

The Black Mountains Group Benefice

NEWSLETTER

May 2025



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

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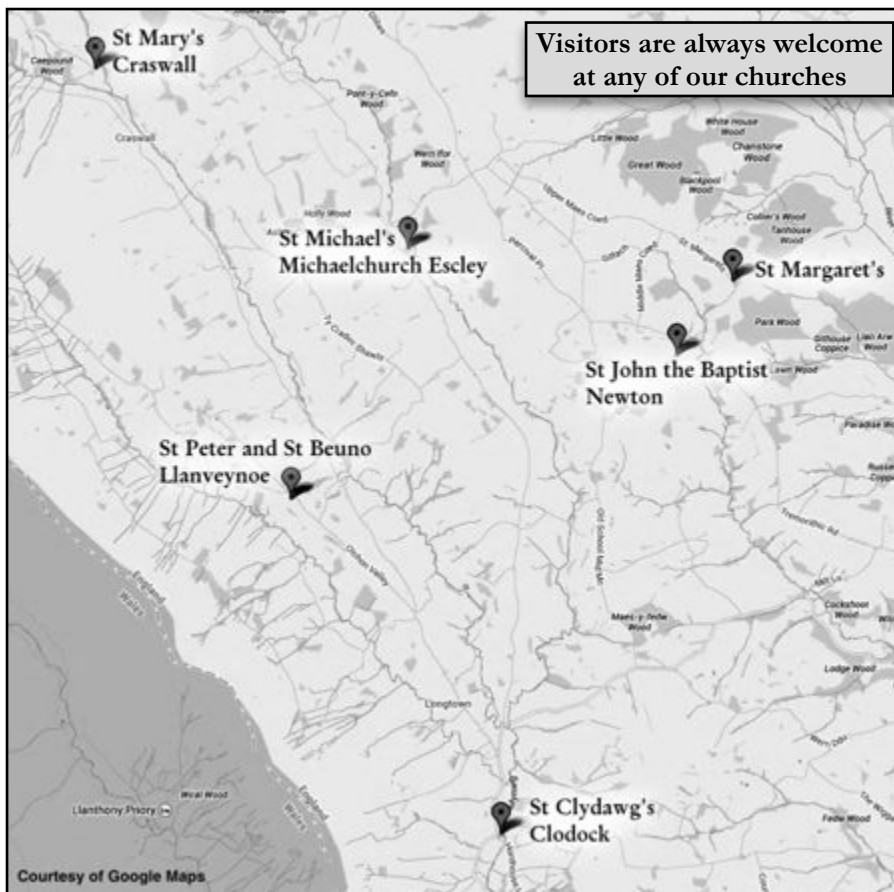
www.bmgparishes.org.uk

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Craswall

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(Vacant)

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Newton

(Vacant)

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

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

Do they even know it exists?

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

**Email newsletter@corefields.com
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**We need
your ideas on how to
improve and update
your community
Newsletter**

From the Clergy

ROGATION SUNDAY - WHAT'S THE POINT?

The word rogation comes from the Latin *rogare* meaning to ask. Rogation Sunday is the Sunday before Ascension Day – when Christians celebrate Christ's Ascension to heaven - and Ascension Day is 40 days after Easter. This year it is on Sunday May 25th although for practical reasons it may be celebrated on different Sundays – the Deanery Rogation Reflective Ramble is at Hardwicke on 11th May.

The custom began in the 5th century when St Mamertus, the Bishop of Vienne in France, wrote prayers to be used in processions to ask for good weather for the crops and deliverance from pestilence, famine and earthquakes. In his case troublesome pests included wolves!

The English church appropriated the festival so that on Rogation Sunday the vicar would lead a procession of churchwardens, choirboys and parishioners 'beating the bounds' of the parish asking for God's blessing on the crops including rain and sun at the desired times and consequently on the well-being of the parish.

George Herbert, the 17th century poet priest, wrote about the excitement surrounding the Rogation Day procession. He describes his congregation as 'addicted to these processions in the fields'. Ever practical he wrote 'to favour Rogation processions is to win their hearts, and to oppose them is to deject them'.

Herbert continued the custom in his rural parish near Salisbury for a number of other reasons 'to seek God's blessing for the fields to bear fruit; to seek the preservation of justice in the boundaries of the parish; so that his parishioners might walk in love with one another and reconcile differences; and to practice mercy and generosity towards the poor from God's provisions'.

