

The Black Mountains Group Benefice

NEWSLETTER

June 2025



St Peter & St Beuno
Llanveynoe

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

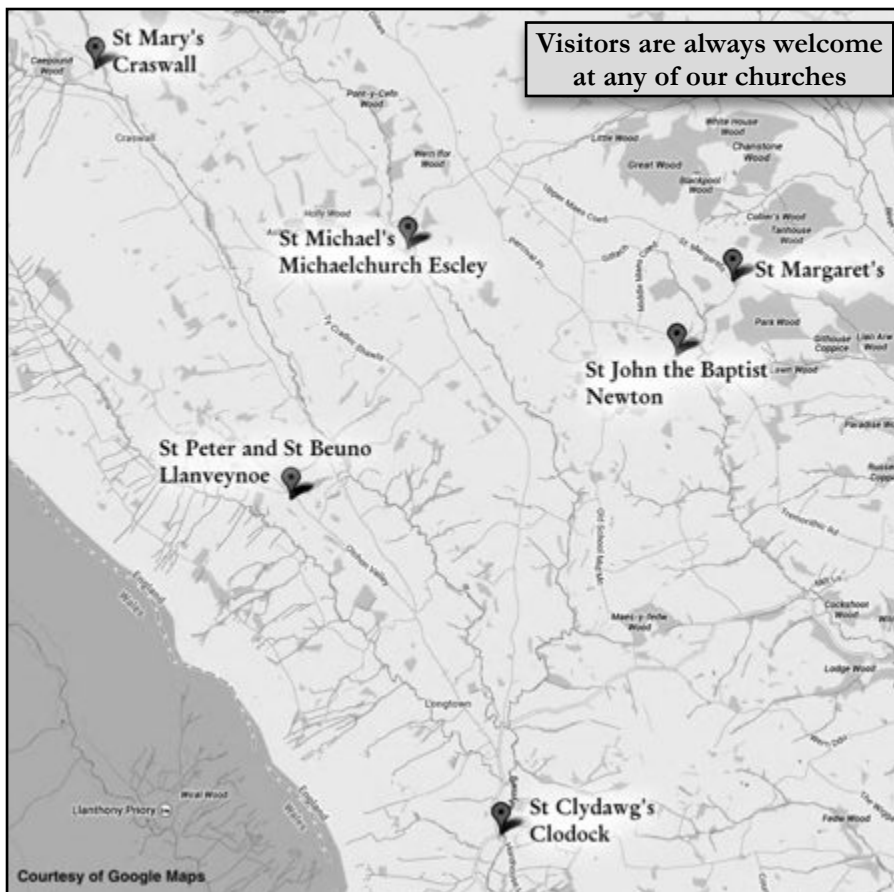
www.bmgparishes.org.uk

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£1
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Craswall

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Llanveynoe

Commodore Peter Tribe 01873 860260

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(Vacant)

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(Vacant)

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We're planning on giving this newsletter a new name and a new focus, with a different front cover, more pictures, maybe go for colour printing, and include more news from all the various groups in our community, plus any other news readers would like to share about what's going on up and down our valley.

So what would you like to see in your Newsletter? And who reads it – do your neighbours? Your children and grandchildren and their friends? Do the people who moved in up the road last year know how useful it is?

Do they even know it exists?

Please email or message us with your views on how we can improve and update this mine of information.

Email newsletter@corefields.com or message 07947 897212

We need your ideas on how to improve and update your community Newsletter

From the Clergy

Dear Friends,

As we enter weddings season in our churches, I have the delight and privilege to celebrate with couples as they affirm their love and commitment before God and their family and friends.

During the introduction to the marriage service, we remember the Gospel encounter in which Jesus himself was a guest at a wedding at Cana in Galilee – a story most people are probably more familiar with under the name 'water into wine'. This was Jesus' first public miracle, his public declaration of his divine power – and it was to celebrate with a couple and their community and even provide them with an over-abundance of the very best wine to aid their celebrations!

This miracle is a statement that God joins us in our celebrations as much as in our sorrows, and wants us to live joyfully with each other – and it is reflected in the following memory verse from the letter to the Philippians:

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4.4

This verse is a closing exhortation for the reader, and a prayer - to be joyful, and (as the letter continues) to be gentle and not anxious, for the Lord is with us, blessing us with his peace and love.

If you are planning to get married and would like to have a church service or would like to mark an anniversary with a renewal of vows, please get in touch!

