

Longney & Elmore Community Newsletter November & December 2018

Produced by Longney & Elmore Churches



Issue 55

Please send copy for the January / February 2019 edition to vicarage@inbox.com
by Sunday December 16th 2018.



Advent to Christmas 2018

The Season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 2nd and a new horizon lies before us, we begin to look towards the Nativity, the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Long ago, the Jewish people looked for the arrival of their Messiah, the one who would be God's anointed leader and rescuer and in the birth of Jesus, Christians recognize these hopes fulfilled. Christmas is one of the key messages of the Christian Gospel, God is one with us, touching human lives in person!

But for now, this is the time for turning.

The leaves are beginning to turn from green to red to orange.

The birds are beginning to turn, heading toward the south.

The animals are beginning to turn to storing food for the winter.

For leaves, birds and animals, turning comes instinctively.

But for us, turning does not come so easily.

It takes an act of will for us to make a turn.

It means breaking old habits.

It means starting all over again.

And this is always painful.

It means recognizing that we have the ability to change.

These things are terribly hard to do.

But unless we turn,

we will be trapped forever in yesterday's ways.

Church Services in Longney and Elmore

November and December 2018

Unless otherwise publicised the regular service pattern is:

1st and 3rd Sunday of the month – Parish Eucharist at Elmore 9.30am
2nd and 4th Sunday of the month – Eucharist at Longney 9.30am
2nd and 4th Sunday of the month – Evensong at Elmore 4.00pm

5th Sunday of the month – no service at Elmore or Longney

In November there are special seasonal services...

Sunday November 4th – All Souls Annual Requiem

This will be at Hardwicke Church at 3.00pm, during this service those whose funerals have been held in our three churches in the past 12 months will be remembered in prayer.

Sunday November 11th – Remembrance Sunday

On this 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War our morning service with wreath laying is at Longney at 9.30am

We will lay our remembrance wreath at the Elmore War Memorial at 3.30pm.

This will be followed by the Elmore Church bells being rung and at 4.00pm a special Sung Evensong with our Church Choir.

Our Christmas celebrations are as follows:

Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols Service

At Longney Church on Sunday December 16th at 6.30pm

Longney & Elmore Church Choir Carols Evening

At Elmore Village Hall on Thursday December 20th at 7.30pm

Midnight Mass will be at Elmore Church this year

On Christmas Eve, Monday December 24th, at 11.15pm

Christmas Day Service

Parish Eucharist at Longney at 9.30am

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

Email: vicarage@inbox.com

Vicar's Viewpoint

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The Twelve Days of Christmas...are the twelve days between Christmas Day and the Epiphany on January 6th, which is when the three Wise Men supposedly arrived on the scene.

Most people know of The Twelve Days of Christmas from the song of that name which comes with an amazing assortment of people and animals.

There is a partridge in a pear tree, turtle doves, French hens, calling birds, golden rings, geese a-laying, swans a-swimming, maids a-milking, ladies dancing, Lords a-leaping, pipers piping and drummers drumming.

According to "*A Celebration and History*" by Leigh Grant, the written lyrics to "The Twelve Days of Christmas" first appeared in "*Mirth without Mischief*" in the early 1780s in England.

The tune to which these words are sung apparently dates back much further, it came from France and was a type of memory game played by children. A leader recited the first verse, the next child recited the second verse, and so on until someone missed a verse and had to pay some kind of penalty in the game. Contrary to some theories and urban myths, there was no religious significance.

December is the month of our preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Christ, we well know that our Christmas celebrations are a real mixture of religious and secular tradition with some having their origins way before the Christian faith came to these shores.

If you are a believer in Jesus, don't be sidetracked by the secular trappings of the festival, they don't give the true meaning of the season!

Offer your worship in Church at the Carol Service or the Midnight Mass, be sure to focus on the heart of the celebration which is God's love in Jesus, as well as enjoying the other traditions which warm the turn of the year.

Fr. Andrew-

Vicar of Hardwicke and Elmore with Longney

Baptism (Christening) or Weddings: 01452 720015 **Email:** vicarage@inbox.com

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

November 2018

faith Living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ

We will remember them

This month marks the centenary of the end of WWI. Among the many physical reminders of the Great War are countless memorials inside and outside churches together with rolls of honour which record the names of men and women who gave their lives. Remembering the end of what was sometimes called 'the War to end all wars', the Church of England has launched new worship and prayer resources to mark the this date. On 11 November, bells will ring out in unison from churches and cathedrals in villages, towns and cities across the country. Find all the resources and information at churchofengland.org/first-world-war-centenary

A prayer for the way of peace and reconciliation

Lord, strengthen our hearts, hands, and minds, to work together for peace; to see you in one another; and to seek your kingdom above all things; that your will may be done, and your Kingdom come, through Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords and King of kings. Amen.

Christingle: 50 years of helping children

This year the Children's Society Christingle marks 50 years since the very first Christingle service in this country. Everyone is invited to join in the celebrations to make the 50th anniversary the biggest for Christingle yet. The money raised helps support vulnerable young people living with a range of serious issues including violence, abuse, neglect and poverty.



You can get free resources including Christingle Messy Church, collection envelopes, candles and red tape from christingle.org/shop or call 0300 300 7000 for more information.