

# Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist, Malden

**January 2024**

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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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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**

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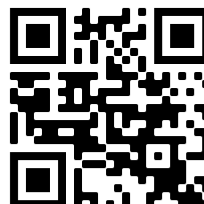
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton  
Tel: 020 8942 8321

# St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

## Directory

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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 Sally Pusey Ms Marie McGuire	020 8330 2817 07535 878107
Church Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Steve Clarke	020 8337 2392
Hall Bookings	Mrs Pat Sutton	020 8942 8321
Parish Website:	<a href="http://www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk">www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk</a>	
Parish Office:	<a href="mailto:administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk">administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk</a>	

To receive the Parish Mailing please scan the  
QR code with your smart phone camera



## **Services for January**



### **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

The year ahead promises to be an interesting and challenging one. After a lengthy process we received a faculty, official permission, from the Diocese to begin our Restore Project as we seek to restore our crumbling church tower and make the building water tight. With this faculty in-hand we are now able to apply for large grants from various charities to fund the works. The largest of these is the National Lottery and the Grants team will be putting together our application for this over the next few months. If we are able to secure a significant amount of money from them, it will go a long way to enabling this important work to start. Freezing weather this winter will damage the 400 year old brickwork further and falling debris could force us to close the main entrance of the Church for safety reasons. Let's hope for a warmer than usual winter and remember the Grants team in our prayers!

A key factor for a successful project is identifying skills within our own congregation which can help us communicate the need and outline the project to the wider community, as well as informing and shaping our fundraising efforts. You will have had our "Time and Talents" survey from Deborah Harris earlier this autumn. If you haven't completed it, please do. Paper copies are available as well as QR codes to online links in Church. At the moment we need advice and help designing our communications using online resources, leaflets, and items for local newspapers. As funding increasingly emphasises the community involvement aspect of a given project, we need to be a bit more forthcoming about the things we do in the community, practically and pastorally. Grants solely for brick and mortar are few and far between these days, as grantors want to ensure that their money has a real impact on people's lives across the community, and not just for church members. Thankfully we have several initiatives at St. John's that are changing lives and making a real impact locally. Our goal is to start building work later in the Summer, most likely repairing the buttress to the Tower as it is accessible without expensive scaffolding and will reveal whether or not we can salvage old bricks or need all new ones. Alex Veal, our Parish Architect, will be leading an information session for everyone at some point in the New Year to answer questions and outline the project.

In the meantime I would like to commend a smaller project that could really be informative all round. I preached one Sunday in November about us taking the time to look around and see what God was doing in our Church and the community. We could draw attention to the "Signs of the Kingdom" around us, celebrate them and learn from them too. It would help us take stock of what we are already doing, and enable us to see God doing something new outside the Church that we could

support or active be part of. The revitalised relationship between St. John's and Malden Parochial are a case in point, as we watch connections being renewed and greater involvement one with the other. At St. John's we have a number of parents, Governors, and staff members. The children at MPS are now in Church twice a term or more for services and activities. There is real scope for our Church to become a venue for education, not just for heritage, but also ecology and conservation, building on the work of Chris Beales and others.

For the community we offer hospitality and space to come together and work for the benefit of all. The Men's Thing has been successfully revived with a number of people offering talks on a wide range of topics. We shouldn't underestimate the importance of hospitality and a chance to socialise after the privations of the pandemic. Alongside the Bereavement Café, the Men's Thing meets a real need and will continue to do so. If there is something you'd like to share with the group, please speak to Mike Broome about details etc.

Another piece of work is reviewing our governance as a parish and bringing our practices into line with Church of England guidelines and the Law. Recent changes to legislation have caught us unawares and so we will work to become compliant as we run up to the Annual Meeting in May. I would encourage anyone who would like to join the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to think and pray about it, and put your name forward for election. New perspectives and different experiences would enrich PCC and help us shape our worship and mission more effectively. If you have any questions feel free to speak to me or anyone else on PCC.

I know that the year will hold surprise and opportunities we can't see yet, but I am also sure that we have what it takes to make the most of them. Please think about how you could make a difference this year in the life of our Church.

Many Thanks and Happy New Year, Michael.

# MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S

We are very fortunate here at St. John's ~ we have our wonderfully experienced organist, Barry Eaton; we have our talented, creative and incredibly hardworking music director, Marilyn Burkett; and we have our lovely choir!

And we also have a Church with excellent acoustics.

So what better way to raise funds for our Restoration Project than to hold some musical events?

