

# The Black Mountains Group Benefice

## NEWSLETTER

February 2026



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

Part of the Abbeydore Deanery  
[abbeydoredeanery.org](http://abbeydoredeanery.org) / [abbeydoredmc@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydoredmc@gmail.com)  
01981 620145 / 07432 873422

Rev. Luci Morriss: [luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com](mailto:luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com)

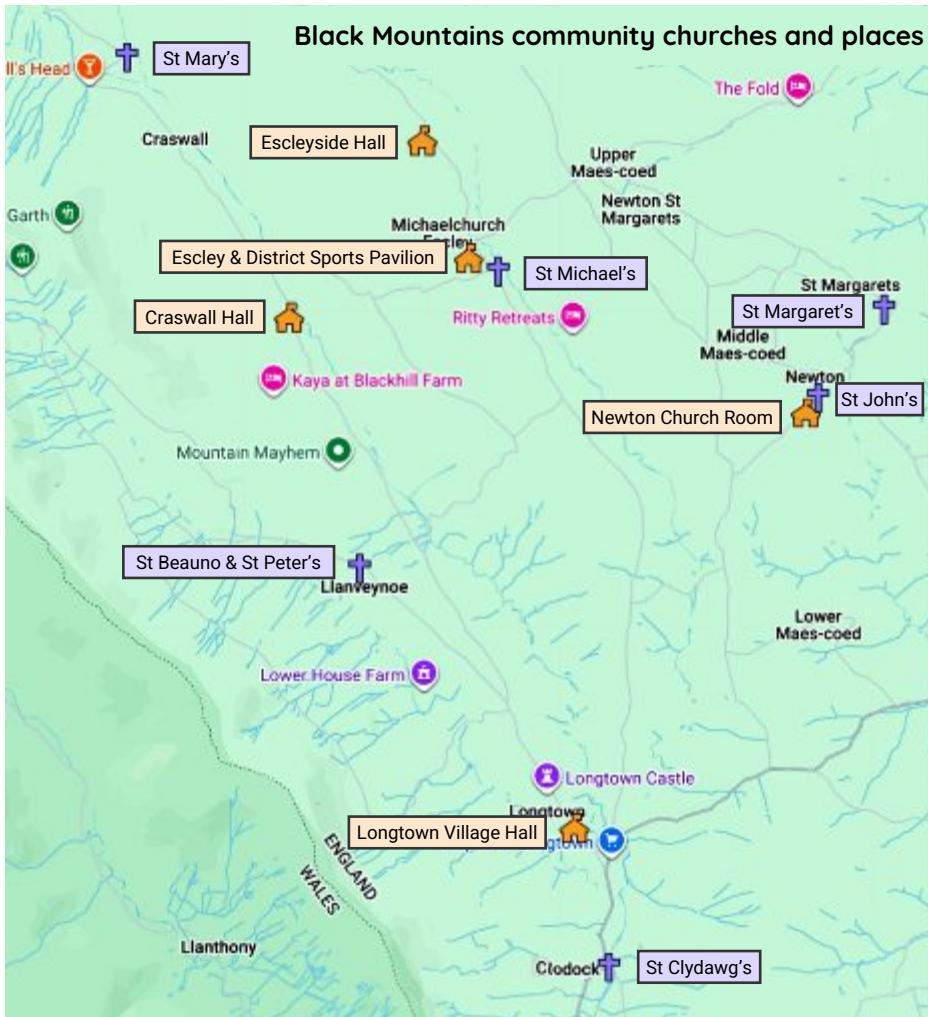
**[www.bmgparishes.org.uk](http://www.bmgparishes.org.uk)**

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## Churches & wardens

St Clydawg's, Clodock & Longtown	01873 860201
Mr Nick Vaughan	
St Mary's, Craswall	
Mrs Christine Cleaton	01981 510674
St Beauno & St Peter's, Llanveynoe	
Commodore Peter Tribe	01873 860260
St Margaret's	(Vacant)
St Michael's, Michaelchurch Escley	
Mrs Olive Howells	01981 510228
St John's, Newton	(Vacant)

## Village Hall contacts

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cleatonfamily@btinternet.com

### Escleyside Hall

Mark Hollowood 01981 510208  
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escley.hereford.sch.uk

### Longtown Hall

Leanne Bambrough 01873 288 289  
www.longtownvillagehall.org.uk  
bookings@longtownvillagehall.org.uk

### Newton Church Room

Mary Powell 01981 510295  
mary.powell37@btinternet.com

### Escley & District Sports Pavilion

Kirsty escleysportspavilion@gmail.com  
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### ISSUE

**March 2026**

April 2026

May 2026

### COPY DEADLINE

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18 March 2026

15 April 2026

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29 March 2026

26 April 2026



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## Why does this newsletter look different?

