

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

March 2023

50p

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**The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist Parish Church Malden**
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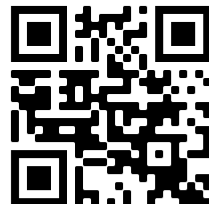
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

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



Services for March



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

When I was a child going to Church on Sunday was part and parcel of spending the weekend with my grandparents. My parents usually had one weekend a month to themselves as Grandma and Grandpa only lived about twenty minutes away. Sometimes several of my cousins would join us. There wasn't anything particularly onerous about Church though as the eldest grandchild I often felt a bit of self-imposed pressure to get all the answers right in Sunday School. By my early teens I had lost interest and stopped going to Church. At fifteen I jumped ship and joined the Anglicans, my Dad driving me into town to attend the service. That was my motivation to get my driving licence at sixteen so I could drive myself and attend all the services over Holy Week. I was struck by the congregation, its diversity and openness as well as the genuine welcome. There was a real sense of being a community and being part of that community was something I found very meaningful. It also meant a lot as a teenager to be valued and taken seriously. But there was one thing lacking. I never seemed to have that spine-tingling spiritual experience of God that others talked about. I felt deeply that God was present in that small sanctuary and among the congregation, but that "feeling" wasn't personal or particular to me, God hadn't singled me out for that. God was there, but we weren't on first name terms as it were.

I imagine my experience isn't unusual. Here at St. John's we all come from different backgrounds with different experiences of faith. We may hold different expectations believing that experiencing God's presence as a tangible reality is something for others, for the clergy and ministry team. Others seem to find God in every sunset, mountain landscape, or ocean view. Some glimpse God in the service or moving among the people around us, but not necessarily within us personally. Maybe we need to take a different perspective and look afresh. I firmly believe that God is closer to us than we are to ourselves, all we need to do is be still and wait as we retune ourselves to see and hear.

Fr. Bill, our rector, encouraged me to consider a vocation to ministry as I went away to uni, but I didn't have the answers to the hard questions of life and hadn't had that earth-shattering religious experience I thought was expected. I made polite responses of "maybe one day" and scuttled off to college. Many years later I found myself working in the Children's Hospital where one could hardly move without tripping over God. He was there in the joy, the grief, and desperation of parents and families as children went into remission and were cured, and also there when they came to the end of the line and there was nothing more to do to help or save. I met God on an ordinary day in a three year old African-American boy. He had an

inoperable brain tumour and had been blind from birth. The staff said he was “mentally retarded” and couldn’t communicate. His mother never left him, she was his only security in a great big world of noises and the toing and froing of strangers on the ward. Sadly one of her parents died unexpectedly and she had to go home. Raoul was inconsolable at her departure. The nurses were busy, no one had the time to console him.

I have a low threshold when it comes to a crying child and went and got him out of his cot and sat with him in the rocking chair. He sat bolt upright on my knees. I wasn’t his mother and he was having none of it. He always made a seemingly random collection of noises, whirring and clicking. I began to wonder and answered his noises. He changed the pattern and made it complicated. If I got it wrong he repeated himself, giggling with joy when I got it right. We switched and I set the tread, he answered perfectly every time. This child was not “retarded”!

He slipped back against me and snuggled into my arms as we rocked, the hours passed and Sue, his nurse came on duty and wanted to get his vital signs. There as the sunlight faded into dusk she asked me how he was and I said that I thought I was holding Jesus. “Have you been in the narcotics cabinet?”, she laughed. “Whatever you do for the least of these, you did it to me” came my reply. She understood straightaway and we said a little prayer. Raoul spent the next three days with me at my desk in the nurses’ station until his mother returned. I have never forgotten that experience. God taught me something immensely important that I have seen time and time again. I find God in other people, much more than in a Church building or a worship service, finding him in the joys, grief, and desperation that others bring in their own lives. He is there even in the ordinary, everyday chatting over a cup of tea or bumping into someone in the shops. God is always there, sometimes we are just too busy or preoccupied to see him.

This Lent I would like to encourage everyone to think about where you encounter God. It may be in the pages of the Bible, a worship service, or in acts of charity helping others. You may find God’s presence close to pottering in the garden or walking along the Hogsmill out in nature. Like me you may find him in others, in the simple gestures of love and support for one another, the joy and challenges of family life, or among friends. God may well be sitting next to you or, as Mary knew all those years ago, asleep in your arms. God is always with you. If you cannot sense him then ask, ask for that closeness, that insight, that warmth and it will be given. Take time to be still, listen, and watch for you are not alone.

