

The Black Mountains Group Benefice

NEWSLETTER

April 2022



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

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

Min
50p
donation

www.bmgparishes.org.uk



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(Vacant)

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From the Clergy

Dear Friends

Easter is a time of new life. All around us there are signs of nature waking up after its winter slumber: lambs in the fields; crocuses and daffodils shooting up from the ground; the days are getting longer, and the sun is getting brighter (as the weather gets warmer!). Overall, everything is combining to create a sense of hope. Perhaps you, too, have felt your overall mood improve over the past few weeks...

For Christians, this is also a time of joy as we celebrate Jesus' victory over death – the promise that nothing is more powerful than the abundant love of God. It is a time when we offer all our fears, all our concerns, and all the darkness of our lives to Him, in trust that He will transform our lives into new life. Desmond Tutu says:

“Good is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death. Victory is ours, through him who loves us.”

This year it is also a time of concentrated prayer for peace in Ukraine. We pair this with action, donating to the charities working to support the people of Ukraine (e.g. the Disasters Emergency Committee) – and also through working to support the most vulnerable in our own communities through projects such as Food for Families. We do all of this with our conviction that transformation and new life is possible.

I wonder, what actions could you take towards new life this Easter? With love, Cate.

*Rev Cate Thomson,
Rural Pioneer Priest*

APRIL READINGS

Sunday April 3rd

Old Testament	Isaiah 43: 16-21
New Testament	Philippians 3: 4b-14
Gospel	John 12: 1-8

Sunday April 10th – Palm Sunday

Gospel	Luke 19: 28-40
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Sunday April 17th

Old Testament	Isaiah 65:17-end
New Testament	Acts 10: 34-43
Gospel	John 20: 1-18

Sunday April 24th

New Testament	Acts 5: 27-32
Gospel	John 20: 19-end

Sunday May 1st

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

Deanery Update

Ukraine Crisis

The Deanery is planning that Easter Day will be a Gift Day to offer financial support for those fleeing, or within, Ukraine. Your local church will have more details at the time.

In the meantime, do join our Facebook Group to find out other ways you can offer help and support.

As with all things, anyone and everyone can pray about this situation – here is a prayer you may like to use:

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Holy Week

This year, Holy Week begins on Sunday 10th April. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find details of services in this area. There's also lots going on close by too. These include:

Maundy Thursday (14th) 7pm. Holy Communion with Tenebrae at Moccas. The Tenebrae service begins by the light of seven candles. After each of seven readings recalling the final night of Jesus' life, one of the candles is extinguished). The Tenebrae offers us the chance to be still, to meditate on Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion, and to wait in trust and hope for the unfolding of the Easter story.

Good Friday (15th) 12noon-3pm at St Faith's, Bacton. Rev'd Preb. Nicholas Lowton offering a Good Friday meditation on each hour, (12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm), followed by silence.

Holy Saturday (16th) Art Exhibition at Kingstone Church.

Holy Saturday (16th) 11.30pm. Easter Vigil to welcome in Easter Day with bonfire, candlelit communion and meditation at Tyberton Church.

Easter Sunday (17th) Dawn Holy Communion Service on Black Hill. Meet at the car park at 5.30am.

Log on to our website abbeydoredeanery.org or get in touch to find out more and for the full list of all services.

Other Dates for your Diary

Keep an eye out for pilgrims walking the Golden Valley Pilgrim Way on the 14th and 15th May and get in touch if you'd like to walk with them. The Rt Rev Bishop Richard Jackson, Bishop of Hereford, will be walking part of the way.

John Bell of the Iona Community will be in the Deanery on 7th June. Details of how to book to hear him speak will be in next month's newsletter.

*Anne Lloyd Deanery Mission Coordinator
01981 620145 / abbeydoredmc@gmail.com*

Forthcoming events

NEWTON WOMEN'S GUILD

St John's Lent Lunch

at Mary Powell's, Upper Newton HR2 0QU
12-2pm on **Friday 1st April 2022.**

Everyone very welcome for a simple lunch,
coffee and chat.

