

Keeping Contact

The Benefice of Faversham

July—August 2023

Revd. Simon writes

The former American President, Barack Obama was interviewed recently following the death of the five people in the 'Titanic' submarine disaster.

In response to the near total news coverage of the disaster the former president noted how little news coverage had occurred of the sinking of a migrant boat around the same time with the loss of 300 + lives in the Mediterranean.

Clearly in our media focused world certain lives carry greater news worthiness than others.

Jesus addresses this disparity which has always existed throughout history in his teaching of the Beatitudes.

- *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*
- *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*
- *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*
- *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*
- *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*
- *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.*

• *Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

This teaching both at the time of Jesus and in today's world speaks of a revolutionary vision of God's kingdom. The kingdom we seek today in our here and now world spoken and prayed for in the Lord's prayer, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done". Do we really want this kingdom of God to occur or are we happy with the status quo of our lives? Do we really believe that each one of us are made in God's image and loved equally by him? Irrespective of our place and country of birth? Or do we quietly give thanks that we are ok but quietly fill our lives with the sound and pictures of the media to block out the unpleasant truth of the world around us.

As we enjoy holiday and sunshine may we quietly pray our prayers and reflect on what it would look like if God's kingdom did come into existence today?

Yours

Simon.



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Services in July — The Benefice of Faversham

	Fourth Sunday after Trinity 2 July	Fifth Sunday after Trinity 9 July	Sixth Sunday after Trinity 16 July	Seventh Sunday after Trinity 23 July	Eighth Sunday after Trinity 30 July
Church	Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Genesis 12:1-9, 13-20; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-11, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Davington					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Benefice Service at Davington
Baptism:		2pm Baptism			
	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	
Faversham					
10am	Morning Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Benefice Service at Davington
Baptism:					
6pm	Choral Evensong (rehearsing from 5pm)				
Ospringe	Patronal Festival	BANNS x 1	BANNS x 1	BANNS x 1	
11am	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Benefice Service at Davington
Baptism:					
Preston					
10am	Civic Service with Mayor and town council	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Benefice Service at Davington
Baptism:					

Midweek services - all services at 10am

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

Services in August — The Benefice of Faversham

	Ninth Sunday after Trinity 6 August	Tenth Sunday after Trinity 13 August	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity 20 August	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity 27 August
Church	<i>Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 16; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 1:13-21</i>	<i>Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33</i>	<i>Genesis 45:1-5; Psalm 133; romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28</i>	<i>Exodus 1:8 – 2:10; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20</i>
Davington				
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer [EW]
Baptism:	2pm Baptism		2pm Baptism	2pm Baptism
	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...
Faversham				
10am	Morning Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
Baptism:	2pm Baptism	2pm Baptism		
6pm	Choral Evensong (rehearsing from 5pm)			
Ospringe				
11am	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Eucharist	Morning Praise
Baptism:	2pm Baptism			
Preston		BANNS	BANNS	BANNS
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist
Baptism:			2pm Baptism	
		6.30pm Evening Prayer		

Midweek services - all services at 10am

Date	Preston	Faversham	
Tuesday, 1 August	Eucharist		
Wednesday, 2 August		Morning Prayer	
Tuesday, 8 August	Morning Prayer		
Wednesday, 9 August		Eucharist	
Tuesday, 15 August	Eucharist		
Wednesday, 16 August (No Parish Lunch in August)		Morning Prayer	
Tuesday, 22 August	Morning Prayer		Last day of school holidays 30/8 No DC
Wednesday, 23 August		Eucharist	
Tuesday, 29 August	Morning Prayer		No DC
Wednesday, 30 August		Morning Prayer	

Keeping Contact, moving on

My involvement with Keeping Contact started back in July 2020. Timely that is my last edition of Keeping Contact in its present form.

Recently I heard a talk on Moses, the Israelites in the wilderness and finding water. The main thrust of the talk was that with God's guidance we should not just do the same old same old, but be doing new.

We are not reaching the majority of the community who live lives in the "webonet". The new website and "social media" properly managed can do that.

We need to reach the people who are not in church!