You may recall that last year we asked for your thoughts about how the newsletter could be improved. One of the main requests was for it to be easier to read, so the standard font is changing to a plainer style that is better for anyone who has a reading difficulty or special need; the line spacing is also a little larger

As we progress, we're going to be moving to more general community-based content, the most obvious initial change being the disappearance of the church images from the front cover. However, for the time being, the content is remaining in its traditional place.

Please bear with us during the transitional year and please do send feedback to the editor, [mark@corefields.com](mailto:mark@corefields.com).

## Newsletter deadlines for 2026

Edition	Copy deadline	Publication date
March 2026	11/02/2026	22/02/2026
April 2026	18/03/2026	29/03/2026
May 2026	15/04/2026	26/04/2026
June 2026	20/05/2026	31/05/2026
July 2026	17/06/2026	28/06/2026
August 2026	15/07/2026	26/07/2026
September 2026	19/08/2026	30/08/2026
October 2026	16/09/2026	27/09/2026
November 2026	14/10/2026	25/10/2026
December 2026	18/11/2026	29/11/2026

## Letter from Luci

It's been a tumultuous start to 2026 on the world stage, I wonder how you're dealing with all that's going on? Do you get angry? Are you limiting your exposure to the news? Are you focusing on the positives? Or, accepting there's little you can do at international or national level, are you looking for ways to make a difference where you are?

My hope is that our Lent book for this year 'Easter in Disguise' by Liz Dodd may help us to live well in the year ahead and make a difference. Each chapter explores one of Jesus' six spiritualities of social justice: solidarity, poverty, hospitality, peace-making and protest. Each Wednesday in Lent (starting on 25th February) from 7 - 8.30pm, we'll meet somewhere in the Black Mountains Benefice (venue details still tbc) to discuss a chapter and explore a spiritual practice which may help us reflect on that week's theme.

So, whether you're a regular or occasional attendee at church or chapel or just interested to see if Jesus' teaching is still relevant, you're very welcome to come along.

And what's not to like about a Lent book whose author describes her three great loves as travel, spirituality and beer?!

If you'd like to come along, please get in touch with Anne Lloyd.

*With every blessing, Rev Luci*

## Readings February and 1st March

**Sunday 1 February 2026 (3rd Sunday before Lent)**

Old Testament	Isaiah 58: 1-9a (9b-12)
New Testament	1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 (13-end)
Gospel	Matthew 5: 13-20
Psalm	112

**Sunday 8 February 2026 (2nd Sunday before Lent)**

Old Testament	Genesis 1: 1-2:3
New Testament	Romans 8: 18-25
Gospel	Matthew 6: 25 - end
Psalm	136

**Sunday 15 February 2026 (Sunday next before Lent)**

Old Testament	Exodus 24: 12 - end
New Testament	2 Peter 1: 16 - end
Gospel	Matthew 17: 1-9
Psalm	2

**Wednesday 18 February 2026 (Ash Wednesday)**

Old Testament	Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17
New Testament	2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6.10
Gospel	Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
Psalm	51: 1-18

**Sunday 22 February 2026 (1st Sunday of Lent)**

Old Testament	Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7
New Testament	Romans 5: 12-19
Gospel	Matthew 4: 1-11
Psalm	32

**Sunday March 2026 (2nd Sunday of Lent)**

Old Testament	Genesis 2: 1-4a
New Testament	Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
Gospel	John 3: 1-17
Psalm	121

## Deanery Update

### Looking ahead to Lent 2026

This Lent there are two options for meeting together and journeying through the weeks before Easter. One will be based in the Black Mountains Benefice and the other in the Cagebrook Benefice, but anyone from anywhere is welcome to attend! Final arrangements are still to be confirmed but get in touch with Anne Lloyd if you'd like to be part of either group and we'll let you have all the details.

### "Easter in Disguise"

In this benefice, the book "Easter in Disguise" will be used for a series of meetings during Lent. You'll find out more about this in Luci's letter at the start of this newsletter.

### Matthew's Gospel

In our Sunday services this year, we are encountering Jesus through the Gospel of Matthew (known as Lectionary Year A). This Lent, you are invited to join us for three sessions delving into the themes and features of Matthew's Gospel:

1. Matthew the Scribe: bridging the gap between testaments.
2. Jesus the Teacher: exploring the five discourses.
3. Conflict, Suffering and Fulfilment: the Passion according to Matthew.

The aim of these sessions is to enrich your understanding of the Gospel of Matthew as a unified narrative, enable you to draw links between the sections of the Gospel read on Sundays, and inspire you to 'read along' with the lectionary through the year.

