



Keeping Connected

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 1, Issue 7

November 2020

From Revd. Simon

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Whether we pause to remember at All Souls those who have recently died or at Christmas ache for those who we miss at family gatherings the ending of the year can be for many a poignant time.

Yet the Collect for All Saints at the beginning of November reminds us that we need to see creation and time through faith in God. *"Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord."*

What this prayer is emphasizing is that as a community both those who have gone before and those presently alive exist in one body awaiting God's salvation through Jesus Christ. We are knit together through faith in a living God who will transform us through a new beginning. Advent is the herald for this change in human history, God is coming, to be manifest in the form of a human being (incarnate) born of a woman and through the most horrible death suffer the ending of life that all of us at some point will experience. Yet we are called to be children of God (Saints) to believe in this person of Jesus Christ to share in God's redemptive love. In the physical and emotional darkness of this time of year in the bleakness of winter a message of hope is proclaimed.

We cannot know what our own earthly futures will look like or how long each one of us has as allotted time. The current pandemic makes looking into the

future even more uncertain than normal, but God promises through Jesus that his love of each one of us is real, not just us now and in the future but the whole company of Saints.

To be a Saint means literally being God's holy one. Followers of Jesus during the time of Saint Paul were simply called 'saints'. In Philippians 3.12 we read that we can become Holy not simply through our own actions but through Jesus Christ. Let us as we grapple with our faith seek to be transformed into radiant holiness through our faith in Jesus. Even if access to our churches is limited, our singing curtailed, celebrating Christmas may not happen in church but rather on line, yet our faith in Jesus remains undiminished and we can shine with the Saints of yesterday and today in the love and hope of Jesus Christ. Let us cast off the darkness for as St John proclaims, *"1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."*

Let us proclaim the coming of the light and end being prisoners to darkness.

Yours in Christ

Simon

CALENDAR OF PRAYER

CHANGED LIVES → CHANGING LIVES



Calendar of
Prayer
Some links to
Diocesan
Publications on
Prayer.

November 2020

The latest version of the Calendar of Prayer is now available available from the Diocesan web site at.

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

Don't forget that you can also view it on your phone or tablet computer via the [Issuu App](#) - simply search for 'DioceseofCanterbury' under publishers.

Enquiries relating to the content of the Calendar: prayers@diocant.org
Website enquiries: webmaster@diocant.org

If you want a printed copy do contact the Editor or maybe your Church's friendly warden.

We will sort something out for you.

Keeping Connected - still hanging on

There is a sense of here we go again regarding COVID.

As far as we know service times and so on remain unchanged. Do check if you are in any doubt.

The theme

This reflects on Prisoners. Thanks to those who have contributed to this theme. The parallel of our lives being prisoners in our own homes or hostages to the COVID virus are all too clear.

The future

As we go to print we are reflecting on what Keeping Connected should be. Dan started it as an initiative to keep people informed about what is going on. In the absence of much going on it has rather evolved. Do you like it? Is there something that we could add, or remove? Do let us know, contact Simon, Dan or the editor.

Keeping
Connected our
Benefice News

Church Services across the Benefice

Owing to limited space anyone wishing to attend on a Sunday will need to book a place with the churchwardens no later than the Thursday. This is because we are observing social distancing and staying 2 metres apart.

Face covering must be worn at all times.

St Catherine's— next Faversham

- † Sunday - 1st Sunday in the month Said Eucharist
- † All other Sundays Lay led Service of the Word
- † All services begin at 10.00am.
- † Wednesday - Private prayer 10.00 -11.00am

You are welcome at any point during this hour, space permitting.

Hilary Tulett – Tel: 538013, Email htulett@uwclub.net

Rodney Foord – Tel: 535937, Email rafoord38@btinternet.com

St Peter & St Paul's—Ospringe

- † Sunday - 3rd Sunday in the month Holy Communion
- † All other Sundays check the FB page fb.me/4favstpp
- † All services begin at 10.00 am.

Phil Larter - BeneficeofFaversham+wardenspsp@gmail.com

Jason O'Hagan - BeneficeofFaversham+wardenspsp@gmail.com

St. Mary Magdalene w St. Lawrence, Davington

- † Fourth Sunday Holy Communion
- † All other Sundays Lay led Morning Prayer
- † All services begin at 10.00 am.

