

Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

September 2025

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BRAISHFIELD

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

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tbenson09@aol.com

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jane.thompson@me.com

Curate: Revd Anthony Cross 07728 671302

curate.braishfield@gmail.com

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Awbridge	Mr Fred Tucker	01794 340709
	Mrs. Mary Savage	marysavage126@gmail.com
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
Timsbury	Mrs. Catherine Baker	01794 368364
	Dr. John Glasspool	01794 368017

Websites: www.asbchurch.org (Braishfield)
www.awbridge.church (Awbridge)

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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

OCTOBER edition

Mon 22nd September

This edition
will be available by
Sunday 23rd August

From Rev'd Tom Benson

Dear friends,

Welcome to September. This is very often a really busy time of year as we return to school, gather the final crops in and prepare for darker evenings, frosts and sweeping up endless leaves. September traditionally feels to me more like the start of the new year than January. It is of course a time of new beginnings with the start of the school year, and a time when activities and events resume after the summer break.

“All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above”. Do you recognise these words? They are from the Harvest hymn, ‘We plough the fields and scatter’. Our Harvest Thanksgiving Services begin in September and you are all most welcome - you don’t have to be a farmer or one of our regular worshippers to join in with the celebrations. It is an opportunity to thank God for his provision for us, it’s lovely to see the different crops growing in the fields that surround our communities.

I never cease to be amazed by what grows from a tiny seed: putting down roots and growing shoots. Not unlike starting a new year at school really, settling in and becoming established and growing in every way. Jesus told his disciples that if they had faith the size of a mustard seed, then nothing would be impossible for them. And I think that that’s a good thought to take with you into the new academic year.

In other news, the second Braishfield Classic and Custom bike show is being held at Braishfield Social Club on Saturday the 4th of October from 12-5pm. Last year we had a wide range of bikes from choppers to vintage, plenty of cakes and tea. The bar is open so do come along and have a look whether you are a seasoned biker or never sat on one in your life. It is free entry with donations in aid of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

Have a good month and see you soon.

God Bless, Tom

Contemporary Worship

at

All Saints Church Awbridge

Sunday 14 September 6.30 pm

This new service will take place on the 2nd Sunday of each month at Awbridge church, 6.30pm.

Changes to regular events for this month only

1. There will be **NO Coffee Morning in Timsbury Church on 9th September** as the coffee makers are all away holidaying, but we will be back in full force with another amazing speaker on Tuesday 14th October, so put the date in your diaries!
2. There will be **NO Coffee and Chat at St John's, Farley Chamberlayne on Thursday 11th September** for the same reason! Everyone is invited to come along as usual on Thursday 9th October.

Instead of your usual coffee morning, why not go along to the **Tack & Table Top Sale (Friday 12th Sept, p 7)** or enjoy **Hymns and Pimms (Sunday 21st Sept, p 9)** ?



Time to Celebrate!

Open the Book (OtB) is an exciting storytelling project where Bible stories are shared with children in a way that is fun, interactive and memorable. As invited guests in school, storytelling teams use the [Open the Book programme](#) to prepare and present a 10–15-minute scripted Bible story to a school assembly, involving the children as much as possible.

Our Open the Book team have completed a 7th year visiting our primary schools each half term. They went out for a celebratory lunch together in July!

The Michelmersh Monthly Draw is back up and running! Many thanks to everyone who has taken part so far.

As a reminder....

The draw was set up in October 2015 as a way of contributing to the running costs of St Mary's Church, Michelmersh. It is also a bit of fun as 50% of the income is included in a monthly draw with 3 prizes. 1st prize wins 56%, 2nd prize wins 28% and 3rd prize wins 16%. Winners are announced on or before the 15th of the month and advised by email and bank transfer or letter and accompanying cheque.

All contributors to 31 July were entered into the first draw this week. We use an online tool, Random Picker, which is a public record and have contacted the 3 winners.

The next draw will include all contributors during August, and will take place in the first week of September.

If you haven't joined yet please use the link to the application form below

<https://forms.gle/rm5bUL3Kxg1BJKsD7>

or contact either of us for a hard copy.

Franny Hornblow: franny@prmotors.biz 07881821513

Hannah Hunt: hannah.hunt@outlook.com 07914338560



BMADS presents a concert given by
Caroline Banwell violin, Pieter van der Grinten cello and
Warwick Hewson on piano.

