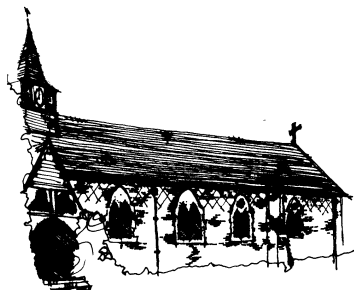
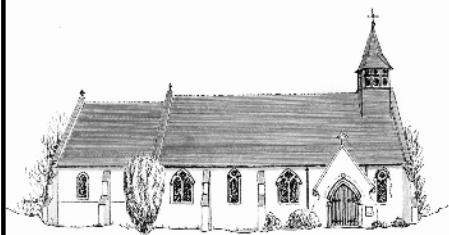
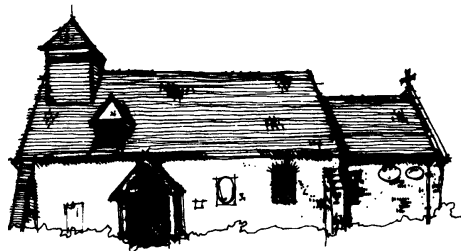




Come,  
Holy  
Spirit!



# Five Alive!



**A Monthly Magazine**

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

**May 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

Benefice Office Tel: 01794 878020

Email: braishfieldbenefice@gmail.com

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Elm Grove Farm

Dummers Road

Braishfield

Romsey

SO51 0QG

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 17<sup>th</sup> May**

next edition  
of Five Alive  
will be available by  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

Revd Jane Thompson writes:

This month we celebrate two really important festivals in the Christian year: Ascension on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May and ten days later, Pentecost, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

Our understanding of the Ascension is pieced together from the different New Testament accounts. Mark and John tell us nothing about it. Matthew records a final conversation with the disciples on the mountain in Galilee but doesn't tell us what happened next. Luke seems to record all his Easter stories, including the Ascension, as if they happened on one day! Paul then assumes that Jesus, who died and was raised, is now at the right hand of the Father. Only in the book of Acts does Luke give us the timeframe that shapes the Church's year, placing Ascension forty days after Easter and Pentecost ten days after that - Pentecost Sunday, fifty days after Easter, derives its name comes from the Greek pentekoste, meaning "fiftieth".

Why did Jesus go? We know he went so that the Holy Spirit could come in love and in power... but I suggest also that Jesus left because he'd finished. He'd done everything he needed to do. He'd given us everything we needed to know and he had to go so we could receive the final deposit! While this is at the heart of our faith, we sometimes forget - it's easy to get hooked up on the how!

Jesus, the Christ, the anointed one of God, went back to where he came from, because he'd finished. There were no "odd jobs" around the edges of salvation! There was no more for him to do here. He had completed his work: he'd taken the poison out of the sting of sin, shown us the heart of God, broken through the wall of death - he'd done what only God could do, what matters most... and now it's down to us. There is plenty for us to do.

But, and that is where Pentecost comes, we don't do it alone.

God knew that when Jesus left we would need more than the memories of who Jesus was and what he did, we would need God's presence and supernatural power to be able to tell people about forgiveness, to live the new life he offers and to speak of God's Kingdom. So that we might access that same power that Jesus had when He was doing miracles amongst the people he met, God gave of himself, God gave us the Holy Spirit.

As we move through Ascension to Pentecost, we have a God-given opportunity to open ourselves up to the power and the presence of God in our lives - let's live expectant of God doing great things, maybe extraordinary things in and through us.

These ten days between Ascension and Pentecost have long been a time set aside for prayer, prayer for others to come to know God. During this period we are encouraged to pray each day for five friends to discover God, to find new life in Jesus, to experience God's powerful peace and presence in their lives.

Will you join me at midday and/or at 6pm from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> in praying both the Lord's Prayer and for five friends to come to know God, to know Jesus, the Christ, receiving forgiveness, restored relationship and starting new life empowered by the Holy Spirit?



### Thy Kingdom Come

From May 13<sup>th</sup> - May 23<sup>rd</sup> each day at 12 noon and again at 6pm I will be pausing to pray the Lord's Prayer and for five friends to come to know God, to know Jesus, the Christ, receiving forgiveness, restored relationship and starting new life empowered by the Holy Spirit.

When I am at home and able to I will open up our Benefice zoom link - I can't guarantee that I will always be able to, but if you would like to join me either on zoom, or wherever you are - we can pray together, on our own, or virtually, out-loud or silently as we each prefer.

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

## **Returning to in-person worship**

The wardens met on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April and agreed that in-person worship would resume in our churches on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April. We will have some shared services. To provide for those people who do not yet feel ready to worship inside a church building, or are unable to travel to church, it was agreed that Zoom worship would continue, in place of in-person worship, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. Also, as we aren't able to gather in larger numbers, our United Benefice services on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of a month, when that occurs, will be on Zoom for the time being. See p.16 for a full list of what is happening.

Congregational singing, unfortunately, remains prohibited within church buildings but it will be great to worship in our churches again.

**LINK** for all our benefice Zoom services and events

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82198001568?pwd=UUFzSDVBTGVweT.VNQk82d3JrUCs5UT09>

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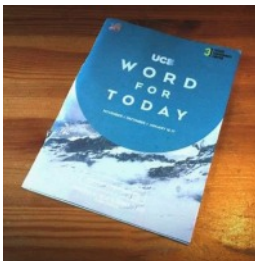
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**Booking details and link for Ascension Day service at Romsey Abbey:**

Booking at [www.romseyabbey.org.uk/service-booking/](http://www.romseyabbey.org.uk/service-booking/)

**and the service will be livestreamed through**

<https://www.romseyabbey.org.uk/webcasts/>



*UCB The Word for Today* and *The Word for You*, new edition for May, June, July will be in the churches for you to collect. Where church buildings are locked during the week, the copies will be in the porch. Please pick your copy up!

## Thy Kingdom Come 2021

Ascension Day Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May to Pentecost Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from 172 countries have taken part in

praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This praying together has been across our diversity and differences as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way. During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total - on our own we can do nothing.

Will you join the global wave of prayer calling Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ?

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

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

both will be at 10.00am



## Michelmersh Prize Draw

### April 2021 Winners

**1st Prize** Tom Robley £41.80

**2nd Prize** Name withheld £25.90

**3rd Prize** David Phipp £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.

## **An unexpected link to World Day of Prayer 2021**

### **- and thanks for donations**

One of the more unusual facts to emerge, after the sad death of HRH the Prince Philip, was that an island tribe in the South Pacific has for decades worshipped the Duke of Edinburgh as a deity! They held a day of mourning and feasting on 12<sup>th</sup> April. The island is Tanna, part of the nation of VANUATU, an archipelago, formerly the New Hebrides. This brought



a direct connection to the World Day of Prayer on 5<sup>th</sup> March when, with churches closed, people in their own homes followed an order of service written by the women of Vanuatu!

The theme was **Build on a Strong Foundation**. We read the parable of the wise man who built his house on the rock. We were all called to 'build on a strong foundation' and live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity; a most apposite message for the world in 2021. After the service people sent in generous contributions for the collection (some probably donated directly online too) The total amount collected in Braishfield was £200, which has been sent to the World Day of Prayer for the many Christian charities they support. Thank you to all who contributed. Next year's service is special for us as it will come from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with the theme 'I know the plans I have for you!' It will be on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March – hopefully back in church.

Now back to the Duke of Edinburgh. A rainforest village on the island of Tanna is the focus of a visionary movement in which the Duke is viewed as a descendant of a god – a pale-skinned mountain spirit who left Tanna decades ago to seek a rich and powerful woman to marry. During the colonial era, in 1974, the Duke visited the island, which was then part of the Anglo-French colony, the New Hebrides. His portrait hung in many government offices alongside that of the Queen and the islanders were aware of the great respect accorded to them both.

Hannah Boothman    WDP Secretary



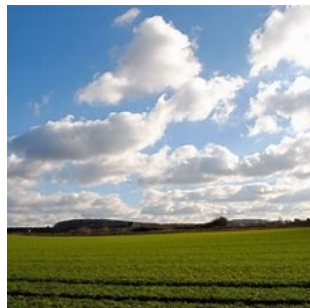
## Walking and Prayer

Many of us are spending time walking - and this can be an opportunity for prayer. Some ideas - you will have more:

- As you walk, give thanks to our Creator God for the beauty of the country side, the wealth and variety of wild flowers, the patterns of the clouds and the restful shadows



- Look at one flower head in detail and marvel at its intricacy - give thanks for the beauty and complexity of God's creation



- If you have things of concern on your mind, listen to the bird song and watch the birds in flight - remember that Jesus said: "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them," (1) and "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care." (2) Share your concerns with our Father God, and know his loving care is always freely available.



