



## Dates for your Diary

September 2020

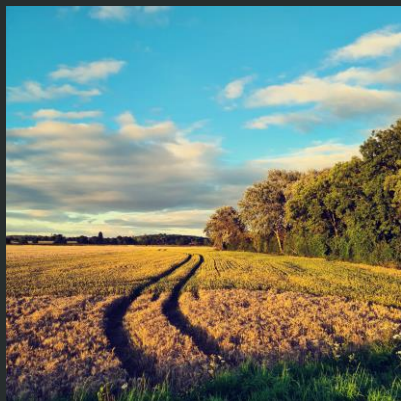
### Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting is  
scheduled for the  
21<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

Due to latest Covid  
guidelines it will have to  
be via a Zoom meeting.

If you wish to join this  
please email  
[clerk@longneyandepney-  
parish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@longneyandepney-parish.co.uk)

for the password.



# Longney & Epney Parish Newsletter

## September & October 2020

Summer is leaving us behind and we head into Autumn. Children are heading back to school, which will be a quite different experience for them, wearing face masks and staying in classroom bubbles. Ms Howard our Headteacher at Longney has written a few words for the newsletter about preparations the School has made so the children can return safely.

We have exciting news from our Churchwarden, Tom Whittaker that a new Vicar has been chosen and he will join us at the end of November. Various meetings and interviews were held over the Summer and we are really pleased that Reverend Richard Martin has agreed to join us. He will live with his wife in the Vicarage at Hardwicke and will look after Hardwicke, Elmore and Longney. He has kindly forwarded a short biography to introduce himself which you can read in this newsletter.

Whilst there have been no services in the Church during the summer the team have been busy carrying out some general repairs and tidying things up. However, since the beginning of August the normal fortnightly services have resumed and on Sunday 13th September the Choir will return to the Church and will be allowed to sing again.

Some major repairs to the plasterwork on the ceiling of the Church have also been carried out over the summer, repairing some 16 places in all.

One benefit of this exercise has been that our plasterer very kindly painted a mural behind the altar which depicts an early fable associated with the Church. It concerns Elsi who was Lord of Longney in 1087. He built our Church and asked Saint Wulfstan the Bishop of Worcester to consecrate it. There was a large, luxuriant nut tree outside the Church that blocked all of the light and when Lord Elsi said he would rather not have the Church consecrated if it meant losing the tree, the Bishop cursed the tree and it duly withered.

You may have noticed that the clock chimes are not working at the moment! There have been some problems over the summer with the clock, but the repairers have now got to the cause of the problem, a new motor to power the chimes should be installed in the next few weeks!

## Garden Machinery

As Autumn approaches please don't forget we have a village shredder and a rotavator for use for a small donation. Ideal if you are pruning your hedges and trees!

Please contact Roger Godwin to arrange collection via the following email address:-

[rag.farms@outlook.com](mailto:rag.farms@outlook.com)



## 2020 Village Flooding

Our local MP Siobhan Baillie has said she would like to organise a meeting with the Parish to discuss the flooding earlier this year and potential future issues. Other interested parties such as the Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency, District Council and County Council would be involved. The meeting will be arranged as soon as possible, allowing for social distancing measures to be put in place. Once a date is confirmed this will be communicated via our local Facebook group and an email.

## Dog Napping

We have recently experienced a truly awful incident in the village where a dog was taken from their home at night by thieves. Thankfully over the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> September there has been some amazing news and the dog has now been found and returned home.

Below is the report and advice from Gloucestershire Constabulary regarding dog safety.

After three weeks stolen dog Lola the black Pointer has been found and returned to her owners in Longney, Gloucester.

It was reported to police that Lola had been stolen on 15 August between 10.30pm and 11pm. CCTV captured an unknown offender climbing the fence and picking up the Pointer dog who then handed it to another offender.

The dog has then been placed into a light coloured car. There was a second dog which was attempted to be snatched but nipped the offender's hand and they left.

