## **Old Malden News**



# The Parish Magazine of St John the Baptist, Malden

November 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

Please send any articles or other material to:

St John the Baptist Parish Office

020 8330 2817

administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk

Advertising and Distribution:

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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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# St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden **Directory**

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Safeguarding Officers	MrsVanessa 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: Parish Office:	www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	

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



#### **Services for November**



#### St John's is OPEN again!

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** - Said Eucharist with hymns

#### Wednesday 11am — said Eucharist

The midday Eucharist on Wednesdays has been moved to 11am to cater for the Mothers Union ,who 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 getup to date information regarding the services.

http://eepurl.com/gNz4Tf or scan the QR Code

#### Vicar's Letter

As the nights draw in and the temperature falls we know that autumn has settled in and that summer is well and truly behind us.

This has always been my favourite time of year, watching the leaves change colour and earth itself gently fall into a deep sleep until spring wakens it yet again. It is quite natural for autumn to lend itself to taking stock and remembering the past. As we move from Harvest towards Advent we journey through Kingdom Season, the Church's focus on the reign of Christ as he gathers all things in to himself. In the world as we see it today it can be rather difficult to see signs of Christ's reign around us. Our news is full of depressing news of conflicts and violence in so many places around the world, and then there is the constant drip feed of loss that Covid has brought in its wake. On the face of it there seems to be little to celebrate.

But we need to remember that all things will come good in God's time. We may wish to hurry things along, but God alone is in charge of what is to come. All we can do is to keep making a difference where he has placed us; in our daily lives and our families and neighbourhoods. We do well to follow the examples of those we love who have died too. They have shaped us to be who we are through their love, care, and presence in our lives. Their stories have not been forgotten, their deeds and words have not passed unmarked. All Saints Day and All Souls commemorate all those who have died in God's love. We take this opportunity to remember them and to give thanks for all they have given us. This year we have two opportunities to do this. On the 31st October we hold our Annual Memorial Service which will look and feel a bit different this year. I envision this service as one especially for the more recently bereaved, the families whose funerals Milly and I have taken these past two years. They need an accessible service

that speaks to them in word and action, something that appeals especially when they may have little or even no experience of Church. Given that we will need to limit numbers of people attending we have invited these families specifically. It is a chance for them to touch base with us who have taken the funerals they have been part of, as well as a time to find a bit of healing and hope. We offer crucial support and will signpost our Bereavement Café for anyone who may need more support long-term.

Traditionally for churchgoers, the most appropriate place to commemorate the departed has been in the context of a Holv Communion service. This is what we offer on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November and we will be remembering all the dead over St. John's long history as we celebrate the Eucharist and make the benefits of Christ's saving death and resurrection present in the here and now. Just as we pray for the dead on Sundays, we will focus on them in this service giving thanks and drawing comfort and peace in Jesus' promise of eternal life. Names will be read out at both services and I invite you to attend either one, but please only put down names for the service you are actually attending. Those we love and miss are always in God's care, but we take a moment to remember and be thankful. On Remembrance Sunday we hope to welcome our children's uniformed organisations as we remember the cost of war and the importance of peace with justice. We tell again the story of sacrifice and loss to a new generation, as it has been handed on to us. All things will be redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ and all things will be made perfect in his Kingdom. Until then we will keep telling his story and remembering theirs until the day when all Creation is renewed in the love of God.

Wishing you all peace, Michael.

#### .STEWARDSHIP 2021

Our Stewardship Appeal was launched on October 10<sup>th</sup> when Fr. Michael gave a sermon asking for all of us to understand our current financial position and to review our Giving to St. John's. If you missed his sermon, it can be found in the Parish Mailing of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October. He emphasised the need for all of us to consider our Giving so that the financial load is spread as evenly and as fairly as possible across our membership. It would also be great if new members could join to help us.

We will face some tough challenges in the coming years, and it is important that our day to day finances are on a sound basis, particularly when we start appealing for donations to help with the future building work needed. We are, of course, extremely grateful to all those who continue to support us, and particularly those who made generous donations in the last eighteen months. As we see St. John's opening up and returning to the new normal, we hope that everyone who can will continue to support us financially.

Red envelopes containing an Appeal and Response Leaflets were given out at the end of the service on October 10th, but if you were not there, then please try and collect one at the next opportunity.

