

Keeping Contact

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 4, Issue 2

March 2023

Revd. Simon writes

Of Patron Saints and Daffodils.

As a child growing up in North Wales, local and International Eisteddfod's were normal yearly events. Occasions within yearly life where common aspects of culture were celebrated. St David's Day was very popular within the community and celebrated within schools. Due to perceived nationalistic associations St George and St George's Day is in my mind less celebrated in the local community with the exception of Scouts and Guides.

Patron saints were an important part of the life and worship of church communities. People could be taught values based upon saint's life stories and various guilds or associations of trades had their own saint. Some Christians still in times of crisis pray to individual saints.

Within religious communities, a rule of life is followed based upon the instruction of the likes of St Benedict, St Francis or St Augustine. Saints are mentioned in the New Testament,



Revelation 18.20 and Romans 1.7 as the followers of Christ or those belonging to Jesus.

However, we come to understand saints

and the stories they teach it would be good this coming year for our four churches to celebrate or pause and consider the saint or saints associated with their church.

I always try and stop and pray for a particular religious community who has supported my own spiritual journey on St Benedict's day. Equally when taking communion at the Alms House last month I was reminded of Cannon William. This Christian person had a distinct influence on my own Christian journey and came to mind during a conversation. I am sure you could name other people who have impacted on your journey of faith.

So may I wish you a blessed St David's Day [1st March] which in my own mind with daffodils always reminds me of the start of Spring.

Yours in Christ

Simon.



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Services in March — The Benefice of Faversham

Church	Second Sunday in Lent 5 March	Third Sunday in Lent 12 March	Mothering Sunday 19 March	Fifth Sunday in Lent 26 March
	Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42	Exodus 2:1-10 or 1 Samuel 1:20-28; Psalm 34:11-20 or 127:1-4; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 or Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:33-35 or John 19:25-27	Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
Davington				
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Baptism:				
	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...
Faversham				
10am	Morning Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
Baptism:				
5pm	Choral Evensong			
Ospringe				
11am	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Eucharist	Morning Praise
Baptism:				
Preston				
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist
Baptism:				

Midweek services - all services at 10am

Date	Preston	Faversham
Wednesday, 1 March		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 7 March	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 8 March		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 14 March	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 15 March <i>followed by Parish Lunch</i>		Eucharist
Tuesday, 21 March	Eucharist	
Wednesday, 22 March		Morning Prayer
Tuesday, 28 March	Morning Prayer	
Wednesday, 29 March		Eucharist

Services in April — The Benefice of Faversham

	Palm Sunday 2 April	Easter Sunday 9 April	Second Sunday of Easter 16 April	Third Sunday of Easter 23 April (St George's Day)	Fourth Sunday in Easter 30 April
Church	<i>Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14 – 27:66 or Matthew 27: 11-54</i>	<i>Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10</i>	<i>Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21; Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a, 22-32; John 20:19-31</i>	<i>Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Luke 24:13-35</i>	<i>Genesis 7; Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47; John 10:1-10</i>
Davington					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Benefice Service at Ospringe
	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...	4pm I wonder...
Faversham		BANNS	BANNS	BANNS	
10am	Morning Worship	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Benefice Service at Ospringe
Baptism:				3pm St George's Day events	2pm Baptism
5pm	Choral Evensong (rehearsing from				
Ospringe					
11am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Praise	Benefice Service
Baptism:				OSP APCM	
Preston					
10am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Benefice Service at Ospringe
Baptism:				Pre-Coronation Celebratory parish lunch	

Faversham Benefice - Holy Week 2023

	Monday 3 April	Tuesday 4 April	Wednesday 5 April	Maundy Thursday 6 April	Good Friday 7 April	Easter Eve 8 April
Church						
Davington						
	7.30pm Compline			7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist	9am Stations of the Cross	
Faversham						
		7.30pm Compline		7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist	2-3pm Meditations at the Foot of the Cross	6pm Singalong Easter
Ospringe						
			7.30pm Compline	7.30pm Seder Meal Maundy Thursday Eucharist	2.30pm Good Friday Reflections	
					4pm Messy Church	
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
					10.45am Walk of Witness from URC	

Choral evensong at St Mary of Charity

5.00 p.m. Sunday 5 March special joint service with the combined choirs of St Mary of Charity, St Michael's Sittingbourne and St Paul's Canterbury, followed by supper.

The order of service is:

Introit: If ye love me, Tallis

Preces & Responses: Smith

Psalm: 121

Canticles: Short Service in the Dorian mode, Tallis

Anthem: God so loved the world, Chilcott

Voluntary: J.S. Bach, Prelude in C Minor BWV 546

Singers, please join us at 3:45 for 4:00 rehearsal; robes and music are provided. It is helpful (but not mandatory) if singers let me know they are coming and what part they sing, either at pattihickswhaley@yahoo.co.uk or 07739 199557. Hope to see you there!

