

The Black Mountains Group Benefice

NEWSLETTER

October 2023



St Michael's. Michaelchurch Escley.

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

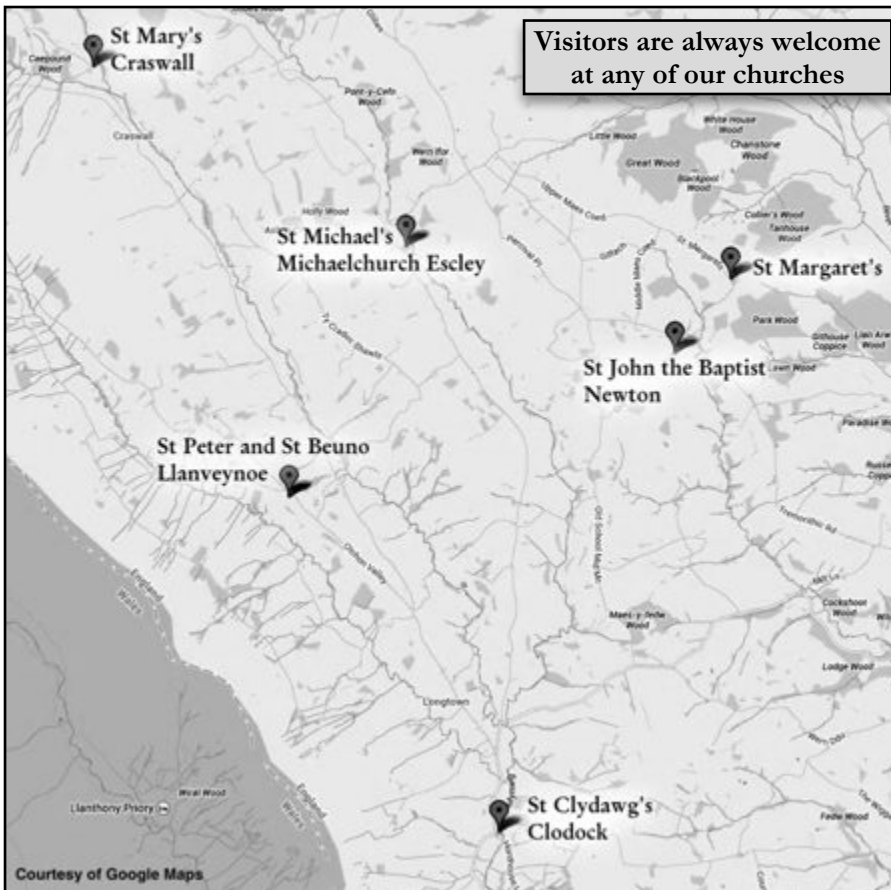


Part of the Abbeydore Deanery
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www.bmgparishes.org.uk



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Mrs Christine Cleaton 01981 510674

Llanveynoe

Mr Donald Phillips 01873 860298

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(Vacant)

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ISSUE

November 2023

December 2023/January 2024 *double edition*

February 2024

COPY DEADLINE

18 October 2023

15 November 2023

17 January 2024

PUBLICATION DATE

29 October 2023

26 November 2023

28 January 2024

Newsletter by
EMAIL



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From the Clergy

ARE YOU TOO BUSY?

More than thirty years ago when my children were small we read a wonderful book together by Jill Murphy called 'Five minutes peace'. It's the story of how Mrs Large finds some quiet amongst the hurly burly of small children; her eventual solution was a bath. She could lock the door and keep everyone out. This tale resonates just as much with my two daughters today, as they cope with their lively toddlers. But it's not just mums with small children who need some rest and quiet occasionally – we all do.

We live in a culture where being busy seems to be a badge of honour. Being busy makes us feel that we are achieving things, perhaps because when we are busy we feel important, essential and needed. I met a friend the other day and we exchanged news. He is retired and I asked what he was doing in his retirement. More often than not the answer to this question is volunteering for a charity or two or even three, being a churchwarden, gardening, looking after grandchildren and so on. In this case, though, he said – reading, purely for pleasure, mid 20th century novels in particular. I was really struck by this answer – he was giving himself time to read and think and imagine and remember.

