

The Grapevine

No. 314

October / November 2021



Where is this? Who are these people and what are they doing?
To find out more, turn to page 5

Printed copies of *The Grapevine* are available on request to the editor.
The Grapevine can be found online in full colour

Parish Organisations

Parochial Church Council:

Rector: Rev. Gary Crellin 01905 830270 E: revgarycrellin@gmail.com

Vice Chairman: Mrs Liz Palmer 33 Hall Green Close, WR14 3QY 01684 575914

Parish Website: www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk

Churchwardens:

Guarlford -

Madresfield - Mr Christopher Bennett, Hayswood Farm, Madresfield, 01684 891047; Mrs Liz Palmer, 33 Hall Green Close, WR14 3QY 01684 575914

Secretary: Mrs Janet Lomas

Treasurer: Mr Peter Hughes, Holly Lodge, Madresfield 01684 572649

The Parish Councils:

Newland Clerk: Jacqui Barker, 114 Fruitlands, Malvern WR14 4XB 01684 567674

E: newlandpc1@gmail.com

Guarlford Clerk: Mrs Gill Hollick, 2 Bamford Close, Guarlford WR13 6PF

07816 533251

E: parishclerkguarlford@gmail.com

Madresfield Clerk: Mr David Sharp, 20 Farley Road, Malvern Link

01684 573213

E: mrdasharp@btinternet.com

Guarlford Website: www.guarlfordparish.uk

County & District Councillor: Tom Wells, 27 Upton Road, Callow End WR2 4TY 01905 831752 07702 996203 E: talwells@btinternet.com

Guarlford Women's Institute: 7.30, Guarlford Village Hall, second Tuesday in the month.

President: Di Rivers Tel ; 01684 572381

E: wifolk@guarlfordparish.uk

Sport:

Madresfield Cricket Club Secretary: Peter Hughes, Holly Lodge, Madresfield 01684 572649

Madresfield Movement Club

Children's gym, dance, drama and ballet 01684 574378

The Grapevine Magazine

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What's On in the Parish

Meditation Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2pm 01905 831048

Tower Bell Ringers every Monday at 7.30 in Madresfield Church.

Guarlford W.I every second Tuesday in the month at Guarlford Village Hall.

Movement Club Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at Madresfield Early Years Centre 01684 574378.

Parent & Toddler Groups run daily in term time at Madresfield Early Years Centre 01684 574378 or Mrs Elaine Ward 01684 565714.

Newland Parish Council bi-monthly on Mondays in the Boardroom, Beauchamp Community, 7.30.

Church Services

Each church notice board will have a list of services including shared / group and Zoom based services. Given the uncertainties, visit the online calendar at <https://www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk>

**If you have to dial 999 or 112 and cannot speak
Dial 55
You can be found from your dialling location.**

Do remember - if you are struggling you are not alone.

Samaritans	116123
Anxiety UK	03444 775774
Mind	0300 123 3393
Calm	0800 58 5858
Crisis text line	85 258
Childline	0800 1111

The Grapevine Timetable 2021/2022

Edition	Deadline date	Collation date (Tuesday)
December / January	8th November	23rd November
February / March	8th January	25th January
April / May	8th March	19th April

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WHERE TO FIND THE GRAPEVINE ONLINE

- * http://www.guarlfordparish.uk/vill_mag.htm This site also displays past editions.
- * <http://www.guarlfordparish.uk/news.htm>
- * <https://www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk/>
- * www.madresfieldschool.net
- * <https://www.beauchampstleonard.org>
- * Google Guarlford in Worcestershire County Council's website.

PLEASE NOTE that, like hairdressers, butchers and European museums, Rev Gary's normal day off is **Monday**.



A new QR Code for the Old Hills Malvern Churches

Chances are, you will have already seen these little boxes with strange looking black markings. They are quite out there at the moment. If you have a phone or a tablet, you can use it to scan this box - and if you do, it will take you directly to the Churches' website. No need to remember the www. address - scan and be teleported (or something) straight to the website. Give it a go.

Financial Help for Those in Need

The **Madresfield Relief in Need Charity** is an ancient charity for the benefit of those living in the ancient parish of Madresfield with Newland. The charity is overseen *by the Charity Commission and managed by local trustees including Rev Gary Crellin*.

