

Keeping Contact

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 2, Issue 6

July—August 2021

Rev. Simon writes

How often do we stop and offer a prayer before facing a difficult situation or decision?

We may pray to seek the wisdom of God or ask for His protection. At a service in the Benefice in mid-June a music group sang the hymn St Patrick's Breast Plate. This is based on an early Celtic Christian prayer of Protection known as a Lorca. Lorica Segmentata was the armour worn by 1st C Roman Soldier so it is clear that the prayer refers to the Latin Word for armour.

In any form of prayer, we begin by asking, "so who are you praying to?" Jesus in Mathew 7.11 infers that asking the Father (praying) would result in receiving a good gift. 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

So, our prayer is directed into or at someone we believe in or believe listens to our prayer. It is not simply a religious formula we invoke to make ourselves feel comfortable at a time of crisis. By praying we acknowledge our belief in God as well as calling upon him.

The prayer associated with St Patrick invokes the power of the Trinity, acknowledges the Trinity and asks for all of God's protection. The person praying is called to bind themselves unto God. One dictionary definition of bind is: tie or fasten (something) tightly together. The intercessor is pleading with God to come as close to them as possible to afford better protection as a child would in seeking solace in a parent by holding onto them.

During lockdown I had underestimated how much we have missed sharing in community singing. In a hymn we articulate our praise to God. So often we have our favourite style of music or hymns / songs of praise. But such music is offered in church to God's praise not simply our enjoyment. Clearly, we want to offer our absolute best worship to God. If we cannot engage with the style of worship fully, how can we properly engage in and offer our most heartfelt praise. No one style of worship is right or wrong, but all should be carefully considered and offered from the heart as we would a prayer.

Standing and listening to St Patrick's Breast Plate made me to realise how much I have missed singing and how important the choice of music, hymns and songs is in the life of the gathered church. At many pastoral services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals hymns are no longer sung due to lack of knowledge by people attending replaced sometimes by non-religious traditional or contemporary music. Whilst the music may be uplifting is it uplifting a prayer of praise to God?

We are blessed in our four churches with many great musicians and singers. As we hope to sing again together may we do so in praise of God asking for his blessing and who knows what gifts we may receive.

Yours in Christ

Rev Simon.



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Services in July 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	St Mary of Charity, Faversham	St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe	St Catherine's, Preston-next-Faversham
4 July - 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13				
Fifth in Trinity	Service of the Word (KS)	All Age Worship (Worship Team)	Eucharist (SW) BANNS	Eucharist (SR)
Baptisms:	2pm TEODORO [SR]			
11 July - 2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12-19; Psalm 24; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29				
Sixth in Trinity	Eucharist (SI)	Eucharist (SR)	TBC	Service of the Word (J Negus)
Baptisms:	2pm PURCELL [SR]			
18 July - 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34; 53-56				
Seventh in Trinity	Service of the Word (EW)	Service of the Word (KS)	Eucharist (SR)	Eucharist (SD/ RP)
Baptisms:				
25 July - 2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21				
Eighth in Trinity	Eucharist (SR)	Eucharist (DC)	TBC	Service of the Word (HT/GD)
Baptisms:		2pm BAUDOIN [SR]		

- Copy date for the September edition is 09:00 23rd August
- 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

Services in August 2021 - The Benefice of Faversham

Church Services
across the Benefice.

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any change in
regulations.

	St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence, The Bretons and Davington	St Mary of Charity, Faversham	St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe	St Catherine's, Preston-next- Faversham
1 August Ninth after Trinity	Service of the Word (KS)	Service of the Word (Shipman/BJ/ RG)	Eucharist (SD) TBC	Eucharist (SR)
Baptisms:				
<i>2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-13; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35</i>				
8 August Tenth after Trinity	Eucharist (DC)	Eucharist (SR)	TBC	Service of the Word (HT/G Dawkins)
Baptisms:		2pm FRYER [SR]		
<i>2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51</i>				
15 August Eleventh after Trinity	Service of the Word (EW)	Patronal Festival Eucharist (SR)	Eucharist (JS/SS)	Eucharist (PL)
Baptisms:				2pm CHILDS [SR]
<i>1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58</i>				
22 August Twelfth after Trinity	Eucharist (SR)	Eucharist (JS/SS)	TBC	Service of the Word (HT/G Dawkins)
Baptisms:		2pm GARLICK [SR]		
<i>1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69</i>				
29 August Thirteenth after Trinity	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Baptisms:				
<i>Song of Songs 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23</i>				