Please phone 01981 510295 if you want to be
sure of a bowl of soup!

Donations for Marie Curie

Longtown School PTA

presents

Community Coffee and Natter!!

Friday 1st April 2022

8:30-10:30am

Longtown Village Hall

Everyone welcome for Teas Coffees Cake and a Natter!!
We have preloved books and School uniform to look through.
Donations only, at your discretion.

**ALL profits will be going towards raising money for some
Children's Kitchen Cooking Equipment
at Longtown School.**

Please spread the word about this event, friends family
neighbours etc.

If anyone would like to donate a cake then please talk to
Ruth Sevenoaks on 07837687886

**LONGTOWN AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Monday 4th April, 7.30pm Longtown Village Hall**

**ROBIN THORNDYKE: THE HARROW AND THE PLOUGH –
THE CHANGING USE OF FARM IMPLEMENTS**

April will see the return of Mr Thorndyke who has done so
much to bring the attention of the public to the paintings of
the young Herefordshire artist, Brian Hatton, who died in
Egypt in 1916. Many of Hatton's depictions of rural life show
farm machinery in use, the subject of the talk. All welcome,
guests £3, half season membership £5. Contact our secretary
Mr J Davies at jerryjdavis@outlook.com for more
information

*The society is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. Martin Cook and Neil
Kidd will give the anniversary talk on 9 May and their topic will be
"Longtown Castle at War". We hope that all current and past members
and those who took part in the dig will be able to come*

Longtown Library

now open,

Every first Wednesday of the month

2.30 - 4.30 pm

Swap books, tea and chat!



Next open on 6th April

**Growing Unusual
Fruit and Vegetables**

TALK Wednesday, 6 April 2022

7.30pm, Escleyside Hall

Be inspired to grow some unusual edibles this year.
Herefordshire 'homesteader, veg gardener, chicken
keeper, and preserver', Kev Alviti is our guide.

Non-members welcome: £4

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



LONGTOWN VILLAGE HALL

Car Boot

or Table- top sale in the hall if inclement weather

9th April

9.00 am for sellers, 10.00 am for buyers

£10 per boot (or table)

Bacon butties available

Proceeds for much needed work on the car park

carboot@longtownvillagehall.org.uk

01873 860609

LONGTOWN & DISTRICT WI

At our meeting on **12th April** we will welcome guest speaker
Michele Blackmore from Madley Plants. Michele will be
telling us about the running of an independent family run
nursery, and also giving us some planting ideas for the
coming season.

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

NEWTON ST MARGARET'S WOMEN'S GUILD

Thursday, 14th April 7.30pm.

Newton Church Room HR2 0QR

Crochet Workshop Number 2 with Mary Lemmon

You could not attend the first workshop? Not a problem!
Just come along to try your hand or, perfect your skills.
Even just join us for chat and to share your expertise?
Bring a medium thickness ball of wool and a crochet hook
if you have them (there will be some available if not).

Bring and Share Supper. Guests are very welcome.

Tel 07794920729 for further information.

FLICKS IN THE STICKS AT ESCLEYSIDE HALL HR2 OPT

Wednesday 20th April, 2022

Mr. Jones [2019; cert 15; 119mins]

Based on real events and filmed in the Ukraine, Poland and
Edinburgh, this historical drama tells the story of Welsh
Journalist Gareth Jones. Setting out with the purpose of
interviewing Stalin, he ends up risking his life whilst exposing
the truth about the devastating famine in the Soviet Union in
the early 1930s.

Directed by Agnieszka Holland. Starring James Norton, Ada
Brooks and Peter Sarsgaard.

Doors open 7pm. Limited Bar. Film starts at 7.30pm

Tickets on the door but correct change appreciated.

Adult £5.00; Child £2.50.

***Proceeds from this evening will be donated to
DEC UKRAINE***

LONGTOWN THURSDAY CLUB

We were all delighted to be back after the winter break, and
are looking forward to what we hope will be a full
programme of meetings and outings.

Because of Easter, there will be only one event in April – our
traditional annual fish and chip lunch for members, on
Thursday 28th April.

In the summer months we hope to resume some outings
which will be open to non-members, including visits to

Aberystwyth and Porthcawl in July and September. Watch this space.

Please contact Pauline Jones on 01873 851782, email jonespauline@pobroadband.co.uk, or Hazel Pugh on 01873 806803 for further information. *Pauline Jones*

NEWTON PARISH ROOM

16th May Newton Parish Room at 7pm.

Are you interested in the future of Newton Parish Room?

If so please join us in the Room on the 16th May at 7pm to formulate how we move forward.

We welcome all new ideas to keep the Parish room independent.

Concerts for Craswall

INTERNATIONAL PIANO QUARTET PERFORM

Mahler, Fauré and Brahms

Saturday May 28th at 5pm

Dore Abbey, Abbeydore HR2 0AA

Mahler, Piano Quartet in A minor

Fauré, Piano Quartet No.1 in C minor, Op.15

Brahms, Piano Quartet No.1 in G minor, Op.25

Wu Qian (piano), Roman Simovic (violin), Milena Simovic (viola) & David Cohen (cello) perform two of the most famous piano quartets in the repertoire, Brahms Piano Quartet No.1 in G minor, and Fauré's Quartet No 1 in C minor.

Best known for its rousing finale, the famous Rondo alla Zingarese (Gypsy Rondo) Brahms G minor Quartet is one of his earliest great works in the medium. It is paired here with the beauty and passion of Fauré's Quartet in C minor.

Alongside is a rarely heard curiosity – Mahler's contemplative Piano Quartet No 1 movement, the tantalising torso of a work never completed.

More information/tickets from our website
<https://concertsforcraswall.org/live-music/>
or call 01981 510112

Local Newsround

LONGTOWN CASTLE

You may have noticed that barriers have been placed and access has been closed to the motte and keep at Longtown Castle. I have received the following from English Heritage: "English Heritage's contractor recently undertook a high level masonry survey by rope access at Longtown Castle, focusing on the higher keep walls. The contractor subsequently advised that they deem much of the wall head in this area to be loose. They have made safe small pieces of stone and mortar, but significant material is loose and at risk of slipping or falling. To this end, barriers have been installed on the steps to prevent access up to the keep by visitors.

We are now awaiting the formal report from the specialist high level surveyor and hope to agree next steps before the end of March. The report will be used as the basis for the design of a scaffold access to enable a further survey to specify the required repairs. We will keep you updated with regard to the timescales for the next sections of work as they are developed."

Longtown Village Pride has an arrangement with English Heritage for the "household maintenance" of the castle. Obviously this does not include any structural work. We understand that contractors will take months rather than a few weeks to complete their work.

This limitation on access will be of particular interest to those who accommodate visitors during this coming summer and to those who use it for educational purposes

Bob Burson

Chairman, Longtown Village Pride

CRASWALL YOUNG FARMERS

On the 18th February CYFC went 10-pin bowling in Hereford, where we filled 6 lanes and had a fun-filled evening.

On Saturday 5th March we had our annual Bingo evening. Big thanks to Lorraine and Sara for stepping in at the last minute to do the calling.

On Sunday 13th March, we took a team of Juniors to play "Ultimate Frisbee" at Queen Elizabeth High School in Bromyard. I am delighted to say that they won every-single-match and are now going on to represent Herefordshire at the West Midlands Area against Shropshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire.

Thanks to Michaelchurch Sports Pavilion for the use of their facilities for practices.

The next couple of weeks will be very competition-heavy with Spring Stock judging, Pre-Rally, and Rally all coming up.

Phil Powell, CYFC Secretary

phillip_blackbill@live.co.uk / 07468 411649

MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

I know you're not meant to have favourites in school, but spring term has always been my favourite term! This spring term has been particularly enjoyable, especially following the enormous disruptions from the previous two years (due to covid school closures). The sun has now made its appearance, the spring flowers are blooming and it feels like everyone has a smile on their face!

