

Old Malden News



The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist, Malden

October 2026

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Old Malden News

**The Parish Magazine of
St John the Baptist Parish Church Malden**
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Copy date for the magazine is the 15th of the month and
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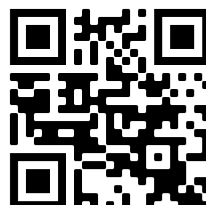
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To receive the Parish Mailing please scan the
QR code with your smart phone camera



Services for October



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

Every Sunday service ends with a traditional prayer for the dead in the Tower entrance after the servers and clergy have processed out. It is a variation of “May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory”. I often drop “faithful” because I hope that all may rest in peace, and I don’t like the idea of me or anyone else judging who is faithful and who isn’t. It’s best to leave that to God himself. But I do like to explain to our younger servers why we pray this prayer after all the other prayers we’ve had that morning, because no one is left out and we stand there above the graves of several people in that particular space. I also point out that as they get older, they will have more and more people to pray for and remember at that moment. My own list has grown and grown, and I appreciate this opportunity our tradition allows to remember and give thanks for those we love who’ve gone before us.

Remembering is a complicated and very personal thing, the ways we remember those we love varies from person to person. Old photographs, a piece of music, little keepsakes can open the door to special memories and help us feel close and connected to someone who has died. I remember my mother by sitting in the garden at Chatsworth or having a drink in the Salisbury pub, in all its Victorian brass and mahogany splendour, in St. Martin’s Lane, both special stops on her first visit to London many years ago. Memory is a great gift, one that enables us to revisit the past and bask in happy times long gone.

In the seven years that I have been here, we have mourned many people who have been an important part of our lives together at St. John’s. In the wider community the losses of the pandemic still resonate, and most everywhere I go I meet someone that we’ve helped organise a funeral service for, or who has taken part in our Bereavement Café. It is one of the greatest privileges of ministry to be with those who are dying and their families. I find it very moving to be there with them, and to help them put together a funeral service that will honour and celebrate the person they love. If we do our job well, we leave a family in a better place than when we found them through death and the funeral to life beyond the grief.

Grief is everywhere, almost everyone carries a story of loss at some point in their lives. Sadly, some never get past that initial shock, others drift through life bereft and sometimes even angry. This insight inspired my determination to start our Bereavement Café in partnership with Princess Alice Hospice, an opportunity to support others through their own individual journeys in order to find healing and peace. Thus far, I can honestly say that the group has made an impact and continues to offer practical help to those who need it. I hope too that our Dementia Carers' support group will do the same, because a loss is a loss, and we don't always have the tools we need to cope. That is where the Church can make a difference through hospitality, practical support, and a listening ear. In a world increasingly divided and self-absorbed, empathy and the opportunity to be heard are among the most important things we can share.

On 1st November at 4:00pm we will be holding our annual Memorial Service for all those who have lost a loved one. Usually, this service has been for those who've had a funeral the past couple of years through St. John's, but we are working with our local undertakers to include anyone who would like to join us as remember those who have died individually by name. The undertakers have shared with me that so many people are now opting for Direct Cremation, a process that does not include a service of any kind, that many people come back to them feeling they haven't had closure because there was no service. The Memorial service could be helpful for anyone who would like to mark their passing in this way. Please do share with anyone you feel may appreciate this opportunity.

For anyone who needs help dealing with loss, St. John's will continue to be here for you. As those who have lost someone we love, we understand what you are going through. So let us remember and be thankful, let us take each day as it comes and walk together in hope and love.

With Every Blessing,

Michael

‘What’s On’ at St John’s Hall

Most of our readers know that Plough Green Pre-school has been based at St John’s for 56years, caring for and educating young children daily during school terms. Their last two Ofsted inspections were outstanding.

