

# The Black Mountains Group Benefice

# NEWSLETTER

October 2024



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

Part of the Abbeydore Deanery  
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Rev. Mark Godson: revmarkgodson@gmail.com  
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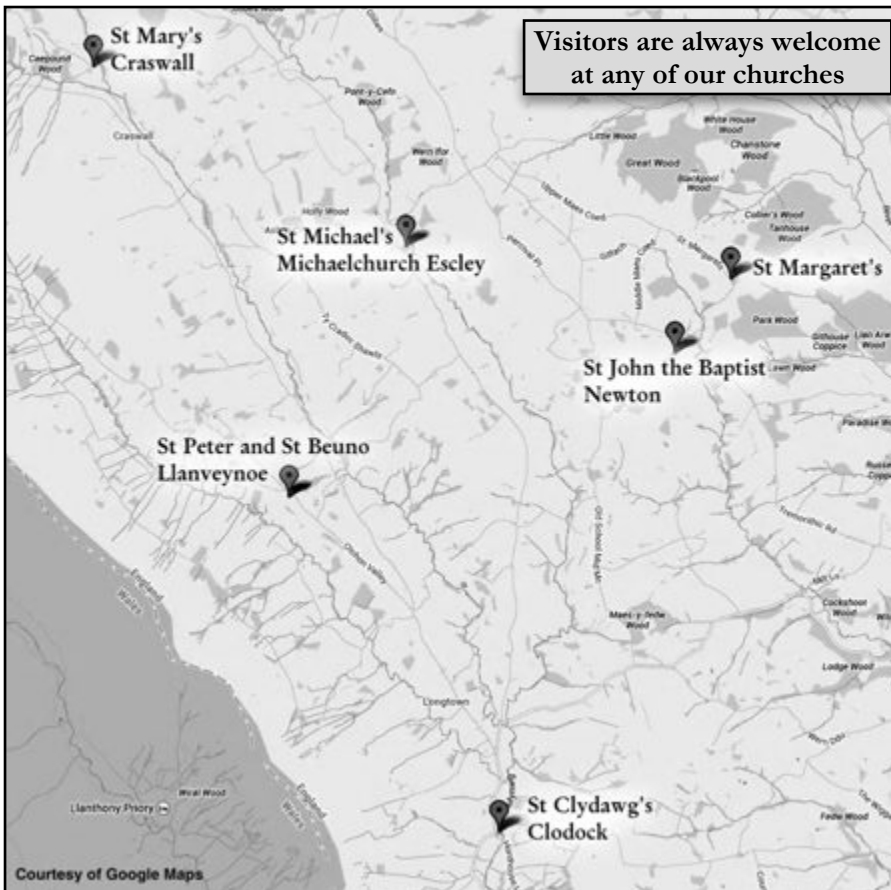
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Mr Nick Vaughan 01873 860201

### Craswall

Mrs Christine Cleaton 01981 510674

### Llanveynoe

Commodore Peter Tribe 01873 860260

Mr Donald Phillips (*Honorary Churchwarden*)

### St Margaret's

(Vacant)

### Michaelchurch Esley

Mrs Olive Howells 01981 510228

### Newton

(Vacant)

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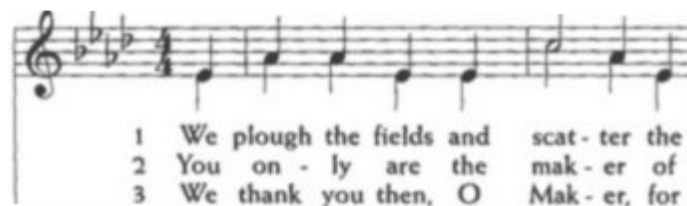
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## From the Clergy



Dear Friends,

At Harvest, we celebrate the crops gathered from the fields, give thanks for the food we have on our tables, and pray for those who produce our food – as well as for those who do not have much to eat.

In our favourite Harvest hymn ‘We Plough the Fields and Scatter’ (Matthias Claudius, 1782; translated by Jane M. Campbell, 1861), we sing of our thankfulness for all the good gifts that surround us – the harvest, our food, our health, our very lives. Through the verses, we recognise that all things come from God, and the God who shaped the earth also watches over us with love.

As such, Harvest is also a time for reaching out and caring for others – sharing the bounties of our personal harvests (whether wealth, food, health, time, etc) with those around us who are in need – perhaps you remember ( or still participate in) can drives at Primary School, or vegetable auctions in village halls.

This year, some of our churches are raising money for **We Are Farming Minds** – a local charity providing mental health support to the Herefordshire farming community. We are also supporting **Food for Families** – a local charity that works with the schools to provide food boxes to families in need over the school holidays.

Please give generously, so that this Harvest truly can be a celebration and sharing of the good gifts that surround us.