Rev'd Cate

BLACK MOUNTAINS GROUP

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

St Margaret's	5pm, Monday 2nd June
Bacton	5pm, Monday 9th June
Llanveynoe	5pm, Monday 16th June
Dore Abbey	5pm, Monday 23rd June
Michaelchurch	5pm, Monday 30th June
Escey	



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

READINGS FOR JUNE & THE 1st SUNDAY IN JULY

Sunday 1st June 2025

Old Testament	
New Testament	Acts 16: 16-34
Gospel	John 17: 20-end
Psalm	97

Sunday 8th June 2025

Old Testament	Acts 2: 1-21
New Testament	Romans 8: 14-17
Gospel	John 14: 8-17p25-27)
Psalm	104: 26-36, 37b

Sunday 15th June 2025

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

Sunday 22nd June 2025

Old Testament	Isaiah 65: 1-9
New Testament	Gal. 3: 23pend
Gospel	Luke 8 26-39
Psalm	22: 19-28

Sunday 29th June 2025

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

Sunday 6th July 2025

Old Testament	Isaiah 66: 10-14
New Testament	Gal. 6:p1-6), 7-16
Gospel	Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20
Psalm	66: 1-8

Deanery Update

Following a formal interview process with the Archdeacon, the Rural Dean and a representative from each of the four parish clusters within the new Black Mountains benefice, The Bishop of Hereford has appointed Rev'd Luci Morris to be Rural Pioneer Minister and Priest in Charge for the benefice. Luci will leave the Borderlink Benefice at the end of August 2025 and will be licensed to the Black Mountains benefice on Thursday 9th October at Ewyas Harold at 7pm.

This means that the Borderlink Benefice will become vacant at the end of August and the recruitment process for a new incumbent in Borderlink will be underway shortly.

There will be a Grow Strong Residential weekend at Longtown Outdoor Learning Centre on the 28th and 29th June. Anyone in Years 6 and above at school are welcome to come along, but places are limited so do get in touch as soon as possible to book.

We have a confirmation service planned for 7th September. If being confirmed is something you're considering, do get in touch for more information. We currently have a course running exploring faith and fellowship, the dates for the next sessions are below.

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. All good wishes to those who are having their banns read and getting married in our churches during the summer months.

Dates for your diary

Hedgerow Communion: Saturday 21st June 5.30pm, Clodock by the River Monnow

Reflective Ramble: Monday 30th June at 6.30pm at Bacton Church; for more details get in touch.

Faith Course: This continues on **1st, 7th and 19th June**. All are welcome and there are more details on our website.

EVENTS IN THE DEANERY

Sunday 8th June – Pentecost Choral Evensong with the St Cybi consort of voices from Usk, Dore Abbey. 6:30pm. Park in the orchard field by the west lychgate.

Saturday 14th June 4.30 - 6pm

Companion Voices, Dore Abbey Free event introducing who they are and what they do. Immerse yourself in the gentle sound of voices in harmony, a song bath.

Saturday 21st June 4:30

Unicorn Singers from Crickhowell, "Wonders" uplifting choral music exploring life's special magic. Dore Abbey Tea and cake. 5.30 concert. Tickets or on the door unicornsingers.co.uk

Friday 27th 7pm, Saturday 28th 7pm & Sunday 29th 3pm
Concerts for Craswall Festival weekend, Dore Abbey concertsforcraswall.org for more details and to book tickets

Sunday 29th June 6.30pm

Taizé chants, silence, readings and prayer Dore Abbey

Wednesday 9th July – Rain or Shine: The Rivals by Sheridan, Dore Abbey. Picnics from 6.30pm, performance 7.30pm https://www.rainorshine.co.uk/summer_2025.html
Tickets Box office – no booking fee: 0330 660 0541 (10.30am - 7pm) - Indoors if Wet

From Clodock Church PCC

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING – A SUMMARY

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting was recently held, attended by members of last year's PCC. While a small gathering, it offered a valuable moment to reflect on the past year and prepare for the year ahead.

Reports were shared on the condition and care of our church building, and on the updated Electoral Roll. We'd like to warmly thank everyone who has chosen to be added to the roll—it's a simple but meaningful way to show your connection to our church community and to take part in its life and decision-making.

During the meeting, the Churchwarden took the opportunity to offer thanks to all those who volunteer their time to keep the church clean, and to those who faithfully provide flowers and seasonal decorations, helping to make the building a welcoming and beautiful place of worship throughout the

year. Special thanks were also given to Mr Chris Haywood, who spends a significant amount of time maintaining the church grounds—his quiet dedication is deeply appreciated.

