

# *The Grapevine*

No. 315

December 2021 / January 2022



This 1850s oil painting of Newland old church is in the album of sisters Maryanne and Jessie Dorville, formerly of Highcroft, Graham Road. Courtesy Malvern Library.  
(ref D18 1022)

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](http://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](http://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

Editor: Ms Cora Weaver, 4 Hall Green WR14 3QX E: cora.weaver@talktalk.net

Postal Distribution: Janet Lomas 07827 970600

Please send **donations and advertising fees** (cheques payable to The Grapevine) to the treasurer: Shelagh Thorne, 3 Chance Lane WR14 3QZ or online by bank transfer :

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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.**

### INFORMAL CAROL SERVICE

Thursday December 2nd 2.30 p.m.  
**St Matthias' Church** Malvern Link WR14 1NP  
 All are welcome  
 but people living with *dementia* or special needs  
 and their *carers* are especially welcome.  
 A simple service of carols and readings  
 to celebrate this very special season,  
 followed by refreshments.




### The Grapevine Timetable 2022

Edition	Deadline date	Collation date (Tuesday)
February / March	8th January	25th January
April / May	8th March	22nd March
June / July	8th May	24th May
August / September	8th July	26th July

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## WHERE TO FIND THE GRAPEVINE ONLINE

- \* [http://www.guarlfordparish.uk/vill\\_mag.htm](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](http://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

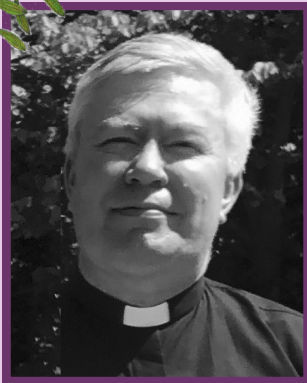
The **Madresfield Relief in Need Charity** is an ancient charity for the benefit of those living in the ancient parish of Madresfield with Newland. The charity is *overseen by the Charity Commission and managed by local trustees including Rev Gary Crellin*.

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](mailto:revgarycrellin@gmail.com)



## The Vicar's Christmas Message 2021

Dear Friends - Welcome to this festive and seasonal edition of your parish magazine. Whether you are reading this as a paper version or online, I hope you are all well and looking forward, through the remaining weeks of Advent, to the coming of Christmas and onwards to a better 2022.

Every year, Oxford Dictionaries select a '*Word of the Year*'. Last year it was **climate emergency**. That still seems like an important phrase to use and reflect upon, but I wonder what it will be Word of the Year this year? There are candidates: Vax'ers/anti-vaxers, Lateral Flow, bubbles, PCR, pandemic, the new normal, Plan B, Standard unprecedented. A recent/ late re-entry: the return of political sleaze. It feels like face covering and social distancing are falling down the list. Another good candidate might be the word 'disruption' - how our lives have changed in the last 20 months.

Disruptions are nothing new. A little over 2000 years ago a baby was born. Nothing so special about that. If the uninformed observer had looked more closely, they would have wondered:

- \* *why a baby was born in the place where animals are kept?*
- \* *why shepherds and wise men came to honour him?*
- \* *why they told tales of angels singing and special stars rising in the sky?*
- \* *why an angel told his mother that this baby would be called 'the Holy One, the Son of God'?*

And maybe they would have had a hunch that this baby represents the biggest disruption in history, although wrapped in the most surprising way!

Ever since this baby was laid in a manger, all the events of Jesus' life have captured the hearts and lives of uncounted people. Today we may be in danger of losing the central message of Christmas in our part of the world, but we can recover it by looking for the **REAL Christmas Presence**.

To help you explore Christmas and its true meaning, I hope you will engage with the **Walk of Wonder** around Madresfield in December and a number of services including Cribs, Lessons and Carols and a brass band support carol service. Many things may be changed at short notice, as we are still in a pandemic but we will make the events as safe as we can for you. Check our website, social media or give me a call for further information. The (knitted) angels are flying back soon to our villages, highways and byways. Look out for them. Some may be in surprising places, because it's in the surprising places we tend to find God at work.

For some of us, Christmas might not be a joyous occasion. There is a movement called **Blue Christmas** that you might have heard of. Some of us are facing hardships unimaginable even twelve months ago: we have lost loved ones; grieve the loss of so many freedoms we took for granted; lost our job; our mental health has suffered. Let's be easy on ourselves at this time of year if you do not feel that festive. Christ was still born to you.

