

# Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist, Malden

**November 2022**

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

Please send any articles or other material to:  
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020 8330 2817  
administrator@stjohnsoldmalDEN.org.uk

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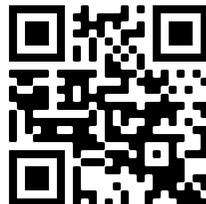
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton  
Tel: 020 8942 8321

# St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

## Directory

|                                  |  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Vicar                            | The Revd Michael Roper<br>gore_lodge@yahoo.co.uk   | 020 8337 8830                  |
| Asst Priest                      | The Revd Milly Broome<br>m.broome@hotmail.co.uk  | 020 8337 1572                  |
| Reader &<br>Choir Director       | Mrs Marilyn Burkett<br>m.c.burkett@btinternet.com  | 020 8337 6017                  |
| Pastoral Asst                    | Mr Anthony Pullen<br>tony@pullen.me.uk   | 020 8949 6784                  |
| Organist                         | Mr Barry Eaton   | 020 8949 1708                  |
| Church Wardens                   | Mrs Lynn Sanger<br>Mr Mike Broome  | 020 8715 2066<br>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<br>Officers         | Mrs Sally Pusey<br>Ms Marie McGuire  | 020 8330 2817<br>07535 878107  |
| Church Electoral<br>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 November**



### **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

Half-term has come and gone and life in school starts to look forward to the coming Christmas holidays and all the frenetic activity and excitement that comes with it. Autumn also means applying for places at secondary school for those now in Year Six. At St. John's we welcome families as they join us in worship as part of the requirements to gain a place at a faith-based school locally. Most church schools have good reputations and deliver an education that, to many parents, is usually better than the alternative in a state school, so competition is usually fierce. These schools need a way to ensure that they are meeting their faith-based mission as well as serving the local community, hence the church attendance requirement.

What we have ended up with is a bit of a postcode lottery for school places, with parents feeling under pressure to secure a place at a good school and willing to do anything to get one. In this day and age when few people attend church this has meant that St. John's has been gifted with a large number of families, many of whom have little or no experience of church previously. Personally I am uncomfortable making people jump through hoops, even more so if they find themselves subscribing to things they don't actually believe. I do appreciate the lengths parents will go to give their children the best start in life possible. Until the Government abolishes faith schools, we are pretty much stuck with the system we have. Everyone is welcome at St. John's and we try to provide different opportunities for children and their parents to get involved and connect with the Christian story in a way that is relevant to your lives. We don't always get it right, but we continue to work on what we offer so that all children feel valued and supported in discovering for themselves what role faith may play in their lives too.

My predecessor, Fr. William Chetwynd-Stapylton, was vicar here from 1850 until 1894. He was the driving force behind the building of Malden Parochial Primary School so that all the children in the Parish had the opportunity for an education. He did the same for St. Mary's, Chessington such was the importance of education to him and his family. Families who worship regularly at St. John's are high on the criteria for admission to MPS. In

Autumn 2023 they are numbers 4 and 5 after Looked After children, those with pressing medical or social need, and children of staff members employed for at least two years. The number of children applying for a place at MPS from St. John's has fallen year on year with parents choosing Malden Manor and Green Lane Primary Schools instead.

The number of Year Six boys applying for places at Richard Challoner continue to grow. Spaces for non-Roman Catholics are very limited (about 14 places last I was told). As an excellent school it is unsurprisingly oversubscribed as Catholics across Kingston Borough compete for places. It is very hard to get a child into Challoner from St. John's now and we have only managed it once during my time and that was on appeal. We've had the parents of four or five different children appearing at the Vicarage wanting letters to be signed for Challoner, all claiming to attend St. John's regularly who I have never seen. One was Muslim claiming that weekly attendance at assembly in school entitled their child to admission to Challoner, and that they would start coming to church in exchange for my signature. All this indicates that the system we use needs updating and this will be in place from the beginning of November.