These practical aims are just as important now. During a Rogation walk we ask for God's blessing on a particular place, for the community and for their common good. It is inclusive, everyone is invited, there is time to chat and to get to know people. The walk is tailored to the needs and circumstances of the people and very often finishes with refreshments!

What's not to like?

Rev'd Jane

Prayer during the week

Morning Prayer at St Michael's, Michaelchurch.

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

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

READINGS – MAY& 1st SUNDAY IN JUNE

Sunday 4th May 2025

Old Testament	
New Testament	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)
Gospel	John 21: 1-19
Psalm	30

Sunday 11th May 2025

Old Testament	
New Testament	Acts 9: 36-end
Gospel	John 13: 22-30
Psalm	23

Sunday 18th May 2025

Old Testament	
New Testament	Acts 11: 1-18
Gospel	John 13: 31-35
Psalm	148

Sunday 25th May 2025 (Rogation Sunday)

Old Testament	
New Testament	1 Kings 8: 35-40
Gospel	Luke 11: 5-13
Psalm	

Sunday 1st June 2025

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

Deanery Update

There will be a Gathering at Moccas Village Hall on 7th May at 7.30pm. If you haven't been to a Gathering before, why not come along? It's a chance to meet with others to hear about what is happening with the deanery and share ideas about what else might be needed in our area.

We have a confirmation service planned for 7th September. If being confirmed is something you're considering, do get in touch for more information. We currently have a course running exploring faith and fellowship. More dates for the course will be released shortly and it's not too late to join in.

Following an article in the National Geographic which prompted a lot of interest, you're likely to see more pilgrims walking the Golden Valley Pilgrim Way. It's also being enjoyed by local people too, as summer approaches, why not walk a stretch of it yourself? The details of the route can be found on our website.

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.

Dates for Your Diary: Hedgerow Communion:

Thursday 1st May – 7pm – Snodhill Castle.

Reflective Ramble: Sunday 11th May – May - Rogation
Reflective Ramble Please get in touch for more details.

For up-to-date information:

1. Keep an eye on our website: abbeydoredeanery.org
2. Follow our **Abbeydore Deanery** Facebook page or join our Facebook group
3. Subscribe to our regular email update: <http://eepurl.com/ggcfPj>
4. Get in touch with the Deanery Office on **01981 620145** or abbeydoredmc@gmail.com We are now open most mornings.

Thanks

Thank You from Hazel Pugh

Now I have settled into my new home, I would like to thank everyone for all the help and support I received during my move. Although stressful at times, I really appreciated all the kind words and deeds from so many.

Forthcoming events



**Longtown Library
is next open on**

**7th May
2.30 to 4.30pm**

National Mills Weekend

10th and 11th May

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

Clodock Mill

Saturday 2.00-5.00pm and Sunday 2.00-5.00pm

If the river is behaving and there are no technical problems, the mill will be producing flour during the weekend.

Fair Oak Farm Cider Mill, Bacton

Saturday and Sunday 11.00am-5.00pm

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

Olchon House Farm Mill, Llanveynoe

Saturday 11.00am-4.00pm.

The large waterwheel with an unusual rim gear will hopefully be grinding corn during the weekend.

Pontynys Mill, Longtown. Saturday 10.00-4.00pm

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

Rowlestone Mill, near Ewyas Harold.

Saturday 10.00am-6.00pm.

A dramatic leat to the mill from a waterfall. The external overshot waterwheel will be turning.

Please respect the advertised opening times.

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

Newton St Margarets Women's Guild

19th March 2025 Members were given a tour of **Gaucha Ninja Ltd.** Li's barefoot shoe workshop in Kingstone. Li apparently was very patient with all the ladies and made the visit very interesting. Some members skipped out sporting new footwear! A big thank you to Li.

There will be no evening meetings in May or June. Instead, two outings are planned:

Friday 9th May 2pm

Visit to **Madley Plants**

Wednesday 11th June

Visit to **Kentchurch Court**
with a tour of house.

Please phone for further details and if you would like to join us on either of these outings, 07794 920729

ANNOUNCING a "GARAGE SALE"

at

The Old Ebenezer Chapel

Longtown HR2 0LT

The home of the late Hanneke van der Werf

An eclectic collection of garden equipment, plants, furniture, studio ceramics, tribal art, pictures, furniture, records, cd's, kitchen equipment, crockery, baskets and books galore!