Articles
for
Keeping Contact
September

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New Wedding Law and the Church of England

**“Well,” said Owl,
“the customary
procedure in such
cases is as follows.”
“What does
Crustimoney
Proseedcake
mean?” said Pooh.
“For I am a Bear of
Very Little Brain, and
long words bother
me.**

At the beginning of May 2021, a new law came into force which affected all civil and religious marriages (and civil partnerships) in England and Wales. For the first time ever the names of the bride and grooms' mothers will be included. It's the biggest change to the law regarding marriages since 1837. Anyone who has ever looked at records to try to create a family tree or explore their personal history will have noticed that apart from a mention in a baptism register, and a line in the burial register women tend to not figure in records; they may feature in the marriage registers for their own weddings, but apart from that they are silent. Finally, mothers get equal billing with fathers. In addition, if you are part of a 'blended' family, you can also have a step-parent listed on your marriage certificate. It may not seem much on the face of it, but it makes a big difference. Another big difference is that marriages will now be digitally recorded. Rather than completing two large, handwritten registers, handing the happy couple a long, handwritten certificate and sending a quarterly (handwritten) form to the Registrars, there is a single document to be signed. This will be sent to the local Registrar's Office, who will register the marriage digitally and contact the couple to come and collect their marriage certificate. It may take slightly longer to get their hands on the certificate, but at least they don't have to worry about it being damaged or lost at a reception! If anyone has any concerns about this working, the system has been successfully piloted in Scotland. Any problems should by now have

been dealt with since the system has been in use in Scotland in 1854!

The first wedding in the Benefice under the new laws was held at St Catherine's and was taken by Rev Ros Parrett. It all went smoothly but it did feel 'odd' not giving the couple anything after the document was signed, so we will be giving each couple what the Church of England clunkily refers to as an 'Acknowledgement Keepsake' stating where and when they married, with a small prayer at the bottom. And a note stating that it is not a Marriage Certificate!

Another law shortly to come into force, at the end of June, is the shift in regulations regarding ID (required when you book a wedding anywhere) as a result of the UK leaving the EU. If the couple are British with British passports and supporting documentation then there's no major change, but if either of the couple are from the EU then we need to double-check their settled status. Fortunately, we have had webinars and PowerPoints to help with that one (otherwise who would know what any of the genuine documents should look like?)!

Because of the problems following the pandemic and various lockdowns and restrictions, we have only two more weddings in the Benefice this year, but hopefully next year will see our churches return to holding those happy events regularly.

*Catriona
Benefice Administrator*

The joy, wonders
and burden of our
church yards

God's Acre in Faversham

Churchyards have long been known as 'God's Acre'. They aren't just a place to lay loved-ones to rest but are places of contemplation, where we can step aside from the busy street and think. Increasingly, over the past 50 or so years, they have also become sanctuaries for wildlife and wild flowers.

Among the headstones and monuments in various stages of grandeur and decay we can find foxes, rabbits, squirrels, mice, bats, slow worms and various reptiles.

Many species of birds - both those which would once have been considered common and the more threatened find a safe haven and thrive.

At St Mary of Charity - whose churchyard has been closed to burials for over 100 year now - there were just over four acres to tend to.

Some of the sections are locked since the graves had railings which were cut down during WWI in one of the many iron 'drives' for raw materials for munitions. The stumps of the railings lie hidden in the grass and mean that care has to be taken when negotiating the north west sections.



In the 18 months before Covid struck, the main section of the churchyard was cleared by Community Payback Teams and other volunteers were able to 'step in' to create special wild flower meadows and insect and wildlife habitats.

The people who manage a lot of this work - Brian J, Brian R, Jody H and Yana - can often be found in the churchyard, weeding and planting. We have to be careful where we put plants (Swale Borough Council do the grass cutting and don't 'cut around') but there is plenty of scope along the railings.



If you'd like to offer a green finger or two you'd be very welcome, but even more welcome would be any plants you may have if you have divided perennials or the results of sowing a whole pack of seeds when half would have been too many!

Do say hello to the Brians, Yana and Jody (and Poppy if she's about) if you are in the church-yard!



Community Payback will be returning soon, so the churchyard will become more accessible again, but hopefully we won't lose any of our special wildings.

Catriona

A Safari Market?

A Benefice initiative.

St Mary

&

St Peter & St Paul

Are taking part.



Sunday August 1st Faversham Safari

Be there or B Square!

