

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

June 2024

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

Please send any articles or other material to:
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020 8330 2817
administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk

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

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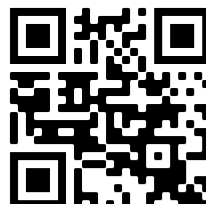
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

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Organist	Mr Barry Eaton	07968 031225
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PCC Treasurer	Mr Alastair Harris	020 8241 1087
Parish Administrator	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
Safeguarding Officers	Mrs Sally Pusey Mrs Margaret Barrington	020 8330 2817 020 8330 2817
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 June



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

Year B 6th Sunday of Easter (*preached 2024*)

Please sit down. I imagine many of you know the feeling when you've got big news to share, and someone, a friend or family member spoils it by stealing your thunder and telling the world.

It might be a new baby on the way, a new job, or engagement. Whatever the news, once the cat's out of the bag that's it.

Well, I feel a little bit like that, but my news has been in the ether for a little while now. I'm not telling tales, rather shining a bit of light. This could have waited until the Annual Meeting in a fortnight's time, but far fewer people will be there for that. The service on the day might have done, but it is Pentecost and our All-age service and we will be celebrating the birthday of the Church then instead.

The news is that we are about to embark on the largest project this parish has undertaken in twenty years, that is since the building of the extension. That was a mammoth challenge and required the selling of a parish property. On St. John's Day in June we will officially launch the Restore Project. Alex Veal, our Architect, will be here after the Patronal to share information about the building work and answer your questions, so put the June 23rd in your diaries for that. The most urgent need is to repair the Church Tower that is crumbling away with each passing day. Decades ago the advice had been to repoint brick buildings with a moisture resistant cement mortar. Time has proven that the old ways were better, as old-fashioned lime mortar wicks away moisture and breathes. Our four hundred year old bricks are crumbling because cement forces moisture into them, and frost and heat make them expand and contract. Twenty-seven years ago two sides of the Tower were repointed after a successful appeal and fundraising drive. And now we must complete the job in order to keep the main entrance safe to use.

There are other things to do. The stonework needs attention and, as the Choir well know, the roof leaks. The Tower parapet is cracked and it too needs a new roof. All in all we are looking at needing almost half a million pounds to pay for all this work. It is a tall order. Last time round the

community and congregation came to the rescue, but times have changed; the community around us is far more multi-faith and much also more secular than it was then. People aren't as connected to St. John's as they were then, and they may not feel that motivated to dig into their pockets and help us. And **you all** have been impacted by the cost of living crisis that still reverberates. So where will the money come from?

Thankfully there are now more charitable organisations offering grants to charities like ours, a few even prioritise heritage buildings. Kirstie Tong gathered the Grants Team and started the process of applying for money. To date we have been awarded two grants totally over £22k. On Tuesday the PCC will meet to vote on whether or not to accept a tender from a contractor to repair the Tower support buttress, which falls within the grants allocated. This is a very promising start.

My hope is that this work will kick-start engagement and support for the overall project. The largest part is the Tower and all the high level works that will require scaffolding. If any one here runs your own scaffolding company, please have a word after the service and we can discuss mates' rates. £500k is a lot of money, but I don't believe that that will be the hardest part. I have complete confidence in the Grants Team to secure a large part of that.

There will also be opportunities for practical support from our membership and the community as well. It is possible and we could do it.

What gives me pause for thought is **will** we do it? In today's climate, charities really only want to give their money to organisations that are switched on and fully engaged with their communities. Public access to heritage and educational opportunities for all is what excites them. The emphasis has also switched to sustainability and supporting local ecology, the plants and animals around us. St. John's will need to open its doors and become more than a building just for worship and church

meetings. Sometime ago I floated the idea that we take advantage of our proximity to the Hogsmill River, and all the fantastic work Chris Beales has done around the nature under our noses, and become a hub for education and exploration. This became reality earlier this week.

Elliot Newton, Biodiversity Officer for Kingston Council, came here with a group of people on Tuesday to count pollinating insects for a national survey, and again on Wednesday evening for a Bat Walk. Lynn Sanger and Lorraine Clark provided refreshments for over fifty people, many of whom had never been inside our Church before. With Elliot we are now working on a plan to become a designated port-of-call for people exploring the area around us. He has also met with Lucy McMullan, MPS Headteacher, to further our ambition to offer a “Forest School” learning experience with the Church as the centre. Suddenly new possibilities are on the horizon, leading to a new relationship with the community. One wonders what developments might arise in time for Heritage Week in September.