Fr. Kevin previously held sole responsibility and signed letters at his discretion. During the Interregnum it was decided that we needed a register in order to keep track of attendance and avoid conflicts and discrepancies. We are still using this but GDPR legislation requires us to have permission to hold your personal details. Until now all forms were returned to you and we have nothing to go on if there is an issue or an appeal process. From now on we will require all children seeking a church letter to have a form on file in the Parish Office with a photograph. Each week after the sign-in sheets are completed that information will be entered into a spreadsheet so that we can easily access the data schools require. At the moment we comb through the sheets for each child to check that they have been attending as claimed on the form. Apart from this the procedure will remain the same.

For those parents hoping for a place at Richard Challoner I would like to

remind you that for a non-Roman Catholic child to be successful securing a place distance from the school is important, but it is also crucial that you can demonstrate a real faith connection. Catholic children must prove that they have been baptised and received their First Communion. An Anglican child who had done the same will appear a more serious prospect to their Admissions Committee than one who hasn't been christened or received Communion.

For primary school places most schools require that at least one parent attends worship regularly (usually defined as at least fortnightly). For a church secondary place it is the young person who must attend worship in order to qualify for a church letter, at least fortnightly. Our policy is to overlook the summer school holidays but expect to see a return to normal attendance in September. Any exemption should be brought to our attention in good time, but unfortunately rugby or other sport on a Sunday morning don't count. Some families are attending the 8:00am service as it is shorter and gives them the rest of the day to enjoy. This does meet the school rules, but if you are serious about bringing your child up in the Christian faith it is hard to see the attraction to a young person whose limited experience of Church might only be a wordy said service with sermon and no music or singing. The 9:45am service with its Children's Ministry and Worship for All services have more to engage a young person and are specifically designed with them in mind. The choice is yours. Please do complete the new registration form when you can.

Many Thanks, Michael.



# AUTUMN Fair

Saturday  
19th November  
11am - 3pm

in the church Hall, Malden Road

Books, Jewellery, Toiletries, Bric a Brac,  
Preserves, Craft items and more...

Plenty of space for social distancing  
and refreshments available including  
our great fairtrade coffee!

## Letter to Old Malden News

Two things recently have set me thinking about changes I have seen in my lifetime, and that perhaps I should write something about them. One was the Vicar's letter in September's OMN, where he wrote about how there have been changes in the way we worship. It set me thinking, and remembering worship I have shared in over many years in several different churches. Before I had written much, however, the death of the Queen led to numerous broadcasts and newspaper articles about the changes seen during her reign.

The suggestion that it might be difficult to change from 'God save the Queen' to 'God save the King' reminded me that that was the wording I learnt as a child. I remember that morning when I was in secondary school and all classes were interrupted and the whole school was summoned into the hall. We all wondered who had done what to have such an unprecedented change in routine. Then the headmaster addressed the whole school to tell us that the King had died and his daughter, then in Kenya, had become Queen. We were all sent home for the rest of the day.

The following year saw the coronation, which was televised. Like many families who did not possess their own television set we were invited to friends who did. I recall sitting in their living room watching the broadcast on a tiny black and white screen. It really was a demonstration of the latest technology, being able to see what was happening in other places. Before long the television pictures were in colour, and developments in telephony made it possible to speak with friends in other countries - even as far away as Australia.

As well as the scientific and technical changes, much else has changed since those days. Growing up in a Baptist family, but having Anglican relatives in a Devon seaside town whom we regularly visited on holiday, I was aware of

differences in worship. We often sang the same hymns, but the major division was that members of other denominations could not share in Communion in the Church of England. When I was a student at King's College London, an Anglican foundation, Non-conformists like me were welcome to services in the college chapel, but not to participate in that central act of worship. I recall a sympathetic Anglican student friend, a keen advocate for his church, telling me 'you should join the Church of England, Brian, it has more denominations inside it than there are outside'.

The closed table rule was still in force when we moved to Worcester Park. Not very long after CofE opened the table to fellow Christians. Together with numerous like-minded friends we can now join fully in worship without compromise. We appreciate other changes, like the greater variety of liturgy around the year, not tied exclusively to the Tudor prayer book, and greater lay participation than in our youth. In more recent years, restricted by ill health and age, we have been grateful for the welcome we received at St John's and felt glad to participate fully in church life.

