

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

October 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

Please send any articles or other material to:
St John the Baptist Parish Office
020 8330 2817
administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk

Advertising and Distribution:
Janet Flemming
020 8640 9377
Janet.flemming15@gmail.com

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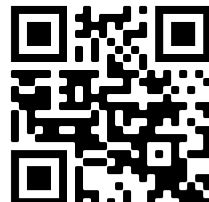
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

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Church Wardens	Mrs Lynn Sanger Mr Mike Broome	020 8715 2066 020 8337 1572
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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 October



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

I've said it before and I will say it again, there were only two things I struggled to come to terms with after moving to the UK; shopping and the weather. Twenty-eight years ago the comparative lack of consumer choice in the shops was a real challenge for someone accustomed to an almost unlimited range of choices in the US. That may well be why my Christmas shopping always involved a trip up Oxford Street until the advent of online shopping. Now there are many options for buying things. Unfortunately, the weather hasn't a patch on the North Carolina experience. Yes, it will be far more comfortable here over the summer, never hitting 100 degrees, but what really bites is the English winter. The long grey wet days that dominate the weeks after Christmas up until late March. My heart always sinks when the summer ends and the central heating comes on. At home it will get very cold, but even in the depths of winter the sun shines brightly almost every day. So you can imagine my joy at those last few sunny days September gifted us, a last chance to enjoy the garden in short sleeves and soak up a few rays.

Brooke, the Vicarage cat, has an innate gift for finding the warmest place going. She has been an inspiration those lovely sunny days to follow her lead and join her on the patio to make the most of the last of the summer sunshine. In the months to come she will become a feline sundial, following the sunshine round the dining room as the weak sun makes it shorter journey across the autumn sky. Her motto seems to be "find a warm spot and make it your own".

When I look around St. John's on a Sunday, I am mindful that people come to Church for lots of different reasons. For some what started out as a habit from childhood has continued into later life. Others are very new to this Christianity lark, still navigating our formal worship format and exploring our theology, how we see and experience God in our lives. We attract, unusually, people of all ages. St. John's is one of the few churches I know with so many children in it, something to be grateful for if ever there was one. Someone recently said to me that it was the fellowship that drew people to Church, the opportunity to be with others and share a special time and place with friends. In a society with a growing epidemic of loneliness, this made sense because we are social creatures after all, even the introverts among us, who need simple human contact from time to time.

St. John's at its best, reflects the wider Anglican experience by encompassing within it a wide range of theological beliefs and worship traditions. There should be room round the table for everyone from the sceptical liberal seeker to the dyed in the

wool evangelical. Our ethnic diversity is also a strength that enriches our life together and really shows the world what the Kingdom of God is really like. Personally I don't think St. John's is as liberally-minded as some would like to believe. We have had a few very progressive vicars and been ahead of the curve when it comes to embracing women's ministry, as well as some progress around the wider issues of gender and sexuality; but there is a wide range of personal opinions within our congregations as is to be expected. We just need to remind ourselves that we need to make room for others, especially when we hold different views.

I am also aware that some have come to us looking for shelter from life's storms, from the pain and heartache of loss, and the uncertainty that comes when faced with life's big questions: who am I, why am I here, what's the meaning of life? We have the opportunity to care for one another and to share life's journey together as fellow explorers. We may not have all the answers, but we can and should keep asking them and seeking answers. Let us value the questioning, let us be honest about our own limitations and be generous with all.

St. John's is that warm place for so many people, a place to pause and think, find shelter, and be with others, to be part of a dynamic community of love in an oftentimes cold and unforgiving world.

Christ is very much at the centre of our worshipping community. We gather around the Lord's table weekly to share in the bread and wine of the Kingdom that, in some almost unfathomable way, make his suffering, death, and resurrection a tangible reality in our midst today. This endless giving of himself enables us to move forward into the unknown with confidence that we are not alone, that God is always with us through the good times and the bad. So let us continue to gather in this special place as countless generations have done before us, to share in his new life and journey together until we reach that Kingdom where all is light, joy, and peace.

Michael

POLIO IN THE HEADLINES

You will have seen the headline of the case of polio in Gaza. Of course it's a headline – Gaza, along with most of the rest of the world has been free of polio for many years; in the case of Gaza it was the first recorded case in 25 years.

But what might be more worthy of a headline is the fact that the President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has taken the initiative to direct the allocation of funding for an urgent polio vaccination campaign in Gaza – **and the warring parties have allowed this to happen.**

The campaign is supported by a commitment of US\$5m and will enable the inoculation of more than 640,000 Gazan children, delivered in cooperation with the World Health Organization, UNICEF and UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees). The two-round campaign will provide over 640,000 Gazan children under the age of 10 with two doses of the polio vaccine, the aim being to stop the spread of the virus and prevent a wider regional outbreak.

