

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

August 2024

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

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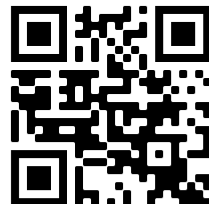
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
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Parish Website:	www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	
Parish Office:	administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	

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



Services for August



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

With a shout of joy echoing round the parish, school broke up for the summer holidays as youngsters eagerly looked forward to a summer of fun and adventure. It is true that things seem quieter over August as many seize the opportunity to get away and enjoy the sunshine. It's also a time to rest and reflect, for recreation and recharging our mental and spiritual batteries. There are so many opportunities around us as nature herself sings God's praises in the exuberance of her growth and the bounty ripening before our eyes. So many lovely things are growing by leaps and bounds in the garden, it is almost impossible to keep up, but come September summer will begin to fade into memory as the turn of the seasons continues.

There is much to celebrate at St. John's this summer. We bid farewell to Malden Parochial's Year 6 as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journeys and start secondary school in September. The Leavers' service was marked by a sense of accomplishment and celebration, but also emotion as parents and students felt a sense of loss as they move from such a supportive, tight-knit school community into the wider world. St. John's gifted each student with a presentation Bible as a gift to mark their achievement and say thank you for being a part of our family at St. John's.

Several of you will be busy with the £10 Challenge as you raise money for the Church in so many different creative ways. Others took part in our Gift Day over the Patronal Festival. I would like to thank everyone who took part as your support continues to help us meet our financial commitments with our day-to-day running costs, as well as laying the foundation for us to do new things for the community through our outreach. In September we plan to host an informal gathering over tea and cake to see if a Dementia Carers support group would be a welcome addition to the many things we offer already. Our research has shown that there are several things on offer to those with dementia, but very little locally for their families/carers. If you or anyone you know might benefit from being part of this, please keep an eye on our website or the Parish Mailing for dates and details.

Another beneficiary of our Gift Day was the Restore Project. We now have the financial resources to carry on paying our professional fees from our architect and others, as the Grants Team continues to apply for funding for Phase 2 of the building works. This phase is largely dependent on securing a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for £250k, which is the most expensive part of the physical works. The questions for the application run to several pages and any assistance you might be able to offer would be very much appreciated. Please let me know if you might be interested.

At the moment we are waiting for a new batch of bricks to be made. Our contractor fired the requested 100 handmade bricks that matched the specification from the architect and the Diocese, but sadly these got too hot for too long and most of them shattered in the kiln. We have plenty of crumbling bricks of our own, so we await the next firing for a new batch. This puts the beginning of the repointing back a few weeks, but work is slated to start in September all being well.

September will start us off on the Season of Creation when we put exploring and celebrating God's goodness to us through the beauty of nature around us front and centre. The theme this year is "To hope and act with Creation" as we look at what we can do to protect our fragile planet and share its resources fairly for the good of all. Even as dire as things look at the moment, there is still hope that human beings can work together to mitigate the damage we have done and how we can repair and restore fragile ecosystems to enable life in all its diversity flourish once more.

There is much to be grateful for this summer, many memories to be made, and so much to enjoy. My wish for all of us is to get out there and make the most of it.

With Every Blessing,

Michael

A Great Summer Fair with the Children back!

It really was a great MAELDUNE FAIR and it is thanks to so many - the stallholders, helpers, donors, organisers, those who helped set up and clear away and do so many other jobs besides, as well as the many people who attended and thankfully we had good weather!

The day of the MAELDUNE FAIR arrived, and early in the morning Plough Green was a hive of activity unloading goods, setting up gazebos and preparing the stalls, ready for 11am when the Mayor of Kingston, Councillor Liz Green, formally opened the fair.



The Refreshments & cakes stall was busy from the start and at 11:30 the Malden Parochial School children performed maypole dancing, followed later by singing, and a final performance of street dancing. We give special thanks to MPS Head Lucy McMullen, the children, teachers and parents.



Our thanks also go to:

- Chessington Garden Centre for their help with transport
- Ross Fruiterers for the donation of fruit for the Fruit Cup stall
- Laura, the manager of Miller & Carter, for her willing support.

