

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

**..... for all refugees and asylum seekers, and those 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

**.....for the family and friends of** Laura, Nicolas, Sue, Hugh.

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

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

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

[1223-Edwards.pdf \(bmsworldmission.org\)](https://www.bmsworldmission.org/1223-Edwards.pdf)

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

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

### **Prayers of Love & Faith: Conversation in the middle ground**

Since 17th December 2023, the Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) have been commended for use in regular scheduled services. For some this has been received with joy, and others have not welcomed this, and a range of strong views have been expressed. In the Diocese of Gloucester, the Bishops have made a commitment to treat all theological views and life experiences with care and respect. For those yet to come to a settled view, or who want to keep asking questions, there has not been much opportunity for an open conversation space.

This evening gathering – Prayers of Love and Faith: Conversation in the middle ground – is for those (clergy & lay) who would identify as occupying middle ground and would appreciate a safe space to ask questions, express their hopes and fears, and grow in confidence in articulating their own convictions. It will be held under Chatham House rules ('What is said in the room stays in the room') and give an opportunity to hear from Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert, as well as small group conversation.

When: Tuesday 30th January 2024 from 7-8.30pm

Where: St Catharine's Church, London Road, Gloucester GL2 0RR

Main aims: To give those who are holding genuine questions about where they stand on PLF: • a place to know they are not alone, • that their voices are important in the process, • and to give confidence in articulating their perspective.

No booking required. For practical questions about the evening, please email: Su Chard (Deanery Administrator) [gloscitydeanery@gmail.com](mailto:gloscitydeanery@gmail.com)

## **Benefice of Hardwicke and Elmore with Longney**

[www.hardwicke-elmore-longney.church](http://www.hardwicke-elmore-longney.church)

**Priest-in-Charge** Rev Richard Martin 01452 720015

[vicar@hardwicke-elmore-longney.church](mailto: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 21 January (Epiphany 3)**

9.30am Elmore: Holy Communion

11am Hardwicke IN CHURCH: All-age worship

Readings: Genesis 14: 17-20, John 2: 1-11

6pm Deanery service, St Catharine's London Road

**PLEASE NOTE!** The hall at Hardwicke school is out of bounds for repair. The 11am service today is being held in Church, and so will be the one on 18 February.

### **Week beginning 21 January**

Wed 24th 9.30am Hardwicke: Holy Communion

### **Next Sunday 28 January (Epiphany 4, kept as Candlemas)**

9.30am Longney: Storyteller Holy Communion

11am Hardwicke: Holy Communion

4pm Elmore: Evening Worship

Readings: Malachi 3: 1-5, Luke 2: 22-40

### **Refugees and Asylum seekers**

Many of these folk are being granted leave to remain and are leaving hotels. They often have nowhere to go. **You can help** by offering a spare room in your home on a short-term basis (say 3 months). You will receive payment from Gloucestershire CC. For more details please email [hfr@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:hfr@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

### Collect for Epiphany 3

God of all mercy,  
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,  
release to the captives,  
and freedom to the oppressed:  
anoint us with your Holy Spirit  
and set all your people free  
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

### Readings for 21 January

#### Genesis 14: 17-20

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

<sup>18</sup> Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, <sup>19</sup> and he blessed Abram, saying,

'Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

<sup>20</sup> And praise be to God Most High,  
who delivered your enemies into your hand.'  
Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

#### John 2: 1-11

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, <sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.'

<sup>4</sup> 'Woman,<sup>[a]</sup> why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.'

<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

<sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim.

<sup>8</sup> Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.'

They did so, <sup>9</sup> and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside <sup>10</sup> and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.'

<sup>11</sup> What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.