

Next Sunday 2 April (Lent 6, Palm Sunday)

9.30am Elmore Holy Communion

11.00 Hardwicke: Simply Worship Holy Communion

Readings: Philippians 2: 5-11, Matthew 27: 11-54 (dramatised)

PRAYERS PLEASE... for PEACE in Ukraine, South Sudan, West Bank, Haiti, Burkino-Faso, Yemen AND in our Industries and public services

..... for all refugees and asylum seekers

...Thank God for diplomatic relations resuming between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

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

.....*for the family and friends of* Valerie Williams, Tim Longney, Jane Attwooll, Gerald Hayward, Steve Dunlin, Jeanne Pocket

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

..... For Headteacher appointments at Longney and Hardwicke schools

.....*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 26 March (Lent 5, Passion Sunday)

9.30am Longney: Storyteller Holy Communion

11.00 Hardwicke: Holy Communion

4pm Elmore: Evening worship

Readings: Ezekiel 37: 1-14, John 11: 1-7, 17-45

Week beginning 26 March

Mon 27th, 11am, at Church House, Cornfield Drive: Lent group

7.30pm Ministry Team, Church House

Wed 29th, Hardwicke 9.30am Holy Communion

Sat 1st April, 12-3pm, Family Fun day, Hunts Grove school

Holy Week services and events

Palm Sunday 2 April: 9.30am at Elmore, 11am at Hardwicke: Holy Communion

3pm at Hunts Grove school: Messy Church

Monday 3 April, 7.30pm at Hardwicke – Compline

Tues 4 April, 7.30pm at Longney - Compline

Wed 5th April: 9.30am Holy communion,

7.30pm Taize worship (both at Hardwicke)

Maundy Thursday 6th April: 7.30pm Agape meal (Hardwicke),

approx 8.45pm short Agape meal (Longney)

Good Friday 7th April: 11am-12noon Creating Easter garden with childrens' activities (Hardwicke), 2-3pm "The last hour at the cross" (Hardwicke"), 6.30pm "The way of the cross - a Passiontide sequence" (Longney)

Easter Day: 6.15am Dawn service (Hardwicke), 9.30am Holy Communion (Longney), 11am Holy Communion (Hardwicke), 4pm Evening worship (Elmore).

The Collect for 26 March, Passion Sunday

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for 26 March

Ezekiel 37: 1-14 – please look this up in your Bible

John 11: 1-7, 17-45

Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is ill.'

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.'

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles^[a] from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ 'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.'

²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'²⁴ Martha answered, 'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.'

²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'²⁷ 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. 'The Teacher is here,' she said, 'and is asking for you.' ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ 'Where have you laid him?' he asked. 'Come and see, Lord,' they replied.³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'

³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' ³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ 'Take away the stone,' he said.

'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.' ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.'

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.