That's not to say that things have been quiet at school however. One of the highlights has been the visit from a Mental Health Champion trainer from Birmingham. He came to school to work with our KS2 children and train our children to be Mental Health Champions. This was brilliant training and will really help our children understand mental health and support each other. The trainer commented that he'd never been to a school as rural as ours before or in such a beautiful setting – in fact, he didn't even know that schools like this existed! It made me really appreciate and feel very proud to work at Michaelchurch and what a privilege it is to be here.

We've also continued participating in various sports this term and had some great success in a Netball tournament at Kingstone recently. The team played brilliantly and came second overall, which was great considering all the other schools were significantly larger primaries.

Coming up we have the Summer School Games Finals to look forward to, where we will be competing in the hockey (and possibly the netball) finals.

The Preschool children in our Squirrel's class have been making the most of the warmer weather and have been out and about on plenty of long walks and enjoying our Forest School's area (in the dry for a change!). They were particularly excellent at making some delicious soup in the giant cauldron recently and really enjoyed eating it afterwards!

We're still on the look-out for a new governor, so if you are interested in being part of a fantastic team, please contact our School Business Manager, Mark, on 01981 510208. Likewise, if you are interested in visiting the school to support with reading or anything else, we'd love to hear from you!

*Louise Crocker, Head Teacher
Michaelchurch Escley Primary School
01981 510208*

HELP INSECTS THIS MAY

Did you know that insect populations have declined by 75% in the last 50 years? That is a staggering decline and one that has serious implications for all life on our planet. Without insects, our ecosystem is at risk of collapsing. Bees have received lots of publicity for their role in food security but all insects are vital in some way to sustain our wildlife and the overall health of our environment.

There is something very practical you can do to help insects next month: take part in **No Mow May**.

This is an annual campaign to leave your grass to grow for the month. The emerging flowers are a vital source of nectar for insects and well-fed insects breed well increasing the population, which in turn increases the available food source for birds and so on. As an additional benefit, plants that rarely get to set seed are given valuable time to do so which will increase the range of flowers you see. Constant mowing means that only those plants that spread by suckers or are the Usain Bolts of the flowering world get a look in, which means less variety and fewer insects. Putting your mower to one side for a few weeks can have an extraordinarily positive impact and you can have more time enjoying your garden. If giving up your whole garden to No Mow May seems too big a hurdle, even a small area will help. Find out more at www.plantlife.org.uk

You will see more signs this year on the verges in the Parish group where we are doing No Mow April, May, June and July at the very minimum. We have some wonderful stretches of verge in our community which we will be managing for wildlife. We also have an ambitious surveying plan to find more gems. If you would like to come surveying with the LIFE Biodiversity volunteers, you would be so welcome. No experience is necessary, just the enthusiasm to find out what is out there. We will have you confidently identifying all kinds of treasures in no time at all! Email us at lifecimatechange@gmail.com for more information.

Polly Hearsey

Round and About

VOWCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

VaT50 March winners were: Rebecca Plato (£50) and Sarah Griffiths (£20).

Tajji Tuesdays 10 - 11am at Vowchurch Hall. Contact janefleet88@gmail.com

Pilates at Vowchurch Hall, Tuesdays from 6pm. Contact hannahmthomas@hotmail.com

Bowls Wednesdays 7 - 9 pm, Vowchurch Hall Contact Richard Stokes rtastokes@hotmail.co.uk

Vowchurch Hall is available for parties, weddings and events as well as meetings and presentations at very reasonable rates.

Enquiries to Jane Wheatley on 01981 550791

www.vowchurchturnastonehall.co.uk

VOWCHURCH & DISTRICT GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish meeting of the Parish Council
Wednesday 11th May 2022 from 7.00pm for 7.30pm start
at Esleyside Hall, Michaelchurch Escley

Guest Speaker: **Bill Quan**,
Herefordshire County NFU Chairman
Residents of the group of parishes are invited to attend
Refreshments available

PETERCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

We have a few things happening in the hall over the next few months. We are hoping very soon to have a new AV System installed in the hall and, also by April, it should be completely double-glazed.

Why not come for Gentle Dance exercise with Abbie Mason 11.30 am-12.30 at the Village Art Club every Monday Evening and Friday Morning.