St Mary's and St Peter & St Paul's are taking part. Bric-a-brac, Flohmarkt, Vide Grenier, fancy Jumble—call it what you will but do turn out to take part.

Anyway—please encourage the folks who have stepped up and are getting stands together for the event.

Donations, offers of help or questions to:

St Mary's — Margy Perkins, 72 West Street
 Perkins.clockwork@gmail.com
 01795 590619.

St Peter & St Paul's— Jane Wells

It's good to do things as a Benefice and we would like to encourage people to join in by coming along and supporting our stalls. It's a truly enjoyable and sociable day. We have back access to Flood Lane so we supply hot drinks and "facilities"!



Organ Recital
St Mary of Charity
Saturday 24th July
7:30 p.m.

Please join us for an organ recital at St Mary of Charity, given by Patti Whaley, (Covid permitting!)

Music by Bach, Sweelinck, St Martin, Rheinberger, and Bedard.

Free, with retiring collection for the organ fund.

Organ Recital
and
fund raiser

The Overlord Embroidery tells the story of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy in 34 extraordinary hand-stitched panels with a total length of 83 metres.

The “Overlord” embroidery

We recently visited “The D day Story” exhibition in Southsea, near Portsmouth where this is displayed. It is a very striking piece of work, and does not seem to be at



redesigned more than once. Of course they wanted every detail to be correct, from the military badges on the uniforms to the colour of the sky

all well-known, so we thought you might like to hear about it.

This embroidery was commissioned in 1968 to be a permanent memorial and record the effort of the Allies to liberate Europe in the second world war.

It tells the story of the D-day landings in Normandy in June 1944, and traces the planning which led up to this operation, code-named Operation Overlord.

The embroidery is 83 metres long and consists of 34 panels. It was designed by a young woman who was too young to have even been born in 1944 – she was 22 when she started. Each panel she designed was submitted to a committee of retired officers from the Army, Navy and Air force, and three military historians. We were very amused at the combination of this young woman and the male committee, all much older than she was!

The committee accepted, rejected or asked for alterations to the design; several times the artist was asked to redesign a whole panel, and least one of them was

(the artist had to know the time of day and the weather conditions for each event pictured).

Most of the Embroidery is in fact applique work, with decorative stitching used to enhance the design. Eighteen trained young women from the Royal School of Needlework made each panel, working on a large horizontal frame, like people along a table; they had to work with one hand above the material and the other below (there are video clips to show you glimpses of this – it looked very awkward). It took 5 years to complete.

They used over 50 different fabrics and often battledress fabric from actual war uniforms. The portraits within the design are amazing; the artist had access to contemporary photographs so often the figures shown are based on real people. The detailed faces of the Allied commanders and other key figures were all stitched by one embroiderer.

The Embroidery in no way glorifies

(Continued on page 8)

Contd.

The “Overlord” Embroidery

Continued from page 6

war. It is a memorial to those who took part, many, of course, losing their lives, in the battle to free Europe. The Embroidery does not flinch from the carnage and destruction involved, as well as telling you about the lead-up to the landings and the coordination needed. and the whole effect is very striking.

As one person said – it is a historical document and a piece of art as well.

We have now seen it twice; each time you realise there is so much in it, both from the point of view of the events involved and also the

production, refining and execution of the design. We would thoroughly recommend it if you are in the area at all – it is easily reached by train and bus, and there is a cafe (as well as good views of the Isle of Wight, as the specially-built exhibition building is right on the coast). You would need to allow yourself the best part of a day.

<https://thedaystory.com/discover/overlord-embroidery/> gives more information.

Iris Neel and Claire Sullivan

Churches Together in Faversham

Thank you to those who have volunteered—we need more volunteers!

I know Christmas is a long way away but we need to apply for permission for the ‘Carols in the Market Place’ three months ahead.

For this we need two volunteers from each church to be marshals, someone with the relevant DBS for lost children, and someone with the full first aid training. (Dr Gould has covered this in the past.)

Do please volunteer - names to

patrick.mulcahy123@btinternet.com

revsarahwilliams@gmail.com

At the recent AGM we were told of the need for more trustees and a treasurer for FACE, which helps local people.

More information from Miranda Ford.

Sarah Williams

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 Sylvia and at present I'm attending St Catherine's Church, but also feel part of St Mary's fellowship and love occasionally visiting Ospringe and Davington. I value the different styles of worship and being part of a greater whole!



