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ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Newsletter – Fall 2023

A Message from the Reverend Diane Wong, Rector

The conflict in the Holy Land between the two nations of Israel and Palestine is not a new one. Decisions made by foreign governments in the early part of the 20th century, regarding which of these two nations owns which parts of the land has only intensified and worsened the conflict, as seen by the violence that took place recently. The tragedy is that this violence and the suffering of both the peoples of Israel and Palestine will continue. But no matter which side you and I choose to stand on, as Christians, it is important that we remember who God is and what God asks of us.

By the time of the Book of Leviticus, the Ten Commandments have evolved and the ways neighbors were to be treated were more specific. One commandment says this:

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. (Leviticus 19:18)

The Book of Leviticus contains many rules or commandments to guide the Israelites in their relationship with God and to be close to God. So during Jesus' time, the Scribes tested Jesus by asking him which commandment was the most important. And Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)

The key word is "love" - love God and love neighbors – and neighbors include people we don't like. When we look at Jesus' life, ministry and teaching, the one and only thing he tries to show is how God loves us and all. Remember Jesus talking to a Samaritan woman and actually showing her his humanity and asking her for water? Yes, imagine an Israeli talking to a Palestinian, and showing his vulnerability, and vice versa. Remember Jesus constantly crossing over to "the other side"? And Jesus inviting himself into the home of Zacchaeus, the tax collector? Or Jesus forgiving the religious authorities and soldiers who persecuted and crucified him?

God's love is so important that during the Last Supper Jesus told the disciples, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34-35). Violence, killing and retaliation, therefore, go against the two great commandments and the new command. The violence in the Holy Land is not just something that is happening "over there" and so is not really affecting us. It does affect and hurt us because we are all children of God, we are all sisters and brothers in God's creation, and we are all one body of Christ. As this conflict spirals downward, we must all remember and practice this:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”
(Mark 12:30-31)

Diane+

Bishop Visitation

Bishop Alan Gates will be visiting St. John's on Sunday, Dec 3rd. This will be his last visitation to St. John's. So please reserve the date and come to give him a meaningful and welcoming visitation. More information to follow.

Thanks Giving Service & Fellowship Meal

On Tues, 11/ 14, at 5:30 pm, there will be a thanks giving service followed by a fellowship meal. We invite parishioners to sign up to bring a salad and/or a dessert. The sign-up sheet is on the piano.

Our Nursery

We are happy that our Nursery will be fully operational every Sunday. For the 1st and 2nd Sundays, we have Claire Dornin and Norah Mallam; and for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays, we have Sandra (Sandy) Terenzi. Feel free to bring your little ones to the Nursery.

St. John's Prayer Team

We are: Dawn Shearer, Frank Foster, Dorothy Mallam, Orna Gardini, Tirsia Moya, David Wilcox, and Rev. Diane. If you have any prayer requests - thanksgivings, joys, or sorrows, you are encouraged to submit them to the Prayer Team at prayer@saintjohns-arlington.org. We are committed to keeping these requests in the strictest confidentiality. We meet on the first Thursday of each month to pray.

Meet Henry Buck, Our New Music Director and Organist

By Barbara Greene Seyon



Henry became our new Director of Music and Organist on October 1st of this year after meetings and discussions with Reverend Diane during August. We are blessed to have him.

Henry was born on Cape Cod in the town of Bourne, where he grew up with his brother and sister and their mother and father. His parents still live in Bourne. And he and his wife, Helen, an English teacher at Chelsea High School, are themselves now the proud parents of Cerise, a six-month-old daughter. Henry's smile broadened when he said that he is now on family leave to help take care of Cerise.

Henry began piano lessons when he was nine years old and developed a love for music when he was 13 and in middle school. He began composing in middle school, in the style of the music from *Star Wars*. His love for and study of music blossomed during his younger years.

He received a baccalaureate from UMass/Boston and a master's degree from Boston's Conservatory of Music. He served as Organist for eight years at Grace Lutheran Church in Needham. When Grace Lutheran Church closed, Henry became the music accompanist at the Boston Ballet School, where he has been employed for the past six years.

