

# Keeping Contact

## The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 3, Issue 7

July—August 2022

### Revd. Simon writes

#### Koinōnia

Is the Greek word for communion, association, partnership, from 'koinos' meaning in common.

Another word for communion is fellowship, the gathering of people of faith to support one another in their journey of faith.

This understanding of fellowship translates in action rather than language. To be 'the church', that is a group of people not a building!

To quote Romans 16:5, "Greet the church that is in their house." St. Paul refers to the church in their house—not a church building, but a body of believers.

All too often we as Christians rooted in community feel protected by and connected to our church buildings. Whilst such buildings are a physical attraction within a community due to historic and or architectural merit the buildings themselves are not 'the church'.

I find St Paul's definition of church membership both powerful and revolutionary. Set out in 1 Corinthians 12:13 " For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

Baptism is the point of entry into 'the church' All given equal

membership through the Holy Spirit. Whenever and wherever we gather we are the church, the body of Christ.

Why am I writing this? What am I trying to say?

If being church is about being in fellowship this is about a gathering of Christians in action working together. St Paul talks of Christians working together and Jesus sent the 70 or 72 out in pairs to proclaim the kingdom.

In Philippians 4.3 a companion is literally a yoke-fellow. So as one church community or fellowship in Faversham (not four church buildings) how can we work together ?

How, as one to witness to the kingdom?

We pray "thy kingdom come, thy will be done", meaning not a future kingdom in heaven but in the here and now.

This should be a call to action, how do we to respond to God's call to us?

With the economic crisis likely to deepen in the coming months, I wonder if our calling is to look at working with the group 'Christians against Poverty' (CAP) and discern how as a fellowship we can offer support to our community. Please look at their website and pray



#### In this edition

- From Rev Simon
- July Services
- August Services
- Bishop Ken
- Rev Dan writes
- The Diary
- Contact details

## Services in July — The Benefice of Faversham

	Third Sunday after Trinity (St Thomas) <b>3 July</b>	Fourth Sunday after Trinity <b>10 July</b>	Fifth Sunday after Trinity <b>17 July</b>	Sixth Sunday after Trinity <b>24 July</b>	Seventh Sunday after Trinity <b>31 July</b>
Church	<i>Habakkuk 2:1-4; Psalm 31:1-6; Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29</i>	<i>Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37</i>	<i>Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42</i>	<i>Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13</i>	<i>Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21</i>
<b>Davington</b>		<b>BANNS</b>	<b>BANNS</b>	<b>BANNS</b>	Benefice Service at St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence, The Brents and Davington
10am	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Prayer	
Baptism:		2pm BAPTISM			
<b>Faversham</b>	<b>BANNS</b>	<b>BANNS x 2</b>	<b>BANNS x 2</b>	<b>BANNS x 2</b>	
10am	All Age Worship	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	
Baptism:				2pm BAPTISM 3pm BAPTISM	
5pm	Choral Evensong				
<b>Ospringe</b>					
11am	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Praise	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Praise	
Baptism:					
<b>Preston</b>					
10am	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	Civic Service	<b>Eucharist</b>	
Baptism:			2pm BAPTISM		
6:30		Evening Prayer			

Date	Preston	Faversham
Tuesday, 5 July	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 6 July		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 12 July	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 13 July		Eucharist
Tuesday, 19 July	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 20 July (followed by Parish Lunch)		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 26 July	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 27 July		Eucharist

## Services in August — The Benefice of Faversham

	Eighth Sunday after Trinity <b>7 August</b>	Ninth Sunday after Trinity <b>14 August</b>	Tenth Sunday after Trinity <b>21 August</b>	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity <b>28 August</b>
Church				
<b>Davington</b>				
10am	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Prayer
Baptism:				
<b>Faversham</b>		<b>BANNS</b>	<b>BANNS</b>	<b>BANNS</b>
10am	All Age Worship	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>
Baptism:	2pm BAPTISM			
5pm	Choral Evensong			
<b>Ospringe</b>				
11am	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Praise	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Praise
Baptism:				
<b>Preston</b>				
10am	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>Eucharist</b>
Baptism:				
6:30		Evening Prayer		

<b>Date</b>	<b>Preston</b>	<b>Faversham</b>
Tuesday, 2 August	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 3 August		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 9 August	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 10 August		Eucharist
Tuesday, 16 August	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 17 August		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 23 August	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 24 August		Eucharist
Tuesday, 30 August	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 31 August		Morning Prayer

## The Vicar continues...

about this and share your thoughts with Dan and/or me.