ON SATURDAY 10 MAY 2025

11 am to 4 pm



LONGTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Longtown Village Hall HR2 0LD

Monday 12 May, 7.30pm

Ronald Moore: *The Discovery of the Ledbury Titian*

The works of the Renaissance artist, Titian, hang in leading galleries all over the world. There is a painting of "The Last Supper" in Ledbury church which, through the efforts of art historian and conservator, Ronald Moore, is now known to be by the Venetian master.

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

Half Season membership available.

For more information, contact jerrydpdavis@outlook.com or visit www.lhsarchive.org.uk



**LONGTOWN THURSDAY CLUB
SPRING FAYRE**

Saturday 17th May

Longtown Village Hall 2pm - 4pm
Grand Draw, Stalls, Refreshments

Programme of Trips 2025

June 26th St Fagans Natural Museum of History, Cardiff
Meet the bus at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.30am

July 24th Weston-Super-Mare
Meet the bus at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.00am ...

Aug. 21st Porthcawl
Meet the bus at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.30am

Sept. 18th Trip to Cardiff Bay and Wharf
Meet the bus at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.30am

Oct. 16th Dobbie's Garden Centre Tewkesbury
Meet the bus at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.30am

Nov. 13th Clark's Shopping Village, Somerset
Meet the bus at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall at 9.00am

For more information, please ring Hazel Pugh on 07767 372843

Cream Tea & Plant Sale

2-4pm, Saturday 24th May, Vowchurch Hall



Sunday 31 May 2025, 2 pm – 5 pm
at

The Garden of the Wind

Middle Hunt House, Walterstone HR2 0DY
Teas will be served!

**All proceeds to St Michael's Hospice,
entrance £6 if booked in advance at**

**www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/open-gardens/
or £7.50 at the gate, under 16s free**

Concerts for Craswall

**Concerts for Craswall at Dore Abbey: A Weekend of
Chamber Music Excellence**

Friday 27 - Sunday 29 June 2025

This summer, the soaring arches of Dore Abbey will come alive with the sounds of outstanding chamber music, as Concerts for Craswall presents its inaugural weekend of performances from 27 to 29 June 2025. Nestled in the heart of Herefordshire's Golden Valley, the stunning 12th-century Abbey provides a truly inspiring setting where music, heritage, and nature meet.

Concerts for Craswall has built a reputation for bringing world-class performances to this beautiful part of the UK, showcasing both British and internationally renowned artists. Indeed, this festival features an extraordinary lineup, including the acclaimed British cellist Laura van der Heijden with celebrated Welsh pianist Jâms Coleman; internationally renowned clarinettist Emma Johnson together with the expressive and dynamic Gildas Quartet; and the extraordinary musical artistry of ensemble Trio Laliq.

The programme is a rich tapestry of chamber music. Featuring iconic works by some of the greatest composers of the classical and modern eras, audiences will enjoy the elegance and wit of Mozart; the shimmering colours of Debussy; the passion of Franck; the emotional depth of Beethoven; the rich colours of Ravel; and the intense drama of Shostakovich. Each performance will showcase the beauty and complexity of these masterpieces, as well as the fresh voices of lesser-known and contemporary composers such as Johnson, Bernstein and Clarke, offering both familiar favourites and exciting new interpretations.

Whether you're drawn by familiar favourites or eager to discover something new, join us and let Concerts for Craswall at Dore Abbey be the cultural highlight of your summer.

Tickets on sale now

www.concertsforcraswall.org

or 01981 510112



CRASWALL BARBECUE

Saturday 12th July in the Churchyard

Local Newsround

**CHILDREN'S PLAYPARK,
MICHAELCHURCH SPORTS PAVILION**

Over the last year committee members have been researching kid's play equipment and clearing an area at the pavilion for a future Children's Playpark.

There will be a display and information about this exciting new venture at the first Michaelchurch Summer Social on Friday the 9th May 5pm 'til late (please note the new earlier kids friendly start time). There will be the usual BBQ and bar so do come along for the first Summer Social 2025.

And to start the ball rolling (questionable pun intended) Matthew Engel's recent Bridge Quiz Night raised the amazing sum of £970 for the Playpark Project. A brilliant start for fundraising for this community project. As many of you know Matthew's quizzes, always fun, quirky and not too challenging, have raised money for a variety of charities over the years and the Playpark Team would like to thank Matthew and team and all the quizzers who attended on the night for their generosity.

