

The Black Mountains Group Benefice

NEWSLETTER

May 2023



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



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(Vacant)

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From the Clergy

Dear Friends,

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray: *Thy kingdom come....*

This month, 'kingdom' is something we'll be thinking and talking about a lot as we celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. *Who* the monarch is sets the tone for the whole kingdom (and indeed the whole commonwealth). They are one of the most influential voices in our society and their priorities, interests, and character will (for good or ill) shape our own and will be a lens through which history will remember us. What does it mean to be an Elizabethan? A Georgian? A Victorian? An Edwardian? I wonder, what will it mean to be a "Windsorian"?

In Christianity, we believe that there is a ruler *above* our earthly monarchs and presidents. Jesus is called the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and Jesus often talked about 'the Kingdom of God' or 'the Kingdom of Heaven'. For followers of Jesus, we believe that our identity is more shaped by our citizenship of this heavenly rule than that of any nation or political party. We believe that God's priority, interests, and character should guide how we lead our lives. God cares about the poor, the lost, the lonely, the hurt, and the outcast – and so must we.

Jesus describes this purpose in Luke 4:18-19:

"[God] has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

This is also our mission: to reveal God's restoring love to the world. When we pray 'thy kingdom come', we are praying that not only will we look to God's rule in our lives, but also that the whole world will know his mercy and forgiveness. We are praying for an end to suffering, an end to hunger, an end to oppression - and that we may discover *our* part in making that happen.

My sincerest hope is that we will all come to see the world through God's lens of compassion, mercy, and forgiveness.

Yours in Christ,

Cate



MAY READINGS – Details of services for May and June can be found on the back page.

Sunday 7th May

Old Testament	Acts 7: 55-end
New Testament	1 Peter 2: 2-10
Gospel	John 14: 1-14
Psalm	31:1-5, 15-16

continued

Sunday 14th May

Old Testament	Acts 17: 22-31
New Testament	1 Peter 3: 13-end
Gospel	John 14: 15-21
Psalm	66: 7 - end

Sunday 21st May

Old Testament	Acts 1: 6-14
New Testament	1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11
Gospel	John 17: 1-11
Psalm	68: 1-10, 32-end

Sunday 28th May

Old Testament	Acts 2: 1-21
New Testament	1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13
Gospel	John 20: 19-23
Psalm	104: 25-35, 37

Deanery Update

A couple of things to think about joining or sharing in May:

Year of Prayer

Have you seen the Year of Prayer candle yet? If not, and you'd like to light it at a group you belong to or an event you're organising, we'd love you to get in touch.

As part of The Year of Prayer, there are a series of "High Places Holy Communion" services for each Deanery within the Diocese each led by Bishop Richard. For our Deanery this will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 28th May on the Cat's Back. If you'd like to come along, please register via Hereford Diocese website.

Taster Session for Grow Strong

Regular readers will know that young people in school years 6 and above meet at Longtown Outdoor Learning Centre most months. In May, we're offering something a bit different with an evening climbing session at Trewern Outdoor Centre in Cusop on May 19th. For more details, please get in touch. Looking ahead to June...

Golden Valley Pilgrim Way

Throughout the coming months, you'll probably see pilgrims walking the Golden Valley Pilgrim Way, staying overnight in some of the local churches. If this is something you'd like to try out but don't want to "go it alone," have a look at Herefordshire Walking Festival as they're providing the opportunity to walk part of the route starting on Saturday 17th June until Monday 19th June.

Gathering

Keep June 15th in your diary for the next Gathering which will be held at St Peter's Hub, Peterchurch

Contact Details

For any enquiries about what's going on in and around churches within the Deanery, get in touch with the Deanery Coordinator, Anne Lloyd on 01981 620145 or abbeydoredmc@gmail.com.



CORONATION CELEBRATION SERVICE

Sunday 7th May 3pm St.Margarets

Please join us at St. Margarets Church for a service to celebrate the Coronation.
Followed by refreshments.

Thanks

CORNEWALL ARMS - EASTER RAFFLE

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the raffle in aid of the Clodock Defibrillator. £310 was raised.

Thank you.

Isobel

Forthcoming events

Longtown Library
now open,
Every first Wednesday of the month
2.30 - 4.30 pm
Swap books, tea and chat!



