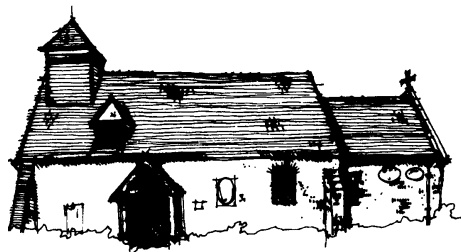


Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

for the parishes of Michelmersh, Awbridge,
Braishfield, Timsbury and Farley Chamberlayne June

AUGUST 2021

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BRAISHFIELD

including the parishes of Michelmersh, Awbridge, Braishfield,
Timsbury and Farley Chamberlayne

Rector: Vacant until 29.07.21 from 01.08.21 Revd Tom Benson 01794 368335

Associate Priest: Revd Jane Thompson 01794 502035
Jane.Thompson@me.com

Hon. Assistant Priest: The Very Revd. Trevor Beeson

Church Wardens

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Awbridge | Mr Fred Tucker | 01794 340709 |
| | Mrs. Mary Savage | 01794 367908 |
| Braishfield | Mr. Andrew Brooks | 01794 523928 |
| | Miss Sarah Boothman | 01794 368143 |
| Farley Chamberlayne | Mr. Iain Chisholm | 01794 368250 |
| | Miss Hannah Boothman | 01794 368143 |
| Michelmersh | Mrs. Clare Harvey | 01794 368789 |
| | Mr. Peter Hill | 01794 523364 |
| Timsbury | Mrs. Catherine Baker | 01794 368364 |
| | Dr. John Glasspool | 01794 368017 |

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Benefice Administrator: Sarah Boothman

Items for 5 Alive

may be sent to Sarah at the
Benefice Office by post or
email.

**Deadline for
next edition**

Monday 23rd August

next edition
of Five Alive
will be available by
Sunday 25th August

Rev Jane Thompson writes:

Summer is here and, as I write, so is the sun! While sadly the Covid case numbers are rising, so much else seems really positive: weddings and baptisms are back, 8am services at Farley and Michelmersh have resumed, we are planning for an altogether Benefice Tea AND TOM IS ARRIVING! In fact by the time you read this Tom and Maryanne will be moved in and his collation, licensing and induction service will be imminent, if not already happened.

It has been an extraordinary two years, nothing that any of us could have envisaged, or indeed would have wanted to. However, we have pulled together, supported one another and, ably led by our church wardens, have not just survived but grown together as a Benefice. It seems to me that we have a greater understanding of one another and with that better understanding comes an appreciation of our differences; this new perspective, this new understanding, this deepening maturity in our faith, stands us in really good stead as we open the next chapter in our life together as a Benefice.

Today's psalm, 136, reads:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. *His love endures forever.*

Give thanks to the God of gods. *His love endures forever.*

Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love endures forever.*

to him who alone does great wonders, *His love endures forever.*

who by his understanding made the heavens, *His love endures forever.*

who spread out the earth upon the waters, *His love endures forever.*

who made the great lights, *His love endures forever.*

the sun to govern the day, *His love endures forever.*

the moon and stars to govern the night; *His love endures forever.*

His love endures forever; other translations read *for His mercy endures for ever*. Despite all we have been through, can we perceive where we have received God's mercy abundantly and/or God's love constantly whether through one another, through creation or in all the other varied ways? We are always learning about God, but these two years have brought very specific opportunities, both in sadness and in joy, to open ourselves up afresh to God's love and mercy. In the light of our experiences together I believe we are more ready than ever, excited and keen to discover where God will take us next!

His Love endures for ever written (2010) by Samuel Martin and Simon Katz:

His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise

Forever, God is faithful
Forever, God is strong
Forever, God is with us

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God, we will carry on
His love endures forever

Sung (2011) by Chris Tomlin
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUH_NzfRmbs



Welcoming our new Rector, Revd Tom Benson

We are delighted that Tom will be licensed on Thursday 29th July at St Mary's Michelmersh as Rector of our 5 parishes and Priest-in-Charge of Somborne with Ashley.

Many are unaware that King's Somborne has been in a 'group' with us for several years, and that it was agreed when that arrangement was made that Canon Steve Pittis' successor would become Priest-in-Charge, a role held in the interim by the Area Dean Revd James Pitkin. The Revd Richard Burningham remains as resident part-time House-for-Duty priest in the parish of Somborne with Ashley. And of course, Revd Jane Thompson remains as Associate Priest in our benefice. Tom, Jane and Richard are each licensed to work in all 6 parishes of the group as need arises. So the service on Thursday 29th will be graced by the presence of 12 churchwardens!

