



The Grapevine

No. 309

December 2020 / January 2021



Distributed to every home in the villages of
Guarlford, Madresfield and Newland.

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

Guarlford Clerk: Mrs Gill Hollick, 2 Bamford Close, Guarlford WR13 6PF
01684 439049 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

What's On in the Parish

Meditation Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2pm 01905 831048 or 01684 561004.

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.



DO YOU NEED A *GRAPEVINE* DELIVERED?

There is not enough income to print *The Grapevine* six times a year.

Many people can now read it online.

If you would still like a copy delivered to your house, then you must telephone the editor, Cora Weaver (01684 561215) or email cora.weaver@talktalk.net and leave your address **BY 8TH JANUARY 2021**.

From March 2021, only the addresses that have been submitted will receive a hand-delivered Grapevine.

Details of where to find *The Grapevine* online can be found on page 4 of this edition.

The Grapevine Timetable 2021

Edition	Deadline date	Collation date (Tuesday)
February / March	8th January	26th January
April / May	8th March	23rd March
June / July	8th May	25th May
August / Sept	8th July	20th July

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WHERE TO FIND THE GRAPEVINE ONLINE FROM MARCH 2021.

- * 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>
- * <https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish/Welcome.aspx?ParishID=94&PostCode=WR136NZ&Prop=33488&partner=mhc&MarriedTo=0>
- * You can find it if by googling Guarlford in Worcestershire County Council's website.

You can also find this edition online at the above addresses.

Christmas Services this year - an explanation

Given the extreme uncertainty of exactly how Christmas can be celebrated, and what restrictions or regulations will or will not be in place, Christmas worship in churches across our parishes will have to look different this year. Christmas will still happen and will be joyful!

If we are not in lockdown, a service of **Readings and Music for Christmas** will be held in each church in the parishes prior to Christmas. Please see the worship rota for dates and times (**note-** there are seating restrictions because of our Covid risk assessment).

I am planning to have a Zoom-based Crib service, **Zooming Home for Christmas**, on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm - details on how to book a place on that will be put on the parishes website and via social media by the end of the school term.

On Christmas Eve/Christmas Day - there will be one service in each parish:

Christmas Eve First Communion of Christmas - Madresfield Church 10.00pm
BOOK A SEAT VIA THE VICARAGE

Christmas Day Christmas Presence - A Family Communion service for Christmas Morning, Powick Church 10.30am BOOK A SEAT VIA THE VICARAGE

Additionally, the Christmas Story will be told online with prayers at 1145pm on Christmas Eve. Please contact the vicarage if you wish an invite for that short service.

The Reverend Gary Crellin



SMILE TRAIN

Our protracted Lenten Charity Appeal for Smile Train raised **£660**, attracting £105 in Gift Aid. A wonderful result.

Thanks for everyone's generosity.



A Good Advent Read from Sarah Tummey, edited by Cora Weaver

I recently had an email from Sarah Tummey, who I lost contact with twenty years ago. We first met through Malvern Writers' Circle. Sarah wrote:

'Twenty years ago I think I dreamed then of having a book published; well, it's finally happened in 2020. It's been so interesting to actually talk to a publisher about sales, marketing, etc. The book is called **Christmas: God's Promise Kept**. It's an Advent book with 25 reflections, from 1 December until Christmas. I deliberately kept them short so that even on a busy day, people would have time to read them. It's available on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Christmas-Promise-Short-devotionals-Advent/dp/B08KX6N3M7>

I asked Sarah about herself. 'It's difficult to know what to say about myself really. It was October 1999 that I became a Christian. In 2000 I started writing songs and I've released 3 CDs, which are also available online. I've done a bit of volunteering over the years, like hospital chaplaincy and supporting people recently diagnosed with sight loss. I sponsor children, currently in the Philippines and Uganda. I've been writing a blog since 2011 about faith and child-sponsorship: <http://www.childrencount.wordpress.com> I guess when people have questions, or I hear someone say they don't understand, I enjoy thinking about how to answer them. My blog has been a way of doing that, and hopefully the book is too.

