

Keeping Contact

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 3, Issue 8

September 2022

Revd. Simon writes

Welcome to this September edition of Keeping Connected as we see a return from holidays and schools beginning a new academic year, and possibly a return to a functioning Government?

We may well be focused upon the earthly kingdom with concerns over climate, war in Ukraine and the impact of economic uncertainty on heating and grocery bills.

But what about our concern for the Kingdom of Heaven? This was a favourite theme for Jesus and the parables he told.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field (Matthew 13.44).

Whatever earthly strife we face we are called to look beyond our present situation to God's kingdom. In our principle Christian prayer, we pray 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

Transforming our earthly kingdom will require us to live out Gospel values, as was / is the case with the Christian community practicing liberation theology.

Here the principal of 'preferential option for the poor', becomes an essential understanding of Christian Gospel values.

Returning to Matthew this time chapter 25.

*³⁷“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’
⁴⁰“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’*

It maybe we cannot physically help all those who are hungry or cold but collectively we can ask of those in power, why as a leading economic nation is this being allowed to happen?

I received a letter earlier in the year from a local resident explaining that they were writing to me as a person of local influence. I had to smile as it was a description that I did not recognise. But when Christians come together, we can cause those in power to listen. At the Benefice Service in October, we will welcome a guest preacher from the charity Christians against Poverty. I hope it will help us focus our minds and prayers on what the Kingdom of God means to us daily as we seek to transform the earthly kingdom.

Peace to you all, in Christ's name.

Simon.



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Services in September — The Benefice of Faversham

Church	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity 4 September	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity 11 September	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity 18 September	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity 25 September
	<i>Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-5, 12-18; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33</i>	<i>Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10</i>	<i>Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13</i>	<i>Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-end; 1 Timothy 6:1-19; Luke 16:19-end</i>
Davington				HARVEST
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Faversham				
11am	Blessing of the Hops (on stage) then Celebration Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
6pm	Choral Evensong			
Ospringe				HARVEST
11am	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Eucharist	Morning Praise
Preston				
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist
6.30pm		Evening Prayer		

A contemporary Psalm



This was created at our CPAS Venture at Knock in the Lake District, a Christian holiday for teenagers that I have been involved with for years, and absolutely love.

We have such fun, learn about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit together, worship and enjoy amazing activities.

Everyone was given a square of fabric and there was an assortment of threads, ribbons, buttons and fabric to create, using either needle and thread or glue.

All of them are so special, number 6 has such detail in the stitching, delighting in God's creation.

In number 10 the buttons represent the pollution in the sea and is a prayer for us to care more.

When one of the dads saw it he thought it must be a Psalm.

When we said it wasn't he just wrote one.

Sarah Williams

Prayer Patch Psalm @ Knock 2022

(The numbers refer to the patches starting top left)

1. God you are awesome and mighty as a lion.
2. You created this beautiful world and universe for us to enjoy.
3. The flowers of the field and
4. all nature speaks of your glory,
5. even the stars proclaim your majesty.
6. Though the world is big,
7. my hope is always in you.
8. You create sun and water
9. to make the flowers grow.
10. Everything in the sky
11. on the earth and in the sea
12. shouts that You are God.
13. Whilst this world is dark
14. We can trust in you to lead us on
15. Your plans for me are beautiful.
16. Thank you God, that you love me.

Matthew Keddity

Benefice Office opens

The new Benefice Office for our four churches has opened at St Mary of Charity C of E Primary School in Orchard Place.

The dedicated benefice office entrance is at the far left of the front of the school building.

The church photocopier has also moved here; all photocopying and other church information can be found here.

The office presently is open Monday to Wednesday - 9am until 2pm. We would like to open the office for the two additional mornings a week.

So we are looking for volunteers. They would be there to answer the phone, take messages and be a friendly face for people enquiring about our four churches.



If you could offer help with this, please contact the Vicar via phone - 01795 532592, or email - happyvicar@gmail.com

Do drop by and have a look. Bring donuts and a smile!

Simon

Calendar of Prayer



You can now get the Calendar of Prayer on Spotify and iTunes, just follow or subscribe and you'll receive a new prayer each day.

Don't forget that you can also view it on your phone or tablet computer on issuu app.

If you wish to print the Calendar of Prayer, you can change your own printer settings to black and white or gray-scale instead of printing in colour.

Remembrance at St Mary of Charity - plan ahead.

