

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

March 2024

50p

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Old Malden News

**The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist Parish Church Malden**
Church Road, Worcester Park KT4 7RY

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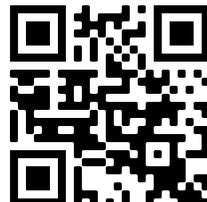
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton
Tel: 020 8942 8321

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 | 07968 031225 |
| 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 Sally Pusey Ms Marie McGuire | 020 8330 2817 07535 878107 |
| Church Electoral Roll Officer | Mr Steve Clarke | 020 8337 2392 |
| Hall Bookings | Mrs Pat Sutton | 020 8942 8321 |
| 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 March



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

Coffee hosted by Mothers' Union after the first Wednesday service of the month.

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

In the Spring of 2000, I was invited to lunch at the Bishop of London's house by St. Paul's Cathedral. Richard Chartres, the then Bishop, had sponsored me for ordination training and had summoned all of his candidates to lunch. He is larger than life, very tall and imposing, and he had a knack for grilling you in conversation that was a bit nerve wracking at the best of times. During lunch he moved from table to table doing just that.

Afterwards he gathered us all together and told us frankly that the Christian faith was fading in the West and that we were entering a new "Dark Age". He said our job was to keep the embers of faith in Christ alive, to pass it on so that it might in time spring to life again. The old certainties were unravelling at astonishing speed in the face of consumerism and secularism. He warned us that we would often find the task disheartening and even hopeless, but to never give up. I was floored. I had never, and haven't since, heard a bishop speak so honestly. Bishops and archdeacons are by nature spin doctors, emphasising the positive even when the evidence is lacking. To be honest I did not believe the good bishop at the time, but I have learnt these twenty years that he wasn't wide of the mark. This is why what I do and what we do as a church is so important! St. John's is very fortunate to have Malden Parochial. Our school has ensured that we have a number of children and families involved in church life. Most of my clergy colleagues would give their right arms for such an opportunity. I was explicitly charged to renew the relationship between Church and School when I was appointed Vicar. This continues under the leadership of our new headteacher, Mrs. McMullan who has put a lot of time and energy into the Christian values and ethos that undergird the wider role of all faiths in our school community. She has also relied on St. John's as a resource to further that aim. As we approach Holy Week there will be opportunities for us to go into school to share the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection, so watch this space.

Lent isn't easy. It is a difficult journey walking with Jesus and experiencing all the emotions from his temptation in the wilderness to his final journey to the

Cross. It is uncomfortable and for many too much. Unlike Advent and Christmas, when the Church is full, Lent and Holy Week tend to be for ourselves, for those who “do” church. Christmas is all about the baby, and everybody loves a baby; but a dead man and a bit of timber holds little appeal. Even the victory of risen life is overshadowed by the much wider celebration of Spring. Easter is bunnies and chocolate eggs, which is very nice indeed, but rings hollow when you stop to consider what is at the centre of it all. The triumph of life over death and love over hate is even more relevant in our broken world today. Where are the signs of new life in the Holy Land, or Ukraine, or even here where so many people are struggling to make ends meet? That hope is two thousand years old, but it can still change things if we let it.

There will be a wide array of services and activities for all ages as we work our way towards Easter Sunday. It is important that everyone has something that can help them connect with the story and make it their own. So do keep up with the Parish mailing or Pew leaflets and find something that appeals to you. In the meantime we will keep travelling alongside Christ as he leads us all into new life.

Michael

MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S

We are very fortunate here at St. John's ~ we have our wonderfully experienced organist, Barry Eaton; we have our talented, creative and incredibly hardworking music director, Marilyn Burkett; and we have our lovely choir!

And we also have a Church with excellent acoustics.

So what better way to raise funds for our Restoration Project than to hold some musical events?

Plans are being laid with a view to organising a series of concerts starting some time after Barry's organ recital in April. I have a few contacts in the world of classical music (and a few others), but who else is there? Do YOU have any contacts, do you play an instrument or play with an ensemble or have someone amongst your family and friends who does? I would love to hear from you with ANY contacts or suggestions, so that we can make this work!

