

The Black Mountains Group Benefice

NEWSLETTER

April 2025



The Parishes of Clodock & Longtown with Craswall, Llanveynoe,
St Margaret's, Michaelchurch Escley & Newton

Part of the Abbeydore Deanery
abbeydoredeanery.org / abbeydoredmc@gmail.com
01981 620145 / 07432 873422

Rev. Luci Morriss: luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com

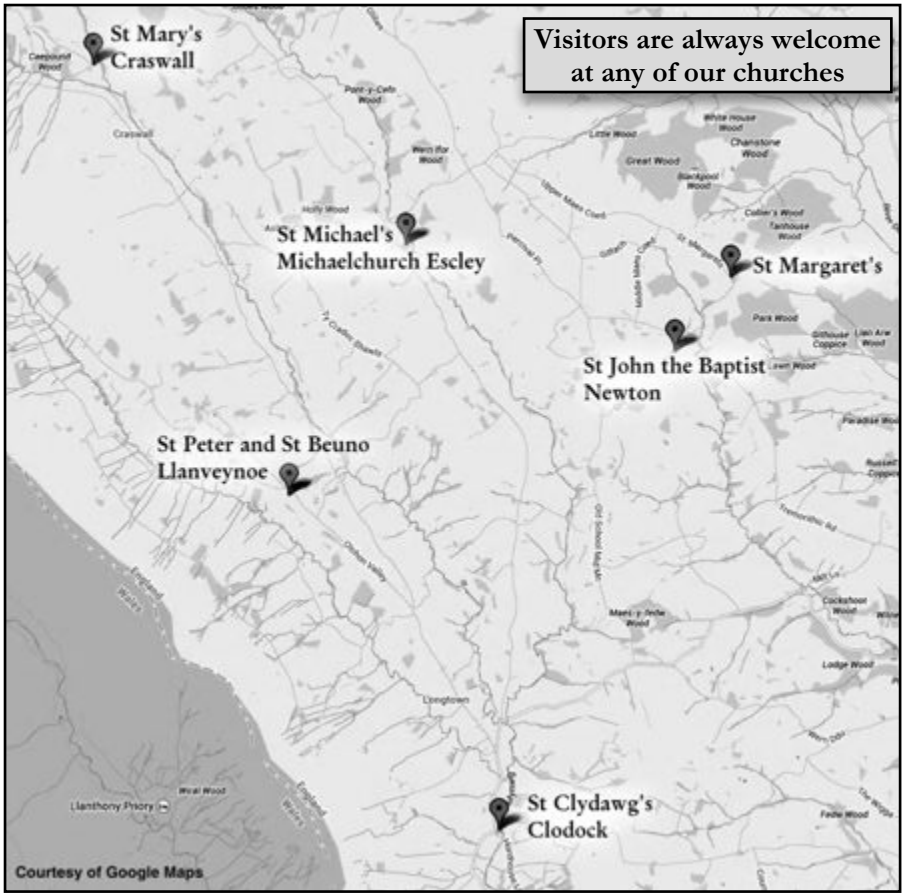
www.bmgparishes.org.uk

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Churchwardens

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Craswall
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Llanveynoe
Commodore Peter Tribe 01873 860260
Mr Donald Phillips (*Honorary Churchwarden*)

St Margaret's
(Vacant)

Michaelchurch Esley
Mrs Olive Howells 01981 510228

Newton
(Vacant)

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Editor: Mark Ewins Marlands Longtown HR2 0PD 01873 860829 mark@corefields.com	Advertising: Jill Cook Clodock Mill Longtown HR2 0PD 01873 860408 jill@clodockmill.com
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From the Clergy

Dear Friends,

God is love, and all those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

1 John 4:16



If you have ever been to a church wedding, you will likely have heard these words. They are a great affirmation of love: that the very essence of God *is* love, and that wherever you find love, you will find something of God.

We are made in the image of a God who is love, and our very capacity to love reflects God's character and being.

Perfect love, divine love – a love that is patient, forgiving, generous, unconditional and self-sacrificial – is our inspiration and our strength, and can be our comfort, restoration, and healing through the trials of life. It is the rule by which we should make our decisions, and the guide which all our actions should follow.

Love is God living in us, and when we live in love, we live in Him.

May your love for those around you grow into all perfection, and may you discover the great love that God has for you.

Revd Cate

New Black Mountains Group Informal Evening Prayer at 4pm most Mondays

for:

- our new Rural Pioneer Priest
- our communities
- our churches

31st March St Mary's Craswall
7th April St Michael's Ewyas Harold
14th April St Clydawg's Clodock
28th April St Mary's Kentchurch



Join Us for a Maundy Thursday Supper & Reflection

Come and share in a simple meal as we remember the night Jesus gathered with His disciples before His crucifixion. This special **Maundy Thursday Service** will include readings, reflections, and a time of quiet prayer as we journey through the Last Supper, Jesus' act of service, and His time in Gethsemane.

