

# *The Grapevine*

No. 316

February / March 2022



Members of Guarlford WI plant a crab apple sapling to celebrate 80 years of the WI in Guarlford

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:

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

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## What's On in the Parish

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

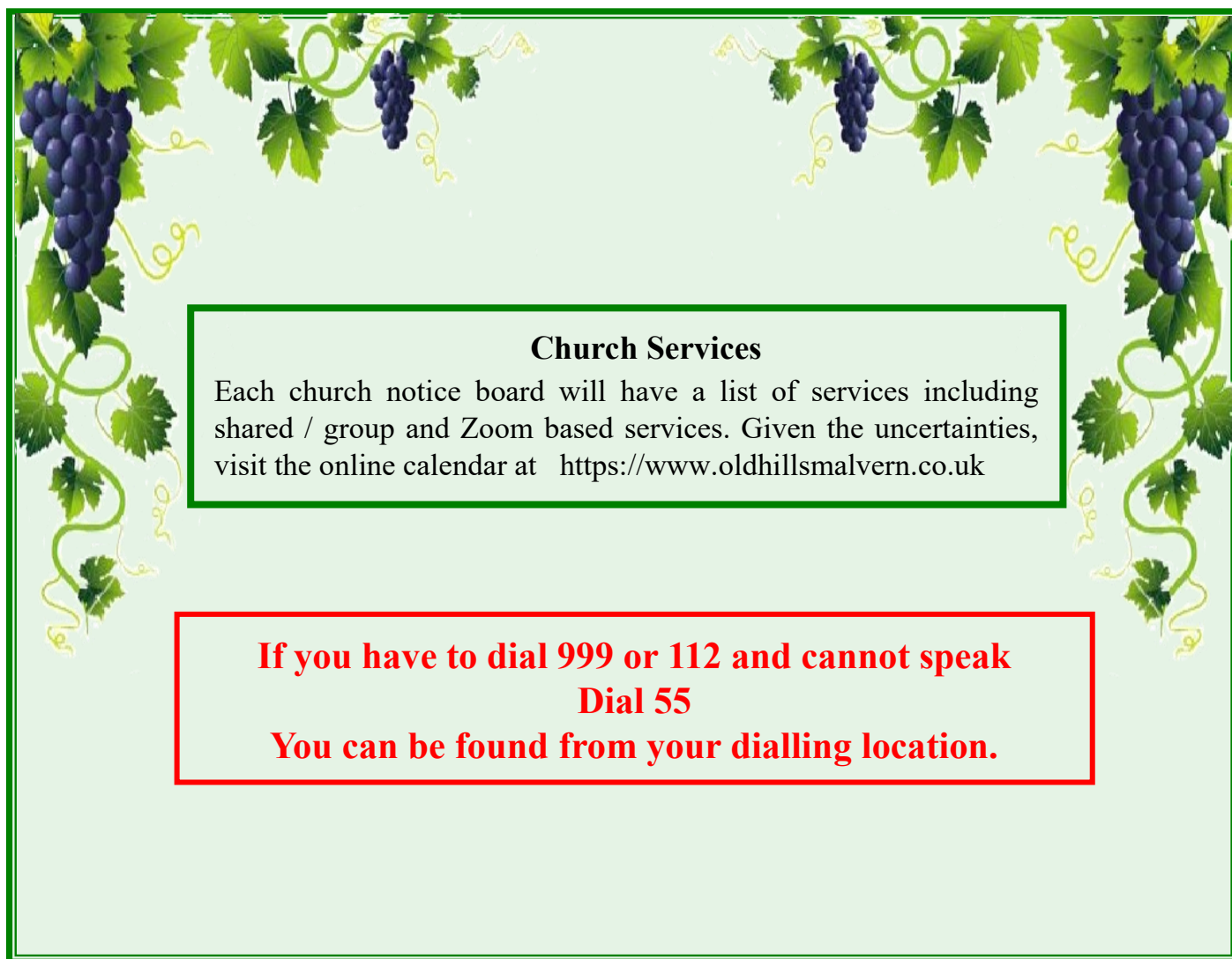
**Tower Bell Ringers** every Monday at 7.30 in Madresfield Church.