Plans are being laid with a view to organising a series of concerts starting some time after Barry's organ recital in March. I have a few contacts in the world of classical music (and a few others), but who else is there? Do YOU have any contacts, do you play an instrument or play with an ensemble or have someone amongst your family and friends who does? I would love to hear from you with ANY contacts or suggestions, so that we can make this work!

And any help with the organisation would be greatly appreciated ~ all volunteers welcome.

Bobby Child

07946 532 846 (or via the "C" cubby hole at Church)





## **SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB**

As a new year commences, members of the Sunday Lunch Club would like to thank all the volunteer cooks who produce lovely meals each month for them. Everyone is extremely grateful for the time given for them. This is a very friendly and informal group. All members live on their own so this lunch means a lot, not only for the meal, but to be with others socially.

At the moment there are a few gaps during 2024 where a cook is needed, so we are looking for others to help either on your own or with friends. There is usually a two course meal for around 30 people. If you are interested please find out more from Pat Lovegrove (02089427699)

### **New Year's Resolution ....?**

Go on a diet and lose weight? Get more exercise? Try a new hobby or pastime? Socialise more? Sometimes difficult to achieve but if you can do something that ticks more than one box then so much the better.

Why not try Bowls - a game for people of all ages. Not only does it provide gentle exercise using lots of different muscle groups but playing on a regular basis will help you lose weight - not just because you are exercising but because you can't snack while you are playing the typical 2 hour session. You will make new friends in a caring environment at a time to suit you.

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# Letting the train take the strain

There can be no argument about it: travelling by train is far more environmentally friendly than flying. The numbers are complicated, but the easiest comparison I have seen is in terms of grams of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted per passenger kilometre. The difference is pretty dramatic:

Domestic flight	246g per passenger/km
Long haul flight	193g per passenger/km
National rail (UK)	47g per passenger/km
Eurostar (to Paris)	4g per passenger/km

Aircraft use more fuel taking off regardless of the length of the flight, so the shorter the flight, the more CO<sub>2</sub> per kilometre. Of course, for trains the figures will vary, depending on whether or not they are electric, and if they are, whether that electricity comes from a renewable source (wind, solar, etc.). Eurostar is nearly at its goal of using 100% renewable electricity. Going to Paris or Brussels by Eurostar your carbon emissions will be 96% lower than if you had flown.

But that is not the only reason why Sue and I and take trains for our European holidays. Train travel is far more comfortable and more relaxing, and you get to see places and scenery on the way which you miss when 30,000 feet up. Ah, you will say, but it's so slow! It's true that an A320 Airbus goes much faster than the fastest European train (a cruising speed of 829kph versus the fastest trains in France, Spain or Italy – maximum around 320kph – UK trains are a slouch by comparison). On the other hand, trains take you to city centres, whereas airports are on the outskirts and have to be reached by train, bus, car or taxi. Furthermore, one has to arrive at least two hours before departure, be separated from all but hand luggage, and then be subjected to the awful, retail-pressure-cooker environment of the terminal. Where is the pleasure in that? At the other end, there's the trek from the aircraft to arrival terminal, hanging around the carousel waiting for one's cases to emerge, and you still have to get from the airport to your final destination.

Stations are far more fun, and you don't have to spend nearly as much time in them. Yes, one needs to turn up at the Eurostar terminal an hour or so before departure, and you still need to have your luggage x-rayed. Thanks to Brexit (don't get me started) the passport checks take longer and are more annoying than they used to be, but that's the same at airports. Once abroad, however, things are much easier.

You can get to pretty well anywhere in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland or Germany quite easily in a day. You can get to most of western Europe in two days. In recent

years we have been by train to Carcassonne, St Etienne and Beaune in France, Helmond in the Netherlands, and Venice, Florence and Sorrento in Italy. We did fly to Krakow in Poland in 2018 (we wouldn't now) but returned by train via an enjoyable visit to Leipzig.

In April 2023 we went to Malaga in southern Spain, taking the 09.31 from St Pancras International to Paris. A cross-town trip on the RER (the most awkward part of the journey!) gets you to the Gare de Lyon, and from there a TGV (*Train Grande Vitesse*) whisks you to Barcelona, arriving around 9.30pm. We spent the night in the excellent Barcelo Sants Hotel above the station. There is a direct train to Malaga, but it leaves early, so we decided to go via Madrid, which gave us time for a hearty breakfast at the hotel. We still arrived in Malaga by early evening. We did take the direct train back, covering around 1000km in under six hours. The Spanish high-speed AVE trains are superb.

In October we travelled to Vicenza in northern Italy (between Venice and Verona), travelling out via Paris (for an excellent lunch), Stuttgart, and Munich, where we spent the night. From there, the OBB (Austrian rail operator) train to Venice offers an absolutely spectacular scenic journey through the Austrian Alps, Innsbruck and the Dolomites. We returned via Munich, Frankfurt and Brussels.