*We thank you, then, Creator,  
 for all things bright and good,  
 the seed-time, and the harvest,  
 our life, our health, our food.  
 Accept the gifts we offer  
 for all your love imparts,  
 and what you most would welcome:  
 our humble, thankful hearts.*

Rev. Cate

## READINGS – OCTOBER & 1st SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER

### Sunday 6th October

Old Testament	Genesis 2: 18-24
New Testament	Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12
Gospel	Mark 10: 2-16
Psalm	8

### Sunday 13th October

Old Testament	Amos 5:6-7,10-15
New Testament	Hebrews 4: 12-16
Gospel	Mark 10: 17-31
Psalm	90: 12-17

### Sunday 20th October

Old Testament	Isaiah 53: 4-12
New Testament	Hebrews 5: 1-10
Gospel	Mark 10: 35-45
Psalm	91: 9

## Sunday 27th October

Old Testament	Isaiah 55: 1-11
New Testament	2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4:5
Gospel	John 5: 46-47
Psalm	19: 7-14

## Sunday 3rd November

Old Testament	Isaiah 25: 6-9
New Testament	Revelation 21: 1-6a
Gospel	John 11: 32-44
Psalm	24: 1-6

## Deanery Update

### DEANERY PASTORAL PLAN REVIEW

Thanks so much to all those who took the time to complete the Deanery Pastoral Plan review survey, or went along to chat to Joint Council members at a local pub. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and the Joint Council look forward to sharing this with you at the next Gathering.

The Gathering, which is open to everyone will take place at Moccas Village Hall between 10am and 12 noon on Saturday 19th October. Do try to come along and hear more about what’s going on at the Deanery and share your views about future plans here.

On 1st October, the Rev’d Mark Godson will take up a new full time position as the first Ministry Development Officer for the Diocese of Hereford. Mark will work with lay and ordained leaders across the diocese from the point of commissioning, admission or ordination and throughout their time in ministry. Mark will support opportunities for missional leadership training for leaders and parishes including accompanying clergy new in post and equipping training incumbents. Mark and Sarah will remain living at The Rectory until the New Year, and Mark will continue to support Abbeydore Deanery on Sundays during this time.

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### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Grow Strong: Friday 25th October** at Longtown Outdoor Centre for School Years 6 & above. £15 per session – places must be pre-booked using the details below.

**Reflective Ramble:** Bredwardine **Sunday 27th October** at 2pm.

**Hedgerow Communion:** Snodhill Castle **Sunday 27th October** 6pm for Samhain/All Souls.

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.

### For up-to-date information:

- Keep an eye on our website: [abbeydoredeanery.org](http://abbeydoredeanery.org)
- Follow our **Abbeydore Deanery** Facebook page or join our Facebook group

- Subscribe to our regular email update:  
<http://eepurl.com/ggcfPj>
- Get in touch with the Deanery Office on 01981 620145  
or [abbeydoredmc@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydoredmc@gmail.com)

### Llanveynoe Harvest Festival

Llanveynoe's Harvest Festival this year will be on **SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER at 6pm** in Llanveynoe Church.

The service will be taken by Rev Cate Thomson.

After the service we will go on to Mountain Mayhem, by courtesy of Fred and Vicki Phillips, for hot drinks and then **our famed HARVEST SUPPER**

Please do join us for this very special evening.

Price £10 pp, children under 12 free.

Pay on the door.

#### Booking essential:

The last date for booking: Thursday 3rd Oct

Peter Tribe: 01873 860 260 / 0797 492 0959

Pamela: 07966 518 786

We look forward to seeing you!

*Pamela Tribe*

### MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY HARVEST SERVICE

St Michael's Harvest Service will be held on

**13th October 2024 at 11.30am**

*followed by*

Harvest Meal at approximately 1.00pm in Esleyside Hall.

£10 per ticket, children under 5 free of charge.

Tickets will be available in September from

Olive and Rosie Howells 01981 510228,

or Linda Arnold 01981 510263

### ARMISTICE DAY CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE

Join us at St Clodock for a special Armistice Day Contemplative Service on **11th November 7.30pm** as we honour those who sacrificed their lives in conflict. The service will include poetry, prayers, and readings, including works by war poets like Hedd Wyn, as well as moments for reflection and peace. Together, we will remember the past and pray for a future free from war. All are welcome.

### SALEM BAPTIST CHAPEL

Llanwonog Lane Longtown HR2 0LE



#### SUNDAY SERVICES

6 Oct	6.30 pm	HARVEST THANKSGIVING Revd Ifor Williams
13 Oct	6.30 pm	Mr Rob Roberts
20 Oct	6.30 pm	Mrs Eunice Oram
27 Oct	6.30 pm	Mr Graham Powell
<b>OTHER</b>		
19 Oct	9.00 am	Footstep Friends Offa's Dyke Walk
30 Oct	6.00 pm	Creative Crafts

**ALL WELCOME**

For further information, please email [longtownsbc@gmail.com](mailto:longtownsbc@gmail.com)

## Thanks

### THANK YOU, CHRIS HAYWOOD

The PCC of St Clydawg's Church would like to express our sincere thanks to **Chris Haywood** for his hard work in mowing the grass around the church. Your efforts help maintain the beauty of our church grounds, and we deeply appreciate your dedication and service to the church community.

Thank you, Chris.

### A NOTE OF THANKS TO RAYMOND PRITCHARD

The PCC of St Clydawg's Church would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Raymond Pritchard** for generously giving his time and effort to trim one of the hedges around the graveyard. Your work has helped keep the church grounds looking neat and welcoming, and we are truly grateful for your continued support.

Thank you, Raymond.

### NICK VAUGHAN'S VELO VOYAGE UPDATE

We're excited to share that **Nick Vaughan** has successfully completed his solo ten-day bike ride, covering over 800 kilometers from the French-Swiss border to the beach at Nieuwpoort in Belgium!