**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.**

### The Grapevine Timetable 2022

Edition	Deadline date	Collation date (Tuesday)
April / May	8th March	22nd March
June / July	8th May	24th May
August / September	8th July	26th July
October / November	8th September	20th September

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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)

## GUARLFORD GOSSIP



Guarlford's next Parish Council meeting will be Monday 14th March at 7.30pm in Guarlford Village Hall. For more information contact The Clerk Gill Hollick

E: parishclerkguarlford@gmail.com 07816 533251

## GUARLFORD W.I NEWS



2021 marked the 80th anniversary of the **first meeting of Guarlford WI** in June 1941 and it was decided

we would plant a tree to celebrate this event.

Permission was given to use a plot at the junction of Clevelode Lane and Guarlford Road for a small tree and in a poll of members a crab apple proved to be the most popular choice. On a sunny but very cold morning, 22nd

November, two strong husbands lent a hand to dig a hole and the sapling was ceremoniously planted by our president Di Rivers watched by members of the committee.



This crab apple sapling commemorates 80 years of the W.I at Guarlford

I'm pleased to report that the tree at the end of Clevelode Lane that blew over in the gale missed our crab apple by a few inches.

Also in November, we visited **The Commandery** in Worcester with husbands and partners for a conducted tour. The guide was very knowledgeable and it was fascinating to discover the layers of history associated with this historic building.

December 4th was the Christmas Fayre and members were manning several of the stalls as well as providing tea and cakes for sale. The village hall looked colourful, festive and attractive. A very pleasing number of people attended and seemed to enjoy everything that was on offer from crafts and gifts to tombola and teas, not to mention trying their hand and a variety of old fashioned games. Overall a very successful afternoon which raised £1,500 for hall funds which is sufficient to pay the balance owing on the stair lift.

December's meeting took the form of a party and after mulled wine we were entertained by a delightful singing group, Pick n Mix, who pitched their choice of music just right for our age group and it was lovely to have a sing along, even with masks on. Afterwards we all enjoyed a buffet supper and a chinwag. Again this year, we gave donations in lieu of secret Santa presents to each other and the money raised was distributed between three charities.

There is no meeting in January but our annual lunch with husbands and partners will be on the 15th and our next WI meeting will be in February – all being well. This will herald the start of our 2022 programme which will include visits to Worcester Porcelain and Croome walled gardens as well as a varied programme of talks and activities.

After two extraordinarily difficult years we wish you a New Year that will be happier and better in so many ways.

Sue Orgill

## Update from Guarlford Village Hall

It seems a long time ago since last September when at a very well attended meeting in Guarlford Village Hall, local residents voiced their clear commitment to supporting the Trustees of the village hall in regenerating this much-loved old building.

An initial assessment highlighted the need for a new energy efficient heating system which would be more in keeping with the current climate crisis. Alongside this the hall required additional insulation and damp proofing. The toilets are also in need replacing and bringing up to date with disabled access; a new kitchen would make the hall more attractive to potential hirers and thereby increase income for hall. All this will cost a seriously large amount of money so The Trustees immediately began applying for grant funding.

We have been very grateful to District and County Councillor Tom Wells and District Councillor Kathy Wells for their donation of £1,000. We have also received a further £3,000 from Malvern Hills District Council. At the start of December, we were awarded £500 from the **Postcode Lottery** and a further £2,000 from **The Turner Foundation**. We have also applied for funding from Tarmac and the National Lottery and await their decisions in the coming weeks.



The Christmas Fayre at Guarlford Village Hall

The first task for the Trustees was to install a new stair lift. The old one had been repaired many times but had finally broken down for the last time. The brand-new stair lift was installed in November and means that anyone can now access the hall at our future events.

December saw the return of the **Guarlford Annual Christmas Fayre** and what a wonderful event it was this year. More than 28 volunteers turned up to make this event a huge success. The hall was beautifully decorated and once filled with stalls loaded with the generous donations of local residents, all was set for a traditional festive Christmas Fayre. A record number of people visited this year which helped to swell the funds raised. The final total was an amazing **£1,500**.

If you would like to join the happy band of residents who are supporting The Trustees throughout the regeneration programme you will be made very welcome and no one will ask you to commit more time than you are able to give. Speak to any of the Trustees to find out more or call Gill Hollick, The Secretary on 07816 533251



## 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

After spending many nomadic years, my husband and I decided to settle in this small sleepy hamlet of **Guarlford**. It was not long before we were drawn into the fold and invited to help with the running of the many village activities: fêtes, dog shows, garden parties, harvest suppers, Christmas bazaars, Easter jamborees &, where all the proceeds from the pleasurable but hard work was shared equally between the church and village hall. But as is the way of the world, those community activities became more difficult to sustain with all the new rules and regulations and then of course there was the advancing ages of many of the stalwarts.