We're pleased to announce that Nick Vaughan has been elected as our new Churchwarden, and Jo Summerfield as Secretary. We're very grateful to both of them for stepping into these key roles. For one final year, Mr Bob Burson has kindly agreed to continue as Treasurer, and we offer our heartfelt thanks for his continued dedication and service.

Going forward, Jo and Nick—along with Anne at the Deanery Office—will be your first points of contact for any parish-related matters, questions, or support.

We give thanks to God for all who serve and support our church, and we look ahead with hope, faith, and gratitude

COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT PCC TREASURER?

We are currently looking for a new PCC Treasurer—a vital and respected role within our church community.

The Treasurer plays an essential part in the life of the parish by overseeing the financial administration of the church. This is a highly trusted position and a key support to the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

Key responsibilities include:

- Receiving, recording, and banking all income
- Paying and recording all expenditure
- Keeping accurate books and records
- Preparing the annual accounts
- Advising the PCC on the church's financial position (at least quarterly)
- Assisting the PCC in setting an annual budget
- Providing financial guidance throughout the year

The Treasurer also coordinates with a member of the congregation to manage Planned Giving and Gift Aid records, including submitting claims to HMRC.

You don't need to be a qualified accountant, but some experience of managing finances or bookkeeping would be helpful. Support and guidance are available, and the current Treasurer is happy to assist with a smooth handover.

If you feel called to serve the church in this important way—or if you'd just like to learn more—please speak to Nick Vaughan, the Churchwarden or contact Jo Summerfield, the PCC Secretary.

Your time and talents could make a real difference to the ongoing life and mission of our parish.

A LABYRINTH IN THE MEADOW: WALKING WITH GOD

If you've recently wandered through the graveyard meadows, you may have noticed something quietly beautiful taking shape among the long grasses—a Chartres-style labyrinth, carefully mown into the grass.

Unlike a maze, which is designed to confuse, a labyrinth offers a single, winding path that gently leads to the centre and then back out again. It's a symbol rich in Christian tradition—a space for reflection, prayer, and peaceful walking with



God. The Chartres pattern, based on the famous design in Chartres Cathedral in France, has been used by pilgrims for centuries as a form of spiritual journeying when actual pilgrimage was not possible.

Our own labyrinth, lovingly shaped into the meadow behind the church, offers an invitation: to slow down, to be still, and to walk with intention. Whether you walk it in silence, pray as you go, or simply enjoy the sounds of birds and breeze, it's there for you.

As we tend to both the spiritual and natural life of our churchyard, the labyrinth is a gentle reminder that God often meets us in the quiet, unexpected places—between the headstones, among the wildflowers, and in each careful step we take toward Him.

How to Walk the Labyrinth

There's no "right" way to walk a labyrinth, but here's a simple guide you might find helpful:

- Pause at the entrance. Take a deep breath. Offer a short prayer or intention for your walk.
- Walk slowly inward. Use this time to reflect, pray, or simply be present. Let each step be a way of drawing closer to God.
- Pause at the centre. Spend a moment in stillness, prayer, or gratitude.
- Return along the same path. As you walk outward, consider what you might be called to carry back into the world—peace, clarity, or a renewed spirit.

Come and walk it any time. Bring your thoughts, your prayers, your questions—or just your presence

APRIL 13th, 2025 – GAZA

During Lent, February to March 2024, we gathered over £1000 from these parishes for the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. It was a contribution to the work of this Christian foundation that has offered health care to the people of Gaza City for 150 years. By April this year it was the last operational hospital in the City.

On April 13th, Palm Sunday, that work was blown apart by a missile strike. The hospital can no longer function except for basic care on dwindling medical supplies. There is no insurance cover in a war zone.

Perhaps this is the closest most of us will ever get to seeing years of work and our money destroyed by military action, I hope so. However, one day we may be able to give the people of Gaza the courage to re-build the Al Ahli Hospital, I do truly hope so.

Sam Ashton

QUAKER MEETING AT DULAS COURT

A time to sit in peace and stillness together can be elusive. Occasional Quaker Meetings at Dulas Court Nursing Home are now providing such an opportunity. Residents, relatives and any visitors are all welcome.

For half an hour we sit in stillness/mindful silence and quietly reflect on the Light within, whatever that is for each of us - as many others do in quiet spaces throughout the world.