On Monday evenings, Katie Crawley runs a yoga group from 6pm. Beginners are welcome. Katie can be contacted on 07747 542017

Wednesday from 4.30pm The Rock Project meets where Russell Bremner teaches contemporary music to children and young people. He can be contacted on 07805 372639

On Thursday afternoons between 2 and 4pm the small hall is open for Tea & Chat, offering a cuppa and company for all, usually with a slice of cake!

Monthly on the fourth Friday at 7.30pm, Surrey Storytellers meet, except during August and December. Most evenings start with stories from the floor followed by a featured teller in the second half. There is a lower age limit of 14 years. Contact them at info@sureeystorytellers.co.uk

The weekends are available for one off bookings for parties and meetings. Further information from the Bookings Secretary on 0208 942 8321

Beyond the Pew... Churchwarden

When someone asked if they could nominate me to stand as churchwarden, my first reaction was, "Me?" It felt like such a huge responsibility, and I wasn't at all sure I was the right person.

They simply asked me to pray about it. So I did.

As I reflected, I began to see the role differently. Rather than a daunting job, it felt like a privilege—a chance to give something back to a church community that has given so much to me over many years. Although I still wondered whether I was capable of doing it well, I said yes, and I was honoured to be elected at the APCM in May 2025.

Looking back over the past year, I know I haven't got everything right. I've made mistakes, said the wrong thing at times, and overlooked things that, with hindsight, seem obvious. Thankfully, no one expects perfection.

What I didn't expect was how much I would receive in return.

I've experienced extraordinary patience, encouragement and kindness from those who have served as churchwardens before me, as well as from the wider church family. I've discovered just how much happens beyond a Sunday service to make our worship, welcome and ministry possible. I've been inspired by the commitment of so many people who quietly use their gifts to help our church flourish. Most of all, my own faith has deepened. Serving has helped me see church not simply as somewhere I go on Sundays, but as a community where God is at work every day.

There are so many people who help make church life what it is. Some welcome us at the door, some care for the building, some lead worship or children's groups, some visit those who are lonely, some work behind the scenes in ways few people ever notice. Each role is different, but every one matters.

This series, **Beyond the Pew**, is an opportunity to hear their stories. Rather than describing what they *do*, we want to explore why they do it, how their contribution has shaped them, and how it has enriched their faith. My hope is that, as you read these stories, you might begin to wonder where God could be inviting you to use your own gifts.

Perhaps there is a place for you beyond the pew—not because the church simply needs another pair of hands, but because playing a part is one of the ways God grows us, connects us with others, and enables us to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

I hope these stories encourage you, surprise you, and perhaps even help you discover where your own next step of faith might be.

MUSIC @ ST. JOHN'S

We have our first two CAMEO CONCERTS organised!

The first is on Sunday the 18th October, at 4 pm in the Lady Chapel followed by refreshments in the Coffee Lounge. The musicians are Piano Accordion and Drums.

All profit will go to the Restore Fund, but as well as hopefully being a fund-raiser, I hope we will be able to attract local people to come and enjoy a short concert of music with refreshments – but also to “discover” our Church and to meet US.

So can I please ask everyone to support this initiative – by coming, by bringing family and friends – but also I would welcome some help with the refreshments. Thank you!

The second Concert will be on Sunday the 15th November, and will be a trio of flautists.

Please help to get this project established!

Bobby Child

- ♦ 07946 532 846 (or via the “C” cubby hole at Church)



Music@StJohn's

Cameo Concerts at
'The Church on the Hill'



Sunday 18 October at 4pm

In this short concert,
Yvonne and Michael McGuinness,
piano accordion and drums,
Showcase the versatility of the
accordion

Music from classical
to tango to folk tunes
Followed by light refreshments

St John the Baptist, Old Malden
Church Road
Worcester Park
KT4 7RY

Admission free - donations invited
towards the St John's Restore Project

For more information contact Bobby Child
07946 532 846



Descendants of Revd William Chetwynd-Stapylton



A few weeks ago, we were delighted to welcome three descendants of Revd William Chetwynd-Stapylton – who was Priest at St John's from 1850 - 1894. He is remembered as the Priest who came for 2 years but stayed for 44 years: during his ministry at St John's, he inspired and initiated the church extensions on 1863 and the major work in 1875, with the building of the Main Victorian Nave.