On Saturday 5 September Lola's owner received a telephone call at around 3pm where a member of the public said she had found Lola running around in a park area near to Cheltenham Racecourse. Lola was wearing her collar but no tag. The caller explained that she had recognised the dog from social media appeals.

Officers attended the address after Lola was returned back home and she was found to be thin. She was taken to the vets for a full check up. Police are urging pet owners to remain vigilant against this type of crime after a number of dogs have been reported stolen over the last month.

To date there have been four reported dog thefts and one attempted theft. A Collie and six puppies stolen in one incident are still outstanding, the other dogs reported to have been stolen have been located.

## Road Closures



### Bridge Road, Frampton on Severn

This road will be closed  
from 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020  
to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

This is for the installation  
of fibre broadband.

### Wicks Green & Waterend, Longney

These roads will be closed  
on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 to  
allow for works by BT  
Openreach.

In the last week multiple properties across the county have reported white chalk marks being left in front of their homes, cable ties are also used to mark gates and paint on dustbins. These are all ways for offenders to identify your home as a target for a dog theft. Be vigilant and check your property for any marking especially dustbins.

Gloucestershire Constabulary is committed to taking a compassionate approach, a commitment of the Police and Crime Plan. This commitment specifically addresses the way the Force approaches animal welfare and ending cruelty to animals.

There are a number of ways that you can help protect your dogs:

Keep an ID tag on your dog at all times (your surname, mobile number and address only, not the name of the pet).

Secure gates using bolts at the top and bottom, along with a heavy-duty padlock and gate alarm.

Never leave your pet in the garden unattended.

Purchase a driveway alarm so you are alerted to any intruders, these can also be used in rear gardens and yards.

Make sure your dog is microchipped and their details are updated so that they can be returned if they are stolen and subsequently found.

Avoid leaving a dog tied up outside a shop or left alone in a car, even for a few minutes.

Take lots of photographs of your dog to prove ownership if it's stolen, pay particular attention to any distinguishing markings on your dog.

You can also help prevent theft on walks by varying walk times and locations and being suspicious of strangers who ask questions about your dog.

Make a note of any suspicious, loitering vehicles.

If you notice any suspicious activity, contact Gloucestershire Constabulary on 101.



## Welcome to Reverend Richard Martin

I was born in Brighton in 1959. After school I worked for the Prudential in London and Brighton before being accepted to train with the Church Army in Blackheath, in 1985. Here I met Gill, we married in 1988, and began our first post in Illingworth, a needy and troubled parish north of Halifax in West Yorkshire. Our first two children, Aidan and Sophie, were born there. We greatly enjoyed our 6 years there and I completed a BA at Leeds. In 1994 we moved to the Team parish of Dewsbury where I was given the 5 year task of re-building (spiritually and literally) Trinity Church, Batley Carr. Ruth was born in 1995, and I finished an MA. They were manic but very rewarding years.

In 1999 we moved south, to St Francis Strood, in the Rochester Diocese. Gill took over from me there as Associate Minister in 2002 so I could take a PGCE in RE. I then taught in two Kent secondary schools, in the last 2 years reducing my timetable so I could train for ordination part-time at SEITE. I was made deacon in 2009 and began a curacy at St Aidan's Gravesend, being priested the following year. In 2012 I was appointed priest-in-charge at Holy Family and Ifield, becoming Rector after the Bishop lifted the suspension of the Living in 2018. The same year Gill left St Francis Strood and became a Children and Families worker in the three local Churches. She then began a post as a full-time C of E chaplain at Eastwood Park women's prison, near Thornbury, where she has been working since March 2020, commuting weekly from Kent. This coincided with my feeling that it was time to move on from the Gravesend parishes, after 8 happy years, and so began the process of discerning where God might be calling me to.

