

Sunday 8th January (Kept as Epiphany)

9.30am Longney: Holy Communion

11.00am Hardwicke school: All-age worship

1pm Hardwicke: Baptism

4pm Elmore: Evensong

Readings: Ephesians 3: 1-12, Matthew 12: 1-12

PRAYERS PLEASE... for PEACE in Ukraine, South Sudan, West Bank, Haiti, Brazil, Burkino-Faso

...Thank God for grain shipments resuming from Ukraine, and a peace agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia

...for the sick and struggling: Lesley, Chris, Sean, Tim, Michelle K, Hilarie, Louie, Karen and Keith, Les, Sharon, Mair, Sue, Nick, Ian, Vicky, Roger, Sheryl, Llawella, Pam

.....for the family and friends of Brian Strange, Ann Vick, Mary Alder, Jamie Guise, Royston Woods, Brenda Lovell, Ron Radley, Alison Evans

.....for Longney and Hardwicke PCCs' re-ordering plans, Elmore's organ and Hardwicke's bells.

.....for Jane Edwards in Mozambique. Her latest prayer letters are at <https://janeinmozambique.wordpress.com/2022/11/13/tis-the-season/> and at [1222-Edwards.pdf \(bmsworldmission.org\)](https://www.bmsworldmission.org/1222-Edwards.pdf)

.....for Tim Fletcher Pioneer "Sportily" Minister, working on Hunts Grove. **Please use the Benefice Prayer diary. It is on our website**

The 11am Hardwicke service will take place at Hardwicke Parochial Primary Academy, Poplar Way, on the 2nd Sunday each month.

CONFIRMATION The Bishop is conducting a Confirmation at St James' Quedgeley on 19 February 2023. If you sense this is the time God is calling you to take this important step, please speak to Richard and we will arrange your preparation, starting straight after Christmas.

Benefice of Hardwicke and Elmore **with Longney**

www.hardwicke-elmore-longney.church

Priest-in-Charge Rev Richard Martin 01452 720015

vicar@hardwicke-elmore-longney.church

Assistant Priest Revd George Parfitt

Licensed Readers Pat Buckland, Judy Cheshire and Mike Williams

Authorised Leaders of Worship: Neil Hollis and Doff Stone.

The Ministry team pray God's blessing on you at Christmas and throughout the coming Year

Today Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day)

9.30am Longney: Holy Communion

11.00am Hardwicke: Holy Communion

Readings: Titus 2: 11-14, Luke 2: 1-14

NO 4pm service at Elmore

This week

Wed 28th NO 9.30am Hardwicke Holy Communion

1pm Elmore: Wedding

Sunday 1 January (Christmas 1)

11am Hardwicke Benefice service to commit the New year to God

Readings: Hebrews 2: 10-end, Matthew 2: 13-end

Week beginning 1 January

Tues 3rd, Elmore PCC

Wed 4th, Hardwicke 9.30am Holy Communion

10.30 Preschoolers' play and praise

No-one shivering! Please remember that we are collecting duvets and sleeping bags to give to folk who are at home unable to afford to put the heating on. I have now given out all those I'd been given. Richard

Collect for Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Readings for Christmas Day

Titus 2: 11-14

The grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Luke 2: 1-14

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

The Collect for 1 January is on the service sheet

Readings for 1 January

Hebrews 2: 10-end please listen to this.

Matthew 2: 13-end

When the magi had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'

¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'^[a]

¹⁶When Herod realised that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸'A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.'^[a]

¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead.'

²¹So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.