

**The Old Hills Malvern Benefice**  
**The Parish of Powick and the Parish of Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland**

**Annual Report for 2020**

**Context Note** - This composite report serves as the official report for each parish in the Old Hills Malvern Churches Benefice. The parishes' activities during the Covid19 Pandemic were seriously affected - with worship suspended for considerable periods due to national lockdowns. This report is written to reflect our activities in 2020. For the report, as presented to each PCC and Annual Meetings of Parishioners, a separate annex will include the necessary finance statements pertinent to each parish setting.

### **A. Aims & Purposes**

The PCC of each parish across the benefice has the responsibility of co-operating with The Reverend Gary Crellin, the Vicar of the Parish of Powick and Rector of the Parish of Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It also has the responsibility of fostering an appropriate relationship with our Church-aided schools in the parishes – Powick, Madresfield and Callow End Church of England Primary Schools. The Parishes, through the relevant PCC, are responsible for the church buildings at Powick and Callow End and the churchyard at Powick and the Churches at Madresfield and Guarlford - with the churchyards at both churches and additionally at Newland Village.

### **B. The Vicar's Annual report and Review of the Year**

You would expect this to be a single-issue report - but it isn't. Firstly, the year began with the Churches across Powick and Callow End supporting the flood relief effort after the River Teme and the bung was breached by flood waters in both villages. More damage and lives were affected in Powick, but the lower lying areas of Callow End were affected too. The church in Powick provided a base for generously donated clothing, food, and household goods to help those that were affected.

New words and phrases have entered our lexicon during this reporting year - Wuhan and Covid-19, pandemic, Roadmap, Mutations, Test and Trace, Advice and Guidance, Hands/Face/Space (now including Fresh Air) – are some of words that set to define the last

year, and into 2021 too. Covid-19, or the latest form of coronavirus, had far reaching impact on society and that included the churches across both parishes. After a short interlude of sessions for private prayer, our churches closed their doors to the parishes after Government and National Church edict. That closure lasted until September 2020. After a few Sundays gathered, and a rather different Christmas season - no Carol Concerts or School Nativities - we closed again as 2021 beckoned.

But were we closed? Our buildings may have been hibernating, but we have been supporting one another online and via phone call. We have used our website to host a range of liturgical resources to support our faith in the darkest phases of the pandemic. We have learned together and prayed together and raised some funds for good causes, especially the Foodbank and our Lenten and Advent causes - Mission Morogoro and Smile Train.

This year we lost a number of well respected, well thought of, and able supporters of our Churches and true followers of Christ. Lost is defined as retired, moved away or passed away. In November, we were all shocked to hear that Lady Morrison, one of our benefice's patrons, passed away suddenly after a short illness. Her funeral was taken by the Bishop on a beautiful autumnal afternoon. Lady Morrison, although not a frequent worshipper with us, was forthright in her views and knew that the churches need to thrive and survive by change. She was very clear with me about that. I hope I can deliver on her ambition. Rosemary Wells and Ros Davis, as Licensed Lay Ministers/Readers across the benefice have stepped back from ministry for different reasons. On top of that, as our Mission Statistics

show, we have taken many funerals, but very few baptisms and weddings since the pandemic took hold. We managed one pandemic wedding on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in Madresfield which was delightful, even with fifteen people. Although Lyn Snooks passed away in 2021, we will not forget her support and fundraising for the church. More on her legacy of support and service in next year's report.

The delayed annual meeting of the parish saw some changes in Wardens at Powick with Lyndall Brown and Lyn Snooks formally standing down and the baton passed to Mary Ward and Janet Chill, ably supported by Frances Betts and Ken Harris as Assistant wardens at Callow End. At Madresfield, Elizabeth Palmer and Christopher Bennet continue. We remain without a warden at Guarlford, which is a real concern to me, but Don and Barbara are still very supportive of our mission to the village and Don remains the verger. Changes caused by the reduction in the roll has necessitated downsizing of the PCCs across the benefice.