Why did she write the book? 'I wrote it after going to an Advent service in 2018. There was no sermon; just songs and readings, all connected with light. One of the readings was Numbers 24:17 - a very obscure verse, and behind me, I heard someone whisper: "I don't understand!" I came away wanting to explain, in simple terms, the story of the Old Testament and how it points to Jesus.

Why did Sarah become a Christian? 'I was nearly 19 at the time, and my sister was 17 and having driving lessons. I went to a church in Wales because my friend was in a worship group and I wanted to hear her sing. It was Saturday night, so I was expecting a concert, but I got a full church meeting, complete with sermon. The preacher (now my friend's father-in-law) mentioned all sorts of things, but envy was the one that really convicted me. He quoted Proverbs 14:30 ('Envy rots the bones'), and I knew I was envious of my sister. He spoke very powerfully and for the first time, **I realised hell was a real place**, not just a story I'd heard at primary school. Then he told us that when we believed in Jesus, He could make all our wrong thoughts and attitudes disappear. As the meeting closed and everyone sang the last song, I told God I didn't want to come to Him just out of fear of going



As for writing the book, I'm not sure my blindness had anything to do with that. I don't really think about it a great deal, I suppose because I've been blind all my life. When I was a teenager I thought more about what I was missing out on, but now I don't really. It's just my normal, and I don't equate it with who I am as a person.

Sarah added: I've got a Braille Bible, which I'll use if people want me to read out loud, but mostly I read it on the Bible Gateway app on my phone, or I do have a couple of Bibles on Kindle. You can't get a lot of translations in Braille, and I like to compare different ones, particularly when I'm writing my blog-posts.

Christmas Cards

We have a list of folks we know, all written in a book,
And every year when Christmas comes we go and have a look.
That is when we realise that the names are now a part
Not of the book they are written in, but of our hearts.
So never think that Christmas cards are just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between;
For when we send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,
It's because you're on a list of folk we are indebted to.
For we are but the total of the many folk we've met,
You happen to be one of those we'd rather not forget;
And whether we have known you for many years or few,
In some ways you had a part in shaping things we do;
And every year when Christmas comes we realise anew,
The best things that life can offer, is meeting friends like you!

Anon



MADRESFIELD MATTERS

Dear Residents

Madresfield currently has **three vacancies** on the Parish Council and we are hoping to fill these positions as quickly as possible. Eligibility criteria are either to live in the parish (or within 3 miles of it) or to work there. We only hold 4 meetings per year (currently these are online) and we see our role as one of a link between residents and the District and County Councils. If these positions are not filled there is a possibility that Madresfield may lose its independent Parish Council and therefore lose its local voice, something that I hope we can avoid. So, if you are interested in getting more information, please contact me. The role is not very time consuming but I think you would find it interesting and worthwhile.

David Sharp, Tel: 01684 573213 E: mrdasharp@btinternet.com

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. It originated in 1711 from a bequest left by George Dowdeswell of Pull Court. It was to buy bread for the poor. Over the years other benefactors have added to the trust and the remit changed to providing 'relief of poor persons in the parish either in gifts in kind, or grants of money'. The charity is overseen by the Charity Commission and managed by local trustees including Rev Gary Crellin.

2020 has been a very tough year for many and the trustees would like to help anyone within our parishes who needs support during this very challenging year.

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

Madresfield School Governor Vacancies

Have you ever thought about becoming a school governor?



