

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

July 2022

50p

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Old Malden News

**The Parish Magazine of
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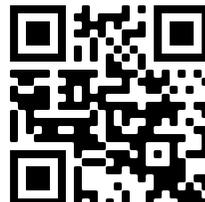
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QR code with your smart phone camera



Services for July



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 July 2022

I have an interest to declare. This wasn't the topic I had hoped to write about for the July letter, but circumstances have forced my hand. My interest is that I was a Cub Scout when I was seven and eight years old. So what I write may be a bit biased, but I shall leave that to your judgement. The fact that I wasn't a very good Cub Scout and didn't stick the course as my father and uncles all did may be beside the point, but I was immensely flattered when the 1st Egham Hythe Scouts made me an honorary Scout near the end of my nine years as parish priest in the Hythe. This was in recognition of years of working with and alongside our local children's uniformed groups who became much more involved in the Parish Church than previously. It was one of the things I accomplished there that I remain very proud of.

As some of you will know our own 1st Old Malden Scouts was founded by my predecessor Fr. Kenneth Ross in a disused WWI Civil Defence hut next to the Church Hall. John Major was a Scout here. The Hut has been rebuilt many times, most recently after a great fundraising effort over twenty years ago in memory of Tim Eggit, our much loved Scout leader who was tragically killed in an accident. His family remain very much involved and committed to Scouting in the Parish. In the 1970's the Church managed to buy the freehold of the site of the Church Hall including the adjacent Hut. In July 2020 the previous lease expired and the Churchwardens and I have been labouring to secure a new letting agreement to secure the Scout's future in their home and to keep the connection with St. John's.

Unfortunately we have been delayed at every step as the Diocese has gotten very involved in the process. Dioceses have legal oversight of all Church properties held by the parishes of the Church of England. We cannot sell, let, or alter anything without their consent. From the beginning the law was laid down very clearly that profit comes first under Charity law, and that we must demonstrate that we are maximise our income. Currently the Scouts pay 135 pounds a year, essentially ground rent as they built the Hut from scratch and continue to maintain it. This has worked well for the parish because we don't have to pay for maintenance and the Scouts allow us to use the Hut when we need it.

We have used the solicitors recommended by the Diocese because all things must be cleared by them. We required a surveyor to prepare a report on the rental value of the Church Hall and the Hut to feed into the final agreement, and the solicitors suggested someone who is experienced in church properties. From the beginning this surveyor has focussed on redeveloping the Hall site in its entirety, repeating this at every meeting in spite of the fact I made it crystal clear that the Hall doesn't need redeveloping nor do we have the time and energy for such a project when we are focussed on fundraising for the restoration of the Church itself. It turned out that said surveyor was very much involved in the redevelopment of Christ Church's hall and vicarage in New Malden. Every proposal he has come up with was for a short letting agreement of two years with a maximum of three "in order to give the Scouts time to find other premises". I have repeatedly made my view clear as have the Churchwardens. The Scouts are an integral part of St. John's and it is vital to keep them involved at Church and valued for all that they bring. One of the Diocesan goals is to

increase the number of children in Church by 30% and we cannot do this without our uniformed organisations and their families. Mission is our priority, not money! In the end we negotiated our own agreement with the Scouts and came up with something that was workable for both sides, this was supported by a resolution of the PCC. We proposed a ten year term with 2000 pounds a year after a two year transitional arrangement (500, 1250, then 2000 from the third year). They also have agreed to pay 5000 pounds towards the cost of the new agreement. This will not cover the fees in full due to the delays and changes proposed by the Diocese. St. George's Day service came out of these discussions and a renewed focus on parade services at Mothering Sunday, Harvest, and Remembrance. Those of you who have attended one of these will know how well received they were.

Mike Broome, Lynn Sanger, and I met with Jackie Pontin, the Deputy Diocesan Secretary, and John Kiddle, our Archdeacon back in February. The Archdeacon supported our approach and we left there with what appeared to be a consensus that St. John's was acting against its financial interests but in line with its missional ones. The Diocese was willing to support this. Now with the long awaited report from the surveyor that tune has changed and the Diocese refuse to support us in our new agreement. They want the shorter term and more money from the Scouts.

The Diocese appears to be determined to have the money, even if it means losing the Scouts altogether. I am amazed at the Scout leadership's patience and forbearance through this whole process. I wouldn't be in least surprised if they threw their hands up and left. They have been very poorly treated. As I have said to the Archdeacon, the Diocesan leadership, and others, if St. John's were to lose our Scouts then my position here becomes untenable. The reputational damage to me and the parish would be extensive and our mission to children and their families would be much, much more difficult if not impossible.