Unfortunately it's not possible to extend a general invitation to everyone to come along on Thursday 29th July due to pressures of space.

But everyone is invited to a



**Benefice Afternoon Tea
(Bring & Share)
at Awbridge Village Hall -
outside if the weather is good!**

**On Sunday 29th August
from 2.30 - 4.30pm**

**A chance to get together and
meet Tom and Maryanne
Full details on page 10**

Presentation to Jane and Chris Thompson **THANK YOU BOTH!**



The plan had been to meet together from across the benefice in glorious sunshine on Sunday 27th June in Fred and Lynda Tucker's garden in Awbridge. Covid regulations had other ideas - and it drizzled - but representatives of each of our parishes totalling 30 in all met more-or-less as planned, under open-sided gazebos, bringing their picnics. Awbridge parish provided a lovely picnic for Jane and Chris to enjoy. And a good time was had by all.

The purpose had been two-fold; to meet up in person from across the benefice and to present gifts to Jane and Chris thanking them for all

that they have done for us during the vacancy, and particularly during the pandemic. Iain Chisholm, on behalf of the wardens, gave them a cheque for £1625 with the thought that they might like to spend it on a holiday, a voucher for a Cream Tea and a bouquet of garden flowers put together by Chris Chisholm.





A message from Jane and Chris

Dear All,

Thank for all your love and support since Chris and I joined the Benefice for my training, during my curacy and especially over the last two years. At the end of June we had a really lovely, but very sadly incredibly reduced in numbers, benefice picnic:

Thank you so much for your kind words, spoken by Iain, as well as in all the cards we have received and for those who have spoken, phoned, or emailed.

Thank you for the INCREDIBLY generous cheque (£1625), we are thinking holiday, either Holy Land, when that is possible, or more probably a cottage for the whole family to holiday together. Thank you too for the cream tea at the Montfort at Stanbridge Earls, definitely to be enjoyed very soon, we hear that the food there is fantastic! Also a big thank you for your personal gifts, everyone has been so kind and so unbelievably generous - THANK YOU!

THANK YOU so, so much for your enormous kindness and generosity!

Jane and Chris

Prayer Spaces for Schools

One Monday afternoon in July, just after home-time, Mary and I arrived at Awbridge School, excited to set up for our annual day of Prayer Spaces for the year 6s. We were excited, and a little daunted, since, with the ever-changing regulations, a lot of the planning had to be done in a very short space of time. The biggest new challenge was that, under COVID, all the inside spaces were being used as class rooms – so we were to be outside! The outdoor class room was great and, as Tuesday turned out to be filled with gusting wind and very heavy rain showers, the All Saints gazebo proved invaluable in extending our outdoor space! Despite all the challenges Mary created some wonderfully inspired spaces for the children to use to help them pause and reflect as they begin to prepare for the big leap to secondary school in September.

Tuesday morning we arrived early to set up and then during registration popped into class to give a short introduction. After that it was full steam ahead! Through the day four groups each of five or six children came and enjoyed an hour of calm away from the frenzied end of year 6 activities.



They started by watching the “calming jar” as the sparkling contents settled, after which they moved round each prayer space taking as much time as they wanted. The “transition bunting” gave the opportunity to reflect on all they have loved about their time at primary school, the things they are looking forward to next year, as well as the things they are apprehensive about. By

dropping a fizzy tablet into a jug of water and watching it dissolve, there was time to let go of the things that had hurt them.

The “Togetherness” jigsaw had a blank piece of jigsaw for each of them to draw a picture of themselves on. Once completed and assembled it made up a wonderful memento of all the Awbridge School leavers 2021. The jigsaw was coupled with “Uniqueness”, where finger tips were pressed on coloured ink pads and then on paper, to then be turned into people, using the finger print as the body and drawing on hair and limbs – we are all completely unique! On cut-out coloured tear drops they wrote things that

had made them sad this year, and on clouds they were encouraged to think big dreams for the future.



As we were set up in the corner of the school field by the pond, we were surrounded by the beauty of creation - so one station had leaves to select, stick and note observations and another had coloured chalk for drawing. The time they had with us provided space to pause and observe the beauty of creation,

which they may not have really noticed before. Each group finished their session with the bubble machine churning multicoloured bubbles up into the sky. The children laughed and played before returning relaxed and refreshed to class for the rest of the day.



We had a real sense of God with us, of peace and of calm, despite the weather and the rushing around of children from other year groups. It was a wonderful day for us, hugely supported by the head teacher and especially the lovely year 5 and year 6 teachers. Paula, year 5 teacher and RE co-ordinator, wrote on behalf of the year 6's and their teacher Chloe, "A HUGE 'thank you' to you all, for all your preparation

and time with Prayer Spaces last week. The Year 6 children have been buzzing with the day since and it was incredibly important that they had that time and space to reflect on their lives and transition to their next school." We have an open invite to return next year!

