

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

May 2022

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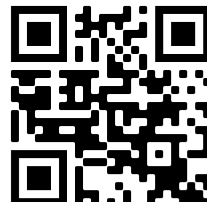
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

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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 May



St John's is OPEN

St John's has now re-opened 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

May 2022



Easter actually happened this year after all! And what a close run it was too. After the uncertainty of lockdown and the restrictions the pandemic brought, Holy Week and Easter have been very muted occasions. I was beginning to think I would never see a “normal” Easter Sunday again, and almost didn’t when I finally caught Covid the week before. I had a few close calls but was always negative, and then out of the blue struck down and grounded at home. I felt very much like my teenaged self to be honest. Covid has continued to work its way through the Leadership team and some are still recovering at home as I write, but for the rest of us we’ve had the opportunity to celebrate Easter in the time-honoured way as a Church.

As I wrote in my Palm Sunday sermon, a good Holy Week and Easter sets a parish up for a good summer of spiritual growth and outreach, food for the journey as we live out our vocation as part of God’s Kingdom in this place. So I do hope people are feeling revived in the wake of our Easter Sunday celebrations and that you will continue to avail yourselves of all the season has to offer as we continue to share in the story of Christ’s risen life and the gift of new life he brings thanks to the resurrection.

The icon is a print of one by a young Ukrainian artist from Lviv, Krystyna Kvyk. It hangs in the Lady Chapel behind the candlestand. We don’t have an icon of the Resurrection surprisingly, but I found this one and it

speaks eloquently of the situation in Ukraine at this time. Normally I prefer a Resurrection scene full of colour and action, but the muted colours and dark atmosphere of this one matches the reality for so many. There is no resurrection for Mariupol, no Easter joy. Will there be new life after death? That remains to be seen.

Here in leafy Old Malden, there is new life and Easter joy in the midst of the uncertain political and economic climate. On Sunday 22nd May we will hold our parish's Annual Meeting as we mark the year passed and look forward to the year ahead. We have a challenge in that so many members of the Parochial Church Council have finished their terms over these past three years, and not been replaced, that we are likely not to be quorate. This would mean that the PCC would lose its legal standing and authority and parish business would halt. So I am appealing to you all to consider whether or not you might have something to offer the parish by serving as a member of the PCC. We meet once a month for an hour and a half. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal with good natured discussion and sharing as we chart the direction of the parish in these challenging times. Essentially the only real requirements are be available on the first Tuesday evening of the month, and coming prepared to share your perspective. The Vicar encourages challenge and support for the work of the PCC as it is vital, with the Churchwardens, to keep St. John's moving forward. Could it be that you have something to bring that would enrich our work? Do have a think and ask if you have any questions.

St. John's needs to keep the momentum of reopening and the return of full worship services and outreach going. Easter has been a big boost and will hopefully signal a return to the new "normal" in this post-pandemic situation. It is time and there is much to do and to share. Let us continue our journey of faith together in confidence assured of God's love and purpose for our Church and for one another.

With Easter Blessings,

Michael.

Gardener's Corner

May

May is the month when we think about planting out our summer plants like geraniums and tomatoes. One of the most difficult decisions in the year is when to actually do this planting: plant them too early and the plants can suffer and even die if there's a cold-snap, plant them too late and you feel that you have lost some of the benefit of the summer's growing opportunity.

There is a general rule which is, if the night time temperature is at least 10c and forecast to remain at 10c and above, that is the moment to plant. Years ago this could be reliably pinned down for Old Malden to around the 10th May, with other parts of the UK varying - for example the South West had their dates earlier, and others could be as much as a month later, for example in the North of England. Now, with global warming, the weather is more erratic and this makes it much more difficult to predict. Some years the weather reaches 10c earlier in May and some years, like 2021, it was much later. The only way to be sure is to watch the weather forecast and make the best decision for your garden.

Personally, I wait until I'm satisfied that the night temperature has reached 10c and will stay above it and then I'm assured that when I plant my tomato seedlings out they will get away to a good start. This may mean watching other people planting out earlier but I think there is a lot of benefit in waiting and being sure of the temperature.

Happy planting!





Conquest Art

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities

Group Helpers Needed for Art Group

Conquest Art is a unique Charity, inspiring people with disabilities and long-term health issues to discover their creative energy and build self-confidence through art.

