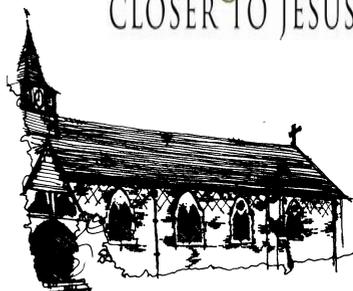
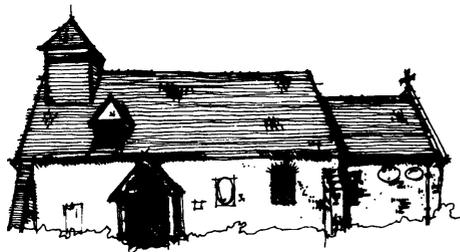




Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS



Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

March 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	Mr. Iain Chisholm	01794 368250
Chamberlayne	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 March '22

next edition

of Five Alive

will be available by

Sunday 27th March '22

From the Rector: Revd Tom Benson

Dear friends,

For many of us this is the time of year where our thoughts turn towards Easter, but before we have the glory of Easter Day on the 17th of April we have the time of preparation known as Lent which started on Ash Wednesday, the 2nd of March.

Christians use the six weeks before Easter to prepare themselves for all the solemnities of Holy Week and the great day itself, - the most important in the Christian calendar when we celebrate that Jesus rose again, and defeated death. 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. Whatever you save by giving up chocolates for six weeks, I am sure that your donation would be gratefully received by whatever charity you nominate.

Lent is a time when acts of charity, prayer, and fasting take on a special significance. Lent is a time when we 'can let go and let God', a time when we can take stock of our lives and set out on a journey with Christ that will take us to the cross and beyond to the joy of Easter Day. The past couple of years has been so difficult for so many of us and we find the world entering a new and less stable time with armed conflict once again breaking out in Europe. However, if we try to walk with Jesus a little way every day, try to give him some of our time, then maybe we can find the strength to go on, treading in his footsteps. Maybe these words can be of some help:

Dear God, I am so afraid to open my clenched fists!

Who will I be when I have nothing left to hold on to?

Who will I be when I stand before you with empty hands?

Please help me to gradually open my hands and to discover that I am not what I own, but what you want to give me." (Henri Nouwen)

Some people try to read a chapter of the Bible each day, or go to the 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.

Whatever we decide, our Lord will be with us on the journey through Lent and we will be ready to celebrate his resurrection.

Across our churches we will be running Lent courses that are open to anyone who is curious or wanting to deepen their faith. This year we will be looking at our role in caring for God's creation. They are on the 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th of March and 5th of April from 12-2pm at Braishfield Church Room and on the 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th of March and the 6th of April from 7.30 - 9.15pm at Poppies (Choice Plants) Timsbury.

God Bless, Tom



The Easter Story



Easter Holidays: Friday 22 April 2022

All Welcome 4 pm - 6pm

Braishfield Church Rooms SO51 0QH

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 email: marysavage126@gmail.com.

or Sue Manners suemanners@live.co.uk or 368230

Event is free but donations always welcome



Come and join us

on Mothering Sunday

Sunday 27 March 2022
9 30 am
at Awbridge Church



Family service with coffee to start with (as the clocks change today)
songs, reading, prayers, flowers, cake, having fun together
to celebrate this special family day.



Come and join us for the
Awbridge Big Breakfast
on Saturday 26 March
9 30 am-11 00 am
at Awbridge Village Hall
Full English Breakfast



with fresh coffee, tea and toast
£6 50 per adult, £3 00 per child
£16 50 per family (2 Ad & 2 Ch)
Fun, Food and Family

An event organised by the Social Committee at Awbridge Church, to
book a place, please contact James Alexander by Wed 23 March, 340386
or email: jamesalexander@hillier.co.uk.

