



## Elham Valley Group Newsletter – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

“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 : Baptism of Christ**

**8am – Said Holy Communion – St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge**

**9.30am – Service of the Word – St Mary the Virgin, Elham**

**9.30am – Matins – St Martin, Acrise**

**9.30am – Worship Service – All Saints, Stanford**

**9.30am – Eucharist – St Mary & St Radegund, Postling**

**11.15am – Wootton Worship – St Martin, Wootton**

**6pm – Evensong – St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge**

### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

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

#### **The Collect:**

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen**

#### **Post Communion Prayer:**

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

#### **Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup> He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. <sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup> I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. <sup>8</sup> I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

#### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:13-end**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the

Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Please Pray for *Wendy Cook, Mark, Tom Hutchings, Millie Collins, Jill Fitch, 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](mailto:beneficeadmin@elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk) to add people to the prayers.***

Please pray for the departed, *Rosemary Coulter & Carolyn Ernest-Jones* and those for whom an anniversary of death falls at this time, *Gerald Hogben, George Palmer, Alec Gasson, Kathleen Harnden, Emma Gunn, Eleanor Wren, Stan Baker, Diana Morris, Jean Clough & Tony Northey.*

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:**

***Burial of Ashes: Jacqueline Nonis – 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. 11am – Denton***

**Benefice Notices:** see website for full details or contact Benefice Admin (above).

***Christingle – Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> – 9.30am – Acrise*** Everyone is welcome at this joyful all-age service to find out more about the meaning of this traditional celebration for children. Enjoy the magical atmosphere when the candles are lit in the darkened church. Children will be presented with their own Christingle to complete during the service. And of course, there will be refreshments!