



Proposed Faversham Benefice

Rev Steve Lillicrap

Area Dean, Ospringe Deanery

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The Proposed Faversham Benefice: The parishes of St Mary of Charity Faversham, St Mary Magdalene Davington, St Peter & St Paul Ospringe

This post offers an exciting opportunity, to further God's mission in Faversham.

The new proposed Benefice of Faversham reflects the vision of the Mission plan for the Deanery of Ospringe. This is about parishes working collaboratively with one another in being church together.

This post is the first of two planned appointments to the new Benefice, the second (a Team Vicar) to be appointed during 2013 and whom it is envisaged will have a Mission Brief looking towards the needs of West Faversham (where the parish of Davington is situated).

Whilst it is envisaged that the new Priest's main role will be based at St Mary of Charity, (where the Vicarage is) there is further work to be done in leading the parishes to be fully collaborating with one another. There is the opportunity on further building the relationships between the parishes and working with the parishes on the internal structures of the benefice. It is the intention that this person will become the first incumbent of the new benefice.

We are therefore looking for an experienced parish priest who:

- Will be someone who works collaboratively with lay and clergy colleagues
- Is someone with a gift of teaching who is able to train others
- Is someone who is able to develop the gifts of others
- Is someone who is able to relate to all ages
- Will be a leader who is willing and able to bring challenge to the Church communities
- Is someone who is willing and able to engage with the Community

All three parishes in preparing their profiles have recognised the need to engage in growing the church both in areas of discipleship and numerically. They talk about the need to build on the current lay ministry in each of the parishes to further the ministry of the church. All three are concerned with serving the community and whilst naturally there are different emphases in each parish, there is a unity of purpose in the desire to serve the kingdom of God.

We look forward to seeing God's person in place and working with him or her in leading this Benefice forwards under God.

In the Deanery the Clergy meet regularly each week for morning prayer on a Wednesday morning, currently at St Mary of Charity, as well as at Chapter meetings seeking to support one another in prayer and ministry. We look forward to welcoming the new priest to the Deanery in this time of transition amongst all the parishes of the Deanery.

Yours in Christ



Rev Steve Lillicrap, Area Dean

(Initially the appointment is for a Priest-in-Charge of St Mary of Charity, Faversham and as Assistant Curate with special responsibility for Davington and Ospringe whilst they remain part of bigger benefices, until the proposed reorganisation is completed to unite the three parishes into one benefice, subject to a pastoral scheme being put in place).



St Mary of Charity Faversham

We aspire to be a growing vibrant church, rooted in Christ, which reaches out and serves the whole community

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Our Family

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 largest parish church in Kent. We warmly welcome whoever is called by God to serve among us, in this beautiful and unique market town.

We are prayerfully seeking someone to lead the church family in the next stage of our spiritual journey, and we have aspirations that, with our support, our new priest will have the willingness and desire to challenge and take us further on our journey.

We want him/her to continue to help us to take the message of Christ into the community, recognising where people are both in location and spirituality and also to encourage us in our welcome to those who come to us.

He/she will be an experienced, innovative priest who can train others with the gift of teaching and training through prayer, the Gospel and Bible study, with a broad view of liturgy and styles of worship. They will have skills to engage with people of all ages at our various congregations and groups, and to encourage them in unity.

He/she will engage with people throughout the town of Faversham, the schools and the many groups in Faversham, being a leader, an enabler and a motivator.

Lastly, we want him/her to help develop our leaders and people within our church according to their gifts and qualities. To display strong leadership demonstrated by interpersonal skills and sensitivity, insight, and negotiating ability. We want him/her to work with, support and encourage all our church groups.



Where we are successful

We currently provide a good mix and style of worship, which results in us having a very mixed congregation, aged 1 to 100 and come from a range of backgrounds. As part of this mix, our church has a strong tradition of good quality music including choral and music groups.

The church has been blessed with a strong ministry team of both men and women. For some years the priest has been a training incumbent with a number of curates in training, and over the past few years, four church family members have been selected to train for ordained ministry.

The Spire, our bi-monthly magazine is well received, and has a circulation of over 200 (you can read our latest version by visiting www.stmaryofcharity.org/churchmagazine). Our church provides chaplaincies to various organizations in the town including the Almshouses, cottage hospital, RAFA and RBL. We have an active pastoral care team, visits for home communions, and a hospitality team which provides home-cooked food for small and large groups, including a monthly parish lunch which is open to all!

