

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

April 2025

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Old Malden News

**The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist Parish Church Malden**
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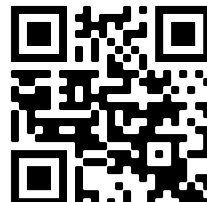
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

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 |
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| 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 Peter Chugg | 07941 842957 |
| Parish Administrator | Mrs Sally Pusey | 020 8330 2817 |
| Safeguarding Officers | Mrs Sally Pusey Mrs Margaret Barrington | 020 8330 2817 020 8330 2817 |
| 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 April



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

Coffee hosted by Mothers' Union after the first Wednesday service of the month.

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

Lent is ticking away as we wend our way towards Holy Week and the joy that will come with Easter. There will be a full programme of services and events for Holy Week, so please keep an eye on the weekly Parish Mailing and the pew leaflet on Sundays. Suffice it to say that we will keep Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday (with Vigil), and Easter morning as we did last year. Alongside these we will be holding more contemporary, reflective services on the evenings of the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week, in hope that these may provide the time and space to engage with the drama of Christ's passion and death in a new way for those who are interested. In order to meet a wider range of spiritual needs, I believe it helps to offer a bit of diversity and a different approach to the traditional set pieces we know so well.

My mind is already looking beyond Easter to May and our Parish Annual meeting. Phase 1 of our Restore Project is underway with the south face of the Church Tower being repointed and shattered bricks replaced. The Grants Team and Restore Team are both busy putting things in place for Phase 2, by far the largest part of the whole project. Over a year ago the conversations began concerning our Governance, and the subsequent review has brought us into line with legislation and Church of England guidelines, with our new Committee structure coming online now. There is still much to do, but we are getting there. Our PCC, Churchwardens, and I have devoted a great deal of time and energy to both of these important projects. Unfortunately, new mission and outreach initiatives have been kicked into the long grass and I personally feel that I am not making the disciples for Christ I, and we, are called upon to make. I was drawn to St. John's by its diverse community, and the fact that it has the financial resources and people power to minister to areas of deprivation in the Parish. After 12 years in parishes without either, I decided to return to Southwark Diocese. Now it is clear that the next several years will be dominated by the bricks and mortar of our historic building at the expense of mission. The Restore and Grants Teams have made our progress possible and I couldn't do what I do without them, but I am aware that there are 11,500 people in the Parish and can't help feeling that the 1% we engage with regularly isn't fulfilling the charge given to me by the Bishop at my induction.

Then the priority was to repair the relationship between St. John's and Malden Parochial School, something that has come to fruition thanks to Lucy McMullan, our Head Teacher, and the close working relationship she and I enjoy. The school has contributed to a positive change within the Church and continues to do so. This has helped me fulfil another priority from the previous Mission Action Plan, to foster and develop our all-age inclusive Eucharist services where our children feel a real part of our normal pattern of worship. The changes needed to make this happen have been widely accepted even though they aren't everyone's cup of tea. Worship surveys and personal input continue to shape our worship as we strive to be engaging and relevant, while our tradition continues to evolve and enrich. Our Bereavement Café has also been a major positive development, joining our long-running Tea & Chat, Sunday Lunch Club, and Christmas Day event. I still

hope that we may be able to launch a dementia carers' support group when we have the volunteers and capacity to do so.

There is still much to do and I especially want to encourage those of you who may not feel that your voice has been heard or needs taken account of, to actively take part in our decision-making. With that in mind do consider joining our Parochial Church Council (PCC) in May. We meet every other month for about two hours and each member is involved with one of the new Committees. Please speak to either Lynn Sanger or Mike Broome, our Churchwardens, or to me if you want to know more. If you aren't able to commit to that, perhaps you could join one of our new Committees or Teams as it is always a struggle to find volunteers to do the many tasks that keep St. John's functioning.

For the past few months, I have been aware that our numbers are declining at our Sunday services. People are attending less frequently and others have stopped altogether. I'm not sure if that is down to the content or format of our services, or people are doing different things with their time. The Parish Roll is due for revision this year, with our current membership of 133 returning to naught. The new total membership will be an indicator of where we are as a parish, so please do join afresh if you wish. This will enable you to take part in the elections for PCC members, Churchwardens, and others.

