

The Black Mountains Group Benefice

NEWSLETTER

December 2025
& January 2026

We wish everyone a
very Happy
Christmas and a
peaceful, prosperous,
and healthy 2026



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

Part of the Abbeydore Deanery
abbeydoredeanery.org / abbeydoredmc@gmail.com
01981 620145 / 07432 873422

Rev. Luci Morriss: luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com

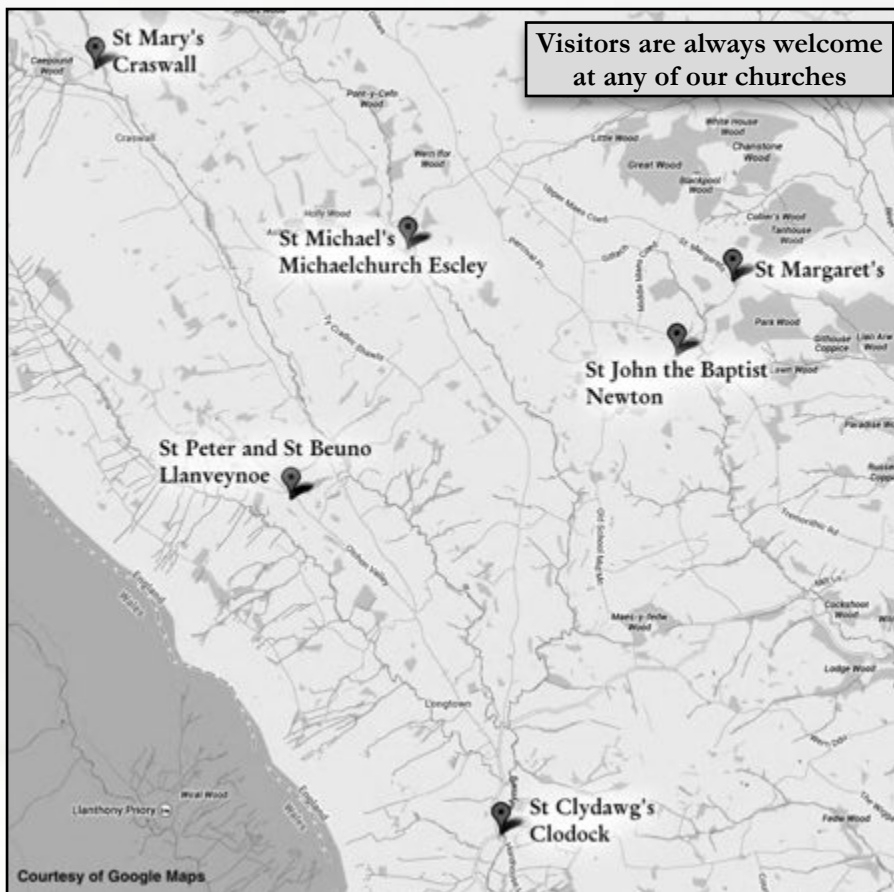
www.bmgparishes.org.uk

Please donate

£1
min



Donate online



Churchwardens

Clodock & Longtown

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 Escley

Mrs Olive Howells

01981 510228

Newton

(Vacant)

Please ensure all copy is with the editor by email or post before the deadline below.

Please send copy to
newsletter@corefields.com

Editor:

Mark Ewins
Marlands
Longtown HR2 0PD
01873 860829
mark@corefields.com

Advertising:

Jill Cook
Clodock Mill
Longtown HR2 0PD
01873 860408
jill@clodockmill.com

ISSUE

February 2026

March 2026

April 2026

COPY DEADLINE

14 January 2026

11 February 2026

18 March 2026

PUBLICATION DATE

25 January 2026

22 February 2026

29 March 2026

Newsletter by
EMAIL



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From Revd Luci

What a weekend. After a wet week, extreme rainfall on Friday (we measured 118mm in 24 hours in Longtown) brought terrible flooding in our villages. My prayers are with all whose lives, homes and businesses have been affected.

By Saturday morning the flood waters had subsided, heavy rain had turned to drizzle, and our communities turned out in force to start the clean-up. People came with brooms, mops, buckets, wet vacs, dehumidifiers, pressure washers, piles of towels and, most valuable of all, their love and support. And all their efforts were sustained with tea, cake, soup and in Eywas Harold, even chips from the Old Stables team, just hours after they'd been flooded themselves. And not forgetting the members of our local emergency services and other volunteers who worked in dark and dangerous conditions on Friday evening.

December brings the start of Advent, a time when we look forward to our annual celebration of Christ's birth in Bethlehem, and when we look ahead in anticipation to Christ's return and the coming of a new heaven and a new earth. The earth is not yet renewed – we know that as our planet groans through our lack of care, and lives are impacted by our changing climate; we know that because of continued war, injustice and inequality.