It will be apparent that for train travellers, the journey is an enjoyable part of the holiday experience, and not just a means of getting from A to B. Cost is of course an issue. Due to an absurdly skewed tax regime, air travel is, sadly, very often much the cheapest option. However, it is possible to keep train travel costs affordable. Perhaps the most obvious method is to buy an Interrail Pass, which allows virtually unlimited travel in either a single country or in any of the 33 countries covered by a "Global Pass". There are numerous options on the number of days travel required, there are concessions for under-28s and seniors, and first and second class options are available (on our most recent trip we went first class – well worth it for the extra comfort if you are going to be on a train for several hours). To go to Spain and Italy we opted for passes giving us any four days' travel in a calendar month (two out, two back). Note, however, that on some trains (including Eurostar), while the fare is covered by the pass, you may still have to pay for reservations and book in advance. For some journeys, though, a single ticket may be cheaper.

For information on every aspect of rail travel you can possibly think of, The Man in Seat 61 <https://www.seat61.com/> is indispensable, and his website is great fun to browse even if you are not thinking of going anywhere!

Chris Benson

## Book Quiz

1. Who, in 1978, became the first woman to have a wholly self-penned number one single in Britain, with a song based on a novel of 1847?
2. What's John Steinbeck's longest novel, which takes its title from a phrase in the Bible and became a film starring James Dean?
3. A passionate opponent of slavery, she worked as a nurse in the American Civil War. B. Her middle name is a month of the year. C. She wrote a series of novels about the March family . . .
4. Who is Clara del Valle?
5. To which prison are The Dorritts sent?
6. Who wrote The Cricket and the Hearth?
7. To whom is Desdemona married?
8. In which novel is Catherine Morland the heroine?
9. Give the title of the latest Galbraith novel.
10. Who wrote the Secret Garden?
11. Who lived in Doughty Street?
12. What is the title of Sue Barker's autobiography?
13. SPQR was written by .....?
14. What do the initials SPQR stand for?
15. Where are Nancy's steps?
16. Give the latest title by Andrew Taylor (James Marwood & Cat)
17. The Seven Deaths of .....?
18. Name Ken Follett's latest novel.
19. Who wrote The Secret Diaries of Charles Ignatius Sancho?
20. Name Ian McEwan's latest novel.

Fill in the missing vowels:

LSSNSNCHMSTRY

PRDNDPRJDC

PRSSN

NCHLSNCKLBY

THFRGTTNBKSHPNPRS 12

CRWNNDCSPTR  
LNCLNHGHWY

Fill in the gaps:

Politics on the ----

The ..... of Geography

The .... Of Winter

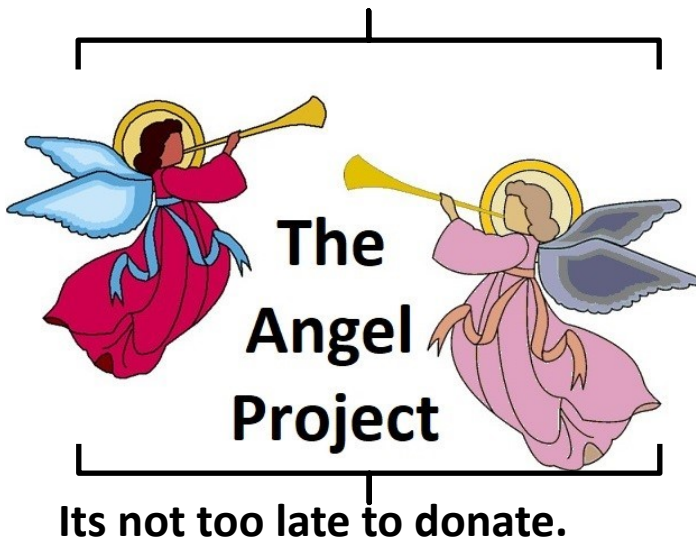
The ---- of the Locust

----- Blue

The ----- Complex

(Answers next month)

MCB



"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!"



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month in the Church extension.

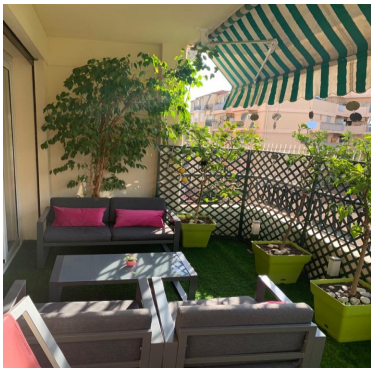
Tea, Coffee and biscuits etc will be available from 10.00am.