Our next meetings will be at 3.30pm in the craft room next to the visitor's car park at Dulas Court on **Sunday 8th June**.

Dulas Court Nursing Home, Dulas, Ewyas Harold, HR2 OHL (Park in visitors car park). Any questions please contact: Clare Lockley, Lifestyle Manager on 01981 240214, c.lockley@herefordshirecarehomes.com

Thanks

CORNEWALL ARMS - RACE NIGHT

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this excellent event as a race sponsor and those who bet on the individual races. A fantastic sum of £945 was raised for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. Thank you. *All at The Cornwall*

Forthcoming events

Sunday 31 May 2025, 2 pm – 5 pm

The Garden of the Wind

Middle Hunt House, Walterstone HR2 0DY

Teas will be served!

All proceeds to St Michael's Hospice,

entrance £6 if booked in advance at

www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/open-gardens/

or £7.50 at the gate, under 16s free

LONGTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Longtown Village Hall HR2 0LD

Monday 2 June, 7.30pm

RUTH RICHARDSON: THE GOLDEN VALLEY PILGRIM WAY

Mrs Richardson is a key member of the group that has developed the route which goes to many local churches. It takes a week to cover the full distance, though shorter routes and a cycling route are available. It is possible to stay overnight in many of the places of worship.

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

For more information about the society go to our website, www.lhsarchive.org.uk or contact jerrydavis@outlook.com



**Longtown Library
is next open on**

**4th June
2.30 to 4.30pm**

GARDEN VISIT

The Ledbury Flower Farmer

**Wednesday 11 June 2025, meet 1.45pm at
Dunbridge Farm, Ledbury, HR8 2JE**

Tour of artisan flower farm and demonstration of floral arrangements with owner, Rozanne Delamore. Flowers are grown in a sustainable way, at hand scale and without chemicals. £15 per person includes tea & cake.

**Pre-booking essential, email:
marilyn@littlerevee.co.uk**



The Blackhill Ukraine Group invite you to
**A Party in the Garden at Little Trewern
HR2 0LW**



**On Saturday 14th June
between 3pm and 6pm**

Tea and cakes with musical entertainment.

Donations to Blackhill Ukraine Group (supporting education and training and thus opportunity for employment for Ukrainian refugees in our locality). Can't make it? Ring to make a donation!

Find the garden off the Longtown to Michaelchurch Road.
Follow the balloons!



For more information phone: 01873 860749

LONGTOWN THURSDAY CLUB – Programme of Trips

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 Trip to 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 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

Newton St Margarets Women's Guild



Community Coffee Morning and Tabletop Sale
Plants, Cakes, Books and More!
Bacon Rolls (Veggie/vegan Alternative Available)

St John's Church Room

Newton HR2 0QR

Saturday, 12 July 2025

10.00 am to 12.00 Noon

All Welcome!



CRASWALL BARBECUE

Saturday 12th July in the Churchyard

Local Newsround

NEWTON ST MARGARETS WOMEN'S GUILD

Our May meeting was a visit to Madley Plants which proved very inspiring in the sunshine with all the colourful bedding plants and herbs to tempt us. We were treated to tea and a delicious carrot cake.

The visit to Kentchurch Court has been postponed. Instead members (and guests) are invited to meet at Brobury Gardens Café, Brewardine at 12.30 on **Friday 13th June**. Please let us know if you would like to come and/or need transport. We will reserve a table. Tel 07794 920729

Saturday 12th July our annual coffee morning and sale of plants, details above.

MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

What a contrast the last few months have been to a decidedly damp winter. It has been so fantastic to feel the warmth of the sun on our faces and we have especially enjoyed being able to eat our lunch out on the playing field – long may it continue and although I know our farmer friends could really do with some rain, let's hope they get in by way of some convenient overnight showers!

Earlier in the year, a group of children were all set to attend the Herefordshire Schools Football Tournament at the Wyese playing fields in Hereford but some rather heavy rainfall meant that it was water polo and not football that was the more suitable sport for the venue. Understandably the tournament was rescheduled and finally took place at the beginning of April. A Year 5/6 team from Oak Class went along, joining dozens of other schools from across the county in a highly competitive competition. The children not only had a fantastic time, they came away with a cup and a medal too!

