

# Keeping Contact

## The Benefice of Faversham

June 2023

### Revd. Simon writes

What is it to live as a Christian?  
As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to love others even if they look and have cultures different to our own. Why, because God loves us. How much?

*16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16*

If God loves us so much as to give us his Son, then we are called to follow Jesus' teaching on loving others as a measure of our worship and praise.

*28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' 29 Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." 31 The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' Mark 12 vs. 28-31.*

But firstly, our priority is to love God. If we are unable to be in relationship with God, how can we respond to other human beings? Loving God is about an active and lived out relationship. This relationship calls us to acknowledge God in our lives – that is to worship God, and to be in relationship, that is in prayer to / with God.

If we cannot acknowledge our debt to God in offering him, prayer, praise, and thanksgiving we cannot move on to be in relationship with others beyond ourselves. Jesus recognises this in setting the two great commandments.

We are called to love God and our neighbour whoever they may be! Jesus is clear that our neighbour is not who we simply would prefer them or chose them to be. This is clearly set out in the parable of the Good Samaritan. The 'holy people' the people of God's nation all ignore the injured stranger, and it is the foreigner who acts with love.

In the coming weeks and months Christians are going to be questioned about their beliefs as church leaders' question those in power about how the nation responds to the issue of migrants. If we are to respond to the two great commandments, then difficult questions are going to arise. I have no idea how the migrant crisis will play out, but how are we to live out our own lives and respond to God's love for us? I am reminded of a quote by the late Thomas Merton writing in the 1960's.

"Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business, and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbours worthy." Before we decide who is worthy of compassion and mercy, we need to reflect on John 3.16 in that God considers each and every one of us worthy of his love. How then are we to say one person or another is of any greater or lesser worth than us? Let us love generously and with mercy.

Simon.



#### In this edition

- From Rev. Simon
- June Services
- July Services
- Up coming events
- Rev. Dan
- Contact details

## Services in June — The Benefice of Faversham

	Trinity Sunday 4 June	First Sunday after Trinity 11 June	Second Sunday after Trinity 18 June	Third Sunday after Trinity 25 June
Church	Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-31; Psalm 8; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20	Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7; Psalm 116:1, 10-17; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:23	Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
<b>Davington</b>				
10am	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Prayer
Baptism:				
	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...
<b>Faversham</b>				
10am	Morning Worship	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>
Baptism:		2pm BAPTISM		2pm BAPTISM
6pm	Choral Evensong (rehearsing from 5pm)			
<b>Ospringe</b>				<b>Patronal Festival</b>
11am	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Praise	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>
Baptism:				
<b>Preston</b>				
10am	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>Eucharist</b>
Baptism:		Afternoon: Tulip Tree Fete		
		6.30pm Evening Prayer		

### Midweek services - all services at 10am

Date	Preston	Faversham
Tuesday, 6 June	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 7 June		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 13 June	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 14 June		Eucharist
Tuesday, 20 June	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 21 June (followed by Parish Lunch)		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 27 June	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 28 June		Eucharist
Tuesday,		
Wednesday		

## Services in July — The Benefice of Faversham

	Fourth Sunday after Trinity 2 July	Fifth Sunday after Trinity 9 July	Sixth Sunday after Trinity 16 July	Seventh Sunday after Trinity 23 July	Eighth Sunday after Trinity 30 July
Church	<i>Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42</i>	<i>Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30</i>	<i>Genesis 125:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23</i>	<i>Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-11, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43</i>	<i>Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52</i>
<b>Davington</b>					
10am	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Prayer	Benefice Service at Davington
Baptism:					
	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...
<b>Faversham</b>					
10am	Morning Worship	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	Benefice Service at Davington
Baptism:					
6pm	Choral Evensong (rehearsing from 5pm)				
<b>Ospringe</b>					
11am	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Praise	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Praise	Benefice Service at Davington
Baptism:					
<b>Preston</b>					
10am	<b>Civic Service with Mayor and Town Council</b>	<b>Eucharist</b>	Morning Prayer	<b>Eucharist</b>	Benefice Service at Davington
Baptism:					