Our church has a willing and proactive PCC which is able to challenge and fulfil the many roles and responsibilities within the church. There is a mix of home groups which meet regularly for prayer and support. We strong supporters of Christian Aid and a wide range of other charities. We are fortunate to have a well established Youth Minister who has developed a successful range of youth activities over the years. These include the more traditional Sunday morning groups, to more recently Youth Alpha at Costa's coffee shop!

Where we need support

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; and
- Expanding our ministry team to include more laity

Our Church

Being a larger-than-average parish church 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 2011 was attended by over 610 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.

The parish boundaries were drawn up in 811, however the first written record of the church is in 1070. The building itself, the largest parish church in Kent, has seen regular 'improvements'. Whilst the exterior is of flint and stone, inside is an elegant Georgian nave designed by George Dance, later restored by Gilbert Scott; the graceful spire of St Mary of Charity is a well-known landmark. The finely carved misericords were probably removed from the adjacent Faversham Abbey before its destruction in 1538. It is also possible that King Stephen's remains were rescued and transferred to the Trinity Chapel following the Dissolution.

There are two double-aisled mediaeval transepts, one of which is used for informal worship and meetings and the other mostly for exhibitions and hospitality. As befits a Grade I listed building, there are fine stained-glass windows and brasses and some interesting monuments. The church's other interesting features include the painted column dating from 1306, the crypt, the watching tower and the timbered treasury.

Inevitably, a church of this size requires a lot of money to maintain and run on a day-to-day basis. We are blessed that the church family is very supportive of all that the church strives for with its many various activities and fundraising. Examples of this include £25,000 needed for replacing the boiler installation some years ago, and this year we have just finished raising £60,000 to repair and refurbish the Trinity Chapel, as well as some other minor repairs to the south aisle ceiling.

There is an excellent peal of eight bells, four of which date from 1748, having been cast for an earlier tower on the site. The oldest peal board displayed in the tower dates back more than 200 years. The ringers are proud to maintain and carry forward the tradition of bell ringing and ring for morning service every Sunday throughout the year.



Restoration and Development

The Restoration Appeal Fund is a separate registered charity set up 25 years ago with the responsibility of holding and administering the trust fund for the restoration, major repairs and improvement of the building. The trustees are drawn from the church, the town council and others.

In the last 25 years there has been extensive restoration and maintenance work. This includes re-leading the roofs, stonework repairs, renewal of rain-water drainage systems, re-ordering and restoring the transepts, redecorating the nave and repairing and redecorating the north aisle ceiling and clerestory, with nearly £2 million being raised and spent.

Proposed improvements to the church in the future include improved provision of access for the disabled, upgraded toilets, a kitchen, office and meeting room.

Our Churchyard

Our four-acre churchyard is crossed by public footpaths and provides a unique opportunity for the enjoyment of an extremely rich and diverse wildlife environment in the centre of Faversham and is easily accessible.

An active team of volunteers manages and enriches this environment. It is regularly used by people seeking a moment of quiet, visiting the Garden of Rest or seeking forebears. Children enjoy the open areas for picnics at Holiday Club in the summer and the annual Easter egg hunt.

The Vicarage

Situated about 200 yards from the church, the vicarage is a spacious double fronted Edwardian house with five bedrooms, two reception rooms, office and off-street parking. There is a modern kitchen, a utility room and a medium sized garden. The inside has been recently decorated in neutral colours and the side and front original sash-windows fitted with secondary double glazing. A new monitored alarm system has been installed.



Outreach

Part of our mission is 'to reach out and serve the whole community'. We try to do this through a number of different ways. We actively encourage our church facilities to be used 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, concerts, prize giving ceremonies and seasonal services, and in addition we have other regular users of our buildings.

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.

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 skilfully made many hassocks representing life in the town and its people, and our flower arrangers recently masterminded a very successful flower festival attracting many visitors to the church.

Built to InSpire Project

In 2002 we launched the 'Built to InSpire' church heritage project, which has developed a creative range of historical and educational resources funded through grants awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. These materials are produced to a high, professional standard, and have achieved national recognition for the breadth and quality of presentation and content.

