

Firstly, as people move out of asylum accommodation, they are currently at high risk of homelessness - particularly those who live in Gloucester. There are 2 organisations - *Refugees at Home* and *NightStop* - that can help people to find temporary housing, matching those in need of somewhere to sleep with those willing to give up a spare room on a temporary basis. Hosts are part of an organisation so they are fully vetted, and those seeking housing go through a referral process - so there is a safety net on both sides. If you have a spare room and would like more information about either of these organisations, please look at the following

websites: <https://refugeesathome.org/> and <https://www.gloucestershirenightstop.org.uk/>

The second way that we would appreciate your help, is in donating any kitchen equipment that you no longer have a use for. As clients move into their own homes, they have to find saucepans, kettles, microwaves, cutlery, crockery, etc. If you have anything like this, not being used, in your home - or if you are aware of any house clearances where these items may be looking for a home, then please do consider giving them to GARAS. They will be well-used, and will help someone in their transition into their new life in the UK.

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE... for PEACE in Palestine and Israel, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, Burkino-Faso, Niger, Mali.

..... for all refugees and asylum seekers, especially Rohingya Muslims in Bangladesh, and those who have been kidnapped or taken hostage.

...Thank God for diplomats and peace-keepers.

...for the sick and struggling: Chris and Pam, Sean, Gail, Lesley, Tina, Beryl, Mair, Marion, Philippa, Pauline, Eric

.....for the family and friends of James, Stephanie, Debbie, Patricia, Gerald, Frank.

.....for Longney's re-ordering now in progress, Hardwicke's plans, Elmore's organ replacement.

..... For Headteachers staff and pupils at Longney, Hardwicke and Hunts Grove schools

.....for Jane Edwards in Mozambique. Her latest prayer letter is here:

[1023-Edwards.pdf \(bmsworldmission.org\)](#)

Jane will be speaking at the 11am service at Hardwicke on December 3rd.

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

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

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

Licenced Readers Pat Buckland, Judy Cheshire and Mike Williams

Authorised Leaders of Worship: Neil Hollis and Doff Stone.

Today 19 November (2nd before Advent)

9.30am Elmore: Holy Communion

11.00 Hardwicke school : All-age worship

Readings Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-end, Matthew 25: 14-30

Diary for Week beginning 19 November

Wed 22nd 9.30am Hardwicke: Holy Communion

Sat 26th, 7pm St Mary de Crypt: concert (free entry) by "Ukrainia" and Gloucester and District Christian choir for Christian Aid and the Ukrainian refugee fund

Next Sunday 26 November (next before Advent)

9.30am Longney: Storyteller Holy Communion

1100 Hardwicke: Holy Communion

4pm Elmore: Evening Worship

Readings Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24, Matthew 25: 31-end

From GARAS

In the last couple of months, we have seen a large number of clients receive their Refugee Status. Daily, we get to celebrate with people as they bring in their decision letters, often representing the end of a long and stressful wait. There are 2 consequences of this high level of decisions, that we would like your help with. (*cont'd on back page*)

Collect for the 2nd Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for 19 November

Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-end

Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near.
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated those he has invited.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps
and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs,
who think, "The LORD will do nothing either good or bad."
¹³ Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished.
Though they build houses, they will not live in them;
though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine.'
¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near – near and coming quickly.
The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.
¹⁵ That day will be a day of wrath – a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble
and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness – a day of
trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.
¹⁷ 'I will bring such distress on all people
that they will grope about like those who are blind,
because they have sinned against the LORD.
Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung.
¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath.'
In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed,
for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.

Matthew 25: 14-30

'Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,^[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ 'After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more."

²¹ 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

²² 'The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more." ²³ 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

²⁴ 'Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. "Master," he said, "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."

²⁶ 'His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."