

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

October 2025

50p

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Old Malden News

**The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist Parish Church Malden**
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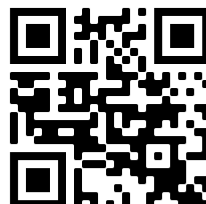
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

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 October



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 (except August).

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

By 2001, I had been a Pastoral Assistant at St. Matthew's, Westminster for three years and was preparing to go to theological college. Politics was very much in the air and a topic of discussion in the runup to the General Election in June. I distinctly remember an encounter with one of our elderly ladies over coffee after the service one Sunday. Mrs. X was a lifelong resident of the adjacent Peabody Estate, a place of relative deprivation in the midst of the splendour, wealth, and power of Westminster, hard by Parliament and the Abbey. She was disenchanted with the upcoming vote, wishing to see the back of Tony Blair and Labour because "my family and I all vote BNP". She wasn't optimistic about their chances at the polls, but nevertheless declared that "England is for the English and we should send these ruddy foreigners back where they came from!" I felt like I'd been smacked in the face by this fluffy old lady. Later I spoke to the Vicar, not sure what to make of this encounter. I'd been here three years serving this congregation and thought I was one of them, what gives? He said that she was simply a bigot, but that she wasn't taking a potshot at me because "You're white and speak English". It hadn't occurred to her that I was an immigrant, even though she knew that I am American. That experience has stayed with me, giving me insight into what it feels like to be treated as "other" by the very people I have chosen to share my life with in my ministry.

For many of our European friends among us across the parish, there was a widespread feeling of rejection in the aftermath of the Brexit vote. An unsettling, bruising experience for those who are part of our community that hasn't completely healed. Now we face a new challenge of political and social division with immigration and our relationship with the rest of the world up for grabs. The latest wave of flag flying, demonstrations, and political jockeying are a potent mix of patriotism, dissatisfaction with government, and old-fashioned racism. Not everyone taking part shares all three elements in common, but we are entering a "perfect storm" of discontent that is uncharted and will have a lasting impact on all of us, regardless of our political beliefs.

While inflatable boats crossing the Channel capture the headlines, the largest source of immigration is via our airports by people with visas to visit, study, or work in the UK who then overstay their visa and never return home. No government has attempted to count these people since the early 2000's. A national identity card system could help keep track of people and ensure only those entitled to work do so, but public opinion is opposed to the idea as it impinges on personal freedom and privacy.

The majority of people crossing the Channel come from countries like Afghanistan, Eritrea, Syria, and Sudan where it is almost impossible to be granted a visa for travel to the UK. Under UK law one must be in this country to claim asylum, it can't be done at a British Embassy abroad. Repeated cuts at the Home Office and the elimination of targets for hearing asylum claims has created a backlog that is unsurmountable. There should be a

fair, efficient system to deal quickly with cases, as well as a right of return for those whose applications have failed. There also needs to be a renewed commitment to addressing the causes of migration, whether it be conflict and war, climate change, famine, and poverty. Without such a commitment the challenges will only increase, while our economies benefit from arms sales, resources exploitation, and a global obsession with consumerism. The system is broken, but the willpower to do something about it is lacking. Is it any wonder that people are taking to the streets and listening to hard Right rhetoric? The current situation in the United States should serve as an apt warning of what may yet come to these shores, unless we act now.

As I returned from a weekend break in Sussex, I was surprised to find the little roundabout at the junction of the Manor Drive and Highdown painted with a red cross. It was inevitable given social media and the current wave a flag flying, but it made me very angry. It wasn't, at first thought, the motive of the person responsible, but the sight of the flag itself on the ground. When I was growing up, one would never see the American flag painted on the floor to be walked on or driven over. It happens now as a sign of protest, but the flag was always treated with respect, whatever your political feelings because it stood for the American people as a whole, not a government or particular political party. But on reflection my anger was due to the cross of St. George being driven over. After all, it along with all other European flags with a cross, represents the Cross of Christ on which he died to set us free from sin and death. English crusaders marked themselves with the cross and brought it home as a potent symbol of faith. It is that cross that became England's national flag.

