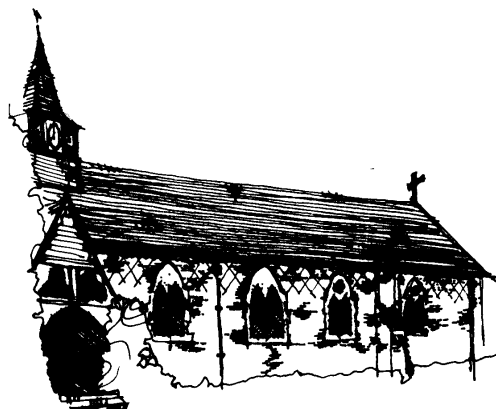
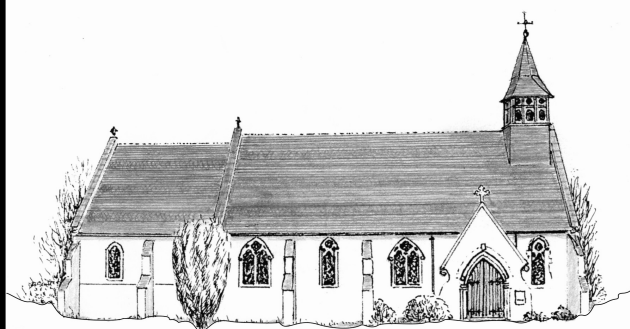
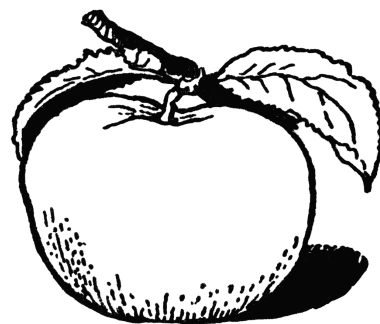
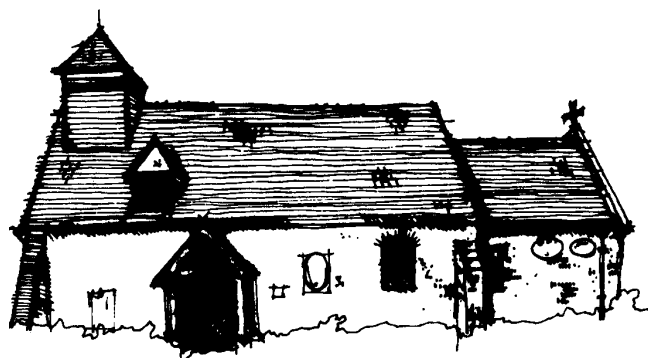


SEPTEMBER



Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

September 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 Canon 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
	Mrs. Franny Hornblow	07881 821513
Timsbury	Mrs. Catherine Baker	01794 368364
	Mr Paul Newman	07833 220295
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 Administrators: Sarah Boothman
& Kate Marshall

Items for 5 Alive

may be sent to Sarah at the
Benefice Office by post or
email.

**Deadline for
October edition**

Mon 21st September

This edition
will be available by
Sunday 27th September

From our Rector, Revd Tom Benson

Dear friends,

Well what a Summer.....hotter than 1976, a (slightly) less successful World Cup than 1966, hosepipe bans, and for some people the reality of wildfires. It has been a challenge for all of us and especially our farming communities who are having to cope with so many climactic changes. 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.

There is something rather satisfying about September. The days are still often warm, but there is a noticeable change in the air. The mornings have a little more chill in them, the evenings are drawing in, and the hedgerows are beginning to show their autumn colours. September is also now recognised in the Church of England as a Season of Creation, a time to reflect on God as the giver and sustainer of all life. That seems particularly appropriate in a rural parish. We are surrounded every day by reminders of the extraordinary generosity of God: the changing fields, the birdsong, and the abundance of the hedgerows.

The autumnal equinox falls on 22nd of September this year, when day and night are roughly equal. It is a good reminder that the seasons keep turning, and that when things are difficult they will not last forever. There's a well-known Jewish tale about King Solomon asking for a device or ring that will make the sad man happy or the happy man sad and the inscription is simply this – 'This too shall pass'.

