

# Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist, Malden

**December 2021**

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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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Large and small halls available for hire with kitchen facilities  
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Reasonable Rates - Recently Redecorated

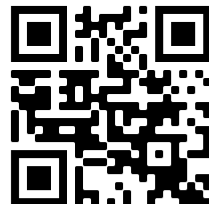
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton  
Tel: 020 8942 8321

# 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 December



### **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

## Vicar's Letter

We have had a lovely autumn so far and St. John's is feeling a bit more like its old self as more people have been able to join us worshipping on Sunday mornings. Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday saw our children's uniformed organisations back in Church in number, while the Annual Memorial service and All Souls' commemorations marked the return to the normal rhythm of things as we journey through to the end of the Church's year and the beginning of a new one at Advent.

You can probably imagine my response to the headlines recently that Christmas was "cancelled" due to the shortage of turkeys, children's toys, and HGV drivers. We have reached a very sorry state of affairs when the celebration of the birth of Christ hangs in the balance because we may not have every single thing we want to grace our tables or surround our Christmas trees. Even the Magi were late, but Jesus was born anyway and the world was changed forever. And although things have improved on the shopping front, Christmas may not measure up as much as we might expect. After the past two uncertain Christmases we all need and long for some normality to cheer our hearts and convince us that all will indeed come right. But far more than "things" I would wager that it is the people we miss most of all and want around us this year. It's been a long, hard road for many and a lonely one. What we need is the magic of Christmas shared with those we love, our families and our friends. So I would encourage everyone who can to get up-to-date with your jobs and make the most of the season, to be safe, sensible, and only do what you are comfortable doing.

To this end we are planning to offer something for everyone this Advent and Christmas. Advent Sunday is the 28<sup>th</sup> November with each following Sunday counting us down to the big day itself. The Angel Project is due to begin on Advent Sunday and we hope to replicate our success last year and provide a number of children locally with a gift card from Argos. On the 12<sup>th</sup> December at 4:00pm we will hold our first Messy Church where our younger members can make Christmas crafts and then go into Church as St. Lucia brings us the Christmas light, followed by mince pies and refreshments. The Crib service is Christmas Even at 3:00pm and we may be able to hold a dress rehearsal for those people who may not wish to join a crowd on the night.

The Choir will get us into the Christmas spirit with our annual carol service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm followed by refreshments. Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning as normal (8am and 9:45am). Boxing Day is the Sunday this year, both services as usual! Anyone making all three main Christmas services wins the “Triple Crown”. There is so much to look forward to and, unless everything goes absolutely pear-shaped, we are on track for a Christmas to remember. So do think about what you would like to take part in and remember that you can always join us online for the normal services.

With every good wish for Christmas,

Michael.

## .STEWARDSHIP 2021

Our Stewardship Appeal was launched on October 10<sup>th</sup> when Fr. Michael gave a sermon asking for all of us to understand our current financial position and to review our Giving to St. John's. If you missed his sermon, it can be found in the Parish Mailing of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October. He emphasised the need for all of us to consider our Giving so that the financial load is spread as evenly and as fairly as possible across our membership. It would also be great if new members could join to help us.

We will face some tough challenges in the coming years, and it is important that our day to day finances are on a sound basis, particularly when we start appealing for donations to help with the future building work needed. We are, of course, extremely grateful to all those who continue to support us, and particularly those who made generous donations in the last eighteen months. As we see St. John's opening up and returning to the new normal, we hope that everyone who can will continue to support us financially.

Red envelopes containing an Appeal and Response Leaflets were given out at the end of the service on October 10th, but if you were not there, then please try and collect one at the next opportunity.

Further information can be found on the St. John's website where these Leaflets can be downloaded: <https://stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk/stewardship-appeal/>. Please complete your Response and return it to the box in church or to the Parish Office, St. John the Baptist, Old Malden, Surrey KT4 7RY in an envelope marked for the attention of the Stewardship Officer. Please respond, even if you are unable to change your current regular giving. All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Richard Burkett

Chairman, Finance Committee



## Finding God in Silence



Our Julian Meeting at St John's is now fully operational again, normally on the second Monday of the month at 8 p.m. The Julian Meetings (named after the 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic Julian of Norwich) is a national organisation coordinating groups around the country dedicated to the practice of contemplative prayer. If you find prayer difficult, or just need a space in which to find stillness and peace, the Julian Meeting may be for you.