3rd May

A Miserable Old Trugger

TALK 7.30pm, Wednesday 3rd May
Escleyside Hall



One of only four trug makers in the country, **Carl Sadler** will complete a hand-build of one of these traditional baskets whilst telling us its history and talking about his work supplying historical wooden props for film & TV eg: *War Horse*, *Robin Hood*, *Star Wars*, 1917.

Annual Membership: £15 Non-members: £5
See more at: www.escleysidegc.wixsite.com/club

NEWTON ST MARGARETS PARTY

3.30 TO 6PM

CORONATION DAY
SATURDAY 6TH MAY
FAIR OAK HR2 0AT



If dry, in the garden. If pouring, in the barn.

Important update: Thanks to very kind donors, tea, juice and cake will be provided free along with admission (while stocks last).

Mary Powell's famous sandwiches will also be available but must be ordered by Tuesday May 2.

We still need volunteers for all kinds of duties, or please just let us know if you want to come so we can contact you if arrangements have to change.

Please email Matthew on ukengel@gmail.com or text or whatsapp 07802 500348. If we have contact, we can be in touch if needed. The day is getting very close.

Matthew Engel

Coronation Celebration

The Cornwall Arms, Clodock
Sunday 7th May – 12:30 onwards

Best Royal Fancy Dress
Bring your own picnic and tableware
See full advert on page 4

CRASWALL CORONATION CELEBRATION

Craswall Parish will be doing a parade and shared tea to celebrate the Coronation on **Sunday 7th May**.

LONGTOWN AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monday 8 May, 7.30pm

Longtown Village Hall HR2 0LD

Dr Marion Loeffler: Lord and Lady Llanofer of Llanofer, Abergavenny

Lady Llanofer is renowned for her promotion of Welsh culture, language, and music, especially harp playing, and creating the "traditional" Welsh women's costume, including the hat. She was the driving force behind the Abergavenny Eisteddfodau which ran from 1834-1853. An early supporter of the temperance movement, she banned the sale of alcohol on her estate. Lord Llanofer, Benjamin Hall, nicknamed "Big Ben" supervised the rebuilding of Parliament which included the tower and famous clock.

Dr Loeffler is a Welsh history lecturer at Cardiff University.

Half-season membership until July costs **£5**, Guests very welcome, (£3). Contact jerrypdavis@outlook.com for information. Please go to our website for details of the rest of the programme, www.lhsarchive.org.uk

NEWTON ST MARGARETS WOMEN'S GUILD

Thursday 11th May, 2023: A decision needs to be made.

Either lunch at the Gwatkins RED COW HR2 0AL or an afternoon at Madley Plants with tea?

We may decide to do both! Please phone Clare 07816985059 or Jane 07794920729 for more information if you would like to join us.

Saturday 10th June, 2023 10 -12 noon

Coffee Morning and Plant Sale at Newton Church Room
HR2 0QR. ALL WELCOME.

NATIONAL MILLS WEEKEND – 13TH AND 14TH MAY

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

CLODOCK MILL

Saturday 2.00-5.00pm and Sunday 2.00-5.00pm.

The waterwheel shaft is currently undergoing replacement. If completed in time the mill will be grinding during the weekend.

THE CORN MILL, MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY

Sunday 12.00-5.00pm.

One of the early medieval mills of Ewyas Lacy. The internal overshot wheel should be turning.

FAIR OAK FARM CIDER MILL, BACTON

Saturday 2.00-6.00pm.

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

OLCHON HOUSE FARM MILL, LLANVEYNOE

Saturday 11.00-4.00pm.

Hopefully will be grinding corn on Mills Weekend.

PONTYNYS MILL, LONGTOWN

Saturday 10.00-4.00pm.

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

ROWLESTONE MILL, NEAR EWYAS HAROLD

Saturday 10.00am-6.00pm.

A dramatic leat to the mill from a waterfall.

The external overshot waterwheel will be turning.

Please respect the advertised opening times.

