

# Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist, Malden

**October 2021**

50p

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# Old Malden News

**The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist Parish Church Malden**  
Church Road, Worcester Park KT4 7RY

Please send any articles or other material to:  
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020 8330 2817  
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Advertising and Distribution:  
Janet Flemming  
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Copy date for the magazine is the 15th of the month and  
please only send submissions in Microsoft Word.

## **ST JOHN'S HALL**

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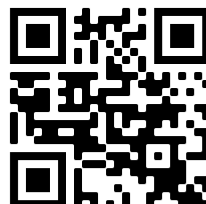
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton  
Tel: 020 8942 8321

# St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

## Directory

Vicar	The Revd Michael Roper Gore_lodge@yahoo.co.uk	020 8337 8830
Asst Priest	The Revd Milly Broome m.broome@hotmail.co.uk	020 8337 1572
Reader & Choir Director	Mrs Marilyn Burkett m.c.burkett@btinternet.com	020 8337 6017
Pastoral Asst	Mr Anthony Pullen tony@pullen.me.uk	020 8949 6784
Organist	Mr Barry Eaton	020 8949 1708
Church Wardens	Mrs Lynn Sanger Mr Mike Broome	020 8715 2066 020 8337 1572
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
PCC Treasurer	Mr Alastair Harris	020 8241 1087
Parish Administrator	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
Safeguarding Officers	Mrs Vanessa Spreckley Ms Marie McGuire	07918 051099 07535 878107
Church Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Steve Clarke	020 8337 2392
Hall Bookings	Mrs Pat Sutton	020 8942 8321
Parish Website:	<a href="http://www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk">www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk</a>	
Parish Office:	<a href="mailto:administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk">administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk</a>	

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



## Services for October



### **St John's is OPEN again!**

St John's has now re-opened 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** - Said Eucharist with hymns

**Wednesday 11am** — said Eucharist

The midday Eucharist on Wednesdays has been moved to 11am to cater for the Mothers Union, who on the 1st Wednesday of the month will have a coffee morning at 10am followed by the Eucharist at 11am.

Please make sure you are signed up to our mailing list to get up to date information regarding the services.

<http://eepurl.com/gNz4Tf> or scan the QR Code

## **St. John's Financial Position and Future**

### **Welcome back as St John's re-opens !**

Hopefully life will return to a new normal over the next few months and we will all recognise the things we have missed during the pandemic: regular services, Children's Ministry, the Mothers' Union, the Toddler Group, and other social activities. The pandemic has caused significant problems to all these activities as it has done to many other churches and organisations across the country. We should all look forward to the return of these in a safe and welcoming way.

### **Did the Pandemic affect St. John's Financially in 2020 ?**

For much of the time St. John's was closed, and this was unprecedented in our long history. Like many families, St. John's has been hit financially. Closure of the church for many months gave some small savings, but much of the regular expenditure had to continue as before: it is good to see that the PCC maintained full commitment to staff and outreach giving in these very trying times. Income was hit hard with loss of the Maeldune (£3,000) and Christmas Fairs (£2,000), and no income from collections at services (£7,500 per annum), as well as other losses. Income from Free Will Offering was also hit, and we recognise that this could have been a great deal worse. But the extremely good news is that late in 2020 we received a number of very generous donations (£7,800) as well as legacies (£3,000). We should also be extremely thankful to those people in Free Will Offering who maintained their giving and also to those who donated generously. As a consequence, the financial outcome for 2020 was a small deficit of about £900, which was substantially better than any of us could have hoped for part way through the year.

