



# Five Alive!



**A Monthly Magazine**

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

**SEPTEMBER 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
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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 19<sup>th</sup> Sept**

next edition

of Five Alive

will be available by

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept '22

## **From the Rector: Revd Tom Benson**

Dear friends,

Traditionally, September is a time of hard work for lots of us, especially our teachers and pupils and for parents as they rush to get school uniforms and shoes in time for the start of term. This year it is also a very unsettling time as we are faced with a number of issues that we seem to have little control over. As I write this, we are in a drought, we have had wildfires and record temperatures and looming inflation at a level that we have not seen in decades. The war in Ukraine has now been going on for over six months and so we continue to support and pray for an end to that appalling situation. We can easily feel overwhelmed at the scale of the issues both worldwide and right on our doorstep.

I am reminded of a quote from Edmund Burke 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing'. It seems to me that there is a lot of power in this statement, too often we focus on what we can't do, what we can't achieve, how things seem like they are simply too big, too much for us to take on. However, doing what we can as best we can is 'not doing nothing'. We are in a time where looking after our neighbours (near and far) is brought into focus, if only to remind us that we are not alone. So whatever the next few months have in store for us, we look up and out, keeping an eye out for situations where we can add our support, not forgetting the power of the little acts of kindness upon which the world turns.

An anonymous author wrote a poem about taking time for God and I would like to sign off with this-

Take time to think;  
it is the source of power.  
Take time to read;  
it is the foundation of wisdom.  
Take time to play;  
it is the secret of staying young.  
Take time to be quiet;  
it is the opportunity to seek God.  
Take time to be aware;  
it is the opportunity to help others.  
Take time to love and be loved;  
it is God's greatest gift.

*(Continued on next page)*

Take time to laugh;  
it is the music of the soul.  
Take time to be friendly;  
it is the road to happiness.  
Take time to dream;  
it is what the future is made of.  
Take time to pray;  
it is the greatest power on earth.

God Bless, Tom

Over the next few months you may come across a new face in our churches.....

"Hello, my name is Anthony Cross and I am preparing to begin training as a Church of England priest. I will be spending time attending and being involved in services across the benefice. I look forward to meeting everyone over the coming months and getting to know you over a cup of strong black coffee!"

We look forward to welcoming Anthony.

### **Caring for God's world is part of living out our faith in Jesus.**

The Church of England expresses its mission in what it calls "The Five Marks of Mission".

The first of these is **Steward faithfully**: Looking after the whole of creation carefully.

A-Rocha is the organisation which runs the UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth. This is also referred to as Eco Church.

Locally, Andy Atkins, CEO and chair of A-Rocha, is to give a talk in King's Somborne church on the work of A-Rocha, the Eco Church scheme and to hold a general discussion. This will be on **Thursday 6th October at 7.30 pm**. More details and publicity to follow in due course, but you may like to note the date now!



## Harvest Thanksgiving and support of the Romsey Foodbank/Southampton Basics Bank

A reminder that our churches especially focus on support for the local Foodbank (*Awbridge*

*support Southampton Basics Bank*) at our Harvest Thanksgiving services. Donated food must be non-perishable and well in-date - three months at least is best.

Here are some suggestions of what is needed:

### Tinned Foods:

Stewed steak  
Minced Beef  
Chicken in white sauce  
Curries  
Ravioli  
Spaghetti bolognese  
Meatballs  
Baked beans w sausages  
Irish stew  
Chilli con carne  
Macaroni cheese  
Spaghetti hoops  
Tuna  
Sardines  
Salmon/ pilchards  
Soup (esp chunky ones)  
Baked beans  
Potatoes (tinned or pkt)  
Tomatoes  
Rice pudding/custard  
Tinned fruit  
Vegetarian foods  
Peas  
Carrots  
Sweetcorn

### Cereals:

Weetabix (pkts can be divided)  
other cereals for families

### Other foods:

Pasta sauces  
Pkts noodles/savoury rice  
Pasta  
Rice  
Coffee/Tea  
Hot chocolate  
UHT Milk  
Flour  
Sugar  
Conserves  
Treats (crisps, chocolate, biscuits)

Squash  
Other items you think families would like to receive!



## **Mid-August, Romsey Foodbank posted:**

As the cost of living continues to rise we are supporting many local families in crisis. We have run out of several items.

If you feel able to help we would be ever so grateful for the following -

Long life Semi Skimmed milk  
Instant mash  
Tinned Potatoes  
Pasta Sauce  
Long grain rice  
Custard (tins and small pots)  
Instant Pasta Pots  
Fruit Juice

Harvest Thanksgiving is a time when Foodbanks anticipate building up general stock, so don't feel limited to this list.



