



# 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](http://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](http://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 2011</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible Assets					1,421
<b>Current Assets</b>					
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>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Creditors & Accruals: Amounts falling within 1 year (note 10)	21,730			21,730	28,982
<b>Net Current Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	<u>27,076</u>	<u>29,318</u>	<u>12,316</u>	<u>68,710</u>	<u>87,096</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	<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					
<b>Total Net Assets less Liabilities</b>	<u>27,076</u>	<u>29,318</u>	<u>12,316</u>	<u>68,710</u>	<u>88,517</u>
<b>Represented By:</b>					
<b>Unrestricted</b>					
General Fund	27,076			27,076	38,196
<b>Designated</b>					
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
<b>Restricted</b>					
Built to Inspire			7,593	7,593	15,138
Music Fund					491
Organ Fund			4,723	4,723	3,438
Papworth Legacy					3,000
<b>Total Funds of the Church</b>	<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](http://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](http://www.stmaryofcharity.org)  
[www.builttoinspire.org](http://www.builttoinspire.org)

Registered Charity: 1128854