Perhaps I alone have made that connection. Britain is not the Christian country it once was, not because of immigration or multiculturalism, but because the British themselves aren't sure what they believe, or if indeed Christianity is even relevant to our lives today. Sadly, the Church nationally hasn't done itself any favours in this regard, often being seen as aloof and disconnected from the society it is called to serve. But, as the older generation can attest to, what was once taught at school and in the home about Christian faith and practice is not what most of our children and grandchildren experience today. Celebrating Christmas or enjoying chocolate eggs at Easter doesn't make one a Christian, Christianity is much more than that. It is having a relationship with the Living God, the source of life and love, while following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ in loving service to those in need, the vulnerable, the marginalised, the poor, and downtrodden. It was by his acceptance of death on the Cross that opened the door to a new way of being, by casting down the old order of power and injustice. So let us always be mindful of the power of the Cross and let its example shape our thoughts, words, and actions.

Michael

Sharing a prayer – a receiving Holy Communion

Chris Benson

Lord, cleanse me by your body; wash me through with your most precious blood. Make me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me.

I am not sure that I have ever seen this particular combination of words in print, but this is a prayer I almost always use when I come up to receive Holy Communion. The first phrase goes back to what the Book of Common Prayer rather quaintly calls the “Prayer of Humble Access” where we ask that we may “eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ and drink his blood, that our sinful bodies made be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood.” The second phrase is a quote from Psalm 51.10.

The Holy Eucharist is the heart of our worship, and receiving communion is the heart of the Eucharist. Christians hold a variety of views on what (if anything) “happens” when bread and wine are consecrated, but all would say that in some sense Jesus is present with us, as he was at the supper at Emmaus, when he was “made known [to the disciples] in the breaking of bread” (Luke 24.35). To come forward to the altar rail and receive that outwardly insignificant wafer is to encounter the risen Jesus in the most vivid and immediate way most of us will be able to in this life.

Suppose you were to walk up the aisle and find Jesus himself standing physically before you at the altar, how would you react? Personally I would be overcome, firstly, with a sense of my own inadequacy in living up to my calling as his disciple; but secondly, with emotion, on remembering that he “opened his arms wide for us on the cross”, enabling me time and again to make a new start. But that new start requires my inadequacies to be washed away, my heart to be reset, and the Holy Spirit to find a place once again in my inmost being, to work in me for my good, for the Church, for

humanity and for all of creation.

This prayer asks that all this may happen in the absurdly simple act of taking a morsel of food and a sip of wine. *How* it happens must remain entirely mysterious. However bread and wine are changed by the act of consecration, I need to pray that *I* may be changed by receiving them, week by week, in fellowship with my sisters and brothers in church around me, and renewed and reinvigorated to love and serve God in the days ahead.

Would you like to learn how to crochet?

If so, you may be interested to come along to St John's Crochet Group. All you need is a ball of DK wool and a 4mm (or no. 8) crochet hook - the rest is easy!

The Group meets on the last Thursday afternoon of the month at 2.00pm in the Coffee Lounge at St John's Church- our next meeting will be held on Thursday 30th October. New members/beginners always welcome. And of course, we welcome knitters and embroiderers as well. Have you seen a knitting pattern you would like to try but are confused over the instructions? Or maybe you would just like to join us for a friendly chat over a cup of tea/ biscuits/cake?

We are a very friendly group and you will be made most welcome!

Marilyn Burkett

70 Years Ago 12 Sept 1955....

.....I started my nurse training aged 18years at Charing Cross Hospital (in the Strand in those days) freshly coming from a pre nursing course at SE Essex Tech College (what an eye opener having attended an all girls grammar school and being a good Sunday School Teacher at my local church.....boys!!)

Embarrassingly mother insisted on coming with me all the way to the PTS (Preliminary Training School) at Highwood House, Mill Hill. It was good to meet my set. Embrionic nurses. There were 16 of us from various parts of Uk. There were also some from other countries who would train at other hospitals.

We were given mauve garments to wear which we called our purple passions, and large white handkerchiefs that we wore on our heads. It was 12 weeks of lectures, practical lessons, bandaging, learning how to set up trays and trolleys, apply leeches, anatomy, physiology, visits to



relevant locations like Sewage works!!!! etc etc, as well as getting to know our colleagues and coming to terms with leaving families and home.

There was lots of fun and laughter however and the beginnings of friendships. It was 12 weeks before we saw a patient on the wards, even though we were called nurses from day 1.

Sadly several of the 16 have died and some we have lost touch with as they immigrated to Canada, Australia and one to Israel. But those that can still meet up annually usually in the Crypt at St Martins in the Fields. The vicar there was our chaplain in those far off days, and there was a nurses pew in the church.