Dan and I with others are trying to re-imagine how we as a fellowship of four buildings and one congregation can reach out and welcome the people we meet in the week who never walk through our church doors. Please pray for the conversations taking place at present to help us discern how God is calling our 'church' to adapt and respond to young people, families, and those on the periphery. I wish you peace and rest this summer break.

Yours in Christ.

Simon.

## St Peter & St Paul's Patronal Festival

Just a reminder that the church is open Wednesday morning 29th June, Saturday 2nd July and Sunday 3rd July.

Offers of help to welcome visitors or with refreshments will be gratefully received ( and needed!).

Please let Patrick know if you can.

Please pass the word to friends and family we are open.

Jane Wells



## Classical Coffee Concerts



10.45 - 11.30am, Saturday Mornings\*

at St Mary of Charity Church, Faversham

Free entry with a donation

Every week a surprise programme from professional musicians

\*Please check [www.patreon.com/classicalcoffeeconcerts](http://www.patreon.com/classicalcoffeeconcerts) to ensure that the recitals are taking place, as some Saturdays there may be other events booked.

## Local Community News

Many members of our churches will be affected by the forth coming closure of the local branch of the National Westminster Bank which is to be greatly lamented. The local manager has contacted the Vicar with the following information.

Although customers can come in any day, we are running special days with additional staff to help our customers who are worried we are closing.

For example we will explain what they can do at the local post office, help then set up different ways to bank, show them how to use cash machines that are different to ours etc.

These are the following Thursdays from 9-30 to 3-30

7th. July, 14th. July and 21st. July

Customers can just drop in or visit and pre book a time slot in branch




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## 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.




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## Faversham Safari—"Vide grenier", "Rommemarkt", street jumble.....

### Sunday 7th August

Once again I will run a stall for St. Mary's. I hope Ospringe, Preston and Davington Churches will think about joining us on Flood Lane with their own stalls. It's remarkable what people will pay for!

In July I will happily collect sellable for St. Mary's (not books or clothes please). Please also think about helping for an hour or 2. I need help lugging boxes from our house onto the Green, and back at the end! Or help on the stall either sitting and taking money or selling ....and it's FUN!

Thanks

Margy Tel. ....590619

## Recitals at Faversham Churches

### Organ Recitals

**Dr Colin Parsons MBE**

- **St Catherine's next Preston**  
**Friday 22 July 7.30pm**  
**Refreshments and a retiring collection.**
- **St Mary of Charity**  
**Saturday 23rd July 7:30 p.m.**  
**Free, with retiring collection**

Dr Parsons is the former Principal of the North and Midlands School of Music and former organist/choirmaster at Lancaster Priory. Described as a force of nature, his recitals promise to be an adventure.

He will certainly be busy in Faversham over this weekend.

## Music at St Mary of Charity

### Come and Sing Evensong + Supper

Sunday 3 July is our next "Come and Sing" Evensong, which attracts singers from all around the area.

The July service will include Sumson's Canticles in G, choral works by Victoria and Palestrina, Smith

Responses, and J.S. Bach's Fantasia in G, BWV 572, as a closing voluntary.

If you are a singer, do join us at 4:45 for a 5pm rehearsal (you are also welcome to join the Thursday 7pm rehearsal if you are not familiar with the music).

Or join us at 6pm to enjoy the service!

We hope to have supper afterwards.



**Do mark your calendars for 27 August, when our own local Charlie Francis FRCO, organ scholar at Birmingham Cathedral, returns to give the closing recital in our series.**

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

Bishop Ken is a man whom I very much admire. Although he lived over 300 years ago his story is still very relevant today.

Most churchgoers will know his two hymns, 'Awake my soul and with the sun' and 'Glory to thee my God this night'.

But the remarkable story of his life may not be so familiar.. The first of these hymns contains the lines :  
Let all thy converse be  
sincere, Thy conscience as  
the noon-day clear.

These were not pious platitudes. He spoke the truth to kings and princes and that eventually brought him to ruin in the world's eyes.

He always acted as his conscience told him.. When he was a young parish priest in Winchester his bishop recommended him to the king, Charles II, to be the chaplain to the king's niece, Mary.

She was to be married to William of Orange, head of the Dutch state. William put great pressure on Thomas to encourage Mary to accept the teachings of the Dutch Reformed Church but Thomas's conscience would not allow him to So, he was sent home to England in disgrace.

Charles, however, recognised his courage and made him one of his royal chaplains. Thomas returned to his Winchester parish and quietly continued with his duties until the king came up with the idea of building a new palace in Winchester to rival Versailles..

