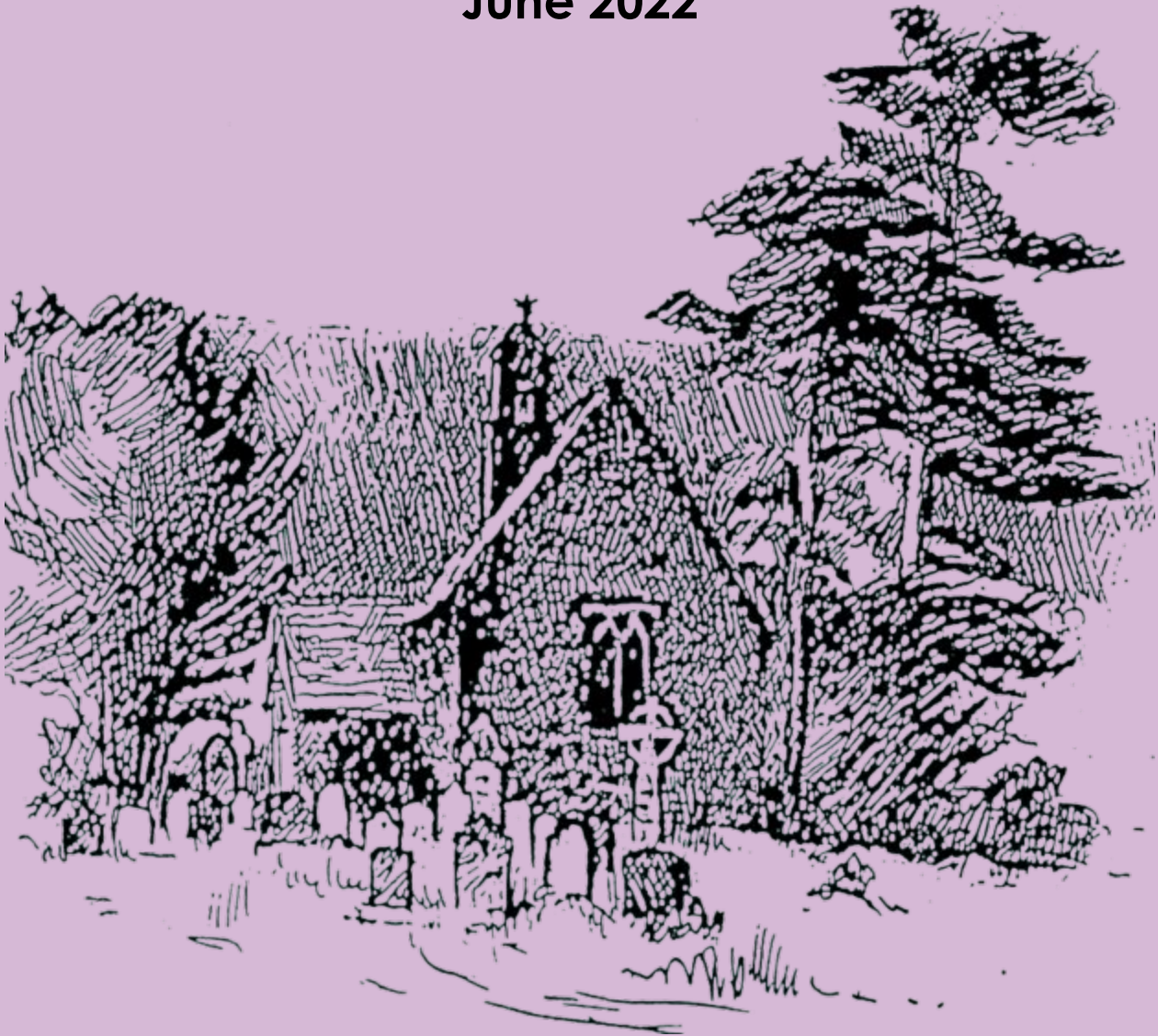


# The Black Mountains Group Benefice

# NEWSLETTER

June 2022



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

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

Rev. Mark Godson: [revmarkgodson@gmail.com](mailto:revmarkgodson@gmail.com)  
Rev. Luci Morris: [luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com](mailto:luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com)

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

Min  
**50p**  
donation



## Churchwardens

### Clodock & Longtown

Mr Nick Vaughan 01873 860201

### Craswall

Mrs Christine Cleaton 01981 510674

Mr Geoff Holder 07580 632273

### Llanveynoe

Mr Donald Phillips 01873 860298

Commodore Peter Tribe 01873 860260

### St Margaret's

Mrs Jane Baxter 01981 510388

### Michaelchurch Esley

Mrs Olive Howells 01981 510228

### Newton

(Vacant)

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## From the Clergy

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The Platinum Jubilee as you know is coming up in early June with countless wonderful celebrations locally and around the country. We are celebrating the Queen's 70-year reign and at the core of her reign is the Queen's service to her people. The Queen sees voluntary and public service as one of the most important parts of her work and indeed on her 21st birthday vowed 'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service'.

One of the glimmers of light that came out of Covid in this part of the world was the love and care that people gave to their neighbours – by keeping in touch, helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions and generally watching out for the people who lived near them. Before Covid they may have known them by sight but probably hadn't had time to get to know them better. It was very heartening and this connection remains with us and makes our communities better, kinder places.