To me that means the Benefice now needs to make some decisions on how we should continue.

My final act is to share some "comfort", in the old English sense this comes in the form of a precis of an address by Bishop Robert Innes, Bishop in Europe. It was delivered at the recent celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Intercontinental Church Society.

Hopefully, as you read the address you will reflect on what we might apply here in our mission to the Benefice of Faversham.

We have been involved in the society's ministry since 1988.

It started when we went to Brussels ahead of moving there. At Holy Trinity in the centre of Brussels we heard the announcement that the church had decided to found a new church in the suburbs, near the British School. That was where we were planning to locate ourselves! God poked me in the chest and told me I had to get involved. We found a house the following day and moved in August, along magically with several other Christian families. Suddenly there was a planning group and we decided to open on Christmas Day.

So we opened in a little catholic church in the village of Vossem. Imagine any of the Benefice sharing their church with another denomination!

We opened on Christmas morning and waited to see who turned up. We had over 400 people attend and many more standing outside.

That church grew with Children and Young people's ministry, Alpha, Christian growth courses, skill building, mission weekends, summer camps, vocation testing, we did the lot.

Many of our members (including Sarah) went on to ordination and full time ministry. Others have found themselves in Christian work or witnesses to the power of the Gospel.

Significant points from this are

- The congregation, we joked, had all passed a test to get to St Paul's. It was, their company or government thought they were good enough to post abroad. But they still made time to help run the church and all its ministry.

- We were funded by ICS for the first two years. After that we had to be self financing. We paid the Chaplain and all our running costs out of what we gave. We did that and maintained a policy of tithing 10% of our income to other mission activities.

- So what? Well Bishop Robert's address deals with some of the history of the society and their lay driven efforts to share the Gospel. I find it speaks to me today about the role of the laity here in Faversham.

If our faith is so great why aren't we telling our friends and neighbours about it?

If it isn't so great, what are you going to do about it?

Rocyn

The Intercontinental Church Society at 200

Address by +Robert Innes on the occasion of the Intercontinental Church Society 200th Anniversary Celebration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Members of ICS, Distinguished guests,

I am most grateful for the invitation to address you today, on your 200th anniversary. If it seems natural that the Bishop of the Diocese in Europe should be so involved with the life and work of the Society, it is worth remembering that that ICS's work has over the years been conducted in over 70 other dioceses! The Society's work is wider than Europe, and has been going much longer than my diocese.

And yet, the Society has been a gift to Europe, and its missionary zeal has made a difference in at least these three areas.

- It has been intercontinental

I try to look after a diocese that covers a territory that similar to the scope of the Council of Europe. I am naturally concerned about the wellbeing of the nations of our European continent. Especially now, when we are at war. But woe betide us if we become so focused on our European nations that we forget the world beyond Europe's borders.

And ICS continually widens our perspective. Using the ICS prayer diary, and encountering an entry for All Saints Cairo or Christ Church Bangkok is a prompt to me to stretch my horizons beyond Europe and to maintain an empathy for what God is doing across the continents. I'm sure it is sometimes frustrating for the Society to be involved in so many local Anglican churches dispersed so widely, but it is a reminder that we belong to a truly intercontinental people of God.

God builds his holy nation out of people from

all the nations, and ICS expresses that truth through its work on different

continents. The Diocese in Europe is by far the largest by land area in the Church of England, but the reach of the Society is far wider still.

- ICS has been lay-driven

ICS is technically a "*Voluntary Society*" in the Church of England, and lay women and men of biblical faith have been driving the Society since its inception.

A little bit of the history. Before the Napoleonic wars, the French revolutionary wars had many consequences. One consequence was the collapse of the price of cod from the Newfoundland fisheries off the Canadian coast. When those wars ended, the appropriately-named Devon fish merchant, Samuel Codner saw the price of cod increase, and the trade with Newfoundland stabilise and develop.

Codner was a man of evangelical conviction and was concerned for the moral welfare of outpost colonies where lawlessness flourished. His solution was the Newfoundland School Society, an agency begun in 1823 that went through many name-changes, of which the longest was perhaps the "*Church of England Society of the Poor of Newfoundland and the Colonies*" – it is that society that morphed into the ICS we know today.

