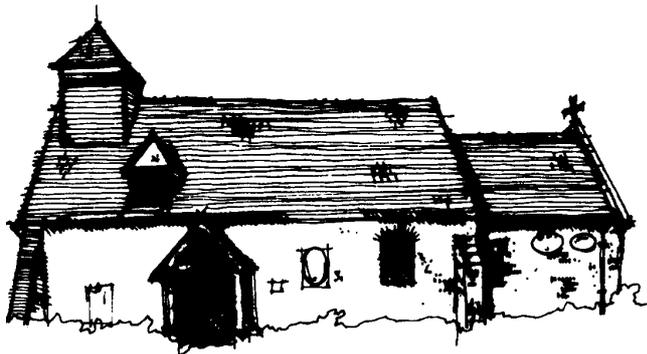


# Five Alive!



**A Monthly Magazine**

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

**March 2026**

# **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](mailto:tbenson09@aol.com)

**Associate Priest:** Revd Jane Thompson 01794 502035

[jane.thompson@me.com](mailto:jane.thompson@me.com)

**Curate:** Revd Anthony Cross 07728 671302

[curate.braishfield@gmail.com](mailto: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: <http://www.asbchurch.org> (Braishfield)  
[www.awbridge.church](http://www.awbridge.church) (Awbridge)

Benefice Office Tel: 01794 878020

Email: [braishfieldbenefice@gmail.com](mailto: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  
APRIL edition**

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> March**

This edition  
will be available by  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

## **From the Rector**

Dear friends,

March seems like a very busy month doesn't it? The hedgerows are beginning to wake up and it is the first day of spring on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Isn't it ironic that just as the sun begins to shine in a beautiful blue sky once again (ok, wishful thinking perhaps), not only does the world look a bit more cheerful, but we notice that our windows need cleaning. Of course in March we are also in the midst of Lent, a real opportunity to reflect and prepare ourselves for the coming joy of Easter Day. Is Lent something rather 'churchy' which only the 'in' crowd understand I wonder? Well, Christians use the six weeks before Easter to prepare themselves for all the solemnities of Holy Week and the great day itself, - the most important in the Christian calendar when we celebrate that Jesus rose again, and defeated death.

This is the time in the year when many people think about giving something up. Should it be chocolate? Should it be wine? Should it be cakes and biscuits between meals? All of these would probably do us good, helping us to lose those pounds that we gained at Christmas.

As well as giving things up, we can also think about taking something on. It is certainly worth stopping to remember how much good is done by those who do go out of their way to help others. Not being selfish and supporting others is certainly a good thing: taking on some extra task to help someone else might just be the thing, then.

Personal discipline that results in us being a bit fitter or being more helpful to others is no bad thing, but the purpose of Lent is also to remind us that we become our best selves, and become a greater blessing to others, when we put ourselves right with God.

Ultimately, the best things we can give up or take on, are those things that prevent us from being close to God. We are only mortal after all and can't become our best selves if we are distant from God or indeed those people and communities in which we live. Whatever we decide, our Lord will be with us on the journey through Lent and we will be ready to celebrate his resurrection.

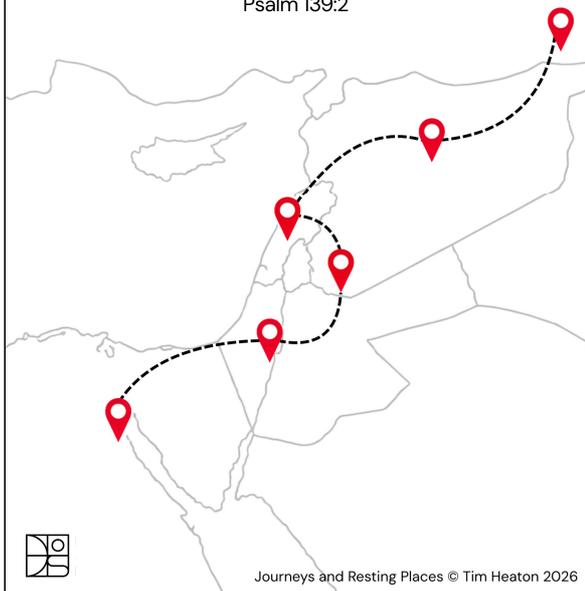
I hope that you all have a happy, thoughtful and prayerful March.