Hatha Yoga is being held every Wednesday 7pm -8.30pm.

Also get your green fingers ready. Our Craft, Flower and Vegetable show is being held on Saturday 30th July. Also in the evening we have local band BOONDOGZ – please keep your eyes peeled for posters.

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:

Parish Council every 3rd Tuesday of the month
Day Centre for Coffee and a chat every Monday
10.00am -12.00pm.

We always welcome new groups!

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

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

(Please leave a message if you are unable to reach anyone on the numbers above.)

Notices and Advertisements

ESCLEYSIDE HALL, MICHAELCHURCH ESCLEY NOTICE

I wish to inform you that the Esleyside Hall is open for hire as normal, for parties, meetings, wedding receptions and wakes, and other Community events. We offer a large, modern building with plenty of parking, level access,

kitchen facilities, audio-visual equipment including a new projector. We are also reducing our environmental footprint having installed LED lighting throughout, and have fully up-rated our loft insulation, the latter with the aid of a **Grant from the Herefordshire Council Climate and Nature Grant Scheme**, for which we are grateful.

The Hall is situated immediately behind Michaelchurch Escley Primary School and bookings can be made through Mrs Rachel Pritchard on 01981 510368. rachel.pritchard86@hotmail.co.uk.

Thank you.

*Dr Jeremy Davis,
Chairman of the Hall Management Committee*

LONGTOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Setting up an informal local history network

Are you interested in doing some local history research – perhaps to look into the history of your house or find out about past people or past events in your village? Is there a topic you'd like to explore – such as how farmland uses have changed over the years; or what kinds of shops, pubs and services there were in your village 100 years ago? Or any other topics? Would being part of an informal local history network or group be of interest?

Or have you already done some research and would like to share some of your findings and ideas with like-minded people?

For anyone – any age – interested in sharing ideas or questions about local history, the Historical Society can help by initially bringing together an informal network or group of people to exchange information, tips and questions.

If you are interested in this idea, please contact Miriam Griffiths on miriam@miriamg.net or 01873 860356.

LONGTOWN VILLAGE PRIDE

We meet at Longtown Castle on the last Saturday of each month (except December) from 10am until noon.

We call it a work morning.

New helpers are very welcome. Simply turn up, or call Bob Burson on 01873 860313



Black Hill Community Radio

We have 3 new Duke of Edinburgh teenagers, Harry, Isaac and Alfie who are doing their volunteering category through the radio. You can hear them doing their 5 tracks. We have follow ups to the energy crisis, a visit to our esteemed fish and Chip shop in Ewyas Harold, an interview with our local fire brigade, a newsdesk from our younger community members and much more to look forward to. Please tune in when you can.

This is a community radio and we'd love you to listen and offer ideas. Ring Vicki or 01981 240 248 or contact us through our website, blackhillcommunityradio.org.uk.

Past shows are available on the website and there are many to choose from, including Kym Wilcox, Chair of Governors at the school sharing her 5 tracks and an interview with Rob Penn, founder of the Stump up for Trees project.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE

<https://ukraine.blackhillcommunities.net>

I imagine that you, like me, have been horrified by what is happening in Ukraine and feel that you would like to help in some way with the huge refugee problem. Like me also you may have thought that there is nothing we can do out here because we are too remote and it would not be practical to take refugees. However, where there is a will there is a way!

A group of people, from Newton St Margarets have got together to either open their homes or to offer help in some other way. So far we have six offers from people who will host refugees in their homes and many others who would like to offer practical support. We hope that others in 'our parishes' will feel that they can join this effort.

Anyone can offer to help and if you would like to host and have anything from a spare room to an entire house that you could offer, that would be fantastic! If you would like to help in some other way, and I have in mind offers to drive; to raise funds; to mind the house while hosts take a break; to teach English; to help organise social events for refugees and I am sure there are many other ways that I have not dreamed of, your input would be vital.

The government's intention is that people should sign up (see below) and it will then be the individual's responsibility to find refugees using social media. We feel that this is not very helpful to say the least, and we have other irons in the fire that we hope will result in contact with Ukrainians seeking to come to UK. There may be some of you who have Ukraine contacts of your own and I hope in that case you would share that with us.

