



The Grapevine

No. 317

April / May 2022



Early spring flowers in Guarlford churchyard.

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: Wendy Palmer 01684 899223 E: wendy.palmer@outlook.com

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

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.

Sad news. **Paul Tank**, Guarlford's lovely churchyard grass cutter, has died. For years he kept the churchyard immaculate. It was very much admired and photographs appeared in several local magazines. Today it is fitting that his favourite spring flowers are in bloom.

Sincere condolences to his wife and young family. RIP



The Grapevine Timetable 2022

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

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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



Old Hills Caterpillars - Transforming our Churches

Over the last few months, we have been working behind the scenes to be ready for the start of our 2022 programme of events. We ended 2021 reporting back to both PCCs in our benefice on our observation task that took place in the autumn. We were asked ‘What was it about’ and ‘Why turn up to a church to criticise or pass judgment?’ These were hard questions to hear but very simple to answer.

Our committee has quite a simple task to do: to look at our churches now, today, and to look at their sustainability for the future. **Questions** we have to ask are: Why aren’t people coming into our churches anymore? What puts them off? The welcome? The music? The format? The look of the building before they even come through the door? Too busy? How can we afford the heating? How can we afford to repair the leaking roof when only 15 people attend church once a fortnight?

We all have our own answers to those questions but, as a committee, we need to explore them in depth especially in relation to the residents in our villages: aren’t they the people we want to reach out to so we can welcome and bring the church into the centre of the village life again?

Old Hills Caterpillars is purposely a group of people consisting of church members and non-church members, but all are parishioners of our four villages. We are all involved because we believe passionately that our **church buildings** need to be open to everyone for worship or mission, it doesn’t matter. Our buildings are full of history, amazing architecture, memories from the villages that they are part of but at the same time there are fewer and fewer people coming to a church on a Sunday morning.

Which goes back to the question - why aren’t people attending church?

In each church, there are books and folders showing the sterling work completed by many generations before us of the churches’ role in their villages. We do not forget the past but, for the now, we have to look at today and what is happening, to ensure there is a future for our church building, congregation and a place in village life.

So we will through our events this year open our churches, be in the community and listen to what people say whilst enjoying music, food, worship, laughter and fun together!

Our first event is nearly here. We are so excited to be bringing to St Peter’s Church, **the Knitted Bible Exhibition from Liverpool**. This is a unique opportunity to see the Bible come alive through 33 handmade knitted scenes. Over the four villages, we have rotas being filled with names for serving refreshments, welcomers, setting up the exhibition, decorating the church, making souvenirs to buy and many other roles. We are working together to bring this exhibition to you all. We already have our three local primary schools booked in to attend, which is brilliant.

If you would like to be involved in any way, please do contact me but we hope to see you all over the week to experience St Peter’s Church filled with God’s work.

‘Let all that you do, be done in love’ Corinthians 16:14

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

Vicky Whitehouse, Chair of Old Hills Caterpillars, 01905 831996

vickywhitehouse@teckserv.co.uk



Coffee break for the work party

We are now well into 2022 and also our fundraising efforts at the village hall. We were awarded £10,000 from The National Lottery Community Fund and £10,000 from 'Together our Planet', a fund attached to the recent COP 26 conference in Scotland. This was a real boost for everyone working hard to improve the hall but we are still a long way from our goal of £150,000. Although this seems a huge amount of money, the plans to fully insulate the building, install a new heating system and modernise the toilets will soon take account of this full budget.

It has been great to see the hall opened up again this year. January saw a work party gather to sort out all the paraphernalia which has been gathered over the years. This gave rise to happy memories of days gone by when Guarlford was host to the summer show. There was even a list of categories for the dog shows which used to take place!

On 27th February the Village Hall Committee opened the doors to invite everyone in for tea and cake. This was a lovely opportunity for people from the village and surrounding area to get together with friends and make new friends at the same time. Although this was mainly a social event, the Trustees were delighted that the day raised a further £350 for the regeneration fund. Thank you to everyone who came along, bought items from the craft and bric a brac tables, and made donations to the hall fund.

