

# Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist, Malden

**September 2021**

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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

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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 Vanessa Spreckley Ms Marie McGuire	079 18 051099 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 again.**

To book you need to be a subscriber to our mailing list, link and QR code below. If you have any problems booking please call the

Parish Office 0208 3302817

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

## Vicars Letter

Last year we spent a bit of time getting to grips with the Vicarage garden. It's a large garden with a wide lawn. In one corner is what I call the "Japanese Garden" lying in the lee of the house in a pool of perpetual shade. I'm not sure if that was down to the Knights or the Scotts, but it is a lovely corner that has encouraged us to do more. So last year's big project was getting the vegetable patch up and running again. Strawberries, red currants, runner beans, tomatoes, and carrots. I don't eat any of these sadly, so not to be outdone I planted two rows of Maris Piper potatoes. They were the best I've ever eaten and we managed to even save some for Christmas dinner!

Building on last year's success, I decided it was time to branch out with flowers. We dug a new flowerbed along the back fence and revamped the two at the front of the house. Loads of spring bulbs heralded the arrival of spring. Unfortunately the bed at the front was laid over the concrete slab of the driveway which explains why it hasn't done so well. The depth of soil is only a few inches. Out went the idea of roses and in came lavender which copes with the dry soil, not that it has been a dry summer by any reckoning! But something appeared in the flowerbed that I knew I hadn't planted there. It looked like just another weed, but as it grew I was sure it might be something worth keeping.

Over the weeks of rain and some sun it has shot up quickly. I called it the Jack and the Beanstalk as it towers over everything else. When the first bud appeared I knew it was a sunflower. It has a magnificent bloom with several more to come down the stalk. It is the joy of the garden and everyone remarks on it. It has survived pouring rain and heavy winds, standing tall like a sentinel on duty. I hope to have several more next year, this time intentionally planted to make an even greater impact.

What it has taught me is that sometimes the unexpected is much better than anything planned or well-crafted. Chance found a niche where nothing else could flourish and brought forth beauty and joy. Life is by nature tenacious, holding on through the storm waiting for better days. As we approach the 5<sup>th</sup> of September and the longed for next stage in reopening St. John's, we are mindful of all that has been lost, of the best laid plans coming to naught.

But there have also been positive things that were not foreseen that have strengthened us as a congregation. We have come through with a sense of togetherness in spite of lockdown. We've learnt to communicate in new ways using technology in new ways. And still we've been able to care for each other and help those in special need too.

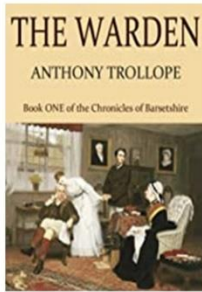
I hope and pray that St. John's will stand again as the sunflower a bold reminder of God's presence at work in this community. Our worship and prayer deeper and more authentic, enriched by the knowledge that we have come through by God's grace. That each one of us may find God calling us by name as we make room at the Lord's Table for all. We did not anticipate what we have been through, but we have held fast and now it's our time to shine again!

With Every Blessing,  
Michael



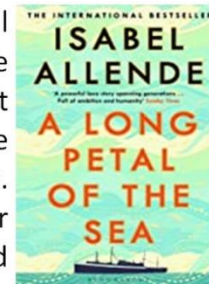
## St John's Reading Group

September 2021

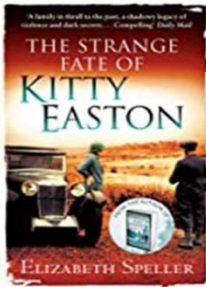


At our 'zoom' meeting in August we discussed the 'classic' novel by Anthony Trollope entitled '**The Warden**', first published in 1855. This novel is the first of the **Chronicles of Barsetshire** and inspired by a stroll around Salisbury Cathedral. It was quite a sad tale affecting many lives but it was also amusing and satirical in places. It is an interesting reflection on Victorian society, law, the Church and the press. The Warden is Mr Septimus Harding is the Warden of Hiram's Hospital alms-houses. All is well until the young surgeon, Mr John Bold stirs up a scandal in the press regarding the funding of the alms-houses and Mr Harding is accused of malpractice over his income as the warden. Matters are complicated when Mr Bold has a romantic interest in Eleanor, Mr Harding's daughter. Eleanor persuades Mr Bold to drop the accusations but the damage has been done. An average score of 7/10.

