

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

October 2018

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

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Parish Website:	www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	
Parish Blog:	http://stjohnschurchmalden.blogspot.com	
Parish Office:	stjohnsmaldenoffice@gmail.com	

Parish Calendar for October

Morning Prayer is said on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
in the Lady Chapel

2	10.00 Holy Communion 10.30 MU Coffee Morning 13.00 Wordbox 14.15 Praytime 20.00 PCC Meeting	17	9.30 Toddlers Group
3	9.30 Toddlers Group	20	9.30 Church Cleaning 12.00 Harvest Produce Sale
4	20.00 Reading Group	Trinity 21	
7	Trinity 19 8.00 Said Eucharist 9.45 Sung Eucharist with Little Fishes 11.30 11 Up	21	8.00 Said Eucharist 9.45 Sung Eucharist with Little Fishes
8	20.00 Julian Group	24	9.30 Toddlers Group
9	14.00 MU Meeting	25	14.00 Knitting Group
10	9.30 Toddlers Group	28	Simon and Jude Apostles 8.00 Said Eucharist 9.45 Sung Eucharist
11	19.00 Travelling Trends Fashion Show at The Church Hall.	31	9.30 Toddlers Group
13	20.00 Organ Recital		
14	Trinity 20 8.00 Said Eucharist 9.45 Sung Eucharist 11.30 Thirty Minutes		

Regular Services at St John's

Said Eucharist

8.00am Sunday

a simple celebration of Holy Communion;
about 40 minutes

Sung Eucharist

9.45am Sunday

a celebration of Holy Communion with music
and ceremony; about 75 minutes

first and third Sunday with **LITTLE FISHES**

third Sunday with Ministry for Wholeness

Thirty Minutes

11.30am second Sunday

a lively service for pre-school children;
about 30 minutes

Praytime

2.15pm first Tuesday

songs, prayers, Bible stories and cake
for pre-school children, finishes in time for the school-run

Midweek Eucharist

10.00am first Tuesday

a simple celebration of Holy Communion;
about 30 minutes

Morning Prayer

8.45am Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
(term time only)

a quiet time of prayer and readings; about 15 minutes

From the Ministry Team

We have celebrated the Season of Creation, where we considered God's grace revealed in the earth, sky, mountains, and humanity, and our responsibilities in caring for the whole of creation. Harvest is over, and we have given thanks for God's goodness in providing for us, but also prayed for those suffering hardship as a result of climate change and natural disasters.

We now turn to St Luke tide, and reflect on the healing ministry of God through Jesus His son. We often pray for healing in mind, body and spirit, and the Gospel accounts of Jesus healings in all three of these, shows that He was always there, just when it was needed, walking with those in need. So it is with us today, what ever the situation, whatever illness, or mental anguish, or whatever spiritual distress befalls us, God is already there, with us, beside us, holding us in His love.

Some words written by a fellow SPA;

“Today is in God's hands, and so are you;
His hands are strong and will uphold you.
His hands are compassionate and will care for you.
His hands are healing, and will renew you.
His hands are calming and will comfort you”

Simply being there alongside others is our healing ministry, - all of us. Why do we care for each other? Because He first loved us (1 John4:19)

May God Bless You

Anthony





St John's Reading Group

October 2018

For our summer read we selected 'Our Mutual Friend' by Charles Dickens. This, his last completed novel was published in 19 monthly instalments, each costing one shilling (with the exception of the nineteenth, which was double-length and cost two). The majority of the Group found it a really difficult read – complicated plot, several sub-plots and far too many characters. However, those who did persevere were rewarded with a wonderful satire on the allure and peril of money and the dust-heap where the rich throw their rubbish. There are indeed many characters and the list at the front of the book was invaluable. The poor are not despised but have a nobility of spirit, the 'nouveaux riches' are just pretentious and appear silly. If you have fifteen or so hours to spare, it is well worth the read. Average score: 8/10 (but many did not read it). We could not help but compare it to the more popular and shorter masterpieces such as 'A Tale of Two Cities' or 'Oliver Twist'. Perhaps this later novel tells us more about the character of Dickens himself. Discuss....