Update on the Farley Chamberlayne Christmas Shoeboxes

Chris Chisholm writes:

I am sure you will all be delighted to know where the shoeboxes ended up. I paid for 6 online so they show where some of the boxes went but obviously the other 41 shoe boxes may have gone elsewhere. Please see below the photos and messages from Albania. Its heart warming.

Many thanks for your support.

Stories From Our Local Partners In Albania Shoeboxes For Afghan Evacuees

Samaritan's Purse is providing relief in multiple ways to Afghan evacuees who are staying in Albania. We are operating a primary care medical clinic, distributing needed items for babies and young children, and offering trauma healing support. Sharon is a UK volunteer who has been supporting this important work in Albania. While there, she also had the opportunity to take part in an Operation Christmas Child outreach event. She shares her experience with us below:

"I recently had the privilege of attending an Operation Christmas Child outreach event for 600 children who had come to Albania with their families as evacuees on flights out of Kabul, Afghanistan. The local church was hosting the event at the complex where they were all staying.

I helped out with the 5-9-year-old group. The children piled into the place with their parents, who sat at the back while the boys and girls all gathered nearer the front. Some were slightly anxious by what was going to happen and kept checking that their parents were still there. Then the music started and an

Michelmersh Prize Draw

February 2022 Winners

1st Prize Mrs J.Melener £65.80

2nd Prize Rosie Baldieri £32.90

3rd Prize Franny Hornblow £18.80

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.



Albanian dance troop of similar ages came in dancing to local music, followed by other children from the area who played and sang some English and Albanian songs. Local partners also shared a message of God's love and the Good News of the Gospel in a child friendly way via an Afghan interpreter. The children were then told they were going to receive a special gift from the United Kingdom.

I helped the volunteers from the local church distribute the shoeboxes. The look on their faces was pure joy and astonishment, that this was a gift just for them. All the trauma and anxiety of recent times seemed to drift away. Once they

had their gifts, they ran to their parents to show them while clinging tightly to that shoebox. Both the parents and the children were very happy."

– Disaster Assistance Response Team Volunteer Sharon.

Shoebox Gifts Deliver God's Love



Local ministry partners in one district held an Operation Christmas Child outreach event at a centre for children with special needs. They said:

"Even though many of the children could not talk, we saw the joy in their eyes as God's love was delivered with the shoeboxes. The children hugged their shoeboxes, and their teachers thanked the church. Both the adults and the

children heard the message of God's love."

Another member of the National Leadership Team shared about how his wife had met a little boy called Dionis, who was five years old and had autism. She recalled: *"He loved his shoebox so much that he said, 'when I grow up, I would like to find and thank that good person who sent me such a good gift'."*

Braishfield Benefice Lent Course 2022

'Caring for Creation'

The human race is facing its greatest challenge: the threat to the environment and climate change.

Faith in our Creator God should enable us to see what is actually happening.

The 5 session course will be led by Rev Tom Benson and will run at two venues -

Lunchtimes on Tuesdays in Braishfield Church Room

8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March and 5th April

Sessions will start promptly at 12 noon with a simple soup lunch and end by 2pm

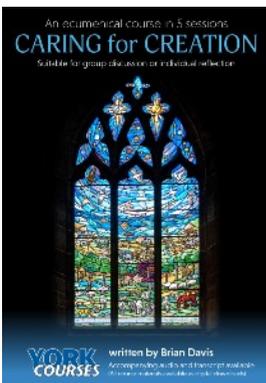
If you have a food allergy please let the Benefice Office know in advance

Evenings on Wednesdays at Poppies, Choice Plants

9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March and 6th April

Sessions will begin at 7.30pm and end by 9.15pm with a break for coffee/tea and cake!

No need to book for either session. You can mix and match Tuesdays and Wednesdays if that works for you.



