

The Grapevine

No. 313

August / September 2021

Can you spot all these things in this edition of *The Grapevine*?



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 07827 970600

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: Mr Andrew Tawse, 17 Madresfield Village, WR13 5AA 01684 561198

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 :

Account	The Grapevine Magazine
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Account No.	00519819

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)
October / November	8th September	21st September
December / January	8th November	23rd November
February / March	8th January	25th January

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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.

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

Newland, Madresfield and Guarlford Magazine August 1911

The events described below took place in our parishes exactly 110 years ago

Back in 1911, there was a parish magazine which also covered Newland, Madresfield and Guarlford, and among our **Guarlford History Group** archives we have two bound copies of *St Mary the Virgin, Guarlford, Parish Magazine*, one for 1909 and the other 1911. The magazine each month was one penny. Each issue consists of a light green cover, with details of all three parish churches on the front, plus a few pages of news from the parishes, all enclosing a twenty-two page national religious magazine called 'The Dawn of Day', published by the SPCK and full of stories and articles. On the back and inside covers are advertisements for local shops and businesses.

The August 1911 edition has a report about the Dedication Festival Services (for St Leonard's, Newland), which had taken place in July, and in Madresfield the rector, Revd Sidney Marston, announced that he had accepted Earl Beauchamp's offer of the benefice of Dymock, of which the earl was patron. People were looking forward to the Madresfield Show, held annually 'in the Park' by kind permission of the earl - although there were fears that *'the prospects as regards exhibits in some directions are not very favourable, owing to the continued shortness of rain, which is almost unprecedented, here in England.'*

Usually in the magazines there are just short entries about parish matters, which occasionally give a glimpse of life at the time, but in August 1911 someone has added to the Guarlford book a programme and photographs about what was evidently quite an event. This was a **Garden Fete and Sale of Work** to be held at the Rectory, not on just one afternoon but over the two days of August 2nd and 3rd.

The March edition of the magazine had reported that the managers of Guarlford School had been told *'to make extensive improvements and provide an entirely new set of outside offices'*, for which they needed £150. By the April edition, £97 had already been raised from generous donations, collections, a concert and a whist drive. So everyone was then asked to start making and collecting items for the Sale of Work: *'At*

most we have not more than four months in which to prepare, so TO WORK!'

The June magazine listed some of the stalls for the fete, and said that *'There is nothing like doing a discreet bit of cadging. Get your grocer to give you a pound of sugar, your chemist to supply a cake of soap or a bottle of scent. Your butcher is probably dying to be asked to send a leg of mutton, or at least a chop!'*

On the afternoon of Wednesday 2nd August, Lady Beauchamp opened the fete, and crowds flocked to the many stalls. As well as the Sales tables, there were competitions like Houpla, guessing the weight of cake or leg of mutton, throwing the ping pong ball into a pudding basin and kicking the football with Messrs Bradshaw and Arnold.



Mr Tom Hayes and Mr & Mrs Kenneth ran the Smelling competition when people had to guess the contents of bottles; gentlemen could try to be the best at trimming a hat and ladies could show their skill driving nails into a piece of wood.

There was a lot of entertainment, including Morris Dancing by the children of Guarlford and Madresfield schools at 5 and 6.30 pm each evening: *'This is the Children's own effort on behalf of the Schools. The hat will be handed round at the conclusion of each performance.'* Mr Cyril Oakes gave his humorous entertainment at 5.30 and 8 pm on the Wednesday, with dancing for all each evening at 7.30 pm, while Miss Hilda Fitton's orchestra would play selections each afternoon to entertain the crowds shopping at the stalls and taking tea.



The festivities culminated in a grand open air concert at 8 pm on the Thursday with light-hearted songs and recitations. The accompanist was Charles de Sousa, a music teacher then living at Rhydd Green; in 1895 he was the Malvern Priory organist. Miss Hilda Fitton, who brought her orchestra to the fete, lived in Fern Lea, Graham Road. Her family were very good friends of Sir Edward Elgar and his wife, Caroline. He dedicated his 1913 *Pastourelle* for violin & piano, written in 1913, to Hilda, and the Enigma Variation VI (Andantino) 'Ysobel' had Hilda's sister Isobel as its subject.

The September magazine reported that the weather was good and in total an amazing £117 was raised (evidently more than £13,000 today), so the expenses for doing the school repairs and building were certainly covered.

