

Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

November 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
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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

Mon 22nd November

next edition

of Five Alive

will be available by

Sunday 28th November

From the Rector: Revd Tom Benson

Dear all,

This time of year can be a sad time for some as we enter a season of cold and dark nights. It can be a time to remember and then to draw strength from those memories, to give thanks for the things that we have done and seen, for the people that we have travelled through life alongside and perhaps see no longer.

November 2021 sees us still dealing with the Covid pandemic, and perhaps we feel wearied by what we have had to cope with, the sacrifices made, the enforced changes and losses that we have had to endure. If you feel this way, you are far from alone but it does appear that we still need to be careful and reactive to changing circumstances. That is why we are still encouraging the wearing of masks, hand hygiene, and to be aware of social distancing in our churches and elsewhere.

On the 14th of November we have our Remembrance Day services around the parishes where we remember the sacrifices made by the men and women of our communities on our behalf. The sacrifices that were made many years ago and those that continue to be made today. Their stories, and the stories of the men and women who have served in conflict and maintained the peace over the years, continue to be told as is right and proper if we are to learn from them.

The world is still a troubled place and we see on the news every day the cruelty that humankind can inflict on itself. However, it is also a beautiful place where goodness, kindness and decency still holds sway, so even though we can be presented with images of horror we can see signs of God's goodness revealed. Look to the kindness of strangers, the beauty of creation, the wisdom that is shown by gentle people and there we find something of God revealed. When hardship comes into our lives, as surely it does at times, we are promised that we are not alone. We are promised that the Holy Spirit of God is with us, even if we are not aware of it at the time.

I'm going to close with a short poem by Leo Marks.

The life that I have
is all that I have,
and the life that I have is yours.

The love that I have
Of the life that I have
Is yours and yours and yours and yours.

A sleep I shall have,
A rest I shall have
Yet death will be but a pause.

For the peace of my years
In the long green grass
Will be yours and yours and yours.

God bless,
Tom.

An Invitation from our friends in King's Somborne



We have been invited along to the King's Somborne 'Alive' service on Sunday 7th November at 6pm in the parish church, St Peter and St Paul's. 'Alive' is a monthly, informal evening service in a contemporary style. It is lay-led and interdenominational with a Worship Band. Rev Tom Benson will be speaking on Sunday 7th.

“Welcome!”

On Saturday 9 October the first Benefice training day took place in Braishfield Church Room where Tom asked us to consider how “welcome” our churches are. He encouraged us by telling us that he and his family had all been made very welcome by all the churches but asked whether, however good we currently are, there could be room for improvement. When folk join us the welcome they receive is as important as the service. Tom challenged us to consider that the fellowship after the service is equally as important and that we should endeavour to see that strangers are included in our conversations.

Our churches, mainly, are made up of similar types of people. How welcoming are we to others who are different to ourselves? We should consider what they can bring to us rather than how they will fit into our ways. We all use unconscious bias in our approach to people that we do not know and this, in itself, can cause us to be judgmental and unwelcoming. To



be a truly welcoming church, our “welcome” should be quite structured and, inevitably, at some cost to us all, both physically and financially. Our welcome should be natural and not forced, of high quality (and that includes our coffee and snacks!) and most of all, genuine. This may mean that our sidespersons and welcomers (where used) may need additional training.

A relaxed lunch break enjoying the sunshine during the “Welcome” day

Tom shared that he has been using a “Welcome Statement” at the beginning of some services throughout the Benefice (see next page) and suggested that our churches could produce a “Welcome Pack” to give to strangers in our midst, similar to one used at Awbridge.

We were finally given a questionnaire to complete to see how welcoming our places of worship are. It was quite remarkable to discover that there are simple things that we could all do that would make our churches more accessible and more user friendly to the stranger in our midst! PCCs might like to look at the questionnaire with a view to making small changes to the appearance of the church to visitors and more welcoming!

Sue Manners

[If you would have liked to go to the Welcome Day and couldn't make it, it's going to be run again in the New Year in King's Somborne]

Welcome Statement

You are very welcome at our service today.

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, questioning, seeking, or in a partnership. If you are well heeled or down at heel you are welcome. Whatever your background, your nationality, ethnicity you are welcome

We welcome those blessed with an operatic singing voice and the croaky. We welcome the wailing baby, the excited toddler and the struggling parents. We welcome the well connected and the lonely, the isolated and the bereaved.

