

# Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of  
St John the Baptist, Malden

**April 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:  
St John the Baptist Parish Office  
020 8330 2817  
administrator@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk

Advertising and Distribution:  
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020 8640 9377  
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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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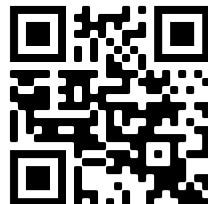
Details from the Bookings Secretary – Pat Sutton  
Tel: 020 8942 8321

# 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
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Organist	Mr Barry Eaton	07968 031225
Church Wardens	Mrs Margaret Barrington Mr Mike Broome	07947577984 020 8337 1572
PCC Secretary	Mrs Sally Pusey	020 8330 2817
PCC Treasurer	Mr Peter Chugg	07941 842957
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 April**



### **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

The weeks of Lent roll by quickly, punctuated by the main services Mothering Sunday (the half-way mark) and the wealth of tradition and meaning of Holy Week. Alongside this we've been keeping our eyes on the weather, longing for sunshine and the day when wintry wet and grey are finally behind us. As the garden awakes, each blossom heralds the steady march of time towards summer sunshine. It can't come soon enough in my opinion, little Brooke, the feline overlord of the Vicarage, is suffering from an acute case of cabin fever and only warm days and sunshine will alleviate that.

We are truly blessed in the Northern Hemisphere because Easter comes against the backdrop of Spring, the new life emerging around us a powerful, tangible sign of the new life we celebrate at Easter. I used to wonder how they managed Easter without Spring Down Under, until a clergy colleague from Australia said that Easter fell at the end of their rainy season and green returned to the landscape after their long summer. New life, the signs are woven through nature, but what do we actually mean by new life?

From the stories we have in the Bible about Jesus' appearances after his resurrection, there is a recurring theme of how his disciples did not recognise him at first. It begs the question why? Perhaps it was down to expectation, no one was convinced that after the ordeal he had suffered on the Cross that he would bounce back on the third day. He had told them, but the evidence in front of them, his dying and burial, felt so utterly final. Had death had the last word? Mary Magdalene did not recognise him, nor did the two disciples on their way to Emmaus until he sat down at table with them and blessed and broke bread with them. It was in that singular action they had seen Jesus perform again and again that opened their eyes.

I have often wondered if it were simply a matter of Jesus' new life being that much different from what had gone before, from his ordinary living among them before his crucifixion. Like his Transfiguration, his closest friends had seen Jesus as he really truly is, his divinity unveiled. It may well be that this glory post-resurrection eclipsed Jesus as they had known him, travelling, teaching, and healing with them in tow. But it could also be a reminder of the "disconnect" between this life and the one to come. Jesus did not just resume his mortal life, pick up where he'd left off. This phase of living was something entirely new, something different, of a higher order. It certainly wasn't a return to the same old same old thing.

If we think about new life for ourselves, what comes to mind? Is it something written in superlatives, metaphors of perfection from life as we know it now? Is Heaven a pristine white sandy beach where the sun never sets, set in a crystal blue sea? The possibilities are endless, tailored to our own desires and expectation, but the reality exceeds all dreams and fantasies because whatever new life holds, it is a gift from God who only gives the best.

Everything longs for new life, not just an endless cycle of the same old thing again and again. Our communities, the nation long for something new and lasting, a renewal of our political and economic life together, one with the good of the many as priority and not just that of the few at the top. Internationally the old order of co-operation, balance, and relative peace lies in tatters, destroyed by personal ambition and lust for power. The old alliances are broken and we don't quite know who to rely on, which nations are true and faithful allies. Who will protect us, that is a burning question given the unpredictability of our times. Thanks to the uncertainty around us, we may retreat into the familiar ways of home and family life, or seek solace in the constant, seemingly unchanging, rhythm of church and worship. But even these change over time, evolving to meet changing circumstances or meet new challenges.

It is at times like these that we can take comfort knowing that new life is offered to all of us, and not just as some date long down the road when we meet our Maker. The new life that Jesus died to bring about has its points of continuity with what has gone before. Jesus is still Jesus and always will be, just as you will always be you as I am me. But this new life will take what we are now and bring it to perfection. All things cry out for this new life, and it alone can transform our brokenness and make it whole. Imagine what life could be like in our country and the wider world if we only invited God in with this great gift of potential and meaning. To lay aside our fears and insecurities and make a place at the table for everyone. A new politics, a new economy, a renewed Church that is life-giving and life-enhancing. It is all possible, but in order to play our part we need to embrace this new life for ourselves and make it ours too. Jesus offers it to us just as he did that first Easter morning to the women who came to the tomb, and to the Disciples who hid behind closed doors in the upper room afraid and demoralised at his trial and death. Let's claim it and let it change us and the world.