Please register your interest to help us set the best days/times/ locations!

#### Dates for your diary

**Sunday February 1st, 2pm**

Bredwardine Hedgerow Communion St Brigid's Day and Imbolc Meet at St Andrews Church @ 2pm

Bring your own spirituality! For further details contact [simon2020@zohomail.com](mailto:simon2020@zohomail.com)

**31st May 2026**

Abbeydore Deanery Service at the Cathedral

#### For up-to-date information:

- Keep an eye on our website: [abbeydoredeanery.org](http://abbeydoredeanery.org)
- Follow our Abbeydore Deanery Facebook page or join our Facebook group
- Get in touch with the Deanery Office on 01981 620145 or [abbeydoredmc@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydoredmc@gmail.com) We are now open most mornings.

#### Prayer during the week

Morning Prayer at St Michael's, Michaelchurch.

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

For more details, please contact Rev'd Luci on 07778 897809 or email [luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com](mailto:luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com)

#### Black Mountains Group

Informal evening prayer for our communities, churches and everyone who lives and works in these valleys.

**February Mondays at 5pm**

2nd	Ewyas Harold
9th	Clodock
16th	Kentchurch
23rd	Newton



#### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for St Clydawg's Church, Clodock, with Longtown Church will be held on:

**Wednesday 12th March**

**7.00pm**

**Craswall Village Hall**

This meeting is an important opportunity to:

- Reflect on the life and work of our churches over the past year.
- Receive reports on worship, mission, and finances
- Elect churchwardens and PCC members
- Look ahead with hope to the year to come

All those on the electoral roll are warmly encouraged to attend, and anyone interested in the life of the church is very welcome.

Please do come along and be part of shaping the future of St Clydawg's with Longtown, as well as the new benefice as we meet with friends from Llanveynoe and Craswall.

#### SALEM BAPTIST CHAPEL

Llanwonog Lane Longtown HR2 0LE



#### SUNDAY SERVICES - 6.30 pm

1 Feb	Revd Malcolm Lane
8 Feb	Revd Michael Goodman
15 Feb	Revd Misha Pederson
22 Feb	Mr Graham Powell

#### ALL WELCOME

Further information email [longtownsbc@gmail.com](mailto:longtownsbc@gmail.com)

#### Remembering Donald Phillips

Many gathered on 17th January to celebrate the life of Donald Phillips of Tybubach and Churchwarden of Llanveynoe church for 60 years. The service, which took place across two venues, Llanveynoe church and The Cattle Barn, included tributes from Commodore Peter Tribe, recollections from Rev Frank Rodgers, sung tributes from Donald's friends in Black Hill Voices and the Benefice Choir, a Farmer's Farewell read by Donald's granddaughter, Abi and this poem written and read by Arthur, Donald's youngest grandson.

#### Arthur's poem

Donald was a man from Craswall,  
a singer, bellringer, and a bit of a handful.  
When asked "are you alright" he'd always reply,  
"no I'm half left",  
delivered deadpan, comedy theft.  
For the Black Hill Voices he'd sing with glee,  
sometimes maybe a bit off-key.  
Tune not required, enthusiasm king,  
singing was without question his favourite thing.  
Same jokes, same grin every time we'd meet,  
in a fast-moving world he'd never miss a beat.  
Same wit, same warmth right till the end -  
Donald my grandad, but most of all, my friend.



#### THANKS

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us at the Carol Service and filled St Clydawg's with such joyful singing and generosity. It was a truly special occasion, made richer by the sense of community and shared celebration.

We are also very grateful for the donations given on the night, which have been sent to *Embrace the Middle East*, supporting their vital work with some of the most vulnerable communities.

Thank you to all who attended, contributed, and helped make the service such a meaningful and uplifting evening.

## Black Hill Voices carol singing at Hopes

Black Hill Voices would like to thank all those who joined us for the carol singing at Hopes and who gave so generously. We raised £470 for MSF/ Doctors Without Borders for their Sudan appeal.

If you were unable to join us but would still like to donate, you can through our JustGiving page at [www.justgiving.com/page/blackhillvoices](http://www.justgiving.com/page/blackhillvoices)

Thank you again for your generous support.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**The Cornewall Arms**  
Saturday 31st January



£2 to Enter  
Winning Team Takes the Pot  
7:30 for 8 pm start

**The Cornewall Arms**  
Saturday 21st February



£2 to Enter  
Winning Team Takes the Pot  
7:30 for 8 pm start

## Longtown & District Historical Society

Monday 2 February 2026, 7.30pm  
Longtown Village Hall

Members' Evening, including:

Martin Cook on "The Clodock Mermaid"

Nick Chapman on digitisation of the Oral History Project plus an excerpt from one of the interviews

