



FOR
GOD
SO
LOVED THE WORLD
HE
GAVE
HIS
ONLY
SON

Good Friday 2nd April



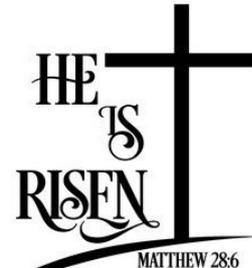
Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

April 2021



Easter Sunday 4th April

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
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Items for 5 Alive

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

**Deadline for
next edition**

Monday 19th April

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

Revd Jane Thompson writes:

Easter People

Holy Week is a rollercoaster of emotions, it is the story of amazing highs and deep, deep lows, excitement and tragedy, world changing events and personal betrayal, death and life. Somehow this year I haven't found it so hard to identify with the emotions of the road through Lent, Passiontide, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter. Maybe this is because our year has been a rollercoaster ride of emotions and for many of us these emotions have many similarities to those of Holy Week.

I have had the privilege of listening to the stories of those who have lost loved ones, praying with the sick, being alongside those for whom tragedy has hit... for so many of us, it's been a year of Lent. When tragedy happens, life moves ahead like a steam roller, impossible to stop. For Jesus, the previous three years of his life had been building towards his last 24 hours - yet how fast did those last hours move... from convivial meal with friends to death on a cross.

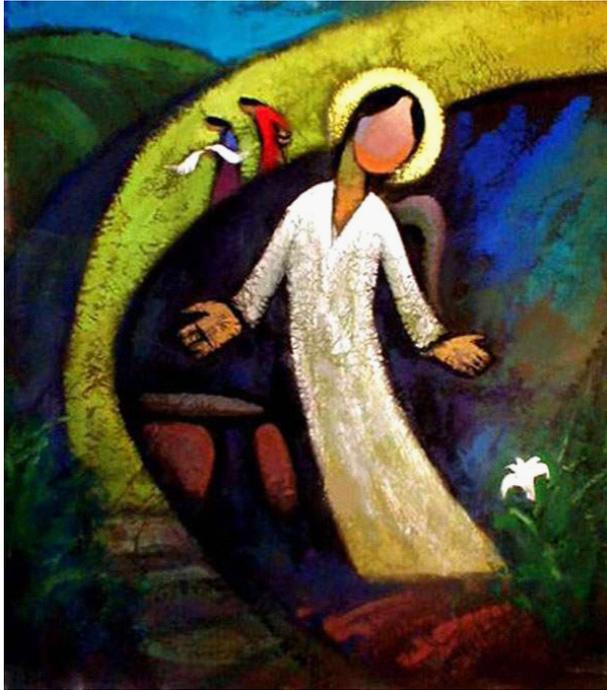
Yet we know that a borrowed tomb wasn't the end of the story. Easter morning, as the sun rose the women made their way to the garden tomb to anoint the battered body of their friend. How grief-stricken they must have been, how alarmed to discover the massive stone rolled away, terrified when they discovered that the body was gone, yet how shocked, amazed, and elated to meet Jesus - raised again to life! Their despair turned to joy, their doubt to faith, their confusion to certainty. Hope was born. Hope for the future. Hope that turns lives around. Hope for life beyond our physical earthly life. Hope for eternal life. Hope for NOW.

Easter is a story of that Hope. That first Easter Sunday morning, the new life that somehow broke through all human understanding of what it meant to die, tells us that, however bad our situation is, there is a way forward, even if we can't see it right now, there is Hope. A Hope that is steadfast that is always there, that isn't going to change. There will be no reversal of this Hope, no change of policy, no third wave or new variant that will shake it. The Hope that Jesus brought when he rose from the dead is eternal, everlasting for this world and the next.

When we put that deep Spirit-filled Hope alongside the lengthening days, with warmer sun, the ground coming back to life and, now, even the light beginning to flicker at the end of the Covid-tunnel, we can feel Hope rising.

Martin Luther King Jr wrote." Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." This potent mix of new life in the creation around us, the vaccination roll-out and the Easter Hope offering new, abundant, eternal life...

I think we are going to be ready to lift our hearts (if sadly not our collective voices) in wonder and praise.



We know Jesus is alive, we are Easter people, people of Hope, so this Easter time, let's hold firm to that Hope and share it with all we connect with.

