

Keeping Contact

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 3, Issue 2

March 2022



Revd. Simon writes

Of Patron Saints and Spring Flowers

March 1st is St David's Day and as a person born in Wales it is a time of reflection on personal journeys and identity. One of my earliest memories is being taken to the ruins of Valle Crucis Abbey on the outskirts of my hometown of Llangollen. Here in this open tranquil setting with mountain and river near by the sense of God's imminence became a reality for my younger self. All of us can recall personal memories of places or events that were to have a profound impact on our future lives. Christians through the generations have reflected upon the lives of other Christians as inspiration for their own journeys of faith. I have reflected upon the lives of modern Christians like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dr Martin Luther King Jr, Oscar Romero and Thomas Merton. All inspirations in the way they lived out their lives in an ever-changing and often dangerous world. Who I wonder has inspired you in your Christian journey or what place has God felt more present?



St. David as the teacher of Finnian of Clonard

Andreas F. Borchert,

As a child, in Wales the daffodil was such an important symbol of spring often appearing somewhat later than it does down here. It is for me a symbol of Spring, new life, and hope. Very much the symbols and sentiments we associate with Easter, yet we are at the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday being the second of March this year. Lent is a

time for Christians to enter a journey of preparation for Easter. A time of self-reflection, looking at what God is calling us to be. One helpful exercise is to write a personal reflective journey looking at the whole of your life and asking where in the midst of this journey was God? You will find information about Contemplating Easter in this magazine, I hope you take the opportunity to use Lent as a personal time to pray, reflect on how God is speaking to you in this time and place. May God grant you grace to delight in his love for you and creation this March. A blessed Saint David's day to you.

Yours in Christ

Simon.



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Services in March - The Benefice of Faversham

	First Sunday in Lent 6 March	Second Sunday in Lent 13 March	Third Sunday in Lent 20 March	[Fourth Sunday in Lent] Mothering Sunday 27 March
Church	<i>Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1, 2, 9-16; Romans 10-8b-13; Luke 4:1-13</i>	<i>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:3-35</i>	<i>Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9</i>	<i>Exodus 2:1-10 or Samuel 1:20-28; Psalm 34:11-20 or 127:1-4; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 or Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:33-35 or</i>
Davington				
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Baptism:				2pm ADAMS
Faversham				
10am	All Age Worship	Eucharist	Family Eucharist	Eucharist
Baptism:				
5pm	Choral Evensong (rehearsing from 4pm)			
Ospringe				
11am	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Eucharist	Morning Praise
Baptism:				
Preston				
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist
Baptism:				

Lent Lunches—Cancelled

Sadly, because of the current situation the Lent Lunch series had to be cancelled.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to being back.

Services in Holy Week—The Benefice of Faversham

	Monday 11 April	Tuesday 12 April	Wednesday 13 April	Maundy Thursday 14 April	Good Friday 15 April	Easter Saturday 16 April
Church	Psalm 25; Lamentations 2:8-19; Colossians 1:18-23 John 12:1-11	Psalm 55:13- 24; Lamentations 3:40-51; Galatians 6:11 -end John 12:20-36	Psalm 88; Isaiah 63:1-9; Revelation 14:18-15:4 John 13:21-32	Exodus 12:1- 14; Psalm 116:1, 10-end; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b- 35	Isaiah 52:13 - 53:[end]; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:[end]	(Vigil) Genesis 1:1-2, 4a; Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13 Exodus 14:10-end, 15:20-21; Romans 6:3- 11; Luke 24:1- 12
Davington						
	7.30pm Compline			7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist	9am Stations of the Cross	
Faversham						
		7.30pm Compline		7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist	2-3pm Meditation at the Foot of the Cross	Singalong Easter
Ospringe						
			7.30pm Compline	7.30pm Seder Meal with Maundy Thursday Eucharist	2.30pm Reflections	
					[Messy Church???	
Preston						
			[]pm Stations of the Cross	7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist	3pm Eucharist and Veneration at the Foot of the Cross	7.30pm Service of Light Benefice Service

Subject to confirmation— Good Friday: Walk of Witness. Gather at St Mary of Charity, from 10.30am walk in silently to Market Place via Crescent Road.