During the early '90s, Guarlford was joined with Madresfield into one parish, known as '**Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland**' (GMN) with just the one rectory at Madresfield and one incumbent. Guarlford rectory was sold, so this became an ending of an era. Henceforth, most fund-raising energies were directed to Daffodil Sundays at the ideal venue of Madresfield Court when in a good year more money was generated to share between the two churches than any of the smaller Guarlford events could.

The independent **Guarlford Village Hall**, and likewise the independent *Grapevine*, have never profited from Daffodil Sunday; it was for the churches only. However, a handsome donation was given to the village hall from the money generated when the churches and villages joined together to stage a very pleasant weekend event known as The Two Villages Ride About. Practically every resident of the two villages participated, opening their gardens to visitors, lending ponies and traps and vintage cars for trips along the villages lanes, old farm machinery was on display, and young-at-hearts encouraged to view the sheep, horses or cattle at various farms. with cream teas served in many residents' gardens.

Since those days, the hall has obtained several charitable grants to enable it to carry out much needed repairs and improvements. Many of those improvements were DIY to save money but, rest assured, the volunteers were guided by the professionals, to maintain its H&S requirements and fire certs. The hall relied on its annual Christmas bazaar, a grant from Guarlford Parish Council and income it could generate from lettings to pay for its substantial annual running costs.

The new GMN parish was introduced to Out Reach and new friends in a diocese in Tanzania. Thereafter, for several years, much of the energies of the good people of G&M focused on fund raising for Tanzania as well as our own two churches. Parishioners from G&M visited this large country which is part of Africa. Bishop Patrick, of **Masasi** and Sister Sophia, who hosted us in the nunnery, and two other priests, came here on return visits and stayed several times in the homes of a couple of G& M residents. During the time G&M were putting on exhibitions and fund raising for Tanzania, they were also running youth clubs and Sunday school for a while in the hall where Bishop Patrick joined in with the fun. But as the youths grew up and moved away, the population of this tiny hamlet became devoid of the younger element. The **bus shelter**, where pupils waited for the school bus, now lies redundant as there is no longer a bus service for the village. Slowly, the Guarlford old guard melted away or became too infirm and responsibility of trying to keep Guarlford church maintained, cared for and importantly loved, began to fall onto the shoulders of a smaller and smaller group of people. Similarly, there were just one or two folks left to maintain the lovely oak-beamed village hall of which my husband was chairman for very many years. It is with a huge sigh of relief to know that, post pandemic, the WI ladies have taken on the responsibility of the village hall. Although several are not Guarlford residents, it is heartening to know the hall will still be cared for with a team of able-bodied ladies with an affection for historical buildings.



About the time of the millennium, after a midnight party in the village hall, a handful of people embarked on writing the history of Guarlford before it became too late and would be lost to living memory. After much investigation and collaboration, a handsome book *The Guarlford Story* was published followed a few years later by *Guarlford Scene* with many pictures and photos of the residents pre 1900s up to 2009. There are only one or two of the original story books left, but there are several Scene books still for sale on the table in the church porch.

Then came the time for GMN to join with Powick and Callow End under a benefice of four churches, with just the one incumbent who was residing at the present rectory at Powick; the rectory at Madresfield was sold. The first incumbent of the benefice was only in situ for a wee while when along came our **first female vicar**, whom gave the new benefice the feminine touch.

Then just a few years ago as Rev Sue was approaching retirement, she moved to become the chaplain of St Oswald Hospital, Worcester; where the diocese has offered temporary accommodation to several Afghan refugees. After another interregnum, the present incumbent for the benefice, which now has a title of The Old Hills, Rev. Gary was installed. Less than two years after settling into the rectory, the pandemic struck and here we are at present with curtailment of liberties and disruptions of church services, still continuing into 2022.

It is more than 25 years since many of the original caretakers of Guarlford church melted away and the roll of **warden/verger** passed to my husband. I was already the sacrosanct and soon became the general dog's body. These roles we took upon ourselves quite willingly as testaments to our faith, albeit we were still relatively young then.

I like to call my husband and me the back-room guys. Visitors see the church but don't really know how much work there is to maintain it week in and week out. We work ceaselessly to keep our lovely little church viable for services. We've worked through four incumbents and four interregnums, not just as matter of service to our community but as respect to our faith.

The **flower team** are a separate entity but even they, as the years rolled by, have become, like us, old and almost diminished in numbers. For many years it has been just us couple of back-room guys always there to open and close the church, put the heating on, weed the paths, shroud the areas from the damage **the bats** cause (protected species so cannot be removed) and, most importantly, do a weekly clean, as even an empty building gets its share of debris.