In the bible we are never told how busy Jesus is – he has time to notice the potential disciple standing watching him, and for the woman who wanted to touch the hem of his garment even though the disciples were trying to hurry him by. He made time for his friends like Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Jesus had a clear idea of his priorities. He didn't need to be busy for the sake of it. His relationship with God was unpretentious – he knew that God knew everything about him and that God loved him unconditionally. He didn't try to be something he wasn't. His priority was the work God called him to do. Nor was Jesus afraid to say to God as he did in the Garden of Gethsemane, "I'm frightened, I don't want to do this". And God gave him the strength to do it.

Too often we use busyness as an excuse not to have to think about or do things that are really important – such as our relationship with God. We let our self-image get in the way and lose focus on what really matters. And we can then end up trying to please everyone and losing out ourselves.

We are now in October and the run up to Christmas starts all too soon. Before then, how about making time to think about whether you are trying to do good or whether you are trying to make yourself look good. What do you really need to do, and what should be on your 'not to do list'?

How about making time for a bath and five minutes peace to consider it?

Jane Rogers

OCTOBER READINGS

Details of services for October and November can be found on the back page.

Sunday 1st October

Old Testament	Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-end
New Testament	Philippians 2: 1-13
Gospel	Matthew 21:23-32
Psalm	25: 1-8

Sunday 8th October

Old Testament	Isaiah 5: 1-7
New Testament	Philippians 3: 4b-14

Gospel	Matthew 2: 33-end
Psalm	80: 9-17

Sunday 15th October

Old Testament	Isaiah 25: 1-9
New Testament	Philippians 4: 1-9
Gospel	Matthew 22: 1-14
Psalm	23

Sunday 22nd October

Old Testament	Isaiah 45: 1-7
New Testament	1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10
Gospel	Matthew 22: 15-22
Psalm	96: 1-9 (10-13)

Sunday 29th October

Old Testament	Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18
New Testament	1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8
Gospel	Matthew 22: 34 - end
Psalm	1

Deanery Update

DEANERY UPDATE

The Gathering will be held at Escleyside Hall, Michaelchurch Escley on Saturday 21st October at 10.00am.

The Gathering is a get-together which is open to anyone, why not come along? This time everyone has the opportunity to try out either a short walking pilgrimage (if you're doing this bring 3 stones or pebbles along with you - you'll find out why on the day!) or a meditative labyrinth which will be based in the hall. Then there'll be brunch and a couple of updates about what's going on in the Deanery. So that we have an idea of numbers, please book in using the usual contact details (below).

Still time to book in for the first session of our youth group, Grow Strong at Longtown Outdoor Education Centre on Saturday 30th September at a reduced cost of £23 (remember that bursaries are available to help with costs - so please do ask). This time the activities will include stand-up paddle boarding, climbing and a range of team games. It's for school years 6 & above. Get in touch to book by 22nd September 2023.

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.

Contact Details

For any enquiries about anything mentioned here and 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.

St Michael's Church, Harvest Lunch The Escleyside Hall

Sunday, 8th October 2023

at approx. 12.30pm following the 11.30am

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Tickets* – Adults: £10 Children 5-14: £5
Under 5: Free

* Tickets for the lunch available later in September
Any profits to St Michael's Church

CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF PLENTY!

As the crisp autumn air settles in, Clodock Church invites you to a **heartwarming Harvest Festival on October 8th**. It's a day of gratitude, community, and giving back.

Harvest Festival:

A service at Clodock Church, celebrating the blessings of the harvest season.

Music, prayers, and reflections that will warm your soul.

Bring your family and friends to share in the joy of the season.

Following the service, join us at the Cornwall Arms for a delectable harvest lunch.

No fixed charge for lunch – just make a donation to support Clodock Church funds.

Your generosity will help us continue our mission of serving the community.

Food Donations:

In the spirit of giving, please bring non-perishable food items to support the Hereford Food Bank.

Let's come together to make a positive impact on those in need.

Embrace the Harvest Season with Us

HARVEST FESTIVAL
Sunday 15th October 11.00

Followed by Harvest Lunch
CRASWALL VILLAGE HALL at 12.30

RSVP would be greatly appreciated as we nearly ran out of food last year!!