Christians against poverty

Christians Against Poverty, (CAP) was set up by John Birkby CBE in 1996 aiming to help people overcome debt.

The vision is to see lives transformed, churches thriving and an end to UK poverty. From humble, small beginnings, CAP has become an organisation working in Britain, Canada, the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

CAP recognises that poverty destroys lives. It breaks families apart, isolates people, shatters confidence and drives many people to think that suicide is the only way out.

Poverty is real, with millions locked in its miserable grip. In a just and compassionate society, CAP believes, no one should be trapped in their home, afraid to open the door or answer the phone. No one should wake up wondering where they'll find the money to feed their children or heat their home. No one should be alone, especially when times are tough.

CAP aims to restore hope to those who are lost and hurting. They are committed to providing practical help and holistic support through local churches, partnering with those who share their vision, and proclaiming the good news of the gospel every step of the way.

Since CAP first began, tens of thousands of people have been helped through their free, community-based services. Debt and poverty continue to drain hope from peoples' lives. Millions in the UK still face the practical and personal battles waged by debt, unemployment, low income and a lack of money education.

Trish's story

Trish had an abusive relationship and when it ended was left with a lot of debt. Then her



granddaughter came to live with her, but she was unable to get the benefits she needed for both of them. It came to the point when she stopped eating because she needed to feed her granddaughter, she couldn't support her family and could see no way out. She'd hit rock bottom.

Finally a friend gave her CAP's number. The local debt coach began to visit her, making no judgement. She listened and prayed with Trish and said there was **nothing which couldn't be sorted out.** That gave Trish the confidence to go on. The coach took away all the debt paperwork and negotiated with the bodies involved. Trish went on a money course which changed the way she thought about money and finally became debt free. Trish was invited to the local Grace Church where she found support, love and understanding. She came to faith and was baptised. Her life has been transformed. Churches can bring hope to their local community. We are the hands and feet of God on earth.

Do you of anyone who would benefit from this help?

New enquiry help line 0800 328 0006

Or search the internet for capuk.org

Iris Neel

Dan, writes

As we explore the Gospel of Luke in our Sunday services, we see how Jesus has Sovereign ability to transform life for individuals and for society in all sorts of ways – often through relationship with others. Jesus gives authority to do the same through prayer and relational action through his loving resurrection healing. Last month I wrote about some of what is happening in Faversham so people can see and experience locally Jesus' relational life-transformation.

Our mobile initiative has been busy providing a warm welcome, a safe space, games, gallons of hot chocolate and conversation at Faversham Rec every Friday and Davington Rec every Sunday (weather permitting!). We've also been working with Rev Peter Newell and Selling and Sheldwich schools providing after-school clubs. Over half term, for the first time, we visited Bensted Grove a few times connecting with families from local schools and worked with KCC providing play sessions further afield (where we met some families from Faversham!)

Nominations have been rolling in for The Faversham GEMs Awards celebrating children and young people under 19 who Go Extra Miles for others. If you are reading this before 11.59pm on Monday 28th February you've still time to nominate children/young people (individuals or groups) who give of themselves to make life sparkle. All nominees will receive a certificate from the Mayor at the awards ceremony on 31st March and some nominees will also receive a Faversham Gems Outstanding Contribution Award. Nominate at favershamgems.org.

The Children's Society have begun their Wellbeing Survey across East Swale consulting local youth groups about how they feel about life. Consultations in schools will begin mid-March. The resulting Good Childhood Report will help the local area support local children and young people and families as we ease out of Covid now and into the future.

As well as a growing number of regular assemblies, a film club looking at life from a Christian viewpoint at The Abbey School and chatting to pupils about wellbeing at lunchtimes, we are offering Experience Easter to our local primary schools to explore the Easter story in each of our churches at the end of March.

Our Singalong Easter rehearsals are continuing well on Saturdays at 6.00pm as we plan to perform on Holy Saturday. One of the most crucial ministries is assuring people of God's love and purpose for life. And so, we have started Let's Feast again with a growing number of members of all ages across the benefice exploring God, baptism, communion, confirmation and how we all fit into God's plan for the world. Church growth happens when people experience Jesus' transformation through his people. Who do you know who could do with a dose of Jesus' transformation? Why not pray for Jesus' resurrection-healing now for them?

