

Keeping Contact

The Benefice of Faversham

Volume 2, Issue 8

October 2021



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the gem

This Sunday and every Sunday at 4pm
come and join us with our GEM trailer.

There'll be all sorts of activities, stickers,
drinks, cakes, air hockey, pool, table
tennis, football skills, new football cage,
swing-ball, badminton and consoles at our GEM games
trailer.

We'll be at Davington Field, North Preston (Reedland
Crescent, ME13 7HP) just by the play park and basketball
court.

It'll be great to see you!



Revd. Simon writes

The words 'In Christ' have rattled around in my prayers and caused me to reflect on Ephesians 2 and Galatians 3:26-28, in that we are called through Christ to abide in him. This gives us a new identity a re-birth in who we are through Christ's death and resurrection. We are justified through Christ. Like the term 'in Christ' the word justified has rattled around the brain, what does the word mean in terms of a believer and Christ. In a theological sense to be justified is to be redeemed or absolved in Christ's death and resurrection. Clearly God had a plan in place for the people of Israel but through and in Christ we are adopted into this plan that God has, we are now part of God's plan, justified through Christ's action once and for all.

I am reminded as a child of watching a group of children and not being included in the group, watching from the outside, isolated and unwanted. But Christ's message, our message if we are in Christ is that the offer made by Christ is to all and can include all, if they choose to be a part of the story.

Leslie Newbigin a theologian puts it more powerfully, *'to be elect in Christ Jesus, and there is no other election, means to be incorporated into his mission to the world, to be the bearer of God saving purpose for his whole world, to be the sign and the agent and the first fruit of his blessed kingdom which is for all'*.

Where does this election begin? In our baptism, in that we are made new in Christ with a new identity as part of Christ. Often Christians can be lost again into the world but like the prodigal son, God through Jesus is waiting to welcome us back into his welcoming arms. It is simply a matter of hearing his call and **responding** to it. How can we respond if we do not listen, how can we not respond if we are not part of Christ, are we following his way or going our own / the worlds way? Do we choose to be justified by Christ or have we turned our backs to listen to the worlds call and so-called narrative? We have free-will and at the end of the day what do you believe?

Revd Simon.

October Calendar of Prayer

The Diocesan October Calendar of Prayer is available online now and continues our theme of Creation and Creator God renewing all things.

<https://canterburydiocese.org/our-life/prayer/prayer-resources/calendar-of-prayer/>



Services in October - The Benefice of Faversham

	St Mary Magdalene with St Lawrence, The Bretons and Davington (10am)	St Mary of Charity, Faversham (10am)	St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe (11am)	St Catherine's, Preston- next-Faversham (10am)
03-Oct	Harvest Eucharist (DC)	All Age Worship (Team)	Harvest Eucharist	Harvest Eucharist
Eighteenth after Trinity			(SI)	(SR)
Baptisms:				

Job 1:1-2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

10-Oct	Eucharist	Harvest Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist
Nineteenth after Trinity	(SR + KS)	(DC)	(LN)	(PL)
Baptisms:			2pm RUSSELL (SR)	

Job 23:1-9, 16-end; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-end; Mark 10:17-31

17-Oct	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer
Twentieth after Trinity	(SD)	(SR)	(DC)	(HT/GD)
Baptisms:		2pm SANDY (SR)		

Job 38:1-7[34-end]; Psalm 104:1-10, 26, 35c [or 104:1-10]; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

24-Oct	Service of the Word	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist
Twenty-first after Trinity	(EW or KS)	(RP)	(SR)	(DC)
Baptisms:		2pm HOOK (DC)		

Job 42:1-6, 10-end; Psalm 34:1-8, 19-end [or 34:1-10]; Hebrews 7:23-end; Mark 10:46-end

31-Oct	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist with All Souls' Me- morial	
All Saints Day	(SI)	(SR + KS)	(SW)	Eucharist (DC)
3:00p.m	All Souls' Memorial (SI)	All Souls' Memorial (SR)		All Souls' Memorial (RP + HT)

Wisdom 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24:1-6; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

Elizabeth (de la Porte) Dawson-Bowling

Mum was born in Johannesburg in 1941 to an Irish father and South African mother. A talented, musical child, she won a scholarship on the piano to the Vienna Academy of Music. There, among other musical and intellectual expats, she met a certain Paul Dawson-Bowling and a romance blossomed which would turn into a wonderful life-long devoted and supportive partnership of nearly 60 years. She went on to study in London at the Royal College of Music and married Dad in 1966, settling in London and later Faversham. She started to develop a fairly stellar performance career on the harpsichord, adopting her mother's maiden name 'de la Porte'. With several life changes including three young children (Sebastian, Melissa, and Leonora), Mum then refocused her career on teaching at local schools and the RCM

where she taught for a record 55 years – touching many young lives and giving them the special gift of music. At home, Mum worked tirelessly to create a family life that was supportive, structured, full of vibrant traditions, loving and fun – with an endless supply of hugs and good giggles. She took a sweet pride in all our endeavours and delighted in taking the trouble make things nice for us – friends, colleagues, and pupils likewise. She was also a deeply spiritual person, with a quiet Christian faith which helped her through her final illness. Mum, we miss you every day and your wonderful generosity of spirit. You lived your life so well. And you live on in all of us. And for that we thank you with all our hearts.

