

Keeping Contact

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 2, Issue 7

September 2021

Revd. Simon writes

Dear Parishioners, I write this with both faith in Christ in my heart and a sense of dis-at-ease with the world around me. Afghanistan has been much in the news but it is easy to forget or ignore the plight of refugees escaping so many conflicts or environmental disasters across the world. Having watched on television a migrant family being rescued from an inflatable having crossed the channel, I wondered what level of desperation would I need to be at to place myself and my family in such a dangerous situation? Jesus and Old Testament teaching was

clear, the protection of the most vulnerable was each person's responsibility, summed up in the commandment to love God and your neighbour as yourself. As we enter this Autumn with decisions around COVID and worship not fully resolved let us enter into a time of prayer for our neighbour who ever they may be and ask for God's grace and mercy upon us that hospitality may again be a sign of Christian grace.

Rev Simon.

Harvest Celebrations in the Benefice

St Mary Magdalene w	Davington	3 October
St Peter & St Paul	Ospringe	3 October
St Catherine	Preston-next-Faversham	3 October
St Mary of Charity	Faversham	10 October.



All food donations to The Faversham Foodbank, please

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Services in September 2021 - The Benefice of Faversham

Church Services
across the Benefice.

Do check regarding
any change in
regulations

	St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence, The Brents and Davington (10am)	St Mary of Charity, Faversham (10am)	St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe (11am)	St Catherine's, Preston-next-Faversham (10am)
5 September Fourteenth after Trinity	Eucharist (DC)	All Age Worship (Team)	Eucharist (SR)	Eucharist (JS/SS)
Baptisms:			2pm GADD (SR)	
Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37				
12 September Fifteenth after Trinity	Eucharist (SR)	Eucharist (DC)	Morning Prayer with Baptism (CAMERON) (SW)	Eucharist (PL)
Baptisms:		3pm Memorial Van Soest (RP)		
Wednesday, 15 September		1.30pm Memorial Dawson-Bowling (SR)		
Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38				
19 September Sixteenth after Trinity	Eucharist (SI)	Eucharist (SD)	Eucharist ()	Eucharist (DC)
Baptisms:		2pm HOOK (DC)		
Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37				
26 September Seventeenth after Trinity	Service of the Word (EW)	Eucharist (SR)	Morning Prayer ()	Morning Prayer (HT/GD)
Baptisms:				
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50				
Harvest Festivals at time of publishing: Davington, Ospringe and Preston-next-Faversham - 3 October; Faversham - 10 October. All proceeds to The Faversham Foodbank, please				

- Copy date for the October edition is 09:00 27th September
- Word [.doc] files or similar MS type please, **450** words is about a page—manage your creative flow to that.
- Send pictures separately, not in the body of the text.
- Please do not send odd formats. PDF files are especially difficult to work with.

Contributions to BeneficeofFaversham+Curator@gmail.com

Obituary

Robert
James
Brown,
"Bob"

Robert James Brown, "Bob"

Robert James Brown (Bob) died in July and his funeral took place at Charing Crematorium on 10 August.

What follows is an extract from his eulogy.

Bob was born in Wathamstow on 10 October 1931 and proved to be an intelligent and conscientious scholar who was well liked and excelled in most subjects, particularly science, physics, history, and math's. He worked at Royal Ordnance, Defence based in Waltham Abbey, Essex for 40 years until his retirement 1987.

It was there he met his beloved wife Margaret, who died last November. They married in 1988 and moved to Faversham just around the corner from Margaret's beloved sister Grace (who was a member of St Mary of Charity) and her family.

Bob was involved with a number of organisations and charities and was a regular and active member of St Mary of Charity. Bob helped collate and deliver the magazine for many years, was a member of the Holy Dusters team, and would assist Margaret clearing up after she had finished her flower arranging.

He would often volunteer to be a 'presence' in the church for some of its or the town's events, such as Open House and took great joy in meeting those he encountered. Bob and Margaret were devoted to each other and worked together as a team both at church and particularly at home in the garden which Margaret adored with her trimming plants

as high as she could reach (she was very short) and Bob finishing what they referred to as "its haircut".

Deteriorating health had beset them both in later years and Bob became Margaret's main carer, lovingly doing what was best for her, however Grace's family David, Beth and John and their children lovingly cared for them both.

Their health issues had prevented them from coming in to Church in recent years, but they were not forgotten and were taken Holy Communion regularly at home. Neighbours always looked out for them, often taking Bob to hospital appointments and a good number of church members visited which they both loved and were always grateful for.

Bob was much loved by everyone who knew him. He was a gentle-man with a smile on his face that could literally light up the room and with never a bad word to say about anyone. All who knew him would agree that whatever his health issues and other difficulties, somehow Bob always remained the amicable gentleman, and Margaret always kept alive the love and devotion for 'My Robby' to the end. Bob was a man of real and living faith and was ready to meet with our Lord.

He is now in that place especially prepared for him, reunited with his beloved Margaret. May they both rest in peace and rise in glory.

A Benefice initiative.

