

# We find God Amazing – come share our joy and grow with us!



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# A message from: Revd. Simon Rowlands

## Vicar of The Benefice of Faversham

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for taking the time to consider applying for the post of Community and Mission Priest for The Benefice of Faversham. A full stipend post, with housing.

We hope this document will provide you with enough detail to assist you as you prayerfully consider putting in your application. Please be assured of our prayers for you as we discern together the right person whom God is calling to this exciting ministry.

### **The role of the Community and Mission Priest**

- Growing and enabling mission and ministry to those who reside in The Benefice of Faversham.
- Encouraging and promoting evangelism across the area, at a strategic and operational level including supporting and communicating with the clergy and lay team on growth of existing congregations and initiatives in the community.
- Significant housing development is occurring which presents the exciting challenge of engaging with the many families moving into the area.
- An effective networker, who will be able to demonstrate experience in this field.
- Taking a leading role in specific events that further the Mission and Ministry of The Benefice of Faversham.
- The post-holder is not expected to be responsible for buildings or necessarily chair PCC meetings. The vision behind this post is that the post-holder will focus on the mission of the church both at a community and a Benefice level.
- Providing a presence, as you develop relationships, in some of our seven schools in the area. St Mary of Charity and Ospringe School, the two church schools within the Benefice, already have special growing relationships with our ministry team.
- Intentionally leading on the missional opportunities that occasional offices bring, whilst taking a share in them.

### **Required Outcomes**

- This post is partially funded by the Diocese with the expectation that after 8 years the post will be financially self-sustaining.
- Develop mission plans with the Vicar and each PCC in the Benefice.
- Develop a strategy for growing disciples within the Benefice churches.
- To work with the community to develop identifiable projects that build the church and the community in accordance with the Diocesan strategy.
- Be primarily responsible to the Vicar and Church Wardens, with issues directed through the Vicar in the first instance.

**The Ministry and Leadership qualities we seek are:**

- Always being prayer centred
- Having the ability to communicate and engage with community, newcomers and existing congregations
- Being open about worship style and tradition
- Having a passion for growth
- The ability to motivate and train people for community and mission
- Being able to recognise and nurture gifts within others
- Possessing the skills to turn vision and objectives into practical effect
- To work equally well with clergy and laity as a leader or a team player
- Being self organised and self aware

**Person Specification**

<b>Attributes</b>	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Qualifications and Training</b>	Theologically literate	Post-graduate qualification or similar
<b>Experience</b>	Wide ranging experience as a priest including hands-on involvement in mission and evangelism. Experience of managing people and resources.	Community experience Leading of a Fresh Expression
<b>Knowledge, skills and abilities</b>	Experience in adult training. Excellent communication skills making appropriate use of IT, including presentation and preaching. Good knowledge of the structures and culture of the Church of England. A believer in inclusive church.	Strategic planning Experience in theological education. IT Skills
<b>Personal Qualities</b>	A passion for mission, evangelism and growth of disciples and the kingdom. A desire to continue to grow, develop and learn as a disciple. Infectious enthusiasm. Highly approachable. Good listener. An ability to work under pressure. Leader and team player. Imagination and a flare for innovation. Flexibility.	Evidence of continued theological training
<b>General</b>	Full driving licence	

**Applications**

We welcome you to apply for the post currently available. The Archdeacon and I are happy to have informal conversations with colleagues interested in this post.

Yours

The Revd. Simon Rowlands – Vicar of The Benefice of Faversham

Tel: 01795 532592  
email: [happyvicar@gmail.com](mailto:happyvicar@gmail.com)

# Housing within The Benefice of Faversham

A house is actively being sought for the Community and Mission Priest within The Benefice of Faversham.

In the interim whilst this search continues there are a number of other housing options that could be considered, depending on the needs of the incoming Priest/Family:

- A housing allowance
- Use of a neighbouring Vicarage
- A rental property

**We are keen to move forward with the appointment and believe that the right housing will be available for the right person. This is constantly in our prayer.**



# Historic Faversham



**Faversham is one of England's most historic and charming towns, nestled between the rural delights of the Kent Downs and the austere beauty of its coastal wetlands. This picturesque market town with nearly 500 listed buildings even has its own authenticated copy of Magna**

**Carta. Faversham dates from pre-Roman times, is mentioned in the Domesday Book and is a bustling place with a fine range of independent shops.**

**The area's outstanding attractions are within a few minutes' drive of each other. With plentiful and excellent restaurants, wine bars, ancient pubs and even its own cinema, Faversham is an ideal place to live.**

**Faversham also has some of the best walking in England, with way-marked routes through stunning Kent countryside and along the Saxon Shore Way.**



## FAVERSHAM

Faversham in Kent, beautiful, picturesque and with excellent connectivity. Canterbury is 20 minutes drive away, London is less than an hour away and the Channel Tunnel can be reached in 45 minutes. The Eurostar can be accessed from Ashford or from Ebbsfleet both of which are about 45 minutes drive.