Our choice for the September meeting is the international bestseller '**A Long Petal of the Sea**' by Isabel Allende. The young doctor, Victor Dalmau, is forced out of Barcelona at the time of the Spanish Civil War. We learn of the desperate battles with over a million Spanish people losing their lives. Victor flees to Chile with his sister-in-law, Roser and over four generations, a battle ensues between freedom and repression. Isabel Allende was born in Peru but raised in Chile so her observations will be authentic. Very engrossing story so far.

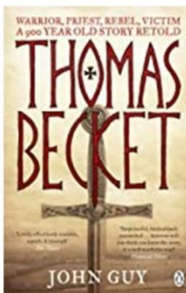
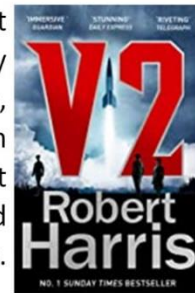






Looking ahead to October, we have selected **'The Strange Fate of Kitty Easton'** by Elizabeth Speller. A former infantryman from WWI, Laurence Bartram, an amateur sleuth, visits the village of Easton Deadall in 1924 and learns about the tragic disappearance of a five-year-old girl in 1911. It has been described as a beautifully written book about loss, love, grief and betrayal. The first book in the series was **'The Return of Captain John Emmett'**, but hopefully each book stands on its own.

I have just finished reading the thriller novel **'V2'** by Robert Harris – a very good read and very evocative of a very frightening phase of WWII. As with all Robert Harris novels, it is very well researched. If you look up a map of London showing where the V2 rockets landed, it is no wonder that this deadly silent weapon killed so many and destroyed many houses causing great fear as well as homelessness. Definitely one for your reading list.



Inspired by my recent trip to The British Museum's latest exhibition on Thomas à Becket, my next read will be a very dense tome on his life and times by John Guy. Described as **'vivid and extremely readable'**, I think it will keep me occupied for the rest of the **'summer'**.

After all these months of **'zoom'** we are hoping to meet **'in person'** on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, suitably **'masked'**. Venue: Church Coffee Lounge. Since March 2020, we have continued to meet **'virtually'** and we are very much looking forward to a **'live'** session after all these months. I am hoping to log into **'zoom'** at the same time to keep our more distant members in touch.

**Marilyn**

## **HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2021** **10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> September**

St. John's Church will be OPEN for Heritage Open Days from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> September at the following times:

<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>- 11.00 am to 4.00pm</b>
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>- 10.00 am to 5.00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>- 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm</b>
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>- 11.00 am to 4.00 pm</b>

We need people to welcome visitors to the church. If you are able to help during any of the times listed above please fill in the form in the church Coffee Lounge or contact Pat Lovegrove (8942 7699) or email: [lovegrove276@btinternet.com](mailto:lovegrove276@btinternet.com).

For details about other participating venues, locally or nationally, go to [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

## **SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE** **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 20**

This event is organised by the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust and is an enjoyable way of raising money for the Trust and St. John's. The money that is collected is divided into two. Half the monies go to the church of the cyclists choice; the other half is retained by the Trust for distribution to churches in need (that apply for a grant). With all the repairs that are needed to be done at St. John's, and a problem with finances, it could be that St. John's will need to ask for help from the Trust.

Last year several of St. John's families got together and spent a lovely day visiting local churches and ending with a picnic in the churchyard.

If you would like to take part this year please contact me for details and sponsor forms. I am also looking for someone who could coordinate this event and encourage people to participate.

<sup>10</sup>  
Pat Lovegrove (02089427699) or [lovegrove276@btinternet.com](mailto:lovegrove276@btinternet.com)

## **Hello from your new parish administrator**

Hi, I'm Sally Pusey, the new parish administrator at St Johns. I'm looking forward to getting to know all about St Johns and I will try and pop in to some services so I can get to meet some of you too.

I moved to Old Malden in 2009, from Raynes Park, along with my husband Andy and 3 children Oliver, Poppy and Lily and my father in law Peter. Lily went to Malden Parochial so I've been to quite a few school services and concerts at St Johns.



## **St John's Knitting & Crochet Group**

It has been a long time ..... but.....