Madresfield C.E. Primary School has vacancies on its governing body and would love to hear from anyone who has an interest in playing an important role in the life of this lovely village school. The governing body's role is a strategic one, providing support and challenge to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction while holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils. It also oversees the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The school is part of the Diocese of Worcester Multi-Academy Trust (DoWMAT) whose vision is to create and sustain a family of academies which provide children of all faiths and none with excellent educational provision within a distinctively caring and supportive Christian ethos. You can find out more about the Madresfield's Vision and Values on our website www.madresfieldschool.net



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

Parish Matters

Feedback from the annual Church Meeting for the Parish of Guarlford & Madresfield with Newland

Each year, the church holds an annual **meeting for parishioners** to receive an update on the work and mission of the church, to receive its accounts and to elect the **Churchwardens** and **members of the Parochial Church Council**. This year's meeting took place at Madresfield Church on the 25th October. The accounts were received, and reports from varying church groups and electoral roll were accepted. If you want to see the main report and accounts, please download them from the parishes' website - www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk. Our representatives for Deanery Synod are Peter Hughes and Alice Bennett representing the parish. Christopher Bennett and Elizabeth Palmer were elected Churchwardens but no one, again, was nominated for the vacant role at St Mary's Guarlford. Don Hill remains the Verger, but this vacant position of Warden for the church in Guarlford really needs to be resolved by the village. The role of churchwarden is an ancient one but my approach to handling the duties should be seen as refreshingly modern. I am really hoping that someone, or a few **Guarlfordians** (including those living in Clevelode or on the Rhydd) can consider getting involved and supporting the upkeep and mission of Your Church. I do not think it is acceptable for the building to be left to two octogenarians, however well experienced and faithful, to look after **YOUR** village's church. Hopefully at next year's Annual Meeting, in April 2021, we can see a change there. For an informal conversation - about the role or what's worrying you about it, please call me. Rev Gary Crellin



Vicar's Christmas 2020 and New Year Message



As I am writing my **Christmas message to you all**, who knows what Christmas will truly be like? God knows for sure and whatever it looks like, I do hope you will all enjoy the Joy and Hope that Christmas truly brings. It helps me to realise, Christmas is not just one day – it's all year - if we let it. **Christmas** is a time when, for many but not all I know, family gets together. But not this year as the *Rule of Six*, Zoom subscriptions and face coverings take over. It is my hope that every house in the parish will get this magazine or you found it online. I hope it is delivered by a faithful group of volunteers, not necessarily all from your church but your community, and you somehow **find the time to read it rather than 'green binning it'**. It's taken a lot of people a lot of time to produce it for you, and our villages. Who knows, you might even contemplate a New Year's resolution and read it again?

Despite the queues at the Retail Park, and lockdown regulations, I guess many of us will deliver gifts in the next few weeks, or use myriad delivery companies, couriers or online shopping delivery to get presents to loved ones in time. When I use the word **deliver**, what do you think of?

If you read the Christmas Story (I suggest you read it from the Gospels of **Mathew and Luke**), it tells us that Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem and whilst they were there it was time for Mary to **deliver** her child. **Imagine a crib scene or a nativity**. Maybe you

have one on a Christmas card or Advent Calendar? The crib scene shows Mary, by the will and goodness of God, delivering Jesus into the world. **What a Christmas Present.**

Crib scenes reminds us of the simplicity of Jesus' birth, the simplicity of God coming to the world in a baby: there was not even room to stay in the best rooms in the hotel. So, the Son of God was born in a smelly stable and his bed was an animal feeding trough. **What a Christmas Presence.** When we look at a crib scene, we see the rich and poor of the world: kings and the shepherds coming to see Jesus because he is for everyone. But it was the poor shepherds who were the first. Angels came to them to deliver the good news of a Saviour's birth: a Saviour who would come so we could be delivered safely into God's fullest presence one day.