It will be held on **Saturday 20th September** in
Braishfield All Saints church starting at 7.30pm.

The program will include music by Mozart and Boccherini,
Gliere and Handel Halvorsen with Dvorak's Dumky
piano trio.

The players are donating their performance to raise
funds for the Brain Tumour Charity, a charity very close
to their hearts.

Entry fee is £10 and donations will be gratefully accepted
during the evening towards their charity.

To book please contact Wendy Quarendon
01794 368015 wendy@quarendon.net



TACK & TABLE TOP SALE

WHEN

**Friday 12th September
6.30pm - 9pm**

WHERE

**Braishfield Social Club
SO51 0QF**



FURTHER INFO

Please call Ali

07305 558492

TICKETS

£1.00 (on the door)

Table Top

£8.00

Tack Table

£10.00

Trade

£20.00

REFRESHMENTS

Tea

Coffee

Homemade Treats

Squash for kids

BENEFITING

All proceeds to:-

**Farley Chamberlayne
Church**



Eco Messy Church



Outside games & BBQ

Friday 29th August from 15.30 to 17.30
at
All Saints Church Braishfield

Contact jane.thompson@me.com for details

All Saints' Braishfield Harvest Supper

Saturday 4th October

6pm – 8.30pm
in the Church Room

Please bring your own drinks!



Contact Sarah Boothman
on 01794 368143 seboothman@aol.com

to book a place by Monday 29th September

Everyone is very welcome -
come and meet friends at a relaxed meal!

Favourite Hymns and Pimms

Come and join us at

**Braishfield Social Club SO51 0QF
on Sunday September 21st - 5pm**

to sing favourite hymns and enjoy a glass of Pimms!

**Hymn requests to Rev Tom by Sunday 14th
September, please!**

tbenson09@aol.com 01794 368335

We will include all we can.....



**AWBRIDGE
COFFEE
HUB**

Tuesdays: 9.15am - 11.30am

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

BREASTFEEDING
WELCOME
HERE

FAIRTRADE

All Saints Church
Church Lane
Awbridge
SO51 0HN

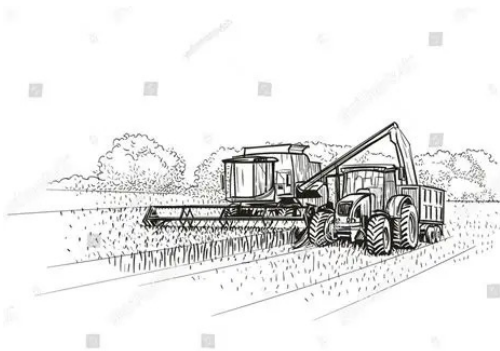
Notes from Farley Chamberlayne

Joining in with Ride and Stride

This year especially we are encouraging cyclists, bikers and walkers to participate on behalf of St John's Farley. Please collect a leaflet from Farley porch or go online to <https://hihct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/> Half of any money raised goes to St John's and half to the HIHCT (Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust). This is one of the charities to which we shall be applying for help with funding our plans for running water, a tea point and an accessible toilet with associated drainage.

Harvest 2025

Our Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 28 Sept with a Morning Prayer Harvest Service at 11 15am. We shall be bringing contributions for the Romsey Food Bank (see p 12 for the list). The Harvest Supper will be on Friday 26 Sept in the church – details from the churchwardens.



BBQ & Jazz Evening at Awbridge Village Hall Saturday 20 September from 7 pm



BBQ



Assorted Salads



Licensed Bar

Tickets: £15 pp – Please book through James Alexander by 13 September

Email: jdalexander350@gmail.com or phone: 07785 724531

An event organised by Awbridge Church - www.awbridge.church



SATURDAY 13th SEPT 2025

Ride & Stride Day supports the fabric of our Churches & Chapels in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. This is a national event.

Why not visit all the churches in the Five Alive Benefice or go further afield to see more of the wonderful churches in Hampshire on Ride & Stride Day Saturday 13th September. Get yourself sponsored or sponsor someone else to raise some much needed funds for your nominated church – 50% of the sponsorship money will be 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 recently benefited from a grant for repairs to the tower and clock.

The Trust is run entirely by volunteers so almost all the money raised goes to our churches for work to preserve, maintain or repair the fabric of the church, including modification for disabled access.