CHRISTMAS TREES 2021

Regrettably, last year we had to close the Christmas tree plantation due to the worsening Covid-19 pandemic. This year, as long as we can all stick to safety precautions, you will be very welcome to come and choose a tree. We're asking people to visit to initially select a tree in a safe environment, starting from now in September. We'd appreciate you contacting us to fix an individual and exclusive date and time to come and look at trees; you can then return to collect in December.



The weather this year has ensured excellent tree growth and getting your Christmas tree this way is a great way to support your parish and over 20 charities.

Please contact us by email:

nashsfarmhouse@btinternet.com, or landline: 01795 532596.

Many thanks Peter and Alison Howard

Nash's Farmhouse, Luddenham,

Faversham ME13 0TQ

Welcome Directory

The Christian organisation Prison Fellowship works to bring hope to prisoners. The Fellowship is part of a multi-faith organisation which helps prison leavers identify welcoming and supportive faith communities. There is a Welcome Directory which churches can sign up to, if they are interested in supporting prison leavers.

The following is from an article in the Prison Fellowship magazine and was written by a lady who attended one of their conferences.

She writes:-

God sees and knows us in our entirety. He is present with us in every moment and loves us completely. There is no disclaimer and no small print - no matter what mistakes we make, God continues to love us and seeks to be close with us.

We must strive to emulate this in our own lives, to love and seek connection with all of our fellows. This naturally includes people who leave prison; instead of shying away, we must be inspired to show up, with an even greater desire to forge connection and extend the arm of love.

Many people who serve time in prison have suffered the pain of not being wanted or being dismissed as not being good enough their whole lives. It's no wonder that 80% of prison leavers with faith hold back from approaching new faith communities and the potential risk of rejection. If we exclude people who leave prison from our faith communities, even inadvertently, we renew that sense of pain. We have the opportunity to break the cycle, and say once and for all "you are wanted and welcome here." This speaks to the very heart of our work at The



Welcome Directory; we exist to help faith communities proclaim that message, reaching prison leavers in their most vulnerable moments with the reassurance that they are wanted and welcome.

When we speak of welcoming prison leavers, it would be easy to paint a rose-tinted picture where perfectly reformed individuals happily embark on

new lives. Whilst this may sometimes be the case, the journey is not always so straightforward. A prison leaver recently said, "When we're new in the faith we make mistakes. Like when we've just been born, we mess our nappies and we spit up food, but the members of the community are like the arms and mouths of God to help us, feed us, and guide us on the path." As faith communities, we have the special chance to help individuals through those challenges and questions. By continuing to walk alongside them in faith, even when the journey is hard, we show that hope is not lost and that nobody is beyond redemption. Time in prison is traumatic. There is the isolation and fear endured before, during and after a sentence. Prisoners are cut off from loved ones, coping with restricted freedom and all sorts of stressors, on top of the pre-existing wounds that preceded their imprisonment. These are people with heavy burdens to bear. And they need welcoming and supporting more than anyone. We cannot turn away from them, but must actively turn towards them, and offer the friendship and support they truly need to heal.

Are there any of our churches who would feel ready to welcome prison leavers

(Continued on page 6)

Jo Moribel, setting sail for new horizons

The congregation at St Mary of Charity is very sorry to say goodbye to Jo, who has been a faithful server at our Sunday services for some years.

Jo first started coming to the church as a childminder with her charges to Little Fishes on Thursday mornings, then came to the Sunday morning services. She decided to become confirmed and has been a supportive and caring member of church family. As part of the sacristy team, Jo took responsibility for the younger servers - and some of the clergy!

Jo was also an active member of the church's PCC.

Jo and her husband Jose are moving from



Faversham to travel and plan eventually to live in the Dominican Republic where they have family.

We will all miss Jo and her enthusiasm for not only the love of Christ for us but also 'action' songs!



Keeping Contact and the "C" word

Well here we are basking in the sunshine. Well until this autumnal rainy morning dawned.

Harvest is on the horizon, approaching at speed. The "C" has been mentioned by contributors already. Hopefully we will survive the privations of a shortage of tinsel and a black market in tree decorations and arrive at Christmas unscathed.

