

Next Sunday 19 March (Lent 4, Mothering Sunday)

9.30am Elmore: Holy Communion
11.00 Hardwicke School: All-age worship
Readings: Colossians 3: 12-17, Luke 2: 33-35

PRAYERS PLEASE... for PEACE in Ukraine, South Sudan, West Bank, Haiti, , Burkino-Faso, Yemen AND in our Industries and public services
...Thank God for grain shipments resuming from Ukraine, and a peace agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

...*for the sick and struggling*: Lesley, Chris and Pam, Sean, Michelle K, Hilarie, Louie, Karen and Keith, Sharon, Sue, Nick, Ian, Vicky, Sheryl, Derek, Peter, Julie, Gail.

.....*for the family and friends of* Valerie Williams, Tim Longney, Jane Attwooll, Gerlad Hayward

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

.....*for Jane Edwards in Mozambique. Her latest prayer letter is at* [0223-Edwards.pdf \(bmsworldmission.org\)](https://www.bmsworldmission.org/0223-Edwards.pdf)

.....for Tim Fletcher Pioneer "Sportily" Minister, working on Hunts Grove.

Please use the Benefice Prayer diary. It is on our website

Advance Notices

Dates of APCMs

Elmore: Sunday 16 April, 1030,
Longney Sunday 23 April 1030
Hardwicke Sunday 7 May, 12noon

Benefice service 30 April.

This will be at 11am at Hardwicke. It will be an "Easter Songs of Praise", where people choose their favourite Easter hymn and speak briefly about why they have chosen it. Lists will appear in each Church in the next week or so for people to offer their suggestions.

Leading intercessions – could this be for you?

We would like to expand our team of people willing to lead our intercessions. Could God be calling you to this ministry? There will be an introduction and training session at Elmore Church on Saturday 15 April, 3-4.30pm. If you already lead intercessions and would like a refresher, you'd be very welcome too!

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.

TODAY Sunday 12 March (Lent 3)

9.30am Longney: Holy Communion
11.00 Hardwicke: Holy Communion
4pm Elmore: BCP Evensong (Psalm95)
Readings: Exodus 17: 1-7, John 4: 5-42

Week beginning 12 March

Mon 13th, 11am, at Church House, Cornfield Drive: Lent group
Tues 14th: 7.30pm Hardwicke PCC, Church House
Wed 15th, Hardwicke 9.30am Holy Communion
7.30pm Longney PCC, Lords Meade
Fri 17th, 10am Open the Book Planning meeting

Lent group – "enriching our prayer life"

Mondays 11am, sometimes followed by a light lunch. All welcome!

HARDWICKE – New monthly 11am service pattern from March 2023

1st Sunday: simply worship Holy Communion
2nd Sunday: Holy Communion with sung settings
3rd Sunday: Storyteller all-age worship *in Hardwicke school*
4th Sunday: Holy Communion with said settings
5th Sunday (if any) Joint Benefice service, venues vary

The Collect for 12 March, Lent 3

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings for 12 March

Exodus 17: 1-7 – please look this up in your Bible.

John 4: 5-42

Jesus came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' ⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.'¹¹ 'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?' ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?

¹³ Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.'¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.'¹⁶ He told her, 'Go, call your husband and come back.'¹⁷ 'I have no husband,' she replied. Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.'¹⁹ 'Sir,' the woman said, 'I

can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.'

²¹ 'Woman,' Jesus replied, 'believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.'²⁵ The woman said, 'I know that Messiah' (called Christ) 'is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.'²⁶ Then Jesus declared, 'I, the one speaking to you – I am he.

²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, 'What do you want?' or 'Why are you talking with her?'²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ 'Come, see a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Messiah?' ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way towards him.

³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, 'Rabbi, eat something.'³² But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you know nothing about.'³³ Then his disciples said to each other, 'Could someone have brought him food?'

³⁴ 'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest"? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying "One sows and another reaps" is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour.

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I've ever done.'⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.⁴² They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.'