You are welcome if you are in recovery or still addicted. If you are in paid work, seeking work or retired you are welcome. We welcome the chatty and the reserved, the smilers and the growlers.

You are welcome if you have spent every Sunday in Church or if this is your first time. We welcome all wheelchair users, hidden illness troopers and carers.

If life is going well for you, you are welcome, if life seems like it is too much to cope with you are welcome. If you start each day with a song or a silent tear you are welcome.

We welcome the wedding couples, the baptism godparents, the confused and the certain. We welcome because we are just like you.

St John's Church, Farley Chamberlayne Operation Christmas Child 2021



Come to our Tea party and help filling and covering shoeboxes.

2pm - 6pm on Friday 5th November

at Oakfield, Farley Chamberlayne SO51 0QR

Chris Chisholm is the St John's church, Farley rep for Operation Christmas Child. RSVP for catering to 01794 368120 or

cookchris@aol.com



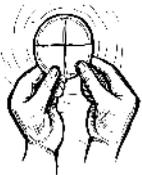
Operation Christmas Child: Good News Great Joy

It's time to be thinking about making up our shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, it is 25 years since Awbridge first started making these shoeboxes! As we couldn't hold an event last year

we will have an open morning at All Saints, Awbridge on **Saturday 6 November** where people can drop off items for shoeboxes at the church and then we can pack up boxes if we have enough suitable goodies. Otherwise we do encourage people to pack their own individual complete boxes and take them to Choice Plants, Timsbury which is a drop off point between 15 and 22 November.

Please note we can **no longer send sweets or toothpaste** so please do not purchase these. Leaflets are available from each church and at Choice Plants, Timsbury.

Instructions on packing boxes and labels can be downloaded see link: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/operation-christmas-child-resources/> email: marysavage126@gmail.com.



'What is communion all about?'

Saturday 20th November 10-11.30am at Awbridge Church

We'll be thinking about communion, what it is, how we approach it, how and why we do certain things. If you have ever thought 'Why do we do it like that?' your questions should be answered! The session will be led by Tom and will include coffee – and cake! All are most welcome. This is a repeat of the session run in September, which was really appreciated by those who were there. Whether a reminder of things you already know or information that is new to you, you will find this session of interest.

Exploring the Lord's Prayer

6 sessions to unpack the very familiar

What do we mean when we pray
"Our Father in heaven"?

Why is it called "The Lord's
Prayer"?

How does it affect our life
and worship today?

How do we engage with this
prayer?

Come and join Revd Tom Benson and others to explore these and similar questions. Each session stands alone, so come when you can - but continuity will add more depth. Everyone is very welcome!
The course runs fortnightly:

Wed 6th, 20th Oct; 3rd, 17th Nov; 1st, 15th Dec: 1.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Timsbury SO51 0NE

Thurs 7th, 21st Oct; 4th, 18th Nov; 2nd, 16th Dec: 2.30pm at 5, Megana Way, Braishfield SO51 0QD

7.30pm at Chanwel, Romsey Road, Awbridge SO51 0HG

Further information from Revd Tom Benson 01794 368335 tbenson09@aol.com



Bonfire Night at St Andrew s Church Timsbury

Friday 5th November 6pm - 7.30

Come and enjoy the bonfire and a firework display to mark the Autumn season

We are mindful that our grounds are mostly cemetery and would like to assure you that this event will not take place on any grave sites. Graves will be cordoned off for protection. We also appreciate that fireworks aren t everyone s favourite thing and will endeavour to keep the display no longer than 15 minutes and to avoid fireworks with loud bangs.

Soup, hotdogs & warm drinks will be available to purchase.



Cash Only

Everyone is welcome to come along. There will be a collection at the gate to support the costs of running our church for the village.

Please arrive on foot as parking will be limited

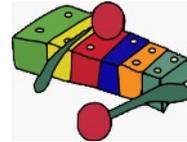
Little Seedlings



Pre-school music & singing at St Andrew's Timsbury

A great way to encourage your child to have fun with hand held instruments and actions, whilst singing along to lots of songs old and new.

