

Elham Valley Group Newsletter 3rd May 2026

“Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all”

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

This week's services : 5th Sunday of Easter

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

8.30am – Breakfast Service – St Mary & St Radegund, Postling

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

Tuesday 5th May – 8.30am – Morning Prayer – Elham

The Collect:

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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:

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading: Acts 7:55-end

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the

way to the place where I am going.' ⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶ Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'
⁸ Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Please Pray for Roger Goody, Janet Hutchings, Simon & family, Jenni Lister, The Bradley family, Wendy Cook, Sue Leaver, Mark, 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, Sheila Huckle, and those for whom an anniversary of death falls at this time, May Weeks, Michael Skidmore, David Rawlings, Winfreid Richter, Jean Brazier & Margaret Ingle.

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:

Paddlesworth - NB there will be no services due to building works.

Funeral – Sheila Huckle – 15th May at 12pm – Barham Crematorium

Benefice Notices:

APCM dates

Acrise – 30th April at 7pm; Stanford – 30th April at 7pm; Lyminge – 5th May at 7pm; Postling – 7th May at 7pm; Elham – 14th May at 6pm – all in their respective churches; Denton & Wootton – 13th May at 6pm in Wootton church.

Deanery Synod Meeting – Thu. 7th May. 7pm (refreshments from 6.30pm)– St Leonard's, Hythe, CT21 5DN. This is an open meeting & all members of churches are invited. The talk by Rev Michael Darkins is titled "Deliver us from evil" -Prayerfully supporting complicated pastoral complexities.

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