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www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk
Or www.achurchnearyou.com



# Elham Valley Group Newsletter
# 29th November 2026

"Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all"

**This week's services : 1st Sunday of Advent**

**8am – Holy Communion – St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge**
**11am – Sung Eucharist for Advent – Canterbury Cathedral**
**6pm – Advent Evening Service – St Mary & St Radegund, Postling**

***Tuesday 1st December*** **– 8.30am – Morning Prayer – Elham**

**The Readings for 29th November**

Isaiah 64:1-9 ~ Psalm 80:1-8 ~ 1 Cor 1:3-9 ~ Mark 13:24-end

## Prayers for this Week

**Reflecting Together**

If you feel surrounded by darkness right now, remember our future - an eternity when 'there will be no night' (Revelation 21:25). Meanwhile, in our current dark places, Jesus is our light, and his presence is our hope, however dim it may seem sometimes.

On a dark winters day, let us light a candle.

**Praying Together**

In the midst of despair, may I know your hope. In the midst of gloom, may I feel your presence. In the midst of darkness, may I walk in your light. Amen.

*(Extract taken from Treasures in Straw by Tanya Marlow © 2026, used by permission of Bible Reading Fellowship.)*

**Our Benefice Prayer**

Almighty God,
Grant strength and encouragement to our leadership and ministry teams amid the particular challenges of this season of transition.
Give wisdom and clear direction to those discerning a call to serve this benefice as they seek your will.
Guide those entrusted with selecting the next incumbent, give them sound judgment and spiritual discernment as they undertake this solemn task.
All these things we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen
*(written by Mark Sanford)*

Please Pray for *the Hamer family, Ray & Kathy, Marion Holmes*, *Johnathan Greenwood, Norah Chinneck, Mark, Val Pinder, Roger Goody*, *Wendy Cook*, *Jill Fitch, Poppy Allard, Michael Kirk, 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, *Brenda Finn, Pauline Davis, Gladys Hearsey, Bunty Blain, Evelyn Hoare, Michael Fisher, Rosalind Abbott, Canon David Ratcliff, Michael Pain, Denise Swinn, George Hall, Susan Fisher & Leslie Holmes.*

For Baptisms and Weddings please contact the Benefice Administrator as above. To arrange for Funerals, Ashes Interments, Thanksgivings, Blessings, Renewal of Vows, and all other services please contact Revd Sharon Paine - 07503 290552 or email sharonpaine10@aol.com

**NOTICES**

***Benefice Prayer Meeting***
Meet at Lyminge church at **9am** on the 4th Thursday of each month. We pray for our benefice churches, the village communities, and any particular need we are aware of, both local and wider. Do feel free to join us. The next meeting is on the **28th January** (no meeting on 24th Dec.) If you have any questions, or prayer requests, do contact me on sharonpaine10@aol.com or 07503 290552. Rev. Sharon

**Acrise Church Christmas Fair – 28th Nov. 10am -2pm** – Elham Village Hall CT4 6SX. Crafts, books, gifts, tombola, raffle, refreshments & Father Christmas!

**Christmas Services and Events –** check our website (follow the link above) for full details of what is happening and where.

**For church building enquiries please contact the following people :**
**ACRISE - Simon Smith** simon1210@outlook.com;
**DENTON & WOOTTON - Lesley Alexander** lesley.j.alexander@icloud.com or **Allyn Thomas** allyndgthomas@aol.com
**ELHAM - Deborah Bamforth** dbdbamforth0@gmail.com or **Lynda Vincent** lyndaV46@gmail.com
**LYMINGE with PADDLESWORTH - Mike Chinneck** mike.chinneck@gmail.com or **Lyle Arnold** sunshowers33@yahoo.com
**POSTLING - Peter Le Feuvre** plefandsem@doctors.org.uk or **Andrew Ferguson** fergusons@mail.com;
**STANFORD - Christine Oliver** christineaoliver@btinternet.com **or Kathryn Druery** kdruery@hotmail.co.uk

