

# Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist, Malden

**September 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

Please send any articles or other material to:  
St John the Baptist Parish Office  
020 8330 2817  
administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk

Advertising and Distribution:  
Janet Flemming  
020 8640 9377  
Janet.flemming15@gmail.com

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

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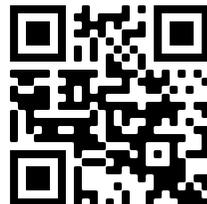
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton  
Tel: 020 8942 8321

# St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

## Directory

Vicar	The Revd Michael Roper gore_lodge@yahoo.co.uk	020 8337 8830
Asst Priest	The Revd Milly Broome m.broome@hotmail.co.uk	020 8337 1572
Reader & Choir Director	Mrs Marilyn Burkett m.c.burkett@btinternet.com	020 8337 6017
Pastoral Asst	Mr Anthony Pullen tony@pullen.me.uk	020 8949 6784
Organist	Mr Barry Eaton	020 8949 1708
Church Wardens	Mrs Lynn Sanger Mr Mike Broome	020 8715 2066 020 8337 1572
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
PCC Treasurer	Mr Alastair Harris	020 8241 1087
Parish Administrator	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
Safeguarding Officers	Mrs Sally Pusey Ms Marie McGuire	020 8330 2817 07535 878107
Church Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Steve Clarke	020 8337 2392
Hall Bookings	Mrs Pat Sutton	020 8942 8321
Parish Website:	<a href="http://www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk">www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk</a>	
Parish Office:	<a href="mailto:administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk">administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk</a>	

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



## **Services for September**



### **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

## Vicar's Letter

Perspective. That word came to my mind earlier this summer during one of our weddings. Perspective is all about one's point of view. In art it is about depicting things in a three dimensional way that shows their size and shape, shows things as they really are. We have the Italian architect, Filippo Brunelleschi, to thank for his contribution to understanding and illuminating perspective that is one of the hallmarks of Renaissance art. Imagine how impoverished the visual arts would be without it.

I wasn't surprised when the word came to me. We had just signed the register and were watching the bride's daughters singing two songs for the congregation. The song was in English and their grandmother did not understand a word of it, but the expression on her face was priceless. She was very proud and her eyes welled up with tears. I realised that I alone had seen this. That is one of the great privileges of seeing things from the other side, from the front. I have seen brides and grooms struggle with emotion, the proud moment a child makes their First Communion, and the tears of a stiff-lipped widower, sitting all alone on the front row, as I realise that Annie's Song was their song. Time and again seeing things others don't. It is one of those moving things that come with leading a congregation in worship.

But I am also well aware that my perspective isn't the only one, that all of you have your own. Clergy often worry about little details and doing it "correctly", often about things that no one else notices or really cares about. What's important to me may not be so to you. That can very well be said about what goes on in Church. We are a diverse group of people who come from different backgrounds, traditions, or experiences of Church; many without any previous experience at all. St. John's has a long established way of doing worship, treasured by some, a mystery to others. My aim is to foster a culture where people can ask questions about why we do what we do, and to speak up if something needs changing altogether. Church, and worship in particular, is not meant to be a museum piece, but rather something that enriches and gives meaning and perspective to our daily lives. God isn't just for Sunday mornings. I am also well-aware that a number of us don't receive Communion because we aren't all confirmed. That is why I

have lobbied the Bishop for St. John's to host a Confirmation service in the coming months so that everyone has the opportunity to become a full member of the Church and take part in Holy Communion. Once we have a date in the diary we will set up an informal group to prepare, discuss, and ask questions for those who would like to be confirmed.

There is also a Worship survey going out to get a sense of what people like, what works, and what doesn't so that all worship can be accessible to as many people as possible. I don't think as a congregation we've had the opportunity to share our personal perspective on this before. Just asking may make some uncomfortable that wholesale change is on the cards, but that isn't my way of doing things. I have changed and tweaked things, but tried to do it sensibly and gently without being dictatorial. Worship should be an organic thing particular to a given parish and not just the whim of the Vicar. So often people go along with the Vicar's changes only to have everything revert the minute they've moved on. So do keep an eye out for the survey that will come via Mailchimp with printed copies for those not online. We will have until the end of October and that will help us shape our Christmas services and weekly worship going on. All the best, Michael.