### Midweek services - all services at 10am

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

## Upcoming events

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☼ **St Mary of Charity, Coffee morning** every Saturday morning, 10:45: Classical Coffee Concerts, and every week is a surprise! Free coffee and free, excellent music with a retiring collection. For advance details of programmes and performers, sign up as a patron (£3 a month + VAT) at [www.patreon.com/classicalcoffeeconcerts](http://www.patreon.com/classicalcoffeeconcerts)



☼ **St Catherines, Preston next Faversham, ME13 8LG**  
Coffee morning, includes a book stall. First Saturday in every month.

☼ **St Mary Magdalene, ME13 7EJ**  
Coffee morning every first Saturday of the month 10:30 to 12

☼ **Davington—Coffee @ Blossoms**  
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 2.00 'til 4:00 p.m.

☼ **St Catherine's** — Tulip Tree fete – 11th June in the old Vicarage Garden. Various stalls, live music, BBQ, teas & refreshments - everyone is welcome!

☼ **St Mary of Charity**— Faversham Voices — 3 June, Saturday  
Keep the date free in your diary for a performance from a group which never disappoints!

**27 May, 7:30:** Organ recital by Jeremy Lloyd FRCO, Assistant Director of Music, Rochester Cathedral, featuring works by Elgar, Bach, Wesley, Howells, Mozart and Lanquetuit. Free with retiring collection for the organ fund.

**4 June, 5pm for 6pm:** Come-and-sing evensong returns on summer schedule – 5pm rehearsal for 6pm service. The order of service will include Noble's Evening Service in B minor and Bach's Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring. Robes and music provided. Please email [pattihickswhaley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pattihickswhaley@yahoo.co.uk) for advance copies of music and/or to join the email list for regular monthly reminders.

**24 June, 7:30:** Organ recital by Hilary Punnett FRCO. Hilary was formerly assistant organist at Chelmsford Cathedral and is now a freelance performer, playing organ recitals, Director of Music of the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church, Oxford, and Associate Music Director of the Platinum Consort. Free with retiring collection for the organ fund.

Looking ahead: please mark your diaries for our summer organ recital series:  
29 July: John Ross FRCO, Concert recitalist  
26 August: Eric Cordé, Organiste titulaire, Cathedral of Dol-de-Bretagne

# Tulip Tree Fete

**St Catherine's Church**

**In the garden of The Old Vicarage**

**Preston Lane ME13 8LG**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**2-4pm**

**Bottle tombola, raffle, plant sale, books, barbecue, cakes toys, crafts, refreshments and much more...**

**Bring your friends – Everyone welcome**

**With kind permission of Kate and James**

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## Little Fishes

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Little Fishes – 10am Thursday mornings during school term time at St Mary of Charity

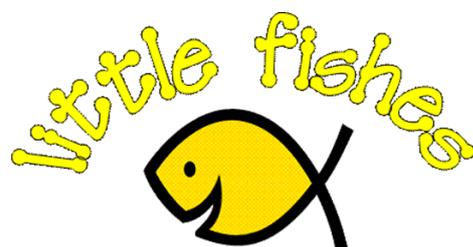
There is no Little Fishes during half term, or between terms.

This term (spring/summer 2023):

JUNE	8	God made plants
	15	Fathers' Day crafts
	22	Decorating biscuits
	29	Sports Day

JULY	6	Visit to the Recreation Ground
	13	End of term party – bring your teddies!

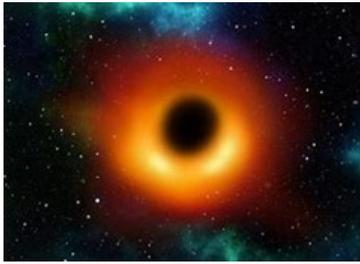
Our term ends on 13 July 2023.



