

Keeping Contact



The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 3, Issue 11

December 2022—January 2023

Revd. Simon writes

“Come and See!”

The new year has begun with Advent Sunday and Christmas will soon be upon us. Shops had started to place Christmas stock back in September and are actively promoting Christmas merchandise.



2 He was with God in the beginning.

3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all

mankind.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1.1-5.

We celebrate hope over despair, light over darkness, God's love for each one of us in the birth of God made man.

May we and the whole world celebrate the peace and love of the Christ child this Christmas in our hearts, homes, and families.

“**Come and See**” the good news of Christ this Christmas at a local church near you.

Every blessing

Simon.

There is no other time in the Christian calendar where the world is more receptive to the good news of Jesus than at Christmas time.

If shops and retailers can promote Christmas so brashly why as Christians can we not want to invite others to “**Come and See**”, what the story of Christmas is about?

In the economic gloom we have a message of hope to share. What some have called the greatest story of all time.

Amid such world uncertainty, families sharing homes with people from Ukraine, other homes with worries over economic uncertainty, Christians proclaim the good news of the Christ child born in the humblest of circumstances.

The child whose birth transforms darkness to light, the Bible tells us;

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.



In this edition

- From Rev Simon
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- Rev Dan writes
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Services in December — The Benefice of Faversham

Church	Second Sunday in Advent 4 December	Third Sunday in Advent 11 December	Fourth Sunday in Advent 18 December	Christmas Eve Saturday, 24 December	Christmas Day 25 December
	<i>Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12</i>	<i>Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:4-10/ Magnificat; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11</i>	<i>Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-8, 18-20; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25</i>	<i>Midnight Mass: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20</i>	<i>Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; Luke John 1:1-14</i>
Davington					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	4pm Crib	Benefice Service at St Mary of Charity
Baptism:				11.30pm Midnight Mass	
	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...		
Faversham					
10am	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Eucharist		Benefice Eucharist
17:00	Advent Procession		A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols	5pm Crib	
Baptism:					
				11.30pm Midnight Mass	
Ospringe	Christmas Tree Festival				
11am	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Eucharist	4pm Crib	Benefice Service at St Mary of Charity
Baptism:				11.30pm Midnight Mass	
Preston					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	5pm Crib	Benefice Service at St Mary of Charity
Baptism:				11.30pm Midnight Mass	
			6.30pm Festival of Carols		

Midweek services - all services at 10am

Date	Preston	Faversham
Tuesday, 6 December	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 7 December (followed by Parish Lunch)		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 13 December	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 14 December		Eucharist
Tuesday, 20 December	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 21 December		Eucharist
Tuesday, 27 December	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 28 December		Eucharist

Services in January— The Benefice of Faversham

Church	Second Sunday of Christmas 1 January	Epiphany 8 January	Second Sunday of Epiphany 15 January	Third Sunday of Epiphany 22 January	Presentation of Christ in the Temple 29 January
	<i>Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23</i>	<i>Isaiah 60:1-6; psalm 72:1-15; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12</i>	<i>Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-12; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-12; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23</i>	<i>Malachi 3:1-5; Psalm 24:1-10; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40</i>
Davington					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Benefice Service at Preston
Baptism:					
	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...
Faversham					
10am	Morning Praise	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Benefice Service at Preston
Baptism:					
5pm	Choral Evensong				
Ospringe					
11am	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Benefice Service at Preston
Baptism:					
Preston					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Benefice Service
Baptism:					
		5pm Taizé Service			

Janet & Keith Payne – Fond Farewell



We moved to Faversham from West London when Keith retired on Maundy Thursday, April 2006.

While we were moving in, a young man was delivering flyers advertising Easter services at St Mary of Charity. We started attending the church and Keith was delighted to be playing guitar alongside Nick Ash at St Mary of Charity and also at All Saints, Graveney. We also had the privilege of receiving Holy Communion from the previous Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

Once Nick went forward for ordination we moved to Ospringe Church. This has been the most wonderful time in my Christian journey. I worked for 3 years as Bursar of The Foreland Special School in Broadstairs which I enjoyed very much.

I mentioned to Rev Ali Duguid that I was retiring at the end of 2009 and she said their treasurer had just resigned and they were looking for someone to take this on – the rest is history (as they say!).

I have also, for a while, been treasurer at All Saints, Graveney and St Mary Magdalene, Davington. I have also been Parish Administrator at Eastling as part of High Downs Parish which included being their treasurer as well.

I have found it very rewarding to be on the PCC of Ospringe, working with some wonderful fellow Christians.

Our highlight has been having our 50th Wedding Anniversary vow renewal at the Sunday Service in September led by Rev Sarah Williams.

