

# Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist, Malden

**May 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

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020 8640 9377  
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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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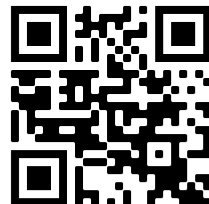
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton  
Tel: 020 8942 8321

# St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

## Directory

Vicar	The Revd Michael Roper gore_lodge@yahoo.co.uk	020 8337 8830
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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	07968 031225
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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 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:	<a href="http://www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk">www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk</a>	
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To receive the Parish Mailing please scan the  
QR code with your smart phone camera



## **Services for May**



### **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

In 1915 the Rev'd Charles Fynes-Clinton came to St. John's as our Vicar and remained in post until his death at the age of 54 in 1933. His older brother Henry was Rector of St. Magnus the Martyr in the City of London. Their father and grandfather were also priests in the Church of England. Henry and Charles were devotees of High Church practices and it was Charles who brought the "smells and bells" tradition that we now have to St. John's. The colour and splendour of worship that had taken root in our inner cities had come to the sleepy little village of Old Malden.

Since Fynes-Clinton's time that tradition has evolved, more or less keeping to the traditional ways as St. John's theology became more open and welcoming. I would say what we have is almost a perfect marriage of the past with an openness to the future and where God is calling us to follow. As a teenager in Carolina I remember the summer school holidays being structured for many people around the different revival weeks held by what we would call the "Free Churches", the Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians. The keen could make the rounds week by week following the different preachers who led each week. The point was that each church expected to reach the final Sunday revitalised with their personal faith refreshed and ready for mission and outreach. This was what I was used to as a child, but the Anglicans didn't "do" revival and when I asked Fr. Bill, our Rector, he said that Anglicans have Holy Week and that that was our revival. On the face of things it did seem to work.

I am sure that Fynes-Clinton ran a full Holy Week with foot-washing on Maundy Thursday and all the drama of Good Friday. Whether there was an Easter Vigil and a Holy Fire is open to question, but this too did become part of the tradition here in living memory. From the feedback I have had many of you enjoyed Holy Week and Easter, finding the different services meaningful and enriching. As a congregation we come from many different church backgrounds, not everyone is Anglican or wedded to the High Church past, and some have come from other faiths and no faith. What happens in Church can be a bit of an unfathomable mystery for some. The challenge is, for me, to make tradition accessible and relevant whilst trying to offer something for all ages and needs.

I would ask anyone who found something particularly moving over Holy Week to jot down a few thoughts and send them to Sally for the magazine. I'm sure people who weren't here may appreciate insight into just what it was about and

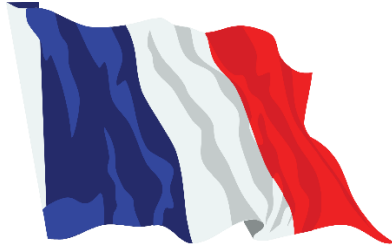
what they missed. The number of people attending our services was up a bit on last year, but the overall trend is that fewer and fewer people make time for worship in Holy Week itself. There are other things going on in people's lives and Church can't really compete. As someone who follows the old adage that if there are more people in the chancel (ie: clergy, servers, choir) than there are in the congregation, then it's time to call time on a particular service. Evensong is an example of this in practice as there simply isn't a viable congregation for this traditional service. Hopefully Holy Week will continue to grow and evolve to meet the need.

Next year the Julian Group will host a service of contemplative prayer in Holy Week. The Watch that rounds off Maundy Thursday will also return after a bit of teaching as to what it means and why we do it. What was once a highlight of personal prayer and watching with Jesus the night of his arrest, has at St. John's become a habit that does little to honour Christ's presence among us and his sheer vulnerability in that crisis in Gethsemane. He is present among us in many ways in the Eucharist, but physically tangible in the Sacrament of bread and wine transformed. Anglican conscience is very broad when it comes to what we as individuals believe, but the Watch is founded on honouring this presence in a particular way and that should be relevant if the practice is to continue. Without this underlying reality there is no real reason for me or Milly to dress up like ancient Roman gentlemen in robes, nor bob up and down at the Holy Table. But as many of our Anglican sister churches move away from the Eucharist as an important part of Sunday worship, and Holy Week becomes an endless praise service instead of following Christ through the roller-coaster of emotion as he journeyed to the Cross and beyond it; I still hold that these hold meaning and spiritual power for us all even now. It is my job to help make that so. So here's to next year, to Lent, Holy Week, and Easter too that "Alleluia, Christ is Risen!" may continue to resound in our Church and our lives.

*Michael*

# 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](mailto:bobbychild1@gmail.com) ~ or via the "C" cubby hole at Church





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



**Perhaps you have not taken up any knitting or crochet for a while? Why not come along to our friendly group and see what you could create! Beginners also welcome!**

**This is always a great opportunity to finish one of those projects you have stored away in a carrier bag but have lost your way. Maybe you would like to start a new project - crochet 'granny squares' are very much in vogue at the moment.**

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

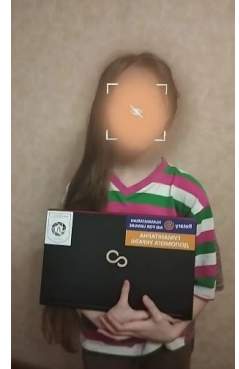
**Do join us!**

*Marilyn*

## DON'T LET'S FORGET UKRAINE

At Kingston Inner Wheel last month, we were delighted to welcome back Ukrainian Rotarian, Sergii Savytskyi, to give us an update on his project ~ to provide laptops for their children so they can continue their education.

