

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

October 2022

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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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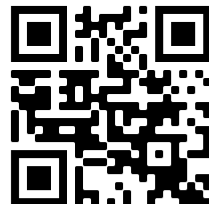
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Tel: 020 8942 8321

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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

The midday Eucharist on Wednesdays has been moved to 11am to cater for the Mothers' Union which on the 1st Wednesday of the month will have a coffee morning at 10am followed by the Eucharist at 11am .

Please make sure you are signed up to our mailing list to get up to date information regarding the services.

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

OMN Letter October 2022



When I was six or seven years old my father bought a second-hand set of Compton's Encyclopaedia that took pride of place in the sitting room bookcase. Even then I remember I spent a lot of time thumbing through them looking at the photographs. I was rather fascinated with this particular image by Yousuf Karsh that accompanied the entry for Elizabeth II. As my reading level grew I began to read different entries, returning again and again to anything vaguely historical. That was the beginning of my awareness of who the Queen was and my

interest in her role in British public life. That coupled with my paternal grandmother's frequent reminder that her family's roots were in Dorset and the Hebrides certainly shaped my sense of who I am and where I belong. I'm not sure which side of that equation played the greater role, but I do know that I was absolutely certain and set at 28 to leave America and live permanently in Britain, a place that at that time I had never even been to before. Everything I have and am is thanks to my sense of belonging, of place, and history. Our late Queen unwittingly opened the door to this voyage of self-discovery for that little boy in the rolling hills of Carolina. I have never once regretted my decision and the longer I live here my gratitude only increases. The United States has changed so much these 26 years, society fragmented ever further as the political divide deepens and even families are torn apart by conflicting views on how the country should be run. Meanwhile the rich get richer and the poor poorer. There seems to be little hope of real change.

Queen Elizabeth has been a part of all our lives, always present, sometimes in the background and others to the fore. Her destiny was unlooked for and probably not how she herself would have chosen to live. A quiet country life would have better suited her personality and interests rather than the glare of the public eye and relentless demands of duty. But the nation and the Commonwealth have both benefitted immeasurably from her dedication to duty and service that fate determined was to be. At St. John's we have been

open to those seeking a place of solace and reflection, an opportunity to pay one's respects and join others as we navigate this uncertain moment in our national life. The Holy Communion has been celebrated in her memory and in thanksgiving for her life, and the community has gathered for a service of commemoration as we bid her farewell and celebrate her legacy. She has prepared her son and heir well, leaving him an example to follow. And all that was good in her life will continue to shape us and others in the future.

Although we don't know what the future will hold, we can be confident that there will be changes and new challenges ahead. Her Majesty was not despondent last year when Barbados became a republic. The important thing for her was that they remained members of the Commonwealth. We will doubtless see more countries choosing a new path as Australia, New Zealand and Canada consider their own futures and their relationship to the Crown. These decisions reflect the self-confidence of these nations and a rejection of any lingering perception of being "subjugated" by Britain, more so than a judgment on the head that wears the Crown. Closer to home, Scottish independence would change the political landscape and break the Union, leaving England and Wales to carry on. I am glad that the Queen has been spared these, but also confident that we will cope with all that the future holds, sticking to her values of duty, service, and faith. Let us give thanks for her example and walk in her footsteps as we, too, live confidently in the light and love of God, trusting that all will indeed be well.

Michael

Heritage Open Days Talks by David Henry at St John the Baptist, Old Malden

The Secretary of the Maldens and Coombe Heritage Society asked me if I would contribute to St John's Heritage Open Days by giving a talk or talks. I assented, and, working with Pat Lovegrove, we agreed on two talks. On Saturday 10 September, I delivered one on coats of arms, and, on the following day, I led a tour of the churchyard examining styles of headstones and the symbols on them. I also prepared one (on the reredos) in case it rained on the Sunday.

