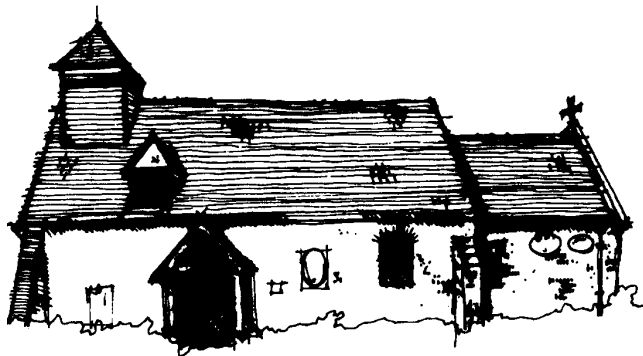


Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

March 2025

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	marysavage126@gmail.com
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
Timsbury	Mrs. Catherine Baker	01794 368364
	Dr. John Glasspool	01794 368017

Websites: <http://www.asbchurch.org> (Braishfield)
www.awbridge.church (Awbridge)

Benefice Office Tel: 01794 878020

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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

April edition

Mon 17th March

This edition
will be available by
Sunday 23rd March

From Rev'd Tom Benson

Dear Friends,

Welcome to March everyone. March seems like a pivotal month. Winter is drawing to a close, the daffodils make their appearance, the hedgerows start to wake up and the first day of Spring is on the 19th.

On the 5th of March, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and so we travel along the well-trodden path, through Lent, through Holy Week to the joy of the risen Christ on Easter Sunday. For Christians this is the most profound time of year, a time of reflection, a time to think about where we have gone wrong and to commit to positive change.

For 2000 years we have done this and there is a sense of connection right back to those events in Jerusalem at the time when Christ walked the earth. We are also connected, I think, to all those people who have worshipped in our churches through past generations as well as those in the world today. I find a great comfort from that sense of continuity and remain very grateful for being a part of that.

However, much of the world does seem to be in turmoil: politically, socially, economically and environmentally to name just a few. We hear of conflicts around the world which can make us fearful and anxious not only for those directly affected but for ourselves as we worry for the future. But that does not mean that there is nothing that we can do though, we help where we can, be good to those that we meet and look for ways to serve the wider good.

To help me discern how to do this I often pray the Serenity Prayer. I hope that it helps you too.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
Amen.

God bless, Tom



Getting ready for Lent.....

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday,**
5th March.

There will be a special service of
Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday
at St Mary's, Michelmersh
at 7.30pm

Women's Breakfast – Saturday 8th March

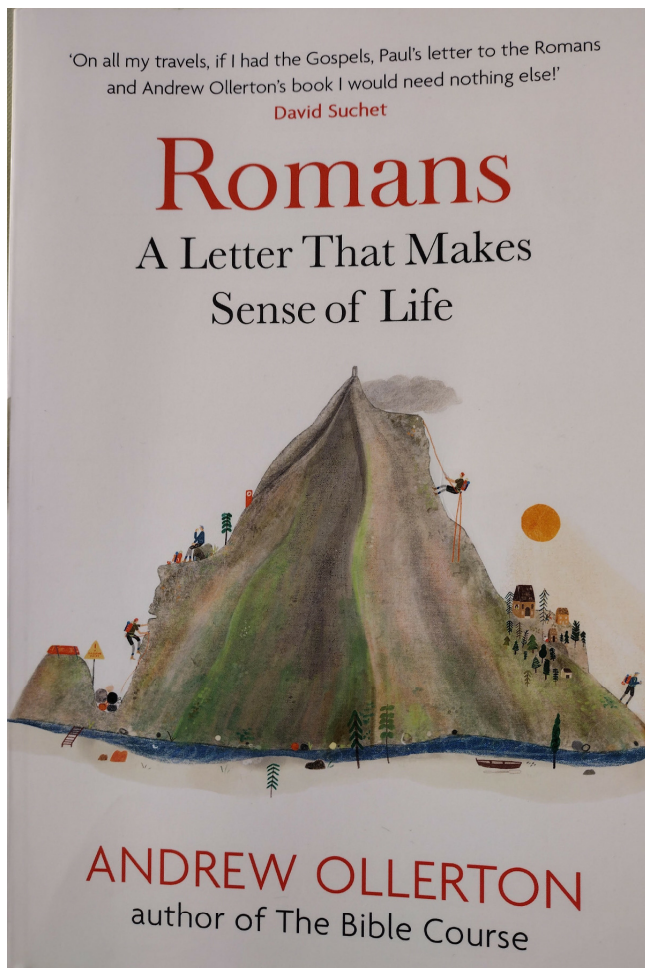
from 9am at Jane's: 36, Five Elms Drive,
Romsey SO51 5RN
– all welcome! Please come and go as you wish