Judy, Phillida and Joanna are gt gt granddaughters of William and Elizabeth Chetwynd-Stapylton. They are descendants of William & Elizabeth's second child, Edward (1855-1938), his son Richard (d.1945) and his son, Edward Mark (d.1995). They had not seen the interior of St John's so thought it so beautiful and peaceful. They were obviously very interested to hear about St John's history and the role that their gt gt grandfather had played. They were able to see the Heritage History boards which included photographs of William and Elizabeth. Fr Michael gave them a comprehensive tour and history before they set off for a walk to the Hogsmill to the area which William must have known so well.

It felt very special to have a link to their gt gt grandfather who played such an important role in our history.

How well do you know characters in the Bible? P & Q

This month, we reach the letters P & Q- here are a few names which you may recognise...

PAUL	had a conversion on the road to Damascus
PETER	also known as Simon Peter, close disciple of Jesus
PHINEAS	OT Priest during the Exodus
PHILIP	one of Jesus' disciples
PHILEMON	wealthy Christian in Colossae -time of Paul
PHANUEL	father of Anna, the prophetess
PHOEBE	1 st Christian deacon
PONTIUS	known as Pontius Pilate at trial of Jesus
PEREZ	son of Tamar
PERIZZITES	inhabitants of Canaan before arrival of Israelites
PEKAH	penultimate King of Israel
PATROBAS	one of the 70 disciples remembered on November 5th
QUARTUS	faithful member of the early church
QUIRINIUS	Roman Governor of Syria at time of census in Luke 2:2
QUEEN OF SHEBA	Queen who visited Solomon to test his wisdom
QUOHELETH	preacher and central figure in Ecclesiastes



STEWARDSHIP Autumn 2026

The Stewardship Appeal starts on October 18th when Fr. Michael will give a sermon asking for all of us to understand our current financial position and to review our Giving to St. John's. If you miss his sermon, it can be found in the Parish Mailing of Saturday 24th October. On 25 October 2026 Gemma Curran the **Generous Giving and Funding Advisor** at Southwark Diocese is coming to preach to us and support our Stewardship Campaign. Both Sermons will emphasise the need for all of us to consider our Giving so that the financial load is spread as evenly and as fairly as possible across our membership. It would also be great if new members could join to help us.

We are facing tough challenges in the coming year to meet our day-to-day expenses. The Restore Project is going forward, now we have secured the Lottery Funding for the building work. We are, of course, extremely grateful to all those who continue to support us. We hope that everyone who can will continue to support us financially.

Red envelopes containing an Appeal Leaflet and the Pledge Card will be given out at the end of the 18 & 25 October services, and so if you are not there, then please try and collect one at the next opportunity. Further information can be found on the St. John's website where the Leaflet and Pledge Card can be downloaded: <https://www.stjohnsoldmalden.org.uk/giving>

Please complete and return the pledge card to the RED box in church or to the Parish Office, St. John the Baptist, Old Malden, Surrey KT4 7RY in an envelope marked for the attention of the Stewardship Officer.

Don't wait until January to make a New Year's resolution to support St John's. Do it now !

Jane Bransgrove and Richard Burkett

Stewardship at St John's

DON'T LET'S FORGET UKRAINE

We continue to remember Ukraine in our prayers, I'm sure individually as well as together in Church.

My Ukrainian friend, Sergii, continues to send me photos, most recently they are, sadly more of the destruction that is so relentless, rather than the happy faces of children receiving their laptops so they can continue their education.



This was a family.

As a result of the Russian strike on the village of Radushnoye last month, a rocket hitting a residential house of a large family ~ nine people died, including seven children.