Service is viewed as a rather old-fashioned word in some quarters but it is at the heart of the Christian Gospel. After he washed their feet at the Last Supper Jesus told his disciples that 'I have set you an example, you also should do what I have done to you.' St Paul reiterates this in his letter to the Philippians reminding us that we should 'in humility regard others as better than ourselves'. The Christian adage to love your neighbour as yourself is not always easy – so it's worth remembering the words the Queen wrote in 2016:

*For me, Christ is a role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none'.*

Whatever our challenges, fears and aspirations, these are words to give us direction and hope. *Revd Jane*

---

### JUNE READINGS

#### Sunday June 5th

Old Testament	Acts 2: 1-21
New Testament	Romans 8:14-17
Gospel	John 14:8-17 (25-27)

#### Sunday June 12th

Old Testament	Proverbs 8: 1-4,22-31
New Testament	Romans 5: 1-5
Gospel	John 16: 12-15

#### Sunday June 19th

Old Testament	Isaiah 65: 1-9
New Testament	Galatians 3: 23 - end
Gospel	Luke 8: 26-39

#### Sunday June 26th

Old Testament	1 Kings 19: 15-16
New Testament	Galatians 5: 1, 13-25
Gospel	Luke 9: 51-end

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## Deanery Update

Be quick! If you'd like to hear John Bell of the Iona Community on June 7th 2022, book a ticket as soon as you can. He will be at Peterchurch in the afternoon for a workshop "Believing outside the box" and will be in Tyberton in the evening speaking on "The Celtic Tradition". Tickets available via Eventbrite or through the office.

Other events as part of the Tyberton Spirituality Talks are listed on the website, where you will also find more details about the next in our series of Hedgerow Communion which takes place at Clodock on Tuesday June 21st.

The annual Visitation service, when Churchwardens are sworn in, will be at Eaton Bishop Church on 30th June at 7pm, followed by a bring and share supper at the village hall.

You will shortly begin to see some services in this newsletter described as Sunday Worship with Communion. Some Clusters will be familiar with this as it was previously known as Communion by Extension. At present, our Licensed Lay Minister (LLM), Diane Bates will be the usual person taking these services. Diane will attend a Holy Communion service conducted earlier by a priest and will receive the blessed bread and wine at that service which she will then bring and share at the service of Worship with Communion.

In the first week of July, you may well see a group walking the Golden Valley Pilgrim Way. This will be the Wanatchee Trinity Church Girls' Choir from Washington State, USA. They'll be walking the whole route and singing Evensong each evening along the way. It would be great if you could join in the Evensong nearest you. More details next month and on the website (see p4).

The Gathering on 10th May allowed an opportunity to exchange ideas about some of the ongoing projects in the Deanery such as Grow Strong, Stay and Play, Enabling Worship Course, Pilgrimage Project etc. We'll be holding another Gathering in the autumn – look out for details nearer the time.

After almost a year working with us, Angie (our Deanery Curate), will be priested at a special celebration at Hereford Cathedral on Saturday 2nd July at 4.30pm. All are welcome to come along to this service, arrive early for a good view!

The following day, Sunday 3rd July, at 11am, Angie will celebrate her first Holy Communion as a priest at St Michael's, Michaelchurch Escley. This special service will be followed by a bring and share lunch at Escleyside Hall. Please come along to support our curate on this very special day. It would be helpful to have an idea of numbers attending on 3rd July, both the service and the lunch; can you please contact your Churchwarden in the first instance who will then pass on numbers from their respective parishes.

*Anne Lloyd, Deanery Mission Coordinator – 01981 620145*

*[www.abbeydoredeanery.org](http://www.abbeydoredeanery.org) [abbeydoredmc@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydoredmc@gmail.com)*



### A chance to celebrate together Angie's Priesting and the first time she presides at Holy Communion.

After almost a year working with us, Angie (our Deanery Curate), will be priested at a special celebration at Hereford Cathedral on Saturday 2nd July at 4.30pm. All are welcome to come along to this service, arrive early for a good view!

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It would be helpful to have an idea of numbers attending on 3rd July, both the service and the lunch; can you please contact your Churchwarden in the first instance who will then pass on numbers from their respective parishes.

### Thanks

An event to celebrate the life of **Angela Bennett**, who passed away recently, was held at Craswall Village Hall on 27th April. Angela's contributions to various local organisations including Concerts for Craswall, Flicks in the Sticks, Garden Club and Women's Guild, were acknowledged and remembered, as well as many personal friendships. A donation has been sent to the Marie Curie charity.

*Miriam*

### JILL SEVENOAKS

Paul, Carol, Ian, Caroline and Maggie Sevenoaks would like to thank everyone who attended their mum's – Jill Sevenoaks – funeral service and for the kind messages and support.

The donations that were kindly given will be divided into £1500 to St Michael's hospice and £755 to Clodock churchyard.

### OPEN MILLS WEEKEND

A big thank you to everyone who helped out or visited Clodock Mill on National Mills Weekend. It was a great couple of afternoons with perfect weather, and even though the mill wasn't able to run we raised a superb £764 for Midlands Air Ambulance.

*Martin & Jill Cook*

### Platinum Jubilee Events



**Open to All**

Under 11 ≈ 12 to 16 ≈ Over 16

Any material - Any size up to 300mm x 300mm

£2 per Entry - 50p per Vote - Cash Prizes

Entries received from Friday 27th May  
up to 1pm on Saturday 4th June

The Cornwall Arms Clodock

Voting on the day up to 6pm – Winner announced at 7pm (ish)

Jubilee Garden Party – Saturday 4th June

**The Cornwall Arms Clodock**

including a lunchtime barbecue

**SEE P9 FOR FULL DETAILS**



### SUNDAY 5TH JUNE

### THE PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION!



**10.00am: Service of Thanksgiving** at Clodock Church.

**12.30pm: The Big Lunch**

**Longtown Village Hall, and Marquee on field.**

**NO NEED TO BOOK**

Bring your own picnic food and drinks (water provided)

Black Hill Voices will entertain us.

Raffle by the Thursday Club.

Corgi Hunt for the Children. 9 hidden around the Hall and field. Can you find them and win a prize?