Maureen Gregory— maureeng53@msn.com

St. Mary of Charity—Faversham

- † First Sunday in the month All Age Service
- † Second Sunday in the month Eucharist (CW)
- † Third Sunday in the month Service of the Word
- † Fourth Sunday in the month Service of the Word
- † All services begin at 10.00 am.
- † Wednesday—Private prayer 11 am and 2 pm

Miranda on 4favershamschurches@gmail.com or telephone 01795 227202

**Church Services
across the
Benefice.**

**Please pay
attention to the
need to book a
place.**

**Churches may
have slightly
different booking
arrangements!**

A Prisoner's Poem

I want to plant forgiveness,
I'd plant it in the centre of my heart,
To bring the pieces back together,
And grow and nurture
Each and every part.

Prayer & healing ministry.

Since 1988 a team of 5 lay people and 2 ordained have taken part in Diocesan Training and are authorised to Minister in services for Healing. Reverend Sharran Ireland is chaplain, under the authority of our Vicar. We follow the Benefice Safeguarding and GDPR regulations.

We have been meeting on the first Friday of the month in St. Mary of Charity. During lockdown have been meeting on Zoom.

In a recent report for the APCM, Roz Graham, a founding member of our Healing Ministry Team, and Formation Guardian Canterbury Area Third Order Society of Saint Francis wrote:

The ministry is open to everyone. Healing is a process of growing towards a greater wholeness of body, mind and spirit.

It may be the curing of a variety of physical ailments.

Healing may be the curing of emotional wounds, hurts from the past and of the memory of these. Healing may be the putting right of relationships that have gone wrong, not only with each other, but also with God.

We receive healing through Holy Communion; through the laying on of hands; through anointing with holy oils; by becoming more open to God; through confessing our sins; being prepared to forgive others and to love one another as we would be loved; through faith in God. None of this can be achieved without PRAYER.

Our prayers can never replace seeing your doctor. Taking

everything to God in Prayer in addition to seeing your doctor is what we as Christians are instructed to do. The Bible also tells us in James 5:14 "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord."

Should you require a prayer said for yourself, for another or a particular situation, you are welcome to email:

healingprayerteam@yahoo.com any time prior to the first Friday in the month.

Please Note:

- you must confirm in your email that, if the person to be prayed for is not you, you have their permission to pass on their name.
- we do not need to know the circumstances of the person, simply a name will be sufficient and no need for surnames either.
- Examples of what you might say are:
- "please pray for X who has given their permission for me to ask for prayer"
- "please pray for all who are isolated at this time"

We pray confidentially so that nothing is discussed outside our prayer meeting, unless we are asked to send the name to our Vicar.

The Healing Prayer Team



The Benefice of Faversham

Keeping in touch:

facebook:

St Catherine, Preston-next-Faversham:
St Mary Magdalene / St Lawrence, Davington:
St Mary of Charity, Faversham:
St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe:
Faversham Benefice:

4favstc
4favstmm1
4favstmoc
4favstpp
4favchurches

YouTube :

Faversham Benefice

Email:

4favershamchurches@gmail.com

Telephone:

01795 532592

Bless you all!

Keeping
Encouraged
during
Lockdown

Some Sources of encouragement.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Faversham Umbrella

[https://en-gb.facebook.com/
FavershamUmbrella/](https://en-gb.facebook.com/FavershamUmbrella/)

Community Mental Health
Charity - We are here for you...

Tel: 01795 229143



St Peter & St Paul Zoom Home Group



Like to know more then contact Nicola
Batey or email

**BeneficeofFaversham+HomeGroupSPSP@
gmail.com**

Hope — Faversham



Youth Group - Years 7 to 13

Planning to be back on 7th Septem-
ber. Email for details.

hopefavershamyouth@gmail.com

For your prayers

Please include Simon & Dan and their families in your prayers. Leading this
disparate bunch of Benefice Churches can be tough at the best of time.

In the present situation even more demanding.

Pray earnestly for their protection and encouragement.



Getting to know you

Each month a
member of a different
Church will answer 5
questions

—
A way of getting to
know people across
the Benefice.

Getting to know you

Hello, my name is Patrick [Mulcahy] and I worship at St. Peter and St. Paul, Ospringe in the Benefice of Faversham.

