

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

June 2021

50p

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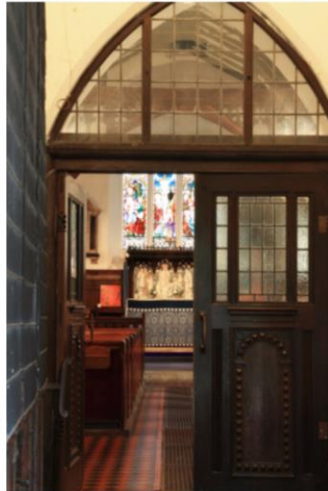
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To receive the Parish Mailing please scan the QR code with your smart phone camera



Services for June

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



OMN June Letter

Today I had the opportunity to visit school in person for the first time in several months. Restrictions have lifted enough for School Governors to visit staff by appointment and with precautions in place. As I sat waiting I could hear a music lesson on one side and several animated voices on the other. They were in a Computing class and all excited to be working through the lesson at hand. For those few minutes I was very aware of what “normal” sounds like and how much we all have missed out on these fifteen months. I have to say my mood lifted at the sound of the children happily getting on with things and enjoying school. Malden Parochial has done a great job coping with the ever-changing guidance and trying to keep things as normal as possible. While many of us have stopped in our tracks at every little turn in the news, every new threat posed by a variant of Covid; our children have coped so well with the topsy-turvy situation hardly anyone could have imagined a few years ago. They could easily have been overwhelmed by the media or the stress of it all, the uncertainty that has made things so difficult. Instead they have been remarkably resilient. They have gotten on with life and had fun too.

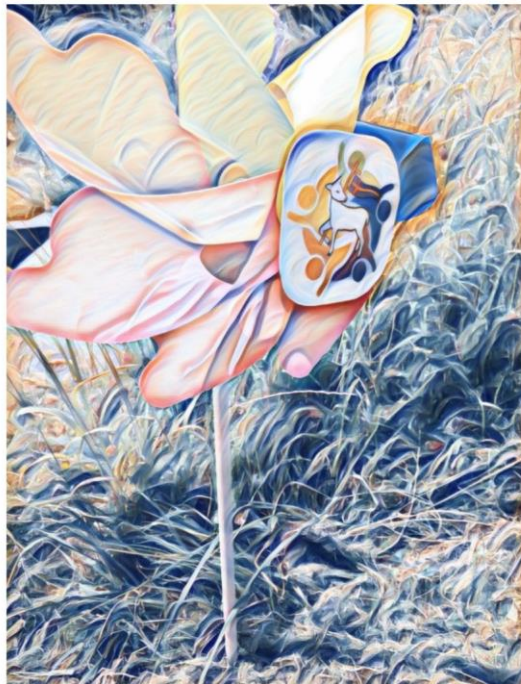
As St. John’s moves into the future and things get back to a more normal pattern, we can take inspiration from our young people. There is so much to look forward to and so much to do. Almost all of our activities have either been put on hold for the duration or taken place online. As things progress it looks almost certain that we will return to normal by the end of June. Our plans for an outdoor service on June 27th followed by lunch together are on track. Our children’s leaders have met and are planning to resume meeting on Sundays. Two toddler groups will start this summer in the Extension. We are also making plans to resume Tea and Chat as well as Sunday Lunch Club in person, just as soon as we can. The autumn looks to be a busy time ahead for us, while the summer is full of christenings. Normality is just around the corner.

There will still be challenges ahead. Things aren’t likely to be “just as they were” simply because we are older and wiser thanks to the struggles we’ve faced. Covid has changed us and shaped us. The lessons we have learnt will hold us in good stead as we find the way forward together. The financial

challenge is great and we hope to recover our numbers as people return to Church in numbers. We will need to try new things and reach out in new ways. They may not all succeed, but we shall learn in the doing. Not that things will alter drastically or that St. John's will lose its specialness. What we hope to see are new faces joining us, sharing new perspectives and experiences as we journey on in faith.

We have been blessed for so many years that St. John's has been secure in itself. Nothing was too daunting that we couldn't overcome it. That still holds true. But now as we emerge from Covid's shadow, we are keen, energised, with an awareness of the needs around us and open hearts ready to meet those needs. St. John's is poised to become a powerhouse that can reach every corner of the community with God's love in a way that we may not have fully appreciated before. In turn the wider world is more open to the gifts we offer, more ready to hear the Good News, and seeking healing and wholeness as never before. Let us prepare ourselves for what is ahead. Let us take stock and give thanks. Most of all let us step out in faith because God is with us and we will succeed in all we do with his help. Amen.