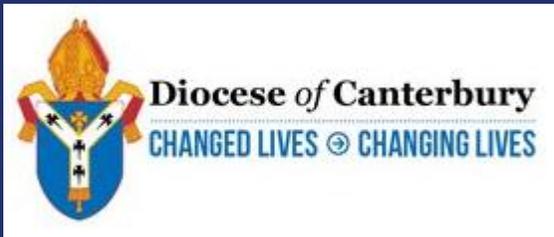
Archaeological studies show that Faversham has existed since pre-Roman times. Faversham was recorded in the Domesday Book and in 1148, Faversham Abbey was established by King Stephen who was buried there along with his consort and son.

Faversham became an important settlement and prosperity has continued due to trade through the cinque port.

The centre of Faversham is largely pedestrianised and contains many original medieval houses, an Elizabethan Guildhall as well as its own cinema. There is still a regular market in the town square which has been held for over 700 years. Nearby streets boast old pubs, beautiful almshouses, quaint shops and a growing collection of art galleries and restaurants.

Industries based in Faversham have included ship-building, brick-making, manufacture of gunpowder and brewing beer. Kent is famous for hop-growing and Faversham was formerly home to several breweries. Today only Shepherd Neame survives but it is the oldest brewery in the UK going back to about 1698.

More information: [www.faversham.org](http://www.faversham.org)  
<http://www.kentpast.co.uk/faversham.html>



## Canterbury Diocese

Canterbury Diocese stretches from the East Kent Coast down to Lydd in the South, as far west as Goudhurst and North to Maidstone and the Isle of Sheppey. Canterbury is predominantly a rural diocese and has a special role in both the Church of England and Anglican Communion as the Diocese of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The vast majority of day to day Diocesan responsibilities, however, are delegated by the Archbishop to the Bishop of Dover, currently Bishop Trevor Willmott, whose office is located in the precincts of Canterbury Cathedral, a short 10 minute walk from Diocesan House. Since 2014, Bishop Trevor has also held temporary episcopal oversight of the Channel Islands.

Bishop Trevor is assisted in the Diocese by a senior staff team of three archdeacons: Canterbury, Ashford and Maidstone as well as the Diocesan Secretary and the Deans and Vice-Deans of Jersey and Guernsey. For the small number of parishes who have petitioned the Bishop for Extended Episcopal Oversight, the Bishop of Richborough is invited to offer episcopal ministry by Bishop Trevor. The Bishop of Maidstone, in spite of his title, does not exercise regular ministry in the Diocese but has a special role in the College of Bishops as one who can articulate the view of conservative evangelical headship.

## THE VISION

To be a church that is deeply prayerful, courageously led at a time of rapid change and more diverse; a Church where partnerships, mission and ministry are shaped by those on the edge of our communities; a Church changed by faith in Jesus Christ, overflowing to change the communities that we serve.

## THE OBJECTIVES

Growing our Church numerically and spiritually

Re-imagining ministry for lay and ordained

Building partnerships that enrich communities

## THE STRATEGY

We will continue to develop models, resources, leaders and support for our church communities in their mission and ministry.

Specifically over the next five years, as a Diocesan family we will seek to:

- Be more connected and missional in prayer.
- Engage the disadvantaged in our communities with Good News
- Be more focused on secondary school -aged young people
- Develop a School of Leadership
- Develop an Innovations Hub.

## Ospringe Deanery

The Deanery is one of five within the Archdeaconry of Maidstone, (This Archdeaconry is led by Archdeacon - The Venerable Stephen Taylor). The Deanery is in the shadow of the North Downs to their south and to the east of Maidstone.

Ospringe is a Deanery of 5 benefices/parish groupings with 21 places of worship. When fully staffed enjoying the ministry of 4.2 full time equivalent ministers but aiming at 4.6. Led by Area Dean Revd. Canon. Dr. Steve Lillicrap and Lay Chair Miranda Ford.

Recent clergy vacancies across the Deanery are prompting a fresh look at the re-imagining of ministry and are resulting in a Deanery led, Archdeaconry supported review of future parish re-organisation.

The Chapter including a number of PTO/retired clergy, meets weekly for prayer and mutual support.



On Sunday 27th November 2016, all 21 Churches in Ospringe Deanery closed for the day and a Deanery Day took place at West Faversham Community Centre.

Over 400 people attended a day full of prayerful and fun activity. The day commenced with Archbishop Justin leading a service of Holy Communion.

The photo to the left shows one of the day's outdoor activities.

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018 we shall again close all our churches as we join together at Boughton Church for a Deanery Service, where we shall be joined by Bishop Trevor.

# Introduction to The Benefice of Faversham

The Benefice of Faversham was created from the parishes of Faversham, Davington, Ospringle and Preston at the end of 2017 and we are all very excited for the future.

The Vicar, Church Wardens and four PCCs have identified the need for the appointment to our Ministry Team of a Community and Mission Priest who will help the Benefice to grow both spiritually and numerically within the Diocesan Strategy of: Changed Lives › Changing Lives. It is crucial that we focus on growth and connect even more effectively with the community.

Each of our churches has a different style and historical traditions and will look to build on past achievements, strengths and synergies in order to grow. By joining together, we create an opportunity for joint prayer and determined action to spread the word of the Lord and grow the kingdom within the Faversham community.

