

Benefice of Hardwicke with Elmore and Longney

www.hardwicke-elmore-longney.church

Priest-in-Charge Rev Richard Martin 01452 720015

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Assistant Priests Revds George Parfitt and James Turk

Licenced Readers Pat Buckland, Judy Cheshire and Mike Williams

Covid measures. Please sanitise on entering the church. ***Mask wearing is compulsory unless you are exempt.*** Communion: the priest will intinct the bread for you. Singing by choir and congregation is allowed. During the Peace offer your hand or elbow to your neighbours. ***Special seating arrangements apply for popular Christmas services***

Today Advent 3, 12th December

9.30am Longney, Holy Communion

1100 Hardwicke, Holy Communion, 1pm Hardwicke: Wedding

4pm Elmore, Evensong

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-end, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3: 7-18

Prayer at the lighting of the Advent Wreath

Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.

This week

Wed 15 Dec, 9.30am, Hardwicke: Holy Communion

Thurs 16th, 7.30pm Hardwicke: service of Readings and Carols

Friday 17th, 1pm Elmore: Wedding, Saturday 18th, 1pm Elmore: Wedding

Advent 4, 19th December

9.30am Longney, Holy Communion ***NB not at Elmore***

1100 Hardwicke, Holy Communion

6.30pm Elmore, Nine Lessons and Carols

Readings: Micah 5: 2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1: 39-45

- Doff Stone leads Evening Prayer each day at 6pm on her Facebook page ([1\) Dorothy Annabel Stone | Facebook](#))
- Daily Hope, a free national telephone line, offers music, prayers and reflections. Available 24 hours a day **0800 804 8044**

Please pray for the sick and struggling: Jenny, Karen, Kate, John, Michelle, Lucy, Josie, Chris, Beryl, Eric, John, Lesley, Dee, Alison, Carol
Also the family and friends of Keith Harding, Ollie Mills, Keith Robinson, Pamela Gibbs, Peter Morgan, Dan, Wendy's Dad, Shirley Smith.
Please pray for Longney and Hardwicke PCCs' re-ordering plans.
Please also pray for Jane Edwards in Mozambique [1021-Edwards.pdf](#)
bmsworldmission.org

Also for [Tim Fletcher](#) Pioneer "Sportily" Minister, working on Hunts Grove
Please use the Benefice Prayer diary. It is on our website.

Collect for Advent 3

O Lord Jesus Christ,

who at your first coming sent your messenger

to prepare your way before you:

grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries

may likewise so prepare and make ready your way

by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,

that at your second coming to judge the world

we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;

for you are alive and reign with the Father

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Christmas services

Christmas Eve 4pm Hardwicke Masked Crib service – ***ticket only!***

11.15pm Midnight Mass at Hardwicke and Longney

Christmas Day 9.30am Holy Communion at Elmore

11.00 Holy Communion at Hardwicke

Boxing Day (Sunday 26 December) 11am, Said Communion at Hardwicke

Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-end

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.

The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.

¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem,

'Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.

¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.

He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.'

¹⁸ 'I will remove from you
all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals,
which is a burden and reproach for you.

¹⁹ At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you.

I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles.

I will give them praise and honour
in every land where they have suffered shame.

²⁰ At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home.

I will give you honour and praise among all the peoples of the earth
when I restore your fortunes^[a] before your very eyes,' says the LORD.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.'

¹⁰ 'What should we do then?' the crowd asked.

¹¹ John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.'

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptised. 'Teacher,' they asked, 'what should we do?'

¹³ 'Don't collect any more than you are required to,' he told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, 'And what should we do?'

He replied, 'Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.'

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, 'I baptise you with^[a] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with^[b] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.' ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.