New Church Electoral Roll - please sign up! A reminder if you have not yet returned your form ...

The electoral roll (ER) is your parish's register of electors who can vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand for election to the PCC. Most years, an existing ER is revised, but every six years the Church Representation Rules require that an entirely new roll must be created and everyone must apply again to be included: 2025 is a year when a new roll must be prepared.

If you are already on the ER of your church you will be given a form and invited to re-apply. Ask your ER Officer if you don't hear from them. Anyone who lives in a parish, or is a regular attender at a particular church, can have their name on the roll of that church. The only other criteria is that you must be baptised. A strong roll is an asset to a church, so please fill in and return your form when you receive it, or ask for one if you haven't signed up before. And if you give an email address, that will enable your church to keep in touch with you more easily.



Lent Study Course - 5 sessions:

We will be looking at some of Paul's letter to the Romans. The study will be based on Andrew Ollerton's book.

Wednesday evenings

7.30 - 9.00pm

Awbridge Village Hall Committee Room

12th, 19th, 26th March, 2nd & 9th April

or

Thursday afternoons

2.00 - 3.30pm

Braishfield Church Room

13th, 20th, 27th March, 3rd & 10th April

All sessions will include refreshments

Each session will be complete in itself, so if you can only come to a few, that's not a problem! You can also mix and match evening and afternoon sessions, if that suits your diary.

Here's what one reviewer says about Andrew Ollerton's way of approaching Paul's letter to the Romans:

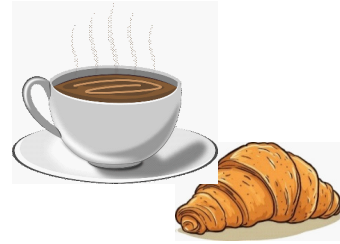
"With his trademark straightforward teaching style, Andrew Ollerton guides readers through Romans to discover how an understanding of Paul's longest letter unlocks the whole story of Scripture and helps us make sense of life.

It's been said that if the New Testament were the Himalayas, Paul's Epistle to the Romans would be Mount Everest. The chapters of this book therefore imagine the contents of the letter as a great mountain landscape - complex, challenging but highly rewarding. Together, we will take on the challenge of ascending to the summit, taking in the view and then descending to put it into practice on the other side.

Readers will not only come away with a greater understanding of Romans, but as invigorated disciples, equipped for the adventure of life and faith, and emboldened to share the Gospel with others."

Come along and see what you find out!

Coffee, Croissants and Chat



with Speaker

**Amusing anecdotes
from an important person ... just
once in your life**

Tuesday 11th March

10.30am

**at St Andrew's
Church, Timsbury**

*"It's so interesting to hear of people's
fascinating lives! Highly recommended!"*

Pop the date in your diary. Every second Tuesday of the month
to come along to meet friends and neighbours, enjoy
refreshments and be entertained!

*These events, though organised by members of
St Andrew's Church **for the community**,
are not religious in nature*

The Michelmersh Prize Monthly Draw

Thank you all for your patience. Much work is going on behind the scenes
but the wheels of financial institutions turn very slowly in registering new
personnel.

When it is possible to write cheques again, draws will be made for all the
'missing' months.

Any queries please to Franny Hornblow, 0788 182 1513. Thank you.