For more information visit www.clodockmill.com or www.spab.org.uk/Mills

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS of St Clydawg's Church, Craswall Church and St Beuno's Church, Llanveynoe

will be held in LONGTOWN VILLAGE HALL

on **THURSDAY 18th MAY at 19:00**

Each Church will meet separately in the Village Hall

Jazz in the Village

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Round and About

VOWCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

Market at Vowchurch Hall Saturday May 27 10am - 12 noon: Plants, bread, cheese, preserves. Cafe serving bacon butties, fresh coffee, home made cakes.

Pilates Vowchurch Hall, Tuesdays 9am-10am and 6pm-8pm Contact hannahmthomas@hotmail.com

Bowls on Wednesdays will resume in the Autumn

VAT50 April winners were Sue Mawby (13) £50 and Cliff Mawby (52) £20.

The Village Pub will resume in the Autumn.

Local Newsround

ESCLEY & DISTRICT SPORTS FEDERATION

Michaelchurch Escley Youth Club will be held at the Sports pavilion, Michaelchurch Escley on the last Friday of every month starting from 28th April 6.30-8.00pm children aged 8 years and over welcomed, £1 entry and tuck shop available.

Quiz Night - Saturday 20th May at 7pm – Sports Pavilion, Michaelchurch Escley - The Quiz night is back with Dutch Auction (bring some change), bar and food (there will be a charge for food) - £5 entry.

Craft Fair - Saturday 1st July at 2pm, Craft and Bric a Brac stall holders welcomed, indoor and outdoor pitches available. We will be running a small café for refreshments. Some tables can be provided. There will be a small charge for each pitch. Held at the Sports Pavilion, Michaelchurch Escley. For more information contact Kirsty (kirsty@alcocks.net).

MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL CAFE OPEN DAY FOREST SCHOOL DEMO

Saturday 20th May 2023—10AM until 2PM



MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL

The spring term was a very eventful one up at Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre-school. Not only did we have the disruption of snow but we also had a very busy time with trips and whole school events. The last week or so was especially busy. First we had our 'Great Outdoors Day'. This was a day filled with a fantastic range of outdoor activities and challenges for all the children. Despite some pretty challenging (very wet, cold and windy) weather, the children had a fantastic time solving problems, creating outdoor artwork, orienteering and much more.

We also had a super response to our Clothes Swap and Cake Sale, a social occasion which allowed parents to swap unwanted children's clothes and enjoy a coffee and cake and a chat at the same time.

On the final day of the term we had our annual Easter Egg hunt. As usual, the Year 6 children and several sacks of Easter eggs, along with Mr Crocker, set off into the hills around school, leaving a flour trail for all the children to follow. The rest of the school set off in hot pursuit and had great fun following the trail the older children had left. When they finally caught them, they were all rewarded with a lovely Easter egg to take home!

Coming up, we have the King's Coronation celebrations to look forward to. We will be celebrating with a street party including music and games. There will also be a visit from the ice-cream van! Before that we are hosting a Times Tables Rock Star day to promote the learning of times-tables throughout the school. Also, just before half term, KS2 children will be visiting the Hay Festival – something we really look forward to.

Finally, we will be holding an **Open Day at school on Saturday 20th May 2023, from 10am until 2pm**. All are welcome to pop along and find out what we get up to at Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre-School. There will be a range of activities showcasing life at Michaelchurch, a pop-up café and an opportunity to chat to members of staff about all aspects of school life. Please drop in to see us, we would love to see some new faces. Although some year groups are full, we do still have some spaces and are always happy to chat to prospective new families.

Louise Crocker, Headteacher

Notices and Advertisements

Concerts for Craswall

World-class Musicians to Perform in Dore Abbey Saturday June 24th 2023 at 7pm

MAJOR artists from the world of classical music are heading to Herefordshire this summer for a performance in the historic Dore Abbey.

Now in its 29th consecutive year, local charity **Concerts for Craswall** consistently attracts leading national and international musicians to the area, performing some dazzling repertoire. This year's summer concert is no exception featuring a trio of international musicians with music by many epoch defining composers such as Mozart, Clarke, Debussy, Adès, Clara Schumann and Bruch.

One of the most sought-after violists of his generation, **Timothy Ridout** is a former BBC New Generation Artist, Borletti-Buitoni Trust fellow, and winner of the Royal Philharmonic Society 2023 Young Artist Award. In 2020, he won Hamburger

Symphoniker's inaugural Sir Jeffrey Tate Prize and joined the Bowers Program of the Chamber Music Society of the Lincoln Center in 2021.

