



Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

November 2024

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BRAISHFIELD

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

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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: <https://www.asbchurch.org> Look at Five Alive on-line in colour!
www.awbridge.church

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Romsey

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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
December edition
(also covering Jan 25)**

Mon 18th Nov

This edition
will be available by
Sunday 24th November

From Rev'd Tom Benson

Dear friends,

This time of year can be a sad time for some people as we enter a season of cold and dark nights. It can be a time to remember and then to draw strength from those memories, to give thanks for the things that we have done and seen, for the people that we have travelled through life alongside and perhaps see no longer.

We remember them in our Remembering services that are held across our churches over the last weekend in October. We also remember and pay our respects to those who lost their lives in the service of our country in the Remembrance service of the 10th of November. It makes it a poignant, thoughtful time of year, a time to be together and reflect. It was hoped that the First World War would be 'the war to end all wars', but history has shown us that that was not to be and now, just over a hundred years later, the world seems to be entering a new and very dangerous phase. We think especially of the people of Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine and Russia at this time. I am sure that you, like me, are holding them in your thoughts and prayers.

However, by and large the world is still a beautiful place where goodness, kindness and decency still hold sway, so even though we can be presented with images of horror we can see signs of God's goodness revealed. Look to the kindness of strangers, the beauty of creation, the wisdom that is shown by gentle people, and there we find something of God revealed. When hardship comes into our lives, as surely it does at times, we are promised that we are not alone. We are promised that the Holy Spirit of God is with us, even if we are not aware of it at the time.

A prayer for peace

Lord, we pray for active and effective peace-making at an international political level. May the measured voices of diplomacy constrain violence on every side.

Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy...

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Amen

God Bless, Tom



Remembering Services

We will be holding our usual special Remembering Services for everyone wishing to remember loved ones, at the beginning of November. There will be one in each of our churches. You are most welcome at whichever service suits you best.

FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER

7.00pm	Awbridge	REMEMBERING SERVICE
7.00pm	Timsbury	REMEMBERING SERVICE

SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

3.00pm	Michelmersh	REMEMBERING SERVICE
3.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	REMEMBERING SERVICE

SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER

3.00pm	Braishfield	REMEMBERING SERVICE
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Everyone is very welcome to come to light a candle and remember those special to them, whether someone's name is being mentioned or not, however much time has passed. You do not need an invitation! We will remember by name those whose services we have taken in the last five years. If you would like other names added, please let Sarah at the Benefice Office know.

[Braishfieldbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:braishfieldbenefice@gmail.com) 01794 878020

Refreshments will be available after all services.

Awbridge Church Eco-Journey Awbridge Church is currently working towards achieving a Bronze and Silver Award, as part of the A Rocha Eco-church Project which includes us taking steps to encourage others to join in caring for our planet.

Autumn Eco-tip:

Look after the birds in your garden by cleaning bird feeders, to prevent the spread of disease. Install nest boxes for next Spring. See arocha.org.uk/give-abird-a-home. If anyone could make some bird boxes for us to install in our churchyard we would love to hear from you. Reflect on the wildlife you see locally, with these words from Psalm 50 v11: 'I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine.'



Christmas Shoebox Gifts - House of Opportunity - FINAL CALL!

Would you like to pack up a Christmas gift for someone in need?

As a benefice we will again be supporting the

collection organised by the House of Opportunity. A local charity, based in Salisbury, they send filled shoeboxes for children and adults to Southeastern Europe.

Leaflets with full details are available in the churches now. Or see <https://houseofopportunity.org/what-we-do/christmas-box-appeal/>

Boxes need to be completed by Friday 15th November and left in your church or given to Chris Chisholm at Oakfield, Farley Lane, ready for House of Opportunity to pick them up.

A donation of £4 per box is needed for transport costs etc.

Thank you!