I am hoping that we shall be able to resume our monthly 'knitting & crochet' groups at the end of September! So put Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2pm in your diary and we shall meet in St John's Coffee Lounge at Church. It will be lovely to see you all once again – and hopefully you have been busy with your needles and hooks since last March.

I look forward to the resumption of our monthly meetings – John will have plenty of tea bags and cakes ready for us. Keep busy and keep safe.

*Marilyn Burkett*

## Travel News

### Standing Room only?

I don't know whether you've picked up on it, but there is currently a consultation in progress about reducing train services on the SWR line from Epsom to Waterloo which includes Worcester Park and Stoneleigh. The link is here:

[https://www.southwesternrailway.com/plan-my-journey/timetables/timetable-consultation-december-2022?utm\\_source=e-shot&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=latestnews06.08.2021](https://www.southwesternrailway.com/plan-my-journey/timetables/timetable-consultation-december-2022?utm_source=e-shot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=latestnews06.08.2021)

My view is this is not only poorly timed, because as yet no one knows what the passenger numbers will be post-pandemic, but also takes no account of recent increases in the local population. As far as I can see this is a cost reduction exercise. We're likely to continue standing all the way to Waterloo during the rush hour.

SWR think they will be able to provide services with the same capacity because of the new trains, but these trains, instead of providing seats for most passengers, as any responsible rail company would, mean they will be vertically stacking passengers in order to get them all on board. In other words requiring people to stand all the way as SWR will not be providing sufficient seats. Getting a seat at Worcester Park pre-pandemic was difficult and in future this will not be helped by the reduction in frequency of services both in the rush hour and outside peak times.

It is far too early to estimate what the level of passenger traffic will be in December 2022. There may well be a reduction in expected numbers, but I note the Business Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer recently opined that to stand a chance of promotion, people will have to attend their office. Several companies are not going along with staff working from home. Together with the increased numbers of people and houses, this suggests that, despite people wishing to work more from home, rail passenger traffic may well increase on pre-pandemic levels over time.

Apparently this consultation also takes no account of the effect on the environment. If you cut public transport people will continue to use their cars and against COP26 this is hardly a clever move. I have my doubts as to whether a full environmental impact assessment has been carried out.

You might like to write and make your views known. But be quick - this consultation closes in mid-September.


Chris Sanger

South Bank Central  
30 Stamford Street  
London SE1 9LQ

Some addresses:

Claire Mann,  
Managing Director  
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4th Floor,

Mark Killick  
Route Director, Wessex  
Network Rail  
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London, NW1 2DN



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Most counties in England have an annual 'Ride & Stride', on the second Saturday in September, to raise money for church restoration and repair. The idea is that cyclists and walkers are given a list of participating churches in their area. They map out their own route to visit churches by bike or on foot, and then get friends to sponsor them for a fixed amount per church visited.

The money that is collected is divided into two. Half the monies go to the church of the cyclists choice; the other half is retained by the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust for distribution to churches in need (that apply for a grant). In the twenty years that the Ride and Stride has been running in Surrey we have raised over £300,000.

#### **Suggested Routes**

We are compiling a set of suggested routes which riders and walkers might like to consider.

The first route, for seven churches in the centre of Guildford, can be downloaded by clicking this link: [Guildford churches](#)

The second route, for eight churches around Wonersh, can be downloaded by clicking this link: [Wonersh Cycle](#)

The third route covers 43 churches in [mid Surrey](#). The instructions start at Epsom railway station (although the route may be joined or left at any point). Towns visited include Ashted, Leatherhead, Great Bookham, Dorking, Tadworth, Banstead, Cheam and Ewell.

The fourth route covers 19 churches through [Leatherhead and Cobham](#). The instructions start at St Mary's Church, Fetcham but the route is circular and can be joined or left at any point. Towns visited include Great Bookham, Effingham, Ockham, Cobham, Stoke d'Abernon and Leatherhead.

The Ride & Stride is a fun way to spend time on a pleasant day in September, whilst at the same time supporting a worthy cause. Why not make up a group and join in this year?

If you would like any further information please, contact [Hamish Donaldson](#) the Ride & Stride organiser (01428 644473).