### **And what about now in 2021 ?**

When budgeting for this year, we had to recognise that the pandemic was continuing, with similar mounting losses as 2020. We are pleased to say that the PCC decided to maintain its commitments to staff and outreach giving (total £2,000) to charities such as Fircroft, KCAH, the Kingston Foodbank and several others. Our largest payment is the Parish Support Fund paid to the Southwark Diocese, and we maintained our pledge at £72,000, same as last year: this is an important payment which pays for the provision of clergy, their training, housing, general support as well as support to parishes in the Southwark Diocese. The biggest budgeting problem we had is that we cannot rely on legacies as they are difficult to predict, as are one off donations, and these were a critically important part of our income last year. As a consequence, the budget for this year is a deficit of some £20,000. This might be viewed as a worst case outlook, but fortunately, at the moment, we are doing better than this might suggest: St. John's resumed services just after Easter, and the deficit at the end of

July was about £5,000. Under more normal circumstances the Maeldune Fair would have helped offset this figure, but due to the pandemic this did not happen. We were hoping that a normal Christmas Fair might take place, but recognise that this is not possible and so a smaller scale sale is being considered. Last year we had to use part of our reserves to cover the budget deficit, and it looks like the amount required this year will be very substantially greater, and so will be a big portion of our reserves, which are finite.

### **Underlying problems revealed:**

The income from the Free Will Offering Scheme has been too low for a number of years, but the pandemic has exacerbated this and thrown it into sharper focus. Over the last year the number of people in the scheme has fallen: some givers have had to move away, some have sadly passed away, and inevitably some people have had to stop or reduce their giving. We need to encourage people to join this Scheme to assure a regular basic reliable income. We also need to encourage all people, where they can, to give more: in 2019 and 2020 the average giving per person per week at St. John's was about £10, compared with £14.10 per week nationally and £18.50 in the Southwark Diocese.


### **YOU can help !**

In the next few weeks there will be a Financial and Stewardship Appeal. We hope that you will listen sympathetically and be able to respond. To join the Free Will Offering scheme now you could talk to a member of the Ministry Team or the Church Wardens. Also, visit the St. John's website [stjohnsolmalden.org.uk](http://stjohnsolmalden.org.uk) where you will also find other ways to donate.

### **The Future**

St. John's has some great plans for the future.... and it is essential that these are properly funded and supported. In addition, we have to maintain and restore an old building. Over the next few years some expensive repairs will be needed, and may cost near £700,000. A damp investigation project is currently underway to find out the extent of the damage and more accurately estimate the eventual cost. Clearly to raise this amount of money, St. John's will have to appeal to funding sources on a national as well as the local level. But it is vitally important that we can place St. John's on a sound financial footing for its year on year expenses. Please respond sympathetically.

Richard Burkett      Chairman , finance committee.



Services for Harvest  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021  
8.00 am Said Eucharist  
9.45am Eucharist will be a  
Harvest Festival Parade Service

Please remember to bring your gifts  
of non-perishable foodstuffs.  
Your gifts will be taken to the  
Foodbank.

**HARVEST EVENSONG**  
will be held at 6.30pm





**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST,  
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**ORGAN RECITAL  
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***Saturday 9th October 2021  
at 7.30pm***

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Dupré**

***Admission by Programme £10.00***

## Vicar's Letter

It's almost October and our Harvest Festival is just around the corner. It's hard to believe that the summer is fading and the nights already closing in on us. Earlier this year I planted Maris Piper potatoes hoping to repeat last year's big success. I don't have green fingers but I like potatoes and so I thought I'd give it a go. Eight seed potatoes gave two large pillowcases full of delicious spuds that were the highlight of Sundays, even eking them out until Christmas dinner. This year I planted a dozen seed potatoes, watered them regularly, and hilled them up again and again. So you can imagine my disappointment when this year's harvest was far fewer potatoes and not nearly as flavourable as last year's. Thankfully we have the shops to rely on. I've no doubt I'd go hungry if I had to grow all my own food.