I want to suggest the Church, and by that, I mean people who seek to follow Jesus faithfully, has been delivering Christmas for a lot, lot, longer in our lives and in our communities. But has anyone noticed? Jesus came to deliver a message from God and to show us that love is at God's heart – and that whilst all people matter to God, it gladdens the heart of God when we **help the poor and the helpless, those who are hungry, those who are poorly or feel lonely.** And we have all done that this year – helping neighbours or those we don't know, by charity donations, phone calls, errands or prayer. Don't forget - Christmas can be a lonely time for some people. And this year that loneliness may be your next door neighbour. Be their Christmas presence all year around. Thinking of my film recommendation over a mince pie or Christmas cracker, think on this: would Jesus want us to go back – to change the future? What has the past year taught us that will change our future? What message, what Christmas message, would we then seek to deliver this year, and in the year to come, to your neighbour in need?

With all good wishes for Christmas and onwards to a better, healthy 2021. *Rev Gary*



GUARLFORD WI

The glorious autumn colours have cheered our shortening days.

Our small coffee and chat groups have stopped but the committee have had a couple of face to face meetings (suitably distanced, of course) to wrestle with the complexities of running an AGM without being able to meet and to consider next year's resolutions.

The **Guarlford Gossiper** with its articles, recipes and jokes helps to keep members in touch along with phone and WhatsApp calls.

It seems highly unlikely that any Christmas Fairs will take place this year but the Craft Group have continued to work on various projects. Christmas boxes are also being planned. Many members have contributed generously to our **WI Food Bank** collection and a donation has also been given to support the work of the **Salvation Army.**

Remember in this time of cancellations that sunshine, reading, music, imagination, kindness, love and hope are not cancelled.

Here's looking forward to being able to celebrate Christmas with our families.

Sue Orgill

Is it me?

I look forward to *The Grapevine* magazine being delivered and was surprised when I opened the Oct/Nov issue to see someone thanking **the female often seen on the Guarlford Road collecting litter**. I think she may be referring to me. I always wanted to be famous! If it is me, I wonder where my husband Allan is when she sees me as we go out as a pair: probably down a ditch. We have two routes, **Hall Green to Guarlford Church**, and **Chance Lane to the sewage depot**. If we do both routes together, we usually pick up 6 to 8 dustbin bags of rubbish. Before Covid, we used to take it home and sort it but now the bags are sealed and left out with the dustbin. I drop the Council an email and the dustbin men know to collect them. We have just treated ourselves to a plastic ring to keep the bags open; we are easy to please.

So what do we collect? Well, a few more pieces and we will be able to build our own car. We recently found a waterlogged double duvet in the ditch in Chance Lane and as Allan pulled it out, he made a nest of mice homeless. I dragged it to the driveway of the farm so I could lay it out flat to fold it into a bag whilst doing my best to ignore the many cars that slowed down to watch my antics.

We often pull tyres and tied up bin bags out of the ditches in Chance Lane by the sewage station. We usually take them to the farm entrance opposite and add them to the rubbish usually dumped there. The Council clear it one day and its back the next. I take great delight in filling out the form on the council website. Where it says 'did you see the person who dumped the rubbish' I usually say it was us, with an explanation of course. Over the

WRITTEN IN STONE

Hand-cut lettering in stone and slate to commemorate, celebrate or inform.

House names and numbers
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Memorials and plaques
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Rob Norridge

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Email: robnorridge@hotmail.com

Web: robnorridge.co.uk



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Marguerite and Allan collected this litter between the end of Jackpit Lane and the pumping station on Chance Lane. They have never collected so much on such a short route, nor so many glass bottles and will have to go back for the car tyre and car suspension!



years they have got to know us and as well as an automated reply we get a personal reply thanking us for our efforts. How about the nasty stuff? Well there is plenty of that; bottles of urine and bags of human waste would you believe. Drivers and pedestrians usually look at us as though we are mad but, strangely, the last time, we were out, we had quite a few people stop to thank us. We often do a collection one day and walk or drive along the same route the next day and see freshly dropped litter which makes us feel a little defeated. We do it because we are determined not to let others spoil the lovely area we live in though there are times we seem to be fighting a losing battle.

