

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

September 2023

50p

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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:
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administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk

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

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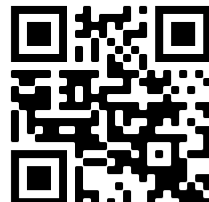
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

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: | 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 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

As the summer turns to autumn, St. John's stands on the threshold of an important new phase in the life of our church. We are about to cross the last hurdle to obtain our planning permission from the Diocese for our multiphase Restoration Project. The Diocese has been very pleased with the plans thus far and the careful management set out by Alex Veal, our Parish Architect. His working relationship with the Diocesan Advisory Committee has been crucial in steering us through this laborious process. Alex has offered to come and speak to speak to us as a congregation in order to answer your questions and outline the project further. The Churchwardens will arrange this and it will be advertised in due course.

Now that light is finally at the end of the tunnel, the Grants Committee will be free to take things to the next level and begin applying for the large grants the project requires. Many of you will have seen the excellent information boards and handout prepared by Tony Pullen that outlines what needs to be done and what the costs are likely to be. The Restore Group, of which Tony is a member, will keep PCC informed of developments while also communicating each step to you all in the congregation and the wider community. This is a large undertaking and a challenge not seen since the Tower was partially repointed over twenty years ago. That job needs to be completed and damage repaired to the roof of the Tower, as well as making the whole of our historic Church building watertight again. This phase is estimated to cost about £400,000. We would appreciate your input regarding grants and funding sources if you know of any that we may have missed. We also will keep hoping that inflation continues to fall. In the meantime I have full confidence in the team and know that we can deliver this if we work together!

We also must remember that St. John's is far more than just an historic building. Of far greater consequence is the people, you all, who make St. John's what it is today. So alongside the Restoration Project, we are working to renew our mission and worship in order to be more effective in making God's love real and relevant to our community. This is as big a challenge as the Restoration Project. The Christian faith is no longer the "default position" for the majority of people living here. It seems to hold little meaning or purpose as the community becomes more secular and multi-faith. If we are to continue to evolve and build on the past one thousand years of witness and service, we will need to change

and be more courageous in what we do. St. John's is blessed to be in a position to renew our links with our Church school as Malden Parochial welcomes Lucy McMullan as our new Head Teacher. There is also a role for us facilitating the working together of MPS and Malden Manor Primary School, enabling us to serve a part of the community that has historically been under-represented and underserved in our life as Church. Personally I welcome ideas and opportunities that we may have overlooked, so please do say something if you are inspired by something that is lacking in the community.

Finally, our worship needs to evolve to meet the needs of people in the 21st Century. We need to offer more diverse services and opportunities to engage with the Christian story and share the Good News of Christ afresh. The changes we have seen so far have been generally welcomed, but there is still much to do if our worship is to remain relevant and not just an inward-looking exercise in self-pleasuring. Someone recently said that we need more "joy" in our worship, explaining that we need to be able to articulate our gratitude to God and focus on how we have been blessed in thanksgiving and praise for all that God continues to do for and with us. I can see how someone may feel this way, though I probably would have seen that from a different perspective. That said, I am committed to working to be more joyful and mindful of that joy that we should bring to the fore.

As we host the Deanery Confirmation on October 8th, we will be sharing this important milestone with several adults and young people as they make their own commitment to follow Jesus and become full members of the Church of England. That, in itself, is something to celebrate and speaks to the vital role we all share in passing on the life changing story to the next generation. Confirmation these days is very counter-cultural and rather brave. It takes a lot to stand up and be counted as a fully committed Christian. I would ask that we pray for all our candidates as they prepare for Confirmation and walk alongside them as they take this step. Let it encourage us that what we offer is still important and let it inspire us to go further in hope and confidence in Christ.

With Every Blessing,

Michael

The Organ

How often do we take it for granted that there will be organ music and accompaniment for the hymns in church each Sunday? It certainly gets remarked upon when there isn't any.

At St. John's we have a small but versatile instrument. Much of the pipework dates from the building of the present instrument in 1906. There have been a number of restorations since then. Needless to say maintaining the instrument is a costly business. Each year we have two tuning visits and two servicing's of the blower. This currently costs around £1200. Every twenty years or so a complete clean and repair is needed. This last took place in 2011 and cost £31,000. We could be looking at a similar sum again in 2030. Hopefully the amount in the Organ Fund will cover most of this by then. This fund is fed directly from the proceeds of the two recitals which I give each year. Sadly, many faithful supporters of these have either moved away or have died and receipts have dropped significantly since the pandemic. We need to raise the profile of the instrument and its music especially among the younger members of the congregation. In an attempt to create more interest I plan to give a short recital (about 20 mins.) after the 9.45 Eucharist on the 4th Sunday of each month, starting around 11.15am on 24th September. These will consist of a number of short items and in the case of the September recital will include a few movements from items to be heard in the main recital on 14th October. There is no charge for these Sunday recitals. Just come back into church with your coffee and enjoy. St. John's has a rich heritage of music and it would be good to give it a much needed boost. Give it a try!

Barry Eaton.

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St John the Baptist Church

Jumble SALE



**Saturday
30th September
10am - 12pm**

DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED

Particularly good quality adult & children's
clothing, toys and household items

**HERITAGE OPEN
DAYS 2023
8th - 11th September**



St. John's will be OPEN for
Heritage Open Days as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Friday 8th | - 11.00 am to 4.00pm |
| Saturday 9th | - 10.00 am to 5.00 pm |
| Sunday 10th | - 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm |
| Monday 11th | - 11.00 am to 4.00 pm |

Volunteers will be required 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 Church (available later in August) or contact Pat Lovegrove (8942 7699) email: lovegrove276@btinternet.com. You do not need to have knowledge of local history or architecture, just be friendly and welcoming.