I have decided, after much thought and prayer, to include myself in this by holding a secret ballot to ascertain if it is the will of the majority of St. John's membership that I continue as your Vicar. I am quite happy here and there is more that I hope to achieve here too, but I am all in favour of more democracy. The Church of England appoints clergy through a couple of parish representatives, supported by the PCC, and an archdeacon and/or bishop in the mix. I think in all 10 or 11 people clapped eyes on me before the interviews, and then it was down to the Churchwardens. The wider membership doesn't have a direct say and I think that you should. So, I want to offer you all this opportunity because otherwise you could be stuck with me for another eight years. You may decide it's time for me to pass on the baton and someone else take St. John's into the next stage, or that I remain as I am and we work together to build the future we envision. Either way, it is your choice and I support that fully. I believe that God has led me to this decision and it is for you all to decide, because the Parish comes first and it is too big a decision to make on my own.

With Every Blessing,

Michael

Building to a climax

Chris Benson

Easter Sunday is the triumphant climax of the Church's year. Without the resurrection of Jesus there is, as St Paul points out (I Corinthians 15.14), no Christian faith. But there could not have been any resurrection without what preceded it: the events in Jerusalem beginning with Jesus's ambiguously triumphal entry that we celebrate on Palm Sunday, followed by the Last Supper, his betrayal, arrest, torture, show trial, crucifixion, death and burial. During Holy Week we recall those traumatic few days.

If we know anything about the Christian story we know this story is important. But do we need to *do* anything about it? Is coming to church during Holy Week an obligation, as much as celebrating the resurrection on Easter Sunday? Or is it merely for liturgical enthusiasts, those who 'like that sort of thing'?

I suppose in my early years in and around the church, I rather thought the latter. All those extra services would be happening anyway, so what difference would it make whether I was there or not? But in time I came to realise that unless I took part in those services – the Maundy Thursday Eucharist, the Good Friday liturgy – Easter Sunday would not have the meaning for me that it should have. It would be just another Sunday, for after all, *every* Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, because that's when it took place: on the 'the first day of the week' (Mark 16.2).

So we begin Holy Week with Palm Sunday, and in processing from Malden Parochial we take our place among the crowds shouting "Hosanna!", with our palm crosses reminding us of the palm tree branches they held (John 12.13). Our hymns remind us of the paradox that although Jesus rides on a humble donkey, he does so "in majesty", manifesting his kingship, even as he goes to certain death.

The next three days are perhaps a time more for introspection, to think about the passion story and what it means for us personally. Our events at St John's on these days give us the opportunity to do that, beginning on Monday with our Julian Meeting, an opportunity to spend 30 minutes in silent contemplation for God to speak to us if and how he will.

Then we come to Maundy Thursday, where we join Jesus at the Last Supper for three great commemorations. Firstly, we hear his great commandment (“mandatum” in Latin, from which the word “Maundy” derives) to “Love one another, just as I have loved you” (John 13.34), and reenact his demonstration of what that means in practice, washing the feet of his disciples. Secondly, we recall his giving us the sacrament of Holy Communion (“This is my body... this is my blood” – Mark 14.22, 24) so that, week by week, we can stand in his presence, to be renewed, inspired and united with him. Thirdly, we are minded of the grim events of that night, Judas’s betrayal, Jesus’s ordeal in the Garden of Gethsemane, and his arrest.

Next day, Good Friday we carry the cross up to the church, remembering that Jesus was forced to carry his cross to Golgotha. We hear the harrowing story of Jesus before Pontius Pilate, his abuse at the hands of the Roman soldiers, the shouts of “Crucify him!”, and of the crucifixion itself, the reaction of those who witnessed it, and we imagine ourselves among them. And finally Jesus’s death and burial – “It is finished!” (John 19.30). Darkness descends.

But next day, still in darkness, outside the church door a fire is kindled, the flame of new life springs up, our paschal candle is lit, and “the light of Christ” is proclaimed as we walk inside. We hear the Exsultet sung, a great hymn of praise for the glory of what has happened in the tomb: “Christ has conquered!” – and take our first communion of Easter. The Easter Vigil is for me perhaps the greatest event of the Church’s year, a glorious celebration of Christ’s victory over sin and death, a fitting prelude to the climactic joy of Easter Sunday.

If you have not before experienced the drama, inspiration and solace of Holy Week services before, perhaps this is the year to do so?

Asociația Neemia

The Romanian Aid Foundation

March 2025



Many of you will remember that for almost 25 years, St John's supported the people of Romania with donations of knitted and crochet goods from our Knitting & Crochet Group and also from members of the wider parish. Sadly, with all the new Brexit rules, our donations are no accepted due to customs and import taxes. We still receive newsletters with updates. As you can see, there is still much hardship in that country – with basic fuel for heating and cooking being a continuing problem.