The Covid pandemic has made life very tough for many. The trustees would like to help anyone within our parishes who needs support during this very challenging time. If you would like to apply for financial support, please contact Rev Gary Crellin through the contact details below.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

To make an application please contact:

Rev Gary Crellin, The Vicarage, 31 The Greenway
Colletts Green, Powick WR2 4RZ
Email: revgarycrellin@gmail.com

The Cover Picture

The photograph on the cover was taken in the pond at the top of Hall Green, not far from the Guarlford Road, on 1st September. Ben Taylor from the Malvern Hills Trust (standing on the right) was advising, supervising and working with a group of local volunteers to clear the dense forest of bullrushes and other invasive species from the centre of the pond. In ecological terms, untamed growth such as this is known as 'succession', whereby the more vegetation that grows, the drier the pond becomes.

After about four hours work, the group will have cleared the unwanted plant-life, leaving a margin of vegetation including rushes, sedges and woody nightshade and opening up the centre of the pond for wildlife, including the moorhens that nest there year after year. Pond maintenance needs to be carried out at this time of the year because the pond is fairly dry for the volunteers to work in and the wildlife has dispersed. Well done everyone.

The Christmas Shoe Boxes are back (if you can find a shoe box)

After a necessary break caused by a Pandemic, our **annual Shoebox collection** for Teams4U resumes this autumn. Please consider filling a shoebox with small gifts for a child or older person or family, decorate the shoebox like a Christmas present and drop your filled box off at Church or at the Vicarage (31 The Greenway WR2 4RZ) or call the Vicarage to arrange collection (01905 830270). The charity's website has been updated with all you need to know, including the much requested (fill list" and leaflet that needs to be completed per box. Only £2.50 per box to arrange delivery to a grateful person or family in Belarus, Ukraine, Eastern Romania, Bosnia or Moldova.



Our Harvest theme this year was "**We should look after one another**" (Bible reference: *Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ: Galatians 6:2*). Through this box scheme, we can do just that. Thank you for your support. I am hoping that the WIs and Scouts / Brownies/ Guides etc and our three village schools will also get involved, where they can, with this venture. Despite the pandemic, with their help last year we still managed to supply over 120 boxes.

Madresfield C.E. Primary School – spaces available

Madresfield C.E. Primary School is located in the heart of Madresfield village. We provide a diverse and creative curriculum with an emphasis on developing the children's social and emotional wellbeing so that they thrive in their learning. Due to some families moving away from the area we now have a few places available in school. If you are interested in finding out more, or know of anyone who may be, please get in touch with us on 01684 573620.



Mrs Michelle Waits, Head of School

GUARLFORD GOSSIP

The Village Hall is OPEN

Guarlford Village Hall is now **open again and ready for business**. As many will know, the large main meeting room is beautiful; its old dark beams and cream walls have been the backdrop for many events such as Harvest Suppers, Christmas Fayres and other village functions. Guarlford WI have gladly resumed their meetings there each month, and others hope to return soon.



The main room can be divided in two by a curtain, and there is a large serving hatch into the kitchen, plus plenty of stacking chairs and tables. Toilets are also available.

The village hall can be hired for one session (morning, afternoon, evening) for £30, two sessions of the above for £60, all day for £85. Special reduced rates apply for regular users, or do please enquire about other arrangements - perhaps it would suit

your club or group for occasional or regular meetings?

You can contact the Booking Secretary on 07816 533251 for further details and availability.

People often remark how special Guarlford Village Hall is. It has a lot of history, having been a malthouse in Victorian times; then, as a memorial hall after World War One, becoming a meeting place for the villagers, much loved and much used in the years that followed. It comes alive when filled with people. So why not come and see it for yourself?



GUARLFORD W.I NEWS

Our first normal indoor meeting was a great success with almost a full house. It was lovely to see members greeting each other and catching up on the events of the last eighteen months.

The speaker was informative as well as entertaining and inspired several of our members to check out the **N.G.S web site** to find gardens that are open in our area.

The **Thank You Day Tea** for NHS and other essential workers was held on August 15th and was well attended by local residents. Judging by the buzz of conversation and the rapid disappearance of tea and cakes, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and revelling in the opportunity to meet up again in a more relaxed atmosphere.

A surprising number of members had nursing or NHS connections and thanks to them and the generosity of **Malvern Museum** there was a varied display of medical items. Among

them was a glass babies bottle complete with glass straw, a rather vicious set of knife blades and half a skeleton as well as a wonderful collection of old photographs.

September 14th will be our Craft and Produce Show and everyone is welcome to enter any of the classes for preserves, flowers, fruit and veg or baking (recipes provided). This year there should be strong competition for the new Victoria Sponge class and the chance to win a glass cake stand given in memory of **Doreen Lloyd Jones**, a much missed and valued past member.

Hopefully our programme will be able to roll out without any more interruptions and we can plan ahead for meetings and interesting visits like **Lunch with the Llamas**.