Happy Easter!

*Michael*



This Lenten season, the Malden Parochial school community has come together to create a powerful and moving installation of the Stations of the Cross.

From our youngest learners in Nursery to our eldest in Year 6, every child has contributed to a piece of art that reflects a moment in Jesus' journey to Calvary. This project has allowed our pupils and the congregation of St John's Old Malden, our parish church, to explore deep themes of faith, resilience, and compassion through their own unique perspectives: By creating this installation, the children have engaged in a "visual prayer." It has allowed them to process the solemnity of Good Friday while looking forward to the hope of Easter Sunday. By adding questions to ponder at each station we invite the viewer to step into the shoes of the figures in the story and bridge the gap between a historical event and our lives today.





## The Life of an Organist

I have been asked to give an account of my time at St. John's and it probably makes sense to say a few words about my early life in the church before coming here.

I grew up in Isleworth and became a chorister at All Saints Parish Church at the age of 7. At age 11 I was appointed deputy organist and remained in this position for 7 years. I then moved to St. Mary the Virgin, Isleworth as organist and Choirmaster. Three years later in 1966 the urge to find a more challenging position brought me to St. John's where I stayed as Director of Music until 1994.

Fr. Michael Hewlett was very supportive as I set about working with a small, but able choir of 6 boys and 2 each of altos, tenors and basses. When Fr. Michael moved on we were fortunate to have Fr. Hugh Theodosius take over. He had been a chorister at Salisbury Cathedral during the war years and was thus very keen to see the music thrive at St. John's. During the 1970s the number of boys swelled to 15 with the adult choir eventually benefitting from boys staying on when their voices broke. Various Mass settings were a staple of the Eucharist and Evensong was sung every Sunday

In due course many of the boys benefitted from the courses run by the Royal School of Church Music. They were also able to enter for various awards – Provost's, Bishop's and the coveted St. Nicolas Award were all on offer and during that period they amassed nearly 50 awards between them.. A number of them also became members of the RSCM Southern Cathedral Singers and had the added privilege of singing Evensong in many cathedrals on Saturdays and Bank Holidays when the cathedral choirs were on holiday. A few even made it onto the cathedral courses for 2 weeks in the summer. I also became a member of this group and sang with them for 36 years.

Towards the end of the 1970s problems arose retaining the adults as the ex-trebles became involved with other activities. This resulted in setting up a new adult choir mainly of parents of the current boys choir. Many of them had been choristers in their childhood. This gradually grew and the choir was able to go on in much the same way as before. By the 1980s various changes had taken place in the Eucharist and the music became more congregational. However, Evensong provided plenty of opportunity for choir anthems and on special occasions, a full cathedral style Choral Evensong such as we had to conclude last year's 150 events.

As time went on it became inevitable that the choir was going to founder. It was not helped by families moving away as our new incumbent, Fr. Peter Knight brought about changes which were not welcome, one of which was dispensing with a weekly Evensong. It was time for me to move on.

I decided to freelance playing where and when needed. However, the illness of a former pupil saw me take on the organ and choir at St Mary's

Beddington for a couple of years. Eventually at the start of 1997 I became Director of Music at neighbouring St. James and continued there for the next 6 years. Weakening choir numbers there led me to go freelance again, and again the ill health of a colleague found me standing in at All Saints, Weston Green. That brings the story up to my returning to St. John's towards the end of 2003. Marilyn had already been running the choir for a number of years as organists had come and gone. With Fr. Kevin things became more settled and here I have been ever since, content to play but not be responsible for the choir. The partnership with Marilyn has worked very well.

The one other aspect of musical life which has been going ever since 1971 has been the organ recitals. Sadly there is not the interest in these now. In those days there would be an audience c.60. For the record over that period I gave 147 recitals, most of them at St. John's which have been invaluable in raising funds to keep the organ in good shape. My thanks to the regulars who have supported them.

It is clear now that St. John's is heading out in a new direction. I hope that the future, whatever it may bring, will hold on to what is of value from the past while it explores new avenues. I will always treasure my time at St. John's and the many friends I have made here. Keep in touch!