Rosemary McCulloch

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

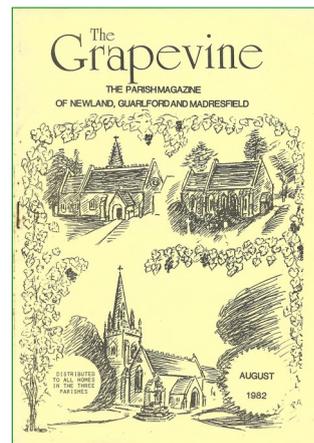


PLEASE NOTE that, like hairdressers, butchers and European museums, Rev Gary's normal day off is **Monday**.

The Grapevine, a brief history by Janet Lomas

The history of our parish magazine began in August 1982, when **Rev. David Martin** and **Elizabeth Martin** set it up to help unite the newly formed benefice of Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland, producing news and interesting articles in eleven editions each year. David must have worked hard to find advertisers to cover printing costs, and to establish the distribution network which involved delivery of a magazine to each of the 650 households in the three parishes, at no cost. Quite a feat, which stood the test of time. If you moved away from the parishes, there was even a postal subscription service.

My own first involvement was in helping type up the magazine at the Rectory, initially on a typewriter, and eventually on a word processor because there were no home computers then. As articles were printed off, the pages were all laid out over every work surface available (including the floor in David's office at the Rectory) and the magazine gradually took shape over several days, with logos, illustrations and adverts glued around the text, to produce a master copy, which was physically taken to the printer. When printed, the boxes of the printed pages were collected, and a team of volunteers got together in someone's home to collate and staple the pages, and count the magazines into bundles to be taken out to the distributors.



Cover of *The Grapevine*, August 1982

David and his family moved on to Alvechurch in September 1991 and, after an Interregnum, **Rev. John Green** arrived in the Benefice. I took on the role of Grapevine editor, and **Ken Watts** helped me with the typing. **Shelagh Thorne** from Chance Lane became treasurer. After a time, production was reduced to an edition every other month, and **Mick and Val Levick's** 'Pip' newsletter filled the gaps.

In spring 1998, Mick and Val took over as editors of the Grapevine, and Shelagh Thorne undertook management of the advertising along with the finances. Mick and Val brought the magazine into the 21st century, setting up production on a computer at last! **Cora Weaver** took on the mantle in autumn 2002 'for five years' (she said). Cora has continued to this day, organising her life around the deadlines involved, and maintaining the original objectives of the magazine to help promote community spirit, keeping us informed and providing a point of contact for anyone interested in the church and all the other activities in our villages.



The Collators: (from left to right) Barbara Hill, Don Hill, Elizabeth Tidball, Janet Lomas, Judith Knott and Di Smith. It's a shame everyone's masked, but it's a sign of the times.

Since the Grapevine is available online now, only readers who have contacted the editor to request a paper copy will receive one. If you are one of the distributors, and

for the last months have found no bundle of magazines on your doorstep awaiting distribution to your neighbours, this is due to reorganisation as a result of the reduced numbers of printed copies required. I am sure Grapevine readers would like to thank you, and all distributors past and present for a wonderful effort and consistent contribution to the community.

Many people have made *The Grapevine* possible, free of charge and delivered to everyone in our three parishes. Not least of these are the local business who advertise in the magazine, and readers who donate via envelope, which cover the printing costs.

If you still haven't requested a paper copy but would like to receive one, do let Cora know by telephone, 01684 561215 or email cora.weaver@talktalk.net



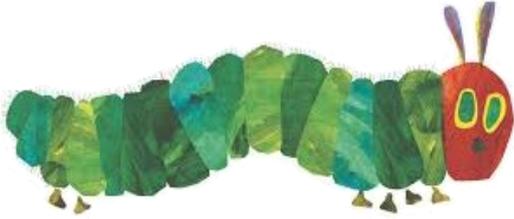
The Vicar's Pastoral Letter, August 2021

Well, not unsurprisingly, the Government Roadmap easing was put back because of the prevalence of the Delta variant and the real need to push on with the vaccination programme. So, rather than the Freedom BBQ, or group picnic on the Old Hills, we do need to continue to take care. Please, though, do what you can to support our local pubs, social clubs and restaurants - they do need our help.