## **Awbridge Harvest Afternoon Tea**

**Sunday 25 September  
3 30pm-5 30pm**



**At Lynda and Fred's home,  
Chanwel House, Romsey Road, Awbridge SO51 0HG**

**Afternoon Tea with drinks provided.  
Tickets £4 50 Adults & Children Free**

**Donations of foodstuffs for  
Southampton City Mission also welcome.**

**Please add your name to the list in church or ring Fred & Lynda  
01794 340709, by 22 Sept, if you would like to come.**

**You might like to bring a chair or picnic rug.  
Parking available.**



**SATURDAY 10  
SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Ride & Stride Day supports our Churches & Chapels in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight This event happens nationally.**

Despite Covid the Ride & Stride Participants raised nearly £62,000 for the Trust which will enable it to help our churches even more.

More youngsters joining in as well as clergy encouraging their benefice churches to participate all helped. Those churches that did were able to also raise some much needed funds themselves – 50% of the sponsorship money for a nominated church was returned to them!

The Trust keeps the other half plus any gift aid to hand out in grants to our churches on application. All Saints, Braishfield benefited this year from a grant for repairs to the tower and clock. Our Grants Committee are very supportive of churches to the extent that they sometimes offer advice!

In addition, we are extraordinarily grateful to Hampshire County Council for their generous support of the Trust with a £25,000 grant annually. The Trust is also run entirely by volunteers so almost all the money raised goes to our churches.

Please join us and register for Ride & Stride on **Saturday 10 September**. If the date conflicts then pick another day to visit some of our county's wonderful churches by whatever means you wish! **Enjoy a picnic and have a fun day exploring our wonderful cultural heritage!**

**You are most welcome to sponsor Chris and I and nominate your church. If you need further information please email us on [meryl@hihct.org.uk](mailto:meryl@hihct.org.uk) or ring 01794 368427. Our thanks to All Saints (Braishfield), St John's and the United Reform Church congregations for sponsoring the Trust in 2021 with £635 excl Gift Aid.**

Please raise sponsorship, open your church, or make a donation. Participating churches will be on our website and it is best to check registrations shortly before the event.

Chris & Meryl Balchin  
[www.hihct.org.uk](http://www.hihct.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No 1181370



## **NOTES FROM AROUND THE BENEFICE**

### **Activities in September in Awbridge**

**Awbridge Coffee Hub** Every Tuesday from 9 15-11 30 am in church. All welcome

#### **Prayer Meeting**

Meets before coffee hub on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 8 45 am in church.

#### **Craft & Chat**

10 30-12 30 Fridays Village Hall on 9 & 23 Sept, in the committee room.

#### **Lunch Club**

Sept 14 at 12 noon, Church Rooms and on Wed 28 Sept, in the village hall, 12 noon, contact Sarah Keith 01794 340707

#### **Awbridge Housegroup**

Thursdays 15 & 29 September, 7 30pm at Chanwel, Romsey Road  
Contact: Fred Tucker 01794 340709

#### **“The Ark”**

The All Saints Church Baby & Toddler group meets in Awbridge Village Hall, on Fridays in term-time, from Friday 2 Sept, 9 30 am – 11 00 am. All toddlers and their parents and carers welcome. Refreshments, craft, singing and other activities provided.  
Contact: Lynda Tucker 01794 340709.

### **Braishfield Village Voices**

Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 4pm in the Church Room.  
Not a choir, just a group of people who get together to sing for fun on the 4th Monday of the month 2-4pm. All welcome. Just come along!

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

**A service of Prayer for Ukraine**

**All Saints Braishfield 7.00pm**

**Everyone is welcome**



Canon Michael Halliwell will be pleased to see everyone who knew his late wife Sue at her memorial service, to be held in  
**Romsey Abbey at 1.00pm  
on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

**All Saints Braishfield September BBQ  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 4-6.30pm**

In the church car park and Church Room. Bowl for donations - after covering food costs gifts will go to the Clock Tower fund

Please let Sarah Boothman know if you are coming **by Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Sept** so there's enough food! [seboothman@aol.com](mailto:seboothman@aol.com) 01794 368143

**All Saints' Braishfield Harvest Supper**

**Saturday 1st October  
6pm – 8.30pm  
in the Church Room**

*Please bring your own drinks!*



Contact Sarah Boothman  
on 01794 368143 [seboothman@aol.com](mailto:seboothman@aol.com)  
to book a place **by Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

No charge in advance – please make a donation to the church Clock Fund on the evening