This year our Harvest Festival is a little different. The service (October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:45am) is a bit pared back and simpler with the intention that it will be that more accessible to younger members of our Church family. We also will have some of our uniformed groups represented as we bring our gifts and give thanks to God for his blessings and for all the people who work so hard to put food on our tables. I would like to encourage our families and children to join us for this special occasion as we continue to reopen St. John's and return to a more normal pattern of worship. The expectation is that we will start Messy Church once a month and make one Sunday a month an All-Age service so that we can all worship together. Harvest will set the tone and encourage our young people to take part more fully in our worship. Little Fishes is also set to restart in October with one session a month and Children's Ministry will also relaunch. Both groups still need new volunteers to help run them and to

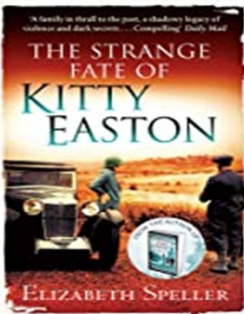
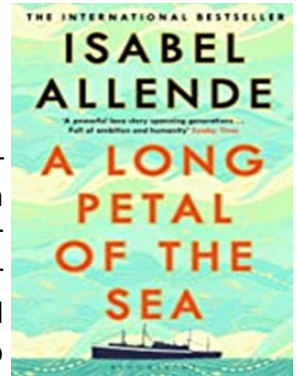
Beyond our Harvest Festival we will be launching our new stewardship scheme on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Parish finances have taken a massive hit over lockdown and we are running at a deficit again this year. What reserves we have are being used to plug the gaps but they will run out if this pace continues and we will not be able to undertake the work to repair the Church tower and sort out our failed Victorian drains. St. John's has a problem with damp as the ground we sit on is saturated. Previously our drains and the sump pump has kept our feet dry, but all the old drains have either collapsed or are severely blocked. Our Parish Architect has recommend we install some new drains and a new soakaway, which will be expensive in our occupied and archeologically sensitive churchyard. If anyone is an archaeologist and is willing to work for mate's rates do let me know! Fortunately St. John's has been supported by many, many dedicated donors who give generously and regularly of their time and/ or money. Sadly we have lost several key donors over the past eighteen months and this has impacted our present situation. So I would ask everyone to prayerfully engage with the materials the Finance team have prepared and consider what you can offer St. John's at this challenging time. God is always faithful and has given us all that we need to succeed as God's Church in this special place. We have the gift of each other and all the different perspectives, skills, and gifts that God has given us to use to his praise and glory. Let us celebrate his goodness and give thanks as we share these blessings with everyone.

Michael

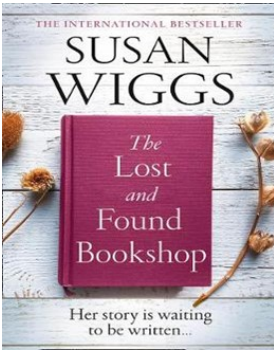
## St John's Reading Group

October 2021

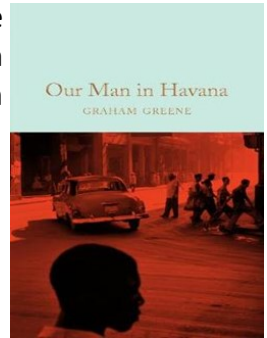
It was really good to meet 'in person' in September – and we managed to maintain a zoom link for Faith and Brian to join us. Our choice for the September meeting was Isabel Allende's international bestseller 'A Long Petal of the Sea'. This was an historical novel and a family saga spanning the years from 1936 to 1994. The poet Pablo Neruda organised a voyage on the Winnipeg for over 2,000 refugees from the Spanish Civil War just as WWII was starting. The young doctor, Victor Dalmau, is forced out of Barcelona at the time of the Spanish Civil War. We learn of the desperate battles with over a million Spanish people losing their lives. Victor flees to Chile with his sister-in-law, Roser and over four generations, a battle ensues between freedom and repression. Isabel Allende was born in Peru but raised in Chile so her account of the conditions during Pinochet's dictatorship were very accurate. Victor had experienced life under two dictators- Franco & Pinochet. The book was enjoyed by the group and received a score of 9/10. A book to be recommended.



