

The Black Mountains Group Benefice

NEWSLETTER

September 2020



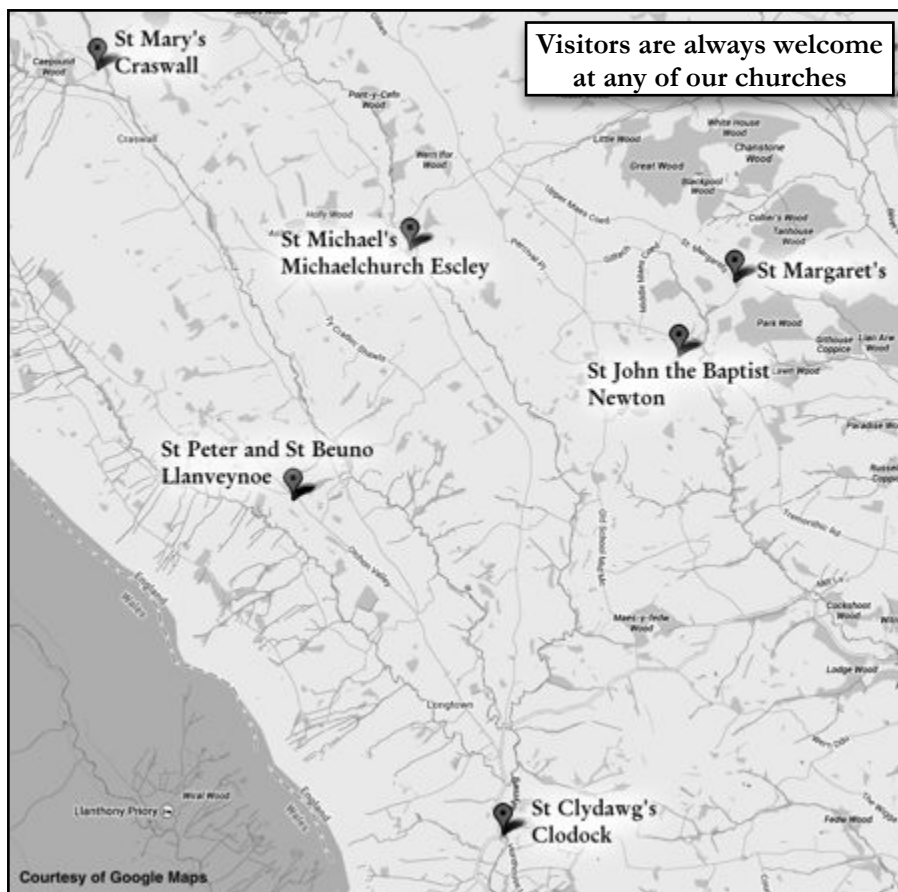
The Parishes of Clodock & Longtown with Craswall, Llanveynoe,
St Margaret's, Michaelchurch Escley & Newton

Vicar and Rural Dean:

The Revd. Prebendary Nicholas Lowton
Forest Mill, Craswall, Herefordshire HR2 0PW
01981 510675 lowton.nicholas@virgin.net

Min
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donation

www.bmgparishes.org.uk



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Mr Ken Watkins 01981 510213

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Mr Donald Phillips 01873 860298

Commodore Peter Tribe 01873 860260

St Margaret's

Mr John Pritchard 01981 510628

Mrs Jane Baxter 01981 510388

Michaelchurch Escley

Mrs Olive Howells 01981 510228

Newton

(Vacant)

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From the Vicar

WHY BE HAPPY WHEN YOU CAN BE NORMAL?

The title of Jeanette Winterson's sometimes painful experience of her past comes to mind these days when people ask me when we will be going back to normal. I fear that the answer I tend to give now is, 'You tell me what significant changes will occur in relation to the virus and the way we treat it, and I will tell you when significant changes will occur in the way we can operate as a church.'

For that is the truth. We will not be going back to the ways in which we used to do things: we will go forward to new ways of doing things, and some of these are becoming visible even now.

