

Keeping Contact

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 3, Issue 3

April 2022

Revd. Simon writes

Easter Joy.
I was asked recently what we could do about the Ukrainian crisis, I could only suggest prayer to transform the heart of President Putin and the Archbishop leading the Russian Orthodox Church. The chances of such a change of heart seems as I write this as remote. Celebrating Easter, we easily forget how the followers of Jesus must have felt on Easter Saturday. They had witnessed a bloody execution saved for the prisoners Rome wanted to make a spectacle of. Jesus had been publicly mocked by the authorities, city officials and religious leaders, he was forced to walk and carry his cross to the place of execution. During this procession his friends watched on helpless as we watch TV news reports from Ukraine. The execution itself was a long-drawn-out process, as public, painful and slow as was possible.

Roman imperial power at its full might flexed as we have witnessed military technology unleashed. For us today and those watching Jesus no earthly opposition was possible. And yet!

The disciples are hiding away together, and Mary comes, "I have seen the Lord" What was impossible in human history had

been made possible through Christ overcoming death. We celebrate victory over the known finality of human life, the victory of love over hatred. God's order is restored not for then but all time. President Putin will not be the last strong man to use military power and violence to obtain results. As we look at the Ukraine other conflicts rage around our world and people abuse others for their own benefit. Yet in the midst of what seems a hopeless situation we are called to pick up our cross and follow Jesus. To follow Jesus, to face ridicule, to walk in the way that is opposed to world gain, to seek redemption through Jesus Christ who died for each one of us.

Our Easter Joy is to share in the utter surprise and joy of those disciples who must have felt perplexed, emotionally drained, and yet joyful all at the same time. We celebrate with them and all who follow Jesus irrespective of nationality or race for Christ died once and for all. Then rose again and defied death and offers each of us eternal life. That is our Easter joy and our hope for the world.

Happy and blessed Easter

Simon.



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Services in April - The Benefice of Faversham

	Fifth Sunday in Lent 3 April	Palm Sunday 10 April	Easter Sunday 17 April	Second Sunday in Easter 24 April
Church	<i>Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippi- ans 3:4b-14; John 1:2:1-8</i>	<i>Passion: Isaiah 50:4- 9a; Psalm 31:9-18; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or</i>	<i>Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14- 24; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke</i>	<i>Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20, 21; Psalm 118:14-24; Acts 5:27- 32; John 20:19-31</i>
Davington				
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Baptism:				
Faversham		BANNS X5	BANNS X5	BANNS X5
10am	All Age Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
Baptism:	2pm			St George's Day events
5pm	Choral Evensong (rehearsing from 4pm)			
Ospringe				
11am	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Eucharist	Morning Praise
Baptism:				
Preston				
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Baptism:				

Midweek Services	Preston	Faversham
Tuesday, 5 April	Eucharist - []	
Wednesday, 6 April		Morning Prayer - []
Tuesday, 12 April (Holy Week)	Morning Prayer - []	
Wednesday, 13 April (Holy Week)		Eucharist - []
Tuesday, 19 April	Eucharist - []	
Wednesday, 20 April (followed by Parish Lunch)		Morning Prayer - []
Tuesday, 26 April	Morning Prayer - []	
Wednesday, 27 April		Eucharist - []

Services in Holy Week—The Benefice of Faversham

	Monday 11 April	Tuesday 12 April	Wednesday 13 April	Maundy Thursday 14 April	Good Friday 15 April	Easter Saturday 16 April
Church	<i>Psalm 25; Lamentations 2:8-19; Colossians 1:18-23 John 12:1-11</i>	<i>Psalm 55:13-24; Lamentations 3:40-51; Galatians 6:11-end John 12:20-36</i>	<i>Psalm 88; Isaiah 63:1-9; Revelation 14:18-15:4 John 13:21-32</i>	<i>Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1, 10-end; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35</i>	<i>Isaiah 52:13 - 53:[end]; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:[end]</i>	<i>(Vigil) Genesis 1:1-2, 4a; Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13 Exodus 14:10-end, 15:20-21; Romans 6:3-11; Luke</i>
Davington						
	7.30pm Compline			7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist		
Faversham						
		7.30pm Compline		7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist	2-3pm Meditations at the Foot of the Cross	7.30pm Singalong Easter
Ospringe						
			7.30pm Compline	7.30pm Seder Meal with Maundy Thursday Eucharist	2.30pm Good Friday Reflections	
					[Messy Church TBC]	
Preston						
		11am Stations of the Cross	7.30pm Taizé Service	7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist	3pm RS Eucharist and Veneration at the Foot of the Cross	7.30pm Service of Light Benefice Service]

