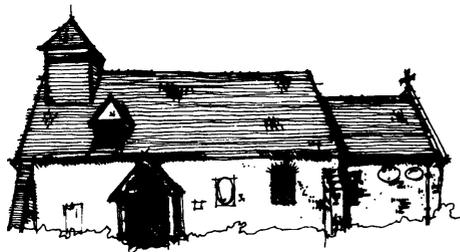




Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

February 2022

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

Benefice Office Tel: 01794 878020

Email: braishfieldbenefice@gmail.com

Address:

Braishfield Benefice Office

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

Mon 21st February '22

next edition

of Five Alive

will be available by

Sunday 27th February '22

From the Rector: Revd Tom Benson

Dear friends,

Life is full of the unexpected you know. Try this exercise and see if you can be surprised...

Find a piece of paper and pen, think of a number between 1 and 10 and write it down.

Multiply your answer by 9.

If you have a number with two digits, add them together.

Subtract 5.

Pick the letter of the alphabet that corresponds to your number (A is 1, B is 2 etc).

Think of a country that begins with that letter.

Take the next letter in the alphabet and think of an animal that begins with that letter.

Now I think that I can guess what most of you will have picked. The answer is at the end of this letter. Try it out on other people and see if you get the same response.

In our Gospels we read how Jesus looks around the landscape of Galilee, the fields and wild places, the beach and the hills, and finds stories there that teach us so much about God - stories about seeds, sheep, weeds and wheat. Stories that reveal God's work in the world and in our lives. We are surrounded with glorious countryside, fruitful farms and gardens, wild places, rivers and streams. As tiny, fragile shoots push through the heavy soil, and buds begin to unfurl on trees and shrubs, as birds and animals shake off the winter cold, we too, look up and look out - perhaps we will see parables and stories in the landscape around us and recognise the love and grace of God in the surprises and promises of Spring.

So at the beginning of a new year, what about resolving to find something joyful, something surprising in every day? It seems to me that we often forget that God created a wonderful world for us. For sure, there are bad times as well as good, but each day holds its own surprise and we can only see, hear, or feel it when

it comes if we are looking out for it. So let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, because it will open a new place in our hearts, where we can welcome new friends and begin to change our world..... one day at a time.

God bless,

Tom

PS – is your animal an elephant by any chance?

Parishes Away Day on Welcome

Saturday 19th February 10am - 4pm at Kings Somborne Village Hall.
ALL, ALL are very welcome from across the Benefice, especially if you missed out last time. Please bring your own packed lunch - coffee, tea and CAKE provided

If you are reading this in black and white, remember you can log on to asbchurch.org to see the full colour version, and to keep up to date with events.

Sunday 30th January

Our fifth Sunday service will be

Holy Communion at St Peter's & St Paul's church,
King's Somborne

10am, led by Rev Tom Benson



Look forward to seeing everyone there!

SO20 6PH

A reminder that Tom is Rector of our benefice of five parishes and also Priest-in-Charge of the benefice of Somborne with Ashley with which we are in a Group

An exciting new venture!

On February the 6th at 7pm in Awbridge church we will be meeting together for the first of our new monthly informal worship evenings. The worship will make use of the technology that we have available, the music will be of a more contemporary style, the prayers varied in style and format and we'll be exploring scripture together. Everyone is welcome to this monthly event for the whole benefice. Oh yes and there will be plenty of coffee and cake...

Now you may think that this might not be your type of thing, but it is my experience that God very often speaks to us in the places where we don't expect to find him. So please do come along and give it a try, there will be no pressure to hug each other (even if we were allowed), and bring a friend especially those who might be unused to more traditional models of worship.

This is an opportunity for us all to be involved so we would love as many people as possible to join the team. So if you can bake a cake or play an instrument, can handle technology or would like to lead prayer, give a testimony or read scripture, have a welcoming smile or have any combination of these then we would love to hear from you!

Thanks for your time and see you on the 6th!

Tom

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday 2nd March this year

Ash
Wednesday



On Ash Wednesday, 2nd March, we will have a service of Holy Communion at St Mary's Michelmersh at 7.30pm, for everyone in the benefice.

A reminder re handbags etc visible in cars



We all need to be aware that there are opportunist thieves around. On Christmas Eve items were stolen from cars parked outside Awbridge Church during the Midnight Communion service, and at Braishfield over the summer a handbag was stolen from a car in the carpark during a wedding service.

We live in a low-crime area but we need to remember that it isn't a 'no-crime' area. On both occasions the items which were stolen from the cars were visible if one looked through the car windows.

This is a reminder that we mustn't become careless because we know we live in a safe area, and need to make sure that anything of any value which we leave in a car is out of sight.

