

# LONGNEY & EPNEY PARISH NEWS

## Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in the school hall.

## DOG POO

We have a serious problem with dog fouling in the Parish. Please pick up after your dog – or flick into the hedge with a stick. If you do pick up in a bag, please take the bag home with you!!



## Garden Equipment

If you are gearing up to tackle the garden for spring, please consider using the parish rotavator and shredder. These are currently stored with Al Fenn. 01452 720618.

## DEFIBRILLATOR

We will be discussing using the Longney phone box as a store for a defibrillator at the next Parish Council meeting, come along and share your views!

## YOUR NEWS

The newsletter and website serve as a place to distribute your news about the village. If there is anything you would like included, please email [bekkichristian@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bekkichristian@hotmail.co.uk)



## Parish News

Spring has arrived! I imagine we are all pleased to see the sun returning to the parish along with the longer days.

The Parish council has been busy preparing for spring. We had the village litter pick at the end of February where we successfully cleaned up over 10 large black bags of rubbish from the verges and roads.

We have made improvements to the village car park, trimming the hedge right back down so that any cars parked up are clearly visible from the road. This has also helped to reduce the litter problem in the car park.

The Parish Council has organized a new contract for the routine trimming of verges and visibility flashes in the village, these will now be done twice a year, in May and August. This should help with road safety around the parishes.





## Longney C of E Primary Academy Newsletter March 2017

### Celebrating success with MP Neil Carmichael



### World Book Day Costumes



### Singing at Young Voices in Birmingham



### Dancing in Cheltenham



I am delighted to tell you the hard work our staff and pupils put in has been recognised in two ways. We have recently received letter of congratulations from Mr. Nick Gibb MP congratulating us on our 2016 Year 6 reading results as Longney CE Primary were in the top 1% of schools in the country. This follows a letter from Rebecca Clark, Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West, also congratulating us on our Summer 2016 results saying that these *"position Longney Church of England Academy as one of the region's highest performing schools."* This is down to the hard work of our staff and the excellent support we receive from our parents as well as the effort put in by our pupils. Local MP Neil Carmichael came to see us to celebrate.

Internet Safety is always in the news and we educate our pupils to be responsible digital citizens who know how to keep themselves safe in a range of situations. Year 5 and 6 visited Skillzone in Quedgeley in February where they undertook various scenarios including Internet Safety.

Sport continues to be an important part of school life. Our football team finished at the top of their table in the Gloucestershire Primary Schools Football Association league. The netball team is playing very competitively this season and some of our pupils took part in an Indoor Rowing Competition at St Matthew's Primary School.

At Longney we believe in a broad and balanced curriculum. Music and the arts gives our pupils the opportunity to broaden their horizons. In January, Year 5 and 6 went to the Genting Arena in Birmingham to take part in the Young Voices concert. They sang with 6000 other pupils and it was an experience they will never forget.

In February, our Year 5 and 6 dancers took part in the Cheltenham Dance Festival at the Town Hall performing their version of 'Shake it off.' The confidence the pupils gained from performing on such a large stage will help them in the future.



## Friends of Longney School

Dear Parents/Residents/Local Business,

We are delighted to let you know that planning is underway for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Longney beer festival in aid of Longney Primary Academy.

Last year this event raised £2000 for the school. The money was put to use in creating a new library for the children.

This addition to the school environment would not have been possible without the funds raised by the Friends of Longney school and is a real asset to the local children.

As part of the celebration of the new facility the children this year are taking part in the Readathon scheme which challenges pupils to do sponsored reading with money raised going towards storytellers for children in hospitals.

This cycle of community giving is a very important part of the ethos of Longney School.

### How can you help:

#### **SPONSORSHIP**

For £65 your company or you can sponsor a barrel of beer or cider. As part of your sponsorship we put your company name and logo into our programme, give you thanks on our Facebook page and website and have your logo prominently displayed behind the bar at the event.

You will also receive two free tickets to the event.