ST MARY'S CHURCH CRASWALL - A WORK IN PROGRESS...

Following our Quinquennial Review (a five yearly report on the condition of the church building) last autumn, a number of areas of concern were highlighted. The most urgent is the state of the roof. Even with the dedicated care and attention of Ken Watkins, church warden emeritus, given to regularly replacing/refixing missing and slipped tiles over many years the time has come to grasp the nettle, so to speak.

Cont'd ... >

With help and guidance from our architect, Deborah Johnson, we've engaged a builder, structural surveyor and ecologist to start the preliminary steps towards reroofing the church. We have been successful in obtaining funding for the initial "holding repairs", structural survey and bat roosting survey from the Hereford Diocese Buildings for Mission Small Repairs and Improvement Grant fund. This funding will lay the groundwork for future design decisions and the repairs will help keep the wet out while we pursue further funding for the project. Although the PCC have completed several smaller improvements in the last few years including the complete rewiring of the church, new guttering and downpipes and netting the undereaves to exclude nesting jackdaws this will be a big project involving planning consent, a church faculty (basically C of E planning consent) and some serious grant applications for funding for the whole project. Undaunted ...we look forward to securing the future of this much-loved place of worship.

MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

After what felt like the longest and wettest winter ever, March has rewarded us with some truly wonderful weather which has continued into April. When the sun is shining, the hills, fields and woodland around our little school and preschool are even more lovely than ever and we have all been appreciating the specialness of our surroundings this past month or so.

2025 continues to be a very busy time at Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre-School with a huge variety of activities and events taking place. Sapling and Acorn Classes both really enjoyed their online ballet workshops with the Royal Ballet School. The children practised the art of storytelling through movement and tried out a few plies and jetes too! They also learnt a little about the Royal Ballet School and the ballets they perform.

Learning outside the classroom, a particular passion of ours at Michaelchurch, does not just mean heading out on trips. It also involves working with visiting artists, for example, which takes the children out of their normal classroom environment and routines. Recently we welcomed Martin Jennings of Architecture Workshops to our school to conduct an architecture workshop with the children in Acorn, Sapling and Oak Classes. Working together, the children built some amazing structures of vast proportions, using nothing more than sticks and elastic bands. The children learnt about the strength of different shapes, especially triangles, when linked together. They had a brilliant time and learnt a great deal too, in multiple areas of the curriculum.

It is not just the children who have been learning at Michaelchurch either. We were delighted to invite our school community into school as part of our Fuelling Futures healthy eating campaign. A range of nutrition experts, including the school nurse, and our own lunchtime chef Verity, were on hand in the hall to discuss healthy meals and especially healthy lunch boxes. In addition, the children and staff made some wonderful healthy meals and snacks to share with the parents. It can be really tricky to get children

to eat healthy meals, especially in their school lunch boxes and we hope that events such as this can help in some way to provide easy, healthy ideas for children's lunches.

Being right in the middle of sheep farming country, ewes and lambs are common sites around school but it is not often we have a lamb actually in school! However, Miss Cook gave the children a treat when she brought a 'pet' lamb she had been feeding into school. Nothing melts hearts quicker than a new lamb and within seconds, the whole school was queuing up for a cuddle (or at least a stroke or two!).

Our pre-school children have been especially busy this term. They popped out to visit Dulas Court Care Home where they were both entertained and were entertainers. They had a lovely time meeting some of the residents and staff of Dulas Court and hopefully brightened up a few people's days too. Pre-school also had a trip out to the Small Breeds Farm near Kington, where they thoroughly enjoyed getting hands-on with the wonderful rare and small breed animals in perfect late spring weather.

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

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

Louise Crocker, Headteacher

Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre-School

LONGTOWN COMMUNITY PRIMARY AND PRE-SCHOOL

Website: www.longtown.hereford.sch.uk

Follow us on Facebook – 'Longtown Community Primary School'

The children and staff are enjoying the warmer weather and really making use of our fantastic garden, woodland and playing fields to learn in the great outdoors.

We love being outdoors in all weather, but especially when the sun is shining. This term we have been out in our beautiful community enjoying geography walks, gardening, climbing and even a spot of paddle boarding at the LOLT Centre. Even the most apprehensive paddleboarder forgot their worries and had a wonderful time splashing in the sunshine one sunny Friday afternoon.

