

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

May 2021

50p

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Old Malden News

**The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist Parish Church Malden**
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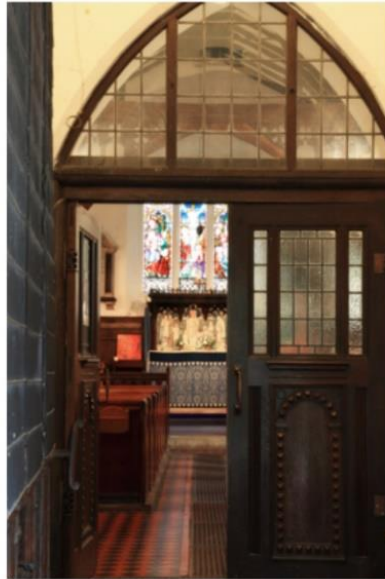
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Church Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Steve Clarke	020 8337 2392
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Parish Website:	www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	
Parish Office:	administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk	

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



Services for May

Good News!



St John's is open again.

To book you need to be a subscriber to our mailing list, link and QR code below. If you have any problems booking please call the

Parish Office 0208 3302817

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



May OMN Letter

As we wait holding our breath to see what the 17th of May will bring, we look forward to life cautiously feeling more like normal. The Ministry Team and I don't have an inside track of what is definitely going to happen or what changes we will actually be permitted to make, but we know that St. John's is prepared to begin the journey to returning to normal as far as we can. We hope that as the days pass we will see clearly that St. John's Day can be celebrated together on the 27th June. We are hoping to hold a large outdoor service rather than the two separate ticketed ones all being well, followed by a barbecue lunch and stalls from the Fundraising Team. Our goal is to make this a time of enjoyment for all ages as we turn a corner in the long haul out of lockdown.

We understand that not everyone will be ready to return to Church, so we have made provision for live-streaming services to continue indefinitely. Technology has enabled many locally and further afield to join in St. John's style of worship, something they may not have access to in their own parishes. Discussions are afoot to plan for the return of Sunday Lunch Club and Tea and Chat, joined by our Bereavement Café and Saturday Open mornings at St. John's. We also look forward to resuming our provision for children and young people. We all these initiatives in the pipeline, I would like to ask everyone to consider what they might be able to help with by giving some of their time and energy to make happen. Understandably not everyone who was volunteering will want to continue, so we need to know who will help so we can make sure everyone has the DBS checks required for certain activities. We are currently updating these so don't be surprised if you are asked if you would complete a new check. These will need to be completed before resuming any activity that requires one.

The Covid pandemic has made an indelible impression on all our lives. Its lingering effects will be with us for some time, but it has also provided us with an opportunity to re-evaluate what we do and how we do things at Church. We have the space to decide what we want to continue with as well as branching out and trying something new. Our mission and outreach may be renewed and revitalized at a time when people are still looking for ways to make sense of what has happened and to make changes in the way we live together. Our Annual Meeting on the 23rd May will be an appraisal of how we've managed through lockdown, but I would like to sound a positive note looking to the

future. So much has been put on hold but the time is coming when we will have far more freedom to gather together and move on from these hard times. The day is coming when St. John's will look more like it should, when what we have sorely missed will be "normal" again, and when we can finally sing our hearts out again full of the joy of being together round God's table, all family together once more. If you would like to be part of making this a reality, please do consider what you may want to be part of or help facilitate as we approach the Annual Meeting. Until then we will pray and keep our fingers crossed that we are on track for June.

Until then stay safe, Michael.



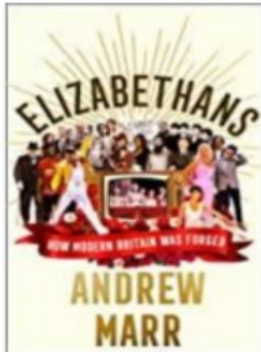
St John's APCM

23rd May

St John's PCC are looking for new members to be on the Church Council. Members will need to be on the church electoral roll to join.

Please speak to Father Michael, Lynn Sanger or Mike Broome for more information or email the parish office

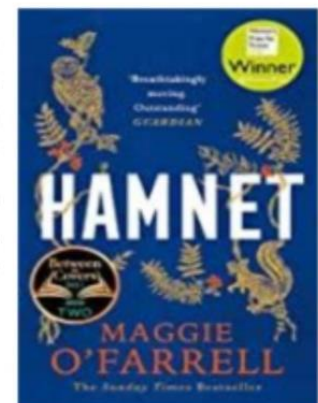
administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk



Our choice for April was a departure from the novels which usually feature in our selection: we chose **Andrew Marr's 'Elizabethans – how modern Britain was forged'**.

The book was serialised recently on TV and it raises some interesting issues. Andrew Marr writes as a journalist so many of the characters in this book may not have come to mind immediately when thinking about our Elizabethan age. From Diana Dors and Ruth Ellis, to Stephen Ward, Roy Jenkins and Rab Butler. Not forgetting James Dyson and Posh and Beck, Jimmy Reid, Grenfell and Windrush– they are all here and many more. Andrew Marr's wry humour pervades the book – it is not a simple social history but an attempt to glimpse at how we see ourselves – as part of Europe and then not, as pioneers and then our struggle with social change and everything turned upside down upset by Covid. It may not be the Elizabethan age that you remember but it does give plenty of food for thought. It attained an average score of 7/10. Interesting but not a riveting read!

