



*The
Grapevine
online*

No 335

April/ May 2026



Your news about *your* community -
Guarlford, Madresfield, Newland

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

You are warmly invited to join us at the

PreSchoolers' Service Tuesdays 1.45 - 2.15 pm

in St Mary's Church, Madresfield

on **12th May** for ***Through the Roof***

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

Editor: Cora Weaver E: cora.weaver@talktalk.net

The Grapevine will be posted online in the last week of January; March, May, July,
September and November.

Articles for inclusion need to be with the editor by 15th day of those months.

GUARLFORD

Churchwarden: David Fellows

Verger: Vacant

Malvern Hills Trust representative: David Fellows

Parish Council: Clerk: Mrs Gill Hollick, 2 Bamford Close, Guarlford WR13 6PF
Mob. 07816 533 251 E: parishclerkguarlford@gmail.com

Parish Path Warden: David Fellows, Green Fields, Rectory Lane, Guarlford
Tel: 01684 574243

Tree Warden: Rev. Peter Hughes

Chairman, Village Hall Committee: Phil Thomas

Village Hall: E: guarlfordvillagehall@gmail.com

Village Hall Website:- <https://guarlfordvillagehall.co.uk/> - look in here for *The Grapevine* online

W.I : meets 7.30, Guarlford Village Hall, second Tuesday in the month. All welcome.
President: Caroll Murphy 07812 153872 Secretary: Ann Johnson
E: guarlfordsec@wfedwi.org.uk

MADRESFIELD

Bell Ringing: Practice Mondays 7.30 at Madresfield Church; contact Geoff Titmuss
01684 572495

Churchwardens: Mr Christopher Bennett, Hayswood Farm, Madresfield, 01684 891047;
Mrs Elizabeth Palmer, 33 Hall Green Close, WR14 3QY 01684 575914

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

Treasurer: Situation vacant from Spring 2024 - church finance's enquiries to The Vicar.

Cricket Club: Secretary: Peter Hughes, Holly Lodge, Madresfield 01684 572649

Early Years Centre www.meyc.co.uk 01684 574378 (9am-2pm)
Mrs Alice Bennett 01684 574378

Movement Club: Children's gym, dance, drama and ballet 01684 574378

Parish Council: Clerk: Mr David Sharp, 20 Farley Road, Malvern Link 01684 573213
E: mrdasharp@btinternet.com

Madresfield C E Primary School: Head of School: Mrs Rebecca Hibell 01684 573620
E: office@madresfield.dowmat.education

Friends of Madresfield School : Chairman: Rebecca Perkins; Secretary, Helena Barley;
Treasurer, Lavinia Macdonald

Madresfield Club : Secretary, Mrs Jo Morgan 01684 573363

MADRESFIELD COURT SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2026

Once again, the Court has kindly allowed St Marys, Madresfield to have a stall at this year's



Donations of paperback books, children's games, jigsaws and plants would be much appreciated.



If you have any suggestions of how to breathe new life into the stall or would like to offer your services to help on the day, all suggestions and offers of help would be very welcome.

HELP REQUIRED

Contact: Marguerite & Allan Barnwell Tel: 01684 891760
E: Thebarnowls06@gmail.com

GARDEN SIGNS FOR SALE



Signs should be taken in during winter months

Garden signs made out of recycled oak taken from St Mary The Virgin Church, Madresfield



Available from:
Marguerite & Allan Barnwell
thebarnowls06@gmail.com





Hinges also recycled from church

Donations of unwanted matt outdoor varnish would be hugely appreciated

EARLY BIRD OFFER
 £8 each
 £10 at Madresfield Fete
 All proceeds to church funds

Have your say on how Guarlford and Madresfield Parish Councils should be run in the future

Residents, councillors, businesses, and local organisations are being encouraged to have their say on **how Guarlford and Madresfield Parish Councils should be run in the future.**

Malvern Hills District Council is undertaking a **Community Governance Review** which will consult local residents and stakeholders on whether the two separate parish councils should be merged to create a new single parish council for the area.

