



OLD HILLS MALVERN HEADLINES

3rd & 10th May 2026



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

SERVICES FOR THE COMING PERIOD

SUNDAY 3RD MAY

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Easter Communion at Guarlford

11.00am Easter Communion at Powick

12.45pm Baptism at Madresfield

(All with Rev Gary Crellin)

Readings:

Acts 7: 55-end

1 Peter 2: 2-10

John 14: 1-14

Collect:

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

SUNDAY 10TH MAY

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Easter Communion at Callow End

(With Rev Dr Bill Rumball)

NO SERVICE AT MADRESFIELD TODAY

Readings:

Acts 17: 22-31

1 Peter 3: 13-end

John 14: 15-21

Collect:

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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.**

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

Midweek Communion – The Orchard Room

10.30-11.30am 7th & 21st May

THE VICAR'S BLOG

As we approach the Feast of the Ascension, I always find myself wondering what the disciples must have been thinking as they stood staring up into the sky. St Luke tells us they were gazing upwards as Jesus was taken from their sight - perhaps open-mouthed, bewildered, hopeful, and maybe just a little unsure about what would happen next. I suspect many of us know that feeling.

The Ascension can sometimes seem like the forgotten feast of the Church year, squeezed in between the joy of Easter and the excitement of Pentecost. Yet it has something deeply comforting and important to say to us. Jesus does not simply "go away"; rather, he is lifted into the fullness of God's presence and promises to remain with his people always. The Ascension reminds us that heaven is not distant. In worship, prayer, Holy Communion, and in simple acts of love and kindness, heaven and earth meet more closely than we often realise.

Perhaps, in a slightly unexpected way, it makes me think of the old favourite 1990's hit- *You Raise Me Up* (whether you hear it sung by Westlife, Josh Groban, or even bravely attempted karaoke versions somewhere!). "You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains..." There is something wonderfully Ascension-like about those words, especially for parishes with both the Old Hills and the Malvern Hills in our backyard. Christ raises our eyes, our hearts, and sometimes our spirits too. He lifts us when life feels heavy, uncertain, or tiring. And goodness knows, this time of year can feel tiring for many people. We keep in our prayers the children in our schools who are facing SATS tests. For some children - and perhaps even more for parents and teachers - these weeks can bring anxiety and pressure. We pray that every child may know encouragement, peace, and confidence, remembering that no test result could ever measure their true value. They are already treasured children of God.

At the same time, Christian Aid Week reminds us that our prayers and worship must always overflow into care for others. Around the world, many families face challenges far greater than exam stress: poverty, hunger, conflict, and climate hardship. The Ascension tells us that Christ reigns over all creation in love, and he calls us to share that love generously. Every donation, every act of kindness, every prayer offered for another person becomes part of God's work of hope in the world.

So perhaps the message of Ascensiontide is this: don't spend all your time staring anxiously upwards like the disciples did. Lift your hearts instead. Christ is risen, Christ reigns, and Christ remains with us. And sometimes, through worship, friendship, compassion - and maybe even through a familiar song on the radio - he gently raises us up again. With every blessing, *Rev Gary*

**Vicarage Office Closed Wednesday 6th May -
Friday 8th May - Rev Gary will be at Mirfield on retreat.**



Vicar: Revd Gary Crellin – revgarycrellin@gmail.com 01905 830270

31 The Greenway, Collett's Green, Powick, Worcs. WR2 4RZ

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

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

Thursday 14th May 2026

7pm Church of the ascension, Malvern Link

A Deanery service - do join us!

A Parish Wedding

This was the first event of 2026 hosted by St Peter's church Powick on the weekend of the 25th and 26th of April. The event was a great success with approximately £550 raised and 200 visitors over two days.

We had some very positive feedback: 92 questionnaires were completed and 100% said that it was important to look after the church as it was part of the village's heritage, and 37 people have left their contact details.

It was wonderful to have the church filled with children and adults from the community.

