



Elham Valley Group Newsletter – 14th 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 : 13th Sunday after Trinity

8am – Said Eucharist – St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge
8.30am – Morning Prayer – St Mary & St Radegund, Postling
9.30am – Eucharist – St Mary the Virgin, Elham
9.30am – Matins BCP – St Martin, Acrise
9.30am – Worship Service – All Saints, Stanford
11.15am – Wootton Worship – St Martin, Wootton
6pm – Evensong – St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge

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

The Collect:

Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Post Communion Prayer:

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 32: 7-14

And the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. **8** They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” **9** And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. **10** Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.” **11** But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? **12** Why should the Egyptians say, ‘With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. **13** Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” **14** And the Lord relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

Gospel Reading: Luke 15: 1-10

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. **2** And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” **3** So he told them this parable: **4** “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the

one that is lost, until he finds it? **5** And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. **6** And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' **7** Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

8 "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? **9** And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' **10** Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Please Pray for *Jill Fitch, Joseph, Poppy Allard, John Meers, 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, *James White, John Friend, Joan Adamson, Tinu Allard, Denis Osborne, David Giddy, Jane Kemp and Brian Sellars.*

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

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 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 and Stanford churches will be open from 10.00am until 6.00pm to offer refreshment and rest to visiting cyclists and walkers. (Please note there is no toilet at Stanford).

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

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

Harvest Supper at Wootton Village Hall – 27th Sept. 7pm

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

Sponsored Pilgrimage (with worship) along the Royal Kentish Camino – 11th & 12th October