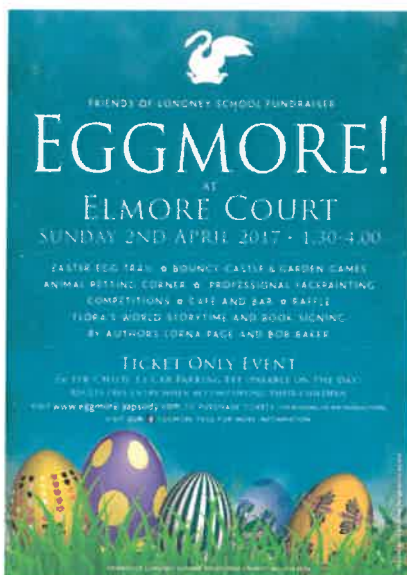
Email addresses and telephone numbers below:

[Bekkichristian@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Bekkichristian@hotmail.co.uk) - 07912042947

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[ncresearch@btconnect.com](mailto:ncresearch@btconnect.com) - 07843023273

Thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to seeing you on the night. It is sure to be a great event.







## Church Services in Longney and Elmore

### Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> – Lent 1

**“Adam and Jesus”**

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church  
9.30am

### Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> – Lent 2

**“Water and Spirit”**

Short Eucharist and AGM at Longney  
Church 9.30am

Sung Evensong at Elmore Church 3.00pm

### Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup> – Lent 3

**“Access to God”**

Short Eucharist and AGM at Elmore  
Church 9.30am

### Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> – Lent 4

**“Mothering Sunday”**

“Storyteller” Eucharist at Longney Church  
9.30am

Evensong with Hymns at Elmore Church  
6.30pm

### Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lent 5

**“Life and Death”**

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church  
9.30am

### Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday

**“Make Way for Jesus”**

Parish Eucharist at Longney Church  
9.30am

Holy Baptism at Elmore Church 2.00pm  
Sung Evensong at Elmore Church 6.30pm

### Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday

**“Alleluia! Christ is Risen!”**

Said Communion at Longney Church  
8.00am

Parish Eucharist at Elmore Church  
9.30am

### Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Easter 2

**“Thomas greets the Risen Christ”**

“Storyteller” Eucharist at Longney Church  
9.30am

Evensong with Hymns at Elmore Church  
6.30pm



## Longney & Elmore Community Newsletter Produced by Longney & Elmore Churches

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Sunday April 16th 2017.

**Lent... 40 days of awesome!** The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is March 1st this year.

The day before, Shrove Tuesday, has a much better profile in international folk culture though!

Lent was in ancient times a season of fasting as well as prayer and for centuries many foods such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods were not eaten as part of the fasting tradition. The name “Shrove Tuesday” comes from the word “shrive”, which means to confess and receive forgiveness. The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name *Mardi Gras* (‘Fat Tuesday’). Pancakes were associated with Shrove Tuesday because they were an easy to prepare dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house simply by adding flour.

Perhaps the most famous Pancake Race is held as a competition between Olney in Buckinghamshire and the town of Liberal in Kansas, USA. There is a marvelous tale that says pancake races began in Olney in the year 1445 when a woman had lost track of the time on Shrove Tuesday. She was busy cooking pancakes in her kitchen and suddenly she heard the church bell ringing to call the faithful to church for confession. She raced out of her house and ran all the way to church; still holding her frying pan and wearing her apron. There is a website for the event at [www.olneypancakerace.org](http://www.olneypancakerace.org)

The pancakes are a sign of making Lent a season of simpler lifestyle – cutting out the excesses of everyday life in order to become healthier people, both physically and spiritually.

## **Lent 2017 – resolve to keep it!**

This year our key Lent activities are a variety of events and worship opportunities designed to help you set aside space in busy lives to recognise and keep the season of Lent:

### **Lent Lunches**

Being held at Church House, Cornfield Drive every Wednesday in Lent, from 12.30pm. A soup, cheese and fruit lunch will be provided. Donations are asked towards the work of Christian Aid.

### **Lent Prayers in Church**

These take place daily in our three churches on a rota basis. Church members lead these short (30-minute maximum) times of reflection and prayer. Readings and Prayer material are provided for use. Times and venues are on the Sunday Pew Sheet and on the Church website and Facebook page.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LENT?"

