

Keeping Contact

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 5, Issue 3

April 2023

Revd. Simon writes

We Celebrate with St Paul, the church in Corinth to whom he is writing in his first letter to the church in Corinth and all Christians across the globe of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The once and for all redemption of humanity comes through his sacrifice upon the cross on Good Friday, and our salvation by his resurrection on Easter Day.

How often do we worry about matters related to spiritual challenge and forget that Christ has already won the victory on that first Easter, overcoming death or as St Paul writes, "24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For he "has put everything under his feet." 1 Corinthians 15.24-27.

We follow Christ who has already won the battle for us, our sins are forgiven by his sacrifice on our behalf. But we seem to want to live as if there is no spiritual hope. We ask



ourselves if only our church communities, could be more well attended, if parish share was less, if yet Christ has already won the victory, his death and resurrection is a once and for all event if only we would believe in him who died for us or better still 'live out our lives' as we believed in him.

As Christians we come to celebrate the first Easter appearance to the followers of Jesus. Mary Magdalene representing all who mourn visiting the grave, just as we visit the grave of a loved one. But for her and for us the story changed, death is no more, salvation is from Christ. But do we live in this hope, do our lives reflect the joyous good news of Easter?

As we celebrate this Easter all that God through Christ has done, may we reflect such Easter joy in our lives and our churches. The battle has been won; we are an Easter people lets behave as such.

A happy and blessed Easter to you all.

Revd Simon.



In this edition

- From Rev. Simon
- April Services
- Holy Week events
- May Services
- Rev. Dan
- Up coming events
- Contact details

Services in April — The Benefice of Faversham

	Palm Sunday 2 April	Easter Sunday 9 April	Second Sunday of Easter 16 April	Third Sunday of Easter 23 April (St George's Day)	Fourth Sunday in Easter 30 April
Church	<i>Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14 – 27:66 or Matthew 27: 11-54</i>	<i>Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10</i>	<i>Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21; Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a, 22-32; John 20:19-31</i>	<i>Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Luke 24:13-35</i>	<i>Genesis 7; Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47; John 10:1-10</i>
Davington					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	11am Benefice Service at Ospringe
Baptism:					
	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...
Faversham		BANNS	BANNS	BANNS	
10am	Morning Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	11am Benefice Service at Ospringe
Baptism:				3pm St George's Day service	2pm Baptism
5pm	Come and Sing Fauré Requiem				
Ospringe					
11am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Praise OSP APCM	Benefice Service
Baptism:					
Preston					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	11am Benefice Service at Ospringe
Baptism:				Pre-Coronation Celebratory parish lunch	

Midweek services - all services at 10am

Date	Preston	Faversham
Tuesday, 4 April (Holy Week)	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 5 April (Holy Week)		Eucharist
Tuesday, 11 April	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 12 April		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 18 April	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 19 April (followed by Parish Lunch)		Eucharist
Tuesday, 25 April	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 26 April		Morning Prayer

Services in MAY— The Benefice of Faversham

	Fifth Sunday in Easter 7 May	Sixth Sunday in Easter 14 May	Ascension Day Thursday, 18 May	Seventh Sunday in Easter 21 May	Pentecost 28 May
Church	Genesis 8:1-19; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Acts 7:55 -end; John 14:1 -14	Genesis 8:20 – 9:17; Psalm 66:7 -18; Acts 17:22- 31; John 14:15- 21	Daniel 7:9-14; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93; Acts 1-11; Luke 24:44-53	Ezekiel 36:24- 28; Psalm 68: 1- 10, 32-35; Acts 1:6-14; John 17:1-11	Numbers 11:24- 30; Psalm 104:22-36, 37b; Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23
Davington					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist		Eucharist	Eucharist
Baptism:			7.30pm Ascension Day service at Davington		pm Recreation Ground service + picnic PETS' SERVICE
	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...		4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...
Faversham					
10am	Morning Worship	Eucharist with baptism	Benefice Ascension Day service at Davington	Eucharist	Eucharist
Baptism:	2pm Baptism				
5pm	Civic Service/ Choral Evensong (rehearsing from 4pm)				
Ospringe					
11am	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Benefice Ascension Day service at Davington	Eucharist	Morning Praise
Baptism:					pm Recreation Ground service + picnic PETS' SERVICE
Preston					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Benefice Ascension Day service at Davington	Morning Prayer	Eucharist
Baptism:		11.30am APCM			