Do you feel that our communities need transforming? Such talk of going back to normal- I do hope not. That's not meant to be too provocative, but with the genie out of the bottle, we need to find ways of living with Covid type infections, moving forward, and not expect to return to our old ways. Are people still being as helpful to those in need as they were earlier in the pandemic? Is it right to stay as we were or learn the lessons of the pandemic and evolve as a church or indeed as a local community?

The Church locally is looking to transform rather than carry on as we have done before. Transformation. Look it up in a dictionary and see if you feel it applies to our church or other communities. I have instigated wide ranging look at our churches by a group chaired by Vicky Whitehouse. This group will report into each church council and is composed of church and non-church goers alike from across our villages. If you want to get involved in some of the groups that are emerging, get in touch. We are looking at the future of our buildings, our churchyards, our presence, our mission and worship. I hope that they will be inspired by one of my favourite children's stories, *The Hungry Caterpillar*.

The caterpillar eats and eats. This could represent the old way of doing things - say during the pre pandemic era (PPE). Although with good intentions, this could be anything we have placed a disproportionate amount of time and energy on to ensure the smooth operation of ways or behaviours that perpetuate the *Me Me Me* of society rather than how can we Love Our Neighbour and care for one another. We love to gorge don't we? Let's use our time as a caterpillar to rejoice, explore Christ and pray, make our mission one to help others, continuing to worship or giving thanks to God by necessity not by excuse. I know sometimes we eat the wrong leaves, and gardeners get irritated by caterpillars and try to eradicate them, but this caterpillar isn't going anywhere-yet.



The chrysalis. Think of the chrysalis as a protected place to grow and change safely: a God-given moment for us to evolve and emerge with a renewed heavenly vision for our churches and maybe the villages too. This pandemic has stripped us of many

things we took for granted, including those we perhaps thought indispensable. We have settled on other ways of doing things - the development of online shopping or even **churchless worshipping** rather than gathering together. In this transformational sense, God is refining us so we can be ready for the harvest in the next season. Now is the time for us all to prayerfully discern where God is calling to us to be and join in. For those of you reading this in Powick or Callow End, why haven't you engaged with the parish council's Neighbourhood Development Plan questionnaire? Also, this is a time to rest and recharge - so enjoy if you can the forthcoming holiday season. And for our Year **6 school leavers** from Madresfield, Powick and Callow End - look forward to your new school after emerging from your holiday chrysalis in September!

When a caterpillar has finally transformed and is ready to come out of the chrysalis as a butterfly, the transformed body allows **the butterfly to fly** and see things more clearly from a new higher perspective. It is able to reach further and take on new ground; to fulfil its purpose in a new season. To drink the nectar of life in all its fullness. Also, with the extraordinary form and colours of the butterfly, it is very hard not to take notice. Can we be like that? What will your churches look and feel like in the future? Crucially, what will our villages be like too - insular or engaging? I am talking about the church as well as community here. What if we come out like a moth? Beautiful and purposeful, still.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Let's be patient in this season of transformation and actively and humbly engage with it. Have a great summer - **Rev Gary**



GUARLFORD W.I NEWS

July already. Time and events move on apace. We have kept in touch via phone, email and, of course, Zoom. After the first talk one member reported that to 'see' fellow members almost felt as if she had been out.

On the strength of this success a provisional programme was set up for 2021. In March **Gill Hollick** gave us a very informative talk on what is happening locally to help Malvern reach carbon neutral by 2030 and we discussed ways in which members can support this initiative including the planting of a tree to commemorate our 80th year.

In April, **Jenny Cameron** led a walk over Dripshill to view the glorious bluebells. A magical, if very cold, morning accompanied by a lovely smelly, muddy dog before a very welcome cup of hot coffee.

The April meeting took the form of an on line talk by **Caroll Murphy** about a charity that repairs and refurbishes old tools before sending them to countries in Africa. A very worthwhile cause. This was followed by a Divine free trade chocolate tasting which involved a lot of snapping, sucking, laughing and giving marks out of ten. A spring time treat for members!

In May we resumed our small groups for tea and cake in the garden, so lovely to meet friends we often hadn't seen face to face for many months.



