

# The Black Mountains Group Benefice

# NEWSLETTER

November 2021



*St Margaret's*

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

Part of the Abbeydore Deanery  
[abbeydoredeanery.org.uk](http://abbeydoredeanery.org.uk)  
[abbeydoredmc@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydoredmc@gmail.com)  
01981 620145 / 07432 873422

Min  
**50p**  
donation

**[www.bmgparishes.org.uk](http://www.bmgparishes.org.uk)**



## Churchwardens

### Clodock & Longtown

Mr Nick Vaughan 01873 860201

### Craswall

Mrs Christine Cleaton 01981 510674

Mr Geoff Holder 07580 632273

### Llanveynoe

Mr Donald Phillips 01873 860298

Commodore Peter Tribe 01873 860260

### St Margaret's

Mrs Jane Baxter 01981 510388

### Michaelchurch Esley

Mrs Olive Howells 01981 510228

### Newton

(Vacant)

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## From the Clergy

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*I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people. Psalm 85:8*

As this edition of the Black Mountains Group newsletter went to press, the Queen was in Cardiff, meeting, among others, a selection of the Community Champions nominated by Members of the Senedd for significant contributions to those around them during the pandemic: the Sixth Former who set up a COVID statistics site, the young woman who made a stream of comic videos, those who ran marathons and baked hundreds of cheesecakes for charity, the catering businesses who turned their assets to feeding vulnerable families. The last year has seen ordinary people step up in extraordinary ways to meet the needs of those who have been less able to adapt, providing meals, shopping and company. The NHS volunteering service stopped taking applications within days of the launch because it was over-subscribed. Volunteers for non-professional roles in COVID vaccine clinics have to move fast when shifts are offered because slots are snapped up within hours.

But shift the scene to other front lines. Service providers from retail shops to doctors' surgeries report a rise in hostile behaviour to staff. Some people are responding to inevitable strains in the health system with anger directed at individuals. Charities working with the victims of race hate crime report rises in racist abuse. Empathy seems to be one of the things we are running short of, along with petrol. We are all a bit anxious, and boundaries around what constitutes a "return to normality" are fluid.

We know that both these versions of our community are authentic. It's a cliché that crisis brings out the best and the worst in us. But observing the paradox may not be enough. The first version is robust but we can't take it for granted. We can choose on which side of the scales to press our finger. Or, to change the metaphor, by celebrating the candles that others are lighting, and lighting a few of our own, we identify as people of light. Matches, anyone?

*John Winter, lay leader*

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### NOVEMBER READINGS

Old Testament	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10
New Testament	Hebrews 9: 24-28
Gospel	Mark 1: 14-20

#### Sunday November 14th

Old Testament	Daniel 12: 1-3
New Testament	Hebrews 10: 11-14 (15-18), 19-25
Gospel	Mark 13: 1-8

#### Sunday November 21st

Old Testament	Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14
New Testament	Revelation 1: 4b - 8
Gospel	John 18: 33b - 37

#### Sunday November 28th

Old Testament	Jeremiah 33: 14-16
New Testament	1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13
Gospel	Luke 21: 25-36

For the **November services**, please see the back page

## Deanery Update

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The Gathering in October provided an opportunity to celebrate what is already happening within the Deanery area and to look forward to what is to come.

Over the next few months we'll keep you updated as churches and communities within the area begin to work together more closely as Clusters...watch this space!

Remember there is now a landline telephone number for the Deanery Office which is 01981 620145. As always, don't hesitate to call if you'd like to find out more about anything that's going on in or through the churches in the Deanery.

Bishop Richard is hosting a number of listening events across the diocese. He will be in Abbeydore Deanery on Wednesday 10th November between 5.30pm and 7.00pm at Escleyside Hall.

The purpose of this event is for the Bishop to affirm the prayer life of our churches and to encourage the mission and ministry of the diocese as well as listening and learning first hand to the challenges and opportunities faced in our parishes. He will ask four key questions at the event – details of this can be found on the diocese website – [www.hereford.anglican.org](http://www.hereford.anglican.org)

A huge thank you to those who already support Hereford Food Bank through the collection points in many of our churches...the need continues to grow, so if you can make a donation, it is much valued. Look out for posters about what items are regularly or urgently needed.

Do connect and keep in touch, either by ringing **01981 620145** or choose another way – send an email [abbeydoredmc@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydoredmc@gmail.com), subscribe to our regular email update, visit the website [abbeydoredeanery.org.uk](http://abbeydoredeanery.org.uk) or join the Facebook Group – Abbeydore Deanery.