It's heartbreaking

But the Laptops Project IS still going strong; and a reminder to you, they welcome second-hand laptops (in reasonable condition) which are then re-conditioned, so if you are upgrading a laptop in your household, please think of this Project. And donations are always welcome. The disruption to education is devastating but the children can keep going, on line, provided they have the tools to do it, and this is practical help we CAN give.

Bobby Child



St John's Knitting & Crochet Group - October 2026

It is still not too late to start your 'Christmas Knitting', (or Crochet).

Why not come along to St John's Knitting & Crochet Group which meets on the last Thursday of the month in the Church Coffee Lounge from 2.00 - 4.00pm.

Now that the evenings are very much 'autumnal', why not find some wool and needles and take up a new project?

Open to all – do come and join us! Learn to knit, follow a pattern, take up crochet! Or even finish a project you started some time ago. Or just come along for a friendly chat and cup of tea.

Do join us! Our October date is Thursday 29th October from 2.00pm

Marilyn



WORD PUZZLE No. 15 CHEMICAL ELEMENTS

N	D	D	C	X	M	A	H	X	C	U	A	S	F	P
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S	E	I	E	L	T	N	O	B	R	A	C	P	W	L
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TIN

BARIUM

CALCIUM

COBALT

GOLD

IRON

MAGNESIUM

NITROGEN

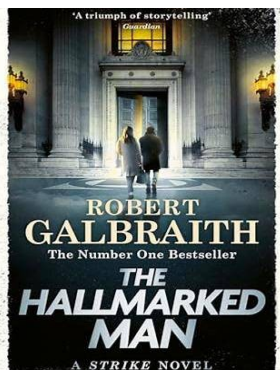
RADON

SODIUM

XENON

Words can go in any direction, and can share letters as they cross over each other.

For September we read: *The Hallmarked Man* by Robert Galbraith. This tome, now in paperback is not a short read. Further murder investigations for Cormoran Strike and Robin Ellacott - this time a discovery of a mutilated body found in a London silver shop vault. This is the eighth novel in the series, following *The Running Grave*. These novels are always fairly popular with the group but we seem to have the same comments: too long, too many characters and many sub-plots. I think some of us are more concerned with the ongoing relationship between Cormoran and Robin - which is rather a spoiler as it is still not resolved. We have two more novels in the series yet to be published - so a long wait to discover. Average score of 7/10



For October - we shall be reading the sequel to *The Boy in the World* which is 'Boy and Man' which completes the story of Jay's quest to find his father. The novel begins with Jay living in a missionary hospital in Africa. Meanwhile, back in Ireland, his grandfather, whom Jay believes to be dead, is recovering from a dramatic car crash. He is unsure whether Jay is still alive but lives in hope that he is. Both Jay and his grandfather, known as 'The Master' are supported by wonderful friends who show them great kindness in their search for the truth. A very thought-provoking read which restores faith in human kindness.

Seeking inspiration, our choices for the next few months follow some of the best seller lists.

For November When the cranes fly south by Lisa Ridzen

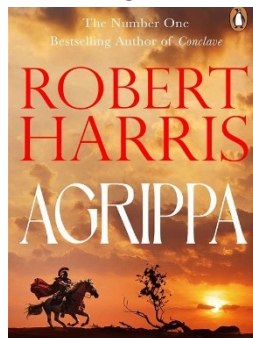
For December The Reckoning by John Grisham

For January The Names by Florence Knapp

As a fan of Maggie O'Farrell, I have been reading her latest novel 'Land'. It is an intriguing story set in 19th century Ireland and follows Tomás and his reluctant son, Liam as they work for British

soldiers in a great Ordnance Survey project. Not long after the Great Hunger, they set off to explore and prepare maps but Tomás is profoundly affected by an experience he had in a local copse. History and myth are interwoven. An interesting read!

Another novel on my reading list is Robert Harris' *Agrippa*. As Agrippa writes his memoir, he explores the power struggle between his former friend, the ruthless Octavius and he exposes the truth about the Emperor Augustus. As one critic writes, 'When it comes to power, does friendship exist at all?'