**Women's Breakfast
Saturday 2nd November
at Jane Thompson's home
36, Five Elms Drive,
Romsey SO51 5RN**

----- from 9.00am

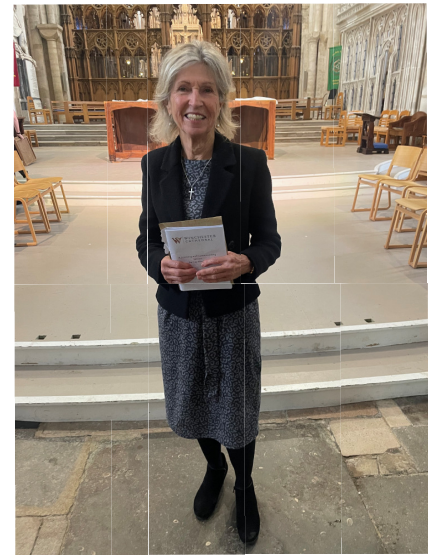
Please do invite friends too!

No charge - donations



Celebrating Lay Ministry

Maggie Hatfield from St Andrew's, Timsbury, was amongst those who received their Bishop's Commission for Mission (BCM) on Saturday 12th October in a wonderfully joyous celebration at the cathedral. Maggie has been helping to lead worship since she received her BCM. She wrote about how the course had impacted her in the Diocesan e-news:



“It was great that we learned about so many types of worship, and to explore what worship is and different styles and preferences. What joy the Lord must have when He sees us welcoming everyone to worship and praising Him. Worshipping from the heart is something so wonderful and sometimes for me it can be so overwhelmingly joyful and a deep sense of emotion, and I feel an intimate closeness to Him.

It could be when I am reading the bible and in prayer at home or walking and seeing something in nature or a sunset. Or it could be in group worship.

Just glancing through my journal and noticing that we were given a feast of ideas, instructions and information on Leading worship from Andy, Chris, Angus and Will, so many helpful ideas to guide us with planning worship and the preparation and using music in the best possible way when leading. I have realised how much time, reading and research goes into the preparation of a written talk, but nothing can be achieved without prayer and being led by the Holy Spirit.

When I was doing the course, I had moments of great joy and moments of tears, I am not sure why, but we all had a great sense of the Holy Spirit working in us. I was very blessed by our course leaders and my lovely classmates. We came from very different backgrounds of churches, and we were at different stages of our journey but all working together and supporting one another. I notice since doing the BCM that I listen to and read things with a new depth, whether it is at home reading the word or in church, or things I hear in passages or in hymns and songs. There is a new hunger in me and a quest to learn more.

For me participating in BCM Worship was a great privilege and all that I have learnt and shared will help me in my journey. I realise that I have much to read and learn, but I hope and pray that with guidance I can gain experience, and I know that my confidence is in the Lord, and I am so blessed that I have a supportive and encouraging Vicar and Benefice.

Thank you, BCM Worship team, for all your love and support.”



Bonfire Night

at St Andrew's Church, Timsbury

Saturday 2nd November

Welcome from 5.30pm for refreshments

Bonfire lighting 6pm / Fireworks 6.30pm

Come and enjoy the bonfire and a firework display
to mark the Autumn season

We are mindful that our grounds are mostly cemetery and would like to assure you that this event will not take place on any grave sites. Graves will be cordoned off for protection. We also appreciate that fireworks aren't everyone's favourite thing and will endeavour to keep the display no longer than 15 minutes and to avoid fireworks with loud bangs.



Soups, hotdogs and hot drinks will be available to purchase.

Cash only

Everyone is welcome to come along. There will be a collection at the gate to support the costs of running our church for the village.



Please park in layby on A3057 and walk down the lane as parking will be limited.

Thankyou for your support.

Awbridge: Eco Initiative: for a greener Christmas we will be having a natural twig tree in church, for hanging tags, made from recycled Christmas cards, so that church members and visitors can send their Christmas Greetings and Prayers to the whole church without needing to write individual cards. This will be available from Advent Sunday and will include a charity donation box too.



