



Elham Valley Group Newsletter 5th April 2026

“Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all”

Find us online : www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk OR
www.achurchnearyou.com

EASTER WEEK SERVICES

Benefice Maundy Thursday Service – 2nd April 6pm – Stanford

**Good Friday 3rd April: Benefice Walk of Witness - 9.30am – Elham;
**Hour at the Cross – 11am – Lyminge; Hour in front of the Cross -
12pm – Postling; Reflective Service ‘The Nail’ – 2pm – Acrise****

Easter Day 5th April:

6am – Daybreak Service – St Oswald, Paddlesworth

8am – Holy Communion - St Mary & St Radegund, Postling

9.30am – Sung Eucharist & Baptism – St Mary the Virgin, Elham

9.30am – Holy Communion – St Martin, Acrise

11.15am – Sung Eucharist – St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge

11.15am – Eucharist – St Mary Magdalene, Denton

Tuesday 7th April – 8.30am – Morning Prayer – Elham

The Collect:

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer:

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Old Testament Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

Gospel Reading: John 20:1- 18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Please Pray for *Jenni Lister, The Bradley family, Wendy Cook, Sue Leaver, Mark, Millie Collins, Jill Fitch, Poppy Allard, John Meers, Michael Kirk, Alice Mills, Martyn Bowles & family, Claire Laker.*

Please contact the Benefice Administrator Alison Dale 07985025381 or beneficeadmin@elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk to add people to the prayers.

Please pray for the departed, and those for whom an anniversary of death falls at this time, *Jill Rosenz, Brian Holmes, Francis Healey, John Adamson, Ann Kinmont, Joy Parmenter, Mary Osborn, Geoffrey Berry, David Kinmont, Jo Corby & Keith Healey.*

To arrange for Funerals, Thanksgivings, Blessings, Renewal of Vows and *all other services* please contact the Rector - revcarolbates@gmail.com 0777 239 4855

For Baptisms and Weddings please contact the Benefice Administrator - beneficeadmin@elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk 07985025381

Parish Notices:

Paddlesworth - NB there will be no services after Easter due to building works.

Baptism – Willow Baker –5th Apr. 9.30am – Elham

Burials of Ashes – Mary Harman–10th Apr. 2pm–Swingfield; Vince Spain – 11th

Apr. 11am – Lyminge; Vera Law–20th Apr. 10am - Lyminge

Funeral- Doreen Browne – 15th Apr. 11am – Elham, followed by burial.

- **Good Friday Telephone Audio – This is a free 15-minute call.**
- **Dial : 0333 015 4199.**
- **Enter Code when asked : 1243248#**
- **Enter Reference when asked : 1#**

Audio Story of The Passion – This is available on Village Facebook pages

Coffee Morning – Saturday 18th Apr. 10.30-12 – All Saints, Stanford

Licensing Service – Rev Sharon will be licensed as Associate Priest for the Benefice on 10th May 6pm – St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge