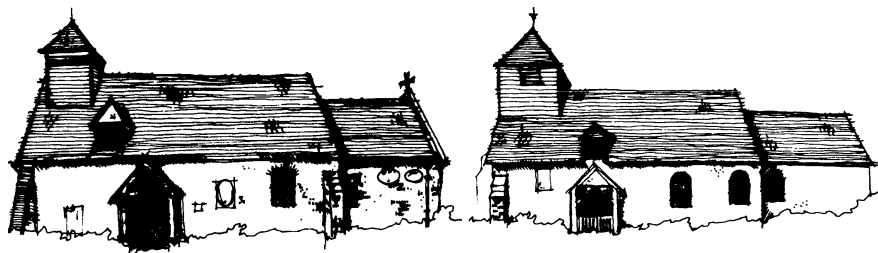


# Five Alive!



**A Monthly Magazine**

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

**March 2021**

**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BRAISHFIELD**

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

**Rector:** Vacant

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> March**  
next edition  
of Five Alive  
will be available by  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Revd Jane Thompson writes:

Are you an avid reader of stories, a watcher of films or a listener to books? I'm not particularly but I do love how stories take me out of myself... not so much as an escape, rather, as Justin Welby says, "the best stories are the ones that I find myself in, the ones that speak of relating and loving, suffering and hoping, facing dangers and difficulties, all the while holding out for change."

Stories aren't just fiction, every one of us has a story and I love hearing people's stories!

Our stories include the things we've done, the places we've lived, the experiences that have made us who we are, the people that have been the most important to us.

Our stories are not in isolation, they are part of other people's stories, where they overlap or have been lived alongside: our families, our friends, our villages, our churches, our country.

God has a story too – it is a story of God's loving engagement with the world, since the very beginning. The high-point of this story is the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This story of God becoming human and living alongside people, the story of God's incarnational engagement with the world, has been called the greatest story ever told.

As Christians we know this story well. We read, reread and retell this wonderful story... it's a story of people like us, yet at the same time it is a story about a God, too amazing to fully understand.

Perhaps being a Christian is to be someone who lives their story in the light of God's story?

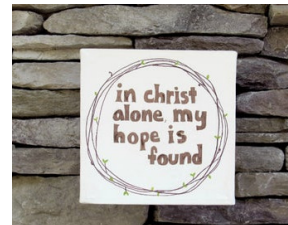
We are the tellers of the story for our generation, the witnesses to the change it has brought about in us. The story we live brings hope to those who live in fear of what their own story reveals and the trajectory they are on.

The God part of our story is of a God with us, of a God who loves, a God who knows, who cares, a God who has experienced the pain of being human. And this is where we start our Lent... with Jesus in the wilderness, alone, cut off, tired, hungry and challenged by the tempter at the very core of his being.

This Lent, Lent 2021, feels different from previous Lents... we have already given up so much, many of us feel alone, isolated, bereft and challenged deep in ourselves. This year, as we travel through Lent, we don't have to dig deep to find "Lenten" feelings, we don't have to give up things to help us identify with sacrifice, many of us are already living them. Yet although we might feel a numbness as we head towards Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we will get to Easter. I am reminded of the preacher Tony Campolo who often said, "It's Friday but Sunday's a-coming". It may feel like we have been in a year-long Lent, yet God promises that the other side of the pain and sacrifice of Good Friday, Easter Sunday is coming and God is with us on our journey there.

God is with us now in the wilderness of what we are experiencing and, just as spring is appearing around us with signs of hope, God will be with us as we come to Easter, the ultimate sign of God's love and commitment to be with us.

May God bless us as we travel through this Lent, through the wilderness, and as our stories and God's story become increasingly intertwined.



**We're having a Zoom Lent Course on Wednesdays at 7.30pm**

We began on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February but each session is complete in itself, so even if you can only make one or two, do join in! Each session lasts around an hour, and is led by Jane Thompson.

