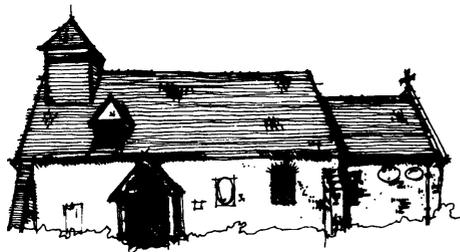




# Five Alive!



**A Monthly Magazine**

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

**September 2021**

## **THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BRAISHFIELD**

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

**Rector:** Revd Tom Benson 01794 368335

tbenson09@aol.com

**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 20<sup>th</sup> Sept**

next edition

of Five Alive

will be available by

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September

## From the Rector: Revd Tom Benson

Dear friends,

When I look back to remember those endless summer holidays of my childhood (remember those?) the sun always seemed to be shining. Is it just nostalgia or were things different then? Whatever it is, it seems that we do have a tendency to see the past as a golden time when everything was better, people were friendlier, people were more honest, children respected their elders and music was understandable.

In reading the bible I am often surprised by the way in which human nature actually doesn't seem to have changed much over time. Scandal, tragedy, squabbling, power plays are all in there, as are joy, compassion, heroism and selflessness. That is why I find the bible and the Christian faith just as relevant today as it always has been. We may have the internet and 5G communication but we still have the same need to be living in love with our neighbours and with God that we have always had. If you don't believe me, read the gospel accounts of Jesus' ministry and see if you think that the people there are so very different from our own friends and neighbours - or even ourselves. 'Who would I have been?' or 'How would I have reacted had I been there?' are useful questions to ask of ourselves.

Jesus urges us to follow him and give up those things that separate us from God. Those things that ultimately are not necessary to life. We may think that they are - the career, the material things, the unhealthy pursuit of money, the addictions of thought and word and deed. Very often we find that we have a God-shaped void that has never been adequately filled. In living lives centered on Our Saviour Jesus Christ we are set free and God wants for us to have the fullest, richest and deepest life possible because he loves us. In return, he expects us to do Christ's work in this place, and in our own generation.

Likewise, I have been struck time and again by the realisation that there was and still is, ... an urgency in Jesus' message. NOW is the

time to respond. So as the seasons begin to change and we begin to head towards (whisper it) Christmas and New Year, let's think about our response to God's call. I would like to close with this poem:

Take time to think;  
it is the source of power.  
Take time to read;  
it is the foundation of wisdom.  
Take time to play;  
it is the secret of staying young.  
Take time to be quiet;  
it is the opportunity to seek God.  
Take time to be aware;  
it is the opportunity to help others.  
Take time to love and be loved;  
it is God's greatest gift.  
Take time to laugh;  
it is the music of the soul.  
Take time to be friendly;  
it is the road to happiness.  
Take time to dream;  
it is what the future is made of.  
Take time to pray; it is the greatest power on earth.

God Bless and have a great Autumn,

Tom



some things take time



## 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.**

## Hampshire Open Studios in St John's Church Farley Chamberlayne

**The artists exhibiting during this six-day Open Studios event are:**

**Sue Mclachlan** (parishioner) animal portrait artist [www.animalmagicart.com](http://www.animalmagicart.com)

**Frinny Farthing** (from Chandlers Ford) landscape artist

<http://farm3.clik.com/frinnyfarthing/>

**Tanya Williamson** Hampshire-based textile artist

[www.marmaladeskiesdesigns.co.uk/](http://www.marmaladeskiesdesigns.co.uk/)

**Peter Radcliffe** (from Hursley) local scenes and  
landscape artist

**Opening times:**

**August 25th - 27th 11.00 am - 4.00 pm**

**August 28th - 29th 10.00 am - 5.00 pm**

**August 30th 10.00 am - 4.00 pm**

A proportion of income from the event is given to the Church and refreshments will also be on sale in aid of Church funds. There will be a tombola, and donations of fresh produce to sell will be welcomed.





## Service of Welcome for the Rev'd Tom Benson

St Mary's Michelmersh was a-buzz with chatter and anticipation on the evening of Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July as the benefice wardens, congregation members from each of our five parishes, and the wardens and LLMs (licensed lay ministers)

from Somborne with Ashley assembled with Tom's family and friends from his previous parishes to welcome Tom as our Rector (and Priest in Charge of Somborne with Ashley). It was amazing to have reached the day at last, and that restrictions had eased sufficiently for us to have 85 people, suitably distanced, gathering together in the church. And to be able to sing, with masks on!

The service was led by Bishop Debbie Sellin, assisted by Rev James Pitkin, Area Dean. Bishop Debbie and Tom are pictured above. In a recent newsletter to the whole diocese, Bishop Debbie wrote: "One of the highlights of my role is taking part in services of admission when we welcome new incumbents into a parish or benefice. I was delighted, therefore, last week to be involved in the collation and induction of the Revd Tom Benson to the United Benefice of Braishfield and to sense how excited both he and the benefice are about the start of a new ministry. Tom has arrived from Exeter Diocese and brings experience from a range of parish contexts."