Although we are a very new benefice we have been in the same Deanery for many years and worked together historically under “Churches Together in Faversham”. This year the Carols in the Market Place attracted over 1,500 people and it is growing every year.



## Benefice Leadership Team

The Vicar leads the Benefice Council made up of the Church Wardens from the four parishes which each have a PCC. The Benefice is blessed with a diverse ministry team of both lay and active retired clergy members. The Benefice has seven authorised lay ministers (ALM's) who lead worship, pastoral care, sick visiting and prayer ministry, also two ALM's who are authorised to conduct funerals. We are also blessed by Readers. We presently have five retired clergy who are happy to support Sunday services and pastoral offices. We have several lay people presently starting ALM training to broaden the team. In addition, the Benefice is a training parish and we have a stipendiary Curate serving in the ministry team. The Vicar chairs a monthly ministry team meeting which ensures active participation of the whole ministry team across the benefice. The Benefice at present has a Benefice Administrator looking after enquiries for all pastoral offices.

The Vicar is looking to work with a priest who is committed to working in a collegiate manner and share in praying the daily office.

PARISH	Electoral Roll	USA adults	USA child	Total
Davington	66	26	1	27
Faversham	178	85	12	97
Ospringe	58	28	2	30
Preston	81	46	5	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>205</b>

## Attendances

The Usual Sunday Attendances (U.S.A.) and numbers for electoral roll for each church are shown to the left for 2017 (Source: Church of England Website)

## Pastoral Care

Clergy from the Benefice have traditionally been chaplains to Faversham Cottage Hospital, the Faversham Branch of the Royal British Legion, RAFA, and uniformed children's organisations when availability permits. In addition, our clergy have been invited to be chaplains to the Faversham Almshouses and the Mayor of Faversham. There are three homes for the elderly in the Benefice as well as many sheltered housing schemes and a nursing home for people with learning disabilities/providing end of life care (Fynvola Foundation). Lay members in each of the parishes together with several retired Clergy work together to provide the best pastoral provision we can offer. The congregations and the two church choirs support services held in the hospital day room and at other local sheltered accommodation.



## Benefice Financial Position

The table below has been compiled from the accounts of each of the four churches within The Benefice of Faversham for 2017.

<b>2017 Financial Position of the Benefice ( General Unrestricted Funds)</b>		
	<b>Income:-</b>	
	Planned Giving	£99,261
	Tax reclaimed	£32,694
	Other giving/collections	£31,661
	Fees	£8,484
	Fundraising	£20,309
	Legacies	<u>£5,000</u>
	<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>£197,709</b>
	<b>Expenditure:-</b>	
	Parish Share	£105,575
	Church running costs	£28,229
	Utilities /Insurance	£27,767
	Fundraising	£3,617
	Repairs/Maintenance	<u>£14,760</u>
	<b>TOTAL Expenditure</b>	<b>£183,592</b>

## Safeguarding

The Benefice of Faversham is committed to implementing best practice in the care of all the congregation and those within our communities we meet. The four PCC's, Wardens and Clergy ensure training for safeguarding is undertaken and learning implemented. All who volunteer or work in our churches are required to follow the Diocese of Canterbury and National Safeguarding guidance. We are committed to care for our neighbours with dignity and respect in an inclusive manner in all areas of our work, worship and outreach.



Our Vision is inspiring, speaks the truth and expresses our reason for being:

Our Objectives come from this Vision:



- **Our four Churches... united in the Lord Jesus, will love and serve one another and the wider community.**
- **All Churches in the Benefice will be inclusive and welcoming communities of faith and fellowship – centred on prayer, worship, reconciliation and healing.**
- **The Benefice will be financially self-sustaining and because God is generous the churches will be communities of generous giving and sharing.**
- **The Churches of “The Benefice” will faithfully and imaginatively seek opportunities to share the love of Jesus with those who do not yet know him.**
- **We shall maintain the Priests’ primary focus of ministry, growing disciples and spreading the word of God. A significant and gifted Lay team will actively support in all areas, ensuring that administration and operational aspects do not stifle or reduce the work the Priests are called to do.**
- **The Benefice will actively work in the community creating partnerships to bear the fruits of the Spirit.**
- **The Benefice Churches will be places of true human community, where age and wisdom, youth and childhood will be respected, protected and nurtured.**
- **The Benefice of Faversham will communicate clearly, we will achieve understanding and effectiveness being visible in all that we do.**

# St Mary of Charity

## Faversham



St Mary of Charity, Faversham is a Grade 1 listed building. We are a diverse, interesting and lively group of people who gather regularly not only to worship Christ, but to support and care for each other and our beautiful church - the second largest parish church in Kent. We warmly welcome whoever is called by God to serve among us. We currently provide a good mix and style of worship, which results in us having a very mixed but ageing congregation at the one end and young parents and toddlers at the other, the socio demographic within the church does not equate to the parish population. People come from a range of backgrounds bringing various gifts. As part of this mix, our church has a strong tradition of good quality music including choral and music groups. For some years the priest has been a training incumbent with a number of curates in training and over the past few years, five church family members have been selected to train for ordained ministry. We are strong supporters of Christian Aid and a wide range of other charities. We run a lively parent/carer toddler group – Little Fishes every Thursday and during the summer holidays a vibrant Holiday club. Visit by clicking the link of [St Mary of Charity](#).

