

Keeping Contact

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 3, Issue 5

June 2022

Revd. Simon writes

Meeting God in the silence.

Often 'doing church' is the activity of meeting fellow friends and other parishioners at church on a Sunday morning or the many voluntary tasks performed by so many kindhearted and generous people who give of their time in the care of the church.

But meeting God in prayer or contemplative meditation / silence requires time which can be a real challenge. We live such busy lives and friends who are now retired tell me frequently how busy their lives have become. Parents with children must balance demanding jobs with the challenge of childcare. With us all growing older some people find themselves looking after grandchildren and older parents. How can we find time for space and time for our relationship with God?

I hope it is helpful to share with you the daily prayer I use online

[https://
www.northumbriacommunity.org/
offices/how-to-use-daily-office/](https://www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/how-to-use-daily-office/)

This form of daily prayer allows time for a period of silence within the service itself. It has been known for the service to be prayed by the Vicar

in the car parked up during the day between visits or other events. Simply finding time to dwell in God's presence, being centered on him who loves us requires time and intentionally organized to set prayer and silence with God as a priority.

In addition to this daily prayer routine, I find the centering prayer, The Jesus Prayer a simple and helpful way of calming or focusing my mind before entering into a time of silence of prayer.

The Jesus Prayer is very simple: "Lord Jesus Christ Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner," and is prayed repeatedly until the mind is calm and we can focus on God rather than the jumble of our thoughts.

So can I invite you all to spend time in silence with God in prayer and contemplation and pray for our four church communities and God's grace this coming Pentecost.

Yours in Christ.

Simon.



In this edition

- From Rev Simon
- June Services
- "Words, words"
- The Diary
- Contact details



Services in June — The Benefice of Faversham

	PENTECOST 5 June Platinum Jubilee	Trinity Sunday 12 June	First Sunday after Trinity 19 June	Second Sunday after Trinity 26 June
Church	<i>Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:26-36, 37b; Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17[25-27]</i>	<i>Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15</i>	<i>1 Kings 19:1-4 [5-7] 8-15a; Psalms 42, 43; Galatians 3:23-end; Luke 8:26-39</i>	<i>2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-end; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-end</i>
Davington		BANNS	BANNS	BANNS
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Baptism:			2pm Baptism	
Faversham		BANNS	BANNS	BANNS
10am	All Age Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
Baptism:	12 noon peal of bells being rung (3 - 3½ hours)			
5pm	Civic Songs of Praise (rehearsing from 4pm)			
Ospringe		BANNS	BANNS	BANNS
11am	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Eucharist	Morning Praise
Baptism:				
Preston				
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist
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? []	

Happenings around the Benefice

St Mary of Charity's

First organ recital of the year

19:30 Saturday, 28 May

The recital will be given by Francesca Massey, a concert artist.

Free entry with a retiring collection.

Please join us to hear our guest artist play our lovely 3-manual Gern pipe organ.

Faversham Voices and Faversham Music Club at St Mary of Charity

Toads on a Tapestry

Thursday, 2 June 2022

19:30

Originally composed in 2015 as part of the town's Magna Carta celebrations.

Tickets are £17.50 (adults) and £7.50 (under 16) at the door.

Classical Coffee Concerts

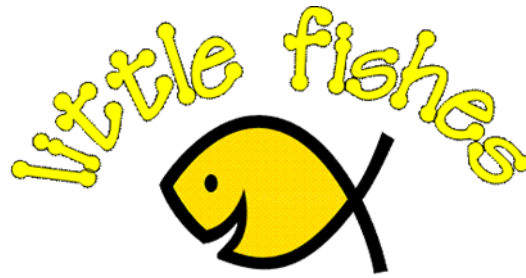
10.45 - 11.30am, Saturday Mornings*
at St Mary of Charity Church, Faversham

Free entry with a donation

Every week a surprise programme from professional musicians

*Please check www.patreon.com/classicalcoffeeconcerts to ensure that the recitals are taking place, as some Saturdays there may be other events booked.

Little Fishes



St Mary of Charity

Huzzah! After a two year break, Little Fishes is making a long overdue return.

First shoal expected on

Thursday, 9 June from 10am to 11.30am.

If you are available on a Thursday morning and would like to help with our pre-school group, please speak to Val Tyler, Sandy Eason or Catriona.

*We cannot run this popular group without volunteers.
All volunteers are DBS checked.*

Faversham Safari—"Vide grenier", street jumble.....