Date: April 17th

Time: 7.00pm

Location: Clodock Church

All are welcome to this meaningful evening of fellowship and reflection. For more information or to confirm your attendance, please contact churchwarden@stclydawgs.uk

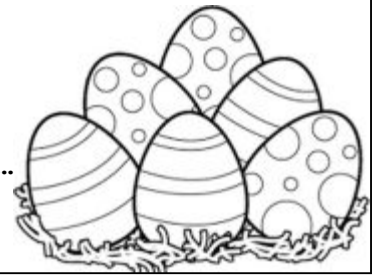
INFORMAL EASTER STORY AND EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday

Dore Abbey 3pm

Followed by tea and cake...

Come and join the fun!



READINGS – APRIL & 1st SUNDAY IN MAY

Sunday 6th April

Old Testament	Isaiah 43: 16-21
New Testament	Philippians 3: 4b – 14
Gospel	John 12: 1-8
Psalm	126

Sunday 13th April

Gospel	Palm Sunday
Psalm	Luke 19: 28 -40
	118: 1-2, 19-end

Sunday 20th April 2025

Old Testament	Isaiah 65: 17 -end
New Testament	Acts 10: 34-43
Gospel	John 20: 1-18
Psalm	118: 14-24

Sunday 27th April 2025

New Testament	Acts 5: 27-32
Gospel	John 20: 19-end
Psalm	118: 14-end

Sunday 4th May 2025

New Testament	Acts 9: 1-6 (7-20)
Gospel	John 21: 1-19
Psalm	30

Prayer during the week

Morning Prayer at St Michael's, Michaelchurch.

Every Thursday morning at 08:45-09:15.

For more details, please contact Revd Luci on 07778 897809 or email luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com

Deanery Update

It has been an exciting period recently within the deanery as two awards have been received:

The Hub @ St Peter's in Peterchurch received the King's Award for Voluntary Service from Edward Harley, Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire. This is regarded as the equivalent of an MBE for a voluntary organisation. A special event was held for the many volunteers in the café and library and the bellringers rang for the special occasion in the newly restored bell tower. Well done everyone!

The Golden Valley Pilgrim Way was the winner in the Unsung Hero category of the Visit Herefordshire awards this year. A huge thank you is due to the teams at the churches which offer night sanctuary across the deanery. A quick glance at their visitors' books is testament to how much pilgrims appreciate the welcome they receive along the way. We are busy with bookings again this year.

As always, we're happy to hold special services in our churches so please get in touch to find out more about funeral, wedding or baptism arrangements.

Dates for Your Diary:

Reflective Ramble: Sunday 27th April – 2pm at Rowlestone.
Please get in touch to let us know if you'll be coming along.
Hedgerow Communion: Thursday 1st May - 7pm – Snodhill Castle

For up-to-date information:

1. Keep an eye on our website: abbeydoredeanery.org
2. Follow our **Abbeydore Deanery** Facebook page or join our Facebook group
3. Subscribe to our regular email update: <http://eepurl.com/ggcfPj>
4. Get in touch with the Deanery Office on 01981 620145 or abbeydoredmc@gmail.com We are now open most mornings.

**29th April, 7pm
Clodock Church AGM**

SALEM BAPTIST CHAPEL
Llanwonog Lane, Longtown HR2 0LE



SUNDAY SERVICES

6 April		Mr Jeff Hanks
13 April	PALM SUNDAY	Mr Robert Powell
20 April	EASTER PRAISE	Revd Lloyd Rickard
27 April		Revd Paul Smethurst

OTHER

Easter Exhibition		
13-27 April	10am-4pm	Display Viewing Weekends
Prayer & Praise	(2nd Wednesday of Month)	
9 April	7pm	
Creative Crafts	(4th Wednesday of Month)	
23 April	7pm	

FUTURE DATE

Footstep Friends		
Sat 3 May	9am	Offa's Dyke Walk

ALL WELCOME

For further information, please email longtownsbc@gmail.com

Thanks

GUEST FAMILY THANK YOU

Janet, Polly and Andrew would like to say thank you for all the many cards and expressions of sympathy we have received since Eric's passing. Your very generous donations have been sent to Eric's chosen charities - Midlands Air Ambulance (£315) and Longtown Mountain Rescue (£345).

Forthcoming events



**Longtown Library
is next open on**

**2nd April
2.30 to 4.30pm**

LONGTOWN THURSDAY CLUB

We meet every other Thursday from 2pm to 5pm at the Village Hall, with a programme of trips throughout the year.

**Thursday April 3rd
Thursday May 1st
Thursday May 15th**

Anyone wishing to join, please contact
Hazel Pugh on 07767 372843

Spring Fayre

Saturday 17th May at Longtown Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Grand Draw, Stalls, Refreshments

Programme of Trips 2025

June 26th

St Fagans Natural Museum of History, Cardiff

Meet the bus at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.30am

July 24th

Weston-Super-Mare

Meet the bus at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.00am

Aug. 21st

Porthcawl

Meet the bus at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.30am

Sept. 18th

Cardiff Bay and Wharf

Meet the bus at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.30am

Oct. 16th

Dobbie's Garden Centre Tewkesbury

Meet the bus at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.30am

Nov. 13th

Trip to Clark's Shopping Village, Somerset

Meet the bus at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.00am

**For more information, please ring Hazel Pugh
on 07767 372843**

LONGTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Longtown Village Hall HR2 0LD

Monday 7 April, 7.30pm

ELIZABETH SEMPER O'KEEFE

(Hereford Cathedral Archivist)

"Every motor car shall be registered"

Herefordshire social history from vehicle records

Guests are very welcome at our meetings (£4).