Keith & I have also run Abbey Ukulele Club for the last 10 years. There are not many ukulele players in the area who have not been taught by Keith. We have played at many care homes, Brogdale Festivals, church concerts, etc. It has been lots of fun.

Our younger son, Timothy, moved to Blackpool in late June and we have travelled up to see him several times. Keith will be 82 years old in January and we know that we cannot do that journey for many more years. We have found another park home in Blackpool and while we are able, we feel this is the right time to go.

We move in early December.

I would also like to thank everyone who has come on my coach trips to some wonderful places over the last 10 years since I retired.

God Bless to you all.

Janet

Come and Sing

We have a full roster of special music at St Mary of Charity for Advent and New Year.

Please do join us!

4 December, 5pm: Advent Processional

11 December, 5pm: Handel's Messiah, part one

18 December, 6pm: Lessons and Carols

24 December, 11pm: Christmas Eucharist

25 December, 10am: Christmas Eucharist

1 January, 5pm: Bach's Christmas Oratorio, part four



If you are a singer, do join us at 3:45-for-4pm rehearsals for the Sunday evening services;

Email pattihickswhaley@yahoo.co.uk for the full music lists.

You are also welcome to join the Thursday 7pm rehearsals.

We look forward to seeing you and singing some wonderful Christmas music together.

Monday 19th December, 18:00 at St Mary of Charity

Singalong CHRISTMAS

It's the spectacular, feel-good, big-screen, live-action, animated Christmas story told through recent hits and parodies, silhouetted mime, dance, puppets, lights and lots and lots of audience participation.

Churches Together in Faversham



Friday 23rd December from 19:00
Come to The Market Place
and join this wonderful community event.
Carols, music and a simple start to the real
Christmas.

Christmas with the Choral; Faversham Choral Society

St Mary of Charity.
5pm, Saturday, 10 December

Traditional Christmas music with carols to join in with at this popular annual event.

Tickets £7 available from Eventbrite or at the door (check for concessions).

The Christmas Tree Festival

St Peter & St Paul's
Water Lane, Ospringle ME13 8XS
Saturday 3rd December 11:00 to 16:00
Sunday 4th December 13:00—16:00

Many Christmas Trees, Refreshments, Raffles,

Free Parking



Rev Dan writes

After another Summer of considerable engagement with children, youth and families –those under-represented in churches – **we've** had an Autumn of growth. In the context of mission, Paul writes to the Colossian church **"make the most of every opportunity"**. Paul was fully aware, as we are, that not everyone responds to Jesus, his love, death, resurrection, call to love one another and church itself.

So, thank you for all your mission through the **week enabling people to know God's** unstoppable love.

Building on excellent past and present ministry with older people in homes, care homes and hospitals, **we've held Dream Kingdom Dreams** events exploring areas of development. **We've also held Myers Briggs Personality** workshops enabling greater understanding of our identity, preferences and interactions with others: dynamics which help in our mission and ministry.

We have engagement with all our wonderful schools: including Collective Worship, a film club at Abbey School and lunchtime **chatting**. **We're preparing for another moving Experience Christmas** for all six primary schools in our churches run by church volunteers where a class of 8–11-year-olds experience five activities in small groups exploring the Christmas story.

We've been working with The Children's Society conducting their Well-being Survey across Swale Borough Council's Eastern Area. These results will help enormously figure out future priorities with other agencies in the area.

Our Gem72 mobile ministry is growing, now visiting Davington Top Park, Faversham Rec, Selling, Sheldwich, Lower Road's Ospringe Park, Market Square and Love Lane estate.

We partner with Brogdale CIC's Vibe for some sessions and some we run as the benefice. All sessions connect with our engagement in schools.

We now have a weekly benefice gathering called *i.wonder* for children, young people and families to participate in worship and discipleship. We welcome between 20-30 at Davington Church at 4pm including some from trailer sessions and schools who have no contact with church.

We're rehearsing for Singalong Christmas (Saturdays at 6pm at St Mary of Charity Church). **It's the Christmas story presented** through songs from recent decades, puppets and lots of audience participation. Performance: 6pm, Monday 19th December at St Mary of Charity Church.

Another season of *Faversham Gems Awards* is on its way in January 2023 celebrating children and young people who Go Extra Miles and make life sparkle. The Going Extra Miles concept comes from Jesus and last year over 90 young people were commended for selflessly giving of themselves for others.

Who could you nominate between 1st January and 28th February at favershamgems.org?

Paul also writes about being prayerfully **watchful for an open door to share God's** good news.

Many people have no idea about this best news in the world. Thank you for making the most of every opportunity to enable people to **know God's unstoppable love**.

Dan

So, is this Christmas?