My hope is that Old Malden and the Manor will begin to see that there is more and more on offer from their Parish Church than they imagined. A place for fellowship through our weekly Tea and Chat and the Sunday Lunch Club, a place for healing with the Bereavement Café and, hopefully, a Dementia Carers’ support group, a place that holds the community’s history and the story of those who have lived here, a place where nature can flourish and recover from the damage we have inflicted on creation, and a place where the love of God is encountered and shared for all people. Big dreams, but then I don’t dream by halves. It all hinges on the Restore Project. Repairing the building and fostering those relationships that will draw the community back to its Church.

In 1998 I stepped up to explore a vocation to ordained ministry in the Church of England. To my surprise I was accepted and sent off to Yorkshire to train. My motivation and the driving force that carried me, was my determination to share the love of God I have always known personally in my life, with others, in an increasingly sceptical and

disinterested world. God is real, and he makes a real difference to lives, communities, and in our broken world. But now I stand at the point where I see clearly that the rest of my ministry here will be dominated by bricks and mortar, quite literally. Everything else takes a back seat to repairing the damage of time and keeping a roof over our heads, of keeping the show on the road. The months and years ahead will be a delicate balancing act for me, negotiating the demands of the Restore Project and fulfilling my pastoral and teaching responsibilities as well. I may have to give up some of those things I find most rewarding and meaningful in ministry. We will have to wait and see.

As a leader I will do my best, but what would make a real difference is, as the Project evolves and the word gets out there, that the responsibility the PCC, Churchwardens, and I have carried thus far, could become much more widely shared. There is so much to do, but it could be manageable if jobs and tasks could be broken down and shared out across the congregation.

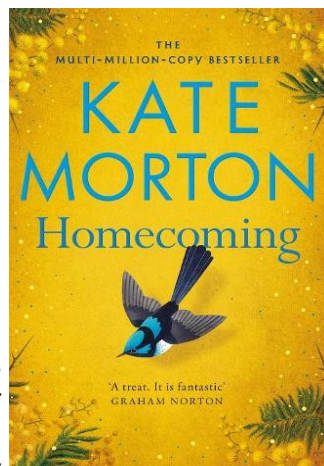
Harvey Howlett has undertaken a Governance Review on our behalf so that we can make our PCC and Committees more effective and agile. I hope we can break open our committee structures to let fresh air in and encourage new people to share their gifts and talents, with one-off jobs or bigger projects, without having to commit to full membership. This has worked in the past and does for two or three committees even now. It is a big ask, people are busy, but we won't be successful unless everyone can offer their own gifts, talents, and perspectives to shape and own the Project.

We have a once in a generation opportunity to preserve our historic building and bring it back to the heart of the community. Through it we may become less inward looking and more attuned to the needs out there to inspire us to try and meet those needs and make a real difference for all those people who need us. We can do it if we want to do it. Everyone has to decide for themselves. There will be more information as we go forward, so watch this space and ask yourself what you could offer. Amen.

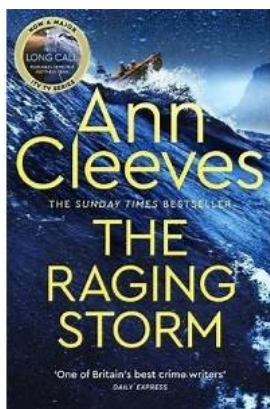
St John's Reading Group

June 2024

For last month we read the latest novel by Kate Morton, entitled '**Homecoming**'. A family saga set in the Adelaide Hills in 1959 when a family picnic turns in to a terrible tragedy which affects so many lives. The story then jumps to 2018 London where we meet an aspiring journalist, Jess, who is on the lookout for a good story. As luck would have it, she receives a call from Australia informing her that her beloved grandmother has had a fall and is in hospital. Jess travels to Australia – and becomes involved in a real-life mystery surrounding her immediate family. It is a story about love and protection, relationships and how easy it is for situations to get out of control. Although long, the story does have an interesting twist at the end – picnics and fish paste will never have the same impact again.



The book did lead to a good discussion about the characters and plot and scored an average of 7/10. Perhaps a good holiday read – no pressure....