Caroll's garden party

June saw us celebrating our 80th anniversary in Caroll Murphy's glorious garden. Mindful of our carbon footprint, proper plates, glasses and cutlery were used to ensure a plastic free party. An incredibly tiny amount of rubbish was left over. Bring on the washing up bowl and the tea towel in a good cause!

With indoor meetings not possible, July was another garden meeting to catch up with friends and to look at plans for the Craft and Produce Show, our proposed tree planting and craft activities.

July 5th was designated **NHS Day** but because of continuing restrictions we plan a Thank You Tea Party on 15th August to celebrate all workers who played a part in helping us through this pandemic. It will also be an opportunity for friends and neighbours to meet freely again. Invitations will be distributed shortly and everyone is more than welcome to join us.

August should see the resumption of indoor meetings (fingers firmly crossed) with a talk by a NGS member entitled '**I'm not Much Good at Gardening**'. A good opportunity to pick someone's brain!

After a three year break, our **Craft and Produce Show** will take place on Tuesday 14th September. Everyone is invited to submit an entry for craft, cookery, preserves, flowers, fruit, veg and more. Schedules and recipes can be obtained from **Jenny Cameron** 01684 310276. It's amazing how many different results you can get from one recipe!

Local visits will be planned as rules are lessened and more areas and attractions are opened – all we need is some warm, dry weather.

St Richards Hospice are organising a **Worcester Big Elephant Parade** fund raising event this summer and members have been making a variety of elephant themed items which will be sold in the hospice's Big Parade shop in Worcester.



Thinking of the wider community we are aware that many charities are having greater calls on their services, not least, **The West Mercia Women's Aid**. Not difficult to appreciate how circumstances can easily

deteriorate during lock down and travel restrictions. We have donated £100 and it is hoped that a representative will come to speak to us later in the year and discuss any other ways we could be of help.

Our first outdoor face to face meetings were so enjoyable and made us appreciate the importance of human contact. Zoom is wonderful but there is nothing quite like seeing and chatting for real and sharing a cuppa from the same pot.

With the amazingly successful, rapid roll out of the various vaccines and the lifting of some restrictions we hope we will soon be able to invite members, old and new, back to indoor meetings. Can we at long last bask in the rays of that light at the end of the tunnel?

Sue Orgill



Voices by Barbara Hill

As a child, I spent a great deal of time with my widowed grandmother, who had a small farm several miles outside a small town in South Wales. Every Sunday, she and I would put on our best clothes and walk into town to go to chapel; only if the weather was too inclement was it permissible to spend sixpence and go by bus.

On arrival at chapel, we would exchange greetings with the other eighty or so Congregationalists before we entered the building to sit in our customary places. I will hasten to add that our pews were allocated according to our singing voices. To the Welsh of those days, singing hymns in church or chapel was just as important as saying one's prayers, and often a sermon was built around the hymn of that particular Sunday.

I well remember sitting in the old Victorian pew where my feet dangled in space and I could hardly see over the back of the pew in front of me. Yet when we sang, I was permitted to stand on a box so that my voice would join with all the adults; no age discrimination there. There was no set choir; the whole congregation was the choir. Communion was small pieces of bread in a basket followed by individual thimble sized cups of wine passed along the row of pews. Needless to say, us children would snick a bit of bread whilst the adults weren't looking. During this solemn partaking of bread and wine, very soft organ music was played, and my grandmother was called upon to play if the regular organist was indisposed. I nor my contemporaries with whom I was still in contact when we grew into adulthood can ever remember being bored during those wonderful Sunday services. On the contrary, we looked forward to joining in with all those lovely voices, and how I miss them today.

My war-widowed mother, who was a nurse, might have been working a Sunday shift so could not always be with us. Therefore, on a Sunday afternoon I would be packed off to

Sunday School was held in the village hall.



Sunday school, which was held in the village hall where children from many denominations came together and learnt about Jesus Christ. I remember several of the different ministers, Methodist, Salvation Army, Baptist or Church in Wales, willingly gave of their time to teach us of the love of Jesus Christ. Evening time was special as probably we'd meet with my mother and would then be off to 'Even Song' where all of the service was sung and often in Welsh to those rousing Welsh hymns, one of which is now a familiar rugby/ football crowd song. On two evenings during the week the hymns were rehearsed ready for Sunday church or chapel. If I close my eyes, I can hear my mothers' clear soprano voice and my grandmother's voice, a little cracked, so like mine now I've reached old age too and no longer able to hit the notes.

