

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

November 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 8330 2817
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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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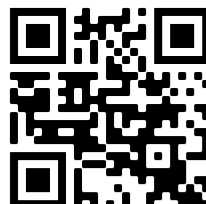
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

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Vicar	The Revd Michael Roper gore_lodge@yahoo.co.uk	020 8337 8830
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Organist	Mr Barry Eaton	07968 031225
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PCC Secretary	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
PCC Treasurer	Mr Peter Chugg	07941 842957
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 November



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

As we celebrate All Saints Day on the 3rd November, we begin the Church's Kingdom Season. It begins with a focus on all the different people who have shaped the life of the Church with their lives and witness to the Good News of Christ down the centuries. We then remember all the departed and look forward to that time when Jesus gathers all things to himself and takes up his place as Christ the King. The season began in the United States among mainline Protestant churches, inspired by the Pope's proclamation of the Feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Church year before Advent starts us anew. Christ the King was an answer to the rise of fascism and materialism of the 1920's. Kingdom Season was once widespread across the different denominations, but has since largely disappeared apart from a few Anglican congregations like St. John's. I had never encountered it until I came to England, but I have a deep appreciation for the way it reminds us that, no matter what is going on in the world around us, the love of Christ still reigns calling all people to his gentle rule that alone brings peace, joy, and fulfilment. It has been said many times that Jesus did not die to create the Church, but to bring about the Kingdom of God, the kingdom he proclaimed by his teaching, healing, and suffering. In other words the Church isn't the sum total of the Kingdom, rather merely a small part of it. I'm sure we can all think of places where God is at work in the world outside the four walls of a church, among people of other faiths and none.

The Church in turn was charged by Christ to build his Kingdom. We are the catalyst, uniquely placed in every community to see what God is calling us to join with him in doing for the benefit of our communities. That of course will be different in every context. What is constant is the call to serve and witness to God's love. It isn't easy, but we have other church partners in our community and we try to co-ordinate and work together. Sunday Lunch, the Christmas Day event, and Bereavement Café draw together people from all different sections of the community, making a tangible difference in others lives. We don't expect anything in return because we are serving Christ through those in need, and that is its own reward. One of the loveliest parts of my role is walking around the Parish and being stopped by people who sing the praises of St. John's and the positive impact we make. It is a very humbling experience to have a young mum thank you profusely for the £20 Argos gift card the Angel Project provided, in what to most of us is a very comfortable, well-off community. Needs of all kinds are beneath our noses and God wants us to look closely and do something for that is how his Kingdom is built, one encounter, one life at a time. So this is what I hold onto as we travel through Kingdom Season.

As we move into November we also kick off our big Stewardship drive. This enables us to gauge if we will be able to meet our financial obligations in the coming year and set our Budget appropriately. It's no good setting a budget if we don't have the funds to see it through. I know it's counter-cultural to talk about money in Church and many dislike it, but St. John's has had a long history of not talking about money and simply hoping that money will appear as and when needed. This has happened in the past, dependant as we always have been on a few very generous donors, but this has declined over the years as many of that older generation have died. There are those who ride to the rescue by digging into their

pockets in emergencies, but my hope is that we can expand the number of people giving regularly so that the financial responsibility for ministry and service here can be shared more widely than the 15 households we currently depend on to keep the show on the road.

It is very challenging managing our day-to-day finances alongside the pressures of a major restoration project. We have had really generous support for the Restore Project so far and are confident that we can secure grants for much of the work ahead. This has been divided into stages for funding and the work itself. The finances for Restore and our day-to-day expenses are managed separately by different teams under the supervision of Peter Chugg, our Treasurer, and the PCC. This clear blue water approach allows us to see clearly what we need to meet the cost of ministry when preparing the Budget and managing our money.

Thanks to the Restore Project we have the opportunity to develop St. John's as a nature hub for educational purposes within the community and beyond. We have a unique natural resource in our midst that could be widely shared, enriching young and old alike. We also hope to start a Dementia carers support group following on from the success of the Bereavement Café. This mirrors the issues we have with accessibility in general and we need to make our building more accessible, to improve access to the Coffee Lounge and toilets is a must do. And then we have a growing number of people who find it difficult to join us on Sunday mornings as they used to do. This "Home Church" initiative depends on an upgrade in our live-streaming with new cameras and audio to ensure that those watching can really feel part of worship by being able to see and hear the service. All of these depend on our giving. We are applying for grants where they are available, but the PCC hope to meet the projected expenses for 2025 of £125k, an increase of £5k from this year. If we aren't able these will have to be put on hold again until finances allow.

