

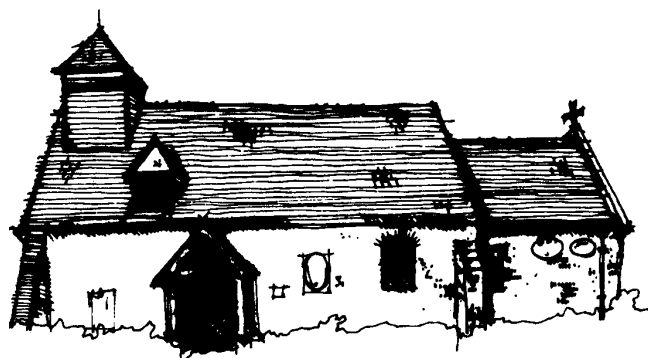


Holy Week



30th March - 4th April

Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

April 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

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: <http://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
MAY edition**

Mon 20th April

This edition
will be available by
Sunday 26th April

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

At Easter we find ourselves once again standing at the centre of the Christian faith, reflecting on the profound mystery of death and resurrection. From the quiet solemnity of Good Friday to the radiant joy of Easter morning, we journey through darkness into light, and from loss into new and everlasting life.

The message of Easter is as powerful today as it has ever been: Christ is risen. These simple words carry within them the promise that God's love is stronger than anything we may face. Stronger than suffering, stronger than uncertainty, and stronger even than death itself. In a world that can often feel fragile and unpredictable, Easter offers us a firm foundation of hope. We do not have to look far to see the need for that hope. Many of us will be carrying burdens that are unseen by others—worries about family, health, work, or the future. Some may be living with grief or loneliness, while others wrestle quietly with doubt or fear. And together with the whole world we find ourselves in troubling and troubled times. The Easter story does not ignore these realities; rather, it speaks directly into them. The risen Christ meets us where we are, not where we think we ought to be, and offers peace, forgiveness, and new beginnings.

The empty tomb is not simply a moment in history; it is a living truth that continues to shape our lives. It reminds us that no situation is beyond redemption, no life beyond God's reach, and no ending beyond the possibility of a new beginning. This is the heart of our faith—that even in the darkest moments, God is at work bringing life out of death.

As we look around us, we see signs of this new life in many ways. The arrival of spring, with its blossoms and fresh growth, speaks of renewal and hope. Acts of kindness within our community, the care shown to neighbours in need, and the quiet resilience of so many people all reflect something of the risen life at work among us.

Easter is also an invitation. It invites each of us to respond—to step more deeply into faith, to rediscover prayer, to seek reconciliation, and to open our hearts to God's transforming love. Whether you are a regular member of our congregation or someone who is simply curious or searching, you are warmly invited to join us in celebrating this joyful season. There is a place for you here.

May the risen Lord bless you and your loved ones this Easter. May His peace dwell in your hearts, His strength sustain you in every challenge, and His joy lift your spirits today and always.

God bless, Tom



Holy Week - beginning on Palm Sunday, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and ending with the great joy of Easter Day - is the most important week in the Christian calendar.

We mark this holy week by having special services to help us to follow and remember the events as they unfolded and be ready to celebrate on Easter Day.

PALM SUNDAY - 29th MARCH

10.00am Braishfield **UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION**

MONDAY in HOLY WEEK - 30th MARCH

10.00am King's Somborne **HOLY COMMUNION**

TUESDAY in HOLY WEEK - 31st MARCH

10.00am Timsbury **HOLY COMMUNION**

WEDNESDAY in HOLY WEEK - 1st APRIL

10.00am Michelmersh **HOLY COMMUNION**

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 2nd APRIL

7.30pm Farley Chamberlayne **HOLY COMMUNION and VIGIL***

*This quiet service gives us time and space to reflect on the gravity of the events of the Last Supper and ends with an optional vigil (time of silent reflection) until 9pm after which everyone is invited to leave in silence.

