

Keeping Contact

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 2, Issue 9

November 2021



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Be part of Singalong's sensational 10th Year!

Singalong CHRISTMAS 2021

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.

Rehearsals

Saturdays: 6.00pm – 8.30pm (until the 27 November)
then Thursdays: 5.30pm – 8.00pm on the 2 December and 9 December:

St Mary of Charity Church, Church Road, Faversham, ME13 8GZ

Dress rehearsal: Saturday 18 December (3.00 – 5.30pm)

Performance: Saturday 18 December (7.00 – 9.00pm)

It's not too late to take part!

All ages most welcome! If you're under 16 please bring an adult.

There will be extra rehearsals for those with acting parts.

We need singers, actors, dancers, puppeteers and stage & technical crew!

Details may change so please like and follow **singalongkent's** Facebook page.

Please bring a water bottle to rehearsals. Drinks & snacks will be available.



For more information:

@singalongkent

www.youarecrucial.org

singalongkent@gmail.com



It's the story of the tiny baby who shows us we're hugely loved.

Revd. Simon writes

God's Holy People.

November is here and with it another church year draws to a close with Advent nearly upon us. Remembering is something we reflect upon with both the All Souls and All Saints festivals. We look back at the lives of those within our own lives and the life of the church and give thanks to God for the witness lived out in their lives.

As we stop to remember individual people, as a priest I am often surprised how little we know of people's lives until we celebrate a person's life at a funeral. We are all called to live extraordinary lives made holy in Christ's death and resurrection. If we are to be true followers or disciples of Jesus, walking his way we are called to pattern our lives in his life-giving way. What can seem ordinary

every day lives are changed by God's life giving and transforming Holy Spirit. This coming November (27th) the four parishes in the Benefice will have an opportunity to reflect where God is calling us in mission within the places we live and worship. We are blessed with Revd Dan's gifting and experience in helping us reflect on what God may be calling us to do here in Faversham. This will be an important place to start as we look to the coming Christian year. We can all seek to live our lives as followers of Jesus being transformed into saints in the process, now that is an experience to add to a New Year's resolution list!

Revd Simon.

Remembrance

November again
And this morning I heard a soft refrain from a robin
whose breast was once pierced by a thorn.

We'll mourn for the men
whose shattered bones, flesh and blood
lay mingled with the sodden mud

In summertime rich red poppies abound
where once this was a battleground
Their seeds were sown by souls unknown

And when November comes again
just listen to the robin's soft refrain

*Shirley
St Mary of Charity*

Services in November - The Benefice of Faversham

	St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence, The Brents and Davington (10am)	St Mary of Charity, Faversham (10am)	St Peter & St Paul, Ospringe (11am)	St Catherine's, Preston-next-Faversham (10am)
7 November 3rd before Advent	Eucharist (DC)	All Age Worship (Team)	Eucharist (SR)	Eucharist (RP)
<i>Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 1:14-20</i>				
14 November 2nd before Advent/ Remembrance Day	Eucharist with Short Act of Remembrance (RP)	Eucharist with Short Act of Remembrance (DC)	Morning Prayer with Short Act of Remembrance (KS)	Eucharist with Short Act of Remembrance (PL)
		11.30am (approx.) Remembrance Day Civic Service (SR)		
<i>Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8</i>				
21 November Christ the King	Eucharist (SD)	Eucharist (DC)	Eucharist (JS/SS)	PATRONAL FESTIVAL Eucharist (SR)
<i>Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37</i>				
28 November First in Advent (Year C)	Service of the Word (EW)	Eucharist (SR + KS)	Eucharist (DC)	Morning Prayer (HT/GD)
	3.30pm Taizé Service for Benefice (SI)			
<i>Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36</i>				

Diocesan Calendar Prayer.

The Diocesan Calendar of Prayer is available online now and continues our theme of Creation and Creator God renewing all things.

<https://canterburydiocese.org/our-life/prayer/prayer-resources/calendar-of-prayer/>

'Disciples of Jesus,' wrote Dallas Willard. 'Are those who do not just profess certain views as their own but apply their growing understanding of life in the Kingdom of the Heavens to every aspect of their life on earth.'



As our world leaders prepare to meet in Glasgow for the UN Climate Summit, I think Willard's words have never sounded more timely. We will be praying for the climate conference over a period of 12 days, guided in our praying by a diverse mixture of voices. It has been a real joy for me to draw these prayers together, and I hope that they will be a blessing to all who use them to aid their reflections.