Our next meeting is on Thursday 1st October at 8.00pm in the Church Coffee Lounge.

You are very welcome to join us.

Happy Reading!

Marilyn

Tall Tales and Storied Steps: A Story Walk

Tall Tales and Storied Steps



Alastair K Daniel

It is the middle of September, which means that we have just marked this year's Heritage Open Days at Saint John the Baptist Old Malden, and the church has opened its doors to visitors (as it does every year). The Heritage Open Days at St John's follows a similar pattern every year with displays about the history of the church (it goes back to Saxon times) and the locality (Henry VIII's Nonsuch Palace stood in parkland a couple of miles away), talks about local history or the environment, music (this year provided by the Maeldune (Early Music) Consort), and plenty of tea and cake - well, it is the Church of England.

After a gap of a few years, part of this year's offering was a story walk, which I led. The original suggestion was that I should tell the story of the history of the church building, but I was keen to do something with story that would appeal to all ages (and, after all, there were plenty of displays in the church about its history). The compromise, then, was that I would weave aspects of the history of the parish into fanciful tales set in and around the church (and its surrounding area).

There is a lot of debate in the storytelling world about the cultural appropriation of narratives that are from traditions other than our own. It is a sensitive area, but I like Ruth Stotter's writing on this subject. She says that we should 'acknowledge and use the best story sources we can find, select tales to tell with sensitivity, treat the story and the people who created and told and/or tell the story with respect, and select stories appropriate for our style of telling and our audiences.' It was in that spirit that I planned the story walk drawing on a range of folklore. The tales that I adapted to the setting, then, included stories from both the Jewish and Muslim traditions, as well as tales traditionally associated with Kent (my home county) rather than Surrey (on the borderlands of which, the church stands) plus a story from a collection of Norwegian folk tales. Part of respecting the stories' origins was, in performance, to acknowledge that the amazing events that I was narrating (strangely enough) were not originally located around a small church on the edge of south London but, rather, were drawn from around the world. I also produced a document where the story origins were listed (if you want to see which stories I told, and from where they originated, click [HERE](#) if you are reading an e-version of this article, or use a Smart Phone to scan the QR code).

Adapting the tales to the building and the locality seemed to work. The Hogsmill River (that runs at the bottom of the hill on which the church stands) became the ditch in

which a dragon had slept; the 1585 petition to Elizabeth I from the parishioners of St John's, pleading for money to repair the building, became an occasion of clerical dupliciousness and regal wisdom; the trees surrounding the church hosted the trickster Robin Goodfellow; the Manor House (adjacent to the church) was the dwelling of a lord of the manor in need of a lesson on not judging people by appearances; and the (modern copy of the) 1611 offertory plate became the means of explaining to a baker the appropriate payment for the smell of his baked goods.

Woven through these tails were nuggets about the church and its history: the origins of the parish name (Maeldune – the sign on the hill); the development of the church building over the centuries; the presence of a stream running under the building; the history of the Manor House; and some basic facts about the church’s ring of bells.

Twenty people of all ages came on the walk, and it was a delight to share tales with a group that appeared genuinely interested in the history at the same time as showing a ready willingness to suspend disbelief.

Alastair K Daniel is a church member at St John’s Old Malden and works internationally as a storyteller.



WHERE IN ST JOHN'S CAN THIS BE FOUND?



ANSWER

At the bottom right hand corner of the window above the sound amplification system.

The web was the signature of the stained glass artist and designer Geoffrey Webb (1879 – 1954). This window is the most modern in the church and was commissioned by the vicar and PCC to commemorate the accession of His Majesty King George V in 1910. A translation of the Latin inscription under the window reads, *“For the Glory of Almighty God, in honour of the two martyrs St George and St John the Baptist, and in perpetual memory of the accession of King George V, dedicated by the vicar and parishioners 1911. Fear God: Honour the King.”* St John the Baptist, our Patron Saint, is depicted in the left light and St George, Patron Saint of England, in the right.