Helps develop
listening, singing and
rhythm skills as well as
social activity



To find out more and book your taster session contact:
Jane Brown, Group Leader, email jane.brown4@sky.com
Mobile: 07853175347



We look forward to meeting you

Other Events at St Andrew's

Coffee & Cake. 10.30 at the church. Tuesday 9th Nov.

Celtic Prayer. 11am. Tuesday 23rd Nov.

St Andrew's Day Fish Supper. Saturday 27th November, 6pm in the church. If you are interested in this event please contact Clarissa Smith: clarissasmith671@gmail.com



The cubs came to visit us at St Mary's! They are working towards their Faith Activity badge, so they came to find out about what our faith is about, the people involved and the important parts of the church. They wanted to know about our festivals and some of the accounts of Jesus, so we talked about Easter and Christmas. They asked us lots of questions. To help answer some of them we showed them the communion table and talked about communion, we stood round the font and talked about baptism. We asked them lots of questions too - the cubs were great and they already knew a lot!

It was a day of celebration on 25th September 2021 at St Mary's, Michelmersh, when Lucinda Harvey married Jon-James Godwin. Here's a photo of Lucinda, PCC secretary at St Mary's, with her mother, Clare, who is one of the wardens.



Michelmersh Prize Draw

October 2021 Winners

- 1st Prize** Franny Hornblow £67.20
- 2nd Prize** David Phipp £33.60
- 3rd Prize** Phil Hanson £19.20

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.

The Leaves of the Trees



Come and see this nationally touring art installation set within the Winchester Cathedral nave.

'The Leaves of the Trees' is a reflective installation made up of 5,000 steel leaves with the word HOPE on each one. Collectively the leaves create the impression of autumn leaves fallen from the trees appearing as though naturally scattered by the wind. The leaves symbolise the past but also hope for the future, as the shape of the sycamore maple leaf has been chosen because it symbolises strength, protection, eternity and clarity.

As well as viewing the installation you will also be able to write your own thoughts or messages to loved ones on a paper leaf or simply write your reflections and prayers at this time.

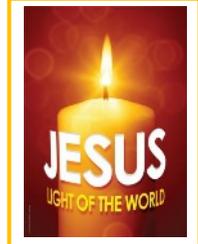
This installation is included with admission to Winchester Cathedral.

<https://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/event/the-leaves-of-the-trees/>

Website is vague on dates - seems to be open until 2nd November - check before you go!



Light in the darkness



Friday 29 October 2021 (half-term)

All Welcome 4-6pm

Braishfield Church Room, Church Lane,

Braishfield SO51 0QH

MESSY ACTIVITIES CELEBRATION BBQ

Messy Church is organised by the members of the local village churches

for all families to attend. Children to be accompanied by parent/carer.

For info contact: Mary Savage 01794 367908 email: marysavage126@gmail.com or

Sue Manners 01794 368230 or email: suemanners@live.co.uk

Next Messy Church: Decorating for the Christmas Tree Festival in Braishfield, details to follow

**AWBRIDGE
COFFEE
HUB**



**BREASTFEEDING
WELCOME
HERE**



Tuesdays: 9.15am - 11.30am

Open to all

A friendly atmosphere

Delicious cakes & pastries

Fairtrade tea & coffee

Money raised goes to charity



FAIRTRADE

All Saints Church
Church Lane
Awbridge
SO51 0HN

Go to Jail! (and Get Out of Jail Free!)

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind that prison gate as you drive into Winchester? I did, for years. Then I saw an opportunity to volunteer for the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), and since 2018 I have been going into the prison regularly. Please read the following press release, as the current Winchester IMB is recruiting new volunteers. Be warned, it can be quite challenging at times, and the time commitment is considerable at three to four days per month (but times are flexible). I would be happy to talk informally with anybody who has any questions.

07917757966 Melanie Legge



Volunteer Observers Wanted to be the “Eyes and Ears” of Winchester Prison

Volunteers are needed to oversee how Winchester Prison is run, as its Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) is looking for new members to join its team.

New recruits would monitor standards of care and fair treatment, talk to prisoners and staff, and attend monthly board meetings - becoming the “eyes and ears on the inside”. The role is unpaid and independent of the prison.