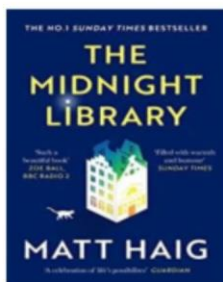
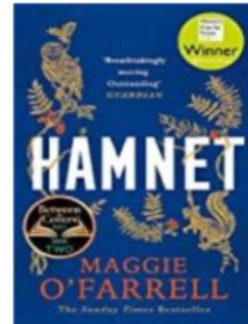
Michael





St John's Reading Group June 2021

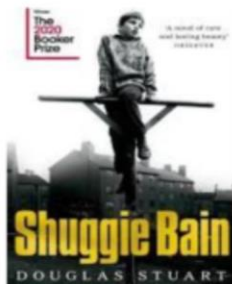
At our last meeting we discussed **'Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell**. This novel has featured in the top best-selling books for several weeks now and is/ now available in paperback. It is an intriguing story about the Shakespeare family – primarily Agnes (Shakespeare's wife) and the twins, Hamnet and Judith. We are taken back in time to the 1590s/1610s and there are many subtle references to the plays and a great empathy with the natural world. The author takes us back to the courtship of William and Agnes, tense relationships with Will's family and the devastating family tragedy. It is not certain that the plague was the cause of such family grief but there were frequent outbreaks of the plague in Warwickshire in the 1590s and early 1600s. It is a beautifully written and imaginative novel. Definitely a book I would recommend and a novel which received good reviews from our group. An average of 8.5 /10.



Our choice for June is **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.

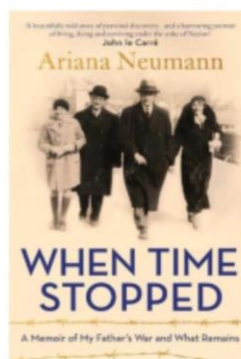
For July, we shall be reading **'The Confession'** by Jessie Burton. We enjoyed **'The Miniaturist'** and **'The Muse'** by this author so we hope that this novel, partly set in LA lives up to expectation.



Just wonderful to be able to browse in a real bookshop now!

I added a couple of books to my 'must read next' pile. One novel **'Shuggie Bain'** which won the 2020 Booker Prize. I think it will be a difficult read emotionally as it tells the story of a young boy growing up in 1980s Glasgow in a very hostile environment. It has been described as 'heart-rending and deeply moving' so definitely a novel to test the reader.

The second book I selected was 'When Time Stopped' by Ariana Neumann. After the death of her father, Ariana discovers a box of papers which leads her to investigate her family history and learn about her unknown heritage. The book is dedicated to the memory of those who could not tell their stories – so I am sure it will be an emotional read. Well it seems that the two books which I have selected will require some stamina to read them.



We continue to meet on zoom at present and our next meeting will be on Thursday 3rd June at 8.00pm. I you would like to join us, please let me know.

Marilyn

Discovered in an agent's instruction book for the Sun Fire Office in 1897, a collection of newspaper clippings of recipes and household remedies, many of which date from the 1930s I think. I share just a few of these tips with you. However, I do not think any of these recipes will appeal to you: Stuffed sheep's heart or savoury calf's feet. Perhaps the syrup roly-poly or tapioca cream may do so!

'A simple remedy for a cold is to sip at bedtime a tumblerful of hot milk in which a tabelspoon of glycerine and cinnamon has been dissolved.'

New uses for old newspaper? 'The kitchen stove is kept bright and clean by rubbing it briskly, after the cooking of each meal, with old papers, and thus saves many polishings'. (Maybe the old black leaded ones!)

'To preseve the colour of vegetables, put a piece of sugar in the water.'

'Add a little lemon juice or vinegar to the water when boiling potatoes. This makes them beautifully white.'

There is also a recipe for Khaki pudding (suet, mashed potatoes, breadcrumbs and golden syrup) and if all else fails, a lovely pattern for a lady's knitted vest.

If you have cockroaches or ants in your cupboards, then a few drops of turpentine will keep tham at bay- and moths do not like the smell of it either.

If your kitchen scales are no longer reliable – then search out those old copper coins pre-1971. 12 pennies weigh a quarter of a pound. As for the rest, it's too complicated.

And finally... 'For a nervous headache or one following a too strenuous day, a simple means of alleviation is to remove the pressure of the blood on the brain by soaking the feet in water as hot as can be borne. The blood is quickly drawn to the feet and the brain is thus removed of pressure. A teaspoon of mustard added to the water will effect a relief when the former method fails.' Not for the faint-hearted and not one I would recommend.