It was a great community event, with lots to eat, drink, buy, play and browse, or just chat over tea and cake in our refreshment area.



YOU are the branches

Does religion do more harm than good? You will find plenty of people out there who will say that it does. And even if one confines one's inquiries just to Christianity, it is frankly not difficult to build a strong case for the prosecution: the Crusades, burning of so-called heretics and witches, the wars and persecutions at the time of the Reformation in the 16th and 17th centuries, the indignities wreaked upon indigenous populations by over-zealous missionaries, and in more recent times, the Troubles in Northern Ireland, abuse scandals, the marginalisation of people because of their gender, sexuality or race – the list is uncomfortably long. Jesus wept and weeps still at the appalling things done in his name. Christians across the centuries have an awful lot of bad stuff to answer for.

And yet... If we look at the best values which have shaped society in this country over the past couple of hundred years, we can see that they derive largely from Christianity, from the teaching of Jesus, and from the work of the Church. The principle of a society which takes responsibility for all of its members, especially the most vulnerable, comes largely from the New Testament. The concept of the welfare state, and the provision of education and healthcare for all, are built on centuries during which the Church performed those roles. They are blessed signs of the Kingdom of God.

In the Parable of the Mustard Seed [Mark 4:30-32], Jesus gives us a wonderful image of a tiny seed growing into “the greatest of shrubs”, in which the birds “can make nests”. I think of the pyracantha tree in our garden which for some years now has been home to a flourishing family of house sparrows. They are small enough to get between its vicious thorns, which give them effective protection against egg-stealing larger birds and the neighbourhood pussycats, while the tree's location puts them in pole position every time they need to nip out for a go at our bird feeders. And when those lovely orange berries come along, they are a great source of food not only for our “regulars” but also for the occasional visitor, perhaps a redwing or a fieldfare.

That's what the Kingdom of God is like: somewhere where humankind in all its diversity is safe, nurtured, supported, affirmed and enabled.

The Church is supposed to be a model, a prototype, showing society, showing the world, what God wants it to look like. Sometimes it's quite good at it, sometimes it's pretty awful at it. Sometimes society moves in the right direction, and all too often it doesn't. It isn't that society reflects the shortcomings of the Church, or the Church reflects the shortcomings of society; rather, it is that both are work in progress, in the hands of fallible human beings. The tree is still growing, and the good news is that while its growth may slow, ultimately nothing can be done to stop it. The tree in the Sycamore Gap in Northumberland may have been cruelly cut down, but cuttings taken from it are sprouting – in time it will be back. You can obstruct the work of God, but you can't stop it. In talking about a "mustard" seed, Jesus was referring not to the mustard we know, but to a kind of invasive plant, common in the Middle East, which, once established, is almost impossible to get rid of.

So where do we fit into all this? Firstly, we have to push back against those who claim that society is only a collection of individuals who, if they have *any* obligations and responsibilities at all towards others, exercise them only selectively, towards those with whom they feel comfortable, and devil take the rest; and against those who (for example) say that care for the environment is a lifestyle choice, not a moral obligation. We can do that in our relationships, in our engagement with the society around us, and in our political engagement.

A society in which many are homeless or in substandard housing, in which thousands depend on food banks, in which four million children live in poverty, in which health and social care is too often less than adequate, which demonises migrants, in which honours and influence are most available to the wealthy, is not living the values of the Kingdom of God – which is not an airy-fairy, castle-in-the-air concept: it's down to earth, here-and-now, but still under construction. It's true that none of the party manifestos meets all the requirements of the Kingdom of God, but we can still examine them through the filter of Kingdom values, and be guided to vote accordingly.

Secondly, we have to play our part in keeping the Church – the

sapling from which the Kingdom tree grows – alive and healthy, for those who shelter among its branches: those who come to our Bereavement Café, Tea and Chat on Thursdays, our parent and toddler group, our Sunday Lunch Club and Christmas Day event, our Reading Group, the Men’s Thing, Mothers Union, our Crochet and Knitting group, the children in Children’s Ministry and who visit from Malden Parochial; so that all these people can find here a safe space, and *nourishment*, physical, intellectual and spiritual. “I am the vine, you are the branches,” said Jesus [John 15:5] – yes, that’s us! *We* are the branches of the “greatest of shrubs” that shelters those to whom our church ministers.