## Internet Safety

To parents, caregivers, and people who have children in their lives,

In the course of my work on a helpline, I have encountered experiences from which I would really like children to be protected. These involve online harm. There are internet safety lessons at school, but these do not always go far enough to keep children secure from particular dangers. I won't go into detail here of what those dangers can be but would be more than happy to be contacted by anyone who wants pointers and advice. Here is a website that can also help: <https://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/internet-safety.htm>



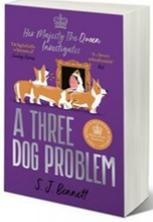


**St John's Knitting & Crochet Group** will meet on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September from 2.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. So if you are looking forward to some new autumn projects, even learn to crochet, then why not come along and join us.

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

*Marilyn*

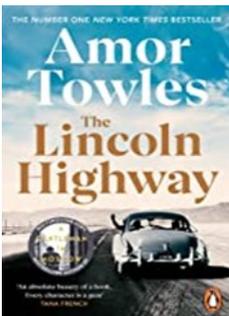
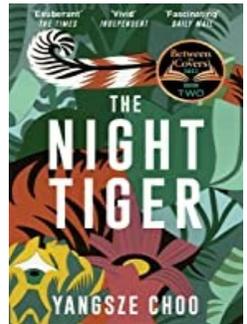
# St John's Reading Group September 2022



We selected this novel at the height of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations – a glimpse into the world of Buckingham Palace as seen by S J Bennett. In **'A Three Dog Problem'**, the author creates a scenario in which Her Majesty investigates a murder, If you have read the first book in this series, *The Windsor Knot*, you will be acquainted with Rozie, the Queen's APS, Sir Simon

Holcroft and of course Vulcan, Candy and Holly, the three 'Royal' dogs. When a body is found by the swimming pool, evidence of anonymous poison pen letters, a missing painting of *The Britannia*, and suspicious behaviour by a number of palace employees with a possible 'breakages' scandal all become entangled in a somewhat complicated dénouement. One can almost hear the Queen uttering some of the conversations attributed to her – and her rapport with Prince Phillip is both touching and moving. The death of Prince Philip occurred after the book was written but the author dedicates it to his memory. If you wish to enter an imaginary world, away from the political and economic woes which are facing us – then this is the book for you. An easy light-hearted read – we gave it an average of 7/10.

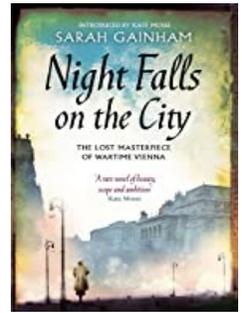
Our choice for September is a departure from our usual read: *The Night Tiger* by Yangsze Choo. It is set in 1930s Malaya. Reviews are numerous and include this one: 'A work of incredible beauty.... Astoundingly captivating and striking in its portrayal of love, betrayal, and death.' 'The Night Tiger' is a rich work of historical fiction combined with magical realism, which draws on the mythology and folklore of Malaysia.' In my copy, there are some notes at the end with some reading group suggested questions. It is an intriguing read and I am enjoying being transported to Malaysia – not so sure about the tigers though.



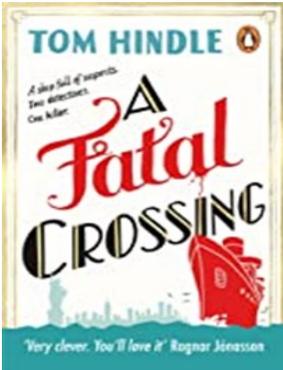
For the October meeting, we have selected *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. You may remember that *A Gentleman in Moscow* was an outstanding success and was very popular with our group. Set in the 1950s, it is the story of two young boys setting off across America on the coast-to-coast highway and they are in search of a new start. Varied reviews – so we shall see....

I have just finished reading *'Night Falls on the City'* by Sarah Gainham. Written in 1967, this novel is set in wartime Vienna, or rather from the time of the Anschluss in 1938 when Hitler walked into Austria. The main character is the actor, Julia

Homburg-Wedeker who is married to Dr Franz Wedeker, a Jewish politician. When he is forced to abandon his escape to Prague, as the Nazi officials board the train, he returns home and is hidden in the apartment until the end of the war. As the Allied bombing increases in 1944-1945, the greatest fear is the arrival of the Russians. They are ruthless and barbaric in their treatment of the Viennese citizens who have already suffered a great deal of trauma under the Nazis. A tense and moving story.



As well as our next choice, I was tempted to start a new well-publicised crime novel, set on board a large passenger liner in 1924, entitled 'A Fatal Crossing' and written by Tom Hindle. A Waterstones 'book of the week'. A ship full of suspects, two detectives and one killer. This was the era of the great liners – and you may remember the excellent exhibition entitled 'Liners' at the V&A a few years ago. Just relieved that my recent cruise was without incident.