God Bless,

Tom

## JOURNEYS AND RESTING PLACES

"You mark out my journeys and my resting place and are acquainted with all my ways."  
Psalm 139:2



## Lent Course 2026

**Wednesdays 25th February,  
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March**

**12 noon—2pm Braishfield  
Church Room** (a soup and roll  
lunch will be available at 12 noon)  
*or*  
**7pm—9pm Awbridge Village  
Hall**, with refreshments

Let's go on a journey. It's a journey through Lent from Ash Wednesday to Easter Eve, from wherever you are now to a tomb in a garden. Every journey is an act of travelling from one place to another. It may be a physical, bodily movement, or it might be an emotional or spiritual journey as we go through a particular time in our lives, for better or worse.

As we travel together on this figurative journey through the weeks of Lent, we'll be following five physical journeys made by people whose stories are told in the Bible.

Week 1: The journey from Haran to Canaan

Week 2: The journey from Canaan to Egypt

Week 3: The journey from Egypt to the Promised Land

Week 4: The journey from Galilee to Jerusalem

Week 5: The journey from the gates of the Holy City to Golgotha

What links these journeys together is the story of salvation.

Come and join in as we explore together.

No need to book, and feel free to alternate between lunchtime and evening sessions as it suits you.



# Awbridge 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Events.....



**AN EVENING WITH... ROD BRANSGROVE**

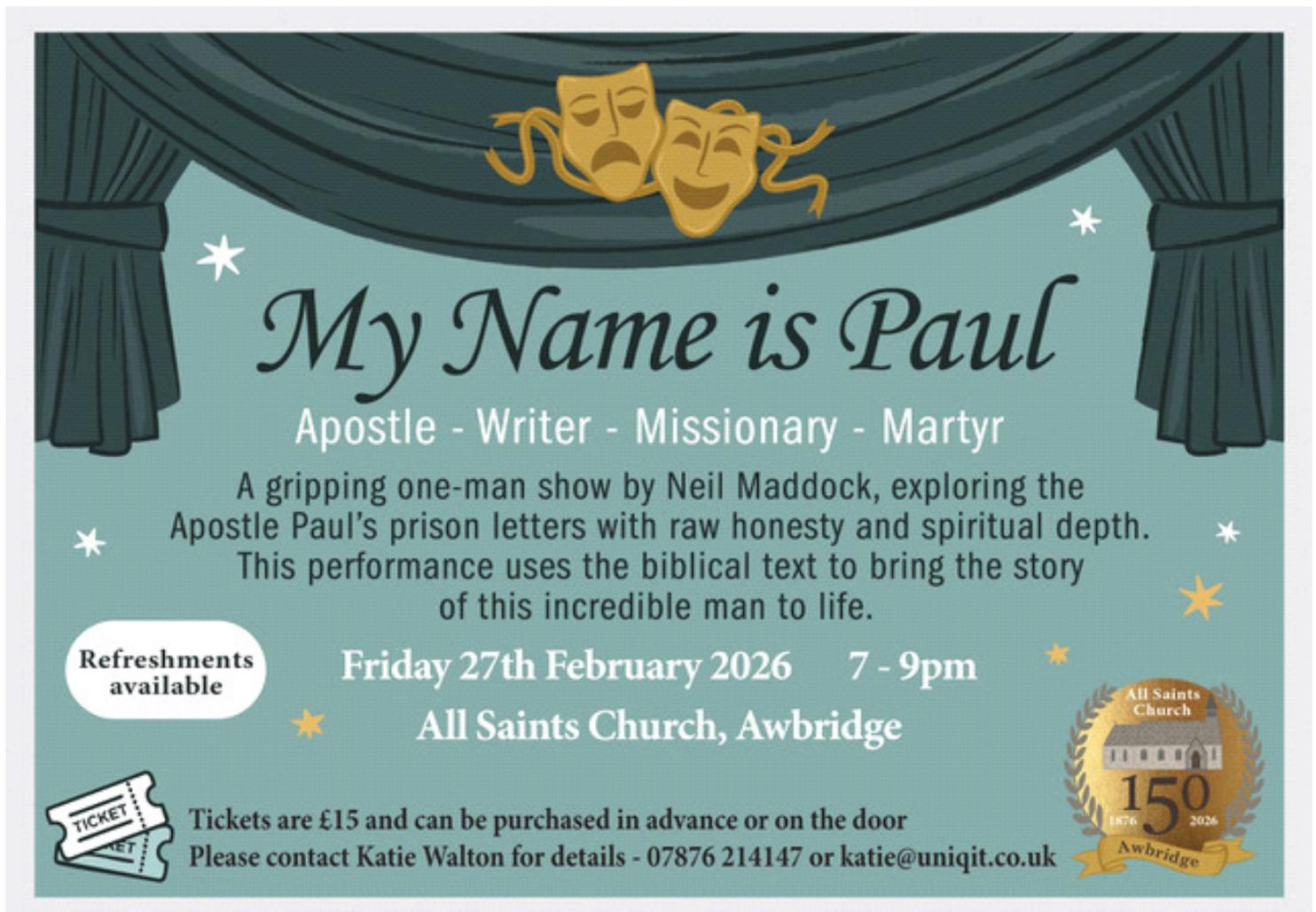
Saturday 28th March 2026  
7 - 10pm  
Awbridge Village Hall