Sue Orgill

GUARLFORD CHRISTMAS FAYRE



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 4th December 2021

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Guarlford Village Hall

Lots of stalls, Crafts, Cake, Raffle etc



NEWLAND NEWS

It occurs to me that we are currently making a society of two classes, **those who use a computer and those who do not**. There are many reasons why someone is not a computer user, including cost, lack of infrastructure, lack of knowledge or a feeling of helplessness. The problem will come as more and more services move online. As we lose two financial institutions in town, those who do not bank online are faced with travelling to Worcester to access another branch.

Shopping is also moving online as a lack of choice is forcing people to select goods from a website since there are fewer and fewer shops open. I faced this problem myself when I wanted a new laptop since I like to actually touch such an important item before buying it. I found there was only one place in Worcester where I could look, see and touch laptops, when I bought my first laptop 10 years ago (previously I had a PC). I was able to visit several different stores before finding what I wanted. Ten years later there is but one place. I notice that accessing both central government and local council services require you to

use a computer, or you have to wait on the telephone for a long period of time for a human being to answer. To this I must add the thought that again those who do not use a computer have to ask for help from, family, friends, neighbours or voluntary institutions. And therein lies the problem. The voluntary sector has had to move much more online in the last 12 months, but if you do not use a computer how do you access the information? Catch 22?

St Christopher, the patron saint of travellers, is carved in alabaster on the front of our pulpit and it is a lovely image, important as the protector of travellers. His feast day is 25th July which is when we celebrated our foundation day, with hymns no less, wonderful to be singing again and to be back in the familiar rhythm of a church service.



The garden looks good with a riot of colour including the inexpensive fuchsias bought to add a bit of colour and the large white pansies with a purple centre I succumbed to when shopping at a supermarket. They may not last long, but they will add some colour for a few

months.



I was lucky enough to be able to visit the **Newland parish council** in-person meeting after I made a suggestion to the council and was invited to attend the meeting. I will let you know about the suggestion later. I was pleased how welcoming and positive the experience was. Nice to see grass roots democracy in action.

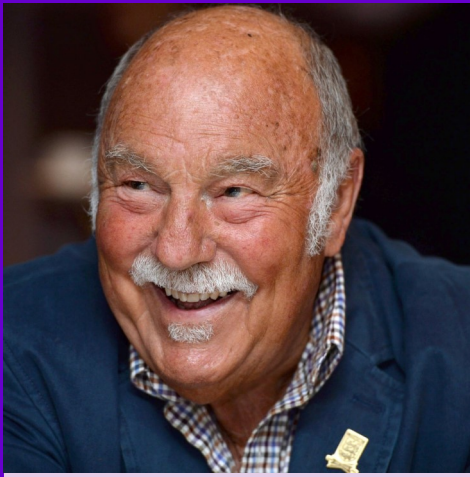
Jane Tinklin

Vicar's Letter - October 2021



I am sure that many of you reading this will remember the closing moments of the World Cup final in 1966 when Kenneth Wolstenholme, who was commenting for BBC TV, uttered the immortal words: "They think it's all over well it is now," as Geoff Hurst scored England's fourth goal to beat West Germany. I wasn't even born then, but I know the phrase from the reruns on TV and the last World Cup.

Well, as autumn begins to take hold and the nights draw in, there's one thing we can say about the Covid pandemic, and that is as much as we would like it to be, it is far from over. In the past few weeks, we are witnessing a rising number of positive cases. Boosters are planned and our teenagers can consider having the vaccine too. Confusion still persists regarding isolation after a positive Covid test. Dentists are still wearing the equivalent of NBC gear, whereas the elderly sit together in cafés unmasked. It's a funny old game, as the late great 'Greavsy' would have said: but



Jimmy Greaves - "It's a funny old game."

it's not a game. Although the parishes have had the joy of celebrating many weddings, most delayed or rescheduled by the pandemic, funerals and memorials still predominate in my diary. That said, baptisms are returning. An unexpected bonus from the lockdowns, perhaps.

As the furlough scheme ends, people are returning to work. Or are they? There are vacancies everywhere and shelves are low on occasions in the shops. Roads are getting busier but not necessarily with HGVs, the roadworks are back and take longer to pass through. Our schools are back, colleges and uni's resume with windows wide open. Is this the new normal?