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

Sue and I and our two children arrived in Faversham in 1976 when I was employed as a careers adviser in the Medway Towns. We soon found a spiritual home at the Baptist church where we worshipped until 2001. Here I served as deacon, youth worker and treasurer. I also had the privilege of serving as Town, Borough Councillor and Town mayor. In 2001 we half moved to East Wittering in Sussex and worshipped at St. Anne's where I served as Church Warden, server and trained as lay minister of Holy Communion. We retained a cottage in Ospringe and worshiped occasionally at St Peter and St Paul. In 2013 we moved to the Midlands to be near our daughter and family. While there we worshiped at St Margaret of Antioch where I was a church warden, sacristan and editor of the church magazine. In 2019 we returned to Faversham and continued to worship regularly at St Peter and St Paul Ospringe.

How did you come to your faith?

In the mid-sixties I moved school and met Sue who invited me to her Baptist Youth Group. That was the start of the spiritual journey which was to take me to Kingston Baptist Church, Coventry Baptist Church, Hempstead Rd Baptist Church in Birmingham (where I made my declaration of faith), Laindon Baptist Church (Essex) and Kings Rd Baptist Church Reading.

What do you like most about your home church?

I love the people, the music and the sense that prayer has been offered here over the centuries.

Architecturally, I like the mosaics and the stained glass windows which all tell a story. I enjoy the peace of the churchyard, with the trees and the wonderful shapes.

What's your favourite hymn or chorus?

Difficult to choose. Fullerton's, 'I cannot tell why He who angels worship' which finishes 'At last the Saviour of the World is King!' set to the tune Londonderry.

W. C. Smith's, 'Immortal Invisible God only wise' particularly verse 4 'take the veil from our faces, the veil from our heart'.

Graham Kendrick's, 'The Servant King' particularly verse 4 'So let us learn how to serve, and in our lives enthrone Him; each other's needs to prefer, for it is Christ we are serving.'

What is your favourite bit of the Bible and why?

Where can I start? I am currently reading Genesis and will take one phrase from Genesis 3 v8 'That evening they heard the Lord God walking in the garden and they hid from him among the trees. But the Lord God called out to the man where are you?'

God has been seeking human kind since creation and continues to do so. We only have to respond to his call.

Patrick Mulcahy



Prisoners' Children

&

Angel Tree

Some information on a rather forgotten group.

Some suggestions for our practical response.

Prisoners' Children

There are 300,000 children at present with a parent in prison. This is a forgotten and ignored group of children - when people are sentenced to prison, their children are not taken into consideration.

When a parent is taken into prison, particularly when it is the mother, it has an enormous effect on the child. Each child loses their stability and their security, the family often becomes poorer, the children may be taken into care. The effects of the prison sentence are devastating and lifelong, including lower life expectancy - most of these children will die before the age of 65. Very few children are better off because their parent is in prison.

Covid-19 has been really harmful. The children have lost the little contact they did have with the parent in prison. For many of them its been like a bereavement. They've been worried that they will never see their parent again. Some haven't even been able to speak on the phone with the parent. They are having mental health issues, some have stopped eating - even very young children.

Many children have little opportunity to share their problems. Their carer may be as stressed as they are. Often their school does not know they have a parent in prison; either shame or fear of bullying stops them telling anyone. They tend to be lonely and isolated.

69% of children with a parent in prison will themselves go to prison at some point in their life.

What can we do?

1. Pray for these children. Especially pray that families will

stay together while the parent is in prison, to prevent the further consequences of family breakdown.

2. Support Angel Tree. This has been set up in prisons by the Christian organisation Prison Fellowship, to enable prisoners to send a present with a hand written card to their child/ children at Christmas. The prisoner chooses a present, which a prison fellowship volunteer will buy, wrap up with the prisoner's card and, if the parent wishes, a Christian book, and send to the child. The scheme is designed to keep families together and it reduces the chances of prisoners reoffending.

The scheme also enables young offenders to send a card and a small present to their mum or adult female carer on Mother's Day.

Angel Tree makes such an unbelievable difference to the life of children of prisoners. The genius is its simplicity. It happens unobtrusively, and is simple to engage with.

A prison visitor reported 'listening to the men in prison talking about how fantastic the scheme is and how much the children benefited from it, is incredible.'

At Davington we are making a collection for Angel Tree during the next couple of weeks, but if people wanted to contribute, the money could go at any time. PF want to make a special effort this year because of the effects of C19.

Search online for Prison Fellowship Angel Tree, and you will find more information and the opportunity to donate directly.

Iris Neel

Life Behind Bars

We are called
to care for
prisoners.