The Christian faith has always been one which builds on the past, lives in the present and looks hopefully to the future. And that is what we need to be doing now. There can be a huge temptation to find refuge in a comfortable past, but that is not just an illusion, it is not the way Christ lived and taught.

It has been interesting conducting worship outdoors, seeing and hearing people's reactions to doing things differently. People have told me how much they enjoy the different styles of worship we have been using: I have enjoyed watching people sitting not uncomfortably in serried rows, but in natural semicircles which engender so much stronger a feeling of community. It will be a challenge to see how we can build on this when the weather inevitably drives us back indoors for the autumn and winter.

The absence of hymns has been a sadness, but I do hope that local musicians may come up with ways in which music can be incorporated into worship – to highlight, to punctuate, to enable meditation or whatever. I hope this is a richness which can be developed.

These parishes have always been good at not being narrowly parochial in their worship. It has always been incredibly rare for me to take a service in a church and the only people there have been from that one parish. Now that is something which has grown, and, most Sundays, all parishes have been represented in our single acts of worship.

And then, of course, there is the on-line worship, and not just on Sundays. This is clearly, from anecdotal evidence, drawing in a number of people who are not part of the regular congregations, but who are responding enthusiastically to what is being offered. This is something we need to develop and grow.

I do hope that, far from looking back wistfully to a time which is past, people will look hopefully to the future, and will want to build on the new and exciting ways in which we have been able to 'do' church.

And I do hope that people will look to extending that attitude to the wider questions of mission and ministry in this benefice and this deanery. There will be a Deanery Gathering – via Zoom – on Tuesday September 22nd when we will be looking at the new ways in which the deanery will be operating when clergy numbers go down.

This is a really good opportunity for us to look excitedly, I hope, at the new opportunities this will offer us about how

we spread the good news to the people around us and how we celebrate God's love together. It might not be the 'normal' to which we have all been used, but, with everyone positively behind it, I hope it will make us happy. *Nicholas*

KEEPING IN TOUCH

I know I keep on repeating this section, but I still get people in the benefice unaware of what is going on. If you don't know what is going on, let me know: if you know someone else blissfully unaware, again, let me know. Please!

There are many ways in which we are trying to keep everyone in touch at the moment, but, as with everything I am sure we could be doing more.

On a deanery level, Anne Lloyd, our Deanery Mission Coordinator, is sending out regular emails about things in the deanery: if you are not on her receiving list, do drop her an email at abbeydoredmc@gmail.com. As not everyone is on email, she is also posting hard copies out: if you would like to be on that receiving list, do give her a ring on 07432 873422.

The Abbeydore Deanery Facebook page is a veritable treasure chest of resources, At the time of writing, there are 220 members of the group, some of whom have joined Facebook simply to be members. It is the easiest thing in the world to join them!

I am emailing out weekly letters to people in the benefice with news and views for them. If you are not on the receiving end and would like to be, drop me a line at lowton.nicholas@virgin.net. If you are not on email and would like copies, do please phone Anne Lloyd up – number above – and she will make sure that happens.

I am trying to phone as many people as possible each week, but finding slots has been problematic. If you would like to be added to my list, give me a ring on 01981 510675. We have within the benefice trained Pastoral Visitors: if you would like regular contact with one of them, please let me know.

A group of us is meeting on line every Wednesday evening for the wonderful and peaceful service of Compline: if you would like to join us, do please drop me an email.

And we keep together quietly. I have suggested that we set aside 8.00pm on a Tuesday for quiet prayer, and it is immensely powerful, believe me, to know that people are praying together, even when you can't see them. If there is ever anyone or anything that you would like prayed for at that time, do please let me know. *Nicholas*

YET ANOTHER PERSONAL NOTE!

As previously advertised, I am going to be off duty from the end of August and will be out of action from August 31st to September 13th. During that time, any pastoral emergencies should be referred to Anne Lloyd, our Deanery Mission Coordinator.