# Congregations and Patterns of Worship

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	9.00am	Eucharist (CW Said with Hymns)
	10.30am	All Age Worship (Music Group)
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	9.00am	BCP Said
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist (Choir)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	9.00am	Sung Matins (BCP - Choir led)
	10.30am	All Age Eucharist (Music Group)
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9.00am	Eucharist (BCP Said)
	10.30am	Parish Eucharist (Choir)
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10.00am	Benefice Service



## Special Services

Annually we hold a Hop Festival Service linking with our neighbours Shepherd Neame and a Community Harvest Festival which has strong links with the new Faversham Food Festival. We have a number of festival and civic services and other events which can be found by following the links on our website. We actively encourage the use of our church facilities by as many local organisations as possible, many of whom we have built long-term links with. The local Scout and Guide Associations hold their St George's Day parade followed by a service each year, and the mayor and town council attend a number of services including the annual civic service, service of nine lessons and carols and remembrance service. Local schools attend for educational visits, prize giving ceremonies and seasonal services, and in addition we have other regular users of our buildings for many concerts.



Being a larger-than-average parish church, it lends itself easily to larger formal and informal services and gatherings, including the annual civic service, ordinations and confirmation services. The largest service each year is our Christmas Crib Service, which in 2017 was attended by over 500 children and adults. Our church is always open daily to visitors who come for prayer, historical or architectural research, or for an oasis of peace in a busy life.

## Healing Ministry

There is a long-established healing ministry at St Mary of Charity with a team of authorised lay people trained by the diocese. Much of the ministry is exercised through laying-on of hands in public worship; regular healing services have continued for many years. Additionally two members have completed the Authorised Lay Ministry training in Healing and Wholeness.



## Music

The quality and breadth of music is seen as a strength in the corporate worship at St Mary of Charity, where its role in regular services is highly valued. The musicians work together sharing the different musical traditions and as the civic town church, adapt to be broad in style, in order to reflect the wider community in which Christ calls us to serve.

The church employs a Director of Music (DoM), who oversees the whole ministry of music and musical provisions within the church. The church has a thriving robed choir which includes young people, also a lively music group. The music group has its own leader who works with the DoM.



The choir and the music group work independently as well as collaboratively for feast days and festival services. The DoM has been in post now for over 5 years and has been keen to develop worship, introducing new services throughout the year.

## Other Activities

Our active teams of flower arrangers and 'Hassocks Guild' continue to encourage new people to be involved in the life of the church in a creative way. The Hassocks Guild have skillfully made many hassocks representing life in the town and its people.

The regular 'Parish Lunch' (a hot two-course meal for around 40 - 50 parishioners) is served monthly at the west end of the church for a minimal cost, and the church see this as a vital piece of outreach.

## Young Worship

### LITTLE FISHES

Our parent/carer pre-school group has run for over 20 years. Held on a Thursday morning during term times each week is themed and run by church members and volunteers. Little Fishes has a good group of regular attendees from the local area and is a great way to spend a Thursday morning! The time contain free play, craft activity and snack time for the children. Each meeting ends with a few words about the theme, the Little Fishes' Song and Little Fishes' Prayer.



Each Sunday during the main service we offer activities and teaching for primary-age children. There is a themed week-long [holiday club](#) during August each year which is now entering its 21<sup>st</sup> year with around 70 children attending each day. Our young people support many charities including Christian Aid and The Children's Society. The church's Easter and Christmas services draw in significant numbers of children, as do our numerous baptisms.



### The Challenges

As part of our continuing development, we are aware of some key areas that we need support to develop. With support, the PCC is keen that the church family:

- Continues to encourage each other in sharing the good news of Christ through their own lives and in the community of Faversham
- Supports those within our church family who are training to lead ministry to be proactive, and develop their roles within the church
- Encourages growth of the Church through the younger generations within the community
- Extends care to members of the community who are unable to come to the church building
- Expands our ministry team to include more laity
- Uses their gifts for the growth of the church and the kingdom

# St Peter & St Paul

## Ospringe



The Church of St Peter and St Paul, Ospringe is a Grade 2\* listed building. The Parish of St Peter and St Paul covers the Western and Southern areas of Faversham. It has a population of about 2,100. The church building is on the fringe of the main residential area, in a semi-rural position. It is a historic building, parts of which date back to Norman times, which was heavily restored in Victorian times. The Parish Room was erected at the west end of the nave in 1986. It is used as meeting room and has kitchen and toilet facilities.

Between 1985 and 2006 Ospringe formed part of a Benefice with Eastling and Stalisfield with Otterden. In 2006 the Benefice was suspended and a minister was appointed to serve Ospringe and St. Mary Magdalene and St. Lawrence, Davington. In late 2017 it became part of the newly formed Benefice of Faversham.



## THE PARISH

The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul is in the village of Ospringe, whose main street forms part of the A2 (Roman Watling Street) just south of Faversham town centre.

The parish church is big and imposing. Though rather placed on the fringe of a built-up area, it looks more like a town church than a village one. But the site is no accident; a spring used to rise beside the Victorian bier-house on the opposite side of Water Lane.

