

## Elham Valley Group Newsletter 5<sup>th</sup> July 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 : 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

- 8am – Said Holy Communion – St Mary the Virgin, Elham**  
**9.30am – Morning Service – St Mary the Virgin, Elham**  
**9.30am – Holy Communion & Renewal of Wedding Vows –  
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 7<sup>th</sup> July – 8.30am – Morning Prayer – Elham**

#### **The Collect:**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

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

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

#### **Old Testament Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

#### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:16-19,25-end**

‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup> “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.” <sup>18</sup> For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they

say, "He has a demon"; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Please Pray for *Mark, Andy Ashman, Val Pinder, Roger Goody, Jenni Lister, The Bradley family, Wendy Cook, Sue Leaver, Millie Collins, Jill Fitch, Poppy Allard, Michael Kirk, Alice Mills, Lilian Bowles & family, 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, *Jan Hall*, and those for whom an anniversary of death falls at this time, *Almaz Mikire, Stanley Parsons, Derek Pemble, Evelyn London & Gerald Darnley.*

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 as above.

### **Parish Notices:**

***Weddings*** – Sarah Cullingham & Neal Abbott – Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> July 12pm – Elham;

***Elizabeth Sumner & Andre Allen*** – Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> July 1pm - Elham

***Funeral*** – Joan Moore – Fri. 10<sup>th</sup> July 11am - Lyminge

**Denton & Wootton Church Fete** – Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> July 11am-4pm – Denton Village Hall

### **Benefice Notices:**