*Dear Friends,*

In 1971, when it was decided that the Spring Bank Holiday should be fixed for the last Monday in May, the holiday lost its centuries-old link to Whitsun; as a result, even the name has been forgotten, and with it any sense of celebration beyond natural joy at the prospect of a day off at a particularly beautiful time of year. But the Church, of course, does not forget. Whitsun – Pentecost – is the 50th day after Easter and marks the time when Jesus’ disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit. This year as Easter was late, it falls on June 8th; the churches of the Elham Valley will meet in Elham church at 5.00pm for a special celebration of Prayer and Praise to which all are invited.

It is more than appropriate that this will be a service by and for all the churches across the Valley, for if anything is certain about this most mysterious Person of the Trinity it is that no single denomination has a monopoly on the Holy Spirit’s presence and its gifts. Not even the whole Christian Church may claim this, for the Bible is very clear that the Spirit cannot be contained or defined, but will pop up whenever and wherever it wishes, amongst people of all faiths and none, its impact seen in lives that shine with courage and love, often in terrible circumstances.

In times that seem increasingly fragile and precarious it is this irrepressible freedom and wildness of the Spirit that keeps me hopeful. Even were the whole Church to disappear, the Spirit, along with God the Father and Jesus the Son, will never end or cease its work of love and peace. Unseen as the wind, the Spirit will always remain free to blow where it will, sometimes comforting and gentle as a cool breeze in summer, sometimes ripping like a tornado through injustice and oppression; sometimes brooding over the face of the waters, just as it did before the beginning of time.
Sarah Montgomery

**Please visit our website for information about our churches, services & events** [www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk](http://www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk)

**St Mary the Virgin Elham** – *Spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to all*

1st June 7th Sunday of Easter

**08:00 Said Eucharist - 09.30 Sung Eucharist**

**Lectionary readings:**

Acts 16: 16-34 , Psalm 97, Rev 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-end, John 17:20-end

5th June **Prayer meeting @7.30pm** Methodist church

7th June **Prayer Breakfast @8am**

Churches Together in Elham meet on first Saturday in the month at the Methodist church for prayer and short reflection, followed by breakfast at 8.30am. Contact : David Whitethread (07961 053335)

8th June 8th Sunday of Easter / *Pentecost*

**08:00 Said Eucharist**

**FARMERS MARKET set up from 8.30am**

**17:00 Churches Together Pentecost Prayer and Praise service** St Mary’s church.

**Lectionary readings:**

*Acts 2: 1-21, Psalm 104:26-36,37b, Rom.: 8: 14-17, John 14:8-17[25-27]*

15th June 9th Sunday of Easter / *Trinity Sunday*

**09.30 Sung Eucharist**

**Lectionary readings:**

**Prov 8:1-4, 22-31, Psalm 8, Rom 5: 1-5, John 16:12-15**

22nd June 1st Sunday after Trinity

**09:30 Sung Eucharist**

**Lectionary readings:
Isaiah 65: 1-9, Psalm 22:19-28, Gal 3:23-end, Luke 8:26-39**

29th June2nd Sunday after Trinity

**10:00 Benefice Service at St Peter Swingfield**

**Lectionary readings :**

**1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-end, Psalm 16, Gal 5:1,13-25, Luke 9:51-end**

***Every Tuesday at St. Mary’s…***

Traditional Morning Prayer at 8.30am in the Jesus Chapel. Download the free Church of England app or use the red book. A good way to begin the day.

[https://play.google. com/store/apps/details?id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&pli=1](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&pli=1)

**The Farmers’ Market**

Sunday 8th June, 11am – 2pm in Market Square and within St Mary’s church. Stalls galore and the wonderful Chancel Café serving tasty refreshments.

**EXPLORERS**

Fun church for children aged 7-11yrs, with games, snacks and activities meets at St Mary’s on **Tuesday 17th June** 3.30-4.30pm

**Parochial Church Council ( PCC)**

Newly elected PCC meets on July 3rd at 7pm in St Mary’s. Please send items for the agenda to PCC Secretary, Mary Reilly (m.reilly777@btinternet.com) by 19th June.

**Churches Together in Elham Valley July**

5th JulyPrayer Breakfast at 8am, Methodist Church

**Events for the July, August & September Notice sheet**

Please send to Margaret Keeble by mid-day 6th June. m.keeble@outlook.com

**Donations**

We would greatly appreciate your help to continue our work for God in the village of Elham and surrounding areas. If you can, please consider making a donation. This is our QR code for St Mary’s Elham. To donate using this code, open up the camera on a mobile phone - point the camera at the QR code – follow the instructions. 😊

The offertory plate will go round in the service, during one of the hymns. There is also the opportunity to donate by card using the PAYAZ machine by the North door.

**Safeguarding / ‘A Safe Church’:**

If you ever have any concerns, contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Susannah Pallot :  susannahpallot@gmail.com

**Elham Methodist Church**

**Services for JUNE (all at 9.30am unless otherwise stated)**

**1st Rev Gill Songer (video)**

**8th Rev M Peach HC @ 10.15am Valley United Service**

**15th Rev Gill Songer (video)**

**22nd Valley United Service at Rhodes Minnis**

**29th Rev Gill Songer HC**



****