Friends of St Mary's Church, Michelmersh

'The Ordnance Survey - the Past and the Future'
A talk by Andy Ryan

The Barns, Church Road,
Michelmersh



Thursday 27 February at 7.30 pm
Refreshments

Collection in aid of the Friends of
St Mary's Church, Michelmersh

Humour in Horticulture

Dinner with two local celebrity guest speakers
Saturday 1st March from 7.00 pm at Awbridge Village Hall



Andy McIndoe

Roger Savage

Tickets £20 per person BYO drinks & glasses
To book please email sarahjkeith@hotmail.com by 24th February

An Ordinand's Experiences

I have been training for the priesthood at Sarum College in Salisbury since September 2023, and will be ordained deacon in Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 29th June this year. I have been asked to write an article on my studies and how they are preparing me for ministry.

Sarum College trains people for both ordained and licensed lay ministry on a variety of courses that can be tailored to best serve the needs of the individual student. I am one of two students in my year who are studying full-time over two years. Some are studying part-time over two years, some over three years. Many are studying at an undergraduate level, others study at Masters' level.

The majority of our modules are ten weeks long, and full-time students study two modules at a time. There are two assessments for each module. The first is usually a 2500-word essay, the second a 1000-word plan for a service, teaching session or activity, and a 1500-word rationale. In comparison, a sermon is approximately 1200 words.

Our learning materials are mostly online, although there are core books we buy for each module. The financial support provided by the benefice has helped greatly with this, and I am truly grateful to have received it during my training. There are eight units of work for a 10-week module, with an online tutorial once a week. Full-time students study two modules at a time, part-timers one. My modules have included mission, the Bible, Christian doctrine, and leadership, amongst others. My current modules are Ethics, and the Bible in context.

As the module titles might suggest, our studies involve exploring the four pillars of theology – scripture, tradition, reason and experience – in detail. We look at the historical context in which the books of the Bible were written, by whom (as far as we can tell), the language in which they were written, and the challenges of translation across the centuries. We explore the practices of the church such as baptism and the Eucharist, the rationale for this and how our understanding of our faith is constantly changing. The course is not just educational, it is formative, and helps us develop the skills to understand and interpret Christianity, and to consider to what God is calling us, in this place, at this time.

We also attend study weekends and summer schools at Sarum College. These enable us to go deeper into a particular subject, and also to bond as a student body. Our most recent weekend was on interfaith relationships, and we went to Southampton

to visit a Gurdwara and a Mosque. We were able to discuss and explore our commonalities and differences as people of faith, and consider how people of all faiths can work together for the good of the community.

In addition, I have been preaching and taking services across the benefice, and I want to thank everyone for the support and encouragement you have all given to me thus far. As I am sure you are aware, all being well I will be ordained deacon in Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 29th June, and will then be the curate in this benefice and the parish of King's Somborne. As some might say, it is only after the academic studies have finished that the learning really starts.

Anthony Cross



Mothering Sunday, 30th March, falls on a 5th Sunday this year - and the day the clocks go forward!

We have a choice of two services, both at 10.00am

A Family Service for Mothering Sunday
at All Saints, Awbridge

Mothering Sunday Service with Holy Communion
at St Peter and St Paul, King's Somborne

Messy Church

At half term we had Messy Church on the theme of Paul escaping from Prison.

The next Messy Church will be in the Easter Holidays, with Palm Sunday as the theme, on **Friday 11 April**,

from 3 **30pm-5 30pm**, at Braishfield Church Room. For further info contact Jane Thompson email: jane.thompson@me.com



There will be a **World Day of Prayer service** in the Methodist Chapel in King's Somborne at **2.30pm on Friday 7th March**.

"Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2025. This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean has a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection to nature. Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme 'I made you wonderful.'"
Kia Orana! (Trad. Cook Island greeting - May you live long!)

Worries - a reflection



The following are extracts from an article written by a Daniel Grippo in America many years ago. At times, we all have a worry and wish for an answer.....sometimes there are no answers unless we look for them.

Sometimes worry isn't so gentle. It pours down like the rain so hard that we feel as if we are drowning, yet we can learn to channel worry in positive directions.