A sense of a normal routine returns to your churches as we resume singing, our visits to a local care home and our mid week communion at The Orchard in Powick returns (see further article in this magazine) after such a long time. But there appears still to be a sense of anxiety out there but we can help one another. We must continue to encourage one another and bear one another's burdens as we learn to live with the virus.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus talks about rest for the weary with these words:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matt 28:11-end)

In this passage, Jesus invites the weary and the burdened to find rest for their soul by being yoked with him. In Jesus' day, the yoke was a wooden collar that ran across the shoulders of a pair of oxen and enabled them to jointly pull enormous weights. Jesus invites each one of us to be yoked with him in love so that he will gladly share our lives and offer us comfort and support in our present situation.

As we move deeper into autumn, why not think about inviting Jesus to share your burdens and weariness – you may be pleasantly surprised to experience his love and presence in the most unexpected places and times. Join us in our church services, or online if you can.

Take care, stay safe and God Bless,

Rev Gary

The Orchard Communion returns

From Thursday 7th October, our midweek service of Holy Communion returns at 10am. Initially, this service runs once a month on the first Thursday of the month (to be reviewed in the new year). This short communion by extension service, often with hymns, takes place at the Common Room at the Orchard on Colletts Green and concludes with coffee and fellowship. Remember, this service is open to all, not just local Orchard residents, so join in if you can - or want to. If demand warrants, additional midweek services may be planned for other areas within our parishes. Contact The Vicar if you would like to see a midweek service in your area.

A time to remember and give thanks - All Souls tide

At the end of October, the parishes will gather to remember loved ones that have died but have not been forgotten. Two services will take place **on Sunday 31st October 2021**

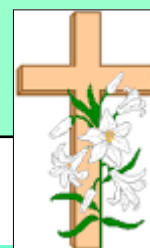


Little Stars and Angels - remembering our lost children (2.30pm-3.15pm)

An open church service of reflective music and reading to allow any one that has lost a child or baby (at term or pre term) to remember a short but precious life. This is an open service where you can just turn up and be present for as little or as long as you want. An opportunity to light a candle for your little star or angel will be given whilst readings and music can be listened to.

Parish Memorial Service. (4pm)

A church service with reflection and candle lighting to remember those that have died. The service will be poignant for those in our communities that have lost a loved one dear, of any age, and were supported by the church, or by other means, during the pandemic so far but that is not a definitive as grief affects people in so many ways and if it would help you to have your loved one's name mentioned, and a candle lit, that is absolutely fine. This year, will collect memorial names on the door rather than circulating lists - it will be a humbling and peaceful opportunity to have a loved one's name remembered on the day, and candles lit in their honour and respect.



Cherry Gray

Cherry lived in this area for decades and was known, liked and respected by everyone who met her. She was a gentle, gently-spoken lady and a very proficient musician. Over the years, she was involved in all sorts of parish activities including, yonks ago, organising the Church birthday cards for the local schoolchildren She went regularly to Madresfield School for Open The Book and was very involved in helping with distributing *The Grapevine*.

Quite recently, Cherry moved from her home in Eston Avenue to Yorkshire, to be nearer her family. It was there, on 5th September, that she died aged 97.

Cherry's funeral was at St Mary's, Guarlford on 21st September .



Church On Line - another unexpected benefit of the Pandemic?

Did you know that church attendance as sky rocketed? No, regrettably, physical attendance at church services is very low still, locally, but online Church access has been an unexpected 'hit' for the Church of England.

Across our parishes, Rev Gary has two online services a week that anyone can join in with, either via the internet or by a phone link. Contact him for the access codes. The services take place on Thursday nights at 8.30pm and Sunday Evenings at 5.30pm. All are welcome to join in. Especially as the days are getting chilling and dank, you can still stay at home and have a cuppa and worship with him in the evening.

As well as the live stream services via Zoom, there are an eclectic mix of services on our Old Hills Malvern Churches YouTube Channel.

Unfortunately, our Zoom link that we have in place for Sunday and Thursday night services, and ad hoc meetings, has been corrupted and cannot be used any more. I have set up a new code that should work - see below.

Old Hills Malvern Zoom Access Link for Services and Ad hoc meetings - valid until 31st December 2021

Click to link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85441690188?pwd=RzJxMDE5R3ZaVFg4ZXpoVGZrQWkzdz09>

Meeting ID: 854 4169 0188

Passcode: 049925

One tap mobile

+443300885830,,85441690188# United Kingdom

+441314601196,,85441690188# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6591 United Kingdom

+44 208 080 6592 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 854 4169 0188

Please change these codes etc in any diary you might have. The Telephone access numbers are the same, but the meeting ID/passcode has been changed.