This season he appears as soloist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Metropolitan, hr-Sinfonieorchester, Odense, San Jose symphony orchestras and Netherlands Chamber Orchestra amongst others. Other highlights include recitals and chamber concerts at Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw Amsterdam and Philharmonie Köln. Further afield, Ridout embarks on a South American tour with the Chamber Society of the Lincoln Centre, returns to Taipei for a series of concerts, and tours Australia with Musica Viva.

One of Europe's leading clarinetists, **Matthew Hunt** is a distinctive musician, renowned for the vocal quality of his playing and his ability to communicate with audiences. He holds the position of solo clarinetist with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and is a member of the Sheffield based chamber group Ensemble 360.

A very keen chamber musician, he appears regularly with Meta4, the Chiurascuro and Elias quartets, Thomas Adès, Pekka Kuusisto, Emily Beynon, Nicholas Altstaedt, Alina Ibragimova, and La Bande de La Loingtaine amongst others.

Born in Scotland, pianist **Alasdair Beatson** tours prolifically as soloist and chamber musician, broadcasting and performing regularly around the world and regularly at London's Wigmore Hall. Adept on modern and historical instruments, he is renowned as both performer and pedagogue.

Notable performances in 2022/23 include regular appearances at Wigmore Hall, in concert with Steven Isserlis, Viktoria Mullova, the Doric and Maxwell string quartets, as member of the Nash Ensemble, and in festivals including Cheltenham, Ernen, Festivalta, Lewes, O/Modernt, Resonances, Spitalfields and Yellowbarn.

For more information and to book visit
www.concertsforcraswall.org or call 01981 510112



BLACK HILL UKRAINE SUPPORT GROUP

Urgent help needed please

Our area has responded superbly to the need for accommodation. There are now nine families settled here. We are in urgent and desperate need of accommodation for one more Ukrainian family – mother, father and daughter who is at primary school.

If you can help please contact:

**Sue Robinson 01981 510360 or
Bob Burson 01873 860313**

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Saturday, 13 May at 7.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)
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Tickets (£17.50 / £8.75) and full details at www.haymusic.org
Tickets also from the Hay Tourist Bureau.

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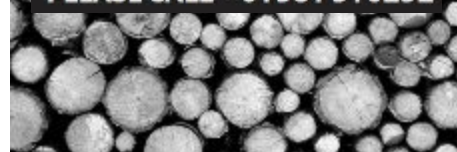
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Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri:	7.30 am - 5.30 pm
Late night Thurs:	7.30 am - 7.00 pm
Saturday:	7.30 am - 4.00 pm
Sunday (May - Oct):	10.00 am - 2.00 pm
(Nov - April):	10.00 am - 12 noon
Bank Holiday Mondays	10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Spring clean – Dry Cleaning

Whilst typing this it is sleeting outside, hardly inspiration for a spring clean! Our dry cleaning goes on a Wednesday and Friday and returns on a Wednesday and Friday, Duvets, rugs and wedding dresses take a week or two as they are not returned until completely dry.

Planning permission, we are still waiting, fingers crossed for an answer. In the next few months we need those solar panels for powering the summer ice cream sales.

Summer Sunshine Sundays, May - Oct

Sunday 7th May onwards we are open from 10am to 2pm on Sundays 'til 29th October

New to us this month

Enjoy an hour or two with sew magazine and patterns making the outfit you cannot find for the summer whilst enjoying a cultural travel trip inspired by new Jrny magazine.

Sweet treats of Vimto Laces, Bella Bites and Toblerone message 'One of a kind'.

Picnic joy Tyrrell's have a new flavour of tomato and chilli flavour, plus the Coronation Chicken is back for May.

Top three savings at Hopes

1. Buy a case and receive a 5% discount
2. We accept newspaper vouchers, buy in advance to save 10-30%
3. Try a sample of our refills for FREE, Thursdays 3pm - 6.30pm

Thank you - Easter Joy

We had fantastic sales this Easter from lovely locals and recommendations to visit the shop from visitors that boosted trade. We really appreciate everyone who checked our opening times, gave directions and shared details on Facebook. Thank you.