On these shortest of days, we can feel overwhelmed by the darkness of things. And yet, in a middle eastern backwater, under Roman occupation, in the simplest of surroundings, God came into the world. He didn't come in power but in vulnerability, dependent on the care of others. A light had come into the world. We may wish the light was brighter, but it is here, and it can't be overwhelmed. It's a light that continues to shine whenever a person reaches out to another in love and kindness. The winter darkness was lit up this weekend by so many in our community, and may that light continue to shine throughout the Christmas season and beyond. Emmanuel - Christ is with us.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the new year.

READINGS FOR DECEMBER TO 1 FEBRUARY

Sunday 7 December 2025 (2nd of Advent)

Old Testament	Isaiah 11: 1-10
New Testament	Romans 15: 4-13
Gospel	Matthew 3: 1-12
Psalm	80

Sunday 14 December 2025 (3rd of Advent)

Old Testament	Isaiah 35: 1-10
New Testament	Book of James 5: 7-10
Gospel	Matthew 11: 2-11
Psalm	146: 4-10

Sunday 21 December 2025 (4th of Advent)

Old Testament	Isaiah 7: 10-16
New Testament	Romans 1: 1-7
Gospel	Matthew 1: 18-20
Psalm	80: 1-8, 18-20

Wednesday 24 December 2025 (Christmas Eve)

Old Testament	Isaiah 9: 2-7
New Testament	Titus 3: 4-7
Gospel	Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)
Psalm	96

Thursday 25 December 2025 (Christmas Day)

Old Testament	Isaiah 9: 2-7
New Testament	Titus 2: 11-14
Gospel	Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)
Psalm	96

Sunday 28 December 2025

Old Testament	Isaiah 63: 7-9
New Testament	Hebrews 2: 10-end
Gospel	Matthew 2: 13-18
Psalm	148

Sunday 4 January 2025 (Epiphany)

Old Testament	Isaiah 60: 1-6
New Testament	Ephesians 3: 1-12
Gospel	Matthew 2: 1-12
Psalm	72:10-15

Sunday 11 January 2025 (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)

Old Testament	Isaiah 49: 1-7
New Testament	Corinthians 1: 1-9
Gospel	John 1: 29-42
Psalm	40: 1-12

Sunday 18 January 2025 (3rd Sunday of Epiphany)

Old Testament	Isaiah 9: 1-4
New Testament	1 Corinthians 1: 10-18
Gospel	Matthew 4: 12-23
Psalm	27: 1, 1-12

Sunday 25 January 2025 (4th Sunday of Epiphany)

Presentation of Christ

Old Testament	1 Kings 17: 8-16
New Testament	1 Corinthians 1: 18-end
Gospel	John 2: 1-11
Psalm	36: 5-10

Sunday 1 February 2025 (3rd Sunday before Lent)

Old Testament	Isaiah 58: 1-9a (96-12)
New Testament	1 Corinthians 2: 1-12 (13-end)
Gospel	Matthew 5: 13-20
Psalm	112

PRAYER DURING THE WEEK

Morning Prayer at St Michael's, Michaelchurch.

Every Thursday morning at 08:45-09:15.

For more details, please contact Rev'd Luci on 07778 897809 or email luci.borderlinkbenefice@outlook.com

BLACK MOUNTAINS GROUP

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

December Mondays at 5pm

1st	Newton
8th	Walterstone
15th	St Margarets
22nd	Bacton
29th	Llanveynoe



FOOD FOR FAMILIES

We are so grateful for all the gifts of food and money raised at Harvest Celebrations this autumn. A huge thank you! Your support means so much to us and to the families that the food boxes go to. End of term for Christmas is the 19th so any additional food donations by Friday 5th please, collection boxes in the churches at Peterchurch, Kingstone, Madley or The Stables, Dore Abbey, Kilpeck and at St Michael's church

hall Ewyas Harold. Money donations anytime but by Friday 5th for Christmas for Christmas.

Account name: Madley Parochial Church Council Treasurers
Account. Sort Code: 30-94-14 Account number: 00393216

***Please use reference *Food for Families*
to identify your donation***

We will begin packing on Friday 12th finishing by Tuesday 16th to deliver to the schools that afternoon and Wednesday 17th. Any offers of help would be brilliant. Contact Julie juliemalunn@btinternet.com

LLANVEYNOE'S CHRISTMAS!

Please join us on SUNDAY 21st DEC at 9.30am at Llanveynoe Church for Carols, Croissants, Coffee, Chat, and our secret weapon against the cold – **Buck's Fizz**.

There will be a special welcome for Children with our craft tables: making Christmas cards, decorating Gingerbread men and making Christingles.

Rev Luci will lead a short service with a talk and prayers.