Coffee, Croissants and Chat

with Speaker

**A fascinating story and anecdotes from
a Head Teacher who was swept into
an unknown country, culture and language
to be with her British Diplomat husband...**

**Tuesday 12th November
10.30am**

at St Andrew's Church, Timsbury

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

is currently not being drawn due to new bank signatories pending authority. The accumulated funds will be 'rolled over' so that the next draw promises to be a bumper one!

Braishfield Harvest Supper was a relaxed and sociable event with the main course bought at a good discount from COOK in Romsey. Donations to cover costs were generous, and £202 has been donated to the Church Army from the proceeds, specifically for work on the Thornhill Estate in Southampton.

The Awbridge Church



Awbridge Village Hall

Saturday 23rd November 7.00 pm

Tickets £12 pp inc Ploughmans Supper BYO drinks & glasses

Contact James Alexander ASAP for tickets - email: jdalexander350@gmail.com

Pop up Christmas Choir!

To sing at the Awbridge and Timsbury Carol Services
on 22nd December and 24th December



Just 3 Friday evening rehearsals - Contact Chris Thompson
chris.s.thompson@me.com 01794 502035

Looking for an inspiring read? Two Book Reviews

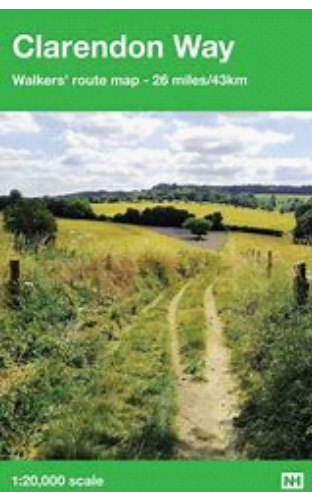
I have recently read two books which have both been very interesting about two countries in the world which are suffering under different circumstances.

The first is called **“Playing for Freedom -The Journey of a Young Afghan Girl.”** This was written by **Anne Chanon and Zarifa Adiba.** This is the story of a girl growing up in Afghanistan, the life she was forced to live and the outlet she had through learning the violin and playing in a small orchestra. The orchestra was given the opportunity to play in Davos, which gave her inspiration and hope. Unfortunately life in Afghanistan continued to get worse and eventually girls were not able to be educated and any kind of musical involvement was banned. It is a vivid description of life in Afghanistan and the rule of the Taliban in this fragile country.

The second book I heard about listening to BBC4 Saturday Live, when the author was on the programme and being interviewed about her journalism. The book is called **“Last Train to Odessa”** covering the human cost of Russia’s war, by **Jen Stout.** She is a journalist from the Island of Skye. She is able to speak Russian, and has obviously a great love for the country of Ukraine. Her story telling is excellent, the people she meets, the situations she gets herself into, gives you a great understanding of how the war is affecting peoples’ lives.

Both of these books make you realise how lucky we are to live in a free country with hopefully mainly Christian values. Both countries need our prayers in this troubled world.

Alan Lord



Fundraising for All Saints Awbridge

Clarendon Way Sponsored Walk

Members of Awbridge church and friends have just completed a wonderful day walking from Salisbury to Broughton (13 miles) to raise funds for the church. They had a great day and even saw some llamas, who graze the land around the ruins of Clarendon Palace! They hope to complete the second part of the walk, between Winchester and Broughton, in the spring.