Angel Tree 2021

Angel Tree is a scheme in prisons organised by Prison Fellowship. It was set up to give prisoners the opportunity to send a Christmas present to their child or children.

The effect is enormous when a parent, particularly the mother, is taken into prison. Children lose stability and security, the family often becomes poorer, the children may be taken into care.

Covid-19 has meant children have lost the little contact they did have with the parent. For many of them it's been like a bereavement. Some haven't been able to speak on the phone with the parent. They are having mental health issues.

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. They fear bullying and tend to be lonely and isolated.

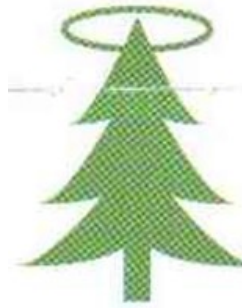
69% of children with a parent in prison will themselves go to prison at some point in their life.

Prisoners can suggest a suitable present they would like to send to their child. They write a gift tag to go with it and members of Prison Fellowship then buy, wrap and send the present. The prisoner can include a suitable Christmas story book. (The gift tag often becomes a prized possession of the child!)

A chaplain in a woman's prison wrote

"The women prisoners are always moved as they write the gift tag. Often they are able to listen on the phone to their children opening the gift on Christmas Day."

The chaplain also said that many of the residents had previously benefited from Angel Tree and wanted to give something



back, so throughout the Autumn prisoners had tithed a portion of their income to contribute to Angel Tree. (many prisoners work in the prison to earn some money)

The total was matched by the prison. That is how valuable the scheme is to both prisoners and the prison.

For most of the last 18 months there has been no prison visiting, so last year Angel Tree provided a wonderful opportunity for the residents to connect with their children.

Apparently one man was in tears when he shared with the chaplain the phone call he'd had with his children and the Christmas card they had sent him. He said 'Pastor, I'm so glad you knocked on my door that day, thank you.'

Another prisoner who wrote to Prison Fellowship to express his thanks for Angel Tree said "My kids loved the things you sent them, so from the bottom of my heart I love what you do for my kids at Christmas. Thank you so much."

It costs £20 to send a gift to a child. All the money comes from people like us.

At Davington we are making a collection for Angel Tree during the next couple of weeks and our donations will go to the prisons on Sheppey. Please contact me if you would like to join with this.

However, if you would like to make a general contribution, the money could go at any time; search online for Prison Fellowship Angel Tree, and you will find more information.

Iris Neel

irisandclaire@gmail.com

**ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**



**SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER
10AM – 4PM
&
SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER
1PM – 4PM**

**WATER LANE,
OSPRINGE, ME13 8XS**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS, CRAFTS, RAFFLE,
FREE PARKING.**



EVERYONE WELCOME!

Christmas services in The Benefice of Faversham

Church	Date	Time	Service
St Catherine's, Preston	Sunday 19	10:00 am	Eucharist
		6.30 pm	Service of Lessons and Carols
	Friday 24	5:00 pm	Crib Service
		11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
	Saturday 25	10:00 am	Christmas Morning Service
St Mary of Charity	Sunday 19	10:00 am	Eucharist
		6:00 pm	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
	Friday 24	5:00 pm	'Come to the Manger' Crib Service
		11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
	Saturday 25	10:00 am	Christmas Morning Service
St Mary Magdalene, Davington	Sunday 19	10:00 am	Eucharist
	Friday 24	4:00 pm	Crib Service
		11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
	Saturday 25	10:00 am	Christmas Morning Service
St Peter & St Paul, Ospringe	Sunday 19	11:00	Eucharist
	Friday 24	4:00 pm	Crib Service
		11.30 pm	Midnight Communion
	Saturday 25	10:00 am	Christmas Morning Service



A group to explore
the meal that transforms the world...



Let's Feast!

Explore
God, life, faith, baptism, communion
and where we fit in God's plan for the world
through...



Games & Activities



Art & Craft



Lego "Pastor" Builders



Drama



Chatting about what you think

Suitable for 7ish
and older

To book a place and for
more info:
danchadc@gmail.com

Mondays: 4.00pm until 5.15pm

1, 8, 15, 22 November 2021

St Catherine's Schoolroom, Faversham

(by the railway footbridge in St Catherine's Churchyard)

You're loved and crucial in God's plan!