A huge thank you to everyone who helped or contributed in any way to St Mary of Charity's very successful Christian Aid coffee morning and cake stall on Friday, 12 May.

A very impressive £612 was raised.

## Stations of the Cross



In the week I saw the embroidered Stations of the Cross there was an image released by NASA of a black hole.

These apparently consume all around them and do not allow any particles to be emitted. I was struck by the similarity of the picture and the image of the darkness of the tomb into which Jesus was laid as depicted in the embroidery of the entombment.

It set me thinking about our pursuit of knowledge and wealth but more importantly how we use that knowledge and wealth. The question faced by society when faced with yet another scientific development.

How should we use each new discovery?

From the development of the wheel, the splitting of the atom or the use of genetic engineering. The time honoured dilemma of choosing to use the discoveries for good or ill. Witnessed time and again through history by wrecked communities and lives as witnessed on our TV screens on a daily basis

The second embroidery uses the same colours but in reverse order to show the significance of Christ breaking free from his (and our) entombment which took me back to Deuteronomy 30 '

*See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.'*



So as we approach Ascension and Pentecost we have an opportunity to turn again to walk in His way and follow His commandments so beautifully summed up in our Communion Service. Paraphrased as Love God, Love your neighbour.

Patrick Mulcahy

## Rev. Dan writes, The Sound of Musings

Hugh Grant recently revealed that his favourite movie of all time is... The Sound of Music! Apparently this is a cause of some embarrassment to his wife, but it seems he is far from being alone – the iconic movie also topped a 2023 Mother's Day poll as the 'most-loved film'. So what makes The Sound of Music so special?



nuns in quite the same way.' And Author, Speaker, Broadcaster, Jeff Lucas writes, 'A brilliantly creative way to explore vital themes, Bryony's writing is heart-warming, winsome and encouraging.'

Bryony has written a six-week study guide that will shortly be available on her website ([www.bryonywood.co.uk](http://www.bryonywood.co.uk)).

And ever the evangelist, she also presents 'The Sound of Musings Live!', an event designed to help churches share faith in an original and accessible way.

For anyone who loves the movie, whether a Christian or not, The Sound of Musings is a book to help see the film, and one's own life, in new ways.

Rev Bryony Wood, who grew up loving the film, believes the profound Christian themes should not be overlooked. In her lively and insightful new devotional book, The Sound of Musings, she draws out the crucial role that Maria's faith plays as she deftly traces her journey from flibbertigibbet nun to mother and wife.

Prompted by the story, songs and other characters of the film, each short chapter looks at different aspects of life, love and faith and what they mean for us. Biblically rooted, The Sound of Musings helps us discover more about God's love and purposes and, in keeping with the spirit of the movie, is also a lot of fun!

Bryony comments, *'This all started after a special holiday in Salzburg when I realised I was definitely not alone in loving this iconic film. As a vicar and evangelist, I wanted to write something accessible, enjoyable and encouraging, something that would appeal to those on the fringes of Church as well as those sitting in the pews each week. Watching the film afresh – with pen in one hand and remote control in the other – I realised how full it is with insights into God's love.'*

About Bryony's book, Broadcaster and Anglican priest, Rev Canon Kate Bottley, says, 'Bryony writes with humour and warmth as well as insight. You'll never be able to watch singing

**Bryony is bringing "The Sound of Musings LIVE" to St Mary of Charity Church on Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 7.00pm.**

**Tickets are free from:**

**[www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (search "Sound of Musings Faversham")**

**phone or text: 07774128128**

**if you're reading this online you can click this link: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/636622624407](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/636622624407).**

There will even be tea with jam and bread!

So, as Maria would sing, let's start at the very... (you know where!)