Look out for the
prisoner's
poem
elsewhere in
Keeping
Connected.

'Millions face fresh Lock Down restrictions' read the headline. During this pandemic lots of people will have felt imprisoned in their own home. Unable to venture out and dependent on the kindness of others for supplying some of life's essentials while remaining lonely and isolated. Not very different from the 90,000 or so serving prison sentences across the country.

Last month churches and other organisations will have observed 'Prisoner's Week' which focuses on the help and support that those on the 'outside' can give. There are some people who become Prison Visitors, volunteers who will visit and befriend prisoners, and write letters to them or for them. They try and support their families too. **'Come you that are blessed by my Father' said Jesus 'inherit the kingdom prepared for you...for I was hungry and you gave me food.....I was in prison and you visited me'** (Matthew 25: 34-36). Then there are those called to become Prison Chaplains.

Our former vicar Anthony Oehring became one when he left us, while Nick Ash, well known to many of us, is serving as the Prison Chaplain of HMP Elmley on the Isle of Sheppey. It is both a challenging and rewarding work as I found, becoming a part time chaplain in retirement.

The Rev. Paul Cowley, himself an ex prisoner, now the Bishop's Advisor for Prisons writes 'I have

seen thousands of men changed by being embraced by the church'.

Across the world there are also those imprisoned unjustly who have committed no crime. Those who have stood up for their faith and suffer persecution because of their brave witness and courage in speaking out against evil and corruption.

The German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer was imprisoned then martyred after standing up against Hitler and his Nazi regime. In the Bible, we read of some of the heroes of the Faith being imprisoned too, Joseph, John the Baptist, Peter the Apostle and St Paul, many of whose epistles were written within prison walls.

Prisoner's Week has come and gone, but we can still pray for all those involved in prison ministry, not forgetting Nick Ash. They need our prayers as do prisoners and their families. Many meet with God while 'inside', hearts are softened, the Holy Spirit brings about new birth and the joy of forgiveness. Often talents blossom as new skills are acquired. Some become artists, writers and poets, all preparing for a fresh start when their release day arrives.

Revd. Struan Dunne

Remembrance
Event
In
Town

Town Remembrance Event

Wednesday

11th November

at

11am

The Faversham Branch of The Royal British Legion will be holding an Act of Remembrance in the Memorial Garden in Stone Street.

If you come, be aware that there will still be traffic on the road.

At the end of the Service you are invited to plant a Poppy or Poppy Cross in the Garden.

Please wear a mask and keep observe social distancing.

They died that we may enjoy freedom; we honour them, and keep one another safe.

*Revd. Ros Parrett,
Royal British Legion Chaplain.*



Faversham Food Bank—donations sought

We have been forwarded a list from the Faversham Food Bank for items they are short of—suggesting what our Harvest Giving this year might be..

- tinned potatoes
- long life fruit juice
- dog food (and cat food)
- rice pudding

Could you also consider donating not just toiletries - but also cleaning products:

- washing up liquid



- Bleach
- anti-bacterial sprays
- non-biological laundry detergents and conditioners.

Please resist the temptation to donate pasta or baked beans; the Foodbank has so much in stock that, despite stock swaps with other local foodbanks, they are concerned that they will not be able to distribute enough before the use by dates arrive.

Your generosity is much appreciated.

Remembrance
around the
Benefice

Planning such
events is
difficult at the
moment.

Check the
Benefice or
individual web
sites for more
information

Churches
Together
in
Faversham

Carols
[not]
In
The Marketplace

Remembrance at Davington

Davington Church will be open
on Sunday afternoon November 1st from 2 until 4 pm for personal prayer,
and so that you can light a candle if you wish.

*Loving God,
Thank you for all those who have shaped our lives
but whom we no longer see.
Help us to remember them well
and trust that they are at peace with you.
Amen*

Remembrance at St Catherine's

There will be a Remembrance Service
on 8 November starting at 10.00am
Also there will be an Act of Remembrance at about 11.00 am.

Churches together in Faversham—Plans

We are planning an online
'Carols in the Market Place' this
year and we trust that all our
churches will be involved.
Choices have been requested
from the Faversham churches
and recordings are planned
during November.

We would like as many children
and young people to be
involved in the presentation, and
for them to give a 1-1½ minute
video recording introducing
each carol.

Anyone interested in taking part
please contact me via the
Keeping Connected email
address.