Our worship and activities are becoming more "normal" and there should be more to tell you about.

Do let us know about your plans, reports on events, items for the calendar, book reviews, even film or TV suggestions.

(Continued from page 5)

today? If so contact 'The Welcome Directory' for more information at welcomedirectory.org.uk

Inspired by this article from Prison Fellowship I have been thinking that it would be possible to have an Open afternoon/evening in one of our

churches, where we offered anyone who is hurting the opportunity to come into church to talk to someone about their problems and offer prayer for them. Davington is well placed for such an event though we would need help.

Iris Neel

Dan Corcoran, our Benefice Mission Priest writes

There's so much going on this Autumn to help make God visible – that's the role of the Church.

Last month I asked where God has been visible.

God mission of ultimate love, hope and justice never stops. It's his main thing for his creation: an uninterrupted touching place between him and the world. God's mission includes all the Bible's heroes and God himself choosing to live and die in Jesus. God's mission includes the growth of the early Church and we may still be the "early church" making us all as crucial as Moses, Deborah, Ruth, Rehab, Elijah, Mary, John, Peter, Mary Magdalene, Priscilla and Paul etc.

It doesn't always feel like it though. And it probably didn't feel like it to those listed above as God constantly worked through their personalities, gifts, talents, interests and passions (and they wouldn't have called themselves heroes!)

Subsequently every generation can underestimate their role in God's mission. Do we really need to do anything more than God's hour on a Sunday? Can't God draw the ones he wants? Sometimes yes, but not always. "[God] wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1Tim2.4) and "all people" aren't in church! And most of society don't want to come to church, often finding it rather esoteric (although I find most people do like Jesus - like how Rowan Williams said that all humanity's longings are satisfied in Jesus). Jesus loves, heals, gives of himself making God visible and washes feet. And he calls us to do the same.

That's why we'll be continuing the great work in Care Homes and Cottage Hospital. Please contact us to be involved!

We've restarted assemblies in local schools, restarting our Abbey School film club next Monday.

We continue to engage with young people and families with our 72bus and GEM trailer and we have started Sunday afternoon games, craft and conversation in local neighbourhoods.

The Children's Society are exploring their local well-being survey and we're developing the Faversham GEMs Awards recognising local young people who "Go Extra Miles".

We'll be starting an afterschool café in Davington Church soon.

Over 30 attended our first "Singalong Christmas" rehearsal last Saturday at 6.00pm.

We're starting a "Let's Feast!" group for children and young people exploring God, Baptism and Communion (Mondays: November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd: 4.00pm - 5.15pm at St Catherine's Schoolroom).

We've a special gathering on Saturday 27th November (10.00am) to explore Messy Church in the context of God's mission in Faversham to connect with all the other wonderful work being provided for children and families.

Please do get in touch to be involved! Where has God been visible for you? How can we all make God visible for others? That's Church!

Dan Corcoran

Getting to know you

Hello, I am Andrew Holden, married to Jennifer, and a member of St Mary of Charity since 1991.

1 How long have you been in Faversham; have you ever lived anywhere else?

We moved to Faversham in 1981 when we were married. My parents had settled in Newnham in 1964 - prior to this, as Dad was in the army, we had various postings in the UK, Europe and even Hong Kong. Before marrying I spent 5 years in Clapham.

2 How did you come to your faith?

My mother had a strong faith, and my father was well versed in Anglican church tradition as a chorister and organist. I followed his choral example from an early age, at Tunstall church, in my school choir, and in various chamber groups and choral societies. Despite an immersion in the beautiful traditions of Anglican liturgy, my faith was, at best, two dimensional – words and dots on a page – with little depth or understanding. Church featured little in adult life until we joined St Mary's choir in 1991 (primarily for the singing!). I became aware later that a local prayer group which included my wife, had been praying steadfastly for my conversion. Their prayers were answered in 1995 (aged 44) during Archbishop George Carey's teaching mission to Faversham, the theme of which was Breaking down the Barriers. Members of his team prayed for me, and I immediately knew the presence of the Holy Spirit speaking through prayer and the words of scripture, to bring a depth and fullness previously unknown. Life turned around 180 degrees, changing in many ways. For example, from my traditional chorister's 'perch', I found overnight that I could not get enough of contemporary worship songs, playing them in various music groups ever since. Alongside the music, it has been a huge privilege to share in prayer groups, house groups, church administration, ecumenical and missional initiatives, with townsfolk and beyond.



