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Keeping Connected

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 1, Issue 5

September 2020

From Simon our Priest

One of my favourite bible passages is in Mark's Gospel. The story of Jesus' encounter with blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52.)

Bartimaeus is clearly aware of Jesus presence and causes a commotion, whether because he was being ignored or simply to attract Jesus attention. He calls out "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus is simply not Jesus but Bartimaeus uses the messianic title 'The Son of David'. He has faith in who Jesus is even if he is physically blind to the world around him.

Mark is pointing out there are plenty who can see and yet do not see what is right in front of them, both then and now.

The second part of Bartimaeus' call is one of asking for forgiveness, 'have mercy on me' what does he want or expect from Jesus one wonders?

I like this episode in the Gospel because so often I am blind to what God is doing and can do in the world around me.

As a leader of a church community you would expect a greater degree of faith in your Vicar. Yet all of us can be worn down by the cynicism of the world and its values based on power and wealth. This is where the second part of the joy of this Gospel story comes in.

The Jesus Prayer is a treasure from Orthodox Christendom. It is based around Bartimaeus call to Jesus. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, "Have mercy on me (a sinner)"

It is a simple prayer for quietly repeating. It says who Jesus is in relation to the Father and why he came to set us free from our sins and is our justification before God.

It is both simple and yet profound based upon a Gospel (good news text). By repeating the prayer, we can centre ourselves before we enter a time of focused prayer.

When our minds become distracted by a commotion or we want to refocus our attention / prayer on Jesus we can enter the repetition of the prayer. It can be used in a group or a circle of people each repeating it quietly in turn or by an individual whilst controlling their breathing around the prayer to focus on God through Christ.

Blind Bartimaeus was healed when he cried out to Jesus in faith. When I pray the Jesus prayer I pray for fresh vision in the world and for forgiveness, the prayer has brought me much healing.

Why not give the prayer a try as part of your prayer routine? Begin with reading Mark 10:46-52 close your eyes imagine yourself with the disciples and call out to Jesus. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. "Have mercy on me (a sinner)".

You will be amazed at the response.

Yours in Christ

Simon

Important news
about worship
services in the
Benefice

Service Plans for the Benefice

There have been a number of questions raised over church services in the Benefice. As we prepared to reopen churches at the beginning of July we were planning unsighted of Government and National Church guidelines until very late in the day.

A good number of other churches made the decision not to open until the beginning of September. Thanks to Wardens who have invested a large amount of time in preparing pages of health and safety assessments required by National church guidance to ensure safe limited opening. My guiding principal is both safety and accessibility. The online services allow the greatest access to the most number of parishioners and thanks to Dan and others hard work will continue. A communion

service at 10am once a month in each church has been arranged and provided for. On the alternative Sundays lay led morning prayer where requested has been offered in some but not all churches. As previously stated online remain the focus as we feel our way forward in these uncertain times. The hope of returning to a greater degree of normality in September at this stage only remains a hope but we will be guided by National church advice and maintaining online services and monthly communions in each church.

Finally a personal note of thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard to clean the four churches in preparation for reopening.

Yours in Christ

Simon.

Keeping Connected

Well, we are on the verge of September. Autumn nudges us in the mornings and evenings. So far no signs of life getting any less different. finding it interesting and informative.

Back to school and our thoughts are with everyone having to cope with the new ways of doing things.

Check the back page and see if you can recognise any of the pictures of our familiar churches .

This month.

This month there are details of

service plans from various churches in the Benefice. These are volatile and will probably change as the situation and how we cope with it evolves.

Help?

Bigger letters for the Help. It would be great to include something for our younger reader!

Will anyone volunteer to prepare a couple of pages for the younger reader?

Please contact the Simon, Dan or the editor.

Keeping
Connected our
Benefice News

Church Services across the Benefice

Owing to limited space anyone wishing to attend on a Sunday will need to book a place with the churchwardens no later than the Thursday. This is because we are observing social distancing and staying 2 metres apart.

Face covering must be worn at all times.

St Catherine's— next Faversham

- † Sunday - 1st Sunday in the month Said Eucharist
- † All other Sundays Said Morning Prayer
- † All services begin at 10.00am.
- † Wednesday - Private prayer 10.00 -11.00am

You are welcome at any point during this hour, space permitting.