At our Julian Meeting, we start by lighting a candle to remind us that Jesus is always among those who come together in his name. There is a brief introduction from the leader – usually a few lines of poetry or prose – and then we sit in silence for 30 minutes. Many thoughts may come into our minds, not always holy or welcome; we simply acknowledge them and let them go. In the peace, we note the sounds around us, nearby and far away, the sounds of our own bodies – our breathing. We simply spend time with God. And, as an old man once put it, “I look at Him, He looks at me.” At the end, we say the Grace and enjoy a brief time of fellowship and refreshment.

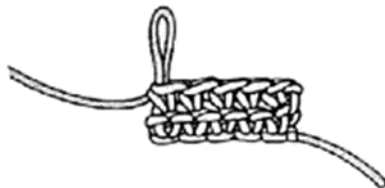
We warmly welcome new members and anyone who just wants to see what a Julian Meeting is like. There is no obligation to come every month – we will be delighted to see you whenever you can make it.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact: Chris Benson on 020 8224 3985 or email [c.benson87@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.benson87@ntlworld.com)

Note: the day may sometimes be varied to suit festivals, holidays or other events – please check with the church diary. Group members receive an e-mail reminder. Please arrive a few minutes before the start time as for security reasons we have to lock the outside door before we begin.

If you'd like to know more about the Julian Meetings, see [www.thejulianmeetings.net](http://www.thejulianmeetings.net)

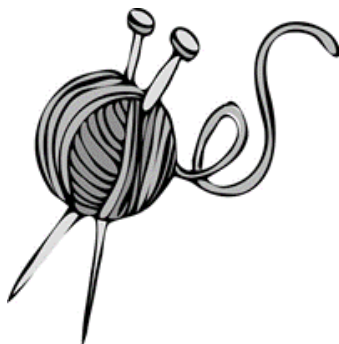
## St John's Crochet & Knitting Group – update



Our group is gradually getting back to pre-lockdown days and we continue to welcome anyone interested in knitting and crochet. Perhaps you feel a little rusty and would like to renew your skills or you may wish to learn to knit or crochet—we welcome new members and beginners too.

By popular request, we shall hold our regular meeting at the end of December – so put Thursday December 30<sup>th</sup> in your diary. Our post-Christmas get-together – time for a chat and plenty of tea and cake on offer too. From 2.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

*Marilyn Burkett*



## Remembering Joyce Smart

I first became friends with Joyce in the late 1960s when we belonged to the Ladies Group set up by Manor Drive Clinic for mums with young children. For a while we both worked at Malden Parochial School at the same time, Joyce as an assistant cook and me as a dinner mum. Later Joyce used her accountancy skills in the school office working alongside the wife of the headmaster, Fred Hugo. Joyce really enjoyed her many years at the school and became an important member of staff and she loved being around all the children. She especially enjoyed helping with the school trips abroad.

St John's was also very important to her and she had been a member of the congregation for a long time. She was an active member of the Mothers' Union taking on the role of Enrolling Member for a three year term and took part in all meetings and activities.

When a new brownie pack opened at the Parochial school Joyce also joined as an assistant and enjoyed all the Guiding activities in Old Malden and Worcester Park.

Joyce loved going on holidays and most years went abroad with a special set of friends. In later years she really appreciated friends taking her out for meals, going to the garden centres, to concerts or just driving out in to the countryside. On one trip, for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, she was taken back to her old haunts in Bethnal Green and, although the area had changed a lot, she was delighted to be able to see her old school and the doorway she used for work at Truman's Brewery, and the shop where her parents worked. Such a lot of memories of her past that have been told to us all.