With every blessing for a fruitful Lent, *Michael* 7

Another QUIZ Success!

A big thank you to all who came to our 'Quiz / Fish & Chip Supper' in February, our first in the hall since lockdown in 2020.

A HUGE thank you to **Claire Moore**, our quiz master, and to the **Malden Fish Bar** at Malden Manor who supplied the Fish & Chips. All 65+ portions were ready on time to collect and the quality was very good.

Thanks also go to other members of the Fundraising team who helped.

£360 was raised but more importantly it was an enjoyable fun evening!

Claire gave us some interesting rounds, including one on local history!
Did you know

- Plough Green pub (now Miller & Carter) dates back to the 15th C.
- 15 bombs were dropped on Old Malden in WW2
- in past centuries there were 12 gunpowder mills along the Hogsmill river
- Worcester Park station opened in 1859.

Our next Fundraising function will be a St George's Day Afternoon Tea on Sunday 23rd April, so keep the date free!

The Fundraising Team

Fair Trade

As you may have heard Traidcraft is in administration. Which means we can no longer buy Traidcraft items at the moment. However there is some hope a buyer might be found or funds raised to reopen. Hopefully we'll be able to buy their stock when it comes available.

In meantime the church stall will remain open as it is now. We will be looking at buying from other fair trade sources such as Ethical Stores, Oxfam, Co op, Just Trading Scotland, Premfest etc.

We will continue to support the children through Action Aid and Children's ministry.

The stall will now be called Fair Trade Stall!

Fair Trade Fortnight is 27 Feb-12 March, spotlighting the harmful effect of climate crisis on the future of our food. As we continue to buy Fair-trade products we are supporting producers in protecting the future of some of our most loved food and the planet.

There will be our usual Fair Trade Fortnight Coffee Bonanza on 12 March in coffee lounge after 9.45 Service with home made cakes and biscuits made from Fair trade ingredients, as well as samples.

Anne Beales

Human Cargo

It's best as dusk falls
on a clear and starry night,
the sky slowly staining
to washable blue;
chimneys lino-cut into
the border of tonight's revue.

Above the inky trees,
the Plough wages war
against the arc
of London's sulphurous glow.
Stars hone gem-stone facets,
razor sharp and brilliant.

One by one they come,
beyond the pylons' lifelines;
spangled shimmers of light
descend across the dark vault,
plotting the route, homing in –

Qantas,

Virgin,

Malaysian Air

© Sue Burley

Dear Lady Wandsworth – Brooke

30.1.23

I so enjoyed having your letter read to me that I felt like I would like to respond. Your home seems to be a very happy place and you are treated to perfection. I was surprised that you have been served tuna, a young lady of your class should be served Scottish salmon, I would mention it, if I were you, at the right time. I do hope that your Christmas meal was up to scratch. I expect you were given a warm coat from Harrods to wear in this cold weather, it really makes your claws curl.

I saw your photo in the leaflet and was most impressed by your beauty and look forward to reading more of your news, if you have time

Best Wishes Melinda.

Thank you for the Old Malden News. It was lovely to relive the Christmas day event, through Pat's photographs. It was a very happy time and means a great deal for people on their own. So much planning and people giving up their precious time over this ~special ~time of year. Thank you very much, all of you.

I would also like to say many thanks for the regular ~tea and chat~. It is a great idea that we can meet new friends and chat over small personal problems. Living alone, that is impossible. So many thanks and again the helpers who make it happen, always so cheerful.

Wishing you all good health

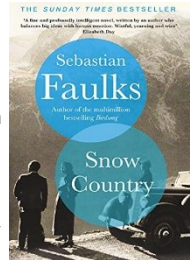
Hazel Trowse

St John's Reading Group

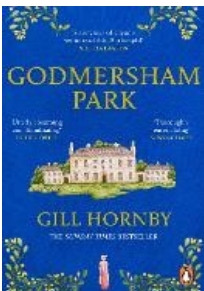
March 2023



There is nothing better than a good discussion and as opinions on last month's choice were so varied, we had a lot to talk about. Our choice for February was Sebastian Faulks' **Snow Country** set in early 20th century Austria. Whilst some of the group really enjoyed this novel, there were quite a few who did not. Scores ranged from 4/10 to 9/10. The novel focussed primarily on four characters: Anton Heideck, a survivor of WW1 who goes to Vienna to pursue a career in journalism, Lena who grows up in poverty with her alcoholic mother, young Rudolf who dabbles in radical politics and Martha, who runs the sanatorium at Schloss Seeblick. The story is set against those turbulent years of the 20th century from 1914 to 1933. Whilst some of us found the characters realistic, others found it difficult to have empathy with them. The author gives us some wonderful descriptions of the environs and a glimpse into the social turmoil created by war, love and loss. This novel forms the second novel in a trilogy, the first one, *Human Traces* describing the founding of Schloss Seeblick. Where will the third novel take us?