Angus Somerville, chairman of Winchester IMB, said: “We provide independent scrutiny to ensure prisoners are being cared for decently and with humanity.

“This is a position of trust and responsibility - your chance to do something unique and stand out from the crowd. The job is challenging and absorbing

but it's not for everyone. You need to be enthusiastic, open minded, fair, resilient, have good communication skills and the ability to exercise sound, objective judgement," said Mr. Somerville.

No special qualifications or experience are needed and training and expenses are provided. Members must live within 30 miles and be able to dedicate about three to four days each month.

HMP Winchester is a Category B and C male prison for nearly 500 and 700 adults and young offenders.

Rota visits are carried out throughout the year where members tour the prison talking to prisoners and staff about any problems. "We get involved in seemingly small things like locating prisoners' missing property or worries about visits, to bigger matters like being a major influencer on changes within the prison," commented Mr.Somerville

For more information and application details visit imb.org.uk . The closing date for applications is 12th November.

Alternatively, become a Befriender

If volunteering for the IMB feels too onerous, but you would like to play a part in supporting a prisoner on his or her road to rehabilitation, please have a look at www.newbridgefoundation.org.uk which is a charity that enables prisoners who are often without family support to have a "pen friend". Your identity and address are not revealed to the prisoner - you write under a pseudonym, and their letters are addressed to the charity and forwarded to you. You are expected to write once or twice a month, and (if each side wishes after a minimum of 6 months) you have the opportunity to visit "your" prisoner in due course. Training and expenses are covered by the charity.

They currently have a long list of prisoners requesting someone to write to; the Covid restrictions have meant many prisoners have had very little contact with the outside world - visits suspended etc. The feedback from many prisoners who have had their lives turned around by the simple fact of knowing there is "someone out there who can be bothered to write to them" is extraordinary. If you can make a difference to one person's life and break their cycle of crime and punishment - it will have been worth it!

I would be happy to talk to anyone about New Bridge/Befriending.

07917757966. Melanie Legge.



Harvest Thanksgiving at Farley - the fruits of the garden including potatoes, apple jelly and cider bubbling away! And gifts for the Food Bank.



Celebrating Harvest at St Mary's, Michelmersh



Fruit and vegetables and a special Harvest Loaf on the Communion Table at St Andrew's, Timsbury

Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field,
praise God for the people who gather their yield,
the long hours of labour, the skills of a team,
the patience of science, the power of machine.

Praise God for the harvest that comes from afar,
from market and harbour, the sea and the shore:
foods packed and transported, and gathered and grown
by God-given neighbours, unseen and unknown.

Bryan Wren

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380 S Main Pl, Carol Stream, IL 60188

Celebrating Lynda's birthday at ARK

An opportunity to thank Lynda Tucker for all she does and has done for 15 years for the babies, toddlers, parents and grand-parents by running ARK, the friendliest and most welcoming group of its kind in the area!



ARK term-time Fridays Awbridge Village Hall 9.30-11am



The Harvest BBQ was very appetising, and well attended

Other events in Awbridge



Moonlighting vicar? Rector Tom helping behind the bar at the village Pop-Up Pub

Advance Notice: The village Christmas Lunch will be back again this year, which many are already looking forward to, it will take place on Wednesday 8 December, 12 noon, in Awbridge Village Hall.

Celebrating at Farley Chamberlayne

A fine Harvest Supper for 2021 took place on Friday 15th October

The stops were pulled out to run the Farley Harvest Supper, hosted in the barn at Oakfield through the kind hospitality of Iain and Chris Chisholm, instead of the usual venue of St John's church. All hands were on deck preparing the space and the food for the evening led by Hazel Watters, Wendy Graham, Andrea Goldsmith with Sue Mclachlan, Emma Weston, Rosie Higgins and Revd Tom Benson (who turned out to be a lighting rigger with serious skills!). Our thanks go to them and to all the willing helpers on the night - Dot May (who also provided some excellent sausages), Jeremy and Melanie Legge, Molly Walker and many others besides. Thanks also to Pete May who provided a huge space heater for the evening.



Farley Friends seated in the barn, suitably distanced, for the convivial Harvest Supper evening

Who could resist a meal which offered an appetitif of Warm Cider Cup then a first course melange of cold ham, salad, coleslaw, jacket potato, sausages and cheese followed by hot apple and blackberry crumble with ice cream

and cream - then coffee and a dark chocolate mint?