Please join us and register for Ride & Stride on **Saturday 13th 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!**

We will be visiting some area of Hampshire this year so you are most welcome to sponsor us and nominate your church. Our thanks to All Saints (Braishfield), St John's (Farley Chamberlayne) and the United Reformed Church (URC congregations for sponsoring us in 2024 and to the URC for making Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust their charity for 2024 raising the stunning amount of £546.

To find out more about the event and how to participate and raise sponsorship or make a donation visit the website page: <https://hihct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

If you need further information please email us on rideandstridehihct@gmail.com or ring 01794 368427.

Chris & Meryl Balchin

Registered Charity No 1181370

Romsey food bank needs support all through the year, but we especially promote its work at Harvest-time. Please note what is needed and what is not! You can check the website

<https://romsey.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> at any time.

Unfortunately, there continues to be great need in our communities.

Current needs - mid August - Romsey Food bank

OUR SHOPPING LIST

Tinned Meat

Coffee

UHT Milk

Sugar 1kg and 500g

Tinned Spaghetti

Tinned Tomatoes

Long Life Fruit Juice

Chocolate

Sweets

Rice

Instant Noodles

Custard



WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF

Pasta

Soup

Incontinence pads

Pet Food

The Basics Banks, which Awbridge church supports, are run by Southampton City Mission. The food is distributed by volunteers, at food banks run by church communities in Southampton, for those referred to them by official agencies: Please see the list below which prioritises the items most needed.

<https://southamptoncitymission.co.uk/get-involved/how-to-donate#shopping-list>

Currently they are really short of tinned meats (hot), small jars of coffee, sugar (small bags), rice, noodles (pkts), custard, jams & spreads, UHT milk and tins of veg, fruit, tomatoes, fish, rice pudding & macaroni cheese, also nappies (sizes 4,5&6+) and toiletries. Smaller packets of most items are best for re-distribution.

Ben Maton - The Salisbury Organist - visits Michelmersh

You may not have heard of Ben Maton, an organist from Salisbury who visits country churches and makes films about them and their organs. He says of himself: "I'm an organist, composer and journalist for Choir & Organ magazine, but most of all a YouTuber, exploring English country churches and sharing their stories online."



Chris and Meryl Balchin thought readers might be interested to know that Ben has visited **St Mary's, Michemersh**, and posted a film about the church, its surroundings, the organ - and even features him reading an extract from 'Pompey and the Cream Tea'!

The film is entitled *Bach's JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING ~ from the most BEAUTIFUL church I've ever seen!* <https://tinyurl.com/yfawthfn>

It lasts about 40 minutes, so if you have some time sit down with a mug of tea or a cup of coffee and enjoy. If you aren't used to the ways of YouTube, don't be concerned that you seem to have opened an advertising feature. After a few seconds the word 'Skip' and an arrow will appear on the right of the screen. Click on this and you will be back to the main film!

Eco-tip for September: This is the Season of Creation which is dedicated to God, as the creator and sustainer of all life. During this period of the church calendar, many churches celebrate Harvest, thanking God for His provision through the land and food that is grown. It's a time when churches and congregations are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it, and to pray for our world. Explore A Rocha UK's season of creation resources at: arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/season-of-creation.

(From Awbridge Newsletter)

Wimborne Minster Flower Festival



"THE DELIGHTS OF DORSET"

Tableaux and many other arrangements
to be held in
Wimborne Minster

Friday 26th to Monday 29th September 2025
Friday, Saturday & Monday..... 10:00am to 6:00pm
Sunday..... 2:00pm to 6:00pm

Admission £7.50 Under 18 - free
Proceeds in aid of Minster Funds
Supported by the Wimborne BID 

Groups and Coach Parties welcome
Contact for further details
Parish Office 01202 884753
Publicity Officer 01202 888703
Email: parishoffice@wimbourneminster.org.uk



Overview of events in the Benefice in September (and late August)

General

Messy Church Friday 29th August (see p 8)

Ride and Stride Saturday 13th Sept (see p 11)

Awbridge

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

Prayer Meeting Tuesday 2nd Sept 9.00am

Awbridge Housegroup Tuesdays 9th & 23rd Sept at 7 for 7.30pm

Craft & Chat Group Fridays 29th August & 12th & 26th Sept 10.30am-12.30pm
Committee Room, Awbridge Village Hall - contact Sue Franklin 01794 322185