Getting to know you

Hello, my name is Debbie O'Hagan and I am a member of Ospringe Church in the Benefice of Faversham.

1 How long have you been in Faversham; have you ever lived anywhere else?

I have lived in Faversham all my life. My parents are Julia and Peter Landon and came originally from London. They then moved to Maidstone and their friends Arthur and Dorothy Percival suggested they move to Faversham in 1969 after my brother Michael was born, because it was cheap! We have been here ever since!



The older I get the more I appreciate the beauty of God's creation in nature. Jason and I love our campervan, walking and just being outside enjoying the view in peace. So it's true *"morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me."*

5 What is your favourite bit of the Bible and why?

Again this is very hard to choose as I have many favourite verses.

2 How did you come to your faith?

My cousins were going to Essex Christian Camp one year, we were 12 and 13. We went along to the evening worship meeting. I don't remember what the worship leader said but it must have been powerful as I found myself giving my life to Jesus at that meeting.

3 What do you like most about your home church?

Ospringe is so friendly. I like the style of church there as it is very relaxed and informal. I enjoy singing in the worship band alongside my husband Jason who plays acoustic guitar, Phil Larter who plays lead guitar and sings and with his wife Clare, who plays the keyboard/organ.

4 What's your favourite hymn or chorus?

What a difficult question! I have many favourite hymns and choruses. I think I would have to say at this time of year it would have to be *Great is thy Faithfulness*. A fantastic tune and inspiring words.

I recently heard an inspiring sermon from the lovely Reverend Sharran Ireland and she included Matthew 6 verse 25.

"Therefore I say to you do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

This sprung out at me at that time and made me realise how God has worked on healing me over the years. I have been blessed to not overly worry about things through my life. But I would say as a young person I did waste time worrying about my appearance and weight issues. I didn't like myself which was not only damaging for me but for those I loved. Thankfully through faith and counselling I have mostly overcome these issues and this verse helps tremendously!

Debbie O'Hagan

Pray
Worship
Read
Share
Grow
Think
Find
Learn
Equip
Excite
Enable
Discuss
Explore
Engage
Imagine
Develop
Discover
Announce
Encourage
Connect
Envision
Reflect
Dream
Create
Pray

The Benefice of Faversham

dream Kingdom *dreams*



an ongoing exploration of mission and ministry rooted in Scripture.

- Where are we now?
- How can we better serve a growing Faversham?
- What can we offer personally?

...with a focus on *Messy Church* to complement existing mission and ministry with children and families...

...living out *Messy Church* values:
Christ-centred, All-age, Creativity, Hospitality and Celebration.

10.00am - 11.30am

(tea, coffee and pastries from 9.30am)

Saturday 27 November 2021

St Catherine's Church Schoolroom,

(through the churchyard by the railway footbridge)

Please would you
Book your places(s)

and any dietary requirements:

dreamkingdomdreams@gmail.com

Experience Christmas—Helpers needed

Experience Christmas

I know it's only November, but I am very excited to tell you about Experience Christmas and our opportunity to offer it to our local schools (in the church nearest to each school) during the first week of December.

What is it?

Experience Christmas an absolutely wonderful and moving school/church engagement activity. It is a great experience for pupils and also for the staff, parents and volunteers who take part. Developed by the Diocese of Gloucester, it is aimed at KS2 - Years 3-6 (that's ages 7ish-11ish) and it also ticks boxes for schools in terms of SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual & Cultural) development.

What happens?

A class of 30(ish) arrives and after a short welcome, we all watch a 5-minute edited version of the lovely 2006 film "The Nativity Story".

Then, in five small groups, the class travels round five simple, scripted, interactive activities based on parts of the Christmas story.

These immersive activities last for about 10 minutes for each group and are led by church volunteers.

A verse from In the bleak midwinter is played to indicate when to direct the group to the next activity.

After each group has visited all five activities we all meet at the manger where we give our "gifts" to Jesus and sing the final verse of In the bleak midwinter and other songs so they are singing on their way back to school carrying details about our benefice Christmas events while enjoying a small chocolate Christmas pudding.

How long does Experience Christmas take?

For the school, the whole activity can take 90 minutes depending on arrival and departure times.

For volunteers, the whole session can take between 2 - 2.5 hours including a prayer and briefing/debrief before and afterwards.

