

Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

April 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
	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
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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

May edition

Mon 22nd April

This edition
will be available by
Sunday 28th April

From the Rector: Rev Tom Benson

Dear Friends,

I'm sure that most of the eggs have been eaten, but I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for all the help over the activities in Lent and Holy Week. Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday seem a long time away now. The Lent courses and all that we learnt from each other. Palm Sunday, the Sunday communions offering us a break from our fast. The Maundy Thursday service at Farley Chamberlayne which gives us a deeply moving way to engage with scripture. The school services. The Good Friday meditations. The services on Easter morning. Plus all the times when we have prayed alone - sitting in the presence of God, waiting to hear his voice in the stillness of our hearts. The sometimes arduous nature of Lent helps us to re-examine this faith and look again at our relationship with our loving God. And when we do this we can be surprised at what we find.

And just as the very early followers of Jesus discovered.. the more that we come to know Jesus—the more the surprises keep coming. Perhaps the biggest surprise is when we realise that we are ALL loved - loved beyond reason...beyond logic.. beyond anything else...we are all loved by God no matter how worthless people may think us or even no matter how worthless we think ourselves to be. No matter what, we are never beyond the love of God. And we should never forget that we are Easter People—set free, living a full life in the light of the Lord, living in the joy of Christ's sacrifice. He did not suffer on the cross for us to continue to live in darkness—he suffered for our new life—.... a life that is lived out in the light of God.

God bless and have a joyful Easter season,

Tom



Palm Sunday to Easter Day - 24th - 31st March

See the back page for special services including Holy Communion at 11am on Mon 25th March at Timsbury and Wed 27th March at Michelmersh, 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday 28th March at Farley Chamberlayne

A Prayer written by young people in Ukraine

God who hears,

For two years we have prayed, mourned and lamented. Two years of war in Ukraine. Two years of invasion, of violence, of death.

Sometimes it slips from news broadcasts and from people's consciousness. But we know you, O God, have not forgotten.

We hold before you refugees who still feel like strangers, unsure when or if they will ever see and hug loved ones again.

Keep safe those who remain in Ukraine. Protect them from the mental and physical wounds of war. We ask for a miraculous end to this bloodshed.

Help us, even when we feel powerless, to act where we can. To care, to listen, to sit with those who grieve. To give, to protest, to continue to pray:

Your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as in Heaven.

A Prayer for Israel and Gaza

O God of all,

Of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael:

Our hearts are broken in pieces at the suffering and murder of your people.

Our voices cry for peace and for justice.

Comfort those who grieve,

Console and heal the injured,

Be close to those in fear,

Restrain with your mighty hand those who perpetrate violence.

Send us your wisdom in all that we say and do,

That our voice may always seek justice, peace, and security for all.

Amen.

— **Revd Peter Colwell**, Deputy General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland



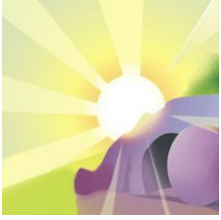
GOOD FRIDAY

All Saints, Braishfield 7.30pm
The Good Friday Story
from St Mark's Gospel
with anthems from the choir, hymns
and prayers

This will be a quiet, reflective service
and will last about an hour



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Easter Egg Hunt in Awbridge



Easter Monday 1 April 2024
All Welcome 10 00-11 30 am
All Saints, Awbridge
Church Lane, Awbridge SO51 0HN



For Info contact:
marysavage126@gmail.com

MARRIED OR BAPTISED AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, AWBRIDGE?



An exhibition is being held 4th - 6th May 2024
9am - 5pm in the church to celebrate all
marriages and baptisms held there over the years.

If you would like to contribute photos and memories
of your special days, we would love to hear from you.
Please email: katiawalton1308@gmail.com for further details.
Closing date: 19th April 2024



See also
p.12



**Run to the midnight sun' –
*the vicar's ride to the Arctic***

**An illustrated talk by Rev. Tom Benson
The Barns, Church Road, Michelmersh**

Thursday 25 April at 7.30 pm

Refreshments All welcome

Donations invited to The Friends of Michelmersh Church

Event organised by The Friends of Michelmersh Church Charity Number 285744.
Raising funds for maintaining the fabric of the Church.



