

# Longney & Elmore Community Newsletter

## March & April 2018

Produced by Longney & Elmore Churches



### Issue 51

Please send copy for the May / June 2018 edition to [vicarage@inbox.com](mailto:vicarage@inbox.com)  
by Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> 2018.

---

## COUNTDOWN



The countdown to Easter that we call Lent is now well under way and your local churches offer a variety of ways to make the season of Lent special. In addition to our regular Sunday Services we encourage our congregations to take part in:

**Lent Lunches supporting Christian Aid**  
every Thursday in Lent from 12.30pm

**Lent Coffee Morning and House Prayers**  
every Friday in Lent from 11.00am

**Random Acts of Kindness in Lent** - we promote a weekly RAK for everyone to use. See our website for more details.

**Lent Book and Coffee Group for Study** - "The Things He Carried" by Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford with sharing group on Wednesdays at 1.00pm venue and dates by arrangement. This book is a series of powerfully written and very thought provoking descriptions of how Christ must have felt on Good Friday.

In the first chapter Bishop Stephen Cottrell describes the weight of the cross piece that Jesus carried to Calvary. Anyone who has carried a really heavy load, a weight which presses down on them, a weight that is either physical or mental or spiritual, will know the feeling when our human strength begins to fail and we stagger and fall. Jesus knew that unyielding weight as He journeyed towards the Cross. Physically he was incapable of supporting the weight of the cross-piece and fell. Mentally he faced what lay ahead, the wrenching, agonising hours of crucifixion. Spiritually he endured anything but a calm, prayerful, beautiful, meditative experience - it was literally Hell.

That is the stuff of which our Saviour is made – He understands!

# Church Services in Longney and Elmore March and April 2018

## **Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup> – Lent 3** **“Christ the Stumbling Block”**

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church 9.30am

## **Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup> – Lent 4 and Mothering Sunday** **“The Holy Family” (Longney) and “Christ the Saviour” (Elmore)**

Parish Eucharist at Longney Church 9.30am  
Sung Evensong at Elmore Church 3.00pm

## **Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup> – Lent 5** **“Christ the Great High Priest”**

Short Eucharist and APCM at Elmore Church 9.30am

## **Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday** **“Christ enters Jerusalem”**

“Storyteller” Eucharist at Longney Church 9.30am  
Evensong with Hymns at Elmore Church 4.00pm

## **Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup> – Easter Sunday** **“Alleluia! Christ is Risen!”**

Said Eucharist at Longney 8.00am  
Festival Eucharist at Elmore Church 9.30am

## **Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday after Easter** **“The Risen Christ appears to Thomas”**

Parish Eucharist at Longney Church 9.30am  
Sung Evensong at Elmore Church 4.00pm

## **Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> – Easter 3** **“The Risen Christ appears in Jerusalem”**

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church 9.30am

## **Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Easter 4** **“Good Shepherd Sunday”**

Short Eucharist and APCM at Longney Church 9.30am  
Evensong with Hymns at Elmore Church 4.00pm

## **Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> – Easter 5** **“An Ethiopian is converted and baptised”**

Café Church at Hardwicke Primary Academy 10.45am  
All welcome to this informal service

# Holy Week Services 2018

Following in Jesus' footsteps on the Way of the Cross from Jerusalem to Calvary, from the Upper Room to the Tomb ... and beyond !



## **Holy Monday March 26<sup>th</sup>**

A sequence of prayers and readings at Elmore 7.30pm

## **Holy Tuesday March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Quiet Day at Elmore Church 10.30am – 2.30pm drop in / leave when you wish  
Parish Family Passover at Church House, Hardwicke 7.30pm

## **Holy Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup>**

Communion Service at Hardwicke Church 9.30am  
Taize Style Service at Hardwicke Church 7.30pm

## **Maundy Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup>**

The Agape Meal at Hardwicke Church 7.30pm

## **Good Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Good Friday Walk with the Cross from 12 noon  
The "Last Hour Service" at Hardwicke Church from 2.00pm  
"The Road to the Cross" at Elmore Church 6.30pm

## **Holy Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup>**

First Easter Service at Hardwicke Church (quiet & beautiful) 8.00pm

## **Easter Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup> – Alleluia Christ is Risen !**

### **Sunrise Service and Breakfast at Hardwicke Church 6.15am**

We greet the sunrise of the Resurrection Day with a special early morning service held outside the doors of Hardwicke Church to sing and pray-in the dawn of Easter Day.

**Said Eucharist at Longney 8.00am**

**Festival Eucharist at Elmore 9.30am**

**Family Eucharist with Junior Choir at Hardwicke 11.00am**

*imagination*

**Opening new paths to faith**  
**Encouraging new and courageous ways of**  
**worshipping, in different places, which connect with more**  
**people, by the Revd Kim Brown, Pioneer Minister**

Our remit as a group has been to discover ways in which we can help our churches to take out the message to where people are. Since we started work, we have learned, with joy, of the many different ways that churches in the Diocese are already doing that.

Our group feels passionate about helping the church discover new and courageous ways of worshipping - because some people are very unlikely to ever come across our thresholds, no matter how friendly and welcoming we are. Some may need a very clear invitation, others need to attend something at a different time of the week than Sunday, others might come along to try something new and others still might connect with us in town centres, pubs or schools if we gave them the opportunity to do so.

Some good examples include the new Resolve groups started in January by some of our churches which have attracted dozens of new people to improve their health and lifestyles together in a group setting. One village tried a "Beer and Hymns" event for the first time this January and most of the village turned out to sing together. An urban church in Cheltenham runs a "Welly Church" where families can get out into nature together.

We are launching a webpage soon sharing many of these stories to encourage and inspire others to try new things that are appropriate to where they are, and to be able to find support and people to talk to about how to do it.

The Holy Spirit is the creative force that leads and guides us, as we pray and consider together how to reach out into our communities and bring good news to those who wouldn't otherwise hear it.

**Baptism (Christening) or Weddings:** phone Fr. Andrew 01452 720015

**Email:** vicarage@inbox.com      **Facebook** @ElmoreParishChurch

**Our Websites:** www.elmorechurch.info and www.longneychurch.info