

Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

February 2023

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BRAISHFIELD

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

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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**

Mon 20th February

next edition
of Five Alive

will be available by
Sunday 26th Feb'23

From the Rector: Revd Tom Benson

Dear friends,

First of all I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard with all our Christmas services and events. This is not as belated as it sounds - I am writing this at the beginning of January! Secondly, we are at the beginning of a brand new year with all the challenges and joys that that will inevitably bring with it. I am sure that I am not alone in sometimes feeling that we seem to have more challenges than joys to look forward to over the coming months. However, it is also true, I think, that there is still much to be grateful for. We are fortunate to live in a great part of the country, places that still have such a strong sense of community and where by and large we can live our lives in safety. When there seems to be so much chaos in terms of finance, politics, and conflict etc it can skew our view of the world, it can seem a very dark and cruel place, and although there are cruelties and there is darkness those things do not dominate on a day to day basis. The truth is that the world still turns on kindness, those small acts of love that get us through and that we can give and receive every day.

This month sees the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. Christians use the six weeks before Easter to prepare themselves for Holy Week and the great joy of Easter Sunday itself - the most important in the Christian calendar when we celebrate that Jesus rose again. One dictionary says that 'Lent is normally observed as a time of fasting and abstinence.' Hence the question 'What are you giving up for Lent?'

Some people set themselves the challenge of giving up smoking or chocolates or alcohol during Lent and to turn it into a positive exercise it seems a good idea to give away the money thus saved. Some people try to read a chapter of the Bible each day, or go to a Lent Course, or spend five extra minutes a day in prayer. There are all sorts of ways we can take positive steps to grow in our faith and Lent seems as good a time as any to do it.

Lent is something of a journey and on the 22nd we start on the road that takes us to the foot of the cross and on to new life and freedom in Christ. It is a journey during which we hope to learn something more about ourselves and God - our relationship with him, his will for us individually and his world at large. It is not an easy journey - those that are really worthwhile are seldom easy—but it is a journey that takes us to the heart of Christianity and the heart of what it means to be truly fully alive to ourselves and to God.

So now let's look forward to our journey as we travel on together.

God Bless,

Tom

Ukraine - a prayer

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.



We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.

Amen. *From the CAFOD website*



Would you like to help Ukrainian refugees?

The BUSG (Braishfield Ukrainian Support Group) is appealing for donations of money to support refugees and host families in the communities of Braishfield, Michelmersh, Farley Chamberlayne, Timsbury, Awbridge, and King's Somborne as well as Ukrainian refugees wherever they are.



If you are a refugee yourself or a host family and think that we might be able to help you, please do be in touch.

If you think that you can help financially or in some other way please contact:

Geoff Briggs geoffbriggs@btinternet.com

Rev Tom Benson The Rectory, Braishfield Road Braishfield SO51 0PR
tbenson09@aol.com 01794 368335

It would be really helpful if you could consider regular giving via our pledge scheme, but any donation large or small (cash, cheque, or online) is gratefully received.

If possible, please make your donations by on-line banking as follows: Account name: Braishfield PCC Sort Code: 60 18 46 Account Number: 21204470 Reference: BUSG [donor's surname]

If you are making an online donation please let Geoff Briggs know so that we can keep our records up to date. Thanks.

Lent Courses based on the Baptism promises

The same course will run at two venues. Come to whichever suits you!

Evenings at Poppies, Choice Plants on Wednesdays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March, Wed 5th April at 7.30pm

Daytimes at Braishfield Church Room Tuesdays 28th February, 7th, 14th March, Wednesday 22nd March, Tuesday 28th March, Tuesday 4th April 12 noon - 2.00pm

Brief details about the course content are below

Session One: Do you turn to Christ?

With a Reflection by Stephen Cottrell

Explores the attraction of Jesus Christ. What happened when people met him? What would happen if you did?

Session Two: Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

With a Reflection by Paula Gooder

What do Christians believe about God? This session uses the Old Testament to look at how God is like a Father.

Session Three: Do you believe in his Son Jesus Christ?

With a Reflection by Stephen Conway

Looking in more detail at who Christians believe Jesus is, this session looks at what Jesus' baptism reveals about his identity.

Session Four: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

With a Reflection by Stephen Cottrell

Uses the story of Pentecost to show how Christians believe the Holy Spirit makes Jesus present today.

Session Five: Do you repent of your sins?

With a Reflection by Stephen Cottrell

Looks at what Christians call sin: that inbuilt tendency to get things wrong and God's great desire to put things right.

Session Six: Do you renounce evil?

With a Reflection by Nick Baines

Explores the reality of evil, and how the Christian faith invites us to set the moral compass of our lives.