One of Henry's hobbies is cooking; one of the dishes he enjoys preparing is pasta. But he is not the only one in his family who has a hobby and loves music. His wife studied music in high school and playing the cello is one of her hobbies.

We welcome you to our St. John's family, Henry. We are blessed to have you.

St. John's Ministry with the Somerville Homeless Coalition

By David Wilcox

St. John's is beginning our third year of work with the Somerville Homeless Coalition which provides a range of services including emergency services, food assistance, shelter and homeless prevention to individuals and families who are facing housing insecurity in Somerville, Arlington and Medford. St. John's supports the group in a number of ways. The cornerstone of our work are the Monday Night Community Dinners meals we cook for clients. These meals take place five or six times a year. Our team of volunteers meet at the First Congregational UCC Church on College Avenue in Somerville and put together meals for approximately 80 clients. Some of us cook dishes ahead of time based on a planned menu, others assemble salads on site, and other volunteers bake dessert treats ahead of time which we take with us to the dinner. Once the meals are ready, the clients come through the serving line where we plate the meals, visit with the clients and making sure they are well taken care of. The work is a wonderful opportunity to help others and also enjoy the fellowship of working together as a team.



In addition to the Community Dinners, St. John's also helps the Coalition in organizing clothing drives once a year, collecting personal care items for clients and helping clients who are about to move into secure housing arrangements secure items to furnish their new homes. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us at the Community Dinners or make bake goods ahead of time. Please contact David Wilcox at wilcoxpost@gmail.com if you have an interest or would like to find out more about the ministry.

St. John's Ukrainian Resettlement Project

By Deacon Dawn

We are the body of Christ, with our hearts, hands and feet, we will welcome the Varunok family!

It is absolutely critical that we welcome them as partners and avoid the mentality of “adopting” them. This will take a lot of self-awareness, reflection, and intentionality.

A Adaptation

We start from a place of “not knowing” and humility in every dialogue. Together we can look at situations from multiple perspectives and avoid judgements about what is right and wrong. Be prepared for unpredictable situations and a lot of constraints that sponsors need to flexibly work around. It is critical for us to develop an adaptive mindset of inquiry and curiosity, continuously setting and re-evaluating expectations we've set for ourselves, our group, and the Varunoks.

B Benevolent

We will be navigating a tremendous amount of ambiguity, and working with newcomers who may approach issues and topics from a new cultural lens. When their cultural lens is different from our American lens, always be compassionate and sensitive to and aware of their traumatic experiences. And we may make wrong assumptions about the newcomers because of our own cultural lens.

C Collaborative

Sponsorship is a team effort, one that requires close collaboration between our sponsorship group members, our community, Catholic Charities, and the Varunok family. In addition to building a strong foundation with our external group members, we also need to strengthen and rely on relationships and resources from within our faith community.

D Dedicated

Sponsorship is not an easy task. It's incredibly rewarding and transformative, and it does require a **significant time commitment over the first 90 days** to both support the newcomer and **follow through** with several documentation and logistical tasks.

The ABCD training is from a program called “Community Sponsorship Essentials” which was co-developed by the Community Sponsorship Hub, Refugee Welcome Collective & Welcome.US. @sponsorshipessentials.org

As the vestry prepares their house for resettlement, our goal is a December arrival. We invite you to join us for some group dialogue when we build and strengthen our relationships as that one body of Christ, our St. John's family with reflection, prayer, practice scenarios and fellowship.

Thank you for helping welcome this family into our hearts and our neighborhood.

