

# Longney & Elmore Community Newsletter

January and February 2016

Produced by Longney & Elmore Churches



## Issue 38

We are grateful to all our distributors for making this newsletter possible. Please note that space does not always permit inclusion of every article submitted but we will do our best. Please send copy for the March / April 2016 edition to vicarage@inbox.com by Sunday February 21<sup>st</sup> 2016.

Hello my  
name is:

The Naming of people is a difficult matter.  
It isn't just one of those holiday games!  
You may think I'm as mad as a hatter  
When I tell you, we all have

### **Three Different Names.**

First of all, there's the name that the neighbours use daily,  
Such as Betty, Isobella, Robert or James,  
Such as Susan or Jonathan, John or Bill Caldwell.  
All of them sensible everyday names.

There are fancier names if you think they sound sweeter,  
Some for the gentlemen, some for the dames:  
Such as Doctor, Reverend, Lady, or Sir.  
But all of them sensible everyday names.

But above and beyond there's still one name left over,  
And that is the name that you never will guess;  
The name that no science research can discover.  
But each of us knows, and will never confess.

When you notice a person in sacred devotion,  
The reason, I tell you, is always the same:  
Their life is engaged in a heavenly notion  
Of the doing, the realizing of their name.

A sharing, a deep and real example.  
A clearly beautiful demonstration  
Of their name.

# Church Services in Longney and Elmore January and February 2016

## **Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Epiphany Sunday**

*“The Arrival of the Wisemen”*

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church 9.30am

## **Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany 1**

*“The Baptism of Christ”*

“Storyteller” Eucharist at Longney Church 9.30am

Evensong at Elmore Church 3.00pm

## **Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany 2**

*“Jesus’ first miracle at a wedding in Cana”*

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church 9.30am

## **Sunday January 24<sup>th</sup> – Education Sunday**

*“Praying for our School”*

“Cafe Church Style” Eucharist in Longney School 9.30am

Evensong with Hymns at Elmore Church 3.00pm

## **Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup> – Candlemas Sunday**

*“The Presentation of Christ in the Temple”*

No Service at Elmore or Longney today

“Cafe Church Style” Eucharist in Hardwicke School 11.00am

## **Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup> – Sunday before Lent**

*“Transfiguration and Transformation”*

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church 9.30am

## **Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday**

*“The Beginning of Lent”*

Eucharist with Ashing at Longney Church 9.30am

Eucharist with Ashing at Hardwicke Church 7.30pm



## **Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> – Lent 1**

*“Lent Theme – Decide for God”*

Parish Eucharist at Longney Church 9.30am

Evensong at Elmore Church 3.00pm

## **Sunday February 21<sup>st</sup> – Lent 2**

*“Lent Theme – Stand firm in faith”*

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church 9.30am

## **Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup> – Lent 3**

*“Lent Theme – Live for God”*

“Storyteller” Eucharist at Longney Church 9.30am

Evensong at Elmore Church 3.00pm

# The Epiphany Season

As the last moments of the year 2015 sped by across the world, people spent time partying, meeting together in family groups and (security considerations permitting) in huge gatherings in city centres. The sheer volume of fireworks that greeted the New Year could well have increased the rate of global warming considerably!



As the New Year 2016 begins, the Christmas celebrations in Church give way for something rather different, something called “Epiphany”.

These days Epiphany is usually celebrated on the nearest Sunday, this year January 3<sup>rd</sup>, when the “Wise Men” arrive at the manger with their gifts of Gold for a King, Incense for a Priest and Myrrh prefiguring Jesus’ early death.

The word Epiphany is hardly used in modern day speech except for one important sense...

“a moment when you suddenly feel that you understand,  
or suddenly become conscious of something,  
that is very important to you”.

I really don’t understand why this should be, or even how it happens, but it is possible for a person to be really hostile to the Christian faith (and there is a lot of that about nowadays) and then suddenly to have an Epiphany moment when they realise that it is REAL.

Or it is possible for someone to be what is sometimes called a “cradle Christian” - they have been brought up in a nominally Christian family, have come to believe there is a God and that Jesus is (generally speaking) a “good thing” but have kept arms length away from the church, except for hatches, matches and dispatches for most of their life. Until... something happens and they have a sudden realisation that they must respond to the Gospel. They have an Epiphany Moment!

This is the most amazing and often unexpected experience and frequently turns someone’s life totally around – it is the Christian Way!

Fr. Andrew-

# The Bishop of Gloucester

Before Christmas Bishop Rachel wrote to the clergy sharing her experience so far and some hopes for the future, here are some extracts:

As I reach the three-month mark as Bishop and celebrate my first Christmas in Gloucester, I continue to give thanks to God for the privilege of being here and serving among you. The diversity of our Diocese is a real joy.



Just recently I was visiting clergy in the Cirencester Deanery acquiring mud on my boots and travelling between tiny villages amidst stunning scenery; yet in the same week I also visited GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) in the Barton Street part of urban Gloucester - a very different setting from those very rural villages. At GARAS I met people from all over the world - including Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan - who receive welcome and support from this amazing charity in our midst. GARAS will be playing a key role in welcoming and settling Syrian refugees as they arrive here over the next few months.

I have now visited four deaneries: Cheltenham, Gloucester City, Forest South and Cirencester. It has been wonderful to meet the clergy in their homes, as well as many others from across the deaneries. My thanks go to all of you for the warmth of welcome, hospitality and openness. I am very much looking forward to completing my deanery visits over the coming months...

One of the challenges all of us face, is how we continue to maintain all that is good and life-giving in the way we worship and serve God, whilst at the same time having the courage to explore doing things differently in ways which convey the transformational truth and blessing of the Good News of Christ to those who have different cultural references, or who grew up with challenges and fears different from our own. As I have travelled the Diocese, I am only too aware of some of the tensions this creates, and I have been hugely encouraged by the way so many of you are grappling with these issues and keeping the Kingdom of God firmly in sight...

It might be helpful to note now that there will be an emphasis on praying for the Diocese in those significant days from Ascension to Pentecost (5 – 15 May). The real hope is that we will be able to have a significant and creative day of prayer in the Cathedral on Ascension Day to which all across the Diocese will be invited. Please do allow for this in your diary.

+ Rachel