Diary of events

We seem to be recovering and getting back into the swing of things. Here are some details of things coming up in the diary.

Spring Concert	7pm, Saturday, 11 March	Faversham Choral Society at St Mary of Charity	Faure Requiem, works by Parry & Elgar Tickets £10 (under 16s free) at the door or via Eventbrite. Note the time change!
Coffee Concerts	10.45 - 11.30am, Saturday Mornings*	Classical Coffee Concert at St Mary of Charity,	Every week a surprise programme from professional musicians Entry with a donation *Please check details at www.patreon.com/
String Concert	Saturday 22nd April 7:30	St Mary of Charity	Oare String Orchestra Programme & prices to be announced.
Organ Recital Series	Saturday 29th April	St Mary of Charity	Details to follow

April Midweek services - all services at 10am

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

Rev. Dan writes,

We're often asked if we'd recommend something we've bought to family and friends, the assumption being that if we benefit from something we'd want those close to us to benefit too.

So, how much would you recommend Jesus to family and friends?

It's hard and there can be a big gap between recommending Jesus and church growth but generally, churches grow through relationships and word-of-mouth recommendation about Jesus.

While you're the best Missioner to your family and friends, there are many great things going on in the benefice to introduce and recommend Jesus to others.

Following Experience Christmas involving 230 primary pupils in six schools across our churches, Experience Easter is happening between 20 th – 24 th March. It's very engaging and moving for pupils, staff and volunteers exploring six stations: Palm Sunday, Washing Feet, the Last Supper, Gethsemane, the Cross and the Tomb. Feedback is very positive suggesting a new appreciation for Jesus his unstoppable love and hope for life.

Singalong Easter rehearsals begin at 6.00pm on Saturday 25 th February at Davington Church (follow @singalongkent on Facebook for rehearsal details). The performance will be on Holy Saturday at St Mary of Charity Church.

No previous acting or singing experience is necessary - everyone is most welcome to join in. Singalong has been designed to be an accessible and profound encounter with God's story through well-known songs as we shadow Bible characters. Rehearsals are described as

being high points, so maybe you know a friend who you could bring along!



Five months into our weekly benefice service called i.wonder for children, young people and adults to worship God, grow faith and explore discipleship through art, craft, discussion, drama, prayer, songs, cakes and games.

We pitch i.wonder depending on who is there: some are used to church but others are new and it's a privilege to see people articulating faith and praying perhaps for the first time! We have welcomed many we know through our schools and mobile ministry.

After some critical repairs and improvements, the Gem trailer continues providing activities at Bensted Grove, Davington Park and (with Vibe - BrogdaleCIC's youth organisation) in the town centre, Wildish Road, Love Lane, Millfield and Faversham Rec.

The deadline for Faversham Gems Awards nominations is 28 th February. Last year over 90 children and young people who had Gone Extra Miles were celebrated having given of themselves to benefit others. This multi-agency initiative funded by both Swale Borough Council and Faversham Town Council is based



on Jesus' teaching about kindness - going- the-second-mile - in Matthew 5.41. Who do you know who you could nominate at favershamgems.org?

We are in multiple schools and other community places each week reaching new networks and recommending Jesus.

How much would you recommend Jesus to your family and friends?

Revd Dan

About Lent

On 22nd February we celebrated Ash Wednesday.

For Christians Ash Wednesday begins the six week period known as Lent. This leads up to Palm Sunday , Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

Lent is a 40-day season marked by repentance, fasting and reflection. The 40-days **reflect Christ's time in the wilderness, where he fasted and was tempted by Satan but robustly resisted.**

There is no mention of Ash Wednesday in the Bible. But there is a tradition of donning ashes as a sign of penitence that predates Jesus. For example we read In the Old Testament, in the book of Jonah that eventually the people of Nineveh repented and showed that by fasting and wearing sackcloth and ashes, and there are other references to this kind of showing of repentance in other Old Testament books among them, Isaiah, Job Esther and Jeremiah.

So on Ash Wednesday we begin by going into Church to repent of our sins and show this by having an ash cross placed on our forehead as a reminder.

The days that follow traditionally are days of fasting, of giving up pleasures of all kinds as penance, for those sins.

When we are asked we are giving up for Lent we often list alcohol, chocolate, cakes and the like? But do these really help us to understand Jesus' example of resisting temptation, when many of us so easily give up and are tempted once again to indulge?

We are all tempted, perhaps daily, to do something we know we shouldn't. It might be something minor like eating some one's last chocolate or hiding something from some-one. What about those little white lies which trip off the tongue so easily? Or it may be something more serious, something we might do without even thinking but which has really upset some-one else, put them down or in a difficult position.