Thank You from the Guatemala Aid Fund

By Mary Jo Larson

We have received a gracious “thank you” from GAF’s director Bethany Eisenberg when she received the gift of Mission Tithes Funds that we transferred to GAF this summer. These funds came from a Diocesan grant to St. John’s to further our partnership with GAF. We continue to look for ways to collaborate and support GAF. Please consider direct donations, especially setting up a quarterly ongoing gift using the following link: www.guatemalaaidfund.org

GAF works with the Guatemalan-run Association to Eradicate Poverty (AEP) and Fatima’s Family and Child Services programs. They are honored to watch the amazing progress of the programs in their work with children and families in Guatemala. GAF also supports indigenous, native land and cultural preservation, working on the ground on projects related to water, forest and significant indigenous sites for protection. These programs change the endless cycle of poverty & child abandonment with opportunity and dignity. The programs are not handouts that perpetuate existing problems or keeping kids in care, but rather provide jobs, training, counseling and education to eradicate root causes of poverty and to change what’s broken. Fatima’s and AEP are focused on returning children to safe family situations or new forever families as well as education, medical, skills centers and malnutrition prevention out in the rural area of Sololá.

Another way to support GAF is to purchase the *Singing Beach Day* book, co-written by founder Bethany Eisenberg and Board member Martha Eisenberg. Purchases of this book give back 100% to help children and families with access to school, water and employment in the 4th poorest country in the World, Guatemala. GAF is scheduling public readings of the book by the co-authors where they also provide information to the audiences on the lives of children and families in Guatemala. Do you know a store or library that would like to sponsor a Reading? Please contact Mary Jo Larson (617 513 7580, mjlarson44@gmail.com) who will put you in touch with GAF. To purchase copies of this whimsical and fun book as gifts for your loved ones, go to this link: <https://www.guatemalaaidfund.org/singing-beach-day-book.html>.



Book Review

And So I Walked: Reflections on Chance, Choice, and the Camino de Santiago
by Anne Gardner. Adelaide Books, New York / Lisbon, 2022. 249 pages.

Review by Joseph A. Curro, Jr., Arlington, MA

Many Camino narratives bring the reader from Point A to Point B, filling in the gaps with amusing or poignant anecdotes about the pilgrimage. *And So I Walked* does that, too, but it also takes us on the author's interior journey and memories.

Anne Gardner walked the Camino Francés in 2010, a year when only 1.23% of pilgrims claiming compostelas were Americans. (In 2019, this percentage neared 6%.) *The Way*, which has introduced countless pilgrims to the Camino, had not yet been released.

Indeed, the author, who was raised in a devout Irish Catholic family and was later ordained as an Episcopal priest, had never even heard of the Camino until she was in her forties and was introduced to it by an acquaintance at a cocktail party.

Along with her wife, Beth, the author is joined on her own Camino by two recent graduates of the boarding school where she worked, a young man from Kansas and a Muslim woman, as well as an evangelical fitness enthusiast, who is dubbed "the panther" for the blazing, relentless speed at which she walks.

This core of a Camino family is supplemented by new acquaintances in the ensuing weeks. These include renowned and recently departed pilgrim Gene McCullough and his wife, Rosann, who check in the author at Rabanal (and remember having processed her initial credential request!!!) and miraculously reappear right before the Santiago Cathedral.

This book records a time before smartphones became ubiquitous tools of pilgrims. The author and her companions travel at their own paces, splitting up or taking transport as needed. And yet they always find one another, resorting to messages scrawled in the dirt or with a rock on a granite staircase.

And So I Walked is beautifully organized. Its sections are grouped thematically into "liturgical seasons," and its 40 chapters—each beginning with an inspirational quote—mirror the 40 days of Lent.

Anne reflects on her father, who lost a leg—and his mobility—in the Normandy landing. She explores the guilt relating to her first marriage, the extreme sorrow of a friend's death by suicide, and other very personal topics from her past.

The author's emotions reach great heights at Cruz de Ferro and sink to reflective depths near her Camino's end as she listens to some pilgrims singing *Ubi Caritas* by candlelight.

In both the physical and emotional journeys of this book, the reader is never left behind.

Medieval Thinking Among Us

By Jacquie Clermont

There are many misconceptions about the European Middle Ages.

That they were “dark ages” — Gothic art is all about light.