We hope you will come to us for this relaxing Celebration of Christmas.
Pamela Tribe

CAROL SERVICE AT CLODOCK CHURCH

You are warmly invited to join us at St Clydawg's Church for our annual Carol Service on Sunday, 22nd December at 6 pm

Come and enjoy the opportunity to sing traditional carols and hear the timeless story of Christ's birth. We look forward to welcoming you to this special evening of worship and celebration.



Family Carol Service



Tues 23rd December 3pm

St. Margaret's Church

An informal service,
suitable for all ages,
followed by hot chocolate/
mulled wine and mince pies

Everyone welcome!

SAVE THE DATE: AN EPIPHANY SEASON QUIET MORNING
Join a quiet morning in the cosy setting of the Cornwall Arms, Clodock.

9.45 – 11.45am, Saturday 31 January 2026, for readings, music, and stillness on the theme of finding our way.

No charge, donations welcome.

To reserve a place please contact Anne Lloyd via: abbeydoredmc@gmail.com or call 01981 620145.

Deanery Update

Christmas 2025

Christmas wishes and a huge thank you to everyone who has supported the churches within the deanery in any way during 2025. Your input is greatly appreciated.

There are a wide range of Advent and Christmas services being offered across the Deanery. Have a look at the website to find one that might suit you and take the opportunity to celebrate Christmas with your community.

Christenings/ Baptisms

Did you hear that the Church of England have discovered that there are still in the region of 40,000 people not yet baptised who would have been baptised had there not been a pandemic? Are you, or one of your children in this 40,000? If so, and you've been thinking about a baptism/christening, why not get in touch? We're always happy to arrange baptisms - and remember, you don't need to be a child to be baptised! Why not put it on your to-do list for 2026?

Date for Your Diary

Hedgerow Communion: Sunday 21st December 3pm at Little Mountain, Dorstone

And an important date for 2026!

Abbeydore Deanery Service at the Cathedral – 31 May 2026. Please put this date in your diary. There will be no other services in the deanery on this date, so we hope to see everyone at Hereford Cathedral for this service. Look out for more details in the coming months but save the date now!

For up-to-date information:

- Keep an eye on our website: 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 We are now open most mornings.

SALEM BAPTIST CHAPEL

Llanwonog Lane, Longtown HR2 0LE



SUNDAY SERVICES – 6.30pm

7 Dec	Mr Chris Over
14 Dec	Revd Michael Goodman
21 Dec	CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, Revd Lloyd Rickard (with Michaelchurch Handbell Ringers)
28 Dec	Mrs Iona Miles
4 Jan	Bring & Share
11 Jan	Revd Michael Goodman [Communion]
18 Jan	Bring & Share
25 Jan	Mr Wilf Prosser

OTHER

30 Nov-4 Jan	Nativities Exhibition (Chapel open weekends 10am-2pm)
24 Dec	5pm, Carols at the Castle

ALL WELCOME

For further information, please email longtownsbcc@gmail.com

Thanks

ON BEHALF OF CLODOCK PCC

Our warmest thanks go to Olga for her wonderful exhibition of icons held recently at St. Clydawg's. The beauty and prayerfulness of her work were deeply appreciated by all who attended.

We are delighted to share that the exhibition also raised £268 towards church funds. We are very grateful for Olga's talent, generosity, and support of our parish.

Thank you, Olga, for a memorable and inspiring contribution to our community.

Harvest Lunch Thank You

A warm thank you to everyone who joined us for the Harvest Lunch following the church service in Clodock, at the Cornwall Arms. Your generous donations raised £255 for the Hereford Food Bank.

It was a very enjoyable occasion, with warming soup and a wonderful selection of puddings that were much appreciated by all who attended. Thank you to everyone who contributed both money and produce and items for the lunch.

We are also grateful to Chris Haywood, who kindly delivered the donated produce to the Hereford Food Bank. His support is much appreciated.

RACE NIGHT AT THE CORNEWALL

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this fun event. £900 has been raised so far for Midlands Air Ambulance.

Thank you

Is

Forthcoming events

Longtown & District Historical Society

7.30 at Longtown Village Hall

1 December 2025

Matthew Engel, journalist, author, and Golden Valley South Councillor, will talk on the subject "The Way We Were"



Longtown Library
is next open on

3 December
2.30 to 4.30pm

Christmas Shopping Evening

Wednesday 3rd December 7pm - 9pm
Longtown Village Hall

£5 Entrance includes tea or coffee and a mince pie

Come and enjoy stalls selling local crafts and produce

If you would like a stall please ring Sylvia on 01873 860609



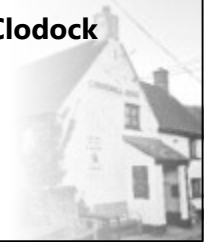
Scrabble at the Cornwall Arms, Clodock

**MORE NIGHTS
ON THE TILES**

Thursday 4 December - 7.30 for 8

Thursday 1 January 2026 - 7.30 for 8

Thursday 5 February 2026 - 7.30 for 8



NEWTON ST MARGARETS WOMEN'S GUILD

Thursday 11th December 2025

We are looking forward to our Christmas Meal at Mary Powell's, 6.30 for 7pm. All booked up now!