May the current stage of the pandemic crisis help us see Christmas with fresh eyes and rekindle the wonder and astounding discovery that this baby in a manger is the greatest disruption in all of history – a disruption that leads to hope, healing and wholeness.

I wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a better 2022 for us all!

Season's greetings and blessings

The Reverend Gary Crellin



# Walk of Wonder

*Follow the Nativity trail and see the  
Christmas Story unfold*



*11th -12th December 2021*

*Madresfield Village*

*11th December 'Christmas Reflection' with carols @ 3.30pm*

[www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk](http://www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk)

## **A Special Service for pre-schoolers, their parents & carers.**



You are warmly invited to join us at the

### **PreSchoolers' Service**

in St Mary's Church, Madresfield

on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December** from 1..30 to 2 pm

when the theme will be ***The Christmas Tree***

Do come along, sit on the carpet,

sing songs and listen to a story.

You will be very welcome.



## **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 CHRISTMAS FAYRE



**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**2.00 pm – 3.30 pm**

**Guarlford Village Hall**

**Lots of stalls, Crafts, Cake, Raffle etc**

### NEWLAND NEWS



great gust of wind and how transient. I am informed that a good autumn is usually followed by a hard winter; hope that old saying is not true.

**Autumn** this year has been beautiful with many lovely shades of brown, gold and red it looked spectacular and then all of sudden it was gone in a

rain. A reminder how beautiful nature can be, and

**Squirrels** are still out and about and there are a lot of them, running around collecting nuts. There seems to be a lack of conkers this year, which is strange. Mum usually puts them in the corners of her room to keep spiders at bay. (Not sure it works that well, as I seem to be removing spiders on a regular basis).

Here at the Beauchamp community, we have a **warden, Richard**, who deals the practical issues of living in a 19th century listed building and all its needs. To look after the pastoral side of life, we have a Chaplain Father Christopher who has sadly (for us), announced he is retiring from the position as of Candlemas. The hunt is on for a new Chaplain we all pray it will go well.

Now the clocks have gone back, and the nights are drawing in, I find **Zoom** is a good thing. In the summer, I wished I could go out to meetings to see my friends. When there is a rainstorm and high winds, I am glad of Zoom meetings and not having to leave the comfort and warmth of my living room.

I find some hymns better than others and this weekend we had some very good ones in celebration of the feast of all saints and to add to our fun our new organist is playing some wonderful music on Sundays from composers I have not heard before. This week it was Olivier Messiaen, a French composer from the 20th century.

I am looking forward to Advent and the events surrounding the annual celebration of Christ's birth, especially singing carols this year: a much-missed tradition.

I have been reminded that we should always read what we write in case we do not mean what we say. Walk away and come back and read it again to see if it's what you meant. You cannot recall a letter or an email once you press Send. Good advice.



In the Quadrangle, the tree has shed all but one of its leaves and the garden furniture took a tumble in the recent high winds.

Recent sign seen: Rules for a better life

1. leave a little sparkle wherever you go.
2. Expect nothing and appreciate everything.
3. Laughter is the best medicine.
4. Always stay true to yourself.
5. Forgive and forget.
6. Worry less, smile more.
7. When life gives you rainy days, play in puddles.



At a recent sermon in church, the preacher told us the following. I had not heard it before though I had heard a variation. The difference between wisdom and knowledge: knowledge is that a tomato is a fruit; the wisdom is not to put it in a fruit salad.

For information on events at the Beauchamp Community please see our website;

**<https://www.beauchampstleonard.org>**



**HELP!**

Sadly, at the moment our team of people happy to place flowers to decorate **St Mary's church, Guarlford**, has been sorely depleted, so we are appealing for new members. You wouldn't need to arrange flowers in pedestal or pots (unless of course you wish to), as we plan to provide two vases and a jug for the altar and porch, which would only need flowers etc to be placed in them. You can also just provide fresh foliage (plenty in the churchyard) and make use of the many very realistic silk flowers for all seasons, which are stored in boxes in the outer vestry. Whatever help you could provide would be very welcome.



We wouldn't expect you to work alone in church but in pairs (for security and companionship), and in the past we have had fun preparing as a larger group for major festivals, such as **Easter, Harvest and Christmas**. (No flowers in church in Lent or Advent.)

