

# Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist, Malden

**February 2023**

50p

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# Old Malden News

**The Parish Magazine of  
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Church Road, Worcester Park KT4 7RY

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Copy date for the magazine is the 15th of the month and  
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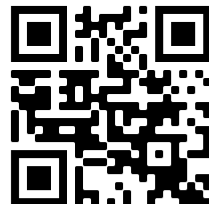
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton  
Tel: 020 8942 8321

# St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

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Hall Bookings	Mrs Pat Sutton	020 8942 8321
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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 February



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

St John's is open for worship so please see the Parish Mailing for details Live Streaming of services will continue so you will be able to see services live via our YouTube Channel.

**Sunday 8am** - Said Eucharist

**Sunday 9.45am** - Sung Eucharist

### **Wednesday 11am — Said Eucharist**

The midday Eucharist on Wednesdays has been moved to 11am to cater for the Mothers' Union which 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

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, that moment when Mary and Joseph bring Jesus into the most sacred place of the Jewish faith and only two wise people recognise him for who he truly is. Simeon delivers his warning to the baby's mother and the emphasis shifts as we follow Jesus week by week on that fateful journey to Jerusalem. Soon we will be in the rhythm of Lent as we take the opportunity to recharge our spiritual batteries and nurture those tender shoots as our faith is renewed. It is my aim to provide the opportunities for everyone to engage with the story of Jesus' journey to the Cross and beyond, enabling you to make the most of Lent and reach Easter Sunday refreshed and confident in God's own calling to each one of us so that we may make the most of the gifts he has given us all.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday** with Holy Communion and Ashing offered at both 11:00am and 8:00pm. Our overarching theme this year will be Justice, and this will inform our preaching on Sunday mornings as well as provide our theme for our **Lent groups**. We will be using the Church of England's new Lent course, *Live Lent Embracing Justice*, that comes with daily meditations and a focus for each week. As with last year the groups will meet on Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm in the Coffee Lounge at Church, with an afternoon group meeting on Wednesdays at 2:00pm. You are welcome to chop and change between groups to suit your schedule. Booklets will be available to pre-order at a cost of £2.00.

Many of us are new to St. John's and others are old hands, but most of us have questions about Lent, Holy Week, and even Jesus himself. I want to offer an informal space for people to come and share their questions over a cup of tea as we unpack some of the mystery of what goes on in a service, and what it might mean for us individually. From Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February through 1<sup>st</sup> April (10:00- 11:30am), I will be holding an **open discussion group** in the Coffee Lounge each Saturday morning so we can ask those niggling questions we haven't had the chance to ask before.

In addition to our normal pattern of Children's Ministry and Little Fishes, we will be celebrating **Mothering Sunday Parade Service** with gusto on 19<sup>th</sup>

March with our various uniformed groups. On Palm Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> April) we will have our first **Messy Easter** at 3:00pm. Children of all ages welcome to join us for this!

Finally I would like to ask you all if there would be interest in having **Lent lunches** on Wednesdays between the Holy Communion services and the Lent group? This could be a group effort involving a wide range of people who would like to attend either the service or the group and have a welcome chance to socialise over a simple lunch of soup, bread, and cheese. It would involve asking for volunteer soup makers and helpers to set up and clear away for six weeks running from 1<sup>st</sup> March. Any chance of six cooks to stir the pot?

Those of you who know me well are well-aware that I have a weakness for all things chocolatey and sweet. Keeping Lent is always a personal challenge. What if we threw a little Shrove Tuesday party on 21<sup>st</sup> February where we could enjoy some pancakes and everyone could bring whatever they are giving up and we could consume our temptations in a jolly evening before Lent begins? I can't make it happen on my own, but would love to hear from anyone interested in making something along these lines happen. In the meantime, do have that one more biscuit or chocolate! Lent is coming and we will be ready.