Services in May—The Benefice of Faversham

	Third Sunday in Easter 1 May	Fourth Sunday in Easter 8 May	Fifth Sunday in Easter 15 May	Sixth Sunday in Easter 22 May	Seventh Sunday in Easter 29 May
Church	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 30; Acts 9:1-20; John 21:1-19	Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13; Psalm 23; Acts 9:36-43; Jon 10:22-30	Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Psalm 148; Acts 11:1-18; John 13:31-35	Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 67; Acts 16:9-15; John 14:23-29	Ezekiel 36:24-28; Psalm 97; Acts 16:16-34; John 17:20-26
Davington					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Benefice Service (location TBC)
Baptism:	2pm				
Faversham		BANNS	BANNS	BANNS	
10am	All Age Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Benefice Service (location TBC)
Baptism:					
5pm	Choral Evensong (rehearsing from 4pm)				
Ospringe					
11am	Eucharist	Morning Praise []	Eucharist	Morning Praise []	Benefice Service (location TBC)
Baptism:	2pm				
Preston					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Benefice Service (location TBC)
Baptism:					
Midweek services		Preston		Faversham	
Tuesday, 3 May		Eucharist - []			
Wednesday, 4 May				Morning Prayer - []	
Tuesday, 10 May		Morning Prayer - []			
Wednesday, 11 May				Eucharist - []	
Tuesday, 17 May		Eucharist - []			
Wednesday, 18 May (followed by Parish Lunch)				Morning Prayer - []	
Tuesday, 24 May		Morning Prayer - []			
Wednesday, 25 May				Eucharist - []	
Tuesday, 31 May		Morning Prayer? []			

A Thought For Troubled Times.

I was sitting alone in church, in silence, looking towards the eastern window adorned with the crucifix and my eyes strayed to the plain wooden cross at the choir stall. In that simple vision is the Easter story from Good Friday to Easter morning. A mystery certainly but in that mystery lies the transformation of our human world to the new world God intended.

As I was reading that day I came to this poem:

Often I try
To analyse the quality
Of its silences. Is this where God hides
From my searching? I have stopped to listen,
After the few people have gone,
To the air recomposing itself
For vigil. It has waited like this
Since the stones grouped themselves about it.
These are the hard ribs
Of a body that our prayers have failed
To animate. Shadows advance
From their corners to take possession
Of places the light held
For an hour. The bats resume
Their business. The uneasiness of the pews
Ceases. There is no other sound
In the darkness but the sound of a man
Breathing, testing his faith
On emptiness, nailing his questions
One by one to an untenanted cross.

R S Thomas

So I am reminded that as God breathed life into humankind so in my quest for the new creation, as I breathe my questions out onto the empty cross a window is opened into that new creation and I know that, in the words of the hymn:

*'All my hope on God is founded; He doth still my trust renew, Me through change and chance
He guideth, Only good and only true. '*

Patrick Mulcahy

“Come & Sing” Evensong

On Sunday 1 May, St Mary of Charity will host our second “Come and Sing” Evensong.

At our first Come and Sing in February, we had 30 in the choir and 40 in the congregation, plus a lovely supper of Shepherd's pie and (awesome!) brownies.

The service for May will include canticles by Sumsion and the anthem “Seek him that make the seven stars” by Jonathon Dove. All singers welcome at 3:45pm for rehearsal, all worshippers welcome at 5pm for the service.

Summer organ recitals

Our summer organ recital series is back! We have a full recital programme this year:

28 May: Francesca Massey (free-lance concert artist, formerly Director of Music at Rochester Cathedral)

25 June: TBD

23 July: Dr. Colin Parsons MBE, former Principal of the North and Midlands School of Music

27 August: (our own!) Charlie Francis FRCO, former organ scholar at Birmingham Cathedral

All programmes will be at 7:30pm, free with retiring collection.

We are also seeking sponsors for each recital; if you would be interested in sponsoring a recital for £150, please contact Patti Whaley (pattihickswhaley@yahoo.co.uk) or Ben Saul (bensaul@me.com).

Easter Flowers at St Peter and St Paul's, Ospringe

If you would like to contribute to the Easter Lilies donations, please send them to Janet Payne or put an envelope in the collection. If you would like to have remembered names on a list displayed at Easter, please let me know at revsarahwilliams@gmail.com

To celebrate Jesus resurrection we will be flower arranging to decorate the church on Saturday 16th April from 10 am. Please do join us, keeping socially distanced. I will be providing lilies, please bring greenery and other flowers (generally white and yellow).



Sarah Williams

Prayers for the situation in Ukraine



Recently, at St Peter & St Paul's we devoted the intercessions to reflecting on the situation and offering prayers for both Ukraine and Russia.

The congregation were encouraged to write a prayer on a card. On one side for Ukraine and the other for Russia. Then on the way to communion, pause, take a lighted candle, offer a prayer and leave their prayer card in a collection plate.

Later these were put on the prayer tree, we keep in the Hart Chapel.