St Mary
&
St Peter & St Paul
took part.

A Safari Market?



Faversham Safari

Once again we collected "stuff" from people who were kind enough to donate to the stall.

Whilst Anthony and Daphne ran the gardening and Plants side a team of kind volunteers including the Friths, Jennifer Holden, May and Fiona Crosfield attended to the rest. Selling chimney pots, jam pots, Zimmer frames, cork screws, egg cups and everything in between!

By the end of the day, having carted the items out of my basement with the help of 2 young neighbours we got the "remains" back into the basement 5 mins before the heavens opened!

The day, which was both fun and sociable, raised a massive £630 before gift aid.

The only sad thing was that Ospringe Church had gathered enough for a stall but were affected at the last minute by COVID regulations and had to pull out.

We very much hope they join us next year and that perhaps others will take the opportunity of raising money for the churches from such a wide selection of pockets!

Margy

Keeping Contact

Well here we are back again. In another cycle, the seasons and school and college terms.

Just getting momentum up for the return to school etc and then on to Christmas. Sue Smith's article last month made me think. Re-reading it made me realise that we are half way through Trinity

Has your summer been as odd as the rest of the year?

We are having more regular worship and activities. So there should be more in here to tell you about.

Collating this publication becomes more like being a detective than an editor.

Do let us know about your plans, items for the calendar, book reviews, even film or TV suggestions.

Welcome back Dan.

Dan Corcoran, our Benefice Mission Priest writes

As we continue pioneering our way through these ever-changing scenes of life, I wonder how we identify with our crucial roles in God's loving mission.

Although the word mission appears nowhere in the Bible, God's loving mission drives his redemption-rescue story forward, constantly working through folk like you and I when we get it right and when we get it wrong. I wonder who are examples of God's constant work in your life and others' lives?

Have you wondered how God works through you for others? God often works through people without them even knowing. A kind word or being at the right place at the right time can be two ways that God redeems. We can pray St Paul's words to the Colossians, that we will make the most of every opportunity, that our conversation is full of grace and seasoned with salt. We can pray through St Peter's words, always giving a reason for the hope we have within us. Talking of hope, the number of people I meet in Faversham who seem find ultimate hope in "touching wood" and "crossing fingers" is astounding! What would it look like in your sphere of influence for people to transfer their ultimate hope from touching dead wood to, instead, touching someone who died on something wooden and now lives? Jesus demonstrates that there is no situation beyond God's redemption. That is ultimate hope. This all starts with genuine relationship. I remember years ago

in church we were encouraged to "invite a friend". This approach sometimes bore fruit (I felt great sympathy for those who didn't like it and who felt their chance with God was completely blown forever! Of course it wasn't.) What bore more fruit was responding to God calling us to relationship – with Him and each other.

What is our response? We've been out with the bus and trailer engaging hundreds of people building community. Thanks to those who have "jumped on board"! This Autumn we'll be serving schools with clubs, collective worship and Experience Christmas. We'll be continuing the great work in care homes. We'll be working with The Children's Society on local well-being and launching the Faversham GEMs Awards recognising local and young people who "Go Extra Miles" (who would you nominate?). We'll be starting an afterschool café in Davington Church and we'll be producing another Singalong Christmas to engage local families in the Christmas story. All these activities, plus many others, will provide natural, God-shaped, opportunities for igniting and strengthening relationship with God and each other through these ever-changing scenes of life.

Dan Corcoran

Getting to know you

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.

Hello, my name is Brian Jones and I am a member of the St Mary of Charity church family.

I was born in 1944 at 'Kingsfield Maternity Home' in Briton Road and raised in Tanners St.

With the exception of two years in Tankerton when my wife Joyce and I were first married Faversham has always been my dwelling place. So I suppose I could claim to be a true native of this wonderful old gem of a town.

Shortly after I was born I was baptized at St Mary of Charity, the beginning of what turned out to be a lifelong relationship with this church, where I have served as Sacristan for many years.

However my actual faith journey began at the age of five when my parents decided that because we lived across the road from the 'Gospel Mission' that would be where I would go to learn about the love of Jesus. And so I did, along with children from right across the town.

I was taught by some wonderful Sunday school teachers who would hold me spellbound with amazing stories from the bible, it was a wonderful grounding place for me and I hold many happy memories of my time there.

Again memories of many happy life-changing moments that God so graciously presented me with over the decade.

One particular was meeting my wife to-be there.

These and the many people that have passed through the life of this church, people sent by God to encourage and



inspire us in our faith. I never cease to be uplifted by the presence of the Holy Spirit in all that goes on in the life of this place through the different groups and events and I love to sit in the peace and tranquillity and feel the encompassing warmth of centuries of prayer that seem to ooze from its very walls.

It is impossible for me to pick a favourite, I just love to sing aloud praises to my Creator and His creation in whatever form or style is on the service sheet. As a chorister back in the 50-60's I loved singing the psalms, canticles, hymns and anthems, today I enjoy the new worship songs just as much, they all, each in their own way present me with the words and tunes with which to express my love and thanks for all the wonders our Gods gracious gifts.