Hilary Tulett – Tel: 538013, Email htulett@uwclub.net

Rodney Foord – Tel: 535937, Email rafoord38@btinternet.com

St Peter & St Paul's—Ospringle

- † Sunday - 3rd Sunday in the month Holy Communion
- † All other Sundays check the FB page [fb.me/4favstpp](https://www.facebook.com/favershamchurches)
- † All services begin at 10.00 am.

Phil Larter - BeneficeofFaversham+wardenspsp@gmail.com

Jason O'Hagan - BeneficeofFaversham+wardenspsp@gmail.com

St. Mary Magdalene w St. Lawrence, Davington

- † Fourth Sunday Holy Communion
- † All other Sundays Lay led Morning Prayer
- † All services begin at 10.00 am.

Maureen Gregory— maureeng53@msn.com

St. Mary of Charity—Faversham

- † First Sunday in the month All Age Service
- † Second Sunday in the month Eucharist (CW)
- † Third Sunday in the month Service of the Word
- † Fourth Sunday in the month Service of the Word
- † All services begin at 10.00 am.
- † Wednesday—Private prayer 11 am and 2 pm

Miranda on 4favershamschurches@gmail.com or telephone 01795 227202

**Church Services
across the
Benefice.**

**Please pay
attention to the
need to book a
place.**

**Churches may
have slightly
different booking
arrangements!**



The Benefice of Faversham

Keeping in touch:

The Service
plan for St Mary
of Charity.
Note the
book-in
arrangements!

Keeping
Encouraged
during
Lockdown

 **facebook:**

St Catherine, Preston-next-Faversham:
St Mary Magdalene / St Lawrence, Davington:
St Mary of Charity, Faversham:
St Peter and St Paul, Ospringle:
Faversham Benefice:

4favstc
4favstmmml
4favstmoc
4favstpp
4favchurches

 **YouTube :**

Faversham Benefice

 **Email:**

4favershamchurches@gmail.com

 **Telephone:**

01795 532592

Bless you all!

Some Sources of encouragement.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Faversham Umbrella

[https://en-gb.facebook.com/
FavershamUmbrella/](https://en-gb.facebook.com/FavershamUmbrella/)

Community Mental Health
Charity - We are here for you...

Tel: 01795 229143



St Peter & St Paul Zoom Home Group



Like to know more then contact Nicola
Batey or email

**BeneficeofFaversham+HomeGroupSPSP@
gmail.com**

Hope — Faversham



Youth Group - Years 7 to 13

Planning to be back on 7th Septem-
ber. Email for details.

hopefavershamyouth@gmail.com



Equipping Churches to Support the Bereaved.

If you like to know how you can help a bereaved
person or get help in your bereavement try this site.

<https://www.lossandhope.org/>

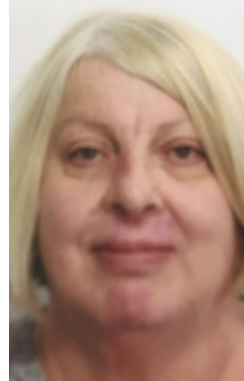
Getting to know
you

Each month a
member of a
different Church
will answer 5
questions

—
A way of getting
to know people
across the
Benefice.

Getting to know you

Hello, my name is Maureen Gregory I am a member of Davington in the Benefice of Faversham



Noah's Ark to portray God's love for all of us, whether worshipping regularly or not!!

3 What do you like most about your home church?

It's very special & I can feel the Benedictine worship from its rich past. My parents married there in 1943 & little had changed when my daughter also married there. I

had married at the Brents where my two children were also Baptised before it closed

It's very odd to be semi-detached with a special neighbour in the Priory but it is all part of life's rich pattern!?

4 What's your favourite hymn or chorus?

My favourites are 'Be Still for the Presence of the Lord' & 'As the deer pants for the water' but like Jane I love Matt Redman 10,000 Reasons, Bless the Lord. Just don't ask me to choose one favourite as I can dither well!!

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

It has to be 1 Corinthians 12 'one body with many members' although at PCC meetings I am often quoting the parable of the mustard seed Matt 13: 31-32.

My mum used to say "treat everyone as you'd like to be treated" even though I didn't realise it was biblical!!

No one is anymore important than another & we are all different but still special to God. Just share the love & be kind ALWAYS.

