



The Grapevine online

No 333

December/ January 2026



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

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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.

GUARLFORD

Guarlford Parish Website: www.guarlfordparish.uk

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/>

W.I : meets 7.30, Guarlford Village Hall, second Tuesday in the month. All welcome.

President: Caroll Murphy E: wifolk@guarlfordparish.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 *contd.*

Parent & Toddler Club: Tuesdays 11-12; Gymini classes throughout Wednesdays; Holiday Play Schemes; After School Collection & Care
Babies to PreSchool Care 8am-6pm daily

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

Malvern Hills Trust representative: David Reynolds

Parish Council: Clerk: J. Barker 07539 605 118 E: newlandpc1@gmail.com

Newland Parish Council meets bi-monthly at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at The Beauchamp Community (January, March, May, July, September, November)

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Community Support Officer: PC Dee Stanley

County & District Councillor: Tom Wells, 27 Upton Road, Callow End WR2 4TY
Tel: 01905 831752 07702 996203 E: talwells@btinternet.com

Malvern Hills Trust: Chase representative: Richard Fowler

Malvern Hub: for reporting abandoned cars and flytipping 01684 862151

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

Parochial Church Council: Rector - Rev. Gary Crellin 01905 830270
E: revgarycrellin@gmail.com

Vice Chairman: Mrs Elizabeth Palmer 33 Hall Green Close, WR14 3QY 01684 575914

Parishes' Administrator: Liz Edwards, 07726 927 046 E: oldhillsmalvern@gmail.com

PCC Secretary: Ginny Pavey E: virginiapavey@btinternet.com

Parish Website: www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk

WHERE TO FIND THE GRAPEVINE ONLINE

* http://www.guarlfordparish.uk/vill_mag.htm This site displays past editions.

* Google 'The Grapevine parish Magazine' then look out for Old Hills Malvern

* www.madresfieldschool.net

* <https://www.beauchampstleonard.org>

* <https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/MyParish/Publications.aspx?ParishID=94>



Guarlford Village Hall

Registered charity number 523145

Advent Event

**Come and make a festive garland
for your front door**

On:- Friday 28th November 2025 7pm

£25

Bring your own secateurs/scissors if you have them
*ticket includes mulled wine and festive nibbles,
tea and coffee, and all the resources and guidance
needed to make your beautiful garland*



Booking essential



Contact the secretary guarlfordvillagehall@gmail.com
Or 07816 533251





GUARLFORD VILLAGE HALL

Bring your own bottle



Christmas Quiz

(A chance to get those Christmas Jumpers out!!)

Saturday

29th November 2025



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

£10.00 per person

Prizes



BOOKING ESSENTIAL

To book a place email



guarlfordvillagehall@gmail.com

Or telephone the secretary on 07816 533251

Registered Charity Number 523145

GUARLFORD CHRISTMAS FAYRE



FREE ADMISSION

Saturday 6th December 2025



2.00 pm _ 4.00pm



Guarlford Village Hall



Lots of stalls, Crafts, Cake, Tombola, Raffle, Games,
Refreshments etc.

Shop for Christmas gifts at a traditional village
Christmas Fayre



Come and see Father Christmas

Registered Charity Number 523145

CHRISTMAS AT GUARLFORD 2025



Nativity '25' exhibition in St Mary's Church Guarlford

Nativity sets
from around the
world

Children's
activities



The 'Nativity Café' will be open in
Guarlford Village Hall

Friday 12th December



Saturday 13th December

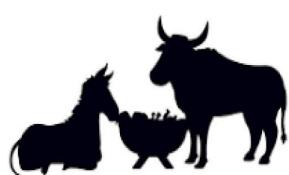
Sunday 14th December

Church open 11 am – 3pm Friday and Saturday

12.30 – pm – 3pm on Sunday

Village hall open 12 noon – 3.00 pm each day

Teas, Coffees and Home-made cakes on sale





Old Hills Malvern Churches with Christchurch, Malvern

Vicar's Letter for December 2025

'The Light Shines in the Darkness...' (John 1:5)

Dear friends,

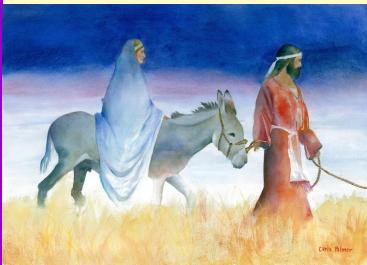
As the nights draw in and the air turns colder, our homes begin to sparkle once more. Christmas lights appear in windows, and trees glow in gardens and greens. If you look carefully, you might spot a garlanded dinosaur or extendable gnome or gonk.



Whatever you think about such creations, there's something deeply moving about this simple act of putting up lights in the darkness. It's not just decoration – it's a declaration of hope. But before we get to Christmas, we really do need the expectation of a good Advent to prepare us all. Perhaps this short season has somewhat been overlooked, unless you count the supermarket displays starting in September.

Advent is a time of waiting and watching for light to break into our darkness. We journey through these weeks not in a rush to reach Christmas Day, but as pilgrims following the glimmer of something greater – the coming of Christ, the Light of the World. Advent reminds us that even when the nights seem long, the light still shines, and the darkness cannot overcome it. I know many of us are looking forward to Christmas: the carols filling our churches, the laughter of school nativity plays, the smell of mince pies, and the sound of familiar hymns that stir something deep within us. But Advent calls us to pause first – to make space in our hearts, to prepare room for the Christ Child, and to notice the holy amid the ordinary.