'Jesus' Baptism'

Friday 12 April 2024

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,

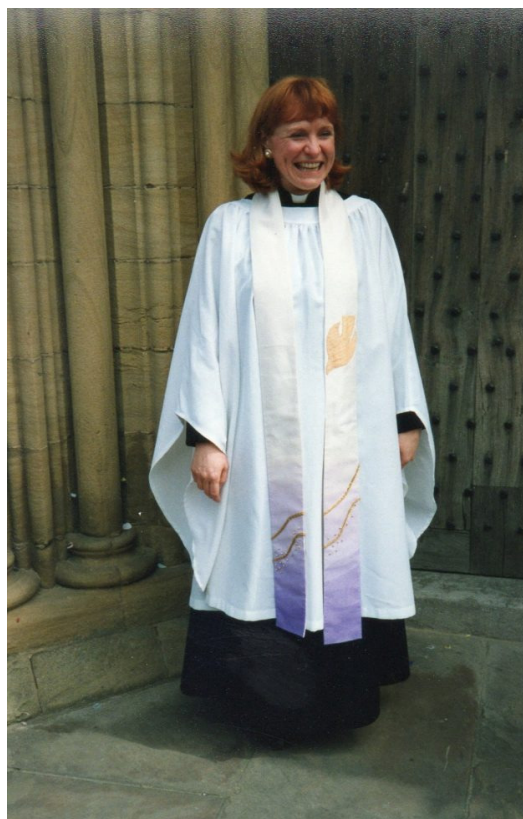
Children to be accompanied by parent/carer.

For info contact:

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

Free event - donations always welcome

Marking 30 years since the first services to ordain women as priests in the Church of England, the Winchester Diocesan Newsletter asked the Very Reverend Catherine Ogle, Dean of Winchester, to reflect on the changes in the Church since women were first ordained as priests and the work that still needs to be done...



Dean Catherine on the day of her ordination as a priest in 1994

It has been a great privilege to be part of historic change to ordain women to the priesthood in the Church of England. For the past thirty years I have loved life and ministry as a priest, and for six years before that as a deacon. I've served a curacy in South Leeds, then a secondment period at BBC Leeds, followed by ten years as Vicar of Huddersfield, then Dean of Birmingham and now Dean of Winchester.

I first embraced Christianity as a teenager and had absolutely no idea of the possibility of women becoming priests. This was something beyond my imagination. Though God's call to me, at the age of 21, was hard at first to comprehend, yet, over the next couple of years I was given courage to say 'yes' and become part of a movement of Spirit-led change that has transformed the church.

'Christ has no body now on earth but yours.'

When St Teresa wrote her famous prayer, 'Christ has no body now but yours...' she was affirming the teaching of scripture, that the gifts and calling of the Holy Spirit are available to all people. We are all called to be the hands and feet, the eyes, and the heart of Christ in the world. The promise of our baptism, identical for boys and girls, is that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for everyone. The gifts are not gendered. The Holy Spirit offers an equal opportunity!

I was born into a more gendered world where, on the whole, there was still a division between men's and women's work. However, this was changing, and women were aspiring to enter all aspects of the work force. In this context people began to question why women might not offer their gifts and skills as ordained ministers and the church benefit from the gifts of all the people of God.

But it's vital to say that the movement to ordain women was always about more than 'jobs for the girls'. There is a deep symbolic and sacramental significance to ordination that carries a profound message about humanity made in God's image. In a world of binary difference, it was easy to slip into stereotypes of men being seen as leaders, spiritual and intellectual (and identifying these characteristics as 'first-class') with women being seen as those who serve and are earthly and emotional (and these characteristics are seen as 'second-class').

However, Jesus is the Saviour who loved women, treated them with respect and affirmed their agency. Despite conventions of the time, Jesus had women friends travelling with him and ministering to him. Women were last at the cross and first at the resurrection. Women held leadership roles in the early church.

I believe that men and women priests, ministering alongside one another, witnesses to humanity wonderfully made in God's image and the freedom of the Holy Spirit to gift and call without discrimination. In my experience, many men find serving alongside women colleagues to be a liberating experience for them too.

A priest has a particular representative role, handling holy things on behalf of the body of Christ and on behalf of God. It's important that both men and women take the role of representing humanity and representing God for the community. In this way our faith that we are made in God's image, male and female, is embodied and affirmed.

During my lifetime women have made great strides in terms of equality and opportunity to contribute to every aspect of life. However, sadly, there are still great challenges in the church and in our wider culture and world. We see examples around the world that rights and privileges once gained can be taken away again.

Modern technology enables sexism and misogynistic bullying and threats to increase, rather than diminish, for girls and women in their private and public lives. Globally, the UN estimates that almost one in three women has been subjected to physical or sexual violence at least once in her life. This figure does not include sexual harassment. Women's and girls' safety from violence and threat is surely at the heart of human rights.

Sadly, the attitudes behind these statistics can play out in microaggressions that women experience daily, including in the church. Shortly after we had been ordained as priests, my friend went to do a funeral visit. She knocked on the door and a man opened it and said, 'Did we get you because we ordered the cheap coffin?' She took this in her stride, but afterwards we wondered, was he being deliberately sexist, or simply rude, or in some clumsy way trying

to be funny? Women clergy, including Bishops, still face sexist and rude comments and 'jokes' that are not funny. These can be a way of undermining the authority given to women by the church and the dignity given to us by God. As Christian men and women we need to work together to create a culture where this kind of behaviour is unacceptable.



