

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

July 2021

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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| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 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 Amy Chan | 020 8330 2817 |
| PCC Treasurer | Mr Alastair Harris | 020 8241 1087 |
| Parish Administrator | Mrs Amy Chan | 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
QR code with your smart phone camera



Services for July

In light of the Prime Minister's announcement we regret that St. John's Patronal Festival and Barbecue Lunch is cancelled. In its place we will revert to our two socially distanced services at 9:45am and 4:00pm on Sunday 27th June. This decision has not been taken lightly, but as the Delta variant pushes up infections across the Borough it would be irresponsible to mix in number at this time. We hope as people continue to receive their vaccinations we will be able to reopen fully in due course.

St John's is open again.

To book you need to be a subscriber to our mailing list, link and QR code below. If you have any problems booking please call the

Parish Office 0208 3302817

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 July 2021

What a disappointment it is to see our plans for St. John's Day get postponed as the Prime Minister puts reopening the nation on hold. We hope and pray that things may come right for July 25th and we can finally have the opportunity to gather again in number to reconnect and enjoy one another's company again. It has been a comfort and a joy to have people again in Church on a Sunday, for the Eucharist was never intended to be celebrated alone and the building itself feels cold and empty without everyone there. It is that vision of gathering again in number that has been the "light at the end of the tunnel" for me personally these many months as we wend our way back to the "new" normal. The winter ahead may challenge us as Covid continues looking for a foothold and flu season begins, but for now I am clinging on to what summer will bring us when we finally celebrate all that we are as St. John's.

The postponement comes with a cost. The longer we have to wait the harder it will be for us to get back on track. So much ground has been lost and time wasted when we could have been well on our way in the next phase of our Church's life. Covid has derailed so much, nothing has escaped unscathed the privation and limitations the pandemic has imposed. My hope is that this time has given us pause for thought and that there will be a new energy and vitality released when restrictions end that we can make up lost time. Changes will continue to shape the world of work, education, and family life. New patterns have emerged that may well continue in the future and I have no doubt that our use of technology as a Church will continue to grow. How many of you have been able to join our worship at home in the comfort of your dressing gown and slippers? Now you need not miss anything. The emphasis on improving communication in our Mission Action Plan has served us well as necessity spurred us on to find new ways of staying connected. A new Communications Committee is in the wings to carry this forward and improve the way we share our message further afield. The "Home Church" initiative will also keep people in the loop who are no longer able to join us in person on a Sunday, serving our membership even as disability or advancing age limit their mobility. If you or anyone you know might like to be part of this, please let us know.

As we step out into the new day post-pandemic, I do hope that we can use the wisdom we have gained during lockdown. My prayer is that as a society and in our community and Church, we may become gentler with one another, more understanding, and always willing to help those in need. I have heard it said that a crisis only passes once we have learnt the lessons it has to teach us. We have passed through a time of darkness and trial, but we are emerging into the light led by God himself. As we wait for restrictions to be lifted, we look forward in confidence and hope. The time for healing has come as we long to be together once again, to share our joys and sorrows in His light and love. *Michael*

A Big Thank You!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank two people who have worked hard to make things run smoothly at St. John's. Janet Whaymand, our Sacristan, has been looking after all the various tasks around setting up for services, ordering supplies, and keeping the sanctuary ticking over as we work our way through the Church's year and its many changes of seasonal colour since 2007. She has ensured that everything is as it should be and that the Church is always looking its best. The Sacristan contributes enormously to making our worship both beautiful and meaningful.



In late July, Amy Chan will be stepping down as our Parish Administrator and moving to the sunny south coast. She has been running our Parish Office and helping with everything from booking christenings, funerals, publishing the Old Malden News, keeping registers up-to-date, and helping the Ministry and Leadership Teams work together. Amy has been a welcoming presence who has been the public face of St. John's since September 2016. I am sure that you all will join me in wishing Amy all the best and thanking her and Janet for all they have given us in their parish roles!

It will be a challenge to fill their shoes, but both posts will be available to fill soon. If you would be interested or know someone who might be, let me know please. I can put in a good word with the Vicar.