Michelmersh Prize Draw

December 2021 Winners

1st Prize Norton Welch £67.20

2nd Prize Mrs Sheila Neil £33.60

3rd Prize (Name withheld) £19.20

Christmas Bonus Mrs M Duguid £30

January 2022 Winners

1st Prize Liz Hill £67.20

2nd Prize (Name withheld) £33.60

3rd Prize Bruce Chapman £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.

Children's Christmas Tree Festival at Braishfield church

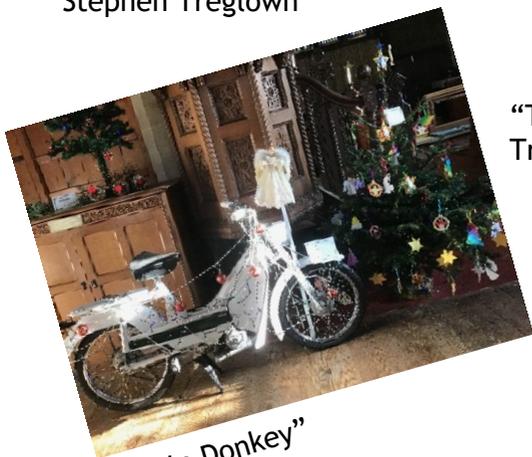
Carole and I were so pleased to be able to reinstate the festival again after the Covid restrictions placed upon us last year (2020) and we had 7 entries that, together with the floral displays from the flower group, gave All Saints a real Christmassy feel for the festive period.

The festival was graced by a rather special entry and the story goes that, as Joseph brought Mary to Bethlehem on a donkey, another special person who has recently answered our prayers, and travels the parishes on two wheels, was persuaded to add his method of travel... hence the inscription " My Little Donkey", and this helped in no small way to bring a more personal touch to the festival.

We hope to run the festival next year and that we can persuade more families to encourage their young children to enter their own trees which brings a more personal contribution to the church, in addition to the other contributions from Messy Church and the Brownies.

A big thank you from Carole and myself to all for the wonderful contributions and effort and imagination shown.

Stephen Treglown



"My Little Donkey"

"The Shimmering Tree" by Lucy Knight



"Russell's Reindeer" by Benjamin Russell



Carols in the car park on Christmas Eve at Timsbury

In 2020 Covid forced us to use the car park for our Christmas Eve Service. It actually worked well, with about 70 people there. We watched the events of 2021 with concern as Covid, unsurprisingly, got worse in the winter. We realised we couldn't really use the church as it is usually packed on 24th.



So we decided to use the car park again but decided that we would only cancel if the forecast was terrible. Well, it wasn't that bad, but it wasn't good either: it rained pretty much continually, although at least it wasn't coming down sideways, nor that cold!

So, with Dave and Clarissa's gazebo, Chris T's speaker and some lights, we went ahead.

Around 40 intrepid people turned up, which we felt was pretty good all considered. Had it been a fine evening I am sure we would have had more. We shall have to think about what we do in 2022 nearer the time, but an outside service goes very well. John Glasspool



A Christmas welcome at St Mary's, Michelmersh, rector and warden looking out through the door!

Everyone was pleased to be able to have an 11.15pm Midnight Communion service on Christmas Eve this year.

Confirmation - Would you like to be confirmed or consider a further step in your faith? There will be a confirmation service at St Leonards, Sherfield English at 4pm on Sunday 6th April. Please do contact Tom or Jane if you are interested or would like an informal chat.



God versus Water

Friday 25 February 2022 (half-term)

All Welcome 4 pm - 6 pm

Braishfield Church Room, Braishfield SO51 0QR

MESSY ACTIVITIES CELEBRATION FEAST

Messy Church welcomes families from our local area for fun, food and worship based on a new theme each session. Children need to be accompanied by parent/carer.

For info contact:

Mary Savage 367908 or marysavage126@gmail.com

Sue Manners suemanners@live.co.uk or 368230

Donations always welcome

**Next Messy Church Friday 22 April 2022,
4pm Braishfield Ch Rm**

We had great fun at Messy Church in December making decorations for, and then decorating, a Christmas tree for the children's tree festival in Braishfield church. Here it is.



Christmas 2021 at Farley Chamberlayne



Our Rector, Tom, introduced a new idea for the benefice - a Crib Service for families. At Farley we gathered at 4pm on Thu 23 Dec. The six children who were present (and the adults too) much enjoyed sharing in the delightful service. As the Christmas story unfolded and we sang carols, all

present were involved in placing the figures (knitted in Suffolk and kindly donated by Mrs Wendy Graham) in the stable. Here are Jude and Fleur with the completed crib scene. We hope that we can spread the word to involve more people in 2022.



