



Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

May 2024

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

Church Wardens

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Awbridge | Mr Fred Tucker | 01794 340709 |
| | Mrs. Mary Savage | 01794 367908 |
| Braishfield | Mr. Andrew Brooks | 01794 523928 |
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| | Miss Hannah Boothman | 01794 368143 |
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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
June edition
Mon 20th May**

This edition
will be available by
Sunday 26th May

From the Rector: Rev Tom Benson

Dear Friends,

Hello everyone! Easter seems like a long time ago now doesn't it? But you know, as I write this, (and you read it) we are still in the Easter season of the Church year which continues until Pentecost - or Whit Sunday - on the 19 th May . Easter especially is the time when we give thanks for the gifts of new life that we find through Jesus. In our bible readings we hear that the disciples were very surprised to say the least when they found Jesus back among them after his crucifixion and burial. It was then that their joy began to drive them back into the mission of spreading the message of Jesus.

This is exactly what the people of our parishes have been doing for hundreds of years, going about their daily lives bearing witness to their communities. And this is what we are called to do today, because God wants us to be here, to be his hands and feet and eyes and ears - his body here on earth. When we are doing that, we find ourselves in some very surprising, joyful and challenging places indeed.

Over the Summer there are fetes, cream teas, weddings, baptisms and all those village traditions that contribute to making this area such a great place to live. So I look forward to seeing you around and here's to Summer.....

'O Sun behind all suns,
I give you greeting this new day.
Let all creation praise you.
Let the daylight and the shadows praise you.
Let the fertile earth and the swelling sea praise you.
Let the winds and the rain,
The lightning and the thunder praise you.
Let all that breathes, praise you.
O God of Life, I give you praise this day.'

God Bless and have a happy and joyous summer.

Tom

SUPPORTED BY

Kimbridge Barn
TEA ROOMS CAFÉ EVENTS

WEDDING & BAPTISM EXHIBITION

4th - 6th May 2024

Saturday 4th 9am - 5pm

Sunday 5th 11am - 5pm

Monday 6th 9am - 5pm

All Saints Awbridge, Church Lane, Awbridge

Parking & Refreshments available





Thursday 9th May is Ascension Day!

We are all invited to join in the Deanery Eucharist in Romsey Abbey at 7.30pm, and to stay, meet and enjoy refreshments afterwards. Do come!

Exploring Communion

Revd Tom Benson will be holding a 'Teaching' Communion service on

**Thursday May 2nd at 7pm
at King's Somborne Church,**

looking at the various aspects of the Communion Service in depth, and explaining and reflecting on the Last Supper.

This will be followed by coffee and discussion.
All are welcome.



Gaining confidence in talking about and understanding the Bible

How did the Bible come to be printed? How many versions are there? What is the historical background to different translations? How was the original Bible put together? So many questions we seldom consider when we pick up a bible in church or at home.

Maggie Hatfield from Timsbury was so inspired by an exciting and absorbing presentation about the Bible given by Jeremy Houghton-Brown a few weeks ago that she has arranged for him to come and speak in the Benefice - see poster on next page. Jeremy is a lively and stimulating speaker with a great grasp of history and incredible knowledge which he puts across in a very accessible way. Find out about the historical background to the Bible alongside the development of the different versions.

Don't miss this chance to extend your knowledge in a relaxed setting - and enjoy coffee and a croissant to start the morning!

Developing Bible Confidence

A whole Benefice event for everyone

Saturday 1st June

9.30am to start with coffee and croissant,
through to 12.45pm

at Braishfield Church Room

Jeremy Houghton-Brown gives a fascinating history and
understanding of the Holy Bible from 500BC through the
Old Testament to the New Testament

There is no need to book, but it would be helpful to have an idea of numbers,
please email Maggie Hatfield: maggiemad@hotmail.co.uk



Sharing the Easter message, sermon preparation and other thoughts

On the third Sunday of Easter, Howard Rowe, Licensed Lay Minister in King's Somborne, came to lead our service of morning worship at Braishfield. He introduced a 'visitor' in his talk to us during the service - this was quite different as this imaginary guest had come from just meeting up with Jesus, after his resurrection, and wanted to tell us all about it. The congregation were quite spellbound about what he had to say and how enthusiastic he was in telling us all about it. It was a very amusing conversation and I think we were all moved by this new way of taking a talk and making it a very memorable occasion.

It made me think how much we need to appreciate the time spent by our clergy on preparing for services in the Benefice; many hours can be spent on deciding what to say and how it can be relevant to everyone and still be God's word.

Being the son of a Methodist Lay Preacher who had to prepare services two or three times a month, over a 40 year period, I have had experience of the time my father used to spend in his preparation. In those days he would sometimes take two services a day at the same chapel, one in the afternoon and also in the evening at one of the sixteen chapels around the High Wycombe Circuit. The afternoon service would be geared for a children's service and the evening for an adult congregation.