Reduced Annual Membership £6, Visitors £4

For further information contact

Jerry Davis ([jerrypdavis@outlook.com](mailto:jerrypdavis@outlook.com))



**Longtown Library**  
is next open on  
**4 February**  
**2.30 to 4.30pm**  
**Longtown Village Hall**

## Cornewall Arms, Clodock



**Scrabble – Thursday 5 February – 7.30 for 8pm**

### Arts Alive with Flicks in the Sticks

We will be welcoming Singer Songwriter **Joe H Henry**

**At the Escleyeide Hall HR2 0PT**

**On Friday 6th February 2026 7.30pm** [Bar will open 7pm]

Over from Canada for his first ever tour of the UK and indeed the Escleyeide Hall will be one of his first venues.

*He is renowned for a voice "as powerful as a freight train" and his songs and music are described as "blending early rhythm and blues, soul and country roots with the lyrical depth of folk.*

[Arts Alive]

Tickets available from [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk)

or phone Neville 01981 510116

## Newton St Margarets Women's Guild

Meetings usually take place every 2nd Thursday of each month in Newton Parish Room HR2 0QR. Guests and new members are very welcome.

Members Subscriptions £20 per year due February.

Visitors £5/meeting.

**Thursday 12 February 7.30pm – Jewellery Making with Kath Bring and Share Supper**

*For further information phone Jane: 07794 920729*

## Concerts for Craswall

2026

Sunday April 19th 2026 at 3.30pm

**FiveBy5 Trumpet Quintet**

Venue: St Michael's Church, Michaelchurch Escley HR2 0JS

Saturday May 16th 2026 at 7pm

**String Trio – Roman Simovic, Milena Simovic and David Cohen**

Venue: Dore Abbey, Abbeydore HR2 0AA

Saturday June 27th 2026 at 7pm

**Baroque Ensemble Red Priest**

Venue: Dore Abbey, Abbeydore HR2 0AA

Sunday August 29th 2026 at 3.30pm

**The Rhossili Duo**

Venue: St Mary's Church, Craswall HR2 0PN

Saturday October 10th at 5pm

**Lumas Winds**

Venue: St Michael's Church, Michaelchurch Escley HR2 0JS

[www.concertsforcraswall.org](http://www.concertsforcraswall.org)

Registered Charity No: 1092005



## LOCAL NEWSROUND

### Longtown & District WI

Longtown & District WI enjoyed another scrumptious Christmas Supper this year. Red and white tablecloths, beautiful floral displays and twinkling fairy lights adorned the tables, transforming the hall into a festive spectacle, creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere. With delicious food, plenty of festive spirits, it was a wonderful social occasion, definitely the highlight of our year!

On Tuesday 10th February, the lovely Rowena Harris will talk to us about Iyengar Yoga followed by a short practical session of Chair Yoga. All welcome at 8pm.

Wishing everyone in our community "A very Happy New Year."

For further info contact [22philb@gmail.com](mailto:22philb@gmail.com)

## Vowchurch & District Group Parish Council

The Lengthsman contract is due for renewal on 1st April 2026. The Parish Council would like to invite any interested contractors to tender for the work. The job currently involves, but is not limited to, monthly visits to the parish to maintain the roadside grips, clear gullies, jet pipes and some strimming through the summer months along with nominated task when requested by the parish. Any applicants must hold relevant insurance and tickets to enable them to work on the public highway. If you would like further information, please contact the clerk.

The Parish Council is aware of ongoing issues with water supply in certain areas and is making every effort to assist in resolving these matters.

Please continue to report defects to Herefordshire Council as below. The Parish Council is here to help residents when we can in the local community, the email address for the Parish Council is below and is the best way to contact the Clerk as it is monitored on a regular basis, also take a look at the Parish Council website and follow us on Facebook.

Please report any defects via the Herefordshire Council website at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road>. Reporting issues this way will ensure everything is properly logged, assessed, and allocated to the right teams as quickly as possible. You can check progress of a defect, or see if it has already been logged via the progress map on the council website <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/pothole-road-defect-progress-map>.

Linda Cowles, Parish Clerk  
01544 321906 / [clerk@vowchurchgroup-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@vowchurchgroup-pc.gov.uk)  
[www.vowchurchgpc.org.uk](http://www.vowchurchgpc.org.uk)

Follow us on Facebook: vowchurch group parish council.

## Update from Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust

“Amazing. The students gained so much from this experience, pushed beyond their boundaries and previous life experiences. Thank you so much!” Fairfield High School, March 2025.

It has been a while since our last update and although a lot has happened during that time, our charitable purpose remains the same – ‘To provide young people with the opportunity to improve resilience, build confidence and grow through transformative experiences in the outdoors’.

