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# **Elham Valley Group Newsletter – 31st August 2025**

“Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all”

Find us online : [www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk](http://www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk) OR [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

**This week’s services : 11th Sunday after Trinity**

**10am – Benefice Eucharist – St Peter, Swingfield**

**(The Street, Swingfield, Dover, CT15 7HA)**

**Tuesday 8.30am - Morning Prayer- St Mary the Virgin, Elham**

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| **The Collect:**  O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments,  may receive your gracious promises,  and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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:** Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace:  by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen** |
| **Old Testament Reading: Sirach 10:12-18** The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord; the heart has withdrawn from its Maker. **13**For the beginning of pride is sin, and the one who clings to it pours out abominations. Therefore the Lord brings upon them unheard-of calamities, and destroys them completely. **14**The Lord overthrows the thrones of rulers, and enthrones the lowly in their place. **15**The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations, and plants the humble in their place. **16**The Lord lays waste the lands of the nations, and destroys them to the foundations of the earth. **17**He removes some of them and destroys them, and erases the memory of them from the earth. **18**Pride was not created for human beings, or violent anger for those born of women. | |
| **Gospel Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-14**  On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.  When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. **8**‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; **9**and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, “Give this person your place”, and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. **10**But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher”; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. **11**For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’  **12**He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. **13**But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. **14**And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’ | |

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| Please Pray for *Jill Fitch,* *Joseph, Poppy Allard,* *John Meers, Jen,* *Michael Kirk, Alice Mills,* *Martyn Bowles,* *Claire Laker.* ***Please contact the Benefice Administrator Alison Dale 07985025381 or*** [***beneficeadmin@elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk***](mailto:beneficeadmin@elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk) ***to add people to the prayers.*** Please pray for the departed*, Maureen Allen and John Cooper,* and those for whom an anniversary of death falls at this time, *Derek Sawyer and Ross Anderson.* |
| To arrange for Funerals, Thanksgivings, Blessings, Renewal of Vows and *all other services* please contact the Rector – [revcarolbates@gmail.com](mailto:revcarolbates@gmail.com) 0777 239 4855 For Baptisms and Weddings please contact the Benefice Administrator -[beneficeadmin@elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk](mailto:beneficeadmin@elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk) 07985025381 |

**Parish Notices:**

***Baptisms*Lucian Clark – Sun. 31st August at 11.45am – Lyminge**

**Olivia Burston-Bruce – Sun. 14th September at 11.15am - Wootton**

***Weddings***

**Holly Cooke & Adam Young – Sat. 6th September at 1pm – Denton**

**Iwona King & Simon Dugdale – Sat. 13th September at 2pm - Acrise**

**Benefice Notices:**

**Benefice Service – 31st August, 10am** at St Peter, Swingfield. Parking is on-street only - please consider car-sharing.

**St John’s Commandery** (Swingfield, CT15 7HG)– Heritage Open Days – 12th -21st Sept. 10am to 4pm (check English Heritage website to confirm before visiting). Free entry. This 13th Century Chapel is the only remaining building of the Commandery of the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem.

**Ride and Stride for Kent Churches**

Saturday 13th September. The Friends of Kent Churches give grants to local churches to help with essential repairs. Acrise church will be open from 10.00am until 6.00pm to offer refreshment and rest to visiting cyclists and walkers. Some members of Acrise church will be taking part, riding and striding, and would be grateful for any sponsorship – their forms will be in the church on 7th September.