Thanks to generous donations, **over £2,000** has been raised in support of the MND Association, which will go towards helping those affected by motor neurone disease.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed and supported this incredible cause. Nick's journey was both a personal challenge and a tribute to the memory of soldiers who fought along the Western Front.

If you'd still like to donate, there's still time to do so.

*Nick Vaughan*

### CRASWALL COMMUNITY CURRY NIGHT – BULL'S HEAD

Jake and Amie hosted a wonderful curry evening at the pub with proceeds donated to Craswall Church. The evening was a great success with capacity crowd, lots of kids enjoying the garden and a lovely evening to sit out round the picnic tables and catch up with neighbours, rounded off by the rising of the glorious harvest moon. The evening raised a fantastic £790 for Craswall Church! A huge THANK YOU to Jake and Amie and team from Craswall Church for organising this event.

## Forthcoming events

# The Magnolias of Hergest Croft



**TALK** 7.30pm, Wednesday 2nd October  
Esleyside Hall

Rowan Griffiths will talk us through the collection of magnolias grown at the 70 acre Hergest Croft Gardens where he is one of the garden team. Rowan recently received the Roy Lancaster Award for exceptional horticultural contribution.

Annual Membership: £15 Non-members welcome: £5  
See more at: [www.esleysidegc.wixsite.com/club](http://www.esleysidegc.wixsite.com/club)



**Longtown Library is  
next open on**

**2nd October  
2.30 to 4.30pm**

**LONGTOWN AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Monday 7th October at 7.30pm**

**Longtown Village Hall HR2 0LD**

Born in 1890 at Quarely Farm, Newton, Richard Jenkins took produced a wonderful series of photo"graphs of people from south-west Herefordshire in the early years of the twentieth century. Please come along to Hilary Engel's talk to see the beautiful photos which give an insight into local life a century ago. We hope people whose families have a long connection with the area will join us on 7th October.

Guests are very welcome at our meetings (£4). Membership costs £12 for the season until July, payable at the door by cash or cheque. Contact Dr Jeremy Davies, [jerrydavis@outlook.com](mailto:jerrydavis@outlook.com) for more information.

**LONGTOWN & DISTRICT WI**

*(See our previous meeting report in the Local Newsround section)*

At our next meeting on the **8th October**, we look forward to hearing speaker Robert Arley who will talk to us about his experiences as a BBC TV Producer working on 'Antiques Roadshow'.

Meeting 7:15pm, Speaker 8pm followed by refreshments.  
Visitors welcome £3.

**NEWTON ST MARGARETS WOMEN'S GUILD**

**Thursday 10th October 2024 at 7.30pm**

**Newton Parish Room HR2 0QR.**

Do come along to our Harvest Auction in aid of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust (*A member of HWT team will be joining us*).

Donations of home produce, plants or crafts will be very welcome or just come along to put in a bid for Maggie's famous Bara Brith and more.

Refreshments available. For more information phone 07794 920729.

**Concerts for Craswall**



present

**ENSEMBLE MOLIÈRE**

**Saturday October 12th at 5pm**

**St Michael's Church, Michaelchurch Escley**

Concerts for Craswall conclude their 30th anniversary celebrations with a virtuosic celebration of "Telemann and his friends in Paris" by early music specialists Ensemble Molière. Selected as the first ever BBC Radio 3 New Generation Baroque Ensemble in partnership with BBC Radio 3, the National Centre for Early Music and the Royal College of Music, these four hugely talented female musicians are inspired by the music of the French Baroque.

Their programme celebrates the German Baroque composer, Georg Telemann. In 1737, Telemann visited Paris at the invitation of some of the greatest musicians in France: Michel Blavet,

Jean-Pierre Guignon, and Jean-Baptiste Forqueray. To celebrate his visit, Telemann's twelve sets of "Paris Quartets" were performed by these musicians and Telemann himself, making friends and making music.

Join us as this acclaimed early music ensemble celebrate those prominent musicians who had such a positive impact on Telemann and his work.

**For further details and to book go to**

**<https://concertsforcraswall.org/> or 01981 510112**

**LONGTOWN THURSDAY CLUB**

Remaining Trips for 2024

**Oct. 17th Trip to Wychbold Garden Centre**

**Nov. 14th Shopping trip to Bridgend**

Coach leaves Ewyas Harold Hall at 9.30am

For more information, please contact Hazel Pugh on

**01873 860803**

**CRASWALL HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**Sunday 20th October at 11am**

followed by **HARVEST LUNCH**

in Craswall Village Hall

Please book a place for lunch with Joyce Richards 01981 510276, Adults £10 Children £5 and under 5s free.

If you're not able to make it to the service do please join us for lunch at the Hall. We'll have our usual after lunch auction of food and produce from the Harvest decorations at the church, proceeds to go to a local charity and food bank.

**CAT'S BACK FELL RACE**

Sunday **20th October 2024** will welcome a new event in the South Wales Winter Hill Race series.

The Cat's Back fell race (aka *Ras Crib y Garth*) starts in the Monnow Valley from Mountain Mayhem's base at Tybubach, Craswall and will take in the Cat's Back ridge and Association rules. The distance is 5 miles and height gain is 1380 ft. The race course climbs steeply on footpaths through farmland before reaching the base of the ridge at the Cat's Back car park. From this point on runners are on the open fell following the classic ridgeline of old red sandstone all the way to the summit of Black Hill where it's a quick 'once around the trig', an electronic dib at the compulsory checkpoint and a fast return descent to the start field.