Marguerite Barnwell

Our County Councillor, Tom Wells writes for *The Grapevine*

Today I have ventured up onto the Malvern Hills with my lovely border collie, Pip. It's a beautiful autumnal day and the colours are just amazing, far too subtle to be found in the paint department of a local DIY store. As I pause for a while on this bench, with the three 'Grapevine Villages' nestling in the landscape below, you would be forgiven if, for a moment, Covid 19 was forgotten and the way it has shaped our lives in 2020. The lovely churches of Madresfield and Guarlford look just the same as they ever did. The beautiful avenue of trees on the Guarlford straight continue to welcome visitors as they have always done. The grounds of the Beauchamp Community in the distance are as resplendent as ever.

But our world has changed and I want to pay tribute to all those villagers who have been so supportive of others in responding to Covid 19. I can tell that the strong sense of community that exists in Newland, Madresfield and Guarlford is the envy of many other places. I am so grateful to those who provided such love and care in collecting shopping and medication for those unable to leave their homes during the first period of lockdown. 'Take a bow Grapevine villages; when asked, you stepped up to the plate!'

Now in Lockdown2 we are a little better prepared. But it isn't just about our physical well-being. As we enter the dark days on midwinter, loneliness can also be a killer. Please get in touch if you need any help and I will make sure you get it.

I must also put on record my appreciation for the professional way the headteacher of Madresfield School and her amazing staff have done everything possible to create a safe learning environment and all those associated with Madresfield Early Learning Centre.

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch on 01905 831752 or at talwells@btinternet.com.

Have a peaceful and safe Christmas,



NEWLAND NEWS

While looking for winter plants at a garden centre I saw the below chalked on a board and thought it rather good. *'Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work, hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest, prayer, meditation and one well selected solution. Put in about one teaspoon of good spirits, a dash of fun, a sprinkle of play and a cupful of humour.'*



While the weather is changing and the leaves falling to cover the ground, I was thinking of **pruning my roses** but they are flowering strongly so I will have to wait. The left-hand rose is orange and called Super Trooper, the middle rose is yellow with a red inner ring and called Eye of the Tiger, and the far-right rose is yellow and called

Celebration. All three are fragrant and even now smell wonderful. I have been very lucky in that they have flowered for months and look wonderful even now. Hopefully, in the spring, I will have a fourth rose in orange to join them. This was the plan for this spring but you-know-what intervened in that plan.

I observed that a new sign has appeared at the top of the slip road, 'Unsuitable for HGVs'. Very good.

Recently we have lost **Lady Morrison**, the head of our trustees and one of the nicest people I have met. Lady Morrison, during the lockdown, called each of us to keep our spirits up and I will always remember our discussions on gardens and dogs.



And we have had the sad news that **Kath Gratey**, a lovely longstanding member of our community, has passed away. Kath was over 90 but was always an active part of the Beauchamp community and she will be missed.

As I am writing, a new lockdown has been announced and it looks like we will lose our church services again. I am sad about that and wonder why the government think a socially distanced church service with face masks and no hymns is a problem.

Recently I realised that I am very lucky. While many people have lost their social activities, some of the clubs to which I belong are now offering meetings on Zoom. It is nice to see those whom I have not seen since February, even if it is on a screen.

Here in the Beauchamp, I have the chance to meet and talk to other members of the community. Even though we have lost the good weather and sitting in the garden is no longer a possibility, just walking around the gardens you will find someone to talk to, so you are never completely alone.

With December fast approaching, I have to face the possibility that I will not be able to see my family over Christmas. Such a sad prospect; we will have to make the best of it but this is going to be a very strange Christmas.

More information on the Beauchamp community can be found on our website

<https://beauchampstleonard.org>

Jane Tinklin

How Important do you think you are? by Barbara Hill

A long time ago, whilst I was on my travels, I read an article in a parish magazine and within its pages were the words 'We are really not that important'.