The Trustees continue to seek grant funding and are keen to make Guarlford Village Hall available for anyone wishing to book the hall for hire. If you would like more information either on hiring the hall, the activities and events or supporting the Trustees contact the secretary Gill Hollick on **07816 533251**

Future events

March 19th 'Bard and Boogie' A fun evening of music and poetry for the Spring Equinox led by Mr John Bradshaw. Bring your own bottle. Tickets are £5.00 to include food and can be purchased from Grange Farm nursery in Penny Lane or by e-mailing guarlfordvillagehall@gmail.com

April 30th Village Quiz Bring your own bottle. There will be a delicious supper of soup, crusty bread and home made puds – come as a team or an individual and join with others to make a team of 4 for a fun filled evening.

May 18th First Aid. A free evening session covering essential first aid skills and the use of a defibrillator

Guarlford Parish Council are pleased to announce their support of a celebratory party in Guarlford in recognition of **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**. This will take place on Saturday 4th June. More information will be publicised nearer the date.



GUARLFORD W.I NEWS



Our year began with an excellent New Year lunch for members and partners at the Malvern Hills Hotel. It was lovely to have a room to ourselves with time to circulate after the meal.

February saw us back in the village hall, with the new stair lift, for a talk on the history of Kays. Years ago, their catalogues could be found in numerous homes up and down the country – they were the Amazon or Argos of their day. Like so many other businesses they underwent numerous changes and now only a few artefacts remain which will, hopefully, find a place in a museum.

This month we will be meeting some guide dogs and hearing about the vital work they do and the life changing effect of having a clever canine companion.

We have a mixed programme planned for the next year including talks, craft, chutney making with a WI judge, a summer garden party and more. The craft group meet every week at a member's house and often make items specifically requested by hospitals e.g. premature babies' hats and blankets or underarm cushions for mastectomy patients. All members and their ideas are welcome.

The '**Severn Free Wheelers**' are coming in May to talk about their work as part of the **National Blood Bank Group**. As the name suggests, they are a vital part of a network that provides a rapid distribution of blood needed for emergency transfusions.

This will be an open meeting for anyone who might be interested in learning more about their work. **TUESDAY MAY 10th 7.30 AT GUARLFORD VILLAGE HALL**

Everyone welcome.



The **skittles team** have been in action again – came a close second in the last two matches – but a fun evening and good to catch up with other groups after a two-year gap.

Later this month we will be at **Worcester Porcelain** for a 'Behind the Scenes Tour', again with partners. While June 15th is booked for a guided tour of **Croome walled garden**.

Plans are also being made for celebrating the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** as well as thinking about our bi-annual quiz which will be held on Friday 23rd of September.

Plenty going on! We are a friendly group and anyone who thinks they may like to join us on the second Tuesday evening in the month would be made very welcome.

Sue Orgill

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

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 3rd May

when the theme will be ***Climbing the Sycamore Tree***

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

You will be very welcome.



LORD'S ALIVE

Children and family events in Powick
Callow End, Madresfield and Guarlford

When this report hits the press our first few events of the year will have gone ahead!

In half term we welcomed children to our **Wonder Zone 'Colours of the rainbow' event** at St James' Church

in Callow End. We explored through science the wonder of God's light in the world - how flowers grow with sunlight, what makes a rainbow, how big a bubble can we blow, can we cover a person in a bubble (we attempted to!) and invented our own 'chemical' in the periodic table based on our chosen light source! Alongside the science, we thought about what Jesus meant when he said 'I am the light for the world'. We also videoed the children talking about their Mum's in preparation for our March Lord's Alive service. Overall it was, a very creative, fun and thought-provoking morning and a joy to welcome children back into church for activities like this. We will be following up with another Wonder Zone event in October half term. Thank you to our amazing team of helpers who make these events possible.

In March, we hosted our first **Lord's Alive Worship for All** service at St James' Church, with the focus on preparing for Mothering Sunday, a celebration of mothers around the world. The service included a craft activity, music from Caitlin and the Powick Handbells plus a light tea.

We are getting ready for our amazing event that Lord's Alive will be part of when we have a visiting exhibition – The Knitted Bible - coming to St Peter's church from **1st – 8th April**. See the poster in the magazine and our Old Hills Caterpillars article for more information.

In May at St Mary's Church, Madresfield on Friday 13th at 3.15pm we will be hosting our first **Children's Church** where the children will explore Pentecost through the spirit of flying in our Kite Festival while mums and dads enjoy a cuppa and cake.