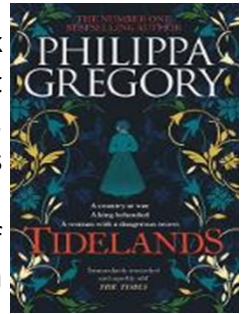
Looking ahead to October, we have selected 'The Strange Fate of Kitty Easton' by Elizabeth Speller. A former infantryman from WWI, Laurence Bartram, an amateur sleuth, visits the village of Easton Deadall in 1924 and learns about the tragic disappearance of a five-year-old girl in 1911. Laurence discovers a great deal of family intrigue, jealousy and distrust which all adds to the mystery.



Our choice for November is *The Lost & Found Bookshop* by Susan Wiggs and for December – Graham Greene’s *Our Man In Havana*.



If you are interested in historical novels and family sagas, then Philippa Gregory’s two novels ‘*Tidelands*’ and ‘*Dark Tides*’ will not disappoint. ‘*Tidelands*’ is set in 1648-9 at the time of King Charles I’s capture, trial and execution. Alinor is a descendant of a ‘wise’ woman: she uses herbs to heal and is in danger of being accused of witchcraft. Set in the Sussex marshlands, the novel follows the life of Alinor and her children – and the fateful meeting with a young man called James which has grave consequences for Alinor’s future. A really good read – and I’m now eager to start ‘*Dark Tides*’ – the next novel in the Fairmile Series, set in 1670 after The Restoration.



Now that Autumn seems to have arrived, reading time may replace some of that gardening time. However, in a moment of madness, I have ordered several hundred daffodil and tulip bulbs to replenish my stock. So reading will have to be an evening pursuit after all the planting.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday October 7<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge (and on ‘zoom’).

**Marilyn**

Mothers' Union of St John Malden  
27 Brokenhurst Avenue  
Worcester Park  
Surrey  
KT4 7RQ

Monday, 6 September 2021

Dear all in the Mothers' Union of St John Malden,

### **Thank you so much for your donation of £425 in memory of Mrs Jill Barker.**

We were grateful to receive your donation towards the work of Mothers' Union's members across the world. You are supporting incredible community-led projects that create positive changes that grow and last, and I wanted to share some examples of how your gift can be put to great use.

- Across Britain and Ireland, members have responded to the Coronavirus pandemic by making face coverings. These have consistently sold out on our retail platform, raising essential funds for their local Dioceses to continue their transformative projects.
- 
- On Lady Day, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020, members in Papua New Guinea promoted Mothers' Union through speeches, activities and processions. By focussing on mobilising communities through the Church, members can highlight important issues such as gender-based violence, mutual community support and literacy and financial education.
- 
- In Luwero Diocese, Uganda, children have to walk several hours to reach school. Timothy has responded to the needs of his community by using local knowledge and techniques to build a school in his village. This is to the benefit of many local children, granting them new opportunities and removing everyday dangers from their lives.

We wouldn't be able to reach and help others without your help. Thank you so much for your generosity, your support is deeply appreciated.

With best wishes,



**Renata Pucci**  
Database Officer

Thank  
you



### **A thank you from Janet Jeal**

Dear Members of St. John's,

I cannot thank you enough for all the support, physical, emotional and spiritual you gave me during Roger's illness and death. Your prayers really gave me the strength I needed during those difficult days. I could feel your prayers holding me up.

Sadly, I could not invite you to Roger's funeral as there was, quite rightly, a maximum number of people to preserve the covid precautions in our church. However, I know many of you were able to watch the funeral on YouTube for which my greatest thanks are for Harvey for doing this for Roger.

There are going to be more difficult days ahead for me as I try to sort out all those things we have to do when a loved one dies. I would be most grateful if you could continue to pray for me and the family for a little longer.

Love Janet

## REPORT ON HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2021 and SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE

The four days from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September were very busy when St. John's was open for the National Heritage Open Days. There was a steady flow of visitors each day with a total of 120 people altogether. Most first time visitors to the church were very impressed by how well the church was kept, the very interesting and long history of church and area, and the welcome they were given. Thank you very much to those who helped over this weekend and especially to Anne Beales who kept everyone going with tea and biscuits and ran the Fairtrade Stall, and to Chris Beales who set up the history boards together with his really interesting board about the elm tree theory. Most visitors this year were local but one couple walking the London Loop came from Derbyshire, another from Cheshire, one from Hong Kong, also a large group from Kingston Ramblers stopped off for a visit whilst walking the Hogsmill river from Ewell to Kingston.