Dan

St Mary of Charity Church, Faversham  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 5.30pm

# The Coastal Path

As part of a year of events marking the Year of the Coast,  
a celebration of the English coastline in song, music and word

## FAVERSHAM VOICES

Judith Buckle - Mezzo soprano

Emily White - Reader

Gillian McDonagh - Percussion

Robin Walker - Piano & Organ

David Knotts - Director

Tickets: £10 [under 16s £5]

available on the door

[www.favershammusicclub.co.uk](http://www.favershammusicclub.co.uk)

FAVERSHAM  
MUSIC  
CLUB

Charity no. 261330

## Cathedral Passes 2023

To paraphrase a recent, short lived, Prime Minister, "this is a disgrace" ed.

Holders of Precincts Passes for Canterbury Cathedral ought to be outraged to hear that as of February [2023] their passes are no longer valid.

There are Cathedral Passes, available to those who qualify for a mere £6.00 .

There are qualifications for eligibility to pay this charge to visit your cathedral. The criteria for passes include those who:

- \* works in the old city of Canterbury;
- \* lives within four miles of Bell Harry tower, including within The Precincts;
- \* is a member of the cathedral congregation;
- \* is immediate family of a cathedral staff member;
- \* is a cathedral volunteer; or
- \* is a member of any church in the diocese (on the parish electoral roll or similar)

The means the majority of inhabitant of the Benefice of Faversham. The new passes are valid for five years. As well as a physical pass you will also get a digital pass (how very 21st Century!)

If you wish to apply for a pass you need to go to [www.canterbury-cathedral.org/visit](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/visit). You will need to have proof of your eligibility in order to complete your application. You can also email the Cathedral on [passes@canterbury-cathedral.org](mailto:passes@canterbury-cathedral.org) or telephone 01227 762862.

## Bird Song in Ospringe Church yard.

I would like to recommend the free App that you can download onto your phone, called Merlin\*.

With it you can identify birdsong which I have found absolutely brilliant.

The first time I used it I heard nightingales and Cetti Warblers at Conyer Creek, which I found so exciting. Then more recently walking along Oare Creek I could identify Reed Warblers, Sedge Warblers, Reed Buntings and we also saw a cuckoo.

Previously there were lots of songs that we couldn't recognise in the churchyard at Ospringe. I can now say we have heard Wren, Chaffinch, Song Thrush as well as the more common Robins, Blackbirds and Sparrows.

*\*Use your Google play to find Merlin, its run by Cornell University. You ay be asked to download a file of birdsong specific to your geographic area.*

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>



Sarah Williams

'A brilliantly creative way to explore vital themes  
that emerge from a classic film.'

JEFF LUCAS

# *The* SOUND *of* MUSINGS

**“The Sound of Musings LIVE”**  
**St Mary of Charity Church**  
**Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 7.00pm.**

**BRYONY WOOD**

## Music at St Mary of Charity, June and beyond

**27 May, 7:30:** Organ recital by Jeremy Lloyd FRCO, Assistant Director of Music, Rochester Cathedral, featuring works by Elgar, Bach, Wesley, Howells, Mozart and Lanquetuit.

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## Churches Together in Faversham

Sunday 28th May, Pentecost Picnic



The Recreation  
Ground

3pm – 4pm Bring  
your own picnic.

Live Music and Worship

Do join us





**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](mailto:FavershamChurches@gmail.com) or 01795 227600

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

<b>St Catherine, Preston next Faversham</b>		<a href="https://fb.me/4favstc">fb.me/4favstc</a>
Wardens	Hilary Tulett Rodney Foord	
<b>St Mary Magdalene w St Lawrence, Davington</b>		<a href="https://fb.me/4favstmml">fb.me/4favstmml</a>
Wardens	Maureen Gregory Frances Worthington* Iris Neel*	
<b>St Mary of Charity, Faversham</b>		<a href="https://fb.me/4favstmoc">fb.me/4favstmoc</a>
Wardens	Kevin Swinney Keith Tyler	
<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul, Ospringe</b>		<a href="https://fb.me/4favstpp">fb.me/4favstpp</a>
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.

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- **Assistant Warden**

**Contact**

**Curator at** [BeneficeofFaversham@gmail.com](mailto:BeneficeofFaversham@gmail.com)