The review has been requested by the two parish councils and will investigate whether they are reflective of the identities and interests of the community.

As part of the review, a consultation will ask the community whether they support :

- A) a merge of the two councils
- B) whether they should remain separate or if
- C) there is an alternative proposal they would like to suggest.

The first stage of the consultation will run from 23 March 2026 until 4 May 2026.

Visit www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CGR2026/ for more information and to have your say.

Please email elections@malvern hills.gov.uk with any queries.

Lorna Morris
Head of Communications



GUARLFORD WI News

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In February, Fran Doidge, from Worcestershire RSPB, gave us a most interesting talk on **rewilding**, and how the RSPB and local wildlife groups are working hard so that the land is managed to ensure that our wide variety of wildlife, trees and plants will remain with us for the foreseeable future. It was most interesting to learn how the effects of farming, keeping animals on the land and the knock on effect of various practices affects the whole land and wildlife around us. She also told us how we can all make a difference, on our own small patch of land.

In March, Robert Arley gave a talk about his time working as an editor on the **BBC Antiques Roadshow** programme. It was very interesting to hear how the programme is put together, which objects are chosen, and all of the other aspects of making this long- running and popular programme.

Guarlford WI always welcomes new members, and if you think you would like to give us a try , our monthly meetings are at Guarlford village hall, at 7.30 pm, on the second Tuesday of each month.

Our next meetings are :

April 14th, Barbie Elliot, **The art of Iris (paper craft) folding**

May 12th, Phil Downing, **Harvington Hall, house of secrets**

Paula Parsonage



POWICK CHURCH UNLOCKED

Powick Church is nearly 900 years old and was once at the heart of the village geographically, socially and spiritually. But times have changed leaving this historic Grade I building and its beautiful churchyard isolated in more ways than one. At this grand old age it also requires constant conservation and repair which is a major financial challenge.

The **Powick Church Unlocked** project has been born out of these challenging times with the aim of reaching out to the local community to come together and help secure the church's future. The project will be:

exploring how the space can better serve the 21st century community - making it more flexible, more accessible and more welcoming for everyone, whether for worship, community events, quiet reflection, concerts, school activities, or life's most important milestones and, helping to raise funds for urgent repairs to the south transept which currently mean the church is on Historic England's Heritage at Risk register.



The first community and fundraising event is **A Parish Wedding**, which is taking place on **Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th at Powick Church 10am – 4pm** (see poster on page 8).

If you're on social media follow Powick Church Unlocked on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok to keep up to date with what's going on.

The church will be dressed for a wedding and filled with amazing flowers and wedding dresses from across the decades belonging to local ladies. There will also be some wedding stalls, a children's trail and refreshments too. So if you're looking for a lovely morning or afternoon out or a place to get married, come along to Powick Church and enjoy this wedding with a twist!

You Are Invited To

A Parish Wedding

An Exhibition of
Wedding Dresses
from across the decades

including

Wedding stalls, Refreshments & Children's trail

Sat 25th & Sun 26th April 2026

St Peter's Church, Powick

10am - 4pm

Follow ***Powick Church Unlocked***
on Facebook, Instagram & TikTok



**Free entry, donations to the
Powick Church Unlocked project**



Church Services and Online Worshipping Opportunities for Your Church in the Old Hills Malvern Churches

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday 29th March

Palm Sunday

10.30am Benefice Palm Sunday Service with Procession at POWICK

Monday 30th March

7.00pm Compline at CALLOW END

Tuesday 31st March

7.00pm Compline at MADRESFIELD

Wednesday 1st April

7.00pm Compline at GUARLFORD

Thursday 2nd April

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy at POWICK

Friday 3rd April

Good Friday

9.40am Walk of Witness from Christ Church to Great Malvern Priory

All are welcome from Old Hills Malvern Churches to take part.

There will be An Hour by the Cross at

POWICK, GUARLFORD, CALLOW END and MADRESFIELD

between 12noon and 3pm. Please see local notices for details.