Thursday 8th January 2026: The New Year and exciting new programme promised! You will have to wait and see but we are starting with a "cosy evening in" Newton Parish Room with DVD "The Chorus" and mugs of hot chocolate. Bring your own blanket.

Guests and new members are very welcome. We meet on the second Thursday of each month usually in the Parish Room HR2 0QR at 7.30pm.

Subscription: £20 for the year or £5 per session.

Phone: Jane 07794920729 for more information.

MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY HANDBELLS

St. Michael' Church owns a set of 13 handbells which were purchased from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in the 1800s for tune ringing. Until recently, these bells lay unused and desperately in need of renovation.

This summer, they were fully refurbished and retuned, and a dozen keen recruits from the Michaelchurch area have spent five months learning to ring them ready for this year's Michaelchurch Carol Service.

On **Sunday 14th December at 11am** you'll be able to see our beautiful bells, and hear them played at our Carol Service for the first time!

Libby Davis

Christmas Eve

CAROLS AT THE PAVILION

Starts at 5pm

JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FRIENDLY
CHRISTMAS SING ALONG

SAMPLE HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS
PUNCH AND TRY OUT THE TASTY
MINCE PIES.

It's Free!

A VERY SPECIAL GUEST WILL BE
DROPPING IN WITH TREATS
FOR THE CHILDREN!

The Bar will be open until 9pm

MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY SPORTS PAVILION

24th December 2025
Carols at the Castle
5pm



Old English Carols by Candlelight
29th December 2025 at 7.00pm



Cornwall Arms, Clodock
New Year's Eve Gathering

8 pm til late
Bring a dish to share
Everyone welcome



Longtown Wassail
10th January 2026



Arts Alive with Flicks in the Sticks

We will be welcoming Singer Songwriter

Joe H Henry

at the Escleyside Hall HR2 0PT

On Friday 6 February 2026, 7.30pm (Bar will open 7pm)

Over from Canada for his first ever tour of the UK and indeed the Escleyside Hall will be one of his first venues. He is renowned for a voice "as powerful as a freight train" and his

songs and music are described as "blending early rhythm and blues, soul and country roots with the lyrical depth of folk".

Tickets available from www.artsalive.co.uk from 1/12/2025 or phone Neville 01981 510116

Local Newsround

LONGTOWN AND DISTRICT WI

Longtown & District WI would like to say a huge thank you to all the people who came to support our "Sparkling Afternoon Tea" on Sunday 16th November in aid of Hereford Food Bank. The hall was beautifully decorated with pretty flowers, dainty china and the nostalgic music created a traditional afternoon tea ambience. There was a buzz in the air as people stayed all afternoon enjoying their treats making it a real social occasion.

Special thanks to The Castle House Hotel in Hereford and The Pilgrim Hotel in Much Birch who both generously donated a voucher for Afternoon Tea for Two, such wonderful raffle prizes which were much appreciated. Many thanks also to Sue, a volunteer from Hereford Food Bank for attending the event. Thank you to everyone for donating prizes, buying raffle tickets and to the hardworking WI for baking cakes and helping on the day. Your kind generosity raised £540 for Hereford Food Bank, a fantastic result after a very enjoyable day!

We are already planning and getting excited about our next event, our hugely popular and extravagant Christmas Supper!!

A big thank you to the whole community for your generous support with all our fund raising events throughout the year. We appreciate it very much and would like to wish you all, "A Very Happy Christmas!"

For further info contact 22philb@gmail.com

VOWCHURCH & DISTRICT GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Considering recent heavy rain, a gentle reminder that it is the landowner's responsibility to keep roadside ditches clear. Also, if you feel able, and are prepared to clear the drainage grates near your properties this would also help keep water off our roads. Many thanks.

The Parish Council has a Community Resilience Emergency Plan in place to help the community respond effectively to any emergency that may arise in the local area. This plan is available to view on the Parish Council website, and we encourage all residents to familiarise themselves with its contents. www.vowchurchgpc.org.uk/policy-community-resilience-emergency-plan

Most salt bins in the parish should now have been filled ready for the winter. The Parish Council does hold an additional supply locally which is available to collect. If you have an area near your property that needs an urgent supply please contact Evan Williams, tel. 07484 520192 to arrange a mutual time for collection.