That they passed without any progress whatsoever — credit these times with the spinning wheel, the compass, and most of all, the printing press.

And finally, and most dangerously, that they are over.

Dangerous because we assume that we have left a lot of things behind when in fact we have taken them with us. We condescend to the past as being somehow less than the present, expired, and most of all, irrelevant.

In the 70s when I decided to pursue studies in medieval literature, relevance was a popular buzzword. It meant “relating to current events.” The Middle Ages not being “current,” friends questioned my choice.

I didn’t know what to say. I do now.

I call your attention to the Icelandic sagas, which tell the stories of life among the Vikings in the ninth, 10th, and 11th centuries. They are quasi-historical, and many are focused on struggles among families.

One of the longest sagas, *Njal’s Saga*, tells the story of a 50-year blood feud fueled largely by the belief that men must avenge all wrongs, all insults, or they lose face. And the vengeance must be proportional or greater.

So the relative of A insults a relative of B, who beats up on A’s cousin. Now A sends a relative to beat up B’s cousin, but accidentally kills him. Now B must exact so call blood-vengeance on A by killing one or two of his cousins. Either way A must retaliate in kind. It ends in a bloodbath, but they all go to Valhalla, the heaven for warriors overseen by the god Odin.

It is all part of the Germanic hero ethic or code, the result of which was constant war and slaughter, tempered by periods of appeasement. It valued strength, courage, and loyalty above all else. Those who weren’t warriors did not go to Valhalla but to a place overseen by a goddess named Hel.

Events seem to be driven by an awful fate, leading always to violent death. Gunnar, a warrior and one of the main characters of *Njal’s Saga*, is killed by the relatives of a man he killed. Njal, from whom the saga gets its name, is burned to death in his home in revenge for a killing by his sons. In another, *Gisli Saga*, the hero Gisli and his wife fight to the death in an attack by warriors avenging the death of Thorgrim, whom Gilsil killed avenging the death of Vestein.

The problem wasn’t fate. It’s the ethos these people lived by, and it made them miserable. They saw it as fate because they didn’t know any other way.

This is all a far far cry from Christianity, which instructs us to love God and our neighbors, including our enemies. Which calls peacemakers children of God. Surely, they were not the children of Odin.

On my most recent visit to Paris, I visited the Louvre basement, where excavators discovered the foundation of the medieval Louvre. And who knows what is under that?

In the same way, if we go down deep into our own thoughts and reactions, we will find a few old gods.

Consider whom we most respect.

The European aristocracy, whom many believe were ordained by God and who are crowned in religious ceremonies, are the descendants of a warrior class. Once they wore armor. They still carry swords.

At the airport, members of the military board the plane first, ahead of others who commit themselves to the public good. Like my cousin suffering from a lung ailment from her amazing work at the National Archives. Or the people who developed the COVID vaccine.

At the movies, we flock to *Star Wars*, *Top Gun*, *Spider Man*, *Avengers*, *Thor*. Thor was the son of Odin.

And what are our most popular video games: *PUBG: Battlegrounds*, the *Witcher*, *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare*, *God of War*.

And in our current history, Odin would find much to admire.

There was 9/11 and the war on terror. Why did we invade Afghanistan and Iraq again?

And of course, there is always the Middle East.

I Have a Voice

By Tirsia Moya

I have a voice
and my words matter.
They may not impact everyone,
but maybe, they may help free one.

I grew up believing that I had nothing to say, nothing of importance that is. I grew up in a culture where children were to be seen, not heard, but truth be told, I was neither seen nor heard.

I grew up not knowing how to formulate opinions about anything that mattered. Can you imagine that? A woman without an opinion. Is that even possible? I chuckle at the thought.

I can vividly recall the first time I was told, "Don't say that!" when at 7 years old I uttered the words, "I hate him!" after just losing my mom. Him, being my dad, whom I blamed for my mom's sadness and disillusionment with life, to the point of suicide.

