

**YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE...** for PEACE in Palestine and Israel, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, Lebanon, 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 \(bmsworldmission.org\)](https://www.bmsworldmission.org/Edwards.pdf)

.....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**

**PLEASE pray too for our confirmation candidates as they prepare for the service on June 16<sup>th</sup> (3pm, Elmore)**



**JOIN OUR TEAM**

**HUNTS GROVE AND HARDWICKE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES**

Fluff it. Duff it. Score it. Smash it. Whatever you do, just give it a go. That's our motto to sport and to life. We're for jumping right in and going on new adventures together, as a team.

We're a Christian faith based charity passionate about building a network of fun-loving sport and faith groups where everyone is invited to try different sports, make new friends and explore what life is all about.

Join us as a volunteer coach or team member in Hunts Grove and Hardwicke.

**WILL YOU JOIN TEAM SPORTILY?**

As a valued member of the team you'll get involved in helping to run fantastically fun, high quality sports sessions for children, young people and families. You don't need to be a qualified coach or sports professional, you just need to be willing to get stuck in helping everyone to give it a go.

Will you give it a go?

**FIND OUT MORE**  
Contact Tim Fletcher  
[tim.fletcher@sportily.org.uk](mailto:tim.fletcher@sportily.org.uk)  
07949 112325



[www.sportily.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.sportily.org.uk/volunteering)

All volunteering appointments are made under a Safer Recruitment processes and are subject to an Enhanced level DBS check.



## **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.

**Please take this sheet away with you**

### **Today 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

### **Week beginning 28 April**

Wednesday 1 May Hardwicke 9.30am Holy Communion

**NO** 10.30 Toddler play and praise (*moved to May*

*8<sup>th</sup>*)

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> – election Day – Longney Church in use all day

### **Next Sunday 5 May, Easter 6**

9.30am Elmore, Holy Communion

11.00 Hardwicke, Holy Communion

Readings Acts 10: 44-end, John 15: 9-17

1pm Hardwicke: Baptisms

2.30pm Elmore: Confirmation group

### **Collect for Easter 5**

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
    you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Readings for Easter 5**

#### Acts 8: 26-end

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian<sup>[a]</sup> eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means 'queen of the Ethiopians'). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. <sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.'

<sup>30</sup> Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. 'Do you understand what you are reading?' Philip asked.

<sup>31</sup> 'How can I,' he said, 'unless someone explains it to me?' So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

'He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,

so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.'<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, 'Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?' <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptised?' <sup>[c]</sup> <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

#### John 15: 1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.