I hope that you found plenty of reading matter during those long hot days of summer. After our visit to the Isle of Lewis & Harris, the Callanish standing stones (erected before Stonehenge) and Stornoway, the capital – I re-discovered the Peter May trilogy set on the island. We visited one of the 'Blackhouses' - a thatched home where humans and animals lived together so the first title of the trilogy appealed to me. It is a very good read and I look forward to reading the other two books, 'Lewis Man' and 'Chessmen'. Peter May's latest book 'I'll keep you safe' is also an excellent read.

Having just finished Robert Harris' 'Munich' set in 1938 England and Germany, I have now been transported in time with the latest Ken Follett novel. This is set in Elizabethan times and entitled 'A Column of Fire'. Some of you may have read his excellent novel 'The Pillars of the Earth' about the building of a medieval cathedral. As usual, lots of pages, but even the paperback comes with lists of characters AND a couple of maps. So no excuses.

For our October meeting we shall discuss **Jane Harper's** sequel to 'The Dry', which is entitled '**Force of Nature**' and in the popular best-seller list at the moment.

For the November meeting we have selected '**The Word is Murder**' by **Anthony Horowitz** – a very tense murder story.

So as Autumn and dark evenings approach – there is plenty of opportunity to catch up with some extra reading. We meet on 4th October at 8.00pm in the Coffee Lounge at Church. You are welcome to join us.



All Souls Tide

**This year's Commemoration of the Departed
will be held at**

6.30pm on Sunday 4th November.

All are most welcome to this service at which we shall remember and pray for those who have died. The service includes hymns, readings and anthems sung by the Choir.

Please send the names of those you wish to be remembered by e-mail or in writing to Revd Milly Broome by Wednesday 31st October. (email: m.broome@hotmail.co.uk)

From the Registers

Baptisms

Tilly Suzanne Chalke

Jahziah Olivia Scarlett

Weddings

Richard Marrion and Leanne Bateman

Final note from Nepal

One final memory of my time there which does not reflect well on me. Mike Weatherall had appreciated that we suffered from a lack of storage facilities and had arranged, through his many contacts to have a steel framed storage shed delivered to our camp. So along it came, a mass of steel stanchions, roof trusses and the like and I, as the young engineer and as far as I could see, general factotum was given the task of erecting this shed, for which there were no drawings – in fact we did not even know whether it was all there. Rather like a 3D jigsaw puzzle with no picture. Anyway, I set about and using common sense, eventually decided where everything lived etc and what the spacing of the uprights was, so that I was now in a position to set out the foundations – which I duly did and then supervised the concreting of them. Retired to camp for a well earned dinner and part way through, I was seen to jump up and run from the mess tent. I had had my "eureka" moment and whilst eating had realised that I had cast the foundations back to front. I was last seen with a sledge hammer knocking out everything I had spent ages doing – before the concrete had set and was 10 times the job to remove. The old adage is that you only ever learn by your mistakes and the engineer who has never made a mistake, has learnt very little!

So, at last, after 12 months in the jungle, and away from civilisation, it was time for me to return home. During this time, hard to imagine in this day and age, with its wealth of communication methods, I had at times gone months without a letter from home and then out of the blue, 3 or 4 would arrive together. But, on reflection, it was not surprising. The location of the road was in the Terai, a narrow strip of Nepal in the Indian Plain. It was all dense jungle and mosquito infected to the extent that, for long periods of the year, Nepalese administration withdrew to Kathmandu, because nobody wanted to catch malaria. So, a flight was booked for me from the local airstrip to Kathmandu with onward flight to Delhi and thence , London.

This was in the days when air travel was a novelty. The flight to Kathmandu was in an old DC3. When I boarded, I discovered that the seats went lengthways down the fuselage and the space in the middle was filled with baggage, chickens and even a goat. So we took off and after a short while I was invited to the cockpit for a visit. First place we went to was a place similar to "Treetops", where there was a game reserve, with elephant and rhino etc. This was an unscheduled stop – someone with influence had rung up and asked to be picked up. It was a heavily overgrown grass strip. Once we had landed and collected our passengers, the pilot had the job of taking off – difficult when you cannot see the runway. So people lit a few fires to mark the demarcation of the runway, the pilot orientated himself and away we went. The next thing was the system of

navigation. The pilot said to the navigator, “which way now” to which the navigator responded with something like “turn right up the next valley and when you approach a huge mountain, turn left and follow the next valley”. You get the drift.