'February was, as we have come to expect, the coldest month of the winter. A warmer-than-average January gave some relief in the costs of heating but February reminded us that spring is not yet here. Consequently, requests for help continue to keep us busy.

We have been able to respond to requests for firewood, using stocks prepared in late autumn using specific sponsorships. Firewood is distributed about once a month to those registered for it, and the quantity should be sufficient for careful use in the typical single-room household.

We continue to receive food from a local supermarket. There is some work involved in collecting it but the quantity usually justifies the cost and time involved. The number of people asking for the food often exceeds the amount available each day.

Annual housing taxes are due this month and we have many requests for help with the bills. Unfortunately, our own rising costs mean that we cannot help as many people as we would like.'

The Romanian Aid Foundation and Asociatia Neemia

289 Court Lodge Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 8RG, UK

Strada Spiru Haret nr 9, Dorohoi 715200, Botosani, Romania

© March 2025 email: asneemia@yahoo.co.uk website: www.roaf.org



R I P Jane Milton

We remember and give thanks for the life of Jane Milton who died on 1st December 2024 aged 94. Jane had been a regular member of the congregation for many years – her preferred service being the mid-week evening Eucharist. Jane was the first registered childminder in the borough of Kingston and looked after many children over the years. Jane was also a volunteer at Kingston Hospital. Together with her husband Eric, Jane always supported St John’s Summer & Christmas Fairs, with plants, jams and preserves. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

MCB

Easter Dates, Creeds and a bit of an argument - 1700 years of Nicaea

by Harvey Howlett

2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council at Nicaea. The Council was an astounding turn in the life of the early church and its impact on the Church and the Roman Empire can be seen echoing down the ages. I thought it would be good to write a series of short articles on different aspects of the Council -but I start with a little history.

The Council which met in Nicaea was called by the Emperor Constantine to put an end to arguments in the Church. He oversaw the proceedings and was present throughout the Bishops' debates. This bringing together of Church and the secular powers was itself an innovation which continues to echo through the centuries.

Famously the Council gives its name to the Nicæan Creed. It is certainly at this Council of 325 that key parts of the creed we know today were set out. The need for an agreed Creed comes from disputes over the nature of Christ which the Emperor wanted resolved most important of these were ideas from the Deacon Arius, who gives his name to what we now call the Arian heresy. But it is at Nicaea in 325 that these ideas about the nature of Christ were declared to be heresy.

I'll come back to Arius in another month, but the Council also made several other important decisions and the one which 1700 years later shapes our liturgy this April is the agreement over the date of Easter

Different groups in the ancient church marked the annual remembrance of the death and resurrection of Jesus on different days. Some kept the time in accordance with the Jewish calendar, marking the Passover on the 14th day of the Jewish month of Nissan. Others argued that the celebration of

the resurrection should be kept on the first day of the week, as described in the writing of the apostles. The Council attempted to settle the argument and declared that the date of Easter should be universally marked on the day of resurrection, the first day of the week. This was to be calculated as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

Much more could be said, but if you ever wondered why the date of Easter is not a fixed day – it is because of this decision of the first great Ecumenical Council held in Nicaea 1700 years ago.

Next month I'll start to have a look at the Creed

Journey to Japan by Akira Dugwell

I embarked on a two-week trip to Japan with five friends who share a passion for Japanese media and culture. Our adventure took us to Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, before returning to Tokyo.

Our itinerary was filled with all sorts of activities from visiting historical sites, trying unusual cuisines and making friends with the locals. One memorable moment highlighting the beauty of the country was witnessing the early bloom of cherry blossoms during our Bullet train ride from Tokyo to Osaka. The sight of Mount Fuji against a cloudless sky was truly breath-taking, with cherry blossoms adding to the picturesque scenery.

In Kyoto, we enjoyed a full day exploring various highlights, including a stunning shrine housing a thousand Buddhist deities, a visit to a ninja museum, and a traditional tea ceremony with the opportunity to wear kimonos. The city was filled with a variety of shrines and temples, each offering a unique glimpse into Japan's rich history and spirituality. One standout location was the Sanju-Sangen-do temple, home to 1001 gold-coated statues of Buddhist deities dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries. The intricate details of each statue, from facial features to hand gestures, were truly mesmerizing.