That's when I stopped feeling. I went numb. I stuffed my words and my feelings deep down in this cavernous hole that my mom's death left within my soul.

And now at 56, I am beginning to understand that I must give a voice to my words, because my words do matter. Silence isn't golden if our words are the key GOD has chosen to use to free someone else's voice and release their words into their sphere of influence.

There is newness of life as that blanket of shame is pulled back every time we share our feelings, thoughts, and experiences.

My friends, your words matter, give them a voice and help jump-start someone else's healing. Share your words, your story and help heal the world, one by one.

You have a voice
and your words matter.
They may not impact everyone,
but maybe, they may help free one.

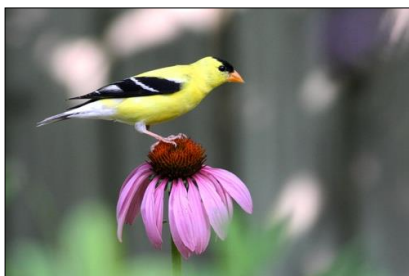
Garden News

By Jan Ford

The finches have been very busy in the garden. Finches rely totally on seeds for their food source which is why we leave the garden a bit “messy” so that they are able to feed on the Echinacea and Hyssop seeds.

I have been unable to get a photo of the bright yellow male finch that flies off as soon as I get close. I have included a photo from Audubon. The other photo is the female sitting on a stalk of the cohosh and getting ready to fly to the Echinacea in our garden. Interestingly, male birds are usually the colorful ones and the females are more muted so that they are camouflaged while caring for their young. If you sit quietly in the garden, you might hear them singing in the trees and then flying down to eat.

We have put up a fence around the back garden in hopes of letting the plants grow without being gnawed down by the rabbits. We're not starving them as there is lots of clover in the lawn for them to eat!



Beach Trip!

By Cate Barr

Below are scenes from a first-time visit to the North Shore's Nahant Beach on a beautiful fall day: Orna, Dorothy, Tirsa, and Cate. Delectable vegan lemon blueberry muffins from Tirsa were enjoyed by all.



St. John's Newsletter Youth Pages

Claire Dornin

Photo and Article by Barbara Greene Seyon

Claire Dornin is a member of St. John's Church. She is 11 years old and a student at Gibbs School in Arlington, MA. Claire is Dorothy Mallam's granddaughter. Dorothy is a long-standing, very active member of our parish.

Claire enjoys writing and has previously published chapters in this newsletter. We are pleased to publish the last chapter on the Youth Page of our newsletter.



Claire and Her Story Illustrations

The Story So Far:

As Chapter 3 ends, Sir Maxwell, loyal to Marabell's father the king, suddenly appears on the island where Marabell and her five friends are stranded. Sir Maxwell informs them that the king is in danger, that his advisor Sir Alistor wants power and plans to overthrow the king. Marabell and her friends, eyes stretched wide, listen as Sir Maxwell tells them the details of Sir Alistor's betrayal.

Lost at Sea - Chapter 4

By Claire Dornin

Each of the five friends had very different reactions. Kate was devising a plan, Lilly was hugging her dog and praying that this new revelation would not cause her to lose Molly again, Collin was wishing he were back at home in the garden with zero impending doom, Jack was thinking this seemed more like the climax in a fairy tale than real life, and Marabell was . . . frozen.

It was as though time had stopped. This can't be real, it just can't. This is a dream, she told herself. Then it was all very very real. For all she knew her father was no longer king or worse, he was dead. That thought brought a wave of nausea and then another. Marabell realized that she and her friends were the only ones who could stop Sir Alistor, but they were on an island with no map and no idea of the way home.

"We need a plan," Marabell said, her voice sad and dark. "It's not going to be all rainbows and sunshine. I have a feeling things are about to get ugly. I doubt Sir Alistor is going to want me, or any one in line for the throne alive, so he will be the next best option for a ruler."

"That's what I was assuming," Maxwell agreed. "But we can't let that happen, because if Sir Alistor came to power, the kingdom would slowly crumble giving way to a horrid tyranny." "It's time for me to start becoming the ruler I was born to be instead of running away from the responsibility," Marabell decided.