To celebrate our 70 years we will meet up in Whitstable this year where 2 of our set live, one coming from Brighton, one from Guernsey, another from Newcastle and lastly one from Surbiton! We will raise a glass to absent friends and give thanks for our friendship over the years and our nurse training.



Anne Beales

How well do you know characters in the Bible?

A

This month, we start with the letter A and here are a few names which you will recognise...

Adam - the first human created by God

Abel - 2nd son of Adam and Eve and murdered by his brother, Cain

Aaron - the brother of Moses, Israel's first High Priest

Abraham - the Father of a great nation

Absolom - the son of King David who tried to usurp his father's throne

Ahab - King of Israel who opposed Elijah

Andrew - fisherman in Galilee called by Jesus to follow him

Ahasuerus (Xerxes) - a Persian King and husband of Queen Esther

Anna - Mary and Joseph meet her when they take Jesus to the Temple

You may think of others.....

DON'T LET'S FORGET UKRAINE

I'm sure we won't – the news continues to be so distressing, doesn't it? I am in a WhatsApp group with Ukrainian Rotarian, Sergii Savytskyi, and sometimes I can't bear to look at my phone as I have so many terrible photos of death, destruction and devastation. They are too awful to share. And I'm told that in the last Russian strike on the 28th August, one of the four children killed was a little girl who was born under Russian shelling in October 2022 and killed by Russian shelling in August 2025; how desperately sad.

It's difficult to know how we can help, but as I have mentioned before, we in Kingston Rotary and Kingston Inner Wheel – as well as many other Rotary Clubs – are helping to provide laptops for Ukrainian schoolchildren. With most schools unable to operate, and a lot of displacement of families, the only way the children can continue their education is on line. The laptops are second-hand (donated and then reconditioned) and the other photos on my phone are of delighted children and parents, so happy to receive what is a lifeline for them. I'm not asking for donations, but of course, funds and old laptops (in good condition) are always welcome!

We have to believe that Ukraine has a future, and the future will belong to these children, so it seems to me that we have to do everything we can do to keep them bright, educated – and hopeful.

Bobby Child



Intercessions on the Last Day of Summer 31/8/25

by Neia Glynn, readings: Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16 & Luke 14:1, 7-14

What a privilege it is, LORD, to come before Your throne
And offer You the thanks and woes You want us to make known.

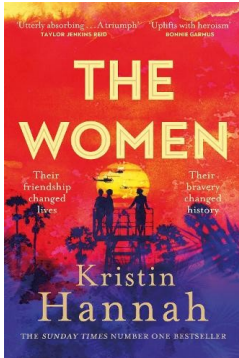
As the warming summer sun blends with blessed rain,
We thank You for the fruit, the verdant herbs and the grain,
The marvellous abundance with which we are nourished,
But, LORD, we pray for places where people have not flourished
Because of the inequity of poor and those with status –
Your gospel today tells us that is not how You create us.
Where people seek to gather Earthly treasures for their own
We pray that they would turn their hearts instead towards Your throne,
And transform whatever issues set their path en route to greed
Into a longing and commitment to prosper those in need.

With summer nearly over and new terms set to start,
We pray for the beginnings, and comfort where we part –
See children off to school to university or work –
LORD, let us be ambassadors, and not let fear lurk,
That we might, in all places, proudly bear Your name
And boldly be the people who seek to bring Your fame.

As Hebrews' author tells us, let us think on those in jail,
Our brother and our sisters whose loved ones mourn, and wail
For the wounded and the killed in Nigeria and Syria,

In North Korea, Yemen, Afghanistan and Libya.
Strengthen them against the lies and hostile persecution,
And show Your love and truth are the only solution.
For the families of the victims in the church in Minneapolis,
We pray You give them comfort, and for the children, heavenly bliss.

Relationships fail and the divorce rate's two in five,
We pray with Hebrews' author that couples instead thrive
In a sense of the importance of stability, security,
Of faithfulness and harmony, but also of the purity -
That relationships be spaces to honour and to bless
And fatherlessness be no more the pain that seeks redress
Through identification with gangs, desire for power...
LORD, where these exist, be the parent to shower
The love that they are missing, the truth that their hearts need,
That they know they are Your children. For this we plead.