Further information can be found on the St. John's website where these Leaflets can be downloaded: <a href="https://stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk/stewardship-appeal-/">https://stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk/stewardship-appeal-/</a>. Pease complete your Response and return it to the box in church or to the Parish Office, St. John the Baptist, Old Malden, Surrey KT4 7RY in an envelope marked for the attention of the Stewardship Officer. Please respond, even if you are unable to change your current regular giving. All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Richard Burkett

Chairman, Finance Committee

#### **Finding God in Silence**

Our Julian Meeting at St John's is now fully operational again, normally on the second Monday of the month at 8 p.m. The Julian Meetings (named after the 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic Julian of Norwich) is a national organisation coordinating groups around the



country dedicated to the practice of contemplative prayer. If you find prayer difficult, or just need a space in which to find stillness and peace, the Julian Meeting may be for you.

At our Julian Meeting, we start by lighting a candle to remind us that Jesus is always among those who come together in his name. There is a brief introduction from the leader — usually a few lines of poetry or prose — and then we sit in silence for 30 minutes. Many thoughts may come into our minds, not always holy or welcome; we simply acknowledge them and let them go. In the peace, we note the sounds around us, nearby and far away, the sounds of our own bodies — our breathing. We simply spend time with God. And, as an old man once put it, "I look at Him, He looks at me." At the end, we say the Grace and enjoy a brief time of fellowship and refreshment.

We warmly welcome new members and anyone who just wants to see what a Julian Meeting is like. There is no obligation to come every month – we will be delighted to see you whenever you can make it.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact: Chris Benson on 020 8224 3985 or email <a href="mailto:c.benson87@ntlworld.com">c.benson87@ntlworld.com</a>

Note: the day may sometimes be varied to suit festivals, holidays or other events – please check with the church diary. Group members receive an email reminder. Please arrive a few minutes before the start time as for security reasons we have to lock the outside door before we begin.

If you'd like to know more about the Julian Meetings, see www.thejulianmeetings.net

**St John's Knitting & Crochet Group** met in September for the first time since February 2020!

We celebrated with a delicious cake provided by 'Teas R'Us' John and it was so nice for us all to be able to meet once again in person.

We hope that more members of the group will return when we meet on Thursday 25th November, from 2.00pm in the Coffee Lounge at church. I know that many of you are still busy knitting/crocheting projects for Romania and some baby blankets for the 'prem' unit at Kingston Hospital. You may have some of your own projects on the go - Christmas gifts even!

So if you would like to brush up on your knitting/crochet skills - or even learn how, you are very welcome to join us. Lots of tea and biscuits and a friendly atmosphere too.

Hope you can join us!

Marilyn



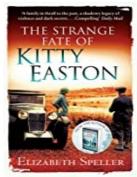
#### The Plough Green Oak

here stands the sturdy oak
in the autumn chill
branches etched
on to an ice blue sky
shaking off ripe acorns
as leaves slow to turn
let fall a tawny tapestry
bronzed and glossed by rain
saffron yellow and earth brown
scenting the breeze with cinnamon theatre for the passing season.

© Sue Burley 10/21



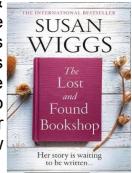
# St John's Reading Group November 2021



At our October meeting we discussed 'The Strange Fate of Kitty Easton' by Elizabeth Speller. {We were also so pleased to be able to have Faith and Brian join us via Zoom.) Although there were references to the first novel in the series, which we had not read, it was still possible to enjoy this book as a stand-alone. A former infantryman from WWI, Laurence Bartram, an amateur sleuth,

visits the village of Easton Deadall in 1924 and learns about the tragic disappearance of a five-year-old girl in 1911. The author re-creates the atmosphere of 1920s England and includes references to the British Empire Exhibition, which was held at Wembley Park in 1924-5. In the two years that it was open, it attracted over twenty million visitors, giving two of the characters in this book ample opportunity to get lost. The novel certainly has all the elements for a good read: missing persons, murder, family jealousies, historic finds, a death defying escape and a questionable moral decision. Quite a complex story but a good read nevertheless with an average score of 8/10.

Our choice for November is The Lost & Found Bookshop by Susan Wiggs. Nathalie Harper's comfortable but predictable life is suddenly turned upside down, as she is confronted by the shock of personal loss. She leaves her reliable job and returns home to San Francisco to look after her grand-father and the family bookshop. New life — new focus and new priorities.



For December we shall be reading a classic Graham Greene novel: the comical and satirical 'Our Man In Havana'. Sir Alec Guinness immediately comes to mind with Burl Ives, Maureen O'Hara and Sir Noël Coward acting alongside him in the 1959 film — a masterpiece directed by Carol Reed.



When we meet in January, we shall discuss Jane Harper's latest novel 'The Survivors'. Ms Harper is a popular author with the group and we have read The Dry', 'Force of Nature' and 'the Lost Man' – all set in Australia. The heat of the desert certainly warms us in our mid-winter months.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday November 4<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge (and on 'zoom').

