Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of St John the Baptist, Malden

January 2023

50p

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Old Malden News

The Parish Magazine of St John the Baptist Parish Church Malden

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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: Parish Office:	www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	

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

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

My parents divorced after thirty-four years together, so after my mother's funeral in 2010, my brother and I spent the week clearing her house. The most important thing we were looking for was the huge, tatty old cardboard box containing the Christmas tree decorations. We looked everywhere but couldn't find it until we went out to the shed down the back garden. There in a brand new plastic box were fifty years of collected decorations. We took them into the house and went through them, intent on dividing them between us. We each had our old favourites, the ones we insisted on placing on the tree every time. Among them were the sugar paper stars covered in glue and glitter, the aluminium pie tie angels, all the little things we had made in school, and the little crocheted stockings Grandma made that were filled with miniature candy canes every year (They never made it to Christmas!). Memories of happier times sprang to life as we rummaged through the box. In the end we couldn't quite bear to split them up and we decided to postpone the exercise until Papa died. Now my niece adds to them all the things she has made.

Christmas is like that, a time laden with memories that come flooding back as we celebrate the festival of Jesus' birth. We remember our Christmases past, the people who are no longer here, and make new memories with families and friends. As I sat in Milly's stall doing the sound for the school carol services, I was in a privileged position to see first-hand the delight of parents watching their children perform in the different nativities. The children in turn were so pleased to have parents and grandparents watching them and cheering them on. These are the sort of things that get mentioned when I make a funeral visit, treasured remembrances of happy times, the proud milestones of our lives.

Not all memories are happy ones. We have lost several stalwarts and personalities this past year, reminded of who is missing. As we prepared the Church for Janet's funeral recently, I clocked the Advent wreath and meant to move it. I got distracted by something else at hand to do and only realised it was still in place as I sat in Milly's stall. There the family sat reminded that

this should be a happy time of expectation and joy to come. It jarred in my mind like a spanner dropped on a stone floor.

St. John's is a place that makes memories, where our open door creates the opportunity for our community to come together and hear that ancient truth that God is indeed with us, Immanuel; something especially important in these difficult days when so many families and individuals struggle to make ends meet. But it is these memories of celebration, of children having fun, of joy expressed in music and liturgy that will endure. Human beings are creatures of hope, believing that things can and will get better. Our Church is a place where we can find cause to renew our hope in the future and confront our uncertainties and fears as we step into a new year and face a cold winter. I hope and pray that you all have been encouraged by your celebration of Christ's birth this year and confident for what is to come. May we continue to be a place of welcome for all and one that helps others and one another make those memories that bring us joy and rekindle that love in our hearts which is God's greatest gift of all. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

Míchael

WHY EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A WILL

For nearly 500 years the Church of England has encouraged people to make a will.

Making a will and updating it regularly is the only way to ensure your wishes are fulfilled, giving you peace of mind that you can continue to support the family, friends and causes you love.

WHAT IS A WILL?

A will is something that we hope won't be needed for a very long time. Nevertheless, it's a vital document which looks after the people and causes you care about after you have gone.

WHY NOW?

Everyone knows it's a good idea to make a will.

But for many of us, it's one of those things we never quite get around to doing, and there's aways a reason for putting it off.

Here are some of the reasons why you should make a will. Sooner rather than later.

You chose what happens

If you do not make a will, the law will decide who receives all your assets in accordance with pre-ordained rules. These unfortunately may not coincide with your wishes.

You can take care of the children

If you have any children under the age of 18, you should appoint guardians to look after them in the event of both parent's death. If you don't name guardians for your children in your will, the courts will decide who will be given custody.

Your property is protected

If you and your partner are not married, he or she will not benefit from your estate unless you have specifically written it into a will.

You can reflect modern family life

Have you married or divorced since you made a will? If so, your existing will may not be valid. Remarriages can also complicate matters of inheritance and provision for children.

To reduce your inheritance tax bill

Even with recent changes in inheritance tax law, there may be large tax savings to be made by proper planning through your will.

To include a charitable gift

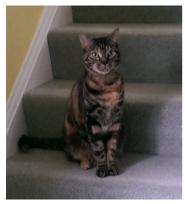
Once you have made provision for your loved ones, you may wish to include a gift in your will to your local church. How might your gift help meet the needs of future generation?

For peace of mind

Once you've made a will, you'll know that if the unthinkable were to happen, your estate would be in order for your family – a weight off your mind.

For more information on writing a will or leaving a legacy to St John's you can speak in confidence to our Legacy Officer David Owen.

Please contact David via the Parish Office on 0208 330 2817 or administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk



From the Vicarage

A New Year's Message from Brooke, Lady Wandsworth

What a trying time it has been lately. The New Year can't come quick enough in my book! First we had lockdown after lockdown and I was stuck at home with my two humans all the day long. Not a moment of peace and quiet was to be had. If only they had

shown a bit of consideration for my frazzled nerves and been quiet.