Half Season membership available.

For more information, contact

jerrydpdavis@outlook.com or visit

www.lhsarchive.org.uk

NEWTON ST MARGARETS WOMEN'S GUILD

13th March: Guild members enjoyed an evening with Bob Burson who gave us an update with some appealing photos of his Schools for Uganda Project before taking us on one of his adventurous and spectacular hikes across the island of La Palma. I think most of us were glad we weren't on a knife edge ridge in swirling cloud or at the start of a volcanic eruption! Thank you to Bob.

The talk by Hilary Engel has been postponed until later in the summer. However, come and have fun **drawing with ink**. Materials provided. No experience required! This evening will be on **Thursday 17th April at 7.30pm. Bring and Share Supper.**

For further information please phone 07794920729

Coffee, Tea and Cake
at *The Cornwall Arms*

Good Friday - 18th April - 11am to 1pm

Supporting St Michael's Hospice

Kindly Sponsored by BLACK MOUNTAIN ROAST
SMALL BATCH COFFEE - FRESH FROM WALES

The Cornwall Arms events

BEEFY BOYS

Saturday 26th April, 5.00pm onwards

MARCUS'S CHIP VAN

Sunday 18th May, 1.00pm onwards

Any queries, please contact Isobel at The Cornwall Arms

7.30pm, Wednesday 7th May 2025
Vowchurch Hall



Re-framing Wild Gardens
A New Perspective on Garden Making

We don't have to choose between beauty, practicality and sustainability. **Renowned garden designer Sarah Price** will explain her current methods of making gardens that are low impact, innovative and rich in wildlife. Sarah has won three RHS Chelsea Flower Show gold medals, co-designed the 2012 Olympic Park and has written for *Gardens Illustrated*.

<https://esleysidegc.wixsite.com/club/upcoming-events>

National Mills Weekend
10th and 11th May

National Mills Weekend is an opportunity to visit traditional watermills, windmills and horse-powered mills across the country. Six mills in south Herefordshire are taking part this year. Each of these mills is unique and well worth a visit...



Clodock Mill

Saturday 2.00-5.00pm and Sunday 2.00-5.00pm

If the river is behaving and there are no technical problems, the mill will be producing flour during the weekend.

Fair Oak Farm Cider Mill, Bacton

Saturday 11.00am-5.00pm

Fair Oak cider will be available for tasting and purchase, and you can meet Featherstone, the apprentice mill horse.

Pontynys Mill, Longtown

Saturday 10.00-4.00pm

A complete corn mill with large high-breast waterwheel under restoration and an unusual horizontal shaft driving 4 pairs of stones.

Rowlestone Mill, near Ewyas Harold

Saturday 10.00am-6.00pm.

A dramatic leat to the mill from a waterfall. The external overshot waterwheel will be turning.

Please respect the advertised opening times. For more information visit www.clodockmill.com or www.spab.org.uk/Mills



CRASWALL BARBECUE

Saturday 12th July in the Churchyard

Local Newsround

LONGTOWN AND GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

This report of our Parish Council meeting on Feb 19th missed the early deadline of Feb 12th for March's magazine, many apologies!

Our February Council meeting was well supported by around 20 parishioners, who were able to express their views by Open Forum on the Agenda.

Two major issues were highlighted:

Firstly, the problem of water leakage in Longtown where when there is excessive rain, the drains overflow, and sewage sometimes seeps back into houses. The situation was carefully described, and the Council agreed to follow through and see where responsibilities lay.

Secondly, The organisers of a Music Festival, planned to be held at Oldcastle, had applied for a Licence for Friday 13th - Monday 16th June, to include music, alcohol, and camping for up to 5,000 people. The speaker for the parishioners

outlined their fears for the safety of the Eventers, the noise they would create, the traffic problems on the Longtown/Pandy road, the sanitation, and how the event would be policed.

Council took note, and it was agreed that they would wait until Herefordshire Planning and Licensing Committee allocated the Event a day for a Hearing, and at that point one Councillor would be asked to do a representation to the Committee.

Council also added that the Committee took notice of any objections, particularly from local people, and therefore encouraged all the parishioners present to write to the Licensing Committee.

Council then went on to discuss the desperate state of the roads around us, and the dissatisfaction with the lack of treatment of potholes and surfaces. It was agreed to discuss the situation with the Locality Steward, and with Balfour Beatty.

Councillor Stinchcombe reported that again, three designated verges would be left uncut in May/June, to encourage wild plants and flowers to flourish. This is the third year of of this new system, and the verges have been much admired.