(Left) Christmas Day - Coffee outside after 11.15am Holy Communion at St John's in keeping with covid protocols! Mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed outside around a fire pit after the Carol Service too.

Romsey Deanery – Spring 2022



'Pop Up' Resourcing

An opportunity for those ministering to children & families to gather and hear news of what is available to resource your ministry. Come and join us for a drink, chat and look at free resources to takeaway!

Saturday 12th February (10.30 – 12.30) at Braishfield Church Room



You are invited to

Afternoon Tea in Braishfield Church Room
(instead of the Village Lunch ...)

Tuesday 8th February 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Drop in for a while or stay all afternoon

Tea/coffee and plenty of cake for £3!



Meet old friends and make new ones -
enjoy the chance to chat.

An event for the whole community
– all ages welcome!

Carols on the Rec - a special Christmas event at Braishfield

A first ever open-air village carol singing event took place on the Friday before Christmas. About 150 people gathered around the Village Hall car park to sing carols accompanied by Chandlers Ford Boys Brigade Brass Band. The mobile Fish and Chip van was in attendance and did good trade throughout the evening, with some families coming early and enjoying a fish supper before the singing began. The Village Pantry opened specially for general shopping and hot drinks, and the opportunity to buy mulled wine from a stall outside was welcomed enthusiastically - note for next time - prepare more! We were fortunate to have a dry evening, and everyone appreciated the chance to meet up and get into the festive spirit. The Band played excellently. They collected for Action for Children and over £200 was given to the charity. Revd Tom Benson introduced and ended the evening, which was jointly organised by All Saints Church and the Parish Council, with support from the Pantry and the Village Hall. The PCC paid for a cone of chips for each of the Band members as a 'thank you' for their contribution. A date for 2022 has already been put in the diary.

News from Awbridge

Although it may seem a while ago now it was good to have everyone joining us in worship over Christmas and hearing once again the stories of Jesus' birth and how that tiny baby changed the lives of all who first met him and how he continues to change lives today. Despite all the changes we see around us and the challenges still with us God's love for humanity and the whole cosmos is steadfast and constant. As a reminder of the amazing creation around us we distributed snowdrop bulbs in Advent and these by now should be growing and flowering to remind us of the first signs of spring and as they are sometimes known as Candlemas Bells, remind us also of Jesus bringing light into our broken world.

Activities for February

Awbridge Coffee Hub

Every Tuesday, 9 15-11 30 am Church Rooms Awbridge

All welcome

Prayer Meeting

Usually 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 8 45 am at church before Awbridge Coffee Hub

Awbridge Housegroup

7pm for 7 30pm Thursdays 4 & 17 Feb at Chanwel, contact Fred 340709

Craft & Chat Group

Meets Friday 11 & 25 Feb
New time: 11 30 am Main Hall at 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 340709.



The poster features a dark brown background with a light blue wavy border. At the top left, a white speech bubble contains the text 'AWBRIDGE COFFEE HUB' and a small icon of coffee beans. To the right, a white silhouette of a person breastfeeding is accompanied by the text 'BREASTFEEDING WELCOME HERE'. Below this, a Fairtrade logo is visible. The central text lists the schedule: 'Tuesdays: 9.15am - 11.30am', followed by a list of offerings: 'Open to all', 'A friendly atmosphere', 'Delicious cakes & pastries', 'Fairtrade tea & coffee', and 'Money raised goes to charity'. The bottom half of the poster shows a top-down view of a white coffee cup with a saucer, a small bowl of cookies, and a spoon. In the bottom right corner, the text reads 'All Saints Church Church Lane Awbridge SO51 0HN'. A small credit 'Designed by Jane Duggan' is at the very bottom left.



Theme: “I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU”

Friday 4th March at 2 pm (or whenever suits you) on-line

Followed by time to chat at 3pm via a Zoom link
(see below for info)

Background

The World Day of Prayer service (*used to be Wone’s World Day of Prayer*) on the first Friday of March, has been held in Braishfield annually since 1969, and is shared between the United Reformed and All Saints’ Churches. This year is special for us, as the service has been written by a team from England, Wales and N Ireland. The Bible text “I know the plans I have for you” from Jeremiah is used to reflect on some of the issues facing us here today. To find out more and see a copy of this year’s service on-line, go to www.wwdp.org.uk

This year

The logo illustrates how worship travels ‘around the world’ on Friday 4 March 2022. Services will take place beginning in Samoa and moving on through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe and finally the United States and South America before finishing in American Samoa. Across England, Wales and Northern Ireland services will take place in large urban centres, such as Central Hall Westminster, and in remote village churches. Modern technology will be used to reach those unable to access a service. (You may remember our on-line service last year with a virtual coffee time afterwards via Zoom) Since things continue to be uncertain and quite a few people are still shielding, we’ll follow the same pattern this year with a virtual refreshment break on Zoom at around 3pm.