So is it any wonder then that those of my up bringing have so many wonderful hymns that they can sing from memory? The singing held me in good stead when I travelled around the world. I may not have known the language of the various places I worshipped but usually there was a familiar tune to which I could join, albeit in English or Welsh. It was so lovely to be one of the many in this world sharing in the one God.

Not all Sundays were taken up with chapel. Once a month we would attend Church in Wales, which was a much quieter contemplation service usually with chants and sung responses to a communion service from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). I love reflective poetry too, so it was not only the hymns of chapel that have seeped under my skin but those wonderful old traditional words that say so very much in the Book of Common Prayer.

In my youth, we had our very own prayer books to accompany the Bible to be read when at home and help us in our daily lives. The rhythm of these words, with their timeless message of comfort repeated so often over the years have almost become embedded just like those familiar hymns. Since leaving Wales so many years ago, I am now worshipping with the Church of England's services, but how sad at the time of writing we are not able to sing and are muffled by masks. However it is the BCP I so appreciate. I can close my eyes and allow the beauty of the language to wash over me. At this time when the daily structure of life and curtailment of human contact is unprecedented, there is a kind of solace to be found in the BCP form of service when we profess the same faith in the same words that have been used down through the ages since the composition of the prayer book in 1549.

I am surprised and delighted to be told that congregations for traditional liturgy has quadrupled when it went online during the pandemic. It seems to me not all people may wish to visit a designated building, but they do have a need of worship and continuity in their lives? Therefore, are we not adding our voice, sung or spoken, to all the other voices that have rung out through the centuries? I am supposing that those whom enjoy BCP are already familiar with the teachings of Jesus Christ and are not looking to be guided along with need of a sermon, but to just empty our hearts and listen to those glorious poetical words and respond to our God in prayer.

Even if one is not a believer; even in our secular, pluralist society, these most dignified words of the English language surely cannot fail to move those who hear it. It reminds us how inconsequential we are in the great scheme of things, yet also how we are of such importance.

But we are not stuck in a by-gone era. So many modern-day poets, composers, artists and thinkers have all added their voices. There are C.S Lewis's books and letters he read on the radio during the Second World War, A.N. Wilson, J. Buckingham not to mention Nicky Gumbel instigator of Alfa courses, and the wonderful songs/hymns from the prolific John Rutter all adding in our own way to the vast tapestry of voices that inspired the great hymns and those who compiled a 'common' prayer book.



LORD'S ALIVE

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



We are getting very excited as we start to plan our Autumn/Winter programme of Lord's Alive services and 'LIVE' events. We know we will have to be adaptable, like many other people and businesses, but we are raring to go!

Our **Lord's Alive Worship for All services** will be back on **September 19th and October 17th**, both services will be at St Peter's Church, Powick. They will be celebrating 'circle of life' and harvest through activities, music (where we will be introducing a local Powick singer, **15-YEAR-OLD CAITLIN**), food and of course fun as we explore Jesus and the bible. You are also encouraged to **bring your favourite teddy bear** with you – and that applies to grown-ups as well as children! More information will be available nearer the time but please don't forget to put the dates in your diary.



November 14th we hope to be involved in the Remembrance Sunday plans which will be announced nearer the date.

The weekend of **December 11th and 12th** this year we are planning an exciting new event where you will be able to follow nine displays telling the story of the birth of Jesus at various locations around the village of Madresfield, including a **Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Church**. There will be refreshments and a Christmas Reflection service ending with mulled wine and a mince pie in a stable accompanied by a very life like nativity scene!

For all our services/events we will be following all Government and C of E guidelines that are in place at that time.

Please do follow us on our Lord's Alive Facebook page and via the 'Children & Families' section of the website for updates and resources to download or videos to watch, wishing you a lovely summer,