Do you love to sing or enjoy crafting? We would love to hear from you. Please do contact us to have a chat about how you get involved in Lord's Alive; we need helpers in many roles e.g. prop making, serving refreshments, taking photos/video, publicity.

Please follow us on our Lord's Alive Facebook page, YouTube Old Hills Malvern and via the 'Children & Families' section of the church website for updates and resources to download or videos to watch.

Vicky Whitehouse and Kay Shuard

ALMs, Children and Youth Work, April/May

NEWLAND NEWS

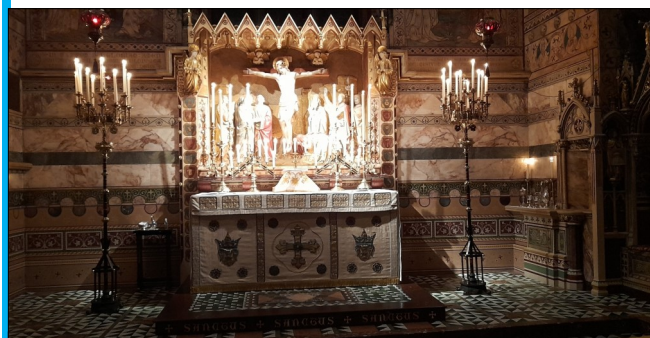


Recently, I succeeded in breaking my wrist in an accident. The members of the community have been most kind and have helped with some of life's two-handed tasks. Mum, who lives next door, has shouldered most of the burden. I was pleased to discover that complete strangers have been most kind when they see my plaster, which is rather noticeable being purple and sparkly. In this rushed world, it is nice to realise people are willing to help. I am surprised how much I missed my car as I was not allowed to drive while wearing the plaster. Confined to the bus most of the time, I began to realise just how disjointed the public transport system in Malvern is. You cannot get to Malvern hospital or the Link train station easily on the bus. There are large parts of Malvern with little or no access to public transport and the buses stop at 7.30pm. When politicians talk about not using your car and travelling on public transport, walking or cycling, they clearly do not live in Malvern.

I saw a nice editorial in the Malvern Gazette asking a question we all want to know the answer to. When will the Powick road works end? It has been over five years since they started on dualling the southern link road; when will it ever end? With the recent flooding, it has made a

difference to the traffic coming into Malvern via Newland.

Father Chris, our Chaplain, retired at Candlemas. The new Chaplain has been appointed and will take over in May. For his final Sunday sermon, Father Chris spoke about love, quoting love bears, love hopes, love endures, and love never dies. The church looked wonderful with all the candles lit and the display took the



breath away. Well done to our archivist Colin who set out all the candles over two days. My photograph, on the left, cannot do it justice but here is an attempt. The service honours **St Simeon and St Anna**, who awaited the birth of Jesus and are praised for their patience; they are in a window in the nave of St Leonard's.



St Simeon and St Anna

Related to this in an act of insanity/hope/love. I booked a week's holiday in Portugal in June for Mum and me. It has been two years since we have been abroad, fingers crossed we make it. We are looking forward to sea, sun and sand.

As the days extend and the weather improves, despite the recent storms that have brought trees down and flooding along the River Severn, the daffodils are out and there are plants in the garden centres for me to add to the garden. I bought a garden ornament as an early Easter gift; he has a white primrose in his little pot and looks very jolly. I have added more primroses to the front of the garden: after all, spring started on 1st March according to the BBC weatherman. Not sure he is right as it's rained every day since.



Spring arrivals in Jane's garden

Events and services at St Leonard's are on the website:

www.beauchampstleonard.org

Jane Tinklin

Churches Together in Malvern (CTM) by Barbara Hill *ALM (Pastoral)*

CTM is composed of clergy, authorised lay minsters (ALMs), and licenced lay ministers (LLMs) from nearly every Church of the many denominations in Malvern. They come together several times a year to share news, views, activities and ideas of sharing and propagating the faith for all the churches in Malvern and surrounding areas. The chairman alternates every 4-5 years and may offer his/her place of worship as venue for the meetings. If that is not convenient at the time of the meeting, it is held in the Lyttelton rooms.

The 2014, CTM meeting was held in **Guarlford Village Hall**, when **Rev Sue Irwin** was the benefice's incumbent. A detailed talk about the history of Guarlford's church was presented before the meeting. It was the custom in previous years to introduce a little about the host church.