The bases of the talks were my papers posted on the Society's website viz "One Window" and "Churchyard Crosses"; and (the fallback) "Reredos". Preparation was straightforward but laborious, editing down my papers and introducing audience participation and, for the churchyard talk, plotting the shortest route through the graves and reordering my material accordingly. My task was not helped by the fact that one cross had been knocked over since I wrote the paper so I had difficulty finding it! And when I arrived a few days earlier to plan my route, Graham was just finishing his grass-mowing so that had obscured the now-prone cross!

Saturday talk on Coats of Arms

On the Saturday, twelve people attended my talk. Of these, six were church members. The other six comprised the Heritage Society's Secretary, three people from outside the Borough (but only by a few hundred yards: they lived nearby) and the other two were my wife and her friend. Yes, in anticipation of a poor turnout, I had adopted the politician's ruse of "packing the meeting"!

In giving any talk, I have learned over many years the advisability at the outset of establishing what expertise on the subject there is in the audience. My question elicited that one lady was not only a Medievalist but, I later learned, had been a university lecturer on the subject! As I use the Socratic approach in my talks ie ask questions, I asked her to hold back in answering to give others a chance first.

The subject in hand can seem remote and rather dry so I enlivened it with liberal doses of humour, vivid mnemonics eg "Imagine the window on fire! A blaze on it!" (A blazon is a formal description of a coat of arms) and photographic close-ups I'd prepared of fine detail. I also liberally dosed my talk with mini-reviews to consolidate points I'd made and terms I'd used.

At the close, I told my small band that they now knew more about coats of arms than almost anyone they were likely to meet in the remainder

of their lives!

Sunday talk on the churchyard crosses

The good news was that we had fine weather. The talk was attended by fewer people than on Saturday, mostly church members, and was "unpacked" as Mrs Henry and friend felt they had done their duty by supporting me on Saturday. Some were also committed to another event that followed my talk so I had to carefully watch the time (in which I was politely but robustly aided by Pat Lovegrove).

I followed the same broad approach as for my talk on the previous day - interactive, seeking to build on knowledge people already had - but laying off the humour as inappropriate for the subject and adding a precautionary few, but important, words on the hazards of the churchyard and that participation was entirely at their own risk.

Conclusion

Both talks seemed to be well received by participants judging both by their willingness to interact during them and their comments afterwards. I offer my thanks to St John's both for the warm welcome I received and the thanks expressed for my efforts.

Challenges faced by trees in 2022

As we will all recall, the summer of 2022 has been one of the hottest and driest on record. The horticultural staff at Kew Gardens are assessing the lessons to be learnt, which is especially important as the trend to hotter and drier weather will only intensify as the effects of climate change take hold and the weather in London becomes more like that of Barcelona. Some of the lessons are listed below:

1. It will come as no surprise that the trees from the Mediterranean climate survived best, like sweet chestnut and the Holm oak, (*Quercia ilex*). The Mediterranean climate in this sense means a hot summer with at least one month without rain, so applies not only to trees from the Mediterranean region but also to those areas of the world with a similar climate like California and Australia. Trees that were used to hot rainy summers did not do well and this is the case with some of the trees from China.
2. Provenance is everything. Provenance means where in the world the genes are from. For example, the oaks growing in the UK will be used to rain in summer so will not do well in our new climate but the English oak should be more accurately described as the European oak and can be found from the UK to the Caucasus. If the acorns from the same species are sourced from drier areas such as Turkey, they will do much better.
3. The internal structure of the tree affects the tree's ability to survive. The xylem in a tree is like the veins in a human; the trees with the largest xylem tubes had trouble keeping up with delivering water to the leaves, likewise trees with the xylem near the surface of the bark did less well than species with the xylem buried more deeply in the tree like the lime or linden or known botanically as *Tilia*.
4. For centuries we have chosen trees on the basis of their beauty or their timber but we now have to consider a new characteristic - the ability to survive in hot, dry summers.

When trees are under heat and drought stress, they resort to jettisoning their leaves to prevent further water loss; this has been called a "false autumn" but really it is early dormancy - the plant

shutting down early and hoping for a better summer next year.

Whilst the recent rain has greened our lawns, trees need a lot more rain to restock the water they have used in order to survive the summer we have had – let's hope that rain comes!