And any help with the organisation would be greatly appreciated ~ all volunteers welcome.

Bobby Child

07946 532 846 (or via the "C" cubby hole at Church)





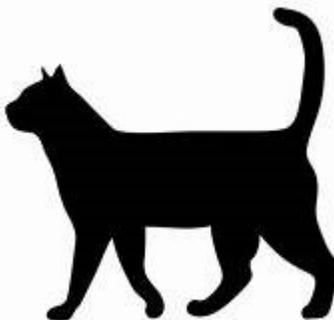
Dear Brooke – Lady Wandsworth

I do hope that you and your companion had a happy time over Christmas and of course turkey and the goodies. I do hope that you showed off your singing skills, with the carols. My Christmas was very different. Boxes were piled everywhere – no peace and quiet anywhere. I could not find a corner to myself. People were moving things around, and vans and cars kept coming to my home, also people I did not know. It seems we were leaving, and I'm not happy! I was bundled in to my cage and off we went.

It seems we went to a place, Iceland – very cold and windy. There are a lot of big birds and I think that they are young turkeys flying around. The new home is cosy, and I have a lot of exploring to do. I will tell you more later.

I wish you and your companion all happiness in the New Year

Love Melinda



I'm celebrating a 100th Birthday!

Not me personally (not just yet) but Inner Wheel, one of the largest women's voluntary service organisations in the world is now 100 years old. The very first meeting was on the 10th January, 1924, at a time when most women, certainly married women, didn't work, and a group of women were very taken with the work that their Rotarian husbands were doing, and wanted to do the same. Rotary was then for men only, and the organisation was based on business and professional connections, so these good ladies formed their own organisation, based on friendship – but with the same ethos of service.

One hundred years later, women are now able to join Rotary – except in certain countries of the world where their religion and culture makes it impossible; but they CAN join Inner Wheel. Which is one of the main reasons Inner Wheel remains a women only organisation.

And as such, it seemed to us in the Royal Borough (two Inner Wheel Clubs – Kingston and New Malden) that we should do something to celebrate International Women's Day. And we are!

On Friday the 8th March at an exciting new venue in central Kingston, FUSEBOX, starting at 7 pm, we have three truly inspirational speakers, and we hope lots of people (gentlemen are very welcome, of course) will support our event. If we can get a full house we will be able to make donations to the two charities represented that evening.

Tickets can be purchased via this link:

<https://creativeyouthcharity.org/event/inner-wheel-in-kingston-international-womens-day>

or from the details or QR code on our poster.

For any further information, do please contact me: 07946 532 846.

Bobby Child





Join us in marking

International Women's Day

Friday 8th March at 7pm

Tickets – £11.50*

(*Includes £1.50 booking fee)

Our inspirational speakers:

Clare Ballantyne ~ Postmaster at the South Pole

Sarah Clay BEM ~ founder of Voices of Hope

Patricia Parker OBE ~ founder of Kids4Kids

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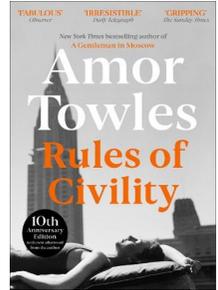
Inner Wheel in Kingston upon Thames

Email: innerwheelclub-kot@hotmail.co.uk

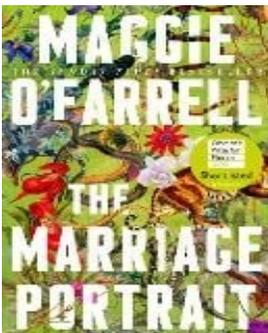


St John's Reading Group March 2024

Our February choice was the debut novel by Amor Towles, entitled 'Rules of Civility'. This novel is set in New York City in 1938 and follows 25-year old Katey Kontent and her friend Eve as they move from a Wall Street Secretarial Pool into New York Society. They meet Tinker Grey, an upwardly mobile banker and then explore those heady days of 1930s Manhattan. This is the era of The Great Gatsby and there are many similarities. So many Martini cocktails for the rich and upwardly mobile, the novel is an excellent portrayal of post-Depression New York society.



Despite the glitter and glamour, there are many dark sentiments just below the surface: envy and disloyalty just two examples. Whilst the majority of the group enjoyed the humour behind the portrayal, a few were not so enamoured. Well, it did result in a lively discussion. How brilliant that we do not all think alike! An average score of 7½.



For March, we shall be reading Maggie O'Farrell's 'The Marriage Portrait' – set in the Florentine court during the Renaissance. As one critic has written, Maggie O'Farrell has given us 'an exhilarating, devastating look at women's captivity, creativity and ultimately, rebellion in a world run by some very cruel men.'

We are introduced to Lucrezia who is one of the daughters of Cosimo Medici, a very powerful family. In an arranged marriage to her late sister's fiancé at the age of just thirteen, Lucrezia is fearful and suspicious of her husband, Alfonso d'Este who is the very rich Duke of Ferrara. When her husband takes her to Stellata, a remote fortress, Lucrezia is convinced that he is going to murder her as she has not yet produced an heir. This is the image that may have inspired this novel – it is a portrait of Lucrezia di Medici, painted by Alessandro Allori in 1560. Lucrezia died in 1561 at the age of sixteen. She does not look to be in a happy place – but that could also be the artistic style of the day. As with her previous novel, Hamnet, the author shows her skill and imagination to bring the story to life.



For April, we shall be reading Andrew Taylor's 6th novel in his series set in the Restoration era - Shadows of London. We are obviously in an historical frame of mind!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7th March at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

Marilyn



The Men's Thing

Here are the programme of talks which will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the Church extension.
Tea, Coffee and biscuits etc will be available from 10.00am.

March 9th - A talk by Paul Henry on an introduction to the history of books, from the beginnings on papyrus, through medieval bindings to mass produced paperbacks etc.

April 13th - Ben Jackson will give a talk on “ British Fountain Pens and Manufacturers Between the Wars”

May 11th - ‘The work of ABCD Bethlehem in the West Bank’ by Alastair Harris

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

27th April:- Murder Mystery Evening

22nd June: -The Maeldune Fair

21st September: -Jumble Sale

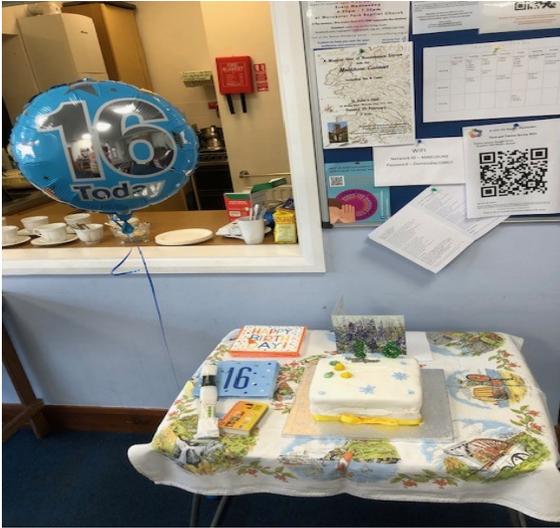
20th October: -Vintage Afternoon Tea

30th November -Christmas Fair

The Fundraising Team



St John's Knitting & Crochet Group - March 2024



At our last meeting, we had a celebration for our 16th Birthday! Is it really that long ago when the St John's Knitting & Crochet Group was formed? Over all this time, our needles and yarn have never stopped – and our projects during Covid provided a lifeline for many. Mindfulness in action.

For this our Birthday, Monica provided a beautiful cake, Teas r'Us provided the balloon and tea and we had a good afternoon.

At present, we are continuing with our crochet blankets – but members of the group bring along their different projects.

So all are welcome to join us on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Coffee Lounge. Our March meeting will be on Thursday 28th March – which is also Maundy Thursday. So come and join us.



Marilyn



**There are boxes on the church porch bench for
your donations to the Foodbank.**

**Foodbanks are now vital to so many people
and our support is really important.**

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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 March 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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