*Michael*

## Ascension

Some of you may recall that a few years ago I wrote a number of short articles about my spell on Ascension Island in the mid-sixties, working on some communications facilities and supporting infrastructure. Well, I have just had a trip down memory lane. A friend, knowing of my past experiences, told me about a recently released book entitled “Ascension” and thought I might be interested. Well, since Father Christmas was just around the corner, I let it be known to the great and the good of the Sutton clan that this book might be a useful stocking filler.

What a joy it was, not that I am recommending it to the St John’s reading group, but for my own memories. The book is a spy/thriller set on Ascension Island, with frequent throw backs to spy controllers and the like in London – M15 and M16. So much so that virtually every chapter alternated from one location to the other. However, what thrilled me was the sort of detail that was included, in terms of background information and scene setting. Clearly, whoever wrote the book had done a good deal of detailed research into the Island, its history, geology, flora and fauna. They might even have been resident there.

The land crabs, wild donkeys, Green Mountain, the various locations, the police force, Comfortless Cove, the Administrator, the Island Club were all part of the fabric of the book. The only things that appeared to have changed or to not relate to my own experiences were things like the presence of a petrol station, the location of the Administration and the weather. The Island is on the equator and, yet, when I was there it never struck me as being unduly hot, because of the constant sea breezes – it is in the middle of the South Atlantic – and the only times I really got hot were when I went to the beach and nestled down in an old depression made by an egg laying turtle and got out of the wind. A general temperature throughout the year of about 31 Centigrade. Yet the book talks of the searing temperatures etc.

As far as readability goes, I would say it was a good read, with a good deal of suspense and I would recommend it to those who fancy a trip down memory lane – but there are not too many of those in the congregation, with due respect to Brian Whaymand.

Malcom Sutton



## WHY EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A WILL

Following on from last month's article on the importance of writing a will, the Church of England has partnered with Farewill, the UK's favourite will writer, to offer a **free** online will writing service which you can do from the comfort of your home in less than 30 minutes.

This is one way of making the process of writing a will easier and keeping it updated.

A will is the only way to make sure your wishes are carried out after your death, giving you peace of mind that you can continue to support the family, friends and charities you love.

Here is the link <https://farewill.com/cofe>

**For more information on leaving a legacy to St John's you can speak in confidence to our Legacy Officer David Owen.**

**Please contact David via the Parish Office on 0208 330 2817 or [administrator@stjohnsoldmalDEN.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stjohnsoldmalDEN.org.uk)**

# **CHRISTMAS DAY EVENT 2022**

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*'It is so good to be back together again on Christmas Day after having had meals delivered over the last two years'* said one of our very appreciative guests who had been coming to this event for many years. Everyone agreed with this and it was a very happy day and amazing to think we were also celebrating 50 years of this event taking place.

Our grateful thanks go once again to our fantastic cooks Jemma Stedman, Jill Holditch and Kate Willoughby together with other members of their family who all did an extremely wonderful job of producing an excellent traditional Christmas meal for 35 people. A great team.

There were many other people who contributed to the success of this event: Heather Mathews our entertainment hostess who brought fun and laughter during the afternoon; The Atkins family who prepared and donated the supper bags and contents and spent the day looking after the guests; Janet, Ros, Angela and Janice who helped with greeting guests, washing up, making tea and coffee, etc; Grahame our tech man; to Andy who made the celebration cake; to all others who came during the afternoon to help; and to our carol singing choir members rounding off a lovely day. It must be mentioned that it was an enormous help to have many stay at the end of the day to put away tables and chairs, as was the number of people who turned up on Christmas Eve to set up. Thank you to EVERYONE.

We must also thank all those who donated gifts and goods to this event and we are especially grateful for the generous donation from New

Malden Rotary to help finance the event.

We were pleased to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Kingston during the afternoon who spent time chatting to everyone.

I have had the honour and pleasure of organising this very important outreach event for many years and it is now time to ask St. John's members to help out and spread the load. At one time we had a small committee each with a job to do. However as people drop out for various reasons it has become very difficult to find other people to help. Please get in touch if you would like to be part of this wonderful event so that Christmas Day 2023 will run smoothly and everyone can enjoy the day.