Across our parishes, the schools are once again taking part in the **Posada journey** – where figures of



Mary and Joseph travel from home to home, finding welcome and hospitality as they make their way to Bethlehem. It's turning into a lovely tradition, one that reminds us that Christmas isn't something to be *performed* but *lived*: opening our doors, sharing our warmth, and making room for Christ in our homes and hearts. Perhaps we could all take part in our own way this year. Who might need a place of welcome from us? Who could use a kind word, a hot drink, or a reminder that they're not alone? As we set up our Christmas tables, it's worth remembering those for whom this

season will be hard. Some will be facing economic pressures after a difficult year and the effects of the recent Budget. Others will feel the ache of an empty chair – someone deeply loved but no longer here to share the celebration. In such moments, the story of the Nativity speaks louder than ever: God comes not in grandeur, but in the vulnerability of a manger, sharing our human need, our uncertainty, and our hope.

Even the celebrity world seems to echo these themes this year. As viewers tune in to *I'm a Celebrity* or *The Celebrity Apprentice*, we see a curious mix of challenge, teamwork, and ego – people discovering humility, courage, and sometimes grace under pressure. And then there's *The Celebrity Traitors*, the series that's captured so many imaginations – full of suspicion and hidden motives. It makes great television, but it also makes us wonder: what does it mean to be truly authentic? And who would have thought that of Alan Carr.....

At Christmas, we discover the opposite of pre-tense. The Nativity is the story of truth laid bare – no disguise, no luxury, no fame, no filter. Just God with us, Emmanuel, in the simplicity of straw and starlight. The greatest "presence" we could ever receive isn't found under a tree or in a parcel, but in a Person – the true Christmas Presence: Jesus Christ, who comes quietly into our world and offers peace to all who welcome him.

So, as we journey through this Advent and onwards to Christmas, let's enjoy the lights and laughter, the songs and celebrations – but let's also hold space for stillness. Let's make room for others, especially

those who are struggling. And let's prepare our hearts once more for the one who brings light to our darkness, hope to our fears, and joy that no hardship can extinguish.

May the light of Christ fill our homes and our hearts this Christmas.

May it comfort those who grieve, strengthen those who struggle, and warm all who seek peace.

And may we, like Mary and Joseph, make our journey faithfully – carrying the promise of God's love wherever we go.

With every blessing for a holy Advent and a joyful Christmas, **Rev Gary**



GUARLFORD WI News September / October 2025

In September our WI held its biennial **Craft and Produce show**. As always, our members rose to the occasion. We had a wide variety of entries, from delicious home made cakes, chutneys and jams, to beautifully crafted sewn, knitted and other hand-crafted items. After the judging of the entries, the village hall was opened for everyone to admire our efforts.

In October, Jo Mullan, president of Welland WI, came to give us a talk on **Resolutions that have made a difference** (think of the famous 'keep Britain tidy' slogan). From its very early days, one thing the Women's Institute has been very active in is campaigning nationally for things that make a difference to society, and some that we now take for granted were brought about by these campaigns. Jo spoke about these particular ones. The first resolution, passed in 1918, called for sanitary housing: in 1921 women became magistrates and jurors, and in 1922 and 1924 two resolutions were passed for an increase in police women. More recently, in 1964, there was a call for restrictions in smoking in public places, and in the same year for routine smear tests for cervical cancer. Current campaigns include an increase in CPR training; better access to dental health, and raising awareness of violence against women.

Paula Parsonage

Son et Lumiere at Guarlford

Saturday 20th December at 4.30pm outside 8 Penny Lane.

Come and enjoy Cath and Keith's fabulous light display. Lucy will lead some singing and afterwards you are invited to the village hall for a hot drink and mince pie. **FREE TO ATTEND** but there will be a collection for Dementia research.



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 2nd December for ***Christmas***

and 27th January (2026) ***The Lost Coin***

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

Everyone is welcome.



OLD HILLS MALVERN CHURCHES

DECEMBER & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 7th December

9.30am Advent Communion at Guarlford

11.00am Advent Communion at Powick

(Both services with Rev Gary Crellin)

Sunday 14th December

9.30am Advent Communion at Callow End

(With Rev Dr William Rumball)

11.00am Nine Lessons and Carols at Madresfield

(With Fr Chris Sterry & Rev Gary Crellin)

Sunday 21st December

8am BCP Communion at Powick *(With Rev Gary Crellin)*

11.00am Community Carols at Powick *(With the Morning Praise Team)*

5.00pm Carols and Brass Band at Guarlford *(With Rev Gary Crellin)*

Tuesday 23rd December

1.30pm Crib Service at Madresfield *(With Rev Gary Crellin)*

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service at Callow End *(With the Lay Ministry Team)*

8.00pm First Communion of Christmas at Madresfield

10.00pm First Communion of Christmas at Powick

(Both First Communion Services with Rev Gary Crellin)

Christmas Day

11.00am Christmas Communion at Christ Church *(With Rev Gary Crellin)*

11.00am Christmas Presence at Powick *(With Julia Davis)*

Sunday 28th December

10.30am Benefice Christmas Communion at Callow End

(With Rev Dr William Rumball)



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 14th December

11.00am Nine Lessons & Carols at Madresfield

Sunday 21st December

11.00am Community Carols at Powick

5.00pm Carols and Brass Band at Guarlford

Tuesday 23rd December

1.30pm Crib Service at Madresfield

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service at Callow End

8.00pm First Communion of Christmas at Madresfield

10.00pm First Communion of Christmas at Powick

Christmas Day

11am Christmas Communion at Christ Church

11am Christmas Presence at Powick

Sunday 28th December

10.30am Benefice Christmas Communion at Callow End



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



SCAN ME

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**.