In 2025 we welcomed over 2000 children and young people from schools, charities, youth and uniform groups, with 60% of our groups coming from Northamptonshire and most other groups sitting within a 50 mile radius of Longtown. Feedback from our users has been fantastic and the positive impact of providing adventurous activities, home-cooked food, cozy accommodation and caring staff is as important today as it was back in 1964 when the centre was first officially opened by Sir John Hunt, Everest Expedition Leader.

Back then, the centre catered for 24 young people at a time. Today, our indoor capacity is 80, with an additional 60 campers in summer months. However, this provides us with

a logistical challenge when it comes to kitchen and dining space. As many of you will be aware, in 2023 we received planning permission to build a new multi-purpose ‘Lodge’ in the grounds of the centre. This included a new kitchen and dining room, toilets and showers for our campers, a duty staff bedroom and some additional office space. Unfortunately, the cost of building materials has increased so much that the project is no longer financially viable. So, we are currently working on a smaller scale project and we hope to be submitting a new planning application in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, we have been making several improvements around the site including new signage, upgraded teacher accommodation and even some drystone wall repairs. Some of you may have noticed we have also added a gate to our car park. This was in response to a vehicle theft which happened in August last year and we are now required to lock the gate when the centre is quiet. So, if you would like to be able to use our car park (for example for a special event), please do get in touch with us in advance.

I would also like to welcome our new Chair of Trustees who started in November 2025. Phil Hodgson has kindly volunteered to take over from Fran Dickson who has stepped down as Chair but remains a Trustee. You can find out more about Phil and all our other fabulous Trustees on our new website: <https://www.longtownoutdoorlearning.co.uk/meet-the-trustees>

2026 is going to be another busy year for the team. As we complete our winter projects in preparation, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that has supported the Centre over the years. Without that community support, we would not be able to do what we do, meaning 1000s of young people would miss out on their chance to have a transformative experience in our wonderful outdoor landscape.

Giles Smith, Centre Director  
[giles@longtownoutdoorlearning.co.uk](mailto:giles@longtownoutdoorlearning.co.uk) / 01873 860225

## Longtown Community Primary and Pre-School

Explore more!

Here we find ourselves already at the end of January 2026. The year started with Storm Goretti bringing us a magical covering of snow. This was a gift of a day in school creating snow creatures and sledge rides, with hot buttered toast and hot chocolate to keep us warm.

January brought a visit from Sealegs Puppet Theatre and the beautiful production of ‘Henry Clutterbuck and The Musicians of Bremen.’ Always a skilful production of puppetry and storytelling; the whole school was mesmerised.

Mid-January saw our wonderful school choir head up to Birmingham to perform in the Young Voices spectacular with hundreds of other primary aged children from all around the country. They had a fantastic time, singing their hearts out and enjoying the very exciting experience of performing in such a big venue.

One of our parents came into school on the 13th to lead an assembly about Dore Community Transport [Editor: Please

see the DCT advert on p7]. The children were told about the important work the volunteer drivers do and all the people they help. They were then asked to design a poster to help promote Dore Community Transport as part of an exciting competition. Hopefully you will soon be seeing the results of the competition all over our local area.

Some of our older pupils joined the Sportshall Athletics Tournament in Kingstone High School working together in teams, showing resilience and determination, but mainly having a jolly good time.

Class 4 have started a series of climbing sessions with Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust. Each Friday afternoon they set off for the centre to further develop their climbing skills; learning about specific knots and safety equipment as well as climbing techniques.

World Religion Day was celebrated on Friday 16th with the whole school taking part in a variety of activities aimed at learning about different religions and their customs.

We continue to offer musical instrument tuition weekly, and we can certainly hear the improvement that all the children taking part are making. From drums to keyboards, ukulele to guitars, there is a wide selection of instrument tuition on offer.

This term's after school clubs include Lego, How to make an Animated Film, Tabletop Games and Languages, something for everyone I think you'll agree!

February offers a visit from 2Faced Dance Company who will be running dance workshops for every class. Class 4 will be spending the day at Fairfield High School for their Cluster Beats and Voices Day, getting together and singing with other schools in the Golden Valley. Our Patron of reading, author Catherine Barr, will return to share her work and skills with all our budding writers and Mrs Jefferies will once again celebrate British Science Week with an amazing week of science activities and experiences to amaze and inspire! A full description to follow.

Work on our two new wooden structures is moving on apace. The roundhouse in front of school is in its final stages with work on completing the roof continuing gradually. The new structure in our outdoor learning area is due to be finished by late January, so keep your eyes peeled on our website and Facebook page for lots of photos. The pupils will benefit so much from these two new learning areas, as well as the roundhouse being used by parents and community when completed.