There followed a raffle which delivered some great prizes including various exquisite hampers, a meat token and two items of silver jewellery.

An early account for the evening showed that more than £600 surplus was raised for the Church.

Following the supper a number of new addresses were added to Farley Friends. We now have 100 on the list, which is a landmark

Murray Weston

[Farley Friends is the email network which keeps parishioners whether living close by or at a distance in touch with events and services]

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



All Saints Church, Braishfield

On Sunday 19th December – Saturday 1st January

Viewing between 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

For more information and Entry Forms
please contact:

Stephen Treglown stephen.treglown@gmail.com (01794 502150)

Carole Renvoize stevecarole.renvoize@btinternet.com (01794 368766)

**Entry is Free but donations to support
Messy Church and Sparks Club in Braishfield School**

**Bible readings for Sunday 31st October -
Sunday 5th December**

Sunday 31st October All Saints Sunday

Epistle Revelations 21.1-6a

Gospel John 11.32-44

Psalm 19.7 - end

Sunday 7th November - 3rd Sunday before Advent

Old Testament Jonah 3.1-5, 10

Epistle Hebrews 9.24-end

Gospel Mark 1.14-20

Psalm 62.5-end

Remembrance Sunday 14th November

See service sheets

Sunday 21st November - Christ the King

Old Testament Daniel 7.9-10, 13,14

Epistle Revelations 1.4b - 8

Gospel John 18.33-37

Psalm 93

Sunday 28th November - Advent Sunday

Old Testament Jeremiah 33.14-16

Epistle 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end

Gospel Luke 21.25-36

Psalm 25.1-9

Sunday 5th December - Second Sunday of Advent

Old Testament Malachi 3.1-4

Epistle Philippians 1.3-11

Gospel Luke 3.1-6

Psalm Benedictus

Services in the Benefice

FRIDAY 29th OCTOBER

7.00pm Awbridge **REMEMBERING SERVICE** T.Benson & J.Thompson

SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER

3.00pm Michelmersh **REMEMBERING SERVICE** T.Benson & J.Thompson

SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

10.00am Awbridge **UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION** T.Benson

3.00pm Braishfield **REMEMBERING SERVICE & TEA** T.Benson & J.Thompson

SUNDAY 7th NOVEMBER - 3rd SUNDAY before ADVENT

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** CW T.Benson

9.30am Braishfield **FAMILY SERVICE** A.Manners

10.00am Michelmersh (*and Timsbury*) **MORNING PRAYER & BAPTISM** CW J.Thompson

6.00pm Farley Chamberlayne **EVENING PRAYER** BCP J.Thompson

SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.15am Awbridge School **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** T.Benson

10.45am Farley Chamberlayne **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE** M.Ward

10.45am Timsbury **FAMILY SERVICE & REMEMBRANCE** Lay led

10.50am Braishfield War Memorial **UNITED SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**
J.Thompson & A.Bevan

6.00pm Michelmersh **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**
with Michelmersh Silver Band T.Benson

SUNDAY 21st NOVEMBER - CHRIST THE KING

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** CW T.Benson

10.00am Timsbury **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP J.Thompson

11.15am Farley Chamberlayne **FAMILY SERVICE** CW T.Benson

6.00pm Michelmersh **EVENING PRAYER** BCP J.Thompson

6.00pm Braishfield **EVENING PRAYER** BCP T.Benson

SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER - ADVENT SUNDAY

8.00am Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP T.Benson

9.30am Awbridge **FAMILY WORSHIP** CW Family Team

9.30am Braishfield **HOLY COMMUNION** CW T.Benson

11.15am Farley Chamberlayne **MORNING PRAYER** BCP T.Benson

6.00pm Timsbury **EVENING PRAYER** BCP T.Benson

SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER - 2nd SUNDAY of ADVENT

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** CW J.Thompson

9.30am Braishfield **FAMILY WORSHIP** CW tbc

10.00am Timsbury (*and Michelmersh*) **MORNING PRAYER** CW H.Rowe

6.00pm Farley Chamberlayne **EVENING PRAYER** BCP T.Benson

Check for updated information on www.asbchurch.org