This should be valid until the end of the year. Sorry for any inconvenience this change causes . **Gary**

The Bishop comes to Callow End

It was a delight to welcome **Bishop Martin Gorick**, the Bishop of Dudley, to St James Church to dedicate the building renovations during the St James' Patronal service held on the 25th July 2021 and to accept into Communion **Sheila Whelan** and **Amy Dunn** at their Confirmation. A busy morning concluded with an impromptu tea party on the benches outside the Callow End Social Club. See the photos of this special occasion on the parishes' website. Two more candidates for confirmation have subsequently come forward. These will be confirmed at a special service at Worcester Cathedral in November. If Confirmation is something you are being called to explore, please contact the Vicar to have a conversation about it.

Christmas is coming... Has anyone seen the (or can knit or make) angels yet...?

If you can help The Vicar, contact him soon!



St. Mary's Church Guarlford - an overview

by Barbara Hill *ALM (Pastoral)*

The little **parish church of St Mary's** in the small country hamlet of Guarlford had several first-time visitors recently: from neighbouring civil parishes. They did not come to partake of a church service; they came during an evening to look at the church and make suggestions on how to encourage more worshippers. A rather strange occurrence, when some of the group professed not to be church goers, had never even visited Guarlford before, nor were they familiar with how this little church relies on the good husbandry of Guarlford people to keep it maintained and financed. However, most of the visitors were interested in the history of this tiny hamlet of approx 240 souls, and they posed many questions; far too many to give detailed individual answers in one evening.

A few years ago, after much research, a group of village residents produced two books of the history of Guarlford. In its pages is a chapter on St. Mary's Church. In St Mary's church porch, there are a few (albeit in need of reprint) leaflets of the church written by a local historian. Also, periodically, articles about Guarlford and its church have appeared in *The Grapevine*, of which there is usually a few free copies in the church porch.

To know the history of an area, its church, its people, and how one slots into this time frame is, for me, so important to enable one to move forward into the future. However, I would not be so bold as to reproduce the chapter on St. Mary's history from the *Guarlford Story* book but will endeavour to answer some of the topical questions that were posed.

One of the first questions asked was - is the church likely to still be locked (post pandemic) in-between services? Answer yes. Unfortunately, there have been several items stolen, not only from the church but also from the churchyard which obviously gave heart ache to the villagers. Most of the items stolen were not of huge monetary value but of much value to the village folk who donated them. It is the penalty of a quiet country church being adjacent to a busy main road. The other frequently asked question

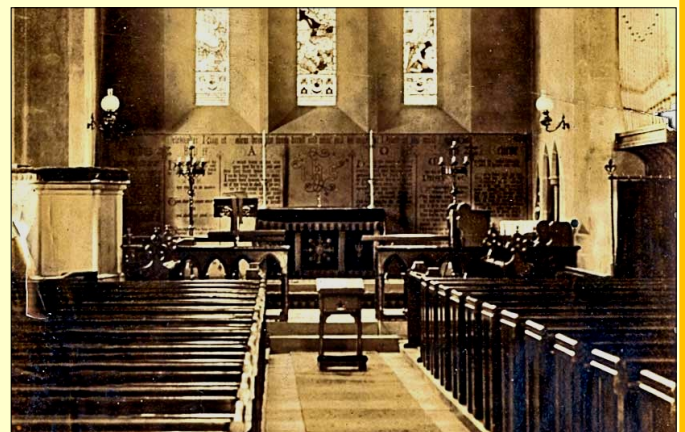


Shrouded in mystery

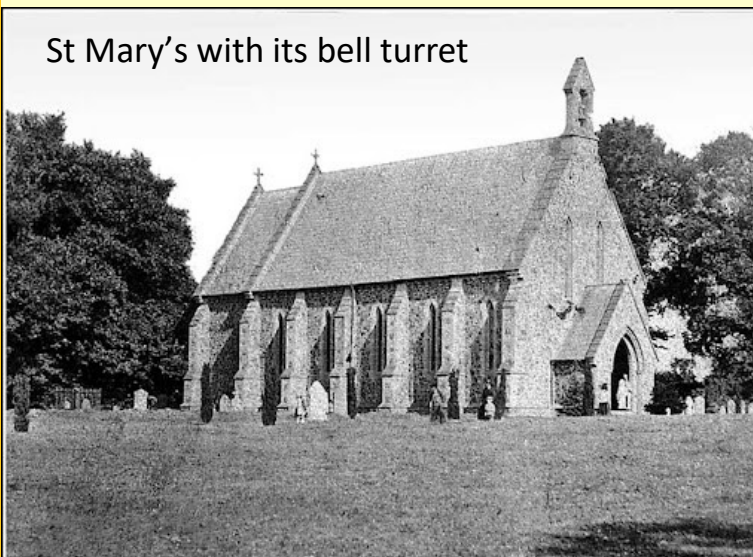
was why is the interior always shrouded? Answer - there is a colony of bats in the roof rafters who tend to leave their calling cards. Every Saturday my husband or I will remove the covers and clean the church ready for the Sunday service, and then immediately re-shroud again after the service to put the church back to bed until next time. Three or four times a year, four or five volunteers (not all from this parish) gather to do a more thorough clean. So, in answer to the other