Maureen Gregory

That's all about me and for next month I am nominating Fiona Hamer of St Catherine's Church to Getting to Know You

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

I was born in Faversham (Hillside House) & spent my childhood on a farm in Teynham before starting nurse training in Kingston upon Thames fresh from school at 18. My nursing career was mainly in outer London but I spent 2 years in Scotland before I returned to Faversham & married in 1981. I lived in Stonebridge Way before moving to my father's bungalow 3 years ago after the death of both my husband & father. Faversham has always been a very special community for me.

2 How did you come to your faith?

I loved the church services whilst at Teynham C of E School as lunch always included gypsy tart after the long walk back! I quit Confirmation prep as I missed my mum's hot baking & my love of food has continued. I did not come to faith until after my daughter's wedding at Davington in 2007 although my experiences during NHS burn out were possibly nudging me to faith earlier as did the Holman Hunt painting 'Light of the world' which portrays Jesus knocking at an overgrown & long unopened door. At the time I was fearful of opening it (whether or not food was involved!)

Davington filled me with such peace I realised I could open that door!! I was Confirmed in 2008 & then embarked on Lay Ministry in Mission Enabling, loving to meet folk "where they're at".

COVID-19 disrupted over 10 years of Mother & Toddler group involvement & now I am about to serve Davington as Church Warden. I'm Verger for weddings & Baptisms & love rainbows &

The 72 bus and the GEM Trailer

This Autumn we have the exciting opportunity to provide activities, games and hospitality in locally on board The 72 bus and The Gem trailer.

The 72 is named after the Bible story in Luke 10 where Jesus sends out 72 disciples with the good news that God's Kingdom is at hand "in the neighbourhood" (although some translations only mention 70) and The GEM stands for Going Extra Miles – one of Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5.



The 72 and The Gem will be "vehicles" for building community in and around Faversham especially in areas bringing hope and wholeness to neighbourhoods often feeling marginalised, hopeless and broken.

Primarily serving young people and children during evenings, weekends and holidays. They will also be available to schools and community groups.

Like the 72 disciples sent out as visitors into people's neighbourhoods, mobile youth team members become visitors in neighbourhoods too. Open

conversations happen very naturally with all ages around the hospitality and activities, groups eagerly wait for the team to arrive each week and help set up and tidy up afterwards and community is built. There have been accounts of young people being inspired into education or employment, away from crime, and who have been helped through tough family times too.

Speaking about a previously run mobile initiative...

"...the outreach work conducted by the games trailer had a significant impact on youth-related antisocial behaviour and public engagement, helping to offer real solutions to community issues.

(Former Sgt Gary Bulmer)

Run by the Benefice of Faversham with a skilled team of community players, funded by kind donations and community grants and with interest from local schools and youth agencies, these units will be offering a welcoming space. Both units have been expertly kitted out by the wonderful



The 72 & GEM — contd

More about
“The 72”
and
GEM



South East Coachworks. The 72 has been designed by SEC from ideas submitted by Queen Elizabeth and Abbey School students. There will be further opportunities to engage young people as part of the running of this crucial mobile initiative.

With solar panel and battery technology they will both provide hospitality on board. Between them they offer a kitchen area, outdoor games equipment, desking, screens, game consoles, recording studio, mobile staging with lighting and a big-screen film showing capability.

Please pray for this initiative - for all those we meet, team members, for drivers, safety and practicalities.

Dan

Note: You may wonder why there are no photos of the outside of The 72 or GEM. They are currently away being “wrapped”, decorated on the outside. We hope to have pictures for you next month

Also, if you think this is an effort worth supporting then have a word with Dan or Simon about how you could do this. Prayer, action or financial support would all be most welcome.

Most of all please be ready to greet any young people who might turn up at church to see what it is all about.



Key to photos



Inside No 72



Inside No 72



Inside GEM



Inside GEM

Benefice Holiday Club



The team, spearheaded by Martin Tyler, put together five YouTube episodes for the Holiday Club this year on the theme of Back to School.

This can still be viewed going to YouTube – Faversham Benefice – Holiday Club. Each session is just under an hour long.

The regular team and the Active Church team had great fun putting the Club together, filming the plays, the music with actions, the prayers and talks. Dan put in many hours editing with help from Naomi Smith.

The figures for viewing at the moment are Monday 188 views; Tuesday 72; Wednesday 68; Thursday 6; and Friday 28.