She also wanted to remind everyone that Longtown village is a Dark Skies village, and hoped that people would try to limit the outside lights on at night, to preserve the ability to be able to see the stars!
Pamela Tribe, Parish Councillor

DOG OWNERS URGED TO HELP PREVENT LIVESTOCK WORRYING

Dog owners are being reminded to keep their pets under control when close to sheep and cows following reports of livestock worrying.

Police are encouraging walkers to keep dogs on a lead, even if they feel it is well trained, and to do all they can to prevent it straying on to agricultural land.

Livestock worrying is when loose dogs chase or attack farmed animals and can be a serious problem for farmers. It is also a criminal offence under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953.

Even well-behaved dogs can exhibit predatory behaviour around livestock like sheep or cows. This behaviour can cause the animals to become extremely stressed or injured and can be fatal.

Livestock worrying isn't just a risk to animal welfare, it can cause significant distress and financial losses to farmers.

Police Constable Mike Roberts, Rural and Business Crime Officer, said: "Responsible dog ownership is essential in preventing livestock worrying.

"You should always keep your dog under control and on a lead when around livestock, even if you believe your dog is well trained.

"This shouldn't just be considered when out and about with your dogs, you should also remember to ensure that your property or boundaries are secure enough to prevent your dog escaping and venturing into agricultural land.

PC 3687 Jeff Rouse and the team (contact details on p11)

LONGTOWN CASTLE: AN UPDATE FROM THE TEAM AT ENGLISH HERITAGE

Over the past year, we have taken important steps to assess the condition of the castle. These include high-level surveys conducted via roped access to carefully examine the top of the keep, testing various mortars to determine the most appropriate materials for repairs, and conducting structural surveys, which included installing monitoring prisms to track any movement. These prisms will remain in place to provide valuable data over time. Additionally, we have explored proposals for a replacement visitor access staircase, considered various design options, and carried out ecological surveys to ensure that our plans do not adversely affect the local wildlife.

It is so rewarding to work to care for our precious heritage amongst a community so engaged and supportive of their local castle. As our valued neighbours, we wanted to update you that unfortunately we won't be starting work at Longtown Castle as soon as initially expected due to changes to our project delivery programme. We have a formal process of evaluating the requirements for repairs across the 400 sites in our care, to ensure that we can make best use of our charity's resources nationwide, and it's not Longtown's turn just yet. Rest assured that we'll be keeping a careful eye on it and will continue to carry out routine maintenance to ensure its ongoing stability in the meantime. We look forward to starting work here as soon as we can to attend to the conservation needs we've identified including:

- Re-laying the stonework at the top of the keep walls.
- Removing damaging vegetation.
- Improving drainage from the top of the walls by installing new spouts.
- Monitoring and stabilising the large cracks in the walls with steel pins.
- Replacing the 1970s cement mortar with breathable lime mortar.
- Replacing the visitor staircase up the motte to the keep.

For the safety of visitors, both the keep and the staircase will remain closed until we are confident it is safe to reopen.

We are fully committed to ensuring that Longtown Castle is preserved for future generations and appreciate your continued support as we move forward with these important conservation efforts. For any queries, please contact freetoenter.sites@english-heritage.org.uk

MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

!I think 2025 must have been given a turbo boost as it seems to be tearing by at an alarming rate with Easter rushing up fast! Speedy though the term has been, we have still managed to squeeze a lot into the past 13 weeks.

One of the highlights of the spring term is always World Book Day. Following on from last year's successful whole school trip to Hay on Wye, we once again set out for our nearest town. Hay is famous around the world for its book shops and literary connections, so we feel very fortunate that we have such a fine place to visit right on our doorstep. Over the course of the morning the children, split into mixed year groups, took part in a treasure hunt around the town, visited the castle and dropped in on 3 of the finest book shops you

could wish to visit - North Books, The Literature Laboratory and, of course, Booths Books. Everywhere we visited gave us the warmest of welcomes and the children had a lovely time browsing and buying books for themselves and spending their World Book Day vouchers. After a busy morning in Hay we returned to school for a well-earned lunch, then, in the afternoon, we invited parents into school for an hour or so of reading and eating cake out on the playground in some unexpectedly warm March sunshine.

The following day was the official World Book Day itself - the bit where everyone gets to dress up as their favourite book characters. As usual we had some amazing dressing up efforts with characters from a wide range of children's books leaping off the page into real life! One of my favourites had to be one of our Year 6s dressed as the spoon from the story 'Spoon'!

World Book Day was not, however, the only exciting thing that happened on Thursday 6th March because one of the Michaelchurch team, Jess Jones, was away in Birmingham at the NEC, with her lovely dog Cali, taking part in Crufts 2025! But best of all, we were able to catch up with it on YouTube and watch Jess and Cali's amazing performance. They were taking part in the national finals of an event called Heal Work to Music. We are so proud of them both and it was so exciting to see them performing at such a prestigious event and to see Cali clearly having such a lovely time!

