

ELHAM VALLEY OPEN DOOR PRAYER HUB



Welcome to our weekly Prayer and News Sheet!

Please visit our website too, for information about our churches, services and the people who make up our church family www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk

Sunday 1st August 2021 – Trinity 9

This Sunday 1st August :

8am ~ Holy Communion (BCP) - St Mary the Virgin, Elham

9.30am ~ Matins (in memory of Ken Percival)– St Martin, Acrise

9.30am ~ Eucharist (CW1 - in church and on Zoom)– St Mary & St Radegund, Postling

Zoom Link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73781736610?pwd=UVNSOTg0U21OM3MwVXFod3VvUFJsUT09>

Meeting ID: 737 8173 6610 Password: 009872

11 am ~ WoW Service – St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge

11:15am ~ New Day – St Mary Magdalene, Denton

6pm ~ Evensong (BCP) – St Oswald, Paddlesworth

Wednesday 4th August:

8am ~ Morning Prayer by Zoom ~ hosted by Sharon

The benefice holds morning prayer each Wednesday. It is a short service, with slightly different liturgy across a three week rota, depending on who is leading it. All are welcome. If there is something you would particularly like us to add to the prayers let us know.

The link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88017638538?pwd=bTZTdnAxQ1hBSXMyMkhLampPc2tqZz09>

Meeting ID: 880 1763 8538 Passcode: 603805

Our Website - Click (you may need to hold ctrl and click at the same time) on

www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk This will take you to the website - you may need to click on the 3 short bars or dots at the top of your screen-: Home, Our Churches, Contact Us, Who's who & Gallery, the WORD and Services, News Events and Music. The latter has up to date news and events. Click on 'Our Churches' and you will find the list of churches and you can access the page for each church.

The Readings for 1st August

Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15 ~ Ephesians 4: 1-16 ~ John 6:24-35

Thoughts for this Week

Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15 and John 6: 24-35

It can't have been easy to put together the readings – Sunday by Sunday – seeking the interesting ones with a strong story and easy to picture in the mind and remember for those who could not read. Old Testament, Psalm, Gospel and Epistle – stringing them together on a theme, sometimes seeming obvious – here the bread of life that was both manna in the wilderness and is the Christ and at other times with more hidden meanings and connections. And then again beyond the obvious there are questions – just what does Jesus mean when he says he is the bread of life? Just what



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does it mean to “come to Jesus”? One answer might be to live a life of prayer – a life so transparent in thought and deed and loving intention that the love of God shines right through.

But more readily I recognise myself in the crowd taken out of Egypt – so ready to moan and find fault – to grumble and feel hard done by even when full of heavenly manna. And there I am again demanding signs and proofs from the man who has turned five loaves into enough to feed a multitude with much to spare.

We should be careful with metaphors – for God and the love he has for us is beyond all that we can imagine. But holding the thought very lightly might we think of God’s love for us being something like a parents love for a toddler? – a tantrumming, red faced and very loud toddler. The child must learn to deal with the behaviour, but the parent’s love is never, ever, in doubt.

My toddler self is certainly still present in my life – it appears that Moses and Jesus had crowds full of toddlers to manage in our passages today. And then Jesus says come to him – and our way to him is prayer.

There are many books on prayer but one simple way of thinking of prayer is to offer God everything of ourselves, the good and also the noisy tantrums and the silent emptiness as well. I have been reading Ronald Blythe’s book on being old (A View in Winter) and he quotes Father Luke, aged 75 reflecting on prayer -

All I feel now is that I give him what I have to give, and he gives me what he has to give, and that I am thankful. Sometimes it’s nothing. What one has to learn is to use “the nothing”. You spend a whole hour in prayer and at the end there is nothing at all. But St Paul says “Give ye thanks for all things”- and so you learn to use nothingness. And this is what I often have to do now that I am old. I have to be honest and tell myself that often hear and feel nothing. Then I have to make it something by acknowledging its nothingness. My nothing. The alternative is despair, and I would never choose that. There is nothing in despair either, but nothing without despair is an emptiness into which you might just manage to put something. This is what an old man like me says to himself.

Amen

Diana Baldwin

Although we are apart, we pray together:

Every day, miracles happen.
A seed sown in fertile ground, warmed by sun, washed by rain,
germinates.
Nourished and sustained in good soil,
bears fruit in season;
to be enjoyed.

Every day, miracles happen.
From the simplest of ingredients: flour and water,
salt and yeast,
kneaded and shaped, risen and baked,
become bread;
for sustenance.



ELHAM VALLEY OPEN DOOR PRAYER HUB



Every day, miracles happen.
Seeds of kindness, truth and mercy are sown,
scattered liberally,
find good soil;
nurtured by the Spirit, in time
provide a rich harvest.

Every day, miracles happen.
From the purest of ingredients: love, joy, hope,
forgiveness and reconciliation,
broken lives are healed, weary souls restored.
Bread of Life
sustains us all.

A Prayer of St Ignatius of Loyola:
Lord, teach us to be generous.
'Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as Thou deservest,
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labour and not to ask for any reward
Save that of knowing that we do thy will.'