There were legal aspects to the service, with Tom making the Oath of Obedience to Her Majesty the Queen and the Oath of Canonical Obedience and signing documents. The hymns, all chosen by Tom, included 'Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart', 'Amazing grace' and 'Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord'. The full Order of Service is available to look at on [asbchurch.org](http://asbchurch.org) website. At one point, Tom received the keys of all 6 churches in a basket - it was quite weighty! Two representatives from Tom's previous parish, Buckfastleigh in Devon, commended him to us, and he was in turn welcomed by representatives from the Parish Councils and Schools in our benefice, with those who couldn't be present in person sending messages with good wishes.



*Tom with his wife Maryanne, daughter Rosie, son Peter (behind Maryanne) visiting clergy from Buckfastleigh on the left of the photo, Bishop Debbie, Rev Jane Thompson, Rev James Pitkin and a large number of churchwardens outside St Mary's after the service.*

When the service ended we all took a short walk down the road where we were blessed with a warm, still evening to enjoy a relaxed reception in beautiful surroundings in the garden area behind Michelmersh Barns. For those who wished to sit inside, there were tables set up under trees which were in place for a wedding the following day! The Devon contingent said afterwards that they had thoroughly enjoyed themselves and been made to feel very welcome - and we all enjoyed ourselves too.

Those present felt it was a privilege to be able to participate in the service, with restrictions still limiting the numbers. Had it been just two weeks earlier, even fewer could have attended, so the timing turned out to be just perfect. Filling the vacancy has been a long and drawn out process, but it was worth the wait!

Sarah Boothman

Photos: Alan Lord

**SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Ride & Stride Day to support our Churches & Chapels in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight**

This event happens nationally. What an amazing Ride+Stride we had in 2020, despite Covid. A new record was raised of over £80,000! £10,000 more than 2019. This put us in the top echelon of fund raising county trusts nationwide and able to help our churches even more.

Our Chairman, Joan Appleyard, has set a target of £100,000 for 2021!



More youngsters joining in, as well as clergy encouraging their benefice churches to participate, all helped. Those churches that did were able to also raise some much needed funds themselves - 50% of the sponsorship money for a nominated church was returned to them! The Trust keeps the other half plus any gift aid to hand out in grants to our churches on application. Our Grants Committee are very supportive of churches to the extent that they sometimes offer advice. In addition, we are extraordinarily grateful to

Hampshire County Council for their generous support of the Trust with a £25,000 grant annually. The Trust is also run entirely by volunteers so almost all the money raised goes to our churches.

Please join us and register for Ride & Stride on Saturday 11 September. If the date conflicts then pick another day to visit some of our county's wonderful churches by whatever means you wish! Enjoy a picnic and have a fun day exploring our wonderful cultural heritage!

You are most welcome to sponsor Chris and I and nominate your church. If you need further information please email us on [meryl@hthct.org.uk](mailto:meryl@hthct.org.uk) or ring 01794 368427. Our thanks to both All Saints and the United Reformed Churches' congregations in Braishfield for sponsoring us in 2020.

Please raise sponsorship, open your church, or make a donation. Participating churches will be on our website and it is best to check registrations shortly before the event.

Meryl Balchin  
[www.hthct.org.uk](http://www.hthct.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No 118137

*Photo: outside St Mary's Overton last year. Let's hope for as blue a sky this year!*

## The Welcome to Tom continues ...

### Farley Chamberlayne Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August - Evening Prayer followed by wine and eats



A good number of the Farley community came to join in the service of Evening Prayer on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

The rain cleared up so everyone could be outside after the service enjoying



meeting up and meeting Tom. Refreshments were enjoyed too!

Everyone was very pleased that Trevor Beeson could come to join in the worship and the socialising - his first visit to the benefice since March 2020. All agreed it was a happy and memorable evening.

### Braishfield - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August - Songs of Praise in church and a social gathering in the car park

Sixty five members of the church and village community joined in a Songs of Praise planned by Tom, with the theme of 'Joy'. The hymns were chosen by members of the congregation. It was uplifting to hear the church filled with singing; masks didn't dull the volume! The choir sang a lively African song accompanied by a



drum, and Tom

spoke about Christian joy - more lasting than earthly happiness.

A warm, still evening encouraged everyone to enjoy the fresh air and socialise in the car park, where drinks and refreshments were served. Andy Brooks presented Tom and Maryanne with a welcome hamper of goods from the Village Pantry on behalf of the church and village community.



# 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](mailto:Trevorandsheilaclewer@gmail.com)**  
Sponsored by Awbridge Village Church



## Harvest Thanksgiving

A reminder that you are invited to bring donations for local food banks to all our Harvest Services

### Michelmersh Prize Draw

#### August 2021 Winners

**1st Prize** Liz Hill £67.20

**2nd Prize** Name withheld £33.60

**3rd Prize** Peter Hatcher £19.20

*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](http://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!