Looking back to Christmas - above, singing Silent Night by the light of candles and Christingles in All Saints Braishfield on Christmas Eve 2022 - a special moment. (photo: Alan Lord)

All Saints Church, Braishfield – Christmas Donations

Many thanks to everyone who supported our two special collections



£307.22 raised at 'Carols on the Rec' has been sent to Action for Children

The Children's Society

£163.71 donated at the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve has been sent to the Children's Society

Both charities carry out much needed work in support of vulnerable children and young people

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Carole Renvoize and I would again like to thank the six entrants who contributed to entering a tree in support of the now regular feature in All Saints Braishfield over the Christmas period. As always, the children displayed some wonderful ideas and designs and the trees gave a magnificent back drop to the candlelight Carol Service on the Sunday evening before Christmas. The church really looked wonderful with candles providing the only light and the trees giving a presence that helped echo the importance in today's rather troubled world of the birth of Jesus and the message he gave and preached to all mankind. Carole and I hope that the festival will be held again this coming Christmas.

We hope that perhaps a few more younger children could be encouraged to take part as we really do need to look for a few more to replace those who just happen to grow a little older every year !!! But, our grateful thanks to those for their support, and as always, my own sincere thanks to Carole for all that she did.



Stephen Treglown

Celebrating Christmas at St Mary's, Michelmersh

The Michelmersh Silver Band accompanied the carols at the well attended Carols and Christingle service before Christmas. Mulled wine and home made mincepies were served after the service. It was good to have so many children taking part this year and it was a very happy occasion. The collection in aid of the Children's Society amounted to £222.80. A few days later a number of families came along to the Crib Service which was also a very relaxed and enjoyable gathering.

Christmas Lunch at Awbridge

The Awbridge Christmas Lunch in December was a great success with 60 people enjoying wonderful food and carol singing with Year 6 children from Awbridge School. The next village lunch will be at 12 noon, on 29 March in the village hall.



The crib scene created during the Crib Service at St John's, Farley Chamberlayne a couple of days before Christmas. The stable was newly made for Christmas 2022 by Mr Alan Rodbourne.

Photo: Andy Brooks

Family Breakfast services at Awbridge



The new family breakfast service at Awbridge village hall was a great gathering in December, especially on a cold morning, so breakfast and a warm setting for the Advent theme was lovely. In February this service will take place on 19 Feb and then again on 19 March which will be Mothering Sunday, both with breakfast from 9 00 am. Everyone is very welcome!

All Saints Braishfield - a date for your diary

Please come and help with our **Churchyard Working Party** on **Saturday 11th March, from 9.30am**. Bring your own tools - mid-morning refreshments will be provided! An assortment of tasks to be done - something for everyone!

Gentlemen, have you booked for the next
Men's Breakfast on Saturday 4th February
at Chambers, Stirling Walk in Romsey?

Ring Trevor Clewer on
01734593953

Full English breakfast

(Photo just a suggestion!)



