

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

February 2025

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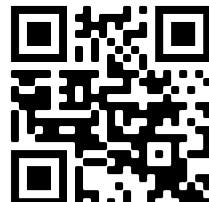
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
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Parish Website:	www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	
Parish Office:	administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	

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



Services for February



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

Christmas is over and packed away, January lies open before me as I write this (6th January) and prepare to go up to Yorkshire for a few days holiday. I've been thinking about a friend of mine who is also a parish priest. He spent fifteen years in a parish where the congregation was under 30 people, largely elderly without any young families or children. During his tenure there, he forged new links with the church school and brought families and children into the congregation. Numbers swelled as did their confidence and ability to pay their Parish Share. He was tipped to take on a much larger parish after his fifteen years and went with confidence that what he had helped build would endure. Within a year of his departure the families and children had gone, and the membership had declined back to a tiny elderly huddle. The nativity was cast entirely with pensioners as there were no children left. A very sad state of affairs, but nonetheless a reality for some.

This did make me think what, if anything, of the changes I've helped bring about would carry on once I go? Fortunately, St. John's has long had a much larger than average-sized congregation, with a wide age range and diversity within. But what of the changes? A lot of these have been driven by me and my vision for St. John's, some have been inspired to share their own and we have taken those onboard too. I have been reminded that my vision is not everyone else's. It seems that whatever we decide at PCC succeeds or fails depending on whether or not we are able to take everyone with us. It is vitally important that everyone feels involved and consulted as we shape our life and ministry together. There will be new vacancies on PCC in May should anyone wish to take a greater role in that, but there also needs to be an open line of communication so everyone can be heard. Together we need to work out our vision of what we want St. John's to become and what it could do. Are we to grow in numbers and faith? How do we build on our service to our community? What can we do to make faith a living, life-enriching option for those of little or no experience of church? These are the sort of questions we need to wrestle with if we are

to have a clear vision and purpose, without which we simple drift from one year into another doing the same things over and over again with less and less to show for it. Overall attendance at our Christmas services have never recovered from the pandemic, and ordinary Sundays are still smaller than they were before 2020, so we need to find new ways of engaging, new ways of worshipping if we are to grow again. It looks quite plain to see that change is needed if we are to meet the challenges ahead of us.

At PCC we touched on what our Parish Mission Statement might be. Margaret Barrington hit the nail on the head and said, “Sharing God’s Love with Everyone”. It resonated around the room as we realised how unpacking that statement could lead to a new appreciation of what we already do, as well as inspire us to do new things. There is much to do to work out how this could impact our worship, ministry, and service to the wider community; but it is straightforward and direct. As we implement the findings of our Governance review and reshape our committees and teams, we offer this as food for thought to each group praying that it will help us fulfil our mission here. If it is just a byline on our letterhead then we will have failed.

Sharing God’s love is foundational to my own vision as a Christian and has helped me understand the challenges and see the opportunities we have as Old Malden’s parish church. I am keenly aware that there are over 11,500 people living in the parish. In 2021 almost half described themselves as being Christian. We do have three sister churches in the parish, but I rather suspect that we have a real mission opportunity under our noses, especially as we are a progressive, inclusive church. The key to success in all things appears to be relationships, of how we as a church build relationships with individuals and community groups and institutions. We have seen quite clearly the relationships that have grown between people taking part in our Reading group, Tea and Chat, Sunday Lunch Club, and Bereavement Café. It is through our relationships with one another within the Church congregations and the Church’s with those in the wider community that will ensure our future. They will put St. John’s back at the centre of the community as it once was, build new partnerships to help us

fulfil our responsibilities caring for God's creation and diversity around us, as well as helping us preserve and restore our historic building so that it continues to be a place of encounter. All of us have a role to play whoever large or small, and we all have a gift that God has given us to us in his service and for one another. So I ask everyone to think about what these might be for you and what is your vision for your Church. Together we can make a real impact with God's help and to his glory and praise.