'Tis the season to be jolly' or so the song says.

The adverts on our televisions depict tables full of food, log fires and cheerful families enjoying themselves with children receiving lots of expensive presents.

And yet for many people the reality is very different. Families worried about paying the bills and providing food and presents for their children without getting into debt. Children having to choose which parent to spend Christmas with or not being able to visit one parent because the parent is in prison or in hospital. There are children for whom Christmas is a time of rows and arguments.

Single people can find Christmas another day like any other, spent alone. Or the people who have been made homeless, or are away from their home country for reasons of war.

So perhaps 'Bah Humbug' is more appropriate.

And yet in the midst of winter there is the hope of spring and rebirth in the New Year and as people have for 2 000 years we join with Betjeman in celebrating the wonder of the Christian message.

So I for one will look forward with hope that our community will find in us flawed humans the image of God leading a life of service renewed every time we worship and renew our lives in the sharing of bread and wine in Holy Communion.

Patrick Mulcahy

And is it true?

*And is it true? This most tremendous tale
of all,*

Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,

A Baby in an ox's stall?

The Maker of the stars and sea

Become a Child on earth for me ?

And is it true ? For if it is,

No loving fingers tying strings

Around those tissued fripperies,

The sweet and silly Christmas things,

Bath salts and inexpensive scent

And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,

No carolling in frosty air,

Nor all the steeple-shaking bells

Can with this single Truth compare -

That God was man in Palestine

And lives today in Bread and Wine.

John Betjeman

Nash's Farm - Christmas trees 2022

You may get lucky and a Christmas tree may still be available for you at Nash's Farm. This is a wonderful charity to support. Last year they raised £9,165. Part of your purchase price will be shared with your parish churches and 20 charities.

To find out more contact

Email nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com

Landline 01795 532596

Peter's mobile 07910 248 308

Many thanks for your support

Peter and Alison Howard

Nash's Farmhouse, Luddenham, Faversham ME13 0TQ



Christmas 'Afternoon Tea in a Box'

St Mary of Charity will be making and distributing their 'Afternoon Tea in a Box' again this year.

Buy a box with a handmade selection of sweet and some savoury items as an afternoon tea for a friend (or yourself) for just £5.

Please contact Tory Swain if you would like a box (there are only 75 available; first come, first served!)

Phone 01795 539024 (or email Catriona on admin@stmaryofcharity.org).

Boxes to be collected on the afternoon of 20th December.

*(non contractual image)



Parish Lunch

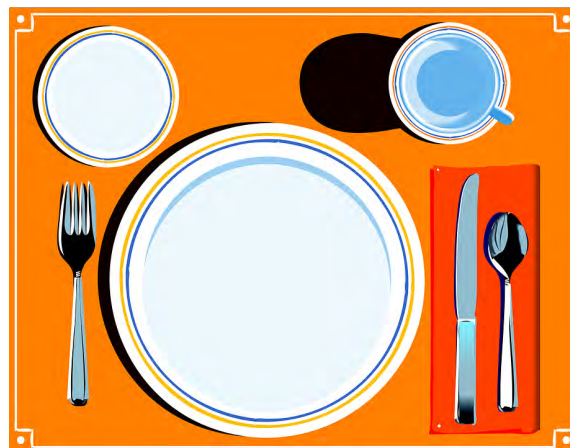
December's Christmas Parish Lunch

St Mary of Charity

Noon on Wednesday, 7 December.

The sign-up sheet will be at the back of the church immediately after November's Parish Lunch!

Everyone (and anyone) is welcome to join us.



Welcome

We are into Advent now. As I write the weather has turned too.

This is our turn of the year edition—Keeping Contact is getting ready for whatever 2023 holds for us. But hopefully not quite as volatile as the last couple of years.

As ever we are only as good as our correspondents. Do be encouraged to contribute.

Copy date for February is Monday, January 23rd 2020.

So, this come with our sincere best wishes for the season and an earnest expectation that 2023 will be a little quieter.

Rocyn

What if?

Heaven started using voice mail?

Most of us have learned to live with voice mail, that pestilence that seems essential for modern life. But what would it be like if Heaven joined in?

Imagine praying and getting the following responses

*"Thank you for calling Heaven. To help us direct you call please select from the following options
Please press 1 for Requests, 2 for Thanksgiving, 3 for Complaints and 4 for all other enquiries."*

It continues " w

We're sorry that all our Angels and Saints are busy right now dealing with other sinners. Do remember that your prayer is important to us. Your call is in a queue and will be dealt with as soon as possible. Do please stay on the line"

Then *" You are still in the queue, but if you'd like King David to sing a Psalm press 4 now.*

Or "For those nagging questions, like dinosaurs, evolution, the age of the Earth and maybe even where Noah's ark is, you can try our interactive real time system. That's the Bible and you can find it on the internet. You may even have an early hard copy version knocking around the house"

Finally , after what seems a long time

"Thank you for holding, now if you would like to speak to God, press 1 or for Jesus press 2 and the Holy Spirit is waiting on 3."

