

# Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist, Malden

**July 2026**

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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  
please only send submissions in Microsoft Word.

## **ST JOHN'S HALL**

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Large and small halls available for hire with kitchen facilities  
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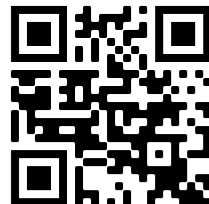
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton  
Tel: 020 8942 8321

# St John the Baptist Parish Church, Malden

## Directory

Vicar	The Revd Michael Roper gore_lodge@yahoo.co.uk	020 8337 8830
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Reader & Choir Director	Mrs Marilyn Burkett m.c.burkett@btinternet.com	020 8337 6017
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Parish Administrator	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
Safeguarding Officers	Mrs Sally Pusey Mrs Margaret Barrington	020 8330 2817 020 8330 2817
Church Electoral 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 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**

Coffee hosted by Mothers' Union after the first Wednesday service of the month ( except August).

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

I was reminded rather poignantly this week of how church works as a place of encounter with God, even when it is empty. Someone shared with me all the memories and past experiences they had had coming to St. John's since childhood. I imagined how over time those encounters, recognised and unrecognised, lay down layers like a pearl is slowly formed, almost imperceptively, until something precious and treasured is revealed. It made me look back at how my own relationship with God had shaped me, led me on paths I never would have imagined when I was growing up. As the eldest grandchild of the local Baptist minister, I spent a lot of time hanging about with Grandpa in Church. Printing the pew leaflet on the old mimeograph machine was a favourite Saturday job, cranking off purple printed sheets. That shows how old I am. I remember the subtle expectation in Sunday School to have all the answers, considering who I was, and remember singing that twee song Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World. Hearing "they are yellow, black, and white; they are precious in His sight" and realising that for many of the grownups that wasn't actually true. A healthy scepticism at a young age that has become a critical awareness of the shortcomings of the institutional Church.

By the time I was fifteen I'd stopped going to that church, repelled by the pervasive cultural racism hovering in the background. I was drawn to the Episcopal Church in my hometown, the only church in the entire county where black and white people worshipped together. The importance of Holy Communion was also obvious here and spoke volumes about inclusivity and God's love. By then I had disappointed my parents profoundly by coming out and becoming a problem that needed to be fixed. I can honestly say that for many years I was convinced that God was the only person who actually loved me unconditionally. It was that, this one-to-one relationship with God, who has always been a person, a friend, that saved me. The warm and welcoming people in that congregation are what kept me in the Church, instead of walking away like so many do, regardless of their personal circumstances. I meet a lot of people now who have given up on Church, many even given up on God; and count myself fortunate that I had those special people in my life when I needed them. God took what those around me disparaged, and used it to shape my own personal potential. I do not doubt that this experience made me understand the perspective of the outsider, and made me passionate about the unlimited love of God for each and every one of us, and to make that a living reality as best I can. If we stop and think I wouldn't be surprised if most of us can see that something in our own lives has made a positive difference in someone else's. We may not have given it much thought at the time, considered it just being ourselves, but God is always working through us, our words and actions, to share his love. We just need to be open to the possibilities and offer ourselves to him to direct and use wherever he needs us to be.

As you will know from last month's letter and the buzz of good news going round the Parish, we were successful with our National Lottery Heritage Fund grant application. It took eighteen months of very determined, hard work to put it all together and get it ready for

consideration by the National Lottery. To be frank, we had been sweating it ever since the initial survey by our Parish Architect had revealed the extent of deterioration of our historic building. The work required was estimated to be just under £500,000 divided into three or four phases. Thanks to the NLHF we should be able to raise an additional £80,000 and complete Phase 2, the largest and most expensive of the lot. Without this grant the Restore Project would have stopped, no one else gives grants this large to faith groups in the UK. We have also been spared the option of last resort, approaching the Diocese and Charity Commission for permission to sell the Church Hall on the Malden Road, our only asset. Without the work the Church would have had to close since bits of the Tower keep falling off and access would not be safe. So, you can well imagine the collective sigh of relief that went round St. John's. And while this is, in some way, just the beginning, there is still much to do ahead of us to complete this next phase.