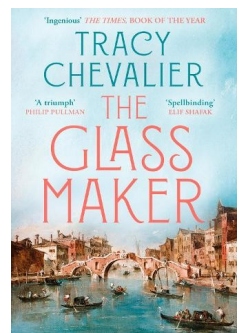


At our September meeting, discussed **The Women** by Kristin Hannah. This novel proved to be a very popular read as it received scores of 9/9½/10. It was a challenging novel at times but such a gripping story. It is the story of Frances 'Frankie' McGrath who follows her brother into the Vietnam War. Despite considerable opposition from her parents, Frankie joins the Army Nurse Corps and is faced with all the brutality and destruction that war brings. Unfortunately, Frankie does not make

wise choices in her relationships which leads to great heartbreak. From this novel, we can see that 'women can be heroes too'. It is an eye-opener as we learn about the treatment of female war veterans who are not treated well considering the sacrifices they have made. It is a time in history that now seems to be glossed over but the Vietnam War lasted 20 years from 1955-75 – the reported numbers of those killed vary but could have reached as many as 2 million people, mostly civilians. This novel does not disappoint, it is well-written and difficult to put down.

Kristin Hannah is a prolific author and has over 22 novels published amongst them *The Four Winds* and *Winter Garden* – both excellent reads.

For October, we have selected Tracy Chevalier's novel, **The Glassmaker**. The story is set in Venice in 1486 on the island of Murano. If you have visited Venice, then it is very likely that you will have had a little boat trip over to Murano and witnessed the craft of glass blowing for yourself. This novel is the story of Orsola Rosso who learns to craft glass in secret but as a woman, she must flout convention to save her family from ruin. Tracy



Chevalier is a popular novelist with our group as she always manages to evoke the time and the place with great accuracy so that you feel transported back in time. A book to really enjoy.

Last month I mentioned **Gabriel's Moon** by William Boyd. A new departure for this author with a quasi-spy novel. The follow-up novel, **The Predicament** is now published in hardback.

For history lovers, Tracy Borman has just published her latest book entitled '**The Stolen Crown**' – describing 'the treachery, deceit and the death of the Tudor Dynasty'. In the year 1603, Queen Elizabeth I's death raises huge questions around the succession as she had long refused to name a successor. There were obvious rumours that she had whispered James VI of Scotland's name as she lay on her deathbed – but latest scholarship rather disproves that notion. Tracy is often seen at The Tower of London or Hampton Court in her role as chief historian at our Historic Royal Palaces and her knowledge of Tudor & Stuart history is an excellent resource for this book. I have attended several of her book-signings and talks on some of her previous books – and am booked for this one in November. Must try to read the book before I go....

For fans of Robert Galbraith, *The Hallmarked Man* is already in the bookshops. Half-price already and still a great tome.

Marilyn



In 1927, St John's celebrated 300 years since the commencement of the 17th century building.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April, 1927, the Vicar, Revd Fynes-Clinton, launched an appeal for work on the Tower and the roof. The Tower brickwork and the stonework around the windows was in a sorry state and there was also beetle damage to the roof timbers.

In May 1927, a tender for about £300 was received and this sum 'will now be our business to raise, both by our own contributions and by extracting subscriptions from others. Please do your best.'

Funds were to be raised by 24th June – so only a couple of months all told.

In the July magazine, the Vicar announced that the sum of £415 12s 1d had been raised, exceeding the original £400 set. A full list of names of subscribers was also published.

'I am most grateful to you all, for almost all have given, for contributing so willingly and largely; thus saving me the very distasteful task of begging. It has been truly delightful to find how gladly you have come to the help of your Church.'

Considering the social and economic climate around 1927 with the Depression/strikes/unemployment and the size of the parish, the sum raised in two short months was excellent. It

was the equivalent of about £22,738 in today's money.

An intriguing paragraph from the Vicar: 'please do not be disappointed at the *new* appearance of the Tower. That could not be avoided, for much of the stonework and many of the bricks have had to be replaced. But I am assured that this will all tone down very quickly and that in a few months, the Tower will resume its venerable character'. I wonder how much of that re-pointing used the wrong materials that we have had to replace now? Concrete rather than lime mortar? Was it really such a shock to the eye?

We are pleased to be able to say that our current repairs to the brickwork are so well done and when the work on the East face of the Tower is completed in October – we shall once again have access through our main Church door.