The court were ordered to attend the king's laying of the foundation stone but nobody would accommodate Nell Gwynne.

As a royal chaplain Thomas was ordered to accommodate her but he replied that, in all conscience, he could not do so.

He was brought before the king but, to everyone's amazement, instead of being punished, the king offered to recommend him as Bishop of Bath and Wells.

For all his faults, Charles admired courage.

Thomas was immediately faced with a new challenge to his conscience. His patron, Charles II, died shortly after Thomas had been made a bishop. Charles's successor, his brother, James II, had converted to Roman Catholicism.

All new bishops were required to take an Oath of Allegiance to the sovereign.

Could Thomas, in all conscience, take an oath before God, as an Anglican bishop, to obey a Roman Catholic king?

After much thought and prayer he decided that, as James was the legitimate heir and had vowed to protect the Church of England, he should take the oath.

It was a decision that eventually brought about his downfall, but I will tell that story in a later edition of this newsletter.



*John Blackford*

## What is THAT?

So said a young visitor who was looking around the Hart chapel.

The "that" in question is a copy of a painting depicting a dead man with a crown of thorns with blood seeping, being cradled by a woman dressed in blue looking slightly away from the body.

To her left is a young teenage boy looking down on the body and to her right another woman holding a white cloth eyes centred on the body. Behind the quartet is a wooden post. It is a difficult picture to view and even harder to explain to a young person.

In simple terms it is a copy of a painting by Luis de Morales (1510/11-1586) a painter who specialised in Pietas of which this is one. The Latin word pieta means 'dutifulness or devotion or pity or compassion'. The question is what is it for?

This painting may take John 19 v 25 to 27 as a starting point.

It seems to me that it shows the care of a mother and friends mourning the loss of a son and friend and may symbolise that God took human form so that he might share our human suffering. It may also show us that Mary's devotion to her God went from accepting God's will that she should bear His son to her final caring for His Human body at the end . As any parent might tell you to lose a son or daughter is probably the most extreme suffering of loss we can experience.

In the days when people couldn't read it was a way of understanding the essence of God with us. So as today we read and study our bibles so in the 16th century the faithful would study pictures depicting scenes from the bible.

Some years ago Sister Wendy wrote some books interpreting art and its meaning. So I will be spending more time interpreting the pictures I see in churches and galleries for that inner understanding that comes from serious study and next time I am asked I will be able to explain its significance to my faith.

*Patrick Mulcahy*

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## Pegasus Choir

### **Pegasus Choir Concert**

#### **St Mary of Charity**

6pm, 16 July 2022

Vaughan Williams - Mass in G Minor

Parry - Songs of Farewell

More information available nearer the time from pew sheets or Achurchnearyou.



## A home restored

Whatever your political views on Israel and Palestine or however scant your knowledge may be of the area, the following is a fact.

On a reasonably regular basis a Palestinian family may be made homeless with less than 24 hours' notice as Israeli soldiers bulldoze their home.

The reason given is that they are not entitled to live on the land, land which has belonged to them for years and which the state of Israel are claiming as theirs.

Similar things happen to farmers' olive and apricot trees, access to land and so on.

We have seen this first hand four years ago, heard it from Palestinian farmers and ordinary families.

What was remarkable then and will be so now is the dignity and absence of revenge on the part of those receiving such treatment. And it is this, as well as the cruelty which has captured the imaginations of people like us who have visited and also of the organisation the Amos Trust whose work we have supported in various ways for some years now.

We went to Palestine on 19 April for 11 days as part of a group of 30 or so people to help to rebuild Khalid's family home which has recently



been demolished.

He lived for many years in a refugee camp with his family, found work and saved up to buy his house, something many in the camps don't achieve.

There was a dispute about ownership of the land of his house which he won in the courts. Nonetheless, the bulldozers came and demolished it.

The local community, knowing of the Amos Trust's intention to rebuild, decided amongst themselves that Khalid should be the beneficiary.

Local builders will lead the project and the group from England will help - I don't expect any of us are experts and the relationships we make will be as important as the physical building.

This project is partly funded by Amos Trust and partly by our own fundraising.

Do please look up this small and wonderful organisation and, if you like, at our just giving page to see more. We shall be returning with stories, information, and doubtless enthusiasm, all of which we shall be sharing in the parish, hopefully in May.