Whilst in lockdown, with our buildings closed, was the church closed? Not exactly. We remained active and engaging on the phone and via social media. After a rather dodgy start at Easter 2020, our online presence via Zoom Video Conferencing has developed into a robust offering, now including music and other contributions, including a collaboration with the Chaplaincy at Dyson Perrins High School. At its peak, the parishes achieved three online services a week (two on Sundays and a third on a Thursday night). The Sunday evening service has developed into a contemporary Evening Prayer with a range of liturgies and prayer opportunities being explored. Compline has stabilised on a Thursday night and has a good following. It is a shame that despite the online offer, including telephone access, average service attendance has been a little more than twenty people per week.

At the end of 2020, our online offer was further enhanced by the setting up of the Old Hills Malvern YouTube video channel. Operational at Advent, it was in time for a Christmas service,

recorded at a well decorated Madresfield Church, which was viewed over 130 times.

Our Family work similarly migrated to an on-line presence with Lord's Alive reaching out to many families and children across our parishes using this media. Regular services were uploaded and supported by activity packs that were sent into our schools. Our work with schools, including Open the Book, was largely suspended with limited involvement with the schools only achievable by video contributions and Zoom assemblies. I am grateful for the work that Frances Betts, Rosemary McCulloch, and Liz Martin have done to maintain an Open the Book presence online. The Children's service at Madresfield has been suspended during the pandemic.

Our link to Severn Heights Care Home, provided by Barbara Hill (ALM-GMN) and myself has also been affected with the need to necessarily "stay away" during the peaks of the pandemic. Routine calling has kept us in touch with the home, but it is hoped that our mission and worship with the residents and staff will resume in 2021. Likewise, our outreach to The Orchard Supported Housing in Collett's Green and pre-school children's work with Nurseries/Pre Schools has had to take a necessary back seat, but these settings remain in our prayers.

Getting our churches Covid safe and secure has been a feat of endurance and a labour of love for so many. I would like to single out Janet Chill for special mention - for all she has managed to do to support the Covid risk assessment process, assessing all the churches and cross referencing our findings to the "Advice and Guidance" from the Church of England and other bodies as well as sourcing good and copious supplies of sanitiser and signage.

I would like to give my thanks to so many people that have strived to keep our churches functional during an exceptionally difficult time. EWE have truly tried the best we can to look after the flock, collectively. We can only hope for better as 2021 rolls forward. Blessings  
- Rev Gary Crellin

### C. Parish Structure and Governance

The PCC of each parish within the benefice is committed to enable as far as it can as many people as possible to engage with worship within our churches. The PCC maintains an overview of the worship provided across the parish. It is the hope and ambition that our services put worship of God at the centre and likewise enables each person to put faith into practice through the developed liturgy, preaching, ambience of the church setting and décor, music, and of course through prayer.

The PCCs across both parishes met on 4 gathered occasions during the year – either online as a Zoom conference or in person with an average of 90% attendance. Additionally, matters requiring action have been discharged by Correspondence (CRR M29) and then duly noted by the PCC thereafter. The Powick Standing Committee has not met since the November 2020 election of wardens. An extraordinary meeting of Wardens was held in January 2020 to discuss the pandemic, the communication with parishioners and congregations, and assessing the churches for what was looking like an extended period of closure.

Members of the PCC are either *ex-officio* or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2019. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Seeking new members has been somewhat difficult during the pandemic so far. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Jonathan Daly acted as the treasurer at Powick in a virtual capacity during the year. We are thankful for his service to the Powick Parish and all that he did to support our ministry during his short time with us, especially with the greater migration towards e-banking.

During 2020, the following served as members of the PCC:

**Incumbent:** Revd. Gary Crellin

**Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland**  
Churchwardens

**Madresfield** - Christopher Bennett & Elizabeth Palmer (Vice Chair of the GMN PCC)

**Guarlford** - Vacant (Don Hill - elected Verger)

Deanery Synod Representatives - Peter Hughes and Alice Bennett

Treasurer - Peter Hughes

Secretary - Janet Lomas

**Elected Members** - Barbara Hill, Rosemary and McCulloch and Christopher Lester

### Powick

**Incumbent:** Revd. Gary Crellin

Churchwardens: Mary Ward (Vice-Chairman), Janet Chill.