So I would ask each one of you to return your pledge card even if you make no change to your Stewardship support. That way we have a more accurate picture of what we can do in the year ahead. Some may feel they have to decrease or even stop their giving entirely, that is very understandable with the financial pressure that persists for many. Others may be able to start giving regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme, or increase their donations. It is all up to you because that is a decision only you can make. Most of all, thank you for all that you have given because you have made all we do possible.

With Every Blessing,

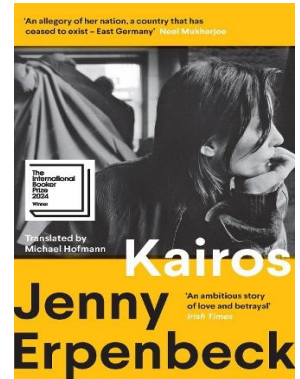
Michael

St John's Reading Group

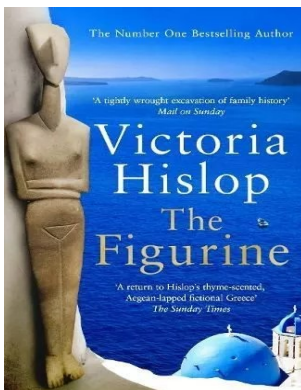
November 2024

We never shy away from a challenge – and we certainly met one with our October choice of book: '**Kairos**' by Jenny Erpenbeck. Originally

In German, this novel was the winner of the International Booker Prize for 2024. It is a tormented love story set during the final years of the GDR and was perhaps an allegory of a country divided by the Berlin Wall and torn apart by political turmoil. Hans is in his 50s and married with a son – he meets Katharina, a young 19 year old. Their love affair is doomed from the start - not just by age difference and circumstance, but Hans exerts terrifying power and control over Katharina which becomes cruel and abusive. Katharina, meanwhile, becomes totally besotted with his man who overwhelms her with music, art and culture. One asks the question how much his childhood under the brutal Nazi regime has affected him as regards his dominance and coercive control. It is a very emotional and difficult read in places but brilliantly written: one can see why it won the Booker Prize accolade. 7½/10 from the group.



Many possible contenders for our next book – but a less challenging novel was our choice.



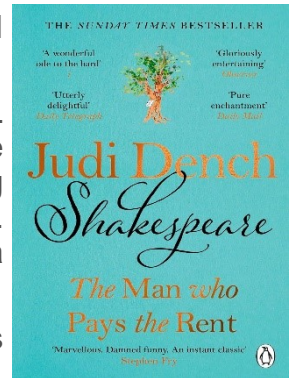
Although Victoria Hislop's style is rather predictable, her passion for Greece, its history and archaeology are very evident. **The Figurine**, our choice for our November novel, is set against Greece's turbulent political story and raises questions about the illegal sale of historical treasures. On these dreary Autumn days, it is a tonic to be reminded of hot sunny days – beaches, kafenia, delicious Greek food and wine and the dry, dusty

atmosphere that is Greece. [You can also pick up some Greek vocabulary as there are numerous examples in the novel to add local colour.]

As a departure from fiction, I am looking forward to reading Dame Judy Dench's memoir:

'Shakespeare, the man who pays the rent'. During her seventy years as an actor, Dame Judy has had so many experiences playing Shakespeare's wonderfully dramatic characters. With her great wit and perception, it will be a good read.

As Sir Kenneth Branagh has written, the book is 'A magical love letter to Shakespeare'.



Nearly time to make that Christmas Book list – for others and of course, your own 'wish-list'. I am sure we shall be totally spoilt for choice.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7th November at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

Happy Reading. Make the most of the dark evenings!

Marilyn

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From Parish Records 2024

Baptisms Mara- Jade Smith

Arlo and Alba Kelly

Joshua Duffy

Weddings Louis Spreckley and Heather Underwood

Funerals Susanna Brett

Joan Bray

Patricia Smith

Terry Winten

Sabrina Jallum

George Fellowes

St John's Church, Old Malden

Christmas Fair

Saturday 30th November

11am - 3pm

Free Entry

Come along to:

**The Church Hall
411 Malden Road
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***Many stalls, gifts
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TRY ANYTHING ONCE CLUB!

Looking for something different?
Something new?