As I've mentioned in previous newsletters, we are very committed to learning outside the classroom at Michaelchurch and we try to give the children as many hands-on experiences as we can. We are fortunate that, despite being a very rural school and living in one of the most sparsely populated counties in England, we nonetheless have a huge number of wonderful places, from the wild hills of the Black Mountains to the city streets of Hereford, Worcester and Cardiff, close to hand. Mid March saw Oak Class heading off to Cardiff to visit Techniquest in Cardiff. This amazing science and engineering museum is packed full of engaging and informative hands-on exhibits which stimulate and inspire children and adults alike. As well as enjoying everything on offer in the museum galleries, the children took part in a forensic workshop too!

Over in pre-school, things are bouncing along as usual, with the children seeming completely unperturbed by the chilly weather of February and March. It is always so lovely to see them out on their walks or playing in the garden - in almost any weather too! As the saying goes, there's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing.

Coming up we have our traditional Easter Egg hunt where the Year 6 children head off into the hills with Mr Crocker and several sacks of Easter Eggs, laying a flour trail for the rest of the school to follow. This is always such tremendous fun and everyone is looking forward to it - especially our Year 6 Easter bunnies! Pre-school will be heading out on their own egg hunt but will no doubt enjoy it just as much!

It has been another very busy but extremely enjoyable spring term and I think everyone is looking forward to their Easter break.

If you like the sound of Michaelchurch Esceley Primary and Pre-School and feel it sounds like the sort of place where your child could flourish, whether they're pre-school or school aged, then please get in touch via our school email address (admin@michaelchurch-esceley.hereford.sch.uk) or give us a call on 01981 510208. We'd love to show you around!

LONGTOWN COMMUNITY PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL

Another half term has flown by, and we are looking forward to the Spring. The snowdrops are already here, and the daffodils were spectacular for St David's Day. The weather hasn't been too cruel, and the children have managed to do lots of exciting activities both indoors and out.

The last few weeks have seen over a hundred trees planted in our newly extended outdoor learning area including a little orchard and some beautiful willow hedging. Thank you to Mrs Fawcett who has led the whole school planting and watering and works tirelessly in her own time to care for all our new trees.

We have been enjoying the return of the sunshine and some lovely Spring weather. Class 3 have had a fabulous half term of climbing at the Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust centre, Class 2 have been busy preparing the raised beds in the garden to plant some vegetables, having already planted some Muscari flowers, better known as Grape Hyacinths, most kindly donated by Bloomify Floristry. Our Reception and Pre-Schoolers are absolutely loving exploring our extended woodland area - they have been digging for worms for the wormery, building dens and learning about how to sit around our fire circle safely. They can't wait to toast marshmallows!

Our sports leaders have been busy setting up mini activities at lunchtimes for the rest of the school. They have been amazing at coming up with their own ideas to make their activities as enjoyable and as fun as possible for all the children. They are doing a great job!

The children have been enjoying their Toasty Tuesdays and even more exciting, if that's possible, our wonderful PTA parents treated the children to pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Our Pre-Schoolers and Reception even cooked their own in class! There were lots of toppings to choose from and in a flash all the plates were empty!

World Book Day saw the children doing work on "The Day The Crayons Quit". The teachers had fun dressing as their favourite colour crayon to read the book in assembly and then the children all worked on different activities in class. Everyone wore their favourite comfy clothes to read in and everyone enjoyed snuggling in cosy spaces in the school to read and recommend their best loved books to each other. The following week we were lucky enough to have a visit from Duncan from The Children's Bookshelf in Hereford. The children had a great afternoon browsing books, choosing what to spend their money on and then going back to class for a quick read.

As if that wasn't enough, our PTA ran a hugely successful Wizarding Event in school to enrich the World Book Day celebrations. One Friday evening found the school hall packed full of new wizards making their very own wands, casting spells and creating wondrous, exploding potions! Another big thank you to all our parents for their support, especially the PTA members who work so very hard.

Looking forward, we are excited to welcome The Big Easy Band who will be playing their way into school at the end of March, as a musical treat for us all.

School will be finishing the term with our annual Spring Celebration of music, poetry and much, much more. The PTA will be masterminding an Easter competition and Obstacle course right at the end of the last day. A fitting way to send us all rolling home for our Easter break.

All these activities, events and much more are celebrated on our Facebook page - Longtown Community Primary School' and on our website www.longtown.hereford.sch.uk. Please have a look for some fab photos!

After school clubs this coming half term include Outdoor Activity Club at Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust Centre, Languages Club, Animal Care Club, Yr 6 SATS support group and Choir! Our PTA held the second Football Card Club in the lead up to Easter.

From the start of the summer term, we will be an Early Adopter school for the brand new Free Breakfast Club for all our primary aged children. This means that every child is eligible to attend school from 8am and receive a free breakfast and activity before the start of the school day. In the meantime, our new look Breakfast Club continues to provide breakfast to pupils from 8am each morning, now accompanied by a staff led activity each morning, including board games, drawing, Lego, crafts and card games.

Stay and Play sessions continue for our very youngest visitors and the date for the next half term is 4th April. We love to welcome new members all the time. Please keep local media scanned for a few special sessions coming up shortly.