2 Course Dinner  
Licensed Bar  
Raffle

Tickets £25 - available online at:  
[www.awbridge.church](http://www.awbridge.church) (150 Celebrations page)  
Contact James Alexander for more information:  
[jdalexander350@gmail.com](mailto:jdalexander350@gmail.com)

All Saints Church  
1876 150 2026  
Awbridge

If you would like to arrange to sit together with friends on a table for the above event, please email James Alexander - [jdalexander350@gmail.com](mailto:jdalexander350@gmail.com)



**My Name is Paul**  
Apostle - Writer - Missionary - Martyr

A gripping one-man show by Neil Maddock, exploring the Apostle Paul's prison letters with raw honesty and spiritual depth. This performance uses the biblical text to bring the story of this incredible man to life.

Refreshments available

Friday 27th February 2026 7 - 9pm  
All Saints Church, Awbridge

Tickets are £15 and can be purchased in advance or on the door  
Please contact Katie Walton for details - 07876 214147 or [katie@uniqit.co.uk](mailto:katie@uniqit.co.uk)

All Saints Church  
1876 150 2026  
Awbridge



## Have you seen the sun in Winchester Cathedral?

It will be suspended in the nave until 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Helios is a touring artwork of the Sun by UK artist Luke Jerram.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, the artwork features 72dpi detailed imagery of the Sun's surface. At an approximate scale of 1:200 million, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents

2000km of the Sun's surface.

It is very dangerous to look at the 'real' Sun directly as it can damage our eyesight, so Helios provides a safe opportunity for the public to get up close to, and inspect its extraordinarily detailed surface, including sunspots, spicules and filaments.

As the Interim Dean, Canon Doctor Roland Reim has written: "With St Francis, we praise God for the marvellous order of creation:

*Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who is the day through whom You give us light.  
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,  
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness. "*

Romsey Deanery Overseas Partnership Group have asked us to include these **prayer requests from South Rwenzori, Uganda** in our prayers during February and March:

- school children in need of school buildings
- completion of installation of a new water pump (for which we raised the funds) to be opened over the Easter weekend, with Sabine and Chris Kirby from King's Somborne present to represent Romsey Deanery.

## The Michelmersh Monthly Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the Michelmersh Monthly Draw

### February 2026 winners

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	£65.80	James Bassant
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	£32.90	Debbie Baggott
3 <sup>rd</sup> prize	£18.80	Jo Hughes

*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](mailto:franny@prmotors.biz), 07881821513  
Hannah Hunt: [hannah.hunt@outlook.com](mailto:hannah.hunt@outlook.com), 07914338560



We are very fortunate to have a local Christian bookshop - please support it whenever you can!