**3.00pm: Children's sports and fancy dress**

Longtown School PTA. Rowlestone Ice creams

**4.00pm: Tea and cakes** by Longtown WI

**7-9pm: Ceilidh** for all the family. (£5 per adult) Longtown Village Hall. Caller and Fiddler to help us along.

**7-11pm: Bar** by The Crown Pub.

**Come and enjoy this very special day as we celebrate the once-in-a-lifetime Queen's Platinum Jubilee!**



To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, Longtown Salem Baptist Chapel will combine its Anniversary date (always the first Sunday in June) with a Special Celebration and Thanksgiving on 5th June 2022 at 6.30pm. Crickhowell Community Band will bring their music to provide for SONGS OF PRAISE. It will be a first visit, an amazing opportunity to welcome such to our village. Revd Joy James will lead the Gathering which will include other various contributions. She will also dedicate the extended Garden of Remembrance (Graveyard) and the new fence around it, including the adjacent multi-purpose area provided for outdoor activities. Refreshments will be provided so please come along and enjoy a special time on a special date. EVERYONE WELCOME.

*Ruth Pritchard & Wendy Pritchard-Lockett*

### Other forthcoming events

**Longtown Library**

**now open,**

**Every first Wednesday of the month**

**2.30 - 4.30 pm**

**Swap books, tea and chat!**



**Next open on 2nd June**





# Plant Sale

**Jubilee Market, 10-12pm, Saturday 4th June**  
**Vowchurch Memorial Hall**

Good value plants grown by our members.  
Profits will go towards paying future speaker costs.

See more at: [www.escleysidegc.wixsite.com/club](http://www.escleysidegc.wixsite.com/club)

**NEWTON ST MARGARET'S WOMEN'S GUILD**

We are looking forward to a talk by the Archaeologist, historian and author:

**RUTH RICHARDSON**

*on*

**A HISTORY OF HEREFORDSHIRE FIELD NAMES**

Venue: **VOWCHURCH MEMORIAL HALL**  
Date: Thursday, **9th June** 2022 at 7.30pm  
Guests welcome [£3.00 per person]  
Refreshments available.

### LONGTOWN THURSDAY CLUB

Two meetings are scheduled for June, both in Longtown Village Hall from 2pm to 5pm:

**Thursday 9th June**

**Thursday 23rd June**

One of these may be replaced by a local outing, but this will be decided at our 26th May meeting.

New members are always welcome.

For further information please get in touch with Hazel Pugh on 01873 860803 or Pauline Jones on 01873 851782; [jonespauline@pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:jonespauline@pobroadband.co.uk)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
ST CLYDAWG'S CHURCH**

**14th June 6.30pm**

**AGENDA**

**I. Annual Meeting of Parishioners**  
(for all parishioners)

I. 1) Welcome and Opening Prayer  
I. 2) Election of Churchwardens  
I. 3) Any other business

**II. Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
(only for the members of parish whose names are found on electoral roll)

II. 1) Apologies  
II. 2) Minutes of the previous meeting  
II. 3) Matters Arising:

**PCC Reports**  
**Election of the PCC members and different Officers**


St John's Church, Newton HR2 0QN  
**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
Wednesday 22nd June 2022 at 3pm.  
All welcome.  
Copy of accounts available in the church.

**HAY Music**

**THE TIPPETT STRING QUARTET and EMMA ABBATE, piano**  
play Schumann and Elgar Piano Quintets  
and Tippett's 5th String Quartet

Friday, 24 June at 7.00pm  
St Mary's Church, Hay-on-Wye, HR3 5EB

Tickets (£15 / under 25s £7.50) and full programme information at [www.haymusic.org](http://www.haymusic.org).  
Tickets also available from the Hay Tourist Information Bureau and at the door if still available.  
To join our mailing list please email [music@haymusic.org](mailto:music@haymusic.org)



**THE GARDEN OF THE WIND**  
At Middle Hunt House, Hunt House Lane, Walterstone HR20DY the gardens will be open for the NGS on Saturday **25th** and Sunday **26th June** from 11 am to 5 pm.

Teas will be available and plants for sale. Entry £5 for adults to charities nominated by the NGS. *Rupert Otten*

**JOIN US FOR A FREE FUN DAY  
FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY!**

**BLACK HILL  
COMMUNITY  
RADIO DAY**

**SUNDAY 26 JUNE  
11AM TILL 3PM**  
AT ESCLEYSIDE HALL  
NEXT TO MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

MAGICIAN  
COCONUT SHY  
GIANT JENGA  
+ CONNECT 4  
FACE PAINTING  
BBQ  
AND MORE!

**hvoSS** UK Government Black Hill Community Hub

**ST. MARGARETS FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND**  
**9TH & 10TH JULY 2022**  
**SATURDAY 2.30PM**  
**MUSIC AMONG THE FLOWERS**

An opportunity to display your talents, regardless of ability, in a supportive environment. If you want to display your musical talents or say a reading please contact Elizabeth May on 01981 510533 [emaylittlem@gmail.com](mailto:emaylittlem@gmail.com) [cont'd]

**ST. MARGARETS FLOWER FESTIVAL WEEKEND  
SUNDAY 3PM FLOWER FESTIVAL SERVICE WITH  
REV. ANGIE KATELEY**

Followed by refreshments. Any contributions or help with flowers please contact Jane Fleet on 01981 510116 or [janefleet88@gmail.com](mailto:janefleet88@gmail.com)

Flower donations gratefully received on **Friday 8th July**

**JULY EXHIBITION OF ART, DESIGN & CRAFTS  
LONGTOWN VILLAGE HALL – SATURDAY JULY 2nd**

See p8 for details

**TRINITY CHURCH**

**GIRLS' CHOIR, WENATCHEE VALLEY, USA**

Hear the choir sing Evensong at 8.00pm at the following churches as they walk

The Golden Valley Pilgrim Way.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July – Dorstone

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Michaelchurch

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July – Craswall

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Clodock

**Concerts for Craswall**

**REMINDER**

**INTERNATIONAL PIANO QUARTET**

**Saturday May 28th 2022 at 7pm**

**Dore Abbey**

Mahler Piano Quartet in A minor  
Fauré Piano Quartet No.1 in C minor, Op.15  
Brahms Piano Quartet No.1 in G minor, Op.25

Four of Europe's foremost musicians from the London Symphony Orchestra and the extraordinary Sitkovetsky Piano Trio perform two of the most famous piano quartets in the repertoire.