Deputy Wardens (St James): Frances Betts and Ken Harris

Deanery Synod Representatives: Kay Shuard (plus one vacancy)

Treasurer - Jon Daly (*resigned - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020*).

Philip Betts - Interim Treasurer – ongoing

Secretary - Jonathan Slade

### Elected Members

Sally Gurney, Sheila Lynes, Meg Allsopp, Amy Dunn, Henry Gyselmann and Michael Briggs (leave of absence granted to April 2021)

Sacristan/Crucifer - Paul Higgins

Verger (St Peter's) Neville Radburn

(Note – Licensed Lay Ministers/Readers can serve on either PCC as *ex officio* members).

### D. Church Attendance

Church attendance was severely impacted by the significant periods of lockdown that predominated during the Covid-19 pandemic. Annex 2 (Mission Statistics) include the annual statistics profile for the relevant parish being considered at its Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

**E. Electoral Roll Report:** As of the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2020:

**Powick**

December 2019 There were 69 people on the Electoral Roll, of whom 14 were non-resident in the parish of Powick. The Roll was subject to rolling review this year. *Alison Crellin (Electoral Roll Officer)*

**Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland**

December 2019 There were 29 people on the Electoral Roll, of whom 13 were non-resident in the parish of Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland. The Roll was subject to rolling review this year. *Margaret Tummey (Electoral Roll Officer)*

**F. Safeguarding Provisions**

The PCCs are aware of their duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The PCCs continue to use the "Safeguarding Toolkit" provided by the Diocese as a way of self-assessment to seek to ensure it fulfils that duty. The parishes utilise the Safeguarding Dashboard for their safeguarding practice and to help support administration

During 2020, and further to approval at the last Annual Parochial Meetings for both parishes, Joy Black from the Parish of Malvern Link with Cowleigh and Jo Attrill, from the Parish of Powick, were jointly appointed as members of our safeguarding team across the benefice.

Joy Black has been migrating information on our training and DBS status over to the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard and the Action Plan is supplied as a supplement to this report.

During this reporting period, Julia Davis' License to Minister was suspended as she could not complete for justifiable reasons. This has been upsetting to her as she attempted to undertake this training but was impacted by an accident and then the pandemic. Even such difficulties could not stop the machinery of church

safeguarding. Julia's imposed incapacity has reduced the number of ministers to lead worship to just Meg Allsopp and myself. It is hoped that Julia will be back on stream in May 2021.

Due to the confidential nature of casework arising from Safeguarding considerations, all I wish to say in a public annual report setting is that I have attended to the safeguarding concerns with input from Jo and Joy.

**G. Worship**

**Liturgy**

All churches are now following a fortnightly pattern of worship - predominantly Common Worship based "Living Communion" with the Book of Common Prayer services featuring too. During the height of the pandemic, various new approaches to worship were trialled via the Zoom based worship including the introduction of a weekly Night Prayer/Compline and a Contemplative Evening Prayer. Additionally, our Family Worship offering, *Lord's Alive*, went on Facebook and held some services via Zoom.

**Occasional Offices**

Please see Statistics for Mission for information on our Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings and our overall missional position (see annex to this report which presents pertinent data rolling on since 2010). The pandemic has brought the challenge of handling funerals - either at the local crematoria or by the graveside. All weddings, bar one at Madresfield (19<sup>th</sup> December 2020) were postponed and have, with the exception of two, been rearranged for 2021 or 2022.

**Festivals, High Days, Holy Days**

These were observed but in different and socially distanced ways. The Easter Day service was held on Zoom video conferencing. Christmas took place at Madresfield and Powick Churches, but with Covid precautions and reduced seating capacity in place. In the spirit of the season, and during the height of the pandemic, our parish memorial service at All Souls was replaced with a Memorial Garden, on the front lawn at Madresfield Church, made up of inscribed miniature memorial crosses. It

made the BBC local news headlines and was very well appreciated by families across the local area, Remembrance was a very low-key event with Royal British Legion services at Guarlford and Callow End being limited to wreath laying. Remembrance prayers were offered at Madresfield and Powick.