From the Architect's first report, our time and energy at the PCC and Leadership Team have become increasingly dominated by the demands of our ancient building. As precious as it is, it makes my heart sink because the focus becomes bricks and mortar instead of fulfilling our mission to love and serve the community around us. While there are new and exciting outreach opportunities in the Restore Project, our focus and motivation could easily become just preserving the building if we aren't careful. I want to remind everyone that it is you as individuals that are St. John's. The building would not live and breath without you, laying down new stories, shaping the faith we hand on. What we have been given by those faithful Christians before us needs us to proclaim and share it afresh with a new generation.

We live in an increasingly dark, cynical world. There is a widespread distrust in our institutions, governments, and organisations that should serve the good of all. To counter that, God has entrusted his light to each one of us to push back the darkness wherever we are. We may not always feel up to it, but with him all things are possible. All we need to do is keep faith and trust because God knows what he is doing and that we can succeed in whatever he calls us to do. So keep faith and carry on,  
Michael.

## HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO SEE INSIDE LAMBETH PALACE?

Now is your opportunity to see some of the Palace's most significant spaces including:

- ◆ The State Rooms – where generations of Archbishops have welcomed guests and dignitaries.
- ◆ The Guard Room – one of the most stunning halls dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- ◆ The Great Hall – built in 1663 by Archbishop William Juxon.
- ◆ The Crypt Chapel – the oldest part of the Palace now used for prayer and reflection.



Come and explore Lambeth Palace's most iconic spaces while raising money for The Mothers' Union on 31<sup>st</sup> July between 12pm and 4pm.

Tickets are now available via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lambeth-palace-hope-open-day-tickets-1987683690425?aff=oddtcreator>

£12 for adults. Carers and children under 12 can book a free ticket.



Year 6 pupils have been using art to creatively represent the concept of SERVICE, one of the three core Southwark Diocesan Board of Education values alongside BELONG and THRIVE. Through various artistic mediums, the children have translated this into powerful visual stories, moving from the collaborative teamwork of local community action to the broader responsibilities of global stewardship and shared human fellowship. By engaging with these creative projects, the pupils have not only deepened their understanding of what it means to serve others, but they have also demonstrated how individual talents can unite to reflect the deeply held values of their wider school and the diocesan

Horizon of Hope



Mosaic of Service



In Service of the Earth



# K & L

How well do you know characters in the Bible?

This month, we reach the letters K and L - here are a few names which you may recognise...

KETURAH	wife & concubine of Abraham after death of Sarah
KEZIAH	2 <sup>nd</sup> of 3 daughters of Job
KISH	Father of 1 <sup>st</sup> King of the Israelites, Saul
KEHATH	2 <sup>nd</sup> of the sons of Levi
KORAH	son of Izhar (Numbers)
KADMIEL	a Levite who returned from exile with Zerubbabel
KENAN	a descendant of Adam in the Genesis genealogy
LABAN	Father of Leah and Rachel
LEAH	Jacob's 1 <sup>st</sup> wife
LEVI	Jacob's 3 <sup>rd</sup> son
LOT	nephew of Abraham
LAZURAS	friend of Jesus, raised from the dead
LUCAS	(Luke) one of the 4 Evangelists
MCB	



# Malden Parochial Church of England Primary School and Nursery

*Reflecting the kingdom of God  
by enriching and transforming lives*



# A warm welcome for every child. ♡



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WE WELCOME CHILDREN  
IN ALL YEAR GROUPS



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# Gift Day



**Patronal Festival Gift Day Sunday 21 June 2026**

Dear Friends

As our church continues to be blessed, the Restore Project has been chosen as this year's focus for our annual Gift Day for those wishing to make a special one-off gift to St. John's. We should all be delighted that our application to the National Lottery was successful, and this will enable necessary building repairs as well as other new activities such as the proposed Nature Hub, improved Heritage website, as well as others. So, an exciting future and new growth ahead for St. John's.