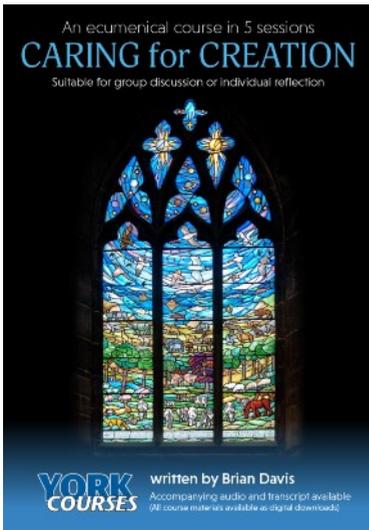
An opportunity to learn, think about and discuss this topical issue with others

Everyone is very welcome!

If you would like to follow the course on Zoom please contact

braishfieldbeneficeoffice@gmail.com

More details of course content on the next page



Caring for Creation

The human race is facing its greatest challenge: global warming, leading to climate change. This, along with the damage we have done, and are still doing to the environment, God's wonderful creation, means that we all have to make radical changes to our whole way of life.

Many of us who care about this issue are sometimes understandably quite pessimistic about the future. That's where faith in God should make a difference. Hope for the future is not the same as being optimistic. Being optimistic suggests always looking on the bright side. A hope based on faith in God should enable us to open our eyes and see

what is actually happening to our planet today, and still believe there is much that we can do, individually and together, with God to guide and strengthen us.

The 2020 Coronavirus pandemic continues to have a big impact on all our lives. It has important lessons to teach us about our life together on this planet, especially when we compare it to the greatest challenge of all to life on earth: climate change.

SESSION 1: The Environment

Focusing on God's wonderful creation, planet earth, the place of human kind in it, and why it is under threat.

SESSION 2: Global Warming and Climate Change

Some facts and figures about climate change, and why faith in a Creator God should give us hope.

SESSION 3: The Age of Humans – The Anthropocene Era

How we human beings with our god-like powers can still undo some of the terrible damage we have done and are doing to our planet.

SESSION 4: Coming out of Denial and Facing Crisis

Many of us find it hard to face up to the reality of climate change, and make the necessary changes to our lifestyle. We need to understand why this is so, and how our faith can help us.

SESSION 5: Faith, Hope and Love

We urgently need to be clear about our Christian response to the present crisis: it challenges what we believe; it is also about how we can live in hope, and meet the demands of Christian love.

We've moved from Village Lunch to Village Tea - everyone is invited to

Afternoon Tea in Braishfield Church Room

**on the first Tuesday of every month
from 2.30pm (note revised time!)**

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

Drop in for a while or stay all afternoon

Tea/coffee and plenty of cake for £3!



Dates for the next few months

Tuesday 1st March

Tuesday 5th April

Tuesday 3rd May

Tuesday 7th June

Tuesday 5th July

No Tea in August

An event for the whole community
- all ages very welcome. Do come along!

Eco-friendly flower arranging at All Saints, Braishfield



Realising that the church supply of oasis as a base for flower arrangements was in need of replenishing, Mrs Jane Bennett, who is in charge of the flower rota at All Saints, suggested to the other arrangers that now might be the time to stop using oasis in church. Several of the current flower arrangers well remember the days of chicken wire and glass roses, so know it is very definitely possible, and everyone is aware of the detrimental environmental impact of oasis.

To share some new perspectives, Catherine Coombes of the Potting Shed at Ampfield was invited to come and demonstrate how one might create large arrangements in vases, making use of seasonal material in the garden rather than relying on large amounts of cut flowers. Members of the village Flower Club were invited to come along as well as regular church flower arrangers and sixteen ladies attended the Flower Demonstration, which was held in the church. It was an enjoyable and sociable time, with a break for coffee and chat. Catherine had brought lots of flowers and foliage and demonstrated how to fill vases using no oasis.

Jane received several appreciative comments afterwards:

“I just want to say I found Catherine Coombes inspirational, I thought her arrangements without using oasis, were really beautiful. Thank you for organising a very enjoyable and informative morning.”