*Anne Lloyd*

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## Thanks

### THANK YOU FROM BERYL WATKINS

I'd like to say "Thank you very much" for all the flowers and presents I received on my 90th birthday in September. I counted them up and found I'd received 84 cards!

*Beryl Watkins, Lower House Farm*

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### THANKS FROM SHEILA WATKINS AND FAMILY

Myself, Lucy and Oliver would like to thank everyone for the many cards, flowers, messages and support that we received during Denis's illness and passing and attendance at the funeral. Also for donations amounting to over £2,000.00 to be shared between St Michael's Hospice and the Midlands Air Ambulance. We have been truly overwhelmed by people's kindness and generosity.

Many thanks to Neil Powell and Frank Rogers for their fitting tributes to Denis.

Also thanks to Joyce Hvass for playing the organ, Isobel and Daryl at the Cornwall Arms for the use of the pub afterwards, to Mary Powell for the catering and Sally Davies for her floral arrangements, which everyone said were beautiful.

And finally to Julian Tooley for his professionalism and compassion during a difficult time for the family.

*Sheila Watkins and family*

Forthcoming events



**Community  
Coffee Mornings**

Fridays, 08:30-10:30  
1 November  
3 December

Longtown Village Hall  
Open to everyone!

LONGTOWN AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monday 1 November 7.30 pm  
Longtown Village Hall HR2 OLD  
Clare Wichbold, M.B.E  
The Suffragettes in Herefordshire

Clare spent lockdown researching the previously little known story of the early twentieth century movement in our county and of some of the prominent women (and men) associated with it as well as their opponents. This is the subject of her recent book, **Hard Work but Glorious**, copies of which may be available at the meeting (£15).

Membership, payable at the door, costs £10 and guests are very welcome at £3 per meeting. Contact Dr Neil Kidd via email at [nkidd2000@yahoo.com](mailto:nkidd2000@yahoo.com) for details.

*Oliver Fairclough will be the speaker on 6 December and the subject will be the Eastern Black Mountains in the Nineteenth Century.*



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

Next open on 3rd November

Apples and Pears for  
Cider and Perry



**TALK** Wednesday, 3 November 2021  
7.30pm, Longtown Hall

Tom Oliver makes his eponymous ciders and perries on his family's farm at Ocle Pychard. He will tell us about the fruit varieties he grows, and the wild yeast fermenting process he uses. Tastings.

Non-members welcome: £4  
See more at: [www.escleysidegcl.com/club](http://www.escleysidegcl.com/club)



**COFFEE MORNING**  
Saturday 6th November  
10.30am  
Craswall Village Hall  
Proceeds to the Craswall  
Parish Party

LONGTOWN & DISTRICT WI

At our next meeting on **November 9th**, we look forward to hearing speaker Tessa Lovell the Archivist for the Herefordshire Federation of Women's Institutes. Tessa will be talking about her work building a catalogue of WI related items that form a fascinating social history of the HFWI since its formation in 1920. Her work will also assist researchers of women's lives in Herefordshire in locating items that would otherwise be lost to history.

Visitors are welcome at 8pm followed by refreshments at 9pm – cost £3.

Please see the report of our October meeting on page 3.  
*Libby Davis*

LONGTOWN THURSDAY CLUB

There will be two meetings in November, on **Thursday 11th** and **Thursday 25th**, both in Longtown Hall from 2 to 5pm. There will be no bazaar this year.

Our first meeting since March 2020 on 14th October was a very lively affair. We were so busy catching up with members we hadn't seen for 18 months that we managed very few of our usual activities. However, we did manage to cope with a beautiful birthday cake made by Gay Watkins for those members who had turned 90 and 80 during those months.

We welcome new members but please get in touch with Hazel or Pauline first: Hazel Pugh, 01873 860803; Pauline Jones 01873 851782; [jonespauline@pobroadband.co.uk](mailto:jonespauline@pobroadband.co.uk)

NEWTON ST MARGARET'S WOMEN'S GUILD

Our October Harvest Auction raised **£200 for Jamie's Farm**. We discovered from Ruth all about the experience Jamie's farm in Rowlestone provides for children and young people and consequently we were very delighted that this was our chosen charity.

**Next meeting: 11th November, 2021 7.30pm at Newton Parish Room HR2 0QR.** Annual General Meeting [brief] followed by Social Evening with BRING and SHARE SUPPER. Please do come and join us. You may be surprised at what we get up to! Guests are always welcome.

