

Keeping Contact

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 3, Issue 9

October 2022

Revd. Simon writes

The past month has been historic with the passing of the second Elizabethan age. We had the opportunity to give thanks to God for the dedication and grace the late queen offered in her service to the country. Her funeral was an uplifting Christian occasion which rightly celebrated the Christian hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Now I sit writing this letter slightly numb at the speed in which the world moves on. With greater threats being made by the Russian President, the changing political situation in Italy leaving Europe to face dark days. Meanwhile here in the UK many are fearful of the economic downturn, rising costs and possible fuel crisis this winter.

In the midst of all this we are called as Christians to have hope in the person of Jesus Christ. In the world he lived in, human suffering was as real as anything we live through. Yet for all he was subjected to his love for humanity remained steadfast to the Cross and beyond.

How then should we behave in such uncertain times?

It is easy for those in positions of influence to seek to blame other people or nations for the social or financial ills of the time. But we need to be wary and look to our basic Christian teaching.

When Jesus was tested on the greatest commandment (Matthew 22.34 – 40) he responded “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

We are called to trust and remain centred in our faith in God and respond with love in Greek ‘Agape’ (selfless, universal love) to our fellow human beings.

Throughout this we need to hold one another, our nation and world in prayer. I try and reflect quietly and journal thoughts and matters that cause me concern so that when I pray, they can be handed over to God rather than being paralysed by inaction due to concern over the world around us.

This coming October 30th we will celebrate a fifth Sunday Benefice service 10 a.m. at St Mary of Charity. Our guest preacher will be a member of Christians against Poverty, a national charity who organise advice on debt and how to become debt free, Job Clubs, Life Skills and Money Courses as well as national advocacy. It is an opportunity to listen, learn and seek to respond to the gospel. When I give a lighted candle to the newly baptised, I say ‘God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

May we seek to shine for Christ in this dark world. Amen.

Yours in Christ

Simon.



In this edition

- From Rev Simon
- October Services
- What's happening
- Bishop Ken-completed.
- C.A.P.
- Dream Kingdom Dreams
- Contact details

Services in October—The Benefice of Faversham

Church	Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity 2 October	Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity 9 October	Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity 16 October	Last Sunday after Trinity 23 October	Fourth Sunday before Advent/All Saints' Day 30 October
	<i>Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10</i>	<i>Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-11; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19</i>	<i>Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8</i>	<i>Joel 2:23-end; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14</i>	<i>Daniel 7:1-3; 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-end; Luke 6:20-31</i>
Davington					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	<i>Benefice Service at Faversham</i>
Baptism:					
					3pm All Souls
Faversham		HARVEST			
10am	Morning Praise	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Benefice Service with Christians Against Poverty
Baptism:		2pm Memorial Service COWGILL			
5pm	Choral Evensong followed by supper				3pm: All Souls
Ospringe					
11am	Eucharist	Morning Praise with Mission Aviation Fellowship	Eucharist	Morning Praise	<i>Benefice Service at Faversham</i>
Baptism:					
					3pm All Souls
Preston	HARVEST				
10am	Eucharist with baptism	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	<i>Benefice Service at Faversham</i>
Baptism:		2pm Baptism			
		5pm Taizé Service			3pm All Souls

Mid week services in the Benefice

Date, 10:00	Preston	Faversham
Tuesday, 4 October	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 5 October		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 11 October	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 12 October		Eucharist
Tuesday, 18 October	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 19 October (followed by Parish Lunch)		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 25 October	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 26 October		Eucharist

Jules Cowgill

There will be a memorial service to celebrate the life of Jules Cowgill

2pm on Sunday, 9 October 2022 at St Mary of Charity.

Jules was a former project manager of Faversham Foodbank.

All are welcome, especially those who worked with Jules at the Foodbank.



John Moor

It was with great sadness that we have learned of the recent death of John Moor. John was a stalwart of the community at St Peter & St Paul, Ospringe. Not least for his leading the flower arrangers until just 5 years ago.



It was only recently that he said he could no longer continue to help with Church Flowers at St Peter and St Paul's Ospringe. This follows his recent birthday.

The timing means that we will have to include an obituary in a later edition.