It was decided that we would make a Word Cloud of the sentiments that were in these prayers. We share that with you here. Here's the result—you might quietly look at this and add your prayers to God to intervene in this situation.

Israel's Peace Village



Wahat al-Salam Neve Shalom

واحة السلام נווה שלום

My Jewish husband and I, Simon Wolfe (aka St Mary's Bell Tower Captain!) were invited in 2017 to go on a trip to visit Neve Shalom Wahat al Salaam.

The trip was organised by the British Friends of the village and was a multi faith trip to get more than one perspective on the peace initiatives run in the village and by faith organisations outside so as a multi-faith household we ticked their boxes. (Believe me- we have far more tension around Boat Race day in our house as Simon went to the lesser university!).

The village was established in the early 1970's by a Jewish by birth turned Catholic monk, Father Bruno.

He wanted to start a community 50% Jewish 50% Palestinian as a model for living alongside each other in peace. They were the first community to start their own Primary School where all lessons are learned in both Hebrew and Arabic so every child is virtually bilingual when they leave. They also run a School for Peace where courses are put on to educate attendees in peaceful conflict resolution. There is much more information about the various organisations on the Oasis

of Peace web page oasisofpeace.org.uk.

This November another trip is being organised to Neve Shalom and also to visit a project in Jerusalem, the Anglican church in Ramallah and a Muslim project in Akko.

Simon and I have stayed in the village twice now and it is an experience well worth having if you can. The people in Neve Shalom/ Wahat al Salaam are extremely impressive especially in the face of arson attacks by extremists- 3 in the last 18 months. Be not afraid! Security has been ramped up now!

Do ask either of us about it but further information can be obtained from Jack Omer Jackaman at the NSWAS office.

His email is:

jack.omer-jackaman@oasisofpeace.org.uk

and he can confirm dates etc.

Simon and I are going again to meet up with our friends there and make new ones.

Stephanie Wolfe

Getting to know you— ???

Your Curator has to confess that events and a common virus have brought this thread to a halt.

So, I am inviting readers to ask someone else to do the getting to know you thing.

The questions are there and all you have to do is to get your invitee to answer them and forward the answer to the Benefice office with a recent passport size photo. About 400 words will be fine

The questions are:

- How long have you lived in Faversham, have you ever lived anywhere else?
- How did you come to your faith?
- What do you like most about your home church?
- **What's your favourite hymn or chorus?**
- What is your favourite bit of the Bible and why?

Easter at St Peter & St Paul's, Ospringe

We have been warned of access difficulties via Water Lane.

During the easter holidays contractors will be completing phase one and phase two of works in the Ospringe from the A2 down to the Church.

For access to the church visitors will have to use Faversham Road, Coxett Hill and Abbots Hill.

We understand that the diversion will be signposted with **signs stating "for access to St Peter and St Pauls Church please follow diversion route"**



From the Sanatorium.

Your curator has finally succumbed to the "C" word. I mention this to throw myself on your mercy as I splutter along. Frankly my symptoms are more like man-flu rather than the travails of many others in our community.

It drove me to reflecting on how things change when they actually involve you. Now I have COVID—the test says so. Previously I doubted the science and the reliance on numbers and the shockingly low levels of numeracy amongst our leaders. Their lack of numerical competence seems an automatic requirement for elected office.

I shall avoid banging on about number, quantity and amount—and the shocking way they are shuffled about and interchanged.

Then there is of course the Venn diagram which has been allowed to be abducted by every charlatan, half-wit training course presenter and estate agent.

There are of course the complete dimwits who have to talk about one fourth of something and use 2 decimal places in discussing the weight of the world. It's mass actually, but that's a whole new moan zone.

All this to conceal that it has been a slow month for the magazine. But the copy date for the May, Spring Bumper, Phew what a scorcher edition is 09:00 Monday 29th April to beneficeoffaversham+contact@gmail.com

400 words, in a *.doc format fill a page nicely, good quality photos as jpeg are always welcome.

Please, no pdf files unless it is a full page item that we have already discussed.

Thank you.

Contemplating Easter

Join us for an opportunity for quiet reflection
on Jesus' journey to the cross and glory.

**Thursdays,
March 3, 8,
17, 24 and 31,
and 7 April**



**at the church of
St Mary Magdalene
w St Laurence, Davington
7.00pm**

A hopeless end becomes endless hope...

Sing-along EASTER 2022

It's the spectacular, big-screen, live-action/animated Easter story for all the family featuring a local, all age cast, well known songs and parodies, silhouetted mime, puppets, lights and lots and lots of audience participation!

SAVE THE DATE!

5.00pm

Saturday 16th April 2022

Venue tbc

FREE tickets available soon

For more information:

@singalongkent | www.youarecrucial.org | singalongkent@gmail.com

The story where good things never come to an end!



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 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