### **Ecumenical Links and Churches Together in Malvern**

Meetings and events involving the churches across Malvern fell victim to Covid 19. We all missed face-to-face contact with fellow Christians of various denominations. However, we were able to meet on various occasions via Zoom –how much we are now grateful for technology!

In January the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was marked by a zoom service led by the Methodists with Rev Nigel Cokes-Wood, but sadly no united games evening (after over 20 years continued organising). The World Day of Prayer (no longer titled “Women”) was held in March via Zoom with various people taking part across Malvern.

Instead of the Good Friday Walk of Witness a service was attended on Zoom and was led by Rev Ken Martin (URC). During Holy Week our own Rev Gary led services of evening Reflections Sensing the Passion. By Easter there was special joy as churches were able to open once again to mark the Resurrection. An Easter Trail was held around the churches in Malvern, echoing the Way of the Cross.

Last May, a service for Christian Aid was held on zoom and this will be repeated this year. The virtual hosts are Lansdowne Methodist Church and it is at 6.30pm on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Hopefully as restrictions are lifted, we can all meet again for fellowship in the real world!

*Report supplied by Meg Allsopp.*

### **Lord’s Alive, Families, School and Children**

Led by children’s ministers Vicky Whitehouse and Kay Shuard, a new development for 2020 was the first Lord’s Alive family service held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at St James’ Church Callow End. It trialled a new resource being developed by iSingPOP and was a great success with over 40 people attending. Unfortunately,

this monthly service and the rest of the full programme of events planned for 2020, which included Messy Crafts and a new termly Children’s Church at Madresfield, had to be put on hold due to the pandemic. However, to remain in contact with the local community during lockdown and beyond, Vicky and Kay produced fifteen videos (which were posted on Facebook and are available on the church website); these had a large number of ‘views’ and positive feedback.

*Vicky Whitehouse & Kay Shuard*

### **H. Fabric of the Churches**

The PCC carried out repairs and maintenance to both Churches including Churchyard maintenance at Powick. The link with the County Probation Service, that was being explored after a successful pilot at the Newland Churchyard, has been suspended for the time being.

Faculties have been applied for the removal of an outgrowing Leylandii tree at Madresfield and the repair and/or replacement of the trench arch system at Powick. A generous benefactor is in the process of donating funds for further improvements to the worshipping environment at Callow End.

With the postponement of Heritage Lottery Fund grants, the Powick Parish Project is on hold pending further review of options and funding streams. What is evident is the fact that we cannot wait too much longer to attend to much needed structural work in the South Transept. Additionally, Death Watch Beetle Infestation, although attended to via modest and permissible works, may impact on the structure of the church unless decisive action is planned and implemented.

The flooring and new carpeting work at St James’ concluded and worship resumed on site (but prior to lockdown again) in early 2020.

### **I. Charitable Giving**

The Parish does not have an overall tything principle. It prefers to host events that promote fellowship and fundraising for good causes - such as St Barnabas, MAF, and Historic Churches. Lenten collection raised some funds for Smile Train (Cleft Lip support) and Mission Morogoro. Most other fundraising events have been curtailed by the pandemic.

### **J. Our Deanery**

New Deanery Synod representatives (Kay Shuard - Powick (a vacancy remains for Powick), Peter Hughes and Alice Bennett (GMN) had to wait for their inaugural meetings of the new Upton and Malvern Area Deanery Synod - as consultation was ongoing over the creation of larger area deaneries. Malvern and Upton Deaneries are now one - coming into being during February 2021.

