

Elham Valley Group Newsletter – 7th September 2025

“Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all”

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

This week's services : 12th Sunday after Trinity

8am – Said Eucharist – St Mary the Virgin, Elham

9.30am – Eucharist – 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

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

The Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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 of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 30: 15 – end

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Gospel Reading: Luke 14: 25-33

Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ ‘Whoever

comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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 to add people to the prayers.

Please pray for the departed, *Maureen Allen*, and those for whom an anniversary of death falls at this time, *Robert Martin, HM Queen Elizabeth II, John Chapman, Betty Jones, Colin Brown, Vivien Skidmore and Doris Eames.*

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:

Baptisms

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

Amelia Cunningham – Sun. 21st September at 10am - Lyminge

Weddings

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

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

Isabella Fernandes & William Spencer – Sat. 20th September at 2pm - Lyminge

Benefice Notices:

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 Hospitallars 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.

Events – see website for full details or contact Benefice Admin (above).

Ringlemere Clarinet concert at Elham – 21st Sept. 3pm.

Harvest Family service at Acrise – 28th Sept. 9.30am.

Harvest Service and lunch at Lyminge – 28th Sept. 11am

Harvest Service and lunch at Elham – 5th Oct. 9.30am & 12.30pm.

Harvest Service and Quiz at Postling (quiz in village hall) – 5th Oct. 5.30pm