Your few hours a week could make a real difference to people's lives. We are seeking volunteers willing to re-open and support our art group. **The group is currently closed, and we would like to reopen in the next couple of months. It will be held on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30pm at St Mary's Cuddington, Worcester Park.**

V O L N T E E R

*All that's missing is **U**!*

Your main aim as a volunteer is to ensure that each of your members enjoys themselves, whatever their level of ability.

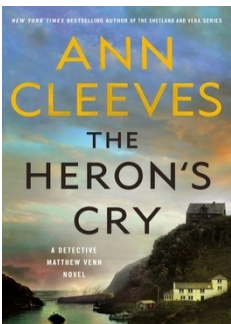
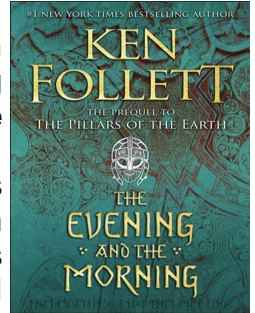
As helpers you will be sharing different roles such as organising, overseeing the finances, bringing new ideas, keeping records of members and volunteers, purchasing art materials, and making refreshments.

Volunteers are the people who make Conquest Art possible. Could you join the Worcester Park team?

Please contact us for more information to find out how our art groups are run and how you can be involved in the team. Phone Tina **020 8393 7707** / email enquiries@conquestart.org or see our website www.conquestart.org

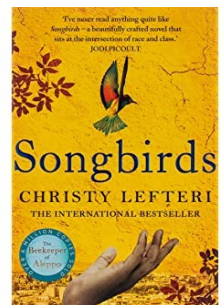
St John's Reading Group May 2022

When we selected this novel as our choice for April, we could never have imagined the wide variation in opinions— but it did all make for an interesting discussion! The book was **The Evening and the Morning** by Ken Follett. Beginning in the Dark Ages – 997AD, it told the story of several communities around Kingsbridge and Dreng's Ferry. Ranging in scores of 0/10 to 10/10 – the novel was brutal at times with vicious murders, bloodshed, betrayals and evil treatment of women and slaves. Very few written accounts of those years were ever recorded and indeed, the author admits to ignoring some real historical detail. It is a work of fiction after all. The 'good' characters were good but there were a number of really 'evil' and ruthless ones. The monk Aldred, the boat builder Edgar and the French noblewoman Ragna were definitely in the 'good' category with the three brothers Bishop Wynstan, Ragna's husband Wilwulf and Wigelm together with Dreng in the 'evil' category. One of the criticisms was that the characters were two-dimensional. However, for many, it was a good read, all 811 pages although the ending was rather predictable. The consensus was that 'The Pillars of the Earth' which is a sequel to this novel and written thirty years earlier, is a better novel. The average score was 7½/10.

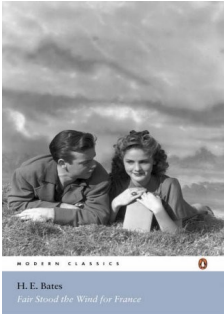


For our May meeting, we have selected the latest Anne Cleeves novel, **The Heron's Cry**, the second in the Two Rivers Series, with Matthew Venn as our new detective. Set in North Devon, Matthew is called out to a rural crime with an elaborately staged murder. We have become used to the Shetland & Vera series so a new venue is an interesting departure. We enjoyed the first novel, *The Long Call*, so look forward to this new choice.

Looking ahead to June, we have selected **Songbirds** by Christy Lefteri. This author has also written *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* which was a very moving and successful novel. *Songbirds* is set in Cyprus and is described as a book 'which illuminates the power of the human spirit and the



enduring love of a mother for her child’.



Even further ahead, for July, we have selected a ‘modern classic’ – **Fair Stood the Wind for France** by H E Bates – a novel written in 1944 and one which became the author’s first financial success. Incidentally, the title comes from the first line of a poem entitled ‘Agincourt’ by Michael Drayton (1563-1631).

Recently I read Andrew Taylor’s **The Royal Secret**, the fifth novel in his James Marwood/Cat series. Set in 17th century London, it is an excellent historical crime thriller and a good read. The streets of London seem to come alive and the author re-creates an excellent atmosphere of the sights and smells of the era. If you are a fan of Andrew Taylor’s novels, this will not disappoint.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 5th May at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. Happy Reading! Marilyn

Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday

What a truly meaningful Service. A very special way to end Lent and to greet Easter Day - the first celebration of Easter.