**OASIS 25, Church Street, Romsey**

Perhaps look at their range of Easter Cards?

**Monday:** 9.30am - 4.30pm

**Tuesday:** 9.30am - 4.30pm

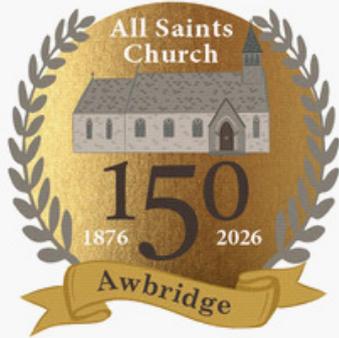
**Wednesday:** 9.30am - 4.30pm

**Thursday:** 9.30am - 4.30pm

**Friday:** 9.30am - 4.30pm

**Saturday:** 9.00am - 4.00pm

**Sunday:** Closed



Join us in **CELEBRATING**  
**All Saints Church, Awbridge**  
**150 Years 1876 - 2026**

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**SAVE THE DATES!** - Details to follow...

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- **Friday 27th February 2026 - 'My Name is Paul' with Neil Maddock**
- **Saturday 28th March 2026 - An Evening with... Rod Bransgrove**
- **Saturday 4th April 2026 - Bring & Sing Handels Messiah - Choir of 100**
- **Saturday 2nd May 2026 - Pearly Gates - The Rehearsal with Bishop Rhiannon**
- **Wednesdays 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th June 2026 - Organ Festival**
- **Saturday 18th July 2026 - Summer Sax and BBQ**
- **3rd - 14th August 2026 - 1876 Church Exhibition**
- **Sunday 9th August 2026 - 150 Celebration Service with Bishop Rhiannon**
- **Sunday 27th September 2026 - Harvest Lunch and Bike Tour talk with Tom Benson**
- **Saturday 24th October 2026 - Quiz Night**
- **Saturday 14th November 2026 - Pearly Gates - The Rehearsal with Bishop Philip**
- **Friday 27th November 2026 - Christmas Fayre**
- **Sunday 29th November 2026 - Advent Carols with The Eldon Singers**
- **Friday 4th December 2026 - Star of Bethlehem with Professor Julian Evans**

# Sing Along

All welcome to join us on the 3rd Monday\* of each month during 2026 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.

*\*Except July and August.*

## Hosted by Braishfield Ukulele Musical Society.



# BUMS



**This is a free event.**

If you would like more information or perhaps book us for an event contact:  
[jhldalton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jhldalton@hotmail.co.uk)



**15th - 19th September 2026**

**A CURRY AND QUIZ NIGHT at the DOG and CROOK in BRAISHFIELD  
FRIDAY 20th MARCH 7pm**

**A fundraiser for Hants and W.Berks Jumbulance Group Holidays  
to IoW and Ross on Wye 2026**

Please join us for a fun evening with a great curry or something more traditionally English. A prize for the winning team and some hamper raffle prizes.

Tickets For a table of 6 and a 3 course menu to pre order costs £25 pp.

From Chris Chisholm - [cookchris@aol.com](mailto:cookchris@aol.com) or 0788 774 8224

We have run holidays based locally for many years providing supported and accessible holidays for disabled and sick or frail elderly people all over Europe and the UK. We use the jumbulances - part coach, part ambulance with a tail gate lift, wheelchair or trolley bed placements on the left side and seats with extra leg supports on the right side. There is an accessible toilet and kitchen on board. We use volunteer nurses, carers and where needed a doctor and stay in accessible hotels or self catering cottages with a volunteer caterer.

# Coffee, Croissants and Chat



with Speaker

**“Those magnificent men in  
their flying machines”**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**10.30am**

**at St Andrew’s  
Church, Timsbury**

Everyone welcome to come to meet  
chat, eat and enjoy

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 running and maintenance of our lovely village Church.

