

The Grapevine online

No 334

February/ March 2026



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

WHAT'S IN YOUR GRAPEVINE

2	Pre-Schoolers' Services, Madresfield
3 - 4	Who's Who in Guarlford, Madresfield & Newland
4	Where to find The Grapevine Online
5	Guarlford Nativity '25
7	Vicar's Letter
8	Oldhills Church Services: February
9	Newland News
10	Guarlford WI
11	QR Code for the Old Hills Malvern Churches / Financial help for those in need



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 17th March for ***God's Wonderful World***

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

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: virginia.pavey@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>

ST MARY'S GUARLFORD



**SOME
EXHIBITS
IN
NATIVITY
25**





Rev'd Gary put this Lego model of the Nativity scene in the **Nativity 25** exhibition at St Mary's Guarlford.

There was a competition.

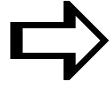
Guess how long it took Gary to construct the scene and how many pieces of Lego did he use?

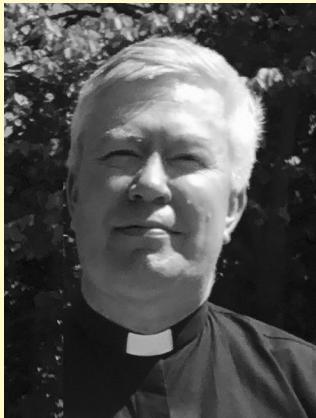
Andrew Metcalf won the prize with his guess of 1400 pieces and 5 hours, which Gary says was nearly spot on.

Well done Andrew

and jolly well done Gary.

Gary sporting the Guarlford Lego Masters' (Nativity 25) hat. How many pieces do you think there and how long did it take to build.?





Old Hills Malvern with Christchurch,

Malvern

Vicar's Letter for February 2026



Dear Friends,

As we journey in this 'Bleak Mid Winter' into February, there is a real sense of change in the air. **Snowdrops** are beginning to break through the hard ground – quiet but determined signs that winter does not have the final word. They remind us that new life often begins unseen, beneath the surface, waiting for the right moment to emerge.

Recently, many of us rejoiced in the splendid and inspiring service at Worcester Cathedral celebrating the arrival of Bishop Hugh as the 114th Bishop of Worcester. It was a joyful occasion, rich in prayer and hope, reminding us that the Church is continually renewed as God calls new people to lead and serve. We pray for Bishop Hugh as he begins his ministry among us.

You can't have missed being bombarded by holiday advertisements since Christmas, especially on television. Maybe, like me, you're getting quite good at hitting the mute button when those adverts interrupt our viewing! This seems to be the time of year when many people begin planning and booking holidays or day trips, and to ram that home, I have even received my lovely parishes' administrator's list of holiday dates for the year too. So, that got me thinking – perhaps I need to do mine. If anyone has any recommendations for a weekend or city break to Florence, do let me know! Perhaps it's the depths of the darkest winter combined with the lure of summer sunshine, or simply the need to have something special to look forward to that spurs us on to make such decisions. With half term approaching too, that is something I am holding on and looking forward to. So, have you booked your holidays for 2025 yet, or are you more of a last-minute, spur-of-the-moment person? The familiar phrase '*a change is as good as a rest*' reminds us that stepping away from routine can refresh and re-invigorate us, offering a much-needed pause. Even if you can't, for whatever reason, get away, maybe changing your routine or creating space in your life will be rest enough. Hopefully this message stirs up memories of holidays past – places visited, laughter shared, and precious time spent with loved ones.

As **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday** on the 18th February, we are invited to think more deeply about rest, rhythm, and renewal. Rest is not an optional extra; it is a gift given by God and woven into the very fabric of creation. Bare frosted fields, leafless trees, hibernating animals, and migrating birds all bear witness to seasons of rest and renewal. Many of us know what happens when we try to keep going without pause – eventually our bodies, minds, and spirits tell us to stop. Sometimes very suddenly.

Lent offers us a holy pause. How are those New Year's resolutions holding up? Perhaps they are flourishing; perhaps they have quietly faded. Lent is not about guilt, but about grace – an invitation to lay down what weighs us down and to take up practices that draw us closer to God and one another.

May this coming Spring and embedded Lent be a season of gentle renewal, helping us to rest in God's love and to grow in faith as we journey together towards Easter.