The content is based on

**'Holy Habits: Following Jesus'**

- material prepared by Andrew Roberts



Zoom joining details are on the back page of 'Five Alive'

## **World Day of Prayer 2021 – Friday 5th March**

The World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. People in 170 countries pray and worship together during this annual day of prayer – the first Friday of March.



This year's service has been prepared in Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides, in the South Pacific Ocean) and is on the theme **Build on a Strong Foundation**. The black and white sandy beaches, coral reefs with many coloured fish, beautiful birds, fruits and nuts in the forests all make for a pristine environment, but the islands have active volcanoes and are vulnerable to frequent tropical storms, earthquakes and other natural disasters. The people are called to 'build on a strong foundation' and live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity.

In Braishfield, our service usually alternates between the United Reformed Church and All Saints. This year will be different! We have decided to go ahead on 5<sup>th</sup> March, from our own homes. If you would like to be part of this, please let me know by email [hj.boothman@btinternet.com](mailto:hj.boothman@btinternet.com) or a phone call (01794 368143) and we will deliver an order of service to you. If you use the internet, the link below will take you to the U tube service recorded in Vanuatu, which will last about 35 minutes.

Do join in a local Zoom Coffee Morning afterwards, from 11 15 am, when we can meet each other and have a chat. I will email the link if you ask for it!

### **World Day of Prayer 2021 - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10 30 am** (or any time to suit you)

Here's the link to the service:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edQMgNFdRdo&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edQMgNFdRdo&feature=emb_logo)



VANUATU

#### News on 4th February 2021

So far the total of Covid 19 cases in Vanuatu remains at just one but the indirect effects have been devastating to Vanuatu's economy. Tourism, a major source of income has disappeared. The possibility of Ni Vanuatu working in Australia and New Zealand to bring in the harvest has also diminished, since short haul flights out of Vanuatu have been cancelled. The World Health Organisation and South Pacific Islands organization have pledged support for vaccination programmes in Vanuatu and other islands.

# GO BANANAS FOR LIVING WAGES



Did you know in the UK alone we've eaten 23 billion Fairtrade bananas over the past 20 years? That's enough bananas to reach the moon and back over six times! Well, in 2021 it may be time for a seventh lunar trip, as we've some good news that will make you want to pick up yet another bunch.

Fairtrade has introduced a new **Fairtrade Base Wage** as part of our campaign to make sure all workers on banana plantations earn enough to secure a decent standard of life. As part of this strategy, we're also increasing the amount of **Fairtrade Premium** workers can receive in cash to help them reach a living wage sooner. Over and above the Fairtrade price, the Fairtrade Premium is an additional sum of money which goes into a communal fund for workers and farmers to use – as they see fit – to improve their social, economic and environmental conditions.



It's what sets Fairtrade apart from everyone else. On top of the price farmers and workers receive for their produce or labour, they receive an extra

sum of money to invest in improving the quality of their lives. This extra sum of money is called the Fairtrade Premium. Cocoa farmers, as an example, [receive an extra \\$200](#) per tonne of cocoa beans they sell. In 2018, more than £166 million of Fairtrade Premium was generated through sales and given back to communities.



To become Fairtrade certified, farmers must join together with other farmers to form a co-operative. The Fairtrade Premium is paid at the co-operative level so that the farmers' democratically elected representatives can decide how the money is spent. It's another way that Fairtrade is unique. We believe that farmers know best how to spend this money. They are in a much better position to decide what investments will improve the quality of their lives than businesses far away. The farmers have the right to choose any activities that are important to their particular situation, aspirations and priorities.



When it comes to larger workforces, for example those working on banana plantations, worker committees decide on projects which benefit the workers, their families and communities. In 2015-16, plantation workers decided to invest 20% of their Fairtrade Premium in community projects and a quarter on investments in education.