Several years ago, we said we'd like to pass the baton on as we approached our 80th birthdays. My husband did succeed in relinquishing full wardenship to being an acting warden, yet here we are nearly six years later after requesting retirement at yearly intervals still waiting in the relay bay for someone to take up the baton.

We found it very hurtful that those of a Caterpillar group who know nothing of the church/village its history or our husbandry, could visit the church but once and pass critical judgement. If they had only asked, we could have enlightened them on several points. For example, we had already had (at a cost) a bat ecologist; commemorative sapling trees (faculty-given) were planted less than five years ago, one planted by emeritus Bishop Selby. All commemorative plaques have been stolen; most of the church furniture are replicas, the original 100-year-old articles were stolen, including the church gates and our lovely bell in the tree. It was heart-breaking that items that could be moved, right down to the **Bishops' Chair**, were stolen.

Being confined to barracks during lock downs over these two years has made us realise that, in fact, we are old and not so bouncy anymore and really there must be a couple of successors. We read like many others how many small rural churches become redundant (200 in 2021) and we are so fearful that this tiny village church may be yet another statistic. So, we will carry on doing our best until someone younger whom can give many more years of devotion steps forward to take on the baton. Please give your names to Gary if you feel you might like to be one of those people.



## 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

from 1.30 to 2 pm on Tuesday 15th February

when the theme will be *Through the Roof*

Do come along, sit on the carpet, sing songs and listen to a story.

You will be very welcome.



### Vicar's Pastoral Letter - February 2022

Dear Friends,

I can't quite believe that we are already into a new year. As I try and sort my last year's diary, into this year's, I still feel that I am between two worlds.

At the beginning of this year, I am not sure any of us knew what to expect after the events of 2021. With the fast rollout and effectiveness of the boosters and vaccines, we are all well aware that this has largely 'unlocked' us from the full power of this virus even in its new mutant form. Yet, we know that we are not out of the woods yet; at the time of writing, extremely high rates of Covid still persist locally and nationally and it is affecting how our public services can respond to our need. Let's be careful out there.

As 2022 entered mildly without the expected chill of winter, we have been caught almost between two worlds, and therefore two ways of thinking about the way forward: some cry a return to normal others cry caution going forward and talk about adapting to a 'new normal.' Yet there surely needs to be an awareness when having this debate that for many people and indeed entire nations, there is and will be nothing 'normal' about how they live for some time. For reasons of health and medical treatments, many people still find themselves having to shield and keep away from others and they will be doing this for some time. There are some members of our church community I haven't seen in church for two years now - hopefully for that reason rather than my poor choice of aftershave or length of sermons!

For other countries, particularly low-income countries, the percentage of Covid vaccine doses that have been administered, is shockingly low. So, whilst the UK has 70% of the population fully vaccinated, the figure in Tanzania is 2.1% (of the population having received two doses). At their current rate of vaccination, it will take Tanzania 349 days to vaccinate 10% of their population (Source – Reuters). Yet should we be surprised to read this? According to statistics from Duke University, the United States paid for enough vaccines for twice its population, the UK for four times its population and Canada five times its population. In short then: *'even though the world will have created 11 billion total doses by the end of 2021, almost 9.9 billion of those doses have already been promised to higher and upper middle-income countries.'* (Source- World Bank).

At Christmas time, the Church proclaimed that *'the Word became flesh and lived among us.'* (John1:14) Christmas is not just a day - it's a way of faithful living. God in Christ comes into the world to proclaim God's love to all, to show that no-one is beyond the reach of God's love and to call us to show this same love to one another. In his birth a new Kingdom, God's Kingdom has *'come near.'* Our calling then is to live, not caught between two worlds and ways of thinking about the future and Covid, but to live as people who have the light of the Christ-child in their midst; to live as people of God's Kingdom where we look beyond ourselves and call the world to do the same. This means that we don't forget, overlook or leave behind those who still live in the darkest shadow of Covid – those who are still shielding from this virus and those who are lonely or anxious as a result. Where are all the volunteers that used to run errands? There is still need out there even though most, I assume, have gone back to a normal existence of work, living a life and stocking up on Lateral Flow Tests.

It also means that we don't forget those in countries which have few vaccines to administer but instead call the richest nations of the world, including our own, to share what they have, recognising that there will be no 'normal' until everyone is protected. For this is what it is to *'love your neighbour as yourself'* (Mark 12:31) and this is what it is to live as citizens of God's Kingdom.