The service where I will be installed as Prebendary in the Cathedral will be Evensong at 5.30pm on Friday October 2nd. This will be an open service, and social distancing in the Cathedral is less challenging than in a parish church, so if you are desperate for anything remotely wacky by that stage, do please come along. *Nicholas*

PCC MEETINGS

These have been arranged so far for:

Clodock	Wednesday August 26th 2.00pm
Craswall	Thursday August 27th 7.30pm
Newton	Friday August 28th 2.00pm
Llanveynoe	Friday September 18th 7.30pm (?)
Michaelchurch	Tuesday September 22nd 2.30pm

Deanery Events

We have three invitations for you this month:

Firstly, Alpha Online starts with an introductory session on 11th September at 7.30pm. Why not come along and find out what's involved? Everyone is welcome.

Secondly, we're running taster sessions for a Growing Leaders course. This course is being run by our Archdeacon Derek Chedzey. The taster sessions will take place online on 5th or 12th September between 10.30am and 12 noon. Do get in touch with your local vicar if you'd like to know more about this.

Thirdly, we will also be holding our first virtual Deanery Gathering on 22nd September at 7.30pm. This will be an opportunity for everyone across the Deanery to meet together, albeit virtually. If you would like an invitation to the meeting which will be via Zoom, please email us.

As ever, the open invitation to join us at any of our services remains, but things continue to change frequently, especially as some services are now weather dependent! So to find out the details of opening times and services, or to find out more about anything that's being offered by the Deanery, please do get in touch via phone 07432 873422 or email abbeydoredmc@gmail.com.

We also continue our weekly YouTube services on the Abbeydore Deanery YouTube channel. Do have a look if you haven't already. Lots of people have found this way of worshipping to be a good thing. The weekly email newsletter which contains the latest details is also available and everyone is welcome to receive this, so do just ask.

Anne Lloyd

Thanks and farewell

THE WEDELLS ARE MOVING

For 28 years we have been living in Longtown, and are now moving to Hereford to be more accessible to our family. It has been a privilege to be members of the community and to be able to enjoy the beautiful countryside. We have each so much appreciated the opportunities to serve the village in a number of ways such as taking part in its growing historical presence on the internet, and in the development of the school.

We will continue to treasure all the friendships, and will look forward to visits to our little flat behind the cathedral in Hereford.

Klaus and Nina

Forthcoming Events

LONGTOWN THURSDAY CLUB

I am very sorry that we don't, as yet, have plans for future meetings or events; the difficulties are simply too great. But we shall be discussing with members over the coming weeks what may be possible later.

With best wishes

Pauline Jones (01873 851782)



Sadly, the Club has now decided to cancel all 2020 events. Social-distancing & Covid-19 rules on attendance numbers in enclosed spaces makes events impossible to stage safely whilst still covering speaker and venue

costs. Instead, we are arranging **exclusive** group visits to NGS gardens. We are currently planning one for September. If you would like further details please email: escleysidegc@outlook.com

We are working on a programme for 2021 in the hope that some normality will have returned by then. Only time will tell.

Kay

Local Newsround

ST JOHNS CHURCH IN NEWTON may only be small but it has an interesting history. We would like to extend the story of John Powell and the foundation of the church up to the present day. *(It seems the booklet is a collectors' item these days!)*



If you have any memories associated with the church or the church room particularly from 1985 (but before this time, too) we would be keen to know?

There are no services planned for St. Johns at the moment but this peaceful place is open every day for private prayer. We still need to pay the bills though, for the church and the church room but also contribute towards the continuing ministries in the Benefice, Deanery and Diocese. We need your help to do this and are asking for donations. Even a small donation will be much valued and WILL make a difference. A good way to do this is through the Parish Giving Scheme Tel 0333 002 1271 and quote St John's Parish no: 180618030.

Contact Jane if you would like to discuss either of the above. tel 07794 920729.

ROADSIDE VERGE NATURE RESERVE (RVNR)

A call for volunteers to cut and rake!

In July's newsletter the Longtown Group Parish Council described how some botanically rich verges are managed to enhance wildlife. This year the councillors added a further verge (the 43rd for Herefordshire) in the Olchon Valley.

RVNR 17 between Middle Cwm and Rhydannog farms in Llanveynoe is 3 years old and this summer nectar rich flowers, for example, Knapweed and Bird's foot trefoil have spread. Now that the seed is set September and October are the best months to cut and rake away the summer's growth to encourage more wildflowers next year.