It is hard to know who and how people engaged but we pray that the Truth of Jesus has been and can still be shared, and children and their families will be encouraged in their faith.

Thanks goes to all those who have been involved.

Naomi Smith

Ray Farenden

It is with deep sadness that we have learned that Ray died peacefully with his family around him earlier today

Many of you will know that Ray has been ill for quite a while but we thank God for his life and his friendship to us all.

Last Tuesday Ray was Baptised, Confirmed and took Holy Communion in his home administered by Bishop Rose with Rev Simon, Rev Dan and Rev Sarah.

May he rest in peace, God Bless

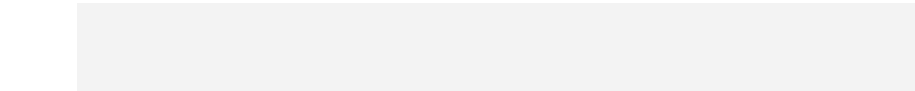
Janet Payne

*Funday Times

The Twelve Disciples word search

B	O	A	T	F	I	S	H	E	R	M	E	N	E
T	I	P	E	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	W
T	E	A	C	H	I	T	E	O	M	G	D	T	M
I	N	S	T	E	W	T	T	I	I	N	E	H	S
P	S	E	T	F	O	M	O	J	M	I	E	P	I
T	G	L	P	R	L	A	P	O	U	H	L	R	M
H	J	Y	H	E	L	R	P	H	J	C	I	A	O
O	A	S	I	E	O	E	P	N	L	A	L	Y	N
M	M	T	L	A	F	T	P	I	L	E	A	E	E
A	E	E	I	A	D	E	E	I	M	R	G	R	I
S	S	T	P	T	B	P	E	E	R	P	O	A	P
A	J	A	N	D	R	E	W	H	T	N	E	T	S
E	L	F	T	C	M	E	E	S	A	D	U	J	E
O	H	S	W	E	H	T	T	A	M	L	I	L	P

- PRAYER
- PHILIP
- THOMAS
- FOLLOW
- BOAT
- JOHN
- NETS
- DISCIPLES
- ANDREW
- PETER
- SIMON
- PREACHING
- TEACH
- GALILEE
- MATTHEW
- JAMES
- JUDAS
- FISHERMEN



*Funday Times was the name adopted by the younger members at St Catherine's for their group. Seems a nice title for this lighter section. Thanks to everyone at St Catherine's



Four Churches One Town

Contact details for Benefice Clergy

Vicar	Rev. Simon Rowlands	0179 553 2592 happyvicar@gmail.com BeneficeofFaversham+Vicar@gmail.com
Community & Mission Priest	Rev. Dan Corcoran	0796 333 2221 danchadc@gmail.com BeneficeofFaversham+Missioner@gmail.com

Please contact the Administrator at the Benefice Office for information on Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals or other services at any of the Benefice Churches.

- * FavershamChurches@gmail.com
- * BeneficeofFaversham+Admin@gmail.com
- * 0179 553 0553
- * *During the Covid 19 epidemic the office is not manned, but your emails and calls will be responded to as quickly as possible.*

Contacts for individual churches in the Benefice of Faversham

St. Catherine, Preston next Faversham		fb.me/4favstc
Wardens	Hilary Tulett Rodney Foord	BeneficeofFaversham+wardenscp@gmail.com
St. Mary Magdalene w St. Lawrence, Davington		fb.me/4favstmml
Warden	Maureen Gregory	BeneficeofFaversham+wardensmm@gmail.com
St. Mary of Charity, Faversham		fb.me/4favstmoc
Warden	Miranda Ford	BeneficeofFaversham+wardensmoc@gmail.com
St. Peter & St. Paul, Ospringe		fb.me/4favstpp
Wardens	Phil Larter Jason O'Hagan	BeneficeofFaversham+wardenspsp@gmail.com

Keeping Connected—the news sheet

Keeping Connected is the news sheet of the Benefice of Faversham. It shares details of services, news and activities of the member churches in the Benefice and around the town of Faversham.

It is available free from your Church or downloaded from various sites.

Paper copies are available on request to your Church Warden.

Suitable items for inclusion in the magazine or the diary may be submitted to

BeneficeofFaversham+Contact@Gmail.com