Ospringe Church dates from early Norman times, has two Norman doorways and 13th century arches; the tower is modern. The massive font is also Norman.

The church has a fine two-manual organ built in 1870 by Bevington and added to by Walker in 1900. It is regularly maintained and used for most services.

You can find more details on our website clicking this link [Ospringe Church](#)



# Congregations and Patterns of Worship

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	11.15am	Family Communion (short CW)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	11.15am	All Age Worship (Lay Led)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11.15am	Holy Communion
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	11.15am	Morning Praise (Lay & informal)
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10.00am	Benefice Service

*Most of our services are accompanied by a worship band whose keyboard player can also accompany on the organ.*



## Special Services

There are additional services at other times of the year. For example, a Service for the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed around All Soul's Day and "Come to the Manger" on Christmas Eve, both of which always result in a full church with well in excess of 100 people attending. We have occasional healing services and in the summer we sometimes have our non-communion services outdoors.



## Weddings & Baptisms

The church is a very popular venue for weddings and baptisms. We seek to engage with the community through events such as flower festivals and an annual Christmas Tree Festival. The church's own fundraising events are supplemented by events organised by the Friends of Ospringe Church. Various community groups use the church for meetings.

## Our Welcome

We are a committed congregation with members who can assist the minister by leading worship, undertaking pastoral visits and administering the Eucharist at residential homes.



## Style of Worship

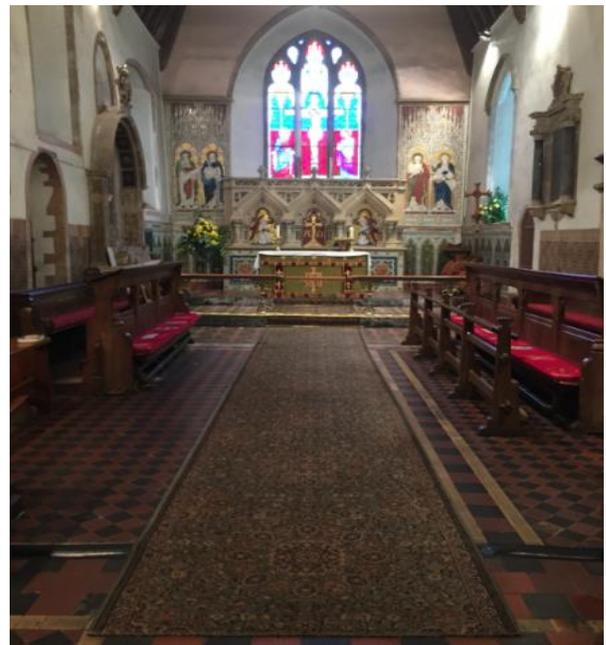
We are a relatively small congregation however we offer a variety of worship styles to suit all tastes. We use the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) for Holy Communion services and at non-liturgical services we use the overhead screen for video clips and power point presentations.

## Financial Position

We strive to be generous and fulfil our Christian mission by supporting other charities. There is a trust fund that meets the cost of any work with children or other expenditure that is of educational benefit to young.

## Church Life

Ospringe has an active team of Tower bell ringers. There are mid-week groups that meet for bible study and prayer. Holy Communion is celebrated in local residential homes. We have a mothers' union branch that meets monthly. Here is a [testimony](#) you might like to watch.



## Young Worship

The church has close links with Ospringe Church of England Primary School and in previous years the Priest has taken assemblies and served as a member of the school governing body, along with other governors nominated by the Parochial Church Council.