**Eco-tip for March:** Maybe you would like to take part in a local litter pick or beach clean during “The Great British Spring Clean” (Friday 13-Sunday 29 March), the nation’s biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and helps bring people together. Find out more and pledge to pick up a bag at [keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean](https://keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean).

If you know someone who needs help with managing debt, share this with them. There is a CAP centre in Romsey.

christians  
against  
poverty

**CAP**

# Break the debt blues

## Your five-step guide

### 1 Free help, for you

Start your debt free journey at [capuk.org](https://capuk.org) or via **0800 328 0006**. Because one size doesn't fit all, we will always analyse your specific situation to identify the best, most effective route to freedom for your circumstances. Our locally-based teams will make sure someone is always there for you in person. You can also contact [moneyhelper.org.uk](https://moneyhelper.org.uk)

### 2 Making the call

When you call our friendly New Enquiries team, their goal is to ensure our service fits your needs and that you feel welcomed. If we have a debt centre in your area, they will then book an appointment with one of our local debt coaches to get you started on your journey out of debt.

### 3 Friendly home visits

With CAP you are not alone: over three visits, your debt coach and a supportive befriender will come to you to listen, gather paperwork, and explain the best solution recommended by our professional debt advisors.

### 4 Your expert plan

Our advisors build a realistic budget that prioritises essentials like food and housing costs. We then handle negotiations with creditors to freeze interest and set up affordable repayments or other routes out of debt.

### 5 A fresh start

Choose your route and let us handle the heavy lifting. Your budget and plan will focus on clearing your debts and helping you build the habits needed to manage your money long-term so you can build up your financial stability.

**Christians Against Poverty is here to support you throughout your journey!**

## Overview of events in the Benefice in March

### General

**Lent Course** beginning Wed 25<sup>th</sup> February in Braishfield 12 - 2pm, Awbridge 27-9pm and each week (see p.4)

**“Come and Sing Messiah” optional rehearsals** Wednesdays 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 7pm - 8.30pm in Awbridge Church (see p. 6)

### Awbridge

**“My Name is Paul”** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 7-9pm (see p.5)

**Cinema Club for Grownups** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 1.30pm in the church

**An Evening with Rod Bransgrove** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March (see p.5)

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

**Prayer Meeting** Tuesdays 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March 9.00am in Church

**Craft & Chat Group** Fridays 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am-12.30pm  
Committee Room, Awbridge Village Hall - contact Sue Franklin 01794 322185

**Awbridge Lunch Club** Wednesdays 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March 12 noon

**The Ark** All Saints Church Baby and Toddler group, every Friday in term times 9.15-11am, Awbridge Village Hall

**School Easter Service** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

### Braishfield

**Singalong for All** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm Braishfield Church Room (see p.10)

**Village Voices** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2-4pm, Church Room

**School Easter Service** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2pm in the church

**Church yard Working Party** (with bacon butties!) from 9.30am

### Farley Chamberlayne

**Coffee and Chat** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March from 10.30am in the church

### Michelmersh

**Michelmersh and Timsbury Lunch Club** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 1.00pm  
Jubilee Hall. Contact Sarah Medley 07817 043422  
or [sarahmedley5@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmedley5@gmail.com)

**Church yard Clean Up** 9.30am Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

### Timsbury

**Coffee, Croissant and Chat with speaker** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am  
(see p.12)

**Celtic Prayer** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 11.00am in the church

**Bible readings for MARCH**

**SUNDAY 1st MARCH - 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Old Testament** Genesis 12.1-4a

**Epistle** Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

**Gospel** John 3.1-17

**Psalm** 121

**SUNDAY 8th MARCH - 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Old Testament** Exodus 17.1-7

**Epistle** Romans 5.1-11

**Gospel** John 4.5-42

**Psalm** 95

**MOTHERING SUNDAY 15th MARCH - 4th SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Old Testament** 1 Samuel 16.1-13