The core activity of Built to InSpire is making accessible to as many people as possible, of all ages, the exploration of Christian heritage and the history and role of the church in the community. The project has an established web site (www.builttoinspire.org), and fresh ideas to develop the project further are under discussion.



Pastoral Care

Clergy from St Mary of Charity have traditionally been chaplain to Faversham Cottage Hospital, the Faversham Branch of the Royal British Legion and RAFA. In addition, our clergy have been invited to be chaplains to the Faversham Almshouses and the Mayor of Faversham. There are six homes for the elderly in the parish as well as many sheltered housing schemes, many of which receive visits from the the Pastoral Care Team formed of the clergy and several trained lay people. The congregation and the choir support services held in the hospital day room and at other local sheltered accommodation.

The Pastoral Care team ensures that fragile members of God's family receive regular visits and calls. Those being visited are not necessarily church family, and no pressure is put upon them to start coming to the church.

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 ALM training in Healing and Wholeness.

Little Fishes

Our parent and pre-school group has run for over 15 years. Held on a Thursday morning during term times each meeting is themed and run by church members and volunteers. Little Fishes has a good group of regular attendees from several of the parishes in the local area and is a great way to spend a Thursday morning! The meetings 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.

St Mary of Charity Primary School

It is important that our ministry team encourages and actively supports the continued development of the relationship between our church and school (located close to the church). We are privileged of having a member of the ministry team on the teaching staff which adds new and innovative benefits in support of our school families.

The St Mary's After School Hour (SMASH) club for children, supported by church members, is increasingly popular. The Prayer Station events are appreciated by the children (and accompanying adults), and both children and parents have been baptised and confirmed as a result of these school links. In 2010 the school chapel was re-instated and is now used on a regular basis.

We also have strong links with our neighbouring grammar school, as well as several other schools that visit the church throughout the year as part of their curriculum activities. They also attend for specific occasions, Christmas, end of year services and prize-giving, etc.

Growing in Faith

Children and Youth Ministry

The Flame Children and Youth Ministry is co-ordinated by our Authorised Youth Minister and supported by members of our congregation.

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 15th year with around 70 children attending each day. Last year we launched Holiday Club+, a bi-monthly morning of games, craft and teaching. There are also regular sleepovers in the church.

Our Church Youth Fellowship Association group, meeting twice monthly, is now in its seventh year, enjoying regular discussions and social events with a weekend away each year. We have now run two successful Youth Alpha courses based in Costa Coffee in the adjacent Tesco's supermarket.

Our young people are regularly involved in church worship, having led two services over the past year, and support many charities including Christian Aid and The Children's Society. The church's Easter and Christmas services draw in significant numbers of children.

Men's Group

The Men's Group meets monthly, sometimes with a set agenda but often ad hoc in a local pub ... discussions are always lively! The group is open to all; it does not have a particular evangelistic role but it does play its part in God's mission. Occasional additional events have a specific Christian focus or an extended opportunity to socialise together.

Home Groups

Home groups play an important part in the spiritual, social, and pastoral life of St Mary of Charity. Currently, 50-60 people are connected to seven groups. Each group demonstrates resourcefulness and initiative, choosing topics and materials suited to their group's needs.



Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs)

Fourteen people have been put forward for training as Authorised Lay Ministers since 2007. Of these three have since gone forward to train for ordained ministry. The ministry courses completed cover Worship Leading, Mission Enabling, Healing, Children's Ministry and Pastoral Care.

ALMs are involved with the FLAME children's groups on Sundays, home groups and participate in Sunday and evening prayer services. They are also active members of the Pastoral Care team including taking services at the Almshouses.

The Tuesday Group

The ladies welcome all who would like to join them for fellowship and friendship; new members of the congregation find 'The Tuesday Group' a good way of making friends within the church and town. Meetings are in homes and other venues, for coffee and a chat, book exchanges, speakers, demonstrations and charitable fund raising with at least one outing and one party each year.

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 valued equally with preaching. The musicians work together sharing the differing musical traditions and, as the civic town church, are 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 within the church. The church has a thriving robed choir and a music group. In addition we are fortunate to have an Associate Organist, Assistant Organist and an Associate Choir Director. The music group has its own leader who works with the DoM in selecting worship songs. Having been in post for 12 over years, our DoM has just recently left the post to train for ordained ministry, and we are in the process of appointing to this post. The church family enjoy a mix of both traditional and more contemporary music.