Awbridge Lunch Club Wednesdays 27th August, 10th & 24th September
at 12 noon, Church Rooms

Jazz Evening Saturday 20th September 7.00pm Book by 13th Sept (see p 10)

The Ark All Saints Church Baby and Toddler group, every Friday in term times,
starts again on 5th September, 9.30am - 11.00am

Braishfield

Singalong for All re-starts on Monday 15th September 2.30-4.00pm, Church Room

Favourite Hymns & Pimms, 5pm Sunday 21st September (see p.9)

Village Voices Monday 22nd September, 2-4pm, Church Room

Harvest Supper Saturday 4th October - book by 29th September (see p.8)

Farley Chamberlayne

NO Coffee and Chat this month (see p. 4)

Tack & Table Top Sale Friday 12th Sept 6.30 - 9pm (see p.7)

Harvest Supper Friday 26th September (see p.10)

Michelmersh

Michelmersh and Timsbury Lunch Club Thurs 4th Sept 1.00pm Jubilee Hall.
Contact Sarah Medley 07817 043422 or sarahmedley5@gmail.com

Timsbury

NO Coffee Morning this month (see p. 4)

Celtic Prayer Tuesday 23rd September 11.00am in the church

King's Somborne

Marquee Market Saturday 30th August 10 -12 noon outside the church

FORWARD DATES:

Bike Show at Braishfield Social Club Sat 4th October 12noon - 5.00pm (see p.3)

SUNDAY 31st AUGUST - 11th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Proverbs 25.6-7

Epistle Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16

Gospel Luke 14.1, 7-14

Psalms 112

Bible readings for SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER - 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Deuteronomy 30.15-end

Epistle Philemon 1-21

Gospel Luke 14.25-33

Psalms 1

SUNDAY 14th 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 21st 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 28th 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 5th 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



Universal Prayer for Peace

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth;
lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust;
lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.

Each day at noon people of all faiths and none use this 'Universal Prayer for Peace'. This forms a wave of prayer and hope rippling each day around the globe.

SUNDAY 31st AUGUST - 11th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00am Farley Chamberlayne **UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION** TB/JT/AC

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER - 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	T.Benson
9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	FAMILY WORSHIP	M.Hatfield
10.00am	Michelmersh (& Timsbury)	MORNING PRAYER BCP	A.Cross
10.00am	King's Somborne	MORNING WORSHIP	Lay led
1.00pm	King's Somborne	BAPTISM	T.Benson
3.00pm	Ashley	HARVEST THANKSGIVING	T.Benson
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	EVENING PRAYER BCP	A.Cross

SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER - 13th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	Farley Chamberlayne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	J.Thompson
9.00am	Awbridge Village Hall	FAMILY BREAKFAST SERVICE	J.Thompson
9.30am	Braishfield	MORNING WORSHIP	A.Cross
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	Visitor
11.00am	Timsbury	HOLY COMMUNION	J.Thompson
6.00pm	Michelmersh	EVENING PRAYER BCP	J.Appleyard
6.30pm	Awbridge	CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP	J.Thompson

SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER - 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION	J.Thompson
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson
11.00am	Timsbury	HARVEST THANKSGIVING	A.Cross
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	FAMILY SERVICE	T.Benson
3.00pm	King's Somborne	MESSY CHURCH	Team
5.00pm	Braishfield Social Club	HYMNS & PIMMS	T.Benson
6.00pm	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION	J.Thompson

SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER - 15th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	T.Benson
9.30am	Awbridge	FAMILY HARVEST FESTIVAL	A.Cross
9.30am	Braishfield	HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	J.Thompson
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	HARVEST THANKSGIVING BCP	A.Cross
3.00pm	Little Somborne	HARVEST FESTIVAL	A.Cross, T.Benson
6.00pm	Timsbury	EVENING PRAYER BCP	J.Thompson

SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER - 16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	T.Benson
9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	HARVEST THANKSGIVING	A.Cross
10.00am	Timsbury (inc. Michelmersh)	MORNING WORSHIP	J.Thompson
10.00am	King's Somborne	HARVEST THANKSGIVING	H.Rowe
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	EVENING PRAYER BCP	T.Benson