### **K. Financial Review**

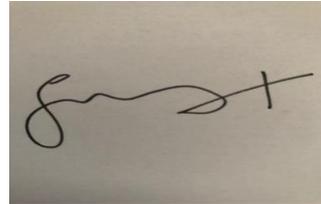
Annexes are provided for the Financial Accounts and reports pertinent to each parish in the benefice

### **L. Administrative Information**

St. Peter's Church is situated off Upton Road, Powick near Worcester. St James' Chapel of Ease is on Upton Road, Callow End near Worcester. The Churches at Madresfield and Guarlford are located centrally in each village. The Newland Churchyard sits adjacent to the Beauchamp Community, an extra parochial place. The benefice is part of the Diocese of Worcester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 31 The Greenway, Powick, Worcester WR2 4RZ. Each PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2019) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. Each PCC bank with branches of Lloyds Bank Plc.

### **M. Approval Process**

This annual report was approved by the relevant PCC on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and signed on their behalf by Revd. Gary Crellin (PCC Chairman) on onward tabling at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting)



.....  
The Reverend Gary Crellin  
Incumbent and PCC Chair of the parish of  
Powick and The Parish of Guarlford and  
Madresfield with Newland

30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## FINANCIAL ANNEXES

### POWICK FINANCIAL REVIEW

#### Unrestricted Funds

The following is a summary of the General Fund at 31.12.2020.

	Budget 2020	Final Outturn 2020
Income	£42281	£40645
Expenditure	£46904	£42727
Deficit	£4623	£2082

Income is 3.9% below budget, but £ 15054 (-27.3%) below 2019. These are remarkable figures given that we have had no services in church for 7 months of the year, only one funeral in church since March, no weddings during the year and our seating capacities are now severely reduced. Consequently, the areas most affected have been collections, fees and HMRC grant under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. There has been a significant increase in gift aid planned giving and both one off gift aid and regular non-gift aid giving have held up well.

Expenditure is 8.9% below budget but £5083 (-10.5%) below 2019. The main reductions have been in energy, organists' fees, magazine printing, and maintenance. There were 2 major items of unbudgeted expenditure - £850 for laying out more burial spaces in the churchyard and £442 for covid supplies and notices and zoom.

Although well below the figure which the Diocese was originally asking, we did manage to pay the amount of Parish Share for which we had budgeted before the Pandemic occurred.

The PCC has agreed a budget for 2021 based on a number of assumptions reflecting the current restrictions arising from the Pandemic. This budget will be thoroughly reviewed in July to see what adjustments to both income and expenditure will be required.

#### Restricted and Endowment Funds

These are funds which have been given for specific purposes and can only be used for those purposes e.g.: maintaining the churchyard, maintaining St James'. They enable us to meet a number of significant costs, particularly in relation to the maintenance of our buildings and the churchyard.

During the year the value of the restricted funds increased by £7801 (2019 -£4331). This is mainly as a result of some large donations to the St James Improvement Fund. The main items of expenditure related to the new carpets, kneelers and bench at St James.

The value of the investments in the Endowment Funds increased by £9366 (2019 £20440). Most of the endowment income is spent on maintaining the churchyard at St Peters. The increase in value arises from the annual end of year revaluation of the capital in the funds which is not accessible by the PCC.

Overall, income decreased from £79460 in 2019 to £66029 in 2020. Expenditure decreased from £87394 in 2019 to £60799 in 2020.

#### Reserves Policy

The PCC reviewed its reserves policy in January 2021 and agreed to a reserves policy as follows

to maintain a usable reserve on the General Fund of £15000 made up as follows:

- £3500 as "working capital" to be able to make necessary payments each month in advance of income being received
- £7000 - 2 months running costs in reserve
- £3000 - to meet the cost of replacing the printer when required
- £1500 - for repair or replacement of essential items of equipment

And an additional reserve of £3108 to fund a deficit budget for the year 2021 with a target of having reserves of £15000 at the end of 2021.

In current circumstances the PCC intends to review the whole budget in July in light of the first half of the year and the likely restrictions for the remainder of the year. It will also specifically consider the need for the £3000 printer reserve.

### **Legacies**

2 legacies were received during the year, one for £1450 was specifically for improvements at St James and the other for £500 for improvements at St Peters.