Make a list of your worries and you can take away their power. You can begin to look at them objectively.

Be sure to focus on what you can do, not what you can't. This way, you have choices which help with finding solutions. Too often, we only think about what is wrong.....ask yourself what is right. Balance your worries with hope and optimism.

Worry feeds on the feeling of helplessness, so ask for help and lighten the burden.

If one dwells in the past, one invites regrets. If one dwells in the future, one invites worry. Dwell in the present and seek answers.

Some of the things we worry about are beyond our ability to fix. When one feels overwhelmed, seek a trusted friend, invite God into the situation through prayer.

Remember, God only wants the best for you, and will either relieve you of your worry, or give you the strength to bear it. Share your worries with God and your trusted friend.

So, there we are. Do not worry alone there is always someone out there to help.

Stephen Treglown

Sing Along

All welcome to join us on the 3rd Monday* of each month during 2025 at All Saints Church Room, Braishfield.SO51 0QH. Starting at 2.30pm until 4.00pm we will be singing some of your favourite songs and providing song sheets should you wish to sing along with us.

We would welcome anyone including those with disabilities, carers, friends. We will serve Coffee, Tea and Biscuits at the end and our wish is that you enjoy the time together.

*April 2025 2nd Monday. No session in July and August.


Hosted by Braishfield Ukulele Musical Society.



This is a free event.


If you would like more information or perhaps book us for an event contact: jhdalton@hotmail.co.uk


AWBRIDGE COFFEE HUB

BREASTFEEDING WELCOME HERE 

Tuesdays: 9.15am - 11.30am

Open to all
A friendly atmosphere
Delicious cakes & pastries
Fairtrade tea & coffee
Money raised goes to charity

 FAIRTRADE



All Saints Church
Church Lane
Awbridge
SO51 0HN

*The earth is the Lord's
and all that is in it - let
everything within me
praise his holy name!
Psalm 103.1*

Eco-tip for March: Go green for Lent

The weeks leading up to Easter are a time for self-reflection, repentance and studying Jesus' obedience to the Father. Is there something you could give up or take up during Lent that will enable you to reflect on God, contribute to our planet's well-being or enhance others' lives through sustainable, eco-friendly living? Why not explore some of these ideas at arocha.org.uk/go-greenfor-lent/

Ideas:

Go plastic free – (or freer!) Try to avoid buying items in plastic packaging

Switch off from digital for an hour or more a day

Buy less or buy second hand

Get outside more and enjoy God's creation...



Focus on OASIS - more than a bookshop!

The Oasis Christian Centre is the retail outlet of the interdenominational Oasis Christian Trust; Registered Charity No. 1171906.

Oasis, the Christian Bookshop at 25 Church Street, Romsey, next to the Post Office, celebrated 40 years of trading towards the end of 2024. We are really privileged to have such a lovely welcoming shop with great customer service on our doorstep, selling a large range of books and bibles, gifts, cards, music, stationery, crafts and wholefoods from around the world - and it is because of the vision, amazing hard work and dedication of a few Romsey residents several decades ago that we have this great resource.

Early in 1984 a Christian couple in Romsey felt it would be right to set up a shop as a resource centre for Christian products and also to sell products from developing countries. Two other families joined them and between them they raised the money to buy the freehold of 25 Church Street, an old, rather uninspiring, dimly lit, property in the heart of Romsey, with deeds going back to 1642. The building was in a very bad state of repair and much work was necessary before it could open for business. By the end of September 1984 sufficient progress had been made in the shop so that the doors could be opened to the public.

It may seem strange for a bookshop to sell Scout and Guide uniforms, but this came about because the previous owner of the shop was a Men's Outfitter who sold the uniforms and OASIS were asked by all concerned to continue.

Oasis is also a collecting focal point for Book Aid (second-hand Christian books and Bibles), and Christian Aid donations.

The shop is staffed by a qualified manager, who is responsible to the Trustees for the running of the shop, together with volunteers from many churches. Over the years the performance of the team has been recognised by merit awards, both by the local Chamber of Commerce and nationally by the Christian Booksellers Association and the Booksellers Association.