We had an amazingly uplifting afternoon when we were visited by The Big Easy Swing Band earlier this term. The band played their way around their instruments and spoke to the children about the variety of sounds, pitches and tones they could perform. They were fantastic.

Clubs running this term have been Languages Club, Outdoor Adventure Club, Choir and Animal Care Club, learning to care for a whole variety of animals including rabbits, lizards, tadpoles and even a Shetland Pony!

Our super Choir have performed for the first time at our Spring Celebration. They have done such a great job at

learning new songs and arrangements. It's such a pleasure to hear them singing out so confidently.

Outdoor Adventure Club has had the children climbing high and swimming deep this term. Follow along on Facebook to see all the different activities they get up to.

Reverend Luci is our neighbour and friend here at Longtown and can often be found taking an assembly or two. Most recently she helped us think about Easter and what it feels like when someone close to you breaks their promise. We would like to thank Rev Luci for all the time she gives in support of school.

The annual Spring celebration was a resounding success with children celebrating all things 'Spring'. From our very youngest children donning their superhero capes and singing about Super Worm to our oldest pupils rapping about the joys of Spring. What a feast!

To finish off the Spring term with a flurry, our fabulous parents, headed up by the PTA, held an Easter decorating competition and invited children to stay for an Easter obstacle course at the end of the last day. Great fun was had by everyone involved and it sent us all home for our Easter break with big smiles on our faces!!

All these activities, events and much more are celebrated on our Facebook page - Longtown Community Primary School' and on our website www.longtown.hereford.sch.uk. Please have a look for some fab photos!

After school clubs in the Summer term include Outdoor Activity Club at Longtown Outdoor Learning Trust Centre, Languages Club, Animal Care Club, Yr 6 SATS support group and Choir! We are introducing our new Gardening Club for all the green fingered amongst us and Rounders Club. We would like to thank those who give up so much of their time and share their skills with us in school, allowing to run such a wide variety of exciting clubs. As a small school we truly appreciate the support we are given by friends and families, giving of their time and energy.

From the start of the summer term, we will be an Early Adopter school for the brand-new Free Breakfast Club for all our primary aged children. This means that every child is eligible to attend school from 8am and receive a free breakfast and activity before the start of the school day. A new venture for us, and we are very excited!

We will be celebrating VE Day on Thursday 8th May and we are inviting the community to come along and enjoy the day with us from 2pm for some refreshments and a good old-fashioned sing-along. Our oldest pupils will be dressed as evacuees, and we would love to see our friends and neighbours sharing the day with us.

Class 4 pupils will be off on their residential trip in June to an activity site near Tenby. We are sure they will be full of tales of their adventures on their return.

Class 3 will begin their new Ukulele lessons for ten weeks next term, so listen out for lots of jolly ukulele playing coming soon.

Class 2 will enjoy weekly sessions of rope climbing and team building activities at Longtown Outdoor Centre next term, which means all our pupils have had specialist sessions at the centre throughout the year.

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

Stay and Play sessions continue for our very youngest visitors and dates for the Summer term are Friday 2nd and 16th May, 6th and 20th June and 4th and 18th July. We love to welcome new members all the time. Please keep local media scanned for a few special sessions coming up shortly.?

The Pre-School/Early Years Hub is 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.?

Please contact Emma in the school office if you would be interested in a visit or looking for a school place for your child/ren. Call 01873 860239 or email admin@longtown.hereford.sch.uk. *Thank you.*

VOWCHURCH & DISTRICT GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Wednesday 23rd April 2025 at Escleyside Hall, Michaelchurch Escley. Mark Lynas; an environmental author and campaigner joined us to give a short talk and take questions.

With rural crime ever present, the police would encourage landowners and homeowners to use SmartWater technology to mark their valuables. SmartWater forensic marking technology is used to combat crime by providing a unique, invisible liquid that glows under UV light, allowing for the stolen property to be traced. This technology can be applied to assets, individuals, and even intruders, providing a strong forensic link to a crime. SmartWater is particularly effective in deterring theft and violence. It is available to purchase at many places online. The Police will offer free property markings but this will leave a visible marking on your valuables where SmartWater cannot be seen with the naked eye.

The next Parish Council meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday **15th May 2025 7.30pm** in Vowchurch & Turnastone Memorial Hall. Please come along, there is always an opportunity on the agenda for open discussion where you can raise any concerns.

