



OLD HILLS MALVERN HEADLINES

15th & 22nd February 2026



Keeping you in touch with your churches across Powick, Callow End, Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland

SERVICES FOR THE COMING PERIOD

SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

Sunday Next before Lent (Quinquagesima)

8.00am BCP Communion at Powick (With Rev Gary Crellin)

9.30am BCP Communion with hymns at Guarlford
(With Rev Canon Eric Knowles)

11.00am Morning Praise at Powick
(With The Morning Praise Team)

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

Readings For BCP Services:

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-end

The Gospel: St Luke 18: 31-end

Readings For Morning Praise Service:

Exodus 24: 12-18, 2 Peter 1: 16-end,

Matthew 17: 1-9 (pp89-97 Red Lectionary)

Collect:

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

Ash Wednesday

11.00am Ash Wednesday Service at Christ Church
(For Old Hills Malvern Churches)

SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

First Sunday of Lent

9.30am Lent Communion at Callow End

11.00am Lent Communion at Madresfield
(Both with Rev Gary Crellin))

Readings:

Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7,

Romans 5: 12-19, Matthew 4: 1-11

Collect:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE VICAR'S BLOG

"Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Lent sneaks up on us every year. Or should that be "crepes" up on you..... One minute life is just rumbling along, the next someone is handing you a pancake and asking what you're giving up.

This year I've branched out a little. I even made a Shrove Tuesday video for social media with the Friends of Powick School. It involved a phone camera, my clericals, a frying pan and an inflatable Minion. It could have been worse – I was originally down to race the Easter Bunny. There are fates from which the Lord, in his mercy, rescues his clergy.

But behind the silliness is something real and rather searching. Shrove Tuesday was never just about using up the eggs. It was about being *shriven* – confessing, taking stock, getting ready to begin again with God.

Think of the athletes in the Winter Olympics. They don't drift onto the slopes by accident. There is preparation, discipline, early mornings, muscle ache, falling down and getting back up, all with the finishing line in mind. Or finishing in fourth place on occasions. Lent is the Church's training season. Forty days to refocus our hearts and remember what we're aiming at. And it starts on Ash Wednesday at Christ Church with the most wonderfully direct, physical sign: ashes traced on a forehead. Literally being marked with our need of God. Remember you are dust. Remember you are loved. Remember you are called back home.

In a world that is noisy, distracted and often exhausted, Lent offers honesty and hope. Honesty about our fragility and our sin; hope because God is endlessly ready to forgive and renew.

So perhaps we give up something - but is it truly something we will miss? Perhaps we take something on. Perhaps we simply try, each day, to pay better attention to Christ.

Minion optional.

Rev Gary.

Intercessions for each week will be available to download from the website each Friday.

**Midweek Communion – The Orchard Room
10.30-11.30am 12th & 26th February**



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For more information, please see our website: www.oldhillsmalvern.co.uk
If you would like to be included in the email circulation list for this newsletter, please contact Liz Edwards, the Parish Administrator on oldhillsmalvern@gmail.com



A prayer for Lent across Our Churches
Lord Jesus Christ,
in these forty days train our hearts.
Strip away what distracts us,
uncover what needs healing,
and teach us to follow you more closely.
When we fall, lift us.
When we wander, call us back.
And bring us, with you, to Easter joy.
Amen.

LENT COURSE

Dear friends,

This Lent we are invited to join **Embrace the Middle East** in their 2026 course, *Acts of Hope*. Together we will journey through the Book of Acts, walking alongside the first disciples as they discovered what it meant to follow Christ in uncertain and challenging times. Their story is one of courage, generosity and Spirit-filled hope – and it has much to say to our own moment.

Each week the course also introduces us to Christians living out that same hope in the Middle East today, often in situations of conflict, poverty and marginalisation. Their witness helps us see that faith is never abstract; it is something lived, shared and embodied in real communities. The sessions will include Scripture, stories, discussion and prayer.

We will meet on Tuesday evenings from **7.15pm to 8.30pm** and each session will end with gathering for Night Prayer. With grateful thanks to Philip and Frances Betts, and Christopher and Alice Bennett. We will meet in their homes as shown below (do contact either them or I for address details):

- 24th Feb** - Alice/Christopher
- 3rd March** - Philip/Frances
- 10th March** - Alice/Christopher
- 24th March** - Philip/Frances

If you are looking for a way to keep a holy Lent, deepen your discipleship, and be encouraged by the life of the global Church, this is for you. You would be very welcome. A retiring collection will be available each evening and in the churches over Lent to support the ministry of the charity.

Soup Lunch at St James, Callow End

Our next **Soup Lunch** is on
Saturday 21st February, 12noon -2pm
*Donations will be for our Lenten charity:
Maggs Day Centre in Worcester*

Further Soup Lunch dates for your diary for 2026:
Saturday 9th May
Saturday 19th September
Saturday 28th November

GUARLFORD VILLAGE HALL

Indoor mini market & Coffee Morning
Saturday 14th February
10am to 12 noon

Celebrate Valentines Day with us at Guarlford Village Hall. Delicious home-made cakes and pancakes. Plus: Nick's lovely, scented candles, Mike's local honey, Linda's delicious cheeses, Bridget's gorgeous crafts, and Easter chocolate chicks!


Churches Together in Malvern

Pancakes & Games Family Night

Tuesday 17th February
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM
at The Well

Pancakes & drinks all half price

Bring your family and friends
Please book on [Eventbrite](#)
or 01684 573702



MESSY VINTAGE SERVICE

CELEBRATING SPRINGTIME

Thursday 5th March at 2pm

A fun, informal service to celebrate springtime including hymns, readings and messy vintage crafts. Followed by refreshments

Especially for older people - All are welcome! People living with dementia or special needs, and their carers, are especially welcome!

Holy Trinity Church
Malvern, WR14 4LR

Parking is available directly outside
Step-free access to the church



ZOOM ACCESS CODES

Codes and access numbers for ALL Old Hills Malvern Meetings and Services 2026:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86594255282?pwd=UkZ2cytyMUd2OWN2Sy8yZndoMS8rZz09>

SAFEGUARDING: We are all responsible for protecting ourselves and others from abuse, harm, or neglect, especially our children, young people, and vulnerable adults, and report safeguarding concerns. If you have any concerns or questions, then please contact Gary (01905 8303270) or Sheila (07912 030805).