However, there is still need for funds to cover the expenses that will arise as Phase 2 works get underway. These include covering the Architects fees and the VAT on invoices, as the Government has withdrawn the scheme that used to allow churches to reclaim the VAT from HMRC. This means that everything we do will incur an extra 20%, and so the grant from the Lottery fund will not go as far as we might wish. Otherwise, these costs will be borne by our normal income, limiting some of what we would normally do.

So please contribute if you can to this exciting phase of work to ensure our church remains open, accessible and can grow into this new future.

**WAYS TO DONATE SEE OVER THIS PAGE**

There are 4 ways in which you can donate to our Gift Day:

1. Come along to one of our services on Sunday 21 June at St John's Church at our 8.00am or 9.45am service and use one of our special 'Gift Day' collection envelopes in the Lady Chapel and place in the green 'gift' box in the Lady Chapel.
2. Send a cheque referenced 'Gift Day' made payable to the 'Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist Malden', and post it to St John the Baptist, Church Road KT4 7RY.
3. Call into the church office and leave a donation .
4. Donate via Sum Up, using one of the Sum Up machines in church. Please reference the payment 'Gift Day' and gift aid the donation .
5. Donate using the QR code below.



**Thank YOU for your support!**

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO GIFT AID YOUR DONATION, PLEASE COMPLETE THE RESPONSE FORM BELOW AND PUT IT IN THE GREEN BOX WITH YOUR DONATION OR HAND IT TO JANE OR RICHARD.**

**St John the Baptist, Old Malden RESPONSE FORM 21 June 2026**

**Name .....**

**Address.....**

**Telephone Number.....**

**Email address .....**

**By cash or cheque**

**I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:**

**Name of Charity: St John the Baptist Church, Malden**

**I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference**

**Please return this form to the designated green box in church by Sunday 12 July 2026**

**Date : -----Signature :-----**

# WORD SEARCH PUZZLE NO. 12    HYMN TUNES

B E L S I L R A C H Y W O N Q  
 M A W O S L T E H Y D H R O V  
 H A N O V Q I V I F R L I E L  
 Z T N G F E V E G R A S N L W  
 S F Y H O I L L H Y C U N E T  
 A U O W E R T Y W D I I S M N  
 I L E N T I J N O O P T B E P  
 N S N A F S M S O L M N R L G  
 O A T U B O Y N D I E O U A O  
 C F L E S A L R N D H R C S P  
 N D L C L O C S E A W E K U S  
 A L O P C L T C Z B Q G T R A  
 R W W N Y E A J A J A G M E L  
 F A I T R U R O N M X I D J I  
 E L J B L O N D O N D E R R Y

ABERYSTWYTH

BBANGOR

CARLISLE

DIX

EVELYNS

FRANCONIA

FULDA

GERON-  
TIUS

GOPSAL

HIGHWOOD

HYFRYDOL

INNSBRUCK

JERUSALEM

LINCOLN

LONDONDERRY

LOVELY

MACCA-  
BAEUS

MANHEIM

MOSCOW

NOEL

PICARDY

STELLA

TRURO

VIENNA

WESTMINSTER

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

MCB



**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.**

Tinned meat, Long-life milk, Coffee, Rice, Pasta  
sauce, Squash, Instant mash, Tinned vegetables,  
Pot Noodles, Oils, Ketchup and mayonnaise,  
Sanitary towels, Toilet paper, Washing up liquid,  
Household cleaning products, Washing machine  
tablets, Shaving foam , Men's and women's  
deodorant, Tinned potatoes, Crisps and treats,  
Tinned tomatoes, Shampoo and conditioner,  
Tooth paste and toothbrushes, Biscuits, Jam ,  
Pasta , Cereals, Pulses, Baked beans ,  
Soup ,Tea.



Made possible with

**Heritage  
Fund**



St. John the Baptist,  
Old Malden

*Restore Project*

The Restore Project: St. John the Baptist, Old Malden, awarded a grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to save our 400-year-old Church Tower, thereby keeping our building open and accessible. This is thanks to the National Lottery Players.