“A huge thank you for arranging such an amazing flower demonstration. Like everyone else I was absolutely ‘hooked’, Catherine’s talent & skill is incredible, a wonderful morning where we all learnt so much. Who would have thought so much beauty could have been achieved with no oasis or chicken wire. From now on our shrubs will be constantly pruned all year round!”



ROMSEY DEANERY SYNOD - a lay member's view

Last year, having completed 6 years as a member of All Saints Braishfield Parish Church Council, Sarah suggested that I serve as a Synod representative for 3 years and I will admit that I felt I was in a slightly grey area knowledge wise! However, having now attended four meetings my knowledge is marginally improved !! about all that happens within church management etc.

The February meeting was held last Tuesday and approximately 40 were present from the 23 parishes within our Deanery, including of course our own Tom Benson and Jane Thompson. The Reverend James Pitkin and Sarah boothman chaired the meeting jointly and welcomed the new Vicar for Ampfield, North Baddesley and Chilworth, Vanessa Lawrence. Last years accounts were approved and although showing an operating loss as such, the result was good in that costs were controlled to account for revenue loss. Many thanks are extended to ALL the parishes for their contributions to the Common Mission Fund reaching 99.2% of target, and some parishes were able to donate beyond their own target. An update on events in South Rwenzori was read and Bishop Nason there asked for us to pray for all their needs, especially the shortage of Pastors within their communities.

There then followed a presentation by Rev James Pitkin about the whole structure of the Church of England from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, 108 Bishops and the role of government and our Sovereign Queen, down through the Diocese and Deaneries to our own parish church councilthe church has 1.4 million members at the last count... and the presentation concluded with some amusing cartoons and drawings, some depicting excuses given for not attending meetings !!!! . James did request that every effort is made to acquaint the parishes with the aims and aspirations of the Romsey Synod.

After an interval for tea, coffee and delicious home made cakes (my hunger caused me to return for another coffee !!), two members from St. Thomas's church in Lymington, gave an interesting talk about Eco Church and how they had tackled this subject. Among many examples on how to bring Ecology to the forefront, were having a climate Sunday with an outdoor service; changing light bulbs to LED, promoting wild life within the church grounds for insects and hedgehogs!; planting rare orchids and changing grass mowing routines to allow some areas to grow with wildflowers and cutting mown paths through. More information can be obtained from the website : environment@winchester.anglican.org

Naturally, there remains concern about falling church attendances and putting aside for a moment the effect of Covid upon our society, one interesting point is that Baptisms fell from circa 160,000 over 20 years ago to 89,000 in the latest annual returns available. Our meeting last October included a workshop on the effect of Covid and attendances in general. I remarked that I have always felt that, despite all the good effort made by many...sometimes we should sit back, reflect on our changing society and try and look from the outside in....not necessarily from the inside out..and try and identify, and understand, the non church goer and their perception of church...and what they feel they would like to see.

Stephen Treglown

Awbridge Village Lunch The village lunch made a successful comeback for Christmas and will now take place, as previously, four times a year so the first one this year will be Wednesday 30 March at 12 noon at Awbridge Village Hall.

Awbridge Fete in May, as you know the village fete is back on 14 May, Awbridge Church hopes to run a stall including plants, puzzles and some fun games, donations of jigsaws and plants welcome.

Braishfield Church Yard Tidy Up



We are going to be clearing up and cutting back in and around the churchyard and church carpark on **Saturday 12th March from 9.30am** – and we would welcome extra help from church members and villagers.

Loppers and secateurs and rakes will be useful tools – and maybe a bag or wheelbarrow

Jane's famous refreshments will be served mid-morning!

Please come and lend a hand – you will be very welcome!