Keith Marshall





QUEEN ELIZABETH II

St John's joined the nation in the Thanksgiving and the mourning for the life of Her Majesty the Queen who died on Thursday 8th September. The news of the death of H M The Queen coincided with our Heritage weekend and so St John's was open for prayer and reflection most of the day from Friday 9th September until Monday 12th September.

Prayers were offered for Queen Elizabeth, the King, and the Royal Family at both Sunday services (8:00am and 9:45am).



A Requiem Mass for the repose of HM Queen Elizabeth II was celebrated on Wednesday 14th September at 11:00am.

On Sunday September 18th, a Vigil Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving was held at 4:00pm on with hymns, readings, an anthem and prayers. This was held as we prepared to witness the Queen's funeral on Monday 19th September.

The public response to the Queen's death has been overwhelming with so many people joining long queues for many hours to witness the Lying-in-State in Westminster Hall. The Queen's devotion to duty and service has been so remarkable throughout her 70-year reign and she is quite irreplaceable. As 'Elizabethans', we mourn her as if she was our own grand-mother – we shall miss her radiant smile, her grace and all those glimpses of her sense of humour. Her Christian faith has been so fundamental to the way she lived her life and an example to us all.

We shall miss her.....

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Marilyn



Queen's Commemoration Address (service on Sunday 18th September)

The news last week was a thunderclap, flashing around the world in an instant. The shock was immense and reverberates still. As the great noise began to fade, it was as if a gentle snowfall fell silently through the night, leaving a subdued landscape covered in grief and a sense of abiding loss. The depth of emotion has been surprising to many, for something that was not unexpected. Young and old, of every race and creed, people are queuing even as I speak to pay their respects to our late Queen. For whatever one believes about the monarchy, the Crown, its role in modern Britain; the majority of people are united in our shared grief, a testament to the Queen herself as a person and not just to the role she filled.

I have no doubt that the message shared from many a pulpit will resonate with the same words, the same ideas, because the Queen's life-long dedication to duty and her life of service knows no parallel today. There isn't anyone else quite like her and she leaves a massive hole in our lives and the fabric of this nation and the Commonwealth.

Earlier this week I took an assembly at Malden Parochial about the Queen's life and asked the children what "Duty" meant. The word itself sounds old-fashioned, something from the past. I had difficulty putting it into words and the children did too. They came up with good examples, soldiers and police men and women, but couldn't quite define the concept. The children knew it when they saw it, just as we ourselves do, but it is hard to express in mere words. The dictionary tells us that duty is "a legal or moral obligation, a responsibility". Although the Queen would have felt she had a moral duty to serve, something handed down the generations of her family, I rather think it was the responsibility that she carried. Doing her duty was a fundamental, defining aspect of her life.

But it didn't have to be this way, at least not in the beginning. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born a princess, the daughter of a second son. Had her uncle David not proved to be such an unsatisfactory king, unwilling or unable to do his duty, Princess Elizabeth would likely have lived a very

different life. She would have married a well-to-do landowner, lived in the countryside with her dogs and horses, been involved with a few worthy charities, and occasionally appeared on the periphery of Royal events; much as her cousin Princess Alexandra had done. Having inherited her father's shyness, she would have much preferred the quieter life that fate denied her. She learnt from her father's example to accept the hand life dealt and make the best of it. She watched him overcome the personal challenges and public doubts that he himself was up to the job. The War years were the crucible of her formation, her father's footsteps marking the way. Her determination to marry a penniless, deposed Greek prince, the man of her choice, against some opposition, was a rare demonstration of self-will. That personal choice would be instrumental in bringing the monarchy into the 20th Century, for Philip was a no-nonsense modernizer.