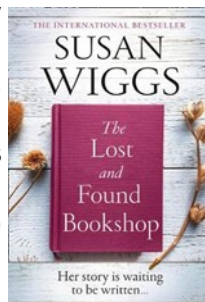
What I will remember most about Joyce is her friendly support and kindness to everyone she met, her generosity, her readiness to help wherever it was needed, a good listener and a lovely sense of humour. Thank you Joyce for being such a lovely friend and I know she will be remembered with much love and affection by everyone.

# St John's Reading Group

## December 2021



When we discussed this book at our November meeting, we did wonder at times whether we had read the same book! Views differed quite a lot but it made for an interesting evening. The *Lost & Found Bookshop* was written by the American author Susan Wiggs. Nathalie Harper's comfortable but predictable life is suddenly turned upside down, as she is confronted by the shock of personal loss. She leaves her reliable job and returns home to San Francisco to look after her grand-father and the family bookshop. New relationships, loss, one-parent families, divorce, romance, chance discoveries and of course, books all feature in this novel. It was not a very taxing read – and it suited the majority of the group with scores out of ten ranging from 9 to 3½. (My score was the lowest – and I could not wait to get to the end.) However, our evening was a good opportunity to exchange opinions and someone always picks up on something which many of us have missed.

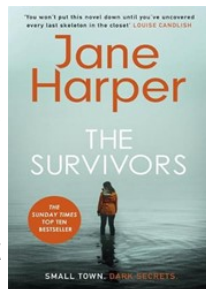


GRAHAM GREENE

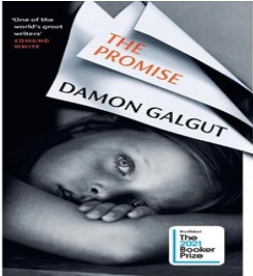


So at our December meeting we shall discuss the comical and satirical '**Our Man In Havana**' by Graham Greene. Sir Alec Guinness immediately comes to mind with Burl Ives, Maureen O'Hara and Sir Noël Coward acting alongside him in the 1959 film – a masterpiece directed by Carol Reed. The story of a vacuum cleaner salesman who is 'recruited' to act as a spy with his 'Atomic Vacuum Cleaner' as a front for a secret weapon. So as well as reading the book – I would recommend the film too. Both just brilliant!

When we meet in January, we shall discuss Jane Harper's latest novel '**The Survivors**'. Ms Harper is a popular author with the group and we have read *The Dry*, *Force of Nature* and *'the Lost Man'* – all set in Australia. The heat of the desert has certainly warmed us in our mid-winter months but this time, we must prepare ourselves for the icy waters of the Tasmanian Sea as a body is found on the beach.



You may have seen the TV adaptation of 'The Long Call' based on the novel by Anne Cleeves – a book which we have read in the group. The sequel has now been published and is entitled 'The Heron's Cry' which will be in paperback in the New Year. We look forward to that. Not Vera or Jimmy Perez this time but a new detective, Matthew Venn. These 'Two Rivers' novels are set in Devon – perhaps more familiar venues.



During November, the 2021 Booker prize winner for fiction was announced and the prestigious award went to Damon Galgut with his novel 'The Promise'. The novel is set in South Africa during the country's transition out of apartheid and has been described as 'spectacular' and a powerful exploration of relationships.

So many new books to tempt us in the bookshops at the moment – ready for all those Christmas purchases. From John Le Carré, Ken Follett, Chris Hadfield to Anthony Doerr, Richard Osman, Rose Tremain and Sebastian Faulks – the list is so inviting. So remember to include a few books on your Christmas List.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge (and on 'zoom') – when we hold our 'pre-Christmas' celebration as well as discussing the book and any other books which we have had time to read.