Kay Shuard and Vicky Whitehouse

ALMs, Children and Youth Work



NEWLAND NEWS

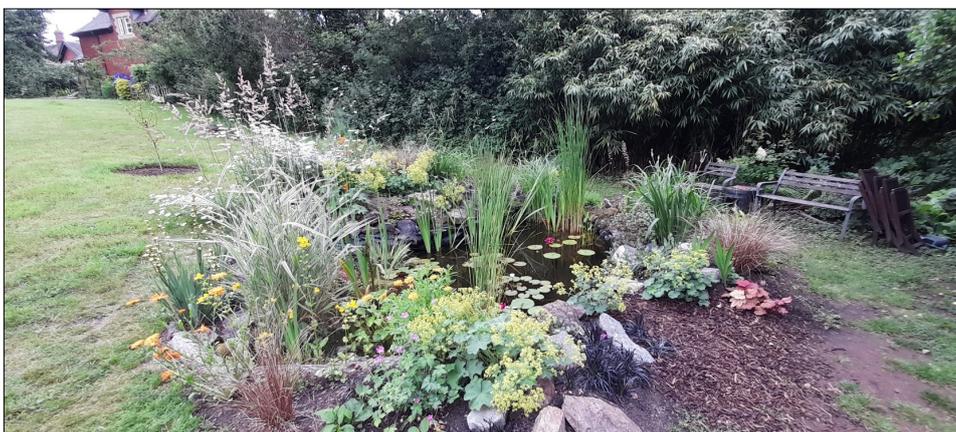
Sometimes, the most difficult thing in the world is to ask for help. To ask someone, “**Can you help me?**” can be the hardest words to utter.

The feeling that asking someone to help is an imposition is hard to shake but some days you must bite the bullet, as they say, and turn to someone for help. In some cases, it's practical help with how to do things but, in others, it's simply that you need someone to listen to you.

The difficulty can be accessing that assistance especially if you are a not a computer user. So much of our world has moved online especially in the last year. Reading advice online is not the same as talking to a real person.

Which is where *The Grapevine* can be handy giving you details of local organisations that offer assistance. And, of course, please do ask for help; you might be pleasantly surprised by what you find.

The garden is doing well, and the new rose is just as beautiful as I hoped and fits into the colour scheme. From left to right we have Super Trooper, Eye of the Tiger, Lady Marmalade and Celebration. Some among you will notice that the roses are all named after popular songs: artists being, ABBA, Survivor, Christine Aguilera, and Kool and the Gang. Apart from the last purchase, Lady Marmalade, the rest was an accident but, once the theme established itself, I had to continue it.



The lockdown pool in the paddock is looking good and here is a photo to prove it. Dug last year, it has gone from strength to strength and has recently acquired a fishy resident.

Also doing well is the apple orchard, which was planted over a period of time last year. The tree sponsored by Mum and me has 2 apples on it. Other trees also have apples proof that nature goes on unconcerned by what is going on around it.

Malvern museum and Malvern library's project to record Malvern in 1971 continues and I, although only a child at the time, have sent in my memories of Great Malvern.

Recently I downloaded What3Words app to my phone. The idea behind the app is if you get lost you can use it to give the 3 words to the emergency services so that they can find you, and it is a navigation aid. The whole world has been split up into 3m squares and each one has been assigned a random 3-word code. So, for fun I have been opening the app wherever I am. The gate into our graveyard is 'haunt, inserting, explored'. The door to the church is 'Sedative, fidelity, drilling'. Hopefully not a comment on what to expect inside either place.

The mobile library had a month off in June but returned in July and every month going forward.

About *The Grapevine* - can I remind anyone who wants a copy in Newland to let me know and I will make sure one is delivered through your door.

For all activities at the Beauchamp community our on the website at

<https://www.beauchampstleonard.org>



August 2021

A Reader Writes.....

Matthew 6: 7 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.'

This is the world of certainty that we long for, instead of this world of Covid and rapid change. This summer might, or might not, be the one we had hoped for with the worldwide restrictions altering daily.

More important than ever for us to look for a different approach. Throughout history people have been drawn to special places that have a significant feel and meaning for them.

Have you ever noticed that when people go to look around a cathedral or minster, how they automatically start whispering, even walking around a ruined abbey, there is a different feeling.

From earliest times people have been drawn to, and gathered at, special places. Pilgrimage has been around for a long time. The holy Islands of Iona and Lindisfarne still draw people today. Up and down the country there are holy wells and natural springs names after saints. These would have been special places from early times and later rededicated to saints.

Are there special places that mean something to us? For me it's the sea, watching the waves breaking on the shore. The sounds and the rhythmic movement have a calming,



almost hypnotic effect. There is a timeless quality going back to God's creation. Ocean currents bringing waves to us that once broke on distant shores.

