

**YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE...** for PEACE in Palestine and Israel, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, Yemen, Ecuador, the Sahel region.

..... 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, Lesley, Tina, Beryl, Mair, Marion, Philippa, Pauline

.....**for the family and friends** of Nicolas, Sue, Hugh, Dennis, Colin, Gail.

.....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 blog is here:**

<https://janeinmozambique.wordpress.com/2024/01/28/we-buy-used-car-batteries/>

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

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

### 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)

The Charity of Ann Edwards provides almshouses to people with an active Christian faith and who are in necessitous circumstances. Most of the properties are based in Abbeydale, Gloucester. Resources Committee has set up a sub-committee for the Charity, which meets four or five times a year, either at Church House or online. This group makes recommendations to Resources Committee on the management of the properties including maintenance, investments, resident appointments and resident wellbeing. We are looking for a few more people to become members of this sub-committee, to bring additional skills and experience to the group – we would like our Committee to be more representative of the people that we serve, so would particularly welcome applications from women and people from a Black or Minority Ethnic background. Members can be lay or ordained. It would be beneficial for members to be from within the Gloucester Deanery, but we are happy to consider people from further afield too! If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Kathryn Warner for an initial chat on 01452 835529 or [kwarnar@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:kwarnar@glosdioc.org.uk)

## 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 11 February (next before Lent)

9.30am Longney Holy Communion

11am Hardwicke: Holy Communion

Readings 2 Kings 2: 1-12, Mark 9: 2-9

4pm Elmore Evening Worship "A celebration of love"

Reading 1 John 3: 16-20

### Week beginning 11 February

Ash Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Hardwicke: said Holy Communion + ashing

7.30pm Elmore: said Holy Communion + ashing

Thurs 15 Feb: 2pm service at the Lawns

3pm Lent Group, Church House

Sat 17<sup>th</sup>, 10-12noon Coffee morning, Church House

### Next Sunday 18 February (Lent 1)

9.30am Elmore Holy Communion

11am Hardwicke (Church not school) : All-age worship

Readings Genesis 9: 8-17, Mark 1: 9-15

### Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 14 February.

There will be a service of holy Communion with ashing at Hardwicke at

9.30am. Lent groups will meet at Church House on Wednesdays

7.30pm and Thursdays 3pm

Dates of APCMs Hardwicke 14 April 12noon, Elmore 21 April 1030am Longney  
28 April 1030am

Collect for Sunday before Lent

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Readings for Sunday before Lent at Longney and Hardwicke

2 Kings 2: 1-12

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel.

<sup>3</sup>The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, 'Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?' 'Yes, I know,' Elisha replied, 'so be quiet.'<sup>4</sup> Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho.'

And he replied, 'As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So they went to Jericho.<sup>5</sup> The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, 'Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?' 'Yes, I know,' he replied, 'so be quiet.'<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' And he replied, 'As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them walked on.

<sup>7</sup>Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?'

Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,' Elisha replied.<sup>10</sup> 'You have asked a difficult thing,' Elijah said, 'yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours – otherwise, it will not.'

<sup>11</sup>As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. <sup>12</sup>Elisha saw this and cried out, 'My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!' And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

Mark 9: 2-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. <sup>3</sup>His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup>Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' <sup>6</sup>(He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!'<sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Reading at Elmore 1 John 3: 16-20

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup>If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup>Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

<sup>19</sup>This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup>if our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.