Ruth Watkins 01981 433109

Joyce Richards 01981 510276

Adults £10 / Children free

Thanks

Clodock's Creatures Under the Sea

After a fantastic creation and display of 38 creatures we are very pleased to be sending a total of £1,820.00 to the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

A big thank you to all who took part, and everyone who supported our BBQ on Sunday. Special thanks go to Breanna Vaughan for photographing all the creatures.

Watch out for *Jurassic Clodock* in 2025. *Sharon & Isobel*

Forthcoming events

LONGTOWN AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monday 2 October 7.30pm
Longtown Village Hall HR2 0LD
www.lhsarchive.org.uk

Penny Platts

“Country Churches: the Strange and the Wonderful”

Membership costs £12 for the season from September until July 2024, payable by cash or cheque at any meeting or by BACS. The guest fee is £4 per meeting.


November 6. Bob Steele -“The Golden Valley Railway: the Great Western Years”

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



4th October

The Mysteries & Importance
of the Amazing Hidden
World of Fungi



TALK 7.30pm, Wednesday 4th October
Escleside Hall

For many people, when fungi are mentioned their first reaction is: "Can I eat it or will it kill me?" or "How can we get rid of them?" **Lynne Boddy**, Fungal Ecologist at Cardiff University, is determined to change this view, since without fungi the terrestrial ecosystems of planet Earth would not work.

See more at: www.esclesidegc.wixsite.com/club

FAIR OAK CIDER OPEN WEEKEND
October 7th and 8th

The horse-drawn cider mill at Fair Oak, Bacton, HR2 0AT, will be open to visitors on Saturday and Sunday, October 7 and 8, from 10 am until 4 pm. This is the tenth year of horse-powered cider at Fair Oak.

Tommy, the Gypsy Cob from Llanigon, will be crushing apples in the mill, with the help of his owners, Wendy and John Lloyd, and the team of cidermakers working the old press. Tommy usually finishes his work by lunchtime, but is happy to receive visitors during the afternoon.

Cider made last autumn will be available to taste and buy – including two single varieties, Dabinett and Brown's Apple, a new Barrel-Aged cider, the popular Sparkling, and the latest batch of Fair Oak cider brandy: Herefordshire's answer to Calvados.

Also on show will be the documentary film made by David Bishop, *Horse-powered in Herefordshire*.

Admission is free. Donations to the Laurie Engel Fund for Teenage Cancer Trust are welcome.

For more information please call Hilary Engel, 01981 241210

NEWTON ST MARGARETS WOMEN'S GUILD

... is holding its annual HARVEST AUCTION on Thursday 12th October at 7.30pm in Newton Parish Room HR2 0QN.

Donations of home produce and crafts will be gratefully received but do also come and join in the fun of bidding for that jar of damson chutney. Our chosen charity for this event is Hereford CLD Strong Young Minds programme and Alex Fitzpatrick will be present to tell us more about it.

Refreshments available. Everyone welcome.

For further information please phone Jane 07794 920729

LONGTOWN THURSDAY CLUB

The Thursday Club has arranged two more trips for the coming months. As always, we can offer places to non-members of any age.

The coach will leave Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.30 am and the cost will be £20.

Trip to the Elan Valley
THURSDAY 12th OCTOBER 2023
Visit to Cribbs Causeway



THURSDAY 9th NOVEMBER for your Christmas Shopping

If you would like to join us, or know more, please contact Hazel Pugh on 018730 860803 or Pauline Jones on 07903 150588 / jonespauline@pobroadband.co.uk

Concerts for Craswall



CONNAUGHT BRASS

Saturday October 14th at 5pm

St Michael's Church, Michaelchurch Escley HR2 0JS

From the delicate intimacy of chamber music to a rich toned power reminiscent of a full brass band, this virtuosic and versatile British brass quintet realise the full potential of a richly diverse spectrum of music.



Connaught Brass are a thrilling young quintet who are quickly making a name for themselves as a fresh talent in the chamber music world - both at home and abroad. After prestige appearances at the BBC Proms, Lucerne Festival and the Wigmore Hall their programme is characteristically bold and vibrant, from folk-tinged Norwegian miniatures, via 17th Century Venetian polychoral grandeur, to the lush Romanticism of the African-American Florence Price.

This is one concert not to be missed! So if you haven't secured your seats yet, now is a good time.