We understand that his funeral will be at 11:30 on Thursday 6th October at St Peter & St Paul's, Ospringe.

In the meantime our condolences, thoughts and prayers go out to Ruth and his family.

The photos show him arranging flowers for the Easter Service 2022.



What's happening?

- **Relationship, relationship, relationship.**

It's all about relationship with God and one other. Jesus made the difference reconciling us to God, providing the way of forgiveness to reconcile one another.

You know all this but it's important to revisit God's plan of reconciliation when society seems to prefer cancelling out others and God.

God ministers through relationship. He always has. We see Jesus ministering to individuals and groups in the Gospels through relationship (although his ministry wouldn't show on Church of England mission statistics forms as these are all about service attendance!) Services are important, but they're only a vehicle. Relationships with God and others are the foundation.

- **Dream Kingdom Dreams**

We've spent lots of time exploring how we can build on current, invaluable ministry with older people, especially as loneliness is rife. Our next meeting is 1.00pm-2.30pm on Wednesday 12th October at St Mary of Charity Church. Please join us to continue this exploration, this time with Nigel Collins.

Another DKD event (9.30-11.30, Saturday 1st October (and Saturday 29th October for those who decide to take part) See page 11 for more details including how to sign up.

- **GEM72 Mobile initiative**

We've spent many Summer hours on board our youth mobile connecting with children, young people and families through hospitality and games, providing a safe, welcoming space, an opportunity to belong and assurance of inherent meaning and purpose – all craved by younger generations but which are increasingly ripped away by those who make the biggest decisions in life today and who seem to prefer a “trickle-down” approach. We've seen plenty of instances over the years where we've engaged positively with those who have shared heart-breaking stories about all they are coping with.

All this connects directly with our ongoing work in and with schools.

- **Singalong Christmas**

Singalong Christmas continues to provide a fun and engaging way to put oneself in God's story through hit songs and parodies from recent decades.

Everyone is welcome and rehearsals are every Saturday at St Mary of Charity Church from 18:00-20:00. Rehearsal times will extend to 20:30 after half term!

More information at

@singalongkent

www.youarecrucial.org

singalongkent@gmail.com

Experience Christmas—volunteers needed

After volunteers in the parishes delivered such a wonderful season of *Experience Christmas* last year, I'm so excited to send this request.

What is it, and what happens?

Experience Christmas (developed by the Diocese of Gloucester) is a wonderfully moving activity for pupils, staff and volunteers.

We welcome a class of pupils (aged between 8 - 11) and, after a short video, five small groups travel round five ten-minute activities based on the Christmas story. After these five activities, we all meet for the Manger session where we give gifts to Jesus and sing the final verse of *In the bleak midwinter*.

The whole session can look like this:

Morning sessions: *Volunteers' prayer/briefing: 9.00am | Class arrives: 9.30am | Class departs: 10.50am | Volunteers' prayer/debrief: 11.00am | Volunteers depart: 11.15 - 11.30am*

Afternoon sessions: *Volunteers' prayer/briefing: 12.30pm | Class arrives: 1.00pm | Class departs: 2.20pm | Volunteers' prayer/debrief: 2.30pm | Volunteers depart: 2.45 - 3.00pm*

Please would you consider being part of this?

We need DBS'd volunteers for each session to happen:

- Volunteers to lead the five simple, scripted activities.
- Volunteers to travel round the activities with the small groups of pupils.
- Volunteers to provide all adults with tea/coffee/hot chocolate in our covered cups while in the church. (Teachers generally advise against giving children drinks due to spillages and toilet time!)

Signing up is REALLY easy!

If you'd like to be involved, please use this Doodle link, type your name and simply indicate each date/time you can/cannot do. It is possible we won't use all the sessions listed.

<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/avo9Jwmb>

Any questions, please do get in touch.

Thank you so much,

Blessings, Dan



Calendar of Prayer



You can now get the Calendar of Prayer on Spotify and iTunes, just follow or subscribe and you'll receive a new prayer each day.

Don't forget that you can also view it on your phone or tablet computer on issuu app.

If you wish to print the Calendar of Prayer, you can change your own printer settings to black and white or grayscale instead of printing in colour.

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

Concluded....