For some products, a percentage of the Fairtrade Premium must be used for a specific purpose. Quinoa farmers have to invest 30% of their Premium in environmental sustainability. Certain coffee farmers are required to spend part of their Premium on quality and productivity.



Each time you buy Fairtrade products you are helping to improve the life of the workers who produce what you have bought.

**So what's Fairtrade? Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.**

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT - 22nd February - 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk> will tell you more**

## Ride+Stride in COVID year

What a year! We took the view that our annual event to raise money to give out in grants to help the fabric of our County's wonderful active churches would succeed. So many people had taken to their bikes and were walking that Ride+Stride fitted perfectly. The church did not have to open. No one need be put at risk. Welcome notices with interesting information about the church and churchyard with details on how to donate could be left outside the church and people were also encouraged to donate online through [www.hihct.org.uk](http://www.hihct.org.uk). If we raised no money for a year our grant giving would be severely reduced and our churches would suffer. Grant applications continue unabated.

On the 2nd Saturday in September, which was warm and sunny, Chris and I drove our MGB Roadster to join a veteran car rally on the Isle of Wight. We decided to support the new area coordinator for the Island, a member of Bembridge Sailing Club which runs an annual vintage car rally. She asked if the Club would participate in Ride and Stride, self sponsor and visit the Island's churches, and they kindly agreed. So after a Monaco-style flag



**Outside St Catherine's church,  
Ventnor**

lowering start and sprint for the cars, we were off. There were around 20 cars including a tuk tuk. We visited 10 churches from Yaverland, where we had a great welcome through to St Lawrence, ending up near Brightstone on the Downs where we all had picnic lunches. We then left the main rally to visit Thorley and Carisbrooke churches – both manned for the day with one offering a church tour and the other bottled drinks and wrapped goodies. All socially distanced and very good to exchange information on how they were dealing with COVID regulations at their churches. Another chance to explore our wonderful heritage.

This year Romsey Deanery area was the top fund raising area with £12,656 (excl Gift Aid) with King's Somborne raising over £4,000 as the top fund raising church. The Stockbridge Benefice of 7 churches were encouraged to



participate in Ride+Stride by their Rector as it was the only fund raising opportunity they could do this year. Two of their churches raised over £4,500 and appeared in our top 20 Church Fundraiser's list too. We hope other churches in our Benefice will join in in 2021! You can sponsor us too to raise money for your church and you share half the money raised!!

A very big "thank you" to all our sponsors in Farley Chamberlayne and at All Saints and the United Reformed Church in Braishfield. We so appreciate your continuing loyalty and support. Don't forget that we give out grants too!

Meryl & Chris Balchin

[meryl@hihct.org.uk](mailto:meryl@hihct.org.uk)

[www.hihct.org.uk](http://www.hihct.org.uk)

Registered Charity No 1181370

### *The Recumbent Effigy in Michelmersh Church - Sir Roger Woodlock*



Quite the most prominent, and at the same time intriguing monument in this church is the effigy of a knight in mail that is in the north side of the chancel. This may originally have been situated beneath the Vestry Arch, or it may even have been situated in a south transept which no longer exists. There are traces

of red paint (polychrome) on the side of this monument and on the nearby arch to the current vestry and also on an arch on the south side of the chancel which match the colours on this memorial itself. It is possible that this monument may originally have been in a chapel, now demolished, on the south side of the chancel and with the knight's shield facing outwards towards the public, instead of inwards as at present where it faces a wall. This could account for why the red paint on the base of the slab has been preserved.

For many years tradition had it that this was Sir Geoffrey de Canterton, or possibly even a member of the Hotot family. However, research carried out for the Hampshire Field Club Archaeological Society (HFCAS) by Professor Nigel Saul of the Department of History Royal Holloway, University of London, proves beyond reasonable doubt that this is in fact most likely to be

an effigy of Sir Roger Woodlock, a nephew of Henry Woodlock, Bishop of Winchester in the early part of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The figure is represented cross legged with his hands held in prayer and his feet resting on a carved stag whilst his head rests on two cushions. The shield has a chevron carved on it but much of the original carving and paintwork has gone. There are traces suggesting that the shield was decorated with foliage and three stag's heads. A seal of Sir Roger's in 1317 shows that his coat of arms contained a chevron of three bucks heads and this, with other evidence provided by Professor Saul regarding land holdings in the nearby village of Braishfield, confirms the opinion of this research.