Local schools have been invited
to be involved and at the
moment six Primary schools have

responded that they want to
contribute.

Also CTiF decided that we would
design a Christmas Card for the
residents of our town, and this
year pay for them to be
distributed by a delivery service.

This and our regular insurance
needs financing and so a
contribution has been requested
from each church of £135
towards our costs.

Revd. Sarah Williams

*Chairman—Churches Together
in Faversham*

Hope Faversham Youth

This group is for all Secondary age young people. Wednesdays 7-8pm @ Baptist Church

It is great that we have been able to meet in person this past term, suitably socially distanced and wearing masks, but at least we can meet and have fun together. The Baptist Church provide the location of their main church space, so we have lots of room.

This past term we have been looking at our Mission "We are HOPE Faversham Youth, a youth group that shows the hope of Jesus to bring life-giving change", and explaining the different aspects of Community, Discipling and



Demonstrating

Community - We want to create a community that is welcoming, encouraging and helps anyone to know that they belong.

Discipling - We want to know Jesus, so we'll be exploring what He says, experiencing what He does, and trusting in the Hope that He brings.

Demonstrating – We want to demonstrate Jesus' hope to each other, to our friends, and to our society.

Sarah Williams

Contact

hopefavershamyouth@gmail.com

Good news about the Hope Faversham Youth being able to meet together

Contemplating Christmas begins Monday 30th November

YouTube link details

Contemplating Christmas

You can hear our Advent Contemplations this year on YouTube.

Tune in to The Faversham Benefice Contemplating Christmas over five days from Monday 30th November 2020.

We will be contemplating the meaning of Advent, the journey of those involved in the birth of our Lord, told to us in the Gospel of St. Luke

and what the birth of the Christ-child means for us.

Revd. Sharran

Where does the 72 bus go?

All things being equal you should see more of the "72" bus around the area soon.

Look out for the distinctive paint job. Arriva could learn a lot from the services this bus offers too.

Hopefully we will have a 'timetable' available soon.



*Funday Times

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 8:12

JESUS said: _____

Matt 5:13-16

You are the _____ of the _____
 A _____ on a _____ cannot be hidden.
 Neither do people light a _____
 and put it under a _____. Instead they
 put it on a _____, and it gives light
 to _____ in the house.

In the same way, let your light _____
 before _____, that they may see your
 _____ and

Unscramble the letters in the circles and see what he said this would do for God.

_____ your Father in heaven.

I R S P E A

*Funday Times was the name adopted by the younger members at St Catherine's for their group. Seems a nice title for this section.

Thanks to everyone at St Catherine's



Four Churches - One Town

Contact details for Benefice Clergy

Vicar	Rev. Simon Rowlands	0179 553 2592 happyvicar@gmail.com BeneficeofFaversham+Vicar@gmail.com
Community & Mission Priest	Rev. Dan Corcoran	0796 333 2221 danchadc@gmail.com BeneficeofFaversham+Missioner@gmail.com

Please contact the Administrator at the Benefice Office for information on Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals or other services at any of the Benefice Churches.

- * FavershamChurches@gmail.com
- * 0179 553 0553
- * *During the Covid 19 epidemic the office is not manned, but your emails and calls will be responded to as quickly as possible.*

Contacts for individual churches in the Benefice of Faversham

St. Catherine, Preston next Faversham		fb.me/4favstc
Wardens	Hilary Tulett Rodney Foord	BeneficeofFaversham+wardenscp@gmail.com
St. Mary Magdalene w St. Lawrence, Davington		fb.me/4favstmml
Warden	Maureen Gregory	BeneficeofFaversham+wardensmm@gmail.com
St. Mary of Charity, Faversham		fb.me/4favstmoc
Warden	Miranda Ford	BeneficeofFaversham+wardensmoc@gmail.com
St. Peter & St. Paul, Ospringe		fb.me/4favstpp
Wardens	Phil Larter Jason O'Hagan	BeneficeofFaversham+wardenspsp@gmail.com

Keeping Connected—the news sheet

Keeping Connected is the news sheet of the Benefice of Faversham. It shares details of services, news and activities of the member churches in the Benefice and around the town of Faversham.

It is available free from your Church or downloaded from various sites.

Paper copies are available on request to your Church Warden.

Suitable items for inclusion in the magazine or the diary may be submitted to

BeneficeofFaversham+Contact@Gmail.com