If you have never looked in, or haven't crossed the threshold for a while, treat yourself to a browse. We need to use it to make sure it continues to thrive!

OPENING TIMES

Monday - Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm

Saturdays - 9.00am - 4.00pm

Sundays - Closed

Monday 9.30am - 4.30pm

Tuesday 9.30am - 4.30pm

Look at the next page to see other ways to support OASIS and how you can help even if you are buying books on-line.



OASIS
ROMSEY
More than a Bookshop



Would you consider becoming a friend of Oasis? Our Tudor building takes a lot of maintenance. Any regular financial help/ prayers/ practical aid would be welcome.

Further details
chairman@oasisromsey.co.uk



OASIS
ROMSEY
More than a Bookshop

25 Church Street, Romsey SO51 8BT
shop@oasisromsey.co.uk
Tel: 01794 512194

OASIS needs YOU

How can you support OASIS?

BECOME A TRUSTEE

Would you like to support the only Christian bookshop in the area.

The Oasis Bookshop at 25 Church Street, Romsey is part of the Oasis Christian Trust. The Trust is seeking to expand the Trust Board with additional expertise.

Being a Trustee is a voluntary role in the running of the Trust. There is a particular need for individuals with financial experience, HR or interest in the upkeep of a Grade 2 listed building.

If you would like to know more, please email chairman@oasisromsey.co.uk

VOLUNTEER IN THE SHOP

Are you energetic, passionate about meeting and serving people, cheerful, friendly and have experience of working in a team as well as on your own initiative? Working at Oasis could be for you!

You will need to be willing and able to handle some heavy stock and work a minimum of 4 hours a week.

Free tea and coffee always available!

If this is for you, please call into Oasis for a job description and convince us you are the right person to join our happy team.

SUPPORTING OASIS WHEN YOU SHOP ONLINE

Bookshop.org

This website was developed to support Independent bookshops and provide an alternative to Amazon when buying books.

Any book – not just Christian – can be purchased from this site and the profits go to your nominated bookshop at the checkout. If you forget to nominate Oasis, the profit from all sales is shared out between the bookshops on the site.

Give as you live

'THE FREE EASY WAY TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY'

'Earn cashback-style donations from over 6,000 leading stores. Our App, Donation Reminder and website make it simple to raise free funds for Oasis Christian Trust.'

(from Give as you Live website)

www.giveasyoulive.com/

Overview of events in the Benefice in March

General

Ash Wednesday 5th March 7.30pm United Benefice Holy Communion at Michelmersh

World Day of Prayer Friday 7th March 2.30pm Methodist Chapel in King's Somborne (see p. 9)

Womens' Breakfast Saturday 8th March from 9.00am (see p.4)

Lent Course at Awbridge Wednesdays 12th, 19th, 26th March 2nd & 9th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room

at Braishfield Thursdays 13th, 20th, 27th March, 3rd & 10th April at 2.00pm in the Church Room (see p.5)

Awbridge

Coffee Hub Every Tuesday 9.15-11.30 am Church Rooms. All welcome

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 25th February, 11th & 25th March 8.45 am in Church

Awbridge Housegroup Tuesday 25th February 7.00pm for 7.30pm - contact Fred 01794 340709 for venues

Craft & Chat Group Fridays 7th & 21st March, 10.30am -12.30pm Committee Room, Awbridge Village Hall - contact Sue Franklin 01794 322185

Awbridge Lunch Club Wed 12th & 26th March 12 noon Church Rooms

The Ark All Saints Church Baby and Toddler group, every Friday in term times 9.30 - 11.00am, Awbridge Village Hall

Supper Evening - Humour in Horticulture Sat 1st March, from 7pm, Awbridge Village Hall (see p. 7)

Braishfield

Singalong for All Monday 17th March 2.30-4.30pm Church Room

Village Voices Monday 24th February & 24th March 2-4pm, Church Room

Farley Chamberlayne

Coffee and Chat Thursday 13th March from 10.30am in the church

Michelmersh

Thursday Morning Prayer 9.15am in the church, unless otherwise advised

Friends of Michelmersh Church Thursday 27th February 7.30pm The Barns "The Ordnance Survey - The Past and the Future" see p.7