Over the years we have developed some really fabulous traditions up at Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre-School, not least of which is our annual Easter egg hunt. This year the weather was absolutely gorgeous as Mr Crocker set out with the 10 Year 6s and several bulging bags of chocolate Easter eggs. Using a bag of flour, the children set a sneaky trail that led the rest of the school uphill, across

Concerts for Craswall FESTIVAL

27 – 29 June | Dore Abbey | Abbeydore HR2 0AA | 2025

Friday June 27th at 7pm

**Laura van der Heijden
and Jâms Coleman**

Saturday June 28th at 7pm

**Emma Johnson with
The Gildas Quartet**

Sunday June 29th at 3pm

Trio Lalique



Further information and to book tickets
<https://concertsforcraswall.org> or 01981 510112

Registered Charity No: 1092005



Vowchurch Open Gardens

12.00pm-4.30pm

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th July

The Old House: riverside garden with variety of trees, shrubs and borders. 15th Century timber-framed house (not open) plus vintage car collection and interesting nearby Church.

Four Winds: plantswoman's garden with herbaceous borders, white border, wildflower meadow, potager, fruit cage, unusual apple varieties, newly-planted native trees & shrubs, plus attractive micro-nursery propagation beds.

£7.50 combined entry. Children FREE. Sorry no dogs.
Cake/tea/coffee. Plants for sale.

More information: <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk>

fields and finally to a rocky hideout beside a beautiful pond. When the cheering hoards finally found the Year 6 children, they each received their Easter egg. What fun!

Almost straight after our Easter break, we had VE day. Like schools across the country we felt it extremely important that the children really understand what this special day is commemorating, something we did through a series of special lessons and a whole school VE Day assembly. We also had a wonderful visit from a very kind chap called Phil, who happens to be a collector of and expert in World War 2 vintage vehicles and in particular, the iconic Willys Jeep. He not only very kindly brought one of his Jeeps into school for the children to look at, he also told us all about the vehicle and let the children sit in it too! Phil – you are a star! After a morning learning about VE Day, we then let our hair down and (tea) partied like it was 1945!

As you may be aware, we really value learning outside of the classroom. This term, Sapling Class, who are learning about the Romans, built themselves a groma, an ancient surveying tool used by Romans to ensure Roman roads were straight. The children then tried them out on the playing field and laid some impressively straight lines of cones!

Speaking of Sapling Class, they have just returned from a fantastic, 3 day residential visit to Longtown Outdoor Centre. They had a super time, enjoying canoeing, hill-walking, orienteering, climbing and much more. We are very lucky to have such a great centre on our doorstep. We are also very grateful for our dedicated staff who give up their time to provide the children with such wonderful experiences.

The first summer half-term is dominated to some extent by SATS for the Year 6s. At Michaelchurch we make sure that our children approach these tests in the most relaxed but well prepared way possible. One key aspect to this is the now legendary SATS day breakfast, a feast provided for the children every morning before they take their tests. The breakfast is a great way to relax the children as they sit and chat together. We are so proud of how hard all of the children have worked, not just during SATS week but all year. We are also tremendously proud of the incredibly positive attitude they all displayed during this time.

I spoke earlier about Michaelchurch traditions and another of those is the Year 6 treat which rounds off SATS week. This involves lunch at Pizza Hut in Hereford for the children, accompanied by Mr Crocker and Miss Yeomans. It is a great way to thank the children for their efforts and relax after a pretty intense week for our Year 6s.

Pre-school have been really enjoying the lovely weather, spending even more time than usual roaming the hills and fields around the school.

Coming up we have an action-packed summer term ahead with so much going on! There is Oak Class activity week, Bay to Hay (bike ride), the Hay Festival and our summer production of Oliver to name just a few!

If you like the sound of Michaelchurch Escley 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-escley.hereford.sch.uk) or give us a call on 01981 510208. We'd love to show you around! Also, if you think you might be able to contribute to life at our school by becoming a governor we'd love to hear from you so please get in touch by the above email address or phone number.

Louise Crocker, Headteacher

LONGTOWN COMMUNITY PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL

Website: www.longtown.hereford.sch.uk, or follow us on Facebook – 'Longtown Community Primary School'

We have had so much happening in and around school at the moment it's hard to know where to start!

Regular readers will know we love to 'Explore more' and our gardens and outdoor learning spaces have leapt into life recently. Our new Gardening Club, run by some of our wonderfully green-fingered parents, have created our very own Bug Hotel in the front garden and continue to keep the garden looking well-trimmed, watered and full of life. Our poly tunnel is full of cucumber and tomato plants and the beds are showing the promise of things to come. Round in the Early Years Garden the willow and native hedging is doing well and our youngest gardeners have created a wormery and planted wildflower mats. Soon they will be creating a bog garden and choosing where to place our bee observation box in celebration of World Bee Day.