Finances

The church is a registered charity (No.1128854) and files accounts with the Charity Commissioners. We are solvent and pay our parish share in full. Below is the balance sheet from our 2011 accounts. A full set of accounts is available on request.

St Mary of Charity Parish Church, Faversham Report and Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2011					
Balance Sheet As at 31st December, 2011					
	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>	<u>Designated Funds</u>	<u>Restricted Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	
				<u>2011</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets					1,421
Current Assets					
Debtors & Prepayments (note 9)	10,184			10,184	13,574
Investments (note 8)		27,412	4,723	32,135	30,158
Cash at Bank and in hand	38,622	1,906	7,593	48,121	72,346
	<u>48,806</u>	<u>29,318</u>	<u>12,316</u>	<u>90,440</u>	<u>116,078</u>
Current Liabilities					
Creditors & Accruals: Amounts falling within 1 year (note 10)	21,730			21,730	28,982
Net Current Assets less Current Liabilities	<u>27,076</u>	<u>29,318</u>	<u>12,316</u>	<u>68,710</u>	<u>87,096</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	<u>27,076</u>	<u>29,318</u>	<u>12,316</u>	<u>68,710</u>	<u>88,517</u>
Other Creditors: Amounts falling after 1 year					
Total Net Assets less Liabilities	<u>27,076</u>	<u>29,318</u>	<u>12,316</u>	<u>68,710</u>	<u>88,517</u>
Represented By:					
Unrestricted					
General Fund	27,076			27,076	38,196
Designated					
Bell Ringing Fund		493		493	141
Choir Fund		1,166		1,166	1,502
Development Fund		27,413		27,413	26,325
Children & Youth Ministry		246		246	286
Restricted					
Built to Inspire			7,593	7,593	15,138
Music Fund					491
Organ Fund			4,723	4,723	3,438
Papworth Legacy					3,000
Total Funds of the Church	<u>27,076</u>	<u>29,318</u>	<u>12,316</u>	<u>68,710</u>	<u>88,517</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 29 March 2012 and signed on its behalf by:

Planned Giving at St Mary of Charity is carried out either by standing order or by weekly envelope using cash or cheque. A TRIO (The Responsibility Is Ours) campaign held at the end of 2011 produced additional giving in excess of £10,000 in a full year.

Faversham

One of England's most charming and historic market towns, Faversham is in the heart of rural Kent, but with excellent road and rail links to London and beyond. With first-class accommodation, outstanding attractions, fine food and drink and wonderful walking routes, Faversham is an exceptional place to live, explore and enjoy. The town holds the record for the highest temperature ever recorded in the UK, 38.5c.

Archaeological studies show that a pre-Roman settlement existed on the site and Faversham was recorded in the Domesday Book; it also has a recently authenticated copy of the Magna Carta. 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 continued due to trade through the port. The town centre contains many original medieval houses and an Elizabethan Guildhall.

Faversham is roughly equidistant between Sittingbourne and Canterbury. It lies 48 miles (77 km) east of London, off the London-to-Dover A2 road, 18 miles (29 km) north east of Maidstone and 9 miles (14 km) west of Canterbury.

The historic central area, especially the part-pedestrian parts between the station and the creek, attracts visitors, who can learn about the town's history and features at the Fleur-de-Lis centre, which provides tourist information and houses a museum. There is still a regular market (which dates back over 700 years) several days each week in the market square where the Guildhall stands. Nearby streets feature old pubs, almshouses, shops and a growing collection of art galleries and restaurants.

Industries historically based in Faversham include ship-building, brick-making, explosives and brewing. Kent is famous for hop-growing and Faversham was formerly home to several breweries, of which only Shepherd Neame survives. In the last few years Shepherd Neame has held its annual shareholders' meeting in the church.

More information on Faversham town can be found at: www.faversham.org.