GOOD FRIDAY - 3rd APRIL

9.30am Awbridge

AN HOUR AT THE CROSS

7.30pm Braishfield

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD Hymns, readings
and anthems

Easter Day Celebration Services on back page



Archbishop Sarah's 140km Pilgrimage to Canterbury

On Tuesday 17th March, the new Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally set off on a six-day walking pilgrimage from London to Canterbury, as part of her spiritual preparation for her Installation service at Canterbury Cathedral on 25 March. In an historic first for

modern times, Archbishop Sarah, along with her husband Eamonn, will be walking the 140km route along the Becket Camino from St Paul's Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral, reflecting her journey from Bishop of London to Archbishop of Canterbury - a profound act of spiritual preparation before her Installation as Archbishop of Canterbury on 25th March 2026.

They will be pausing for prayers at churches and abbeys along the way, including Aylesford Priory, the shrine of St Jude in Faversham, Lesnes Abbey and Rochester Cathedral. They will all arrive at Canterbury Cathedral in time for Evensong on Sunday 22nd March.

Archbishop Mullally said that it was 'deeply humbling' to follow in the footsteps of those who had walked the route before. 'For centuries faithful pilgrims have flocked to Canterbury and I will be reflecting on this tradition as we make our way through the Kent countryside and its towns and cities. I am looking forward to visiting local churches, cathedrals, and holy sites along the route - and to meeting people, praying with them, and hearing their stories.' She said that she would be praying for 'our church and our world' as she walked. As well as meeting with other pilgrims she will be visiting schools and ecumenical organisations.

Awbridge 150th 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 (150 Celebrations page)
Contact James Alexander for more information:
jdalexander350@gmail.com



Oasis
Christian Centre

25 Church Street
Romsey
Hampshire, SO51 8BT
Telephone 01794 512194
Email: shop@oasisromsey.co.uk
Website: www.oasisromsey.co.uk



The Real Easter Egg!

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story book in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects. All our eggs are Palm Oil free and the Original and Dark eggs are plastic free.

Available now at Oasis. Please continue to support your local Christian Bookshop.

If you would like to arrange to share a table with friends for the above event, please email James Alexander - jdalexander350@gmail.com

GOOD FRIDAY

All Saints Braishfield
7.30pm

'God so Loved the World'

An hour's reflective service
with hymns, readings,
and anthems
from the church choir



Coffee, Croissants

and Chat

with Speaker



“Animal Magic”

Tuesday 14th April 2026

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 running
and maintenance of our lovely village Church.

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

- 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

March 2026 winners

1 st prize	£65.80	James Bassant
2 nd prize	£32.90	Debbie Baggott
3 rd 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, 07881821513
Hannah Hunt: hannah.hunt@outlook.com, 07914338560

APCMs - Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Everyone who is on the Electoral Roll of their church is invited to come along to the APCM to hear a report about how the year went in 2025, to look at the accounts for 2025 and to take part in the election of members to the PCC and to the Deanery Synod

Dates of the meetings:

Farley Chamberlayne: Sunday 22nd March after 11.15am Morning Prayer

Michelmersh: Sunday 19th April following 6pm Evening Prayer

Braishfield: Sunday 26th April following 9.30am Holy Communion

Timsbury: Sunday 26th April following 6pm Evening Prayer

King's Somborne: Monday 27th April 7.00pm

Awbridge: Tuesday 28th April 7.00pm



Eco-Easter Trail in Awbridge

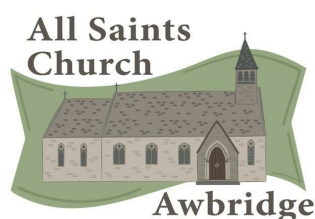


Monday 6 April 2026

All Welcome 10 00-11 30 am

All Saints, Awbridge

Church Lane, Awbridge SO51 0HN



For Info contact:

marysavage126@gmail.com



Contemporary Worship

at

All Saints Church Awbridge

Sunday 12 April 6.30pm

&

Sunday 3 May 6.30pm

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.