So, I hope that we will pause and make time this year to celebrate the change brought about 30 years ago and its wider significance. That women and men are made in God's image and that the Spirit's gifts are available to all. That, at long last, with joy, for the past 30 years women and men have been able to offer themselves to serve the church as priests and know that in Christ's service is perfect freedom.

On 12 March 1994, the first 32 women were ordained as priests in the Church of England at Bristol Cathedral. Dean Catherine Ogle and Canon Peggy Jackson (see above) from our own diocese were amongst the first women to be priested that year. They reflect on the privilege of being part of such historic change, and the continued journey of women in ministry, in a podcast.

<https://winchester.anglican.org/podcast/reflections-to-mark-the-30-year-anniversary-of-women-priests/>

The new Chaplain to the Bishop of Winchester is Revd Theresa Ricketts

On 5 March, Bishop Philip led the licensing service for Revd Theresa Ricketts, the new Chaplain to the Bishop of Winchester. The service took place in the chapel at Wolvesey with staff and friends present.

Theresa has come from Guildford Diocese where she was the Vicar of St. Mary the Virgin, Cuddington. She served her curacy in Weybridge and trained for ordination at Westcott House. She is passionate about parish ministry, and has also enjoyed serving in a range of diocesan roles, including coordinating the team of Vocations Advisors.

Do contact Theresa on theresa.ricketts@winchester.anglican.org.

To keep you informed....a link to Five Alive

In this fast changing world, sometimes we need instant access to information and we are becoming more used to using our smart phones for all sorts of facts, times and events.

Some of you may not be aware that the Five Alive Magazine is now available on your phone.

Just type in "Five Alive Magazine" to your internet browser and you will be directed to a copy, where you can view the current edition.

It is also possible to sign up for Lent Reflections from the Church of England, a daily reading and reflection. It may be a bit late for this year, look out for Advent reflections later in the year.

Happy browsing.

Alan Lord



St John's Farley Chamberlayne were delighted to welcome nearly 30 people to their first 'Coffee and Chat' in March. 'It was such a happy morning and a good start for our initiative - even two groups of walkers just happening to drop in!' The next one will be on **Thursday 11th April from 10.30am**. All very welcome!

A message from the Rural Dean of Romsey Deanery, Rev James Pitkin 'Change and Growth'

Welcome to April! By the time you read this there will be dates set for the Annual Parochial Church Meetings when a new selection of people will be elected to serve as Churchwardens and be on our Parochial Church Councils. There has also been some movement of clergy across the Deanery - we now have a vacancy in the Mid Test Benefice (Broughton with Bossington, Houghton, Mottisfont, Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford) and Rev Sara-Jane Stevens has joined the Thorngate & Blackwater Benefice (Lockerley, East Dean, East and West Tytherley, Wellow and Sherfield English) - living in Wellow. So, change for all of us. Another change for this month is that I have been encouraged (by Bishop Philip, the new Bishop of Winchester) to revert to calling myself your Rural Dean (rather than Area Dean). I think this better reflects the nature of our parishes!

Your Rural Dean, James

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



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
15th April 2024, then
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.

Men's

Breakfast

Sat 6th April

8.30am

Chambers,

Romsey

Book in with
Trevor Clewer
on

0743 4593953



Michelmersh Prize Draw

March 2024 Winners

1st Prize	Tom Robley	£71.40
2nd Prize	Name withheld	£35.70
3rd Prize	Peta Hunt	£24.40

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 March/April

General

Men's Breakfast 8.30am Sat 6th April, Chambers, Romsey (see p.13)

Messy Church 3.30 - 5.30pm Friday 12th April Braishfield Church Room (see p.7)

Awbridge

School Easter Service in the church Tuesday 26th March 2pm

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

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 2nd & 16th April 8.45 am in Church Rooms before Coffee Hub

Awbridge Housegroup Wednesdays 10th and 24th April 7.30pm Chanwel, Romsey Road, contact Fred 01794 340709

Awbridge Lunch Club 12 noon Wed 10th & 24th April in the Church Rooms

Craft & Chat Group Fridays 5th & 19th April at 10.30 am Committee Room, Awbridge Village Hall contact Sue Franklin 01794 322185

Easter Egg Hunt Monday 1st April 10 - 11.30 in the church yard, weather permitting! (See p.6)

The Ark church Baby and Toddler group, every Friday 9.30 - 11.00am except 29th March, 5th & 12th April

Braishfield

School Easter Service in the church Wednesday 27th March 2pm

Dementia Singalong Mon 15th April 2.30 - 4pm Church Room (see p.13)

Village Voices Mondays 25th March & 22nd April 2 - 4pm Church Room

Farley Chamberlayne

Coffee and Chat Thursday 11th April from 10.30am in the church

Michelmersh

Morning Prayer in the church at 9.15am every Thursday.