Nagasaki may not be as famous of a location, but it certainly was a memorable one. Although tourist locations and historical locations were minimal, there were a couple of memorable locations. One was the peace memorial, with multiple monuments as gifts from other countries, which highlighted the unity humanity can provide and impressive statue. Although it looks as though it is posing, the statue has a finger pointing to the sky, symbolising the danger of nuclear weapons and the other hand extended, as a symbol to eternal peace.

Overall, my trip was an experience filled with unforgettable moments and cultural discoveries. It was a journey that deepened my appreciation for Japan's heritage and left me with lasting memories of its beauty and hospitality.

Visiting Fitzrovia Chapel

Anyone who watches the annual message delivered on television by the monarch on Christmas Day afternoon might remember the small, but magnificent, chapel from which HRH King Charles III addressed the nation last year.

They may have assumed that such a building would only rarely, if ever, be open to the public. They also could have wondered exactly where the Fitzrovia Chapel is located.

While quite well hidden from immediate view by the large development of modern buildings that now surrounds it, the chapel is about 50 yards north of Mortimer Street - just a short walk from Goodge Street tube station in central London.

The photo here was taken on a visit during the Open House Festival in September 2024, but in fact the chapel is open to the public on some weekdays throughout the year as well as for exhibitions.

Officially opened in 1892, the building has a fascinating history. It was originally the chapel of the large Middlesex Hospital that used to surround it.

The touching memorials inside to former hospital staff and the exquisite decorations, comprising mosaics, marble stonework and stained glass are all well worth seeing.

For further information: fitzroviachapel.org



Ever had one of those embarrassing moments? by John Eggitt

Most of the regular congregation know me for sitting in my regular seat or when I'm not there, I'm playing pied piper, leading the children around the church with the Incense! But how many of you know about my life before I retired?

I retired 22 years ago, having completed 50 years as a Press photographer, taking with me a collection of stories and memories. I always try and look on the lighter side of life and find plenty of laughter in those memories, even those moments that went terribly wrong. Whilst giving a talk to the Men's Thing recently (which I encourage people to come along to) it came to my attention that people might be interested in some of the anecdotes and experiences I have from my time as one of the 'Rascals of Fleet Street.'

So many things happened - news never stops and one has to be ready to be called upon 24/7 and the story I am about to tell was just one of those!!!!

It was back in the 70's when just in my late 30's I had been covering a late shift, probably a normal day's news and having finished I made my way home around 10pm. By the time I got home, the family were well and truly tucked up in bed. Leaving instructions to not be woken early next morning. I got to bed, only to be woken by one of my close scouting friends in a panic. 'John the Scout Hut is on fire! Can you come and take a few pictures for the insurance etc' it was 1am!! I picked up my camera and made it down to Tadworth Av - shot some pictures and made my way back to bed, with a note on kitchen table please DON'T wake me in morning.

The following morning at around 1100 my editor called to inform me that there had been a bomb left in the foyer of the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, and could I start my shift by relieving one of the other photographers who had been on the scene since 0800. This I did, arriving at around 2pm, everything was well and truly cleared up by this time and all I could do was sit on the grass in Hyde Park and take in the sun! After about two hours it was obvious I had nothing to photograph so decided to call in and make my way back to

Fleet Street. Just to prove I had been there I made a few shots of Police and their dogs patrolling the outside of the hotel, and as was the normal thing to do sent the film – no digital in those days - back to the office by despatch rider.

No rush I thought let's take the No 9 bus, enjoy the sights of Piccadilly, and then it happened. The bus was just about level with the steps down to the Underground station by Swan & Edgar when my whole body went cold, Oops. I realised in about 2 seconds what I had done.....

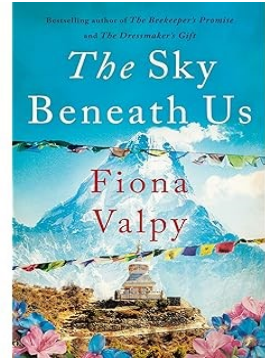
Having been on the upper deck of the bus, which was still in motion, I made the stairs down to the Underground subway in about two steps!! I jumped into one of the telephone kiosks and called in to the picture desk with instructions to kill whatever they found on the film!!

“Great pictures Johnny – give us more!” was the reply!! “Could you not have gotten a Bobby in the picture?”

Do you have an embarrassing story? If so, don't be shy, share it with us!



