



# Old Hills Malvern Headlines



13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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

## SERVICES FOR THE COMING PERIOD

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December

The Christmas Story – A Service of Readings and Music

9.30am at Guarlford

11.00am at Powick

5.30pm Advent Spiritual Communion with Homily  
from Sarah Tummey on Zoom

**Thursday Night Prayers continue each Thursday  
at 8.30pm on Zoom  
(no Night Prayers on 10<sup>th</sup> December)**

Telephone access codes - please use meeting ID and  
Passcode shown overleaf.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE - REINSTATEMENT OF THE CHALICE AT HOLY COMMUNION AND SINGING IN CHURCH

I am writing to advise that the CoE House of Bishops have released advice and guidance that supports the restarting of Holy Communion, in particular the reinstatement of The Common Cup (The Chalice). An early Christmas present indeed.

Although the administration of Holy Communion in the one kind is both theologically and doctrinally sound, as well as being a necessity during a public health emergency, I do appreciate completely the concerns that some members of the congregations have had with this mode of administration and consumption. It is hoped that the PCCs will agree with my recommendation to reinstate the Common Cup with effect from Christmas Eve Mass at Madresfield, followed by Powick on Christmas Morning - then onwards as per the revised ministry worship rota.

There will be some necessary hygiene and Covid health and safety changes to be discussed, which in time will form part of the Covid Risk Assessment, hence the need to discuss and agree the position with each Church Council. Mostly, these are to do with how the Priest/President handles the bread and wine as it is consecrated and the situation as regards hand sanitising. If communicants wish to take the bread (communion in one kind) or to just receive a Blessing, that is of course still possible but it is hoped that we will all be convinced and affirmed by this positive and timely development to reinstate full Communion.

The guidance also confirms the position as regards music and singing. Unfortunately, we will not be able to sing carols this year. I am sure we will all support the BBC Carols on the Doorstep initiative on the 16th December at 6pm.

## Bible Readings for the Church Based Services

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December - Third Sunday of Advent



Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11    1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Psalms 126

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

### Collect

**O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen**

### Intercessions

Intercessions for the week can be downloaded from the  
Parishes' website.

## Advent Windows of Hope

The Vicarage has its Advent windows decorated and will be lit each evening. Have you done one yet that can be lit and shared on these dark nights of the Advent season? Keep them going to the year end. I had hoped it would be a fundraiser for our School Friends Groups at Powick and Callow End. Still time to get this organised. Any donations received through the door at the vicarage after seeing our offering will be donated 50:50 to each Friends Group in the new year. Enjoy.

## CAROLS ON YOUR DOORSTEP

I hope we can all get involved with the National Carol on your Doorstep that's happening at 6pm on the 16th December. Just listen in to your local BBC radio station and play the carols. A song sheet can be downloaded from [www.doorstepcarols.co.uk](http://www.doorstepcarols.co.uk)

Vicar: Revd Gary Crellin – [revgarycrellin@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:oldhillsmalvern@gmail.com)

## Ministerial Musings – A Message from Meg

The season of Advent covers the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, a time of waiting and watching in the darkest time of our North European winter. We are waiting for the light of Christ to expose the dark places of our world. This year the darkness of Covid 19 encompasses the whole world. But, "There is light at the end of the tunnel" with the arrival of a vaccine against Coronavirus. The theme of light is not confined to the Christian faith; it was a theme in the Jewish faith when Isaiah spoke of the light coming to their world – "a son is born, a child is given". For the Hindu religion, the Festival of Divali celebrates light. Christmas lights are going up everywhere to create joy and happiness. So with the vaccine, our thoughts are turned to give thanks for the expertise of all involved in its manufacture; it is our light for hard times.

But while we wait in expectation, we as children of the light should continue to respond to the world's needs: to offer food for the hungry, to provide shelter for the homeless, comfort to the sick and friendship to the lonely; and to respond as best we can to those many charities that do good around the globe in seeking peace and alleviating poverty.

We must prepare ourselves during Advent to receive the greatest Christmas gift of all – god's gift of a new world, through the birth of Jesus, "the light of the world". Let us celebrate this Christmas and help make God's world a reality for our time. Every blessing.

*Meg Allsopp*

### SHOE BOX UPDATE

With grateful thanks for those of you that filled 78 boxes from across our churches, schools and villages for the charity, Teams4U. Of course, numbers are down on last year, but that doesn't matter. Despite the difficulties we faced, we managed to be part of a campaign that is sending 13,000 boxes of love over to Romania, Belarus and Moldova. The second lorry departs this week, Our Christmas blessings go with them.

### CHRISTMAS TREE OF HOPE AT CALLOW END

The Callow End Church Christmas Tree is up this year- but outside St James' rather than inside so you can see more of it. Also, it's a tree of Christmas Hope as we look forward to decorate your church tree by collecting a cardboard bauble from the phone box near the school- put a prayer of hope together and return it to the phone box. The Christmas Tree Church Elf's will collect, laminate and fix it to the tree. Read the messages - bask in the Advent light. By the way, the angels are coming soon....



*The family of Maureen Coleman thank parishioners for their kind words and messages of condolence. Maureen's funeral will take place on the afternoon of the 16th December at Powick Church and later at The Vale Crematorium, Fladbury. The family regrets that the funeral services are having to be restricted in terms of attendance because of the Covid Tier2 status.*

## The Christmas Story - an explanation

Well, I don't think the *Christmas Story* needs any explanation, but over the next two Sundays, 13th and 20th December, a special service of readings and music will take place in each of our churches for our congregations and communities. The readings are a mix of Bible and Poetry and Prose interspersed with some lovely music and carols to listen to. The service features a specially written piece by Alice Bennett which can only be described as a Covid Nativity. A historical literary piece in the making I think. Given our Christmas devotions and Celebrations will be significantly less than in previous years, and affected by seating capacity, lack of singing and social distancing restrictions, I am very conscious that we should worship and celebrate Christmas the best we can, even if we are still in Advent mode and hopefully with cheerful faces under our face coverings. Readers will be invited on the day for these services. All the words will be printed in the order of service that you can take away and enjoy reading in the comfort of your own homes.

### ADVENT FLASH COLLECTIONS FOR MALVERN HILLS FOODBANK



Well done to residents around Powick (and a bit further afield) who donated over 84Kgs (that's over 20 bags) of food for the Foodbank in last week's pop up collection at the vicarage. The Flash Collection now moves south to Guarlford and Madresfield on **THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER from 2-6pm.**

Please check the website for shortage items or donate what you can to the following locations:

**Guarlford** - the phone box near Penny

Close/Rectory Lane (please bag up and place in the crate provided)

**Madresfield** - The shelter outside Madresfield Club, near the Defibrillator

Foodbank posters will be up to point out the location.

### TELEPHONE ACCESS FOR ZOOM BASED SERVICES

After a successful trial, a new audio version of Zoom can be used by parishioners to engage with our Zoom based worship services. You will need to have the Meeting ID and passcode that can be given to you upon request. All you have to do is ring one of the following UK numbers, enter these codes and await connection. It is hoped that this additional functionality will broaden the appeal of Zoom based worship, especially for those without a computer or a stable internet access.

#### Sunday 5.30pm Services

Meeting ID: 369 074 4632

No passcode required

Dial by your location

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 369 074 4632 for Sundays at 5.30pm