Can you help by joining the working party?

For more information please text/phone Anthony Furness on **07773 889 117** and, if you are interested in the other Herefordshire verges, then email Suzanne Noble suzanne@lowerhazlefarm.co.uk

LONGTOWN AND DISTRICT WI

On Tuesday 18th we all enjoyed a socially distanced outdoor gathering to say goodbye and good luck to Nina, a much loved member of the WI.

It was wonderful to get together and catch up after such a long time apart. Many thanks to Isobel at the Cornwall Arms for all her efforts in making this possible. *Libby Davis*

VOWCHURCH & DISTRICT GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has recently obtained funding from Herefordshire Council for additional drainage works. The Lengthsman will therefore be clearing some drains and ditches in known problem areas within the parish. We are hoping that this will solve some of the current issues but landowners are reminded of their responsibilities regarding riparian ownership.

The Parish Council is aware of local residents' concerns regarding excessive speeds and the use of mobile phones by farm traffic on our rural roads and respectfully ask road users to be aware of their surroundings and neighbours when travelling at different times of the day.

As we continue to live with the effects of Coronavirus in our everyday life please remember:

Help control the virus

To protect yourself and others, when you leave home you must:

- **Wash hands** – keep washing your hands regularly
- **Cover face** – wear a face covering over your nose and mouth in enclosed spaces
- **Make space** – stay at least a metre away from people not in your household

If you are feeling unwell, get a test and do not leave home for at least 10 days

Linda Cowles, Parish Clerk
parishclerk@vowchurch-gpc.org.uk

Round and About

GOLDEN VALLEY DAY CENTRE

Once again it has been another quiet month for the Day Centre. We as a committee have decided that a good way to keep connected would be to have a draw at least once a month. Our first draw was held at the end of July and our first lucky winners were Mr Roy Mankelow and Mrs Linda Chamberlain – congratulations to them both.

Maurice Herdman is making good progress and is up walking around the house and garden now. I think Heulwyn will be having problems keeping him still.

We have delivered face masks to all our members. If any one has not received theirs please contact any member of the committee and we will get one to them.

If any of our members wants to let me know how it's been for them during this time please get in touch. In the meantime keep staying safe and well.

Sarah Murrin

VOWCHURCH VILLAGE HALL is currently available only for meetings and classes with limited numbers. For updates contacts are below:

Exercise & Pilates classes Tuesdays from 6pm
hannahmthomas@hotmail.com

TaiChi and Qigong continue outdoors
jane fleet88@gmail.com

General information:

jane wheatley@gmail.com 01981 550791

VaT50 Savings Club Winners of the August draw were Cliff Mawby (£50) and Nick Seabourne (£20) *Jane Wheatley*

Notices and Advertisements

LONGTOWN VILLAGE HALL

Open from 1 October for limited bookings and events

Please see the website for details and to book, or ring 01873 860829

longtownvillagehall.org.uk



ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE

Lottery - will you get the call?

Each Friday the St Michael's Hospice Lottery Manager, Michelle, phones one lucky player to tell them they're £1,000 richer.

One recent call came at the perfect time for Linda Stokes.

'I really needed a new stairlift, and if I didn't get one I might have had to move house,' she said, 'so, to receive the call from Michelle was a very pleasant surprise. The St Michael's Hospice Lottery is a really affordable way to help such a good cause. I'm so glad I play.'

The generosity of players is helping St Michael's continue supporting local families at a time they need it most. So, could this be the week Michelle calls you with the news you're the £1,000 winner?

To ensure you're in with a chance of a grand this Friday, or one of 23 other cash prizes, visit **www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/lottery** or call 01432 851 000.

St Michael's Hospice Big Tea

Get together online or in your social bubble and raise money for your Hospice by doing something we all love; drinking tea and eating cake. Make your Big Tea a big success by supporting St Michael's Hospice in the garden, in the office, outside a village hall, or in your street. Or switch on your laptop, tablet or phone and host a video call with friends and family. Ask them to bring a cup of tea and a slice of cake and let them know how they can donate.