**THE ELYSIAN SINGERS WITH CONDUCTOR SAM LAUGHTON**

**Saturday July 9th at 7pm**

**Dore Abbey**

Purcell, *Come, Ye Sons of Art*  
JS Bach, Cantata No.39  
Purcell, *Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes*  
Vivaldi, *Gloria* RV589

*"Amongst chamber choirs, they're one of the best."  
[Sir John Tavener]*

Making a welcome return after a three-year absence, The Elysian Singers of London, founded by Matthew Greenall and under musical director Sam Laughton, is one of the UK's leading chamber choirs.

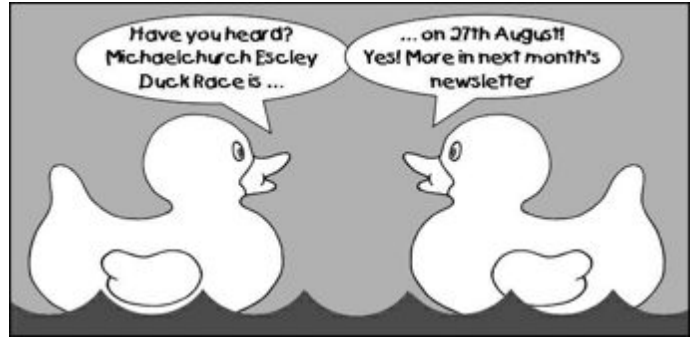
More information/tickets from our website  
<https://www.concertsforcraswall.org/shop>  
or the box office tel: 01981 510112

**CRASWALL BARBECUE & GRAND DRAW**

**Saturday 23rd July**

5.00pm start in Craswall Churchyard

All the usual attractions: teas, burgers and hotdogs, tombola, the milking competition, cake stall, plants and produce etc. and a few ones new for this year!



**Local Newsround**

**DISCOVERY CLUB**

Discovery Club met on Saturday mornings for pupils at Longtown and Michaelchurch Escley School for over 20 years and some of you may remember attending or bringing your children along.

Huge thanks are due to Joyce Hvass and her team for running Discovery Club with such enthusiasm over many years, having taken over in 1995 from the founder Ruth Parry.

Of course, over a couple of decades, a great deal changes. The number and variety of ways for children to spend their Saturdays have increased enormously, along with the number of commitments adults hold, so for the last few years the club hasn't operated.

The club does still hold a small amount of funds. These are a combination of membership fees and a grant given by the Lewis Gilbert and Thomas George Charity. We propose to return the unused grant money to this charity so that it can be used towards local good causes and to share the remainder of the funds equally between the PTAs of Longtown and Michaelchurch Escley Primary Schools.

Should anyone wish to offer an alternative proposal about how the funds should be distributed, please let us know by 30th June 2022.

Thanks to all those who attended whilst we were running it – we hope you had as much fun as we did!

*Sally-Anne Smith & Anne Lloyd.*

**CRASWALL YFC UPDATE**

With several of our older members off to Blackpool for the weekend, Pre-rally was busy. The juniors very much led the way, with Sadie winning Poultry trussing and Tillie horse stock judging along with photography. This leads us into one of the biggest competition days of the year. The HFYFC Rally at Dorstone Court will be over by the time you read this, but as it's nice and local, we hope to have seen many of you there.

*Phil Powell, CYF Secretary*

07468 411649 / [pPhillip\\_blackhill@live.co.uk](mailto:pPhillip_blackhill@live.co.uk)

**LONGTOWN AND DISTRICT WI**

At our meeting on 10th May WI member Sarah Vaughan, who is an Occupational Therapy Lead with Monmouthshire integrated services, gave us an interesting presentation about falls and how to prevent them. She explained how to reduce fall risk by maintaining strength and fitness. We had the opportunity to try some simple exercises which improve balance and coordination. Sarah ended her talk with a useful practical demonstration of how to get up from the floor after a fall. Afterwards we were able to ask Sarah questions and then we enjoyed some delicious refreshments. *Libby Davis*

## **BLACK HILL COMMUNITIES NETWORK UKRAINE GROUP**

### **Our efforts are bringing good results – at last.**

Two of our organising group recently had a meeting with our Member of Parliament to discuss the difficulties of getting desperate guests into this country from Ukraine. His political answers to our humanitarian questions were sadly expected and not particularly helpful. However, we now have one family whose visa applications have been successful, with others in the pipeline. So, Ukrainian guests are imminent. We are encouraged to refer to them as guests and not as refugees. We have wonderful offers of accommodation and will be pleased to hear of others, ranging from a single room to complete houses.

Knowing that guests will probably arrive with what they stand up in and with little hand luggage, we are gathering useful gifts for welcome packs. We also need cash donations.

If you think that you can help in any way by offering a service, expertise, welcome gifts, cash, or accommodation then please get in touch to discuss with us, <https://ukraine.blackhillcommunities.net/>, or talk to Sue Robinson, Rhiannon Taylor, Alan McCardle or Bob Burson.

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## **MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

It is quite incredible how quickly the school year hurries by. It is probably down to the fact that we divide the year into half terms and each half term always seems so brimming with activities and events that those little chunks of time rush by.