St John's Reading Group

July 2021

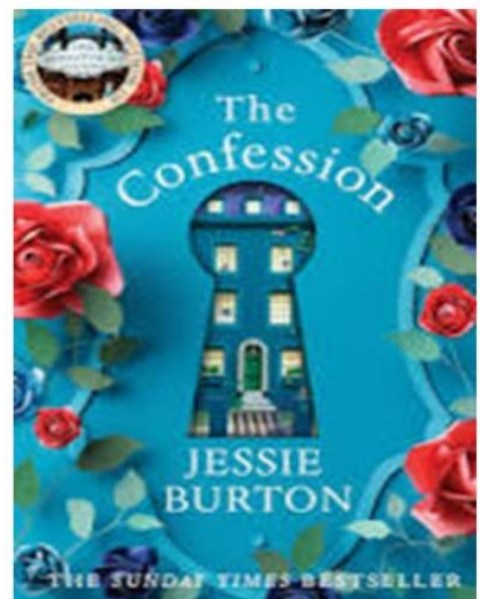


Have you ever wondered what your life would have been like if you had made different decisions at crucial moments? I would imagine that most of us would not have wished to change things so drastically but there is always the 'what if?'

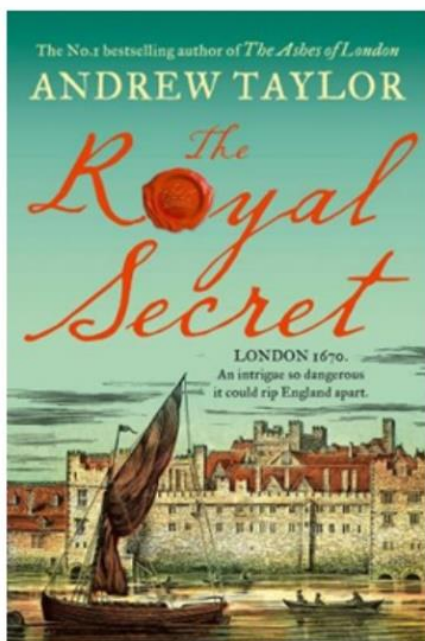
If this all seems beyond the remit of the reading group – then just read **The Midnight Library** by Matt Haig. When we discussed this book at our recent meeting – it was met with varying views and scored one 8/10 and the remainder mostly 5 or 6.

For the main character, Nora Seed, life has not been going too well – the final straw comes when she believes that her cat has been run over by a car. Nora takes an overdose and in that time at midnight, she finds herself between life and the imaginary 'Midnight Library' where everything can change. As she contemplates her life – would she have been happily married to Dan running a pub in the country, or maybe an Olympic swimmer or famous scientist – she faces new possibilities. This has been a very popular novel in the best-seller lists – so any more views on it would be interesting. Let me know....

For July, we shall be reading '**The Confession**' by Jessie Burton. We enjoyed 'The Miniaturist' and 'The Muse' by this author so we hope that this novel will be another interesting read. An emotional read which will draw you in so that you will find it difficult to put down.



For August we have selected a 'classic' – no, not Dickens or Austen this time, but a novel by Anthony Trollope entitled '**The Warden**'. This novel is the first of the **Chronicles of Barsetshire** and inspired by a stroll around Salisbury Cathedral. On the back cover of my very ancient copy, the story is described as follows: 'The Warden is a sympathetic account of a man struggling to do his best when society proves unbending'. It does not appear to be a long novel – but then the print in my copy does appear to be incredibly small. Has to be read outside in the garden I think!



I finished Douglas Stuart's Shuggie Bain – it was a very heart-rending story of love and survival and a harsh glimpse of life in 1980s-1990s Glasgow. Tough but a really memorable read. Prepare to shed a tear or two.

If you have been following our reading of Andrew Taylor's historical crime series set in Restoration London, then **The Last Protector** (book 4) is available in paperback. The new Book 5 in the series, **The Royal Secret**, has just been published in hardback.

If you prefer Tudor England, then Hilary Mantel's tome 'The Mirror and the Light' is now in paperback. The demise of Thomas Cromwell becomes inevitable as he makes more enemies at court and he loses the trust of the King.