**AWBRIDGE
COFFEE
HUB**



Tuesdays: 9.15am - 11.30am

Open to all

A friendly atmosphere

Delicious cakes & pastries

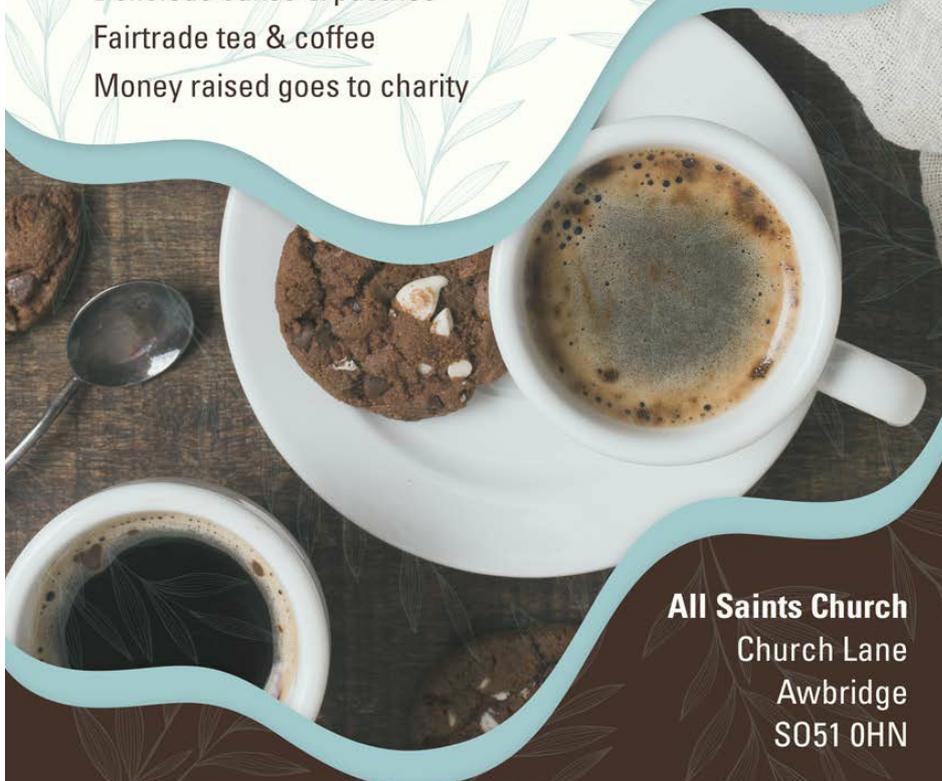
Fairtrade tea & coffee

Money raised goes to charity

BREASTFEEDING
WELCOME
HERE



FAIRTRADE



All Saints Church
Church Lane
Awbridge
SO51 0HN

Remembering Rusty Smith of Braishfield

All Saints Braishfield has close ties with Braishfield URC church. We were saddened by the unexpected death of Rusty Smith and many All Saints church members attended his funeral at the URC on 14th December. Attendance was so large that at least 50 people stood outside the church, listening to the sound relay. Rusty was afterwards laid to rest in All Saints churchyard. In addition to members of Braishfield parish church, many people across our parishes will have known Rusty through his long association with the Newport Inn, so we include a tribute to him.

'Russell Alan, known to us all as 'Rusty' was born on 9 April 1933. He lived at Birkhamstead until he was about 13. He then moved to Chilworth with his parents Charles and Nancy and his brother Charlie. He attended Romsey School, then known to everyone as 'the cow sheds'. He left school aged 14 and worked at Unity Heating at Chilworth Manor, and trained as a draftsman. But this was not for him - he wanted to work on a farm, with animals and tractors! Rusty soon got a job at Hall Farm, Braishfield and rode his bike every day from Chilworth for 6 am milking. At the age of 18 he was called to do his national service and spent his two years in the Royal Artillery in Hong Kong. After this he returned to Hall Farm before moving to work at Pucknall and Hawkes Farms, where he worked for three different farmers, until he retired aged 65.

'During this time Rusty and his parents moved from Chilworth to the Wheatsheaf where they were 'mine hosts', and Rusty lived there for 11 years before his marriage to Shirley who was the daughter of 'mine hosts' at the Newport at the time. Rusty and Shirley were married in Braishfield URC on 25 March 1961 nearly 62 years ago. Until the age of 80, Rusty worked behind the bar at The Newport and was known there as 'the posh barman'!

'Rusty worked hard in the church - he was always there helping, whatever needed doing. He was church treasurer for 38 years; church cleaner, and was seen Sunday mornings sweeping a 'clean path' to the church door. He supported all the church fundraising events and loved being host to the sherry and mince pies evening at their home where 'the parrot' always helped with the raffle!

Rusty loved his garden and spent many hours in it, working. Following his retirement he started a gardening business and soon had his week filled doing other people's gardens. He also helped his son Alan with his gardening business and helped him at Gardener's World (Birmingham) and Hampton Court, and was proud when Alan received medals at both international shows. Rusty also helped Alan and Dawn when they opened their sweet shop in Romsey, known as 'Humbugs'!

‘Rusty will be remembered by his family as a kind and loving husband and a wonderful dad, lovely father-in-law and much loved grandad.’

Taken from the tribute read by Rev Mike Perrott at Rusty’s funeral

By the community of Braishfield and all who knew him through the Newport Inn Rusty will long be remembered as a patient, kind, friendly man with a gentle sense of humour who lived out his life quietly and happily, always ready to lend a helping hand.

Website

A message from Alan Lord who keeps an online diary for the benefice

I’m not sure how many of you are aware that a diary of all events in the Benefice is on the All Saints’ Braishfield Church Website.

The Diary gives dates and times, location and description of the event for each village church. If you have a smart phone this is particularly helpful having all you require in one place.

On the smart phone enter the website:
either: www.asbchurch.org
or www.fivealivechurches.org.

When opening you will see the Home page

tap in the Menu top right and you can pick a page
eg: Benefice Events and Services,
or News to see the latest Five Alive Magazine in colour.
The same information is available on Tablets, Laptops etc.
with link buttons from the home page instead of Menu.