Rev Gary



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

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday 1st February

Candlemas

9.30am Living Communion at GUARLFORD

11.00am Living Communion at POWICK

Sunday 8th February

Second Sunday Before Lent

9.30am Living Communion at CALLOW END

11.00am Living Communion at MADRESFIELD

Sunday 15th February

Next Before Lent

8.00am BCP Holy Communion at POWICK

9.30am BCP Holy Communion at GUARLFORD

11.00am Morning Praise at POWICK

Wednesday 18th February

Ash Wednesday

11.00am Ash Wednesday Liturgy at CHRIST CHURCH

Sunday 22nd February

First Sunday of Lent

9.30am Lent Communion at CALLOW END

11.00am Lent Communion at MADRESFIELD

Midweek Communion at The Orchard Room in Colletts Green
Thursdays 12th & 26th February from 10.30-11.30am



01905 830270 www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk

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





Newland News 28

We started the new year with a flurry of snowflakes in the sunshine. None of the snow stopped long but it seems very traditional for our weather. No chance of a snowman this time around.

Climate change is a reality it seems, but I remember a bad period of snow and ice in the late 80s early 90s when it was so cold the water in the diesel froze and the buses stopped running and the trains were also cancelled. Hopefully that will not happen again.

The Christmas season is always like two parts: the advent season in church celebrating the birth of our Lord and the commercial where decorations, food and presents are pushed at us relentlessly.



It's astonishing to think that, the other side of these trees, traffic blocks up the road at the approach to the roundabout.

A nice bit of sunshine streaming through Mum's living room warming the room and improving the day is always welcome.

Interesting news: the government intends to make it a condition of renewing your driving licence after 70 that you have an eye test, good thing/bad thing? Time will tell if it even makes it to law.

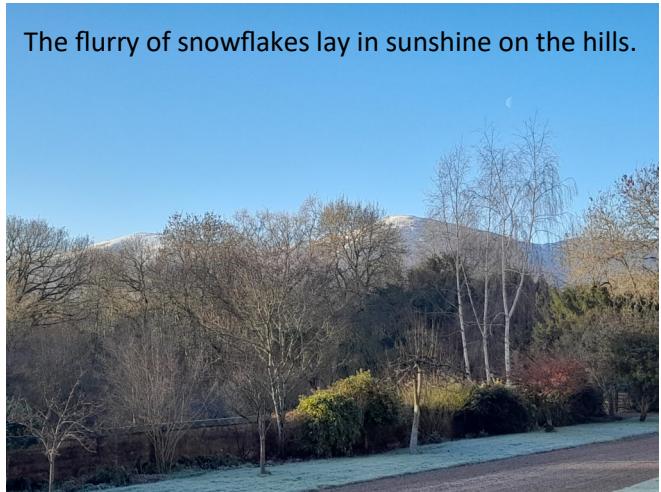
The Parish council is trying to get the bus shelters replaced; hopefully this will happen soon.

Events and services at the Beauchamp Community can be found at

<https://www.beauchampstleonard.org>

Jane Tinklin

The flurry of snowflakes lay in sunshine on the hills.



I noticed that a lot of shops and businesses were closed between Christmas and New Year. I was so pleased that people got a bit more of a rest but I did not appreciate the extra traffic blocking up the road here at Newland where the traffic island never seems to cope well.

We look forward to a new year of events and opportunities and looking forward seems the way to go. New routines and new year resolutions. I have given up on making new year resolutions as I have only ever kept two over all the years - both very personal and good for me.



On the right - the beautiful interior of St Leonard's



GUARLFORD WI News 2025 / 2026

As 2025 was drawing to a close, we did not have speakers at our W.I meetings.

In November we had our **annual general meeting**, where committee members for next year were decided, and in December we gathered together for a **social evening** of food, drinks, and chat, which was most enjoyable. At that meeting our members did discuss which **resolution** we should choose, from a shortlist given by national organisation, all of them deserving of help, and there was a majority for supporting action on **women's homelessness**.

Also in December one of our members hosted a pre Christmas afternoon get-together at her home for members and their partners. A delicious home-made buffet lunch and puds were enjoyed by us all, and catching up with friends for a chat this ensured that we felt the Christmas celebrations had well and truly begun.

Paula Parsonage

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**.