

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

...for PEACE in the world especially where people are fighting and suffering and dying, for refugees and asylum seekers, for those kidnapped and hostages.

... *please pray for:* Libby, Tina, Jane, Karen, Mike and Marion, Eve, Sean, Sharon, Paul, Llawela, Andrew B, Paul M, Grahame, Nadia, Georgina, Autumn and parents Shauna and Pascal

....*for the family and friends* of those who have died especially over this festive season.

... for The Benefice vacancy and the appointing of a new priest.

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

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

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

Benefice Prayer Diary- Paper copies are in each Church

Dates for your diary.

10th January Hardwicke Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12.30 please come and join us for a coffee, cake and a chat

Pray for Gloucester - to join in / find out more click on
<http://www.pray4gloucester.uk>

Anything for the newsletter to vannessa_moore@yahoo.co.uk by Monday if possible

Benefice of Hardwicke and Elmore with Longney

www.hardwicke-elmore-longney.church

Priest-in-Charge vacancy, vicar@hardwicke-elmore-longney.church and 01452 720015 are still in use

Assistant Priest Revd George Parfitt

Licenced Reader Judy Cheshire

Reader in Training Richard Flower

Authorised Leaders of Worship: Neil Hollis, Doff Stone

Justine Sullivan and Linda Cook

Pioneer Sports Minister: Tim Fletcher

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

Today 4th January The second Sunday of Christmas

9.30am - Elmore Holy Communion

11.00am – Hardwicke Simply Worship

Week beginning 4th January

6th January Tuesday Prayer Group at Pam's 10.30

10th January Hardwicke Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12.30

Next Sunday – 11th January 1st Sunday of Epiphany

9.30am Elmore Holy Communion

11.00am Hardwicke Holy Communion

Readings Acts 10 v 34 – 43 Matthew 3 v 13 – end

Collect for – Sunday 4th January

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ;
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holt Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Reading Ephesians 3 v 3 – 14

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities

in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. For this reason I kneel before the Father,

Gospel Matthew 2 v 1 – 12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.