*Some comments: A very friendly welcome and a delicious cuppa. A wonderful find-I'll be back. Amazing history. Very interesting, great exhibition. Really a gem-loved looking around-everything so lovingly kept. Very welcoming and fascinating church. Thank you for being open and welcoming.*

On the Saturday afternoon the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust's sponsored Ride and Stride took place with a group of 14 from St. John's participating. The weather was kind and they managed to visit 10 churches. If you sponsored any of the families please contact them as soon as possible. Half of the money raised will be returned to St. John's.

WELL DONE TO ALL WHO TOOK PART.





# Footnotes to a Notice Board on Church Path

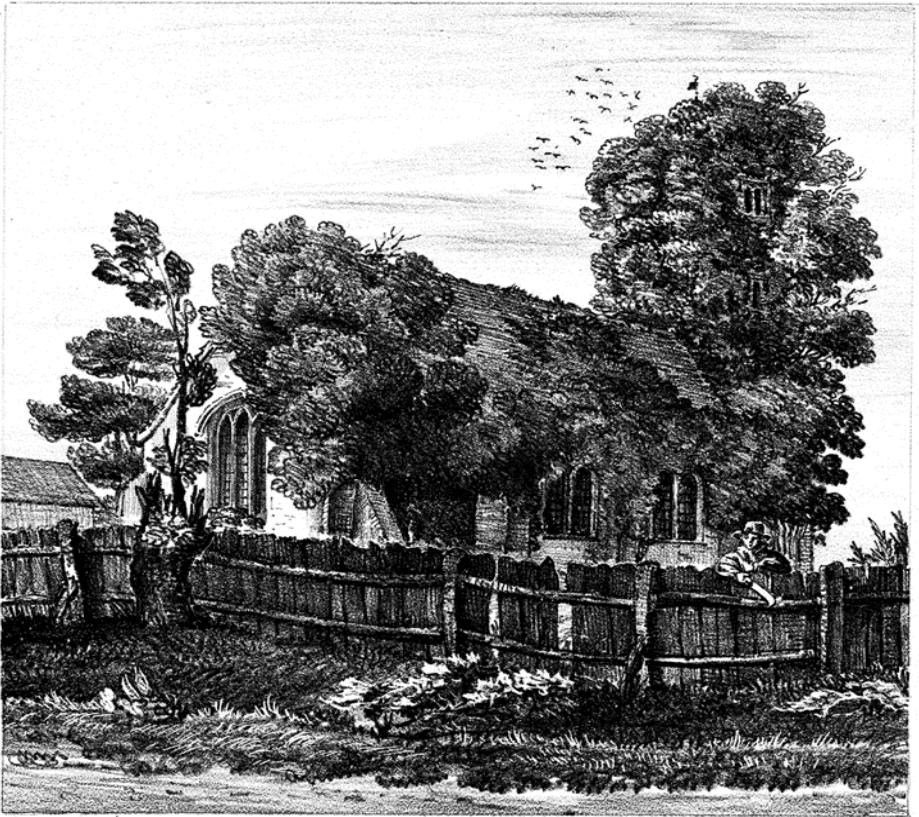
'St John's should have a notice board outside it telling the story of conservation there', Barbara Webb told me that again, the last time we met. Botanical evidence is appearing, about the sign that gave Malden its name. If she herself had seen the elm tree growing out of the top of Lady Walter's monument that we saw this year, she might have had the fun of weaving it into the wonderful talks she gave on her Heritage Week walks. How valuable her views would be about how and whether the monument can be conserved - and the elm tree destroying it.

The elm theory was given a test-drive on the Heritage Days. Valuable advice came in from Kingston ecologist, Alison Fure. Elm is now being grown from seed. She reminded me, Barbara fashion, what matters is to cut and clear the grass properly, rather than "micro-manage" projects (like this?). But so much interest has come from this Elm project, this will do as a sequel to last year's notice board featuring the Spring underneath St John's Church. This article is the footnote to the noticeboard in Church Path. By using the QR code there, any passer-by will be able to read it.