*Andrew Sweeney, Lou Seear*

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### About The Amos Trust

For many years Sarah and I supported The Amos Trust, including organising concerts for Garth Hewitt whilst we were living in Belgium. The iniquity of how people treat other people cannot be ignored. Do visit their website and see for yourself.

<https://www.amostrust.org/palestine-justice/>

**amos**  **trust**  
justice and hope for the forgotten

## Rev Dan writes..

You are the best Missionary to those you know!

And your answer to "What is your favourite thing about Jesus right now?" is key.

Peter wrote, "...in your hearts, revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." (1 Peter 3.15)

Do you ever find that in that kind situation, the mind can go blank? Nevertheless, what is your "reason for the hope that you have"?

Most assemblies in primary schools start with this favourite thing about Jesus question. There's never a shortage of children who then proclaim their favourite things about God: always loving, always caring, creating family etc. Of course, when asking questions in assemblies, some children will put their hands up to anything often wanting to be the bearers of the "right answer". However, although we may regularly hear God's central qualities mentioned each time, they're often stated in different ways suggesting they're coming from the children's own experience. Some really value hearing the answers.

I remember a Muslim child once asked me whether he could change the question to "what is your favourite thing about Jesus?" and responded, "he's the loving and forgiving one."

I sometimes ask the same question to adults who often change the question to "what is your favourite thing about church?" suggesting that God is the sum of the ways in which they like to meet to worship him.

Sometimes when asking adults who are not believers, they will automatically change the question to something like "what do you hate the most about religion?" You can imagine the tirade that follows, full of assumptions about what I (don't) believe, about how we have allegedly started all the wars on the planet (even though Jesus is the author of the command "love one another"), how science has apparently disproved God (even though many advances in modern science and medicine have been pioneered by Christians) and how God obviously can't exist because of the world's suffering (although the church is often booming in areas where such awful suffering exists).

Sometimes people list what they hate about the god they don't believe in (often based on their experience of Church or Christians) which usually prompts my response, "I don't believe in the god you have described either!"

Paul writes how he never boasts in anything other than Jesus (Galatians 6.14). There's just no point: anything else is about taste and will let people down. Rowan Williams once said that it's Jesus who is the fulfilment of all human longing.

So, what's your favourite thing about Jesus right now?

You're the best Missionary to tell people. Who needs to hear?

Dan

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## It's the hols..

There next edition of Keeping Contact will be September. The closing date for copy is Monday 22nd August. Copy to [beneficeoffaversham+contact@gmail.com](mailto:beneficeoffaversham+contact@gmail.com)

Rocyn

## Friends of St Mary of Charity

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### Walled-up women

7.30pm, 9 July

*A one-woman play exploring the lives of anchorites and taking themes from the anchorites of St Mary of Charity.*

*No tickets – retiring donation.*

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### Architectural history walk & talk

12 – 1.30pm, 16 July

A brief walk around the church exploring the environs.

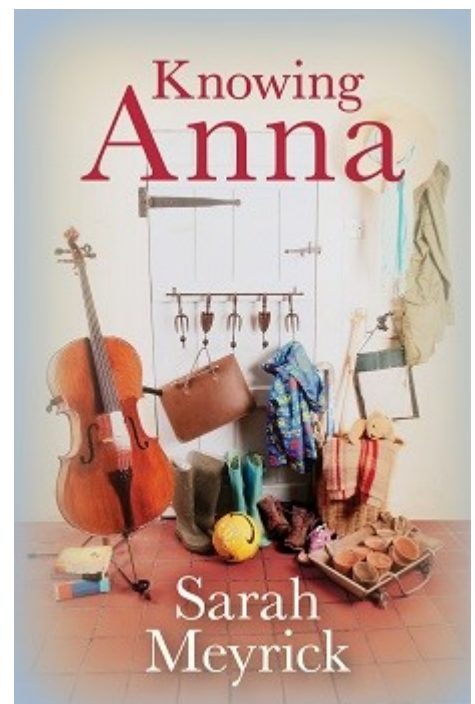
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### Knowing Anna, Sarah Meyrick—a book resume

When musician Anna Greene dies at the untimely age of 42, her family and friends are stunned by their sudden loss. Theo, Anna's husband, fluctuates between numb grief and fury at the world. Fifteen-year-old Beth is fighting her own demons, while little brother Sam just misses his mum. But Anna has left one last request: that those who love her should walk the Pilgrims' Way to Canterbury in her memory.

Four months later, they set out on a hundred-mile journey that will change their lives for ever. Walking with the family are Father Stephen – a priest wrestling with a deeply personal crisis of conscience – and Anna's sparky best friend, single mother Tamsin. Then a stranger joins the group. Who is he? And what was the catastrophe that drove Anna from home a decade earlier?