Today, St. John the Baptist, Old Malden, is announcing a £250,000 grant from **The National Lottery Heritage Fund** that will allow us to make urgent repairs to our historic building. This will enable us to preserve our heritage resources and share them more widely with the community. The Project will provide for the digitisation of our historic records to make them freely available to all. We will also launch the Old Malden Nature Hub utilising the ecological resources of our churchyard and the adjacent Hogsmill River, an endangered chalk stream. This will facilitate educational projects with schools, community groups, and provide a base for volunteering groups working to preserve the river and its habitats for nature. As part of the London Loop and the rewilding initiatives of Kingston Borough Council, this grant allows St. John's to do its part in protecting and conserving both heritage and natural resources sustainably for the enjoyment of future generations.

St. John's was founded before the Norman Conquest by monks from Merton Priory, being rebuilt over the centuries. The present Jacobean building (one of only a dozen in England) sits on mediaeval foundations, with a large Victorian extension built to accommodate the population expansion at that time in this corner of south-west London.

Our building is a much-loved and well used community facility. This grant is key to funding the works needed to preserve our building for the future, keeping it as an amenity open to all. Without this funding the building would have to close due to safety concerns over access (falling masonry and water ingress).

The educational opportunities are across the generations, sharing the importance of local history and sharing best practice for ecological conservation and minimising our impact on fragile nature. The Nature Hub, heritage resources, and community engagement (Bat Walks, Hedge Hog Watch, Heritage Week) serves the whole community irrespective of faith background, in an increasingly diverse community. It enables a sustainable future through this engagement and our social care initiatives (Bereavement Café, Dementia Carers Support group, mental health outreach). It will increase the use of our premises through the week, meeting local

needs, and giving focus to our outreach.

Fr. Michael Roper, Vicar of St. John's, said, "The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant has made all the difference to our Restore Project, without it we would not have been able to make the Project happen. Thanks to the National Lottery we can restore our Church Tower and keep St. John's open, while serving our community in new and exciting ways, making the most of our unique heritage and the natural resources on our doorstep. This is truly an exciting time for us, our congregation and the wider community."

## **About St. John's**

St. John the Baptist is the ancient Church of England parish church of Old Malden in the Borough of Kingston upon Thames, part of the Diocese of Southwark on the edge of Greater London. We are a diverse and inclusive Christian community serving the wider community for over a thousand years.

## **About The National Lottery Heritage Fund**

Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. That's why as the largest funder for the UK's heritage we are dedicated to supporting projects that connect people and communities to heritage, as set out in our strategic plan, [Heritage 2033](#). Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past.

Over the next 10 years, we aim to invest £3.6 billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to make a decisive difference for people, places and communities.

[heritagefund.org.uk](https://heritagefund.org.uk)

Follow [@HeritageFundUK](#) on [Twitter/X](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use [#NationalLottery](#) [#HeritageFund](#)

## **Further information**

For further information, images and interviews please contact Fr. Michael Roper at St. John the Baptist, Old Malden on 020 8337 2817 or via email at [administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk)

## ST JOHNS SILENT AUCTION WINNERS 2026

DA AL ZAAD £ 50 VOUCHER	SALLY PUSEY
URBAN WILD VOUCHER AND SOAP	MARILYN BURKETT
TESCOS LANSON CHAMPAGNE	MARILYN BURKETT
SILENT POOL DISTILLERY TOUR	STEVE ELLIS
ROSE THEATRE "WIND IN THE WILLOWS"	SHARON BELL
URBAN FUN	SHARON BELL
CHESSINGTON GARDEN CENTRE	ANNE BEALES
PETS PLACE	MICHELLE NEWMAN
THAMES DITTON MINIATURE RAILWAY	ESME
SANDOWN PARK RACING	LYNN SANGER
PEEPS PIZZA	RUTH DWYER
BOCKETTS FARM	CLAIRE MILLER
MEGUMI FOOD VOUCHERS	JULIET BROOKES
CHEAM POOL SPISH SPLASH	JULIET BROOKES
HOBLEDOWN FARM	JULIET BROOKES
LONDON WETLAND CENTRE	JULIET BROOKES

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who take part in the Silent Auction and to the businesses who kindly made donations to our charity.