Our choice for May will be **'Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell'**, who won the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2020 with this novel. We are taken back in time to the 1590s/1610s with a story about William Shakespeare's family, and notably 'Hamnet', William and Agnes' son. The author takes us back to the courtship of William and Agnes, relationships with Will's family and the devastating family tragedy caused by the plague, a regular occurrence in Elizabethan London. It is a beautifully written and imaginative novel. Definitely a book I would recommend.



Our choice for June will be **The Midnight Library by Matt Haig**. Also in the list of bestsellers, this is a thought provoking novel asking the question: 'Would you have done anything different if you had the chance to undo your regrets?'

It has been described as one of those books just right for us as we emerge from lockdown. A book of hope and looking forward. I am sure it will prove to be an interesting read.

Our next zoom meeting will be on Thursday 6th May at 8.00pm.

Take care and keep safe – and make some extra time for your reading before the gardening takes over.

Marilyn



'Dear St John's Family,

Thank you so much to those who shared their memories of, and tributes to our dear Derek in the April magazine; and indeed to all who held us in their thoughts and prayers,

It was good to hear how he was loved and valued, and revived happy memories of our years at St John's.

'Go well' as Derek would say.

With love

Celia Cordle, Elizabeth, David & Daniel.





St John's Church Old Malden



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services live via our YouTube Channel.**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJBOMry5u57ROosux4tfCKQ>



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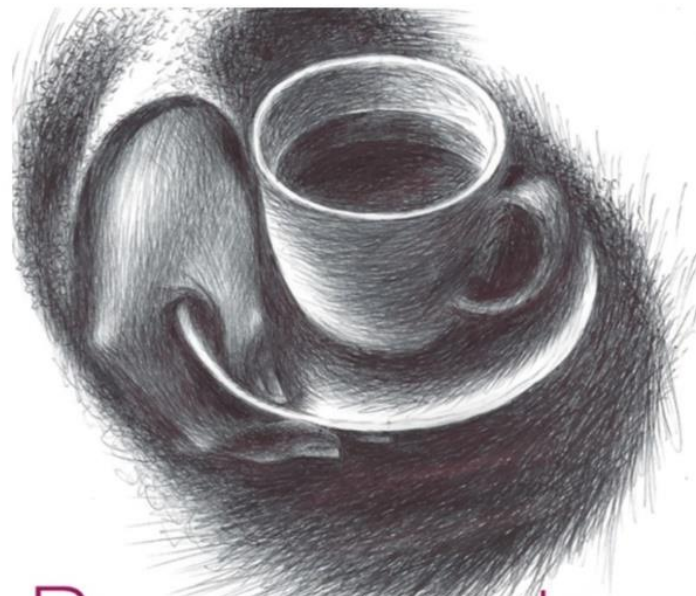
Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported St John's first Easter Draw, where for every 50p donated in the week before Easter a chance was given to win some lovely prizes.

Special thanks to Malden Manor Co Op and Tesco's at Plough Green for their generous chocolate egg donations.

Congratulations to all winners who have now received their prizes.
Enjoy!

The draw also resulted in over £200 to support the work of St John's being made.



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](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!

A tribute to Chris Hembrow 1938-2021

We were all very sad to hear that Chris had died. He had been a faithful worshipper for many years and had also been our Sacristan in the 80's, organising the serving team, and training new young people to serve. He was a very kind and gentle man who took his duties very seriously. He would spend hours up at church getting ready for the big services like Christmas and Easter. He was especially pleased to be able to serve Revd. Dorothy Nicholson at her first ever Eucharist, as you will see in the picture. As



many of you who knew him, weren't able to come to the service, as only 30 could attend, I have written down here some of the memories which Pat, Stuart and Julia put together for the service.

Chris spent much of his young life in Wales with his grandfather, his father was killed in the war in India when he was 8. Chris then grew up with his 3 sisters and mother.

He went on to serve in the army when he became 18 and was particularly proud to be in the Household cavalry, where he took part in the Trooping of the Colour, the state Opening of Parliament and other official occasions.



On leaving the army he trained as a butcher following in the footsteps of his own father. He met Pat and they married in 1968. He had met Pat through her father's retail butchery business and where he worked for many years. The closing of the business led him to other roles and self-employment.

Despite working long hours, his home life was a central part of his world and where his interests came to life, and he had many. He loved exploring the English countryside, art, history especially the Tudors, and he loved reading, Thomas Hardy and Hilary Mantel, in particular. He was also very creative. He made bookshelves, cupboards and furniture. He enjoyed military modelling, wood turning, drawing and painting. He would go to evening classes to learn new skills.

Sadly Chris suffered with Cancer in various forms from his 50's, but was very resilient throughout. Towards the end of his life, he got out a box of old maps marked with places he'd highlighted to visit. It was as if he was still thinking about where his family would go next.

We will miss him, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Pat, Julia and Stuart as they adjust to life without him, and we give thanks for all that he did for St John's.

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Milly

Hampton Court Palace Tulip Festival

Thank you to Marilyn who sent in her wonderful photos of the gorgeous tulips at Hampton Court Palace. The festival is on until May 3rd or you can check out their website to have a look at more photos and a you tube video.

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/whats-on/tulip-festival-2021/>



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