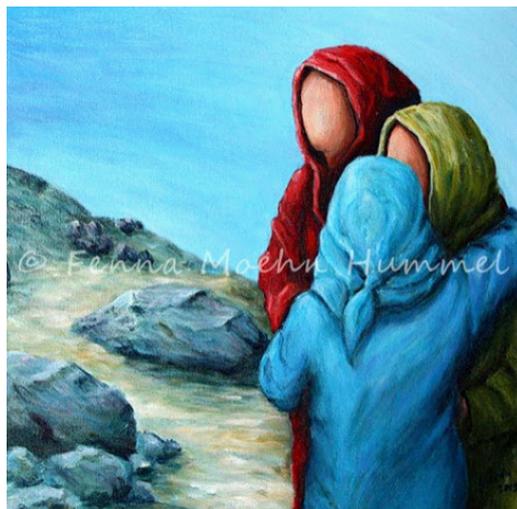
"Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise."
Hebrews 10:23

Resurrection

He Qi

*Resurrection
Morning*

Fenna Moehn
Hummel



Plans to return to in-person worship and for our Annual Parochial Meetings (APCMs)

You may remember that last year we had to defer our APCMs until October, in line with instructions from the national church.

This year, APCMs have by law to be held before 31st May. It is legal to hold them this year, exceptionally, on Zoom, but some churches would prefer if possible to have in-person meetings.

The wardens plan to meet on Wednesday 7th April to consider when it will be the right time to resume in-person worship, taking the Government's road map into consideration. The current dates for APCMs may be subject to change, or remain as planned but on Zoom.

Ride+Stride in COVID year - erratum

Unfortunately a couple of key sentences in Meryl and Chris's article in the March 'Five Alive' were obscured by the photograph. Here is the photo again, to remind you of the article, with the missing text. Apologies, Meryl and Chris!



Outside St Catherine's church, Ventnor

The result of Ride+Stride day in 2020 was an amazing £80,000+ raised (inc gift aid) throughout Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. This was the highest amount ever raised by Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust and beat our 2019 efforts by £10,000! 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.

Meryl & Chris Balchin

meryl@hihct.org.uk

www.hihct.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1181370

See you at the Zoom service!

A year ago few of us had much idea of what a Zoom meeting was. Gradually we heard of families using Zoom to keep in touch and then began to use it tentatively for our wardens' meetings and our PCC meetings. Then some of our house groups opened on Zoom - first Awbridge with Worship and Word, then the Braishfield Prayer Group, and the Timsbury House Group too.

When Jane suggested holding Sunday worship on Zoom, at a January Wardens' meeting, we were a little hesitant - let's try it and see. A few weeks later we knew it was a great success.

From the very first meeting together we realised that we could feel united with one another in worship - and across the whole benefice. We are becoming familiar with the faces of those in other parishes, and their names as they appear on the screen.

At the first service Jane watched with delight as many people joined, 'logging on' with their phone, i-pad, tablet, computer. Over the first few weeks news spread, help was given to those who had technical difficulties, and by Mothering Sunday over 90 of us were worshipping together. We have had family and friends joining from other parts of the country or abroad! The first few minutes as everyone joins are very lively with people calling out hellos and waving to one another - and then we mute ourselves and concentrate on worship.

So for those who sadly aren't able to participate at the moment - what's it all about? The screen that we view is divided into segments, and we can see all the other people present, each in their own 'box' - unless they choose to remain anonymous and just show a name, not their live picture. Then Chris Thompson arranges things so that we see a larger picture of whoever is speaking. We begin with a call to worship and a video of a hymn or song. All the words we would usually say together in worship appear on the screen, and we join in - with a couple from one of our churches unmuted so they can lead our response. There are two bible readings, read by people from different churches, and someone else leads the intercessions. There is a talk, perhaps time for quiet reflection, and a couple more hymns/songs. There may be a short piece of drama on a video, or a dramatic reading. The worship is always fresh and many people have said how good it is to hear music which might be different from what we would usually use at our church.

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 Rev Jane Thompson or your church warden.

There are two Deanery Confirmations this year:

Sunday 20th June at Rownhams

Sunday 31st October at Romsey Abbey

both will be at 10.00am



Jane and Chris put a huge amount of time and effort into planning each week's service, so that our time together is technically of a high standard and very worshipful, based around the theme of the Sunday.