3 What do you like most about your home church?

Perhaps provocatively, I have to say not the building, beautiful as it is. Thinking of our lives together in community, as St Mary of Charity but also as a benefice and as Churches Together, I am constantly amazed at how members of our church families display extraordinarily grace-filled Fruits of God's Spirit, all the time and unexpectedly. Quite simply, witnessing God's work in others is what I love most about church, and I

pray constantly that parochial and denominational boundaries will never be a stumbling block to this.

4 What's your favourite hymn or chorus?

Impossible to answer, but I do get 'ear worms' singing in my head depending on what is currently preoccupying me. Henry Purcell's 'Rejoice in the Lord Always' is never far away, reflecting Paul's wonderful exhortation (Phil 4) to rejoice always, be gentle, don't be anxious, pray, and give thanks, bringing God's sublime and protective Peace through Christ Jesus. Currently, the words of the Getty/Townend song 'Speak O Lord' reflect a profound prayer for God's presence to be all in all in our discipleship, '...til your church is built and the earth is filled with your glory'. A song for our Benefice, I truly believe.

5 What is your favourite bit of the Bible and why?

Again, impossible to answer – I try to trust in this day's daily bread, which could mean the same scripture revealing more today than on a previous day. However, Christ's discipleship teaching in John 15, exhorting the disciples ten times in as many verses to 'Abide in Him', speaks powerfully, always reminding me that true fruitfulness is in Christ and flows from Him alone.

Blessings to all - Andrew Holden

Singalong is back



We're celebrating Singalong's 10th year of performances!

Yes, as we couldn't perform *Singalong Easter* or *Singalong Christmas* in 2020, this will be the 10th year of Singalong performances which happened first in Nottingham, then Canterbury and now in Faversham again.

It's the spectacular, feel-good, big-screen, live-action, animated Christmas story told through recent hits and parodies, silhouetted mime, dance, puppets, lights and lots and lots of audience participation.

Please join us if you can!

It would be wonderful to see you again at our rehearsals from this Saturday (25th September).

Rehearsals and Performance at St Mary of Charity Church, Faversham. ME13 8GZ:

- Saturdays: 25th Sept to 27th November: Saturdays 6.00pm - 8.00pm*
- Thursdays: 2nd and 9th December: 5.30pm - 8.00pm

Performance day:

- Dress rehearsal: Saturday 18th December: 3.00pm - 5.30pm
- Performance: Saturday 18th December: 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Please share and invite all who may enjoy being part of this.

For all the details, please go to <https://www.youarecrucial.org/>

Bless you all!

Dan

*rehearsals will finish at 8.30pm from November onwards

HOPE Faversham Youth



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

HOPE FAVERSHAM YOUTH for Year 7 and above,

meet at the Baptist Church, St Mary's Road, Wednesday evenings 19:00 – 20:30

It is great to be back meeting together in person, and great to have the space provided for us at the Baptist Church. We wear masks when moving around and remove them when seated. Eight or nine young people have been attending.

This term we are looking at who we are as a group and what we do together. A youth group that wants to show the hope of Jesus to bring life giving change.

- Community

We want to create a community that is welcoming, encouraging and helps anyone to know that they belong.

- Discipling

We want to know Jesus, so we'll be exploring what He says, experiencing what He does, and trusting in the hope that He brings.

- Demonstrating

We want to demonstrate Jesus' hope to each other, to our friends, and to our society.

We have been pleased to have the company of Harvey Gollins, from the Baptist Church, joining the group for a few weeks in the summer and three weeks this term. He is studying Theology at Bournemouth, with a particular interest in Youth groups.

Please continue to pray for us, and encourage other young people to attend.

Sarah Williams

Churches Together in Faversham

Prayer Meeting has been on Zoom for the past eighteen months. We will be meeting again in person on Saturdays 09:00 – 10:00 at the Baptist Church. (Main entrance on St Mary's Road.)

We pray for each other, our Christian communities, our town and local area, and the concerns of our hearts.

All are welcome.

Sarah Williams



Faversham Assistance Centre FACE

**The Trustees and Management of FACE
cordially invite you to our**

Annual General Meeting The Guildhall, Faversham

TO BE HELD ON

**Thursday 21st October
2021 doors open at 9.45am for
10.00am prompt start
Followed by Refreshments
Everyone is welcome, please confirm in
advance if you are attending**

WHO ARE WE ?

**We are a small local charity helping financially
challenged, elderly and disabled people to stay and be
as comfortable as possible in their own homes.**

**Any items for Any Other Business are to be
submitted 24 hours in advance.**

**FAVERSHAM ASSISTANCE CENTRE
Charity No. 1172770
Georgina Todd - Office 07483 150 330
favassistants@gmail.com**

Four Churches, One Benefice, One Town

Contact details for Benefice Clergy

Vicar	Rev Simon Rowlands	01790 553 2592 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	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