"Hold on, I know all this planning is important but we need food, and I really would love to go look at the plants in the forest. Being around plants helps me think, so I can try to think of a plan while I'm gone," Collin said. He left shortly after. Then everything got quiet until someone spoke up.

It was Kate who said quietly, "I have an idea, I have an idea but it has quite a few flaws.

"A poor plan is better than no plan," Marabell assured her.

"Okay," Kate began. "There are a lot of if's but I think it will work. First we need to get back, if we can get back. Then Marabell will lure Sir Alistor away from the castle and ask him questions about what it's like to be an advisor and things like that. Oh, and make sure you're constantly complimenting him. Meanwhile Jack, Collin, Lilly and I will be going through his things looking for proof that he's evil. Then Marabell can convince the king, and he can send Sir Alistor to prison. If we can find the proof, and if that all goes according to plan, the king can keep the throne and Maxwell can go back to being advisor."

"That's brilliant!" Jack exclaimed.

"You really think we can pull this off?" Lilly said less sure of the plan.

"If we can get back, yes," Kate replied.

They sat in silence for quite some time pondering the huge weight that now rested on their shoulders, until Collin arrived and Lilly caught him up on the plan. As Lilly was talking Kate heard a noise.

"Did you hear that?" Kate asked. Then she heard the noise again, louder this time. It sounded like the wind hitting the sail on a boat. Maybe someone had come to rescue them!

"Yeah," Collin replied.

"One of us should go investigate," Lilly decided.

"I can go," Kate said as she got up and walked over to the shore to see what or who could have made the noise. It was not a long walk to the shore, but it was long enough for the sound to grow even closer. I bet they came to rescue us! Kate thought. But just as she was about to round the corner and step onto the sandy beach, she saw not the friendly faces she had been hoping for but a cruel, malicious face of a tall regal looking man. That's gotta be Sir Alistor Kate thought grimly, then ran back to warn her friends with as much haste as she could manage.

"Its-its not helping it-it's Sir Alistor," Kate said as she tried to catch her breath.

“Wait,” Collin said urgently. “Pretend you are happy he’s here, and don’t eat the plant but make it look like you did!” All his friends looked at him with puzzled expressions. “I’ll explain later. Maxwell, you need to hide,” Maxwell did as he was told. The two figures stepped into the clearing. One wore a sugary expression, and was tall, and blonde (this was the man Kate had seen). The other was short, dark haired, and had a fake smile plastered on his face.

“Hello children, I’m Sir Alistor. I am here to bring you home,” the tall man said sweetly. “And this is Malcolm, he’s my right-hand man, You can trust him.”

“Are you hungry?” Collin asked in a very convincing tone of thankfulness.

“Yes, starved,” Malcolm said.

“Here, have these very delicious plants. I read a lot about them in a book,” Collin offered. He handed out the plants to everyone. Malcolm and Sir Alistor ate the whole plant, his friends did not. Then Sir Alistor and Malcolm fell flat on the floor asleep. Surprised gasps, screams, and cries rang out when the men fell to floor. Everyone was shocked except Collin. Unlike the others he was smirking. “Told you I had a plan,” Collin said slyly.

“What did you do?” Jack asked, shocked.

“I gave them a plant used to make sedatives. They should be out for at least three hours,” Collin replied.

“Maxwell, you can come back now,” Lilly called. The leaves on the bushes shook and Maxwell appeared.

“I thought if Sir Alistor saw you, he might get suspicious and not eat the plant. That’s why I asked you to hide,” Collin explained to Maxwell.

“That was very wise,” Maxwell replied. “Brilliant plan by the way.”

Kate sucked in a breath as an idea came to her. “We can take their sail boat and leave Sir Alistor and Malcolm here! I’m sure they have a map in their boat!”

“I can sail our boat,” Marabell offered.

“I’ll go with Marabell,” Jack said.