**Come and bring your friends to a relaxed meal!**

Donations for the Foodbank may be brought to the Harvest Supper or to

**Harvest Thanksgiving Service 9.30am Sunday 2nd October**  
in All Saints church, followed by refreshments

## Stained Glass at All Saints' Awbridge

I was intrigued to notice that the stained glass window of St. George and the dragon, commemorating the second world war, was



designed by the well-regarded artist George Cooper-Abbs. His name and the distinctive monogram of J.Wippell & Co. are visible at the bottom right of the window. George Cooper-Abbs (1901-1966) studied at the renowned Camberwell School of Art and was taught by William Aikman, founder of the British Society of Master Glass Painters (1921). He was employed by the London-based glass-makers James Powell and Sons (of Whitefriars glass fame) from 1917-1919 and again from 1928 to 1932, after which he settled in Exeter, designing glass for many

churches around the UK (notably in Shropshire, Gloucestershire, Cornwall and Buckinghamshire) and also in Paris. His designs were fabricated by the company of J. Wippell & Co for whom he worked in Exeter. The firm of Wippell continues today and is renowned for the supply of academic and clerical garments.

The large window behind the altar at All Saints is also significant and clearly a well-designed piece from the pre-Raphaelite period. The sunflowers depicted reflect the aesthetic taste of the time.

The window bears the name C.J.Baguley, Newcastle-on-Tyne and dates from about 1890.

John Bartlett  
*Lord of Stratford, Wilnecote*

*Photo (Fred Tucker) shows the St George and the Dragon window decorated for the Jubilee Flower Festival*

## **Somborne with Ashley – in a ‘group’ with us. An update.**

Looking back at Five Alive from a year ago, there’s an account of Rev Tom Benson’s licensing service on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July at St Mary’s Michelmersh. What an occasion that was! We had only just been permitted to meet in larger numbers: limited representatives of the parishes – wearing masks and using only every other row of seats. Friends not seen for some time greeted across the church from afar! The excellent refreshments afterwards, mainly in the fresh air outside the Barns, found people mingling in a way to which they were unaccustomed. There was a real air of celebration, and it was a great start to Tom’s ministry and welcome to the Benson family, with 12 churchwardens entitled to take part, two per church!

Tom came to be Rector of our five parishes, and Priest-in-Charge of Somborne with Ashley. King’s Somborne had been in a ‘group’ with us for several years, with the Area Dean holding the post of Priest-in-Charge, so we were mostly unaware of the arrangement. The Rev Richard Burningham, as resident House-for-Duty priest in the parish of Somborne with Ashley, took most of the services there, and was responsible for the pastoral work. Tom, together with Jane Thompson and Richard, was licensed to work in all 6 parishes of the group, as need arose. The plan was to introduce a few more shared activities as time went on.

Sadly, and as many are aware, during the last year Richard became seriously ill, and in late May he died. When Richard became unwell, Tom and Jane began to give extra support to our sixth parish, and for many months have between them taken an 8am Holy Communion service at King’s Somborne on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, as well as taking the Parish Communion at 10am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. The wardens arrange cover for other Sunday services. Jane has become a Foundation Governor, representing the church, at King’s Somborne C of E school, and at the moment Tom takes the majority of baptisms, weddings and funerals, assisted by Jane. That’s the benefit of being in a group – there are people ready to step in and help when it’s needed.

The parish of Somborne with Ashley is now in vacancy. The PCC is updating their Parish Profile, and they hope to be able to recruit a new House-for-Duty priest (part-time unpaid post, free house provided) by next spring. Then the group will return to its full staffing. Until then, Tom and Jane will continue to be involved regularly with the leading of worship in King’s Somborne – so if they don’t appear on our rota, they may well be with our friends up the road!



# Messy Church



**Friday 2 September 2022 (Inset Day)**

**All Welcome**

**11 00 am-1 00pm (note new time)**

**Wildlife treasure hunt, outdoors games and picnic provided  
BYO Picnic Rug!**

**Braishfield Church Room, Braishfield SO51 0QR**

## **Michelmersh Prize Draw**

### **August 2022 Winners**

<b>1st Prize</b>	Rosie Baldieri	£71.40
<b>2nd Prize</b>	Carol Chapman	£35.70
<b>3rd Prize</b>	Phil Hanson	£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.



## **At St. Andrew's in September**

Coffee & Cake on Tuesday 13th from 10.30am

Celtic Prayer Thursday 27 at 11am

**Do you enjoy arranging flowers?  
Would you like to help out  
at St Mary's Michelmersh?**

Mrs Marjorie Duguid, who oversees the rota, says you definitely don't need to be competition standard – just take pleasure in arranging flowers and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere in the church – she says she finds it very therapeutic!



Volunteers are usually asked to do two weeks at a time – arranging the flowers for the Sundays. Maybe it's an activity you would like to do with a friend?