questions, with the exception of the grass cutter, the ambience of the church and its burial ground are maintained lovingly by volunteers. There are no paid staff. Electricity is supplied overhead and there is no water to the church, nor gas in the village. The church is oil-heated from an underground boiler.

This little church is only a humble building but it was built with love and continues to be held in affection by the people of Guarlford. This is shown by the flower ladies who live outside the parish, and who may not come to this church to worship but nevertheless donate flowers, often from their own gardens, and freely give of their time. Also, it has been noted that relatives regularly attend ancestors' graves and sometimes place flowers on long-deceased graves that have no attendees.



Guarlford St Mary's interior c.1900



St Mary's with its bell turret

Several of the visitors anticipated that the church interior would be dark, but were pleasantly surprised to find it painted cream and is light and airy. It wasn't always so. In the early

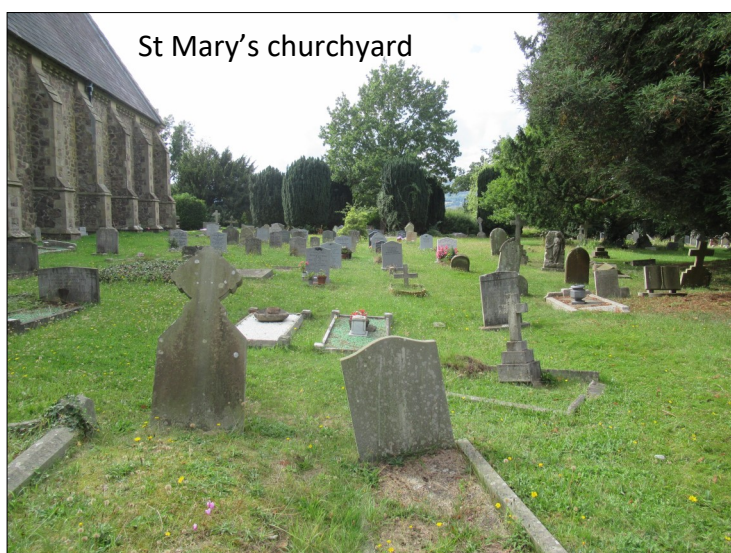
1900s a west window was inserted into the wall immediately over the porch for added light. On top of the wall was a bell turret. Fearful that the now windowed wall wasn't strong enough to hold several hundred weights of bell, the turret was dismantled and the bell was placed in a tree until funds were forthcoming to build its own housing, which sadly never happened. The Bell in the Tree became a unique feature of the church yard for nearly one hundred years. Alas, a few years ago the bell was stolen. I heard of the new folklore, that says, 'the tree died in sorrow because it could no longer call village folk to prayer.' In fact, the thieves sawed branches off leaving a very sad looking tree that was eventually felled for safety reasons.

The church was built in 1848. There were more tenant farmers here at the time and they transported stones down from Malvern quarries. The subtle hues of greens and blues and irregular shapes of the stones were used to face the church, hence it becoming affectionately known as the Patchwork Quilt church. The church at that time sat on a little hillock with a ford running across the lane (opposite the main church gate) into the pond in front of Guarlford Court (c.1600s). Over the years, the ford has been diverted under the lane (now main Barnards Green Road) and into the pond. Another road was established linking the Rectory (now a private home) and the school house (now two private dwellings) so hence the Church now resides on a little hillock with roads on three sides. This makes the church yard unique by being higher than the roads, necessitating a retaining wall. The walls and the mature preservation trees are periodically inspected. Bishop Selby, a former bishop of Worcester, planted an oak tree to commemorate 150 years of St Mary's

Another question was how many worshippers? The congregation on an ordinary service is 16-18, just under 10% of the adult Guarlford population; not a great number but that is how it has always been in this tiny hamlet. On special occasions, the church can seat up to 120 in its old Victorian pews; but one has only to look in any country church archives to realise how the advent of motor cars enabled people to seek other places of worship, and so several of Guarlford folk attend other churches within Malvern.