With Every Blessing

Michael

St John's Knitting & Crochet Group

This January, we celebrate our 17th 'Birthday'. Just think of all those crochet squares, blankets and jumpers we have knitted/crocheted! We also remember 'Granny Mo' who was such an inspiration to so many, especially when we first launched the group.

So have you ever wanted to learn to knit or crochet? Any New Year's Resolutions?

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. Our February meeting will be on Thursday 27th February from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

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

Marilyn

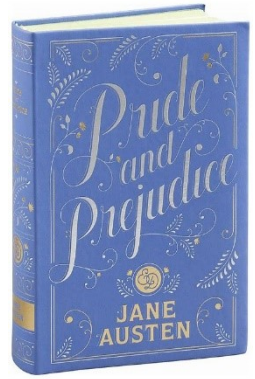


St John's Reading Group

February 2025



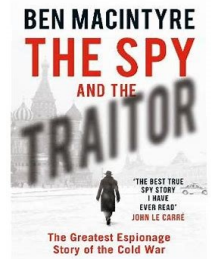
Do we remember that every day we carry around an image of dear Jane Austen in our wallets/purses? There is a portrait of Jane on our £10 note. The portrait was commissioned by her nephew James Edward Austen Leigh in 1870 alongside the famous quotation from her novel *Pride and Prejudice*: **'I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading!'** The issue of Jane's portrait on the banknote commemorated 200 years since her premature death in 1817.



Well, our January reading included a well-loved favourite, **'Pride and Prejudice'**. Although most of us had read the novel before, (at least once), it was a delight to re-visit it and savour its humour, memorable characters and be transported to life in 1813 when it was written. 2025 will commemorate the 250th anniversary of Jane's birth in December 1775 and there will be many opportunities to remember her throughout the year. With one exception, everyone gave the book a score of 10/10 plus. (Good to see someone reading it on the train today too.)

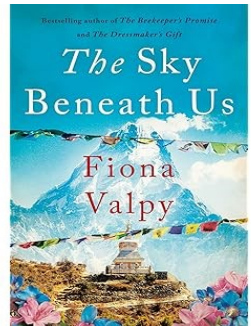
A few members of the group opted for another book choice for January: **'You are here'** by David Nicholls – author of *One Day*. Two lonely people go on a walking trip and find mutual solace. Not outstanding but 7/10.

Our choice for our February meeting is Ben McIntyre's **'The Spy and the Traitor'**. Set in the time of the Cold War, it is a story of betrayal, duplicity and raw courage and was reputed to have changed the course of the



Cold War. It is the story of Oleg Gordievsky, a respected KGB agent who came to detest both the KGB and the Soviet Government. Whilst in Copenhagen, he was approached by an MI6 officer and so became a double agent. A fascinating story told so brilliantly by Ben Macintyre. Memories of John Le Carré novels. It seems quite timely as more details have emerged this week on Sir Anthony Blunt who in 1964, confessed to having been a spy for the Soviet Union and part of the spy group the Cambridge Five. How much the late Queen knew about him is an interesting question. We may never know....

Our choice for March is 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. The main character of the story is retracing the footsteps of her great-great-aunt Violet after having discovered her long-lost journals. This great-aunt was a plant hunter in the 1930s and dreaming of setting up her own exotic garden. What will her great-niece discover?



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 6th February at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge

Happy Reading.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE etc.

My thanks to all those who took part in the Raffle at the Christmas Fair. We raised £393, slightly down on last year but a good sum.

The winners were:

1st prize – Fairtrade hamper – Rory Jarvis

2nd prize – Fruit hamper – Julie Quinn

3rd prize – Bottle of Champagne – David Owen

4th prize – Small hamper – Janet Hudson

5th prize – Floating candle set – Lesley Meyler

6th prize – Dairy Box chocolates – Richard Barrett

7th prize – Celebrations sweets – Martha Addy

8th prize – Candle pot – Richard Barrett

Winner of Guess the Weight of the Cake – Max Barrington

The story of the Fairtrade hamper

For those who don't know how we provide the first prize, a hamper is put out in the Coffee Lounge of the church several weeks before each fair. Members of the congregation are asked to buy an item from our Fairtrade stall to put in the hamper: thus the first prize in the raffle is very good (and worth quite a lot!) without any cost to the church.