The staff leave a lot to be desired round the house. I would sack them, but no one else would have them and I am, deep down, a rather tender-hearted soul. Unfortunately my mealtimes are never as punctual as they should be and every night they shuffle me off to the kitchen to bed. Apparently there have been complaints about late night parties, running up and down the stairs and noise into the wee hours, "caterwauling" they call it. Now Larry does pop down from Downing Street occasionally and we do like to catch up on all the gossip, but we are very quiet. We both said at the time that "trickle down" economics would never work and now the price of a tin of tuna is well over a pound. It's nothing short of outrageous. But we all have to make economies now and muddle through as best we can. I'm sure we will get through this just as we have before. We just need to stick together and persevere. Spring will come and all will be beautiful again.

Until then I'd like to share with you a few points from my own personal philosophy for happiness: find a warm corner and claim it as your own, make sure you have something nice in your bowl, always follow the sunshine, and, if all else fails, do what I do and snuggle under the duvet for a little nap. As for the humans in your life, that's down to you, I can't claim to have mastered the art of human management. That said, it does help to be nice to them occasionally and you're likely to get a treat! Be kind to them and they may yet come up trumps. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

Brooke



Fundraising news!

The Autumn Fair in November was a sociable affair, with a large refreshment area for folk to chat and sample some of the delicious home made cakes. It also raised £1300.

A big thank you to all who helped make this possible.

The next social / Fundraising event will be a Quiz on 4th February 2023. The Fundraising Team

Sustainability Tips

Recycling: Did you know....?

Superdrug Stores which have a pharmacy will recycle your used medicine blister packs. They also recycle many other items so check out their web site www.superdrug.com!

Fair Trade Shampoo Bar

I bought my first bar of Shampoo Soap about a year ago and have never

looked back!

It is so simple to use: just rub the wet bar between your hands to create a lather, then gently massage it into your scalp and hair.

The plant-based shampoo is handmade and comes in several scents, such as 'kaffir lime and lemon' or 'lavender & rosemary'.

It comes in a cardboard sleeve - so no plastic bottles - takes up little space in the bathroom, and lasts a long time!

A great little gift!





St John's Reading Group January

CELLA

IMRIE

ORPHANS

of the

STORM

Faulks

Well, as we begin another New Year, I hope that you were in receipt of some wonderful books at Christmas! I am still in catch-up time...

At our December meeting and Christmas eats, we discussed Celia Imrie's Orphans of the Storm. Well, it certainly prompted a good discussion: the fact that part of the story was based on fact (in addition to the real sinking of the Titanic), did manage to salvage it. Criticism

of style came up quite often and it was thought that Celia Imrie really should keep to acting. Having said that, the co-writer, Fidelis Morgan did provide some interesting facts about the background to the novel.

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 book received an average

score of 8/10



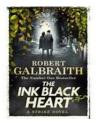
For our January meeting, we have selected The Christie Affair by Nina de Gramont, a mystery based on the disappearance of Agatha Christie in 1926. Our choice coincides with the latest research by Lucy Worsley who has also written a book about Ms Christie accompanied by a TV series. It looks to be an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

read.

As I write this, Old Malden is carpeted in snow and so our February choice seems appropriate: 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'. The author's webpage describes the book as follows: Snow Country tells

the story of Lena, a girl born with nothing but her own strength of

character to an alcoholic mother in a small town in southern Austria in 1906 and Anton, the restless son of a bourgeois family who sets out to make his fortune in pre-First World War Vienna. Although this novel is the second in a planned trilogy which spans the first half of the 20th century, it does stand alone as a good read. The futility of war and its effect on humanity is close to the author's heart - maybe time to revisit 'Birdsong'?



The current Cormoron Strike TV series, 'Troubled Blood', which is based on Robert Galbraith's fifth book, may inspire you to read the next novel in the series, The Ink Black Heart. It is quite a tome with 1,012 pages but it is guaranteed to keep you occupied for many hours. A Boxing Day read perhaps.

We have read some excellent books this year:

The Survivors by Jane Harper
The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett
Miss Austen by Gill Hornby.

The Evening and the Morning by Ken Follett.
The Heron's Cry Anne Cleeves
Songbirds by Christy Lefteri.

Fair Stood the Wind for France by H E Bates
'A Three Dog Problem' by S J Bennett
The Night Tiger by Yangsze Choo.
The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles.
Still Life by Sarah Winman
Orphans of the Storm by Celia Imrie

My favourites? Definitely Miss Austen by Gill Hornby and Songbirds by Christy Lefteri. Have you read any of these novels? Any thoughts?

Our next Reading Group meeting will be on Thursday 5th January 2023 at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. Another year of great reading!