But note this: Samuel Codner was not a Vicar!

In worldly terms he was a successful businessman and ship's captain. The Society later ran work to bring the good news to railway workers in the Sudan and to fugitive slaves in 19th Century Canada.

My own Chaplain, Alan Strange, was a student volunteer in the Purpose Holidays run in Lloret



The Intercontinental Church Society at 200

de Mar in Spain in the 1970s. Concern for lay people was the ambition in every one of these efforts.

There is always a danger that the Church becomes excessively focused on its clergy. But frequently it is the laity who take the bold and imaginative steps in mission beyond the boundaries of the institution of the church. The laity make up the vast majority of the church, and it is the laity who engage with the world through families, communities and in their work. So it is vital to equip, educate and encourage the vocations of lay people.

The Society has called women and men to fresh areas of service. It educated girls and boys through its 'Sunday school by post'.

These days, as a bishop I know there are frequent calls for bishops to lead. And we all look for our clergy to be good leaders. But the history of ICS reminds us that on many occasions the laity have led the outreach of the people of God. ICS has often been a lay-driven society. And that is something to treasure.

- And rather by contrast, ICS has been valued by the clergy

Many of the clergy for whom I have responsibility work in isolated situations. I know how much they value the personal interest, prayer support and fellowship of the Society.

I interact with the Society as it undertakes recruitment procedures, and as it presents to me candidates for appointment to particular chaplaincies. I am impressed by the care and professionalism with which that work is undertaken. I am also delighted to respond to the invitations to join in with the annual Conferences for Chaplains and Families. My clergy treasure these opportunities for teaching, togetherness and fellowship.

And here I want to pay particular tribute to Richard Bromley (ICS, Mission Director). I have always enjoyed working with Richard. He manages to combine an irrepressible cheerfulness with a prayerful and reflective seriousness about the mission of God. ICS and the Diocese in Europe have a set of formal relationships, but with Richard there is real friendship, warmth and shared endeavour. So my particular thanks to Richard for our working together and for all that you personally contribute to the wellbeing of our Diocese in Europe clergy and for your massive contribution to ICS.

In conclusion, we celebrate today 200 years of the "Intercontinental Church Society". This is a body

- which is intercontinental in scope, as wide as God's own horizons,

- which is a Voluntary Society in format, often with lay energy and vision,

- and which is passionately concerned for the Church, her clergy and her wellbeing.

Some of its efforts now seem quaint – these days there's probably not much demand for the "*Sabrefois outreach to lapsed French-speaking Roman Catholics in Canada*".

But such an aim was exactly right in its time. Yet God is always doing something new.

Tuning in to God's purposes for the society for today is the challenge for ICS's Board and membership. So I join with you in praying for the continuing discernment of the Society's leadership, as they consider – "To what mission, O Lord, are you leading us now, in this our generation?"

+Robert

Bishop in Europe

St Mary of Charity & Open Faversham

12 to 19 August will see a very exciting project as a joint venture between St Mary of Charity and The Faversham Society with events, workshops, and concerts throughout the town.

Please see below for some of the events to be held at St Mary of Charity.

If you are interested in helping with any of these, please speak to Kevin or Keith.

Events, include

- All week Video of the town by drone above the church.
- All week Photo exhibition featuring pictures taken from the spire.
- 12 August Display of recently discovered archaeology.
- 12 August Display of information on loan from The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, regarding the former Pollock Shipyard in Faversham.
- 12 August Talk by Justin Croft about a book belonging to Queen Katherine Parr (last wife of Henry VIII). This was the first book published by a woman; at one time even owning the book could mean a death sentence. A copy of the book was found hidden in Faversham and will be on display in the church.
- 12 August Flint Knapping in the churchyard.
- 12 August Display of church flagons and silver – not displayed to the public for several decades. (This will be a ticketed event).
- 12 August Church Café.
- 15 August Life of Arden – Geoff Sandiford concert.
- 17–19 August Display of historic maps from The Faversham Society.
- 19 August Church Tours – various stations around the church talking about the history of the church.
- 19 August Church Café.