Next Session

A LESSON IN UKRAINE

Saturday 16th November

The Glass Room, St. Andrew's Church, Maple Road,
Surbiton, KT6 4AB at 10.00am to 1pm

Linked to our support for Rotary's 'Laptops for Ukraine'
Project ~ we are going to experience, at a very elementary
level ~ a Ukrainian Primary School lesson!

Only £10 per person
of which at least £5.00 will be donated to the Project

Book your place:
innerwheelclub-kot@hotmail.co.uk
and join our mailing list for details of what
we are going to try next



KINGSTON INNER WHEEL





It is not too late to start your 'Christmas Knitting', (or Crochet).

Why not come along to St John's Knitting & Crochet Group which meets on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Coffee Lounge from 2.00 - 4.00pm.

Open to all – do come and join us! Learn to knit, follow a pattern, take up crochet! Or just come along for a friendly chat and cup of tea.

Do join us!

Marilyn



Volunteers Needed

The Restore Project team are looking for volunteers to help tell others about the project, and why we are doing it.

The team needs **YOUR** help

- putting together a dedicated web-site, leaflets and brochures.
- distributing leaflets and brochures to local shops and businesses, emailing information.
- liaising with the Grants Committee to see what supporting literature grants require

If you can help please contact

<administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk>

TRY ANYTHING ONCE!

Some absolutely charming ladies from our Borough's Tamil community, in their beautiful and colourful costumes, gave us a graceful demonstration of a dance - which we then tried to emulate. Some with more success than others! But everyone had a go, which was the point, really. And we all had great fun trying.



Our next session is on Saturday, 16th November, from 10 am to 1 pm, at St. Andrew's Church in Maple Road, Surbiton, and it is "A Lesson in Ukraine". Linked to our support for the Ukrainian Laptops Project, we are going to experience ~ at a very elementary level, of course ~ a Ukrainian Primary School Lesson! If at the end of it we can say "hello" and "goodbye", "please" and "thank you", and count from one to more than one, in Ukrainian, we shall have done well! But we will hopefully have also learnt more about the country and its culture. And again, we expect to have a lot of fun in just trying. All profit from this session will go towards more laptops – our Ukrainian friend, Sergii Savytskyi, has organised 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.

If you'd like to join us, please let me know.

Bobby Child

Kingston Inner Wheel



The Men's Thing

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.

November 9th - A talk by Marilyn Burkett on The Commonwealth War Graves in St John's Churchyard .

December 14th - A talk by Paul Henry on ceramics.

Margery smiled, she always smiled right to the end, she was just the most cheerful person and visiting her was always a pleasure. She was always more interested in knowing how other people were than talking about herself. When towards the end of her life she could no longer come to church, we would take communion to her and she was always reluctant to dwell on her health problems and was anxious to ask about all of us.

Margery was very active in the church in her younger days. And people said how friendly and welcoming she was to all new people who came in, and very quickly she would get them involved. Pat said she must have been one of the original welcomers.

Margery helped at the original Christmas Day event back in 1972. She would organise games and entertainment right up to the time she could no longer attend. If there was a theme she would love to dress up. In fact, she was always dressed beautifully, taking great care of her appearance. She was always the first to thank everyone for their help at the Sunday lunch club, and of course she much appreciated all the help she received when she was no longer independent.

But before this in the 60's, Margery ran the youth group and organised Harvest lunch. She was also a committee member for the local branch of cancer relief, and helped with Malden care phone line, not forgetting the teddies she knitted for charity.

And for herself, Margery and Arthur, her husband loved dancing, ballroom dancing. They loved it so much that they would organise their own dances and give displays on various stages including the one in Manor Park.

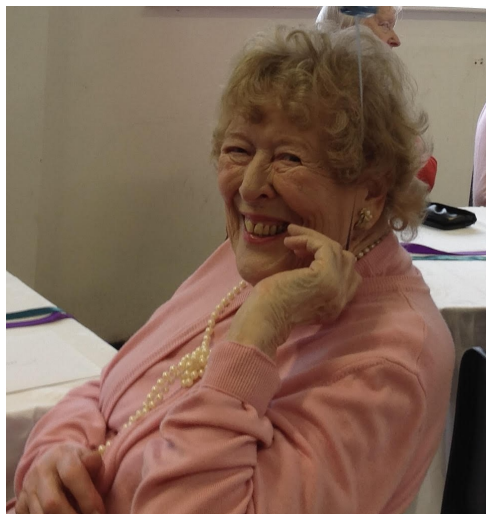
She also loved painting, she was an artist and painted beautiful pictures mainly of nature. She ran an afternoon painting group in the church hall, and when she could no longer travel Margery had the group round to her house.