Elizabeth inherited a kingdom in flux. The cost of the War hastened the disintegration of the most powerful empire the world had ever known. Former colonies demanded independence and went their own ways, as Britons struggled to come to terms with their diminishing status and place in the world, eclipsed by other rising powers. The UK cast its lot with Europe, joining the Common Market in 1973. Though all these changes a reassuring presence remained while the Dominions and most former colonies joined the Commonwealth. There were 7 nations at the beginning of her reign and now there are 56, four of which were never British colonies. It is the Commonwealth that she almost single-mindedly believed in and promoted; when successive British governments thought it a post-colonial embarrassment and waste of time and energy. Democracy and freedom undergird its work, while international co-operation, development, sport, and culture are promoted and thrive. The Queen always worked behind the scenes and across the different governments to bring leaders together to work for the good of all.

In 1952 Britain was overwhelmingly white, English, Scottish, and Irish with small immigrant communities in our largest cities. The Windrush generation and all those who came from Indian and Pakistan to work in our factories, changed Britain into the multi-cultural and multi-faith nation we are today. The welcome was often cold and the journey difficult, but the Queen set the

tone at the top. She pushed Mrs. Thatcher on Commonwealth sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa and went on to have a close, personal rapport with Nelson Mandela. Leaders from diverse communities across Britain were welcomed to Buckingham Palace and she frequently visited mosques, temples, and gurdwaras to remind us that we all belong. Several years ago one of the broadsheets did a survey to ask what nationality people identified as. The vast majority chose English, Scottish, Welsh, Jamaican, Indian etc. When asked what the Queen was most said British, underlining in this age of nationalism that something identifiably British remained and was a point of agreement and unity. We have seen these diverse faces of all generations, races and creeds paying their respects in Westminster these past few days.

As society moves beyond Christianity to increasing secularism, the Queen has remained an easily identifiable Christian to young and old. Her annual Christmas message has always sounded three chords: the Commonwealth, support for the Armed Forces, and the importance of her own faith in living her life. It has never been at the expense of another's belief or lack thereof, it has been gracious and generous while acknowledging the value of other faiths in people's lives. I don't doubt that it has always given her encouragement and hope through difficult and uncertain times. Her simple message of the light and love of Christ has affirmed many believers in their faith, as well as challenging others that there is something valuable and life-enriching in the Gospel.

All her life has been lived in the glare of the public eye, a life of wealth and privilege lived in a gilded cage of expectation and public opinion. No freedom to express one's personal opinion about anything controversial or political, following a rough and rocky path we can only imagine. To have done it so well is a great accomplishment, one made possible by her unfashionable sense of duty and determination to make a difference. Her deep faith in God has given her strength, to live a life of purpose and direction, even when the way forward was not clear. She took her responsibilities seriously, but not herself, always able to find the humour and laugh at herself. Once when stopped by a couple of American tourists

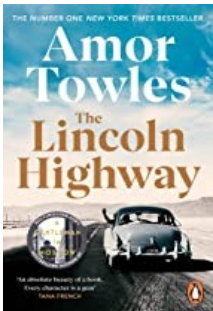
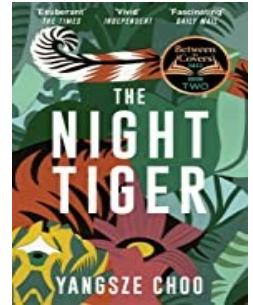
near Balmoral she was asked if she lived locally. She replied that she had a “house over the hill”. Have you ever met the Queen? No, but he has. Pointing to her protection officer.

As the Good Book says, “Well done thou good and faithful servant”. She has done that and more, let us be grateful and give thanks. Amen.



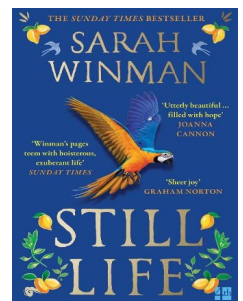
St John's Reading Group October 2022

Our choice for September was a departure from our usual read: **The Night Tiger by Yangsze Choo**. It is set in 1930s Malaya and really takes you back to colonial life. It is a mixture of love and betrayal, but also great loyalty. The story of 'two severed fingers' may not be the ideal topic but their return is a fascinating story. If you are interested in Malaysian mythology and folklore combined with an unlikely love story- then this is the book for you. It was a popular read with the group – its originality and beautiful descriptions were very appealing. 8/10.

