

# Longney & Elmore Community Newsletter

November and December 2016

Produced by Longney & Elmore Churches



## Issue 43

We are grateful to all our distributors for making this newsletter possible. Please send copy for the January / February 2017 edition to [vicarage@inbox.com](mailto:vicarage@inbox.com) by Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup> 2016.



## Advent and Christmas

Nearly everyone in England (apart from absolute Atheists and Jehovah's Witnesses) keeps Christmas in some way or another even if it has become, for many, a purely secular celebration. Advent is a different matter altogether; in fact few people outside the life of the Church know what Advent is (other than a kind of countdown to Christmas made popular by Blue Peter on TV long ago and by various non-religious Advent Calendars in the shops these days).

Advent is to Christmas what Lent is to Easter – a preparation time, even a kind of countdown – but there is more to it than that. The season of Advent is an opportunity to recognise two important things about “The Christmas Event”:

**Firstly that Christmas was prepared for over generations** – until the right time came for Christ to be born in Bethlehem. The preparation involved the Patriarchs and Prophets of the Old Testament, John the Baptist who formed the link between the Old Testament and the New Testament and Mary the mother of Jesus, without whose faith in God Christmas would not have happened at all.

**Secondly, the arrival of Jesus in Bethlehem was foretold** - the first reference to the birth of Christ is located in the first book of the bible called Genesis, the origins of which almost go back into pre-history. Indeed there are reckoned to be thousands of prophecies of the arrival of Christ in the manger in the Old Testament. His birth, right down to the last detail, was foretold between 1450 BC and 430 BC!

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and all the armies that have ever marched, all the navies that have ever sailed, all the parliaments that have ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on earth as powerfully as that one solitary life.

# Church Services in Longney and Elmore

## November and December 2016

### Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> – 3 before Advent

“The life to come”

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church 9.30am

Holy Baptism at Elmore Church 2.00pm

### Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Sunday

“We will remember them”



Parish Eucharist at Longney Church 9.30am

Remembrance Service at Elmore War Memorial 3.00pm

Sung Evensong at Elmore Church 3.30pm

### Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> – Christ the King

“The Servant King”

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church 9.30am

### Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup> - Longney Coffee Morning



In Church from 10am to 12noon including the usual stalls  
and the Annual Prize Draw with huge cash prizes

### Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> – Advent Sunday

“A new church year begins”



# Advent

“Storyteller” Eucharist at Longney Church 9.30am

Holy Baptism at Elmore Church 2.00pm

Evensong with Hymns at Elmore Church 3.00pm

**Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> – Advent 2**

**“Prophets and Patriarchs”**

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church 9.30am

**Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> – Advent 3**

**“John the Baptist”**

Parish Eucharist at Longney Church 9.30am

Sung Evensong at Elmore Church 3.00pm

**Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> – Advent 4**

**“Mary the Mother of Jesus”**

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church 9.30am

Lessons & Carols Service at Longney Church 6.30pm



**Thursday December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Longney & Elmore Choir Carols at Elmore Village Hall 7.30pm

**Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve**

**“The Birth of Jesus”**

Midnight Mass at Elmore Church begins at 11.15pm



**Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day**

**“The Birth of Jesus”**

Parish Eucharist at Longney Church 9.30am

**Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 – Christmas 1**

**“The Naming of Jesus”**

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church 9.30am

# News and Notices

## Whist Drives at Elmore Village Hall – on Saturdays at 2.00pm

November 12<sup>th</sup>. *Brenda Lovell*

## ECO Champions

A new scheme called “Eco Church” is offering an easy step-by-step approach to care for God’s creation. Through a simple online system, EcoChurch guides churches through their relationship with wider creation, under the headings of Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land; Community and Global and Lifestyle.

The church can celebrate areas where there is already progress being made, and identify key areas for additional attention. Churches can earn bronze, silver and gold awards, making this accessible to all churches, whether you are just beginning to explore these issues or have an established environmental commitment. See [www.greengloucestershire.org.uk](http://www.greengloucestershire.org.uk)

## Supporting church building in Tanzania

£30k donated in the 2015 Episcopal Collections (at the Bishop’s services) has been used to complete 33 new churches in our partner Diocese of Western Tanganyika and more are still being built. The church in this area of Tanzania is growing fast. Villages that had small church buildings need to replace them with larger buildings to accommodate the growing congregations, and the gospel is still being spread to other areas where churches are being built for the first time.

## Free all age Diocesan Vision Launch Party

Saturday 26 November, 4.00 - 6.30pm at Francis Close Hall, University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham GL50 4AZ. Celebrate faith and be inspired as we launch our new Diocesan Vision. Music, dancing, sports, hog roast, crafts and prayer spaces. Limited parking onsite or use pay and display nearby. For more information visit [www.vision2016.org.uk](http://www.vision2016.org.uk)

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### From the Elmore Church Registers

September 16<sup>th</sup> – Marriage of Emma and Stuart Robertson

### From the Longney Church Registers

No entries this time

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

**Email:** [vicarage@inbox.com](mailto:vicarage@inbox.com)