It is no accident that the Church gives us the season of Harvest at this time. Harvest is not simply an excuse for decorating the church with vegetables, flowers and sheaves of corn. It is an opportunity to stop and say thank you.

Thank you for the rain and sunshine, for the soil and the seed, for farmers and farm workers, for those who grow and produce our food, and for the many ordinary things which we can so easily take for granted.

So, as September begins, perhaps we might pause for a moment. Before we rush on to the next thing, let us give thanks for the summer that has been, and for the God who remains faithful through every changing season.

God bless, Tom

All Saints Braishfield held a BBQ in the church carpark for members of the church and village community in mid-August. Gazebos provided essential shade: due to the drought fire alert it was decided that the cooking would be done in the kitchen. It was a relaxed and friendly gathering of over fifty people and donations more than covered the costs of the food.



We are looking forward to our next two events for church and community - Hymns and Pimms at the Social Club in September and our Harvest Supper in October in the Church Room.

150th Anniversary of All Saints Awbridge Church 1876-2026

We are half way through our 150th celebrations with a special anniversary service on Sunday 9 August, which was an amazing celebration of all that is good in a village church, joyful music, traditional hymns, a feeling of community all surrounded by flowers and decorations for the 150th exhibition, led by Bishop Rhiannon, Bishop of Southampton. This is what she said afterwards *“What struck me most was the deep affection in which the church is held by the local community. There was a tangible sense of pride, belonging and faith among those gathered, reflecting both the church's long history and its continuing place at the heart of village life.”*

Our amazing 150th Exhibition took place from 3-14 August with outstanding displays and contributions from village families, church members, Craft and Chat Group, families associated with the church over the years and those who had written histories of their families in the Awbridge area. In particular we have been able to compile a list of our Vicars and Rectors over the years which enabled us to have a glimpse into their lives, while serving in Awbridge. Many thanks to all who contributed and to everyone who visited. Looking back at the history has made us realise too the faithful efforts of people who strived to build a church in this village, when journeys otherwise were to Michelmersh as the parish church or maybe Timsbury and Sherfield English. Also, now the windows have been cleaned, we can see their beauty and the faith stories behind them, in more detail. In addition, our windows for WW1 and WW2 remind us of the sacrifice of ordinary village men, fighting for their country, which include the QR codes, as at the Village War Memorial, giving more detail of their lives.

Contemporary Worship

at

All Saints Church Awbridge

Sunday 6 September 6.30 pm

Preparing Christmas Shoeboxes for House of Opportunity

Chris Chisholm of Farley Chamberlayne would welcome help with wrapping and packing 50 shoeboxes for House of Opportunity.

She invites volunteers to come to her home, Oakfield, Farley Lane, SO51 0QR at the following times:

To **WRAP/COVER** Shoeboxes on Friday 23rd October from 10am - 2.00pm
Sandwiches and cake provided

And to **PACK** shoeboxes Wednesday 28th October 10am - 2pm, again
with Coffee, Sandwiches and Cake 10am - 2pm again.

Chris says 'It takes more time than people realise to do them.' Please note these dates and get along to help her if you can.

Be still and know that I am God.