The first meeting of 2022 was held in **Lansdowne Methodist Church**. No one could congregate and meet during the pandemic but there were one or two meetings via Zoom for those able to access or even by telephone with other members; not quite the same as congregating together. It was the only time in history that the churches were not out and about interacting with the community. There are three representatives for the four churches of this benefice, Meg Allsop ALM (Worship) and Julia Davies LLM representing Powick and Callow End parishes and myself ALM (Pastoral) representing Guarlford & Madresfield parish.



Lyttelton Well, Great Malvern

Many years ago, when the idea of bringing all the churches together came about, it was just a small group initiated by the fledgling **Lyttelton Well Christian centre** in Malvern. One of Lyttelton Well's first ventures was to run an **Alpha course**. It was so popular that it became a bit like Topsy and grew and grew and more initiatives came about that very many associations and groups are now well established in the town. Soon, CTM came to encompass outlying village churches, such as Castlemorton, Welland, and Leigh Sinton. More recently, Upton on Severn participates, which is excellent

for all our friends with similar interests who have a practical outlook for 'Out Reach' to one's fellow man.

One of the ventures that sticks out in my mind was in Lyttelton Well's fledgling days, when Humphrey Lyttelton visited to raise funds and contributed by putting on a jazz evening at Madresfield Court. Even if one wasn't a fan of jazz, it was a very pleasant summer's evening where everyone took a picnic basket and sat beside the moat listening to music drifting across the water. Approximately four or five people from most churches in Malvern attended. It was a real boost for Lyttelton Well, and CTM now became firmly established.

Of course, one does not need to pay a membership fee, just a desire to help in some way. All activities are organised and run by willing volunteers. Usually, the activities and concerns are pertinent to Malvern area but, when a national cry comes about, I can say most churches step up to the mark and come together. For instance, the unforeseen floods that disrupted lives and ruined properties saw many volunteers donning wet weather gear and giving their time and energies. Then there were those who joined the convoys of lorries taking aid out to Romania; those who gave temporary shelter to the homeless one particularly severe winter, when all other places were full to overflowing; the help given to Guarlford & Madresfield's 'Out Reach' to Masasi in Tanzania.

Most poignant just now is those who have personal contact with some of the visiting Boyen **Kiev Choir** members, who visited from **Ukraine** and gave such wonderful concert in Malvern Priory.



On Saturday 5th March, CTM organised a **Ukrainian Solidarity Vigil** on Belle Vue Terrace and on the following Sunday afternoon the vigil took place in Cathedral Square Worcester. Both venues attracted scores of people, many sporting the blue and yellow colours. At the Sunday morning service in Guarlford Church, a CD of the Boyen Choir, singing their religious songs, was played and donations for Ukraine were generously given.

During the early stages of the 2020 pandemic lock down, CTM were the first to be organising themselves in delivering grocery bags to the old and vulnerable. In fact, it could be said Malvern was probably the first with the setting up of food banks, now there are collection points in every church and supermarkets throughout Malvern. In fact, Malvern has been the first in many initiative schemes with practical compassion that has quickly spread to other counties. Each Church of course initiates its own project, which is self-financing and manned by volunteers, but it is open to all to come along and help or give their particular expertise, and all are welcome to come along and receive that which may be offered. There are far too many projects to list each one individually but they can be accessed via CTM secretary sec.ctmalvern.org.uk—

CTM is very active post pandemic and eager to proceed with **‘OUT REACH’** to all.

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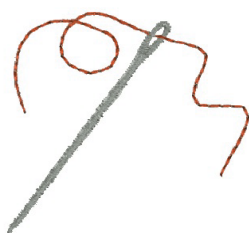
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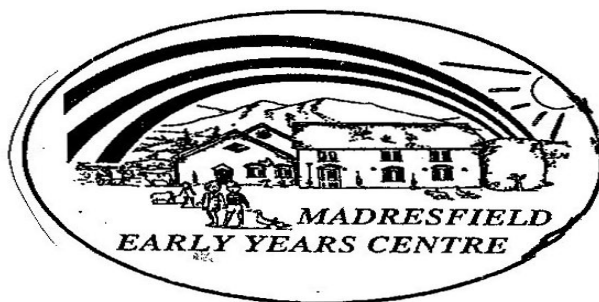


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- Seams splitting?

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I can collect from homes within the Grapevine area.**

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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 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