MCB

A new chapter awaits



As many of you know I have been your Parish Administrator since 2016 (I think!) and how those years have flown by. However, I have decided it's time to hand over my keys and move onto a new chapter. Chester and I decided to separate at the beginning of the first Lockdown and I will be moving down to the East Sussex Seaside in Seaford at the end of this Summer with Alfie and Annie and Henry. Chester will still be local in Worcester Park.

I have loved working and being part of the St John's Family over the years. I have worked through the end of Kevin's time as Vicar, having an interregnum and welcoming our new Vicar Michael and then as the cherry on the top, worked our way through a global Pandemic! I'm glad we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

My main highlights as Parish Administrator have definitely been the biscuits...! No, really there have been so many. Its such a varied role and I had the pleasure of working in one of the most beautiful places I know. There is such a sense of calm in St John's when you are there on your own.



I have really enjoyed putting together the Old Malden News and I hope it continues to grow with the next writer and Editor.

Thank you to Michael, Milly, Marilyn and Anthony and Kevin for your support over the years, its always been invaluable. To the Church Wardens, Lynn, Mike and Tatiana, again a great support when working mostly on my own. I have always liaised closely with the committee members of the PCC but mainly Alastair Harris, Treasurer. Thank you for your continued support in this role and helping to keep tabs on the finances!

And lastly, the congregation, without whom none of us would be here. Thank you for welcoming me into your family. I will miss working here very much but I will keep you posted with lots of pictures from the seaside!

I will be working in the office until the end of July, so if you are popping in, I would love to see you.

Finally, I don't think I ever managed to reach that kitchen shelf without tip toes!

Lots of Love

Amy Chan
10
Parish Administrator





ST JOHN
the BAPTIST DAY
Celebration on

Sunday 27th June
at St John's Church,
Church Lane, Old Malden

Outdoor Service at 12pm
followed by al fresco lunch with
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Where have all our seedlings gone?

If our group of Bee Orchids repeats what it did in 2013, (one orchid producing ten adult flowering plants eight years precisely after the 'mother plant' appeared), that is not 'at random'. Every year for fourteen years wind has dispersed thousands of orchid seeds in our churchyard. Experts say bee orchids only multiply that way, therefore multiply only 'at random'. Is there some way random-sowing could possibly have produced ten new mature plants in 2013, and no mature plants in any year before then or since then?

For seven and a half years we have counted mature orchids on eleven sites. When orchids were damaged, of course there were fewer to count. But in all those years there have never been more than eleven. Signed, dated records affirm there are orchid plants on all eleven sites this year. While the recorders conscientiously counted orchids, they were also learning to identify them. Whether eleven orchids or 110 appear this November, (8 years since the first one suddenly multiplied by ten), we have many people, who can identify them.

Weeding was done on each site in May this year, with particular care to conserve any tiny plant that might be an orchid seedling. The number of seedlings photographed on these small sites gives an indication of how many seeds may be developing under the grass over the whole churchyard. But it takes six to eight years for these microscopic orchid seeds to flower.

This June, when the flowers open, the plan is to obtain photographs and written records of each mature plant and each seedling on each site. Covid restrictions have meant fewer people than usual have been standing, and trampling on the grass by the church door where the orchids grow.

The biggest 'seedling' we have so far seen was so close to our first orchid, it could have grown out of the side of its tuber. It might even have been due to one of the many injuries it suffered. It only survived a few years. It never flowered. None of our seedlings has ever flowered yet.



The next page shows our dampest, most shaded site. (Its marked with dark blue pins). The lower picture shows the same site after weeding. Two small seedlings can be seen with an adult plant. In the top photo you can see a big snail has trapped itself half way up the protective mesh. But in the top picture two amorous slugs (left) were concealed by the leaves. One seedling is intact, the other has lost one leaf already. Developing sluglets would soon have removed all three orchids completely.



Above: an orchid site protected by mesh - its blue pins identify it.

Below: the same site after weeding, showing two seedlings and a mature orchid plant





Black pins mark this orchid site hugging the stone kerb of a grave. Last winter, all you could see of this mature orchid was one thin green ring at ground level. Every night it was gnawed to the ground by a slug that hid in the gap between the stone kerb and the soil.

Slug bait would lure it out - but in a conservation project, in a conservation area, is bait O.K.? Maybe it could be lured into an old 35mm film cassette through a hole - with bait safely inside another tube, inside the cassette. The trap was made. The inner tube was pierced, so the slug could smell the bait but not be damaged by it. Tent-pegs fixed the trap inside the base of the mesh, close to the sleeping slug.