The course will be partially marked and marshalled by volunteers from Longtown Mountain Rescue Team. A donation will be made to Longtown MRT from race proceeds.

The race team are very grateful to Vicki and Fred at Mountain Mayhem for hosting the event. This is private property. Any 'reccé' runs must stick to the public footpaths.

More information about the race can be found at [fellrace.com](http://fellrace.com)

Entries on line only:

<https://www.fabian4.co.uk/default.aspx?EventID=3794>

Local walkers who enjoy a Sunday stroll on the Cat's Back are politely requested to avoid between 12 and 2 pm on Sunday 20th October.

*Mike Fawcett, Race Organiser*  
[mike.fawcett@longtownmrt.org.uk](mailto:mike.fawcett@longtownmrt.org.uk)



**CRASWALL**

**Tues 22 Oct** Beginners night (whether you've never played before, are in need of a refresher, or just love the game)



**Tues 29 Oct**  
**Tues 5 Nov**  
**Tues 12 Nov**  
**Tues 19 Nov**  
**Tues 26 Nov**

Followed by 5 weeks of regular Whist Drives

**Craswall Village Hall**  
**7.30pm**

**Local Newsround**

**LONGTOWN COMMUNITY PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL**

What a fantastic start we've had to our new school year. The children have settled really quickly and for some that has meant settling into new classes with new teachers too. When I walk around the school, I am so proud to see such enthusiastic learning, listening, teamwork and keenness to dig deeper!

Class 3 have already begun their swim lessons at Halo and all classes are enjoying Outdoor learning lessons in the sun! The children have already been making the most of seasonal produce by foraging for blackberries and learning how to pickle them-. This links in with their World War 2 history topic, focusing on the Land Girls and digging for victory. To support skills needed in their Science lessons, Class 3 have been river dipping and using classification keys to identify what they have been lucky enough to spot. They were very excited to have seen not one, not two but three catfish swimming by! Class 2 helped to cook porridge over an open fire following in some furry literary footsteps...

**Coming soon!!**

Class 4 are really looking forward to a visit from Miss Harold from Fairfield High School's science department, when she will be helping them explore the workings of the circulatory system, by dissecting a pig heart. Thank you to Mailes butchers in Ewyas Harold for our 'heart'!

We are pleased to be holding a MacMillan Coffee Morning this year, on Friday 27th September from 9:30am to 11am. Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier. Please help us to support this very important cause.

On Friday 27th Sept we will be visited by double Olympian and Commonwealth games champion Natalie Powell, GB Judo, who will be leading us in a sponsored circuit training session and look at the importance of regular exercise to keep us healthy and strong.

Our annual Harvest Celebration will again be held at Longtown Baptist Chapel on **Tuesday 8th Oct**. The school is already ringing with the sound of Harvest songs being practised and we will be taking food donations to the local food bank. If you would like to make a donation, please bring non-perishable foods to the school office from the beginning of October. Thank you.

We are so lucky this year that our friends at Wild by Nature are hosting a Harvest Feast this year on **Saturday 12th October at 12:30pm** in Lower House Farm, Longtown. They are most generously donating all proceeds to school. Thank you Wild by Nature. Tickets are available using this link [wildbynaturellp.com/shop/p/harvest-feast](http://wildbynaturellp.com/shop/p/harvest-feast)

On **Oct 11th** KS2 will again be joining a virtual book launch with acclaimed author Hannah Gold, winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the Blue Peter Book Awards in 2022.

After a hugely successful Ofsted inspection in Spring 2024 we will be holding our Open Day on **Wed 16th October** from 9:15am to 11:30am for you to see the inner workings of our day in school from Pre-school to Year 6, indoors and out. If you are just starting on your school journey and would like to visit our pre-school setting or looking at settling older



**Fair Oak Cider Open Weekend, October 26 and 27**

The horse-drawn cider mill at Fair Oak, Bacton, HR2 0AT, will be open to visitors on Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27, from 11 am until 4 pm. It is just ten years since we started working the mill again with a horse.

We are thrilled that our young Gypsy Cob, Featherstone, will be making his debut. He has been nurtured and trained at Fair Oak by Vika Engel, and tutored by Wendy and John Lloyd, who own our original mill horses. Now four years old, Feathers seems to be taking the new job calmly in his stride.

He will probably finish milling by lunchtime, but will be happy to receive visitors during the afternoon while the cidermakers are working the old press.

Cider made last autumn will be available to taste and buy – including two single varieties, the popular Sparkling, and the latest batch of Fair Oak cider brandy.

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.

**ARTS ALIVE WITH FLICKS IN THE STICKS**

The Ontario based **Allison Lupton Trio** are stopping off on their UK tour to entertain us at the Esleyside Hall HR2 0PT

**Friday 15th November 2024 at 7.30pm.**

The trio are folk singer/song writer Allison, many times Canadian and US Grand National fiddle champion Shane Cook, and the Canadian Grandmaster Step champion Kyle Waymouth.

Expect a mix of "beautiful folk songs and storytelling, electrifying fiddle tunes and dazzling dance steps"

See: [www.allisonlupton.com](http://www.allisonlupton.com)

Tickets can be purchased through Arts Alive or phone 01981 510116 for more information.

children further up the school after a move, you are all very welcome.