Barry Eaton

## **A Thank You to Barry from Marilyn & the Choir**

You have made such a memorable contribution to St John's musical life over many years and we thank you for that. We shall miss the organ recitals and the voluntaries – particularly the Bach, Mendelssohn and the Rheinberger. (Perhaps not the Messiaen!) Last year we enjoyed the challenge of preparing for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and you were the inspiration for both the Summer concert and the December Choral Evensong. Both very memorable. Our Organist/Choir Director relationship seemed to work very well and you were always so reliable and helpful. We shall all miss you and hope to build on your legacy as we face the future.

Thank you Barry and we wish you all the best for the future,

MCB



## PLEASE JOIN THE PARISH GIVING SCHEME

### **What is the Parish Giving Scheme and why should you join?**

Thank you for your Giving to St. John's. The Parish Giving Scheme (or PGS) is a tried, tested and secure scheme used by 27 dioceses in the Church of England as a cost-free, easy administration system for Planned Giving to the Church. They receive Giving by direct debit, claim the Gift Aid (where possible) and then pass it on to us. Most donations are monthly, but PGS can also handle quarterly or annual donations. They then send regular reports to our Stewardship officer Jane Bransgrove saving her and our Treasurer Peter Chugg the effort of administration. Fifty-four of us make our Planned Giving through PGS already.

### **I am not sure that my finances are secure enough for me to give a Direct Debit. Can I not continue to give cash or card payments when I attend a service?**

Yes, you can do that, but it increases the administration for our Treasurer who has to bank the cash or pull "Give a Little" report to allocate the funds appropriately as well having to file the Gift Aid claim forms each quarter with HMRC. It also makes our budgeting more difficult.

### **What is the difference between making regular donations by way of Standing Order and the PGS Scheme?**

PGS is paid by way of a Direct Debit, which, like a Standing Order, can be cancelled or changed at any time by the donor simply contacting their bank. So, it is totally within your control and you do not need to worry about your finances. A PGS Direct Debit has the additional convenience that you can index-link your giving, but only if you choose this option when you fill in the paperwork. As mentioned above there is also a significant decrease in the amount of administration effort that is required by the stewardship secretary & treasurer.

**I already give by Standing Order. Can I change this into PGS giving by Direct Debit and how do I go about taking out a Direct Debit via PGS?**

Contact PGS at [parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/malden-st-john-the-baptist-kingston-upon-thames](https://parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/malden-st-john-the-baptist-kingston-upon-thames) Sign-up is easy through the PGS website or telephone service, on 0333 002 1271. You can also fill in the PGS form, returning it to PGS direct. St John's is already registered for the PGS Scheme, and you may be asked for the Parish PGS Code which is 370637139. Ask Jane or Richard Burkett for help or if you want a copy of the form.

Once you have set up your Donation, don't forget to cancel your Standing Order with your bank.

Thank you . Stewardship: J Bransgrove & R Burkett : [stewardship@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk](mailto:stewardship@stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk)

# H

How well do you know characters in the Bible?

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

You may think of others.....

Habakkuk – one of the 12 minor prophets in Hebrew Scripture

Hagar – an Egyptian slave given to Abram by Sarai and who gave birth to Ishmael

Haggai one of the 12 minor prophets in Hebrew Scripture

Haman – main antagonist in the book of Esther

Hannah – the mother of Samuel

Herod Antipas – executioner of John the Baptist and involved in the death of Jesus

Hur – companion of Moses and Aaron

Hosea – first of the 12 minor prophets in Hebrew Scripture

Hilkiah in II Kings who discovered the lost copy of the Book of the Law in the time of King Josiah

Hepzibah – wife of King Hezekiah, King of Judah

Ham – one of Noah's three sons

## **Please Support our Magazine Advertisers**

Over the past twelve months the trustees of St. John's Hall have had work carried out by two of the people who advertise in Old Malden News and we were very pleased with the results.

Tom of TLM Carpentry has fitted new internal doors throughout the building and is due to fit a new back door. Not a straightforward job in a building well over 120 years old.

Mark Coles of DG Coles & Son Ltd has been looking after the plumbing at the hall for many years. He also has a team of painters and decorators and last summer they painted most of the interior of the building and left it looking the best it's been for many, many years.

Please consider a quote from our advertisers the next time you have a work to be done.

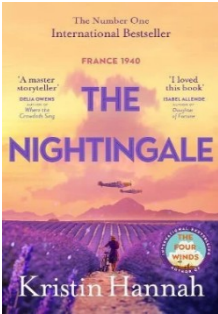
## **Revision of the Electoral Roll 2026**

A formal notice of a revision of the Electoral Roll will be placed in the Church on Sunday, 22nd March 2026. Preparation of the Roll will commence on 28th March and be completed by 18th April 2026.