Tickets £18 or students under 25 £9.50

For further information and to book, go to
<https://concertsforcraswall.org> or call 01981 510112

Concerts for Craswall Registered Charity No. 1092005

Longtown Village Projects AGM

The LVP AGM will take place on October 17th at 7pm

It will be held at 1 Castle Cottages, Longtown.

All are welcome. It would be helpful to know of your intended attendance in advance.

Please contact Jayne Davies - secretary.
jaynedav@live.com 01873 860313

Join Us for a Hearty Breakfast and Fellowship

Gentlemen of Clodock and beyond, mark your calendars for a special morning of camaraderie, conversation, and a delicious breakfast!

Men's Breakfast Club at Clodock Church

A mouthwatering breakfast spread to fuel your day.

Engaging discussions and inspiring conversations.

The opportunity to connect with fellow men in the community.

A chance to unwind, share experiences, and forge new friendships.

Saturday, October 28th, 09:30

An ideal way to kickstart your World Cup Final weekend!

Clodock Church, a place of warmth, welcome, and community spirit.

Men of all ages, backgrounds, and interests.

Whether you're a regular churchgoer or haven't visited in a while, all are welcome.

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and it's better when shared with friends.

Connect with like-minded individuals and strengthen your sense of community.

Explore topics that matter to you, from life experiences to faith and beyond.

Stay Connected:

To stay updated on our Men's Breakfast Club and other church events, contact us at churchwarden@stclydawgs.uk

Start Your Day Right!

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a delicious breakfast while building connections within your community. Join us on Saturday, October 28th, and let's make this breakfast memorable!

Come hungry, leave inspired. See you there!



SINGING MATTERS

For all Voices – from Top to Bottom!

This is your day to sing!!

SATURDAY, 4th NOVEMBER, 2023

A day of singing made fun. You will be introduced to new songs and old songs, sing in parts and learn how to play your voice – the free instrument we EACH own. A perfect opportunity to experience the joy of singing with others, especially if you have not had time to commit to a regular choir or perhaps thought you were not good enough!

Longtown Village Hall, 10.00 to 4.00 pm – £20.00

Coffee and Tea will be provided

Please bring a packed lunch

The day will be led by Fiona Evans

(Director of Hay Community Choir)

THIS WILL BE A GREAT DAY!

Tickets available from Sarah Ashton

The Old Greyhound, Longtown., HR2 0LD

07968 371218 ashton.sj@googlemail.com

Payable please by cheque (made out to Sarah Ashton) or cash. **Closing date 20th October, 2023.**

ARTS ALIVE with FLICKS in the STICKS

The Canadian Indie-Folk Duo BASSETT are on tour in the UK this autumn and are stopping off at the
ESCLEYSIDE HALL HR2 0PT

Wednesday 15th November 2023

see bassettheband.com

They bring their love of the natural world into their meditative music and song.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets are already selling.

£12/ £6 /Family £30 from 01981 510116 or

www.artsalive.co.uk

SUMMER MEADOWS IN LONGTOWN

When passing the Castle Green this summer you will have noticed a patch of grass that was uncut. You may even have wandered over to read the signs which kept a tally of all the flowers spotted in this small patch. Many tourists certainly gathered around to find out what treasures our community has.

We wanted to let it grow to see what was living there and we were very pleasantly surprised.

Spring began with the expected explosion of yellow, white and pink flowers we see on most verges in the area but, as the season progressed, more and more surprises emerged.

Standing next to the patch you could not help but hear the grasshoppers chatting away or see lots of butterflies and other pollinators busying themselves in the long grasses. As we picked our way through the grasses to survey, clouds of moths would erupt. There is no doubt that it became an important habitat over the summer months.

We spotted 32 different species of wildflowers (we didn't count the grass species this year) in that little spot. Some of the unexpected highlights were the Common Spotted Orchids that suddenly appeared, Ragged Robin, Meadow Cranesbill and the Harebells who popped their heads up right at the end of summer. We added our findings to 2023's Great Meadow Search which is a UK-wide project to map the health of our meadows.

The banks of the Castle Green are home to even more species. Next year, we hope to get the bracken under control to allow these flowers to become more established (watch out for a community bracken-pulling session in spring).

The Castle Green is an ancient grassland, full of species that would have once dominated our local grasslands. We hope that continuing to manage parts of the area for wildlife will help to sustain our biodiversity for future generations while still keeping essential space for play and recreation.