Even having arrived in Kathmandu, my problems were not over, because I had arrived there during the festival of Diwali and all sorts of people were using far more influence than I possessed to commandeer seats on planes and I was bounced off once or twice. However, the proof of the pudding is in the eating and I got home and lived to tell the tale.

Thank you and goodnight. If anyone has found these notes of interest, I will shortly be taking off for Ascension Island and Brian Whaymand will be able to vouch for the accuracy or otherwise of a further set of traveller’s tales.

Malcolm Sutton

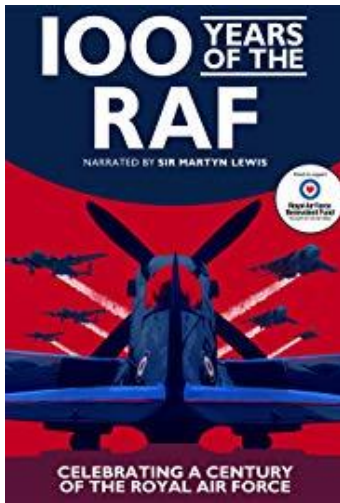


A Very Special thanks to everyone who donated and helped at the Jumble Sale on Saturday 22nd September. Over £600 was raised for St John’s to help with the maintenance of our lovely Church.

Date for your diary

Another date for your diary is the **Christmas Fair** on Saturday 24th November, please sign up early if you are able to help and do encourage your friends, neighbours and family to start their Christmas socialising with us at the Church Hall.

100 Years of the ROYAL AIR FORCE



The RAF has 100 years of history to be proud of, from the heroics of the World Wars to the peace-keeping and humanitarian operations of the 21st century.

In the summer of 1917 a formation of German aircraft flew over London in broad daylight and bombed the city. The resultant public outcry led directly to the recommendation that the British Army's Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Navy's Royal Naval Air Service should be amalgamated and on the 1st April 1918 the Royal Air Force, the world's first truly independent air force, came into being. In the remaining months of the First World War it participated in the successful campaign that led to the Armistice.

In early campaigns in British Somaliland and Iraq, following WW1, the RAF showed itself to be not only an effective fighting force but also an economic one. In the 1930s the RAF was also the first to adopt radar technology and integrate it into an efficient air defence system, which then enabled Fighter Command's immortal "Few" in their Spitfires and Hurricanes to prevail in the Battle of Britain in 1940. This was the first strategically important battle in history to be fought entirely in the air. As well as defending the nation against air attack the service went on to play a major role in helping to ensure the country's vital sea lanes were kept open during the Battle of the Atlantic. Bomber Command fought its own long and costly campaign to undermine the Third Reich and paving the way for for the D-Day invasion. The RAF was also involved in the war with Japan achieving the final victory in WW2.

In the post-war period the RAF was involved in the Berlin airlift flying out 400,000 tons of supplies, had successful campaigns in the Far and Middle East and in the 1950s and 60s had the responsibility for the UK nuclear deterrent. In more recent times the RAF has played a major part to liberate the Falkland Islands and Kuwait, topple Saddam Hussein and Colonel Gaddafi and today is striving to contain the perversion of Islam. During its century of existence the RAF has operated in six of the world's seven continents and helped to keep the peace from the Arctic Ocean to the South Atlantic, from Belize to Baghdad.

In this centenary year it is fitting to reflect and celebrate the skills and achievements of the people, past and present, giving thanks that the RAF is airborne every hour of every day protecting the UK's interests at home and abroad.

A PERSONAL STORY from Pat Lovegrove

Over the years a number of my family have been in the RAF. My father joined the RAFVR during WW2 as an Intelligence Officer. He was stationed at RAF Biggin Hill and Gravesend in 1941/2 taking details from returning fighter pilots. He was then posted to Sicily and Italy in 1943/44. Following the end of the war he joined the Royal Observer Corps. My husband was stationed in Canada with the RAF where training took place for air and ground crews during WW2. My brother joined the



RAF as a boy entrant at 15 years old and trained as an electrician and continued until retirement. He had several posts abroad including Belize, Aden, Germany and Gibraltar. I joined the WRAF in the late 1950s as a radar operator during the Cold War and spent 4 years (underground during working hours) in East Anglia - sadly at that time no women were allowed at radar stations abroad. It is good that at long last all roles in the RAF are now open to women.