Following on from the host of angels which appeared on the railings during Advent,

Stephanie Wolf and Alison Swinney would like to make some poppies for Remembrance Sunday.

Please speak to one of us (or Catriona if you can't find us) if you would like to knit or crochet some, or if you have any red or black wool you could donate.



Ride & Stride 2022



This year's 'Ride & Stride' will take place on Saturday, 10 September, 10am to 6pm.

This is the day when most churches and chapels throughout Kent will be open to receive sponsored walkers and cyclists representing their local church.

Ospringe church will open as usual for the event throughout the day, and following tradition a small group from the church will set off at 10am on a 4-mile walk to a nearby rural church mostly following footpaths.

Normally we head south to Eastling church but this year we will head west to Norton church. It should be a great walk, which includes passing through a Roman camp, some derelict hop pickers' huts, and then the front door of a Russian Princess!

After checking in at the historic Norton church we will finish up at a nearby equally historic pub, 'The Plough' at Lewson Street.

If anyone wants to join our group on this jaunt, you're more than welcome. Please let me know.

Alternatively, you can plan your own route either cycling or walking but you'll need an official sponsorship form. Again, please contact me for this. Half the money raised goes to the organisers, The Friends of Kent Churches. The other half goes to our own church funds.

I would be grateful for sponsors if you are unable to participate.

Lastly, our Church has to be manned during the event. Please contact our Churchwarden, Patrick, if you are able to help here.

Roger Bennett

About Ride & Stride

Ride + Stride is the single largest source of income for many Historic Churches Trusts enabling them to make Grants to places of Christian worship. Taking place on the second Saturday of September the funds raised can be split between the nominated Trust and the participants chosen church or chapel.

Further details from Roger Bennett or Google, Ride & Stride or via www.ridestride.org.

Ride and Stride for St Mary of Charity is being organised by Sally Fancourt.

The Remarkable Story of Bishop Thomas Ken (1637 – 1711)

Continued....

In the last newsletter we left Thomas Ken shortly after he had been made Bishop of Bath and Wells. Almost immediately two things happened in his diocese which put great pressure on the new bishop and soured his relations with James II.

In May 1685 the king's nephew, the Duke of Monmouth, raised a rebellion against his uncle, the king, and recruited an army of Somerset farm labourers armed only with pitchforks. They were routed by the king's army and either killed in the battle, or later executed or transported.

Thomas strongly disapproved of the rebellion but he worked tirelessly to care for the women and children in his diocese who were left without support. At the same time, Huguenot refugee families began to arrive in Somerset, with little more than the clothes they stood up in, but attracted by the weaving industry there.

Bishop Ken did not share their Calvinist faith but he recognised people in need of help and started a fund with his entire personal inheritance of £4,000 to set them up in his diocese. King James strongly disapproved of Thomas's support for rebels and Huguenots.

Shortly after this the king issued a Declaration of Indulgence allowing members of all denominations to hold

public office, and ordered it to be read to the congregations in all Anglican churches. The Declaration sounds surprisingly liberal, but the king's unexpressed aim was to put Catholics into powerful positions in the state, to prepare for a catholic takeover. Six bishops, including

Thomas Ken, supported by the Archbishop of Canterbury, refused to allow it to be read in their dioceses.

They were arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London, awaiting trial, but the public outcry was so great that the king feared civil war and ordered their release. It was the beginning of the end for the king. When he heard

that William of Orange had landed, by invitation, with a large Dutch army he realised that his time was up and fled to France, via Faversham, of course.

It might have seemed that Thomas's troubles were over, but in fact the worse crisis in his life was about to begin. But that will be the subject of the third and final part of the story of his remarkable life.



John Blackford

The 13th-century west front was vandalised during the Monmouth Rebellion, destroying many of the carved figures and leaving others, like those of the Coronation of the Virgin, headless.

PRESTON EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Charity registration no. 307699

Are you off to University, college or to undertake an apprenticeship?

If so this may be of interest to you.

The Educational Foundation of Thomas Smith & Others (known as Preston Educational Trust), was set up in the 1880's to assist with further education.

The Trustees are pleased to announce that once again small grants are available for assistance with books and resources for those young people attending university, college or apprenticeships.

To be eligible you must live or worship in the ancient parish of Preston. This covers Preston-next-Faversham and North Preston and also those that worship at either St Catherine's Church, Preston or St Mary Magdalene & St Lawrence, Davington.