It is hoped that we can update the Website to include all the churches. If you are interested in progressing this idea and would be willing to supply information similar to the All Saints’ Church Braishfield page, please get in touch with either Tom Benson or Sarah Boothman.

Michelmersh Prize Draw

DECEMBER 2022 Winners

1st Prize	Godfrey Orrell	£71.40
2nd Prize	Marjorie Duguid	£35.70
3rd Prize	Phill Hanson	£20.40

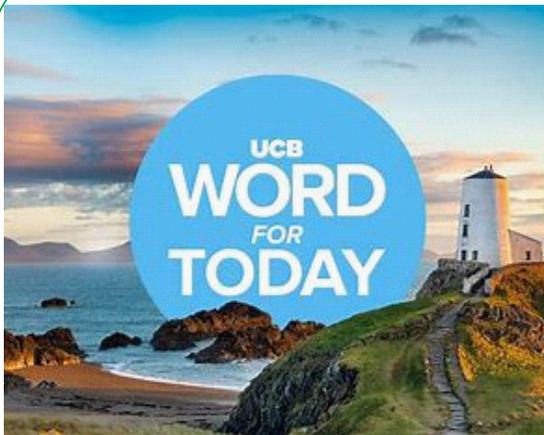
Special Christmas Bonus Peter Hatcher £25

JANUARY 2023 Winners

1st Prize	Peter Hatcher	£72.80
2nd Prize	[Name withheld]	£36.40
3rd Prize	Frannie Hornblow	£20.80

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.

The Word for Today



We place free copies of The UCB magazine 'Word for Today' in each of our churches. Each copy contains daily readings based on scripture, articles and things to pray about.

UCB - United Christian Broadcasters - say that every day, thousands of people take a few moments to read, reflect and pray with UCB.

The UCB Word For Today offers something unique to all readers, whether they are new to faith or have journeyed with God for a long time. Word For Today has reached millions of people in print, email, online and through radio broadcasts since UCB started publishing it in 1994.

Pick up a copy of the new edition, covering February - April from your church or Braishfield Church Room if you haven't looked at one before, and see if it's something you might find helpful.

Events in the Benefice in February

General

Men's Breakfast Saturday 4th Feb p.9

Lent Course Braishfield Church Room begins Tues 28th p. 8

Poppies, Choice Plants begins Wed 1st March p. 8

Awbridge

Awbridge Coffee Hub Every Tuesday, 9 15-11 30 am Church Rooms, Awbridge All welcome

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 7 & 21 Feb, 8 45 am at church before Awbridge Coffee Hub

Awbridge Housegroup 7pm for 7 30pm Thursdays 2 & 16 Feb at Chanwel, contact Fred 01794 340709

Craft & Chat Group Friday 3 & 17 Feb at 10 30 am Committee Room, Awbridge V Hall contact Sue Franklin 322185

"The Ark" The All Saints Church Baby & Toddler group meets in Awbridge Village Hall, on Fridays in term-time, 9 30 am - 11 00 am. Contact: Lynda Tucker 01794 340709.

Braishfield

Village Voices Mon 27th Feb 2-4pm Church Room

Farley Chamberlayne

PCC Thurs 16th February 7pm

Timsbury

Coffee and Cake Tues 14th Feb 10.30am in the church

Celtic Prayer Tues 28th Feb 10.30am in the church

Play Reading Group every Tuesday afternoon 2-3.30pm in the church

If you have church events which you would like to publicise please send an email to the Benefice Office with full details. Thank you!



Homelessness A positive local initiative
<https://wcns.org.uk/> for volunteering opportunities
Don't confuse this with the Winchester Beacon charity in Kentucky USA!

There is an acute lack of housing support for those experiencing homelessness in Hampshire. The Winchester Beacon is the only Nightshelter offering emergency access to single men and women in the county. Each year we are forced to turn away, on average, between 150 – 300 people due to lack of bed space. This issue is compounded by a shortage of affordable housing locally. The average waiting time for a one-bed council property in Winchester for someone who is not in priority need is four years and four months, with the average cost of a one-bed private rental in central Winchester almost £800 (as of 2019 - so much more now).

The Winchester Beacon is the new working name of the long-established charity, Winchester Churches Nightshelter (WCNS). WCNS was founded in 1988 to provide emergency shelter to people experiencing homelessness during winter months. Thousands of people have managed to escape homelessness with the support of WCNS. Over the last 33 years the charity has evolved to become more than a Nightshelter which is part of the reason for the change of name. The Winchester Beacon is located on Jewry Street and offers ten single bedrooms and wrap around support to people experiencing homelessness. We open all day and night 365 days of the year. We support, on average, between 100 – 150 people annually. As well as our bedrooms on site at the Winchester Beacon, we accommodate an additional eight people at our two off site properties in the local area. We have recently purchased a third off site property which will accommodate four people after it has been renovated.