For each of us there is probably a special place that brings back memories, or where we can find peace. Somewhere that God's healing hand can rest on us, restoring and reviving us. Maybe it's time to revisit or find those places, and if we are not physically

able to get there, let God gently lead our memories. Wherever we are this month, through the mind's eye, we can see hear and feel the calm of those places

I hope and pray that you will find some time this month to rest and recharge your spiritual as well as physical batteries. Hopefully you will find that special place to do that.

Julia Davis



Churchyard Benches

Firstly, can I say I really love **benches in churchyards** but I am concerned with a number of the benches that have been installed in the churchyards at Powick, Madresfield, Guarlford and Newland. They have been in place for many years and are literally falling apart and therefore posing a risk of injury and are beginning to look unsightly.

The benches are the responsibility of families - if they can be located and persuaded to maintain them or replace them.

Some benches could do with a liberal coat of preservative stain to enhance the appearance and longevity. For some, it's the end of the road. If I cannot establish contact with a family, after reasonable notice, I will have to give permission to the wardens to remove those that I and they deem are unsafe.

There could be a solution. In conjunction with Steve Allard and Son, we have come up with a reasonably priced sustainably sourced oak two seat bench that can be purchased by families to replace the benches which are beyond repair and will be the standard for any new benches applied for. They can have any brass plaques re-sited from the broken benches or Steve can carve an inscription for a modest fee. The cost of the bench and ongoing repairs is, as at present, the responsibility of the family that applies to install a bench.

Over the next couple of months, an **assessment of the benches** in our churchyards will be undertaken and a polite notice placed on any that have reached the end of the road. The notice will say when action will need to be taken to remove or repair as well

as how to find out details of a successor bench which could be installed by Steve Allard and Son as close as possible to the one that needs replacing. If no action is taken in the suggested timeframe , I reserve the right to remove unsafe benches without further notice. I hope you understand where I am coming from.

Thanks for reading this and sharing with those that may need to see it.

Rev Gary

In which of our parishes might you see these?



Church Reopening - the next steps towards the new normal

By the time you read this, the yellow social distancing tape will have been removed, the pews or seating reopened to full church capacity (pre pandemic), church bells will have rung out and services will have resumed more towards a new normal.



The Government and Church advice and guidance still makes it my responsibility to ensure, via the wardens, vergers and church councils, that we operate safely in this Covid World we now live in. You also have to consider what level of risk or precautions you wish to continue with. With that in mind, I will be continuing with the following restrictions:

1. **Face coverings** may still need to be worn in church where the building is reaching full capacity - particularly relevant to **funerals, baptisms, school assemblies and weddings**.



2. **Singing in church** is still awaiting defined clearance so services will continue to be with Said services or accompanied by church music.

3. I am still awaiting clearance from the Housing Association regarding reinstatement of the **midweek Holy Communion** at the Orchard.

4. **Sanitiser** will still be available and enhanced cleaning coordinated.



A **new rota** will come into play at the end of August. The fortnightly service pattern across the churches in the parishes will continue but without the week 3 11am service at Powick for the time being. A commitment to continue with Zoom based (phone and internet) services will continue too on Thursday and Sunday evenings. Our *Lord's Alive Worship for All service* resumes as a gathered/in church service from September. For more details on our rota moving forward, check the church notice boards, look at the *Headlines* news sheet or the website for further information – www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk.

Some wider conversations are still required with interested parties in order that we can adequately and safely respect **Harvest Festivals, Remembrance Sunday, All Souls** and onwards to **Christmas**. Further updates will be shared in due course.

Rev Gary

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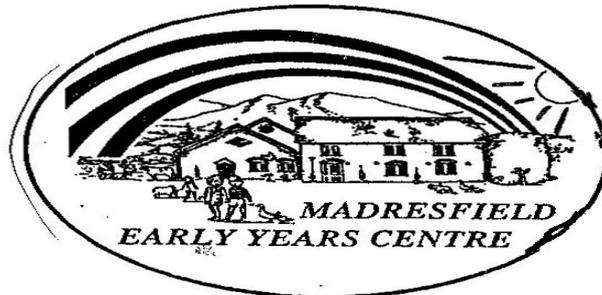


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Copy for the next *Grapevine* should be with the editor by **8th September 2021.**

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

Guarlford Village Hall Bookings: Don Hill 01684 563667

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