#### Marilyn

# Mothers INCN - Included the second of the s

Did you know that 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced domestic or sexual abuse? And that this is happening right under our noses in our communities and churches? Mothers' Union as a leading Christian women's organisation believes this to be unacceptable.

Much press and research has also shown that cases of domestic violence have increased during lockdown and the pandemic so there is more need than ever to join together and say "No more 1 in 3".

On Thursday 25 November, the first day of the 16 Days of Activism

Against Gender-based Violence, Southwark Mothers' Union will lead a thoughtful and informative evening about one of their most active causes. Mothers' Union campaigns throughout the world for an end to gender-based violence, and to raise awareness of this frightening statistic. The session is for both men and women, whether or not they are already members of Mothers' Union.



Do join us in learning how to say "NO MORE 1 IN 3" in the free Zoom session on Thursday 25 November, 7.30-9.00pm.

To book your place, email ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

You may also like to join the four million Mothers' Union members around the world as we join together on **Saturday 27 November**, for a three-minute silence at 1.03pm (linking to the 1 in 3 theme), calling for action on an international scale and in all the countries where we live. Please mark the event by wearing a purple scarf.

#### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary recital .....

Our organist, Barry Eaton, gave an excellent organ recital on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October – and celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since his first recital at St John's. In all, Barry has given over 100 recitals here and they have been greatly appreciated over the years.

This latest recital included music by Sweelinck, Albinoni, Handel, Widor, S S Wesley and Dupré.

If you missed the recital or would like to listen again, it is available via the link on St John's website or through the following ; <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/">https://www.youtube.com/channel/</a>

#### UCJBOMry5u57ROosux4tfCKQ

**MCB** 



# REPORT ON HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2021 and SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE

The four days from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September were very busy when St. John's was open for the National Heritage Open Days. There was a steady flow of visitors each day with a total of 120 people altogether. Most first time visitors to the church were very impressed by how well the church was kept, the very interesting and long history of church and area, and the welcome they were given. Thank you very much to those who helped over this weekend and especially to Anne Beales who kept everyone going with tea and biscuits and ran the Fairtrade Stall, and to Chris Beales who set up the history boards together with his really interesting board about the elm tree theory. Most visitors this year were local but one couple walking the London Loop came from Derbyshire, another from Cheshire, one from Hong Kong, also a large group from Kingston Ramblers stopped off for a visit whilst walking the Hogsmill river from Ewell to Kingston.

Some comments: A very friendly welcome and a delicious cuppa. A wonderful find-I'll be back. Amazing history. Very interesting, great exhibition. Really a gem-loved looking around-everything so lovingly kept. Very welcoming and fascinating church. Thank you for being open and welcoming.

On the Saturday afternoon the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust's sponsored Ride and Stride took place witha group of 14 from St. John's participating. The weather was kind and they managed to visit 10 churches. If you sponsored any of the families please contact them as soon as possible. Half of the money raised will be returned to St. John's.

WELL DONE TO ALL WHO TOOK PART.







#### Footnotes to a Notice Board on Church Path

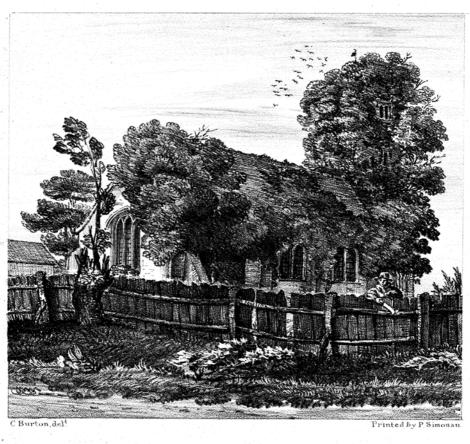
'St John's should have a notice board outside it telling the story of conservation there', Barbara Webb told me that again, the last time we met. Botanical evidence is appearing, about the sign that gave Malden its name. If she herself had seen the elm tree growing out of the top of Lady Walter's monument that we saw this year, she might have had the fun of weaving it into the wonderful talks she gave on her Heritage Week walks. How valuable her views would be about how and whether the monument can be conserved - and the elm tree destroying it.

The elm theory was given a test-drive on the Heritage Days. Valuable advice came in from Kingston ecologist, Alison Fure. Elm is now being grown from seed. She reminded me, Barbara fashion, what matters is to cut and clear the grass properly, rather than "micro-manage" projects (like this?). But so much interest has come from this Elm project, this will do as a sequel to last year's notice board featuring the Spring underneath St John's Church. This article is the footnote to the noticeboard in Church Path. By using the QR code there, any passer-by will be able to read it.