He has done an amazing job, both here in Great Britain & Ireland and in Europe, raising awareness, raising funds and arranging delivery of tens of thousands of laptops. But there are 200,000 children in the most affected parts of Ukraine, so there is still a long way to go.



be heart breaking – the scenes of destruction and devastation would be terrible, but then the phot This time, Sergii did not bring us any photos to show us. I was quite pleased because I knew they would be of the children, smiling with their laptops, would be equally heart breaking in quite a different way.

Sergii is also helping to get all sorts of other, vital equipment transported to his country, including medical supplies and machinery. He seems tireless and is truly impressive.

And then he thanked us, all of us here in Britain, for our support and help, and said, if there was anything at all THEY could ever do for US, we must just ask. They don't want charity, they want to give back which, in their current situation felt like another heart breaking moment.

And then, overnight, another picture and message:



Z

aporizhzhia



*“There were residential buildings here.  
People have gone missing.  
Just wiped off the face of the earth...”*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!**

22<sup>nd</sup> June: -The Maeldune Fair

21<sup>st</sup> September: -Jumble Sale

20<sup>th</sup> October: -Vintage Afternoon Tea

30<sup>th</sup> November -Christmas Fair

The Fundraising Team



## Help with Bible Reading?

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Alternatively there's New Daylight which is ideal for anybody wanting an accessible yet stimulating aid spending time with God each day, deepening their faith and their knowledge of scripture.

£14.97 for the years supply. Please ask me for samples to view.

Anne Beales





## The Men's Thing

Here are the 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.

**May 11th** - A relaxed chat from John Eggitt on buying from auctions etc.

**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?"

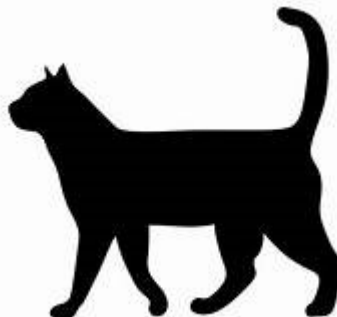
Dear Brooke

I do hope you are well and enjoying the feeling of spring in the air. I know that you are not able to enjoy seeing the changes, but flowers are beginning to bloom, despite so much rain and hail, but my bones are noticing that it's not quite so cold. I miss my old friends in Worcester Park and life is a lot slower here. Rufus the dog is very friendly. There are 2 dogs next door. One is very large and one is small. The large one is the size of a horse so I am told. The seagulls are big and laugh at me from the top of the fences, I cannot climb because I was never supplied with a tail, not fair!.

I have missed your newsy letters, but know it's been very busy for your companion over Easter. The garden has strange smells in it, I am told they are herbs. I do not understand! Last week I thought the house was falling down. Noise was unbelievable, a small plane landed on the playing field behind the garden. A lot of fuss ensued, it was the air ambulance, whatever that is! I did not like it one bit- flashing lights- Sci-fi!

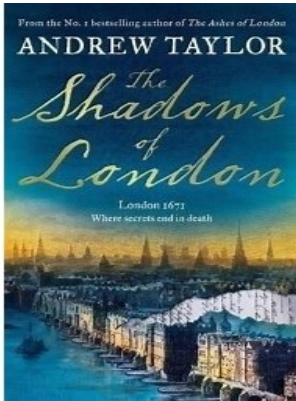
There is talk of moving again, oh no. I won't survive much more!

Love Melinda



# St John's Reading Group

## May 2024

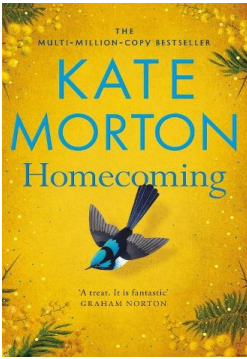


For April, we read Andrew Taylor's 6<sup>th</sup> novel in his series set in the Restoration era – '**Shadows of London**'. We are in Restoration England – 1671 – and the streets of London are full of rogues and potential criminals. Yet we are drawn into the story of James Marwood and his work for Lord Arlington at Whitehall as well as the drama surrounding Cat Hakesby. Her work as an architect is halted when a

badly injured man is found dead on the building site, The Duke of Buckingham is embroiled in a dangerous plot which James Marwood seeks to unravel. To add even more mystery, a young French woman, Louise de Keroualle has caught the attention of King Charles II and there is a plan to establish her as the King's new mistress, whilst the French ambassador is hoping for a new alliance with England. The story is full of action and danger – and the many references to well-known streets of London all help to draw us into the 17<sup>th</sup> century city. The best novel in this series so far – and we shall be looking forward to book number 7.

Our next read is the latest novel by Kate Morton, entitled '**Homecoming**'. If you enjoy family sagas, then this book is for you. The story begins in the Adelaide Hills in 1959 when a family picnic turns in to a terrible tragedy which affects so many lives. The story

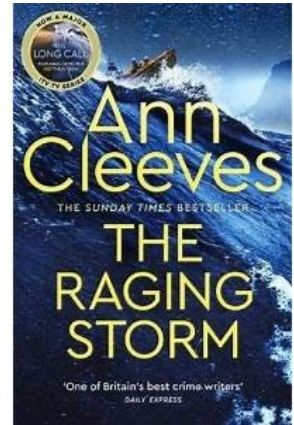




then jumps to 2018 London where we meet an aspiring journalist, Jess, who is on the lookout for a good story. As luck would have it, she receives a call from Australia informing her that her beloved grandmother has had a fall and is in hospital. Jess travels to Australia – and becomes involved in a real-life 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. It will

be interesting to hear everyone's views – our **May meeting has been changed to APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>** at 8.00pm.

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. If you are a fan of Vera and Shetland, then this series will not disappoint. It is a good read and is now available in paperback.



*Marilyn*



**There are boxes on the church porch bench for  
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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 21st May 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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