Marilyn

Interesting 2023 Anniversaries

January 7th: 80 years since the death of <u>Nikola Tesla</u> the legendary scientist and inventor who pioneered the electrical revolution and established the first AC electrical currents.

January 14th: 125 years since the death of <u>Lewis Carroll</u> the famous Victorian writer, illustrator, polymath, who created the classic story *Alice in Wonderland* and its sequel *Through the Looking Glass*. **January 20**th: 1,000 years since the death of <u>Wulfstan</u> the Bishop of Worcester, he is often considered a saint in western Christianity and during his time stopped the slave trade from operating in Bristol.

February 16th: 100 years since <u>Howard Carter</u> opened the door to Tutankhamun's tomb and first gazed up the wonders held within its golden walls. This discovery led to a flood of popularity and is considered as one of the greatest archaeological finds to date.



February 19th: 550th birthday of <u>Nicolaus Copernicus</u> the Polish mathematician and astronomer who changed our understanding of the universe with his monumental discovery that the Sun not the Earth was at the centre of our solar system.

April 1st: 150 years since the birth of <u>Sergei Vasilyevich</u> <u>Rachmaninov</u> (1873-1943).

April 8th: 50 years since the death of <u>Pablo Picasso</u> one of the most prolific artists to have ever lived.

June 7th: 175 years since the birth of <u>Paul Gauguin</u>, a controversial French post-impressionist painter who is famous for his depictions of life in Tahiti.

June 15th: 180 years since the birth of <u>Edvard Grieg</u> (1843-1907) - public figure and pianist from Norway.

June 19th: 400 years since the birth of the French mathematician, physicist, inventor, philosopher and writer Blaise Pascal.

July 16th: 300th birthday of <u>Joshua Reynolds</u>, who was the leading Portrait painter in Britain. Reynolds is also well known for becoming the first president of the Royal Academy.

July 24th: 220 years since the birth of <u>Adolphe Adam</u> (1803-1856), a French composer of operas and ballets.

July 30th:125 years since the birth of <u>Henry Moore</u>, an artist well known and admired for his semi-abstract monuments and his sculptural drawings.

September 2nd: 50 years since the death of <u>J. R. R. Tolkien</u>, the writer who is well known for writing *The Lord of The Rings* and *The Hobbit*, which mastered a whole new genre of writing.

September 23rd: 50 years since the death of Chilean poetdiplomat <u>Pablo Neruda</u> who has inspired millions through his lyrics and dedication to his nation.

September ? 440 years since the birth of <u>Girolamo Frescobaldi</u> (1583-1643), composer.

September 11th: 290 years since the death of organist <u>François</u> <u>Couperin</u> (1668-1733)

September 25th: 340 years since the birth of <u>Philippe Rameau</u> (1683 -1764), French Baroque.

October 10th: 210 years since the birth of Giuseppe Verdi (1813-

1901), Italy. A great representative of world art and opera.

October 16th: 100 years since the founding of the <u>Disney Brothers Studio</u>, set up by Walt Disney and his brother Fred.



October 29th: 100 years since the End of the Ottoman Empire after World War I - making way for the birth of Modern Turkey. The Ottoman Empire spanned over 600 years across Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

November 22nd: 60 years since the death of <u>John. F. Kennedy</u>, the 35th president of the United States who served during the height of

the Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis **November 22nd**: 110 years since the birth Benjamin Britten (1913 -1976), UK. Pianist, leading composer.



December 2nd: marks 100 years since the birth of the great opera singer Maria Callas

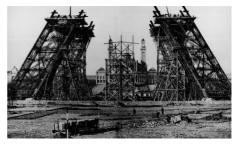
December 3rd: 140 years since the birth of <u>Anton Webern</u> 1883 (1883-1945), Austria. Founder of the New Viennese School.

December 5th: 10 years since the death of <u>Nelson Mandela</u> the first president of South Africa, and the first Black head of state who was elected in a fully representative democratic election.

elected in a fully representative democratic election. **December 11**th: 220 years since the birth of Hector Berlioz (1803-

1869)

December 27th: 100 years since the death of <u>Gustave Eiffel</u>, the innovative engineer and manufacturer who designed and built the *Eiffel Tower* in Paris and the *Statue of Liberty* in New York.



Just a few of the many anniversaries in 2023!

Marílyn

St John's Knitting & Crochet Group will be meeting on the last Thursday afternoon of the month. (January 26th).

If 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.

Marílyn



EPIPHANY GIFTS – EPIPHANY (JAN 8th) & CANDLEMAS (JAN 29th) 2023

Epiphany on January 8th, 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 have celebrated Epiphany Gifts in the past, and intend to re-introduce it again this year, but with a slight new difference. When we know what gifts you wish to donate, we will acknowledge them at the Candlemas service on January 29th: 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 23rd.

We look forward to your Gifts

Richard Burkett





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



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 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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