Warm Homes Local Grant funding for Herefordshire residents – Residents can now apply for the Warm Homes Local Grant scheme. The aim of the scheme, is to improve as many fuel poor homes as possible, helping to reduce energy bills for the occupants, and cut carbon emissions. The scheme aims to support low-income Herefordshire households living in the least energy efficient homes. The Warm Homes Local

Grant will follow a whole house approach. This means ensuring that the building has appropriate windows, doors, and insulation before looking at heating systems. For full details of the scheme and to apply visit www.herefordshire.gov.uk/housing-3/home-energy/2

You may also be eligible for help with energy costs for households using medical equipment. Do you or someone in your household rely on medical equipment that uses a lot of energy? You may be eligible for a one-off £250 payment to help with heating and energy bills this winter. This support is available to households with individuals, children, or adults, who depend on high energy-consuming medical devices such as:

- Ventilators
- Dialysis machines
- Oxygen concentrators
- Feeding pumps

These devices are essential for health and wellbeing, but they can significantly increase energy bills, especially during colder months. The funding aims to reduce the risk of fuel poverty for those most affected by the cost of living.

To check eligibility and apply, please visit www.herefordshire.gov.uk/community/help-with-the-cost-of-living/household-support-fund/#medical

The Parish Council does have a budget available for community donations. Local groups who would benefit from financial support are invited to apply. Please contact the Clerk for further information.

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

CRASWALL HARVEST FESTIVAL AND HARVEST LUNCH

It seems an age ago when we celebrated our Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch - too late to make the November newsletter deadline!

Thank you everyone who came along to the service (we were c 70 in the church including about 20 kids!) We did our usual symbols of the Harvest with the kids bringing forward hay and a fleece in addition to the fruit and veg, eggs, grapes (yes there is a vineyard in Craswall!) and food from afar. And thanks to Daisy for playing "We Plough the Fields and Scatter".

Rev Geoff led the service and in a rather different take on the lines "we are his people, the sheep of his pasture" from Psalm 100 we had a short slide show and quiz, identifying Craswall pitch marks... which the congregation aced, followed by a reflection on that much loved Psalm.

We then headed down the valley to Mountain Mayhem (aka the Cattle Barn). Here is where we say a HUGE thank you to Vicki and Fred who stepped into the breach and offered their venue to us as Craswall Hall had no water after a summer of drought. We were made very welcome and thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon with plenty of space for the kids to play.

The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and fruit and veg and dry goods and all the consumables came down the valley with us and were auctioned after the meal. We have been able to donate £55 to both the Midlands Air Ambulance and We Are Farming Minds. Thank you to all who supported the bidding and helped to raise funds for these two charities so important to our community.

We were able to take three boxes of food to the Hub for our local food bank.

And finally a big thank you to Craswall St Mary's Women's Guild for decorating the church and organizing the Harvest meal and to everyone who brought along salads and desserts. It was a splendid buffet. A day to remember!

MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY PRIMARY & PRE-SCHOOL

What a busy and exciting term it has been so far! Of course, it has not been without its challenges. First, we had a rather unpleasant sickness bug hit the school, which affected a significant number of the children and staff. We were certainly glad to be over that! Then there was some rather damp weather to contend with. In Craswall, 104mm of rain was recorded in one 24 hour period so it is no wonder that we, along with the other Golden Valley schools took the sensible decision to close that day! All a bit of a shock after one of the driest periods we can remember. However, our children have nonetheless had a great autumn term and been learning through some incredible experiences that we're thrilled to share with you.

Sapling Class (years 3 and 4) stepped back in time during their visit to the Royal Welsh Museum in Brecon. The children explored fascinating exhibits and handled real artefacts from the wartime era. They learned about life on the Home Front, rationing, and the role of the Royal Welsh Regiment during World War II. The highlight was trying on replica uniforms and imagining what life was like for soldiers and families during those challenging times and getting to sit in an Anderson bomb shelter! It was a truly immersive experience that brought their history topic to life!

Oak Class (years 5 and 6) also had an unforgettable day at Techniquet, where science came alive! The visit to the planetarium was a particular favourite, as the children gazed up at a simulated night sky and learned about constellations, planets, and the mysteries of space. They also enjoyed hands-on experiments and interactive exhibits that sparked curiosity and wonder. This trip perfectly complemented their science topic on Space, and we're sure we have a few budding astronauts among us now!

Our Year 6 pupils have also successfully completed their Bikeability cycle road safety training in Hereford. You might wonder why we travel so far-well, Hereford offers real traffic, road markings, and junctions, things thankfully absent in Michaelchurch! This experience is invaluable in teaching children how to navigate roads safely and confidently. We're proud of their efforts and the skills they've gained to keep themselves safe on two wheels.

Looking ahead we have some really festive fun and exciting events to enjoy. At the start of December, we'll be heading to a local plantation (with permission!) to collect our school Christmas tree. A lovely way to start the festive season! Then there is Christmas Decoration Day – a whole-school day dedicated to producing some hand crafted decorations to take home and share with friends and family. We are also well into rehearsing for our Walking Nativity on the 15th December. You are welcome to join us as we walk from the Bridge Inn to the barn behind the Bridge Inn Farmhouse and tell the Christmas Story in a unique way. This year, we have some very special helpers... a couple of FBI Special Agents will be lending a hand!

