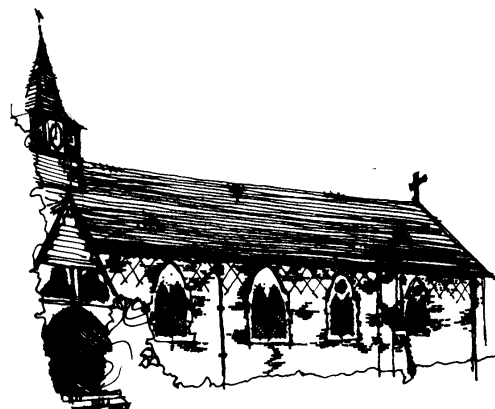
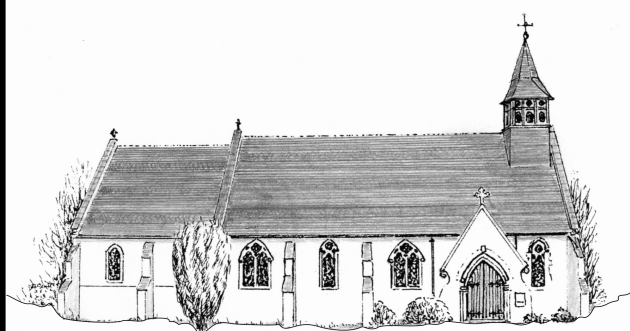
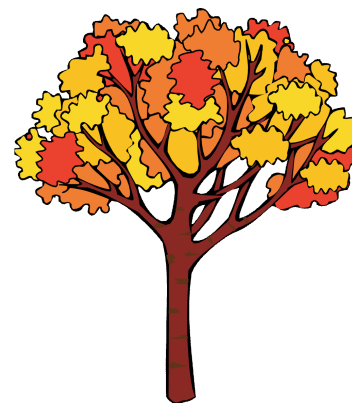
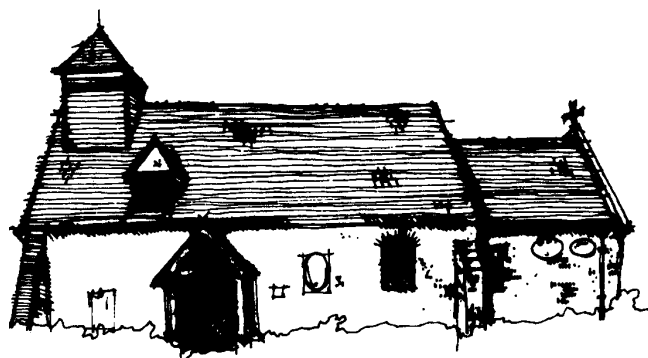




Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

NOVEMBER 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

Curate: Revd Anthony Cross 07728 671302

curate.braishfield@gmail.com

Church Wardens

Awbridge	Mr Fred Tucker	01794 340709
	Mrs. Mary Savage	07516 010794
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)

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
DEC/JAN edition**

Mon 17th Nov

This edition
will be available by
Sunday 23rd November

From Rev'd Tom Benson

Dear friends,

I would like to start with a big thank you to everyone who supported the Classic and Custom show in Braishfield on the 4th of October, as part of our developing mission with the biking community. It brought together bikes and bikers of all ages and was supported by three Christian biker organisations - The Knights of Antioch, The Christian Motorcycle Association and the 59 Club. Despite the weather, we reckon that there were over 100 bikes that attended the afternoon and lots of people on foot and travelling by car. We raised over £750 for the Hampshire Air Ambulance. We are planning to hold a Bikers Carol service at King's Somborne to which everyone is welcome and will release the date soon.



This time of year can also be a sad time for some 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 church 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 services of the 9th of November. It makes it a poignant, thoughtful time of year, a time to be together and reflect. To help with that, I offer you the prayer below as we move towards the close of 2025.

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.