It will be the responsibility of local authorities to vet prospective hosts and to vet refugees. That may come to pass. Either way our group is in contact with Hereford Council about this.

It is possible to apply either as an individual or as a group, but confusingly, the two application forms on the government website are the same, so if you wish to host please apply as an individual and we will make sure you are included in the group. The name of the group is 'The Black Hill Community Group'.

So, to be part of this group effort, either as a host or a helper, please contact us via:

ukraine@blackhillcommunities.net or
<https://ukraine.blackhillcommunities.net>

If you use a smart phone I will include you on our WhatsApp group; otherwise contact will be by email. If you are not happy with electronic communication contact your coordinator as below.

We will keep you in touch with developments.

Best wishes and I hope you will do what you can to help.

To register with the government as a host:

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk>

Sue Robinson

HAY Music

TOM POSTER - PIANO

Saturday, 30 April at 7.00pm

St Mary's Church, Hay-on-Wye, HR3 5EB

Internationally recognised as a pianist of outstanding artistry and versatility Tom Poster will play Schumann, Schubert and Chopin and also an eclectic sequence 'Of Night and Dreams': Chopin, Debussy, Gershwin, Grieg, Mancini, Fanny Mendelssohn, Porter, Poulenc, Sherwin, Szymanowska.

Tickets (£15.00) and more information at www.haymusic.org

To join our mailing list please email music@haymusic.org

**THE BLACK HILL JULY EXHIBITION
OF ART, DESIGN AND CRAFTS**
Longtown Village Hall
2nd July 2022



with music by
THE BLACK HILL VOICES
Further details to follow in the
May newsletter

**Black Mountain Group Newsletter
ADVERTISING DIRECTORY**

Contact: Jill Cook

Clodock Mill, Longtown, Hereford HR2 0PD

01873 860408

jill@clodockmill.com

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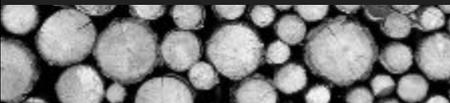
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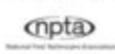
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(May - Oct):	10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Bank Holiday Mondays	10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Amazing April

We will be welcoming more visitors to the area as the visitor economy gets going, if you are interested we are going to have a little tourism event or all the little things we do to help a visitors experience of our area. Tell us or send us a message hello@hopesoflongtown.co.uk if you are interested. March was marvellous and well done to those guessing correctly, we did have 300-349 new products, keep popping into see if we have what you want and ask us, we want to stock your favourite products.

Not so amazing this month, prices are going up and we are passing some of the increased cost on to you the retail price dear customer. Let's work together to reduce the impact for example if you like reading a newspaper look at taking out a subscription, they now come in many formats with a voucher for every week or a digital subscription in the week and voucher for a paper copy at the weekend, useful if you are trying to reduce eye screen time at weekends. When you purchase the vouchers in advance you receive between 20% and 40% discount on the retail cover price.

Shop Local 30 April is the time to take time for yourself with a morning coffee outside in the sunshine, this month we would encourage you to try our local supplier Black Mountain Roast. They have a range of ground and beans purchased from farmers all over the world, started by Simon and Mungo and now owned by Glyn and Gisela of Bridge Inn Michaelchurch fame.

Hopes Café/ Business Start up/ Refill Service/ Office Hire/ Storage space

With ten days to go in March, we have our first complete set of drawings for development plans. If you would like to talk to us about them, please arrange an appointment to see me (Christine) so we can chat undisturbed for at least 20 minutes as I am so excited about it. Plus we would love to hear your ideas and thoughts, perhaps you would like the first opportunity to rent some of the space?

Options

We identified sixteen different types of customers who may want to come through our door and we are very grateful too. Firstly we stock products by request or Christine spots it on offer and it's worth a try. Take our compost, why would we have three options? Well we have three options, one is price effective and can be delivered three times a week. We had a request for organic, then peat free compost, luckily our organic plant supplier Caves Folly came up trumps with two options last season so they are back this year. Price has gone up but I am relieved to say we are cheaper than Amazon.