*Dan Corcoran
Mission Priest*

Lent, a time for reflection and preparation.

On Sunday I was reminded of the age old question 'Tell me what is it you believe?' and it brought to mind a conversation I had with someone who wanted to give a visitor to the church a relevant book.

The old response was to suggest you read St. John's Gospel. Stephen Cottrell has a newish book written in response to being asked that very question on a railway station. Entitled 'Dear England' and subtitled ' Finding Hope, Taking Heart and Changing the world.

Dear England is the story of how Christian faith can make sense of life, giving a framework for how we deal with our biggest questions and deepest longings; and how its values and ideals can shape the way we

live in-and bring change to-the world. It is written without resorting to individual experience or religious jargon, Dear England clears the obstacles that can get in the way of faith for those who, like its author, were brought up in the secular world, and haven't had the opportunity to think about the claims of faith.

Both contemplative and deeply practical, this is an invitation to reconsider the Christian hope of a changed heart – and a changed world.

So if you like me take on extra study at this season this could be a book worth reading or giving to a questioning friend.

Patrick Mulcahy

Easter Flowers at St Peter and St Paul's, Ospringe

If you would like to contribute to the Easter Lilies donations, please send them to Janet Payne or put an envelope in the collection. If you would like to have remembered names on a list displayed at Easter, please let me know at revsarahwilliams@gmail.com

To celebrate Jesus resurrection we will be flower arranging to decorate the church on Saturday 16th April from 10 am. Please do join us, keeping socially distanced. I will be providing lilies, please bring greenery and other flowers (generally white and yellow).



Sarah Williams

Getting to know you—Sarah Williams

Hello, my name is Sarah Williams and I am a member of St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe Church in the Benefice of Faversham.



How long have you lived in Faversham, have you ever lived anywhere else?

We moved to Faversham October 2016 when I retired from being Rector of Lydd, and we love living here. I am fascinated that so many people have known each other for years.

With my husband Rocyn we have moved quite a lot. Surbiton, Knutsford, Holt (near Wrexham), Ilkley, then 15 years in Belgium, ordained in Bristol in 2003, moved back to Belgium for three years, and then Lydd.

How did you come to your faith?

I grew up in a Christian family. My parents came to faith in the Billy Graham rallies in the 1950s. Lee Abbey youth camps were important and that is where I made the Christian faith my own. We had great fun, wonderful leaders with excellent worship and talks. Coming to faith is one thing, continuing to grow is another really important part of faith.

While at Lee Abbey I met a group from Cheltenham which was where I was going to train as a teacher. There I started helping leading the youth group, so had good Christian fellowship. As we moved around the country and Belgium, we had great Christian friends. In Ilkley, which I loved, I had wonderful Christian friends who I prayed with every week.

In Belgium we were founder members of the Anglican English-speaking church in Tervuren

in 1988. Here we had excellent fellowship and Home Groups. I learnt so much in from the studies we shared. Being active in church is vital, and leading young people's groups has been great.

Then, the whole journey of calling to ordained ministry has continued to stretch and form me as a disciple of Jesus.

What do you like most about your home church?

Fellowship and worship in equal measure. Worshipping together and singing praise to God, and praying and sharing the Bible together. During lockdown, and continuing, we have been very grateful to Michael and Nicola Batey for keeping us in touch with each other over Zoom. Being in a prayer triplet is great too.

I am also in charge of the flower arranging helpers. This is a visual part of worship for me, bringing God's creation beauty into God's holiness.

What's your favourite hymn or chorus?

This is hard to choose. Maybe 'The Lord's my Shepherd' – the Stuart Townend version, or 10,000 reasons, or..... I love learning new ones too.

What is your favourite bit of the Bible and why?

I have no trouble with this question. John 20.10-18 is my absolute favourite. Mary is crying, she just doesn't get it, and then the risen Jesus appears to her, and calls her name. I resonate with all of this, and find it hugely important as a lady vicar. Mary is the first to see him and the first to tell the news of his resurrection. Wonderful!

Diocesan Briefing

You can keep up to date with everything that is happening in the Diocese on the link below.

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/our-life/news-events/news/get-the-latest-news.php>

It provides links to all sorts of stuff that is going on in the diocese and worth checking on.