Over the course of nine days, the pilgrims share their memories of Anna, and gradually the layers of her life are peeled back to uncover secrets no one ever suspected. Can those who love her live with all that is past?



### About Sarah Meyrick

I studied Classics at Cambridge and Social Anthropology at Oxford, which gave me a fascination for the stories people tell and the worlds they inhabit. I have worked variously as a journalist, editor and PR professional. I am currently Director of Communications for the Diocese of Oxford.

I am also the Director of the Bloxham Festival of Faith and Literature. We describe it as "a literary festival with a theological slant" and our mission is to encourage a love of literature as it relates to faith; to bring together authors and those who appreciate their work; and to create a thoughtful and relaxing space in which to consider works of literature and their religious themes.

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COME ALONG TO OUR COFFEE MORNING  
SATURDAY MORNINGS  
2nd July & 6th August



**AT ST CATHERINE'S-NEXT-FAVERSHAM**

PRESTON LANE ME13 8LG

10AM TO 12 NOON

BOOKSTALL BRING YOUR FRIENDS – EVERYONE WELCOME

## Diary page July & August

Date	Time	Location	Title	Details	Contact	Notes
Wed 29/06	a.m.	Ospringe	Church open	Patronal Festival preparation	Wardens	Offers of help to Wardens
Fri 01/07	14:00-16:00	Davington	Blossoms	Community Café		Coffe, tea, cakes?
Sat 02/07	10:00 - 12:00	Preston	Coffee Morning	Coffee	Wardens	Includes bookstall
Sat 02/07	S.t.c.	Ospringe	Church Open	Patronal Festival		Refreshments
Sun 03/07	11:00	Ospringe	Service	Communion		
Sun 03/07	13:00	Ospringe	Church open	Patronal Festival		Refreshments
Sun 03/07	16:45	Faversham	Rehearsal	Come & Sing - Evensong	Patti Whaley	Check notices.
Sun 03/07	19:00	Faversham	Evensong		Patti Whaley	
Wed 06/07	18:00	Faversham	Concert	Pegasus Choir	Patti Whaley	Info to follow
Thu 07/07	9:30 - 15:30	NatWest Bank	Help sessions	Help re closing	NatWest Bank	
Fri 08/07	14:00-16:00	Davington	Blossoms	Community Café		Coffe, tea, cakes?
Sat 09/07	19:30	Faversham	One person play	Walled-up Women		No tickets - retiring collection
Thu 14/07	9:30 - 15:30	NatWest Bank	Help sessions	Help re closing	NatWest Bank	
Fri 15/07	14:00-16:00	Davington	Blossoms	Community Café		Coffe, tea, cakes?
Sat 16/07	12:00 - 13:30	Faversham	History Talk		Wardens	Walk around the church
Thu 21/07	9:30 - 15:30	NatWest Bank	Help sessions	Help re closing	NatWest Bank	
Fri 22/07	19:30	Preston	Organ Recital	Dr Colin Parsons		Refreshments, retiring collection
Sat 23/07	19:30	Faversham	Organ Recital	Dr Colin Parsons		Retiring collection
Sat 30/07	10:30-12:00	Davington	Coffee Morning	Outdors		
Sat 06/08	10:00- 12:00	Preston	Coffee Morning	Coffee	Wardens	Includes bookstall
Sun 07/08	10:00-16:00	Davington	Faversham Safari	Coffee etc		in St M M church yard
Sun 07/08		Faversham	Faversham Safari	Mobile jumble sale	Margy	
Sat 27/08	10:30-12:00	Preston	Coffee Morning	Coffee etc		in St M M church yard
Sat 27/08	S.t.c.	Preston	Organ Recital	Charlie Francis	Patti Whaley	



**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](mailto:FavershamChurches@gmail.com)

\* 0179 553 0553

**Contacts for individual churches in the Benefice of Faversham**

<b>St Catherine, Preston next Faversham</b>		fb.me/4favstc
Wardens	Hilary Tulett Rodney Foord	
<b>St Mary Magdalene w St Lawrence, Davington</b>		fb.me/4favstmml
Wardens	Maureen Gregory Frances Worthington* Iris Neel*	
<b>St Mary of Charity, Faversham</b>		fb.me/4favstmoc
Wardens	Clive Southwell Kevin Swinney	
<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul, Ospringe</b>		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 Church Warden.

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\* Assistant Warden