Our Fairtrade stall is manned once a month and sells a wide range of goods including biscuits, pasta, sugar, jams, chocolate, nuts, dried fruit, tissues, soap, cleaning products, tea, coffee, olive oil and numerous other things. For the rest of the time goods are on display in the Coffee Lounge with an 'honesty box' for the money. Any profit is sent to sponsor a young girl in Nepal. So it is win, win all round!

This year's hamper first prize has quite a story attached to it. On the day of the Christmas Fair I was helped, as usual, by members of the Nenadic family. This time it was Anka and Maya.

Although nothing to do with our church directly (they are Serb Orthodox Christians), Maya decided to help St. John's more by buying some raffle tickets. She filled them in with the names of some of her extended family. There was one left over and she decided, almost as a joke, to write the name of her boss on it. At the company she works for it is the custom for the company to provide staff with a birthday present which is described as 'a hamper with some goodies inside.' A few weeks before, it had been Mr. Jarvis' birthday but the 'goodies' arrived in a box, not a hamper, and he was a little disappointed. Knowing the story, we three on the Raffle Stall burst out laughing when one of the children at the Fair drew out Mr. Jarvis' ticket. Now he had his hamper with very many 'goodies' in it. Maya could not wait to take it to work for him. Mr. Jarvis was not in the office for a few days after the Fair but Maya did inform him he had won a hamper.

Meanwhile, a Christmas present had arrived for Maya from Mr. Jarvis and, guess what, it was a lovely little hamper from Harrods!

Thinking he had just won an empty hamper, you can imagine what a surprise he got when Maya presented him with a very full hamper as you can see in the photograph below.

We now think of this year's Fair as the 'Year of the Hamper' and of amazing coincidences.

Janet Jeal



REPORT ON CHRISTMAS DAY EVENT 2024

The Christmas Day Event for 2024 was once again a very happy and successful occasion for 40 guests and helpers. We are very grateful to our family of cooks Jemma Stedman, Gill Holditch, Kate Willoughby and Keith who all did an extremely good job calmly producing an excellent traditional Christmas meal.

Many other people contributed to the success of this event. This year it helped enormously that some people offered to help beforehand with writing and sending out invitations, buying goods, coordinating gifts, and more people helped with setting up the Hall and clearing away at the end of the day. On the day we had a great team of helpers some of them new to the event. Special thanks to Marilyn, Natalie and Stephanie Atkins who prepared and donated the supper bags and contents and spent the day looking after the guests; to Judy who donated and helped with tea items; Angela, Janet J., Janet F., Peter and Jo, Gaye and Malcolm, all who greeted and welcomed guests, made tea and coffee, washed up and generally on hand to help out with whatever was needed. Also thanks to Grahame our tech. man; Andy who made the celebration cake; Steve Clarke who organised the drivers; to all the drivers; and to the carol singers who always round off the day beautifully. Also grateful thanks to those who helped finance the event and those who donated a gift, including a generous number of gifts from members of Malden Parochial School PTA. Last but not least my very heart felt thanks to Heather Mathews who has been a great supporter of this event for many years and always manages to lift everyone's spirits with her fun and humour organising entertainment throughout the day. Both she and I have decided this is our last time helping at this event.

I have been involved for over 40 years and as I get older it is much harder to cope on my own with the responsibilities and issues of

health and safety and safeguarding. Over the years I have continuously asked for help but it has not been forthcoming. I do sincerely pray that the PCC will make every effort to continue this very important outreach to the community so that any local person who lives alone will have somewhere to celebrate Christmas Day.

Maybe this year I can actually enjoy Christmas Day at home with family.

Pat Lovegrove

Comments from first time guests:

“THANK YOU for such a wonderful day. From the welcome to the supper bag and arranged transport, everything was so very well organised. I met new people and that was a nice bonus...”

“..I have had such a lovely day and see what I have missed by staying at home on my own all these years.”