Contact Marjorie on 01794 368235 to offer to have a go or to find out more. She will be delighted to hear from you!

**Timsbury History Day at St Andrew's Church.**

Our recent History Day was a huge success!! After months of planning and liaising with speakers we had packed out talks in the morning; and lots of people staying around for the afternoon to look at the exhibitions, picnics, tea & cake, plus the tile printing and clay tile making. And the weather being spot on too - no rain and not too hot.

Everyone has played their part, but special thanks to Roger and Mary Harris for really being the backbone of the whole event, and also to Frank Green and Gary Seymour who gave such interesting talks about St Andrew's Church. Mary Harris, our local historian, gave a fascinating presentation on the history of Timsbury and many people brought along old photographs to discuss.

Along with our other fundraising events this year we have raised approximately £2,000.



## Prayer for peace in Ukraine from Archbishops Welby and Cottrell

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fulness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy. Amen



## Do you want 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](mailto:geoffbriggs@btinternet.com)

Rev Tom Benson The Rectory, Braishfield Road Braishfield SO51 0PR  
[tbenson09@aol.com](mailto: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.



## **Bible readings for Sundays 4th September - 2nd OCTOBER**

### **SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER - 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Old Testament** Deuteronomy 30.15-end

**Epistle** Philemon 1-21

**Gospel** Luke 14.25-33

**Psalms** 1

### **SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER - 13th Sunday after TRINITY**

**Old Testament** Exodus 32.7-14

**Epistle** 1 Timothy 1.12-17

**Gospel** Luke 15.1-10

**Psalms** 51.1-11

### **SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER - 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Old Testament** Amos 8.4-7

**Epistle** 1 Timothy 2.1-7

**Gospel** Luke 16.1-13

**Psalms** 113

### **SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER – 15th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Old Testament** Amos 6.1a, 4-7

**Epistle** 1 Timothy 6.6-19

**Gospel** Luke 16.19-end

**Psalms** 146

### **SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER - 16th Sunday after TRINITY**

**Old Testament** Habakkuk 1.1-4, 2.1-4

**Epistle** 2 Timothy 1.1-14

**Gospel** Luke 17.5-10

**Psalms** 37.1-9

### **READINGS FOR Harvest services (Year C)**

**Old Testament** Deuteronomy 26.1-11

**Epistle** Philippians 4.4-9

**Gospel** John 6.25-35

**Psalms** 100

Updates and more All Saints Braishfield information can be found at  
[www.asbchurch.org](http://www.asbchurch.org)

# **SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2022**

## **FRIDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER**

11.00am Braishfield **MESSY CHURCH**

## **SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER - 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

9.30am	Awbridge	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	<b>FAMILY WORSHIP</b>	J.Thompson
11.00am	Michelmersh (including Timsbury)	<b>FAMILY SERVICE with BAPTISM</b>	T.Benson
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>EVENING PRAYER BCP</b>	T.Benson
7.00pm	Awbridge	<b>BENEFICE INFORMAL WORSHIP</b>	J.Thompson

## **SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER - 13th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

8.00am	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>HOLY COMMUNION BCP</b>	T.Benson
9.30am	Awbridge	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>	Lay led
9.30am	Braishfield	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>	T.Benson
11.00am	Timsbury	<b>FAMILY SERVICE</b>	T.Benson
6.00pm	Michelmersh	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	T.Benson

## **FRIDAY 16th SEPTEMBER**

7.00pm Braishfield **SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR UKRAINE**

## **SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER - 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

9.30am	Awbridge	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	T.Benson
10.00am	Timsbury	<b>HOLY COMMUNION BCP</b>	J.Thompson
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>FAMILY SERVICE</b>	T.Benson
4.00pm	Eldon (for Michelmersh)	<b>SAID SERVICE</b>	T.Benson
6.00pm	Braishfield	<b>EVENING PRAYER BCP</b>	J.Thompson

## **SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER – 15th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

8.00am	Michelmersh	<b>HOLY COMMUNION BCP</b>	T.Benson
9.30am	Awbridge	<b>FAMILY HARVEST THANKSGIVING</b>	T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	J.Thompson
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>MORNING PRAYER BCP</b>	T.Benson
6.00pm	Timsbury	<b>HARVEST THANKSGIVING BCP</b>	T.Benson

## **SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER - 16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

9.30am	Awbridge	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	
9.30am	Braishfield	<b>FAMILY HARVEST FESTIVAL</b>	
11.00am	Timsbury (and Michelmersh)	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>	
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>EVENING PRAYER BCP</b>	
7.00pm	Awbridge	<b>INFORMAL BENEFICE WORSHIP</b>	

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

See [www.asbchurch.org](http://www.asbchurch.org) for any updates