On Talent Sunday we were all challenged to think about which particular branch of the great shrub that is growing into the Kingdom of God we might be. Where in the Church can we put to best use the skills and abilities that God has gifted to us to help it flourish? It might be something practical like maintenance or cleaning; it might be involvement with one of those areas of ministry I’ve just mentioned; it might be a role in worship: reading, serving, singing in the choir, leading intercessions; or it might be a leadership role, in our church’s administration and governance, or as a licensed minister, a Reader or a pastoral auxiliary, or perhaps even the priesthood. Which branch are you?

Sometimes we may feel like a very small and tender shoot rather than a branch. But the message of the Parable of the Mustard Seed is that in God’s hands, great things grow from very little. The Church grew from a tiny band of frightened, disillusioned, dispirited disciples. If we allow ourselves to be nourished and watered by the Holy Spirit, we too can be part of a Church that is the best model we can make of the Kingdom of God, whose blueprint is the life and teaching of Jesus, and help upscale that model to shape the world around us.

Chris Benson

St John's Knitting & Crochet Group meets on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Coffee Lounge from 2.00 – 4.00pm.



Open to all – do come and join us!

Perhaps you have not taken up any knitting or crochet for a while? Why not come along to our friendly group and see what you could create! Beginners also welcome!

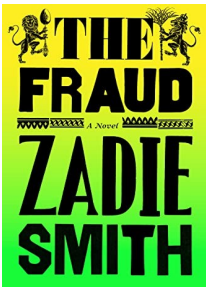
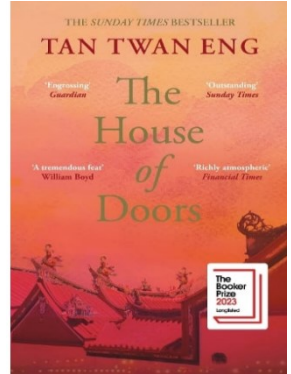
Crochet 'granny squares' are very much in vogue at the moment so if you would like to create some for yourself – this may be your opportunity

You can also bring along your projects – tapestry/ embroidery – a good opportunity to chat, drink tea and relax. Good for your 'mindfulness' time.

St John's Reading Group

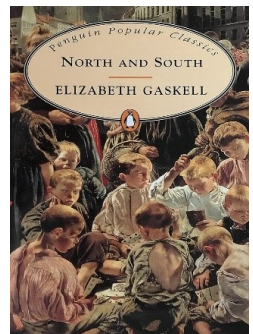
August 2024

Our choice for July was the new novel by Tan Twan Eng entitled **'The House of Doors'**. This proved to be a very interesting read – a beautifully written novel which encompassed so many themes: social norms in colonial Malaya, love, betrayal, historical background to China's 1920s revolution and Sun Yat Sen, and of course, the inclusion of W Somerset Maugham and his lover in the story. So full of atmosphere and the different culture – glimpses of a forbidden world. With just a few 5½ scores – the remainder were mostly 9s and 10s. If you have not read 'The Garden of Evening Mists' by the same author, then I would recommend it to you for your summer reading.



Our choice for August is a completely different novel: 'The Fraud' by Zadie Smith. It is her first historical novel set in Victorian England and the reader is taken to the real-life trial of the Tichborne Claimant. From London to the Jamaican sugar plantations, we will endeavour to discover the truth. Ms Smith has been praised for her brilliant research and so we look forward to reading this new novel.

As part of our Summer Reading, we usually select a 'classic'. After much discussion, we selected 'North and South' by Elizabeth Gaskell. A Victorian 'social' novel published in 1854, after appearing in Dickens' weekly journal. It contrasts England's industrialized north and agrarian south and closely examines the changing class system of 19th-century England. Charles Dickens explores similar



themes in his novel, *Hard Times* which was published about the same time.

At the moment I am reading Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*, a very angry and brutal novel with distinct similarities to Dickens' *David Copperfield*. It is brilliantly written and really draws you into the hard-hitting drama of life in contemporary Virginia. A powerful novel but not for the faint-hearted.