Psalms 46.10

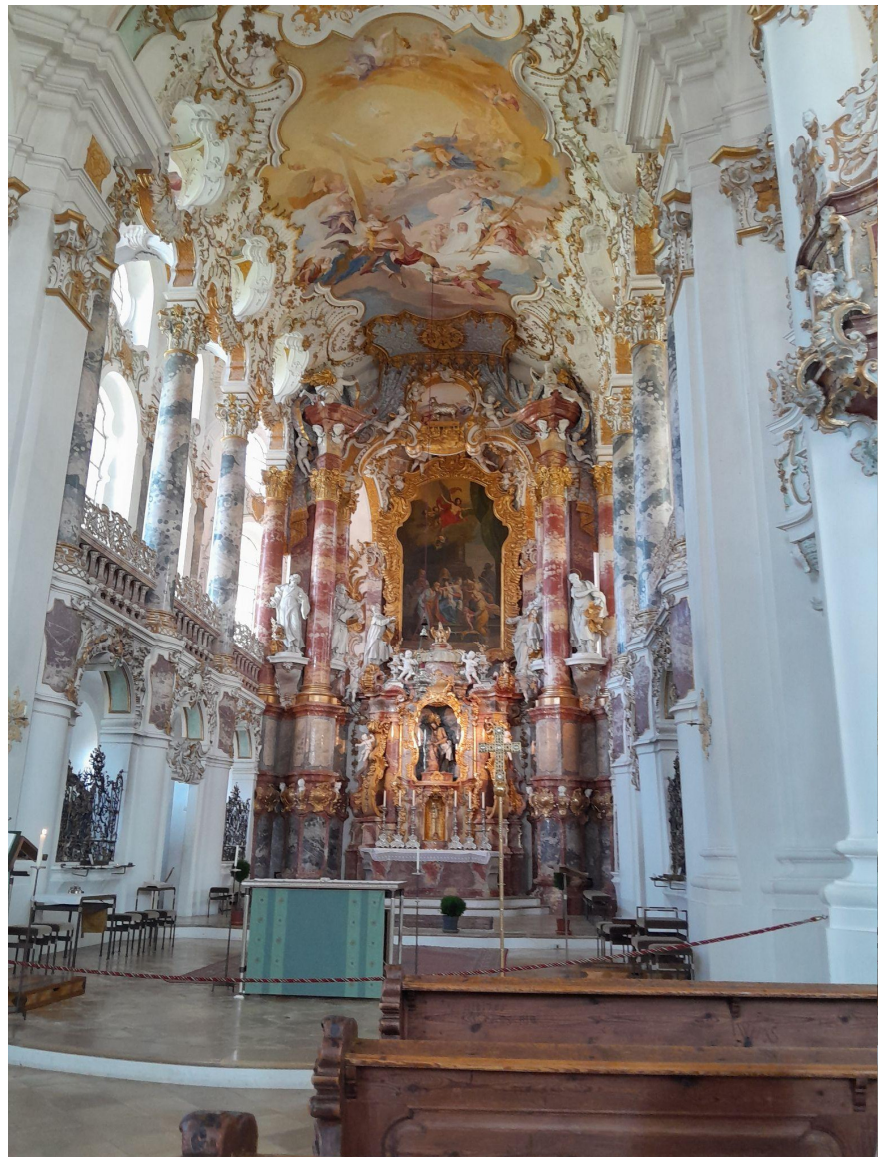
Two on a Bavarian Kirchenbummel

In case you feel the title might be a little indelicate for Five Alive, let me explain that Jerome K Jerome, having written "Three men in a boat", wrote a sequel: "Three men on the Bummel", about a bicycle trip through Germany with his two boating friends. Bummel, if you look it up online, is translated as "stroll", but it's best to think of it, equally, as a gentle-paced journey; in our case giving me the chance to look at lots of churches.

Well, we started near Füssen in Bavaria; down very close to the Austrian border. It's a town that is well worth a visit for a couple of days, or perhaps more, as it's not far from Lake Constance, and Augsburg, as well as having a well-preserved town centre. The castle has its own small, fairly plain, chapel, dedicated to St Vitus, who is the patron saint of dancers. The town's saint is Magnus, who evangelised this area of the Alps. He has a suitably splendid church, and was a contemporary of our own St Boniface, from Nursling, who went on to be Patron Saint of Germany itself.

Around thirty nine years ago I had come to this area to visit the Church of Wies; generally reckoned to be the best example of a baroque/rococo church in Germany. Well, that was in the days before the internet, and I found it open, but full of scaffolding! So off I went in a huff which, unintentionally, lasted all those years. My photos don't do it justice; nothing can really, but you might want to look it up online. In Germany it is known as the "Wieskirche", or, to give it its full name, "The Pilgrimage Church of the Scourged Redeemer". If you think that's a mouthful, try saying it in German!

*Chancel and altar of the
"Weiskirche"*



Pilgrimage is still popular in Germany, but it was even more so in the past. It is quite common to find a church standing in the middle of nowhere, or sometimes a church in a small village whose opulence apparently exceeds the means of the local population. Such places are there because of the pilgrims.