Our choice for March was Fiona Valpy's latest novel: 'The Sky Beneath Us'. We have already read two of Ms Valpy's novels: *The Beekeeper's Promise* & *The Skylark's Secret*. This new novel was inspired by the author's research trip of a lifetime which she made to Nepal which was the inspiration for this book. This is a novel divided between Gt gt aunt Violet and her gt gt niece Daisy who decides to try and find out more about her relative having discovered her long lost journals.



In the 1930s, Violet goes to Nepal to search for exotic plants which she hopes will enable her to set up her own exotic garden. However, things do not go according to plan. Daisy also encounters difficulties of a very different kind – Covid being the primary obstacle. Many descriptions of life in the villages of Nepal, the Buddhist faith, difficulties faced by the Sherpas when their livelihoods are also threatened by the lack of travellers in the aftermath of Covid. Overall it was a good read – although we felt the ending was rather too contrived. If you like happy endings, then this is for you! Average 8/10.

We have selected two books for April – both quite short:

Small Things like These by Claire Keegan and *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey (Booker prize-winner 2024)

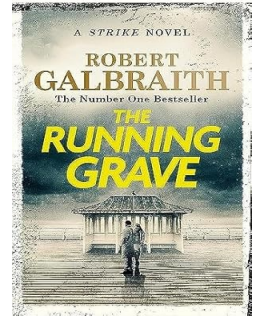


'Small Things Like These' is a very moving novel which restores faith in humanity. It's a memorable novel you don't want to end – or perhaps, you wish to find out what happens next. Set in an 1985 Irish town, Bill Furlong is a busy coal and timber merchant. As he does his rounds just before Christmas, he becomes aware that his local community is still very much controlled by the

church. Yet small acts of human kindness can help dispel the complicated web which limits free will. This story will remain with you long after you have finished reading.

Orbital by Samantha Harvey (Booker prize-winner 2024) is a very different novel – as six astronauts on the space station orbit our beautiful planet but their thoughts are never far from their lived on earth. They become protective in their thoughts: what is life without earth. A different perspective.

For May, our choice is *The Running Grave* by Robert Galbraith (Cormoran Strike book 7). This makes up for the two very short novels in April. Another case for Cormoran and Robin with a very long list of characters. We love a challenge!



If you are drawn by the phrase 'Women can be heroes too', then you may be interested in Kristin Hannah's latest novel 'The Women'. Set at the time of the Vietnam War, Frankie joins the Army Nursing Corps and is sent to the frontline. She soon encounters the chaos and brutality of war but also forms deep relationships and friendships.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 3rd April at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. *Marilyn*

RECIPE of the MONTH - from Muriel Stafford



Parsnip and Apple Soup:-

1lb/450gs Parsnips.... 8oz/225gs Bramley Apples....

4ozs/110gs onion.... 2oz/50gs Butter....

1 Pint of Water.... 2Chicken Stock Cubes....

1-2 Tablespoons of grated Lemon rind, or 2 Teaspoons of Lemon Juice.

2 (fresh) Bay leaves.... 1pint Milk, or half milk and half water with Stock Cube.

Salt and Pepper to Taste.

Wash and trim Parsnips, and wash and core Bramley Apples, no need to peel either, but dice Parsnips fairly small and roughly dice the Apple.

Put butter to melt into a fairly large saucepan, with finely chopped onion, add Parsnip and Apple.

Cover and cook GENTLY for 10 minutes Stir now and again to make sure it's not too hot to burn. Then add water, stock cubes, bay leaves and lemon rind. Again gently cook for 10/20 minutes until parsnips have softened. When cooled remove bay leaves, then liquidise.

Add pint of milk, add salt and pepper to taste, then reheat to serve, or when cooled, freeze for when needed.

If you have a favourite recipe you would like to share, please send to

M.C.Burkett@btinternet.com

St John's Knitting & Crochet Group

So have you ever wanted to learn to knit or crochet? We have had some new 'beginners' recently and they are doing very well.

If you come along to St John's Knitting & Crochet Group which meets on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Coffee Lounge, you will learn what you need to get started. If it's Crochet, then a 4mm crochet hook and a ball of DK yarn is all you need. Our April meeting will be on Thursday 24th April from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

Open to all - do come and join us! Learn to knit, follow a pattern, take up crochet! Or bring your embroidery or tapestry! Or just come along for a friendly chat and cup of tea.

Marilyn



Another Vintage Tea Success!