Faversham Benefice - Holy Week 2023

Monday, 3 April		
St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence, The Brents and Davington	7.30pm	Compline
Tuesday, 4 April		
St Catherine's, Preston-next-Faversham	10.45am	Stations of the Cross
St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe	7.30pm	Compline
Wednesday, 5 April		
St Mary of Charity, Faversham	7.30pm	Compline
St Catherine's, Preston-next-Faversham	7.30pm	Taizé Service
Thursday, 6 April – Maundy Thursday		
All Benefice Churches	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist
St Peter & St Paul's, Ospringe	7:30	Seder Meal
Friday, 7 April – Good Friday		
St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence, The Brents and Davington	9am	Stations of the Cross
10.45am Walk of Witness from United Reform Church to Market Place with Churches Together in Faversham congregations		
St Mary of Charity, Faversham	2pm	Meditations at the Foot of the Cross
St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe	2.30pm	Good Friday Reflections
St Catherine's, Preston-next-Faversham	3pm	RS Eucharist and Veneration at the Foot of the Cross
St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe	4pm	Messy Church
St Mary of Charity, Faversham	7.30pm	Leçons des Ténèbres A meditative recital for Good Friday. Tickets £10.
Saturday, 8 April - Easter Eve		
St Catherine's, Preston-next-Faversham	7.30pm	Service of Light

Upcoming events

☼ Davington

First Saturday of the month 10:30 to 12 Coffee morning

Every Wednesday 7 till 8 "Space to Be"

Every Friday in school term time Blossoms Community Cafe 2 till 4

☼ **Come and Sing – Fauré Requiem**

Sunday, 2 April 2023 St Mary of Charity

On Palm Sunday, in place of the usual choral evensong we will host a Come-and-Sing Fauré Requiem using the original 1888 version for strings, harp, organ and choir.

For singers, please join us at 3pm for rehearsal; scores will be provided, and the cost is £10.

The performance will be at 5pm, free with retiring collection.

☼ Leçons des Ténèbres, Couperin

7pm, Friday, 7 April 2023 St Mary of Charity The Raphael Ensemble will give a meditative recital of François Couperin's intimate setting of the Tenebrae lessons, part of the solemn office of Holy Week. Soloists: Genevieve Wakelin and Madeleine Saul.

Tickets £10 at the door.

☼ Easter Lilies and decorating St Mary of Charity.

If you would like an Easter lily in the sanctuary in remembrance of a loved one, please speak to Val or Keith Tyler (01795 536082) or Catriona.

There is a £5 donation towards the cost, and we will need the name of the person your lily commemorates. We will need to hear from you by 2 April as we need to order lilies.

We will be decorating the church on Easter Eve (8 April); if anyone is keen to help in any way – arranging, tidying, providing greenery, or just making tea/coffee, please let Val/Catriona know.

☼ **Easter Flowers St Peter and St Paul's, Ospringe**

If you would like to contribute to the Easter Lilies donations please to me and 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 8th April from 10 am. Please do join us. I will be providing lilies, please bring greenery and other flowers (generally white and yellow).

☼ **Murder in the Cathedral** – the Martyrdom Players present TS Eliot's popular play in St Mary of Charity. Performances on 18, 19, 20 and 21 April – limited seating so book early! Doors open at 7 for a 7.30pm performance. Tickets £15 or £12 for patreon.com/classical coffee concert subscribers. Please see posters for details.

☼ **St Mary of Charity's Annual Parochial Church Meeting** is at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 19 April at St Mary of Charity Primary School, so now is the time for anyone not on the Electoral Roll to pick up an application form.

Anyone who would like to be on the Parochial Church Council or vote at the APCM must be on the roll.

(Continued on page 6)

Diary of events, contd

(Continued from page 5)

There is a list of the current membership at the back of church if you can't remember whether you are on or not.

Queries to Mary Wimlett, Electoral Roll Officer.

☀ **St Peter & St Paul's Annual Parochial Church Meeting.**

Follows morning worship on Sunday 23rd April

☀ **Oare String Orchestra Spring concert**

7.30pm, 22 April 2023 St Mary of Charity

Oare String Orchestra will give their second concert of the year. Violinist Floriane Peycelon will take the solo role in Vivaldi's Spring Concerto and Elgar's Salut D'Amour, plus orchestra works by Boyce, Parry, Ridout and Dankner.

Tickets £15 at the door; accompanied school children free of charge.

☀ **St Catherine's** —Organ Concert

13th May, 7.30pm Keith Moxon will be in concert with a programme of Ceremonial Occasions. Programmes £5 on the door. Proceeds in aid of the Organ Fund.

☀ **St Catherine's**— Duck Race – 20th May, 7.00pm - A fun evening involving wooden ducks and dice including a fish and chip supper. More details next month.

— Tulip Tree fete – 11th June in the old Vicarage Garden

Snowdrops?

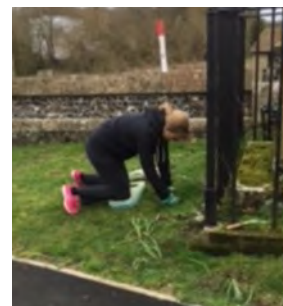
A telephone call offering a thousand bulbs, could I find some helpers to plant them? In the event I said yes. A day and time was fixed. The days before were wet the forecast was not promising. The day came and it was fair to good, even though it had rained during the night.

At ten o'clock Roger arrived with his bulbs and then Millen came followed closely by Nicola, Sarah, Yolanda, Douglas, Michelle and Carolynne.



An hour and 40 minutes later all bulbs were planted around the cemetery wall, the entrance to the South Gate, outside the north door, along the south pathway, and around the war memorial.

So we look forward in the years to come blankets of white to announce the arrival of spring. It was good to do something together for the benefit of the community.



Patrick

Tribute to Reverend Penny Fenton (1941-2023)

Revd. Penny Fenton was a well-known and popular lady who was very active in the Faversham Community, inside and outside the Church. She lived in Faversham almost all her life, moving to Ospringe as a young child when her father was appointed as Headmaster of Ospringe Primary School. She grew up in Ospringe School House, together with her brother Michael and sister Stephanie, and in later life lived in Brogdale Road.

She studied for a Botany degree at Leicester University but her studies were cut short when she had to return home to care for her mother. She went into teaching, working her way up to Head of Science then Deputy Headteacher of Upbury Manor School in Gillingham. It was whilst taking children on school trips that she formed a lifelong friendship with her fellow teacher, Brian Wilson, who became her travelling companion.

Following her retirement from the teaching profession she was ordained as a priest on 29th September 1996 by Archbishop George Carey. She initially worked as a non-stipendiary priest in the Benefice of Ospringe with Eastling and Stalisfield. Following Rev. Douglas Turton's retirement, in 2001 she was appointed Priest in Charge of the Benefice. Although she only received a part-time stipend, her ministry was never less than full-time. She was particularly gifted in pastoral care and would think nothing of dropping everything to help a family in crisis.

After her retirement as Priest in Charge in the Benefice, she continued her ministry as a Chaplain at the Pilgrims Hospice and by taking services at local rural churches.

Her longstanding connection with many families in the community resulted in a steady stream of requests for her to take funerals, which she always tried to accommodate. She was a supporter to local charities, such as the Maison Dieu, of which she was a longstanding trustee.

She died after a short illness on 19th January 2023. Her funeral was held at Ospringe Church on 7th March 2023.

A packed church was testament to Penny's popularity and her positive influence on so many people's lives. She will be remembered for her care, compassion, warmth and occasional dry but gentle wit.

Michael Batey

Rev. Dan writes,

At the time of writing, tomorrow, over 150 children and young people will be celebrated in St Mary of Charity Church at the second Faversham Gems Awards presentation evening.

All 150 children and young people have Gone Extra Miles and have made life sparkle for others and have therefore been nominated by the community.

The church will be packed with proud family and supporters as certificates and medals are presented by the Mayor of Faversham, Cllr Trevor Martin.

Some have asked me, why is it important for a Priest and Missioner to give time creating and running this?

Jesus taught the whole concept of going the second mile during his Sermon on the Mount (in Matthew 5.41).