Matthew 5

God Bless, Tom

Remembering Services - 31st October- 2nd November

- see the back page for dates and times



Everyone is invited to come to a service and light a candle in remembrance during a time of reflection. We will remember by name everyone for whom our clergy have conducted a funeral or burial of ashes in the last five years, but others will be remembered too, as requested. Please give their name to the person taking the service, or contact the benefice office in advance.

The Michelmersh Monthly Draw – September 2025 winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Michelmersh Monthly Draw (all anonymous this month):

1st prize £44.80

2nd prize £21.70

3rd prize £12.40

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.

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

Coffee, Croissants and Chat

with Speaker



“Tales from the Riverbank”

Tuesday 11th November

10.30am

Everyone welcome to come to
meet, chat, eat and enjoy

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*

There is no charge, but donations appreciated towards the toilet fund

Message of thanks from Romsey Foodbank

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the members of the congregations at both St John's Church, Farley Chamberlayne and All Saints Church, Braishfield for this year's Harvest donations to Romsey Foodbank. Together they collected and donated an amazing **76.85kg** of food at All Saints, and **48.5kg** of food at St Johns.

Harvest is such an important time for us, as our stocks are often very low after the summer months. Annual donations from local churches such as yourselves help ensure we can continue providing this vital service for the community, sharing the love and care of Jesus in a very practical way. So on behalf of the whole Romsey Foodbank team, and the community we represent - thank you once again. We are truly grateful for your support.



All Saints Braishfield Harvest Supper

Nearly 50 people sat down to enjoy a Harvest Supper together the night before the Harvest service. It was a relaxed, enjoyable and successful evening. After Grace said by Jane, cottage pie (bought from COOK in Romsey, and subsidised by their generous community

discount) was served to everyone, with alternatives for vegetarians and those with food allergies. It's the second time we have bought our main course from COOK and it certainly made catering much easier! Our local cooks provided a wonderful selection of puddings, and no-one went home hungry.

It was good to welcome several of our friends from the United Reformed church, including one of their ministers, Revd Sarah Hall, to come and share the evening with us. There was plenty of time between courses and afterwards to chat to others on the table and move around to catch up with people. Donations made more than covered the costs of the meal, and the balance was transferred to church funds.

Photo: A.Lord



All Saints Church, Awbridge

**CHILDREN'S
FILM CLUB**

**Thursday 30th October
2:30pm**





Bonfire Night

at St Andrew's Church, Timsbury

Saturday 8th 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.

House of Opportunity Christmas Shoeboxes



Chris Chisholm of Farley Chamberlayne will be bringing boxes and would welcome help. She is very happy to accept donations of shoe boxes and fillers like soft toys, balls, skipping ropes, cars and school pencils, crayons and exercise books; toiletries for babies, children and adults, hairbrushes, soap and toothbrushes, toothpaste, sweets, warm nightwear and pants, socks, gloves, hats and scarves for children and adults, torches, sewing kit etc

and £4 to cover the transport.

Empty shoeboxes and items to go in them can be left in a box at the back of St John's Church at Farley – if you can cover the boxes with Christmas paper at home ready to pack, all to the good!

Further info re contents

at christmas@houseofopportunity.org or suggestions.christmasbox.org

Wrapping and Packing Sessions at Oakfield SO51 0QR

Bring your own scissors please!

Two sessions have already taken place, but you are welcome to help on:

Thursday 30th Oct 11am - 3pm with coffee and sandwich lunch

Tuesday 4th Nov 10am - 1pm with Coffee and cake

Saturday 8th Nov 11am - 3pm with coffee and sandwich lunch

Many thanks

Chris Chisholm +44788 774 8224

Oakfield, Farley Chamberlayne, Braishfield SO51 0QR



See p 14 for larger contact details about buying a ticket



Copies of 'The Word for Today' booklet for the next quarter (November - end of January) are ready to be picked up from your church.

Reading the short text and message for each day can be a good way spend a few minutes having a quiet time, a moment to reflect.