The Parish Council does have a Facebook page, we are trying to keep this updated with any relevant issues from the Parish Council along with County and local news. Please 'like & follow' and spread the word: Facebook name – Vowchurch group parish council. *Linda Cowles, Parish Clerk*

01544 321906

clerk@vowchurchgroup-pc.gov.uk

www.vowchurchgpc.org.uk/



Round and About

PETERCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

I am very sorry to have to announce that we will not be holding our Produce show this year due to lack of support for it.

It takes a lot to organise and get ready for the day and unfortunately we were not greatly supported last year so we

felt that we should look into doing something slightly different next year.

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.

Hatha Yoga is being held every Wednesday 6.30pm -8.00pm and 10.30 am-12pm

Parish Council meetings every 3rd Tuesday of the month 7-9pm

WI First Thursday of every month from September to March 2-4pm

Dementia Matters Here(fordshire) are pleased to introduce the Peterchurch Memory Café at Peterchurch Village Hall, which will run once a month on the **third Friday of every month** from 10.30am-12.30pm.

Our **Memory Cafés** are designed to enable people with memory problems or concerns, their families/ friends or carers, to get out and meet like minded people. Every café involves fun quizzes, activities and occasional guest speakers, with professional support, information and advice available. A contribution of £2.50 per couple is requested, and there is no booking necessary.

Dementia Matters Here(fordshire) is a local charity, supporting those with memory or cognitive concerns/ diagnoses across the county. For more information please call us on 01432 804480 or email charlotte.banks@dementiamattershere.org.uk.

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

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

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

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

Parish Council every 3rd Tuesday of the month.

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

- The Booking Secretary (Sarah), 07774 457887
- The Chairman (Brendan), 01981 550 482
- The Hall, 01981 551 162

Please leave a message if you are unable to reach anyone on the numbers

THE MONDAY CLUB

I am afraid that I am starting this month's piece on a sad note Mrs Kath Gaze who was a founding member of the club passed away at the end of March. Not only was she instrumental in starting the club she was also our secretary for many years. She will be very much missed not only by the committee but by everyone involved in the club. Our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

We had a trip to the dams at Rhyader with a guide. I will be able to update you in the next issue but I am sure everyone had a great time.

Primary school visited us with a display of Easter Bonnets and various drawings. It is always lovely to have a visit from them.

Don't forget that on May 5th we will be holding a special club commemorating the end of the Second World War. Everyone is more than welcome to join us.

This friendly little club is run at Peterchurch Village Hall every Monday serving Teas and Coffee. Everyone is welcome to pop in between 10am and 12pm

If you feel like coming, please do. There's no obligation to come every week but I know you will always get a friendly welcome and it's a great way to make new friends.

We are always looking for volunteers and if you feel like you would like to help us as a volunteer please ring Sarah 07774 457887 or pop in and you will be very welcome.

You don't have to do it every Monday. We are happy with any time available. It's just making Tea and Coffee.

MRS KATHLEEN GAZE (KATH)

Kath was the youngest daughter of Edgar and Dorothy Jones and was born in Peterchurch in 1940. She spent her younger years living at Mount Pleasant with her sisters Muriel (Lu) and Sylvia.

In September 1960 she married her childhood sweetheart David Gaze and had many happy years together until his untimely death in 2007. They had 4 children Judith and Richard were born in Peterchurch and they were followed by Simon and Michael who were born in Australia where the young family had gone to live and work.

When they returned to the UK they moved to Dorstone where Kath involved herself in village life, joining the Women's Institute, helping to start Dorstone Bowls Club and for many years she was the village postmistress.

She was also on both Primary school and Fairfield PTAs as well as starting her own fashion company Village Vogue. Many of us will remember her along with Sybil Jones and Sylvia Teakle as Dorevale Entertainers.

She spent the last 10 years living in Hawthorn Rise where she was one of the founding members of The Monday Club.

Notices and Advertisements



**St Michael's
Hospice**

RUN Hereford moves 2025 edition into the city

One of Herefordshire's leading running events is moving into the city for its 2025 edition.

Hundreds of runners will pass landmarks such as the Black and White House and Hereford Cathedral during RUN Hereford.

The annual St Michael's Hospice event, which regularly raises tens of thousands of pounds for the Bartestree-based charity, takes place on Sunday, 11th May.

"We're so excited to be bringing RUN Hereford into the city," said Amy Johnson, Events and Community Fundraiser at St Michael's.