Marilyn

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, OLD MALDEN



**The 150th Anniversary of the
Enlargement of the Church**

**ORGAN RECITAL
given by
Barry Eaton**

***Saturday 11th October 2025
at 7.30pm***

***Includes works by
Coleridge Taylor, S S Wesley, Edward
Hopkins, Henry Smart and other composers
of the period***

***Admission by Programme £12.00
Includes light refreshments
ALL PROCEEDS TO THE RESTORE FUND***

A Community Opportunity At Malden Parochial C of E Primary School

Do you have some time to spare and a desire to support your local community and enrich and transform the lives of local children?

We are looking to recruit both a parent governor and a governor from the local community to join our friendly and welcoming Governing Body. We are a diverse group of individuals with a mix of skills who all share in one vision of enriching and transforming the lives of the children in our school.

Do you

- believe in a caring, effective, and challenging education for all children that encourages and supports their development?
- have some available time to attend meetings, visit school and talk to children?
- want to make a difference to the educational and developmental journey of children in our area?
- have an interest in helping to set the strategic direction for our school and support school staff to deliver on those ambitions.

If your answers are 'yes', becoming a school Governor could be a role for you. We are particularly interested if you have knowledge or experience in the legal field but welcome individuals from any background.

Interested?

Please call or email the school office and give us your name and contact details and we will contact you as soon as possible for a chat/meeting when we can answer your questions.

Phone: 020 8337 4804

Email: office@maldenparochial.school

[#enrichingandtransforminglives](#)

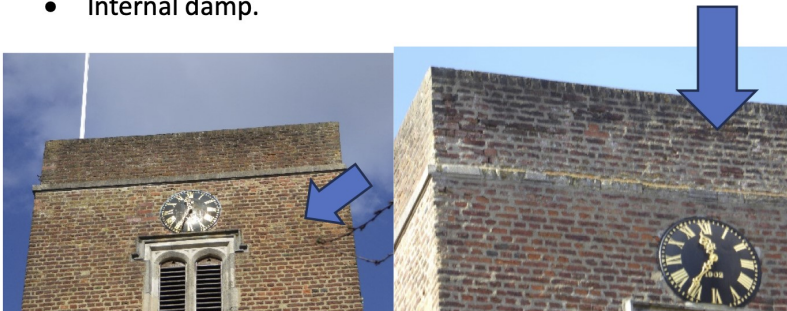




THE RESTORE PROJECT IS NOT OVER YET!

Phase 1, the buttress repair may be over but there is still a need to complete repairs to;

- The tower brickwork
- The broken tower roofing & parapet
- The leaking nave roof & dormer window
- The leaking vestry roof
- Internal damp.



The overall cost of repairs remains about £450,000, although this sum has been reduced by our ability to fund the buttress repairs from grants from Marshall's Charity and the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust.

Nevertheless, to make the overall project financially feasible it is being undertaken in stages (Phases).

Repairs apart, we want to expand our community support by

- Opening our building to wider community use as a hub for use by heritage, nature, and environmental organisations.
- Building on our current social care activities, such as supporting carers' of family members and friends with dementia, and offering ways of helping people prepare for the death of loved ones (Dying Matters/ GraveTalk).
- A greater involvement with our local schools by hosting school groups exploring our rich historical and natural heritage.

These are dependent on having structurally safe and sound buildings.

The next stage is PHASE 2, which will;

- Complete the repairs to the tower and tower parapet
- Repair the pitched nave roofs
- Start at least one new activity benefiting our local community – a dementia carers support group is most timely as is the hub.

Estimated cost for the tower repair is £227,000 (ex VAT), the roofs £60,500 (ex VAT), totalling £287,500 plus VAT £57,500. Costs for the social care and hub activities will be on top. Final tenders will up-date these estimates.

To fund Phase 2, our grants committee is putting together applications to a number of external funding organisations. It is a time-consuming

complex process, requiring explaining who we are, what we do, what we want to do, the need for urgent building repairs, how our social activities will benefit the community, our partnerships (what our hub users will do), and providing detailed costs and other financial details.

All grant giving organisations have strict rules stipulating;

- what they fund
- how much they will give
- how much the applicant (**us**) must raise themselves prior to making an application.

While we have so far been successful in raising our own funds, we have also had to employ architectural and advisory professionals and fund Phase 1.

It is critical we continue fundraising to meet the grant giving organisations rules. However, the success of the Restore Project is not only dependent on monies from grant giving organisations, but on us too.

We acknowledge and thank everyone who has donated to the Restore Project – well done!