The start of the summer term is always an especially busy time in primary schools because we have KS1 and KS2 SATS. At Michaelchurch we pride ourselves with the way we prepare our children for these statutory tests and for the way we help them through the examination period. The daily SATS breakfast is a huge hit with the children and something they look forward to as they move up through the school. The children also went into the examination period knowing how proud we were of them already and that we expected nothing more from them than their best efforts – something they gave in bucketfuls!

Our ‘Stay and Be Curious’ sessions have been a great success and will continue through this term so if you are interested in coming along, give our school office a call or drop us an email at [admin@michaelchurch-escley.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@michaelchurch-escley.hereford.sch.uk) to book a place. The sessions are led by Julie Christopher and are often Forest School sessions in our lovely Spinney Forest School area – Julie is a qualified Forest School leader.

We are also excited to announce that from September, our pre-school will move to a new, permanent, self-contained base in the current Oak Classroom (who won't be homeless – don't worry!) with easy access to our lovely outdoor areas. If you would like to send your pre-school child to a warm, friendly and supportive setting, that builds children's resilience and independence through an imaginative curriculum with an outdoor ethos, please get in touch. We always welcome visitors so if you would like to pop along for a look around, again, drop us a line and arrange a visit!

Coming up we have our KS2 summer production, which this year will be *The Selfish Giant* by Oscar Wilde. This is a beautiful musical and fantastic story and the children are all

very excited to be part of it. We also have our Highland Games to look forward to and Oak Class are extremely excited about their forthcoming residential trip to London! KS2 (Sapling and Oak Classes) will also be visiting the Hay Festival on the last day of the half term and it is a delight to be able to attend this fantastic festival again after a 2 year break due to Covid.

Finally, if you are looking for a school place for your child, whatever their age, give our school office a call to arrange a visit and check availability. The majority of the year groups are full, but we do still have a few places available.

*Louise Crocker, Headteacher*

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## **LLANVEYNOE CHURCH NEWS**

Thanks to Chris Begley who gave a spine chilling talk on Friday 13th May at Llanveynoe Church. We were treated to a dizzying series of wild exploits: Sky-diving, Ice-climbing and Heliskiing. It was riveting. The collection afterwards raised a very satisfactory £ 155 which went to support the Church.

Thank you to all who came and contributed to the success of the evening.

### **Progressive Supper**

BOOKING ESSENTIAL. Only £15 pp with your First Course.

The next community event will be a Progressive Supper on **Friday 8th July**.

**THE FIRST COURSE** : courtesy of Richard and Arlene Clare, Lower Turnant, Llanveynoe at 6pm. Drink with Canapes.

**MAIN COURSE** : Courtesy of Brian and Mary Dixon, Olchon Farm House, Llanveynoe. Please bring your own wine or drinks and glasses. Water will be provided.

**PUDDING COURSE** : AT LLANVEYNOE CHURCH.

Please continue to use own wine or drinks and glasses. Water will be provided.

Come and have a lovely Summer evening in two delightful private homes, and enjoy friendship and fun.

BOOKING via Donald Phillips (01873 860298) or Peter Tribe (01873 860260). Booking must close Tuesday 5th July.

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## **CLIMATE MATTERS**

You may have noticed the signs upon the Castle Green in May, where an area was set aside for No Mow May.

No Mow May is a campaign run by Plantlife to encourage as many of us as possible to allow wildflowers in our gardens and community spaces to grow and set seed.

Allowing the flowers to bloom means there is food for insects, which is desperately needed as our insect populations have plummeted in recent years. Fewer insects mean less food for other wildlife, so anything we can do to support them is critical to our collective efforts to reverse the decline in biodiversity.

But this is just the tip of the iceberg of the benefits of No Mow May. Allowing the flowers to bloom and set seed helps to maintain the diversity of flowers in our grasslands.

If flowers aren't allowed to set seed, then a vicious cycle sets in. Populations of annuals will die out quickly. Perennials may come back for a few years but ultimately, as they can't

live forever, their populations will die out too. Those that can reproduce through other means, such as rhizomes or tubers, will begin to dominate and make it near impossible for populations of less dominant plants to recover.

This in turn reduces the diversity of food sources for our wildlife and those populations also begin to decline.

But it isn't just food that is important, it is also vital habitat for all parts of the life cycle.

For example, the delicate pinky/lilac blooms of the Cuckoo Flower are where the Orange Tip Butterfly lays her eggs in May and June. Next time you are walking, take a peek underneath the flowers and you may see the yellow eggs at the base of the flowers. They take a few weeks to hatch and then get busy eating the Cuckoo flower leaving the seeds to fall to the ground to germinate next year.

No Mow May is one thing we can all do to help wildlife recover. But now it is over, there is still lots you can do to help.

Reducing your mowing to every 4 weeks allows so many life cycles to complete and increases the diversity of flowers in the grass. Even better is leaving an area for the whole summer to support lots of different wildlife species in a whole host of ways. You will find so many exciting and surprising species taking up residence in your new habitat.

Long grass develops deeper roots, which means it locks up more carbon and protects the soil from erosion. The long roots provide perfect habitat for the extraordinary range of wildlife in the soil and increases the biomass dramatically.

Longer grass also provides much needed cool spaces for wildlife to retreat to from the heat in summer. Did you know that the temperature in long grass can be dramatically lower than in short grass and half the temperature of roads? When the road hits 40°C, the temperature in long grass might only be 20°C.

The simplest of changes can really help and even a small wildlife area can make a huge contribution. If you would like some advice on what you can do to support more wildlife in your garden, please email [lifecimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:lifecimatechange@gmail.com) and our volunteers will be delighted to help.

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#### **VOWCHURCH & DISTRICT GROUP PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council held their Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday 11th May at Esleyside Hall in Michaelchurch where Councillors and local parishioners heard Mr Bill Quan, Herefordshire Chairman of the NFU shared his thoughts and experiences with them. This was followed by a glass of wine and an informal chat. It was an enjoyable evening and thank you to the local residents who attended.