I am sure that many of us were dismayed to read in the newspapers that some texts were being removed from university reading lists.- for example 'The Underground Railroad' by Colson Whitehead.

How disturbing is that?

*'UK universities have placed trigger warnings on more than 1,000 texts amid fears their content is "challenging". A total of 10 institutions have either removed or made books optional. The warnings have been placed on books written by authors such as William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.'*

My mind turns to 'Lady Chatterley's Lover' a banned book written by D H Lawrence in the 1920s. When some curbs were removed, and Penguin books' were exonerated for the charge of obscenity, everyone wanted the book and it sold three million copies in a very short time. Not the desired outcome. However, we are fortunate here to have many freedoms which we often take for granted – but within reason, the majority of books continue to remain accessible to us (unless inciting racial hatred /terrorism). So let us continue to enjoy our Dickens or Shakespeare. Will Jane Austen be next on the list?

I would love to hear some of your views on this. In the meantime – keep reading!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

Marilyn



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10am - 12pm**

**Church Hall, 411 Malden Road**

## **SURREY CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Most counties in England hold an annual 'Ride and Stride' to raise money for church restoration and repair. The idea is that cyclists and walkers are given a list of participating churches and chapels and are sponsored for a fixed sum or donation per church visited. The money raised is divided in two, half to their choice of church and half retained by Surrey Churches Preservation Trust for distribution to churches in need. The Trust looks more favourably on application forms from supporters of the Ride and Stride Event. Over £500,000 has been raised over the 25 years the event has been running in Surrey.

This event is a fun way to spend time on a September Saturday while getting to know some Surrey places of worship and raising money for a worthy cause. Why not make up a group and join in this year. St. John's needs to raise as much money as possible for all the repairs that are urgently required so this would be one way to help.

Sponsorship forms are available in church or contact Pat Lovegrove;  
lovegrove276@btinternet.com

### **St. John's Heritage Open Day Story Walk**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 3.15pm**

**With Alastair K. Daniel**

This Heritage Weekend, storyteller Alastair K. Daniel ([www.storytent.co.uk](http://www.storytent.co.uk)) invites people of all ages to join him for a story walk around St. John's and the surrounding land. Come along and reimagine your surroundings through the lens of traditional tales around the world.

Meet in the church at 3.15pm and please dress appropriately both for the weather and walking along country footpaths. The walk will last approximately 60 minutes.

# **HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2022**

## **9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September**



St. John's will **once** again participate in this National event and the church will be **OPEN** as follows:

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> - 11.00 am to 4.00pm**  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> - 10.00 am to 5.00 pm**  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> - 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - 11.00 am to 4.00 pm**

Members of the congregation will be needed to welcome visitors to the church. If you are able to help during any of the times listed above please contact Pat Lovegrove (8942 7699) or email: [lovegrove276@btinternet.com](mailto:lovegrove276@btinternet.com). Or fill in the form in church.

The history boards will be on display telling the very long and interesting history of St. John's and Maeldune over many centuries from Early Iron Age to present time.

It has also been arranged for a couple of talks, given by David Henry, to take place over the weekend. On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> from 2-3pm; An Introduction to Heraldry: a talk on the origin, development and meaning of coats of arms, referring to those in St. John's. On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> from 2-3pm in the churchyard: The Changing Design of Crosses on Graves. In addition to these talks there will be a story walk around the church and surrounding area. Details in separate item in OMN.

HOD's continue to celebrate all aspects of local heritage, with hundreds of events taking place nationally - all of them free. For details about all other participating venues go to [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

*Heritage Open Days is supported by The National Trust and People's Postcode Lottery*

## History

The Maldens and Coombe Heritage Society has uploaded to the "Publications and Papers" section of its website a number of papers relating to St Johns.

### The Cross on the Hill

A consideration of the Elliott Memorial Cross that stands in our churchyard.

### Churchyard Crosses at St John's

An examination of how the artistic style of crosses on graves varied through time.

### Reredos

An introduction to the little-known technique of opus sectile and an examination of its use in our church at both the High Altar and that in the Lady Chapel.

### One Window and Another Window

These two papers use two windows in our church to teach how coats of arms are devised.

### Local Hero

This paper considers the pivotal role that Travis, a benefactor of our church, had in the creation of the King James Version of the Bible.

There are many other papers, too, for anyone interested in the history of the area.

The website can be accessed via

[www.maldensandcoombeheritagesociety.weebly.com](http://www.maldensandcoombeheritagesociety.weebly.com)

Towards the bottom of the "Latest News" page is a link "To visit Publications and Papers".

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Tinned spaghetti

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Small bottles of squash

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 20th September 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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