“I’ll sail the their boat,” said Kate.

“And Collin and I can go with Kate, and Maxwell can go with Marabell,” Lilly added. Just like that they were finally on their way home.

As Kate was sailing she saw something peeking out of a dark brown, leather bag. It looked rectangular and had a paper-like middle. She gasped as she realized what it was - Sir Alistor’s notebook! This would have to be the proof they needed. She told Lilly to grab it and see if it was what she thought it was, it was. Everyone in the sail boat cheered! They had stoped Sir Alistor, gotten proof that he was evil, and they were heading home! All that was left to do was show the proof to the king.

As the hours passed the late morning sky slowly shifted to the deep blue of midnight then to a light blue of mid- morning. As the sky slowly changed so did the scenery. They no longer saw endless ocean but land, and the dock the Aqua Finn had been tied to not so long ago. After both boats were tied to that dock, Kate grabbed the notebook and children, dogs and the former advisor ran to tell the king Sir Alistor’s treasonous plan. He was in his office looking through files when the group of adventurers burst through the doors.

“Marabell! Maxwell? What-?How-?Why-?Where-?” the king was completely and utterly baffled.

“I’ll explain,” Marabell cut in. And she did explain. She told him how they ended up on the island, she told him of Maxwell’s innocence, she told him Sir Alistor’s plan and then showed him the proof. She told him about Collin’s plan and of their escape, and everyone’s role in the adventure. The king took action immediately. He officially banished Malcolm and Sir Alistor, lifted Maxwell’s banishment and reappointed him as advisor, and sent out word that the children were home safe.

Then everything was as it should be. Almost....

Epilogue

25 years later

Collin and Lilly are happily married. They live in a two-story cottage with a huge garden in the back. They run a high demand market together. Molly died of old age a healthy and happy dog. Three years after Molly’s passing, Collin and Lilly adopted a beagle puppy they named Maxwell or Max for short. They have three children, Jack, Marabell, and Kate who help their parents run the market at times.

Kate on the other hand is married to her job, as Marabell’s advisor. She is incredibly devoted to her work. Some argue that she is the best advisor the kingdom has ever seen. Her parents are incredibly proud of Kate and all the good work she has done.

Jack lives in a coastal house and writes lots of books in his lawn chair on the shore. He’s most famous book is the one about his adventure, entitled Lost at Sea. He has won several awards and has many fans. Jack has no children of his own but reads chapters of his best selling books to Collin and Lilly’s kids at least once a week.

Marabell has fully embraced the role of queen, and has become an excellent one at that. She sees her old friends quite often. Several years ago she fell in love with a palace guard, and they were married three years later. All of her friends came to her wedding. She has one daughter, Violet, who loves to sail the Aqua Finn with her best friends, Collin and Lilly’s children. Trixie, like Molly, died of old age as a happy and playful dog until her last breath. Marabell did not adopt a new puppy but settled for two guinea pigs named Collin and Lilly.

THE END

Food for Arlington EATS

The basket for collecting canned foods for Arlington EATS is at the back of the church. Any canned foods or non-perishable foods, as well as some household supplies, are appreciated. For the month of October they are requesting the following:

* Bouillon / stock * Soy sauce * Crackers * Barley*
* Orzo * Dried chilis (all kinds!) * Dish soap

Andrew Nyamekye will take the collection and drop it off at Stop & Shop for Arlington EATS on the **4th Sunday** of each month.

St. John's Episcopal Church
74 Pleasant Street
Arlington, MA 02476

Rev. Diane Wong's office hours: Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. John's.

Please feel free to arrange with Rev. Diane for other times to meet.

Her cell phone number is 617-417-8102. Her email is dianeckwong@gmail.com.

Church Office hours: M, W, Th 10-1 :30 ; Fri 1-3

Church Office phone: 781-648-4819 Office Email: admin@saintjohns-arlington.org

Treasurer Email: treasurer@saintjohns-arlington.org

Web site: <http://www.saintjohns-arlington.org>