Steve Clark

# Could You Be a Foundation Governor at Malden Parochial School?

Are you a member of St John's Old Malden who wants to make a real difference in the lives of local children?

We're looking for someone from our church family to serve as a **Foundation Governor** at Malden Parochial School—our parish's church school. This is a rewarding way to support our school's Christian ethos and help shape its future.

## What does a Foundation Governor do?

**Champion our Christian values:** Help ensure the school's Christian character is at the heart of everything it does.

**Support and challenge:** Work with other governors and school leaders to help every child thrive.

**Be involved:** Attend around 6 meetings a year (usually evenings), join in school life, and take part in training (full support given).

## Who are we looking for?

Someone who cares about children's education and our Christian mission

No special qualifications needed—just enthusiasm, commitment, and a willingness to learn

Friendly, open-minded, and able to work with others

## Why get involved?

Make a positive impact on young people and our community

Bring your faith into action in a practical way

Gain new skills and experiences

## Interested?

If you'd like to know more or are interested in volunteering, please speak to Peter Wickenden or email [clerk@maldenparochial.school](mailto:clerk@maldenparochial.school). We'd love to talk with you!

## RETURNING TO GOD AND ENTERING THE ST. JOHN'S FAMILY

**It's been a long time coming. Around 34 years in fact. That's the interval between previously attending church, and entering St. John's earlier this year.**

I was born in Roehampton and spent much of my earlier life growing up in New Malden with a father who was steeped in the Baptist Church and Boys' Brigade (BB) in Hammersmith, and a mother who would go on to be one of the team who ran the BB's youngest group, the Anchor Boys at the same church, West End Baptist (now known as Ravenscourt Baptist).

I would become a part of that church's community from my earliest days. I was dedicated there in May 1979. The majority of my parents' friends were connected to the church. Despite living in New Malden, I was enrolled in the BB there too.

Then, a series of events occurred. When change hits families in the ways you least expect it and to the people you least expect it to, you find yourself questioning everything - and one of the key questions was the "*How could God let that happen?*" one.

Therefore, through the years that followed, I didn't enter the doors of West End Baptist Church again - or any other church for that matter. I was not anti-religion at all, it just did not feel right.

I went on, earned a BSc in Media and Society in 2000 and then undertook a PGCE to become a primary school teacher, and have fulfilled many different roles in primary schools over the last 24 years.

Another of those "big life changing" periods took place between 2013 and 2017. I had always promised that I would go back to university to study Geography, which had always been my favourite subject at school. I went part-time in my teaching, and took the MA in Cultural Geography at the beautiful Royal Holloway, University of London.

Midway through my MA, I was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Something like that completely alters your outlook on life. No longer do you put up with things, or persist with things that give you stress, or you don't completely enjoy. Life is too short, and I had a second chance. I started to put in place a number of big changes.

I completed my MA, and began a PhD. As well as teaching, I returned to my first love of writing, and in 2019 launched a women's football website, *Impetus* which, seven years later is award winning, and has volunteer writers, photographers, and content creators on four continents.

With cancer gone, I was able to regularly return to the country that first stole my heart in 2000 - Australia. With family and many friends around the state of Western Australia, it is my annual August piece of "me time"

Then, towards the end of 2024, more big change, which was the beginning of what brought me to where I am today. After seven years working at Clarendon Primary in Hampton, a school for children with special needs, I became wiped out and really needed to have a much shorter commute.

I moved to a local mainstream primary. However, the support network that is absolutely vital in a school with extremely challenging pupils was just not there. Colleagues were hurt by children on a daily basis, and many went off on long-term stress leave.

I began to look around for another job. Towards the end of September 2025 up popped a

vacancy at The King's Church of England Primary School in Kew. I looked on the website and the photo of the headteacher showed the face of someone who worked in the classroom next door to me around 12 years previously. Coincidence?

Less than an hour after completing the interview tasks, I received a phone call saying the school would withdraw interview offers to other candidates if I accepted the job immediately. Needless to say I did.