Benjamin and I are very happy here and we have every intention of staying as long as we can, but I cannot do the job entrusted to me at my induction with both hands tied behind my back. Growing with our uniforms enables us to meet one of our Mission Action Plan key points, to build a Eucharistic community for all ages, and helps us achieve an important Diocesan goal. If they are forced to leave our premises that will not happen and I will have no choice but to find a new post. I gave my word to the Scout leadership and I stand on my honour. That will not be taken from me even if everything else is. Let us hope the Diocese sees sense, but I am not holding my breath.

Yours sincerely,

Michael

GLULEZ

GLULEZ – It just rolls off the tongue doesn't it? GLULEZ stands for the Greater London Ultra Low Emission Zone. It is coming to a borough near you on 29 August 2023 under proposals announced by the London Mayor.

GLULEZ is an extension of the current ULEZ. It has some very worthy ambitions to tackle air pollution, climate change and traffic congestion. Who would not agree with such aims? Naturally when it was announced at Forest Hill School in Lewisham on 11 March 2022, the staff and pupils were very supportive on TV. However, this is not really very surprising as the school is only about 250 yards south of the South Circular - just outside the present ULEZ boundary. Many could be expected to walk for some of their way to school along the South Circular. The location was carefully chosen for this announcement.

The difficulty comes in the timing and way GLULEZ is to be implemented. If you have a non compliant vehicle it will cost you £12.50 to drive in the GLULEZ every day. If you pass a GLULEZ camera in a non-compliant vehicle and don't realise it, the cost will be £180, although if you pay quickly this is reduced to £90. Changing your car is unlikely to be quick or easy in these circumstances as everyone else affected is likely to have the same idea, as was found with vans when the ULEZ was introduced. Prices of second hand vehicles are likely to increase and if you would like a nice new electric vehicle - well there is quite a waiting list with vehicles currently taking around 6 months for delivery.

A key question is: are Kingston and Sutton badly affected by pollution? It would appear not from a pollution map produced by the Evening Standard <https://www.standard.co.uk/tech/map-reveals-londons-pollution-stress-a4566351.html> . Yes there are areas affected by pollution outside the current ULEZ, but you can pretty much guess where these might be, such as along the M4 corridor, the M1, A10, M11 and the A23 from the centre towards Croydon. Much of this is therefore away from south London and there has been a vigorous campaign against the GLULEZ in Bexley.

So why the haste to introduce GLULEZ? The Mayor has a policy for zero emissions by 2030 and wheelchair vehicles are being given until 2027 to be compliant, yet for most vehicles the date is August 2023. The answer to this question probably lies in the financial situation of Transport for London which has been adversely affected by the Pandemic. Revenues are down considerably and central Government is not bailing out TfL to the extent it would like. At the recent opening of the works to improve Bank Station, the Mayor said this was likely to be the last upgrade for some time because of the TfL financial situation. It has been estimated an extra 135,000 vehicles

would fall within the GLULEZ zone. When ULEZ was introduced 77,000 motorists were caught out. If payments were made by all 77,000 drivers of non-compliant vehicles driving in the zone daily, the revenue generated would be almost £1million per day (£962,500 based on a £12.50 charge). You can see the financial attraction of GLULEZ to the Mayor and it has been called a stealth tax on motorists. Even Mayor Khan has conceded that nearly one in ten vehicles driving within the zone face the £12.50 daily charge, according to the AA.

The AA also said the first-month figures when ULEZ was introduced in October 2021 hid the true toll of the ULEZ expansion on the poorest people living in the capital, who rely on their cars to get them to work and for essential trips, especially as at that time many needed to avoid public transport in the build-up to Christmas over fears about the Omicron variant of Covid.

Is your vehicle likely to be compliant with GLULEZ? Liability for ULEZ is based on how much nitrogen oxide a car emits. Most petrol models registered after 2005 are exempt, while diesel cars typically need to have hit the road since 2015 to avoid charges. You can check whether your vehicle meets these standards by popping in your registration on this site <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle/> .

Fortunately there is a consultation going on which will enable you to make your views known. It gives you the opportunity for comment or you can send in a freehand response. As usual be careful how you answer the questions as they appear framed to produce a positive response for the Mayor. The consultation is here https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/cleanair?tool=survey_tool : it closes on 29 July.

Chris Sanger

23 May 2022

The Daisy Family - The Largest Family of Plants

The botanical name for the daisy family is Asteracea which was previously called Compositae. It is the family with the largest number of species. It is estimated that there are 32,581 species, with over 1,600 genera growing on all the continents excluding Antarctica.