This is a free event.

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

Beauty Eternal

Today I saw a butterfly
The first-born of the
 spring,
Sunning itself upon a
 bank -
A lovely tawny thing.

I saw a dandelion too,
As golden as the sun;
And these will still be
beautiful
When all the wars are
done.

Teresa Hooley 1888 - 1973



Eco-tip for April from Awbridge

Why not celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags. For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open) For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes. For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April. As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.



Easter Excitement



Friday 10 April 15.30 to 17.30
All Saints Church Braishfield

messy activities – celebration - feast

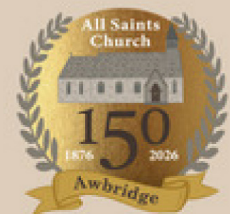
Contact Rev Jane Thompson for details - jane.thompson@me.com

Pearly Gates - The Rehearsal!

In conversation with Bishop Rhiannon
Her life story so far - plus 8 music tracks,
carefully selected photos, and a confession or two...

Saturday 2nd May 2026
7 - 9:30 pm
All Saints Church, Awbridge

Refreshments available
Donations welcome



Prayers for the Conflict in the Middle East

As the war continues across the Middle East, our diocese encourages our churches and communities to respond to the call of the Most Rev Hosam Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, for the global Church to join them in 'urgent, unceasing prayer'. The Iranian-born Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani, has written a prayer for the people of Iran

A prayer for Iran



Ever-loving God,
who hears us in our anguish and distress,
and longs for us to be free.
We pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East,
at this time of fear and uncertainty.
Be near to those who are anxious;
bring comfort to all who are suffering.
Guide those with the power to make decisions,
and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion and moderation:
that people of goodwill would seek harmony and reconciliation.
Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places,
in praying for peace with justice,
through him who is the prince of peace,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Easter Egg Hunt!

Oasis is holding
our first ever
Easter Egg Hunt!
Come in with
your primary
school aged
children during
the Easter school
holidays, hunt for
the eggs, learn
about the true
Easter story and
win a prize!



25 Church Street
Romsey

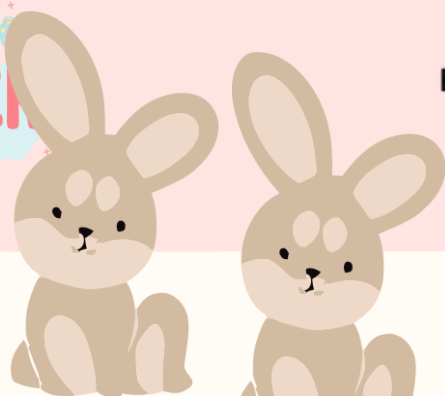
Hampshire, SO51 8BT

Telephone 01794 512194

Email: shop@oasisromsey.co.uk

www.oasisromsey.co.uk

Happy
EASTER



Overview of events in the Benefice in April

General

Messy Church 'Easter Excitement' Friday 10th April 3.30pm Braishfield Church Room

Awbridge

An Evening with Rod Bransgrove Saturday 28th March (see p.6)

Cinema Club for Grownups Wednesday 22nd April 2.00pm in the church

Eco activities & Egg Trail at All Saints Monday 6th April 10 - 11.30am

Children's Film Club Thursday 9th April 2.30 - 4.00pm Church Rooms

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

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 7th & 21st April 9.00am in Church

Craft & Chat Group Fridays 10th & 24th April 10.30am -12.30pm

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

Awbridge Lunch Club Wednesdays 8th & 22nd April 12 noon

APCM Tuesday 28th April 7.00pm Church Rooms

Pearly Gates Saturday 2nd May (see p 11)

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

Braishfield

Singalong for All Monday 20th April 2.30pm Braishfield Church Room (see p.10)