Our popular Pre-School is open for 4 days a week, Monday to Thursday 8:45am to 3:15pm, for all mini explores 2-years-old and up. We do accept funded places for 15hr and 30 hrs. Please contact the school office for more information.

Our free Breakfast Club continues to grow from strength to strength. We celebrated last term with a week of breakfasts from around the world, which was very popular. We provide a variety of toast, bagels and crumpets, with a selection of cereals and fruit juices, fresh fruit and yoghurts. Pupils come

into school from 8am, eat, socialise and enjoy different staff-lead activities each morning.

Stay and Play opens its doors on the first and third Friday of every month in term time. Just £2 per family, parents with very young children come and enjoy our beautiful surroundings, a drink and snack and, of course, a chance to chat to other parents in a relaxed environment.

If you would like to see more about any of these activities or events, please visit [www.longtown.hereford.sch.uk](http://www.longtown.hereford.sch.uk), or follow Longtown Community School on Facebook.

## **Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre-School**

Christmas seems a distant memory now and we are all settled back into school and enjoying the spring term and ready for an exciting term ahead. It certainly has been a busy start to the year at Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre-School.

The term began with a few unexpected challenges. One particularly tricky day saw us lose our water supply, which required quick thinking and teamwork to keep everything running smoothly. Thankfully, the wonderful people at Celtic Vale Spring Water helped us out by supplying us with some emergency drinking water. Shortly after, we had to close the school at the end of the week due to heavy snowfall. While these disruptions were far from ideal, our priority throughout was ensuring the safety and well-being of all pupils, families and staff and we were extremely thankful for the support and understanding of our school community.

We are thrilled to welcome a new member to our teaching team, Miss Watts. She will be teaching three days a week across Key Stage 1 and 2. Miss Watts brings an extremely keen and enthusiastic new teacher and we are excited to see the positive impact she will have on our school community.

The children have settled into their new topics with great enthusiasm. It's wonderful to see their curiosity and creativity shining through in lessons. Each class is exploring exciting themes that promise plenty of opportunities for hands-on learning and discovery.

Sapling Class recently represented our school at the Herefordshire FA Year 3 and 4 football tournament. Despite the cold and wet conditions, the children demonstrated fantastic sporting qualities-teamwork, resilience, and determination. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the way they supported one another throughout the event.

We have some exciting trips planned this term to enrich the children's learning experiences. Pre-School will enjoy a short train journey, giving them a taste of travel and adventure. Acorn Class (Years R, 1, and 2) are heading to the Cotswold Wildlife Park, where they'll explore the wonders of the animal kingdom and Oak Class will visit Gloucester to experience both the mosque and the cathedral, offering a valuable opportunity to learn about different cultures and faiths. These trips promise to be memorable experiences that will deepen the children's understanding of the world around them.

If you like the sound of Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre-School and feel it's the kind of place where your child could flourish-whether they're pre-school or school-aged-please get in touch, we'd love to show you around! Email us at [admin@michaelchurch-escley.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@michaelchurch-escley.hereford.sch.uk) or call on 01981 510208 - we'd love to show you around!

We're always keen to hear from people who might be interested in supporting our school as a governor. If you think you could contribute to life at Michaelchurch Escley, please get in touch via the email or phone number above. We'd love to hear from you! Let's hope 2026 is as exciting and fun filled as 2025!

*Louise Crocker, Headteacher  
01981 510208*

## NOTICES AND ADVERTISEMENTS

### Wanted, Sponsor for Ukrainian Refugees

This is a mother, aged 45 who is a nurse and her 22 year old son, who at present works in a bank in Ukraine. They have exit visas from the Ukraine Government. They live in an area that is subject to heavy bombardment and lack of heating, meaning that they exist in sub-zero temperatures for most of the winter.

The 22 year old holds a Ukrainian driving licence and speaks English and Spanish in addition to his native language.

#### Sponsorship

This means that the Ukrainians will live together with you in your home. The expectation is that you will maintain this initially for 6 months and that the Ukrainians will after this time move into independent accommodation, unless by mutual agreement, you decide to continue.

The British Government pays an allowance of £350 per month to you and this is topped up by Hereford Council to a total of £700. There is also a winter supplement to help with additional heating costs and this runs until March each year.

The Ukrainians will have an entry visa from the British Government allowing them to stay for 18 months. This is usually extended to 3 years, after which any payment to the British host will cease. They will have been vetted by the government and will have no criminal record.

There is in Herefordshire a strong local network to support both hosts and their "guests" as we prefer to call them. You would not be left alone to cope. If for any reason you felt unable to continue, this network would seek another placement for your guests.