We met at sundown in the porch. A wren was singing as darkness fell. We were reminded this ceremony was very ancient. Could it be one that the Anglo Saxons shared this when our Church was first built? Certainly it spoke of the church's Jewish roots.

Reminding us of what God did for his people, the Creation story was read, then the crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites as they escaped the Egyptians that first Passover. The Easter fire was lit in a cauldron and from its flames the Pascal Candle was lit and then blessed. Nails were pierced into the candle.

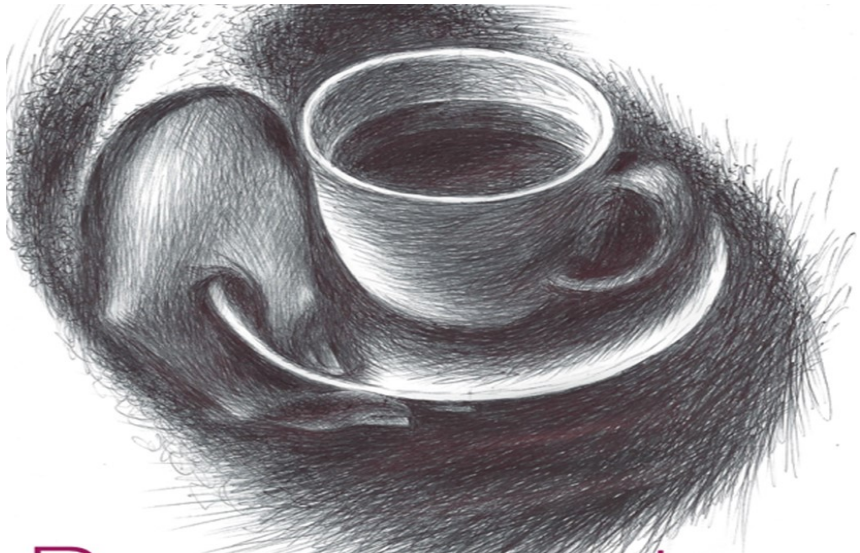
We followed the Pascal Candle into an unlit Church. The acclamation "The Light of Christ" was answered by "Thanks be to God" 3 times. Small candles we were holding were gradually lit from the Pascal candle. As the symbolic "Light of Christ" spread, darkness decreased.

Father Michael sang the Exsultet which speaks of rejoicing, naming Jesus as the Pascal Lamb and reminding us of God's deliverance, another reminder of the Jewishness of our beginnings. After the Gospel, the liturgy of the Eucharist continued as usual except that for the first time since the pandemic we shared wine.

After the service we all collected in the extension for Prosecco and nibbles. Lent has ended!

Anne and Chris Beales





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 17th 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.

PLASTIC

After reading Chris Benson's excellent and informative article in April's edition of the Old Malden News "Fighting back against plastic", I was reminded of my early days in my first "proper job" working for a company called United Glass. As the name of the company implies, the company manufactured, and probably still does, the bottles and closures used in everyday life ranging from wines and spirits to jam jars and milk bottles. There also was a small plastics division and I do recall very well that one day "the man from Plastics", Tony Mc Birnie, gave a presentation. It was very impressively delivered but he received a very cool reception, probably as we in the glass division didn't like his conclusion that "plastic is the future" Yes he really did say that!

Regrettably we have to admit that he was right looking back over fifty years later that plastic has taken over and of course has become an environmental disaster. So why does the world continue to use a material that is so damaging including using about ten percent of global oil output in its manufacture?

The reasons were stated in that presentation all those years ago:

1. Protection

It protects vulnerable products from damage whilst in transit and from contamination, or damage from moisture, gases, micro-organisms, insects and light.

2. Preservation

Preserves products for longer, which reduces waste by giving people more time to consume products before they are no longer suitable to use.

3. Waste Prevention

Less spillage

4. Transport

Allows travel over longer distances so that we have access to non- local products. Here in the UK we only produce half of our own food, without plastic, it would be much more difficult to feed the nation.

5 Light but Strong

Plastic that has been through a shrink wrap machine has the amazing quality of being very light but also very strong.

6 Cost Effective

Plastic is manufactured in huge quantities and so is a very cheap form of packaging.