The Eucharistic assemblies took me immediately. Then the real game changer - Passiontide. My job at the school is varied, but my main role is with a child in Year Five with autism who is one of the funniest and smartest little men that you will ever encounter, with a desire for calm, patience, and modified learning.

Year Five traditionally perform the Passiontide play just prior to the Easter Holidays. It's a major production lasting around 45 minutes including some of the songs from *Jesus Christ Superstar*. You were in tears of laughter in some parts, but tears of sadness at the end.

That was, in the end, what spoke to me the most powerfully. It was a message to me in clear, flashing lights - it's time to return to church.

Whilst my early church experiences were in the Baptist Church, the way I had been re-introduced to Christianity at The King's Primary told me that I needed to turn to the Church of England.

I knew of St. John's from walking past it many times and exploring the churchyard on walks to the Hogsmill, so with it being only a 10 minute walk from my house, it was the obvious choice.

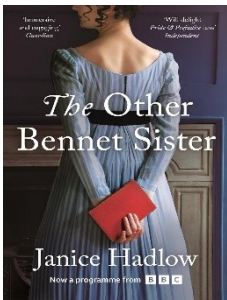
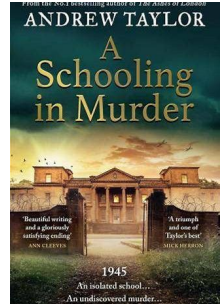
I was immediately struck by several things on first entering. The immense beauty of the building, the larger than expected size of the congregation, and the friendly welcome.

I have never found it easy to put myself into spaces where I don't know anyone, but this has never been an issue at St. John's. It is a genuine community and one I am very lucky to have found. There is a deep sense of *atmosphere* in our church. You feel it within you.

They say God moves in mysterious ways - leaving one job at the end of 2024 and being delivered from a very tough situation in a local school at the end of September 2025 which, through a set of freakish circumstances installed me at The King's Church of England Primary, has led me to being part of the St. John's family.

Thank God for that.

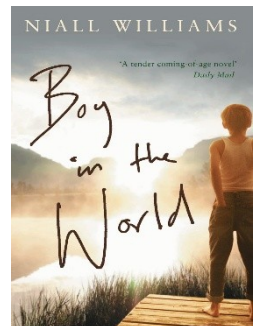
Last month we read Andrew Taylor's new murder mystery novel 'A Schooling in Murder' set during the closing days of WWII in 1945. It was an unusual novel in that it follows the ghost of a murdered teacher. Whilst an interesting read, we did not think it was a riveting read – many of the characters had rivalries and personality clashes and the middle section was rather slow. It was certainly an unusual approach and it did have a surprise ending after many 'red herrings'. We awarded it a 7/10 for its originality.



For July we selected 'The Other Bennet Sister' by Janice Hadlow which has become a very popular TV series. With our love of Jane Austen and her world, this is another novel concerned with Jane and her family. We have read 'Miss Austen', 'Godmersham Park' and 'Death comes to Pemberley', so now it is time to explore this novel describing the coming of age of Mary Bennet. It is a refreshing read and just what we need to transport us back to the age of Jane Austen. The author has managed to capture the style and turn of phrase of Ms Austen and it is a great delight to read.

Our next choice of book is very different: 'Boy in the World' by Niall Williams. On Niall Williams' website, the book is beautifully described:

'Boy in the World tells the story of a quest. The boy, an everyman for a new generation, grows up in a village in the West of Ireland in the care of his grandfather. On the morning of his Confirmation he is given a letter from his long dead mother and his world shatters. It is a journey that takes him from Ireland to London, from there



across Europe and into Africa. He has extraordinary encounters and those whom he passes are often changed by their meetings. Boy in the World is a remarkable story of a boy seeking his way in a changing world where all he holds dear seems to be in danger.’ There is a sequel to this novel, ‘Boy and Man’ which continues Jay’s story.

Following Maggie O’Farrell’s successful novel, ‘Hamnett’, her latest book has just been published entitled ‘Land’. It follows the story of Tomás who is an Irish mapmaker, a survivor of the Great Famine of 1845. The publishers describe it as a novel about separation and reunion, tragedy and recovery, colonization and rebellion. I think it promises to be a great read. As I write this, the novel is being serialised on BBC 4 as book of the week.