We all make wrong decisions. So how do we deal with those things when we realise **we've made a mistake, or perhaps the bigger question is how do we stop ourselves from doing them all together?**

Well, each period of Lent gives us the opportunity to set aside a time to focus on how Christ dealt with those things in his life. His ministry and sacrifice.

So why not give a little time each day or perhaps simply each week of Lent to thinking and praying about how you might resist your temptations? Reflect on how you might develop your relationship with our Lord in preparation for the time when we meet him on the road into Jerusalem on his way to the cross and beyond?

Reverend Sharran Ireland

Keeping Contact

Pobl, dydd gwyl hapus Dewi Sant .

Copy date is 09:00 on Monday 27th March

Send copy to the Benefice office or as simple word type file to

Beneficeoffaversham@gmail.com

The Kent Chamber Choir

What Sweeter Music

A concert of both sacred and secular music at
St Catherine's Church
Preston Lane, Preston-next-Faversham, ME13 8LG
Saturday 11th March 2023, 7.30pm

Frank McConnell - guitar
Alan Vincent - conductor

Admission: Adults £12, Children & Students £5

Proceeds will go to the Church Organ Fund

Patrons: Dame Emma Kirkby
Harry Christophers CBE
Music Director: Alan Vincent

www.kentchamberchoir.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1069391

Easter Flowers St Peter and St Paul's, Ospringe

If you would like to contribute to the Easter Lilies donations please to me and 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 8th April from 10 am. Please do join us. I will be providing lilies, please bring greenery and other flowers (generally white and yellow).

Sarah Williams



Coronation Jaeger bombing

To celebrate the coronation of our new monarch our talented knitters are being asked to knit Commonwealth flags to create bunting for the railings of St Mary of Charity.

There are still some flags at the back of the church if anyone would like to try their hand/needles at one or two... we are not worried if we don't have a full set!

Suggested needle sizes, dimensions and tensions are also given at the back of the church.

If you have any questions, please speak to Catriona or Alison Swinney!



A question

What do the following people have in common?

Richard Harries, Jonathan Sacks, John Bell, Ephraim Mirvis, Jasvir Singh, Lionel Blue, Vicky Beeching, Sam Wells, Anne Atkins, Catherine Pepinster, Tim Stanley, Rhidian Brook, Isabel Hanley, Lucy Winket, Roy Jenkins, Mona Siddiqui, Richard Holloway, Rob Marshall, Giles Fraser, Julie Siddiqui

The answer is that they are or have been regular contributors to Radio 4 ' [Thought for the day](#)'

A 2.45 or 3 minute slot exploring issues of the day with a thought to ponder. No more than 500 words delivered at approximately 7.45 every day.

A sermon could be anything from 7 to 30 minutes I have heard many a life changing forty minutes.

[Thought for the day](#) has challenged and encouraged me for fifty years and encouraged me to pursue ideas in further depth.

3 minutes gone in the twinkling of an eye or a moment to sustain and challenge for a whole day. A lost gem until BBC sounds not to be repeated and without notes to reread.

Imagine my pleasure in receiving for my birthday a book comprising the combined thoughts of Rhidian Brook spanning a 20 year period.

What surprised me most was how the thoughts given over that period still have relevance all these years later as, of course, do the books of the Old and New Testament.

So if you want a present idea or just a guilty pleasure for yourself 'God Bothering' by Rhidian Brook could be the book for you.

The Pope recently reckoned a sermon should be between 7 and 10 minutes. But I reckon a succinct five hundred words delivered well in three minutes can be a challenging start to the rest of my day.

Patrick

Singalong Easter Rehearsals

Sat 25 Feb: 6.00–8.00pm: St Mary Magdalene Church, Priory Rd, Faversham. ME13 7EJ
Sat 04 Mar: 6.00–8.00pm: St Mary Magdalene Church, Priory Rd, Faversham. ME13 7EJ
Sat 11 Mar: 6.00–8.00pm: St Mary Magdalene Church, Priory Rd, Faversham. ME13 7EJ
Sat 18 Mar: 6.00–8.30pm: St Mary of Charity Church, Church Rd, Faversham. ME13 8GZ
Sat 25 Mar: 6.00–8.30pm: St Mary of Charity Church, Church Rd, Faversham. ME13 8GZ
Sat 01 Apr: 6.00–8.30pm: St Mary of Charity Church, Church Rd, Faversham. ME13 8GZ
Performance: Sat 08 April