If you would like details of other County Trusts, please visit [www.rideandstrideuk.org](http://www.rideandstrideuk.org)





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*All donations will support St John's and our local community*



## Friends of St John the Baptist Church

The Parishioners of St John's would have been holding its annual Maeldune Fair this weekend on Plough Green which has been sadly cancelled (for the second year running) due to Covid.

As well as a successful community event both for the residents of Old Malden and the parishioners of St John's, the Fair is also our main fundraiser and the means by which St John's raises vital funds to support its mission to the wider community as well as helping to maintain our historic church building.

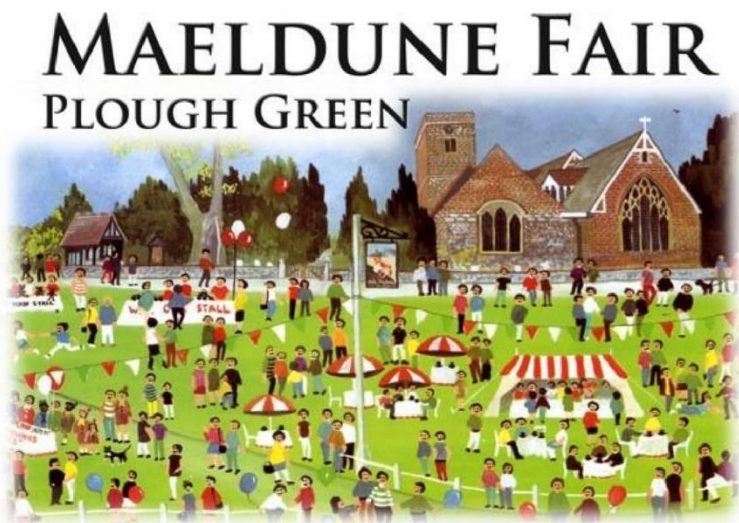
St John's faces a very difficult financial future as a consequence of the pandemic and has suffered a great loss of income.

If you would have been with us on the green with your families, old and young, enjoying all the activities and spending your money, we would be grateful if you could instead consider making a donation by visiting the Donations Page on St John's website <https://stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk/giving/>

or, you can send a cheque payable to the PCC of St John the Baptist, Old Malden, and send it to the Parish Administrator at: St John the Baptist, Church Road, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 7RY.

We hope to see you all at the Maeldune Fair in 2022.

Thank you. St John's.





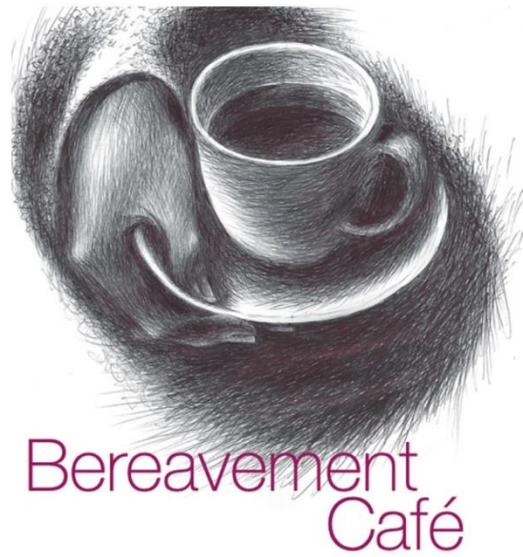
**Join us at 11:00am on Zoom!**

Meeting ID: 850 3291 8410 Password: 413247

[https://stjohnsoldmalDEN.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?  
u=d0fc454c51d7e9daa986cd29a&id=a3cfa1eb03&e=ca0a3e5dfa](https://stjohnsoldmalDEN.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d0fc454c51d7e9daa986cd29a&id=a3cfa1eb03&e=ca0a3e5dfa)



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>



Our Bereavement Cafe project has been accepted as one of the Co-op's local charities for the next 12 months. Co-op members are able to nominate the Bereavement Cafe as their charity and we will receive 2% of every purchase. I would like to encourage you to nominate us and to become a member if you aren't already one. It costs £1 to become a member and anyone can join in-store or online at <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>

We are still in the planning stage looking for volunteers to help with refreshments and anyone who would also like to take part in the training provided by our sponsor the Princess Alice Hospice. Until we are up and running, support is available from me or any member of the Ministry Team for anyone who has lost a loved one.

If you might be interested in taking part, please speak to Michael.

Thank you!

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