

Elham Valley Group Newsletter 1st March 2026

“Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all”

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

This week's services :2nd Sunday of Lent

8am – Said Holy Communion - St Mary the Virgin, Elham

9.30am – Morning Service – 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

4pm – Evensong – St Oswald, Paddlesworth

Tuesday 3rd March

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

The Collect:

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Post Communion Prayer:

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Gospel Reading: John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it

comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'
⁹ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Please Pray for *The Bradley family, Wendy Cook, Mark, Tom Hutchings, Millie Collins, Jill Fitch, Poppy Allard, John Meers, Michael Kirk, Alice Mills, Martyn Bowles & family, 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, and those for whom an anniversary of death falls at this time, *Esther Richardson, Ellen Egerton, Grace Tupper, Gareth Temple, Terence Cronin, Alfred Bryan, Kathleen Fereday & Doreen Martin.*

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:

Celebration of Life: Caroline Ernest-Jones -28th Feb. 11.30am – Elham (please note new time)

Benefice Notices:

Movie Night ('King Richard') – 6th Mar. from 6pm - St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge- Free entry. Film starts at 7pm

Cello Storm – 8th Mar. 3pm - St Mary's, Elham- Classical/rock fusion & a live looping concert, entrance £10

Licensing Service – Rev Sharon will be licensed as Associate Priest for the Benefice on 10th May 6pm – St Mary & St Ethelburga, Lyminge