I still have seven books in the Winston Graham Poldark series to read – so must resist new purchases for a while, catch up with Poldark & Co and imagine being on a beach in Cornwall. Perhaps the next best thing...

Enjoy your summer reading!

We continue to meet on zoom at present and our next meeting will be on Thursday 1st July at 8.00pm. If you would like to join us, please let me know and I shall send you the links.

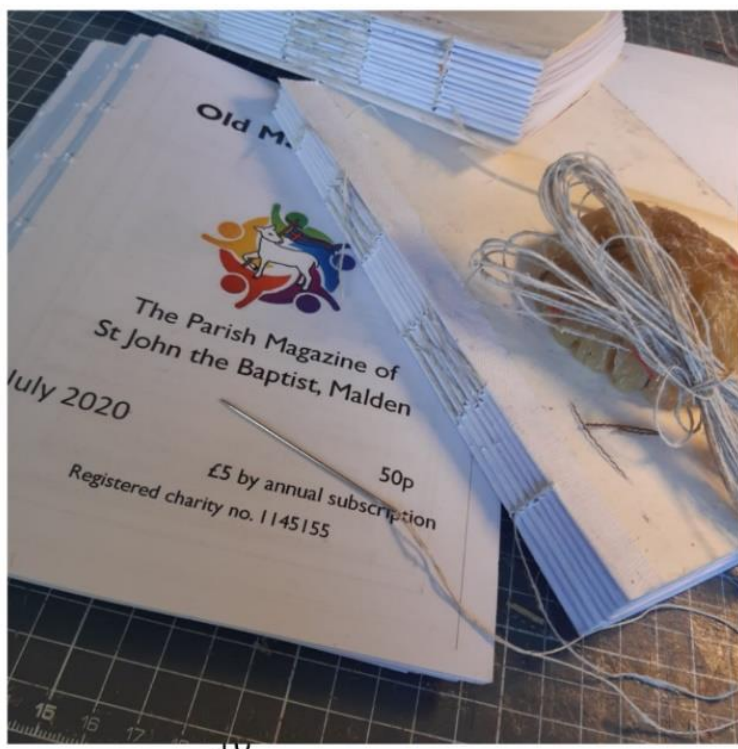
Marilyn

Archiving the Old Malden News

Every month an Old Malden News appears much as it has for over 100 years – in one form or another. St. John's Church holds a very valuable archive of this great account of social history with an emphasis on the local area. I feel fortunate in being able to help bind the last 20 or so years worth into library copies which will protect the pages and enable future readers to get a glimpse into what was happening in the early twenty-first century in Old Malden.



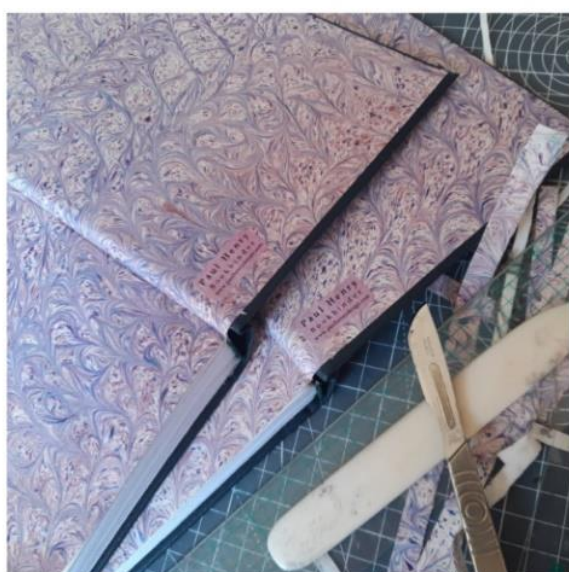
Each monthly magazine is de-stapled, pierced and then sewn with linen thread into a complete year, my own hand marbled end-papers are added and a book cloth cover with gilt titles are pasted to the text block to complete the tome.



