

Churches Together News Spring 2026

FUTURE EVENTS

Lent Lunches 20th February to 27th March 2026. 12 Noon until 1pm.

These are an annual social event which raises money for the Churches Together Charity of the year. Traditionally 6 churches will organise a week each. Soup is served with bread butter and cheese followed by a hot drink. Cold water is available to drink. A donation is requested of £4 per person.

No VENUE as yet. There are possibilities which are being looked into.

The venue will need to seat 40-60 people at tables, have a kitchen suitable for reheating soup and making tea/coffee and have crockery to serve soup, bread etc. and hot drinks. It also needs to be in a central location and not cost anything.

Dan Corcoran will organise which church has which week using a Doodle-poll when a venue is decided.

World Day of Prayer - 6th March 2026. Was Women's Day of Prayer - now renamed World Day of prayer, that is organised by women. Sarah Williams and Jennifer Dawson Bowling are organising with the assistance of Andrew Fergusson, Becky Lehman, Jan Negus, Anna Lagana, Kate Martin, and Gail Rowlands. It will be held at 4pm at the Baptist Church on 6th March. They will be getting posters out. Dan thanked the group for organising.

Walk of Witness and Gathering around the Cross in the Market - 3rd April 2026.

We will be following the same plan as in previous years and leaving from the United Church, Preston Street at 10.30. Due to the higher numbers last year, the road needs to be closed a little earlier and Dan will speak to Claire at the council to action this. In addition to the activity last year, there will be a parody of Hallelujah being performed which will last 6 minutes. It will involve dancing, singing and acting and will be organised by Naomi Smith and other professionals. This will have a sound system separate to speech. Mission Brass will be accompanying the singing.

The words to the songs will be available online, in a similar arrangement to the Carols event.

Churches Together in Faversham AGM Thursday 21st May

Venue to be announced. All church members of any member church welcome to attend.

Membership entitles each church to one minister and 2 lay persons.

Upcoming vacancies for Chairperson and Treasurer

As both the Chairperson and Treasurer are intending to stand down at the AGM, replacements are urgently required. At this stage no-one has stepped forward. Everyone is encouraged to consider all options and reminded that usually the Chair alternates between clergy/church leaders and lay persons so anyone suitable can be considered. Next chair should be a lay person.

Pentecost Praise 24th May 2026. Last year was the first time for this event. Discussions are being held regarding a similar event being arranged this year. St Marys seems to be the likely location as it is available and it worked well last year. Please get in touch if you want to be involved.

REPORTS

Carols in the Market Place - 23rd December 2025. Firstly thanks to the Mission Band for their absolutely glorious performance. It was estimated that there were approximately 2000 people attended the event, which was a fantastic result. Faversham Radio and Faversham TV who streamed the event live. People were listening from all over the country.

FOODBANK Jan Negus gave us a report to update us at the year end. Jan confirmed that the trend for 2025 was similar to previous years, and showed ongoing high demand. In December 2024 they provided 1808 meals, and April to December 2025 the total was appx 17,500 meals. They have been operating since 2023 with a counsellor, Dawn Kelly. This was paid for by a 2 year grant from Trussell Trust with ongoing support from Porchlight/CAP. The funding ends in November 2026 and they are currently looking at ways of continuing the funding. Dawn has made a significant difference whilst she has been based at the Foodbank by working with clients to ensure that they are maximising their income and budgeting. Surveys have also supported that she is widely trusted and valued. The Experiment of providing foodbank services at Eastling yielded a lot of information and will be useful in shaping future provision. Costs are increasing, and the Trustees are currently looking at drawing up a fund-raising strategy. They thank Churches Together in Faversham for their ongoing support. Members requested that the figure needed be shared with CTIF. The current venue still has problems regarding parking, but it is a good venue and it works.

FACE. Stephanie Wolfe provided us with an update on the work of FACE. They are currently focussing on decorating houses as the weather makes gardening problematic. In December they decorated 8 houses. They are currently short of a volunteer gardener, and asked that this could be kept in mind should anyone hear of any suitable applicants. They have urgent need to replace the Sittingbourne van, which will need at least £10,000 for a good secondhand replacement. They are trying to seek funding but this is proving difficult. Fundraising activities are in hand, including a Gospel Mission Band concert on May 14th at the Alexander Centre (this will possibly be relocated due to fire). Requests are made for raffle prizes. The second event is their Annual Plant Sale, which will be in the Market Square on May 9th. There were no questions

HOPE Faversham Youth Sarah Williams delivered a written report, a copy of which is attached to the minutes. Sarah showed a lovely video which has been produced by Wes at Barton of the HOPE sessions. A link to the video will be forwarded to all. There were no questions

OTHER MATTERS Rosemary Bending advised us that the Methodist Synod will be asked to cease the activities of the **United Church** in April, and will be finishing and closing in May/June with a final service. The United Church was formed by a merger between the Methodist Church and the United Reform Church formerly in Newton Road when the latter closed.

The Guild, an adult fellowship group for men and women, which meets at the United Church twice a month on Monday afternoons will continue to meet there until the church closes. They invite different speakers to give a talk on many varied topics at their meetings, some christian and some secular as well as singing hymns and praying. Discussions are ongoing as to where they will meet once the church closes.

Prayers, best wishes and blessings were extended to all at the United Church as they get through this challenge.