The Intercontinental Church Society has reached 200.

An achievement in any field, especially charities.

Please be encouraged to use the link to see what the Society is doing. Also take the chance to see the message from ++Justin.

<https://www.ics-uk.org/>



Upcoming events

☼ St Mary of Charity, Coffee morning every Saturday morning, 10:45: Classical Coffee Concerts, and every week is a surprise! Free coffee and free, excellent music with a retiring collection. For advance details of programmes and performers, sign up as a patron (£3 a month + VAT) at www.patreon.com/classicalcoffeeconcerts

☼ St Catherines, Preston next Faversham, ME13 8LG
Coffee morning, includes a book stall. First Saturday in every month.

☼ St Mary Magdalene, ME13 7EJ
Wednesday evenings 7 – 8 pm Space to be

☼ **Coffee @ Blossoms**

Saturday— July 2nd , August 5th (and Sept 2nd) Coffee morning every first Saturday of the month 10:30 to 12

All other Saturdays - Church open for a quiet visit. 9.30 to 12 (?) Refreshments available

Friday Blossoms Café 2 – 4 pm. All welcome: July 7th, July 14th
(July 21 sat School term ends)

During School holidays, July 28th, August 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th Tea & Chat 2.30 to 4.30 pm



Open Gardens



Claire, Diane, Nic, Val, Keith, Michele, Jennifer, Catherine, and Tory all helped on Sunday to raise £930 for St Mary of Charity. Blessed with very hot weather we were a shaded haven, and our refreshments were very much appreciated by those going round the gardens ... and by some who were not!

Thanks must also go to all those who contributed to

the wonderful array of quiches, tarts, frittatas, scones, buns, cakes, etc.

It was a truly magnificent spread, much commented on by our visitors.

I think all those who helped enjoyed themselves, but it was a lot of hard work too! Thank you everyone.

Thanks, Margy.



A poem to reflect on

Whilst sitting in church the other day, reading some poetry came across a poem I hadn't read for a while. A reflection on creation by a well read and powerful man who gave it all up to be a country vicar. A man who is often hailed as the archetypal country parson.

I particularly like the final verse about finding our rest in God the creator and not in our own strivings. It reminded me of the Greek tale of Creation, Pandora and her box.

In God we have both Rest and Hope because of God's Love in sending Jesus.

Patrick Mulcahy

The Pulley

When God at first made man,
 Having a glass of blessings standing by,
 "Let us," said he, "pour on him all we can.
 Let the world's riches, which dispersèd lie,
 Contract into a span."

So strength first made a way;
 Then beauty flowèd, then wisdom, honour, pleasure.
 When almost all was out, God made a stay,
 Perceiving that, alone of all his treasure,
 Rest in the bottom lay.

"For if I should," said he,
 "Bestow this jewel also on my creature,
 He would adore my gifts instead of me,
 And rest in Nature, not the God of Nature;
 So both should losers be.

"Yet let him keep the rest,
 But keep them with repining restlessness;
 Let him be rich and weary, that at least,
 If goodness lead him not, yet weariness
 May toss him to my breast."

George Herbert (1593–1633)

If you'd like to understand more about this poem then Google is your friend.—Ed

<https://poemanalysis.com/george-herbert/the-pulley/>

Revd. Dan writes

Thank you for all your ongoing mission and ministry.

A recent Sunday Gospel reading (Matthew 9.35-10.8) showed how Jesus' call to Mission and Ministry starts with prayer for "labourers" or "practitioners" to announce the transforming message of God's nearness and love. We are all some of those labourers...

- Prioritising God's mission in word and deed above anything else,
- Responding Relationally and Resourcing mission in church and community,
- Adapting to be accessible and approachable for our community to make Jesus known.
- You are a crucial part of God's mission, best placed to minister to those around you and gather into God's Church.

This acrostic is from the Church of England's priority to be younger and more diverse. It's not easy keeping the ancient institution – the Church – primarily relational, adapting to be as accessible as possible in announcing and demonstrating God's "with-us-ness" and unstoppable love. Nevertheless our relational

reach as a benefice is huge and continues to grow as we enable Jesus-centred community.