Those few words made me ponder on them at the time, but I had forgotten until now. Today's 'situation' started off another chain of thoughts; not just for this month of Remembrance, as we honour all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf, but also thoughts on how our world is responding to these acts of violence and this unprecedented pandemic.

We have all lost loved ones, some through the tragedies of wars and conflicts, others perhaps through illnesses other than this present virus, or perhaps because of it, and how precious and important they are to us who knew and loved them?

However, perhaps sometimes our minds touch on thoughts of insignificance when one considers the depth of the universe, the short span of an individual's life, when after all there has been life on earth for millions of years! But are we, each and every one of us, past and present, of no importance? Oh! dear no, it just can't be.

Every one of us is immensely important in the sight of God, yet **no man is more or less important than another**. We cannot profess to understand all things and seeking to understand and see things from a God perspective always remains the best course to follow.

One can find in books written in ancient times how people have pondered over the same subjects as we do today. **Habakkuk**, a devout man of the Old Testament comes to mind. There were things he simply couldn't understand. It appeared to him and his contemporaries that everything was out of control. Where was the world spinning to in the unfolding situation? Yet he was sensible enough to ask the question and wait for an answer. And God speaks, "Watch and be utterly amazed" (Habakkuk 1:5). To be fair, they didn't have quite the same complex problems we have today, yet the principle of the response remains pertinent to us all.

When Jesus Christ Himself was questioned, did He not reply, "Should a sparrow fall from the sky that our Father does not know?" So what more importance does God place on each one of us? The social system and economic climate may be failing but God is unchanged. We may feel uncertain of the future, but God is still the same God we worshipped during 'boom' times. It was the same during the 20th century when men of faith such as Nelson Mandela and Terry Waite were imprisoned. One member of a group of 7 Christians held in the Soviet Union for their faith said on release, "Many of us believe that God can change our lives, and we await something new. But sometimes, the greater miracle is when our situation doesn't change, but we do." Perhaps we are currently feeling vulnerable and uncertain of the future, and perhaps our life styles may change, but I am convinced the world will rid itself from this scourge. Already, small changes are taking place. One only has to observe the compassion displayed to those in trauma, the helping hands reaching out, and a community coming together, for the common good

It may be the befriending from a stranger, new food banks springing up, the donations to charities. It is a beginning and we should hold on to the truth of God's words, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (1 Corinthians 12:9)

ALMs, Children and Youth Work

The start of a new year is always exciting as you begin to wonder what new adventures lie ahead, that was definitely the case for Kay and myself as we were looking forward to a full programme of children's ministry with **Messy Crafts**, a new **Children's Church mini service** with activities to be based at Madresfield church, **Little Learners** at Powick Primary school, **Jesus Disciples** at Callow End Primary School, **Worship Crew** at Madresfield Primary school and starting our new venture with a monthly **Lord's Alive** family worship.

This was to be a family service, the second Sunday of the month at 4pm, with music, videos, activities and afterwards eating a tea together. With us working closely with a new **iSingPOP** resource that iSingPop were developing with the Diocese of Gloucester.

Our first Lord's Alive family service was held on Sunday 8th March 2020 at St James' Church Callow End. Based around Jesus' statement "I am the door" and featuring iSingPOP songs and videos, the service was a great success with over 40 people attending and then enjoying scrummy pizza for tea!

And then the pandemic threw all our plans out of the window!

To build on the March service and ensure we remained in contact with the local community during lockdown and beyond, we decided to go online and produce videos. There have been 18 videos so far all available on the www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk website or Facebook Page Lord's Alive.

This has certainly been a new challenge for us both and our teenage sons, **George, and Theo** who have been brilliant and our film crew.

We have thoroughly enjoyed making the videos including getting up at 3.30 to film a sunrise on a beautiful cold summer morning to collapsing in giggles quite frequently – I'm sure there will be an 'out take video' at some point released! I am not quite sure either of us are comfortable in front of the camera, but we certainly have had fun.