Bishop Ken, Part 3

We left Bishop Thomas Ken when his royal adversary, James II, had fled to France.

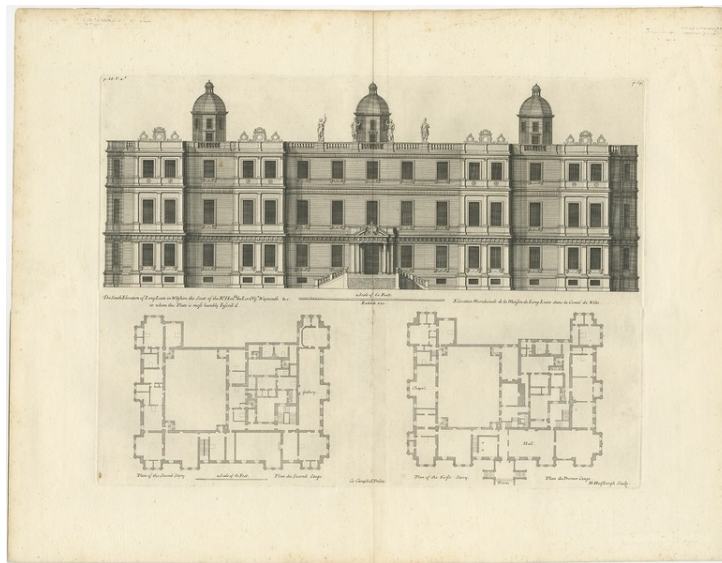
It may have seemed that Thomas's troubles were over but, in fact, worse was to come. Parliament was determined to make sure that no Catholic ever ruled in England again so they ordered everyone in public office, including all clergy, to take an Oath of Allegiance to James' protestant successors, William and Mary, and they warned that any who refused would be deprived of their office.

Thomas was a leader of the opposition to this, pointing out that men who, before God, had taken the Oath to James II could not, in all conscience, take the same oath to William and Mary while James was still alive. But Parliament was determined and, in company with many other clergy, Thomas lost everything; his diocese, his income and his home.

Earlier in his career he had given his personal inheritance to aid the Huguenot refugees in his diocese, so now he was homeless and virtually penniless.

Because he was well-loved in his diocese many people offered him shelter but he accepted the offer of an Oxford friend, Thomas Thynne, who had now become Viscount Weymouth and was living at Longleat in Wiltshire.

He spent the rest of his life there, quietly reading, writing and walking in the grounds (fortunately without lions!).. He accepted the consequences of his act of conscience but he said that, although Parliament could take away his worldly goods they could not take away his spiritual responsibilities and he always signed his many letters as a bishop, 'Thomas Bath and Wells'.



When Queen Anne came to the throne in 1702 she granted him a pension which he handed over to his aristocratic protector in payment of his debt to him. Viscount Weymouth wisely accepted it.

Shortly before his death in 1711 he asked to be buried in

the churchyard of Frome parish church, the nearest church to Longleat which was also in his former diocese. After his funeral, friends gathered at his graveside and sang his Morning Hymn with those lines which sum up his Christian way of life:

Let all thy converse be sincere,

Thy conscience as the noonday clear.

A fitting tribute to a wise, compassionate and brave man.

John Blackford

Christians against Poverty

For people who are weighed down by debt, CAP can help. People may think their situation is impossible, but there is hope. CAP's friendly team will give a listening ear in the privacy of a person's own home and provide practical solutions for the debt.



reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race or sexual orientation.

Once a person rings CAP, a Debt Coach from a local Debt Centre will visit the person in their own home. The trained debt counsellor then works out a realistic

Making the first call can be hard but the sooner a person rings, the sooner they will have peace of mind. Sadly, on average people wait a year before seeking help with debt. By then the whole problem has got very much worse.

CAP's professional services are free. The organisation is a charity - it is supported by donations from churches and individuals.

They have worked with over 1,000 companies within the financial industry to come to agreements about debt repayments. CAP is well respected which means councils, utilities and mortgage companies will work with them because they have seen the results of their involvement with people in debt, based on what people can afford.