Being the Methodist Church all hymns, prayers and sermon had to be planned as well as deciding on a theme as there was no lectionary*. Occasionally he would also have taken his violin to accompany the hymns as there was no organist to play for him. My father did enjoy it and always felt this was what God wanted him to do. I am sure this is the case today for all our clergy and visiting lay ministers. Let us hope that we can encourage them and appreciate all the hard work they do to make our worship relevant and a rewarding time of fellowship together.

Alan Lord

** The lectionary is a printed guide used in the Anglican church, and now many other churches also, noting which passages from the Bible are to be read in services on a particular Sunday. The theme for the Sunday arises from the set readings.*

Women's Breakfast
Saturday 25th May
at Jane Thompson's home
36, Five Elms Drive,
Romsey SO51 5RN
----- from 9.00am
Please do invite friends too!



Save the date - Parish weekend 27th and 28th of July

We are lucky to have so many lovely churches in our group, but many of us have never had the time or opportunity to have a look around them. For instance, did you know that including King's Somborne we have six parish churches? And that there are another three smaller churches (Eldon, Little Somborne and Ashley) that are maintained under the Churches Conservation Trust?

To celebrate the history, the beauty and the many ways in which our churches are currently used, we are having a weekend of celebration over the last weekend in July.

On Saturday the 27th most of our churches will be open for visitors with volunteers on hand to show you around – there might even be a cup of tea and a piece of cake!

On Sunday the 28th we will be holding two church services: in the morning there will be a service of Holy Communion at Kings Somborne at 10.30am, while at Michelmersh we have a Songs of Praise service at 5pm.

There will be a series of walks planned as well as picnics and refreshments after the Sunday services. There will be more details to follow so watch this space.....

God bless, Tom

Save the Date

LaraFest

On **Saturday 8th June** the Weston family is planning an open air event entitled **LaraFest** – in memory of Lara Weston who died ten years ago as a result of a massive epileptic seizure a few days after her 22nd birthday in 2014. Lara is buried in the graveyard at St John's, Farley Chamberlayne. LaraFest will start at **3.00 pm** with a walk across country from The Pound (her home) in Hursley to St John's Farley Chamberlayne where there will be refreshments before the group returns to The Pound. This will be followed by a barbecue/picnic with entertainment and live music in a mini festival. The event, to celebrate Lara's life, is being held to raise money for Epilepsy Research UK - an organisation that is working towards preventing and eliminating the effects of epileptic seizures which take more than 1000 lives each year in the UK. Please save the date to join in if you can.

More details from larafest32@gmail.com - a flyer can be sent to you.

The Pound, 131 Main Road, Hursley, SO21 2LB



Pause and reflect ...

Michelmersh Churchyard in the Spring sunshine. Where better to sit, enjoy the view, listen to the birds and wonder at God's creation.

Photo: Alan Lord



THY KINGDOM COME

Light Up The World In Prayer

9th – 19th May 2024

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way. It is our hope & prayer, that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

Specifically, we invite each and every Christian across the globe to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call. Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, we invite you to take part & join in.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby

So, as individual Christians across our Benefice, we too are each invited to pray, each day from the 9th - 19th May, for 5 friends or family that they would come to a realisation that, by God's Spirit, God is at work in the world and would love to be more involved in their lives. Shall we do that together?

Do check out the website for more details and resources
<https://www.thykingdomcome.global>

Jane Thompson



Christian Aid Week - May 12th - 18th

There will be national publicity and locally envelopes will be delivered to all homes in Braishfield and Farley Chamberlayne. Read here about how

Christian Aid has transformed the life of one woman in Burundi.

In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water. For Aline, life was a constant struggle. She was married young and gave birth to her eldest son, Fisto, when she was just 14 years old. Aline experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband.

A few years later, Aline faced even more devastation. Her husband married another woman, forcing Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children with her, and in a further act of cruelty, told the local community that Aline was mentally ill and unable to care for her children.

"I wandered the streets, asking anyone for a place to sleep. Those who showed me kindness would let me stay for two or three days, but it was difficult. People would insult me and treat me with contempt. They forgot I was a human being. It filled me with sorrow." Aline Nibogora.

How Christian Aid stepped in

Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid.

'I came out with amazing knowledge and skills. The trainer restored a sense of hope and energy in me,' says Aline.

She was taught how to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs mean people can save for their future and borrow money to kickstart small rural businesses. With all she had learned, Aline's dream of getting her children back finally felt possible.

Building a business

With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. Eventually, her hard work had finally paid off, and she had earned the money she needed to rent a house.

Once Aline secured a home for herself, her three eldest sons were able to escape their father and join her. They told Aline that their father had



abused them and sent their three young siblings to live with different members of his family. Aline still hopes that she'll be reunited with her youngest children in time.