Village Voices Monday 27th April 2-4pm, Church Room

Farley Chamberlayne

Coffee and Chat Thursday 9th April from 10.30am in the church

Michelmersh

Church yard Clean Up 9.30am Saturday 28th March

Michelmersh and Timsbury Lunch Club Thursday 30th April 1.00pm

Jubilee Hall. Contact Sarah Medley 07817 043422

or sarahmedley5@gmail.com

Timsbury

Coffee, Croissant and Chat with speaker Tuesday 14th April 10.30am (see p.7)

Celtic Prayer Tuesday 28th April 11.00am in the church

Bible readings for APRIL

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

SUNDAY 12th APRIL - 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

For Old Testament Acts 2.14a,22-32

For Epistle Acts 2.14a,22-32

[Epistle 1 Peter 1.3-9]

Gospel John 20.19-end

Psalm 16

SUNDAY 19th APRIL - 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

For Old Testament Acts 2.14a, 36-41

For Epistle Acts 2.14a, 36-41

[Epistle 1 Peter 1.17-23]

Gospel Luke 24.13-35

Psalm 116.1-7

SUNDAY 26th APRIL - 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

For Old Testament Acts 2.42-end

For Epistle Acts 2.42-end

[Epistle 1 Peter 2.19-end]

Gospel John 10.1-10

Psalm 23

SUNDAY 3rd MAY - 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

For Old Testament Acts 7.55-end

For Epistle Acts 7.55-end

[Epistle 1 Peter 2.2-10]

Gospel John 14.1-14

Psalm 31.1-5

SUNDAY 3rd MAY - 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP
9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION
9.30am	Braishfield	FAMILY WORSHIP
10.00am	King's Somborne	MORNING WORSHIP
11.00am	Michelmersh (& Timsbury)	MORNING WORSHIP with BAPTISM
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	EVENING PRAYER BCP
6.30pm	Awbridge	DEANERY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

SERVICES FOR MARCH/APRIL

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

10.00am	Braishfield	UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson/A.Cross
		<u>MONDAY in HOLY WEEK - 30th MARCH</u>	
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	
		<u>TUESDAY in HOLY WEEK - 31st MARCH</u>	
10.00am	Timsbury	HOLY COMMUNION	
		<u>WEDNESDAY in HOLY WEEK - 1st APRIL</u>	
10.00am	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION	
		<u>MAUNDY THURSDAY - 2nd APRIL</u>	
7.30pm	Farley Chamberlayne	HOLY COMMUNION and VIGIL	
		<u>GOOD FRIDAY - 3rd APRIL</u>	
9.30am	Awbridge	AN HOUR AT THE CROSS	
7.30pm	Braishfield	'God so Loved the World' - Music and readings	

EASTER SUNDAY - 5th APRIL

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

FRIDAY 10th APRIL

3.30pm	Braishfield	MESSY CHURCH	Team
--------	-------------	---------------------	------

SUNDAY 12th APRIL - 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

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	J.Thompson
11.00am	Timsbury	FAMILY SERVICE	A.Cross
6.00pm	Michelmersh	EVENING PRAYER	A.Cross
6.30pm	Awbridge	DEANERY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP	J.Thompson

SUNDAY 19th APRIL - 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION	J.Thompson
11.00am	Timsbury	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	J.Thompson
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	Visitor
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	FAMILY SERVICE	A.Cross
3.00pm	King's Somborne	MESSY CHURCH	Team
6.00pm	Braishfield	EVENING PRAYER BCP	A.Cross
6.00pm	Michelmersh	EVENING PRAYER + APCM BCP	J.Thompson

SUNDAY 26th APRIL - 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION	J.Thompson
9.30am	Awbridge	MORNING WORSHIP	A.Cross
9.30am	Braishfield	HOLY COMMUNION + APCM	J.Thompson
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	Visitor
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	MORNING PRAYER BCP	A.Cross
6.00pm	Timsbury	EVENING PRAYER + APCM BCP	J.Thompson

BCP = Book of Common Prayer - traditional language