"We hope as many people as possible will sign up to take part in the event. Or, if they're not running, it would be great to see the people of Herefordshire line the streets to cheer them on."

M/F

Many RUN entrants fund-raise for St Michael's. This cash injection is a vital boost for St Michael's which has cared for or supported 2,495 people in the last 12 months alone; a number which has more than doubled in less than eight years.

The charity relies on community support to fund the majority of its care costs.

RUN Hereford entrants can choose from a Half Marathon, 10K or 5K course. All start on the city's Castle Green, and end at the Shell Store in Rotherwas.

In recent years, the event has been staged from Hereford's Livestock Market on Roman Road, and from Hereford Leisure Centre on Holmer Road before that.

"We feel this move will give the event an even greater prominence and we're excited to welcome runners, and anyone who wants to cheer them on, to RUN on 11th May," added Amy.

To sign up to RUN, and view other event information including the routes, visit https://bit.ly/SMH_RUNHereford_2025



Events and Free Exhibition at Leominster Priory 14 June – 14 July 2025

Celebrating 900 years of Leominster Priory 1125 – 2025

In 2025 the Norman Nave of Leominster Priory will be 900 years old. It is a nationally important spiritual, cultural and community space, and this significant birthday will be marked by a month-long festival celebrating the Priory's amazing story.

It's a royal story of tragedy and triumph wrought in stone. In the wake of the tragic drowning of his son, the Norman King Henry I secured his legacy by the building of Leominster Priory and Reading Abbey. Using the full resources of the English Crown, Henry commissioned the majestic Norman Nave, decorated with elaborate carvings by stone masons representing the famous Herefordshire School of Romanesque Sculpture. The focus of Priory 900 will be the architectural heritage of this early medieval period, explored through exhibitions, craft demonstrations, interactive workshops, talks, walks, book launches, concerts, dramas, and church services.

Visitors will discover the history of Norman Leominster and the stories of some of the characters associated with the Priory. They include the last Saxon Abbess of Leominster, Eadgifu, who may have been one of just three women depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry. She was abducted from Leominster by Swein Godwinson, a potential heir to the English throne, and their son Hakon was a hostage at Duke William of Normandy's court in the years before the Battle of Hastings – linking Leominster to '1066 and all that'! During the festival, eight actual-size replica scenes from the Bayeux tapestry will be displayed in the Norman Nave. This will be an opportunity to see how the

tapestry was originally displayed and used. Replica artefacts will bring images in the tapestries to life.

Leominster-based Stitched Atlas Folk are embroidering a diptych responding to this history, in collaboration with Rose Tinted Rags who will create a third artwork linking the two. Students from Hereford College of Arts and the University of Worcester are also creating works for the exhibition, and the Priory 900 programme includes opportunities for schoolchildren, community groups and the general public to visit the Priory and learn about its history, including an illustrated timeline, and a new film about the Priory as a place of pilgrimage and its Lost East End.

Priory 900 is also a celebration for the villages surrounding Leominster, part of the Priory's 'parochia'. Events include Norman Open Churches Day on Saturday 21 June, when Yarpole, Eye, Orleton, Monkland, Ford, Hatfield, Pudleston, Bockleton, Leysters and Middleton-on-the-Hill will welcome visitors 10 am – 4 pm. To accompany the day Rob Walker has produced a new illustrated booklet, *The Normans in and around Leominster*, which features the open churches. There will also be a Priory 900 Team Celebration Service on Sunday 29 June at 10 am, followed by a 'Bring and Share' Picnic in the Priory grounds.

Priory 900 is supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, The Elmley Foundation, The Harley Charity, The Rowlands Trust, and The William A Cadbury Trust.

Find out more about the festival events at www.prioryarts.org.uk

Registered charity: 1187352

Peterchurch: Village Hall
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10.30-12.30
£2.50 per couple

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Hurrah Summer Sunday openings start

Sunday 4th May, May bank Holiday weekend we extend our summer opening times from 10am to 2pm. A chance to do an hour or two at home before popping down for a bottle of cider or local Herefordshire Foreva tonic water to go with your favourite local gin, then sit back and admire all your morning efforts.

Make it in May

- ★ Come and pick up 120gsm paper to create your own artwork, or capture data painting/drawing the landscape to compare over the years.
- ★ Want to update your clothing? We have starter items of cotton, needles, elastic and fabric scissors to cut the fabric accurately.
- ★ Need a bit of inspiration to start. We have access to a whole host of magazines to get you started from quilt making to photography via calligraphy or crochet. Ask us and we will research providing you with options.