Events for 2022 Wisdom Centre Romsey

Please find details below a list of events from February to May 2022. The Reception Team are now taking bookings for all our events and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Lament: A Lenten Quiet day : Saturday 19th March 2022 - facilitated by Rev Eluned

Honouring the Earth & Creation Saturday 9th April 2022 - facilitated by Fiona Jenvey

Passover Meal Thursday 14th April 2022 - facilitated by Sister Marie Turner - there will be an in-person event from 11am - 1pm and a zoom version from 1.15pm - 3.15pm

Julian of Norwich: A Day of Reflection : Saturday 7th May 2022 - facilitated by Rev Nicky Davies

Community Lunch Cafe

Our Community Lunch Cafe will be open again on Friday 11th March and Friday 22nd April 2022 - Midday - 2pm. Please contact us to book your place, suggested donation £5 per person

For further details of all events, go to the website

www.wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk

or ring 01794 830206 and speak to the Admin and Hospitality Coordinator

The Wisdom Centre, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8EL is just past the United Reformed Church in Romsey - go through the arch from the Market Place and it is 100 yards or so on the left.

From the Archbishops of Canterbury and York - a prayer for Ukraine

*God of peace and justice,
We pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen*

Bible readings for Sunday 6th March - Sunday 3rd April

WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH - ASH WEDNESDAY

Epistle 2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10

Gospel Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

SUNDAY 6th MARCH - 1st Sunday of LENT

Old Testament Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Epistle Romans 10.8b-13

Gospel Luke 4.1-13

Psalms 91.1-11

SUNDAY 13th March - 2nd Sunday of LENT

Old Testament Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

Epistle Philippians 3.17-4.1

Gospel Luke 13.31-end

Psalms 27

SUNDAY 20th MARCH - 3rd Sunday of LENT

Old Testament Isaiah 55.1-9

Epistle 1 Corinthians 10.1-13

Gospel Luke 13.1-9

Psalms 63.1-9

MOTHERING SUNDAY 27th MARCH - 4th Sunday of LENT

Old Testament Exodus 2.1-10

Epistle 2 Corinthians 1.3-7

Gospel John 19.25b-27

Psalms 34.11-20

SUNDAY 3rd April – 5th Sunday of LENT - Passion Sunday

Old Testament Isaiah 43.16-21

Epistle Philippians 3.4b -14

Gospel John 12.1-8

Psalms 126



SERVICES FOR MARCH 2022

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

No service in the benefice - for details of on-line service contact hj.boothman@btinternet.com

SUNDAY 6th MARCH – 1st Sunday of LENT

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

SUNDAY 13th MARCH - 2nd Sunday of LENT

8.00am Farley Chamberlayne **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP T.Benson
9.30am Awbridge **MORNING WORSHIP** CW Lay led
9.30am Braishfield **MORNING WORSHIP** CW A.Manners
11.00am Timsbury **FAMILY WORSHIP** CW H.Rowe
6.00pm Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION** CW T.Benson

SUNDAY 20th MARCH - 3rd Sunday of LENT

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** CW J.Thompson
10.00am Timsbury **HOLY COMMUNION** CW T.Benson
11.15am Farley Chamberlayne * **MORNING PRAYER** BCP J.Thompson
6.00pm Michelmersh **EVENING PRAYER followed by APCM**
BCP T.Benson
6.00pm Braishfield **EVENING PRAYER** BCP J.Thompson

MOTHERING SUNDAY 27th MARCH - 4th Sunday of 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 ***FAMILY SERVICE** CW T.Benson
2.30pm Braishfield **BAPTISM** T.Benson
6.00pm Timsbury **EVENING PRAYER** BCP T.Benson/J.Thompson

SUNDAY 3rd APRIL - PASSION SUNDAY 5th Sunday of LENT

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** CW
9.30am Braishfield **FAMILY SERVICE** CW
10.00am Timsbury (and Michelmersh) **MORNING WORSHIP** CW
6.00pm Farley Chamberlayne **EVENING PRAYER** BCP preceded by APCM at 4.45pm
7.00pm Awbridge **BENEFICE INFORMAL WORSHIP**

* Change of type of service at Farley Chamberlayne for this month only