Take a copy home and have a look through. They are provided free of charge and we can get hold of more if supplies run low so don't mind taking the last one!



Saturday 22nd November 9.30am Churchyard Working Party at All Saints Braishfield

with refreshments - bacon butties! We will be raking leaves amongst other tasks! Please bring your own tools.

Fundraising for All Saints Awbridge

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our Jazz Evening in September, with the brilliant music of Second Wind and with a fabulous BBQ provided by the social committee and valuable funds being raised for the church. Clarendon Way Sponsored Walk - some of us have just completed a wonderful day walking from Broughton to Winchester Cathedral (15.4 miles) to raise funds for the church. We had a great day and finished at the cathedral. Some went to the pub and others looked inside! Thank you to everyone who took part and all those who sponsored us.



St John's Farley Chamberlayne Harvest Supper



Photos:
J.Thompson

No-one went home hungry from the Harvest Supper - see the overflowing plate above! There was a great atmosphere as everyone sat down together in the church. At the Harvest Service there was a generous response to the Foodbank collection - see letter of thanks on page 6.

Unpack the Christian *faith* together.

Starts January 2026

What is it?

A series of interactive sessions over 10 weeks that explore the basics of the Christian faith, often know as an "*alpha course*".

Who's it for?

Across the Benefice and King's Somborne, it's for anyone who's curious to explore the big questions of life, faith and meaning. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. You can say anything you like or nothing at all.

How does it work?

Each week we will have three key things: food, a short talk and a discussion where you can share your thoughts. There's no pressure and no follow-up.

How much is it?

There is no charge.

If you'd like to know more e-mail Sarah at braishfieldbenefice@gmail.com or Peter at church.kingssomborne@yahoo.com
Or see more about the alpha course: www.alpha.org



Light Party Celebration

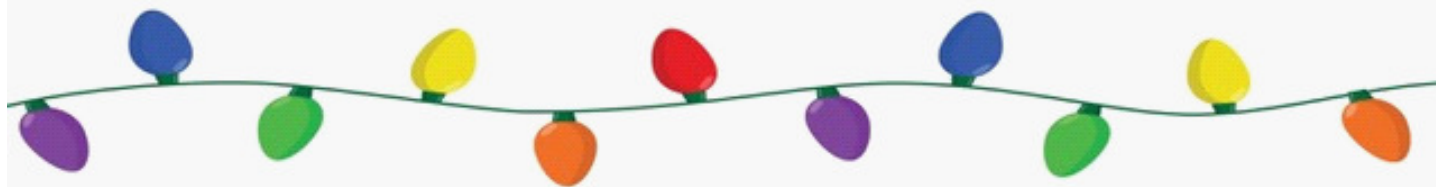
Friday 31 October 11.00 to 13.00

at

All Saints Church Braishfield

messy activities – celebration - feast

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



AWBRIDGE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Organised by All Saints Church

Friday 28th November 2025
Awbridge Village Hall
4pm – 7pm

Including Craft and Children's stalls

REFRESHMENTS

TOMBOLA

ARTISAN STALLS

CAKES

Cash/Card welcome



Gathering of bikers at Braishfield Social Club



The Braishfield Classic Motor Bike Festival had a good turnout despite high winds and rain. 100+ bikes were on show at Braishfield Social Club with plenty of bikers and supporters. The Riverside Band provided musical entertainment. The event was held in aid of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance

and over £750 was raised - a great outcome. Many thanks to everyone who made and donated cakes for the refreshments and well done to Rev Tom and the team who master-minded the event.