Most of the soft furnishings and some of the priest's vestments have been made by villagers. In fact, when one looks around, almost every object has been given by Guarlford people past and present. At one time there were bazaars, tea parties and fêtes raising funds to meet the rising cost of electricity, insurances, etc. Sadly today, expenditure far out strips the funds.

Every parishioner within Guarlford may be buried in this pretty little God's Acre, so Guarlford Parish Council contributes £500 annually towards the fees of the grass cutter. The church is fortunate that there is a very good grass cutting contractor who cuts 4-5 times a year. If there is



an occasion in-between grass cutting time (i.e burial etc) the warden/verger will cut a swath where one is to walk. He also trims bushes and weeds the gravel path. To keep the place spick and span, he removes litter thrown over the walls, but the church does not get a refuse collection so it necessitates a periodical trip up to the rubbish tip.

Several of the visitors noted that within the churchyard there are burials dating from just after the church was built but before Guarlford became an ecclesiastical parish (1866). At that time, St Mary's was presided over by priests from Malvern Priory, hence this new little church was until 1866 a Chapel of Ease. The small area where the first graves are has been set aside as part of the Living Churchyard scheme. There are two unmistakable white Commonwealth head stones on graves of Great War Guarlfordians. Inside the church is a memorial plaque listing all the names of the Guarlford men who served during the war years. The war memorial stone cross stands just outside the main gate on its own little plot. Every Armistice Day the congregation of the remembrance service gathers in front of the memorial for the silence and placing of wreaths.

At spring time, one often sees photographers in the churchyard taking photographs of the wonderful carpets of snowdrops followed by daffodils then by primroses. At this time of writing, there is a lovely soft yellow hue from coltsfoot soon to be followed by mauve cyclamen. There is no grass cutting whilst these are in bloom.

One will appreciate that Guarlfordians are rather protective about their little church. Although not being averse to change, great care is needed to preserve the values of the village residents along with St. Mary's existing congregation while seeking to attract new worshippers from the next generations.

There are one or two copies of *The Guarlford Story* left (£10) and also *The Guarlford Scene* for photographs past and present. There are some paper copies of *The Grapevine* available in the church and in the phone kiosk or for those with computers www.guarlfordparish.uk



St Andrews and All Saints Churches Bereavement Cafe

Our bereavement cafe, called Side by Side, meets every Monday from 11am - 12:15 at the **Railway Inn on the Wells Road.**

We are not a counselling service but aim to travel alongside the bereaved and introduce them to others in the same situation.

We can be contacted through All Saints and St Andrews church office on Malvern 576582 or administrators@standrewsandallsaints.org

The Angry Course

In the wake of many reports regarding the increase of mental issues as a result of the pandemic, Well Counselling is to hold an **Angry Course** in October. The counselling service is an integral part of the Lyttelton Well and the course is called '**The Angry Course – too angry or not angry enough?**' The purpose is to help people manage their anger issues. It is aimed both at people who struggle to control their anger and people who hide their anger.

Frances Anderson, who will be leading the course, says, 'It has been a difficult 18 months for many people and some of us may find ourselves responding with more anger than we would normally. Anger's not necessarily a bad thing but understanding where it comes from and what we can do with it is immensely helpful.

'People often struggle with anger for two reasons. Either they can't control their anger and get very cross and explosive – and that's not good. Or they don't allow themselves to get angry about things they should get angry about.

'On the course we are going to look at what anger is and how it affects people and think about how we can stop it from getting out of control. Reasons for anger are individual, we want to help people let out enough anger and to use it constructively. The course is suitable for anybody who either has anger issues or wants to understand anger a bit more.'

The course begins on October 14 and lasts for four two and a half hour sessions. The cost is £120 but there are bursaries and discounted rates available. The deadline for course application is October 7.

Applicants can go online on <https://www.thewellcounselling.co.uk/training>



Conquest Art Malvern

Thank you, **Beauchamp Community**, for hosting the members of **Conquest Art Malvern** on a lovely sunny day during August. It was a double pleasure to be able to sit in your garden under the beautiful 'bean' tree now that we have regained our freedom after sheltering at home for so long. It was also a delight to be served tea from real china tea pots and be indulged with homemade cookies made by **Mrs Tinnion**. A thank you also to **Sue** for the little bags of herbal teas and good luck tokens she gave to everybody. Conquest Art runs art groups for adults with a wide range of disabilities, such as MS, stroke, arthritis and other long term health issues.

The charity was started in 1978 by **Ursula Hulme MBE**, an artist who recognised that art could be an invaluable aid in improving the lives of people living with disability or long-term illness. No artistic experience necessary; everyone is welcome.