The Small Print

Parish:	Faversham
Name of Parish Church:	St Mary of Charity
Deanery:	Ospringe
Church Hall:	None
Population:	Faversham - currently 18,600; parish 9,980 (approx)
Number on Electoral Roll:	195; 65% of the parochial/electoral roll reside within the parish boundaries
Circulation of magazine:	200+
Ministry Team:	Rev Nick Ash, part-time non-stipendiary priest Rev Ros Parrett, retired priest with PTO Mr Dennis Parrett Mr Colin Pengelly
Area Dean:	Rev Stephen Lillicrap
Churchwardens:	Mr Dennis Parrett 16 Hilton Close, Faversham, ME13 8NN Tel: 01795 530380 Mr Colin Pengelly 43 Lammas Gate, Abbey Street, Faversham ME13 7ND Tel: 01795 531300
PCC Secretary (honorary):	Mrs Mary Wimlett
Parish Administrator (paid):	Ms Catriona Cuthbert

Service Pattern:

	9.00 am	10.30 am	Evening
First Sunday	Sung Matins (BCP)	Parish Communion	
Second Sunday	Holy Communion (BCP)	Parish Communion	Re:Fresh
Third Sunday	Holy Communion (CW)	Morning Worship	Choral Evensong (BCP)
Fourth Sunday	Holy Communion (BCP)	Parish Communion	
Fifth Sunday	Holy Communion (BCP)	Parish Communion	

The Parish Church of St Mary of Charity
Church Road.
Faversham
Kent
ME13 8GZ

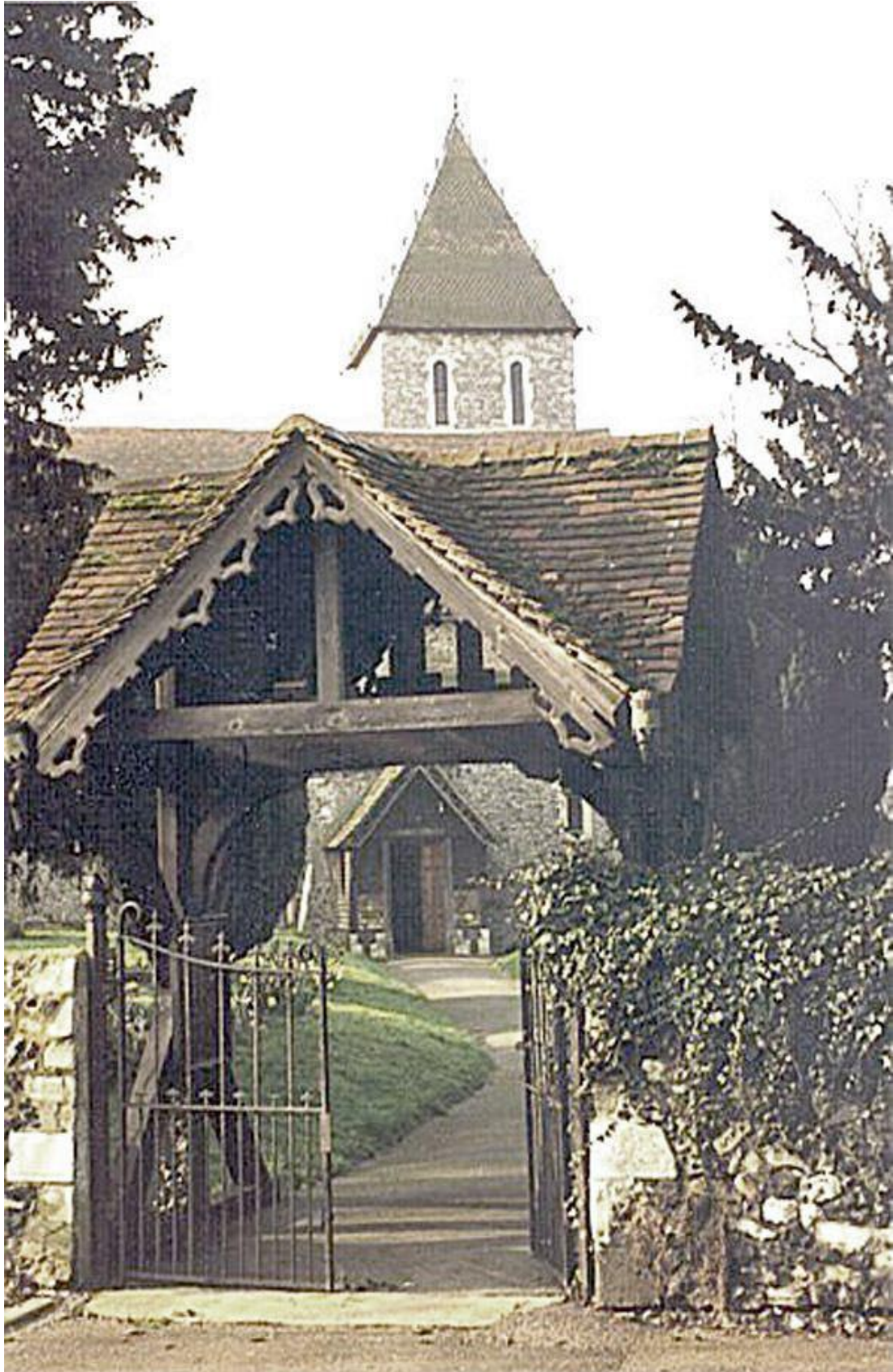
www.stmaryofcharity.org
www.builttoinspire.org