We've our ongoing weekly engagement with pupils and staff in local schools through Collective Worship, lunchtime chatting and clubs.

We hosted the Faversham Gems Awards at St Mary of Charity Church, celebrating 130+ children and young people who had Gone Extra Miles, giving of themselves, their gifts, time and kindness, making life sparkle for others. This is the going-the-second-mile stuff of God's Kingdom that Jesus teaches in his Sermon on the Mount.

People need to see the Kingdom of God before they respond to it and Gems Awards is children and young people modelling some of this to society.

i.wonder is now nine months old. Based at Davington each Sunday at 4.00pm i.wonder provides a relaxed space for children, young people and adults to worship together through art, drama, discussion, prayer and songs. Drinks and cakes are available as people arrive and it is profound to see such openness when exploring Bible stories and praying for the world. My thanks to the team for their energy and creativity.

Our Gem mobile youth centre continues to provide a safe, welcoming, hospitable activities and conversation locally on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays engaging 25-30 children, young people and parents each time. We will also be at school fayres and reward days in the benefice and deanery.

The beauty is how connections become community through Galilee-type conversations building on our schools ministry. We continue partnering with Brogdale CIC delivering Friday sessions and we've been asked to explore more with them.

We represented the Benefice at South East Coachworks for the Faversham Transport Festival weekend and we were at Faversham Market on Saturday 24 June.

We hope to provide pop-up fun faith activities again through the Summer to continue forming community around God's nearness and unstoppable love.

Dan



July 2023

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



For the month of June we have run the group with visitors coming from our different churches. This has been a fun change and opportunity for others to experience what we do each week.

We also had a wonderful day with Stephano and Hannah on their wedding day (17th June)

Congratulations to them and to Hugh who has a new job and will moving to Norwich shortly.

Prayers please for the Safe Recruitment of new leaders for our group.

Prayers too for our young people especially those moving on to new stages of life.



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Earth overshoot day



This is the day, calculated each year, which marks the point when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what the Earth can regenerate in that year.

Resources such as energy, timber, food and fibre, seafood, and CO₂ absorption; services like provision of water, oxygen and clean air, raw materials for medicine, industry and buildings, insect pollination of crops, renewal of the soil.

This year it falls on August 2nd.

Our use of the earth's resources has been increasing, as is shown by the dates the overshoot was reached from 1971 to 2023:

1971 - Dec 25th

1981 - Nov 20th

1991 - Oct 20th

2001 - Sept 13th

2011 - Aug 6th

2021 - Aug 3rd and then 2023 Aug 2nd.

God gave us a beautiful, fascinating, bountiful world. He supplied everything we need in order to thrive in our world, but he will not be re-supplying us. Our reserves are finite.

Why are we so profligate, so wasteful?

How are future generations going to survive?

What are we leaving them?

Each country's overshoot day is also calculated – this is the day on which Earth's overshoot day would fall if all of humanity consumed like the people in that country.

Britain's was calculated to fall on May 19th.

It has been calculated that on average each of us in this country consumes double what the UN suggests can be used while remaining within what the planet can supply - each of us uses on average 3 tonnes more than the global average. It's a sobering thought.

We take so much for granted.

May our eyes be opened to all the possibilities to Reduce, Reuse and, as a last resort, Recycle. Much more about overshoot days can be found on the internet.

Iris Neel

<https://www.overshootday.org/newsroom/press-release-june-2023-english/>



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

For details, fees and arrangements of baptisms, weddings and funerals please contact

Catriona Cuthbert—Parish Administrator, the Benefice of Faversham
(Core working times 9am - 2pm Monday to Wednesday)

The Benefice Office is located at St Mary of Charity Church of England Primary School, Orchard Place, Faversham, ME13 8AP

* FavershamChurches@gmail.com or 01795 227600

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	Kevin Swinney Keith Tyler	
St Peter & St Paul, Ospringe		fb.me/4favstpp
Wardens	Patrick Mulcahy Vacant	

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.

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- Assistant Warden

Contact

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