Jane Thompson

Braishfield Benefice Afternoon Tea

Sunday 29 August 2021
2 30pm-4 30pm



At Awbridge Village Hall, Romsey Rd
Awbridge SO51 0HG

All Welcome

Please bring a plate of your favourite cake, biscuits or sandwiches to share.

Tea/coffee/soft drinks provided.

You might like to bring a chair or picnic rug.

Parking and toilet facilities available.

No booking required, it would be helpful if you let [your](#) churchwardens know if you are able to come.

AWBRIDGE WELLBEING GROUP

**Come and join us
as we journey out of the lockdown this
autumn, and explore how to maintain
positive mental and emotional wellbeing.**



**Discovering
treasure
in life's scars**

**To book a place or for more information
please contact Trevor and Sheila:**

Trevorandsheilaclewer@gmail.com

Sponsored by Awbridge Village Church

Christian Aid Week Collection in Braishfield and Farley Chamberlayne



We have learnt that the total collected via envelopes delivered to every home in the villages was £700.30. This was a very worthwhile amount - thank you to all who delivered envelopes and helped in any way with the organisation of the collection.

Christian Aid Week 2021 - Thank You!

Michelmersh Prize Draw

July 2021 Winners

1st Prize Name withheld £64.40

2nd Prize Bob Tyler £32.20

3rd Prize Alastair McKay £18.40

New people have joined so the prize money has increased!

Contact Mr Peter Hill 01794 523364 or the Benefice Office if you would like to join in the monthly draw which raises funds for St Mary's PCC.

Giving to your church through the Parish Giving Scheme

Did you know you can now contact the Parish Giving Scheme directly on line? Go to www.parishgiving.org.uk and search in the "find your parish" section. You can set up regular giving, including Gift aid if wished, or if you already belong to the scheme you will be able to set up access to your account so you can check on your donations and alter them as need be. And a reminder to us all, in whatever way we give - if we intend our giving to remain static, rather than decrease, we need to increase it slightly each year - by a few pence in the pound!

Latest news from our Ugandan Link

Bishop Nathan of South Rwenzori is passionate about the environment. He aims to plant trees along every street in Kasese, the largest town in his Diocese.

He has also declared that:-

Every parent in the Diocese who brings a child for baptism should plant a tree either at their home, church, school or nearby public place.

Every Christian coming for confirmation should plant a tree at their home, church or nearby public place and that this must be verified by the Archdeacon 21 days before the confirmation service.

Every congregation shall ensure a piece of land is reserved for tree planting.

Every church founded school/college shall ensure that tree planting is part of the curriculum.

The Romsey Deanery Overseas Partnership Group has been supporting the tree nursery in Kasese for several years. Money is sent to buy seeds for a variety of trees for local plantations including grevillia and pine or fruit trees such as mango which are given to needy families to help provide an income.

The Bishop now intends to set up tree nurseries in each of his 13 Archdeaconries in order to provide the trees needed for all of the above!

This is amazing and surely a project worth supporting both financially and in prayer.

Jane Horne - Romsey Deanery Overseas Partnership Group

Covid 19 Update. Last month we were invited to join in the South Rwenzori Diocese Day of Prayer as they battled a steep increase in infections. It's good to see that in recent weeks the infection rate has been falling. Of a population of roughly 33,000 in Uganda, just over 3% have received a first vaccine dose - no-one a second one as yet. The statistics show: since the pandemic began, Uganda has recorded 91,355 cases of Covid 19, 2,483 deaths from Covid 19 - and 71,750 people who had the virus have recovered. What a wonderfully positive outlook from a country with so many challenges. We continue to pray for them all.

TOGETHER IN Prayer

- We pray for Tom and his wife Maryanne and their family as Tom begins his ministry in our parishes
- We give thanks for the churchwardens who have had responsibility for our churches throughout the time of vacancy, and pray for them as they continue with their work with Tom
- We pray for the people of Somborne with Ashley, now in a group with us; for Revd Richard Burningham, House for Duty Priest, and the churchwardens Lady Joan Appleyard and Mrs Janet Ingleson
- We continue to pray for wisdom for leaders and communities in knowing how to deal with the effects of the pandemic, that we will work together for the good of all: remembering countries where many are dying because there is insufficient vaccine, and for the roll out of the Covax programme
- We give thanks for creation and the beauty of God's world, for his generous gifts to mankind
- We pray for a growing understanding of how we can care for the environment and a deeper commitment to make changes which will make a difference to the lives of those across the world who are most adversely affected by climate change, so evident in the natural disasters of recent weeks
- And a prayer for our benefice:
God of love, who alone breathes life into your church,
send your Holy Spirit to give clarity in our thinking,
vision to our planning,
wisdom to our decisions and unity in all we do.
Help our churches
to grow in depth
and in love,
so that as we serve you our communities would see
your love at work.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Bible readings for Sunday 1st August - Sunday 5th Sept 2021