## The Challenges

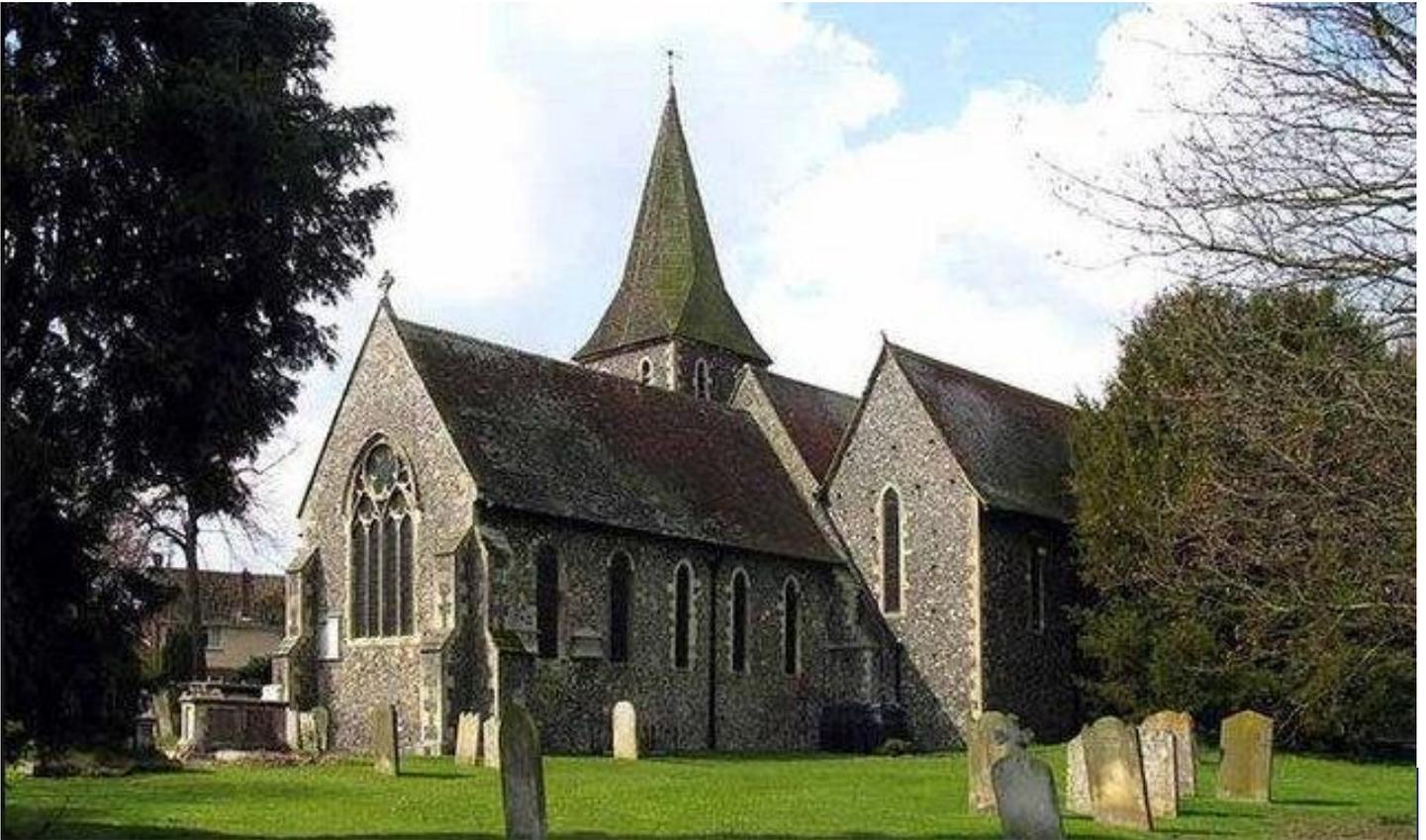
Like many other semi-rural Anglican Churches, Ospringe has experienced a decline in congregation numbers in the recent past. Of particular concern is the fall in families and young people attending church!

Our priority is for the church to grow, both numerically and spiritually. This is to fulfil our Christian mission and to ensure that there continues to be a sustainable worshipping community at Ospringe.

We need support to:

- Develop existing ties with the school and community to encourage more families to attend and be involved in the church
- Nurture new and existing members of the congregation by expanding bible study and prayer groups
- Encourage and enable individuals to develop their own ministries that will further the ministry of the church; consider new ways in which we can reach out to the local community.

# St Catherine's Church, Preston-next-Faversham



The Church of St Catherine, Preston is a Grade 2\* listed building. St Catherine's means friends, inclusion and being valued for who you are. Because of this, St Catherine's is a thriving and vibrant church with all ages present where we grow in faith and numbers every day. We reach out into Faversham to welcome others to share what we have and the wonderful spirituality that abounds within our community. St Catherine's is "high church" and tons of fun. We have a brilliant Sunday School that the kids love; they especially enjoy writing and performing puppet plays in the family services to wide appreciation. Our 14-member choir is outstanding and a recent survey highlighted the quality of music as a huge draw to our church. The prayer group meets every fortnight and we have 2 services most weeks. There is so much going but we always ensure we grow together in Christ.



## THE PARISH

Preston-next Faversham is in the diocese of Canterbury, in the archdeaconry of Maidstone and in the deanery of Ospringe. Preston now forms a suburb to the south of Faversham and is a settlement of Anglo-Saxon origin. Preston itself means Priest's farmstead or manor and from Anglo-Saxon times to the Reformation was owned by the Monks of Christ Church, Canterbury. It is referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Prestetone.

Christians have worshipped at St Catherine's since Saxon times (early 8<sup>th</sup> Century) but the Saxon church was completely rebuilt by the Normans.

Sir John Betjeman in the Collins Pocket Guide to English Parish Churches has described St Catherine's as, "high and distinguished among the railways and breweries".

The population of the Preston parish is about 3000. The parish includes the lower income Love Lane Estate and the more affluent Apple Estate. There is a large secular secondary school and a nursing home for people with learning disabilities (Fynvola Foundation) in the parish. Housing is 70% owner occupied. There is likely to be large housing developments in the parish on the south side of the A2

Adjacent to St Catherine's is the vicarage which is due to be sold by the Diocese and the Preston Schoolroom which is run by the trustees of the Preston Charities.

You can find more details by clicking the following link at [St Catherine's](#)



# Congregations and Patterns of Worship

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	8.00am	Said Eucharist
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist & Sunday School
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist & Sunday School
	6.30pm	Said Evening Prayer
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist & Sunday School
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist & Sunday School
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10.00am	Benefice Service
Each Tues	10.00am	Said Eucharist



## Special Services

St Catherine's has many other services going on during the year such as our Christingle Service, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday Service etc. All of the services are published through our [St Catherine's](#) website with calendar of events and on our [St Catherine's Facebook Page](#)

Everyone is important in our church but the children bring an extra dimension; they are welcome and appreciated for all that they do for St Catherine's.