Today, Aline lives peacefully on her own plot of land in a remote village in the Kayogoro Commune in Makamba Province. She's baked her own bricks and is building a strong home for her and her children in every sense. Now Aline can afford food, clothes and essential healthcare for her family. She's also purchased solar panels so her children can do their evening homework by electric light.



"I like to feed my family with the produce that I grow, such as beans, vegetables and corn. I am so happy that we are together. Now my children feel supported as they have a parent who can meet their needs." - Aline.

Breakfast on the Beach



Friday 31st May

All Welcome 3.30 pm – 5.30pm

**Braishfield Church Room, Church Lane,
Braishfield, SO51 0QH**

MESSY ACTIVITIES

CELEBRATION

FEAST

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:

Rev Jane Thompson jane.thompson@me.com 01794 502035

Free event - donations always welcome

Dementia Sing Along

Hosted by Braishfield Ukulele Music Society



Come and join us for a fun afternoon, singing songs you will know. All welcome bring a Carer, Friend or Partner to this event. We will provide song sheets and refreshments will be served.

All Saint s Church Room, Braishfi eld, Romsey.
SO51 0QH

Parking on Site, Disabled Access and Toilet
Facilities

3rd Monday of the Month

every month except July and August.
from 2.30pm -4.00pm,

If you require further information please email:
dementiasingalong@gmail.com

This is a free event, if you would like to make a donation to
cover expenses, this would be appreciated.

**Benefice Lent
Course support for
our Romsey
Deanery link
Diocese of South
Rwenzori in Uganda**

The content of the
Benefice Lent
Course was much
appreciated by all
who attended,
giving a chance to
look in detail at the
account of the last
days of Jesus' life in
Mark's gospel. Much
of interest was
learnt.

Participants made
donations for the
coffee and cakes at
Poppies and the
soup lunches at
Braishfield. It was
agreed to give the
total amount of
£258.57 to the
South Rwenzori Link.

Michelmersh Prize Draw

April 2024 Winners

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1st Prize | Sheila Neil | £71.40 |
| 2nd Prize | Franny Hornblow | £35.70 |
| 3rd Prize | Name withheld | £20.40 |

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.

Overview of events in the Benefice in May

General

Exploring Communion Thursday 2nd May, 7pm, King's Somborne (see p.5)

Messy Church 3.30 - 5.30pm Friday 31st May Braishfield Church Room (see P 12)

Women's Breakfast Sat 25th May from 9.00am (see p 8)

Men's Breakfast Sat 1st June 8.30am (see p.15)

Developing Bible Confidence Sat 1st June 9.30am (see p.6)

Awbridge

Wedding & Baptism Exhibition 4th - 6th May - (see p 4)

Awbridge Village Fete Saturday 11th May - church running plant stall

Spring Walk Friday 17th May meet 6.30pm Village Hall

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

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 7th & 21st May 8.45 am in Church Rooms before Coffee Hub

Awbridge Housegroup Wednesdays 8th and 22nd May 7.30pm Chanwel House, Romsey Road, contact Fred 01794 340709

Awbridge Lunch Club 12 noon Wed 8^h & 22nd May in the Church Rooms

Craft & Chat Group Fridays 3rd, 17th & 31st May at 10.30 am Committee Room, Awbridge Village Hall contact Sue Franklin 01794 322185

The Ark church Baby and Toddler group, every Friday 9.30 - 11.00am except 31st May

Braishfield

Dementia Singalong Mon 20th May 2.30 - 4pm Church Room (see p. 13)

Village Voices NO session in May

Farley Chamberlayne

Coffee and Chat Thursday 9th May from 10.30am in the church

Pre-Walk Barbecue Friday 24th May, Oakfield

Farley Walk departs Saturday 25th May walking from Mill Bay Pembrokeshire to Shrewsbury (Bosworth)

Michelmersh

Morning Prayer in the church at 9.15am every Thursday.

Michelmersh & Timsbury Lunch Club Thursday 30th May Contact Sarah Medley sarahmedley5@gmail.com

Timsbury

Coffee and Cake Tuesday 14th May 10.30am in the church

Next Celtic Prayer Tuesday 28th May 11.00am in the church

Like to check information online? For Braishfield see www.asbchurch.org
Awbridge www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18493/

Bible readings for MAY 2024

SUNDAY 5th MAY - 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER -Rogation Sunday

For Old Testament Acts 10.44- end

For Epistle Acts 10.44 - end

Gospel John 15.9-17

Psalm 98

SUNDAY 12th MAY - 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER - Sunday after Ascension Day