Just as the original context was so not what **anyone would want to do** (Jesus' listeners would not have wanted to go extra miles for Romans Soldiers!), this is just as true today in our rather selfish "Survival of the Fittest" flavour of national and world society often modelled by those who set national policy.

However, society likes Jesus' concept of Going Extra Miles because it makes life glisten, producing so much good fruit that life tastes better. So, let's celebrate where this happens!

Since I started the Gem Awards in 2012 in Nottingham, many Gems Nominees have said they didn't realise they'd done anything special but feel encouraged to keep doing good.



Young people are always the most maligned sector of society which means we judge the young more harshly than adults often missing how children and young people contribute great things to society.

One only has to see the Gems Nominations this year and last year or witness the amazing responses from children at Experience Easter sessions last week to see a very positive attitude that could transform the world – so much so that I often **feel we'd do better as a nation and world** if school pupils were (part of) the Government.

In between our two youth mobile sessions last Friday I was attacked in Preston Street when I **couldn't get the trailer through due to cars** parked on double yellow lines. Was it a teenager who attacked me?

No, it was all down to adults parked illegally.

I was fine albeit shaky and the Police and some others were very helpful (and there was a proud moment when the guy tried to take my phone but I grabbed it back!).

Immediately afterwards some young people asked if I was ok and there followed three massively important conversations where young people vowed to Go Extra Miles to make things right in their lives and in the lives of others even against the odds.

That's surely the society we want - modelled by young people and taught by Jesus.

Revd. Dan

Music dates—forward planning

27 May: Jeremy Lloyd FRCO, Assistant Director of Music, Rochester Cathedral

24 June: Hilary Punnett FRCO, Concert recitalist

29 July: John Ross FRCO, Concert recitalist

26 August: Eric Cordé, Organiste titulaire, Cathedral of Dol-de-Bretagne

No more fossil fuels. Amen

God's creation is in trouble.

Antonio Guterres, the head of the United Nations says "We are firmly on track towards an unliveable world." The International Energy Agency said we can have no new fossil fuels after the end of 2021 – yes, 2021, that's not a misprint! Yet the UK government is giving tax breaks to oil companies to open up 100 plus new oil and gas fields. They have even given the go ahead to a new coal mine – against the advice of their own advisors.

On 21-24 April a big rally is taking place around Westminster to demand an end to fossil fuels. The rally is being organised in conjunction with the police.

Many of those joining the witness will be Christians, people of faith. Jesus instructed us that we are "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." In participating in this mass protest, we bring our faithful communities into the space as salt, actively working as preservers and transformers in that secular space (and of that secular space), and as communities, even more than as individuals, we do so very visibly, giving light to everyone.

On the first day of the rally, Friday 21 April from 11am, the major Christian development and environmental NGOs are gathering in the gardens of St John's Church, Waterloo. At 12 noon we come together for an hour of prayers, songs and witness. Staff members from Christian Aid, Tearfund, Cafod, Green Christian, Operation Noah, Christian Climate Action and the Salvation Army are co-operating on preparing the Service.



At around 1pm a Salvation Army youth band will lead us on a Pilgrimage to Parliament Square (step-free and wheelchair friendly). We plan a brief stop outside the Shell building to pray for no more fossil fuels – Amen!

If you do one thing for God's creation this year, this is it. Praying for and demanding

climate leadership from our government is more important than anything else you can do. If you cannot come to London then please pray **this prayer by Green Christian's Andii Bowsher** at noon on April 21st.

Compassionate God, you know our hearts and share our sorrows.

We are hurt by the despoiling of the living Earth, which we love.

We are angry at the loss we contemplate. We long for words of comfort, yet find them hard to hear.

Turn our grief to active love

Turn our anger to energy for repair of the world

Turn our guilt to solidarity

and by your forgiveness make us whole with all creation. Amen

Barbara Echlin
Vicechair, Green Christian

When I survey the wondrous cross.

It is April and we celebrate death and renewal. It is a time when we reflect on Jesus his journey to Jerusalem, his agonies, despair, humiliation and death at the hands of the civil and religious power brokers of his day. The gospels cover his final hours in different ways giving different perspectives.