**Note:** Thursday, **9th December, 2021:** Christmas Meal at "Food for Thought" in Peterchurch. *Enquiries:* 07794920729.

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

Wednesday, **17th November, 2021**  
at Michaelchurch Escleyside Hall HR2 0PT  
*You may have seen Sally Hawkins in "Shape of Water" and "Maudie". She is now cast as another interesting character in*

**ETERNAL BEAUTY**

[cert 15; 95mins]  
Written and directed by Craig Roberts.

*Cont'd >*

Also starring Alice Lowe, Billie Piper, David Thewlis.  
Set in the 1980s British suburbia, this satirical black comedy revolves around Jane (Sally Hawkins) who had a breakdown after being jilted at the altar and is having treatment for schizophrenia. The story describes her romance with a failed musician who also has mental health issues and the relationship with her family. Seems grim? Join us to find out!

Doors open 7pm. Film starts 7.30pm.

Limited Bar available.

Tickets available through Arts Reach or on the door with right cash please. Adult £5.00

**Enquiries Tel 01981 510116**

*We will endeavour to provide as safe an environment as possible for this event to include socially distanced seating but we encourage you to wear a mask etc.*

Also note: *Live Music from Wales with ALAW. Saturday 4th December, 2021 7.30pm. Tickets now available through Arts Reach.*

## Local Newsround

### LONGTOWN & DISTRICT WI

At our meeting on the 12th October we welcomed speaker Nigel Warwick from The “Severn Freewheelers”, a group of advanced motorcyclists, who operate a free courier service between hospitals in Herefordshire. Nigel told us about the extensive network of “Blood Bikes” across the UK and how the work of the Severn Freewheelers fits into this impressive coast to coast transportation service, assisting the NHS by moving blood, human milk, pharmaceuticals and paperwork to improve patient care. It was a fascinating look at a little-known charity that took 7,079 calls, and travelled 219,000 miles in 2020 due to the massive uplift in demand caused by the coronavirus pandemic. It was lovely that Nigel could stay and enjoy some refreshments with us afterwards and answer members’ questions.

*Libby Davis*

### MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY PRIMARY AND PRE SCHOOL

With the Autumn now well underway, there has been a lot going on at Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Preschool. In reverse order (oldest to youngest!), here are some examples of what we’ve all been up to recently.

Chocolate has been the focus in Oak Class (Yr 5 and 6 children). This week, following their trip to Cadbury World, the children have been making their own chocolate bars which they’ve been busily researching and developing. I’m a little disappointed I’ve not had any opportunities for any ‘tasting’ of their work so far however!

Sapling Class (Year 3 and 4 children) have continued learning about Rainforests and loved their day at West Midlands Safari Park which included an exciting tour of the park, a session on animal diets and fun on the rides to complete the day.

The Year 1 and 2 children in Acorn Class have based most of their learning around their ‘Seaside’ topic this term and had an amazing trip (and perfect weather) to Barry Island a few weeks ago. This has really inspired the children and they have produced some amazing work this term.

In Squirrel Class (preschool and Year R) you could be mistaken for thinking the Year R children have been in school for years. I am always amazed at how quickly the new Year R children settle in, but this year they really have been amazing. The preschool children are also delightful and have been enjoying times in the new ‘hub’ within Squirrel garden.

Coming up, we will be holding a – **Forest School Open Morning – Monday 8th November – for next year’s Year R children.** If your child will be starting Year R in Sept 2022, we’d like to invite you along to a Forest School Open Day. Please get in touch with the school office to book a place. 01981 510208.

Another highlight this term has been our whole school Times Table Rock Stars Day. Children and staff dressed up as rock stars and spent the day playing a whole host of indoor and outdoor times tables games. The children also learnt times tables songs which they performed to parents in an assembly at the end of the day and this was followed by a Maths Workshop for parents to learn about how Maths is taught at school.

I’ve now run out of time to mention all the sporting opportunities we’ve been involved with recently. Various

### ESCLEY AND DISTRICT SPORTS FEDERATION

We will be holding a quiz night at the Pavilion on **Saturday 27th November 2021 at 7:30pm.** £5 entry per person, teams of 4 or come along and make up a team on the night! All the usual entertainment, including raffle, food, bar and Dutch auction.