*Happy Reading!*

*Marilyn*

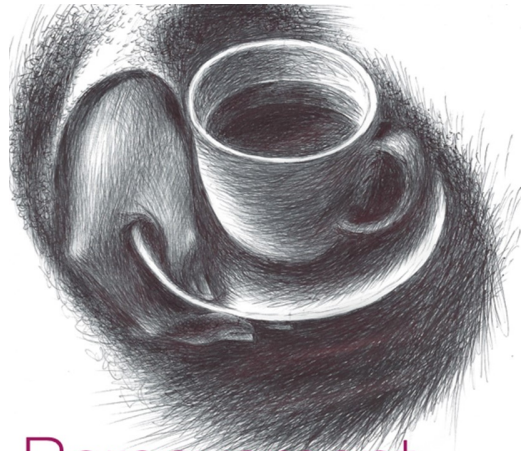




**The Parish Church of  
St John the Baptist,  
Malden  
(Church Road)**

**Service of Nine  
Lessons & Carols**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>  
December 2021  
at 6.30pm**



## 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!

## THE GRAHAM CHILD CHRISTMAS CAROLS

**1st December, 2021**

Well, last year, Christmas 2020, was very different for all of us. Having cancelled our booking at the New Malden Methodist Church for our annual Christmas Carols Evening, we then – rather bravely, we felt – decided to try and do it by Zoom. And with a lot of help - it happened! We had contributions from some old friends, and some new ones, some live and some videos – the videos included Hampton School Choir, my brother and sister-in-law from Germany (oboe and organ), and an extract from their Christmas video very generously donated by the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, and we had live music from Wales and Greenwich as well as several of my family reading poems. I’m still not sure my granddaughters realised they had actually “volunteered”!

What was missing, of course, was the main point of the evening – community carol singing. But now that’s back, and we are very much looking forward to seeing everyone again. This year we are raising money for Anstee Bridge, a local organisation which works in the borough supporting teenagers with social, emotional needs and mental health problems. [www.ansteebridge.co.uk](http://www.ansteebridge.co.uk)

It’s a great evening, it seems to mark the countdown to Christmas and will really start to get you in the Christmas spirit – do please come if you can.

1st December, 2021, 7.45 p.m. at New Malden Methodist Church, 49 High Street, New Malden

Tickets £7 per person to include tea/coffee & mince pie

contact me, Bobby Child 07946 532 846 or Lynda Rowland lynrow0761@btopenworld.com





Kingston Inner Wheel Club invites you to

**Graham Child**  
**CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

**Wednesday 1st December 2021**  
**7.45 pm**

**The Methodist Church**  
**49 High Street**  
**New Malden, Surrey**  
**KT3 4BY**

**Tickets £7 each**

*Contact: Bobby Child : 07946 532 846*  
*or Lynda Rowland : lynrow9761@btopenworld.com*

In Support of



## Favourite Scripture

One of my favourite scripture verses is Philippians 4.8, where Christians are exhorted to think about good things. For many years now I have tried to heed this. Sometimes we are forced to focus on things that have not gone well and even make formal complaints. I never liked having to do that so began to balance an occasional need to complain by thinking of someone I could thank for good service. As the habit grew, I found myself expressing thanks more deliberately, without first needing a grouse to offset.

After some months in Kent, I hope you in Worcester Park recognise with gratitude the good service you have enjoyed from Kingston's rubbish removal and recycling service over many years, under both Tory and LibDem council regimes. A line of wheelie bins in the garden may not be particularly scenic but they are a jolly sight better than the piles of bulging plastic bags we have to gather here! Sevenoaks Council uses no bins, just plastic bags for 'landfill' and recycling. Paper, tins and some plastics are collected but glass, fabrics, batteries etc have to be taken elsewhere. Food waste goes in with general rubbish, which encourages birds and animals to break into the bags and spread mess around. Here in the country there are foxes, though less than in London, but also badgers, cats and crows.

I found it sad that the waste services were rarely mentioned when key workers through the pandemic were given public appreciation. Had these other public servants not maintained regular collections, life would have been more unpleasant. I urge you to remember their important service with thanksgiving, and to take any opportunities to tell the waste collectors that they are appreciated. My experience is that they are often surprised to be noticed, as too are those who sweep up the mess of litter so often dropped around our streets.

When we 'count our blessings' it is no bad thing to express our thanks to those who provide some of them.

Faith Bowers

## **Our Sponsored Children, Junior and Mara.**

Every time you purchase an item from the Church's Traidcraft Stall you are not only helping to support the farmers and communities in poor areas of our world to be independent and to care for their environment, but also you are supporting Junior and Mara.