It would be good to be able to organise a rota of helpers for the new year of 2022, so if you are interested, could you please speak to either **Judith Knott** or **Rosemary McCulloch** or telephone 01684 565118. We would be very happy to show you what is needed.



## THANK YOU TO THE BENEFICE...

It was to my great surprise that £339 was deposited in my account by the Powick Treasurer on 16th September, which, I understand, came from a collection made from across the Benefice for me on my retirement in January last from playing the organ in all our four churches. Thank you.



I am most humbled by this collection as I spent most of my time in church hidden behind pillars or a variety of church furniture so that while I may have been heard, I was rarely seen! I did enjoy playing the organ (for some 20 years here) but must now look after my family. I have played in various churches throughout my life for 50 years across two countries!

To mark my time in this Benefice, I am now looking for something for St Peter's Powick, which is proving to be a challenge. Lyndall Brown

### **November, November, November** by Barbara Hill *ALM (Pastoral)*

'Please to remember the fifth of November,' a centuries-old ditty celebrating Guy Fawkes's failure recalled every fifth of November reminds us that November is a month of remembrance.

Beginning with All Saints and All Souls days, which straddles the end of October and the beginning of November, when the church honours the spiritual great and good, together with those we knew and loved and those who gave us inspiration. Sadly, some cannot see beyond the jolly making of Halloween when, in the Middle Ages, superstitions resulted in many being condemned to tortuous deaths for being witches.

The most important remembrance comes during the second week of November, when our nation comes together with so many other countries across the world, to honour, to reflect and to mourn the dead, the injured, the bereaved of two world wars and subsequent campaigns on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day on the 11th of November.

**Firstly**, remembrance is an act of honest recollection. In the days before history books and TV documentaries, wars would be part of folk memory. It suited everybody to remember the last campaign in as glorious light as possible, so that the king's reputation was safe and people would be keen to support him in another war if he called them to arms. Modern history has taught us to avoid such glorification. Each year, there is a debate about how we should honour those who died in war and, as our consciences become more sensitive, we should be wary of glamorising or glorifying war. For example, after the Falklands war Archbishop Runcie made a courageous stand at the Memorial service by insisting on praying also for the Argentinians who had died or been injured. In remembrance, we now recall with honesty and humility the horror of war, the wasted lives the tragic heroism.

**Secondly**, remembrance is an act of thanksgiving. No matter how pointless some wars may have been, the wastefulness of young lives, and the suffering, when the call came, people ventured into battle and gave their lives to preserve our freedoms, justice, democracy and our very way of life. We couldn't continue to enjoy the life we have if we didn't periodically turn and face those who died, those who were injured, and those who were bereaved, and say 'Thank You; I never knew you but I know your sacrifice. I know it was done on my behalf and for subsequent generations and I thank you for it. Rest in Peace.'



**Thirdly,** remembrance is an act of dedication. It would be futile to remember and give thanks if we didn't try our utmost to avoid future wars. But should we not also pledge ourselves to fight the wars that really will end all wars, namely the war against disease, poverty, hatred, and inequality, as surely those often trigger so many armed conflicts?

We also see and hear on modern media of our world's climate change as a result of man's commercial greed and misuse of natural resources. So is it not fitting that, this November, world leaders came together in Glasgow for Cop26 to debate how the world can muster all its energies to resolve the battle of global warming, end pollution, and preserve our planet; surely this must be the greatest battle of all time and we must win at all costs?

November is a complex month; a month where one goes into deep reflection, yet also a month full of hope, where one strives to learn from past mistakes and make new commitments that man will go forward with compassion and understanding in this wonderful God given world that we have such an obligation to preserve for future generations.