- Watch a butterfly open its wings in the sunshine and fly free; open your heart to our loving God, and praise him for his goodness.

A verse of praise to recite as you walk:

*How many are your works, Lord!  
In wisdom you made them all;  
The earth is full of your creatures.(3)*

Or for those who prefer traditional wording :

*Oh Lord, how manifold are thy works!  
In wisdom hast thou made them all:  
The earth is full of thy riches.*

### Bible references:

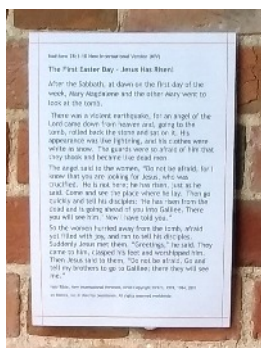
- 1 Matthew 6.26
- 2 Matthew 10.29
- 3 Psalm 104.24

# Celebrating Easter with flowers and story

Although we couldn't worship in our church buildings, they could still proclaim Easter joy. At Farley, the church was decorated for the benefit of visitors - since Easter, St John's has been open every day.



At Braishfield, the porch was used to communicate the Easter story, with a bare cross on Good Friday beneath a copy of an account of the crucifixion. For Easter Day, this was transformed by an arrangement proclaiming new life, and another panel by the Easter Garden told the resurrection story. Passers-by were seen stopping, looking and reading.



The Easter banners were in place inside, and one arrangement to make the church glad, which was moved to the porch for the remainder of the week.



The corona virus pandemic has highlighted kindness and support shown in unexpected ways amongst the evident sadnesses and concerns. Bob Bone, who lives in Awbridge but is well known throughout the benefice, served in Korea during the Korean War. Early on in the pandemic, Bob and his wife Audrey received a parcel containing 30 facemasks, accompanied by a letter which said:



*Dear UN veterans of the Korean War and their families,*

*I am pleased to send you my warm greetings from the Republic of Korea.*

*I wonder how you are doing at a time when all of us are having a difficult time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*UN veterans fought together with us to defend freedom and secure peace in Korea seven decades ago. On the basis of their sacrifice and contribution, Korea has achieved economic development and established a mature democracy.*

*Thanks to the UN veterans, Korea has built a free and prosperous nation as it is today, which has never been forgotten among Korean people.*

*As a way to make a return for the sacrifice and contributions of UN veterans, Korea is sending you masks again. Although the masks are miserable compared with such sacrifice and contributions, I hope that they will help you in dealing with the current pandemic.*

*Korea will continue to remember and honor all the UN veterans of the Korean war for their sacrifice and contributions to maintain its ties with the UN veterans' descendants. Moreover, the Korean government will strengthen friendly cooperation with the 22 UN sending states.*

*As we got together to overcome difficulties 70 years ago, we will be able to overcome the current COVID-19 crisis if we stand together.*

*I truly hope to meet you in person and express my deepest gratitude to you when the COVID-19 pandemic subsides in the near future. I wish you stay safe and healthy.*

*Sincerely,*

*Chung Sye-kyun*

*Prime Minister, Republic of Korea*

A delivery of 30 face masks has arrived several times since. What a wonderful way of showing appreciation to the servicemen who put their lives on the line during the War, and to their families.

## Christian Aid Week 10<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Collection in Braishfield and Farley Chamberlayne

Could you give an hour to deliver envelopes around Braishfield or Farley Chamberlayne? We need more helpers! No second visit to collect is required. Please voluneer to Sarah Boothman 368143, [seboothman@aol.com](mailto:seboothman@aol.com). Mrs Hazel Davies is organising the collection on behalf of St.John's, All Saints' and Braishfield United Reformed Church.



The focus this year is the effects of climate change. This climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day.

From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people are struggling to survive without a reliable source of 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. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

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

Together we stop this climate crisis.

Find out more or give on line at  
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate>



# Art in the churchyard .....



Wendy Forrest-Chard, who wrote last month of her appreciation of our church porches, asked if she might bring her art group to do some sketching in Braishfield church yard. They spent a very happy afternoon, all carefully socially distanced! Sue, a member of the group, made this lovely pastiche of different members of the sketching party at work. Thanks for sharing your work with us, Sue!

Wendy says that when life returns to normal there will be spaces for others to join the group. Or perhaps this will inspire you to take your own chair into a corner of one of our churchyards soon, and do some sketching one pleasant afternoon.