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

Transition to Barcoded Stamps

Non-barcoded stamps will be phased out but will remain usable until 31st January 2023. Customers are encouraged to use their non-barcoded stamps before this date. Alternatively, non-barcoded stamps can be exchanged for the new barcoded version through the Royal Mail's 'Swap Out' scheme.

From the 4th April stamp prices will increase:

1st Class stamps will go to 95p from 85p	2nd Class stamps will go up to 68p from 66p
1st Class Large letter to £1.45 from £1.29	2nd Class large letter to £1.05 from 96p
1st Class small parcel to £4.45 from £3.85	2nd Class small parcel to £3.35 from £3.20

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Every time you make an over the counter cash withdrawal at the Post Office until the 31st March 2022, 1p for each transaction is automatically donated on your behalf to The Trussel Trust.

Taking a last minute opportunity to travel or go on a work trip, you can pick up Euros at Longtown Post Office immediately and any other travel currency can be ordered for delivery for collection safely at the Post Office

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.

Changing your mobile phone? You can always top up your mobile phone credit at Longtown Post Office, plus we have SIM cards if you are going eco and buying a preloved phone.

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APRIL CHURCH SERVICES

3rd April, Lent 5

9.30am Craswall Holy Communion

10th April, Palm Sunday

9.30am Clodock Morning Worship

3pm Shared service with Holy Communion at St Margaret's followed by a walk to Newton for tea in the Parish Room

15th April, Good Friday

9.30am Llanveynoe A Reflective Service for Good Friday, with choir

17th April, Easter Sunday

5.30am Meet at Cat's Back car park for dawn Holy Communion Service on Black Hill

9.30am Clodock Holy Communion, with choir

24th April, Easter 2

9.30am Craswall Celtic Prayer

11am Michaelchurch Holy Communion

APRIL DIARY AND EVENTS PLANNER			
Fri	01 April	12.00 - 2.00pm	Lent Lunch, Upper Newton (Mary Powell)
Fri	01 April	8.30 - 10.30am	Longtown Primary School PTA Community Coffee and Natter, Longtown Village Hall
Mon	04 April	7.30pm	Longtown & District Historical Society. Robin Thorndyke: <i>The Harrow and The Plough – The Changing Use Of Farm Implements</i>
Wed	06 April	7.30pm	Esleyside Gardening Club: <i>Growing unusual fruit and vegetables</i> , Kev Alviti, Longtown Village Hall
Wed	06 April	2.30-4.30pm	Longtown Library, Longtown Village Hall
Sat	09 April	10.00am	Car Boot Sale, Longtown Village Hall. Boots from 9.00am
Tue	12 April	8.00pm	Longtown & District WI: Michele Blackmore of Madley Plants
Thu	14 April	7.30pm	Newton St Margaret's Women's Guild: Crotchet workshop 2, with Mary Lemmon
Wed	20 April	7.00 for 7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks, Esleyside Hall: <i>Mr Jones</i> (15)
Thu	28 April		Longtown Thursday Club, annual fish & chip lunch for members.
Sat	30 April	10.00am-Noon	Longtown Village Pride, Longtown Castle
Mon	16 May	7.00pm	Meeting: The future of Newton Parish Room, Newton Parish Room
Sat	28 May	7.00pm	Concerts for Craswall: Beethoven, Mahler & Brahms, Dore Abbey
Sat	28 May	10.00am-Noon	Longtown Village Pride, Longtown Castle
Sat	04 June		Jubilee Garden Party, The Cornwall Arms, Clodock
Sun	05 June		Jubilee 'Big Lunch' and other events, Longtown Village Hall and field
Sat	25 June	10.00am-Noon	Longtown Village Pride, Longtown Castle
Sat	09 July 2	7.00pm	Concerts for Craswall: The Sounds of Purcell, Bach & Vivaldi, Dore Abbey

≈ Save the Date ≈

Jubilee Garden Party
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Saturday 4th June

Village hall contacts

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

Esleyside Hall
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