The Pre-School/Early Years Hub is open for 4 days a week, Monday to Thursday 8:45am to 3:15pm from September, for 2-year-olds and up. We do accept funded places for 15hr and 30 hrs. Please call the office to arrange a visit if you would like to come and meet the team.

Please contact Emma in the school office if you would be interested in a visit or looking for a school place for your child/ren. Call 01873 860239 or email admin@longtown.hereford.sch.uk

Round and About

THE HUB AT ST PETER'S CHURCH is a lottery funded Reaching Communities project which includes a Café, NHS Health Visitor Hub and branch of Hereford Libraries all within a working church. See www.hubcommunity.org, email info@hubcommunity.org or call 01981 551143 for further details.

The Hub Café opens Tuesday to Friday from 11am to 2pm. We have a specials board (Wednesdays and Thursdays), jacket potatoes, quiche, soup, cakes and puddings plus hot and cold drinks all to eat in or take away. Table bookings are advisable for groups of 5 or more. Chatty Café takes place on Wednesdays at the Hub from 12noon to 2pm. It's a wonderful opportunity to make new friends. Please call us if you require free transport in order to attend. **Pre-school Play** takes place on Thursdays from 9-11am for under 5's and their Parents or Carers. Admission is free! Have your baby weighed and chat to the Health Visitor from 10-11am at the Well Baby Clinic drop-in. The Café is open so you can

treat yourself to drinks and snacks too. **Youth Café** is every Thursday for 11-16 year olds from 5 to 7pm. Admission is free! Discounted food and drink are available and there is plenty to do – ping pong, card games, arts, crafts, music and comfy sofas.

The Bell Tower Library is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11am to 1pm, on Fridays from 2pm to 4pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon. **Art Exhibition** – Frank Taylor's water colours will be on display alongside poetry and photography by Rosie Evans who will also be performing ad hoc live readings and offering poetry on prescription. **Stillpoint Meditation** will next be on 26th March. Open to all, bring your own spirituality. Contact simon2020@zohomail.com. Booking not essential **Soundscape Experience** will next be on Sunday 6th April from 2pm to 3.15pm. Contact Bridget on 07904 111334 or email her on Yogibbr@gmail.com.

Bellringing Thanks to generous donations of money, time and effort the bells are now in working order and in regular use for practices and events. If you can ring or would like to learn speak to Claire Rouse on 01981 550462 or to someone at the Hub during café opening hours and they will take your details.

Mauddy Thursday Supper and Storytelling



Welcome to a Middle Eastern supper on **Thursday, 17th April at 6.10 for 6.30 pm** at St Peters Church, Peterchurch (the Hub). We're looking forward to hearing your stories! Have you ever been helped by someone you usually help? What was your reaction? This happened at the Last Supper.

Come and enjoy a Persian meal as you tell your story and hear others. Meat and vegetarian dishes (not spicy) are on offer. It's free, but optional donations are happily received for growing our Church.

Places are limited, so please let me know **by Monday, 12th April** on judith_robinson_7@hotmail.com. Write "Supper" in the Subject heading, and specify Meat or Vegetarian. Or leave a message on 01981 550 905. Better yet, just tell me if you see me.

Looking forward to seeing (and hearing) you!

PS. Love to cook? Want to make a dessert to share?

THE GOLDEN VALLEY PILGRIMAGE ROUTE ...

has been recognized as Herefordshire's unsung hero at Herefordshire Tourism Awards. The annual awards showcase the best of the county's thriving tourism industry. It will now be nominated for a Visit England Award of Excellence and places the route among the most exceptional UK tourism experiences.

This ancient pilgrimage path, which winds through some of South West Herefordshire's most picturesque landscapes and connects several historic churches and sacred sites between the Hereford Cathedral to the edge of the Black Mountains, bordering Wales, has been steadily gaining popularity among

spiritual travellers and hiking enthusiasts alike. The award acknowledges the dedicated work of the Revd Simon Lockett and Anne Lloyd who have helped to preserve and promote this cultural treasure. For a suggested donation of £15, you can sleep in the Night Sanctuaries, including a stay overnight in the Cloisters of Hereford Cathedral. Find country pubs where you can eat local produce at the end of the walking day. Village stores are available for each section of the walk to refuel and restock each day's packed lunch. The Golden Valley Pilgrim Trail project also offers a shorter 2 to 3 day path and an 82 mile cycling route. The route can be walked in short lengths without overnight stays, maps are available, see <https://www.abbeydoredeanery.org/gvpw/> or email Anne Lloyd at abbeydoredcm@gmail.com or phone her on 01981 620145 for more information.

THE MONDAY CLUB

March started with our AGM which was held after the club on 10th. After a brief note from our chairwoman thanking everyone who supports us every week and a special thanks to the volunteers who we could not do without.

Muriel Howe (Lu) gave us a review of our finance's which I am pleased to say are still in good condition.

We also let everyone know that everything is going well and that we will continue to be around for the foreseeable future.