Asteracea has a number of strategies to enable it to spread. Firstly, members of the daisy family clearly have the ability to mutate and adapt to different climates and environments across the world and this is demonstrated through the numerous species being found across five continents.

Secondly, all members of Asteracea share a common reproductive feature - the arrangement of individual flowers or florets into a composite or “false flower” or pseudanthium. The sunflower is an example of a composite flower, it has many flowers making up one large flower so that when a pollinating insect visits these composite flowers they pollinate lots of individual flowers at the same visit. This, in turn, means that they are capable of producing more seed and increases their potential to spread.

Thirdly, you may have seen David Attenborough narrating the Green Planet programme, in which he took the temperature of common daisies which were growing in lawns. He found that the temperature within these flowers was higher by a few degrees when compared with the air temperature, just the sort of incentive a pollinating bee would like and value.

Finally, a large number of daisy flowers produce different seed cases within the same composite flower. The central flowers or disc florets produce seed which is likely to be spread near the plant, however the outside or ray florets have a different shaped seed case and these enable this seed to spread much more widely. Interestingly, in some of the daisy flowers, eg calendulas, the seed cases of the disc florets and the ray florets can be found in the same seed packets and the plants which grow from the different seed cases will all be the same.

July, August and September are good months for spotting these very colourful flowers. Keith Marshall

Celebrating 'being together' with a Church BBQ

After a lack of social activities due to lockdown, 70 people celebrated being together again with a BBQ after church on 15th May.

A wonderful spread of salads was provided by the Fundraising Team, while Patrick Riley barbequed sausages, chicken drumsticks and kebabs. This was followed by a variety of gateaux and cakes.

In spite of the drizzle, it was a great success, with lots of eating and chatting! While several stayed outside, a few took cover in the coffee lounge!



As this magazine goes to press, preparations for the Maeldune Fair on 25 June are underway!

QUIZ: FLORAL DANCE

Can you identify these flowers of garden, hedgerow, fields and woods?

1. Found in Flanders' fields
2. Reply for a tandem
3. Preserved product of the dairy herd
4. Has a vain personality disorder
5. Teutonic wines for Christmas
6. Brotherly love or sham fruit
7. Cowardly baby toy
8. Sugared little invoice
9. Summoning to martyr's shrine
10. The universe, perhaps
11. Ring for Scottish alternative to English woodland favourite
12. Glamorous cook
13. Its daily action would delight the old Shakers
14. Vulpine protection
15. Small vessel for churned curds
16. The answer is blowing in the wind
17. Best to avoid jaws of oriental beast
18. Broken-hearted
19. Wise king's marine mammal
20. Goddess of the rainbow
21. Sad observer of the dancers
22. 'That's for remembrance'
23. Fictional saviour of Gallic upper classes
24. Rod too long in old room heater
25. High hit for young sheep who summarised the Bard
26. Amphibian's linseed
27. Shrinking, perhaps in Devon

28. Clothes-conscious African monarch
29. Thrown by Ozzie dame
30. Sedate little flower of England
31. Small blooms but right for huge animal
32. A saxifrage for capital's self-esteem
33. Not quite the first woman MP
34. Honied cousin of a small vegetable
35. Bloom for a striped carnivore
36. Sounds like large ovine groups
37. Hazy romance
38. Goad for bird that might not be
39. Reserve supplies
40. Large blooms for a small water jug
41. Nocturnal fragrance, bad for addicts
42. Around an edible sea snail
43. Hasten but keep within the law
44. Unintended descent in winter
45. Sage named for healthy properties
46. Right for master of this church roll
47. For beautiful lady but toxic
48. Small science workshop sings bacon
49. Named after friendly cetacean, not Greek oracle
50. Pale reds

Please send your answers to
faithbowers@btinternet.com

by September 30th 2022



Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee 2022

St. John's Sunday Lunch Club celebrated the above event on the 5th June 2022 at St. John's Hall. The Hall was set out as a Street Party with lots of bunting everywhere, most of which had been made by St. John's Crochet and Knitting Group. After raising our glasses with thanks to the 70 years of the Queen on the throne, everyone sat down to a 3-course meal. Our cook, Beth Owen, had single handedly prepared a fantastic meal including Coronation Chicken, Salmon Quiche and of course the new Jubilee Pudding. A really delicious meal. Thank you very much Beth.

In the afternoon everyone in the community had been invited to Tea and Cake. A spectacular cake had been made by Paul Henry to celebrate the Jubilee. There was also a display of Coronation souvenirs and mementoes and descriptions of what some people had done on that day. It seems most people had been able to watch the Coronation on tiny TV screens, some had had street parties or been to village fetes, several had been away from home due to work or doing their National Service. Thank you to all who had contributed to this display.