This year there is a very slight change, so slight indeed that it will go un-noticed by everyone. I am a part time spinner of wool and to a lesser degree of flax, one of my contacts in Austria offered me some dowry stricks of flax. These were prepared over 70 years by a girl called



Berta as part of her “bottom drawer” prior to her marriage. This was a very common practice back then, 2 large wooden trunks were almost expected with the marriage, flax and linen was valuable and could either be used or sold in hard times. It seems that it was never needed, and after her death last year, the family was keen that it should be given away to be used by anyone who would value it. I was offered a few stricks either to use in my teaching in schools or how I choose the best way. I spun a



hundred metres of fine thread and plied it, and that will keep me in bookbinding thread for some time and there has been hardly a dip in the quantity I still have, and plenty to show and tell my primary school children the story.

Paul Henry

HOOKY STREET

Malden Manor.

How wonderful it is to have such a delightfully warm, hospitable, friendly coffee café in our locality. Run by Marcy, Kyle, Marcin and Dominique with a welcoming smile, it's small but its amazing how creative they've been with the decor and the garden. Seating is really comfortable and intimate.

The coffee, pastries, cakes, savouries, catering for gluten free and vegan/veggie needs, are absolutely delicious.



Hooky's is a great place to stop for a break after a walk down by the Hogsmill, or a cycle ride, or to meet up with a friend - somewhere to grab a bite after school, or a takeaway breakfast when catching a train on the way to work. Wonderful place for a tea time celebration. Now we even have live music on the odd Sunday afternoon in the garden. When did you last hear live music?



It is a real caring community hub, giving to charities monthly. The last donation was given to Fanghorn Ltd, a local landscape business who also serve the local community. Unfortunately they had tools and a vehicle stolen, so all the takings on a particular Sunday were given to Fanghorn Ltd - £400.00 ! The previous month was Hypo Hounds was the charity. That trains puppies to detect low blood sugars (hypo) in children with Diabetes Type 1 - it saves young lives.

And have you noticed children from our local schools doing road quizzes organised by the schools? These are supported by Hooky St, where the info for the quiz, including a map can be obtained.

Thank you so much Hooky Street. We love you for all you do in caring for the community, for your wonderful foods, drinks and welcome.

BARBARA C.L. WEBB

(Biologist, Teacher, Conservationist, Author) sadly died this May 2021.



Barbara lived most of her life in Old Malden, attending Rosebery School in Epsom and then as a Biology Teacher at Nonsuch School for Girls, retiring in 1989.

Barbara was involved in establishing the two Conservation Areas in Old Malden, (one of the first to be set up by the Borough of Kingston upon Thames in 1971) - Plough Green with pub and pond, and St. John the Baptist Church and Manor House area. Conservation Areas are “areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”.

As a biologist Barbara was actively involved with nature conservation management of the Hogsmill/Bonesgate river corridor. She helped to establish a walk along the Hogsmill from its source in Ewell to its confluence in Kingston,

together with a guide leaflet which includes points of historical interest along the route. Following this research she became interested in the artist Millais and wanted to discover the exact spot where the background to his famous ‘Ophelia’ was painted. Her findings were published in 1997 in her booklet ‘Millais and the Hogsmill River’. The booklet also contains a detailed walk retracing the footsteps of Millais.

Barbara then became interested in local history. She had always been aware that the one important person associated with Malden was ‘Walter de Merton’, the founder of Merton College Oxford. When leading walks in the area she was often asked ‘What did Walter de Merton do in Malden?’, which she found difficult to

answer, so she decided to research the matter and produce a simple, non-technical account of what Walter de Merton did here in Malden between 1262 and 1274. This booklet was published in 2000.

Barbara was pleased when St. John's opened its doors each September for Heritage Open Days as at the same time she organised and led walks around the area entitled 'Put the Domesday Village of Malden into Historical Context'.

Barbara was a member of Malden and Coombe Heritage Society and on their website is her slide show of Millais and the Hogsmill. She was also a member of the local U3A choir. I first met her when I became involved with the Christmas Day Event in the early 1980s. At that time Barbara organised the afternoon tea and entertainment bringing along several of her musical friends. She also did a lot of work with Surrey Wildlife and on one occasion invited me to bring along the Guides to see the work being done in Nower Wood, Leatherhead.

This article shows the extent to which Barbara was involved with the local community and how much she loved its surroundings. Thank you Barbara for all you have done and hopefully future generations will continue to be aware of, and take care of, this very special area of suburbia – Old Malden.

