

Elham Valley Group Newsletter 26th April 2026

“Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all”

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

This week's services : 4th Sunday of Easter

9.30am – Morning Service – St Mary the Virgin, Elham

9.30am – Service of the Word – St Martin, Acrise

9.30am – Eucharist – All Saints, Stanford

10am – Family Praise- St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge

11.15am – Eucharist – St Martin, Wootton

Tuesday 28th April – 8.30am – Morning Prayer – Elham

The Collect:

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer:

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Reading: Acts 2:42-end

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Gospel Reading: John 10:1-10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did

not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Please Pray for *Roger Goody, Janet Hutchings, Simon & family, 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, *Sheila Huckle, Vincent Spain, Jacqueline Hall, Doreen Browne* and those for whom an anniversary of death falls at this time, *Alastair Bernard, Alan Pickett, Carr Paine & Bill Horrocks.*

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.

Burials of Ashes – Vince Spain – 25th Apr. 11am – Lyminge; Gerald Southorn – 28th Apr. 2.30pm - Lyminge

Benefice Notices:

Deanery Synod Meeting – Thu. 7th May. 7pm (refreshments from 6.30pm)– St Leonard's, Hythe, CT21 5DN. This is an open meeting & all members of churches are invited. The talk by Rev Michael Darkins is titled "Deliver us from evil" -Prayerfully supporting complicated pastoral complexities.

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