Brian Bowers

9 October 2022

## THE GRAHAM CHILD CHRISTMAS CAROLS

30th November, 2022

Once we get to October, it doesn't feel TOO early to start making plans for Christmas, does it? And the organisers of this annual charity event now have plans coming together to make this year's Christmas Carols Evening a good one!

Originally the idea of my late husband, and so renamed in his memory after his untimely death, it is a great mix of carol singing and contributions from all sorts of people – school children, young dancers and musicians, some of us older folk reading poems! And it really does get December and the countdown to Christmas off to a good start.

This year our nominated charity is KidsOut. This is a charity that developed from another original idea of my husband and his best friend – a day out given to disadvantaged children. The Big Day Out still happens every year in June (except during lockdown), organized by Rotary Clubs throughout Great Britain and Ireland, but the registered charity also supports, amongst others, children in refuges. The average stay of a child in a refuge used to be about 9 weeks. Post Covid it's now more likely to be 9 months. A dreadful statistic. But KidsOut have done amazing work in providing toy boxes as well as food vouchers, access to IT and outings for children in refuges since the first lockdown.

My hope is that the money we raise from the Christmas Carols, together with some other funds already raised, will go towards providing a music workshop for children in our local refuge. That would be a very special day out for some children much in need of it. My contacts in the music industry are currently working on putting this together, with KidsOut, so I am very hopeful this will be achieved.

And if you'd like to help us – please come carol singing with us!

Wednesday 30th November, 2022, 7.30 p.m.

at New Malden Methodist Church, 49 High Street, New Malden

Tickets £8.50 per person to include tea/coffee & mince pie

contact me, Bobby Child 07946 532 846 or Lynda Rowland [lynrow0761@btopenworld.com](mailto:lynrow0761@btopenworld.com)

*or if you see a poster or flyer it will have a Q code for payment*

You can of course pay on the night – cash, cheque or card – but it would be good to know how many mince pies to buy for you, if you CAN let us know you're coming!

## **Tribute to Maureen Hawkins ‘Granny Mo’**

When I founded the St John’s Crochet Group fifteen years ago, Maureen was the first great enthusiast to join. She came along with her lovely sense of humour and helped teach many to crochet and later knit. With her great practical experience and knowledge, Maureen went on to inspire so many of us. Her beautiful creations were a great example to all. When we had a knit-in for youngster’s one half-term, Maureen was the first to bring her yarn and needles to start us off. As well as at St John’s, Maureen inspired the ‘Knit and Natter’ at Old Malden Library and made hundreds of little blankets for the Kingston Hospital neo-natal unit. Any new babies were welcomed with a big cuddle and a blanket, booties and a bonnet. Sadly Covid curtailed her visits there – but I believe that little blankets still made their way to the hospital. During lock-down, Maureen’s front window had a collection of little bears – to thank the nurses, doctors, postman and refuse collectors. How she will be missed as a great friend to so many of us. Hope you are teaching all those angels to crochet, Maureen.

Marilyn

I am Louis Spreckley (Christ Hospital Peele A and Greacians West 2005 -2012), I am fortunate enough to be Lance Corporal in The Lifeguards squadron of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. That means that this year I have been involved in all the usual major ceremonial events of the year and also the Platinum Jubilee Pageant and Her Majesty's funeral.



The build-up for the Jubilee started back in January when the regiment collected around 200 horses from their winter holiday in the fields around Melton Mowbray. They were hairy, muddy creatures that hadn't been ridden at all for two months. So began the six week programme to return them to the beautiful and immaculately turned out steeds everyone is used to seeing on parade and on Trooping the Colour every year. However, this year there was one major difference, due to covid, none of the 170 odd troopers had ever participated in a big parade in London and about 80 of the horses had never seen a crowd of more than 20 people, and at the time, the regiment as a whole didn't realise the impact this would have on our performance on the first big parades of the season.

Fast forward to the end of March and the regiment had passed its annual Major General's inspection and was deemed "ready" for the ceremonial year. With this confidence boost the regiment splits in two for Easter leave periods, still not realising that the horses and troopers still haven't seen a crowd larger than 50 people. I only realise just how disastrous the first parade had the potential to be when I was travelling to The Queen's Life Guard at Whitehall as security NCO and we reached Buckingham Palace. Outside the palace were around 300 people, which, on a sunny day in early April, with my past experience I would have considered to be a small crowd. The two Troopers, who had both spent over a year out of the normal two years in the regiment, thought the crowd was massive and somewhat scary.