In a staggered schedule, the campaign was due to begin on Sunday, 1st September, starting in Central Gaza and then moving to South and then North Gaza. Each phase will continue for **three days during area-specific humanitarian pauses**, to enable children and families to access health facilities and community workers to reach the children. Around 1.66 million doses of the polio vaccine have been delivered to Gaza, and more than 2,100 health workers will support the delivery of both rounds of the campaign. At least 90 percent vaccination coverage is needed during each round to prevent the spread of polio, given the overcrowding, displacement and severely disrupted health, water and sanitation systems within Gaza.

The Sheikh and the UAE have achieved something no-one else seems able to. It's not lost on me that it took a sick child to make it happen.

This incidence of polio, though, does remind us that so long as there are cases

somewhere in the world, we are all at risk. A killer virus is easily brought into even us in the west who have been free of the disease for so long, it just takes one case and an aeroplane flight.

Rotary International started their campaign to eradicate polio in 1979. Back then, there were nearly 1,000 cases a day in 122 countries, but since then, along with the partners they brought together, Rotary has helped immunise more than 2.5 billion children and reduced polio cases by 99.9%.

Today there remain two countries which are not polio-free– Pakistan (16 this year) and Afghanistan (17 cases). This a slight increase on last year’s figures, so together with the case in Gaza, it reinforces that we absolutely must continue the fight to completely eradicate polio.

Bobby Child

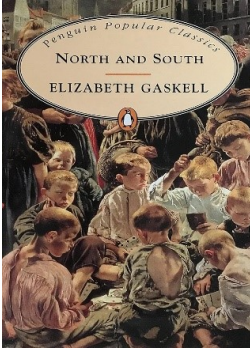
End Polio Now day is 24th September, 2024.

Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland
<https://www.rotarygbi.org/our-causes/end-polio-now>



St John's Reading Group

October 2024

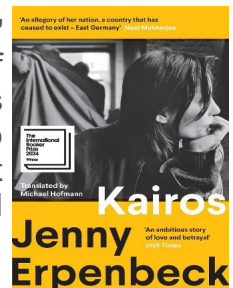


For our Summer Reading, we selected Elizabeth Gaskell's '**North and South**'. A Victorian 'social' novel published in 1854, it contrasts England's industrialized north and agrarian south and closely examines the changing class system of 19th-century England. An interesting read and very much of its time – one has to 'adjust' to the style and manners of the day. Initially, the author wanted the novel to be titled after the heroine, Margaret Hale, but Dickens, the editor of Household Words, the magazine in which the novel was serialised, insisted on the title

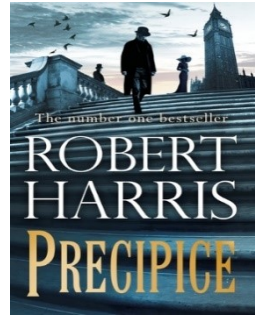
North and South. The novel is set in the fictional industrial town of Milton. Margaret who is a feisty young woman, finds herself in conflict with John Thornton, a cotton mill owner who is not sympathetic to his employees. As with Dickens, it is an excellent social history of the time. There were a few comments about the poor ending. An average score of 7/10.

Despite all my good intentions, I did not start to read the book until I was on the plane travelling home – but became so engrossed with the book, I was rather sorry when we landed at Gatwick. Hopefully, I shall finish the novel before our next group meeting!

For our October meeting, we have selected '**Kairos**' by Jenny Erpenbeck. This novel was the winner of the International Booker Prize 2024 and was originally written in German. It tells the story of two lovers through the ruins of a relationship which is set against the tumult of East Berlin in the 1980s and the final years of the GDR.



I did buy Robert Harris' latest novel '**Precipice**' at the airport on my outward journey so became very engrossed in that. After the author's usual good research and imagination, the British Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith is involved with a young aristocratic socialite with whom he shares top secret telegrams just as the country is on the brink of WW1. The authorities become suspicious and investigations begin in order to discover whether the young socialite has or is about to share these secrets with foreign powers. It is a good read.



Any fans of Richard Osman will be delighted to hear that he has written the first of a new series: **We Solve Murders**. If you enjoyed the Thursday Murder Club series, then this new novel will feature on your reading list.

If you wish to be transported to Greece, then Victoria Hislop's **The Figurine** will not disappoint. A reminder of hot summer holidays perhaps.

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

Marilyn

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

30th November -Christmas Fair

The Fundraising Team



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

If you would like to be 'on trend', come and learn how to make 'granny squares'.

Open to all – do come and join us! Learn to knit, follow a pattern, take up crochet!

It is a good opportunity to chat, drink tea and relax.

Good for your 'mindfulness' time.

Do join us!

Marilyn



RESTORE

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER –
COMMUNITY <>CHURCH<>YOU



- St John's history dates from Saxon times.
- Its ancient fabric is now in poor state.
- The tower brickwork and parapet are crumbling, the roofs leak, and there is damp.

We offer weekly services, weddings, Baptisms, and funerals. Also, a variety of activities open to all.