The challenge for the world is how to find a sustainable packaging material that has the same properties as plastic and that is able to be produced in the same immense quantities. In 2019 the world produced 318 billion tons of plastic and the forecast is for production to rise to 600 billion tons in 2025. A truly terrifying prospect.

What the answer is to our plastic problem and to our quest towards a net zero world, I will leave to those more qualified than myself.

Steve Clark



St John's Knitting & Crochet Group will meet on Thursday 26th May from 2.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. We continue to knit/crochet items for Romania – and woolly hats, scarves and mitts were requested by The Romanian Aid Foundation recently. Would you like to

brush up on your knitting skills – or learn to crochet? New members and beginners always welcome. Tea, cake and biscuits always on hand so do join us!

Marilyn

Recycling For Good Causes

You may have noticed the tall Cardboard Box in the Coffee Lounge, standing by the Traidcraft Cupboard.

We collect old jewellery. broken chains, single earrings, brooches, old mobile phones. used stamps, foreign money, cameras, Sat Navs, Laptops, iPads. Through Recycling for Good Causes its all turned into cash for Traidcraft Exchange, the charity that supports farmers and producers in developing countries.

Its great news for the charity but also for the environment. By recycling we help to conserve important raw materials and to protect natural habitats for the future.

Its a win win situation!

Thank you for your support.

Anne Beales





You're invited to a Big Brekkie!

Want to change the world over breakfast? Then come and tuck in at our Big Brekkie! We'll be serving a delicious morning meal, while raising money to fight poverty and injustice worldwide.

Where: St John's Church Hall
411 Malden Road
Worcester Park, KT4 7NY

When: Saturday 7th May 2022

Time: 8.30am to 11.00am



Big Brekkie is Back!



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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What a successful morning. All the effort was rewarded with a good amount for Church funds. The fundraising team were supported by many members of the congregation in preparation, selling on the day and in clearing away at the end.

Thank you everyone

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PINK PRIMROSE

This pink primrose appeared in Church Path this spring. If it was donated by you, thank you. It will be planted by Marjorie's multi-flowered primulas near the ash tree stump in the clearing. Hers are out pacing ordinary primroses there. A pink flower just like it is shown in the RHS A-Z of garden plants. It gets their award of merit as a 'valuable garden plant' – common primrose variant 'var.sibthorpil'.

Ours has rounded leaves like the tongue of a panting dog. But theirs has wedge shaped leaves.

We aren't told who Mr Sibthorpe was, who found it and named it, but he found it growing wild in and near to Ukraine.

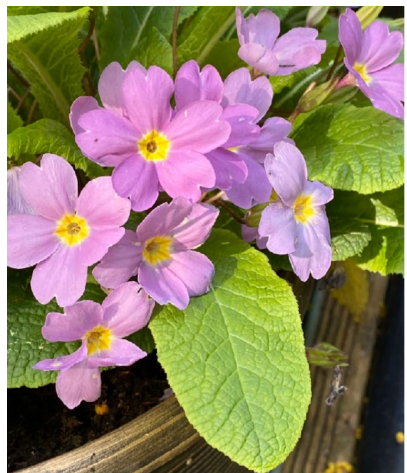
As the seeds form, its petals change to mauve, almost to violet, showing up the orange-yellow 'star' in the centre even more. In the rubble of Ukrainian cities, its muted colours echo the blue and yellow of the Ukrainian flag as in mourning. As poppies speak of Flanders, these colours speak of the grief in Ukraine. Next to the ash stump we found there 303 cartridges. They were sent to Britain stamped "1943 S A "(from South Africa), when invasion was expected here and we needed ammunition. Home guard training may have been done in the clearing. The cartridges were still live in 2015. We are grateful they were defused by Ted Molyneux at the NRA museum. This Easter they formed a cross.

The rings on the Ash tree stump confirm the tree grew through debris left there in the 1940s. Fungi, stag beetles and time should soften the stump wood so everything beneath can eventually be safely removed and recorded.

Our primrose yellow primroses by Church Path came from 'wild' clumps

found in an old Surbiton garden, next to where Thomas Hardy and his bride lodged as newly-weds in the 1870s. Richard Jefferies who lived round the corner in Ewell Road regularly walked the Hogsmill River. Did he omit primrose from his list of nearly 60 wildflowers recorded ere because there were as rare in Malden then as they seem to be today?

Chris Beales



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