You will be required to undertake a DBS check to make sure that you, in turn, are suitable to be a host/sponsor and your home will be inspected to ensure that you do in fact have the necessary space to accommodate them.

Initially a Zoom call will be organised so that you can meet your Ukrainians and discuss everything before you make up your minds.

Please contact Lesley Grady on 07563 382756,  
[lesley.grady@hereford.anglican.org](mailto:lesley.grady@hereford.anglican.org)

### St Mary's Church Public Meeting

There will be a public meeting on Thursday the 26 February at 7.30pm in Craswall Village Hall with a presentation outlining the condition of this Grade II\* listed building which is on the Heritage at Risk Register.

We will have a power point presentation with photos ancient and modern and a brief history of this important building with a discussion about its future.

Our church architect will give a brief overview of the extent of the essential repairs needed.

We are hoping to begin the process of applying for a Heritage Lottery Grant to undertake the essential repairs which include, most urgently, reroofing the building and other repairs to address the causes of damp and repairs to internal woodwork.

We invite everyone with an interest in this unique building to join us to discuss the possibilities for securing it for future generations.

There will be a cup of tea/coffee during the course of the evening!

### Newton Parish Room HR2 0QR

We are looking to have a small team to manage the Parish Room (by St Johns Church).

The Parish Room was set up as a non-profit making business but, the bills still need to be paid for it to survive! It may be small, but it is a useful resource with kitchen and toilet added on.

If you would like to be part of the management committee and/or have some ideas as to how this space might be best utilised for the community, please do let us know.

We plan to have a meeting for all those interested and would like to help on Wednesday 18th February 2026 from 7 to 8pm. in the Parish Room (with refreshments!) If you are unable to attend that evening, even so do let us know if you would like to have your say and be involved.

Contact Mary 01981 510295 or Jane 07794920729.

*Coffee, Tea and Cake*



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Vowchurch Memorial Hall

Events begin again Spring 2026.

Programme to be announced, see details at:  
<https://escleysidegc.wixsite.com/club>



## ROUND AND ABOUT

**Peterchurch** – The Hub Café @ St Peter's at Peterchurch opens 4 days a week, Tuesdays to Fridays from 11am to 2pm. We have jacket potatoes, quiche, soup, cakes, puddings, hot and cold drinks (plus a specials board on Wednesdays and Thursdays) all to eat in or take away. Lunch bookings are advisable for groups of 5 or more. Breakfasts are served on the first Saturday of each month, from 9.30am until 11.30am.

**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.

**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. Please email [info@hubcommunity.org](mailto:info@hubcommunity.org) if you are interested in joining.

The Hub's Bell Tower Library is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 1pm, also on Fridays from 11am to 3pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon.

**The Hub @ St Peter's, Peterchurch** is a 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](http://www.hubcommunity.org), email [info@hubcommunity.org](mailto:info@hubcommunity.org) or call 01981 551143 for further details

**Peterchurch Community Choir:** You can join this friendly group on Mondays from 6.30pm to 8pm during term time in the church or on line. Email Joy at [peterchurchcommunitychoir10@gmail.com](mailto:peterchurchcommunitychoir10@gmail.com) or contact her on 07903 675012

**The Inspire Lunch** – All are welcome to the lunch in aid of St Peter's Church is on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 12.30pm with 2 courses, (inc vegetarian choice) followed by coffee or tea for £14 with an optional £1 raffle for a free lunch when you come next. For further information please contact Pam Savage on 01981 550669.

**Stillpoint Meditation** takes place on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 7-8pm in St Peter's church. It is open to all and there is no admission charge. For further information please email [simon2020@zohomail.com](mailto:simon2020@zohomail.com) or call 01981 250245.

**Open Sky Theatre** will present The Home on Friday afternoon, 13th February at 3pm. Contact the Sarah at The Hub, email [info@hubcommunity.org](mailto:info@hubcommunity.org) or call 01981 551143 for further information.

## Peterchurch Monday Club

We are a friendly little club that is run at Peterchurch Village Hall every Monday, serving tea and Coffee.

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

If you feel like coming, please do. You are not obligated 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 on 07774 457887 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.



**THE SOLEM STRING QUARTET**

Sunday, 15 February at 5.00pm  
St Mary's Church, Hay-on-Wye

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

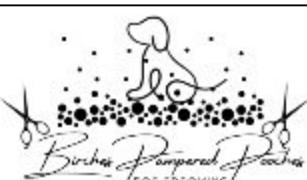
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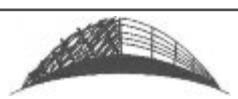
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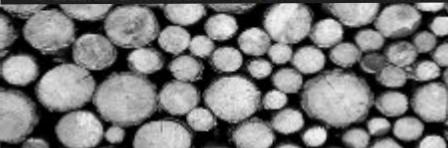
For more details of the timetable, events and prices please look at our website:

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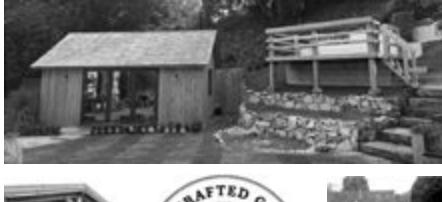
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### Fencing is up!