Pat Lovegrove

(Copies of Barbara's booklets on Millais and Walter de Merton are on sale at St. John's Church.)



**REJOICE! TEA, CAKES AND CHAT
ARE ON OFFER!!**

All being well, we are hoping to resume our monthly Mothers' Union meetings at 2 pm on Tuesday 13th July in the coffee lounge. Do come along to catch up with fellow members and to help plan the way forward for your branch over tea and cakes.

Bishop Marion Budde observed "We are all walking the Emmaus Road now, moving from where we have been to where life is leading us." Let us all move together to rebuild hope and confidence in ourselves, our organisation and our lives.

**2021 Theme: Rebuilding
hope and confidence**



Old Malden News Print Re launch

Since the lockdown in March 2020, the magazine has continued to be produced - thanks to all our regular contributors - and published online via the website and the Weekly Parish Mailing.

However, due to COVID restrictions, the magazine collation team have not been able to meet since March 2020 and many subscribers to the printed magazine have not received their copy. We regret this greatly but government regulations prevented this. During the lockdown though, a limited number have continued to be printed & collated by Amy, our Parish Administrator, and distributed by 4 volunteers to about 50 vulnerable people, who appreciated this during such a difficult time.

Thankfully, the collation team are now able to meet and full printing, collation and delivery for the July edition is expected.

The printed magazine is delivered to many who are unable to attend St John's and/or do not have online access and **I thank all our deliverers who make this possible.**

If you do have online access and would like to receive the Weekly Parish Mailing, which includes the magazine, please email administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk and quote "Weekly Parish Mailing" in the subject line.

For those who have missed their printed copy, I thank you in advance for your understanding and patience and we look forward to delivering your OMN magazine again.

If anyone, especially in The Manor Drive area, is willing to deliver a few local magazines once a month, please contact me for more information (tel: 020 8640 9377). Your help would be greatly appreciated as several deliverers have given up since March 2020.

Janet Flemming

Come and See

When Philip met Jesus we are told that he immediately found his friend Nathaniel and told him that he had met the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Nathaniel was sceptical: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?", he asked. To which Philip replied, "Come and see"!

So I want, as a minor echo of that, to recommend a film series that is currently ongoing, is crowd-funded so as to be potentially free to all viewers, and available via a free App available for all smart mobile phones. The film series, and the App, is called "The Chosen".

This can be "streamed" or "cast", again for free, using the mobile App to see it on a Smart TV screen. It definitely needs to be seen on a screen larger than your mobile's. Viewers are invited to help fund free-to-view future episodes for their own and others' benefit, but only if they are able to do so and with no obligation.

If you do register and fund a suggested minimum \$14.99, via the App or the website below, you can then ALSO watch at least a whole Series (ie 8 Episodes, 7+ hours) "for free" anytime thereafter on your computer. That website, which you can find on Google Search for The Chosen, is:

<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen/watch>

Why make the effort? Here are some introductory encouragements:

- It is an ambitious project to once again try to make the Gospel records of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John come alive. As I write they are showing up to Episode 5 of its so-called Season 2, and raising funds for Season 3. They have a stated aim, God willing and as pay-it-forward funding etc allows, to complete 7 "Seasons" each of 8 Episodes. Each Episode is about 55 minutes long. So it should end up 51 hours or so long, in total, over several years.
- One strong distinctive is that it tries to imagine characters for each of the 12 apostles AND for some of the female followers of Jesus, as well as some Romans and some Jewish religious leaders, interwoven around actual Biblical recorded words and events. The humanity of Jesus, along with His deity, is thereby explored more fully. His followers are each also given distinct and varied personalities, which should allow a wide range of viewers to identify in one way or another with the developing story.
- Its prayerful aim is to reach 1 billion viewers worldwide. The dialogue for completed episodes is being translated into more and more languages to help enable this.