Timsbury

Coffee Morning Tuesday 11th March 10.30 am in the church (see p.6)

Celtic Prayer Tuesday 25th February & 25th March

Kings Somborne Soup and Sherry Winter Warmer Lunch Saturday 1st & 15th March 12.30-1.30pm in the church

Bible readings for MARCH

SUNDAY 2nd MARCH - 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

ASH WEDNESDAY - 5th MARCH

Epistle 2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10

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

SUNDAY 9th MARCH - 1st SUNDAY of LENT

Old Testament Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Epistle Romans 10.8b - 13

Gospel Luke 4.1-13

Psalm 91.1,2, 9-end

SUNDAY 16th MARCH - 2nd SUNDAY of LENT

Old Testament Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

Epistle Philippians 3.17-4.1

Gospel Luke 13.31-end

Psalm 27

SUNDAY 23rd MARCH - 3rd SUNDAY of LENT

Old Testament Isaiah 55.1-9

Epistle 1 Corinthians 10.1-13

Gospel Luke 13.1-9

Psalm 63.1-9

MOTHERING SUNDAY 30th MARCH - 4th SUNDAY of LENT

Old Testament Joshua 5.9-12

Epistle 2 Corinthians 5.16-end

Gospel Luke 15.1-3, 11b - end

Psalm 32

SUNDAY 6th APRIL - 5th SUNDAY of LENT

Old Testament Isaiah 43.16-21

Epistle Philippians 3.4b-14

Gospel John 12.1-8

Psalm 126

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2025

SUNDAY 2nd MARCH - SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

8.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	BCP	T.Benson
9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION		T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	FAMILY WORSHIP		A.Manners
10.00am	Michelmersh (& Timsbury)	MORNING PRAYER	BCP	M.Hatfield
10.00am	King's Somborne	MORNING WORSHIP		S.Kirby
			Preacher: J.Appleyard	
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	EVENING PRAYER	BCP	T.Benson

ASH WEDNESDAY 5th MARCH

7.30pm	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION		T.Benson & J.Thompson
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SUNDAY 9th MARCH - 1st SUNDAY of LENT

8.00am	Farley Chamberlayne	HOLY COMMUNION	BCP	T.Benson
9.00am	Awbridge Village Hall	FAMILY BREAKFAST SERVICE		J.Thompson
9.30am	Braishfield	MORNING WORSHIP		A.Cross
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION		T.Benson
11.00am	Timsbury	FAMILY SERVICE		J.Thompson
6.00pm	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION		T.Benson

SUNDAY 16th MARCH - 2nd SUNDAY of LENT

9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION		J.Thompson
10.00am	Timsbury	HOLY COMMUNION	BCP	T.Benson
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION		Visitor
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	FAMILY SERVICE		T.Benson
3.00pm	King's Somborne	MESSY CHURCH		Team
6.00pm	Braishfield	EVENING PRAYER	BCP	T.Benson
6.00pm	Michelmersh	EVENING PRAYER	BCP	J.Thompson

SUNDAY 23rd MARCH - 3rd SUNDAY of LENT

8.00am	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION	BCP	T.Benson
9.30am	Awbridge	MORNING WORSHIP		tba
9.30am	Braishfield	HOLY COMMUNION		T.Benson
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION		Visitor
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	MORNING PRAYER	BCP	T.Benson
6.00pm	Timsbury	EVENING PRAYER	BCP	T.Benson

MOTHERING SUNDAY 30th MARCH - 4th SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00am	Awbridge	MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE		
10.00am	King's Somborne	MOTHERING SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION		

SUNDAY 6th APRIL - 5th SUNDAY OF LENT

8.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	BCP	
9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION		
9.30am	Braishfield	FAMILY WORSHIP		
10.00am	Timsbury (& Michelmersh)	MORNING PRAYER		
10.00am	King's Somborne	MORNING WORSHIP		
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	EVENING PRAYER	BCP	