As we approach Christmas a very special time in the Christian calendar and in our schools for the children, we are producing three Christmas activity sheets for each week of December that will be given to each child in our three schools and we are going to produce one last video for 2020 set in a stable – can you guess the story?

As we come to the close of a very different and difficult year for many we hope that we have spread a little laughter and the Christian message to you and your families and we are already looking forward to 2021 and what that will bring, we hope to be able to go back into the schools and to bring families back to church with our new family worship service, part 2.

Kay and I wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas with your family and look out for us on Facebook during December.

A Merry Christmas.
Vicky Whitehouse,

**Kay Shuard and
December 2020**



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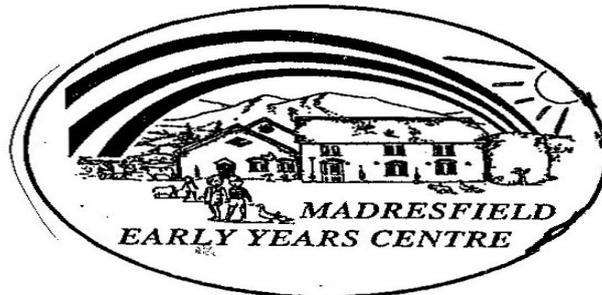


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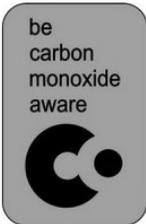
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Guarlford Village Hall is set to re-open on Monday 7th September. Available for hire for small gatherings. For more information contact Gill Hollick on 07816 533251

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

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

Old Hills Malvern Benefice Church Worship Rota 1st December 2020 – 31st January 2021

Date	Time	Service	Venue	Notes
6 th December	9.30am 11.00am 5.30pm+	BCP Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Contemplative Evening Prayer	Callow End Madresfield Zoom	God's Promise Kept - an evening service for Advent
13 th December	9.30am 11.00am 5.30pm+	The Christmas Story	Guarlford Powick	Readings and Music for the approach of Christmas
20 th December	9.30am 11.00am 5.30pm+	The Christmas Story	Callow End Madresfield	Readings and Music for the approach of Christmas
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Zooming Home for Christmas	Zoom service for Families on Christmas Eve	Apply for access code
	10.00pm	First Communion of Christmas	Madresfield Church	To book a seat, please contact The Vicarage – 01905 830270
	11.45pm	The Christmas Story	Zoom	A short service of prayers and the Nativity on Zoom
Christmas Day	10.30am	Christmas Presence	Powick Church	Family Communion for Christmas morning. Please book a seat via 01905 830270
27 th December	9.30am	Christmas Communion	Callow End	
3 rd January 2021	No Services due to the unavailability of cover for Rev Gary's Christmas leave			
10 th January 2021	9.30am 11.00am 5.30pm+	Holy Communion	Callow End Madresfield	Baptism of Christ
17 th January 2021	9.30am 11.00am 5.30pm+	Holy Communion	Guarlford Powick	
24 th January 2021	9.30am 11.00am 5.30pm+	Holy Communion	Callow End Madresfield	Conversion of Paul
31 st January 2021	10.30am	Benefice Service for Candlemas	Via Zoom	Candlemas

Most Sundays, there will be a 5.30pm Evening Prayer or a Spiritual Communion Service on **Zoom** (shown as 5.30pm+ on the rota). A Service of Night Prayer/Compline will happen on Thursday evenings at 8.30pm as indicated on the Churches' news sheet, *Headlines*. Contact us for the access codes. Regrettably, no singing of hymns or carols is currently possible. All services are subject to review and change. Where Gathered Services are closed down for whatever reason, they will be replaced by a **Zoom** service at 10.30am. Access codes will be supplied with the Church news sheet, *Headlines*, or via separate email to subscribers (please subscribe to the news sheet for prompt notification of service changes). Christmas services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be subject to advance booking due to the seating capacity of the churches. Please book on 01905 830270 to avoid disappointment.