Remembrance Project

As many of you know, I am putting together a collection of your photos of loved ones/family friends/relations who served in WW1 to mark the extra special Remembrance Sunday this year. Every Remembrance Sunday is very poignant and special for so many people but this year, it falls on the 11th day of the 11th month – and will be exactly 100 years since the Armistice was signed in 1918, ending one of the most terrible conflicts in world history.

As I write this article, I have some of your contributions in front of me. It is difficult for us to even contemplate the terrible conditions which those young men experienced – in many cases, just fighting over the same trenches year after year. So I look forward to receiving more of your photos – and they will be mounted on a display in the Coffee Lounge as our tribute. Any details of regiments etc will be helpful, where they served, whether they were killed, injured or survived. I would like to include all: male or female – all nationalities.



The soldiers here are two of the Burkett brothers – both enlisted as ‘drivers’ in the Royal Field Artillery. ‘Drivers’ at that time meant that they were pulling guns and ammunition up to the front line. They served in different divisions on the Western Front – and only met up once, when having a well-deserved shower back at the field depot. They both came through unscathed – only catching the dreaded Spanish ‘flu in 1918. We were told by a military historian that Charlie, on the right, had probably enlisted first as his uniform was rather more ‘fitted’. Joseph, on the left, looked particularly awkward in his rather shapeless uniform. I expect this was a photo for Mum & Dad back home in Hoxton.

So, over to you..... what are your stories? Have you found it interesting just trying to find out something about those faces from long ago?

Marilyn Burkett

Prejudice

is usually ugly, often based on half-truths, and always hurtful when directed at someone.

I came to this country in 1997 under the Financial Chancellor's Scheme which was targeting financial and legal professionals work in the United Kingdom. My whole family are engineers and we all graduated from the same university. After school I wasn't sure what I wanted to do in life so I followed in my family footsteps.

By the age of 23 I had received two Degrees from the Moscow Power Engineering University which specialises in electrical, nuclear and radio engineering, as well as economics in the energy sector. I qualified as an Electrical Engineer and shortly afterwards as a Finance Manager. Life in Russia in the 1980s and 90s was not easy. The engineering industry was stagnating because of government disinvestment, which resulted in redundancies across the whole sector. Obtaining a second degree helped me to get a job at difficult times. When I heard about the Financial Chancellor's scheme, the United Kingdom seemed a great place of opportunity where hard work would be rewarded. I got a job as an accountant in Oxford and immersed myself in that first job. It was there that I met my husband-to-be, an Englishman; we married and made our home together in 1999. After that I spent another three years obtaining a UK accountancy qualification. I am a Fellow of the Chartered Certified Accountants and work for an AIM listed company as Head of Finance. For over 20 years the United Kingdom has been my home. I love this country and I contribute to its wellbeing in many ways.

As soon as you hear my voice though, you know that I wasn't born here. Usually in London that is not a problem, but there are moments.

A few weeks ago I was stopped by a worshipper at St John's who asked me how long I had been in this country. An innocuous question? It depends on what follows. His next question was: "Did you marry an Englishman so that you could move to Great Britain?"

Of course there *are* women from non-EU countries who do this. In Russia we call them 'catalogue girls'. It's not a pretty phrase, but it aptly describes the way they are displayed on websites for lonely and gullible British men to select. It's a form of prostitution in which everyone is exploited. But I am not one of them, and neither are the vast majority of women who speak with an accent like mine. We are humiliated and insulted when people assume that we are.

But this is how prejudice works: making assumptions about someone because of how they look or sound; refusing to see the real person and dealing instead with a stereotype. It is wrong; it is unjust and it is inhumane. And it has no place in civil society or in the Church.