Many thanks to Longtown Village Projects for making it all possible. If you would like to help next year, please get in touch at lifecimatechange@gmail.com

If you didn't get to read the list of what we found, here it is: Greater Stitchwort, *Cowslip*, Field Speedwell, *Germander Speedwell*, Burnet Saxifrage, *Ribwort Plantain*, Hairy Bittercress, *Birds Foot Trefoil*, Yarrow, *Common Sorrel*, Bulbous Buttercup, *Creeping Buttercup*, Vetch, *Knapweed*, Hogweed, *Dandelion*, Red Clover, *Lady Fern*, Yellow Archangel, *Pignut*, Autumn Hawkbit, *Herb Robert*, Broad Leaved Willowherb, *Black Bryony*, Meadow Cranesbill, *Goats Beard*, Self Heal, *Ragged Robin*, Oxeye Daisy, *Meadow Vetchling*, Honeysuckle, *Yellow Rattle*, Cats Ears, *Rough Hawkbit*, Common Spotted Orchid, *Harebell*, Imperforate St Johns Wort.

MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

What a wonderful start to the new year! The sun was shining on our first week back, after a somewhat lackluster summer, and it seems like all children and adults have huge smiles on their faces. I always say this, but I genuinely love coming back after the holiday and catching up with all the children, finding out what they've been up to in the last six weeks.

At the start of the new school year, I always want to spare a thought for our last year's Year 6 (now Year 7!) who have

Local Newsround



DORE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT - THE DRIVING FORCE

Many of you will be familiar with the red DCT vehicles seen driving around SW Herefordshire and hopefully you will know what we do.

What might come as a surprise is that we have now been operating for 23 years having started way back in 2000. This is quite an achievement for a small charity, manned entirely by volunteer drivers.

It all started with a few volunteers' cars; later we added one small vehicle of our own and we have grown steadily until today we have a fleet of 6 vehicles, 4 of which are converted to carry wheelchairs. When requirements dictate our volunteers also use their own cars.

This takes a lot of organising and our office staff, Sarah and Sue, have become very skilled at ensuring we meet the needs of our community, while Claire deals with all the admin to keep us on the road.

While we have the vehicles and staff we need to manage the charity, as always, we need more volunteer drivers and would welcome enthusiastic people who would be happy to give up some time to drive for us and help this community. The driving can vary from short local trips to a full day when one could cover say 120 miles. How much one does is up to the individual.

If you are interested you will be joining a committed group of volunteers who provide an essential service to people of all ages who do not have access to transport. It is a rewarding way of spending a few hours a week and is much appreciated by our passengers.

If you or anyone you know thinks that this is of interest, please call us on 0345 2020 144 between 9.00 and 12 noon or email us at doretransport@gmail.com and we will send you a pack explaining what's involved and how to join us.

If driving is not for you, but you require transport and you think that we can help, ring the number above and talk to Sue or Sarah. We only carry people who do not have their own transport and cannot readily use public transport, but there are no limits on age or on reasons why you want to travel. We also keep our fares as low as we can.

Finally, to all of you who have supported us in whatever way over the past 23 years, thank you. *Roger Bradley*

started at their high school's now. It always feels so strange not seeing their faces around school. In a similar way, our lovely staff who moved onto new schools at the end of last term. We wish both pupils and adults the very best in their new settings and look forward to hearing about how they're getting on.

However, we are very excited to welcome our lovely new Reception children to the school and all have settled well into their new class. We are also very pleased to welcome Miss Yeomans to the school as a new class teacher, working in Oak Class and across the school, and Mrs Rowland who has joined us as a teaching assistant in Acorn Class.

This term already promises to be jam-packed with many exciting activities for the children. Acorn Class (YR to Y2) are heading down to Barry Island as part of their Seaside topic and will no doubt have a super time on the beach and they will probably grab a cheeky ice-cream too! Sapling Class is learning about Rainforests, so they kicked the year off with a visit from Rainforest Exotics who brought a selection of tropical creatures including lizards, snakes, spiders, a giant tortoise (which had a little accident on the carpet) and even a scorpion to show the children and let them handle. With chocolate as our oldest children's Autumn term topic, there is really only one place Oak Class could head off to - Cadbury World! The children are very excited to be heading up to Bourneville towards the end of September to learn about the history of Cadbury chocolate, how chocolate was used by the Mayan's and, of course, there will be some eating of chocolate too!