Friends of Michelmersh Church 'Run to the Midnight Sun' 7.30pm Thursday 25th April The Barns (see p.7)

Timsbury

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday 30th March 2 - 4pm (see p.5)

Coffee and Cake Tuesday 9th April 10.30am in the church

Next Celtic Prayer Tuesdays 26th March & 23rd April 11.00am in the church

Play Reading Group Paused

Like to check information online? For Braishfield see www.asbchurch.org

Awbridge www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18493/

Bible readings for APRIL 2024

SUNDAY 7th APRIL – 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

For Old Testament Acts 4.32-35

For Epistle Acts 4.32-35

Gospel John 20.19-end

Psalm 133

SUNDAY 14th APRIL - 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

For Old Testament Acts 3.12-19

For Epistle Acts 3.12-19

Gospel Luke 24.36b - 48

Psalm 4

SUNDAY 21st April – 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

For Old Testament Acts 4.5-12

For Epistle Acts 4.5-12

Gospel John 10.11-18

Psalm 23

SUNDAY 28th APRIL - 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

For Old Testament Acts 8.26-end

For Epistle Acts 8.26-end

Gospel John 15.1-8

Psalm 22.25-end

SUNDAY 5th MAY - 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

For Old Testament Acts 10.44-end

For Epistle Acts 10.44-end

Gospel John 15.9-17

Psalm 98

(continued from p.16)

SUNDAY 28th APRIL - 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION	BCP	T.Benson
9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION		T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	HOLY COMMUNION		J.Thompson
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION		A.Newport
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	MORNING PRAYER	BCP	T.Benson
6.00pm	Timsbury	EVENING PRAYER	BCP	
		followed by APCM	at 6.45pm	T.Benson
6.00pm	King's Somborne	ALIVE INFORMAL WORSHIP		H.Rowe

TUESDAY 30th APRIL

7.00pm	Awbridge	APCM		
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SUNDAY 5th MAY - 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	BCP	A.Newport
9.30am	Awbridge	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

SERVICES FOR MARCH/APRIL

MONDAY 25th MARCH - MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

11.00am Timsbury **HOLY COMMUNION** T.Benson/J.Thompson

WEDNESDAY 27th MARCH - WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

11.00am Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION** T.Benson/J.Thompson

MAUNDY THURSDAY 28th MARCH

7.30pm Farley Chamberlayne **HOLY COMMUNION** T.Benson/J.Thompson

GOOD FRIDAY 29th March

9.30am Awbridge **AN HOUR AT THE CROSS** T.Benson/J.Thompson

10.00am King's Somborne **AN HOUR AT THE CROSS** A.Newport

7.30pm Braishfield **CHORAL SERVICE** - readings, anthems, hymns T.Benson/J.Thompson

EASTER SUNDAY 31st MARCH *Clocks go forward!*

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION FOR ALL THE FAMILY** J.Thompson

9.30am Braishfield **HOLY COMMUNION FOR EASTER DAY** T.Benson

10.00am King's Somborne **EASTER SUNDAY COMMUNION** A.Newport

11.00am Timsbury **HOLY COMMUNION FOR EASTER DAY** J.Thompson

11.15am Farley Chamberlayne **HOLY COMMUNION FOR EASTER DAY** T.Benson

6.00pm Michelmersh **EASTER PRAISE with HOLY COMMUNION** T.Benson

SUNDAY 7th APRIL - 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

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** J.Rennie

6.00pm Farley Chamberlayne **EVENING PRAYER** BCP J.Thompson

7.00pm Awbridge **BENEFICE INFORMAL WORSHIP** T.Benson

FRIDAY 12th APRIL

3.30pm Braishfield Church Room **MESSY CHURCH**

SUNDAY 14th APRIL - 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am Farley Chamberlayne **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP T.Benson

9.30am Awbridge **MORNING WORSHIP** T.Clewer

9.30am Braishfield **MORNING WORSHIP** H.Rowe

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

11.00am Timsbury **FAMILY SERVICE** M.Hatfield

6.00pm Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION** T.Benson

SUNDAY 21st APRIL - 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.00am Awbridge Village Hall **FAMILY BREAKFAST SERVICE** J.Thompson

10.00am King's Somborne **HOLY COMMUNION** A.Newport

10.00am Timsbury **HOLY COMMUNION** BCP T.Benson

11.15am Farley Chamberlayne **FAMILY SERVICE + APCM** J.Thompson

3.00pm King's Somborne Methodist Chapel **MESSY CHURCH**

6.00pm Braishfield **EVENING PRAYER** BCP preceded by APCM at 4.45pm

J.Thompson

6.00pm Michelmersh **EVENING PRAYER** BCP + APCM T.Benson

Continued on P.15, previous page