St Andrew's Church Timsbury
presents

The Star of Bethlehem

Scientific Basis and Explanation of the Star of Bethlehem

A talk by Professor Julian Evans OBE, DSc, FICFor

Monday 25th November

St Andrew's Church

6.30pm for 7pm start

BACK BY POPULAR
REQUEST

Refreshments will be served afterwards

Attendance by reserved seats

Please contact

Maggie Hatfield: 07951 125370

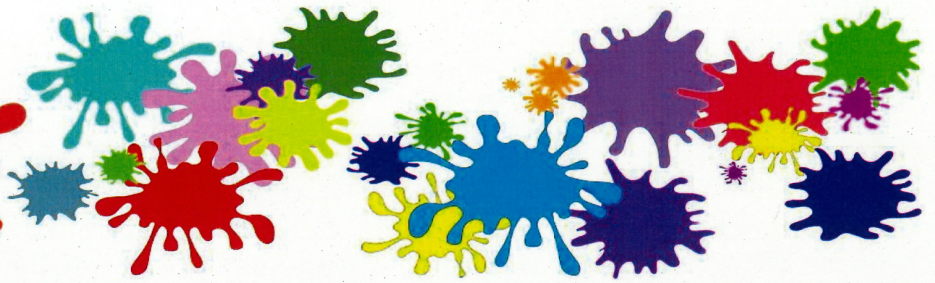
John Glasspool: 01794 368017 or john.glasspool@gmail.com

ALL WELCOME

There will be a sale of Christmas gifts

A collection will be made for our current fundraising project,
which is the installation of a toilet in the church grounds

Please share cars where possible to allow everyone access to the
church carpark.



Forgiveness & Change

Saul becomes Paul

Friday 1st November 11.00 to 13.00

at

All Saints Church Braishfield

messy activities – celebration - feast

Contact Rev Jane Thompson for details
jane.thompson@me.com 01794 – 502035



Celebrating Harvest

It was great to have the
Michelmersh Training
Band (with supporters!)
playing for the
Ploughman's Harvest at
Timsbury.

The Supper afterwards was
excellent too!




Sing Along



**Hosted by Braishfield Ukulele Music Society
All Saint's Church Room, Braishfield,
Romsey, SO51 0QH
Parking on Site, Disabled Access and Toilet
Facilities.**

**3rd Monday of the Month,
18th Nov, 16th Dec. 2024 all at 2.30pm**

**Dementia Sing Along, come along 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.**



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

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

Overview of events in the Benefice in November

General

Messy Church Friday 1st November 11.00 - 1.00pm Braishfield Church Room

Remembering Services 1st, 2nd & 3rd November - see back page

Women's Breakfast Saturday 2nd November from (see p 5.)

Awbridge

Quiz Night Saturday 23rd November 7.30pm Village Hall (see p.9)

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

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 5th and 19th November 8.45 am in Church before Coffee Hub

Awbridge Housegroup Tuesdays 12th and 26th November 7.30pm - contact Fred 01794 340709

Church Lunch Club 12 noon Wed 13th & 27th November in the Church Rooms

Craft & Chat Group Fridays 1st, 15th & 29th November 10.30am -12.30pm Committee Room, Awbridge Village Hall contact Sue Franklin 01794 322185

The Ark All Saints Church Baby and Toddler group, every Friday in term times 9.30 - 11.00am, Awbridge Village Hall (*NB not on 1st November*)

Christmas Lunch - Wed 4th December 12 noon Village Hall - contact Linda Tucker 01794 340709

Braishfield

Dementia Singalong Monday 18th November 2.30-4.30pm Church Room

Churchyard Working Party Saturday 23rd 9.30am - Please bring tools!

Village Voices Monday 25th November 2-4pm, Church Room

Farley Chamberlayne

Coffee and Chat Thursday 14th November from 10.30am in the church

Shoebox Wrapping and Packing Tea Party Tues 29th October 2-4pm at Oakfield

Michelmersh

Thursday Morning Prayer on Thursdays 9.15am in the church

Michelmersh and Timsbury Lunch Club Thurs 7th Nov 1.00pm contact Sarah Medley

Friends of Michelmersh Church Talk Thursday 28th November 7.30pm (see p. 15)

Timsbury

Bonfire Night Celebration Saturday 2nd November (see p.7)

Coffee and Croissant and Chat Tuesday 12th November 10.30 am in the church (see p.8)

Celtic Prayer Tuesdays 29th October & 26th November 11.00 am

Star of Bethlehem Talk Saturday 25th November 6.30 for 7.00pm in the church (see p.11)