**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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## Remembrance Sunday 2023



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. As we have fourteen War Graves in our churchyard, posies of flowers were laid on the graves. Not all of the graves have the usual white War Graves Commission stone memorials. Several of those buried in the churchyard died

as a result of injury or trauma, perhaps a while after combat had ended. Following the two minute silence, prayers were said to remember before God all those who have died for their country as a result of war.





**It was wonderful to welcome our uniformed groups to this very special 'Parade' service as it is a very meaningful service for so many in our community.**



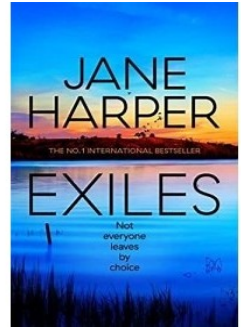
**Remembrance in The Lady Chapel with our Book of Remembrance**

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR

## St John's Reading Group January 2024

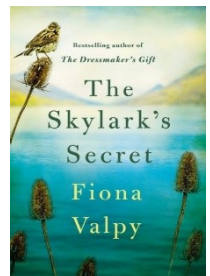
For our meeting in December we read another of Jane

Harper's novels entitled **Exiles**. We have read several Jane Harper novels within the group – notably **The Dry**. **Exiles** 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. Although rather slow moving, it did gather pace in the final chapters as all was revealed. Perhaps a surprise? Aaron has now decided that his life must follow another path. So shall we see him again? A good score of 7.5/10.



At 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. It would appear that it is not available electronically so some are struggling with a difficult font. For this reason, we have an alternative novel.

Fiona Vapley's novel **The Skylark's Secret** is our choice – full of family secrets, relationships, effects of war, tensions and revelations – it promises to be an interesting read. We have read another novel by this



author: The Beekeeper's Promise. This latest novel has received mixed reviews but it is always good to defy the critics. We shall see....

At this time of year, the bookshops are overflowing with some wonderful reads – and huge choices. In the paperback charts, Lessons in Chemistry has been 40 weeks in The Times Top 10 (oh dear!) and Richard Osman's Bullet that Missed and The Thursday Murder Club are still doing well. In the hardback list, Richard Osman's The Last Devil to Die is also doing well with 12 weeks in the top 10. Crime, murder mysteries continue to dominate – as if we don't have enough crime in our world.

Murder after Christmas by Rupert Latimer features in the British Library Crime Classics Series – originally published in 1944 so rather 'retro' – as shown by the cover. For 'real-life' crime, then perhaps Philippa Langley's book on the Princes in the Tower may be for you – but I am not convinced that the mystery has been solved. Very tenuous arguments and 'evidence'. Good for TV...

Our post Christmas meeting will be on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm – a little more time to catch up with our reading. If you have lots of new books for Christmas, then enjoy and Happy Reading!!

*Marilyn*

## EPIPHANY GIFTS – EPIPHANY (JAN 7<sup>th</sup>) & CANDLEMAS (JAN 28<sup>th</sup>) 2024



Epiphany on January 7<sup>th</sup>, and the following Sundays, mark the time when the Three Kings visited the baby Jesus to give their presents of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. We celebrated Epiphany Gifts last year and will do so again in a similar way. When we know what gifts you wish to donate, we will acknowledge them at the Candlemas service on January 28<sup>th</sup>: this was a time when, traditionally, gifts of candles and other items for use in the church year were blessed. So it seems appropriate that our gifts should be blessed in a similar way.

For our services throughout the year we need items such as wafers, candles, incense, tapers etc. You are invited to donate individual items, or perhaps make a contribution towards them. Please find the Epiphany leaflets at the back of the church, which give the list of items, costs and ways of paying. To donate, please complete a form, place it in an Epiphany Gift envelope provided, and then put it in the box at the back of the church before January 21<sup>st</sup>.

We look forward to your Gifts

Richard Burkett



## **A Good Time Had by All!**

**Our first Christmas Fair in 4 years was a great community and fundraising success, thanks to all who helped and supported it.**

**The large refreshment area where folk could enjoy drinks, cake & a chat was kept busy, as was the children's craft corner. The Shuffle Board brought out the competitive spirit in lots of the younger people and the varied stalls did well.**

**Thanks to Lucy McMullen, the head of Malden Parochial School, we enjoyed 2 enthusiastic performances of singing from the MPS children, during which time the hall was packed! It was good to see so many families there.**

**A great social event that also raised over £2000 for the church!**



**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 16th January 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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