The trees and willow we planted earlier in the year are thriving and the children enjoy watering and caring for them. Explore more in the garden!

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed a rather magnificent wooden roundhouse being constructed at the front of school. Once this is completed, we will have a beautiful new space for community events, PTA meetings with coffee and ice creams and of course a beautiful new outdoor learning for our pupils to Explore more from reading to performing.

Thursday 8th May marked two big events in our school calendar. Our younger pupils celebrated Outdoor Learning Day with a day full of outdoor adventures and activities. The highlight of the day was a campfire lunch of jacket potatoes, beans and cheese followed by a baked banana for pudding. The children learned the rules for keeping safe in a fire circle and they helped to light a 'fairy fire' by gathering sticks, tearing up cotton wool and making some fantastic sparks with flint and steel. They thoroughly enjoyed their day. Explore more skills outside!

Our older pupils helped us celebrate VE Day with a community tea party and rousing singsong. We were joined by our neighbours and wider school community and the children shared their work based on WWII as well as stirring renditions of 'White Cliffs of Dover' and 'We'll Meet Again'. We were really thrilled to be joined by one of our pupil's great grandmas who was celebrating her 100th birthday. We sang Happy Birthday and choir members enjoyed asking her lots of questions about what life was like during the war. The pupils, dressed as evacuees, played traditional wartime games and we all enjoyed some cake as we chatted with our friends, old and new. Explore more in our community!

Since the start of the summer term, we have been an Early Adopter 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. This new venture has been hugely successful so far. The pupils really enjoy coming in early, eating with their friends and sharing lots of fun activities before the start of the school day. Our parents appreciate the fact that they can get a head start on the day.

Class 2 have been getting to grips, literally, with the first of their team building sessions at the Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust Centre. They had a wonderful time in the sunshine on the low-ropes course, which they all completed, helped by their friends. Explore more working together!

Class 3 have made a tuneful start to their weekly ukulele sessions. You can follow their progress on our Facebook page. Pupils throughout school continue with their weekly music tuition in their chosen instruments, developing skills and enjoying the music they discover. We celebrate a Musician of the Month by introducing a musician's work to the children during assembly each month.

Class 3 also enjoyed a trip to St Fagans, Cardiff recently to visit the Victorian school house, enriching their work on Victorian Britain. The children were able to dress up and had lessons as they would have in Victorian times. The teacher was very strict and demonstrated lessons in Reading, Writing and 'Rithmetic. The children happily noted that things are very different in a modern classroom, thank goodness! They then enjoyed a picnic lunch in the sunshine before a visit to the shops and the trip home. Explore more history!

We are very proud of our year 6 pupils who sat their SATs assessments earlier in May. They started each day with a special breakfast of croissants and juice and worked so hard to complete their work to the very best of their ability.

Class 3 will be hosting Miriam Griffiths from the Longtown Historical Society, who will be coming along to share her knowledge of the original Longtown School building and site with our pupils. I'm sure they will have plenty of great questions for her.

Class 3 and 4 will be attending a live streaming event to meet Michael Morpurgo, the famous children's author.

Sports Day is booked for Tuesday 10th June, so keep your fingers crossed for a sunny day.

Year 6 will be joining Ewyas Harold pupils for a day of cycling proficiency in July, to set them up for becoming safe and independent cyclists in the future.

Explore more after school clubs in the second half of the summer term include Outdoor Activity Club at Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust Centre, Languages Club, Rounders Club, Football card Club and Gardening Club.

We would, once again, like to thank those who give up so much of their time and share their skills with us in school, allowing to run such a wide variety of exciting clubs. As a small school we truly appreciate the support we are given by friends and families, giving of their time and energy.

Explore more Stay and Play sessions continue for our very youngest visitors and dates for the summer term are 6th and 20th June and 4th and 18th July. We love to welcome new members at any time.

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!

Our popular Mini Explorers outdoor learning Pre-School/Early Years Hub is open for 4 days a week, Monday to Thursday 8:45am to 3:15pm, for 2-year-olds and up. We do accept funded places for 15 hr and 30 hrs.

To request/book a place for September 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.