I have two equal favourites that always set me a-tingling and a-trembling, I feel they are so much a part of one another,. Both from John's Gospel they are: Ch.1 v1 "In the beginning."

Such powerful words of mystery that we always hear at Christmas.

And Ch.3 v16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son...."

I remember those awesome words having a big impact on me as I sang those words when the choir performed Stainer's 'Crucifixion', actual words spoken by Jesus to Nicodemus.

I still find myself quietly singing that same piece after all these years.

Who cannot be upset by recent events in Afghanistan.

The thoughts and worries of many Christians are reflected in his words.

Afghanistan: Archbishop of Canterbury's address to the House of Lords

The Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken in the House of Lords after Parliament was recalled following the fall of Afghanistan.

Here is a text of his speech:

My Lords,

I look forward today especially to hearing noble and gallant Lords, diplomats, and others with local knowledge in Afghanistan. We rightly remember the courage, suffering and sacrifice over the last 20 years, and the courage being shown by our ambassador and the service people in Afghanistan at the moment, together with their colleagues and reporters. When we look back, I remember a cathedral, full for the funeral of a soldier: family and many colleagues silent in dignity, some wounded, mourning their loss.

The failure we face today is not military or diplomatic: they did all they could. It is political. Recovery and hope will come to Afghanistan with us supporting commitment to the neediest and most desperate. We have proven capacities in soft as well as hard power.

We owe an absolute, lavishly generous moral covenant to all those who are at risk because they served with us in Afghanistan or took seriously our frequently professed commitment to its future, women and girls included. An Afghan refugee, now a UK citizen said to me this week, "families in such times of trouble belong together". His words are not politics but humanity. This is about morals not numbers. Will the Government confirm that their

policy will reflect moral obligation and not be controlled by numbers?

In Pakistan, a country facing huge pressure including from refugees, we must undertake dialogue and support, learning afresh the religious and cultural literacy which is essential to effective work. We must not put any groups there, or in Afghanistan, into a corner where they may be driven to greater extremes. The aid we offer must support dialogue, inspire hope and prepare reconciliation. And that aid must be genuinely additional, not a transfer from other places of need. Is that going to be the case, I ask the Government?

We must renew commitment to freedom of religion and belief everywhere, a point not much mentioned so far. That will count in Pakistan and Afghanistan for Christians and religious communities such as Shia, Hindus, Jains, Ahmadis and Sikhs. A WhatsApp, from a Christian in Afghanistan yesterday, asked for support there and in Pakistan. Memorably, it said, "I am willing to die for Jesus, but I do not want to die forgotten".

My Lords, this is a very bad time, especially for so many in Afghanistan, and for those who served there. It is a time for prayerful humility – and for us to display generosity, virtue, and courage. Rebuilding our reputation in such ways will give many others hope as well.

HOPE Faversham Youth



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

hopefavershamyouth@gmail.com

HOPE FAVERSHAM YOUTH

for Year 7 and above

Thank you for your prayers, we do have a new leader, one of our ex-members – please pray for practicalities.

Please be praying for us all as we plan for the coming year, for creativity and God's guidance in planning; for new young people to join, for their new academic year and school.

Sarah Williams

Voices of victims and survivors of abuse sought in safeguarding review.

Work is underway in all 42 dioceses of the Church of England in reviewing the Church's handling of safeguarding cases, with a key focus on listening to survivors who want to come forward.

Part of this work is to hear the views of survivors of abuse within the Church of England and people are being encouraged to share their experiences in the knowledge that they will be listened to and treated with respect.

People who would like to share their experiences are invited to get in touch directly with the independent reviewers :

- Carol Wells - cwells@diocant.org
- Adrienne Plunkett - aplunkett@diocant.org

Alternatively, you can call on 01227 459401 or write to Carol Wells and Adrienne Plunkett, Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1NQ.

Ride & Stride

Time for a bit of
the “Norman
Tebbit”

Ride & Stride



11 September 2021, from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm

The Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Ride & Stride takes place on the second Saturday in September each year.

To register as a participant, for further information, or to request a sponsorship form contact the Benefice Office or follow the link below for details online

Participants plan their own routes with the assistance of a printed list of churches and chapels open. There are usually some 700 of these places of worship open, scattered right across this big county, and wherever you go you'll be assured of a warm welcome.

Go individually, as a couple, with friends and family, with a cycling club, with your work colleagues, with school friends, with choirs, with a sports team – whoever you wish.

You need a special sponsor form. Please ask sponsors to tick for Gift Aid if they are tax payers; this increases their donations by 25% with no cost to them. Ask your relations, friends and colleagues to sponsor you – so much per church or chapel visited between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm on the day.

50% of all sponsorship money raised can go to the church or chapel of your choice, with the other 50% going to the Friends of Kent Churches, who distribute it by grant aid to help the most needy churches in the county. Last year's Ride & Stride raised £140,602 including gift aid.

<https://www.kentrideandstride.co.uk/downloads>



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