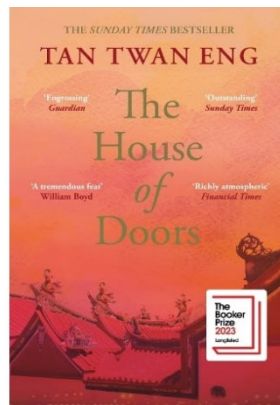


For June, we shall be reading '**The Raging Storm**' by Anne Cleeves. This is the third novel in the Matthew Venn trilogy – and perhaps the best of the three. A well-known local sailor and adventurer, Jem Rosco reappears in Greystone, Devon, only to disappear soon after. Used to his wayward lifestyle, suspicions are not raised but then a body is found off Scully Cove in a dinghy. Is this Jem? Matthew is called in but he soon realises that his life is also in danger. I daresay this novel will be made into a TV programme in the near future as the stories are so good and the

setting so evocative. We are watching repeats of Vera at the moment and I think that the Shetland series is also being repeated.

By the end of the series, Northumberland and Shetland seem familiar.

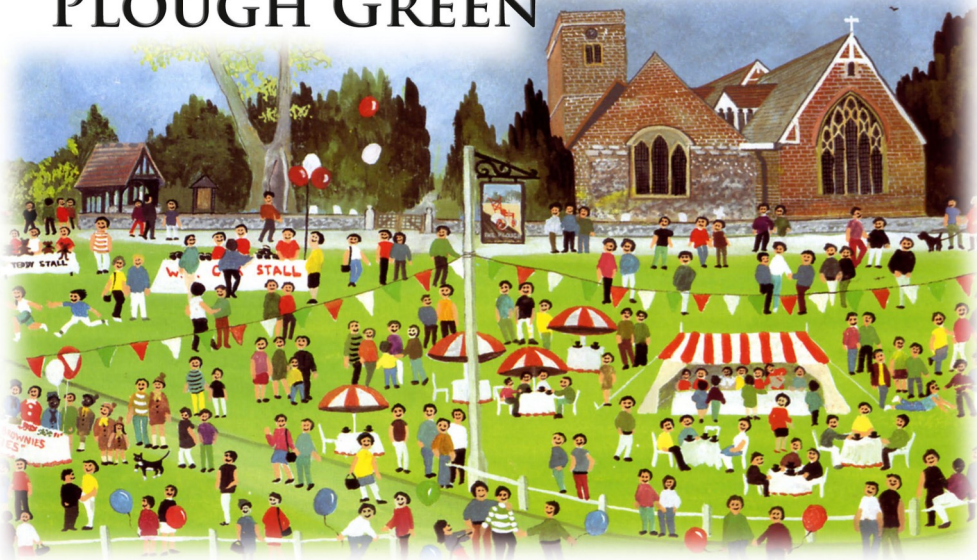
Our choice for July is the new novel by Tan Twan Eng entitled '**The House of Doors**'. Previously we had read *The Garden of Evening Mists* which we enjoyed. This novel is set in pre-WWII British Malaya and features characters and events from history although it is still described as a novel. Longlisted for the Booker Prize in 2023, it has been described as a 'quietly complex tale of love, duty and betrayal' and follows the travels of W. Somerset Maugham through Malaya in the 1920s. I am sure that it will not disappoint.



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 6th June at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

Marilyn

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH MAELDUNE FAIR PLOUGH GREEN



SATURDAY 22ND JUNE
11.00AM - 3.00PM

(BAD WEATHER: CHURCH HALL, 411 MALDEN ROAD)

- ◆ GAMES ◆ STALLS ◆ BBQ ◆ RAFFLES ◆ ARENA EVENTS
- ◆ HOMEMADE CAKES/PRESERVES ◆ REFRESHMENTS

SUNDAY 23RD JUNE
PATRONAL FESTIVAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
AT THE PARISH CHURCH
8.00AM EUCHARIST
9.45AM FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

RESTORE

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER –
COMMUNITY <>CHURCH<>YOU



- St John's history dates from Saxon times.
- Its ancient fabric is now in poor state.
- The tower brickwork and parapet are crumbling, the roofs leak, and there is damp.

We offer weekly services, weddings, Baptisms, and funerals. Also, a variety of activities open to all.