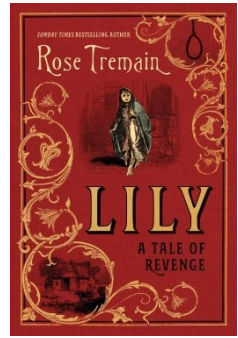


For the October meeting, we have selected **The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles**. Set in the 1950s it is the story of two brothers making their way across America to make a new start. Emmett has been released early from prison after the death of his father in order to care for his young brother, Billy. Their father had run up huge debts and large loans which had to be paid from the estate. The farm had not been productive and had been badly managed. Emmett had his own car (not taken by the authorities) so at least he and his brother had the means to start their journey. An interesting read so far.....

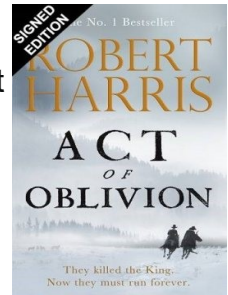
Our book for November is **Still Life by Sarah Winman**, author of When God was a Rabbit. The reviews look very favourable – described as being 'Big-hearted, sweeping and full of unforgettable characters, Still Life is a novel about beauty, love, the families we forge and the friendships that make us.' If you are a lover of art, Italy and social history, then this book is for you.



On a recent trip away, I read **Lily by Rose Tremain**. Lily is abandoned at the gates of a London Park in 1850 and found by a police officer who takes her to the Foundling Hospital. Until she is six years old, she is fostered by a loving family in Suffolk but has to be returned to the Hospital. She tries to escape with her friend but is recaptured and returned. She becomes a theatre wig-maker – but no-one knows that she is a murderer! If you like a light read and Victorian drama, you may find this is for you.



Fans of Robert Harris will be delighted to learn that his latest novel, **Act of Oblivion** has now been published. It is about treason and justice and tells the story of the manhunt for the murderers of King Charles I. I am looking forward to starting this novel very soon!



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 6th October at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

Marilyn

St John's Knitting & Crochet Group will meet on Thursday 27th October from 2.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. So if you are looking forward to some new autumn projects, even learn to crochet, then why not come along and join us.

New members and beginners always welcome. Tea, cake and biscuits always on hand so do join us!



Marilyn



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**St John's
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2022
At 4.00pm
(followed by tea and
cake)**



REPORT ON HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2022

News of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had been announced the day before the first day of Heritage Open Days but it was agreed to carry on with arrangements. Understandably only a few people came on day one but they were pleased to have the church open, not only to pray and reflect on the life of her Majesty, but to view the church and learn its history. Over the next three days there was a steady stream of visitors totalling 106.

We were very grateful to David Henry who gave two interesting talks over the weekend, one on Heraldry and one on the different styles of grave stones in our churchyard. Thank you David very much. On Sunday afternoon we were also grateful to Dr. Alastair Daniel who cheered everyone up with a Storytelling Walk. Thankfully the weather was warm and dry over the whole weekend.

Thank you very much to all those who welcomed visitors over the four days and especially to Anne Beales who kept everyone going with tea and biscuits. Also to Chris Beales, with the help of Steve Clark, who set up the history boards.

On the Saturday afternoon the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust sponsored Ride and Stride took place. There were no participants from St. John's this year but two groups of six, from the Nonsuch area, arrived late in the afternoon. Thanks to Beth Owen for helping with refreshments at that time.



From the registers 2022

Weddings

21st May- Hamish Hunter & Leone Botes

2nd July- James Carboni & Stephanie Lyons

13th August - James Wickenden & Tahmina Aktar

Baptisms

May 15th - Lilah Naidu

May 29th Verity Tong

June 12th Joshua Berry

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small pasta sauce
Tinned vegetables
Small packets of biscuits
Extras including : ketchup, mayo, pickle, small bottles of oil, mayonnaise,
pickled beetroot.
Shampoo shower gel
Toilet rolls



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 18th October 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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