Fortunately, we are not affected by the recent panic over RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) in schools across the country. Clearly they knew how to build things in the 1930s! It seems like Herefordshire as a whole has not been too badly affected, which is fantastic as for many children, parents and staff their new school year has started off with significant disruption.

Also coming up this half term we have an Open Morning on **Tuesday 17th October** so if you would like to pop along and find out more about our lovely school then we'd love to see you. However, we are always happy to make contact with new families and have spaces in a number of year groups so if you are interested in sending your child to our school please call our School Business Manager on 01981 510208 or drop us a line at admin@michaelchurch-escleigh.hereford.sch.uk

Louise Crocker, Headteacher

Round and About

VOWCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

CEILIDH Saturday September 30, 7.30 at Vowchurch Hall in aid of Hereford Food Bank. Donations welcome

VILLAGE PUB Friday October 13. Doors open 6pm for family hour and children's menu. Bar, food, music

HARVEST SUPPER Friday October 20, 7pm at Vowchurch Hall. Bar and three course supper. Entry £15, children under 12, £10. Booking on vowchurchhall@gmail.com or 07880 505761.

WOOLLY & WARM free wool craft workshops with Caroline Gilbert, Vowchurch Hall **September 30 and October 5** – handwarmers, draught excluders, neck warmers and peg loom

rugs. All materials and refreshments free. Details on vowchurchturnastonehall.co.uk Book with Caroline on 01981 550043

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING with Emma Thacker-Vuts. A course of four x 3 hour classes on the theme of birds **starting Wednesday October 25.** Details on vowchurchturnastonehall.co.uk. Book with lucylevinge@btinternet.com 01981 550685

WILLOW STARS October 18 or 22, 9.30 - 1pm. Make your own Christmas decorations with basket maker Sarah Adby. Details on vowchurchturnastonehall.co.uk Book with lucylevinge@btinternet.com 01981 550685

PILATES Tuesdays 9.15 - 10.15 and 6pm - 8pm. Contact Hannah Thomas hannahmthomas@hotmail.com

BOWLS resumes Wednesday October 4 6.30pm - 9.30 and weekly thereafter. Contact Richard Stokes rtastokes@hotmail.co.uk

VAT50 Winners were Dawn Brooks £50 and Penny Plato £20

THE MONDAY CLUB

This friendly little club is run at Peterchurch Village Hall every Monday serving teas and coffee.

As many of you will have realised this is our 10th year of running the club which is amazing it has gone from strength to strength with approximately 30 - 40 people coming each week. However, this would not be possible without our volunteers and helpers behind the scenes so I would like to say a big THANK YOU to them. We actually started in September so we held a small lunch party and there was cake.

Many thanks to Iris and Adam Bardsell who very kindly had an Anniversary Cake made for the occasion by Cakes and Catering.

We had a trip to Burnham-on-Sea at the end of August; unfortunately the weather let us down but everyone who went had a lovely time I gather.

We will now be starting the build up towards Christmas and I am sure that the powers that be have been in touch with Santa.

Unfortunately, we heard of the passing of Alan Summers our condolences to Marilyn and the family.

We have now returned to our normal opening times of 10 am -12 pm

We are always looking for volunteers and if you feel like you would like to help us as a volunteer please ring Mrs. Kath Gaze at 01981 550579. You don't have to do it every Monday. We are happy with any time available. It's just making Tea and Coffee.

PETERCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

We are always looking for people to come and join us with ideas for what can take place in the Village hall. Please feel free to come to our meetings and have your say

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

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

Continued...

Hatha Yoga is being held every Wednesday 7pm -8.30pm and 11am-12pm from September

The Village Art classes are held every Monday evening 7-9pm and Wednesday afternoon 1.30pm-3.30pm

Parish Council meetings every 3rd Tuesday of the month

Visit our website, www.peterchurchvillagehall.org

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

We are looking for people who would like to join our committee.

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!

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.)

Notices and Advertisements

Longtown Village Hall

Is offering you the chance to help it grow and thrive in 2024

The hall offers excellent facilities and a fantastic setting in the heart of the village.