The Chair also gave her annual report as follows:

This year your council has been able to meet again in person, but initially we were socially distanced, masked and with the windows open. We have continued to meet at Vowchurch village hall as this affords more space for distancing.

During the year we accepted the resignation through ill health of our Chair Paul Mason, also of our past Chair Harry Franklin, and of Simeon Cole who no longer lives in the parish. We thank them all for their dedication in representing the residents. Happily, we have now been joined by three new councillors: Gabbie Franklin and David Cross for

Michaelchurch and Graeme Deas for Vowchurch. We now have a full compliment of councillors, and they bring valuable skills to help our work on your behalf. We are fortunate in the able assistance of our clerk, Linda Cowles, who ensures the smooth running of our parish council.

We continue to employ a lengthman to maintain the roadways and lanes, and as reported last year were successful in being granted extra funds to address some longstanding problems. This was completed by last May, but unfortunately some of the culverts have become blocked again. We would stress that in Herefordshire landowners are responsible for maintaining the ditches alongside their land. There is another tranche of money available this year for further works, but less money is available this year.

The issue of a speed limit on the B4348 remains. Each year the Highways Department draw up a list of proposed speed limits and these are prioritized. If there are some urgent requests then our application is likely to drop down the list, but the fact that it has been on the list for so long does mean that we are edging ever closer to it being enacted.

The issue of internet access highlighted in last year's report continues to be a source of concern. Councillor Engel has, together with Councillor Toby Murcott of Bacton, been meeting with our Ward Councillor Peter Jinman, and our MP Jesse Norman. Gigaclear have stepped back from their contract and there are now new approaches being explored to ensure connectivity for all in the future.

During the year Herefordshire asked parishes to review their Neighbourhood Plans, which we did. It was decided that our Neighbourhood Plan remained relevant and that no changes were needed. However, we have engaged in the consultation on future development for 2021–2041. This is looking at where new housing should be built in the light of central government's requirement for a given number of houses to be built within the county. We continue to consider planning applications and make comments.

Parish Councils were asked to consider preparing a resilience plan for their area. I am grateful to Councillor Chadwick for taking a lead on this. When it is completed, it will be on the website, but we will also need to consider other ways of distributing the information in case of an emergency. Although we are unlikely to face the devastating floods that have occurred in parts of Herefordshire, extreme weather events such as Storm Arwen have shown us that we could have loss of power over a wide area, landlines down, damaged buildings or landslides.

You may know that the contract for Public Rights of Way and Traffic Regulation Order management is now 'in house' at Herefordshire County Council. All the parishes have a volunteer footpath officer who will be walking each of the footpaths in their patch at least once a year and reporting any problems, but you too can report any problem online on the Herefordshire website.

We are grateful for the regular attendance of our Ward Councillor Peter Jinman at our meetings, for his ability to keep us informed of what is going on at county level, and also for the attendance of our local police.

*Linda Cowles, Parish Clerk*

01544 321906 / [vowchurchparishclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:vowchurchparishclerk@hotmail.com)



## Round and About

### VOWCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

Market, Saturday July 25 10am - 12 noon

**VaT50** April winners were: Joyce Powell (£50) and Graeme Deas (£20)

**Taiji**, Tuesdays 10 - 11am at Vowchurch Hall. Contact [janefleet88@gmail.com](mailto:janefleet88@gmail.com)

**Pilates**, at Vowchurch Hall, Tuesdays from 6pm. Contact [hannahmthomas@hotmail.com](mailto:hannahmthomas@hotmail.com)

The Village Pub will re-open in the Autumn

Vowchurch Hall is available for parties, weddings and events as well as meetings and presentations at very reasonable rates.

Enquiries to Jane Wheatley on 01981 550791  
[www.vowchurchturnastonehall.co.uk](http://www.vowchurchturnastonehall.co.uk)

### PETERCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

The AV system is now installed. It is a very easy system to use and hopefully will be a great asset to the village. For any details please get in touch with any of the committee members.

Why not come for **Gentle Dance exercise** with Abbie Mason 11.30 am-12.30pm on Thursdays?

The **Village Art Club** every Monday evening and Friday morning.

**Hatha Yoga** is being held every Wednesday 7pm -8.30pm.

**Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** in the village are taking place in many locations including the Village Hall: on June 4th, Abbie Mason Jubilee Stroll from 10.30, Picklelilly Magic show from 3pm and local band OCG in the evening from 7.30pm. Bar is available.

Also get your green fingers ready. Our **Craft, Flower and Vegetable show** is being held on Saturday 30th July. Also in the evening we have local band BOONDOGZ

Please keep your eyes peeled for posters.

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.

Day Centre for Coffee and a chat every Monday 10.00am -12.00pm.

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 above.)

### GOLDEN VALLEY DAY CENTRE

April had a lot going on at the Club – so far there has been an Easter Card competition which was won by Hazel Price with Mike coming a close second. Thanks to everyone who joined in; we were well and truly filled up with Easter Eggs, cakes and biscuits.

We as club also purchased an Oak Clock in memory of Maurice Church who was one of the committee when we decided to start this crazy club around 7 years ago. The clock was made for us by Robert Morgan from Dorstone using Herefordshire oak.

Our treasurer Muriel/Lou Howe is now out of hospital and recovering well at home.

We are all now looking forward to Spring with its warmer weather and then our Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations on Monday June 6th. I will try to keep you posted with what we have in store for our club.

We are also starting some trips soon. I will keep everyone informed as to where they will be going (but I have heard the seaside mentioned).

Don't forget to get your green fingers working or even your crafty ones if you have them, as there is the Village Hall Flower, Produce and Craft show being held on the 30th July We are always looking for volunteers and if you feel you would like to help us as a volunteer please ring Mrs Kath Gaze 01981550579 . You don't have to do it every Monday. We are happy with any time available. It's just making Tea and Coffee. All Covid precautions are being adhered to.