Roger Harris, our local member of the HFCAS, thought that the stone for the effigy could have come from the Chilmark quarries, northwest of Salisbury, used for Salisbury Cathedral which was being built at the same time. Professor Saul surmised that it might well, therefore, have been a 'spin off' job for one of the masons!

Finally we now know from this recent research that it cannot be an effigy of 'Hotot' because it is said that this was an East Midlands family. But the reason for the earlier attribution to Sir Geoffrey de Canterton remains a mystery. Can you help with this?

John Chambers

### **Archdeacon Peter Rouch - new CEO of the Church Army**

Most of the members of our benefice PCCs met Peter at our Vacancy meeting last February. You may have heard that Peter left his post as Archdeacon of Bournemouth in October, and has since been working at Lambeth. It has just been announced that he has been appointed as the new CEO of the Church Army. The Church Army is an evangelistic organisation and mission community founded in 1882 in association with the Church of England and now operating in many parts of the Anglican Communion across the UK & Ireland.

After an early career with Barclays Bank, Peter trained for ministry at Westcott House in Cambridge. A curacy in London was followed by a period as a research fellow on the staff of St Stephen's House in Oxford. Peter was Priest in Charge of two parishes near the centre of Manchester, where people struggled with lots of the challenges that will be so familiar to those who

have served in the Church Army mission community. Peter says that this period of ministry was hugely significant in shaping his passions and priorities. After nearly a decade as Archdeacon of Bournemouth, serving across the breadth of Anglican traditions, and a short period at Lambeth, Peter is hugely looking forward to becoming part of Church Army.



Peter is married to Tracey who trained as a youth worker and has created several youth projects, all of which continue to flourish. Tracey has been leading mental health support for young people in a large city-wide youth project in Southampton. Peter and Tracey have two daughters: Rebecca studies flute at the Guildhall School of Music in London and Kezia studies Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Birmingham. The boundless energy of Jaffa, the Brittany Spaniel, completes the household.

Peter says: "There is, of course, understandable interest in what I have done and the places I have ministered until now. It strikes me, however, that when all this has been said, the story's hardly been told. That story is written in the people with whom I have been privileged to share my life; people too numerous to name individually, whose gifts and wisdom have shaped me. It seems to me that deeply embedded in the heart of Church Army is this very understanding, that it is our lives and the practical love we offer that must join our words as we proclaim the God of love. Lives shape lives and the life of God in Christ shapes all.

"I have watched the videos and read the blogs; "We are Church Army". In the context of the centres of mission, the key projects, those who encourage and enable the evangelism of God's people and support this mission with research and practical care, that is a wonderful thing to be able to claim. I am excited, humbled and challenged that the trustees have invited me to weave my life with yours within the Church Army mission community. I look forward so very much to this and to being able to place my life alongside your own in service of God and say with you, "We are Church Army"."

Peter, together with his wife Tracey, will be moving to Sheffield to take up the post probably in May.

**Find out more about the Church Army**  
[www.churcharmy.org.uk](http://www.churcharmy.org.uk)

## **Confirmation**

Have you been baptised? Either as an infant or maybe more recently?

Have you ever thought about making those promises for yourself?

Would you like to take another step on your faith journey?

Would you like to find out more?

Do speak to Jane or your church warden.

