

Elham Valley Group Newsletter 10th May 2026

“Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all”

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

This week's services : 6th Sunday of Easter-Rogation Sunday

8.45am – Morning Prayer to begin Walk to Denton – St Mary the Virgin, Elham

9.30am – Worship Service – All Saints, Stanford

9.30am – Eucharist – St Mary & St Radegund, Postling

11am – Prayers before Walk to Wootton – St Mary Magdalene, Denton

1pm – Final Prayers at end of Walk – St Martin, Wootton

6pm – Evensong & Licensing of Rev Sharon – St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge

Tuesday 12th May – 8.30am – Morning Prayer – Elham

The Collect:

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer:

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.” ²⁹ Since we are God’s offspring,

we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

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*, and those for whom an anniversary of death falls at this time, *May Weeks, Michael Skidmore, David Rawlings, Winfreid Richter, Jean Brazier & Margaret Ingle.*

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 due to building works.

Funeral – Sheila Huckle – 15th May at 12pm – Barham Crematorium

Wedding – Georgia Dingle & William Penswick – 23rd May at 12.30pm - Elham

Benefice Notices:

APCM dates

Elham – 14th May at 6pm – all in their respective churches; Denton & Wootton – 13th May at 6pm in Wootton church.