Feel free to drop in on a Monday between 10am and 12pm and you will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

## Notices and Advertisements

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### Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team

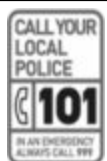
**Peterchurch Police & Fire Hub, Hereford HR2 0RU. 01981 550253**

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PCSO 6378 Pete Knight 07773 053 919

[peter.knight@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:peter.knight@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

Contact: 101 ext 4820 – Email: [goldenvalley.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:goldenvalley.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)





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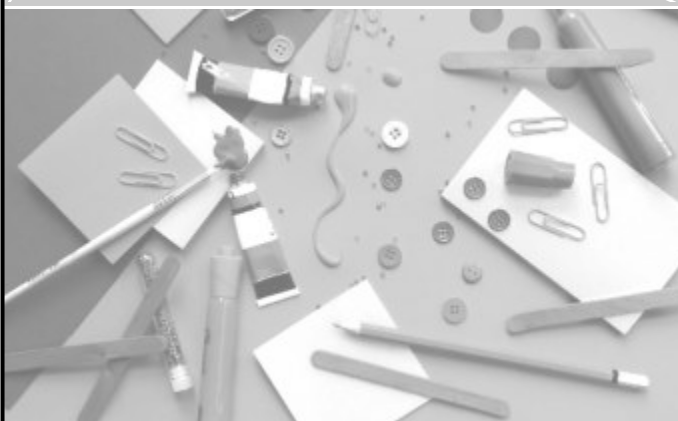
We are looking for Plants, Tombola Gifts and Raffle Prizes. If you are able to help, Sarah at Hillside (Margaret Aston's) is collecting **Plants**, Beryl Watkins **Raffle Prizes** and Sharon at Corner Cottage **Tombola Prizes**.

Prizes can also be left at the Cornwall Arms.  
*Cake donations on the day will be gratefully received.*

**Jubilee Garden Party**  
**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June**  
**In aid of St Michaels Hospice**



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# Jubilee Garden Party - Saturday 4th June

## The Cornwall Arms Clodock



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Buy a Cake to take home



### Barbeque from 12 noon

Bring your own Food  
Salads and Bread provided



Bring a Pudding\* to Share



### TOMBOLA



### Colouring Competition



### Plant Stall

### QUIZ

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....



### CASH Prizes

### Skittles, Quoits & other Games



### Treasure Hunt



### Plop

### Don't miss out!

Many competitions e.g. Treasure Hunt & Crown Making can be entered from Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Raffle & other entry tickets available from the Cornwall Arms on the 27<sup>th</sup> too.



### Guess the Weight

### Red, White & Blue Fancy Dress

### Crown Making Competition



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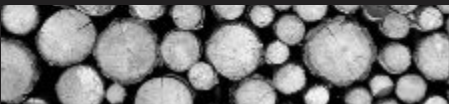
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Email: TommyWood-Cole@hotmail.com



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**davidwat69@gmail.com**



01873 860 444

<b>Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri:</b>	<b>7.30 am - 5.30 pm</b>
<b>Late night Thurs:</b>	<b>7.30 am - 7.00 pm</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>7.30 am - 4.00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday (May - Oct):</b>	<b>10.00 am - 2.00 pm</b>
(Nov - April):	10.00 am - 12 noon
<b>Bank Holiday Mondays</b>	<b>10.00 am - 2.00 pm</b>

Jubilee weekend festivities are fast approaching and we are looking forward to celebrating one woman who has been committed to serving others for seventy years. We are open our normal times above except the Monday when we open 10am - 2pm to have a bit more time with our families too.

### Shop Local 30

Saturday 18th June is international picnic day, have you tried our Herefordshire handmade scotch eggs perfect for a picnic or a delicious lunchtime fill up when you can't get home.

### More exciting news we have been shortlisted in a TOP 100

As you know we are chuffed to be listed in the top 100 for a sixth year in a row. Excitingly we were shortlisted in two categories and just had an hour interview for the Sustainability category. We are thrilled our hard work and effort is being recognised at a national level. Look us up here [betterRetailing.com/top-100](https://betterRetailing.com/top-100)

### Sunday Summer opening

Summer Sundays are back 10am to 2pm, time to climb the Cat's Back in daylight and back to us for a sit down and coffee at Hopes reading a Sunday paper at 10am

### Plans, more plans and fingers crossed planning permission

Our planning application will be going in, it is for a cafe, work office/shop to rent and a membership 24/7 co-share office. If you would like to see the draft plans as they are, still a few tweaks the most crucial element for us is to get solar panels to produce our own electricity on site.

### Shepherds ice cream will be back

Back this summer will be Shepherds soft scoop ice cream; we are trying to adapt to get an improved space for this summer prior to the cafe opening. We have ideas but you may have a better one: please tell us, or if too shy to say, email [hello@hopesoflongtown.co.uk](mailto:hello@hopesoflongtown.co.uk), or we do have a suggestion box in the shop on the left hand side above the fire extinguisher.

## LONGTOWN POST OFFICE

**Saturday 9am ~ 11am & Monday to Friday 10.30am ~ 3.30pm**

**Pay your bills at our Post Office** If an invoice has a barcode on it, it is likely it can be paid at the Post Office when you want, using cash, card or cheque (except Welsh Water). Keep track and you can **pay your council tax, BT, Water, nPower**, at the Post Office on a day you choose.

Taking a last minute opportunity to travel or go on a work trip, you can pick up Euros at Longtown Post Office immediately and any other travel currency can be ordered for collection safely at the Post Office

### Save time, use our Post Office as your bank for personal & business accounts

- Using your bank card you can pay cash into most personal and business bank accounts
- Using a personalised paying in slip you can pay cash into your personal and business bank accounts
- Using a personalised paying in slip and an envelope you can pay cheques into personal and business accounts. We have the paying in envelopes, please ask us for spare ones if you are self isolating and wish to prepare in advance

### Transition to Barcoded Stamps

Non-barcoded stamps will be phased out but will remain usable until 31st January 2023. Customers are encouraged to use their non-barcoded stamps before this date. Alternatively, non-barcoded stamps can be exchanged for the new barcoded version through the Royal Mail's 'Swap Out' scheme.

### Changing your mobile phone?

You can always top up your mobile phone credit at Longtown Post Office, plus we have SIM cards if you are going eco and buying a preloved phone.

**Sadly no posties are based at ours, so if you want to chase a letter or parcel, please call Royal Mail Hereford on 01432 346100**



**Hopes of Longtown** – Open seven days a week 01873 860444

[www.hopesoflongtown.co.uk](http://www.hopesoflongtown.co.uk) / [@HopesofLongtown](https://www.instagram.com/HopesofLongtown) / [info@hopesoflongtown.co.uk](mailto:info@hopesoflongtown.co.uk)

join our Facebook group Hopes of Longtown and post community/charity events for free

Like our Hopes of Longtown business page to keep up to date with news

Tag us in your passion for food and community via Twitter / Instagram / Pinterest / Facebook

**JUNE CHURCH SERVICES**

**5 June, Pentecost/ Platinum Jubilee Weekend**  
 9.30am Craswall Morning Worship  
 10.30am Clodock Jubilee Holy Communion

**12 June, Trinity Sunday**

11am Michaelchurch Morning Worship  
 3pm Newton Afternoon Worship with Baptism

**19 June, Trinity 1**

3pm St Margaret's Holy Communion

**26 June, Trinity 2**

9.30am Craswall Holy Communion

**Other June events**

**21 June, Summer Solstice and Wild Swimming**  
 Clodock, River Monnow and Cornwall Arms meet outside Clodock Church at 8pm.

**JULY CHURCH SERVICES**

**3 July, Trinity 3**

11am Michaelchurch Holy Communion  
*Angie's First Celebration of Holy Communion*

**10 July, Trinity 4**

11am Llanveynoe Holy Communion  
 3pm St Margaret's Flower Festival Service  
 6pm Clodock Evening Worship

**17 July, Trinity 5**

9.30am Craswall Morning Worship  
 3pm Newton Holy Communion

**24 July, Trinity 6**

9.30am Clodock Holy Communion

**31 July, Trinity 7**

3pm St Margaret's Holy Communion

**Other July events**

**3 July, Bring and share lunch** at Esleyside Hall to celebrate Angie's Priesting

JUNE DIARY			Please see <a href="https://blackhillcommunities.net">https://blackhillcommunities.net</a> for events further ahead
Thu	02 June	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Thu	02 June	9.45pm	Jubilee Nationwide Beacon Lighting, Hatterall Ridge
Fri	03 June		Jubilee Nationwide Bellingring, Clodock and Michaelchurch churches
Sat	04 June	From noon	Jubilee Garden Party, The Cornwall Arms, Clodock
Sat	04 June	10.00am-1.00pm	Esleyside Gardening Club Plant Sale, Vowchurch Hall
Sun	05 June		Jubilee 'Big Lunch' and other events, Longtown Village Hall and field
Sun	05 June	12.30pm	Jubilee Nationwide The Big Lunch
Sun	05 June	3.00pm	Jubilee Children's Sports and Games, Longtown Hall field
Sun	05 June	4.00-5.00pm	Jubilee Tea and Cakes, Longtown Village Hall
Sun	05 June	7.00-9.00pm	Jubilee Family Ceilidh, Longtown Village Hall
Sun	05 June	6.30pm	Longtown Salem Baptist Church Jubilee Celebration, Thanksgiving and Anniversary
Sat	25 June	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Pride, Longtown Castle
Sat	25 June		NGS Open Gardens at Walterstone: The Garden of the Wind HR2 0DY
Sun	26 June		NGS Open Gardens at Walterstone: The Garden of the Wind HR2 0DY
Sun	26 June	11.00am-3.00pm	Black Hill Community Radio Day, Esleyside Hall
Sat	02 July	11.00am-5.00pm	Black Hill Communities Ukraine Group, Exhibition of Art, Design & Crafts. Longtown Hall
Tue	05 July	8.00pm	Evensong with Wenatchee Valley Girls Choir, Dorstone
Wed	06 July	8.00pm	Evensong with Wenatchee Valley Girls Choir, Michaelchurch Esley
Thu	07 July	8.00pm	Evensong with Wenatchee Valley Girls Choir, Craswall
Fri	08 July	8.00pm	Evensong with Wenatchee Valley Girls Choir, Clodock
Fri	08 July	6.30pm	Llanveynoe Church: Progressive Supper
Sat	09 July	7.00pm	Concerts for Craswall: The Sounds of Purcell, Bach & Vivaldi, Dore Abbey
Sat	09 July		St.Margarets Flower Festival Weekend, inc Songs Among the Flowers at 2.30pm
Sun	10 July		St.Margarets Flower Festival Weekend, inc Flower Festival Service at 3.00pm
Sat	23 July	5.00pm	Craswall Barbecue and Grand Draw
Sat	30 July	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Pride, 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

**Longtown Hall**

Mark Ewins, 01873 860829  
[www.longtownvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.longtownvillagehall.org.uk)  
 bookings@longtownvillagehall.org.uk

**Newton Church Room**

Mary Powell: 01981 510295  
 mary.powell37@btinternet.com

**Esley & District Sports Pavilion**

Kirsty, 01981 510682  
[www.esleysportspavilion.com](http://www.esleysportspavilion.com)  
 esleysportspavilion@gmail.com