Thank You Pat

In Pat’s excellent report on the Christmas Day event, she thanked so many people - and rightly so - but the biggest thanks should go to Pat herself for organising it. Where once there was a sub-committee, which she chaired for over 25 years, in recent years Pat has organised it by herself. 2024 will now be her last year, and what a superb day it was, hugely appreciated and enjoyed by the guests and helpers alike.

Thank you, Pat, for the many years of enabling Christmas Day to be such a happy occasion for those who would otherwise be alone.



Our oldest guests Beryl and Shirley.



Our cooks Gill, Jemma, Kate and Keith.





Vintage Afternoon Tea

Sunday 16th February

*Join us at 3.30pm
with tea served at 4pm*

411 Malden Road
Tickets £10 per person





To celebrate the centenary of our wonderful organisation, Inner Wheel, we in Kingston Inner Wheel Club set a challenge of singing 100 Christmas Carols. A rather daunting task, but we were very determined and enlisted the help of some of our friends, all of whom were incredibly enthusiastic and keen to help.

When we started, we decided to include Christmas songs as well as carols, and to be on the safe side and make absolutely certain we could reach 100, I included instrumental versions as well.

I can now report that by Christmas Day we had collected, overall, 200! This includes 25 instrumentals, 67 Christmas Songs – and an amazing 106 Christmas Carols!

The most sung Carol was Silent Night – 16 times (1 in German), followed by 8 O Come all ye Faithfuls and 7 Away in a Mangers. The most popular Song was Jingle Bells (11), then We wish you a Merry Christmas (8) and Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer (5). We only had 3 “Days of Christmas”!

The remaining 2 songs that made up our 200 were “Amazing Grace” and the very last thing we sang at the end of quite a marathon of events – “Dancing Queen”. Well, we were partying!

We are so very grateful to those friends who have supported us, all of whom sang or played songs and carols for us and generously “donated” them to help us reach our target. All local, they are:

Voices of Hope, Anstee Bridge, Kingston WelCare, Kingston Young Carers, Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness, Yorda Adventures, Refugee Action Kingston, and the Church Choirs of St. John the Baptist Old Malden, St. Andrew’s and St. Mark’s Surbiton, and New Malden Methodist Church.

It’s hard to pick out highlights, but perhaps the Young Carer who accompanied us for Silent Night, the noisy enthusiasm at YORDA, the Vicar and KCAH in the pub – what a great place to sing carols, the unexpected Christmas Songs I learnt from the Anstee Bridge teenagers, the appearance of Father Christmas at Raleigh House, and the sheer number of choirs that Voices of Hope organise.

But the real highlight has to be the experience that we had. At every event where the Carols

and Songs were sung, they were sung with such JOY. How wonderful that music can bring people together, make them smile and enjoy themselves and everyone around them. It was truly uplifting – and a great way to spend the weeks before Christmas. I quote from ABBA – “Nothing can capture a heart like a melody can”.

And yes, “Thank you for the music”.

Bobby Child

Kingston Inner Wheel





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.
- laising 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

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.

February 8th– The Social Art of Language by Alastair Daniel

March 8th -To be confirmed

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.

Bowlathon for Motor Neurone Disease (MND)

21 February 2025

Local **King Georges Field Indoor Bowls Club** is holding a Bowlathon – 24 hours continuous bowling – in aid of MND on 21/2/25 from 9am.

Spectators will be welcome to watch the fun and contribute in person.

Other fun activities will also be taking place during the day.