We are delighted to be making physical progress with our Restful Nook, a place to browse, sit and relax with a hot drink, cake or chocolate truffles. Plus a separate Hopes Work Nook, a membership (Day or monthly rates) work space for hot desking.

### Celebrating congratulations

Well done to Ivy Pritchard, Barbara Williams and Mrs Philp. The three drawn out winners from our 24th Birthday celebrations. Every customer on our Birthday 17th December, we put your name into a hat.

What the heck are we going to do next year to celebrate a quarter of a century, this year.

### February Love – Do what you love in February

- ★ Walk the Cat's Back, or book to walk part of the Golden Valley Pilgrim Way and stay in your local church.
- ★ Love a word search, check out our Herefordshire word search.
- ★ Grab a magazine, new to us Auto Addicts looks great for cars with adventurous routes to travel all over the world
- ★ Tell us product you would like us to stock, customer requests in January saw a 2 litre Pepsi max, Maulife peanut butter and Sheba cat food all being introduced.
- ★ Love reading? Pop along to the Village Library on the first Wednesday of the month, 2pm in Longtown Village Hall.

### Hurrah for Black Hill Voices

Huge thank you to Black Hill Voices for providing a joyful morning and raising over £200 for Sudan, Doctors without Borders.

### Rural Oscar – thank you very much

Our January has been fab, thank you very much to whoever nominated us for a Countryside Alliance Rural Oscar award. We are very grateful.

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### February Finance review

If you are reviewing your accounts, please let us share options available at the Post Office. We are multiple leaflets to review your options to find out what is next for you and your scenario.

### Special stamps

We still have a few Queen Victoria stamps, Concorde are perfect for any aviation enthusiast and Hornby Model Railway go live on February 19th.

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**Church services for February and March****Sunday 1 February**

9:30 Llanveynoe Morning Service  
 15:00 St Margaret's Holy Communion  
 18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

**Thursday 5 February**

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

**Sunday 8 February**

11:00 Michaelchurch Holy Communion  
 18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

**Monday 9 February**

7:00 Clodock Informal Evening Prayer

**Thursday 12 February**

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

**Sunday 15 February**

9:30 Craswall Celtic Communion  
 18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

**Wednesday 18 February**

9:00 Clodock Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday

**Thursday 19 February**

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

**Sunday 22 February**

11:15 Clodock Holy Communion  
 15:00 Newton Holy Communion

**Monday 23 February**

7:00 Newton Informal Evening Prayer

**Thursday 26 February**

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

**EVENTS PLANNER**

Sat	31 January 2026	10:00-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle
Sat	31 January 2026	19:30 for 20:00	Quoits and Supper, The Cornewall Arms
Mon	02 February 2026	19:30:00	Longtown & District Historical Society: Martin Cook, Member's Evening/ <i>The Clodock Mermaid</i>
Tue	03 February 2026	19:30:00	Craswall Whist Drive, Craswall Village Hall
Wed	04 February 2026	14:30-16:30	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Thu	05 February 2026	19:30 for 20:00	Scrabble at The Cornewall Arms
Fri	06 February 2026	19:30:00	Arts Alive and Flicks in the Sticks present Joe H Henry, Escleyside Hall
Tue	10 February 2026	19:15:00	Longtown & District WI. Longtown Village Hall
Tue	10 February 2026	19:30:00	Craswall Whist Drive, Craswall Village Hall
Thu	12 February 2026	19:30:00	Newton St Margarets Women's Guild: Jewellery Making with Kath
Tue	17 February 2026	19:30:00	Craswall Whist Drive, Craswall Village Hall
Sat	21 February 2026	19:30 for 20:00	Table Skittles and Supper, The Cornewall Arms
Tue	24 February 2026	19:30:00	Craswall Whist Drive, Craswall Village Hall
Sat	28 February 2026	10:00-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle
Mon	02 March 2026	19:30:00	Longtown & District Historical Society: Tim Hoverd, <i>The Bromyard Downs Project</i>
Wed	04 March 2026	14:30-16:30	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Tue	10 March 2026	19:15:00	Longtown & District WI. Longtown Village Hall
Sat	28 March 2026	10:00-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle

**Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Peterchurch Police & Fire Hub, Hereford HR2 0RU  
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