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

HOD's continue to celebrate all aspects of local heritage, with hundreds of events taking place locally and nationally - all of them free. For details about all other participating venues go to www.heritageopendays.org.uk

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



Surrey Churches Preservation Trust

SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE ***Saturday 9th September 2023***

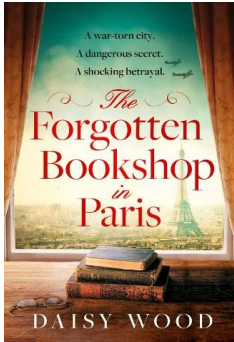
This annual sponsored event for Surrey Churches Preservation Trust takes place on Saturday 9th September and cyclists and walkers visit as many participating churches as possible during the day. Any money raised is divided in two – half to their choice of church and half to the Trust for distribution to Surrey churches in need.

In recent years several families have had an enjoyable day out whilst participating in this event, so it would be good to have many others taking part this year helping to raise money for St. John's Restoration Project.

Sponsorship forms available in church.

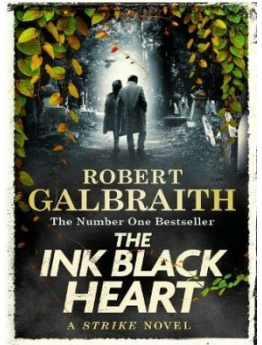
St John's Reading Group

September 2023



When we met in August, we discussed **The Forgotten Bookshop in Paris** by Daisy Wood. It was a good read although we rather favoured the wartime story than the modern one which went in parallel. Set in wartime Paris in 1940, the lives of Jacques and his wife Matilde are turned upside down after the Fall of France. All he holds dear is disappearing before his eyes but he still has his beloved bookshop. He manages to sell valuable tomes from a Jewish friend but ironically, his best customer is a German officer who turns up regularly at the shop. Our discussion of the book led us to think about what life would have been like during the Occupation and particularly when the French police carried out orders to round up the Jewish population. Would we have been brave enough to join the Resistance? – Would Britain have surrendered as quickly as the countries of Europe? If so, what would life have been like? Many questions to ponder. The book scored an average of 7/10.

During August, we are reading Robert Galbraith's **Ink Black Heart**, now a hefty tome in paperback – or on more modern classic lines, then we have selected **To Kill a Mocking Bird** by Harper Lee.



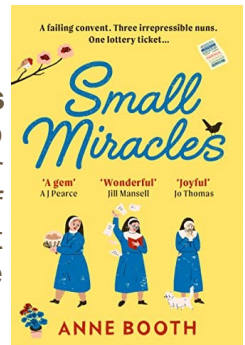
As the Ink Black Heart hardback was too large to take on holiday, I purchased **The House of Fortune** by Jessie Burton - the sequel to The Miniaturist. As we were in Amsterdam and on a canal trip through the city, it seemed appropriate to gaze up at the houses on the Herengracht, the prestigious area for wealthy merchants in The Golden Age of the 17th century.

As the Brandt family faces ruin, the only solution is seen to be the marriage of Nella's niece to a man of wealth. However, things do not go according to plan.

It is a good read if you like historical fiction and I enjoyed it.

As we sailed past the Anne Frank House in the neighbouring Prinsengracht, I thought I would re-read her diary, not having read it since a teenager. It will be interesting to read her diary again as she had astonishing maturity for a young girl. A life cruelly cut short alongside so many others.

Needing some light relief, I bought **Small Miracles** by Anne Booth. This is a story of three nuns who purchase a lottery ticket in the hope of saving their failing convent. With no new recruits, the order of the Sisters of Saint Philomena is down to its last three nuns. So a win of £20,000 will change quite a few things and hopefully for the better.



Fans of Peter May will no doubt be reading A Winter Grave – his latest thriller. It is on my list.....

Our next Reading Group meeting will be on Thursday 7th September at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

Marilyn

St John's Knitting & Crochet Group will be meeting on the last Thursday afternoon of the month, 28th September in the Church Coffee Lounge. Beginners welcome. Would you like to learn to crochet? Or knit?

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

Marilyn



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST,
OLD MALDEN
ORGAN RECITAL
GIVEN BY
BARRY EATON**

***Saturday 14th October 2023
at 7.30 pm***

***Includes works by Handel,
Mendelssohn & Reger***

***Admission by Programme £10.00
Includes light refreshments***



The Men's Thing

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

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

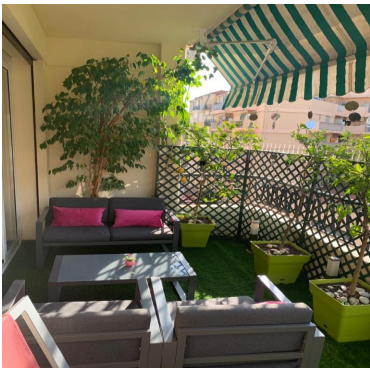
9th September – A talk on “ nearly 100 years of the Lee Enfield rifle” by Will Tong.

14th October we have a talk on our Heritage, more details to follow.

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

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

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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 19th 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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