The same service will be held in person in Romsey Abbey at 11 30am, arranged by the Romsey WDP committee; all are invited to join them. We will hope to have an ‘in person’ service again in Braishfield next year.

I have copies of the 2022 order of service to distribute so please let me know if you’d like to receive one. The details of how to find the service on-line and the Zoom link will be included – so please do be in touch. I look forward to hearing from you.

Hannah Boothman hj.boothman@btinternet.com
mobile: 07815 172216 Secretary - Braishfield

368143



Dear Friends,

Once again, the joy of Christmas was tempered for many by the backdrop of the pandemic, with sharply rising hospital admissions, coupled with speculation over what a new year would hold. Then, this week, has come one particularly sobering figure amidst the usual myriad of daily data: more than 150,000 people have now lost their lives to the virus across the UK. Our prayers are with all those who have lost their lives over the past two years, for those who are grieving loved-ones, and for the NHS staff and key workers to whom we owe so much.

As we look ahead to 2022, we are pleased that the Archbishop of Canterbury has set out arrangements for the Diocese of Winchester, ahead of Bishop Tim formally stepping-down next month. As is customary, Bishop Tim will be laying down his pastoral staff to mark his retirement at Evensong on Saturday 29th January prior to his formal retirement date of 6th February. You will see the Archbishop expects that the process for appointing a successor is then expected to begin towards the end of the year. *(A link to Archbishop Justin's letter can be found on the diocesan website - <https://www.winchester.anglican.org>)*

In his letter to the Diocese, Archbishop Justin confirms that Bishop Debbie will continue in the role of Acting Bishop of Winchester during the vacancy, working closely with Bishop David and the Bishop's Staff Team. Bishop Richard Frith, who as you know has been working with us in recent months, will formally take up the role of Archbishop's Episcopal Commissary in the Diocese. We appreciate all that he has been doing, and will continue to do, to help our diocese in this process of healing and reconciliation, and as we look ahead to the future.

The Archbishop will be coming to Winchester Cathedral for the 11am service on Sunday 16th January to pray with us and to commission the episcopal team. We are enormously grateful for the support he has provided. In turn, we would like to thank you for the prayers and support you have given to us. *(For a link to this service also see diocesan website)*

With prayers,

Bishop Debbie and Bishop David

Bible readings for Sunday 30th January - Sunday 6th March 2022

Sunday 30th 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 6th FEBRUARY – 4th Sunday before LENT

Old Testament Isaiah 6.1-8 [9-end]

Epistle 1 Corinthians 15.1-11

Gospel Luke 5.1-11

Psalm 138

SUNDAY 13th FEBRUARY - 3rd Sunday before LENT

Old Testament Jeremiah 17.5-10

Epistle 1 Corinthians 15.12-20

Gospel Luke 6.17-26

Psalm 1

SUNDAY 20th FEBRUARY - 2nd Sunday before LENT

Old Testament Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end

Epistle Revelations 4

Gospel Luke 8.22-25

Psalm 65

SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY - Sunday next before LENT

Old Testament Exodus 34.29-end

Epistle 2 Corinthians 3.12 - 4.2

Gospel Luke 9.28-36 [37-43a]

Psalm 99

WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH - ASH WEDNESDAY

Epistle 2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10

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

SUNDAY 6th MARCH - 1st Sunday of LENT

Old Testament Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Epistle Romans 10.8b-13

Gospel Luke 4.1-13

Psalm 91.1-11

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY 30th JANUARY – CANDLEMAS

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10.00am King's Somborne **UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION** CW
T.Benson

SUNDAY 6th FEBRUARY – 4th Sunday before LENT

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

SUNDAY 13th FEBRUARY - 3rd Sunday before LENT

8.00am Farley Chamberlayne **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP T.Benson
9.30am Awbridge **MORNING WORSHIP** CW F.Tucker/T.Clewer
9.30am Braishfield **MORNING WORSHIP** CW J.Thompson
11.00am Timsbury **FAMILY WORSHIP and BAPTISM** CW J.Thompson
6.00pm Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION** CW T.Benson

SUNDAY 20th FEBRUARY - 2nd Sunday before LENT

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** CW J.Thompson
10.00am Timsbury **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP T.Benson
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 27th FEBRUARY - Sunday next before LENT

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

WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH - ASH WEDNESDAY

7.30pm Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION and imposition of ashes**
T.Benson/J.Thompson

FRIDAY 4th MARCH - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Service on-line - see p. 13

SUNDAY 6th MARCH - 1st Sunday of LENT

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