CAP will help anyone regardless of their religious beliefs, it is not just for Christians. It is committed to having its services available to all individuals regardless of age, disability, gender

budget that prioritises the essential bills; they negotiate affordable payments with each creditor and attempt to stop unfair interest and charges where possible.

In most cases a CAP plan is set up for the individual, so he/she will make one monthly payment into the CAP plan to cover all the debts and bills if appropriate. CAP then distributes this to the creditors.

When a person is in severe debt, the councillor will walk them through insolvency options, such as petitioning for bankruptcy, and can help fill out the forms. They can even go to court with the person.

CAP uses the CAP Plan to pay the bills and debt repayments until the person is DEBT FREE.

Call CAP on 0800 328 0006

St Catherine's

A reminder that our Annual Victorian Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday November 19th at the Alexander Centre.

Come along to support us - everyone is welcome.



Taizé Harvest Celebration

In the Lord be ever thankful

*A service of quiet contemplation giving
thanks for the harvest, with chants used in
the Taizé community*



Sunday 9th October 5.00pm

St Catherine's Church,

Preston Lane, Preston-next-Faversham

ALL WELCOME

HOPE Faversham Youth



Report October 2022

**Our Mission is to be a youth group that shows the hope of Jesus
to bring life-giving change.**

Wednesday, in term time 19:00 to 20:30 at the Baptist Church

We run particularly for our church young people (Year 7 and above). The leaders are from four churches across Faversham, including: the Baptist Church - Stephano Gould; from Barton Church – Hannah Daugherty and Ross Lusby; from the Community Church Hugh Austen; and Sarah Williams from St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe CofE.

This team will continue in the coming year 2022-2023.

We continue to be blessed to be able to use the Baptist Church. This term we have chosen to be in the smaller room at the back of the church. It was good to be able to spread out with Covid restrictions, but the dynamics are better when the young people are closer together physically. Eating together is an important part of our group and each week food is provided. Some church members support us, or the leaders take it in turns to provide the meal.

In June we welcomed four young people due to start Year 7 in September, and now two more Year 7 have joined. We have also welcomed back a couple of older ones, so this month we have had a vibrant group of 12.

This term we are looking at the questions that we have about God.

Please do continue to pray for us.

Sarah Williams

Maison Dieu

Could you volunteer to Steward on Saturdays or Sundays from 2-5pm?

If you would like to help, please contact Ann Wilkinson

annbw70@outlook.com

01795532755

The Maison Dieu stewards are a small, dedicated team of keen volunteers who keep the Maison Dieu Museum, at the end of Water Lane, open each weekend.



The building is managed by English Heritage so their members have free access. We are on their website.

The museum houses a collection of Roman pottery and other historical items dug up in the 1920s by a local builder, William Whiting who opened the Maison in the late 1920s as a museum.

It was taken over by the old Ministry of Works and then by English Heritage.

The collection has a number of Roman pots and Samian ware in good condition and there are also Saxon and Mediaeval items. The lower room has a fine Tudor plaster ceiling even noted in Pevsner's book on the historic buildings of Britain.



We can be proud to have such an asset in our community but we need your help to keep it going.

Davington, St Mary Magdalene

- Blossoms Cafe 2-4 pm at the church
Friday afternoons (NOT Oct 21st & 28th - half term)
- Coffee morning with cake and biscuits 10.30 to 12 at the church, monthly on the last Saturday of the month.

NB Change of date : the October coffee morning will be held on Saturday, October 22nd .

- Sunday October 30th All Souls service - to remember the faithful departed - at 3 pm at Davington.

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

(The Church of England in Faversham, Kent)

dream Kingdom *dreams*



**an ongoing exploration of mission and ministry
rooted in prayer and Scripture.**

This time we focus on:

Personality Type and Mission

Facilitated by Annie Biggs

*Trainer and Leadership Consultant who works
regularly with Canterbury Diocese*

The Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) helps with:

- understanding oneself
- understanding interactions with others
- communication and decision-making
- managing change, stress and conflict

Introduction and sign-up session:

Sat 1st October 2022 : 9.30am – 11.30am

Drinks and pastries served from 9.15am

St Mary Magdalene Church, Davington.

Priory Road. Faversham. ME13 7EJ.