Registered Charity: 1128854



The Brent's & Davington Parish Profile

St Mary Magdalene Davington



The Brent's & Davington Parish Profile July 2012

The Parish of Davington

The Brent's and Davington Parish is located on the inner western outskirts of Faversham, a market town in the County of Kent's Borough of Swale, ten miles west of Canterbury.

The population of the parish is settled at approximately 6,000 and rising slowly with small scale new housing being built. The estimate of the proportion of housing is: owner occupied 75%; local authority/housing association 25%. There are just over 2,000 households.

The parish has a mixed social profile, chiefly it comprises private housing developments and estates, but with some areas of real social deprivation. It must be emphasised that Davington is a community and is not really a village.

There are a number of small industrial units within the parish and some major employers including the Marks and Spencer logistics company GIST, the foundry BMM Weston, the aggregate company Bretts and the oldest Brewery in the country, Shepherd Neame. Sainsbury and Morrison have recently opened major shopping facilities within the parish, and there are a small number of convenience stores in the immediate locality.

As Davington has grown through the construction of housing estates during the second half of the last century, there are no real community focal points such as a Village Hall. There is however, one community centre, the rebuilt Bysing Wood Community Hall that was recently visited by Bishop Trevor for the Millennium Big Lunch.

There are two Primary Schools, Davington CPS with in excess of 400 pupils and Bysing Wood CPS with almost 200 pupils.

There is a home for the elderly, Kiln Court and a care home, Osborne court.

The Church and the sale of the Lodge

At over 850 years old the church is the oldest building in use in the Faversham area. It has had a colourful history, for a little more detail please see the short guide.

The church is basically in sound condition. Work on the roofs and lych gates were undertaken during 2005. A quinquennial survey of the PCC facilities will be due at the end of the Interregnum.

The lodge, which unfortunately being neither sound nor practical was generally unsuitable for the Church's needs. After much deliberation dating back to 2005 a decision during 2011 was made by the then Priest and PCC to sell the property with help from the diocese to Sir Bob Geldof, owner of the Priory. This has recently completed and it is hoped some of the proceeds from the sale will be put towards improved recreational facilities within the Church envelope.

Interior of Davington Church



Regular Church Services

We have a regular selection of services together with other worship group meetings all outlined as follows :-

A sung communion on Sundays at 9.30am: Average congregation twenty-five adults and four children and again is conducted as a Common Worship Service. One of these is a Family Service held monthly.

A said communion at 9.30am on Thursdays, with a quiet, meditative character: Average congregation is six and is conducted as a Common Worship Service.

On the last Sunday of each Month there is a 9.30am Lay-led Common Worship Service in the morning and a 6.00pm Sung Eucharist in the evening.

A stations of the cross Service is held early on Good Friday together with an All Souls Service and the celebration of Advent held on evenings in November and December.

Exploring Faith is held monthly and organises visits to other religious properties such as Rochester and Canterbury Cathedrals.

A Healing and Wholeness Prayer Group is held Monthly.

The services are predominantly sacramental in a liberal/catholic tradition. This fits in with the broad choice of worship styles within the Faversham Town Ministry Group.

Hymns are generally taken from the New English Hymnal. The laity undertakes duties on Sundays including verging, serving, reading and intercessions. During 2011 there were 8 Baptisms, 8 Weddings, 1



Members of the Church team

The parish is very much part of the Deanery and specifically the Town Ministry Group. Clergy from this group assist in the taking of services.

We have a core of active and retired clergy from around the Diocese who share the Sunday and Thursday services.