Thank you

VOWCHURCH & DISTRICT GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 23rd April 2025 at Esleyside Hall, Michaelchurch Escley. We were pleased to welcome guest speaker Mark Lynas, who delivered a thought-provoking talk on the environment and climate change. A lively and engaging Q&A session followed. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the discussion.

Councillors Graeme Deas and John Andrews have resigned from their positions representing Vowchurch and St Margarets respectively. The Chair expressed gratitude for their service and contributions to the Parish Council.

Herefordshire Council has confirmed that casual vacancies have now arisen in both parishes. Should ten electors from either parish submit a written request to the Proper Officer at Herefordshire Council by 2nd June 2025, an election will be held. If no such request is received, the Parish Council may proceed to co-opt members to fill these vacancies.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 19th June from 7.30pm at Escley Sports Pavilion, Michaelchurch Escley.

All residents are welcome. There is always time set aside on the agenda for open discussion, giving you a chance to raise any concerns or ideas with the Council.

Stay Connected

Did you know we have a Facebook page? Stay updated with Parish Council news, local events, and important notices.

Search: **Vowchurch group parish council**

Please like, follow, and help spread the word.

Linda Cowles, Parish Clerk
01544 321906

clerk@vowchurchgroup-pc.gov.uk
www.vowchurchgpc.org.uk



Round and About

PETERCHURCH HUB

The Hub Café in St Peter's Church 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. **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, email info@hubcommunity.org or call 01981 551143 for further details.

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. Please email info@hubcommunity.org if you are interested in joining.

The Hub's 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 except for Easter weekend.

Peterchurch Community Choir: Join this friendly group in the church or on line every Monday during term time from 6.30pm to 8pm. Contact Joy on 07903675012 or email her at peterchurchcommunitychoir10@gmail.com. The Deanery website lists all you need to know about Church services and walks in and around the area and opportunities to participate at local churches. Please email Anne Lloyd at abbeydoredcm@gmail.com for more information or to receive her monthly information email.

The Kings Award for Volunteer Service Having known since November that this had been awarded to the PCC and Hub @St Peter's the day in March, when Edward Harley, Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire [the Kings representative in the county] presented us with the Certificate and Crystal was truly a real achievement with everyone and their guests gathered together to celebrate. This was the only award of the KAVS Herefordshire project in 2024.

The Spire in the Landscape Project It was lovely to welcome so many to our community consultation event in early May when proposed repairs and improvements for the building and its immediate landscape were displayed and discussed. Heritage Funding has now been received for the first phase (experts' reports and quotes); regular updates on our progress will be published. We look forward to being able to protect the future of such a beautiful, historical and productive building in the Golden Valley and its Community.

THE MONDAY CLUB

The handbell ringers came at the end of April It is always lovely to hear them playing. Our thanks to Lu/ Muriel for organising it.

We started the month with a VE Day celebration of tea, a light lunch, and 1940s music. Many of the members told stories about their time during and after the war. It was fascinating hearing all the stories. Many of our members remember the rationing, and to mark this, we supplied them with Spam sandwiches, Jam sandwiches, Jelly, and lots of cake. Thank you to everyone who helped put this together.

There will be another trip coming up in July, and I have heard that it may be to Shakespeare's birthplace so watch this space.

Unfortunately, we have had another couple of our club pass away recently, Rita Brookes, who lived at the Almshouses,

and Diana, who was Abbie's mother. Our condolences to both of their families.

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 07774 457887 or pop in and you will be very welcome.

PETERCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

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. We always welcome new groups!

Parish Council every 3rd Tuesday of the month.

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

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Friday, 20 June at 7.30pm. The Castle, Hay-on-Wye.
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Tickets also from the Hay Tourist Bureau and the door if still available.
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Repairs undertaken on:

- Soft toys, dolls clothes, toys
- Clothing (repairs not alterations)
- Small electrical items
- Small pieces of furniture/wooden items
- Bicycles
- Knife/small tool sharpening (£2 minimum donation per item)
- Other items repaired—please ask

Saturday 7 June 10 - 12.30 Dorstone Village Hall

Café serving tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes.
No need to have a repair to come along and enjoy the café.
ALL WELCOME – come along and see what we get up to!