Engravings of the church, starting in 1799 show no sign of any tree near the church's east window at all, in spite of much new evidence of elm roots still underneath the grass there. The prints probably just tell us that elm roots can been kept out of sight by very conscientious mowing.

In Heritage week, this lithograph of St John's was re-discovered. It is thought to have been drawn about 1825. It shows a tree stump ?outside a very rough wooden church fence. The stump is about 70 cm wide, judging by the height of the man. He is posed, displaying a bill-hook, the tool used to cut brushwood and narrow branches. Several branches growing out of the stump have been chopped short. On the grass verge outside the fence, debris has been piled ready for carting away. The artist's view-point places the stump immediately in front the east window.

The fence may even be built into the stump. If so, the man has completed the work on his side, leaving the work outside until later - deliberately also leaving one 5 metre high branch growing out of the top of the stump (showing how much he's removed?) This will no longer be blocking the view of the church. The stump will be neatly pollarded again.



MALDEN CHURCHINE.

Workmen today take photos on their phones to show they turned up at a job, and completed it. Mr. C. T. Cracklow a Surveyor (named at the bottom of the print) commissioned this, latest copying method, lithography, to keep an eye on his workforce. He has got C. Burton to sketch a 'snapshot'. P. Simonau then printed enough lithographic copies to satisfy the P.C.C., the Vicar, Merton College, whoever is paying to have the stump sorted out. Surplus prints from this surveillance exercise amused print collectors, who bought them as a quaint village scene, produced with the latest technology from Paris. (Amazingly, copies can still be bought on the net today!)

Robin Gill kindly sent us this postcard issued in the 1900s showing "The <u>Oldest</u> tree in Old Malden". It is in a large, level, well-cut field. Five clearly distinguishable English elms mark the boundary at the horizon on the right. So it is likely to be an elm. Can you tell us where this field is, or was? Are the elms now at the end of someone's garden?



The <u>largest</u> known English Elm in Europe was in the news recently, being removed on a lorry, because it had Dutch elm disease. Also hollow, also with a stump two metres in diameter, it dated back 400 years and confirms that before the disease, elms might stand for that length of time but would then tend to collapse. It was in Preston Park, Brighton.

A good tree would probably decline in vigour in 300 years. It would be replaced by a sucker as leaf cover allowed more sunlight in. Four generations of 300 hundred years could take the generations back 1200 years to the Saxon era. Each 'new tree' would begin a few metres away from the site of the first tree. Are they one, single, Saxon, tree?

Chris Beales



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#### **Gardeners'Corner**

#### **Autumn Colour**

One of the great spectacles of the Autumn is the changing colour of leaves, which provides us with lovely golden and red colours in our gardens and in the landscape. So this is maybe a good moment to reflect on what is happening within the leaves that gives us these lovely colours.

The green pigment in the leaves is chlorophyll and that has been busy all summer carrying out the complex process of photosynthesis which turns carbon dioxide and water with the aid of light into food for the tree. Unfortunately, chlorophyll isn't stable and the plant is continually having to renew it. As Autumn draws in, the plant begins to reduce its production of chlorophyll, and this allows the carotenoid pigments to show through. The carotenoids have been in the leaf during the summer and they provide us with yellow, orange & red colours; they also absorb energy contributing towards photosynthesis so this still carries on

When the plants are producing less than half of their usual summer chlorophyll, some trees can begin to form another pigment called anthocyanins and these give deeper colours of dark reds and purple; they may also react with the carotenes to enrich the autumn colours.

after the green pigment disappears.

Meanwhile, the remaining chlorophyll is broken down into colourless chemicals into a form which can be stored in roots,

trunks and branches to provide energy for next year.

Whilst we benefit from the lovely colours of the leaves here in Europe, the most vivid colours are produced in North America and in the Far East in places like China and Japan.

Enjoy the lovely autumn colours, they are with us for too short a time.

#### **Keith Marshall**



#### Friends of St John the Baptist Church

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

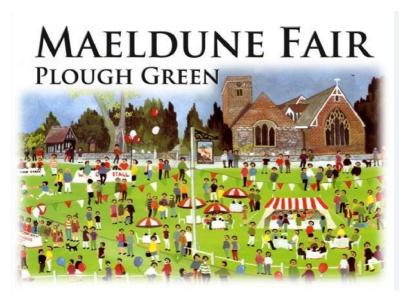
St John's faces a very difficult financial future as a consequence of the pandemic and has suffered a great loss of income.

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 <a href="https://stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk/giving/">https://stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk/giving/</a>

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.







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: <a href="http://efraising.org/fx3w1QPP7u">http://efraising.org/fx3w1QPP7u</a>



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 <a href="https://www.coop.co.uk/membership">https://www.coop.co.uk/membership</a>

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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