We are also excited about our Pantomime Trip as the whole school will visit the Courtyard in Hereford to enjoy a magical production of Mother Goose. We can't wait for the laughter and fun! Then of course there is our Christmas Dinner - one of the highlights of the year as we enjoy our delicious festive meal together as a school family.

If you like the sound of Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre-School and feel it's the kind of place where your child could flourish-whether they're pre-school or school-aged-please get in touch, we'd love to show you around! Email us at admin@michaelchurch-escley.hereford.sch.uk or call on 01981 510208 - we'd love to show you around!

We're always keen to hear from people who might be interested in supporting our school as a governor. If you think you could contribute to life at Michaelchurch Escley, please get in touch via the email or phone number above. We'd love to hear from you!

Louise Crocker Headteacher

LONGTOWN GROUP PARISH COUNCIL DEFIBRILLATOR

Longtown Group Parish Council are pleased to announce that a new defibrillator has been installed outside Hopes of Longtown, which has been funded and will be maintained by the Parish Council. It has paediatric pads (for 8s and under) as well as adult pads.

This machine, and the other 4 in the Group Parish, are maintained and checked every 3 months and are registered on The Circuit so Ambulance Control know where to direct people to the nearest defibrillator. The other machines are:

- Outside Walterstone Common Village Hall
- Craswall Village Hall
- St Mary's Church, Craswall
- Inside the Vestry at St Bueno and St Peter's Church in Llanveynoe.
- **See editor's note below.*

The previous Longtown defibrillator, which was old and sited around the back of the Crown Inn, has been decommissioned and the Parish Council would like to thank Sheila for allowing it to be there over the last few years.

A huge thank you must be given to George Powell who has installed the new defibrillator outside Hopes, and has given his labour free as a goodwill gesture to the community.

Thank you too goes to Christine for allowing the new machine to be sited in a more visible spot in the village outside the shop.

**Editor's note: To my knowledge, there are also privately installed defibrillators located at Longtown School and at The Cornwall Arms in Clodock. Please let me know if there are others within our catchment so we can publish a definitive location map.*

Notices and Advertisements

ADVANCE NOTICE OF MEETING ABOUT ST MARY'S CHURCH, CRASWALL

Craswall PCC is intending to hold an open meeting at Craswall village hall in late January or early February for a presentation about the much-needed repairs to St Mary's church which were reported in last year's quinquennial report (the report produced every five years on the condition of the church building). These include a new roof and other damp mitigating repairs.

We hope to have a speaker who can talk about the history of the church as well as one who has experience of raising funds and applying for restoration grants for their church. It would be lovely to be able to gather together the photographs and memories held by people of events that have taken place at St Mary's – weddings, baptisms, BBQs, concerts, special occasions, quiet moments – all those times when St Mary's has been at the heart of the community. If you have any photographs and memories, could you please look them out or write them down and bring them to the meeting so we can copy and compile a record of them. **A date and time for the meeting to be confirmed when we have more details.**

SINGING IN THE NEW BENEFICE

With the twelve parishes coming together, we hope to develop a regular group of singers for special services. It was a delight to have such a group for Luci's licensing and for the Bishop's recent benefice visit, and now we are looking to regroup to prepare two carols for the Carol service at Clodock on December 22nd. As in the past I will have some earlier rehearsals at my house and then the whole group can come together for the final preparation.

Do get in touch if you would like to join us.

Elizabeth, emaylittlem@gmail.com

Escleyside Gardening Club

We offer an entertaining programme of external speakers, guided tours of local gardens and social get-togethers.

Relaxed and friendly, we are suitable for the complete beginner as well as the more experienced gardener. Every talk ends with tea/coffee and biscuits (free with entry).

Vowchurch Memorial Hall
Events begin again Spring 2026.
Programme to be announced, see details at:
<https://escleysidegc.wixsite.com/club>



HAY Music

GRAND CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT

with
VOX URBANE

Friday, 19 December at 7.00pm. St Mary's Church, Hay-on-Wye.

Inspiring seasonal music from across the ages.

Programme details and tickets at www.haymusic.org
Tickets also from the Hay Tourist Bureau and the door if still available.
A limited number of free tickets for under 25s are available.

HAY Music

LODESTAR TRIO

Saturday, 10 January at 4.00pm. St Mary's Church, Hay-on-Wye.

A programme of music by Bach, Merula, Couperin and Lully arranged for violin, Swedish nyckelharpa and Norwegian hardanger fiddle, alongside traditional and contemporary Nordic tunes.

Programme details and tickets at www.haymusic.org
Tickets also from the Hay Tourist Bureau and the door if still available.
A limited number of free tickets for under 25s are available.