Tatiana Hagan



Report on Heritage Open Days 2018

Very many thanks to all those who welcomed over 100 visitors to St. John's over the four Heritage Open Days. Although there was no Heritage Walk organised this year it was very pleasing to see many people still wishing to visit our lovely old church. Everyone is always surprised to find this hidden gem in suburbia with such a long and interesting history. Most visitors commented on the warm and friendly welcome received. Most visitors came from the London boroughs but one visitor came from Dorset and two sisters, who had both been married at St. John's in the 1970s, were from the south coast. Several groups on the 'London Loop Walk' were pleased to find the church open and enjoyed an interesting break.

Some of the comments received: *"absolutely fascinating"; "A beautiful church with an extensive history and so lovingly maintained."; "...such care and love in this place."; "So well received."; "Liked the early maps and Saxon arch."; "Wonderful visit with such welcoming people."*

Report on Surrey Churches Sponsored Ride and Stride 2018

We welcomed 12 cyclists this year from other churches. St. John's team, Matthew and Chloe Down with their parents, managed to visit 13 churches and hope to raise a substantial sum of money through sponsorship for the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust and St. John's.

Well done Matthew and Chloe and we hope you can encourage more people to take part next year.



The annual Surrey Churches Ride + Stride took place on Saturday 8th September. This is the day for cyclists and walkers to raise money by visiting as many churches as possible in aid of the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust.

We planned our family cycle route with the help of a list of participating churches and decided on a route that would take us through Cuddington, Ewell, Stoneleigh and Worcester Park. Donning our helmets we set off in the sunshine with an aim of visiting at least 10 churches.



We avoided main roads as much as possible and discovered scenic cycle routes (including a tunnel), some hidden churches, and we all enjoyed looking around other local churches with some very interesting guides who seemed pleased to see us!



We decided to finish our cycle ride at St John's church and arrived back several hours after we started, where we received the warmest welcome and best fair-trade refreshments of the day! As it was also heritage weekend, our church was filled with information about its history, with welcomers who made it interesting and relevant. In total we visited 13 churches - thanks so much for all your support and we have managed to raise £140. St John's receives half the amount and the other half goes to the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust for distribution to churches in need.

Ride + Stride is a fun way of getting out in the fresh air and supporting a very worthy cause - we'll definitely do it again - perhaps you would like to join us next year!

Lisa Down and Family

St John the Baptist, Old Malden



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THE RETREAT PSALM

Southwark Mothers' Union is very fortunate to be able to go to Wychcroft, the lovely diocesan retreat house near Bletchingley, every October. The countryside is usually ablaze with colour and fruitfulness at this time, and an added bonus is that the food at mealtimes is always wonderful! One year, Christopher Chapman, the then Southwark spiritual advisor, who was leading the retreat, challenged us to write a psalm of praise.

At the end of our series on Creation, I share my effort with you.

O how great is the glory of God: as he gives us of his abundance.

He shows his care for his children in the generosity of his giving: the fruits of his love are on every side.

In his caring he delights in the beauty of his creation: the plenty which is around us everywhere.

The woodlands and fields are full of colour: the smells of the earth are awesome in their complexity.

The sounds around us delight our ears: the songs of the birds and the rustling of the leaves causes us to be open-mouthed in wonder.

O God, you have given us all our senses: we may experience your love in its infinite variety.

The Lord supplies our physical needs: he says, Come, eat and be nourished from my store.

As he gives us food to nourish our bodies: so he gives spiritual knowledge to those with open hearts.

We ask to abide in his love: that in our fulfilment we enable others to flourish.

Through his abundant love for us, he shows us how to love other people: loving all without judgement or counting the cost.

We are nourished through the generosity of God: O lord, we thank you that you love us as a caring parent, and teach us to reflect that love in our lives.

As we are enabled to flourish because of your abundant love: so may we show ourselves ever mindful of your unceasing generosity.

Liz Pullen



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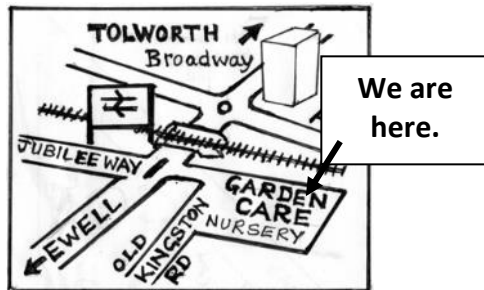
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