It's a great joy to discover that Hardwicke, Elmore and Longney is that place! I am very much looking forward to moving in, around November 5<sup>th</sup>, to my licensing on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and to getting to know the Churches and the communities they serve as we celebrate Christmas together in whatever forms may be allowed this year, and then on into a New Year and what I suspect will be a very challenging future. In the name of God I am going to be priest-in-charge for everyone in the three parishes so please do feel that you can contact me, whether or not you'd call yourself a Christian.

In my spare time I like cricket, football, jigsaws, crosswords, cycling, train travel, and love terrible jokes. I'm a 3<sup>rd</sup> Order Franciscan and so am interested in the links between faith and the environment, and in enabling Christians links with members of other faiths.

I hope that is a helpful introduction. Do please pray for us as we make this move, as we will for you. God bless you!

Richard and Gill



## Church Services

### Longney & Elmore September & October 2020

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

Parish Eucharist at  
Elmore 9.30am

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

Parish Eucharist at  
Longney 9.30am

Evensong at  
Elmore 4.00pm

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

Parish Eucharist at  
Elmore 9.30am

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

Storyteller Family  
Eucharist Longney at  
9.30am

Evensong at  
Elmore 4.00pm

## Longney School

The new school year is underway and it has been lovely to welcome back our pupils. The children were very excited to be back in their classrooms and with their friends; our staff have all missed seeing the children and their families during the summer term.

It has been a strange few months and we have had to get used to new ways of working. School was open all the way through lockdown from March until the end of the summer term in July. Up until June a rota system was in place for staff and children of key workers attending the school. On 1st June many of our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils returned and we were then able to offer a week to each of our other year groups before we finished in the summer. This gave pupils the opportunity to spend time in their new year groups before September, ensuring a smooth transition into the Autumn term.

We look forward to meeting our new Reception class as they begin their educational journey at the school. I know many of them are looking forward to starting at Longney and being part of our community.

Whilst there are no sports fixtures or trips taking place this term, we are keeping our fingers crossed that these can resume after half term and look forward to being able to share our activities with our wider community in the near future.

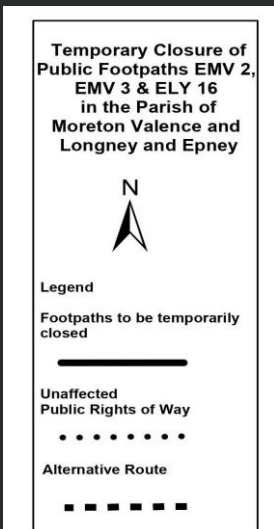
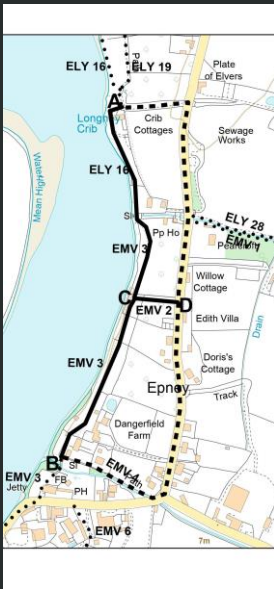
Penny Howard  
Headteacher



## Footpath between The Anchor Inn & The Crib, Longney

The footpath from The Anchor Inn to The Crib, Longney is currently closed for riverbank maintenance.

This was due to take place from May 2020 to Oct 2020, six months of work but has only just started.



## Perrywood House Open Gardens



Below is a note of thanks from Gill & Mike Farmer who have raised an exceptional amount of money this year for charity during very restricted times!

*"Many thanks to those who supported our roadside plant sales or open garden weekends this year.*

*Overall we welcomed more than 200 visitors and made nearly £2200 in plant sales. With the admission charges the total raised for the National Garden Scheme was just under £3000.*

*NGS donate £3 million annually to good causes, mainly nursing charities. They are the single largest donor to Macmillan, and support Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust, Parkinson's UK, Mind etc".*

*Gill & Mike Farmer, Perrywood House*