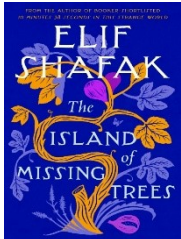
I found this novel really interesting – a lot to think about and not just 'a story' but also a book of some substance. Enjoyable is perhaps not the best word to describe this novel but it is very well written and illustrates the style of the author really well.



For March, we shall be revisiting the world of Jane Austen with the new novel by Gill Hornby entitled '**Godmersham Park**'. Anne Sharp has fallen on hard times and she is forced to become a governess to twelve-year-old Fanny Austen, the daughter of Edward Austen, one of Jane's brothers. Henry Austen, the

youngest brother arrives at Godmersham Park and Anne has a good rapport with him (although he is already married). Jane and Cassandra together with Mrs Austen arrive at Godmersham Park and Anne and Jane nurture a good friendship despite their different social standing. A novel which is a great joy to read, difficult to put down and one which I shall probably read again before our next meeting!

As the April date falls on Maundy Thursday, the 'April' date has been moved back a week to 30th March – so two meetings in the same month! The book selected for 30th March is Elie Shafak's novel, 'The Island of Missing Trees'. This novel has its origins in a divided Cyprus in 1974 and then continues decades later in London. It is described as 'A rich, magical new book on belonging and identity, love and trauma, nature and renewal'. Another book to enjoy!



Our next Reading Group meeting will be on **Thursday 2nd March 2023** at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

Marilyn

EPIPHANY GIFTS – A BIG THANK YOU

A big thank you to all those who contributed to Epiphany Gifts. This raised, together with Gift Aid, over £1,000. This will be used exclusively for purchase of materials for our services such as wafers, wine, candles, matches etc. This has been a great response and is greatly appreciated. Thank you.



Richard Burkett

St John's Knitting & Crochet Group will be meeting on the last Thursday afternoon of the month (30th March).

Bring your knitting or crochet and enjoy a cup of tea (or two) with cake and biscuits.

Last month we were able to send seven large black sacks of knitted and crochet blankets, hats, scarves and children's newly knitted jumpers to The Romanian Aid Foundation. I received an email acknowledging our donations, expressing thanks and the goods are now on their way to Romania. As well as helping the people of Romania, the foundation is also assisting many people who have arrived from Ukraine – so our contributions are much appreciated and much needed.



In February, St John's Knitting & Crochet celebrated its 15th Birthday – just think how many stitches have been completed in that time (as well as the cups of tea). It has been great fun over the years – and we remember dear Granny Mo who was such an enthusiastic supporter. We miss her!

But we carry on and we continue to thank John for preparing our 'teas 'r us' every month.

We meet at St John's Church Coffee Lounge from 2.00pm-4.00pm and you are most welcome to join us.

Marilyn

ORGAN RECITAL NEWS

Barry will be giving his next organ recital on Saturday 22nd April at 7.30pm.

This year's recital will focus on the 150th anniversary of the birth of Max Reger, a significant figure in late Romantic German organ music.

Max Reger was born at Brand in Bavaria, the son of a teacher. The family moved to Weiden soon after and the boy's musical education began at an early age, firstly at the piano taught by his mother. He made rapid progress and in 1886 became organist of Weiden Roman Catholic Church where he stayed until 1889. The following year he became a pupil of Hugo Rieman and shortly after moved with him to Wiesbaden where he became a teacher in the same conservatory as his master. Here he became acquainted with the works of all the great masters. He returned to Weiden in 1898 after falling ill during military service and so began his enormous creative output in all fields of composition except opera. During the rest of his life he held various important positions in conservatories, eventually taking up a post in Leipzig in 1907 where he remained until his death from a heart attack at the early age of 43.



Barry will be playing four of Reger's Chorale Preludes.

His dates: 1873-1916.



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and our support is really important.**

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pot noodles
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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



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 21st March 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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