Later in the year the children will enjoy specialised sessions with the Longtown Outdoor Trust with activities such as fire lighting, cooking and climbing for the older children and low ropes and team building with the younger ones.

We are also gearing up to become a local Re-use Hub, whereby we will be a collection point on certain dates throughout the year for our local community to drop-off items to be recycled and reused. Watch this space for dates and updates...

**Early Years and Pre-school:** Our Pre-School and Reception children had an exciting end to their very first day back holding a grand opening celebration for Eric the rabbit who has a very smart new palace! The children joined Eric in nibbling on carrots (and humus) and sipping carrot and passion fruit juice to toast Eric in his new home. An amazing pirate ship has sailed into our Early Years play area and moored up giving the children a whole new area to explore and enjoy. We have also enhanced our indoor play with lots of soft play equipment for our youngest members to enjoy safely.

Pre-School/Early Years Hub is now open for 4 days a week, Monday to Thursday 8:45am to 3:15pm from September, for 2-year-olds and up. We do accept funded places for 15hr and 30 hrs. Please call the office to arrange a visit if you would like to come and meet the team. Our newly reinstated Stay & Play has been a huge success and will be continuing on the first and third Friday of every month, during term time. Dates are 4th and 18th Oct, 1st and 15th November, 6th and 20th December 2024. We would love to see you there.

**Clubs:** This term we are running two activity clubs OAC – Outdoor Activity Club which is an extended session run at the Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust, where children can enjoy activities such as stand up paddle boarding, stream scrambling and much, much more. Alternatively, we are also running a MAC Multi Activity Club on school grounds during usual school club times which combines team challenges, wide games and sporting activities. The ever-popular Art Club continues, now run as separate KS1 and KS2 groups. We expect explosions of festive craft and creativity throughout the term. KS2 are honing their ball skills at Netball Club with Mrs Reynolds this half term, making the most of the light before it gets too dark to play. 2Faced Dance Company will be running our Dance Club until Christmas. Always full of fun and energy it's a pleasure to welcome them back to school.

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](mailto:admin@longtown.hereford.sch.uk)

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### LONGTOWN & DISTRICT WI

At our September meeting we enjoyed a fashion show. Harts of Monmouth brought their new Autumn Collection, some of which which was expertly modelled by three of our members, Anthea, Pamela and Nicole. They did a fabulous job demonstrating the outfits, and afterwards members had the opportunity to buy some items for themselves. It was a very enjoyable evening rounded off with wine and delicious refreshments.

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### MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have been back to school, following the summer holidays, for a few weeks now and, as always, it almost feels as if the summer break never happened! Everyone is settled back happily and we are excited to welcome a few new faces to school and pre-school. The 10 new reception children are happily integrated into Acorn Class and enjoying being at 'big school'. Already, Oak Class have had two opportunities for learning outside of the classroom. Their first trip out was on an expedition to find the source of the River Monnow. Oak Class are learning about rivers this term so what better way to learn than to head out into the hills to find out where our local river starts its journey to Monmouth. The children had a great time and were tremendously excited when they discovered a bubbling spring on the flanks of Hay Bluff which marked where the river begins.

A few days later, Oak Class children popped along to Hay on Wye Primary School for a music workshop with The Fitzwilliam String Quartet as part of the Hay Music Festival 2024. These amazing musicians entertained the children with an incredible selection of music, to the delight of the children from Michaelchurch and Hay.

At the end of the month, Acorn Class are heading off to Puzzlewood in the Forest of Dean to spend the day in a real 'Enchanted Forest' - their topic this term is 'Enchanted Forests'. No doubt they will have a fantastic time. Also at the end of September, Natalie Powell, a Team GB judoka, is coming into school to engage the children in some fun physical activity! Sapling Class meanwhile are learning about all things stone-age and have been getting hands on finding out about stone-age diets!

Pre-school have had a lovely start to the new school year with some splendid walks and plenty of time spent in their garden and the Spinney – our forest school area. Autumn is always a very busy time in pre-school so keep an eye out for news of all the exciting things they will be getting up to over the next few weeks. Also keep an eye out for news of our Welly Walks which will be resuming again in a few weeks. These lovely walks in our beautiful setting, are open to children and families up to the age of 4 and are led by our highly experienced pre-school manager, Julie Christopher.

If you like the sound of Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre-School and feel it is the right place for your child – whether they're pre-school or school aged - then please get in touch via our school email address ([admin@michaelchurch-escley.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@michaelchurch-escley.hereford.sch.uk)) or give us a call on 01981 510208. We'd love to show you around!

Warm regards

*Louise Crocker, Head Teacher*  
*Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre-School*

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### VOWCHURCH & DISTRICT GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Following the Parish Council's request for a speed review along the B4348 from Poston Mill to the junction at C1222 and the C1206 through Vowchurch & Turnastone and after a thorough review in accordance with the Department of Transport (DfT) Circular 01/13 on setting local speed limits, Herefordshire Council have made the decision not to reduce the speed limit along either of these roads. Several engineering measures can be implemented to address concerns regarding specific features along the C1206

through the villages and the Parish Council look forward to hearing from the Traffic Management Officers with their suggestions for the Parish Councils approval. The full report will be available on the Parish Council website in the next few days.