Bible readings for NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER - 4th SUNDAY before ADVENT

Old Testament Deuteronomy 6.1-9

Epistle Hebrews 9.11-14

Gospel Mark 12.28-34

Psalm 119.1-8

SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER - 2nd SUNDAY before ADVENT

Old Testament Micah 4.1-5

New Testament Philippians 4.6-9

SUNDAY 17th NOVEMBER - 3rd SUNDAY before ADVENT

Old Testament Daniel 12.1-3

Epistle Hebrews 10.11-14 [15-18] 19-25

Gospel Mark 13.1-8

Psalm 16

SUNDAY 24th NOVEMBER - CHRIST THE KING

Old Testament Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14

Epistle Revelation 1.4b-8

Gospel John 18.33-37

Psalm 93

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER – ADVENT SUNDAY

Old Testament Jeremiah 33.14-16

Epistle 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end

Gospel Luke 21.25-36

Psalm 25.1-9

'Michelmersh Manor Farm: the last 40 years and the future'



**An illustrated talk by
Fran and John Drake
The Barns, Church Road, Michelmersh
Thursday 28 November at 7.30 pm
Refreshments All welcome**

**Donations invited to The Friends of Michelmersh Church
- raising funds for maintaining the fabric of the Church**

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

FRIDAY 1st NOVEMBER

11.00am	Braishfield	MESSY CHURCH	
7.00pm	Awbridge	REMEMBERING SERVICE	T.Benson
7.00pm	Timsbury	REMEMBERING SERVICE	J.Thompson

SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

3.00pm	Michelmersh	REMEMBERING SERVICE	J.Thompson
3.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	REMEMBERING SERVICE	T.Benson

SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER - 4th SUNDAY before ADVENT (All Saints' Sunday)

8.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	T.Benson
9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION	J.Thompson
9.30am	Braishfield	FAMILY WORSHIP	A.Manners
10.00am	Michelmersh (including Timsbury)	MORNING PRAYER BCP	T.Benson
10.00am	King's Somborne	MORNING WORSHIP	Lay led
3.00pm	Braishfield	REMEMBERING SERVICE	T.Benson & J.Thompson
3.00pm	Kings Somborne	REMEMBERING SERVICE	S.Kirby
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	EVENING PRAYER BCP	J.Thompson
7.00pm	Awbridge	BENEFICE INFORMAL WORSHIP	T.Benson

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER – 3rd SUNDAY before ADVENT

10.15am	Awbridge School	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE	J.Thompson
		<i>Followed by laying of wreaths at the War Memorial at 11.00am</i>	
10.45am	Farley Chamberlayne	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE	A.Manners
10.45am	Timsbury	FAMILY SERVICE and REMEMBRANCE	M.Hatfield & J. Glasspool
10.50am	Braishfield War Memorial	UNITED SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE	T.Benson & A. Bevan
10.50am	King's Somborne War Memorial	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE	H.Rowe
(11.05 in church)			Preacher: P.Rayson
6.00pm	Michelmersh	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE WITH MS BAND	T.Benson

SUNDAY 17th NOVEMBER – 2nd SUNDAY before ADVENT

9.00am	Awbridge Vilage Hall	FAMILY BREAKFAST SERVICE	J.Thompson
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson
10.30am	Timsbury	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	J.Thompson
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 24th NOVEMBER - CHRIST THE KING

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	Visitor
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	MORNING PRAYER BCP	T.Benson
6.00pm	Timsbury	EVENING PRAYER BCP	T.Benson

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER - ADVENT SUNDAY

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	Timsbury (and Michelmersh)	MORNING WORSHIP	M.Hatfield
10.00am	King's Somborne	MORNING WORSHIP	H.Rowe
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	ADVENT CAROL SERVICE	T.Benson
7.00pm	Awbridge	BENEFICE INFORMAL WORSHIP	J.Thompson

BCP - Book of Common Prayer - traditional language