**Epistle** Ephesians 5.8-14

**Gospel** John 9.1-end

**Psalm** 23

**SUNDAY 22nd MARCH - 5th SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Old Testament** Ezekiel 37.1-14

**Epistle** Romans 8.6-11

**Gospel** John 11.1-45

**Psalm** 130

**PALM SUNDAY 29th MARCH - 6th SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Old Testament** Isaiah 50.4-9a

**Epistle** Philippians 2.5-11

**Gospel** Matthew 21.1-11

**Psalm** 31.9-16

**EASTER SUNDAY - 5th APRIL**

**For Old Testament** Acts 10.34-43

**For Epistle** Acts 10.34-43

**[Epistle** Colossians 3.1-4]

**Gospel** John 20.1-18

**Psalm** 118.14-24

**EASTER SUNDAY - 5th APRIL**

9.30am	Awbridge	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	J.Thompson/A.Cross
10.00am	King's Somborne	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	Visitor
11.00am	Timsbury	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	T.Benson
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> BCP	J.Thompson
6.00pm	Michelmersh	<b>EASTER PRAISE WITH HOLY COMMUNION</b>	T.Benson/A.Cross

## SERVICES FOR MARCH

### SUNDAY 1st MARCH - 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

8.00am	King's Somborne	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	BCP	T.Benson
9.30am	Awbridge	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	<b>FAMILY WORSHIP</b>		A.Manners
10.00am	Michelmersh (& Timsbury)	<b>MORNING PRAYER</b>	BCP	M.Hatfield
10.00am	King's Somborne	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>		A.Cross
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>EVENING PRAYER</b>	BCP	T.Benson/A.Cross

### SUNDAY 8th MARCH - 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

8.00am	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	BCP	T.Benson
9.00am	Awbridge Village Hall	<b>FAMILY BREAKFAST SERVICE</b>		T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>		A.Cross
10.00am	King's Somborne	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		Visitor
11.00am	Timsbury	<b>FAMILY SERVICE</b>		A.Cross
6.00pm	Michelmersh	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		T.Benson/A.Cross
6.30pm	Awbridge	<b>DEANERY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP</b>		SJ.Stevens

### MOTHERING SUNDAY 15th MARCH - 4th SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30am	Awbridge	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		J.Thompson
<b>11.00am</b>	Timsbury	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	BCP	J.Thompson
10.00am	King's Somborne	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		T.Benson
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>FAMILY SERVICE</b>		A.Cross
2.30pm	King's Somborne	<b>BAPTISM</b>		A.Cross/T.Benson
3.00pm	King's Somborne	<b>MESSY CHURCH</b>		Team
6.00pm	Braishfield	<b>EVENING PRAYER</b>	BCP	A.Cross
6.00pm	Michelmersh	<b>EVENING PRAYER</b>	BCP	T.Benson

### SUNDAY 22nd MARCH - 5th SUNDAY OF LENT

8.00am	Michelmersh	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	BCP	T.Benson
9.30am	Awbridge	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>		A.Cross
9.30am	Braishfield	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		T.Benson
10.00am	King's Somborne	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		J.Thompson
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>MORNING PRAYER + APCM</b>	BCP	T.Benson
2.30pm	Awbridge	<b>BAPTISM</b>		J.Thompson
6.00pm	Timsbury	<b>EVENING PRAYER</b>	BCP	A.Cross

### PALM SUNDAY - 29th MARCH - 6th SUNDAY OF LENT

10.00am	Braishfield	<b>UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION</b>		T.Benson/A.Cross
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### MONDAY in HOLY WEEK - 30th MARCH

10.00am	King's Somborne	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		
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### TUESDAY in HOLY WEEK - 31st MARCH

10.00am	Timsbury	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		
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### WEDNESDAY in HOLY WEEK - 1st APRIL

10.00am	Michelmersh	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		
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### MAUNDY THURSDAY - 2nd APRIL

7.30pm	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>HOLY COMMUNION and VIGIL</b>		
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### GOOD FRIDAY - 3rd APRIL

9.30am	Awbridge	<b>AN HOUR AT THE CROSS</b>		<i>[Services for Easter Day on previous page]</i>
7.30pm	Braishfield	<b>'God so Loved the World'</b>		- Music and readings