Israel's Peace Village

**Wahat al-Salam
Neve Shalom**

واحة السلام
נווה שלום

My Jewish husband and I, Simon Wolfe (aka St Mary's Bell Tower Captain!) were invited in 2017 to go on a trip to visit Neve Shalom Wahat al Salaam.

The trip was organised by the British Friends of the village and was a multi faith trip to get more than one perspective on the peace initiatives run in the village and by faith organisations outside so as a multi-faith household we ticked their boxes. (Believe me- we have far more tension around Boat Race day in our house as Simon went to the lesser university!).

The village was established in the early 1970's by a Jewish by birth turned Catholic monk, Father Bruno.

He wanted to start a community 50% Jewish 50% Palestinian as a model for living alongside each other in peace. They were the first community to start their own Primary School where all lessons are learned in both Hebrew and Arabic so every child is virtually bilingual when they leave. They also run a School for Peace where courses are put on to educate attendees in peaceful conflict resolution. There is much more information about the various organisations on the Oasis

of Peace web page oasisofpeace.org.uk.

This November another trip is being organised to Neve Shalom and also to visit a project in Jerusalem, the Anglican church in Ramallah and a Muslim project in Akko.

Simon and I have stayed in the village twice now and it is an experience well worth having if you can. The people in Neve Shalom/ Wahat al Salaam are extremely impressive especially in the face of arson attacks by extremists- 3 in the last 18 months. Be not afraid! Security has been ramped up now!

Do ask either of us about it but further information can be obtained from Jack Omer Jackaman at the NSWAS office.

His email is:

jack.omer-jackaman@oasisofpeace.org.uk

and he can confirm dates etc.

Simon and I are going again to meet up with our friends there and make new ones.

Stephanie Wolfe

CALENDAR OF PRAYER

CHANGED LIVES → CHANGING LIVES



The latest version of the calendar of prayer is now available on line at

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/strategy/prayer/prayer-resources/calendar-of-prayer/>

'Keep Praying Lent: Changed lives generously changing lives' is available on line at

<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/strategy/prayer/prayer-resources/seasonal-prayers-for-renewal-mission/>

Primrose Northrop

Calendar of Prayer Co-Ordinator

pnorthrop@diocant.org

www.canterburydiocese.org

Dean Robert's garden.

How did we miss this? Well, I did.

Someone, one of my ever alert correspondents (Iris from Davington) has just alerted me to this wonderful corner of the world wide web.

She writes "When in Canada recently, I was told about Dean Willis's excellent garden ministry which he has given every morning for the last two years. Obviously it is available here as well as in Canada! It lasts between 45 minutes and 1 hour and can be accessed at any time. I suspect it varies in format. The one I listened to took the form of prayers, a reading and Dean Willis's commentary, followed by prayers concerning some current situation in the world. Then the Dean chooses someone who has died (or perhaps been born) on that particular date. He gives a brief biography of the person and the part they have played in Christianity. If you haven't come across it, do give the Garden Ministry a try. One of the engaging features is that the Dean's cat or other animals get into the videos as well!



The Dean will retire in May, but until then he will continue with this ministry.

<https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/worship/online-worship/#morning>

Contemplating Easter

Join us for an opportunity for quiet reflection
on Jesus' journey to the cross and glory.

**Thursdays,
March 3, 8,
17, 24 and 31,
and 7 April**



**at the church of
St Mary Magdalene
w St Laurence, Davington
7.00pm**

A hopeless end becomes endless hope...

Sing-along EASTER 2022

It's the spectacular, big-screen, live-action/animated Easter story for all the family featuring a local, all age cast, well known songs and parodies, silhouetted mime, puppets, lights and lots and lots of audience participation!

SAVE THE DATE!

5.00pm

Saturday 16th April 2022

Venue tbc

FREE tickets available soon

For more information:

@singalongkent | www.youarecrucial.org | singalongkent@gmail.com

The story where good things never come to an end!



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 service in any of the Benefice Churches.

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

* FavershamChurches@gmail.com

* 0179 553 0553

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	Miranda Ford	
St Peter & St Paul, Ospringe		fb.me/4favstpp
Wardens	Phil Larter 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 Church Warden.

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* Assistant Warden