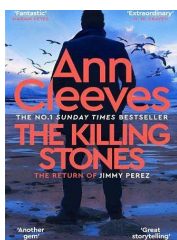
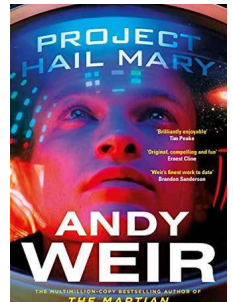
Those wishing to be placed on the Electoral Roll should collect an application form from the porch or from Steven Clark by email. Please note that an emailed form will need a physical signature. Please return completed forms to Father Michael Roper in the Parish Office no later than 18 th April 2026.

S. Clark – Electoral Roll Officer 07584513858 steadyste-  
ve95@gmail.com

Our choice for March was *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. This proved to be a very popular read and quite straightforward. However the content was quite challenging at times. It is the story of two sisters set in WWII occupied France – one remains at home with her child. Her husband has been taken to a labour camp and two Nazi officers are billeted in her house. The everyday struggle for food, heat and clothing is exacerbated by the terrible winters of the 40s. The other sister joins the Resistance and is part of the escape route for downed airman over the Pyrenees. It is a very gripping read, well researched and it makes you realise the hardships that faced the people of France during this very brutal war and the Jewish community in particular. There was some predictability about the novel – two strong female characters but with very different personalities. Average score: 9/10

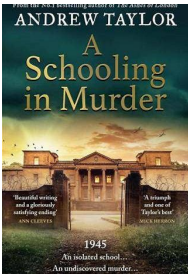


For April –we have selected a science fiction novel, 'Project Hail Mary' by Andy Weir. Not a map at the beginning, but the dissection of a rocket. It has been released as a film and is in cinemas now with Ryan Gosling in the leading role. An Astronaut, Ryland Grace wakes up on a spacecraft with no memory of himself or his mission. He realises that he is the sole survivor of a crew sent to the Tau Ceti system to save Earth from disaster. However he discovers that he is not alone when he encounters an alien called Rocky. I think this novel may well take us out of our comfort zone.



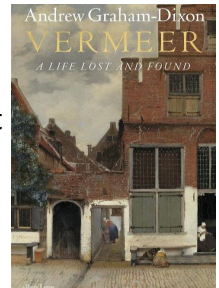
For May – *The Killing Stones* by Anne Cleeves (out in paperback on April 23<sup>rd</sup>)

Set on Orkney, it heralds the return of Jimmy Perez who becomes involved in a multiple murder mystery. Orkney is an amazing island with much Neolithic history and the author explores the brilliant setting for this new novel. It is a good read.



Looking further ahead to June, we have selected Andrew Taylor's new murder mystery novel 'A Schooling in Murder' set during the closing days of WWII in 1945. Some of you may remember that we read the six novels in the James Marwood and Cat Lovett Restoration series. This novel is a new departure. It has a map and a list of characters – always useful.

One of my recent acquisitions is the latest biography on Vermeer by Andrew Graham-Dixon. Having seen many of Vermeer's works in the Rijksmuseum last year, I hope to find out more about the man and his life in 17<sup>th</sup> century Delft. The book is entitled 'A Life Lost And Found'. Vermeer was in his early 40s when he died but he left a treasury of wonderful art works. A lot to discover....



CHANGE OF DATE: Our April meeting will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge. You are very welcome to join us.

*Marilyn*

# WORD PUZZLE SEARCH No.9 *Countries of the World*

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

NEW

NORWAY

PERU

POLAND

ROMANIA

RUSSIA

SPAIN

SRI

SWEDEN

SWITZERLAND

USA

ZEALAND

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other. MCB



## Holy Week

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**Palm Sunday-29<sup>th</sup> March**

**Holy Communion-8:00am**

**Procession of the Palms-9:30am (*from MPS playground*)**

**Sung Eucharist with Passion Reading-9:45am**

**Wednesday-1<sup>st</sup> April**

**Holy Communion-11:00am**

**Maundy Thursday-2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Chrism Mass- 11:00am at Southwark Cathedral**

**Solemn Eucharist with Foot Washing- 8:00pm**

**Good Friday- 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**Stations of the Cross-12:00pm (*Church Open from Noon*)**

