



**The Vicarage,
31 The Greenway,
Collett's Green,
Powick,
Worcestershire,
WR2 4RZ**

Dear Parents, Carers, Teachers and Friends,

September 2025

A very warm welcome to you all as we begin this new school year.

Whether you're returning after the summer break or joining the school community for the first time – as a pupil, a parent, or a member of staff – I want to say how delighted I am to welcome you. A new school year always brings a mix of excitement and nerves, but it also brings fresh starts, new friendships, and a whole lot of potential.

I'm Rev Gary and I look after five Church of England churches across these villages and into Malvern. You can expect to see quite a bit of me around the school! It's a real joy and privilege to be part of the life of the school – whether that's attending assemblies, joining special events, or simply catching up with you in the playground or at the school gates. Please don't hesitate to stop me for a chat – whether it's about something to do with the church, or just how your morning is going – I'm always happy to talk. I am supported by a small team of volunteers and an Authorised Lay Minister (Kay) that provide input into the school or tell or act out Bible Stories. It's called "*Open the Book*", and its brilliant (OK, I am a tad biased, but it is good!). We also use an innovative approach to Assemblies called PopBox and that is good too. You, as well as your children, will be humming the tunes by Christmas!

It's also really good to know that you are part of a Church of England school, where Christian values are part of everyday life – not just in RE lessons or assemblies, but in the way we care for one another and grow together as a community. The connection between church and school is something I really value, and I hope you will too.

If you'd like to find out more about my role, or the churches I'm part of in the area, please do visit our parishes' website: www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk or via Facebook it's a great way to see what we're up to locally and possibly find ways that you can help and support your church in this community. Many hands make for light work, and a happy Vicar!

Looking ahead, I'm especially looking forward to welcoming many of you to our upcoming school services – starting with Harvest and, before we know it, Christmas. These are always such special times in the life of both the church and the school, and I hope they'll be moments we can all share together.

Wishing you all a happy and settled start to the term.

With every blessing,

**The Reverend Gary Crellin,
The Vicar of the Old Hills Malvern Benefice**

**The Parishes of Powick and Guarlford & Madresfield with Newland
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