

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

November 2023

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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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Copy date for the magazine is the 15th of the month and
please only send submissions in Microsoft Word.

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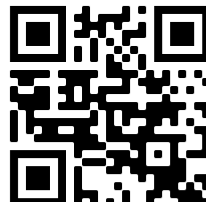
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

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	020 8949 1708
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PCC Treasurer	Mr Alastair Harris	020 8241 1087
Parish Administrator	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
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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

St. John's has had a fantastic October, much in line with the unusually warm weather. Our Harvest Festival was celebrated with a bumper congregation of children's uniformed groups, their families, and our regular congregation. This year for the first time in many years Malden Parochial held their Harvest celebration in Church, followed by one in school specifically for children in Nursey and Reception. Altogether we raised a tremendous amount of food donations for Kingston Food Bank and the team working with the Trussell Trust to help those struggling to put food on the table. On the 8th the new Bishop of Kingston, Martin Gainsborough, joined us for our first Confirmation Service at St. John's in fourteen years where seventeen candidates reaffirmed their promises made at baptism and became full members of the Church. It was an outstanding evening and everyone enjoyed the service and hospitality afterwards. Most of all it was especially lovely to see so many of our young people and adults take this big step in their home church.

Another big step has been the completion of all the preliminary studies and investigations that have laid the ground work for the massive restoration work needed to repair our crumbling Church tower and make the building water-tight. With this work complete, we await the faculty (planning permission) for the work required from the Diocese that should reach us in November. With this in hand we will be able to receive grants from charitable bodies who don't generally invest in a project unless all the permissions are in place. Alex Veal, our Parish Architect, has guided us through this process and a qualified Quantity Surveyor has mapped out the projected cost of the project through its various phases. Unfortunately, inflationary pressures and the rising cost of living have impacted the cost of materials and labour, and we are now looking at about £400,000 for

the most pressing aspect of the project, repairing and repointing the crumbling Jacobean bricks on two sides of our Church tower. Cracks in the parapet and water ingress and damage need to be repaired to prevent further structural problems with this local landmark. Future phases will tackle the leaking dormer over the Choir and the renewal of the Vestry roof. Overall there is a lot to do.

My biggest fear is that the project will divert and consume much needed time and energy of us all as a congregation, that is desperately needed to further our mission and outreach. Our Bereavement Café is our only brand new initiative to date, and yet there are so many needs and opportunities in the wider community where St. John's has a role to play and make a tangible difference for those we are called to serve. In light of this, we are calling this the Restore Project, a dynamic programme to effect the desperately needed repairs, but also to address the needs around us. So much has changed in the wake of the pandemic, but we are well placed to play our part in helping people locally overcome the isolation and sense of disconnection that is blighting lives and damaging mental health in this community. St. John's has the power to make a real difference for the better. We can do this if we really want to.

My hope is that we can renew our relationship with our changing community and grow closer together, as we raise awareness of what we are doing to save our historic building and how we serve people who need a helping hand or listening ear. The Restore Group have recently met for the first time. As members of the PCC, they have the responsibility for communicating what the Project involves and what we are trying to do. We look towards going out to tender later next year and the works beginning after that, but there is so much to do first. Kirstie Tong and the Grants Team have already secured grant promises of almost £25,000. Please do pray for them over these next crucial few months as the more funding we receive, the

more attractive our project will be for larger grants from sources like the Lottery Fund. Without these, the works are unlikely to happen at all, and the pool of grantors for faith groups is quickly shrinking.

The Restore Project will rely on everyone working together, members of St. John’s, friends of St. John’s, and the wider community. While we are working hard to repair our Tower and its four hundred year old bricks and mortar, this is about far more than just the building. It is the people who meet within it who are the heart and soul of St. John’s. As much as we may enjoy the beauty and history of the building we call home, we fill it with life and potential. Let us not waste this opportunity, but move forward in faith and trust as God calls us on into the future.

With Every Blessing

Michael



King George Field Indoor Bowls Club pre-Christmas Fair

Saturday 25th November 10am—2pm



St John's Church, Old Malden

Christmas Fair

Saturday 18th November

11am - 3pm

Free Entry

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The Church Hall
411 Malden Road
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It's that time of year again!



Yes, we're thinking about Christmas, and planning our annual event to mark the countdown - the Graham Child Christmas Carols. There will be some favourite carols to sing, and don't we all love singing Christmas Carols, as well as contributions to the evening from dancers, musicians, readers – many of them youngsters (but not all!)

The date is Wednesday, 6th December at 7.30 pm, and the place is New Malden Methodist Church, in New Malden High Street. Tickets are £8.50 and there are various ways of paying; you can pay on the door but it is helpful to know in advance who's coming so we can make sure we've got enough mince pies.

This year the funds raised will go to Kingston Inner Wheel President Valerie's nominated charity, Dignify, and we hope it will be a significant amount.

Do please come and support us – it's always a good evening. There will be a poster soon in the porch with a QR Code and contact details ~ or just let me know.