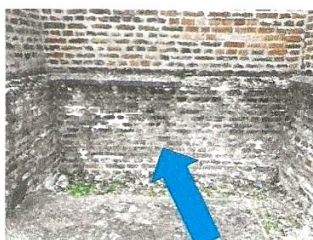
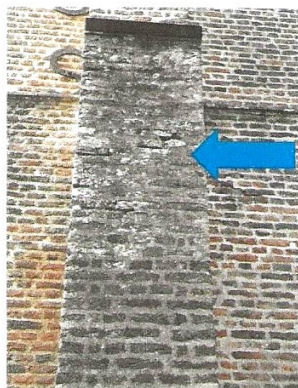


- We are committed to continue supporting our congregation and community.
- We plan to expand our current community activities but need a sound, safe building.
- The Restore Project aims to repair our ancient building. If we don't the building will deteriorate further risking safety.

It will cost £445,567 (Ex VAT)

The Problems are shown here

**Crumbling tower
bricks & mortar**



Roof walling cracked



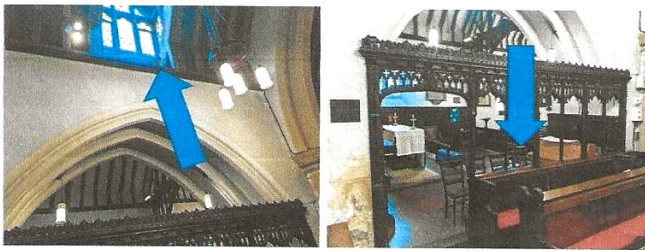
Broken parapet



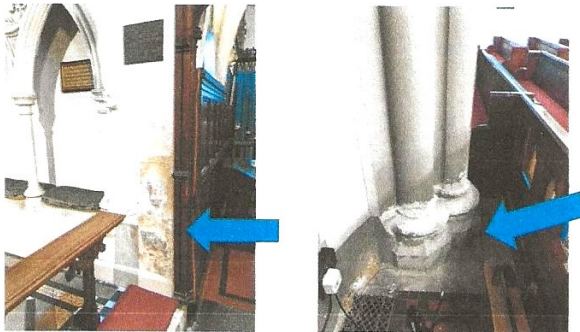
Priest's vestry roof leaks



Chancel dormer window leaks onto choir!



Internal damp



WORKS CAN PROCEED

Local authority planning permission is in place

Southwark Diocese has granted a faculty for works to proceed.

On granting the Faculty, the Chancellor says:

"This is an important church with an important ministry and I am pleased to see that the PCC is planning to put these extensive works in hand. There will be much to be done in terms of fund-raising and then organization, and I hope that everything goes as well and as smoothly as may be reasonably possible."

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The works will be undertaken in stages. Estimated cost for all the stages is £445,567 (Ex VAT, about £90,000 extra).

More accurate pricing will be clearer in contractor tenders.

Our Grants Committee has identified appropriate sources of funding and is now submitting applications.

HOW YOU CAN HELP - PLEASE PRAY, BUT ALSO

Spread the word – what is happening and why

Donations welcome – ways of giving are;

Cheque Donations: please make payable to: **'The PCC of St John's Old Malden'** and mark it **'St John's Restore Project Fund'**. Send it to: The Treasurer, C/o The Parish Office, St John's Church, Church Rd, Worcester Park KT4 7RY. Please Gift Aid your donation if you can.

Online Banking: donations can be made by contacting the Treasurer at treasurer@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk . Please leave your telephone number, and the Treasurer will return your call and provide bank account details.



Using this QR code:

St. John's website: donations can be made via a *Donate* button on the homepage of our website: <https://www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk/>

St John's Knitting & Crochet Group meets on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Coffee Lounge from 2.00 – 4.00pm.

You will be very welcome to come and join us for some extra encouragement with your projects. Or maybe you would like to learn to knit or crochet. Why not come along to our friendly group and see what you could create! Beginners welcome!

You can also bring along your projects – tapestry/ embroidery – a good opportunity to chat, drink tea and relax. Good for your 'mindfulness' time.

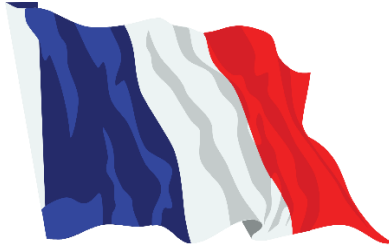
Do join us!