There is a strong lay team including :-

Churchwardens	Mrs Sue Hawkes and Mrs Janet Harrow.
Deputy Churchwarden	Mrs Audrey Hess.
PCC Secretary	Ms Elizabeth Walsh.
Treasurer and Stewardship	Mrs Ashley Sayewell.
Standing Committee	Mrs Sue Hawkes, Mrs Janet Harrow, Ms Elizabeth Walsh and Mrs Ashley Sayewell.
Senior Sides-person	Mrs Dorothy Neame.
Organists	Mr Adrian Oliver. Mrs Margaret Woodall and Mr Markham Chesterfield
Choir	Mrs Anne Tillman
Service Administrator & Crucifier	Mr Bryan Alexander
Worship Planning Pastoral Care Team	Ms Elizabeth Walsh (Worship Leader) Mrs Sue Hawkes (Pastoral Assistant) Mrs Janet Harrow (Pastoral Assistant) Mrs Maureen Gregory (Mission Enabler).
Bell Ringer	Mr Robin Sayewell
Baptism & Wedding Bookings	Mrs Sue Hawkes
Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator and Disclosure Officer	Mrs Sue Hawkes
Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator	Ms Elizabeth Walsh
Electoral Role Officer	Mrs Dorothy Neame
Buildings Project Manager	Mr Robin Sayewell
Parish Magazine	Mr Tony Baker

Parish Organisations

We have the following as part of our Church Family :-

A Children's group held upon parents and children's attendance. A Children's activity morning on Good Friday. Two children's crib service/Christingles on Christmas Eve. Harvest Festival & Flower Festival to coincide with the Friends of Kent Churches Bike Ride. Various social events throughout the year including photographic evenings, music evenings, floral demonstrations and concerts.

Work with other Parishes

Davington is part of the Town Ministry Group. We share the celebrations on special days such as meditations on Good Friday and other services such as Ash Wednesday. Members of our congregation attend groups such as the Mothers Union at Faversham Parish Church

Ecumenical links

There is a strong Church Together in Faversham Group which is particularly prominent at Christmas and Easter and during Christian Aid Week. There is an annual flower festival at the Catholic Church in Faversham where we take part.

Parish support

The secretarial support is currently shared with Ospringe and the parish office is currently the study in the vicarage.

A Deanery administration support function is being investigated.

Financial situation

The Parish income and contribution to the Diocese has increased dramatically over the last six years. However, we have not managed to pay our quota for some years which since having shared the previous Priest with Ospringe, this was increased considerably by the Diocese.

We have undertaken Stewardship campaigns but we are now looking at opening up new income streams.



Vision and Mission Statement

Our Vision and Mission statement is outlined in summary below and we have set ourselves some goals for this year :-

- Increase average Sunday congregation
- Increase active contributing members of the congregation
- Establish a Friends of Davington Church
- Increase electoral roll Increase activities to support the parish community especially re-
- establishing links with the Primary Schools and with businesses and other groups in the parish.
- Increase annual income whilst driving down costs.
- Increase the use of the church including a higher number of baptisms, weddings and events
- (concerts, presentations etc).
- Create an active Young Church – increase number of children registered and increase the
- number of active Sundays
- Put a scheme in place to carry out building improvements as proposed and agreed with
- Diocesan Planner

The Future shared Priest for Davington

(This discussion reflects the thinking that also includes the Priest who will be appointed as the second appointment to the proposed Faversham Benefice)

The Brent's & Davington PCC are fully appreciative that there will be the likelihood they will be sharing a full time Priest with the two other parishes affected by the future streamlining proposed. For the last six years we shared our priest with Ospringe PCC which has a larger congregation and facility than our own.

However the PCC considers it has a number of priorities that needs assistance from a part time Priest to be worked upon as follows :-

1. To reach out to our local community in mission in order to strengthen the Church of England in our parish and increase the 'membership'.
2. Feed the existing members of the congregation spiritually through lively and challenging worship and through Bible and other study.
3. Contribute to serving the community. Build up and participate in a lively and fulfilling social scene for parishioners, which will also be attractive to fringe members and outsiders.
4. Continue to bring into order its administration and continue to carry out future changes in accordance with faculty and planning permission guidance.

