

Christmas services in our Benefice

Wed 13 December, 6.30pm Elmore: Brownies and Guides carols

Thurs 14 Dec, Hardwicke, 7.30pm Carols and readings

Fri 15th, 7.30pm Carols at St Nicholas Court

Sunday 17th, 4pm Hunts Grove school, carol service

6.30pm Elmore: nine Lessons and Carols

Sat 23rd, 3pm Longney: Christingle

Sun 24th: 11am Hardwicke said Communion

4pm Hardwicke: Nativity and Crib service

11.15pm Longney, Midnight Mass

11.15pm Hardwicke, Midnight mass

Mon 25th: 9.30am Elmore: Holy Communion

11am Hardwicke, All-age Holy Communion

No service on Wed 27 December

Sun 31st, 1030am Longney: Benefice New Year service

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, Patricia, Gerald, Frank, Maureen, Jannice

.....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 \(bmsworldmission.org\)](https://www.bmsworldmission.org/1023-Edwards.pdf)

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 Sunday 3 December (Advent Sunday) YEAR B begins

9.30am Elmore: Holy Communion

1100 Hardwicke: Simply Worship Holy Communion,
speaker Jane Edwards

Readings Isaiah 64: 1-9, Mark 13: 24-end

Diary for Week beginning 3 December

Mon 4th, 7.30pm, Church House, Ministry team

Wed 6th 9.30am Hardwicke: Holy Communion

1030 Toddlers Play and Praise

12noon Interment of ashes

Friday 8th, 7pm The Lawns _ 9 lessons and carols

Next Sunday 10 December (Advent 2)

9.30am Longney: Holy Communion

1100 Hardwicke: Holy Communion

1230 Elmore Village Hall – Christmas lunch (sold out, sorry!)

1600 Elmore: Evensong

Readings Isaiah 40: 1-11, Mark 1: 1-8

PLEASE NOTE: the hall at Hardwicke school is out of bounds, for repair, till February.
The 11am services on 17 December and 21 January will be held in the Church.

Collect for Advent Sunday

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings for 3 December

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!
² As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!
³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.
⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.
But when we continued to sin against the you were angry.
How then can we be saved?
⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
⁷ No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to^[b] our sins.
⁸ Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;
do not remember our sins for ever.
Oh, look upon us we pray, for we are all your people.

Mark 13: 24-end

In those days, following that distress,
“the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”^[c]
²⁶ ‘At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great
power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from
the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ ‘Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs get tender
and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when
you see these things happening, you know that it^[d] is near, right at the
door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all
these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my
words will never pass away.

³² ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in
heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert^[e]! You do
not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It’s like a man going away: he leaves
his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task,
and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ ‘Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the
house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when
the cock crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you
sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: “Watch!”’