To book an item for repair contact:

gvrepaircafe@gmail.com Bill Giles 07967 910666

Future Repair Café dates:

5 July Kingstone Church
2 August Ewyas Harold St Michael's Hall
6 September Dorstone

BMGN Advertising Directory

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Sunday:	10.00 am - 2.00 pm (May - Oct)
	10.00 am - 12 noon (Nov - April)
Bank Holiday Mondays:	10.00 am - 2.00 pm

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Thank you, Make it May

Glorious Sunshine in May we are delighted to hear what you have been making with products of inspiration from the shop. Plus we really appreciate how many of you met up outside for a coffee enjoying a grand chat putting the world to rights.

Jolly June

- ★ Well straight to alcohol and have you tried the Foreva Tonic made in Herefordshire you can now really have a local gin with their tonic, Black Mountain botanicals and frozen windmill hill raspberries or blackcurrants.
- ★ Get the bubbles ready, chilling for the next wave of sunshine, sparkling cider or perry, bottles of bubbles with two local options and a handy can to slip in your pocket to enjoy on top of the mountain.
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PC 3687 Jeff Rouse 07870 150972 jeff.rouse@westmercia.police.uk
 PCSO Margaret Andrzejewska 07773 053895 margaret.andrzejewska@westmercia.police.uk
 Contact: 101 ext 4820 – Email: goldenvalley.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk



CHURCH SERVICES FOR JUNE AND JULY

Sunday 1 June

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

Thursday 5 June

8:45	Michaelchurch	Morning Prayer
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Sunday 8 June

10:00	Clodock	Morning Prayer
11:00	Michaelchurch	Holy Communion

Thursday 12 June

8:45	Michaelchurch	Morning Prayer
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Sunday 15 June

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

Thursday 19 June

8:45	Michaelchurch	Morning Prayer
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Sunday 22 June

11:15	Clodock	Holy Communion
15:00	Newton	Evening Worship (with tea & quiz)

Thursday 26 June

8:45	Michaelchurch	Morning Prayer
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Sunday 29 June

10:30	Clodock	Group Holy Communion Service
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Monday 30 June

18:30	Bacton	Reflective Ramble
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Thursday 3 July

8:45	Michaelchurch	Morning Prayer
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Sunday 6 July

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

Thursday 10 July

8:45	Michaelchurch	Morning Prayer
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Sunday 13 July

11:00	Clodock	Holy Communion
11:00	Michaelchurch	Morning Prayer

Thursday 17 July

8:45	Michaelchurch	Morning Prayer
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Sunday 20 July

9:30	Craswall	Morning Prayer
15:00	Newton	Holy Communion
18:00	Clodock	Evening Prayer

Thursday 24 July

8:45	Michaelchurch	Morning Prayer
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Sunday 27 July

11:15	Michaelchurch	Holy Communion
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Thursday 31 July

8:45	Michaelchurch	Morning Prayer
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EVENTS PLANNER

Mon	02 June	7.30pm	Longtown & District Historical Society: Ruth Richardson: <i>Golden Valley Pilgrimage Way</i>
Wed	04 June	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Sun	08 June	3.30pm	Occasional Quaker Meeting, Dulas Court craft room
Wed	11 June	1.45pm	Escleyside Gardening Club visit: <i>The Ledbury Flower Farmer</i> , Dunbridge Farm, Ledbury
Wed	11 June		Newton St Margarets Women's Guild visit to Kentchurch Court
Sat	14 June	3.00-6.00pm	Blackhill Ukrainian Group: A Party in the Garden. Little Trewern
Thu	26 June		Longtown Thursday Club. Outing to St Fagan's
Fri-Sun	27-29 June		Concerts for Craswall, A Weekend of Chamber Music Excellence
Sat	28 June	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle
Wed	02 July	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Sat & Sun	5 & 6 June	12.00-4.30pm	Vowchurch Open Gardens
Mon	07 July	7.30pm	Longtown & District Historical Society: AGM. Followed by Martin Cook: Little Venice on the Border. Historic Water Little Venice on the Border. Historic Water
Sat	12 July	10.00am-noon	Newton St Margarets Women's Guild: Community Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale, Newton Church Room
Sat	12 July		Craswall Barbecue
Thu	24 July		Longtown Thursday Club. Outing to Weston-Super-Mare
Sat	26 July	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle
Wed	06 August		Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Thu	21 August		Longtown Thursday Club. Outing to Portcawl

VILLAGE HALL CONTACTS

Craswall Hall

Bookings: Janet Watkins 01981 510226

General inquiries: Christine Cleaton,
cleatonfamily@btinternet.com

Escleyside Hall

Rachel Pritchard: 01981 510368

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