Sunday 5th April

Easter Sunday

9.30am Easter Communion at GUARLFORD

11.00am Easter Communion at POWICK

11.00am Easter Communion at MADRESFIELD



For more information go to our website: www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk
or call 01905 830270

For Zoom Access codes and links, please contact us via
revgarycrellin@gmail.com or oldhillsmalvern@gmail.com





Church Services and Online Worshipping Opportunities for Your Church in the Old Hills Malvern Churches

APRIL 2026

Thursday 2nd April

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy at POWICK

Friday 3rd April

9.40am Walk of Witness from Christ Church to Great Malvern Priory

Sunday 5th April

Easter Sunday

9.30am Easter Day Communion at GUARLFORD
11.00am Easter Day Communion at MADRESFIELD
11.00am Easter Day Communion at POWICK

Sunday 12th April

Second Sunday of Easter

9.30am Easter Communion at CALLOW END
No Service at MADRESFIELD

Sunday 19th April

Third Sunday of Easter

8.00am BCP Communion at POWICK
9.30am BCP Communion at GUARLFORD
11.00am Morning Praise at POWICK

Sunday 26th April

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Easter Communion at CALLOW END
11.00am Easter Communion at MADRESFIELD

Midweek Communion at The Orchard Room in Colletts Green
Thursdays 9th & 23rd April from 10.30-11.30am



For more information go to our website: www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk
or call 01905 830270

For Zoom Access codes and links, please contact us via
revgarycrellin@gmail.com or oldhillsmalvern@gmail.com





NEWLAND NEWS NUMBER 29

Spring has sprung, or so we think. If the weather would just make its mind up; we have gone from warm sunshine to high winds and hail all in one week.

I have noticed the lovely purple tree as I walked around the corner and thought you might like to see it. There's a photograph of it at the bottom of the page.

The daffodils are out in force, and to me this always heralds the coming of better weather, these resilient flowers in some many varieties always look good.

We are still awaiting the restoration of the bus shelters so sadly burnt down last year. Delays were caused as the parish council had to liaise with the Malvern Hills Trust as part of the land on which the bus shelters stand is controlled by the Trust. Good news is the new shelters are now on order and will be erected within the next 3 months.

The annual Parish Meeting will be held on 19th May 2026 at 6.30pm in the Beauchamp Boardroom.

The new housing estate to be built partly in Newland has sent out a consultation for the revisions they are making to the original plans. Hopefully everyone will comment on the changes from the original plans.

Upcoming will be a **smart water session** at the Beauchamp community run by the local PCSOs. A poster will go up in the porch, this allows you to bring important items to be invisibly marked so if they are stolen, they can be traced.



As the sun shines bright and cold the newly-mown lawn looks good and the garden begins to come to life. We will all be grateful until the summer comes and we are sweltering like last year and then we will all dream of rain.



The weather just couldn't make up its mind.



The Parish council now has its own website separate from Worcestershire County Council

<https://newland-pc.gov.uk/>

Upcoming -

organ recitals in St Leonards.

The first is on 5th July at 4pm, when Andrew Caskie will be playing our restored Nicholson organ.

Jane Tinklin

NEW CRAFT GROUP

Starting Friday

27th March

2pm – 5pm



Starting Friday

27th March

2pm – 5pm

Guarlford Village Hall

Calling all Crafters (and would be crafters!)

Would you like to learn a new skill or practise one you are already good at?

Would you like a peaceful afternoon with like-minded friends?



Why not join us at Guarlford Village Hall

No previous experience necessary.



Come to craft or come just for the chat.