Our meal this month was supplied by Sarah at Food for Thought many thanks to her.

We have a trip planned to go on a tour around Rhayader dams with a guide. This is on 16th April leaving at 9.30 from the school. The cost to non members will be £15 if anyone wants to join us on this very informative tour.

As many of you know it will be 80 yrs since the end of WW11 so on May 5th we are having a small celebration to mark this occasion. Anyone who wishes to attend will be more than welcome.

This friendly little club is run at Peterchurch Village Hall every Monday serving Teas and Coffee.

Everyone is welcome to pop in between 10am and 12pm

If you feel like coming, please do. There's no obligation to come every week but I know you will always get a friendly welcome and it's a great way to make new friends.

We are always looking for volunteers and if you feel like you would like to help us as a volunteer please ring Sarah 07774457887 or pop in and you will be very welcome.

You don't have to do it every Monday. We are happy with any time available. It's just making tea and coffee.

PETERCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

I am very sorry to have to announce that we will not be holding our Produce show this year due to lack of support for it.

It takes a lot to organise and get ready for the day and unfortunately we were not greatly supported last year so we felt that we should look into doing something slightly different next year.

Monday Club every Monday morning 10am-12pm Pop in for Tea/Coffee and a chat

Why not come for **Gentle Dance** exercise with Abbie Mason every Thursday morning 11.30 am-12.30.

Hatha Yoga is being held every Wednesday 6.30pm -8.00pm and 10.30 am-12pm

Parish Council meetings every 3rd Tuesday of the month 7-9pm

WI First Thursday of every month from September to March 2-4pm

Dementia Matters Here(fordshire) are pleased to introduce the Peterchurch Memory Café at Peterchurch Village Hall, which will run once a month on the **third friday of every month** from 10.30am-12.30pm.

Our **Memory Cafés** are designed to enable people with memory problems or concerns, their families/ friends or carers, to get out and meet like minded people. Every café involves fun quizzes, activities and occasional guest speakers, with professional support, information and advice available. A contribution of £2.50 per couple is requested, and there is no booking necessary.

Dementia Matters Here(fordshire) is a local charity, supporting those with memory or cognitive concerns/ diagnoses across the county. For more information please call us on 01432 804480 or email charlotte.banks@dementiamattershere.org.uk.

Village Art Club – Every Monday 7.00pm - 9pm and every Wednesday 1.30pm - 3.30pm

The new booking form is now on the website along with what's happening at the Hall www.peterchurchvillagehall.org.

Peterchurch Village Hall is a community building, run by a small committee of dedicated trustees. It is the ideal venue for local events, and is available for hire from £10 an hour.

As well as hosting many a birthday party, the hall has a few regular user groups:

Parish Council every 3rd Tuesday of the month

We always welcome new groups!

If you wish to hire the hall or have any other inquiries, please call any of these numbers:

The Booking Secretary (Sarah), 07774 457887

The Chairman (Brendan), 01981 550 482

The Hall, 01981 551 162

Please leave a message if you are unable to reach anyone on the numbers

Notices and Advertisements

FLICKS IN THE STICKS at ESCLEYSIDE HALL HR2 OPT

By popular request Flicks in the Sticks will be returning NEXT OCTOBER with a relaunch party and an exciting "movie".

However, the friendly but rather diminished team are looking for a person willing to stand in on occasions as the "projectionist" [training can be given if required]

Your reward: drinks on the house and you have a say in the films shown.

Please phone 07794 920729 for further information.

HAY Music

TWO INSPIRING CONCERTS FOR APRIL

Friday, 4 April at 7.00pm. The Castle, Hay-on-Wye
Former Royal Harpist Alis Huws and flute, violin, viola and cello players of Sinfonia Cymru join forces in a rare harp quintet.

Saturday, 26 April at 7.30pm. The Castle, Hay-on-Wye
'Baroque Alchemy' Red Priest Duo: International recorder player and Red Priest frontman Piers Adams and multi-talented keyboardist Lyndy Mayle in an extraordinary 'electro-baroque fusion'.

Programme details and tickets at www.haymusic.org
Tickets also from the Hay Tourist Bureau and the door if still available.
A limited number of free tickets for under 25s are available.

Saturday 4th April 10 - 12.30

St Michael's Church, Kingstone

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Countryside Alliance – Voting

We need your help to vote for us in the Countryside Alliance Awards, Rural Oscars. We are delighted to be a regional finalist. We have until midnight on Sunday the 6th of April to be in with a chance of winning <https://www.research.net/r/BizMids25>

Easter opening and ordering Hot Cross buns

Good Friday 7.30am - 5.30pm, Saturday 7.30am - 4pm, Sunday 10am - 12 noon, Bank Holiday Monday 10am - 2pm.

Hurrah if you have ordered your Hot Cross Buns from Peter Cook or Talgarth Bakery, and if lamb is your favourite, please order your lamb joint too coming from Mailes Butchers or Golden Valley Meats.