Sunday 1st August - 9th Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament Exodus 16,2-4, 9-15

Epistle Ephesians 4.1-16

Gospel John 6.24-35

Psalm 78.23-29

Sunday 8th August -10th Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament 1 Kings 19.4-8

Epistle Ephesians 4.25-5.2

Gospel M john 6.35, 41-51

Psalm 34.1-8

Sunday 15th August - 11th Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament Proverbs 9.1-6

Epistle Ephesians 5.15-20

Gospel John 6.51-58

Psalm 34.9-14

Sunday 22nd August -12th Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament Joshua 24.1-2a, 14-18

Epistle Epheisains 6.10-20

Gospel John 6.56-69

Psalm 34.15-end

Sunday 29th August -13th Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament Deuteronomy 4.1-2, 6-9

Epistle James 1.17-end

Gospel Mark 7.1-8, 14, 15, 21-23

Psalm 15

Sunday 5th September -14th Sunday after Trinity

Old Testament Isaiah 35.4-7a

Epistle James 2.1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Gospel Mark 7.24-end

Psalm 146

Services in the Benefice

SUNDAY 1st AUGUST - 9th SUNDAY after TRINITY

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------|-----------|
| 9.30am | Awbridge | HOLY COMMUNION | CW | T.Benson |
| 9.30am | Braishfield | FAMILY SERVICE | CW | A.Manners |
| 11.30am | Timsbury (<i>and Michelmersh</i>) | MORNING WORSHIP | * CW | T.Benson |
| 6.00pm | Farley Chamberlayne | EVENING PRAYER | BCP | T.Benson |

* change of time for this month only

SUNDAY 8th AUGUST - 10th SUNDAY after TRINITY

| | | | | |
|---------|---------------------|------------------------|-----|------------|
| 8.00am | Farley Chamberlayne | HOLY COMMUNION | BCP | T.Benson |
| 9.30am | Awbridge | MORNING WORSHIP | CW | J.Thompson |
| 9.30am | Braishfield | MORNING PRAYER | CW | T.Benson |
| 11.00am | Timsbury | FAMILY SERVICE | CW | J.Thompson |
| 6.00pm | Michelmersh | HOLY COMMUNION | CW | T.Benson |

SUNDAY 15th AUGUST - 11th SUNDAY after TRINITY

| | | | | |
|---------|---------------------|---|-----|----------|
| 9.30am | Awbridge | HOLY COMMUNION | CW | T.Benson |
| 10.00am | Timsbury | HOLY COMMUNION | BCP | tbc |
| 11.15am | Farley Chamberlayne | FAMILY SERVICE | CW | T.Benson |
| 6.00pm | Michelmersh | EVENING PRAYER | BCP | tbc |
| 6.00pm | Braishfield | SONGS OF PRAISE & Welcome to Tom | | T.Benson |

SUNDAY 22nd AUGUST - 12th SUNDAY after TRINITY

| | | | | |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----|------------|
| 8.00am | Michelmersh | HOLY COMMUNION | BCP | T.Benson |
| 9.30am | Awbridge | FAMILY WORSHIP | CW | Lay led |
| 9.30am | Braishfield | HOLY COMMUNION | CW | T.Benson |
| 11.15am | Farley Chamberlayne | MORNING PRAYER | BCP | T.Benson |
| 6.00pm | Timsbury | EVENING PRAYER | BCP | J.Thompson |

SUNDAY 29th AUGUST - 13th SUNDAY after TRINITY

| | | | | |
|---------|-------------|---------------------------------------|----|----------|
| 10.00am | Braishfield | UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION | CW | T.Benson |
|---------|-------------|---------------------------------------|----|----------|

SUNDAY 5th SEPTEMBER - 14th SUNDAY after TRINITY

| | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|--|
| 9.30am | Awbridge | HOLY COMMUNION | CW | |
| 9.30am | Braishfield | FAMILY SERVICE | CW | |
| 10.00am | Michelmersh (<i>and Timsbury</i>) | MORNING PRAYER | BCP | |
| 6.00pm | Farley Chamberlayne | EVENING PRAYER | BCP | |

NB If you are reading a hard copy of Five Alive in black and white, it can be viewed in colour on-line at www.asbchurch.org