Friday afternoon 2pm – 5pm

No need to book – just turn up



First session free - thereafter £2.00 per session



For more information contact the secretary guarlfordvillagehall@gmail.com 07816 533251

Registered Charity number 523145



GUARLFORD VILLAGE HALL

WR13 6PF



Bring your own bottle

EASTER QUIZ

Saturday 28th March 2026

7.00 pm for a prompt 7.15pm start

Bring a team of 4 or
come on your own and join a team

Tickets include supper of hot pork rolls and
delicious homemade puds

Prizes

£10 per person

Prizes

To book a place email guarlfordvillagehall@gmail.com

Or telephone the secretary on 07816 533251

Registered charity number 523145



Old Hills Malvern with Christchurch, Malvern Vicar's Pastoral Message - Easter/ April 2026

Dear Friends,

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3

April is one of those beautiful months when the countryside reminds us that life begins again. The hedgerows soften with green, daffodils nod in the breeze; and in the fields around our villages, the lambs are beginning to appear. If you pause for a moment on a country lane, you may hear them calling across the fields - a sure sign that spring has truly arrived.



It is a season that speaks deeply of the message of **Easter**. At the heart of the Christian faith is the promise of *new birth* and *living hope*. The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that life can emerge where we least expect it. Just as the earth wakes after winter, God continues to bring renewal and hope into our lives.

And yet we are very aware that the wider world is far from peaceful. We continue to watch the war unfolding with Iran, bringing further anxiety and uncertainty across the globe. The Ukraine War still rumbles on, seemingly forgotten for a while but, sadly, it still persists. These conflicts also ripple into our everyday lives. Rising oil prices linked to the war with Iran have already begun pushing up fuel prices and adding pressure to the cost of living here in the UK. So, we are not immune from such shocks in the world order. Even small things we take for granted feel affected, whether it is the price of filling the car or even the cost of the Easter chocolate we might share with family. That said, the Easter Egg campaign from our churches, at last count, made sure that over 140 children in The Ukraine will receive a chocolate egg this year via our partner charity, Teams4U. Easter tells us that darkness never has the final word.



Courage and faith can overcome fear and evil

Later in the month we celebrate **St George's Day** on 23rd April. The story of St George reminds us that courage and faith can overcome fear and evil. It is a legend, of course, but its message is timeless: good can prevail, and faith gives us strength to stand for what is right. By the mid-April, our schools will be returning after the Easter holidays, bringing with them the energy and life of a new term. Spring always feels like a fresh start for families, schools and communities alike.

In Powick, we are also looking forward to a special event in St Peter's Church on the weekend of 25th–26th April: *A Parish Wedding*, an exhibition of wedding dresses and photographs from across the decades. Alongside the dresses and mementos, there will be stalls, refreshments and a children's trail. It will be a lovely opportunity for the community to gather, share memories, and celebrate

the joy of marriage. [Have a look at the poster on page 9.]

It also comes at the start of our wedding season in church. **Weddings** are wonderful moments when people promise love and faithfulness in the presence of God and their community. In a world that often feels uncertain, such promises are powerful signs of hope.

It is also the time of year when the Churches prepare their Annual Reports and hold parish meetings to share the works of your church in the year ending 31st December 2025. It is also a time of elections to the Church Council and the Deanery Synod: do consider standing if you feel you can help your Church have a voice in your village communities, and within the wider Church.

As spring unfolds around us: with lambs in the fields, children returning to school, and weddings being planned— and who knows new people joining our churches to help- may we notice the quiet ways God is renewing the world and our lives.



Let us pray:

*Lord of the resurrection,
as spring brings new life to the earth,
plant hope in our hearts.
Bring peace to places of war,
wisdom to those who lead nations,
and comfort to all who struggle with worry or rising costs.
Bless our homes, our schools, and our community,
and help us to live as people of Easter hope.
In the name of the risen Christ.
Amen.*



A Happy Easter to you and your families.

Rev Gary



**If you have to dial 999 or 112 and cannot speak
Dial 55
You can be found from your dialling location.**



QR Code for the Old Hills Malvern Churches

If you have a phone or tablet, you can use it to scan this QR code, which will take you directly to the churches' website. No need to remember the www. address - scan and be teleported as if by magic straight to the website.

Guarlford Village Hall is available for hire for small gatherings.

For more information contact
Gill Hollick on 07816 533 251



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

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