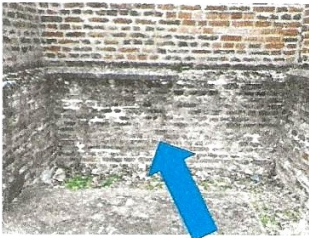
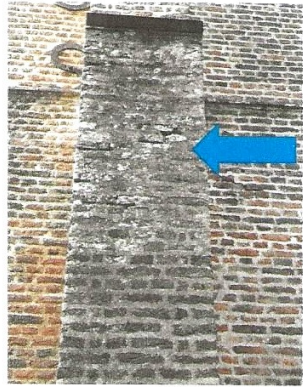


- We are committed to continue supporting our congregation and community.
- We plan to expand our current community activities but need a sound, safe building.
- The Restore Project aims to repair our ancient building. If we don't the building will deteriorate further risking safety.

It will cost £445,567 (Ex VAT)

The Problems are shown here

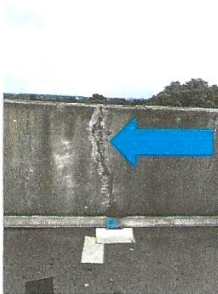
**Crumbling tower
bricks & mortar**



Roof walling cracked



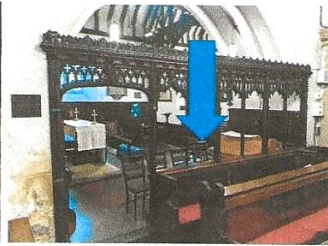
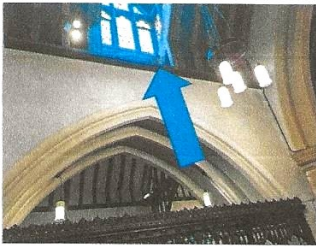
Broken parapet



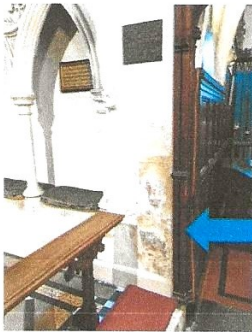
Priest's vestry roof leaks



Chancel dormer window leaks onto choir!



Internal damp



WORKS CAN PROCEED

Local authority planning permission is in place

Southwark Diocese has granted a faculty for works to proceed.

On granting the Faculty, the Chancellor says:

"This is an important church with an important ministry and I am pleased to see that the PCC is planning to put these extensive works in hand. There will be much to be done in terms of fund-raising and then organization, and I hope that everything goes as well and as smoothly as may be reasonably possible."

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The works will be undertaken in stages. Estimated cost for all the stages is £445,567 (Ex VAT, about £90,000 extra). More accurate pricing will be clearer in contractor tenders. Our Grants Committee has identified appropriate sources of funding and is now submitting applications.

HOW YOU CAN HELP - PLEASE PRAY, BUT ALSO

Spread the word – what is happening and why

Donations welcome – ways of giving are;

Cheque Donations: please make payable to: **'The PCC of St John's Old Malden' and mark it 'St John's Restore Project Fund'**. Send it to: The Treasurer, C/o The Parish Office, St John's Church, Church Rd, Worcester Park KT4 7RY. Please Gift Aid your donation if you can.

Online Banking: donations can be made by contacting the Treasurer at treasurer@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk . Please leave your telephone number, and the Treasurer will return your call and provide bank account details.



Using this QR code:

St. John's website: donations can be made via a *Donate* button on the homepage of our website: <https://www.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.

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

October 12th- A talk by Paul Henry on ceramics.

November 9th - A talk by Marilyn Burkett on The Commonwealth War Graves in St John's Churchyard .

Heritage Open Days 2024

Once again St. John's was open for four days over the national Heritage Open Days where people can visit places of historical and architectural interest for free.

Visitors are always surprised to find this hidden gem in suburbia with such a long and interesting history and visitors commented on the warm and friendly welcome received. Most visitors were local, but there were two from California, one from New Zealand, one from Portsmouth, a few from Horsham, Reigate and Croydon area. Also 15 members of North London Ramblers whilst walking part of the London Loop. On Friday and Monday we were very pleased that all pupils and staff from Malden Parochial School were able to visit too with thanks to Head teacher Lucy McMullan.

On Sunday we were pleased to welcome Paul Henry who gave a talk and demonstration on Church Colours: An introduction to how the seasonal colours of the church were created historically using natural dyes. Also on Sunday we welcomed back the Maeldune Consort who played and sung renaissance music for voices and voils. Thank you Chris and Sue Benson and friends.

This event cannot take place without volunteers to man the church and welcome visitors. So very many thanks to all our volunteers who welcomed 119 adult visitors and 238 children to St. John's over the four Heritage Open Days. Special thanks go to Anne Beales who kept everyone fed and watered.

Pat Lovegrove







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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 15th October 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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