Make life easier this April at Hopes

- ★ The weather is slightly warmer and the days are brighter so if you are doing jobs outside in the garden or catching up on DIY, we have a little selection to assist you with both from compost to strimming cord or sandpaper to paint brushes.
- ★ Going out for a walk is one of life's pleasures, stopping at ours for snacks or a recovery cider/hot chocolate is also a pleasure. I would encourage you to take a little look at our art selection to draw or paint the landscape you see.
- ★ We have a new supplier of natural health and beauty products, so check out a larger range of Lavera products and the new Benecos makeup. We are currently stocking a few essential items, so if you can't see your favourite don't hesitate to ask. Plus we are now stocking a fairtrade shower mat and gardening gloves.

Can't spot your favourite magazine at Hopes? Just ask, we can order it in for a one off copy or summer hobby skill to learn.

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April council tax letters will be landing, maybe this year you will stop the Direct Debit and visit the Post Office to pay your council tax every month, getting cash out at the same time and checking your balance to keep our transactional count up at no additional cost to yourself.

Get ready to travel and get a **Travel Money card** with a reduced start up balance of £10 opening balance, come and find out more. If you have a family member travelling talk to them as this is a very useful gift

Top up your 1st & 2nd stamps before the 7th April to beat the price increase, if listing products online ask for a leaflet (we can't display until 7th April) to update your prices for postage.

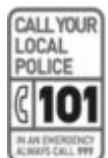
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PCSO Margaret Andrzejewska 07773 053895 margaret.andrzejewska@westmercia.police.uk
Contact: 101 ext 4820 – Email: goldenvalley.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk



CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL AND MAY

Wed 2 April

10:30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

Thu 3 April

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 6 April

9:30 Llanveynoe Morning Worship

18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

Wed 9 April

10:30 Ewyas Harold Holy Communion

Thu 10 April

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 13 April Palm Sunday

11:00 Clodock Holy Communion

15:00 St Margaret's Palm Sunday service, followed by a walk to Newton for tea

Wed 16 April

10:30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

Thu 17 April

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

19:00 Clodock Maundy Thursday service followed by supper

Fri 18 April

10:00 Craswall Good Friday Service

Sun 20 April Easter Day

05:15 Black Hill Sunrise Service

11:00 Michaelchurch Group Holy Communion

Wed 23 April

10:30 Ewyas Harold No service this week

Thu 24 April

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 27 April

11:15 Clodock Holy Communion

Thu 1 May

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 4 May

09:30 Llanveynoe Holy Communion

15:00 St Margaret's Evening Prayer

18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

Wed 7 May

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

Thu 8 May

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 11 May

11:00 Clodock Holy Communion

Wed 14 May

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

Thu 15 May

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 18 May

09:30 Craswall Morning Prayer

15:00 Newton Holy Communion

18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

Wed 21 May

10.30 Ewyas Harold Holy Communion

Thu 22 May

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 25 May

11:15 Michaelchurch Holy Communion

Wed 28 May

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

Thu 29 May

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

EVENTS PLANNER			
Wed	02 April 2025	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Thu	03 April 2025	2.00-5.00pm	Longtown Thursday Club. Longtown Village Hall
Mon	07 April 2025	7.30pm	Longtown & District Historical Society: Elizabeth Semper O'Keefe: <i>Every Motor Car shall be Registered: Herefordshire, social history from vehicle records.</i>
Wed	16 April 2025	1.45pm	Esleyside Gardening Club: <i>What, Where and When of Sowing Vegetable Seeds.</i> Gwernfyed Walled Garden, Three Cocks
Thu	17 April 2025	7.30pm	Newton St Margarets Women's Guild: Bring & Share Supper. Newton Parish Room
Fri	18 April 2025	11.00am-1.00pm	Coffee, Tea and Cake. Cornwall Arms in aid of St Michael's Hospice
Sat	26 April 2025	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle
Sat	26 April 2025	5.00pm	Cornwall Arms: Beefy Boys
Tue	29 April 2025	7.00pm	Clodock Church AGM
Thu	01 May 2025	2.00-5.00pm	Longtown Thursday Club. Longtown Village Hall
Wed	07 May 2025	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Wed	07 May 2025	7.30pm	Esleyside Gardening Club: <i>Re-framing Wild Gardens</i> , Sarah Price. Vowchurch Hall
Sat	10 May 2025	Various	National Open Mills Weekend
Sun	11 May 2025	Various	National Open Mills Weekend
Mon	12 May 2025	7.30pm	Longtown & District Historical Society: Ronald Moore: Artist, Restorer of Fine Art and the <i>Discovery of the Ledbury Titian "Last Supper"</i>
Thu	15 May 2025	2.00-5.00pm	Longtown Thursday Club. Longtown Village Hall
Sun	18 May 2025	1.00pm	Cornwall Arms: Marcus's Chip Van
Sat	24 May 2025	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle

Village hall contacts

Craswall Hall

Bookings: Janet Watkins 01981 510226

General inquiries: Christine Cleaton,
cleatonfamily@btinternet.com

Esleyside Hall

Rachel Pritchard: 01981 510368

rachel.pritchard86@hotmail.co.uk

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