

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

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

...for the sick and struggling: Chris and Pam, Tina, Marion, Jade, Becci, Claire, Eve, Jessica, Karen and Keith, Carrie, Joyce, Katie and Lucas, Lesley, Denise, Mike, Steve, Sean, Eric, Dee, Jen, Sally

.....for the family and friends of Max, Evelyn, Don, Matthew

.....Hardwicke's plans, Elmore's new organ, Longney urgent roof repairs

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

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

[Newsletter Download | BMS World Mission](#)

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

GIVE THANKS Longney's re-ordering and Church heating is COMPLETED!

.... But now please pray for Urgent roof repairs there

New Benefice Prayer - Paper copies are in each Church

Electoral Rolls

Every 6 years Electoral Rolls have to be completely re-written. 2025 is one of those years! Whether or not you are currently on your Church's roll, if you'd like to be on the new one, you must fill in a form by the due date. Many thanks to Pat, Sue and Will who will be collating the forms and producing the new Rolls.

Dates for your diary

Sat 8 Feb, 10-1230, Hardwicke Coffee morning

– and then the 2nd Saturday every month.

Thurs 13th February, 7.30 – 9.00pm in the Church Centre at St Lawrence

Barnwood. Christian author Jo Swinney has written a wonderful Lent book exploring the full scope of God's redeeming work in Christ: **"The Whole Easter Story – Why the Cross is Good News for all Creation"**. She will be coming to St Lawrence Barnwood to discuss the themes of her book, together with her colleague Jo Herbert James from [A Rocha UK](#). All welcome, no need to book.

Friday 9 May, Hardwicke Skittles evening, RBL club, Green Lane

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 Priests Revd George Parfitt (currently on Sabbatical)

Rev'd Duncan Hutchison, on secondment from Hucclecote

Licenced Readers Pat Buckland and Judy Cheshire

Authorised Leaders of Worship: Neil Hollis and Doff Stone.

Pioneer Sports Minister: Tim Fletcher

Please take this sheet home and use it for your prayers and Bible study

Today Sunday 2 February, Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

9.30am Elmore: Holy Communion

11am Hardwicke: Simply Worship Holy Communion

Readings: Hebrews 2: 14-end, Luke 2:22-40

Week beginning 2 February

Mon 3rd, 7.30pm Church House, Ministry Team

Wed 5th, 9.30am Hardwicke: Holy Communion

10.30am Pre-schoolers' play and praise

Sat 8th, 2pm Elmore; Blessing of Marriage

Sunday 9 February, 4th Sunday before Lent

9.30am Longney: Holy Communion

11am Hardwicke: Holy Communion

4pm Elmore: Evensong (Psalm 138)

Readings: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11, Luke 5: 1-11

Confirmation 2025

If you are not confirmed and feel this is the right time to take that important step in your Christian journey, I will soon begin preparing candidates (for a service on Sunday 6 April). Please be in touch and we can arrange a convenient day/time/place to meet, starting in February.

Collect for 2 February, Presentation of Christ in the temple

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

Readings for 2 February

Hebrews 2: 14-end

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants.

¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, ^[k] fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord’ ^[a]), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: ‘a pair of doves or two young pigeons’ ^[b].

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in

the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹ ‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss ^[c] your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.’

³³ The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. ^[d] She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.