From January 2024, it needs a Booking Clerk to further develop and manage bookings for the hall.

The present one is stepping back from the voluntary role, but will work with you at the outset and help develop the process to make it the best.

If you are just interested and want to ask questions, or are ready to take on the opportunity, please email

bookings@longtownvillagehall.org.uk
or ring **01873 288 289**

HAY Music

Trio Kurtág

Juliette Roos - violin, Yume Fujise - viola, Eliza Millett - cello

Thursday, 19 October at 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm)

The Castle, Hay-on-Wye

Selected and supported by the prestigious Countess of Munster Trust, this highly acclaimed young string trio will play works by Georges Enescu, Jean Francaix, Ernő Dohnányi and György Kurtág, plus Beethoven's great String Trio in C minor Op. 9 No. 3.

Tickets and full details at www.haymusic.org

Tickets also from the Hay Tourist Bureau or at the door if still available.

BOOK SIGNING: 'THE HOUSE BENEATH THE BLACK HILL'

At 3pm on Saturday 4th November Chris Green will read from his gripping new novel *The House beneath the Black Hill* at The Cornwall Arms in Clodock.



For composer Nick Mortimer it is a dream come true when he and his sister Kate inherit a house in the village of Clodock in a remote corner of Herefordshire's Black Mountains. But it is a dream that soon turns into a nightmare when they are confronted by a series of mysterious and frightening events. Their search to find answers unearths a tragic tale of blighted love set against the background of the disturbing political and social divisions of the late 1920s.

Signed copies of the book will be available at £11.99. A donation of £1 will be given to Herefordshire Air Ambulance for every copy sold.

The author will also be signing copies of his novel at Hopes of Longtown between **10am-12 noon on Saturday 2nd December.**

After a lifetime supporting other artists, Chris has finally found time to fulfil his own creative ambitions as a writer. His first novel, *The Swinging Pendulum of the Tide*, was published in 2018. It is a story of the loss and rediscovery of love and faith, set against the background of the wilds of Bardsey Island off the North Wales coast. In his second novel, *The House Beneath the Black Hill*, he combines his fascination in the telling of a good ghost story with his interest in the turbulent politics of the late 1920s, highlighted by the remarkable electoral victory of journalist and author Frank Owen over his Tory rival in Hereford in the 1929 General Election.

As a former Popular Events Director City of the London Festival, Director of The Poetry Society and Chief Executive of the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers & Authors (now The Ivors Academy), Chris knows all about the challenges faced by the creative community. He's well versed in politics too having contested Hereford and South Herefordshire for the Liberal Democrats in the 1979, 1983 and 1987 Parliamentary elections where he came within a whisker of taking the seat.

He is married with two grown-up sons and lives with his wife, Sheila, in the village of Garway.



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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

Hot Chocolates are go

As I am typing this the flipping weather is unseasonable again. Vests are back on and I'm looking forward to a Hot Chocolate in the evening with just a little splash of something restful.

Fairtrade Hot Chocolates can be purchased from the shop for a bargain £2.49 and if you have your own container it gets reduced to a bargain £1.99

We are a finalist in the Herefordshire Means Business Awards

Thrilled to tell you we have been shortlisted in the Family business category and look forward to an awards ceremony this month where we find out more.

We want to tell you about the two other shortlisted businesses:

Redline who we use for broadband giving us excellent service and support.

The other excelling family run business is the Children's Bookshop in Hereford which, I'm sure we can agree, also does a sterling job.

New to us and have you spotted,

- * A glorious hand painted fair-trade two drawer chest
- * Lit up golden leaves to brighten any corner in the home (battery operated)
- * Mailes Butchers Marmite sausage rolls

Top three treats for October

1. Choose a mason mixing bowl ready to soak the fruit for a perfectly boozy Christmas cake (Half term family activity)
2. Stuffing balls/Nut roasts a perfect addition autumnal treat with all sorts of spare ingredients being used up or added
3. We are still open on Sundays 10am to 2pm until Sunday 29th, from November through to April we open 10am - 12 noon.