Engravings of the church, starting in 1799 show no sign of any tree near the church's east window at all, in spite of much new evidence of elm roots still underneath the grass there. The prints probably just tell us that elm roots can be kept out of sight by very conscientious mowing.

In Heritage week, this lithograph of St John's was re-discovered. It is thought to have been drawn about 1825. It shows a tree stump outside a very rough wooden church fence. The stump is about 70 cm wide, judging by the height of the man. He is posed, displaying a bill-hook, the tool used to cut brushwood and narrow branches. Several branches growing out of the stump have been chopped short. On the grass verge outside the fence, debris has been piled ready for carting away. The artist's view-point places the stump immediately in front the east window.

The fence may even be built into the stump. If so, the man has completed the work on his side, leaving the work outside until later - deliberately also leaving one 5 metre high branch growing out of the top of the stump (showing how much he's removed?) This will no longer be blocking the view of the church. The stump will be neatly pollarded again.



C Burton, del<sup>t</sup>

Printed by P Simonau.

MALDEN CHURCH. N<sup>o</sup>. 1.

Workmen today take photos on their phones to show they turned up at a job, and completed it. Mr. C. T. Cracklow a Surveyor (named at the bottom of the print) commissioned this, latest copying method, lithography, to keep an eye on his workforce. He has got C. Burton to sketch a 'snapshot'. P. Simonau then printed enough lithographic copies to satisfy the P.C.C., the Vicar, Merton College, whoever is paying to have the stump sorted out. Surplus prints from this surveillance exercise amused print collectors, who bought them as a quaint village scene, produced with the latest technology from Paris. (Amazingly, copies can still be bought on the net today!)

Robin Gill kindly sent us this postcard issued in the 1900s showing “The Oldest tree in Old Malden”. It is in a large, level, well-cut field. Five clearly distinguishable English elms mark the boundary at the horizon on the right. So it is likely to be an elm. Can you tell us where this field is, or was? Are the elms now at the end of someone’s garden?



The largest known English Elm in Europe was in the news recently, being removed on a lorry, because it had Dutch elm disease. Also hollow, also with a stump two metres in diameter, it dated back 400 years and confirms that before the disease, elms might stand for that length of time but would then tend to collapse. It was in Preston Park, Brighton.

A good tree would probably decline in vigour in 300 years. It would be replaced by a sucker as leaf cover allowed more sunlight in. Four generations of 300 hundred years could take the generations back 1200 years to the Saxon era. Each ‘new tree’ would begin a few metres away from the site of the first tree. Are they one, single, Saxon, tree?

Chris Beales



# St John's Church Old Malden



**VISIT  
OUR  
NEW**



- Support your local church whilst staying at home!
- Pay online and collect from church. Very local delivery is available for those unable to collect
- Products available will be added and updated regularly including seasonal items

St Johns Online Shop – is back following a short revamp. The shop can be accessed from our website: <https://stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk/online-shop/>

## 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 ecclesiastical Season of Creation, I share my effort with you.

1. O how great is the glory of God: as he gives us of his abundance.
2. He shows his care for his children in the generosity of his giving: the fruits of his love are on every side.
3. In his caring he delights in the beauty of his creation: the plenty which is around us everywhere.
4. The woodlands and fields are full of colour: the smells of the earth are awesome in their complexity.
5. The sounds around us delight our ears: the songs of the birds and the rustling of the leaves cause us to be open-mouthed in wonder.
6. O God, you have given us all our senses: we may experience your love in its infinite variety.
7. The Lord supplies our physical needs: he says, Come, eat and be nourished from my store.
8. As he gives us food to nourish our bodies: so he gives spiritual knowledge to those with open hearts.
9. We ask to abide in his love: that in our fulfilment we enable others to flourish.
10. Through his abundant love for us, he shows us how to love other people: loving all without judgement or counting the cost.
11. 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.