**Solemn Liturgy- 2:00pm**

*(Procession of the Cross from Malden Manor 1:30pm)*

**The Burial of Christ-7:00pm *a short service of music and reflection***

**Holy Saturday-4<sup>th</sup> April**

**Prayers at the Tomb- 9:30am**

**Easter Vigil - 8:00pm**

**Easter Day- 5<sup>th</sup> April**

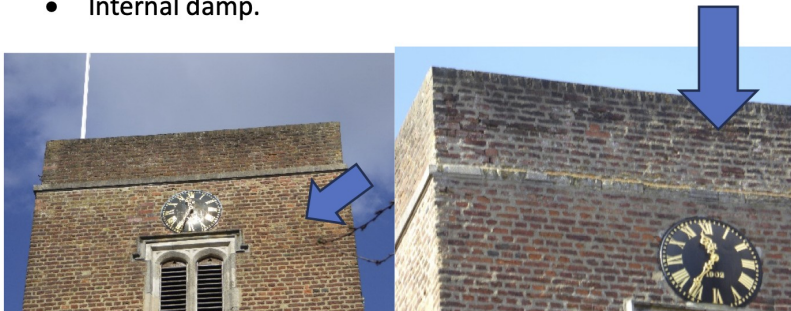
**All-Age Eucharist- 9:45am**



## THE RESTORE PROJECT IS NOT OVER YET!

**Phase 1, the buttress repair may be over but there is still a need to complete repairs to;**

- The tower brickwork
- The broken tower roofing & parapet
- The leaking nave roof & dormer window
- The leaking vestry roof
- Internal damp.



The overall cost of repairs remains about £450,000, although this sum has been reduced by our ability to fund the buttress repairs from grants from Marshall's Charity and the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust.

Nevertheless, to make the overall project financially feasible it is being undertaken in stages (Phases).

Repairs apart, we want to expand our community support by

- Opening our building to wider community use as a hub for use by heritage, nature, and environmental organisations.
- Building on our current social care activities, such as supporting carers' of family members and friends with dementia, and offering ways of helping people prepare for the death of loved ones (Dying Matters/ GraveTalk).
- A greater involvement with our local schools by hosting school groups exploring our rich historical and natural heritage.

These are dependent on having structurally safe and sound buildings.

**The next stage is PHASE 2, which will;**

- Complete the repairs to the tower and tower parapet
- Repair the pitched nave roofs
- Start at least one new activity benefiting our local community – a dementia carers support group is most timely as is the hub.

Estimated cost for the tower repair is £227,000 (ex VAT), the roofs £60,500 (ex VAT), totalling £287,500 plus VAT £57,500. Costs for the social care and hub activities will be on top. Final tenders will up-date these estimates.

**To fund Phase 2**, our grants committee is putting together applications to a number of external funding organisations. It is a time-consuming

complex process, requiring explaining who we are, what we do, what we want to do, the need for urgent building repairs, how our social activities will benefit the community, our partnerships (what our hub users will do), and providing detailed costs and other financial details.

All grant giving organisations have strict rules stipulating;

- what they fund
- how much they will give
- how much the applicant (**us**) must raise themselves prior to making an application.

While we have so far been successful in raising our own funds, we have also had to employ architectural and advisory professionals and fund Phase 1.

It is critical we continue fundraising to meet the grant giving organisations rules. However, the success of the Restore Project is not only dependent on monies from grant giving organisations, but on us too.

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We acknowledge and thank everyone who has donated to the Restore Project – well done!



## St John the Baptist, Old Malden



Your feedback helps others discover our church and community.

**Scan the QR Code Below**



It only takes **30 seconds** and makes a meaningful difference.

Thank you for supporting **St John the Baptist Old Malden**

Your kind words help our church grow and welcome more visitors.



**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.

# FALL IN LOVE WITH THE FUTURE

Rob Hopkins Author of  
From What is to What if?



**How to Fall in Love  
with the Future**  
A Time Traveller's Guide to Changing the World

A one day workshop led by author of 'From What is to What if' Rob Hopkins will guide us to think about how we can build a community of the future

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 10am - 4.30pm

Tickets £25 (£20 Earlybird)

For more information and to purchase tickets, scan the QR code or go to [stmartinsepsom.org/imagine](http://stmartinsepsom.org/imagine)



**SUSTAINABLE  
EPSOM & EWELL**

**St Martin  
of Tours**

Church Street  
Epsom, KT17 4PX



## The Men's Thing

Spring/summer 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.

**April 11th**- A talk by Elliot Newton– Re-wilding Director from Citizen Zoo.

**May 9th**– To be confirmed

**June 13th** - A talk by Georgina Fauconier - Biodiversity in Kingston

**July 11th** - A talk by Ben Jackson - Early recorded sound



# 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 21st April 2:00- 3:30pm.



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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