After the first couple of weeks, Jane added the facility for us to break out into church groups afterwards - and though we have to provide our own coffee, we can now end our time together with a good chat! As we all have to be part of the same large group and share in just one conversation, we are in some ways getting to know one another better. It's not the same as meeting in person, but is so much better than not being able to meet at all, and those who can join in feel part of the church community, gathered virtually.

Celebrating Mothering Sunday

Traditionally people would have travelled back to the church where they had been baptised on this day, and they would pick flowers to take with them. It has now become a day when the focus is principally on giving thanks for our mothers, but in the past it was on going back to one's mother church.

In recent years it has been the custom in our churches to give a small posy of flowers to those who attend the service - in some cases just to the women, in other cases to everyone! Knowing that distributing flowers during our service this year would not be possible, small groups in each church made up posies - or in the case of Braishfield, plants - and delivered them as a surprise gift to people with links with the church, to say they were not forgotten during this time of isolation when the church buildings are closed for worship. The flowers came with a card saying they were from the parish church. We know that the thought was very much appreciated. Another way in which Covid has encouraged us to think outside the box!

As Mary Savage led the prayers during our Zoom service on Mothering Sunday, 14th March, there were photographs of the flowers from each church on the screen. Here they are for us to appreciate again.



All Saints', Awbridge



St John's, Farley Chamberlayne



St. Mary's,
Michelmersh

St. Andrew's, Timsbury



All Saints', Braishfield

Between the five parishes, deliveries were made to over 200 homes - quite an undertaking, and a wonderful way of reaching out. Thank you to everyone involved.

If you can look at this on-line you will be able to appreciate the lovely colours of the flowers!

Michelmersh Prize Draw

March 2021 Winners

- 1st Prize** Mrs Sparks £41.80
2nd Prize Name withheld £25.90
3rd Prize Philip Hanson £14.80

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.

Porch Buddy

The Covid 19 brought a new/old friend into my life needing a companion to walk and talk, one to one, for exercise. Although we met in 1977, we lost connection but after meeting on the track at Braishfield, we decided to walk on a Sunday to visit the porches in the Five Alive group. Awbridge has no porch sadly. The wet days and sunny days had us re-connecting, 2m apart. We thoroughly enjoyed sheltering in the porches chatting about days gone by.

A big thank you to whoever does the Porch flowers. Such a bonus. We have seen poppies, Spring flowers and every porch has its details of worth.

Wendy Forrest-Charde (been walking around the parish for 25 years)

Awbridge - no porch, but a bus shelter!

Even though we cannot again meet together in person for Easter, the truth of Easter still shines through; "He is not here, he is risen, Allelujah" Matt 28 v6. For Easter we will have zoom services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day and we hope to have some flowers in church for Easter Day with an Easter Garden and an Easter Tree in the bus shelter to look out for!!

Mary Savage

Passion Play, Oberammergau 2022

A group of us had arranged to go to the play in 2020, but like a lot of things, it fell victim to the pandemic. The authorities in Germany took the very sensible step of postponing for two years. We did all eventually get our money back, as well, though it took a while.

Several of us are hoping to go to the rescheduled play, so I thought I would see if anyone else is interested. There is no need to go in a group, as such, though it suited some of us to travel together. Oberammergau itself is an hour or so south of Munich, by road. One can do the whole journey from the UK by train, in fact. Munich to the village is about 1hour and 45 minutes. The village itself has a train station. Some might want to drive, or some, fly.

Everyone would be free to do their own thing, of course. We had decided to stay at a hotel nearby for 3 nights, so that we could do some sightseeing afterwards, in the mountains. Personally, as I love Bavaria, if all is well, I'd hope to stay on there for a while, though probably in another part.

The play runs over about six hours with a gap for dinner in the middle. If the next one is planned as the 2020 one was, it will run from the afternoon into the late evening. We would probably be thinking about going in June. The theatre itself has covered seating, but the stage, oddly, is open air. There is seating for about 6,000 people. It is all in German, but there is an excellent booklet in English that one can read, as one goes along.

We decided to have some of the best seats, so the cost was around £170 each, though German hotels are relatively inexpensive compared to the UK, so that makes it a bit less expensive. Flights tend to be around £120, depending upon how much luggage you want to take.

If you are interested, or want to know more about it, then either phone me, or email. We are not planning on making a definitive booking until the autumn.