Another passion that Margery had was films. She loved films, and as Janet and Roger had a large collection of DVD's she would eagerly borrow the latest from Janet and then love to discuss them afterwards. She would read the latest film reviews in her daily paper and then ask Janet if she could have the DVD when it came out.

We never heard her complain and in spite of severe health problems she remained cheerful and resilient and always had enough energy to put her make up on, and to ask how we all were!

We miss her, and especially that lovely smile, and that optimistic and cheerful way of looking at life. She loved and was loved by us all. We know that she had a strong Christian faith. Margery loved to come to church and worship with us all, she came every Sunday for many many years. and in her way, she was doing mission for the church as she encouraged and welcomed everyone as they came, and would suggest ways that they could be involved. We know too that she is now at peace and held in the love of God for all eternity.

Milly



THE BIG SLEEP OUT!

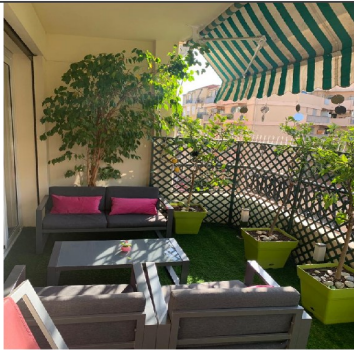
I was really pleased to be able to support Kingston Churches' Action on Homelessness by joining the Big Sleep Out at All Saints Church on the 4th

October. Luckily the night wasn't very cold (7°) and it was dry and still – quite a few stars to see. It was much noisier than I'd expected, what with the Church bells, the pubs turning out, the town centre rubbish collection at about midnight, and then the Night Clubs turning out! But I was cosy in my grandson's sleeping bag, and along with 40 other volunteers, I did get some sleep. And a delicious bacon roll for breakfast at 5.30! It was an experience, and I think it did the job of raising awareness of the homelessness problem AND we raised an amazing amount of money due to the generosity of our families and friends. I am so grateful for the wonderful support that I had.



The next day, someone said they'd be interested to know how I felt about going to bed THAT night? Just one word ~ grateful!

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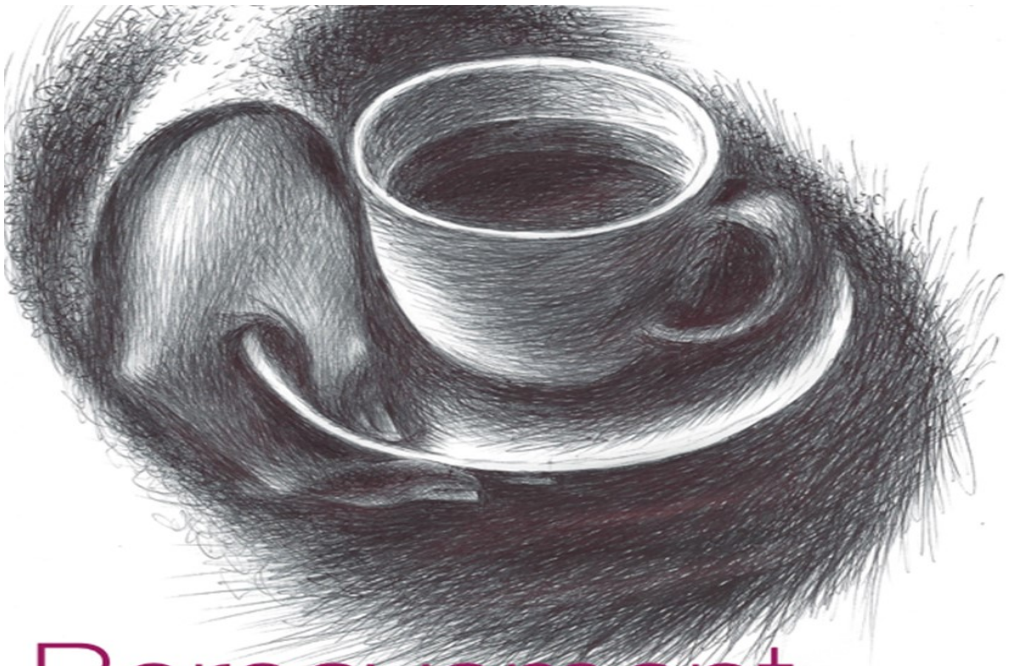


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**Foodbanks are now vital to so many people
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Bereavement Café

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 19th November 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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