The children get to plan and run a service during the year which they enjoy enormously. They write puppet plays that are performed at family services and every week they are proud to show the congregation what they have been up to in Sunday School.

Remembrance Sunday was particularly poignant when the youngest children placed poppies they had made out of red paper plates against the altar for all those named on the war memorials in the church. At the centenary of the end of World War 1 they will be putting stems on these and planting them in the grates around the church.



## Our Welcome

Whether you come in for the first time or are a regular, you will be made to feel very welcome. People tend to make friends very easily at St Catherine's. We have a team of people dedicated to making sure you are comfortable when you come in and are introduced to someone so you can "get to know the ropes". Everything is written down in terms of responses and "what to do" and "when", but a friendly aid by your side makes everything a little bit easier still.



## Church Life

Being a member of St Catherine's is like having a giant family. The welfare of everyone is extremely important and we have seen our congregation grow. It seems that most people are involved in helping to run the church in some way. We have a social group that brings together about 10 people who work hard to put on events like the popular Victorian Fayre held in the Alexander Centre each year. We have quizzes, working parties, prayer group, flower arranging and so on.



## Financial Position

St Catherine's prides itself on being able to pay its way in the Anglican Church and contribute as much as possible where it can whilst still supporting various charities, good causes and disaster response requests.

Today, we look for the least costly way to do anything. We buy second hand things we need, minimize expenses where we can, regularly review planned giving and raise as much as we can through charity events. It is expensive to run an active church but with a growing congregation, this becomes a lot easier. Like our downhill skiing penguin friends here, life is easier with momentum.

## Parish Communications

Once a quarter, we hand deliver a parish newsletter to every single house in the parish. In this, we give details of what is happening at St Catherine's with information on Sunday School, services and perhaps the odd puzzle or two. All our events and those of other churches in the benefice are put in our noticeboard in poster form. We actively participate in Churches Together in Faversham and are increasing our visibility in Faversham wherever we can.

We have recently engaged in a social media campaign through Facebook that is proving extremely successful in reaching out as far north as Manchester and as far away as Cyprus.



## Style of Worship

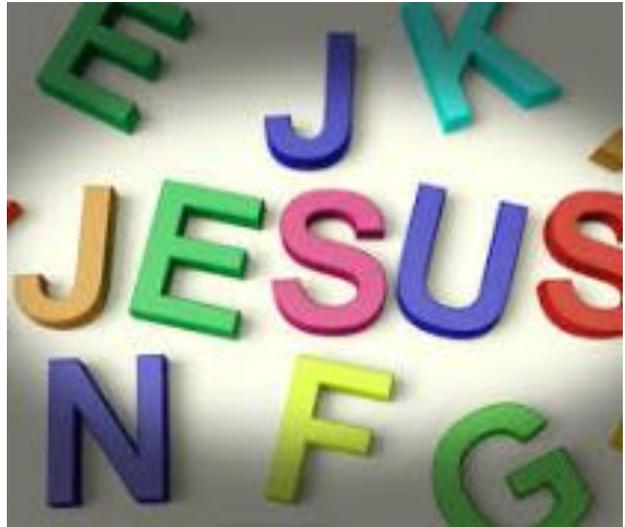
St Catherine's has a strong Tractarian tradition to contribute to the mix of styles in the deanery. The Sunday Eucharist is normally sung and other services said. Worship is to a very high standard liturgically and musically, and attracts a relatively eclectic congregation. The user-friendly Sunday order of service contains the full text of the Eucharist, including readings and any hymns not in the hymnal. Every effort is made to keep to a high standard of preaching at the Parish Eucharist. There is a good team of servers, sides persons and readers to assist. St Catherine's shares many retired priests in order to keep the services offered.

## Young Worship

We have a policy of admitting regularly attending, baptised children to Holy Communion. The children involved follow an additional short course of teaching outside of Sunday School.

This does not replace confirmation, which will still take place at a later age. Those who receive Holy Communion are also being offered the chance to act as servers at some services.

Everybody at St. Catherine's realises that children make noise - and that is fine with us!



## The Challenges

We are a very self-sufficient church but we have needs:

- We need to come together with the other churches in The Benefice of Faversham.
- We want to grow faster and reach out into the community more and share the wonder of Gods spirit and fellowship that is present at St Catherine's. Our communication and outreach can be better than it is today and we are working hard to improve this.
- Kids love our Sunday School and the church loves the kids – we need more kids because it adds a vibrancy and injects life into the church.
- We need to be at the heart of the community again. We need to look at the facilities within the church to see how best to achieve that objective in order to be an attractive and compelling place to be for all ages.
- We are looking for creative approaches to growth in order to continue the work of this church for generations to come.
- We could also do with £1million to repair the church!

