



Elham Valley Group Newsletter 7th June 2026

"Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all"

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

This week's services : 1st Sunday after Trinity

- 8am – Said Holy Communion – St Mary the Virgin, Elham**
9.30am – Morning Service – St Mary the Virgin, Elham
9.30am – Holy Communion – St Martin, Acrise
10am – WoW (Ways of Worship) – St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge
11.15am – Eucharist – St Mary Magdalene, Denton
4pm – Evensong – St Oswald, Paddlesworth

Tuesday 9th June – 8.30am – Morning Prayer – Elham

The Collect:

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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:

Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Old Testament Reading: Hosea 5:15-6:6

I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favour:

6 'Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. **2** After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. **3** Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.' **4** What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. **5** Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgement goes forth as the light. **6** For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offerings.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:9–13,18-26

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' ¹² But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

¹⁸ While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' ¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹ for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' ²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. ²³ When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶ And the report of this spread throughout that district.

Please Pray for Jan Hall, Andy Ashman, Val Pinder, Roger Goody, Janet Hutchings, Jenni Lister, The Bradley family, Wendy Cook, Sue Leaver, Millie Collins, Jill Fitch, Poppy Allard, John Meers, Michael Kirk, Alice Mills, Lilian 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, *Martyn Bowles*, and those for whom an anniversary of death falls at this time, *Peter Gay, Nora Rear, Paul Ratcliff, Robert Reeve & Danzey Bartley*.

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 as above.

Parish Notices:

Weddings – Kelly Isherwood & Roy Clarkson - Fri. 5th June 2pm – Postling

Lydia Clark & Thomas Locke – Sat. 20th June 11.30am – Postling

Baptism – Mia Watson - Sun. 7th June – 11.45am - Acrise

Funeral – Martyn Bowles – Wed. 17th June 2.30pm – Hawkinge

Crematorium

Postling Open Gardens – Sat. & Sun 6th & 7th June 12 – 5pm

Recital by Orsay Trio – Sunday 7th June 3pm – Elham

Elham Open Gardens – Sat. & Sun 13th & 14th June – 12 -4.30pm

Benefice Notices:

Benefice Service, celebrating Revd Stephen's 20 years of ordained ministry- Sunday 28th June – 10am at Stanford