Do you know who owns the notice boards by the telephone exchange in Michaelchurch Esley? If so, can you contact the Parish Clerk please, the Parish Council are considering making some improvements to the boards.

Have you heard of the **Talk Community Directory website** run by Herefordshire Council? The directory connects people to services, groups, information, and events in Herefordshire, including the following two support schemes. Visit <https://www.talkcommunity.org/> for further information.

**Household Support Fund** – The Household Support Fund, funded by the UK Government, is available for various low-income groups and vulnerable households/individuals, including families with children of all ages, pensioners, care leavers and disabled people. Support includes help with food, energy bills and wider essential costs. To learn more about the Household Support Fund, eligibility, and application details, visit the Herefordshire Council website or, for more information and advice around the Cost of Living, visit the **Money on Your Mind** pages of the Talk Community website.

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

*Linda Cowles, Parish Clerk, 01544 321906  
clerk@vowchurchgroup-pc.gov.uk / www.vowchurchgpc.org.uk*

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## Round and About

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### THE MONDAY CLUB

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.

We went on a mystery tour in September and everyone had a great day out. They went to the Old Station at Erwood and were lucky to have a group of Morgan Cars visiting the same day. Then the trip went around to Builth and lunch at Crickhowell followed by a quick visit to the Railway nurseries.

We are also trying to plan our Christmas shopping trip again. I have heard that we will be going to St David's Shopping Centre in Cardiff which will also have the Christmas market there. I will be able to confirm dates in next month's magazine.

Maurice and Heulwyn Herdman have now left to stay with their son in Brecon. They were a couple of our original members and although we will miss them, we wish them all the best for their next adventure.

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 you would like to help us as a volunteer please ring Mrs. Kath Gaze on 01981550579 or pop in and you will be very welcome. You don't have to do it every Monday. We are happy with any time available. It's just making tea and coffee.

### THE HUB @ ST PETER'S PETERCHURCH

*(See also Taverner's Teapot advert on the next page)*

**The Hub @ St Peter's** is an NHS Health Visitor Hub and runs various clinics on Tuesdays and Thursdays Do look at the website for details of all events - [www.hubcommunity.org](http://www.hubcommunity.org)

**The Hub Café** is open on Tuesdays (drinks & snacks only), and Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11am to 2pm. We have a specials board, jacket potatoes, quiche, soup, cakes, ice cream and puddings plus hot and cold drinks, eat in or take away. Breakfast is served on the first Saturday of each month from 10am to 12 noon.

**Chatty Café** is on every Wednesday at the Hub from 12noon to 2pm. It's a wonderful opportunity to make new friends. Please call us on 01981 551143 if you require free transport in order to attend.

**Pre-school Play** at the Hub is held every Thursday 9-11am for under 5's and their Parents or Carers. Admission is free! You can 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** at the Hub is held every Thursday for 11-16 year olds from 5-7pm all year round. 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

**Art Exhibition** – local photographer Gill Perkins is displaying and selling her pictures at the Hub the end of September.

**The Hub's Bell Tower Library** is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11am to 1pm, also on Fridays from 2pm to 4pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon.

**Hedgerow Communion** – There will be a Hedgerow Communion on Sunday September 29th at Michaelchurch Church at 10.30am It involves yoga, meditation, sharing bread and wine, silence, poetry and ritual. On Samhain/All Souls Day Thursday, October 31st there will be a Hedgerow Communion at Snodhill Castle at 6pm and on the Winter Solstice, Saturday December 21st we will meet at Little Mountain at 3.30pm. It's a time to pause, attend and celebrate, when everyone is welcome. The Deanery website lists all you need to know about Church services and walks in and around the area and offers opportunities to help. in and around local churches. Please email Anne Lloyd at [abbeydoredcm@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydoredcm@gmail.com) for more information or to receive her monthly information email.

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## Notices and Advertisements

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### Longtown Village Projects AGM

The AGM will take place at 7pm on

Tuesday 15th October at

1 Castle Cottages, Longtown



**THE LEWIS GILBERT, THOMAS GEORGE  
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Every year since 1643 this charity has given help to those in need from Longtown. The charity owns some land. It is rented to give an income which is distributed. Help is totally confidential and is distributed by tradition on 21st December each year.

If you, or if you know of someone who could use a little help, please get in touch with the charity secretary, Bob Burson: 01873 860 313 or [bobburson@btinternet.com](mailto:bobburson@btinternet.com) by the end of October.



**GOLDEN VALLEY REPAIR CAFÉ**

**Saturday 5 October, 10:00-12:30**

**Kingstone Church**



**To be sure of seeing a repairer, please book in your item in advance by emailing [gvreparcafe@gmail.com](mailto:gvreparcafe@gmail.com) or phoning Bill Giles on 07967 910666.**

We will be able to offer repairs of small electrical appliances, wooden items, clothing (repairs not alterations), soft toys (including dolls' clothes), bicycles and knife sharpening (£2 an item for knife sharpening). Multiple and diverse items repaired – do feel free to ask!

If you just turn up on the morning we will do our very best to get you to see a repairer but that may not always be possible.

If you don't have anything to repair you can still come for a drink, a piece of cake and a chat and just see what we get up to!

**Repair Café on the first Saturday of each month**

**2 November, St Michael's Hall, Ewyas Harold**

**7 December, Dorstone Village Hall**

**Save your broken items for repair –  
don't just throw them away!**

**SAVE THE DATE**



**21ST - 25TH AUGUST 2025**

**St Michael's Hospice:**

**Standing Together – Supporting our Hospices, securing our future**

At St Michael's Hospice, we are deeply saddened by the recent news of six regional Hospices having to reduce services and make the difficult decision of redundancies. These are truly challenging times for hospices across the UK, as rising costs and uncertain funding from the government create immense pressure on our vital services. Hospices play a critical role in the UK's healthcare system, providing compassionate medical and holistic care to patients and families during some of life's most difficult moments. With over 200 hospices across the country, we collectively care for more than **225,000 people** every year, alleviating pressure on the NHS by keeping hospital beds free for those in urgent need. Our services ensure that patients receive the specialised care they need in a comforting and supportive environment, surrounded by their loved ones. From diagnosis through every step of their journey, we offer care and compassion not just to the patient, but to their family as well, ensuring that everyone feels supported throughout this challenging time.

Despite the invaluable service we provide, hospices only receive a small fraction of their funding from the government. Here at St Michael's, **it costs £19,900 every day to provide our vital care**, both within the hospice itself and out in the community within patient's homes. The NHS contribute just under 30%, the rest is thanks to the incredible generosity and commitment of our supporters. With costs rising rapidly, maintaining the level of care we're known for is becoming increasingly challenging.

While we are incredibly fortunate not to be in the same position as some other hospices; primarily because of the support we receive from our community, we know that the situation could change rapidly if we don't act now. We are profoundly grateful to our generous community, whose unwavering commitment has allowed us to continue providing exceptional care. However, we must not take this help for granted.

We stand with all hospices facing these difficult circumstances, knowing that the challenges affecting one of us can affect all of us. The hospice community is united in our mission to provide compassionate care, and together, we must work tirelessly to ensure that no one is left without access to the care they need.

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, St Michael's Hospice is proud to reflect on four decades of dedicated care and support for our community. **To safeguard our future and ensure we can continue to provide the care our patients deserve, we are launching our 40-hour digital appeal: Caring for the Future. From 27th-28th October, we aim to raise an astonishing £400,000 in just 40 hours.** This ambitious goal is crucial to future-proofing our services and preparing for any challenges that may come our way. **We need your help to make this happen.** We are looking for Champions to join in with the campaign and to help us reach this incredible target. It's really easy to get involved, and we will help you along the way. To find out more about how you can get involved, visit:

**[st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/who-we-are/become-a-champion/](http://st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/who-we-are/become-a-champion/)**

**FLU CLINICS – Save the date**

**5th October 2024 am**  
Peterchurch Surgery

**5th October 2024 pm**  
Ewas Harold Surgery

**12th October 2024 am**  
Ewas Harold Surgery

*Eligible patients will receive notification to book an appointment nearer the time*



**JAYSON GILLHAM - PIANO**

**Saturday, 26 October at 7.00pm - St Mary's Church, Hay-on-Wye**

Internationally praised for his compelling performances, Australian-British pianist Jayson Gillham is recognised as one of the finest pianists of his generation. He makes an eagerly anticipated return to Hay Music with a programme of works by Beethoven, Ligeti, Chopin and Fauré.

Full details and tickets at [www.haymusic.org](http://www.haymusic.org)  
Tickets also from the Hay Tourist Bureau and the door if still available.

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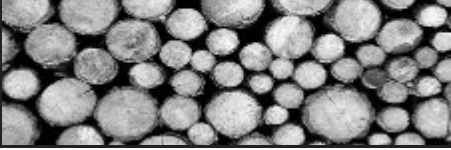
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<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>7.30 am - 4.00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday (May - Oct):</b>	<b>10.00 am - 2.00 pm</b>
(Nov - April):	10.00 am - 12 noon
<b>Bank Holiday Mondays</b>	<b>10.00 am - 2.00 pm</b>

Chocolates from Belgium are here.

In June we selected the best options for our tip top customers and the first delivery of two has arrived:

- ★ Get those Autumnal Chocolates in the cupboard now, enjoy pralines, florentines and truffles by yourself or invite friends round for chocolate!
- ★ Love a Hot Chocolate, you need to check out our new products Cocoa and Raspberry for a rich velvety evening drink, perfect as a simple pudding.
- ★ Fairtrade coffee selection sticks are back in until they run out

### Appointment shopping

Not sure what to get, appointment shopping on Sunday afternoons is here to make choosing easier. Enjoy the shop to yourself, Christine will be on hand for product knowledge, gift ideas and making a hot drink whilst ideas need to be considered and if you fancy tasting a local gin that can be arranged too.

### Make life simple this October at Hopes

- ★ Light bulbs are here, so you can keep working outside.
- ★ Got an old favourite torch? We have a selection of batteries including the 6v lantern batteries.
- ★ We have kindling, wood, coal, gas and candles all to make your evenings cosy

### Thank you – Child Rescue Nepal

Working with our Fair Trade supplier Namaste, thank you very much to everyone donating to Child Nepal Rescue in the collection tin on the counter at the shop.

In Nepal the charity estimated there are over 100,000 children working in hazardous situations. These children are extremely vulnerable and often suffer from physical, emotional and sexual abuse. They rescue children, keep them safe and reunite them with their families. Child Rescue Nepal has rescued and rehabilitated over 950 children but their work is far from over.

