

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

..... for all refugees and asylum seekers, those kidnapped and hostages.

...for the sick and struggling: Chris and Pam, Sean, Lesley, Tina, Colin, Mair, Marion, Philippa, Pauline, Becci, Jess, Claire and John (x2), Mark, Jade, Eve, Paul.

.....for the family and friends of Gail, Rosie, Graham, Judy, Jim, Diana, Rev Betty Humphries

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

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

.....for Jane Edwards in Mozambique. Her latest prayer letter is here:- [0224-Edwards.pdf \(bmsworldmission.org\)](#)

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

Please use the newly revised Benefice Prayer diary. It is on our website and paper copies are available in each Church

Dates of APCMs Elmore 21 April 1030am, Longney 28 April 1030am

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is an important marker on our spiritual journey. It is a public confession of faith for anyone over the age of 12, stating that you wish to "confirm" the promises made for you by your godparents at your baptism. It centres on a prayer for the Holy Spirit to be at work in your life. After confirmation you become a full member of the Church of England, able to receive Holy Communion (and sit on the PCC!)

Bishop Robert will be confirming candidates from our Benefice at Elmore on Sunday 16 June, 3pm. There will also be the chance for adults to be baptised, if they weren't in childhood, and for people brought up in another denomination (eg Roman Catholic) to be 'received' into the Church of England.

This is a significant step and careful preparation is needed. **A group will meet at Elmore church for 10 weeks, beginning on Sunday 21 April at 2.30pm.** We will be exploring Christian teaching using as our framework the Holy Communion service. All are welcome, whether as a candidate, an enquirer, or because you want to refresh the teaching you had before. Please pray about whether God is calling you to join the group. By doing so you are not committing to being confirmed.

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.

Please take this sheet away with you

Today Sunday 21 April, Easter 4

9.30am Elmore, Holy Communion followed by APCM

11.00 Hardwicke School – all age-worship,

Readings Acts 4: 5-12, John 10: 11-18

2.30pm Elmore: Confirmation group

Week beginning 21 April

Tues 23rd: 11.30 Longney: school reception class visit

Wednesday 24th, 9.30am Hardwicke Holy Communion

Next Sunday 28 April, Easter 5

9.30am Longney, Holy Communion followed by APCM

11.00 Hardwicke, Holy Communion

4pm Elmore: Evening worship

Readings Acts 8: 26-end, John 15: 1-8

2.30pm Elmore: Confirmation group

Collect for Easter 4

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

Readings for Easter 4

Acts 4: 5-12

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: 'By what power or what name did you do this?'

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.”^[a]

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.'

John 10: 11-18

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ 'I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.'