Saturday 6 December

10.00 - 12.30 Dorstone Village Hall



Repairs undertaken on:

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

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ALL WELCOME – come along and see what we get up to!

To book an item for repair contact: gvrepaircafe@gmail.com
GRVC 07776 511501 and leave a message

Future dates: 10 Jan Kingstone Church 7 Feb Ewyas Harold.

Round and About

PETERCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

Monday Club – every Monday morning 10 am-12 pm Pop in for tea, coffee and a chat

Please note new times for the yoga: Hatha Yoga is being held every Tuesday, 10.30-12 pm and every Wednesday 6.30 pm -8.00 pm

Parish Council meetings – every 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7.00-9.00 pm

WI – first Thursday of every month from October to March, 2.00-4.00 pm

Dementia Matters Here(Fordshire) – Peterchurch Memory Café at Peterchurch Village Hall, which will run once a month on the **THIRD FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH** from 10.30 am-12.30 pm.

Village Art Club – Monday 7.00 pm - 9 pm and Wednesday, 1.30 pm -3.30 pm

For booking and what's on www.peterchurchvillagehall.org

Peterchurch Village Hall is a community building, run by a small committee of dedicated trustees. It is the ideal venue for local events and is available for hire from £10 an hour.

As well as hosting many a birthday party, the hall has a few regular user groups. We always welcome new groups!

We are looking for anyone who would like to join the Village Hall committee: We meet on the second Tuesday of every other month.

If you wish to hire the hall or have any other inquiries, please call any of these numbers:

The Booking Secretary (Sarah) – 07774 457887

The Chairman (Brendan) – (01981) 550 482

The Hall – (01981) 551 162

Please leave a message if you are unable to reach anyone.

PETERCHURCH MONDAY CLUB

We held our normal Remembrance service on the 10 November. Our thanks to vicar Simon for taking a small service of remembrance for the club.

We have now started trying to organise our Christmas shopping trip to Cardiff, which proved very popular last year, even if some of us didn't get to see the German Market. I'm sure I will have plenty to share with you in the new year.

This is a friendly little club that is run at Peterchurch Village Hall every Monday, serving tea and Coffee.

Everyone is welcome to pop in between 10 am and 12 pm.

If you feel like coming, please do. You are not obligated to come every week, but I know you will always get a friendly welcome, and it's a great way to make new friends.

We are always looking for volunteers, and if you feel like you would like to help us as a volunteer, please ring Sarah on 07774457887; 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.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THE HUB @ ST PETER'S, PETERCHURCH opens 4 days a week, Tuesdays to Fridays from 11am to 2pm. We have jacket potatoes, quiche, soup, cakes, puddings, hot and cold drinks (plus a specials board on Wednesdays and Thursdays) all to eat in or take away. Lunch bookings are advisable for groups of 5 or more. Breakfasts are served on the first Saturday of each month, from 9.30am until 11.30am.

Pre-school Play takes place on Thursdays from 9-11am for under 5's and their Parents or Carers. Admission is free! Have your baby weighed and chat to the Health Visitor from 10-11am at the Well Baby Clinic drop-in. The Café is open so you can treat yourself to drinks and snacks.

Youth Café is every Thursday for 11-16 year olds from 5 to 7pm. Admission is free! Discounted food and drink are available and there is plenty to do - ping pong, card games, arts, crafts, music and comfy sofas. Please email info@hubcommunity.org if you are interested in joining.

The Hub's Bell Tower Library is now open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 1pm, also on Fridays from 11am to 3pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon.

The Hub @ St Peter's, is a Reaching Communities project which includes a Café, NHS Health Visitor Hub and branch of Hereford Libraries all within a working church. See www.hubcommunity.org, email info@hubcommunity.org or call 01981 551143 for further details

Peterchurch Community Choir: You can join this friendly group on Mondays from 6.30pm to 8pm during term time in the church or on line. Email Joy at peterchurchcommunitychoir10@gmail.com or contact her on 07903675012

The Inspire Lunch – The next lunch in aid of St Peter's Church is on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 12.30pm with 2 courses, [inc vegetarian choice] followed by coffee or tea for £14 with an optional £1 raffle for a free lunch when you come next. For further information please contact Pam Savage on 01981 550669.

Stillpoint Meditation takes place on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 7-8pm in St Peter's church. It is open to all and there is no admission charge. For further information please email simon2020@zohomail.com or call 01981 250245.

Christmas Lunches at the Hub Café will be on Wednesday and Thursday 3rd and 4th December and Wednesday and Thursday 10th and 11th December. There will be 2 courses, 3 choices of main course, turkey, pork or nut roast, and 2 of dessert, Christmas pudding or trifle, for £20. Lunches will be served at 12.30 pm or 1pm. Booking is essential so book now on 01981 551143 or info@hubcommunity.org.