The end of April is when the build-up and rehearsals for the Jubilee started in earnest. The sheer number of parades that happened in a short space was unprecedented. It all started with the State Opening of Parliament on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> of May, followed by the Royal Windsor Horse show which was the first proper sized crowd most of the troopers had ever seen and the first that the horses had seen in three years which resulted in some of the horses being spooked when the crowds cheered at the arrival of HM the Queen. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May saw us parade for Major General's review of Trooping the Colour, followed by Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> for Royal Colonel's review of Trooping the Colour with the actual Trooping the Colour on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June was the Jubilee Pageant and the final scheduled

parade being the Garter service on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June. All this with crowds bigger than anyone in the regiment, even those old enough to have partaken in the Diamond Jubilee, had ever seen. Two weeks later we were all off to Norfolk for the annual three weeks summer camp when soldiers and horses can destress and wind down away from the hustle and bustle of Regimental duties. All of this meant that most of the regiment had not seen their families for three months. Summer leave in August was much needed.

On return to Knightsbridge barracks, the last two weeks of August and the first week of September were nice and quiet with no plans to bring any horses back from their summer break until the 15<sup>th</sup> of September when we would then be able to take the usual four to six weeks to clip, wash and retrain the horses to get them back to parade condition. Then on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September when Her Majesty died, everything changed so that we had only ten days to do our horse turn around. This on top of all the rehearsals meant that during that three days period most people involved in the funeral had a total of 8 hours sleep.

Due to the allocated duties, I was lucky; I was the first Junior NCO in 70 years to ride to Horse Guards on a Kings Life Guard rather than a Queen's Life Guard. The short preparation time meant that riding down the Mall on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September we beat the safety barrier which was being put in place. I will always be grateful that the crowds were in a respectful mood and split to let us pass, otherwise the police escort accompanying us wouldn't have been enough. It gave me glimpse of what Noah felt like when he parted the Red Sea. The crowds for the funeral did the impossible - they made the Jubilee look small without once being loud or disrespectful. It has truly been the greatest honour of my Military career to have been involved in these two occasions.



## Remembering Maureen Hawkins/Granny Mo

I first got to know Maureen well over 20 years ago when she volunteered to help at St. John's Christmas Day Event. From that day Maureen was in her element working from early morning right up to the very end of the day ensuring everything was in place to make the day special for everyone attending. From making sandwiches for supper bags, preparing food, ensuring the cooks were being looked after, keeping urns filled, washing up, welcoming guests. In fact whenever anything was needed Mo was there, always reliable, caring and friendly....and, of course, always dressed for the occasion. Through this event alone she made many more friends who were also volunteers from the community. Christmas Day at the Hall will be very different this year.