What I like best about church is belonging to a prayerful fellowship and loving community. Which is there for each other but also for the local neighbourhood and the wider world. I enjoy different traditions and a variety of music and liturgy.

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

I've lived in Faversham for nearly thirteen years, the longest I've been in one place since I got married! I was born in Birmingham, grew up in Orpington then after marriage moved around a little. This involved sometime in Cheltenham, then Barcelona and was followed by four different locations in Kent all within the Rochester diocese.

How did you come to your faith?

Church has always been a part of my life. My mother encouraged me by giving me Bible reading notes. In my teenage years going through identity and life purpose issues I had an encounter with Jesus where I understood more about the Cross and I made a commitment to follow Him. About the same time school friends started talking about becoming Christians and invited me to their church and youth group, C.Y.F.A. It was there that I met the new curate. A few years later I married him.

What do you like most about your home church?

What's your favourite hymn or chorus?

My favourite hymn is 'Be still for the presence of the Lord'. I find it difficult to be still for long so I have to keep practicing! Also it connects me to all the lovely Christian communities and people who have been part of my journey of faith.

What is your favourite bit of the Bible and why?

I find the Psalms very helpful. They speak of the good and bad times in a relationship with God. Through them we can either complain or praise. Our Heavenly Father is always there loving and listening. But the verse that I always hold is "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God". Micah 6v8.

Sylvia Dunn

Henry Gold, Vicar of Ospringe 1525 –27, not for the squeamish...

Henry Gold
A vicar
of
St Peter & St Paul
who met a rather
messy end.

Henry Gold was born at St. Neots in Huntingdonshire; he was a Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge from its inception. The distinctions he gained at the university may be traced in the Cambridge Grace Books. On June 11th, 1525, he was presented to the vicarage of Ospringe in Kent (being the first vicar nominated by St. John's) and was instituted by Archbishop Warham on June 17th of the same year.

His claim to fame was because he was executed for treason having been implicated at the trial of Elizabeth Barton. She was "The Holy or Mad Maid of Kent" an English Catholic nun.

Letters of his are preserved among the State Papers and his correspondents include Archbishop Warham, Elizabeth Barton, John Dering, Gonell, for a time tutor to the children of Sir Thomas More, Richard Reynolds, the most learned monk of his time. Reynolds was later put to death in 1535 but beatified by Rome.

Elizabeth Barton was remarkable for the friendship and esteem in which she was held by educated men, including Gold.

In January 1534, Barton and thirteen of her supporters were accused of treason. Mostly for her prophecies against the marriage of King Henry VIII of England to Anne Boleyn. The accused included Sir Thomas More



and Bishop John Fisher. More escaped when he produced a letter he had written to Barton in the past, telling her that she should not meddle in state affairs. Bishop Fisher and five of the others were condemned to imprisonment.

Gold, Barton and seven others, including Dering, Risby, Rich, Bocking and Masters, were condemned to death.

On the 20th April 1534, Elizabeth Barton and her accomplices were executed at Tyburn gallows. It is not known whether Elizabeth Barton confessed of her own volition or whether she was tortured, either physically or psychologically. It is impossible to judge whether Elizabeth was a fraud, mentally or medically ill.

Gold suffered the full horrors of a traitor's death. He was cut down while still alive, castrated, then his stomach cut open and his entrails burned before him. Only then would he have been beheaded, ending his torment. His body was hacked into quarters to be sent all over the kingdom and displayed as an object lesson of what happens to those who fall foul of the wrath of the king. His scant clothing was stripped as a payment for the executioner.

Jane Wells

HOPE Faversham Youth



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

hopefavershamyouth@gmail.com

Praise God the group have continued meeting outside. Please continue to pray for good weather on Wednesday evenings!

We have between 10 and 15 members each week.

We hope to continue to meet outside for the coming term, extending our meeting time, and will be completing our study of Romans 9.12-21.

If you know of current Year 6 young people who would like to join us, they are welcome to come this coming term. Do contact us.

Lucy Stiles has had to stand down as a leader with her work and family commitments. Julia Martin will be starting University in September.

So we need a couple of new leaders.

Please be praying and do contact us if you would like to be considered to become a leader with us.

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.