Then. *" This office is closed now. This is to enable our colleagues to celebrate the weekend or another festival. Our office is normally open between 09:30 and 16:30"*

" Before you leave us, if this is a real emergency then do try one of our local offices we are sure to have branches near you."

Day	Date	Detail	Time		Where
Tue	29-Nov	Contemplating Christmas	19:00		Preston
Wed	30-Nov	Space to Be	19:00	20:00	Davington
Sat	03-Dec	Christmas Tree Festival	10:00	16:00	Ospringe
Sat	03-Dec	Coffee Morning	10:00	12:00	Preston
Sun	04-Dec	Holy Communion	11:00		Ospringe
Sun	04-Dec	Christmas Tree Festival	13:00	16:00	Ospringe
Sun	04-Dec	Advent Procession - school choirs	17:00		St Mary of Charity
Mon	05-Dec	Church closed for school event	All day		St Mary of Charity
Tue	06-Dec	Contemplating Christmas	19:00		Preston
Tue	06-Dec	Experience Christmas			Davington
Wed	07-Dec	Christmas Parish Lunch - sign up in Church	12:00		St Mary of Charity
Wed	07-Dec	"Space to Be"	19:00	20:00	Davington
Wed	07-Dec	Experience Christmas			Davington
Sat	10-Dec	Faversham Choral society - Christmas with the Choral	17:00		St Mary of Charity
Sun	11-Dec	Morning Praise	11:00		Ospringe
Sun	11-Dec	Come and Sing - Messiah	17:00		St Mary of Charity
Mon	12-Dec	Church closed - School Carol Service	All day		St Mary of Charity
Tue	13-Dec	Contemplating Christmas	19:00		Preston
Tue	13-Dec	Church closed - School Carol Service	Morning		St Mary of Charity
Wed	14-Dec	"Space to Be"	19:00	20:00	Davington
Wed	14-Dec	Church closed - School Carol Service	Morning		St Mary of Charity
Sat	17-Dec	Church Decoration	12:00		St Mary of Charity
Sun	18-Dec	Carol Service	11:00		Ospringe
Sun	18-Dec	Nine Lessons & Carols	17:00		St Mary of Charity
Sun	18-Dec	Lessons & Carols	18:30		Preston
Mon	19-Dec	Church closed - Singalong setup	All day		St Mary of Charity
Mon	19-Dec	Singalong	18:00		St Mary of Charity
Tue	20-Dec	Christingle	17:00		Ospringe
Tue	20-Dec	Contemplating Christmas	19:00		Preston
Wed	21-Dec	Christingle	17:00		Perry Court Estate
Wed	21-Dec	"Space to Be"	19:00	20:00	Davington
Fri	23-Dec	Carols in the Market Place	19:00		Market Place
Sat	24-Dec	Crib Service - Christmas Eve	15:00		Davington
Sat	24-Dec	Come to the Manger	16:00		Ospringe
Sat	24-Dec	Crib Service	17:00		St Mary of Charity
Sat	24-Dec	Midnight Mass	23:30		Davington
Sat	24-Dec	Midnight Communion	23:30		Ospringe
Sat	24-Dec	Midnight Mass	23:30		St Mary of Charity
Sun	25-Dec	Benefice Family Eucharist	10:00		St Mary of Charity
Thu	05-Jan	Church closed School Event	All day		St Mary of Charity
Wed	18-Jan	Parish Lunch - sign up in Church	12:00		St Mary of Charity
Sat	04-Feb	Coffee Morning	10:30	12:00	Davington



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

For details, fees and arrangements of baptisms, weddings and funerals please contact
 Catriona Cuthbert—Parish Administrator, the Benefice of Faversham
 (Core working times 9am - 2pm Monday to Wednesday)
 The Benefice Office is located at St Mary of Charity Church of England Primary School, Orchard Place, Faversham, ME13 8AP
 * FavershamChurches@gmail.com
 * 01795 227600

Contacts for individual churches in the Benefice of Faversham

St Catherine, Preston next Faversham		fb.me/4favstc
Wardens	Hilary Tulett Rodney Foord	
St Mary Magdalene w St Lawrence, 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 & St Paul, Ospringe		fb.me/4favstpp
Wardens	Patrick Mulcahy Vacant	

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 Church Warden.

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* Assistant Warden