### *Lest We Forget*

## **OLD HILLS MALVERN CHURCHES DECEMBER & CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

### **DECEMBER**



<b>Sunday 5th</b>	<b>8.00am</b> BCP Communion (said) at Powick <b>9.30am</b> BCP Communion (said) at Guarlford <i>(Note: different Sunday for this service this month only)</i>
<b>Saturday 11th</b>	<b>3.30pm</b> Reflection at Madresfield
<b>Saturday 11th &amp; Sunday 12th</b>	Madresfield Nativity Trail and Christmas Trees Walk into Wonder
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	<b>11.00am</b> Advent Holy Communion at Powick <b>4.00pm</b> Lessons and Carols (with brass band) at Guarlford
<b>Sunday 19th</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Advent Holy Communion at Callow End <b>11.00am</b> Lessons and Carols at Madresfield <b>4.00pm AND 6.30pm</b> Lessons and Carols at Powick
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>2.00pm</b> Crib Service at Madresfield <b>3.00pm</b> Crib Service at Powick <b>4.00pm</b> Crib Service at Callow End <b>10.00pm</b> First Communion of Christmas at Madresfield <b>11.15pm</b> First Communion of Christmas at Powick
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Christmas Presence at Guarlford
<b>Boxing Day</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Christmas Communion at Callow End
<b><u>JANUARY 2022</u></b>	
<b>Sunday 2nd</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Morning Prayer for a New Year at Callow End



## GUARLFORD W.I NEWS

The weather has been unusually mild, giving us a riot of exuberant autumnal colour, but the falling leaves and shorter days herald the approach of chillier evenings and our winter programme.

The Craft and Produce Show organised, in her usual meticulous style, by **Jenny Cameron**, showcased a wide variety of skilful crafts and healthy garden produce.

The number of entries overall was slightly down compared with earlier shows but the standard was high in most categories. The baking, jam, marmalade and lemon curd entries all scored well but, alas the chutneys did not all meet with the judges' approval – perhaps a challenge for next time?



In our new Baking class, the engraved glass cake stand given in memory of Doreen Lloyd Jones was won by **Di Rivers** for her perfect Victoria sponge sandwich. There were a good number of entries for this section and one contribution looked delicious but, unfortunately, chocolate and whipped cream does not meet with the WI baking rules!!



In the evening, visitors came to view the displays and prizes were distributed. **Gail Woodhouse** won the crystal bowl for craft and **Gill Hollick** won the Newsom Cup for produce. A very enjoyable evening and a chance for members to meet together again and enjoy each other's company.

Our next meeting was on 12th October when we learned about the **Dowty collection of photographs** taken in various parts of Malvern on one day in 1973. It was fascinating trying to work out exactly where they were taken and to note the huge changes that have taken place since that time. The slides provoked a lively discussion and many memories of younger selves.

Our AGM was on November 9th when we had a resume of the past two years, appointed a committee and discussed future plans. After the serious business there was a quick Beetle Drive before, of course, tea and coffee, biscuits and a chat.



In September, 12 members enjoyed lunch at **The Alpaca Meadows**. A beautiful spot with grasslands sweeping down to the river and alpacas led along the driveway in glorious sunshine. Unfortunately, we didn't see the animals close up after a series of torrential cloud bursts gave us the opportunity to indulge in some delicious homemade cakes while the storm went over.

The **Guarlford Christmas Fair** is on 4th December and members of the Craft group

have been busy making items for the craft stall while others have offered contributions to the cake stall and raffles. There will be a good selection of stalls as well as one or two old games for the children (of all ages) to try and, of course, tea and cake.



We have also been putting together Christmas shoe boxes and members have contributed items or money to pay for shipping costs. There were 15 completed boxes at the last count. The **pop up shop in Worcester** selling items for St Richard's Hospice raised £24,000 and, while Guarlford WI can't claim to have done it single handed, a large number of elephant-related articles were sent for sale.



December 14th will be our Christmas meeting where there will be entertainment, carol singing and a buffet to round off 2021. Our annual lunch with partners will be at the Malvern Hills Hotel at 12/12.30 on Saturday January 15th – a good start to the New Year. We don't hold a WI meeting in January but **February** will, hopefully, see the start of our 2022 programme of outings, projects and meetings. A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to join us on the second Tuesday evening of the month.

Sue Orgill



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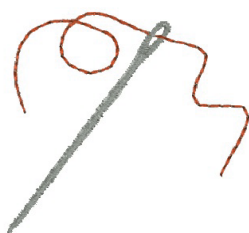
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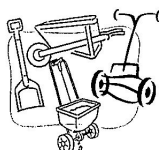
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To advertise in *The Grapevine* contact the editor, Cora Weaver E: cora.weaver@talktalk.net

Copy for the next *Grapevine* should be with the editor by **8th January 2022**.

## **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](http://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