The PCC's policy on legacies is that it welcomes gifts in wills and our policy is to use them to fund significant development projects in the Parish - buildings, equipment or staff. As circumstances change over the years, it may not be possible to fulfil specific donor requests, so church members are encouraged to leave gifts in their wills for the general purposes of the Parish. The PCC will discuss with executors the most appropriate use of the gift in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church (e.g.: children and youth, music, buildings). Gifts of less than £250 may be used to assist with the cost of maintaining the churchyard at St Peter's.

### **Charitable Giving**

In 2019 total charitable giving from various sources amounted to £6847. £2964 came from collections at funerals in church, £1523 from door-to-door collections in Christian Aid Week and £1124 from monies raised at the Coffee Shop. As none of these occurred in 2020 or occurred on only a minor scale it is not surprising to find that total charitable giving from all sources reduced to £1014.

### **Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland Treasurer's Report 2020**

2020 was the year of the Covid Pandemic which meant that the Church was closed for most of the time during the year from March onwards.

Financially, this had the effect of not having income via collections at services though we are extremely fortunate that much of our income from the regular congregation comes

not via the collection plate but via standing orders, which, continued to be paid.

But more importantly, so far as income is concerned, there was only one wedding during the year, and there were no fundraising events. Both Daffodil Sunday and the fete in the grounds of Madresfield Court were cancelled.

But despite this, the accounts only show a loss of £2589 on the year which could have been a lot worse, were it not for one or two factors:

The standing orders as mentioned above.

The Gift Aid receipt of £3022, and I am very grateful to Margaret Tummey for making this claim on our behalf.

Renegotiated insurance premiums giving a saving of about £1000.

Reduced utility bills, and other overheads, such as organists and stand in clergy fees, through the Churches not being used.

The Churchwardens ability to continue to keep Church and Churchyard maintenance costs in 2020 to a minimum.

We are fortunate that the Madresfield Estate continue to assist, without charge, with the grass cutting at Madresfield, and that the Newland Churchyard grass cutting is much subsidised by the Beauchamp Community who allow the use of their machinery, free of charge.

We are also extremely lucky to have the income from the School House (also known as the Parish Room). We have undemanding tenants in the form of Mr and Mrs Bullock, who understand the financial predicament of their landlords, but even so we had to spend nearly £1000 on the School House in 2020, and I suspect that one day there will be a lot more needed to bring the School House up to a lettable standard.

Our Parish share was paid in full at £7814 and has been held the same for 2021 but there is a new formula for calculating Parish Share to be introduced for 2022 and one fears a substantial increase, as the Diocese has considerable financial problems of their own to address.

Interest on our investments, as with anyone

else's investments is very unexciting, and it is galling that there is a 60 year old investment in the CBF Investment fund of £3000, which seems to be intangible and we are only entitled to the interest.

As to 2021, we envisage substantial expenditure on the wall round the Guarlford Churchyard in 2021, as well, perhaps, as the cedar tree in the Churchyard, but we are fortunate to have Eric Jones legacy to fall back on.

As a PCC we have a total cash worth of just over £41,000 of which £7350 is restricted to use at Guarlford through Eric Jones' legacy.

This is a substantial sum of money but does not allow for many "rainy days".

## **MISSION STATISTICS ANNEX**

### **MISSION STATISTICS BENEFICE SUMMARY**

*(see separate Parish Returns summary for the detail)*

#### **FUNERALS:**

Powick – 13 Crematorium  
Powick – 4 Funerals in Church  
Powick – 3 Funerals at Graveside  
Powick – 7 Burial of Ashes

Madresfield – 3 Funerals at Graveside

Guarlford – 1 Funeral in church  
Guarlford – 1 Funeral at Graveside  
Guarlford – 1 Burial of Ashes

Newland – 3 Funerals at Crematorium

GM – 2 Funerals at Crematorium

#### **WEDDINGS:**

Madresfield – 1 Wedding

#### **BAPTISMS:**

Madresfield – 3 Baptisms  
Powick/Callow End – 1 Baptism