The Traidcraft Stall sponsor the children through Action Aid who keep us posted as to how they are. Junior from Zambia must be about 12 now. We heard recently from him. He is working hard for his exams and enjoys football. Due to the pandemic the children were going to school hungry. However thanks to the sponsorship programme Action Aid were able to provide food parcels to over 1,000 vulnerable families in Nakonde, the area where Junior lives.

'Mara' in Afghanistan is younger. Before the Taliban took over we heard from her. She sent us a picture and said she goes to the Child Centre twice a week. She said she was a member of the Poem and Song Group. Since then we had a letter from Action Aid in August to say 'Mara' and her family were safe. However its a rapidly changing situation and Action Aid are trying to stay in touch with their colleagues and ensure they get regular updates. They have started a Special Afghanistan Emergency Appeal as many people have fled their homes.

See action [aid.org.uk/helpafghanistan](https://aid.org.uk/helpafghanistan)

The young people at Children's Ministry will be able to continue to send messages, pictures and photos to Junior and 'Mara' now they are meeting again after the lockdown.

Please continue to pray for Junior and 'Mara' and the situation in Afghanistan.

Anne Beales

## Gardeners Corner

### December is the best time to plant hardy perennials.

Hardy perennials include trees, shrubs, fruit bushes and herbaceous plants which are able to withstand the British Winters.

The biggest threat to any newly planted hardy perennial is in their first Summer, and the potential to die or at least be set back by the hot dry weather as they may be unable to take up enough water. Those plants that have been growing in the same place for a number of years will almost certainly have established their roots and will find water easier to discover.

By the 1st December, the hardy perennials have settled into their Winter state, having closed down all their above-ground activity and set their buds, and are sometimes described as dormant. There will, however, be a lot going on underground!

Firstly, the fine roots, which are frequently lost during planting, will start to form as the plant settles into its new surroundings.

Secondly, there is also a very important association for the plant to make, and that is with the mycorrhizae fungi in the soil. In recent years, more and more is being found out about mycorrhizal fungi, and the way in which they join with plants in a symbiotic relationship. A symbiotic relationship means that they both prosper from their relationship. The fungi do not have the capacity to make sugars, which the plant makes in its leaves and it gives some to the fungi, however the fungi invariably have much larger underground networks which provide the plant with water and minerals.

The longer the plant has to establish its roots and fungal networks, the more time they have to prepare themselves for the challenges that a hot, dry summer brings. As usual, there are some notable exceptions, and one exception is the Iris, which prefers to be planted in the summer – it comes from the Mediterranean and so is used to hot, dry weather.

Just a quick note about plants bought in containers: this practice was brought in so that customers could see plants in full flower during the Spring, Summer or Autumn. The trouble, I've had with these plants is that, once planted, their root ball can quickly dry out and be difficult, if not impossible, to rehydrate, so these plants will also benefit from planting in December.

If you are thinking of planting out during the Winter, never plant when the soil is frozen or icy as frozen soil may damage the roots.

Happy planting!

Keith Marshall



## From the register

October 30th—Wedding of John Elsom  
and Judith Elliott

November 7th—Baptism of Albie  
Gregory

November 21st—Baptism of Nora  
Murphy



# 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/>

# Thank you

I have been your Parish Administrator for nearly four months now and I really wanted to say thank you. I have been made to feel very welcome and found everyone to be very friendly. I feel really settled and already feel part of the St Johns family although I must make the time to visit a Sunday service which isn't easy as I'm a churchwarden at Holy Cross, Motspur Park. I will do as soon as I can. I'm learning everyone's names and I'm also thankful for everyone answering my endless questions. No two churches run the same and although I've been Parish Administrator at Holy Cross for 11 years it's a smaller church and my role there is quite different. I look forward to many more years at St John's and hope to meet more of you as time goes along. Thanks again

Sally Pusey





# The Angel Project

Following last year's success, we are launching our Angel Project appeal on Advent Sunday. Over a hundred children received a gift last year thanks to your generosity. In partnership with the Malden Manor Children's Centre and local primary schools, we will be purchasing an Argos Gift Card for local children in need again this Christmas so that their parents can ensure that every child receives something they really want or need. The gift cards were a boon during lockdown and made a real difference to families struggling with financial and employment challenges. Best of all they make shopping much easier as you don't have to guess what a child needs.