# The Brents & Davington

## St Mary Magdalene & St Lawrence



The Church of St Mary Magdalene & St Lawrence, Davington is a Grade 1 listed building. St Mary Magdalene & St Lawrence is in Priory Road. It occupies a prominent position on the Davington ridge to the west of Faversham town centre and can be seen from many neighbouring places. The church serves the Church of England parish of The Brents and Davington, which includes about a third of the town's population. The lively parish frequently arranges social and community events and details of these are publicised locally. Visitors are welcome and details of access to the church are posted on its noticeboard. Play and fun facilities for children are provided in the church. This historic and beautiful building, dating from 1153, is the oldest extant building in the Faversham area. The church is widely regarded as a simple yet exquisite jewel and was originally part of a Benedictine priory founded for a community of 26 nuns. The church is physically connected to Davington Priory.



## THE PARISH

At over 850 years old the church is the oldest building in use in the Faversham area. It began life as the chapel to a Benedictine Priory for a community of nuns. The priory expired just prior to the Reformation and much of its complex of buildings demolished.

When the last nun died in 1535 it fell into decline and was privately owned until 1931 when it was bought by the Church of England.

Much of the surviving fabric is medieval with many interesting features.

With such a long history this beautiful historic building lends itself to quiet reflection and prayer.

Today, the church is in sound condition. Work on the roofs and lych gates were undertaken during 2005. In 2017, substantial work was performed on the rear of the building to improve basic facilities. Construction included the provision of a meeting room, balcony, kitchen and toilet facilities. At the same time the lighting and heating of the church were substantially upgraded.

The parish has a mixed social profile. Some areas comprise private housing developments and estates while others are of real social deprivation. It must be emphasised that Brent's and Davington is a geographical space rather than a village or community.

The population of the parish is settled at approximately 6,000 and rising slowly with small scale new housing being built. A development of 330 houses is due to begin later in 2018. The estimate of the proportion of housing is: owner occupied 75% and local authority/housing association 25%. There are just over 2,000 households.

You can visit our website by clicking our link at [Davington Church](#)

# Congregations and Patterns of Worship

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion + Hymns
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	9.30am	Family Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion + Hymns
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9.30am	Morning Prayer (Lay Led)
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10.00am	Benefice Service



## Special Services

We also hold special services throughout the church year, including Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross on Good Friday (currently Lay led), Remembrance, Christmas Midnight Mass, Crib services on Christmas Eve (we hold 2 as they are very popular) and Commemoration of the Departed.

In addition to the Sunday services, Davington Church runs an informal worship and bible study group called “Café Church” which meets at the West Faversham Community Centre most Wednesday lunchtimes.

Exploring Faith is a monthly informal group (meeting on the last Monday of each month) and involves studying the Bible and visiting places of interest.

## Our Welcome

The Church of St Mary Magdalene and St Lawrence is a welcoming, warm and friendly community-focused Anglican Church. We are located in West Faversham, within the Diocese of Canterbury.

We are a varied community, enriched by people from many different sorts of church backgrounds. We also include Active Church, which meets monthly.



## Church Life

We contribute fully to the life of the town area. Davington Church is included in the Open Houses programme. We offer our church as a stopping place for the Friends of Kent Churches RIDE AND STRIDE all-day event as well as participating in it.

The West Faversham Community Choir holds two concerts a year in church; one in the summer and one as a candlelit concert near to Christmas.

Coffee mornings are held (ad hoc at present) and with the help of especially one member of the congregation we try to have the church open on Saturday mornings.

It is an ideal venue for quiet days and for the smaller gatherings and study sessions and has, since the re-ordering been used by local Parochial Church Council's and those from further afield.



## Financial Position

Davington Church received funding for its reordering project by the closure and sale of the Brents School Room Charitable Trust; members of the congregation also raised a considerable sum towards the cost of the improvements, so the church is not left with substantial debts related to the project. Nevertheless, the church has not been able to pay its full quota to the Diocese for some years. We are not complacent about this and are looking at ways of raising money for the purpose and of opening up new income streams.



## Young Worship

There are two Primary Schools, Davington CPS with over 400 pupils and Bysing Wood CPS with over 200 pupils; there are plans to double the intake of the latter school over the next five years.

Davington School hold their Christmas Service in the church and Bysing Wood School spend some time in church too as part of their curriculum.

Active church is extremely well attended by the "non church" community and held at the West Faversham Community Centre on the 3rd Sunday of every month for children aged 7 and above.

## Active Church

Active Church is a fresh expression's mission to the Western part of Faversham. It is a church family that meets monthly, presently at the West Faversham Community Centre. Active church seeks to reach out to the unchurched, young families and anyone who wants to share in the good news of Jesus Christ. Whilst Active Church is funded by a Diocesan mission grant, the church has actively sought to work with Churches together in Faversham in the provision of this new expression of church.



## The Challenges

We would like to be able to:

- Increase the average Sunday congregation
- Increase the number of actively contributing members of the congregation
- Encourage people to form 'Friends of Davington Church'
- Increase activities to serve the parish community especially re-establishing links with the Primary Schools, with businesses and other groups in the parish.
- Increase annual income whilst driving down costs.
- Increase the use of the church for occasional services and events including more concerts, presentations etc.
- Put a scheme in place to carry out building improvements as proposed and agreed.