Thank you very much for voting for us in the Countryside Alliance Rural Oscars, as we go to print we have not heard anything. However, being nominated and customers asking how to vote have pleased the entire Hopes team showing how much you value us.

Association of Convenience Stores (ACS) 30th Celebrations

Hopes of Longtown is a member of ACS whose core purpose is to lobby the Government on the issues that make a difference to local shops. At an evening celebration in April Christine received one of only twelve scrolls for individuals who had made a significant contribution to the organisation's policy work. Whilst Christine may have been named, without the team at Hopes working together it would be impossible to examine policy work, provide evidence at industry events at the Houses of Parliament or Party conferences.

Thank you Team Hopes.

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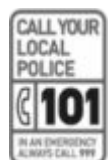
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CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY AND JUNE

Thu 1 May

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 4 May

09:30 Llanveynoe Holy Communion
15:00 St Margaret's Evening Prayer
18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

Wed 7 May

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

Thu 8 May

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 11 May

11:00 Clodock Holy Communion

Wed 14 May

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

Thu 15 May

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 18 May

09:30 Craswall Morning Prayer
15:00 Newton Holy Communion
18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

Wed 21 May

10.30 Ewyas Harold Holy Communion

Thu 22 May

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 25 May

11:15 Michaelchurch Escley Holy Communion

Wed 28 May

10.30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

Thu 29 May

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 1 June

09:30 Llanveynoe Morning Prayer
15:00 St Margaret's Holy Communion
18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

Wed 4 June

10:30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

Thu 5 June

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 8 June

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Wed 11 June

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Thu 12 June

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 15 June

09:30 Craswall Holy Communion
18:00 Clodock Evening Prayer

Wed 18 June

10:30 Ewyas Harold Holy Communion

Thu 19 June

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 22 June

11:15 Clodock Holy Communion

Wed 25 June

10:30 Ewyas Harold Prayer & Praise

Thu 26 June

08:45 Michaelchurch Morning Prayer

Sun 29 June

TBC TBC Group Service

EVENTS PLANNER

Thu	01 May 2025	2.00-5.00pm	Longtown Thursday Club. Longtown Village Hall
Wed	07 May 2025	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Wed	07 May 2025	7.30pm	Esleyside Gardening Club: <i>Re-framing Wild Gardens</i> , Sarah Price. Vowchurch Hall
Fri	09 May 2025	2.00pm	Newton St Margarets Women's Guild visit to Madley Plants
Sat	10 May 2025	11.00am-4.00pm	"Garage Sale", Old Ebenezer Chapel, Longtown, the home of the late Hanneke van der Werf
Sat-Sun	10-11 May 2025	Various	National Open Mills Weekend: Sat, 5 mills open; Sun, 2 mills open
Sun	11 May 2025	2.00-4.00pm	Longtown & District WI Plant Sale. Longtown Village Hall
Mon	12 May 2025	7.30pm	Longtown & District Historical Society: Ronald Moore: <i>"Last Supper" the Ledbury Titian</i>
Thu	15 May 2025	2.00-5.00pm	Longtown Thursday Club. Longtown Village Hall
Sat	17 May 2025	2.00-4.00pm	Longtown Thursday Club Spring Fayre. Longtown Village Hall
Sun	18 May 2025	1.00pm	Cornwall Arms: Marcus's Chip Van
Sat	24 May 2025	10.00am-noon	Longtown Village Projects, Longtown Castle
Sat	24 May 2025	2.00-4.00pm	Esleyside Gardening Club: Cream Tea and Plant Sale, Vowchurch Hall
Sat	31 May 2025	2.00-5.00pm	Open Garden. Garden of the Wind, Middle Hunt House, Walterstone
Mon	02 June 2025	7.30pm	Longtown & District Historical Society: Ruth Richardson: <i>Golden Valley Pilgrimage Way</i>
Wed	04 June 2025	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Sun	08 June 2025	3.30pm	Occasional Quaker Meeting, Dulas Court craft room
Wed	11 June 2025		Newton St Margarets Women's Guild visit to Kentchurch Court
Thu	26 June 2025		Longtown Thursday Club. Outing to St Fagan's
Fri-Sun	27-29 June 2025		Concerts for Craswall, A Weekend of Chamber Music Excellence
Sat	28 June 2025	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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