Pat Lovegrove

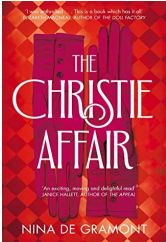






# St John's Reading Group

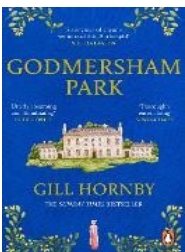
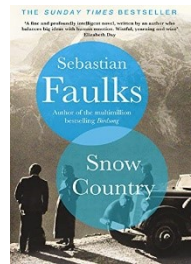
## February 2023



For our January meeting, we selected **The Christie Affair** by Nina de Gramont, a mystery based on the disappearance of Agatha Christie in 1926. We began reading this novel with high hopes and the first half of the book was very plausible. An account of the affair between Archie Christie and his secretary, Nan O'Dea. However, the story then included the 'back-story' of Nan's life in Ireland before she escaped the imposed life of the

convent. Rather too much of a coincidence was the fact that it was Nan's former boyfriend Finbar who rescued Agatha from her crashed car. Having said all that, it was quite a good read if you suspended all credibility (especially when Agatha and the detective trying to find her became entangled in an amorous affair). Pure fiction so be warned. Scores ranged from 5-9 with an average of 7/10. By the way, the cover is very eye-catching!

Our choice for February is Sebastian Faulks' **Snow Country** which has been described as 'a landmark novel of exquisite yearnings, dreams of youth and the sanctity of hope – an epic love story of timeless resonance'. Although this novel is the second in a planned trilogy which spans the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it does stand alone as a good read. The futility of war and its effect on humanity is close to the author's heart – maybe time to revisit 'Birdsong'?



For March, we shall revisit the world of Jane Austen with the new novel by Gill Hornby entitled '**Godmersham Park**'. Anne Sharp has fallen on hard times and she is forced to become a governess to twelve-year-old Fanny Austen, the daughter of Edward Austen, one of Jane's brothers. When Henry Austen, the youngest brother arrives at Godmersham Park with his sister Jane, there is great excitement and life becomes a lot more interesting and I suspect that love is in the air. The group read **Miss Austen**, Gill

Hornby's previous novel on the Austens and it was a popular read. So we have high hopes here and we really need a fair share of escapism at the moment.

When I have finished reading Robert Harris' **Act of Oblivion**, I shall start to read **The Marriage Portrait** by Maggie O'Farrell, so I need a few more train journeys to London to increase my reading time. I have several more paperbacks waiting: Elif Shafak's **The Island of Missing Trees**, (short-listed for the Costa Novel Award) and Claire Keegan's **Small Things Like These**, (short-listed for the 2022 Booker Prize).

The evenings are gradually getting lighter – but February is always a short, sharp month. Just look for the hope in the snowdrops!

Our next Reading Group meeting will be on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023** at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. Please note change of date.

*Marilyn*

**St John's Knitting & Crochet Group** will be meeting on the last Thursday afternoon of the month. (23<sup>rd</sup> February).

If you would like a warm, friendly space, then you are most welcome to join us, especially if it is too cold to go walking or shopping. We meet at St John's Church Coffee Lounge from 2.00pm-4.00pm. Bring your knitting or crochet and enjoy a cup of tea (or two) with cake and biscuits.



*Marilyn*



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pickled beetroot.  
Shampoo shower gel  
Toilet rolls





# 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 21st February 2:00- 3:30pm. We have been very fortunate to be trained and supported by Princess Alice Hospice, who will continue to work with us to provide this needed service for our community.



With things opening up again please help raise much-needed donations for St John's Old Malden - Repairs Fund when you plan ahead and arrange things to do! From booking staycations and getaways to tickets for concerts or other fun activities, remember to use #easyfundraising to raise FREE donations for us. Book now: <http://efraising.org/fx3w1QPP7u>

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