Please come along and add your support to this valuable local amenity which has been undergoing a major refurbishment during lockdown. There are a few more items to fix, so with more funds to raise feel free to tell your friends and bring them along too. Ian Williams has set the questions, so be prepared for any kind of trivial! *Kirsty A Stewart*



**St Margaret’s Church**  
**Sunday 28th November**  
**3pm**

**An informal service to celebrate Music**  
**Followed by tea/coffee and cake**  
**Come and sing! All welcome!**

4th December 2021

## Christmas Fair

10am to 5pm

St Michael’s Hall, Ewyas Harold

Come to Ewyas Harold on the **4th December** to find your individually hand craft gifts for Christmas.

We are holding this event as part of the H Art winter show



groups of children have been off to tournaments playing hockey and football and our swimming programme has also been going amazingly well with Miss Matthews and Miss Cook as our brilliant swimming teachers!

On a different note, we are still on the lookout for a new co-opted governor. Do you have some spare time and would like to be more involved with the school? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with the school office (01981 510208) for more details. *Louise Crocker (Headteacher)*

## Round and About

### VOWCHURCH HALL

#### The Village Pub

Thursday November 11 from 7pm at Vowchurch Hall

#### Vowchurch Country Market

Saturday November 27 10am - 12 noon at Vowchurch Hall.

**VaT50** October winners were: Toby Parker (£50) and Wayne and Sarah Jones (£20).

**Pilates** Vowchurch Hall, Tuesdays from 6pm.

Contact [hannahmthomas@hotmail.com](mailto:hannahmthomas@hotmail.com)

**Bowls** Wednesdays 7 - 9 pm, Vowchurch Hall

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### CRAFTS @ ST PETER'S, PETERCHURCH 6th November 2021

Crafts @ St Peter's Church at Peterchurch will be on 6th November 2021 from 10.00am to 2.00pm. Soup and sandwiches will be available at Lunch time. Tea, Coffee and the usual yummy cakes will be available throughout the day. There will be 8 tables in all plus a Raffle. You will be most welcome.

Volunteers and stallholders will be wearing masks and visitors are asked to do so too, except when seated at a Café table. Track & Trace will be in place with sanitizer on hand for use as needed.



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Communities Network

[Blackhillcommunities.net](http://Blackhillcommunities.net)  
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## Black Mountain Group Newsletter ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

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# Anita

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Life can be complicated. If you, your family or someone you care about are having a tough time I offer social, emotional and behavioural support. From an informal discussion (cake optional...) through to intensive mentoring, together we can: Gently explore what is happening.

Set simple goals so the positives replace the not-so-positives.

Find and use your strengths to help you be kinder to yourself.

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 Reassurance of what is working well. Flexible times and places to meet.

Prevention of issues worsening.  
 Improved self esteem and confidence. Improved relationships.

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For a free initial discussion please call me anytime on 07973 332990 / (01981) 570763

at [www.carlgriffithsupport.org](http://www.carlgriffithsupport.org) or email: [carl.griff071@gmail.com](mailto:carl.griff071@gmail.com)

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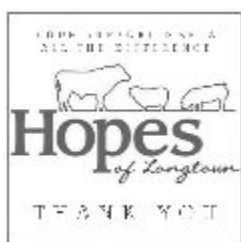
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**Bank Holiday Mondays** 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

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Enjoy a little chocolate treat on Saturday nights from slabs of Cadbury’s chocolate to locally handmade indulgent enrobed peanuts, almonds & hazelnuts or fabulous fruity cups.

**Winter warming opening Sunday** times from November we are open 10am - 12 noon a perfect two hours for a weekly shop or an emergency top up of frozen peas and cream with a Sunday newspaper. Plus if you wanted the shop all to yourself we will now have two opportunities to book a personal shopper service. Ideal for international Christmas shopping to send gifts in the post in plenty of time or identifying new products to help reduce your plastic usage.

**Christmas order form**, we were expecting a quieter Christmas this year after so much lovely support last year. However, availability this year is going to be tricky for any retailer and producers with packaging shortages, so if you know you want Runner Bean Chutney from Three Fruity Ladies, Honeycomb ice-cream from Rowlestone and Black Mountain roast coffee beans all boxed and collected in one place the week leading up to Christmas please think order form, available for perusal, inspiration and planning the end of October.

**LONGTOWN POST OFFICE**

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

**Christmas stamps** are ready for purchase from Tuesday 2nd November

**Pay your bills at our Post Office** If an invoice has a barcode on it, it is likely it can be paid at the Post Office when you want, using cash, card or cheque (Except Welsh Water). Keep track and you can **pay your council tax, BT, Water, nPower**, at the Post Office on a day you choose.