A departure from the novel – '*Hitler, Stalin, Mum & Dad*' is a recently published family memoir 'of miraculous survival' written by Daniel Finkelstein. Robert Harris has described it as 'Epic, moving and important, the grim history of 20th century Europe encapsulated in one extraordinary, ordinary family.' A tough read but an important contribution to social history, told by the families involved.

I hope you are able to discover some new reads for the summer. Tell us about them!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 1st August at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

Marilyn

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2024

6th - 9th September



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

Friday 6th	- 11.00 am to 4.00pm
Saturday 7th	- 10.00 am to 5.00 pm
Sunday 8th	- 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm
Monday 9th	- 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: patlovegrove4@gmail.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.

SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE

Saturday 14th September 2024

This annual sponsored event for Surrey Churches Preservation Trust takes place on Saturday 14th September. Unfortunately this does not coincide with HODs this year so the church will be open again on this date as well to welcome visiting cyclists. 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 Restore Project.

Sponsorship forms will be available in church.

My thanks to all who bought raffle tickets at the Maeldune Festival. I am sorry if you didn't win a prize but I am sure you would like to know who did.

1 st Prize -- Luxury Fair Trade Hamper	Lesley Meyler
2 nd Prize – Fruit Hamper Wickenden	Peter and Christine
3 rd Prize – Bottle of Champagne	Nathaniel Addy
4 th Prize – Selection of Hot Chocolate	Andy Down
5 th Prize – M & S All Butter Shortbread Assortment	Pajo Jovic

The raffle raised over £423. Again, many thanks to all who entered.

Janet Jeal



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

21st September: -Jumble Sale

20th October: -Vintage Afternoon Tea

30th November -Christmas Fair

The Fundraising Team





Here is the 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.

August 10th—A general get together and discussion.

September 14th- A talk by Alastair Harris on the ABCD Charity and its work in Palestine

October 12th- A talk by Liz Goodman, health professional on respiratory care.

July 14th 2024 – Sea Sunday

As summer bursts viridian and all around is green

We thank You, Holy Father – we are heard and we are seen.

Mariners in ships; fisher folk in boats

Through fatigue, long hours, our economy floats

Where they keep trade routes open, missing family and friends.

We pray You prosper welfare, good conditions, their stress ends,

And where they are in danger may the guidance of Your hand

Bring all, like Paul's companions, whole, and safely to land.

LORD, in Your mercy...

The sea in summer Lord, invites activity and fun –

We pray for close attention to be paid so that no one

In swimming far from shore or leaping over waves

Encounters threat to life and needs a hand to save,

But we are grateful, Lord, for times when volunteers at speed –

The RNLI lifeboats – have come to those in need.

For sacrifice of time, for risk and for the giving,

We pray that you sustain their health and their living.

LORD, in Your mercy...

We heard You telling Job that You set limits on the seas,

But, LORD, our precious oceans are subject to man's disease –
The endless, ceaseless wanting, pouring carbon to the skies.
We pray prevention measures stop the seas before they rise
Any further, stained with plastic as they are.
Will You support the charities on our coasts and afar
To, with reverence, protect Your watery Creation
And safeguard the inheritance for children of all nations?

Vicissitudes of life, like storms, arise.

We pray for healing, solace that is wise
And look to You, the author of our life –
When our boat fills and all around is strife
May we, in boundless faith, say on that day –
“Who is this, then, that wind and wave obey?”

Praying today for: Tana, Joe, Ralph, Jonathan, Ruby, June Rose, Jack,
Janet, Bob, Nathaniel, Peter, Derek, Caroline, Neville, Lizzie, Geoff and
Timothy.

(pew folk, Geoff) and those in our heart...

LORD, in Your mercy...

We thank You for the travellers who share with us life's sailings
And ask that You bear gently those who mourn, whose hearts are ailing.
Thinking today of: Alan Clifford, Herbert Gagen, Vera Burgess, Audrey
Sargent, Elsie Bond and Liz Teague.

Neia



**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.



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 17th 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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