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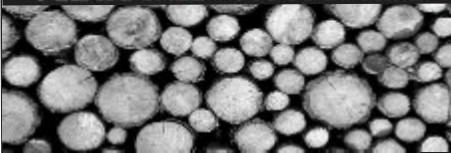
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Christmas Order forms 2025

Oh my goodness, thank you for your patience. Forms have been delayed, this year we would really appreciate them back by Wednesday 3rd December at the Christmas Fair in Longtown Village Hall.

Christmas Carol singing Saturday 20th December from 10am

Back this year after the most joyful singing, we are very grateful for the Wednesday singers to be joining us and this year they have chosen to raise funds for Sudan. We will have the donation pot out all week.

December mornings

- ★ Put a pep in your step with hot water, lemon, ginger, turmeric and local honey.
- ★ Light the candle early in the day and write the Christmas cards with a note, popping down to the Post Office before lunch.
- ★ Grab your gloves and hat, go for a walk and find your lovely places.
- ★ Get a top up for your mobile phone at the Post Office, grab a bag of Hot Chocolate and phone that friend you miss.
- ★ Go back to bed! Nothing will make you feel better than a rest!

Thank you Hopes Hygge Hug

We had four glorious evenings and it was a pleasure to partner with Dore Community Transport, Los Cafeteros, Lewis Gilbert, Thomas George and James Price Charity, Author Liz Knight, Black Hill Donkeys, Liam Sparks 2024 Longtown Show winner and Wild By Nature.

Thank you very much to everyone who came and looking forward to next year's Thursday evening Hygge evenings.

Come on, be more daring!

Thank you very much for those donating to Children in Need we raised a whopping £60 for wearing our pyjamas. Great, ready we will be challenging you to be daring in 2026.

Buy it for yourself

Yes we do gift vouchers so buy yourself one now so you can buy exactly what you wanted for Christmas in January and smile to yourself. Even better tell all your friends you want to shop local in January and not travel far so a £25 voucher from Hopes is exactly what you would like!

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CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY

Thursday 4 December

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sunday 7 December

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

Thursday 11 December

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sunday 14 December

11:00 Michaelchurch Carols and Mulled wine

Thursday 18 December

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Friday 19 December

18:30 Craswall Carol Service

Sunday 21 December

9:30 Llanveynoe Village Christmas: Carols,
Coffee and Croissants
16:00 Newton Carols and Mulled Wine

Monday 22 December

18:00 Clodock Carol Service

Tuesday 23 December

15:00 St Margaret's Family Carol Service

Wednesday 24 December

21:00 Michaelchurch Holy Communion for Christmas Eve

Thursday 25 December

10:00 Clodock Holy Communion for Christmas Day

Sunday 28 December

10:30 Ewyas Harold Benefice Holy Communion

Sunday 4 January

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

Thursday 8 January

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sunday 11 January

11:00 Michaelchurch Holy Communion
18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

Thursday 15 January

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sunday 18 January

9:30 Craswall Morning Worship
11:15 Clodock Holy Communion

Thursday 22 January

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sunday 25 January

11:00 Clodock Benefice Service

Thursday 29 January

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sunday 1 February

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

Sunday 1 February

18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

Thursday 5 February

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sunday 8 February

11:00 Michaelchurch Holy Communion
18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

Thursday 12 February

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sunday 15 February

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

Wed 18 February

19:00 Clodock Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday

Thursday 19 February

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sunday 22 February

11:15 Clodock Holy Communion
15:00 Newton Holy Communion

Thursday 26 February

8:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

EVENTS PLANNER

Mon	01 December	7.30pm	Longtown & District Historical Society: Matthew Engel, <i>The Way We Were</i>
Wed	03 December	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Wed	03 December	7.00-9.00pm	Christmas Shopping Fair, Longtown Village Hall
Thu	04 December	7.30 for 8.00pm	Scrabble at The Cornwall Arms
Tue	09 December	7.15pm	Longtown & District WI. Longtown Village Hall
Thu	11 December		Newton St Margarets Women's Guild: Christmas Meal
Wed	24 December	5.00pm	Carols at the Pavilion, Michaelchurch Escley Sports Pavilion
Wed	24 December	5.00pm	Carols at the the Castle, Longtown Castle
Sat	27 December	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle
Mon	29 December	7.00pm	Old English Carols by Candlelight, with Vital Spark at Clodock Church
Thu	01 January	7.30 for 8.00pm	Scrabble at The Cornwall Arms
Thu	08 January	7.30pm	Newton St Margarets Women's Guild: 'Cosy Evening In' with a DVD
Sat	10 January	7.00pm	Longtown Wassail. Starting from Longtown Village Hall
Tue	13 January 2025	7.15pm	Longtown & District WI. Longtown Village Hall

VILLAGE HALL CONTACTS

Craswall Hall

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

Escleyside Hall

Mark Hollowood, 01981 510208
admin@michaelchurch-escley.hereford.sch.uk

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