's.





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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