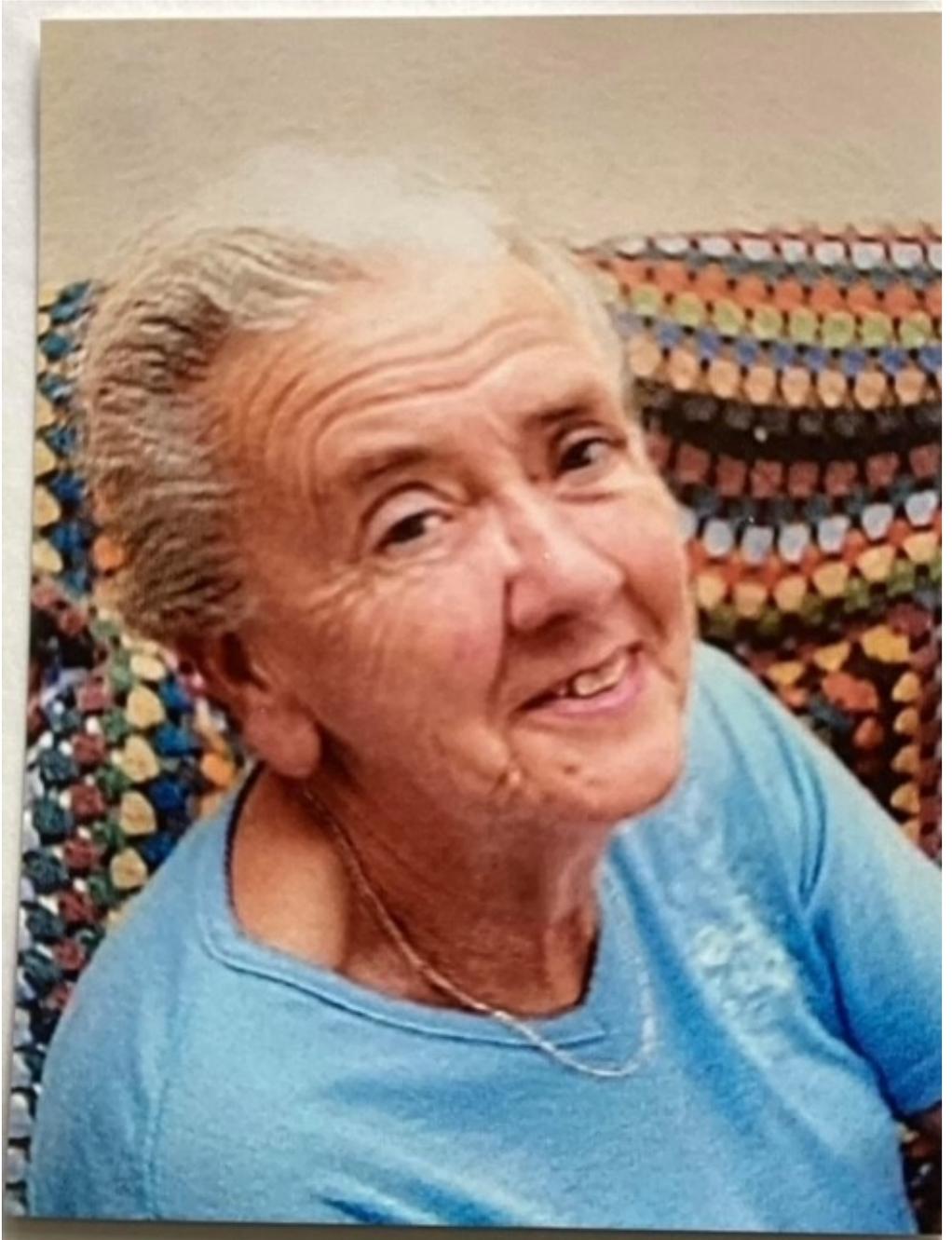
Mo was one of the first to volunteer when our Sunday Lunch Club started and we have had the use of her craft skills and creativeness on themed days as well as her help with setting up and welcoming everyone. At Easter and Christmas there was always a little handmade gift for everyone. Even washing up was fun with Mo.

These are just two St. John's events that we have worked on together, there have been many more. Jumble Sales, Christmas and Summer Fairs, MU, welcoming at church (especially if there were any babies to welcome) plus, of course, all her work for crochet groups and charities that I am sure will be spoken about elsewhere.

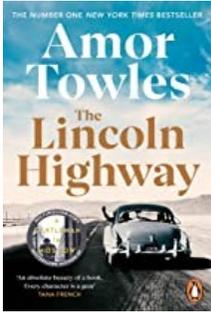
Mo had that rare quality of making everyone feel welcomed wherever she was with her cheerful friendliness, big smile and sense of fun.

Thank you Mo for being such a caring person, always thinking of others, and thank you for being such a good and fun person to be with and such a reliable friend too. You will be greatly missed by us all.