Sunday 7th August

Once again I will run a stall for St. Mary's. I hope Ospringle, Preston and Davington Churches will think about joining us on Flood Lane with their own stalls. It's remarkable what people will pay for!

In July I will happily collect sellable for St. Mary's (not books or clothes please). Please also think about helping for an hour or 2. I need help lugging boxes from our house onto the Green, and back at the end! Or help on the stall either sitting and taking money or sellingand it's FUN!

Thanks

Margy Tel.590619

Words, Words.... : a Lenten reflection.

One of the most beautiful verses in the bible is, in my mind at least, the phrase, '*in the beginning was the word*'.

It is by words that we communicate our thoughts and ideas and what makes us human. Yet I was reminded again recently about the inadequacies in the English language, rich though it be, when we read biblical stories. The story being expounded upon was the rehabilitation of Simon Peter and the use of the word love in the recorded exchange between Jesus and Peter. Our word love does not cover the range of emotions covered in the Greek and bring out the nuances of the story.

It got me thinking about our use of words and how they have changed over the years as I read a poem entitled 'Reaction to a Retard' by Andrew Lansdown . A word I found particularly challenging as in my youth it, like many other words, was used in a derogatory or insulting context.

The importance of the poem is that it takes one into the heart of our human problem about recognising Gods image in each of his creatures. It linked in with the thrust of my Lent readings 'Embracing Justice by Isabel Hamley'.

In this challenging but wonderful book which explores concepts of justice and how the need to think about how I can communicate with the God within my enemy. Particularly relevant in today's world, although I imagine each age has its story to tell of conflict resolution. The language we use and words used can enable resolution or inflame hatred.

God is love and I am struggling to understand how my brother and sisters in Christ can abuse each other physically and verbally. Let alone accept the language used in our media which is so devoid of love and compassion. As I move forward I shall revisit the letters of James, part of Ephesians and the book of Proverbs as I grapple with the questions raised with me this past Lent.

And to finish the song 'if you're in love show me'.

Patrick Mulcahy

Continued...

Reaction to a Retard (Andrew Lansdown)

Disgusting really the way it disfigures
The face-a lack of intelligence. The retard
On the ferry has nothing going for him
Except his mother, who gives him regard

I struggle to comprehend. I hear a quick
voice cry. Better to kill him before birth!
I look at him and shudder at my own depravity.
How easy to deny a person worth-

To limit the human, which is the
Image of God, to the beautiful and clever,
And to forget that there is in every person
A spark, a spirit that abides for ever.

There is a worse disorder than the damaged
brain that disfigures the blameless face.
It is the derangement of the cogent mind
That deforms the heart by a denial of grace.

Postcards to Latvia

Each year in Latvia at the end of May there is a country-wide event called "Baznīcu nākts" (Night of Churches), where almost every church hosts concerts, lectures, discussions, etc, and visitors will visit multiple churches throughout the night.



St. Saviour's Anglican Church in Rīga usually displays different exhibitions of art and, this year, Churchwarden Joe Horgan would love to display postcards from many different churches throughout the Church of England.

This would enable them would be able to represent not only themselves but the wider Anglican family. If you would like to send a postcard (ideally with a picture of your church and a message of encouragement), they will send you one back. Their address is: St. Saviour's Anglican Church Anglikāņu iela 2 Rīga, LV-1050 Latvia.

Faversham Open Gardens.



Sunday 26th June.

St. Mary's have run a very successful cafe for several years on Flood Lane Green raising much needed funds for St Marys. Please could you think of helping even for an hour or so.

Help set up or take down, Young legs can be used too and others can sit and take the money!

There's a job for everyone and we truly need all the help we can gather. Be careful, you may enjoy it! Thanks.

Margy Tel....590619

Memories of St Peter and St Paul's, Ospringe

Do you have memories of St Peter & St Paul from your youth?

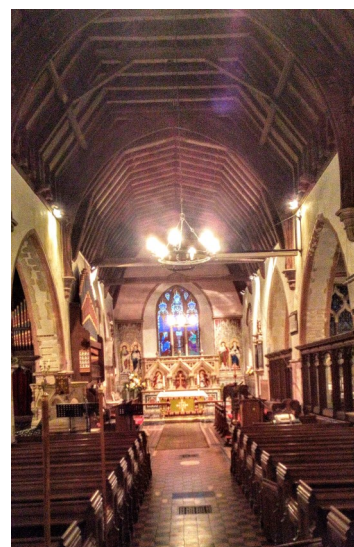
Do you have a relative or friend whose memory may go back even further?