07963332221



singalongkent



youarecrucial.org

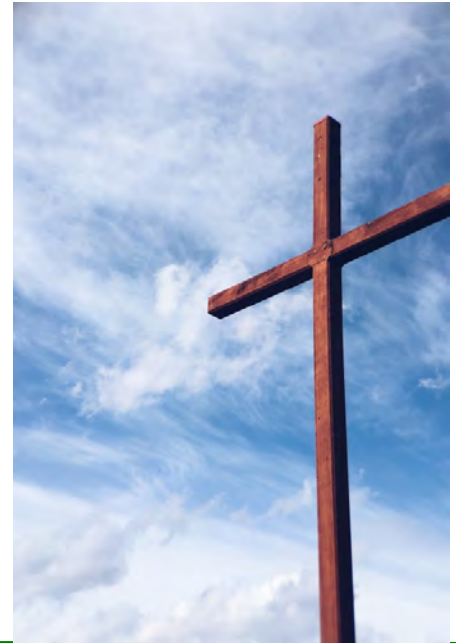
All ages welcome (suits Yr4→adult). No singing or acting experience required – just enthusiasm!
Unaccompanied u18s need signed consent form available from rehearsals or youarecrucial.org

Contemplating Easter

Contemplating Easter

Join us for an opportunity
for quiet reflection on what
Jesus' journey to the cross means for us.
At 7.00pm on Thursdays
March 2, 9, 15, 23 and 30,

The Church of
St Mary Magdalene
w St Laurence, Davington



Jesus anointed at Bethany (John 12; 1-8)

The opening of this precious jar demands occasion rare;
Its aromatic oils so sweet will burst and fill the air;
The moment came at Bethany, a home that Jesus knew;
Good friends there made him welcome, their kindness loyal and true.

And on that day t'was Mary, who reached down for the jar,
She poured the oils upon his feet, the rich scent spreading far.
While stooping still she washed his feet, her hair then wiped them clean;
Astonished looks and wonderment observed this daring scene.

But Judas, the betrayer, showed contempt for what he saw
'Could not the jar be sold? he asked 'give proceeds to the poor?'.
But greed was deep sewn in his heart, no cares for others' pain;
His selfish motives always sought an opportunity for gain.

Jesus reads the action well, applauds such generous love;
Extravagance from hearts deep vein, a gift as from above
That mirrors His for us soon sealed upon a cross;
These oils for burial now spilled, will honour that great cost.



A great event

P.T. Barnum is credited with saying that "there is no such thing as bad publicity".

My goal was to publicise a Pop Up Pancake event at St Peter & St Paul. My target? The children and parents of Ospringe Primary.

So, I was dispensing fliers at the school gate at 8:40 and dressed like a daffodil.

Blame for the photo rests with Revd. Simon. Just pre COVID in conversation I said something to the effect that if he bought the costume I would wear it. Just not quite my size I have to say.

So that's how it became my dress choice for this Shrove Tuesday morning.

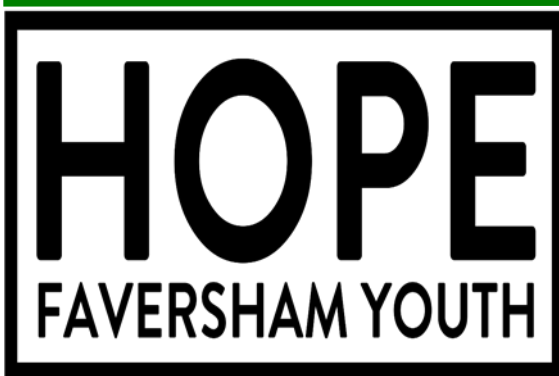
What is really important is that between 3:30 and 4:30 on Shrove Tuesday the stalwart team dispensed over 200 pancakes, hot drinks and beakers of juice. Estimates of the number of participants averages around 100!

We also played games and learned being in church can be fun.

Thanks to all the team who turned out, Brenda, Treena, Yolanda, Roger, Nicola, Lilia and Dan. Honourable mentions for those who supported us with donations and those who provided prayer support.



Rocyn Williams



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

Wednesdays in term time
Baptist Church 19:00 – 20:30
Year 7 and above.

We continue to have Food, Fun and Fellowship and the group continues to grow, which is very exciting. We do make quite a lot of noise!! We have young people from the Baptist Church, Barton Church, the

Community Church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and different Church of England churches.

Our teaching recently has been on Prayer using the 24/7 Origins course.

We are planning a weekend away in March with the Canterbury Barton group at Carrot Wood, near Tonbridge. 13 members have signed up to come, again it is exciting.

I am a leader on a CPAS Venture Knock 2 in August and hope some of our group will be able to come with me.

Please do continue to pray for us.

Sarah Williams

revsarahwilliams@gmail.com

07778450357

hopefavershamyouth@gmail.com



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

* 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	Clive Southwell Kevin Swinney	
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.

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