# TOGETHER IN Prayer

- With our whole country, we give thanks for the life and example of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
- We pray for Her Majesty the Queen and all members of the Royal Family in their loss
- We pray for all other families who are coping with loss at this time
- We give thanks for the development of Corona virus vaccines, and pray for the continued success of the vaccination programme in our country
- We pray for countries where cases are still rising and health services are struggling to cope
- We give thanks for the possibility of meeting up with people again, and pray for patience as we wait for the next stage of opening up
- We pray for all who have been scarred by the lockdowns and are finding life overwhelming or empty
- As the bareness of winter is replaced by the green of spring, we pray for the farmers and growers, asking that God will bless their work and enable the land to be productive
- As a benefice we pray for our next Rector and for our churches

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> May - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - 5<sup>th</sup> 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

**Psalms** 22.25-end

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May - 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - Rogation Sunday**

**Old Testament** Isaiah 55.1-11

**Acts 10.44-end** is to be read in place of either the Old Testament or Epistle reading

**Epistle** 1 John 5.1-6

**Gospel** John 15.9-17

**Psalms** 98

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May - Ascension Day**

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May - 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - Sunday after Ascension Day**

**Old Testament** Ezekiel 36.24-28

**Acts 1.15-17, 21-end** is to be read in place of either the Old Testament or Epistle reading

**Epistle** 1 John 5.9-13

**Gospel** John 17.6-19

**Psalms** 1

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Whitsunday - Day of Pentecost**

**Old Testament** Ezekiel 37.1-14

**Acts 2.1-21** is to be read in place of either the Old Testament or Epistle reading

**Epistle** Romans 8.22-27

**Gospel** John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15

**Psalms** 104.26-end

### **Trinity Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

**Old Testament** Isaiah 6.1-8

**Epistle** Romans 8.12-17

**Gospel** John 3.1-17

**Psalms** 29

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**Old Testament** Genesis 3.8-15

**Epistle** 2 Corinthians 4.13 – 5.1

**Gospel** Mark 3.20-end

**Psalms** 130

## Services in the Benefice

**We resume in-person worship on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April**  
**But we will continue to worship on Zoom on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of**  
**each month, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday should there be one.**

### **SUNDAY 25th APRIL - 4th SUNDAY of EASTER**

9.30am Awbridge **FAMILY WORSHIP** CW Family Team  
9.30am Braishfield **HOLY COMMUNION** CW + APCM at 10.45am  
K.Taylor  
11.15am Farley Chamberlayne **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP + APCM 12 noon  
K.Taylor  
6.00pm Timsbury (+ Michelmersh) **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP + APCM 6.45pm  
A.Ashdown

### **SUNDAY 2nd MAY- 5th SUNDAY of EASTER**

10.00am **WORSHIP ON ZOOM** (link - see P. 5)

### **SUNDAY 9th MAY - 6th SUNDAY of EASTER - Rogation Sunday**

9.30am Awbridge **MORNING WORSHIP** CW J.Thompson  
Speaker: T.Clewer  
9.30am Braishfield (+ Farley Chamberlayne) **MORNING PRAYER** CW  
A.Manners  
11.00am Timsbury **FAMILY SERVICE** CW J.Thompson  
6.00pm Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION** CW J.Thompson

### **THURSDAY 13th MAY** (start of *Thy Kingdom Come*)

7.30pm Romsey Abbey **DEANERY SERVICE** (Book or follow on-line, details P.5)

### **SUNDAY 16th MAY - 7th SUNDAY of EASTER, Sunday after Ascension Day**

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** CW followed by APCM J.Thompson  
10.00am Timsbury **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP K.Taylor  
11.15am Farley Chamberlayne **FAMILY SERVICE** CW K.Taylor  
6.00pm Michelmersh **EVENING PRAYER** BCP + APCM J.Thompson  
6.00pm Braishfield **EVENING PRAYER** BCP Lay led

### **SUNDAY 23rd MAY - WHITSUNDAY - DAY OF PENTECOST**

9.30am Awbridge **FAMILY WORSHIP** CW Family Team  
9.30am Braishfield **HOLY COMMUNION** CW J.Thompson  
11.15am Farley Chamberlayne **MORNING PRAYER** BCP J.Thompson  
6.00pm Timsbury (with Michelmersh) **EVENING PRAYER** BCP J.Thompson

### **TRINITY SUNDAY 30th MAY** and

### **SUNDAY 6th June - 1st SUNDAY after TRINITY**

10.00am **WORSHIP ON ZOOM** (link - see P.5)