Session 2 (Sat 29th Oct) is for those who sign up to take part in MBTI. Spaces are limited. Venue to be announced

**Please book your place(s)
mentioning any dietary requirements:
dreamkingdomdreams@gmail.com**

Welcome back

Well, the last month has been quite a lot to cope with. Sadly, it looks as if the Winter will bring us all some challenges too! But we will do our best to keep you informed and engaged.

I do appreciate items that arrive spontaneously and liven the content. As usual a plea, please forward copy in a word format. Hand written is easier to work with than some of the bits that arrive.

A big hint to some of the regular contributors, please only use carriage return [enter] to make a new paragraph! Century Gothic 11, left aligned, simple as that.

Copy date, to Curator+BeneficeofFaversham@gmail.com for November is 09:00 Monday, October 24th.

i.wonder

This is a new Sunday faith-space for worship and discipleship we're developing for children, young people, families and others (in that order)

– another piece of the jigsaw where people can respond to God in an informal, fun and deep way. This will be at 4.00pm on Sundays at Davington Church.

Positive relationship is sorely missing from society today. We follow God for whom relationship with his creation is everything. And this is refreshing for society. Thank you for your part in developing God's mission and ministry through relationship, relationship, relationship.

Music at St Mary of Charity

Come and Sing Evensong + Supper



Sunday 2 October is our next "Come and Sing" Evensong, which attracts singers from all around the area. The October service will include

Introit: Ubi Caritas, Duruflé

Preces & Responses: Smith

Psalm: Lamentations 1:1-6, a setting by Zelenka for solo voice, strings and continuo

Canticles: Short Service, Byrd

Anthem: Give us the wings of faith, Bullock

Voluntary: Satyagraha ("Truth-force"), Conclusion of Act III, Philip Glass

If you are a singer, do join us at 15:45 for a 16:00 rehearsal (you are also welcome to join the Thursday 19:00 rehearsal if you are not familiar with the music).

Or join us at 17:00 to enjoy the service! We hope to have supper afterwards.

Mission and Ministry with Older People:

Further to our previous gatherings, and with thanks for all your responses from the last meetings, you're warmly invited to a Dream Kingdom Dreams follow-up gathering about ministry and mission with older people in the benefice.

We'll be welcoming Nigel Collins (Canterbury Diocese's Warden of Readers and Pastoral Secretary) who will contribute to this session.

Time: 1.00pm until 2.30pm (drinks and cakes at 1.00pm)

Date: Wednesday 12 October 2022

Venue: St Mary of Charity Church, Faversham

Aims:

- continuing to map the amazing work already happening,
- discussing top tips for this pastoral ministry and mission
- exploring the formation of a sustainable pastoral "hub" for developing, enabling and encouraging future ministry.

If you cannot attend this meeting, any further thoughts, feelings and information would be most gratefully received.

If you are able to update those who are not emailable, that would be most appreciated.

And our next Dream Kingdom Dreams exploration...

...two opportunities to understand our God-given identity as part of the Body of Christ through the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), facilitated by Trainer and Leadership Consultant, Annie Biggs who works regularly with Canterbury Diocese.

MBTI was a hugely healing, formative and mission-inspiring experience in my own life and ministry training. Our hope and prayer is that it will further help, encourage and equip God's people in Faversham for future mission and ministry.

The Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) can help with:

- understanding oneself
- understanding interactions with others
- communication and decision-making
- managing change, stress and conflict

- Session 1: Saturday 1st October 2022: 9.30-11.30am at Davington Church

(drinks and pastries available from 9.15am) An introduction to MBTI: its application, usefulness and relevance to life and God's mission, plus how to take part in MBTI.

- Session 2: Saturday 29 October 2022: 9.30-11.30am: venue to be announced

An exploration about one's own Type (for those who sign up to complete the MBTI questionnaire) Places for taking part in MBTI and then session 2 will be limited, so please do register your interest by replying to this email.

Dan Corcoran



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

* 0179 553 0553

Contacts for individual churches in the Benefice of Faversham

St Catherine, Preston next Faversham		fb.me/4favstc
Wardens	Hilary Tullet 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	Clive Southwell Kevin Swinney	
St Peter & St Paul, Ospringe		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