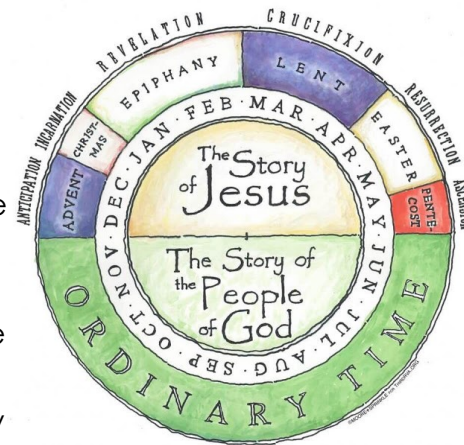
An insight into how Ordinary Time may not be just ordinary.

Ordinary Time

As of Sunday June 6th, we are now in what the church calls 'ordinary time'. This doesn't mean that the time is commonplace but rather that it is 'measured' – we have the first after Trinity, the second after trinity and so on until we get to the last Sunday of Trinity, which, this year, will be, number 25 and falls on October 24th.

We then celebrate All Saints Day and start counting down to Advent! We mark 'ordinary time' with the use of the colour green. Gone are the rich colours of purple, red, white, or gold that we use for the major festivals, instead we have the colour that reflects the world around us, the colour of plants, trees, and the earth we live on. We live most of our lives in ordinary time, but just because it is ordinary and not 'special', does not mean it is of less value. In the church's calendar, this is the time when we focus not on Christ's birth or his death and resurrection – but rather we look at his everyday life; how he lived and taught amongst the people. It is in the teaching of this time that we can see what Jesus was saying about God and the Kingdom, and what it means to be part of that kingdom and a follower of Christ. It is where we learn to be a disciple.

Each of the three years of the church's cycle of readings takes one of the synoptic gospels to read



in 'ordinary time' and this year it is the turn of Mark's Gospel. Mark does not have space for anything about Christ's birth, he jumps straight in with Jesus' baptism and then spends 14 chapters detailing Christ's ministry

ending with one chapter on the trial and crucifixion and a final chapter on the resurrection. It is the day-to-day ministry of Jesus where Mark spends his time.

We, too, spend most of our lives in the day to day, with the occasional celebration and mountain top experience. It is in the here and now of our everyday lives and relationships that we develop as human beings and find out who we are. The high points and places of our lives are important, but we can't live the whole of our lives on the high places, they give us hope and motivation, but they are not where the messiness of life really takes place.

Sometimes we might think that what we need from God is something special, something out of the ordinary; if only God would just do this or that for us, then everything will be OK. But God's ways are not our ways and very often what we really need is already there, right in front of us,

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Ordinary time

Ordinary Time

(Continued from page 12)

but we just haven't recognised it. Until we can open our eyes to see, we will not be satisfied and find the peace God offers us.

I am aware that as we enter 'ordinary time' this year we need to note that time has not really been ordinary for any of us for over a year. I am sure we have all, on occasion, longed for our lives to be 'ordinary again' – to be normal, predictable and where we feel in control. The pandemic has robbed us of what we think of as ordinary – human company, the freedom to worship together, the impromptu hug of another person in distress; nothing is ordinary anymore, with precious relationships confined to 'long distance only' for so long.

We have all been through some very dark times, which have seemed far from ordinary and which we would wish never to see again. I have a card on my desk, which shows dark clouds swirling around, and on the clouds are some words of the founder of the Iona Community, George Macleod. The card reads: 'Follow the light you have and pray for more light.'

Whatever situation we might find ourselves in, there will always be a tiny glimmer of light, even if very dim. There is no place that is too dark, too dull, too banal, too impoverished, or too meaningless for God's light to shine in some way, even if it seems very dim at the time.

By focusing on the light and not the dark, and praying for the light to increase, we can begin to find God in our situation and start to grow by his grace and love.

Perhaps this year more than most we can appreciate the blessing of ordinary time and value its opportunities to learn to be the people God created us to be, as we follow Mark's record of Christ's earthly ministry week by week.

These are some words of Elizabeth Barrett Browning:

*'Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with
God:
But only he who sees; takes off his
shoes,
the rest sit around it and pluck
blackberries.'*

Our ordinary lives are full of glimpses of the kingdom of God, which we can see if we take time to notice and open our eyes to the possibilities that God has for us. In the weeks ahead take time to stop and look and listen to the life around you, looking for the light that is there and the unexpected things that might usually seem just to be ordinary and perhaps mundane – but where God is waiting to bless you and raise you up.

Rev Sue Smith



Four Churches, One Benefice, One Town

Contact details for Benefice Clergy

Vicar	Rev Simon Rowlands	01790 553 02592 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 533 05533

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