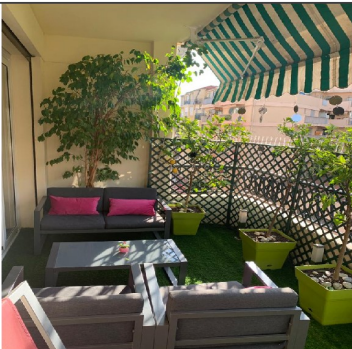
Anyone interested in supporting or taking part please see the website kgfindoorbowlsclub.co.uk or e-mail the Club at kgfibc1971@outlook.com

St. John's 150

2025 marks the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the main nave of our church. The enlargement of St. John's was the vision of The Rev. Chetwynd Stapylton. We will be celebrating this in the summer and also on 7th December – the actual date of consecration. In the summer there will be a historical-cum-choral event. This will take the form of a historical narrative by Alastair Daniel with a number of large –scale anthems of the period performed by a much augmented choir. This is due to take place on Saturday 14th June at 7.30pm. It is also likely that there will be a flower festival which will run until the Patronal Festival the following week. The organ recital on 11th October will also focus on music from the same period. Finally, on Sunday 7th December there will be a cathedral style Choral Evensong with the same choral forces to celebrate the day and bring events to a fitting climax. Do put these dates in your diaries and let's take this opportunity to celebrate our heritage.

Barry Eaton.

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Patrickgriley@hotmail.com

Answers to the Christmas & New Year Book Quiz 2024-2025

1. In which fantasy world is 'The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis set? **Narnia**
2. Which Victor Hugo book was adapted as a musical? **Les Misérables**
3. Which author wrote 'The Lord of the Rings'? **J R Tolkien**
4. In which country is 'The Kite Runner' by Khaled Hosseini set? **Afghanistan**
5. Was *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen published before or after 1850? **Before, in 1813**
6. Which French author wrote 'Remembrance of Things Past', the longest book in the world? **Proust**
7. Name the Prime Minister in 'Precipice' **Asquith**
8. What is the most sold book? **The Bible**
Who lived at these addresses?
9. 221b Baker Street **Sherlock Holmes & Dr Watson**
10. 4 Privet Drive (Rowling) **The Dursleys**
11. Manderley (Du Maurier) **Rebecca, Max de Winter, Mrs Manders**
12. Satis House (Dickens) **Miss Haversham**
13. Pemberley (Austen) **Fitzwilliam Darcy**
14. Bag End (Tolkien) **Bilbo Baggins**
15. 32 Windsor Gardens (Bond) **the Browns & Paddington**
16. Wuthering Heights (Brontë) **The Earnshaws**
17. Green Gables (Montgomery) **Anne**
18. Elsinore Castle (Shakespeare) **Hamlet**
19. Which Scottish novel gave its name to a major train station? **Waverley**
20. Who wrote the satirical novel, *Candide*? **Voltaire**
21. Who wrote *The Name of the Rose*? **Umberto Eco**
22. Who wrote the *Song of Solomon*? **Solomon/ Toni Morrison**
23. What's John Steinbeck's longest novel, which takes its title from a phrase in the Bible and became a film starring James Dean? **The Grapes of Wrath**
24. *Bridget Jones's Diary* is a modern retelling of which classic novel? **Pride & Prejudice**
25. The protagonist of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* is affected by which condition? **Autism**
26. What is the surname of the sisters in 'Little Women'? **March**

27. Which Elizabeth wrote the poem 'How Do I Love Thee?'? **Barrett Browning**
28. Who wrote Greyfriars Bobby? **Eleanor Atkinson**
29. Name the only novel written by Oscar Wilde **The Picture of Dorian Gray**
30. I haven't been entirely honest with you is the autobiography of which celebrity? **Miranda Hart**
31. Name the author of 'Orbital'. **Samantha Harvey**
32. Give the title of the latest Kate Atkinson novel. **Death at the Sign of the Rook**
33. What is 'The Siege' about? **SAS & Embassy Hostage Drama**
34. Who wrote 'The Silent Boy'? **Hilary Mantel**

Fill in the missing vowels:

Wht y r lkng fr s n th lbrry	What you are looking for is in the library
Th Fgrn	The Figurine
Th B Stng	The Bee Sting
Yllwfc	Yellowface
Th Ghst Shp	The Ghost Ship
Th Frd	The Fraud
Th Lst Dvl t D	The Last Devil to Die
Th Pstcrd	The Postcard

As these were all far too easy - a bigger challenge next year!!
MCB



**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 18th February 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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Mrs P. Sutton
020 8942 8321



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