St John's Word Search Puzzle No 4

BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

MCB

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AMOS

EZEKIEL

KINGS

RUTH

CHRONICLES

GENESIS

LEVITICUS

SAMUEL

DANIEL

HOSEA

MALACHI

TOBIT

DEUTERONOMY

ISAIAH

NEHEMIAH

ZECHARIAH

ECCLESIASTES

JEREMIAH

NUMBERS

ESTHER

JOB

PROVERBS

EXODUS

JUDGES

PSALMS



**There are boxes on the church porch bench for
your donations to the Foodbank.**

**Foodbanks are now vital to so many people
and our support is really important.**

Please donate if you are able.

Tinned meat, Long-life milk, Coffee, Rice, Pasta
sauce, Squash, Instant mash, Tinned vegetables,
Pot Noodles, Oils, Ketchup and mayonnaise,
Sanitary towels, Toilet paper, Washing up liquid,
Household cleaning products, Washing machine
tablets, Shaving foam , Men's and women's
deodorant, Tinned potatoes, Crisps and treats,
Tinned tomatoes, Shampoo and conditioner,
Tooth paste and toothbrushes, Biscuits, Jam ,
Pasta , Cereals, Pulses, Baked beans , Soup ,Tea.



St. John's weekly get together for all those who would enjoy a cup of tea, piece of cake, and meeting new people! Run by St. John's volunteers every week on **Thursdays from 2:00-4:00pm** at the **Church Hall 411 Malden Road**



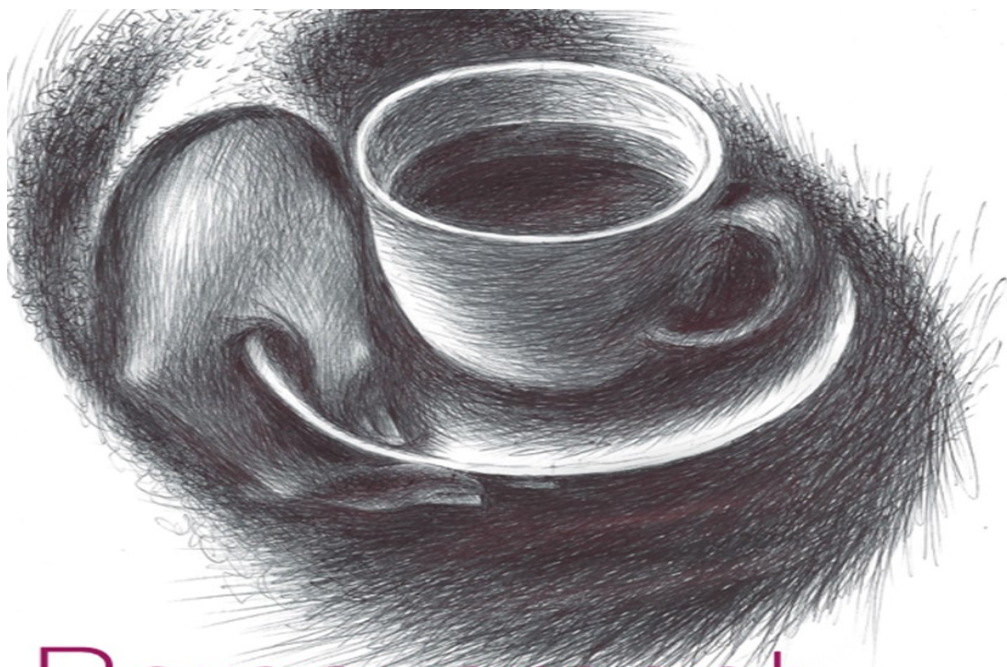
The Men's Thing

Spring/summer programme of talks held on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the church extension. Tea, coffee biscuits etc. available from 10am for a 10.30am start. Men and women are all welcome.

October 11th - A talk by Peter Chugg, The Day in the Life of a Race Officer.

November 8th - Paul Henry will be demonstrating cake decorating based on the cake recipe in the September edition of Old Malden News.

December 13th - Alastair Daniels will give a talk titled:- Folk and Fairy Tales and the Oral Tradition.



Bereavement Café

In partnership with Princess Alice Hospice , St John's runs an informal support group for all those experiencing the loss of a loved one. The next meeting will be in the coffee lounge at St. John's on Tuesday 21st October 2:00- 3:30pm.



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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