The groups are run by volunteers and are always looking for more helpers. The helpers

load paint brushes, sharpen pencils, assemble a person's art materials etc. to having a chat over a cup of tea in a relaxed friendly atmosphere.

Conquest Art Malvern Group meets every 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 2.15 to 4.15 at the United Reform Church Malvern Link-- for more details Contact Janet Bingham 07957848500

Barbara Hill



Old Hills Caterpillars

Transforming our churches



Over the past few months the word '**transformation**' has been heard many times within the walls of our churches, initially quietly but very slowly getting louder. Then mix in with that the word '**caterpillar**' and you would wonder what is going on in church!

Change has started to happen in the Worcester Diocese. Over the last year, Open Conversations have been held between the diocese and representatives from many parish churches in our county, where the question was asked:

'How to do we make our churches healthy and sustainable for the future?'

So, with Rev Gary's guidance, a small group of people from all corners of your community within the benefice have formed a committee called the **Old Hills Caterpillars**.

Why caterpillars? A caterpillar slowly but methodically eats, carries on every day with the same routine, never alters. It then forms a chrysalis for a period of time until one day it finally transforms into a beautiful butterfly ready to fly and begin a new journey.

So, some of the questions we need to answer are:

- * How do we transform our churches into the hub of our community?
- * Bring life back into our beautiful old buildings?
- * Open up our churchyards as places of beauty, peacefulness, tranquillity, spirituality as well as havens for biodiversity and wildlife?
- * Welcome children and families into church?



We want to transform; we need to transform; our church numbers are reducing; our buildings are old and need money spent on them and our churchyards need volunteers to help keep them open for everyone to use and enjoy.

So, using the process of **MAP** (Mission Action Planning) the committee will engage with our congregation, our community, local businesses, schools and neighbours to talk, listen and understand what people want from us, our church buildings and how we can grow together to become healthy and sustainable, spiritually, environmentally, socially and financially.

It won't be an easy process or a quick fix, it will take time to ask the questions, listen to the answers and then slowly transform. We feel passionately about every corner of our churches; from the stone that has been standing still for over a thousand years, to the beautiful stain glass windows that tell stories that have inspired, encouraged, given hope, to the organ that plays music that fills your heart with joy as we celebrate together in song and to the pews that have seated families, school children and couples starting out on their new journey together.

How can we use this passion to transform our churches now and for the future?
Can you feel inspired to help us?

If you would like any more information or have been inspired to be able to offer any help please contact

Vicky Whitehouse
01905 831996
vickywhitehouse@teckserv.co.uk



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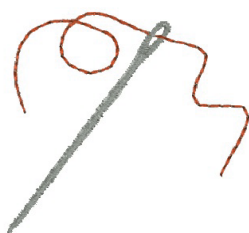
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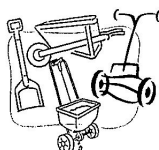
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Copy for the next *Grapevine* should be with the editor by **8th November 2021**.

Education

Madresfield C E Primary School

Head of School: Michelle Waits Tel:01684 573620

Email: office@madresfield.worcs.sch.uk

Friends of Madresfield School

Chairman: Angela Pountney Vice Chairman: Pippa Rose East

Secretary: Milly Fleming Treasurer: Hannah Hollick Press Officer: Tracy Williams

Madresfield Early Years Centre www.meyc.co.uk 01684 574378 (9am-2pm)

Mrs Alice Bennett 01684 574378

* Madresfield Parent & Toddler Club; Tuesdays 11-12; Gymini classes throughout

Wednesdays * Holiday Play Schemes * After School Collection & Care

•Babies to PreSchool Care 8am-6pm daily

Social

Madresfield Club : Secretary, Mrs Jo Morgan 01684 573363

Bell Ringing: Practice Mondays, 7.30 at Madresfield Church

Geoff Titmuss 01684 572495

Countryside Matters

Tree Wardens:

Parish Path Wardens:

Newland - Mike Everitt, 4 Rectory Lane, Madresfield WR13 5AB

01684 560927 E: landm@mikeeveritt.plus.com

Madresfield - Mike Everitt (as above) and Martin Thorne, 1 Rectory Lane, Madresfield, Malvern, WR13 5AB - 01684 564133

E: martinthorne380@btinternet.com

Guarlford - David Fellows, Green Fields, Rectory Lane, Guarlford 01684 574243

Malvern Hub: for reporting abandoned cars and flytipping 01684 862151

Malvern Hills Trust

Chase representative: Graeme Crisp 01684 560476

Newland representative: Tom Yapp 01886 833122

Guarlford representative: David Fellows

Community Support Officer: PCSO Martin Butcher