To attain these goals the PCC considers the parish will require an interested part time priest who has a number of clearly defined skills and qualities. The PCC considers our priest should be someone who:-

- has proven commitment to all the parishes growth and mission.
- believes mission and growth should be achieved through the promotion of and adherence to spiritual values with a human and homely touch.
- is people orientated, socially comfortable with a wide range of people and who will be able to work productively with the parish's primary schools.
- will actively build and operate a team-working ethos with parishioners, building mutual trust and shared goals.whose churchmanship and worship centres around the Sacraments, but who is willing to experiment constructively within that tradition.
- has a proven ability to dedicate themselves to a parish, retain it as his or her prime focus for their work and to approach their tasks with energy and verve.
- likes to enjoy themselves in their work, likes to occasionally go to the pub, and likes to sit chatting in people's summer gardens and who wants to become a living part of the community in which he or she works.

An additional duty for the shared Priest would to become a member of the trustees for the Brents School Room Trust, which acts as a separate entity away from the Davington Parish. The other members of the trust are normally also members of the Davington PCC. The trustees meet 4 times a year and the Trust gives money for things within the parish of The Brents and Davington.

The PCC has been through three interregnums within the last twelve years, and is fully experienced in sharing priests of all shapes and sizes, of either sex. We are not generally concerned as to whether they are single, married or divorced and if he or she has a family, their involvement will be most welcomed.

THE CHURCH AND PARISH OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL OSPRINGE



PARISH PROFILE

October 2012

The Parish

The Parish covers the Western and Southern areas of Faversham. It has a population of about 2100. The Church building is on the fringe of the main residential area, in a semi-rural position. It is an 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.



Congregation and patterns of worship

We are a relatively small congregation, the average Sunday attendance in October 2011 being 32, although numbers have fallen slightly to about the mid 20's since our PiC left in April 2012. We offer a variety of worship styles to suit all tastes: from BCP Holy Communion to non-liturgical services with use of the overhead screen for video clips and powerpoint presentations. The usual pattern of services each month is as follows:

1st Sunday	11.15 am	<i>First Sunday</i> an informal service using powerpoint, with worship led by the music group
	6 pm	Evensong (April to October only), led by the Choir
2nd Sunday	11.15 am	Holy Communion (CW), with organ and music group during Communion. Sunday School in the Parish Room during the service
3rd Sunday	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11.15 am	Family Service, an informal service using powerpoint with music led by Music Group
4th Sunday	11.15 am	Family Communion (shortened CW), with both organ and music group. Sunday School in the Parish Room during the Service.
5th Sunday		An occasional service e.g. praise or healing service.

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 on a full church with well in excess of 100 people attending. We also have an annual outdoor picnic praise service.



Church Life and involvement in the Community

Ospringe has an active team of Tower bellringers, a team of hand bell ringers and a small choir. There are mid-week groups that meet for bible study and prayer. Holy Communion is celebrated in local residential homes. We have a Mother's Union branch that meets monthly.

Each month a free magazine is distributed to every home in the Parish. It serves as a valuable means of communication between the Church and the Parish.

The Church seeks to engage with the Community through events such as flower festivals and an annual Christmas Tree Festival. The Church's own fund raising events are supplemented by events organised by the Friends of Ospringe Church.

The Church has close links with Ospringe Church of England Primary School. The PiC takes assemblies and is a member of the school governing body, along with other governors nominated by the PCC.



Financial Position

Whilst we have always paid our quota share, in the past few years we have had to utilise our reserves to meet our outgoings and our financial position will soon become unsustainable unless this is addressed. (This is being so through the proposed Faversham Benefice)

There is a Trust Fund that meets the cost of any work with children or other expenditure that is of educational benefit to young people.



What we offer

The PCC currently pays for a Parish administrative assistant to work 2 hours per week and hopes to continue this support for the new Clergy team. We are a committed congregation with members who can assist the minister by leading worship, undertaking baptism preparation and pastoral visits and administering the Eucharist at residential homes.



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. This has had an inevitable impact on the Church's financial position (see above) which will need to be addressed for the Church to remain financially sustainable.



What We Need

This discussion reflects the thinking that also includes the Priest who will be appointed as the second appointment to the proposed Faversham Benefice

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. The new incumbent will need 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.

The PCC is not concerned with the applicant's age, sex or marital status. The successful applicant will need to be energetic, work well with others and probably need a good sense of humour!