So it is almost the time to look ahead to Summer Reading plans. I seem to have acquired a backlog of books so a lot to read over the Summer. Must try and include another classic novel – so many from which to choose. Perhaps ‘Hard Times’ and ‘Bleak House’ are rather too serious but a good challenge nevertheless.

Our July meeting will be on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

You are very welcome to join us.

*Happy Reading!*

## MUSIC WORKSHOP

Another step forward in our pilot scheme working with KidsOut to provide music workshops for children in our local Refuge was a music workshop for both Refugee Action Kingston children and children overseen by the Refuge (not all the families in their care are in the Refuge itself). Held at RAK, unfortunately two of the Refuge mums had last minute complications and a third didn't arrive, but sixteen refugee children (plus two older ones who joined to watch after they'd done their homework) and about nine parents had a thoroughly enjoyable time. The three musicians from the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Orchestra were totally professional and led the session incredibly well. The leader, Yusuf, was exceptionally good at dealing with the shyest as well as the more ebullient ones.



*Some of the instruments*

They were gradually introduced to the instruments and encouraged to choose an instrument themselves to play – all percussion, so lots of energy and lots of noise! After an hour and a half (including a break for refreshments) the youngsters had experienced how to play loudly, softly, and to express their feelings and their names with the instruments, which they swapped around, to try different sounds and to sing along and join in. So they not only had a fun time, a joyous time, but they learned a lot as well.



*Having fun!*



Their smiles and engagement said it all, but one of RAK's Staff said:

*Yusef, Rachel and Meadow were not only gifted and talented musicians they were superb teachers who conveyed their love of music and playing music very successfully. It is not easy to drop into a group with such an age range, varying backgrounds and different levels of English. This did not trouble your musicians at all. Led by Yusef, they created a safe, fun space where everyone felt included and encouraged to give things a go. I was so moved to see the engagement and enthusiasm from our children. They loved the individual and group activities and created something special with their group song. Please pass on our thanks to Yusef, Rachel and Meadow. They were fabulous and the session surpassed our expectations – which were already high!*



*Our musicians ~ Yusuf, Meadow and Rachel*

Bobby Child



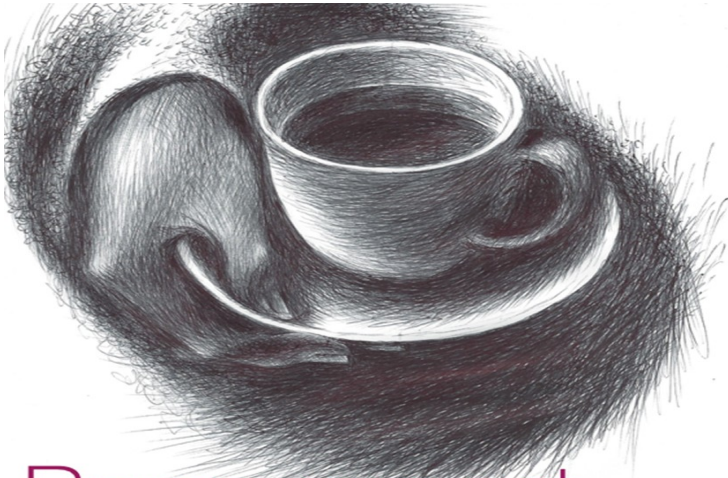
## The Men's Thing

A programme of talks held on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the church extension. Tea, coffee, biscuits etc. available from 10am for a 10.30am start. Men and women are all welcome.

**July 11th Ben Jackson - Valves, Vinyl & The Old Groaner ;  
Sound Recording Goes Electric.**

**August 8th Summer Break**

**September 5th Peter Lutton - A talk on Church Organs.**



## Bereavement Café

In partnership with Princess Alice Hospice , St John's runs an informal support group for all those experiencing the loss of a loved one. The next meeting will be in the coffee lounge at St. John's on Tuesday July 21st 2:00- 3:30pm.

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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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