LONGTOWN POST OFFICE

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

Special Stamps

A double whammy of stamps, 6th May His Majesty King Charles III: A New Reign and from 17th May Blackadder

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

TSB special from Tuesday 18th April 2023

- 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
- TSB up to a maximum of £1,500 for personal accounts
- TSB up to a maximum of £10,000 for business accounts

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.

**Sadly no posties are based at ours, so if you want to chase an item please
call Royal Mail Hereford on 01432 346100**



Hopes of Longtown – Open seven days a week 01873 860444

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

CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY AND JUNE

May 2023

Sunday 7th May

9.30am Llanveynoe Holy Communion.
Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III
3.00pm St Margaret's Coronation Celebration

Sunday 14th May

9.30am Clodock Holy Communion
11.00am Michaelchurch Morning Worship

Thursday 18th May - Ascension Day

6.00pm Craswall Church Ascension Day Walk
(bring a picnic tea)

Sunday 21st May

9.30am Craswall Celtic Morning Prayer
6.00pm Clodock Holy Communion

Sunday 28th May - Pentecost

11.00am Michaelchurch Group Holy Communion

June 2023

Sunday 4th June

9.30am Llanveynoe Morning Worship
3.00pm St Margaret's Holy Communion

Sunday 11th June

9.30am Clodock Morning Worship
11.00am Michaelchurch Holy Communion

Sunday 18th June

9.30am Craswall Holy Communion
3.00pm Newton Afternoon Worship

Sunday 25th June

9.30am Clodock Group Holy Communion

EVENTS PLANNER			Please see https://blackhillcommunities.net for events further ahead
Wed	03 May	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Wed	03 May	19.30pm	Escleyside Gardening Club: <i>A Miserable Old Trigger</i> , Escleyside Hall
Sat	06 May	3.00-6.00pm	Newton St Margarets Coronation Party Teatime, Fair Oak
Sun	07 May	12.30pm	Clodock's Coronation Celebration
Sun	07 May		Craswall Coronation Celebration – parade and shared tea
Mon	08 May	7.30pm	Longtown & District Historical Society: <i>Lord and Lady Llanofer</i> , Longtown Village Hall
Thu	11 May	7.30pm	Newton St Margarets Women's Guild: Visit (tbc)
Sat	13 May	Various	National Mills Weekend. Five mills open
Sun	14 May	Various	National Mills Weekend. Two mills open
Mon	15 May	11.00am	St Michael's, Michaelchurch: AGM
Thu	18 May	19.00pm	The Annual Parochial Church Meetings of St Clydawg's Church, Craswall Church and St Beuno's Church, Llanveynoe
Sat	20 May	10.00am-2.00pm	Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre-school Open Day
Sun	21 May	2.00-4.00pm	Longtown WI Plant Sale, Longtown Village Hall
Fri	26 May	7.30pm	Jazz in the Village with Millar & Spencer, Longtown Village Hall
Sat	27 May	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle
Wed	07 June	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Sat	10 June	10.00am-noon	Newton St Margarets Women's Guild: Coffee Morning and Plant Sale. Newton Parish Room
Thu	22 June		Craswall barbecue
Sat	24 June	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle
Wed	05 July	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Fri	07 July		Hay Community Choir Concert, Clodock Church
Sat	29 July	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle

Village hall contacts

Craswall Hall

Bookings: Janet Watkins 01981 510226
General inquiries: Christine Cleaton,
cleatonfamily@btinternet.com

Escleyside Hall

Rachel Pritchard: 01981 510368
rachel.pritchard86@hotmail.co.uk

Longtown Hall

Mark Ewins, 01873 860829
www.longtownvillagehall.org.uk
bookings@longtownvillagehall.org.uk

Newton Church Room

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

Escley & District Sports Pavilion

Kirsty, 01981 510682
www.escleysportspavilion.com
escleysportspavilion@gmail.com

Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

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

PC 3687 Jeff Rouse 07870 150972 jeff.rouse@westmercia.police.uk
PCSO Margaret Andrzejewska 07773 053895 margaret.andrzejewska@westmercia.police.uk
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