On the afternoon 16th February, nearly 60 people gathered at the hall for another china service tea, with linen tablecloths, china cake stands and all the trimmings! A glass of prosecco was enjoyed prior to the tea being served in the large hall. Dainty sandwiches followed by warm scones, jam & whipped cream and a variety of dainty cakes were on offer. All were home made, which our guests appreciated, apart from the mini macarons! There was an enjoyable buzz of chat throughout the afternoon as teapots were filled and re-filled. **£450 was raised for St John's funds** and the afternoon was enjoyed by all. Thanks go to the Fundraising Team and to all who attended.



New Electoral Roll 2025

A formal notice of a new Electoral Roll will be placed in the Church on Sunday, 23rd March 2025. Preparation of the Roll will commence on 29th March and be completed by 20th April 2025.

Those wishing to be placed on the Electoral Roll should collect an application form from the porch or from Steven Clark by email. Please note that an emailed form will need a physical signature. Please return completed forms to Father Michael Roper in the Parish Office no later than 20th April 2025.

S. Clark – Electoral Roll Officer 07584513858

steadysteve95@gmail.com



INNER WHEEL IN KINGSTON UPON THAMES International Women's Day, 8th March, 2025

Our two Inner Wheel Clubs in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Kingston Club and New Malden, were delighted to celebrate International Women's Day with so many local women. As an all women organisation it seems entirely appropriate that this is something we should be celebrating. And we all appreciated the inspirational stories our speakers had to tell.



Natalie O'Rourke, M.B.E., had truly gone from ordinary to extraordinary; her inner strength, her passion and her determination led her to build up the Park Lane Stables in Teddington, used by Riding for the Disabled, from next to nothing to the excellent facility it is today – and this included having to raise over one million pounds to save the stables from being sold.

Jeanne Vito, from Chablis, had studied International Business at Kingston University twenty years ago sponsored by her local Rotary Club and mentored by Kingston Rotary, and was now following her dream of establishing a vineyard in her mother's home country of Togo. So many people were doubtful, but another very determined and passionate young woman has her first vines growing and is quickly building up the business to create employment and social and educational facilities in the tiny West African country.





Laura Smyth-Wiles M.B.E., founder and CEO of YORDA Adventures, is someone else who is passionate, dedicated and full of ideas and energy. She has created an after-school facility for the most severely disabled children, up to the age of eighteen something that didn't exist before. The "Adventures" have expanded as has YORDA's place in the local community and the support for their families.

We were celebrating women, but all three of our speakers credited their fathers for encouragement, advice, support and belief to help each of them realise their dreams. And it was so rewarding for us to hear about their journeys towards achieving them.

Bobby Child





Volunteers Needed

The Restore Project team are looking for volunteers to help tell others about the project, and why we are doing it.

The team needs YOUR help

- putting together a dedicated web-site, leaflets and brochures.
- distributing leaflets and brochures to local shops and businesses, emailing information.
- liaising with the Grants Committee to see what supporting literature grants require

If you can help please contact

[<administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk>](mailto:administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk)



The Men's Thing

Spring/summer programme of talks held on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the church extension. Tea, coffee biscuits etc. available from 10am for a 10.30am start.

April 12th - A talk by Benjamin Jackson - Hog's Bristle, Tin Foil and Soot: a Brief History of Early Sound Recording 1860 – 1924.

May 10th- A talk by Harvey Howlett on his father's life in the motorcycle trade.

June 14th- A talk by Malcolm Sutton - " A young engineer in "Nepal".



**There are boxes on the church porch bench for
your donations to the Foodbank.**

**Foodbanks are now vital to so many people
and our support is really important.**

Please donate if you are able.

Tinned meat, Long-life milk, Coffee, Rice, Pasta sauce, Squash, Instant mash, Tinned vegetables, Pot Noodles, Oils, Ketchup and mayonnaise, Sanitary towels, Toilet paper, Washing up liquid, Household cleaning products, Washing machine tablets, Shaving foam , Men's and women's deodorant, Tinned potatoes, Crisps and treats, Tinned tomatoes, Shampoo and conditioner, Tooth paste and toothbrushes, Biscuits, Jam , Pasta , Cereals, Pulses, Baked beans , Soup ,Tea.

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Saturday 26th April 2025

at 7.30pm

(International Organ Day)

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Mendelssohn and Howells

Admission by Programme £12.00

Includes light refreshments



Bereavement Café

In partnership with Princess Alice Hospice , St John's runs an informal support group for all those experiencing the loss of a loved one. The next meeting will be in the coffee lounge at St. John's on Tuesday 15th April 2:00- 3:30pm.



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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