Applications should be made in writing giving full details to include personal details, educational or apprenticeship establishment and also for what purpose, with costs, that the award would be put towards.

Please send to 1 Harold Court, Faversham, ME13 8TF.

Hilary Tullet

Sandy Rogers

Sandy Rogers, wife of Patsy and father of Jane, Charlotte, Ben and Emily, passed away on 19 July 2022.

He was known to so many different people, both in the town and beyond, for so many different things that I make no excuse for using a nutshell approach for a life well-lived.

My first memory of Sandy was nearly 30 years ago when he sat in Kettle Hill, Eastling with his easel and paints creating a wonderful painting of the school to gift to a retiring teacher.

"But what happens when a car comes along Sandy?" I asked.

"They'll just have to wait" was his reply when I thought there was more chance of him being flattened than a car waiting for him to move...!!

I don't remember the finished painting but I do remember him always keeping everyone amused while waiting in the queue at M&J stores as he always had something to say ... I wonder what your memories are?

We surround Patsy and all the family in love and prayers as they prepare for his funeral on Friday 26 August at 2pm at St Mary of Charity.

Rest in peace and rise in glory, Sandy Rogers.

St Mary of Charity

3 September 2022

The Great St Mary of Charity Pudding Club and Café

Café from 10am onwards in the church,
then come and treat yourself to a
spoonful of heaven from 2pm.

BBQ – West Doors
of St Mary of Charity
all day.

Classical Coffee Concerts

10.45 - 11.30am, Saturday Mornings*
at St Mary of Charity Church, Faversham.

From Saturday, 10 September 2022

Free entry with a donation

Every week a surprise programme from professional musicians

*Please check www.patreon.com/classicalcoffeeconcerts to ensure that the recitals are taking place, as some Saturdays there may be other events booked.

Welcome back

Trust everyone had a pleasant summer.

Keeping Contact keeps lurching along in its special and erratic way. There is no diary page this month - a clear example that I cannot make up items to put in it. My sincere thanks to those who did submit dates, but there were so few it was never going to fill a part of a page even.

If we are proud of what we do and want to share with the broader community, then we have to tell them.

Copy date for October is Monday, 26 September.

St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence, The Brents and Davington - Harvest



Harvest Festival on 25 September will be a breakfast service!

Plans are to serve food throughout rather than at end of service so please come and join us, whatever your appetite!!



Come and Sing!

Evensong and Supper

Parish Church of St Mary of Charity

Sunday, 4 September

5pm Rehearsal

6pm Evensong

Canticles: Brewer in D minor

Anthem: Like as the hart (Howells)



Please join us for Evensong! If you're a singer, please join us at 5pm to rehearse. If you're not a singer, please join us at 6pm for a beautiful, traditional evensong. There might be supper too!

All welcome!

COME ALONG TO OUR COFFEE MORNING



AT ST CATHERINE'S, PRESTON-NEXT-FAVERSHAM

PRESTON LANE ME13 8LG

Saturday, 3 September

10am to 12 noon

BOOKSTALL

BRING YOUR FRIENDS – EVERYONE WELCOME



Four Churches, One Benefice, One Town

Contact details for Benefice Clergy

Vicar	Rev Simon Rowlands	0179 553 0553 happyvicar@gmail.com
Community & Mission Priest	Rev Dan Corcoran	0796 333 2221 danchadc@gmail.com

Please contact the Administrator at the Benefice Office for information on baptisms, weddings, funerals or other services in any of the Benefice Churches.

Office hours Monday to Wednesday 09:00 - 14:00

* favershamchurches@gmail.com

* 01795 227600

Contacts for individual churches in the Benefice of Faversham

St Catherine, Preston-next-Faversham		fb.me/4favstc
Wardens	Hilary Tullet Rodney Foord	
St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence, The Brents and Davington		fb.me/4favstmml
Wardens	Maureen Gregory Frances Worthington* Iris Neel*	
St Mary of Charity, Faversham		fb.me/4favstmoc
Wardens	Clive Southwell Kevin Swinney	
St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe		fb.me/4favstpp
Wardens	Patrick Mulcahy Jane Wells*	

Keeping Contact is the News Sheet of the Benefice of Faversham.

It shares details of services, news and activities of the member churches of the Benefice of Faversham and around the town of Faversham.

It is available from your nearest Benefice Church or can be downloaded from various sites. If you would like to receive an electronic copy or a printed version, please contact your Churchwarden.

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* Assistant Warden