Photos: M.Legg, J.Thompson



Overview of events in the Benefice in October

General

Messy Church Friday 31st October (see p.12)

Dedication of Awbridge new organ Sunday 2nd November 10.00am

Awbridge

Quiz Night at Awbridge Village Hall 7.00pm Sat 15th November (see p 9)

To book contact James Alexander jdalexander350@gmail.com

Cinema Club for Grown-ups 2pm Wed 26th Nov in the church (see p 13)

Christmas Fayre, Village Hall Fri 28th Nov 4-7pm (see p 12)

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

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 4th & 18th November 9.00am

Awbridge Housegroup Tuesdays 11th & Thursday 25th Nov at 7 for 7.30pm

Craft & Chat Group Fridays 7th & 21st November 10.30am-12.30pm

Committee Room, Awbridge Village Hall - contact Sue Franklin 01794 322185

Awbridge Lunch Club Wednesdays 12th & 26th November at 12 noon, Church Rooms

Children's Film Club Thursday 30th October 2.30pm in the church (p.8)

The Ark All Saints Church Baby and Toddler group, every Friday in term times, 9.30am - 11.00am (not Friday 31st October)

Braishfield

Singalong for All Mondays 20th October, 17th Nov 2.30-4.00pm, Church Room

Village Voices Mondays 27th October, 24th November 2-4pm, Church Room

Farley Chamberlayne

Shoebox assembling - help needed! (for dates and times see p 9)

Coffee and Chat Thursday 13th November 10.30am

Michelmersh

Michelmersh and Timsbury Lunch Club Thurs 13th November 1.00pm Jubilee Hall. Contact Sarah Medley 07817 043422 or sarahmedley5@gmail.com

Timsbury

Bonfire Night Sat 8th November from 5.30pm (see p 8)

Coffee Morning Tuesday 11th November 10.30am (see p. 5)

Celtic Prayer Tuesday 25th November 11.00am in the church, for 20 mins

King's Somborne

Soup and Sherry in the church, Saturday 22nd November from 12.30pm

Bible readings for NOVEMBER

SUNDAY 2nd NOVEMBER - 4th SUNDAY before ADVENT

(Readings for St Cecilia's Day)

Epistle Revelation 15.1-4

Gospel Luke 10.38-42

Psalm 150

SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER - 3rd SUNDAY before ADVENT

See orders of service

SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER - 2nd SUNDAY before ADVENT

Old Testament Malachi 4.1-2a

Epistle 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13

Gospel Luke 21.5-19

Psalm 98

SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER - CHRIST THE KING

Old Testament Jeremiah 23.1-6

Epistle Colossians 1.11-20

Gospel Luke 23.33-43

Psalm 46

SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER - ADVENT SUNDAY

Start of lectionary Year A

Old Testament Isaiah 2.1-5

Epistle Romans 13.11-end

Gospel Matthew 24.36-44

Psalm 122

NOVEMBER SERVICES (CONTINUED)

SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER - ADVENT SUNDAY

10.00am	Timsbury	UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION	Team
3.00pm	King's Somborne	ADVENT CAROL SERVICE	T.Benson & Team
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	ADVENT CAROL SERVICE with Braishfield Church Choir	T.Benson

SERVICES FOR OCT/NOVEMBER

FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER

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

SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER

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

SUNDAY 2nd NOVEMBER - 4th SUNDAY before ADVENT

10.00am	Awbridge	UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION with DEDICATION OF NEW ORGAN	Bishop Philip
3.00pm	King's Somborne	REMEMBERING SERVICE	J.Thompson
3.00pm	Braishfield	REMEMBERING SERVICE	T.Benson

SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10.15am	Awbridge School	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE	J.Thompson
10.50am	King's Somborne	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE	T.Benson
10.45am	Farley Chamberlayne	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE	M.Ward
10.45am	Timsbury	FAMILY SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE	M.Hatfield
10.50am	Braishfield War Memorial	UNITED SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE	A.Cross
6.00pm	Michelmersh	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE with Michelmersh Silver Band	T.Benson
6.30pm	Awbridge	DEANERY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP	J.Thompson

SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER - 2nd SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	J.Thompson
10.00am	Timsbury	MORNING WORSHIP	A.Cross
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
6.00pm	King's Somborne	'ALIVE' SERVICE	H.Rowe & A.Cross

SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER - CHRIST THE KING

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

For Sunday 30th November please see previous page