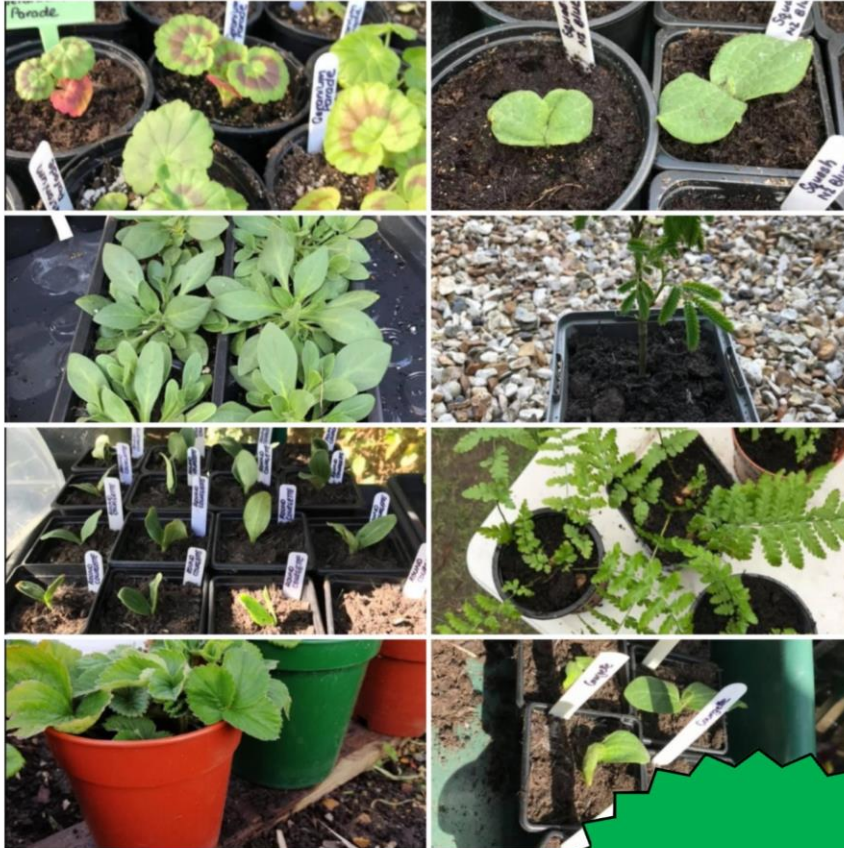
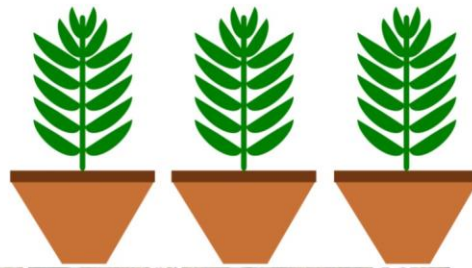
But next day, it was gone. Bait and all. 10 days later, it was found metres away - empty and mangled by the jubilant chew-marks of a fox. The orchid grew leaves again. In June, it should flower again. It's all happening just outside our church's west door. See it and record if the orchids multiply in November and you'll be part of a small new piece of science.



what did the fox think of the film cassette slug trap?

Chris Beales

St John's Shop now has lots of plants for sale to get you gardening this Summer.



For the full range please go to:
[www.st-john-the-Baptist-church.sumup.link/
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Did you know that you can still keep up to date with services
at St John's if you cant get to a service?

The Live Streaming of services has resumed so you will be able to see Sunday
services live via our YouTube Channel.

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



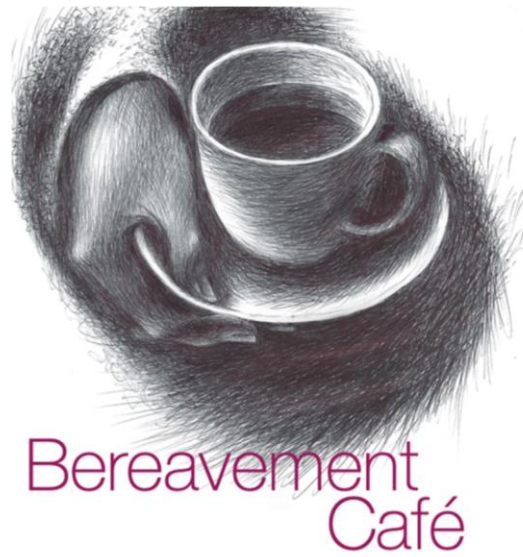
Join us at 11:00am on Zoom!

Meeting ID: 850 3291 8410 Password: 413247

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u=d0fc454c51d7e9daa986cd29a&id=a3cfa1eb03&e=ca0a3e5dfa](https://stjohnsoldmalden.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d0fc454c51d7e9daa986cd29a&id=a3cfa1eb03&e=ca0a3e5dfa)



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>



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!

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