There are two Deanery Confirmations this year:

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June at Rownhams

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October at Romsey Abbey

both will be at 10.00am



### **News of the Very Revd Trevor Beeson**

I spoke to Trevor recently and he is in good heart. He is anticipating having his second vaccination in the next couple of weeks. He is always pleased to hear news of life in the benefice, and says he has not given up hope of being back with us eventually. We will all look forward to that day!

Sarah Boothman

Please save your used

**POSTAGE STAMPS**

and send them to

**Bone Cancer Research Trust**

**PO Box 6198**

**Leighton Buzzard LU7 9XT.**

Their sale will help that charity's funds

**Michelmersh Prize Draw**

**February 2021 Winners**

**1st Prize** Alastair McKay £53.20

**2nd Prize** Rosie Baldieri £26.60

**3rd Prize** Cath Hatcher £15.20

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.

**Update on filling our Vacancy and appointing a new Rector**

The post of Rector has been advertised again and several applications were received by the closing date on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The interview panel, which is made up of one representative chosen by each PCC, Bishop Debbie Sellin and Area Dean James Pitkin, will decide which candidates they would like to interview. Interviews are planned to take place in mid-March.

It will be some time after an appointment is made before it will be possible to announce who the the next Rector will be, as DBS checks have to be carried out and the candidate has to make arrangements to leave their current post.





As we aren't currently printing regular Sunday Notice Sheets, we are including some items for prayer here:

- **A prayer for use during Lent**

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

- **Giving thanks for Spring**

God, thank you for Spring  
and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days.  
Thank you for the coming of growth and life and birth.  
Thank you that things are coming awake in the world.  
May we always praise you for the wonder of Your creation.  
Amen

- **For our benefice**

Lord, we thank you for the way you are building your church in us.  
We pray for our benefice as we appoint a new Rector.  
We ask that your Holy Spirit will lead and guide us.  
We thank you that you will bring the right person to us.  
We pray that our five churches, filled with God's love,  
will come fully alive, reaching out into our communities.  
We look forward with faith, hope and love.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

**Bible readings for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April**  
This information was previously included in the weekly Notice Sheet

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Old Testament** Exodus 20.1-17

**Epistle** 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

**Gospel** John 2.13-22

**Psalms** 19 [7-end]

**Mothering Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

Readings to be announced

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Old Testament** Jeremiah 31.31-34

**Epistle** Hebrews 5.5-10

**Gospel** John 12.20-33

**Psalms** 51.1-13 or 119.9-16

**Palm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**Old Testament** Isaiah 50.4-9a

**Epistle** Philippians 2.5-11

**Gospel** Mark 11.1-11

**Psalms** 118.1,2, 19-end

**Maundy Thursday - 1<sup>st</sup> April**

**Epistle** 1 Corinthians 11.23-26

**Gospel** John 13.1-17, 31b-35

**Good Friday - 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Old Testament** Isaiah 52.13-end of 53

**Epistle** Hebrews 10.16-25

**Gospel** John 18.1-end of 19

**Psalms** 22

**Easter Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**Old Testament** Isaiah 25.6-9

**Acts 10.34-43** is to be read in place of either the Old Testament or Epistle reading

**Epistle** 1 Corinthians 15.1-11

**Gospel** Mark 16.1-8

**Psalms** 118.14-24

## **Services in the Benefice**

The PCCs have agreed to suspend in-person worship until the infection rate decreases.

**There will be Worship on Zoom at 10.00am  
each Sunday morning  
Join the service from 9.45am**

**There will be an opportunity after the service  
to stay and chat with friends in a parish group**

Please note - there is a NEW LINK for all our  
Zoom services and events

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82198001568?pwd=UUFzSDVBTGVweTVNQk82d3JrUCs5UT09>

Meeting ID: 821 9800 1568

Passcode: 021153

The image on the front cover is of a hellebore -  
also known as a Lenten Rose

Each of our churches has an entry on 'A Church Near You'

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

You can find some extra information and see photos of the  
churches

Also check <https://www.asbchurch.org> for up to date  
information, especially for All Saints' Braishfield