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

*Liz Pullen*



# Friends of St John the Baptist Church

The Parishioners of St John's would have been holding its annual Maeldune Fair this June on Plough Green which has been sadly cancelled (for the second year running) due to Covid.

As well as a successful community event both for the residents of Old Malden and the parishioners of St John's, the Fair is also our main fundraiser and the means by which St John's raises vital funds to support its mission to the wider community as well as helping to maintain our historic church building.

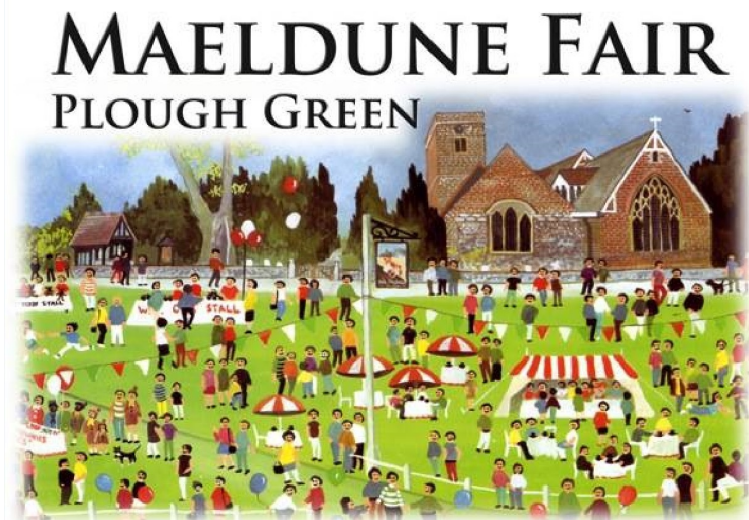
St John's faces a very difficult financial future as a consequence of the pandemic and has suffered a great loss of income.

If you would have been with us on the green with your families, old and young, enjoying all the activities and spending your money, we would be grateful if you could instead consider making a donation by visiting the Donations Page on St John's website <https://stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk/giving/>

or, you can send a cheque payable to the PCC of St John the Baptist, Old Malden, and send it to the Parish Administrator at: St John the Baptist, Church Road, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 7RY.

We hope to see you all at the Maeldune Fair in 2022.

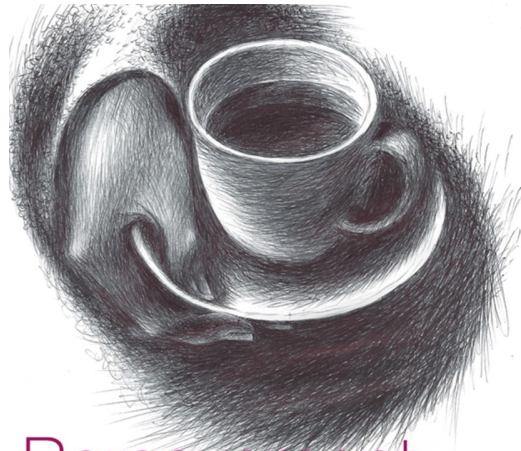
Thank you. St John's.







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>



## Bereavement Café

Our Bereavement Cafe project has been accepted as one of the Co-op's local charities for the next 12 months. Co-op members are able to nominate the Bereavement Cafe as their charity and we will receive 2% of every purchase. I would like to encourage you to nominate us and to become a member if you aren't already one. It costs £1 to become a member and anyone can join in-store or online at <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>

We are still in the planning stage looking for volunteers to help with refreshments and anyone who would also like to take part in the training provided by our sponsor the Princess Alice Hospice. Until we are up and running, support is available from me or any member of the Ministry Team for anyone who has lost a loved one.

If you might be interested in taking part, please speak to Michael.

Thank you!

# Lavender Clearances Limited

Your local house clearance company

16 Cheam Common Road, Worcester Park KT4 8RW

- We remove anything – furniture, white goods and appliances, carpets and soft furnishings from houses to gardens, garages, sheds and lofts.
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