If you would like to take part, please visit our website to donate online or make a donation in Church in an envelope marked "Angel Project" by the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

*Thank you!*

We Wish  
You All A  
Very Happy  
Christmas!



# 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.

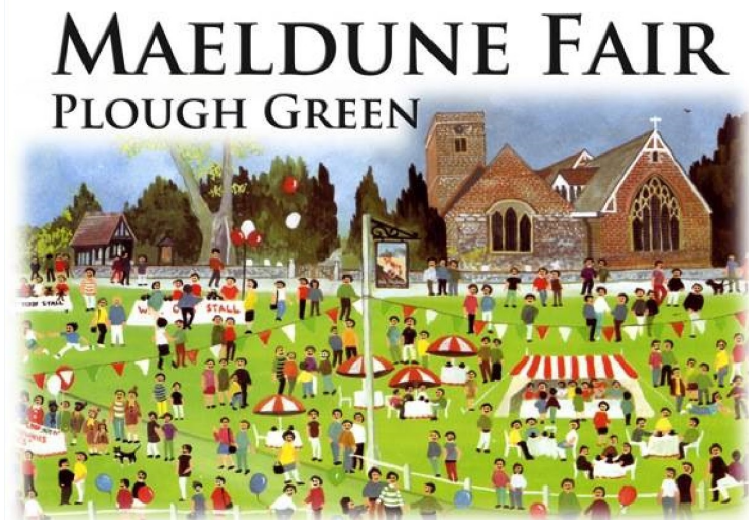
St John's faces a very difficult financial future as a consequence of the pandemic and has suffered a great loss of income.

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>

## The Romanian Aid Foundation Prayer Notes November 2021



As many of you will know, St John's has supported the Romanian Aid Foundation for many years - mainly through our many donations of knitted & crochet blankets, new children's knitted garments and hats, gloves and scarves for adults and children - with the brilliant contributions from our Knitting & Crochet Group. I have been involved in this since 1992 - so we have a long record.

This is the latest update from The Romanian Aid Foundation: 'Romania continues to be in the grip of the COVID pandemic. Official figures published at the end of October showed an infection rate of 10.6 per 1,000 residents (the UK equivalent was shown as 8.5). These are national figures; areas of greater population density are generally higher. There is widespread scepticism about vaccines and, in the absence of a stable government, it is left to local authorities to enforce such restrictions as they think appropriate. Additionally, the concentration on COVID has diverted resources from treating other health conditions. Several people known personally to members of our team have died recently. In addition to the health crisis, Romania is experiencing severe economic problems. Food is plentiful after the harvest but it is becoming increasingly expensive, with some items now costing 50% more than last year. Energy prices are out of control and unemployment is rising. These factors combine to ensure that there is no shortage of people asking us for help. We are grateful for the loads received recently and are in a good position to help people with clothing and other household essentials. We can offer food including rice sent by the team in Wales and other food items acquired locally but firewood - essential for most rural households - has become difficult to obtain legally. Not surprisingly, there are many requests for financial assistance. Items for donation remain free of taxes but items that are intended for the shop now incur an import duty. This, together with increases in our own operating costs, means that our ability to help is very limited. RoAF is essentially a faith-based organisation that relies on prayer. Prayer is our connection with

God's ultimate power source and, without prayer support, this work would achieve nothing of lasting value.'

St John's has contributed several large sacks of various knitted/crochet items which were collected from me mid-November. A request has been made for more adult knitted hats and scarves as well as knitted/crochet blankets. (They would prefer the squares to be assembled next time.) We know that all our donations will be much appreciated: the lorry set off from Kent at the end of November and there will be additional consignments in the New Year. So if you can help.....

[The Romanian Aid Foundation and Asociatia Neemia Working with Romanian people to bring help to the needy, hope through the Christian message and co-operation through joint ventures. UK registered charity 1060828]

Thank you for your support.

*Marilyn*



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