And with Valentine's this month, what a great Valentine's gift that would be?

Every blessing. Rev Gary

## NEWLAND NEWS



On the feast of St Leonard in November, we sang a hymn written by **Revd. James Skinner** the first vicar/warden of the Beauchamp alms houses 1861-1877. Revd. Skinner designed the entire scheme for the famous Clayton & Bell frescoes, raising the money for their completion.

The lighting of the Advent candles and opening doors on Advent calendars revealing either chocolate or the traditional story of the baby born in Bethlehem, reminded me of the time we visited the Holy Land and went to the Church of the Nativity which is in the occupied West Bank in Israel. Such a contrast between the wealth and westernisation of Israel and the poverty of the Palestine West Bank. The Church of the Nativity has a door that is so low the only way to enter is on your knees. Over the years, due to attacks by various factions, the door has gradually been bricked up to prevent aggressors from entering the church. Inside different Christian denominations look after different parts of the church, Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic. It was fascinating to see the schisms within the Christian church up close and personal in a land that is not officially Christian.



The entrance to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem

The sunshine looked lovely the other day and so I rushed off outside only to realise it was cold, the sun having no strength. Will not be making that mistake again.

As the garden is put to bed for the winter, and the daffodil bulbs planted in the pots ready for better weather, it is sad to think that we are losing all the colour of the garden for months to come. Spring will bring some colour back signally a new season.

I am reminded of something I read, 'Faith is seeing light with your heart when all your eyes see is darkness' (Barbara Johnson). Comfort for dark days.



The preaching cross  
outside St Leonard's,  
Newland

Remembrance Sunday we have a memorial inside the church for the fallen choir schoolboys from the First World War. The choir school was part of the community until just after the second world war they are named on a plaque inside St Leonard's.

The cross outside the church is not a war memorial but a preaching cross. Probably from the original St Leonard's church, pulled down in 1860s to make way for the building of the community and the current church.

We managed to have a carol service of songs and lessons the Sunday before Christmas, and it was fantastic to sing the traditional carols, even if there was no choir. I did enjoy *Away in a Manger*, possibly the first carol I remember learning as a child and my favourite, *O Come all ye Faithful*. I did not realise until I saw it in the New English Hymnal that **Christine Rossetti** wrote *In the Bleak Midwinter*. Now I always thought of her as sister to **Dante Gabriel Rossetti** of the pre-Raphaelite movement. It's strange to think that some of the best hymns were written by women.

Jane Tinklin

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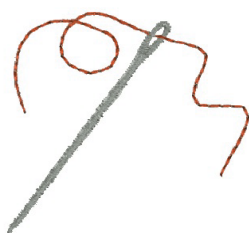
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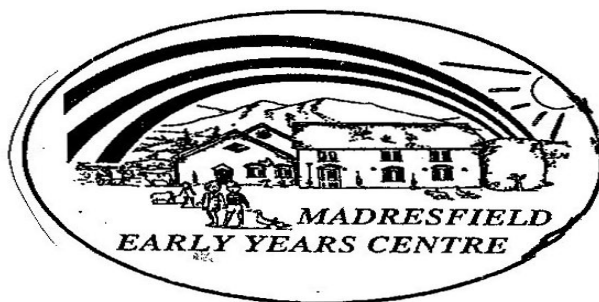


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Grass cutting, lawn care, weeding, planting,  
pruning, hedge trimming & garden clearance

*Regular, occasional or single jobs*

**All year round**

Phone **01684 567449** or **07901 787183**

**www.deightonsgardening.com**



Guarford Village Hall is available for hire  
for small gatherings.

For more information contact

Gill Hollick on 07816 533251

## CHIMNEY SWEEP

**Andy Johnson**

Certificates Issued

Evening/weekend sweeps

Stove maintenance

Wood burners fitted

**Tel: 01905 409710**

**07798 790913**



**www.andysweeps.com**

## Grange Farm Nursery

Guarford Malvern WR13 6NT

Specialist Plant Centre

Create your own beautiful garden, choosing  
from our selection of

Trees, shrubs, roses, climber. Grow your own  
fruit and vegetables.

Seasonal bedding plants to add colour  
throughout the year.

**Open daily.**

National Garden Gift Tokens.

Tel. 01684 562544

Grangefarmnursery@btconnect.com



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 May 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: Rev. Peter Hughes (Guarlford)

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