John Glasspool 01794 368017 john.glasspool@gmail.com

**Do you enjoy walking around Braishfield and Farley Chamberlayne?
Can you help deliver envelopes for Christian Aid?**

Mrs Hazel Davies will again be organising the Christian Aid collection in Farley Chamberlayne and Braishfield on behalf of the United Reformed Church, St John's and All Saints'. Envelopes need to be dropped through the door of each home during Christian Aid Week - 10th to 16th May.

If you would be willing to combine your walk one day with some delivering, Hazel would be very grateful. She has asked me to act as a clearing house for offers, so please could you let me know if you would be able to help out? I will then pass the list to Hazel, and she will be in touch nearer the time. Phone: Sarah Boothman 368143 or email: seboothman@aol.com

As a village, we have supported Christian Aid week since the early 1970s, raising thousands of pounds over that time to support those in need across the world. This year the focus of the campaign is climate change and its effects in Kenya.



Christian Aid say:
Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face. Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis.

Rose is caught in a cycle of climate chaos. From severe drought to flooding, extreme weather robs her of what she needs to survive: a reliable source of water.

Rose and her family, and millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought.

Every envelope, every gift, every challenge can change lives.

If you can help by delivering envelopes - thank you.

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

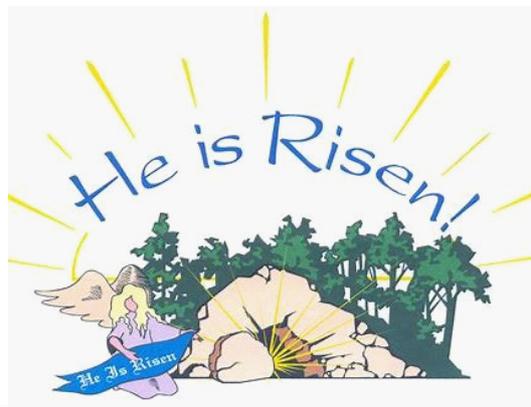
A Prayer for Easter Day and the days following ..

We are risen with Christ -
The Lord is risen!

Eternal life is ours -
The Lord is risen!

Death has met its master -
The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed -
Alleluia! Amen.





Used on the National Day of Remembrance, 23rd March

- Lord God, the maker and redeemer of all,
as we come before you in thanksgiving for the gift of health
and life,
we grieve for the thousands who have died:
comfort us with your presence,
sustain us with the hope of your kingdom,
and give us grace to live our lives well;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
- Lord Jesus Christ,
when fear and anxiety besiege us
and hope is veiled in grief,
hold us in your wounded hands
and make your face shine on us again,
for you are our Lord and God. Amen.
- Christ the Good Shepherd
enfold us with love,
fill us with peace,
and lead us in hope, • to the end of our days.
- **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 Thursday 1st April - Sunday 2nd May

This information was previously included in the weekly Notice Sheet

Good Friday - 2nd April

Old Testament Isaiah 52.13-end of 53

Epistle Hebrews 10.16-25

Gospel John 18.1-end of 19

Psalm 22

Easter Sunday 4th 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

Psalm 118.14-24

Sunday 11th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Old Testament Exodus 14.10 - end, 15.20-21

Acts 4.32-35 is to be read in place of either the Old Testament or Epistle reading

Epistle 1 John 1.1 - 2.1

Gospel John 20.19-end

Psalm 133

Sunday 18th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Old Testament Zephaniah 3.14-end

Acts 3.12-19 is to be read in place of either the Old Testament or Epistle reading

Epistle 1 John 3.1-7

Gospel Luke 24.36*b* - 48

Psalm 4

Sunday 25th April - 4th Sunday of Easter

Old Testament Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13

Acts 4.5-12 is to be read in place of either the Old Testament or Epistle reading

Epistle I John 3.16-end

Gospel John 10.11-18

Psalm 23

Sunday 2nd May - 5th Sunday of Easter

Old Testament Genesis 22.1-18

Acts 8.26-end is to be read in place of either the Old Testament or Epistle reading

Epistle 1 John 4.7-end

Gospel John 15.1-8

Psalm 22.25-end

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**

On Good Friday - a Zoom service at 10.00am

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

Check <https://www.asbchurch.org> for up to date information, especially for All Saints' Braishfield, and a daily message from Rev Jane Thompson

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