In Luke we read

'Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

⁴⁰But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

⁴³And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise '

I have often read this story and wondered what we can learn from it. I found a lovely book entitled 'Two Other Men' written by Graham Reeves who explores the meaning of the interaction and the two different responses of the criminals.

In the summary it says 'Time and again ,Luke's gospel shows the mercy of God displayed through Jesus to those who feel themselves unworthy of love – does this final scene fully realise Luke's message? What do these interactions between two criminals tell us about God's love?

And what can we conclude about the impenitent criminal?

It is a book about love and grace, and what stops us accepting the love of God.

As the old hymn says

*'Love So Amazing, So Divine,
Demands My Soul, My Life, My All.'*

Patrick Mulcahy

Need an oasis of calm?

*A service of quiet contemplation for
Holy Week, with chants from the
Taizé community*

Wednesday April 5th, 7.30pm

St Catherine's Church,

Preston Lane, Preston-next-Faversham

ALL WELCOME



Coffee mornings

☼ St Catherines, Preston next Faversham, ME13 8LG

Includes a book stall

First Saturday in every month. Except 6 May due to Coronation

☼ St Mary Magdalene, ME13 7EJ

First Saturday of the month 10:30 to 12



Could our churches help people in debt?

cma



- 1 in 8 HOMES ARE IN DEBT (November 2022)
- EVERY 4 MINUTES 1 PERSON IN BRITAIN BECOMES INSOLVENT/BANKRUPT (October 2022)
- It takes 1-3 years for people in debt to seek advice.
- Debt can happen to anyone.

Freedom from debt

Problem debt which people cannot manage causes misery. It may lead to relationship breakdown, addiction, fear, depression, suicide.

When we look at the above statistics it would seem likely that many people in Faversham are in debt. I am convinced that either as the Church of England or as Churches Together in Faversham, we should be setting up a debt advice centre in the town. **This would complement the work of Citizens' Advice.**

There are two charities which would help us to do this and give free advice to people in debt. They are Christians Against Poverty, CAP, and Community Money Advice, CMA. CAP works through churches to set up debt centres. It will provide the church with all the training and support needed to offer a professional debt counselling tool that is proven to help some of the most vulnerable in society. All the debt counselling is done centrally, including insolvency options, so the centre manager can focus on supporting clients spiritually and practically.

CMA provides all the resources, training and support needed to establish and maintain local free, face to face money advice services.

Both charities aim to bring clients out of debt and provide help and training so people can manage their resources and stay out of debt.

With both charities we would need to set up a centre and provide volunteers. Setting up the centre will incur costs. To spread these we would ideally involve as many churches as possible.

Iris Neel



Four Churches, One Benefice, One Town

Contact details for Benefice Clergy

Vicar	Rev Simon Rowlands	0179 553 0553 happyvicar@gmail.com
Community & Mission Priest	Rev Dan Corcoran	0796 333 2221 danchadc@gmail.com

For details, fees and arrangements of baptisms, weddings and funerals please contact

Catriona Cuthbert—Parish Administrator, the Benefice of Faversham
(Core working times 9am - 2pm Monday to Wednesday)

The Benefice Office is located at St Mary of Charity Church of England Primary School, Orchard Place, Faversham, ME13 8AP

* FavershamChurches@gmail.com or 01795 227600

Contacts for individual churches in the Benefice of Faversham

St Catherine, Preston next Faversham		fb.me/4favstc
Wardens	Hilary Tulett Rodney Foord	
St Mary Magdalene w St Lawrence, Davington		fb.me/4favstmml
Wardens	Maureen Gregory Frances Worthington* Iris Neel*	
St Mary of Charity, Faversham		fb.me/4favstmoc
Wardens	Kevin Swinney Keith Tyler	
St Peter & St Paul, Ospringe		fb.me/4favstpp
Wardens	Patrick Mulcahy Vacant	

Keeping Contact is the News Sheet of the Benefice of Faversham. It shares details of services, news and activities of the member churches of the Benefice of Faversham and around the town of Faversham.

© 2023 The publishers reserve Copyright and material may not be reproduced without written permission. Photos, this page © Gerald#1. The opinions expressed are those of individual contributors.

- Assistant Warden

Contact

Curator at BeneficeofFaversham@gmail.com