A very nice day for all who attended with thanks and congratulations to The Queen.





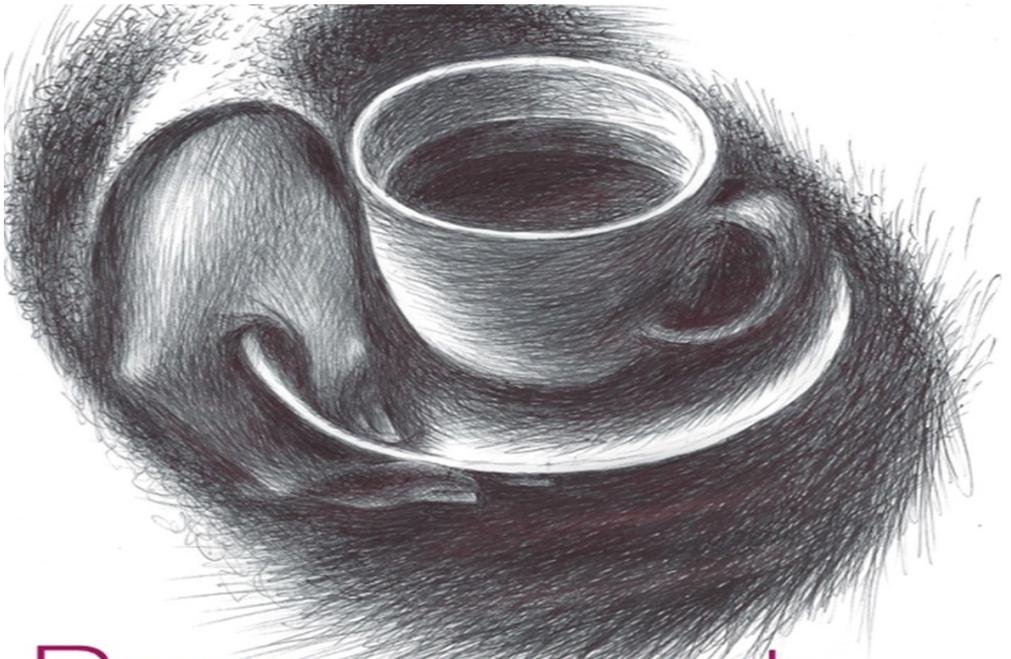


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pickled beetroot.
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Toilet rolls



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 19th July 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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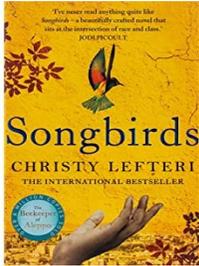
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St John's Reading Group July 2022

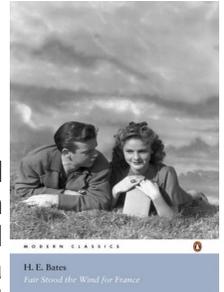


Our June meeting began with our own 'Jubilee Celebration' as we enjoyed the special Jubilee Trifle and sparkly wine for the toast to Her Majesty the Queen. It set us in fine form as we discussed **Songbirds** by Christy Lefteri. This author has also written *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*, which was a very moving and successful novel. *Songbirds* is set in Cyprus and is described as a book 'which illuminates the power of the human spirit and the enduring love of a mother for her

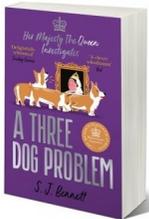
child'. This was a moving and challenging read - beautifully written. It is a story of love, loss, transformation, entrapment and freedom. Nisha, a Sri Lankan mother has come to Cyprus to earn money to send home to her mother who is looking after her child. Her lover, Yiannis is a poacher who hunts for tiny songbirds on their way to Africa for the winter. He dreams of a new life with Nisha but everything changes when she disappears. The authorities are reluctant to investigate so Nisha's employer and Yiannis begin their own search for the truth. Throughout the novel, I prayed that Nisha would still be alive but somehow there was a nagging thought that would not go away. A memorable read.

Average of 8/10.

For July, we have selected a 'modern classic' – **Fair Stood the Wind for France** by H E Bates – a novel written in 1944 and one which became the author's first financial success. Incidentally, the title comes from the first line of a



poem entitled 'Agincourt' by Michael Drayton (1563-1631). It was a TV mini-series in 1980. It is indeed a 'modern classic' and well worth reading – so add it to your list.



For a complete change of mood for August, we have selected '**A Three Dog Problem**' by S J Bennett as Her Majesty investigates a murder. It is the second in the author's series of 'Royal whodunnits' – following *The Windsor Knot*. A light-hearted change from the drama and tragedy of war and still in Jubilee mood.

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