**Christmas Travel made easy at ours**

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- Using your bank card you can pay cash into most personal and business bank accounts
- Using a personalised paying in slip you can pay cash into your personal and business bank accounts
- Using a personalised paying in slip and an envelope you can pay cheques into personal and business accounts. We have the paying in envelopes, please ask us for spare ones if you are self isolating and wish to prepare in advance.

<b>Christmas Posting Dates</b> <i>(in alphabetical order)</i>	
Africa	Wed 8th December
Asia	Wed 8th December
Australia	Mon 6th December
Austria	Thur 16th December
Belgium	Sat 18th December
Canada	Mon 13th December
Caribbean	Wed 1st December
Cyprus	Fri 10th December
Czech Republic	Mon 13th December
Denmark	Thur 16th December
Eastern European	Sat 11th December
Far East	Wed 8th December
Finland	Mon 13 December
France	Sat 18th December
Germany	Thur 16th December
Greece	Sat 11th December
Iceland	Thur 16th December
Ireland	Thur 16th December
Italy	Mon 13th December
Luxembourg	Sat 18th December
Malta	Fri 10th December
Middle East	Wed 8th December
Netherlands	Thur 16th December
New Zealand	Mon 6th December
Norway	Thur 16th December
Poland	Mon 13th December
Portugal	Thur 16th December
Slovakia	Thur 16th December
South America	Wed 8th December
Spain	Thur 16th December
Sweden	Mon 13th December
Switzerland	Thur 16th December
Turkey	Sat 11th December
USA	Mon 13th December

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**NOVEMBER CHURCH SERVICES**

**Sunday 7th November**

09.30 Michaelchurch Holy Communion with Rev'd Bob and Diane Bates

**Thursday 11th November**

10.50 Clodock Armistice Day Service

**Sunday 14th November**

09.30 Llanveynoe Holy Communion with the Rev'd Jane Rogers

**Sunday 21st November**

11.00 St Margaret's Morning Worship with Rev'd Mark Godson

**NB: Change of time and service**

**Sunday 28th November – Advent Sunday**

09.30 Clodock Holy Communion with the Rev'd Simon Lockett

15.00 St Margaret's A service of thanksgiving for music

<b>NOVEMBER DIARY</b>			
Mon	01 November	8.30am - 10.30am	Longtown Primary School PTA Community Coffee Morning. Longtown Village Hall
Mon	01 November	7.30pm	Longtown & District Historical Society: The Suffragettes in Herefordshire, Clare Wichbold MBE. Longtown Village Hall
Wed	03 November	7.30pm	Esleyside Gardening Club: Apples and Pears for Cider and Perry, Tom Oliver, Longtown Village Hall
Wed	03 November	2.30pm - 4.30pm	Longtown Library, with tea and chat. Longtown Village Hall
Sat	06 November	10.30am	Coffee Morning. Craswall Village Hall
Tue	09 November	8.00pm	Longtown & District WI: Tessa Lovell the Archivist for the Herefordshire Federation of Women's Institutes
Thu	11 November	2.00 - 5.00pm	Longtown Thursday Club, Longtown Village Hall
Thu	11 November	7.30pm	Newton St Margaret's Women's Guild AGM, followed by Bring & Share social evening
Wed	17 November	7.00 for 7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks, Esleyside Hall: Eternal Beauty (15)
Thu	25 November	2.00 - 5.00pm	Longtown Thursday Club, Longtown Village Hall
Sat	27 November	19:30:00	Esley And District Sports Federation, Quiz Night. Michaelchurch Esley Pavillion

**Events Planner**

Wed	01 December	2.30pm - 4.30pm	Longtown Library, with tea and chat. Longtown Village Hall
Fri	03 December	8.30am - 10.30am	Longtown Primary School PTA Community Coffee Morning. Longtown Village Hall
Sat	04 December		Alaw in concert, Esleyside Hall (courtesy of Arts Reach for Flicks in the Sticks)
Fri	17 December		Craswall Young Farmers Panto Longtown Village Hall
Sat	18 December		Craswall Young Farmers Panto Longtown Village Hall

**Village hall contacts**

**Craswall Hall**

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

**Esleyside Hall**

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

**Longtown Hall**

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**Newton Church Room**

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mary.powell37@btinternet.com

**Esley & District Sports Pavilion**

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**Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team**

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

PC 3687 Jeff Rouse 07870 150972

PCSO 6378 Pete Knight 07773 053 919

peter.knight@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Contact: 101 ext 4820 – Email: goldenvalley.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