You can donate directly and look out for items in our shop where a donation has already been made by the supplier when we purchased the product to sell.

### Top sellers in September were ...

Bananas, Welsh cakes, Pink Lady apples, free range eggs, milk, and satsumas. Thank you very much.

### LONGTOWN POST OFFICE

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

#### Savings leaflet are out

October is a good month to review your savings and make plans, especially after budget announcements. Post Office summary savings leaflet is out for all financial products – pick one up, for more details. We can happily take your details at the counter referring you to an agent. Please ask us so we get a gold star and a little commission from the Post Office.

#### Keeping birthday presents a surprise ... Or just dry!

Royal Mail, DPD and Amazon all have agreements with Post Office Limited and your gift can be delivered to Longtown Post for collection in office hours. An ideal solution if you want to keep an item safe and considering the last few days of rain, dry.

#### Special stamps - Halloween trick or treat

I cannot believe I am typing – this Spider stamps go live and they look great. They have brought a smile to my face thinking of putting them on white envelopes with a white background and giggling as recipients may get a little spooked as they look very real.

#### 7th October Royal Mail price changes

The easiest way to type this is 2nd class letter stamps have not increased. 1st Class will increase, large letters and the rest of the world stamps. Please come and pick up a leaflet with all the details. A stamp with 1st or 2nd on retains the service during a price increase, if it has a numerical value then additional stamps need to be applied for the same level of service.

#### We need your help

There are two Longtown Post Offices in England: one is Cumbria; and the other is us. If you are a keen Google reviewer, please add a review, or if you like taking photos please tag us in the picture. This will improve our ranking on search engines and provide better information to customers using Longtown Post Office in Herefordshire.

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**CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER**

**Wednesday 2 October**

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

**Sunday 6 October**

15.00 St Margaret's Holy Communion

18:00 Llanveynoe Harvest Festival & Supper

**Wednesday 9 October**

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

**Sunday 13 October**

11.30 Michaelchurch Escley Harvest Festival & Lunch

**Wednesday 16 October**

10.30 Ewyas Harold Holy Communion

**Sunday 20 October**

11.00 Craswall Harvest Festival & Lunch

**Wednesday 23 October**

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

**Sunday 27 October**

11.00 Clodock Holy Communion

**Wednesday 30 October**

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

**Sunday 3 November**

9:30 Llanveynoe Holy Communion

15:00 St Margaret's Evening Prayer

**Wednesday 6 November**

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

**Sunday 10 November**

10:50 Michaelchurch Remembrance Service

**Wednesday 13 November**

10.30 Ewyas Harold Holy Communion

**Sunday 17 November**

9:30 Craswall Holy Communion

**Wednesday 20 November**

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

**Sunday 24 November**

11:00 Clodock Holy Communion

**Sunday 24 November**

16.00 Michaelchurch Advent Service (*still tbc*)

**Wednesday 27 November**

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

<b>EVENTS PLANNER</b>			
Wed	02 October	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Wed	02 October	7.30pm	Esceleyside Gardening Club: Rowan Griffiths, The Magnolias of Hergest Croft
Sun	06 October	From 6.00pm	Llanveynoe Harvest Festival and Supper
Mon	07 October	7.30pm	Longtown & District Historical Society AGM & talk: Hilary Engel: <i>The Photographs of Richard Jenkins</i> . Longtown Village Hall
Tue	08 October	8.00pm	Longtown WI. Robert Arley, Producer, <i>Antiques Roadshow</i> . Longtown Village Hall
Thu	10 October	7.30pm	Newton St Margarets Women's Guild: Harvest Auction in aid of Hfds Wildlife Trust
Sat	12 October	5.00pm	Concerts for Craswall: Ensemble Molière. St Michael's. Michaelchurch
Sun	13 October	From 11.30am	Michaelchurch Escley Harvest Service and Lunch
Thu	17 October		Longtown Thursday Club trip: Wychbold Garden Centre
Sun	20 October	11.00pm	Craswall Harvest Festival and Lunch
Sun	20 October	12.00 to 2.00pm	Cat's Back Fell Race
Tue	22 October	7.30pm	Beginners Whist Drive. Craswall Village Hall
Fri	25 October	6.00 - 8.00pm	Children's Halloween Party, Longtown Village Hall
Sat	26 October	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle
Sat	26 October	11.00-4.00pm	Fair Oak Cider Open Weekend
Sun	27 October	11.00-4.00pm	Fair Oak Cider Open Weekend
Tue	29 October	7.30pm	Whist Drive. Craswall Village Hall
Tue	05 November	7.30pm	Whist Drive. Craswall Village Hall
Wed	06 November	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Tue	12 November	7.30pm	Whist Drive. Craswall Village Hall
Thu	14 November		Longtown Thursday Club trip: Shopping trip Bridgend
Fri	15 November	7.30pm	Allison Lupton Trio. Esceleyside Hall
Tue	19 November	7.30pm	Whist Drive. Craswall Village Hall
Tue	26 November	7.30pm	Whist Drive. Craswall Village Hall
Sat	30 November	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle

**Village hall contacts**

**Craswall Hall**

Bookings: Janet Watkins 01981 510226

General inquiries: Christine Cleaton,

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**Esceleyside Hall**

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**Longtown Hall**

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**Newton Church Room**

Mary Powell: 01981 510295

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**Esceley & District Sports Pavilion**

Kirsty, 01981 510682

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