Temporary Changes to worship at Madresfield

Sadly, due to the ill health of the presiding priest, there will not be a service of Holy Communion at Madresfield until July. The congregation is encouraged either to attend the Holy Communion at Christ Church (with Rev Kim Taplin) or attend the earlier service at Callow End (Rev Dr Bill Rumball) as I am on Deanery duties this Sunday. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause but we wish Fr Chris a speedy recovery. Please note that prearranged baptisms and our annual meeting for the GMN parish will still take place in the church on relevant dates.

Camino Support Groups and the Church

Some of you might have seen The Pilgrimage on the TV in the run up to Easter. A group of celebrities from a variety of faiths, and none, joined together to complete a pilgrimage. The last series featured the pilgrimage to Holy Island/ Lindisfarne from Durham Cathedral. Pilgrimage could feature in my proposed sabbatical next year. Across the UK, Camino support groups such as the *Confraternity of Saint James* help people preparing to walk the Camino de Santiago and other pilgrimage routes. They offer practical advice, pilgrim passports, local walking groups, spiritual support, and opportunities for reflection before and after pilgrimage. Many churches are becoming involved by offering hospitality to pilgrims - providing a place to rest, pray, refill water bottles, or receive a pilgrim stamp and blessing. Others organise local pilgrim walks, reflective journeys, or Camino-inspired spiritual events.

Appropriately for St James', we are being visited on Saturday 2nd May between 12.30 - 1.15pm by a group of pilgrims walking onwards to Worcester Cathedral from the Cheltenham Camino Group. We do receive a variety of walking groups during the year, but this is the first group specifically making a stop at our St James' church and linked to the Camino. Individuals can also join the Confraternity of Saint James, which welcomes both experienced pilgrims and those simply interested in pilgrimage and the Camino tradition. If you are able to help, or wish to enquire about the Camino, do join us at St James' Church on Saturday lunchtime.

MADRESFIELD COURT SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2026

Once again, the Court have kindly allowed St Marys, Madresfield & Guarford to have a stall at this year's fete which Marguerite and Allan Barnwell are going to do their best to organise and run. This year we have to provide our own tables and gazebos so it is a lot bigger undertaking than in previous years. Help would be hugely appreciated on the Friday and Saturday to transport everything to the Court and on Saturday to help run the stall. Even one hour of your time would allow us to visit the little room and get a cuppa.

Donations of paperback books, jigsaws and children's games would be appreciated along with plants. We are happy to collect.

Contact: Marguerite & Allan Barnwell

01684 891760, thebarnowls06@gmail.com

GARDEN SIGNS FOR SALE

Garden signs made out of recycled oak and hinges taken from St Mary the Virgin Church, Madresfield



Other Titles:

Trespassers will be composted
Gardener in Training
Love Grows Here
Welcome Be Nice to the Garden

Early Bird Offer: £8 each

(£10 at Madresfield Fete)

Donations of unwanted matt outdoor varnish would be hugely appreciated as more need to be made for the fete.

All proceeds to church funds.

Available from Marguerite & Allan Barnwell

Thebarnowls06@gmail.com 01684 891760

Lent Red Bucket Collection

The Lent collection raised **£151.25** for Embrace the Middle East.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 9TH TO 16TH MAY

Saturday 9th May

Soup Lunch at St James', Callow End

12noon to 2pm

Serving seasonal soup, roll, cheese scone & tea/coffee

Saturday 16th May

Coffee Morning at Abbey View

33b Upton Road, Callow End

10am to 12noon

With bring & buy, plants & cakes & raffle

Both events raising funds for Christian Aid

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Review of the Year and Accounts for 2025

GMN - Sunday 10th May

12.15pm, St Mary's, Madresfield

Christ Church - Tuesday 19th May

3.00pm, Christ Church, Avenue Road, Malvern, WR14 3AY

Powick – Tuesday 19th May

6.30pm, St Peter's, Powick

A message from our Electoral Roll Officers –

Alison & Margaret

With the upcoming Annual Parochial Church Council meetings across our parishes, we need to ensure that the Electoral Roll for each parish in the Benefice is correct and up to date.

Please see the notices governing what is required in each church and do notify us of any changes or if you wish to be added as new or removed from the respective parish roll. The roll enables you to vote in the coming elections for Wardens and PCC members and the Deanery Synod. This is a revision year so no renewal applications from existing members are required.

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).