Marilyn



MUSIC @ ST. JOHN'S

I need some help, please! We have a musical afternoon planned, in the Church Hall, for Sunday the 14th July – Bastille Day! So definitely a French theme.



Could I have some volunteers to help set up the Hall and provide and organise refreshments?

All help and contributions would be very welcome, especially if you are more familiar with the Church Hall than I am. And some ideas for how to develop the French theme.

All profit will be going to the Restore Fund, so please help if you can, and contact me,
Bobby Child

07946 532 846 ~ bobbychild1@gmail.com ~ or via the "C" cubby hole at Church





Here is the programme of talks which will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the Church extension. Tea, Coffee and biscuits etc will be available from 10.00am.

June 8th—Follow up talk by Will Tong on the Lee Enfield Gun and shooting.

July 13th— will be a talk by Richard Burkett on "Nuclear Fusion - Energy for the Future?"

Murder on the Dance Floor!

It was the 5th week of Seriously Come Dancing, the ultimate in Saturday night entertainment, and alongside celebs were talented professional dancers, glamorous hosts and scathing judges but a murder occurred! Who did it?

This was the setting for our Murder Mystery Evening at the church hall.

While enjoying lasagna and salad, followed by ice cream, the guests tried to solve the mystery by questioning the suspects (professional dancers, judges, the musical director and the presenter) / the cast:



Angel - Lindsay Marshall, Clara Wonderwoman - Sally Josolyne,
Marcy Ballet - Deborah Harris, Doug Baron-Hardnose - Anne Beales
Drew March - Akira Dugwell, Colin from Scunthorpe - Oscar Symes
Inspector Deadlycoat - Matthew Down

3 teams identified the murderer correctly but only the winning team came up with the motive and the full details of how the murder was achieved.

Thanks go to Lynn Sanger, who directed it, the cast, Beth Owen & Mary Golletz for the food, and the Fundraising team. £480 was also raised for St John's church and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

22nd June: -The Maeldune Fair

21st September: -Jumble Sale

20th October: -Vintage Afternoon Tea

30th November -Christmas Fair

The Fundraising Team



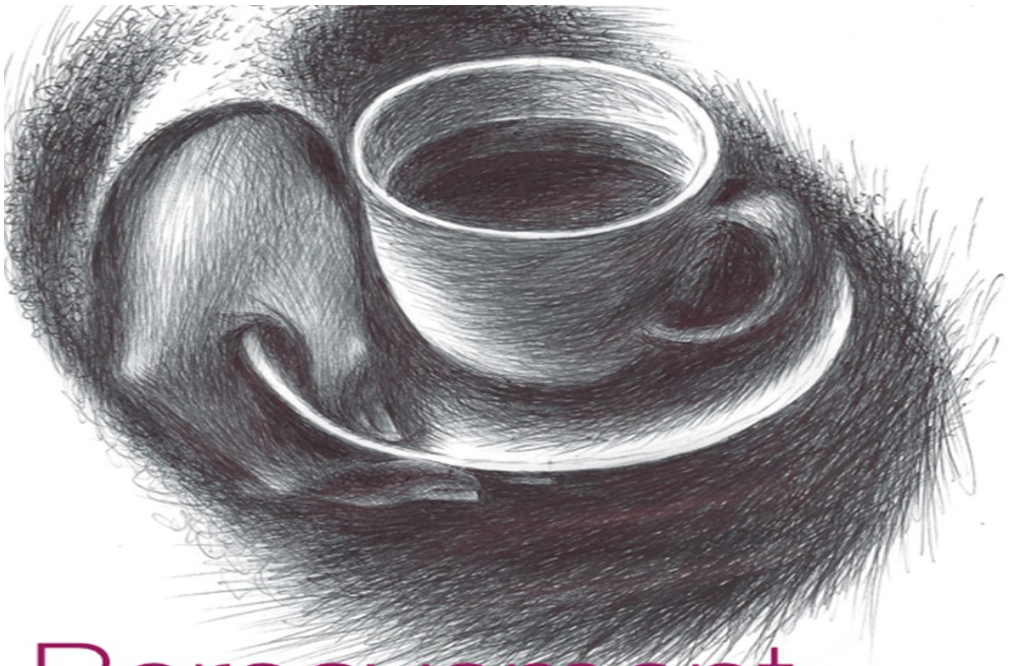


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and our support is really important.**

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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 18th June 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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