This 2.5 hour window allows for the classes' walking time and differences in their timetable. Therefore, sessions can look something like this:

- Morning sessions: Volunteers arrive: 9.00am | Class arrives: 9.30am | Class departs: 11.00am | Volunteers depart: 11.30am
- Afternoon sessions: Volunteers arrive: 12.30pm | Class arrives: 1.00pm | Class departs: 2.30pm | Volunteers depart: 3.00pm

Please would you consider being part of this?

We need a minimum of 6 DBSed volunteers for each session:

- Five volunteers to lead the five simple and scripted activities. If people prefer to lead an activity in pairs, that works well too (but we can't run the session without 5 activity leaders)
- Volunteers to travel round the activities with the small groups of pupils if there aren't enough teachers/parents to accompany every small group.
- Volunteers to provide the adults with tea/coffee/hot chocolate in covered cups while in the church. I have generally found that teachers discourage churches giving children drinks due to spillages and toilet time!

Signing up is REALLY easy!

Please would you go to this Doodle link, type your name and simply click yes/no/maybe for each date/time?

https://doodle.com/poll/rrguhni7678kwycyc?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

Any questions, please do get in touch.

And please would you forward this message to your church networks?

Thank you so much,

Blessings,

Dan

HOPE Faversham Youth



[hope.faversham_youth](https://www.instagram.com/hope.faversham_youth) hopefavershamyouth@gmail.com

HOPE FAVERSHAM YOUTH for Year 7 and above,

meet at the Baptist Church, St Mary's Road, Wednesday evenings 19:00 – 20:30

We ended our first term with Pizza. A friend Laura brought her Pizza oven and we made, had them cooked, and ate delicious individualised pizza outside in very pleasant weather, before the heavens opened in a downpour just as we finished. Thank you, God!

Please continue to pray for us, for the young people to growth in faith, and do encourage others to join us.

Sarah Williams

Churches Together in Faversham - Prayer Meeting

We meet in person on Saturdays 09:00 – 10:00 at the Baptist Church. (Main entrance on St Mary's Road.)

We pray for each other, our Christian communities, our town and local area, and the concerns of our hearts. All are welcome.

We are ordering Christmas Cards to be delivered to all Faversham residents.

We are also planning to hold Carols in the Market Place on Thursday 23rd December at 7pm, respecting others and whatever guidance is in effect at the time.

Please be praying for all our Christian witness in our communities.

Sarah Williams

CONTEMPLATING CHRISTMAS

THE INCARNATION

God so loved the world....



Join us this Advent for an hour of contemplative reflection
on the true meaning of Christmas

AT
ST. MARY MAGDALENE AND
ST. LAWRENCE WITH
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
DAVINGTON

11am or 7pm ON MONDAYS
29TH NOVEMBER
6TH, 13TH & 20TH DECEMBER

Taizé Service for Advent**Sunday 28th November at 3.30pm****St Mary Magdalene & St Lawrence
with St John the Evangelist, Davington.**

Taizé is a tiny village hidden away in the hills of Burgundy, in the eastern part of France not far from the town of Cluny. Since 1940 it has been the home of an ecumenical community of brothers led originally by the late Brother Roger.

Their prayer, three times a day, is at the centre of their life. Today, Taizé is a place to which visitors of all ages and backgrounds go on pilgrimage, to participate in international meetings of prayer and reflection and music helps with both these aspects.

The use of some simple words in basic Latin to support the music and the theme of prayer was dictated by pastoral needs. From practical experience using Latin was the only way of solving the unavoidable problem of languages that arose at international gatherings as it belongs to no particular group and therefore puts everyone on an equal footing. Its pronunciation is not difficult and their repetitive nature and simple tunes mean they are easy for all to follow.

With this in mind we are creating the kind of atmosphere you might experience in Taizé here in Faversham, holding a service based on Taizé on Advent Sunday afternoon at 3.30pm in Davington Church as a pre-cursor to this year's Contemplating Christmas series (more about the latter. elsewhere). We do hope you will be able to join us there where we will sing mainly in English but perhaps with the odd chant in Latin too.

Revds. Sue Smith and Sharran Ireland

Four Churches, One Benefice, One Town

Contact details for Benefice Clergy

Vicar	Rev Simon Rowlands	01790 553 2592 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	Hillary 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