### **A Lent Book**

For those who find it difficult to commit to a regular weekly gathering for study we are recommending a book called "I am with you" by Kathryn Greene-McCreight (it was the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby's recommendation last year so we are playing catch up!) This book examines the biblical portrayal of God's presence among us as light in darkness. We are also offering occasional sharing groups (not compulsory) for those reading the book to meet together over coffee. Those who have ordered their copies should have them by now, copies are still available via Amazon online and versions for the kindle are also available for £2.98

### **Random Acts of Kindness**

This project is an attempt to spread a little goodness and joy in the world since "Kindness starts with one!" Mark Twain said, "Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see". From positive sticky notes to thank you letters and with many more useful ideas we will be promoting a weekly RAK for everyone to use throughout Lent.

### **From the Elmore Church Registers**

January 17<sup>th</sup> – Funeral of Godfrey James  
January 19<sup>th</sup> – Funeral of Harold Heaysman  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Baptism of Mayumi Kitamura  
February 21<sup>st</sup> – Funeral of Frank Fisher

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

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

## Diocese of Gloucester News

**the  
messenger**

**From the Diocese of Gloucester**



**Living as adventurous followers  
of Jesus Christ:**

**Enabling people to discover new depths  
to prayer and spiritual growth,  
individually and together.**

During the many conversations that took place around  
the Diocese last summer, the theme of prayer and  
longing for God was immensely strong:

'We'd like to know more of God'.

'I would love to be able to pray more, and more deeply'.

'Help us to find the "one thing necessary".'

When Jesus is at the home of Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42) Martha is busily cooking and serving, Mary sits at Jesus' feet. Both sisters are very close friends of Jesus – this is his 'home from home' and he spends a good deal of time in their company. On this occasion, in his love for Martha, he tells her she is distracted by many things, and that Mary has chosen the better part – she has found the one thing necessary.

This priority is at the very heart of our life together in this Diocese.

It is about keeping company with Jesus as he longs to keep company with us.

It is about making our hearts and lives and communities his 'home from home' just as he invites us to find our home in him.

It is about recognising the distractions and being still for long enough to find that God is here, right here, in the heart of it all. And that is the adventure.

**Archdeacon of Gloucester, Jackie Searle**



Three  
Counties  
Traditional  
Orchard  
Project



Gloucestershire  
Orchard  
Trust



LOTTERY FUNDED

## Saving Traditional Orchards in Your Area!

January 2017 Update Come and join us! We are continuing with our exciting three year project to restore and enjoy thirteen traditional orchards in Gloucestershire with the Three Counties Traditional Orchard Project (TCTOP), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. We welcome volunteers of all ages to help us prune old and young fruit trees, plant heritage varieties (succession planting), record the wildlife, pick and juice the fruit, supply refreshments or give whatever time you can.

Gloucestershire has long been famous for its traditional orchards, but in the past 50 years over 80% have been lost. The Gloucestershire Orchard Trust has been instrumental in helping to reverse this trend and is delighted to be in partnership with TCTOP. Thanks to them, many project orchards across Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire will now flourish for many years to come. TCTOP have also kindly trained up Orchard Champions, who give extra special support and outreach to the community in association with Garden Organic.

The project orchards in Gloucestershire are in the **Longney, Elmore, Epney, Framilode, Arlingham, Minsterworth, Gorsley and Kilcot** areas. We especially welcome you if you are local and would like to get involved to enable specific orchard owners to look after their orchards. Under the expertise of experienced orchardist Martin, you would further your skills. Mentoring is an important part of the project; those who feel more confident over time can “buddy” the less sure so that knowledge and skills stay in the community. We also have good links with wildlife organizations, such as the Little Owl Project and Gloucestershire Raptor Monitoring Group.

If you would like to see some of the work we have achieved with the Gloucestershire Orchard Trust's own delightful 18 acres of traditional orchard at Longney, please visit our blog at <https://gloucestershireorchardtrust.org.uk/longney/>

Please contact Ann Smith, Coordinator of the Gloucestershire Orchard Trust,

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