LONGTOWN POST OFFICE

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

Euros available everyday other currencies next day

Thank you for keeping the Longtown Post Office active. We sold out of euros due to high demand for a whole day (back in stock)

Have you seen the new Paddington Bear stamps? Dame Shirley Bassey stamps go live on Thursday 21st September, please form an orderly queue for when we open at 10.30am. "Big spenders" particularly welcome!

We can top up your mobile phone card or we can sell you a voucher to top up your phone, important to have a nice natter with friends and family when you can.

Access your money at Longtown Post Office.

Using your Debit bank card you can pay cash into and take cash out of, most personal and business bank accounts Royal Mail has announced they will be making pricing changes to some of their services. From 2 October, the price of 1st Class letters, 1st and 2nd Class Large Letters, Special Delivery and Parcelforce Worldwide services will increase. All other services including international services will remain the same.

Continued...

LONGTOWN POST OFFICE (cont.)

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

The key price changes are:

- 1st class stamps will rise by 15p to £1.25.
- Large letters (1st Class and 2nd Class) will increase between 30p - 55p except for heaviest weight band where there is increased competition.
- Special Delivery prices will increase by 50p at lower weight bands and £1 over 2kg.
- Parcelforce Worldwide inland services will increase in price by 17-23%.

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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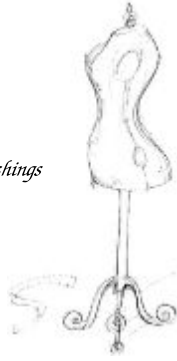
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CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

October 2023

Sunday 1st October

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

Sunday 8th October

11.00am Clodock Harvest Festival
11.30am Michaelchurch Harvest Festival with Lunch

Sunday 15th October

11.00am Craswall Harvest Festival with Lunch
3.00pm Newton Afternoon Worship

Sunday 22nd October

11.00am Clodock Holy Communion

Sunday 29th October

11.00am St Margaret's Holy Communion

November 2023

Sunday 5th November

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

Sunday 12th November

10.50am Clodock Remembrance Day Service
10.50am Michaelchurch Remembrance Day Service

Sunday 19th November

9.30am Craswall Holy Communion
3.00pm Newton Holy Communion

Sunday 26th November

11.00am Michaelchurch Holy Communion

EVENTS PLANNER			
Mon	02 October	7.30pm	Longtown & District Historical Society: Penny Platts, <i>Country Churches: the Strange and the Wonderful</i> . Longtown Village Hall
Wed	04 October	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Wed	04 October	7.30pm	Esleyside Gardening Club: Lynne Boddy, World of Fungi
Sat	07 October	10:00am-4.00pm	Fair Oak Cider Open Weekend
Sun	08 October		St Michael's Church Harvest Festival and Lunch
Sun	08 October		St Clydawg's Church Harvest Festival
Sun	08 October	10:00am-4.00pm	Fair Oak Cider Open Weekend
Thu	12 October		Longtown Thursday Club outing to the Elan Valley
Thu	12 October	7.30pm	Newton St Margarets Women's Guild: Harvest auction. Newton Parish Room
Sat	14 October	5.00pm	Concerts for Craswall: Connaught Brass. St Michael's Church
Sun	15 October	12.30pm	Craswall Harvest Lunch, Craswall Village Hall
Tue	17 October		Michaelchurch Esley Primary School Open Morning
Tue	17 October	7.00pm	Longtown Village Projects AGM, 1 Castle Cottages, Longtown
Thu	19 October		Craswall Young Farmers New Members Evening
Fri	27 October		Craswall Young Farmers, Halloween Bingo. Craswall Village Hall
Sat	28 October	9.30am	Men's Breakfast Club, Clodock Church
Sat	28 October	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle
Sat	28 October	6.00-8.00pm	Longtown Village Hall: Children's Halloween Party
Wed	01 November	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Sat	04 November	10.00am-4.00pm	"Singing Matters" workshop, Longtown Village Hall
Sat	04 November	3.00pm	Book signing by Chris Green, <i>The House beneath the Black Hill</i> . The Cornwall Arms, Clodock
Thu	09 November		Longtown Thursday Club Christmas shopping, Cribbs Causeway, Bristol
Wed	15 November		Bassett, Canadian Indie-Folk Duo, Esleyside Hall
Sat	25 November	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle

Village hall contacts

Craswall Hall

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

Esleyside Hall

Rachel Pritchard: 01981 510368
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