Sign up now at **www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk** then pop the kettle on for St Michael's.

For more information contact Paul Broome, Communications Officer at St Michael's Hospice, on 07947 919659 or email pbroome@smhospicehereford.org



01873 860 444

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri:	7.30 am - 5.30 pm
Late night Thurs:	7.30 am - 7.00 pm
Saturday:	7.30 am - 4.00 pm
Sunday (May - Oct):	10.00 am - 2.00 pm
(Nov - April):	10.00 am - 12 noon
Bank Holiday Mondays	10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Luckily March & April were so warm we haven't needed to close the door, as we head into the cooler months, we will need to close the front door to keep warm. We are going to fit an automatic sensor so you will not need to touch the door handle. We will also be trailing another entry system to comply with government regulations/guidelines and ensure your safety.

It is all as simple as **THREE, TWO, ONE:**

THREE shoppers at any one time in the shop

TWO metres apart

ONE from each household

Please sanitise your hands on entry and exit to the shop

Get your **Truffle cards** ready for the last time this September as this scheme finishes. Explained in the email that went out last month from Truffle towers.

We are going to end the scheme on a high, enabling you to experiment to make your perfect autumnal warming drink using Chase distillery miniatures. Just spend £28 and choose from the selection. #ShopLocal30 (offer excludes tobacco & stamps).

Organic September

So looking forward to September, children going back to school, seasonal changes and the chocolate arriving I ordered in June! If there is an organic product you enjoy and would like to us to stock, please ask. Look out for our favourites

How to get supplies from us - The Details

When self isolating/quarantine, call us **01873 860444** for our same day personal shopper service

1. We will call you back on a different number to keep our telephone line clear
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3. Scanning it through our mobile till at the same time, then we take payment over the phone by card.
4. If you can drive we will put it in the boot of your car or we will arrange to have it delivered.

If you can't pay by card we are happy to accept cash or cheque this is not a problem

Thank you for wearing face coverings - Keeping EVERYONE safe

It is essential we do not go into lockdown again, this loss of income to many local businesses is devastating. By wearing a face covering you and we can keep restrictions being lifted so our fellow countryman can remain healthy, alive and able to earn a living.

The refill shed is open **Thursday between 3pm and 6.30pm** you can refill as little as 100ml at any one time. Prefills can be purchased anytime in the shop. If you want to switch but want to try the products first to find the right one, we are happy to supply you with a **FREE** sample.

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Brilliant Bug stamps available from the 1st October and Rupert the bear stamps from 3rd September

Continued...

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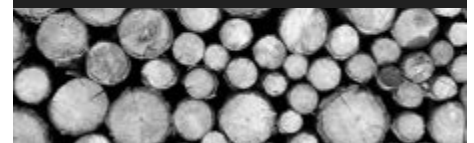
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CHURCH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

For the first two Sundays when I am off duty, 11.00am services will be:

6th September

10.30am Kingstone Morning Worship
 10.30am Madley Informal Worship
 looking at Galatians Chapter 1
 10.30am Turnastone Morning Prayer
 10.30am Kilpeck (Outdoors)
 11.00am Cusop - Morning Worship
 11.00am Preston-on- Wye (Outdoors)

13th September

9.30am Bredwardine Morning Worship
 (inside if wet)
 10.30am Eaton Bishop Morning
 Worship
 10.30am Peterchurch Celtic Morning
 Prayer Galatians Chapter 2
 10.30am Dore Abbey with Bishop of
 Hereford

11.00am Clifford Holy Communion.
Bring your own piece of bread.
Indoors if wet

3.00pm Cusop Harvest Picnic Tea in Churchyard.

For the following two Sundays, there will be two services, one in the morning and a Harvest Thanksgiving in the afternoon:

20th September

11.00am Newton Churchyard Morning Worship

3.00pm Craswall Churchyard Harvest Thanksgiving

27th September

11.00am St Margaret's Churchyard Morning Worship

3.00pm Clodock Churchyard Harvest Thanksgiving

Nicholas

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