- Another helpful distinctive is that the actors have been chosen to be, or appear and sound to be, of ethnically middle-eastern roots (while still speaking clear English). This is to remove, hopefully, too much white or English-speaking bias. The director is indeed American but sort of stumbled (was led) into developing the series in ways you can explore via their App.
- The series matches our times, ie the current “Smartphone” and “Streaming” era. It speaks to our generation. DVD's are also coming available, but are quite expensive.
- It is dramatically powerful, as you may well experience for yourself if you persevere just to the end of Season 1 Episode 1. Persevere, because it is painting a picture which slowly comes into focus. And that is true of the whole series ... the episodes are intended to build on one another. I, for one, was moved deeply by that first episode.

Are there any concerns I feel as I watch the series?

- In the very nature of the series a whole lot of imagination is being employed - and that is someone else's human imagination, of course. It certainly did not happen “just like that”, in all the secondary details they suggest. But I have found it useful to stimulate my own imagination and understanding of Jesus's Person for my own walk of trust in following Him. I try to avoid, of course, “boxing Him in” to what is portrayed.
- The Gospels do not provide any visual description or image of Jesus. This series (with Biblical scholars also involved in advisory capacity) may capture clothing and hair-styles and cultural settings of the time reasonably well, and it is tempting to take the actor representing Jesus as a definitive portrayal. But, just as icons, or Dürer's self-portrait, or da Vinci's Salvator Mundi, give impressions of Christ, so here: I must take what is helpful and “rings true” to the Spirit of the Gospel records, and discard anything that jars. So far, very little of the latter.

So, if you too end up sampling or following the series, I would love to hear how you find it. If you like it, you may wish to recommend it to others too! I think it honours the Gospel, and should appeal to all adult ages, and perhaps especially to our tech-savvy younger generations (we heard of it from one of our sons). Us older ones may need their help with the technology ...

Alvis Straupe



St John's Church Old Malden



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Friends of St John the Baptist Church

The Parishioners of St John's would have been holding its annual Maeldune Fair this weekend 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.

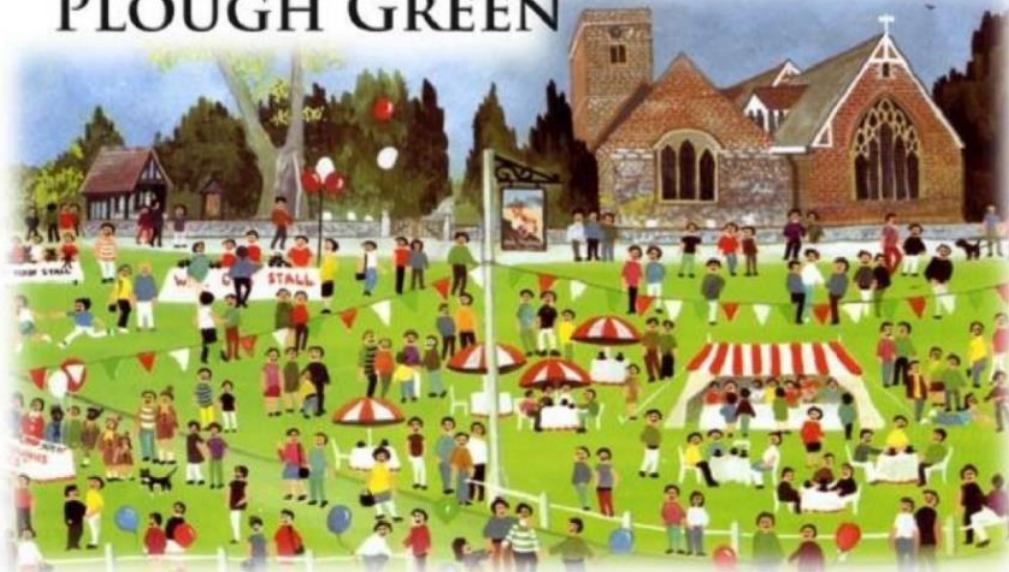
If you would have been with us on the green with your families, old and young, enjoying all the activities and spending your money, we would be grateful if you could instead consider making a donation by visiting the Donations Page on St John's website <https://stjohnsoldmalDEN.org.uk/giving/>

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.

MAELDUNE FAIR PLOUGH GREEN





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Meeting ID: 850 3291 8410 Password: 413247

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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>



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!

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