A prayer of St Francis of Assisi:
Lord, make us to walk in your way:
where there is love and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance;
Where there is patience and humility, there is neither anger nor annoyance;
Where there is poverty and joy, there is neither greed nor avarice;
Where there is peace and contemplation, there is neither care nor restlessness;
Where there is the fear of God to guard the dwelling, there no enemy can enter;
Where there is mercy and prudence, there is neither excess nor harshness;
This we know through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Lord of all grace and compassion,
We know that our world is divided and suffering:
While we eat and drink in comfort and plenty, millions cannot find safety or food.
While we share the produce of our gardens, millions have no place on earth to call home.
While we begin again to enjoy pleasure and community, millions are still falling sick and dying.
Bread of life,
May we remember that words are not enough but must be translated into action.
Direct the leaders of the nations to act with courage and generosity.
Gift our local leaders with the imagination to strive for justice.
Shake us out of complacency and make us agents of healing and hope.
Send us out to share your love with all.
In the name of Christ,
Amen.

May God who provides our Daily Bread and is the source of our hope,
Give us the blessing of His peace, which is beyond all our understanding.



ELHAM VALLEY OPEN DOOR PRAYER HUB



We pray for the people of our communities - Please comfort those who are ill or in pain, especially the following: *June Boughton, Pauline Winfield, Lynn Callander, Claire Laker, Barbara Bell, Shanon Milton, Vanessa Ashman, Margaret Morphew, Kevin Bennett, Janet Thornby, Daniel Stevens, Katherine Goody, Mike Wilson, David Ratcliff, Colin Laker, June Edwards, Jean Anderson, John Hammond and Sheila Godden.* We pray also for those whose lives are drawing to a close; that Christ's comfort and healing touch may ease their suffering,

Dear Father God we give thanks for your gift of eternal life, and we remember loved ones and friends who have departed into your care, free from earthly anxiety and pain, we think of *Sally Russell*, and those whose anniversaries fall at this time *Ken Goldsmith, Edna Chapman, Mick Price, Frank Marshall, Rev Michael Dymock, Michael Allen, Eric Doy, Janet Coleman, Pauline & Roy Phipps.*

May we bring together all our prayers and may your peace that passes all understanding fill our hearts.... **Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.....Amen**

Sarah Le Feuvre

May we conclude with the prayer Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins



as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

A Blessing

Pray for Peace
Speak of Peace
Think of Peace
Act in Peace
And the peace of the Lord
Be always with you.

David Adam

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The ***Denton and Wootton Church Fete*** will take place on ***Saturday July 31*** from ***2.p.m.***



# ELHAM VALLEY OPEN DOOR PRAYER HUB



## *Welcome & Congratulations!*

To **Lucy Peggy Marie & Aiden Patrick** who were baptised  
at **St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge**, and **Joseph  
Benjamin** at **St Mary the Virgin, Elham** on **25<sup>th</sup> July**



To **Ashley & Molly** whose marriage was blessed at  
**St. Martin's, Acrise** on **30<sup>th</sup> July**

We wish them every happiness in their future together



## **A CUP OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT**

**Coffee Morning Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August**

**At Lyminge Parish church 1030 – 1200**

**Coffee, cake and music from 'Just Us & Friends'**

**Join us in raising money to support all those affected by cancer.**

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

WORLD'S BIGGEST  
**COFFEE**  
MORNING

## *Assistance during the Pandemic*

Alison Dale and some of the churchwardens (see below) have a list of contacts who can help or provide a service to everyone in the Group, from walking a dog to supplying take-away meals. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more, or wish to make an offer of assistance to others.

### **ELHAM VALLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES CONTACTS**

**Priest-in-Charge** Rev'd Jane Weeks - 01303 840219 (Monday to Thursday.  
Jane is not available on Thursday evenings and all-day Friday) [revweeks@hotmail.com](mailto:revweeks@hotmail.com)

**Assistant Curate** Rev'd Deb Scoble [revdebscoble@gmail.com](mailto:revdebscoble@gmail.com)



# ELHAM VALLEY OPEN DOOR PRAYER HUB



**Associate Priest** Rev'd Stephen Dougal: 07764775507

[stephendougal@btinternet.com](mailto:stephendougal@btinternet.com)

**Pastoral Team Leader** Sharon Paine 07873316492 [sharonpaine10@aol.com](mailto:sharonpaine10@aol.com)

**Benefice Administrator:** Alison Dale 07985025381 (Thu-Fri 9-11am – [alison-dale@outlook.com](mailto:alison-dale@outlook.com))

**Churchwardens:**

**Elham** Peter Swain 01303 840408 - Graham Ernest-Jones 01303 840645

**Acrise** Simon Smith 07999515551 – Martin Bradley 01303 864289

**Denton & Wootton** Sue Clough 01303 844324.

**Lyminge** Phil Hawken 01303 862151 - Bob Lane 01303 863010

**Stanford** Sara Myers 01303 814183 – Paul Smallwood 01303 813198

**Postling** Peter Le Feuvre [plefandsem@doctors.org.uk](mailto:plefandsem@doctors.org.uk) – Chris Reynolds [chris.r@thepent.co.uk](mailto:chris.r@thepent.co.uk)

**Paddlesworth** Celia Mosley 01303 893609 - Lindsey Smith [lsmith665@googlemail.com](mailto:lsmith665@googlemail.com)

**On the Internet:** [www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk](http://www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk) and [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

## **Churches open for Private Prayer**

**Lyminge Church:**– 9am to 5pm daily

**Elham Church:** - 9am to 5pm daily

**Postling:** - every day, daylight hours

**Paddlesworth:**- every day, 9am -5pm

**Denton & Wootton:**- every day, all day



Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections. A section called **Hymn Line** offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.



## Making a House a Home

Could you help to prepare a home for a refugee family?

We need to furnish a house ready for a family. If you are able to help, please email [canterburywelcomesrefugees@gmail.com](mailto:canterburywelcomesrefugees@gmail.com)

See **our** website ([www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk](http://www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk)) for a list of items required.