Many of those who find themselves homeless are not only coping with a lack of housing but with a raft of other problems. There is no single reason why someone can end up without a home – personal circumstances and wider factors both play a role. The most common factors cited as contributing to homelessness are often complex and interlinked. They include relationship breakdown, mental and physical ill health, financial issues, unemployment and substance misuse. However individuals can arrive at the point of homelessness after a long chain of other life events.

We come alongside the residents during their stay with us to help them plan a path forward and to find more permanent accommodation which matches their needs. There is no fixed timeline and residents can stay anything between a few weeks to a year or more, an average stay is 116 nights. As well as accessing secure and comfortable accommodation and nutritious food, during their stay at the Winchester Beacon residents also benefit from a wide-ranging programme for practical and emotional support to help them break the cycle of homelessness and rebuild their lives.

Bible readings for FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday 29th January

Candlemas – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Old Testament Malachi 3.1-5

Epistle Hebrews 2.14-end

Gospel Luke 2.22-40

Psalm 24

SUNDAY 5th FEBRUARY – 3rd Sunday before LENT

Old Testament Isaiah 58.1-12

Epistle 1 Corinthians 2.1- end

Gospel Matthew 5.13-20

Psalm 112.1-9

SUNDAY 12th FEBRUARY - 2nd Sunday before LENT

Old Testament Genesis 1.1-2.3

Epistle Romans 8.18-25

Gospel Matthew 6.25-end

Psalm 136.1-9, 23-end

SUNDAY 19th FEBRUARY - Sunday next before LENT

Old Testament Exodus 24.12-end

Epistle 2 Peter 1.16-end

Gospel Matthew 17.1-9

Psalm 2

WEDNESDAY 22nd FEBRUARY - ASH WEDNESDAY

Epistle 2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10

Gospel Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21 or John 8.1-11

SUNDAY 26th FEBRUARY - 1st Sunday of LENT

Old Testament Genesis 2.15-17;3.1-7

Epistle Romans 5.12-19

Gospel Matthew 4.1-11

Psalm 32

SUNDAY 5th MARCH - 2nd Sunday of LENT

Old Testament Genesis 12.1-4a

Epistle Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

Gospel John 3.1-17

Psalm 121

SERVICES FOR JAN/FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY 29TH JANUARY – CANDLEMAS Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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

SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY - 3RD BEFORE LENT

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** CW T.Benson
9.30am Braishfield **FAMILY WORSHIP** CW Lay led
10.00am Timsbury(and Michelmersh) **MORNING WORSHIP** T.Clewer
6.00pm Farley Chamberlayne **EVENING PRAYER** BCP T.Benson
7.00pm Awbridge **BENEFICE INFORMAL WORSHIP** J.Thompson/
T.Benson

SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY - 2ND BEFORE LENT

8.00am Farley Chamberlayne **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP T.Benson
9.30am Awbridge **MORNING WORSHIP** Family Team
9.30am Braishfield **MORNING WORSHIP** T.Benson
11.00am Timsbury **FAMILY SERVICE** T.Benson
6.00pm Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION** T.Benson

SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY - SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

9.00am Awbridge VH **FAMILY BREAKFAST SERVICE** J.Thompson
10.00am Timsbury **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP tba
11.15am Farley Chamberlayne **FAMILY SERVICE** T.Benson
6.00pm Braishfield **EVENING PRAYER** BCP H.Rowe
6.00pm Michelmersh **EVENING PRAYER** BCP T.Benson

ASH WEDNESDAY - 22ND FEBRUARY

7.30pm Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION** T.Benson

SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY – 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

8.00am Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP T.Benson
9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** T.Benson
9.30am Braishfield **HOLY COMMUNION** J.Thompson
11.15am Farley Chamberlayne **MORNING PRAYER** BCP T.Benson
6.00pm Timsbury **EVENING PRAYER** BCP T.Benson

SUNDAY 5th MARCH - 2nd Sunday of LENT

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION**
9.30am Braishfield **FAMILY WORSHIP**
10.00am Michelmersh (and Timsbury) **MORNING PRAYER** BCP
6.00pm Farley Chamberlayne **EVENING PRAYER** BCP
7.00pm Awbridge **INFORMAL BENEFICE WORSHIP**

All services are contemporary worship unless marked BCP - Book of Common Prayer

Updates and more All Saints Braishfield information can be found at
www.asbchurch.org where you can also see Five Alive in colour