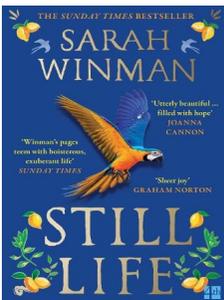
Pat Lovegrove



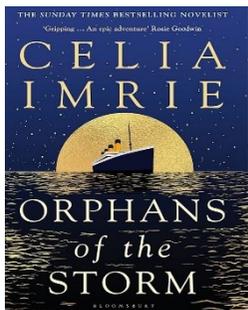
# St John's Reading Group November 2022



For the October meeting, we selected **The Lincoln Highway** by **Amor Towles**. Set in the 1950s it is the story of two brothers making their way across America to make a new start. Emmett has been released early from prison after the death of his father in order to care for his young brother, Billy. Their father had run up huge debts and large loans which had to be paid from the estate. The farm had not been productive and had been badly managed. Emmett had his own car (not taken by the authorities) so at least he and his brother had the means to start their journey across America, in search of their mother. However, they were not setting off alone: Duchess and Woolly, escapees from the detention centre, arrived, having stowed away in the boot of the officer's car. It is a long time before Emmett and Billy set off on the Highway with many entertaining distractions. These four main characters are beautifully depicted with humour, pathos and realism. It is a worthy follow-up novel to *A Gentleman in Moscow*. The book was well received and scored an average of 8/10.



Our book for November is **Still Life** by **Sarah Winman**, author of *When God was a Rabbit*. The reviews look very favourable – described as being ‘Big-hearted, sweeping and full of unforgettable characters, *Still Life* is a novel about beauty, love, the families we forge and the friendships that make us.’ The novel begins in Florence just as WWII is ending and Ulysses Temper is befriended by a couple of Italians who will have a great impact on his life. Returning to post-war London, he leads a colourless life until he is contacted by an Italian notary who reveals that he has come into an inheritance. A new life beckons in Florence as he sets off with an old friend, his ex-wife's child and a parrot. An enjoyable read so far...



We have made our choice for December too: **Celia Imrie's Orphans of the Storm**. This novel is based on the real-life story of the survival of two infants who had been taken from their mother in Nice by their father and taken on the Titanic. The young boys were in the last lifeboat to leave the Titanic. Their paths cross with Margaret Hays, a New York socialite and first class passenger who takes them under her wing. Little Louis and Lola (as they were

named) were not orphans at all but the sons of Marcelle Navratil, named Michel and Edmond who had been taken from her during bitter divorce proceedings.

Marcelle went to New York, confirmed that she was the boys' mother, and took them back home to France, where they both grew to adulthood. Michel attended college and became a professor of Philosophy and lived to be 92 years old and Edmond died after fighting for the French Army in WWII

aged 43.



Some interesting reads on the horizon....

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

Marilyn

**St John's Knitting & Crochet Group** will meet on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November from 2.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. So if you are looking forward to some new autumn projects, even learn to crochet, then why not come along and join us. We shall be needing those winter woollies this year!

If you have any knitted items for Romania, (hats, scarves, blankets, jumpers, mittens) please bring them along to the Group meeting.

New members and beginners always welcome. Tea, cake and biscuits always on hand so do join us!

*Marilyn*



*Excelacrostic—Sue Burley*

Book in now, my line manager insists,  
Or else prospect of promotion's slight; so  
Resigned to re-booting this torpid brain  
I laze, already bored, in the IT room  
Near the window, glazed eyes staring at  
Grids, and even now undone by gloom.

*Surely, this autumn is the most sublime.*  
Pay attention will you? My pencil shoots,  
Rattles to the floor. Add this to that,  
Equals – what? Fix formula (like solving  
Algebra.) Never did quite see the light.  
Dash off suitable notes; this quite a feat.  
*See the sun sweep shadows through the park,*  
*How wind whips up leaves in flaming arcs.*  
Enlarge cells; think; key in, can't cheat.  
End up with? Total money in - and out.  
*Take note of golden days evolving.*  
Subtract promotion from the plan no doubt.

*(Acrostic – a literary game in which the initial letters of  
the lines*

*of a poem spell a word/words when read downwards.)*



**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.**

**Please donate if you are able.**

500g bags of rice  
pot noodles  
Instant mash ( packets are better)  
Tinned potatoes  
Tinned spaghetti  
Tinned meat ( including chicken, ham , beef)  
Small bottles of squash  
small pasta sauce  
Tinned vegetables  
Small packets of biscuits  
Extras including : ketchup, mayo, pickle, small bottles of oil, mayonnaise,  
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 15th November 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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