Webb often depicted heraldry within his designs and there are fourteen shields within the window. The two main coats of arms are those of King George V at the bottom of the left light and those of his wife, Queen Mary, on the right. Webb also used a high proportion of clear glass in his designs, his reason being “ the first function of a window is to admit light.” His windows can be found in many British cathedrals, abbeys and churches, and in the cathedrals of Copenhagen, Johannesburg and George (South Africa).

Incidentally, Geoffrey Webb’s uncle, the architect Sir Aston Webb, designed among very many other works, Admiralty Arch, The Mall and the main façade of Buckingham Palace.

Liz Pullen

Restore Project Update

The first Project Reporting Meeting was held between Aidan Norman, our Investment Manager at The National Lottery Heritage Fund and me on Tuesday 18th August. This was the first of twelve quarterly Project Reporting Meetings between now and 15th May 2029, the end of the project.

I reported that

- 1** A separate bank account has been set up for National Lottery income and expenditure and the first tranche of £125,000 has been received and banked.
- 2** Project Activity Leads have been recruited for Building (Mike Broome), Heritage (Marilyn Burkett) Wildlife Survey (Lynn Sanger), the Environment website (Margaret Barrington) and Social Care (Fr Michael).
- 3** The Standing Committee has been established to act as the Grant Governance Committee of the PCC, and the Activity Leads will need approval from the Standing Committee for any expenditure commitments.

The eight approved activities are Repair the Church Roof, Repair the Church Tower, expand the heritage section of the church website, produce a new history book, commission a professional wildlife survey, expand the Environment section of the church website, develop Heritage Trails for schools and develop Environmental Trails for schools.

Building Activity Report

Mike Broome reported the outcome of his meeting with our architect, Dr Alex Veal on 26th June, where it was agreed that the construction work will start in Spring 2027; this will give time for Dr Veal to complete a detailed project program and contract tender. The expectation is that the project program will be complete by the next Project Update in mid November.

Heritage Activity Update

Marilyn Burkett reported that permissions have been requested from

various organisations to use their information on our new website, such as the Commonwealth War Graves, National Portrait Gallery and Malden and Coombe Historical Society. We are deciding on new web design compatible with our provider. We are establishing the list of documents for the Surrey County Records Office in Woking Archives to scan for us.

We have started the revision and rewriting of the new History Book and will be meeting David Rymill, our local historian. Material on the Church Organ and Windows is in preparation both for the book and website. The updating of Commonwealth War Records is nearly complete and ready for uploading once the site is ready.

Environment Activity Update

Lynn Sanger reported that the plan to digitise environmental resources is well underway with £1500 available to spend on a website designer.

Similarly, there has been significant progress with establishing the Nature Trail Signage and QR codes.

Hogwatch will be employed to complete the Environmental Survey and train volunteers. They will be meeting in late October in order for the approved activities to be finalised by mid November.

Social Activities

The Dementia Care activity has started with an initial exploratory meeting with carers, who are worshippers at St Johns.

The End Of Life Activity is still in the planning stage but is expected to be up and running by mid November.

The next Project Reporting Meeting with Aidan Norman will be on or about 15th November 2026. He has requested that some of the Activity Leaders attend that meeting.

Steve Clark
2nd September 2026



St. John's weekly get together for all those who would enjoy a cup of tea, piece of cake, and meeting new people! Run by St. John's volunteers every week on **Thursdays from 2:00-4:00pm** at the **Church Hall 411 Malden Road**

St. John the Baptist, Old Malden

KT4 7RY

Harvest Festival

All-Age Service

4th October 9:45am

With Non-perishable Food Donations to





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.



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.

October 10th, we have Georgina Fauconier talking about biodiversity in the borough of Kingston.

November 14th, we have David Hassards talking about Kingston' aviation history.

December 12th, Alastair Daniels with a seasonal talk.

January 9th - Ben Gilby giving a talk on **1979: Why it was such an important year**



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 October 20th 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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