For Old Testament Acts 1.15-17, 21- end

For Epistle Acts 1.15-17, 21- end

Gospel John 17.6-19

Psalm 1

SUNDAY 19th MAY – DAY OF PENTECOST - Whit Sunday

For Old Testament Acts 2.1-21

For Epistle Acts 2.1-21

Gospel John 15.26-27;16.4b-15

Psalm 104.24-end

SUNDAY 26th MAY - TRINITY SUNDAY

Old Testament Isaiah 6.1-8

Epistle Romans 8.12-17

Gospel John 3. 1-17

Psalm 29

SUNDAY 2nd JUNE - 1st SUNDAY after TRINITY

Old Testament Deuteronomy 5.12-15

Epistle 2 Corinthians 4.5-12

Gospel Mark 2.23-3.6

Psalm 81.1-10

Next Men's Breakfast



Sat 1st June

8.30am Chambers, Romsey

Book in with Trevor Clewer on

0743 4593953

An enjoyable sociable time - first-timers very welcome!

SERVICES FOR MAY

SUNDAY 5th MAY - 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER - Rogation Sunday

| | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|---|-----|------------|
| 8.00am | King's Somborne | HOLY COMMUNION | BCP | A.Newport |
| 9.30am | Awbridge | Wedding & Baptism weekend HOLY COMMUNION | | T.Benson |
| 9.30am | Braishfield | FAMILY WORSHIP | | J.Thompson |
| 10.00am | King's Somborne | MORNING WORSHIP | | H.Rowe |
| 10.00am | Michelmersh (and Timsbury) | MORNING WORSHIP | | A.Newport |
| 6.00pm | Farley Chamberlayne | EVENING PRAYER | BCP | T.Benson |
| 7.00pm | Awbridge | BENEFICE INFORMAL WORSHIP | | J.Thompson |

THURSDAY 9th MAY - ASCENSION DAY

| | | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| 7.30pm | Romsey Abbey | DEANERY EUCHARIST | | |
|--------|--------------|--------------------------|--|--|

SUNDAY 12th MAY - 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER - Sunday after Ascension Day

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|------------|
| 8.00am | Farley Chamberlayne | HOLY COMMUNION | BCP | J.Thompson |
| 9.00am | Awbridge Village Hall | FAMILY BREAKFAST SERVICE | | T.Benson |
| 9.30am | Braishfield | UNITED MORNING WORSHIP for CHRISTIAN AID WEEK | J.Thompson & A.Bevan (URC) | |
| 10.00am | King's Somborne | HOLY COMMUNION | | A.Newport |
| 11.00am | Timsbury | FAMILY SERVICE | | T.Benson |
| 6.00pm | Michelmersh | HOLY COMMUNION | | T.Benson |

SUNDAY 19th MAY – DAY OF PENTECOST - Whit Sunday

| | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|------------|
| 9.30am | Awbridge | HOLY COMMUNION | | T.Benson |
| 10.00am | King's Somborne | HOLY COMMUNION | | A.Newport |
| 10.00am | Timsbury | HOLY COMMUNION | BCP | J.Thompson |
| 11.15am | Farley Chamberlayne | FAMILY SERVICE | | T.Benson |
| 3.00pm | King's Somborne Methodist Chapel | MESSY CHURCH | | |
| 6.00pm | Braishfield | EVENING PRAYER | BCP | T.Benson |
| 6.00pm | Michelmersh | EVENING PRAYER | BCP | J.Thompson |

SUNDAY 26th MAY - TRINITY SUNDAY

| | | | | |
|---------|---------------------|------------------------|-----|------------|
| 8.00am | Michelmersh | HOLY COMMUNION | BCP | J.Thompson |
| 9.30am | Awbridge | MORNING WORSHIP | | T.Clewer |
| 9.30am | Braishfield | HOLY COMMUNION | | J.Thompson |
| 10.00am | King's Somborne | HOLY COMMUNION | | A.Newport |
| 11.15am | Farley Chamberlayne | MORNING PRAYER | BCP | J.Thompson |
| 6.00pm | Timsbury | EVENING PRAYER | BCP | A.Newport |

FRIDAY 31st MAY

| | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| 3.30pm | Braishfield Church Room | MESSY CHURCH | | |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|--|

SUNDAY 2nd JUNE - 1st SUNDAY after TRINITY

| | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|------------|
| 8.00am | King's Somborne | HOLY COMMUNION | BCP | A.Newport |
| 9.30am | Awbridge | HOLY COMMUNION | | J.Thompson |
| 9.30am | Braishfield | FAMILY WORSHIP | | A.Newport |
| 10.00am | King's Somborne | MORNING WORSHIP | | H.Rowe |
| 10.00am | Timsbury (and Michelmersh) | MORNING WORSHIP | BCP | M.Hatfield |
| 6.00pm | Farley Chamberlayne | EVENING PRAYER | BCP | J.Thompson |
| 7.00pm | Awbridge | BENEFICE INFORMAL WORSHIP | | J.Thompson |

BCP - Book of Common Prayer - traditional language