Bobby Child

07946 532 846



St John's Knitting & Crochet Group will be meeting on the last Thursday afternoon of the month, 30th November in the Church Coffee Lounge. Beginners welcome. Would you like to learn to crochet? Or knit?

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

Marilyn



The Fundraising Team thank all those who helped & supported the recent Jumble Sale, which raised over £600 for much needed church funds.

**THANK
YOU**

Going Electric

It began when our son had his catalytic convertor stolen, writing off his Honda Jazz. He and his family had just moved house and taken on a much larger mortgage, and a new car was definitely not in the budget. Sue and I had been thinking that we might buy an electric car eventually, but our son's mishap precipitated our decision. We sold our faithful Skoda to him for little more than his miserly insurance payout and decided to take the plunge.

With our own budget being somewhat limited we went for a secondhand (two year old) eGolf, and embarked on the learning curve of owning and driving a very different vehicle to any we had had before. The first thing was to install a charging point at home, capable of charging the car using off-peak (midnight to 7am) electricity. The installation and the subsequent faults were something of a saga in itself, but that was nothing to do with the car! Suffice to say I would not recommend the company concerned.

As to the car, the first thing to say is it is a delight to drive, very smooth and quiet of course, and with better acceleration than any other car I've owned. Range is naturally the big issue. The eGolf has a notional range of 180 miles. In practice, you will not get close to that; the available range depends on many factors: whether and how much one is using air con/heating, headlights or wipers, and the type of road, fast or slow, hilly or flat. The slower you go, the more miles you will get. I would be reluctant to embark on a journey of more than 100 miles without being sure that I could charge at the end of it. However, 90% of our journeys are local, and 98% are less than an 80 mile round trip, so this is only very rarely a consideration.

It was alarming at first to see the range displayed on the dashboard ticking down every few seconds going up a steep hill. On the other hand, the reverse happens going downhill (as with a petrol car, although perhaps not as dramatically). For reasons that still elude us, we usually use less range on return journeys – the car seems to like coming home!

We are becoming more confident about undertaking longer journeys, most recently a 280 mile trip to north Wales. It pays to plan ahead. Apps like Zap-Map

show you where chargers are en route, and, importantly, whether they are slow (7kW) or fast (50kW or more). While there are now many charging points around, there are still too few places like Stroud Park, Banbury, where there are rows of fast charging points (a full charge takes about 40 minutes) and an adjacent Costa. Up in north Wales, several National Trust car parks have a charging point – which are free to use – but only one slow one; that is fine if you're off to the beach for the day, but you need to plug in early before someone else does!

You can also charge free at some supermarkets including some Tesco, Sainsburys and Waitrose stores. However, again these are slow chargers, and you are still tied to the parking time limit (but who wants to spend two hours in a supermarket?) so these are only good for topping up.

It is good to be able to drive knowing one is not spewing pollution from an exhaust pipe. However, we are mindful that electric cars are not a perfect answer to pollution. Being zero-carbon to run depends on buying electricity from renewable sources (we buy ours from Good Energy). There are concerns about sourcing of the battery materials, CO₂ is emitted during manufacture and there is still pollution from tyres. Driving any car is never going to be as green as walking, cycling or taking public transport. Nevertheless, on balance electric vehicles are still kinder to the environment than those driven by fossil fuels.

Yes, there are disadvantages: they are significantly more expensive to buy (although much cheaper to run – on our Wales holiday we covered about 700 miles and spent about £66 at charging points; charging at home is much cheaper), the charging network is still not adequate in many areas, and one needs to build charging time into longer journeys. In the near future, electric cars will become cheaper, go further and charge quicker. Meanwhile we are more than happy with our eGolf!

Chris Benson



Report on Heritage Open Days 2023

Very many thanks to all our volunteers who welcomed 174 visitors to St. John's over the four Heritage Open Days. Special thanks to Anne Beales who kept everyone fed and watered. We were delighted to especially welcome from Malden Parochial School Classes 4, 5 and 6 at separate times on the Friday, together with their class teachers and new headteacher Lucy McMullan. Also thank you to Deborah Harris for organising the trail for children to follow.

Everyone is always surprised to find this hidden gem in suburbia with such a long and interesting history and most visitors commented on the warm and friendly welcome received. The majority of visitors were locals with a few having travelled quite a distance. One coming from Rochester for the second time with knowledge of the Walter de Merton connection.

On Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon we were pleased to welcome Paul Henry who gave a talk and demonstration on Wool and Linen: a practical history from fibre to cloth, and people had a chance to have a go at spinning. On Saturday afternoon we were entertained by a Quarter of Viols and Voice. Beautiful music very suitable to our ancient church. Thank you Chris and Sue Benson and friends.

We now have a supply of postcards of St. John's. 50p each found in the church porch.