**Harvest BBQ in Awbridge  
Sunday 26 September  
from 12 noon  
At Chanwel, Romsey Road,  
Awbridge SO51 0HG**



**All Welcome**

**Tickets: Adults £7 00 Children £2 50**

**Family Ticket £16 (2 Ad +2 Ch)**

**Please note, bring your own drinks and picnic rug/chairs.**

**Harvest Donations to Southampton City Mission Food Bank welcome.**

**Please book with**

**James Alexander 340386 email: [JamesAlexander@hillier.co.uk](mailto:JamesAlexander@hillier.co.uk)**

**or sign list at back of church**

**Numbers by Wed 22 September please**



**Event organised by  
the Social Committee of  
All Saints Church, Awbridge**



## **Celtic Prayer at St Andrew's, Timsbury**

This is a short informal gathering on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month where we follow either the Celtic Prayer form of worship from the booklets kept at St Andrew's or the daily guide from Hopeweavers' morning prayer. Anyone is welcome to attend, the service lasts for a maximum of 15 minutes and is led by Jane Thompson or a volunteer from our congregation. Forthcoming dates: 24<sup>th</sup> August, 28<sup>th</sup> September, at 11.00am.

## **Coffee and Cake at St Andrew's**

We hold this on the second Tuesday of each month at 10.30am

Do feel free to let others know if you think they might wish to join us.

Clarissa Smith



## Refugees

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries

Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way

*(Now read from bottom to top)*

Brian Bilston - English poet, born 1950

TOGETHER IN  
*Prayer*

For Afghanistan

- We grieve today... for Afghanistan, for the people who call it home, the people exiled or suddenly having to leave, and the men and women from other countries who have made sacrifices in recent years in the cause of that country's future.
- We remember with renewed sadness the loss of lives of military personnel during the years of this country's involvement in Afghanistan, conscious of the questions that must today be troubling the minds of those in our community who were bereaved, wounded on operations, and forever changed by experiences suffered there.
- We pray for peace, dignity, freedom and confidence for the men, women and children of Afghanistan; for courage, vision and generosity within the international community responding to such need; and for tranquillity of mind and continued bravery amongst our own service community.

(Prayer adapted from the Church of Scotland)

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 29<sup>th</sup> August - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021**

## **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August -13<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> September - 14<sup>th</sup> 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

## **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September -15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**Old Testament** Isaiah 50.4-9a

**Epistle** James 3.1-12

**Gospel** Mark 8.27-end

**Psalm** 116.1-8

## **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September - 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**Old Testament** Jeremiah 11.18-20

**Epistle** James 3.13 - 4.3, 7-8a

**Gospel** Mark 9.30-37

**Psalm** 54

## **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September -17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**Old Testament** Numbers 11.4-6, 10-16, 24-29

**Epistle** James 5.13-end

**Gospel** Mark 9.38-end

**Psalm** 19.7-end

## ***Readings for Harvest Thanksgiving***

***Old Testament*** Joel 2.21-27

***Epistle*** 1 Timothy 6.6-10

***Gospel*** Matthew 6.25-33

***Psalm*** 126

## **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**Old Testament** Genesis 2.18-24

**Epistle** Hebrews 1.1-4, 2.5-12

**Gospel** Mark 10.2-16

**Psalm** 8

## Services in the Benefice

### 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 T.Benson  
9.30am Braishfield **FAMILY SERVICE** CW tbc  
10.00am Michelmersh (*and Timsbury*) **MORNING PRAYER** BCP J.Thompson  
6.00pm Farley Chamberlayne **EVENING PRAYER** BCP T.Benson

### SUNDAY 12th SEPTEMBER - 15th SUNDAY after TRINITY

8.00am Farley Chamberlayne **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP T.Benson  
9.30am Awbridge **MORNING WORSHIP** C W tbc  
9.30am Braishfield **MORNING PRAYER** CW T.Benson  
11.00am Timsbury **FAMILY SERVICE** CW tbc  
6.00pm Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION** CW T.Benson

### SUNDAY 19th SEPTEMBER - 16th SUNDAY after TRINITY

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** CW J.Thompson  
10.00am Timsbury **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP T.Benson  
11.15am Farley Chamberlayne **FAMILY SERVICE** CW J.Thompson  
6.00pm Michelmersh **HARVEST THANKSGIVING** BCP T.Benson  
6.00pm Braishfield **EVENING PRAYER** BCP J.Thompson

### SUNDAY 26th SEPTEMBER - 17th SUNDAY after TRINITY

8.00am Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP T.Benson  
9.30am Awbridge **FAMILY HARVEST THANKSGIVING** CW  
T.Benson/Family Team  
9.30am Braishfield **HOLY COMMUNION** CW J.Thompson  
11.15am Farley Chamberlayne **MORNING PRAYER** BCP J.Thompson  
2.00pm Awbridge **BAPTISM** T.Benson  
6.00pm Timsbury **HARVEST THANKSGIVING** BCP T.Benson

### SUNDAY 3rd OCTOBER - 18th SUNDAY after TRINITY

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** CW  
9.30am Braishfield **FAMILY HARVEST THANKSGIVING** CW  
10.00am Timsbury (*and Michelmersh*) **MORNING WORSHIP** CW  
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](http://www.asbchurch.org)