What do you or they remember? Have you got photos of events at the Church or even in the churchyard and surrounding?

Who planted the daffodils along the verge?

Does anyone know when the cesspit was dug under the green in front of the church? Let us have your memories, please—we are trying to build a memory bank to record our heritage.

Contact a Church Warden or the Benefice Office with details.





Tulip Tree Fete

St Catherine's Church

In the garden

The Old Vicarage

Preston Lane ME13 8LG

Sunday 12th June 2022

2-4pm



**Bottle tombola, raffle, plant sale, books, barbecue, cakes
toys, crafts, refreshments and much more...**



Bring your friends – Everyone welcome

With kind permission of Kate and James

Missing marbles

Well here we go again.

Your editor took a holiday with the plan to edit this august journal whilst exploring parts of Ireland. But he managed to not take the necessary files for the magazine. So, now a week later, with abject apologies, we are back in business.

Progress

Change is not always progress. But we are simplifying the presentation of the content. June includes a first go at a diary summary for stuff that is happening in the Benefice.

In order to be included just send details to the email address—the information needed is described by the column headings. See page 11

If you want more information included send your info as a document and any pictures, art work as a jpeg file.

And regarding the July—August edition.

All of this is a reminder that the copy date for the July—August composite edition is 09:00 Monday 20th June to beneficeoffaversham+contact@gmail.com

400 words, in a .doc type format will fill a page nicely. Make it the simplest document possible—good quality photos as jpeg files are always welcome.

And if you have been reading this, "Thank you".

Rocyn

Jubilee Weekend at St Peter & St Paul

Saturday 4th, from 10.30am until 3.30pm the Church is open. Come in, look around and say a quiet prayer of thanksgiving for the Jubilee. We will offer tea and cake. We have a couple of activities for any children as well.

Sunday 5th, there will be a service at the usual time of 11am and we will linger in order to keep the church open until 1pm.

If you are able to help with a short shift on Saturday, please let myself or Janet know.

Do pop in for a cuppa and chat! Also, the church has some decorations and flowers but if you have any flowers etc that you would like to place on show then please let us know before Saturday and we can open the church.

For those unable to come there are photos on Facebook.

Blessings

Jane

COME ALONG TO OUR COFFEE MORNING
SATURDAY JUNE 4TH 2022



AT ST CATHERINE'S-NEXT-FAVERSHAM

PRESTON LANE ME13 8LG

10AM TO 12 NOON

Diary page—what's hot, what's not, be there or be square

Date	Time	Location	Title	Details	Notes
Thu 02/06	19:30	St Mary of Charity	Toads on a Tapestry	Faversham Voices and Faversham Music Club	Tickets at the door £17.50
Fri 03/06	19:30 - 21:30	St Peter & St Paul	Bell ringing	Jubilee Celebration	
Sat 04/06	10:00 - 12:00	St Catherine	Coffee Morning		Bookstall too!
Sat 04/06	10:30 - 15:30	St Peter & St Paul	Open house	Refreshments & children's activities	
Sun 05/06	11:00	St Peter & St Paul	Service		Church open until 13:00
Sun 05/06	12:00	St Mary of Charity	Full Peal ringing	Tower team	May last 3.5 hours!
Sun 05/06	17:00	St Mary of Charity	Jubilee Service	Councillors & Community Choir live and in person	Rehearsal 16:00
Thu 09/06	10:00 - 11:30	St Mary of Charity	Little Fishes	Pre School Group	Helpers needed.
Sun 12/06	14:00 - 16:00	St Catherine	Tulip Tree Festival	Old Vicarage Garden	
Thu 16/06	19:30	St Mary of Charity	Archdeacon's Visitation		
Sun 26/06		Flood Lane	Open Gardens		
Sun 07/08		St Mary of Charity	Faversham Safari	Mobile jumble sale	



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	Clive Southwell Kevin Swinney	
St Peter & St Paul, Ospringe		fb.me/4favstpp
Wardens	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.

© 2022 The publishers reserve Copyright and material may not be reproduced without written permission. Photos, this page Credit & © Gerald#1. The opinions expressed are those of individual contributors.

* Assistant Warden