Surrey Churches Preservation Trust

Report on Surrey Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride 2023

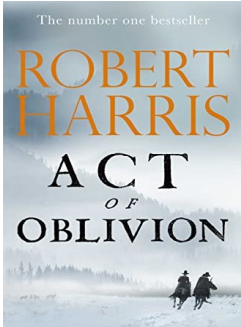
We welcomed 10 cyclists this year from various churches in the area. On our behalf the Josolyne family participated but due to a puncture were not able to visit as many churches as envisaged. However they raised £70.00, half of which we will be returned to St. John's. Thank you Sally, Paul, Oscar and Jessica.

Creative Flow: Kingston, Art and the River.

An art exhibition at Kingston Museum celebrating the creative response to Kingston's position 'upon Thames' from the 17th century to the present. This runs until 13th April 2024 and includes a special piece about Barbara Webb and her booklet 'Millais and the Hogsmill River'.

St John's Reading Group

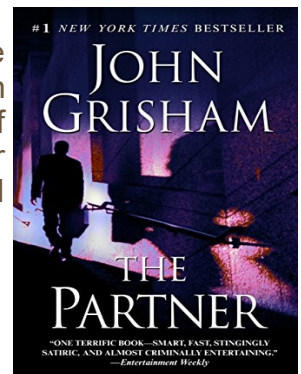
November 2023



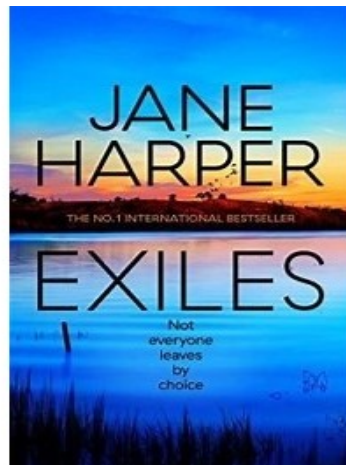
At our October meeting, we discussed the historical novel, **Act of Oblivion** by Robert Harris. It was a very popular read – an average of 9/10.

The author did not disappoint and it was an interesting story, very well researched and presented. Two of the men who had signed the death warrant of King Charles I are on a wanted list – most of the other regicides having been captured, tortured and killed already. Colonels William Goffe and Edward Whalley escape to America and are literally 'on the run'. Under the provision of the Act of Oblivion, the two colonels have been found guilty of high treason. In London, Richard Nayler, who has his own personal reasons for pursuing the two men, is asked to track them down. This leads him to cross the Atlantic himself to 17th century New England. As the author explains, the novel is an imaginative recreation of a true story- almost every character, apart for Nayler, is real. There is a map, a list of characters and a bibliography! A book to be recommended.

For our November meeting, we shall be reading a John Grisham novel, **The Partner**. John Grisham is a prolific author and has a long list of novels to his name. He is already a popular author with many of the group but new to some of us. I look forward to starting this new book.



A book which I am reading at the moment is another of Jane Harper's novels entitled **Exiles**. We have read several Jane Harper novels within the group – notably **The Dry**. This has been described as the third and final Aaron Falk mystery. A year previously, a young woman has disappeared at the local food and wine festival, leaving her young baby in a pram in the festival's car park. Whilst visiting friends, Aaron Falk becomes involved in the investigation.



As part of the buy one, 'get another half-price', I bought a novel by Fiona Valpy entitled **The Skylark's Secret**. Set in 1940s Scotland at the Royal Navy's Arctic convoy base, it looks to be a story of doomed love and not a lot to do with skylarks. However, it may be an interesting diversion.

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

Marilyn



The Men's Thing

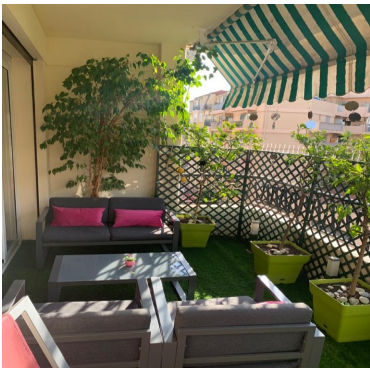
Following our re-launch meeting a few weeks ago, we can now announce a programme of talks which will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the Church extension.

Tea, Coffee and biscuits etc will be available from 10.00am.

11th November - Tony Pullen will talk about the history of cameras.

December 9th - Gerry McBride an ex army veteran and member of the British Legion, will give a talk on the ex servicemen graves in St John's churchyard.

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From Parish records

Baptisms

11th June - Otis Miller

10th September- Archibald Young

15th October– Theodore Skinner

Confirmations on the 8th October at St Johns by Bishop Martin

Rory Baguley

Stella Baguley

Thomas Budd

George Hill

Layla Hill

Miranda Spink



Confirmations Continued

Sara Tancock

Sophie Windybank

Anna Windybank

Milly Woodhouse

Eva Kortvelyesiova

Sylvie Tyler-Moore

Oliver Saunders

Rowan Hepburn Glynn

Sophie Marshall

Thomas Naidu

Rebecca Naidu



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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 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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