So, after two days we set off for the place in Germany I love above all others and have been visiting for forty years this year: Berchtesgaden Land, just south of Salzburg. It was also beloved of one A Hitler, who put the finishing touches to Mein Kampf in a mountain hut after his early release (for good behaviour!) from Landsberg Prison. It's an amazing place, with mountains, walks, lakes and fresh air you can almost drink. People come here to throw themselves off mountain tops attached to flimsy sails. As I sit on my balcony writing this, I can see three of them. I suppose it saves paying for a return ticket on the cable car.

Food is amazing; every year a couple of hundred Bavarians are admitted to hospital with pork overdoses, though they rarely prove fatal, fortunately. (Though vegetarians would point out that they do for the pigs.) The locals like to drink their beer by the "Mass", i.e. a one litre glass. One is OK, but after two you feel like you want to invade Poland. A local family, called Grassl, make spirits distilled from all sorts of things, including mountain flowers. A well-known one is made from Gentian ("Enzian".) Take a sip, but if you don't like it, throw the rest away; just preferably not near anything living.

Everywhere, even in remote places, there are wayside crosses and small chapels; often built by a fairly well-off family on their own farm. They are almost universally well-maintained. How do they do it? Well, in Germany, if you put down a denomination on your registration form, you will pay a small, but significant, sum each month to that denomination! Oddly, it only applies to Christians and Jews. (It could be around 500 annually euros for someone earning 45,000 Euros per year.) How do you get out of it? Well, you can go through a formal process of renunciation, but if you do, you can forget about church marriage or a funeral service! I can't see it catching on in the UK.



*Contributed by John Glasspool -
also pictured above enjoying a glass
of local 'mineral water'!!*

HARVEST LUNCH

Sunday 27th September 2026

Awbridge Village Hall

12 - 2:30pm



WITH
BIKE TOUR TALK
BY REV. TOM BENSON

Bring
your own
drinks

Plus
Raffle



Tickets £15 each / £30 Family and are available by scanning
the QR code or online at www.awbridge.church (150 Celebrations Page)
Contact Sarah Keith for more information: sarahjkeith@hotmail.com



Romsey Foodbank is currently requesting the following items to be donated:

Jars Of Pasta Sauce
Squash
Cartons Of Fruit Juice
Sponge Puddings
Desserts, E.g. Angel Delight And Jelly Pots
Coffee
Spreads: Marmite, Honey and Peanut Butter
Tinned Spaghetti
Sweets and Chocolate
Instant Mash
UHT Milk
Tins Of Carrots
Tinned Fruit
Tinned Custard
Rice Pudding
Jam
Granulated Sugar (500g)
Multi Packs Of Crisps



They **don't need** any more Pasta, Packets Of Sweet Biscuits, Tinned Soup, Baked Beans, Tea. Donation points in several local Co-ops, Romsey Library, Waitrose and some of our churches - and at Harvest Festival services.

FOMC
(Friends of Michelmersh Church)
Barn Dance

Michelmersh Barns
on Saturday 26 September
7.30pm

Tickets £15/head - contact
Franny Hornblow on
07881821513 or
franny@prmotors.biz for more
information



Hymns and Pimms

Come and join in on
Sunday 20th September, 5.00pm
at Braishfield Social Club
- outside if fine!

Hymn requests to Rev Tom by
Sunday 13th September or write on the
list at the back of the church

Everyone very welcome!

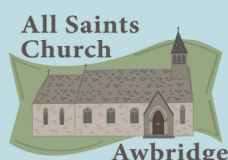
Organised by All Saints' Church
Braishfield

PIMMS &
HYMNS

Sunday 30th
August 2026

5 - 6:30pm

All Saints Church,
Awbridge



Donations welcome

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

All Saints' Braishfield Harvest Supper
Saturday 3rd October

6pm – 8.30pm
in the Church Room



Please bring your own drinks!

Contact Sarah Boothman
on 01794 368143 seboothman@aol.com
by Monday 28th September to book a place, and
mention any dietary restrictions

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

No charge in advance – please make a donation on the
evening

Coffee and Chat at St John's, Farley Chamberlayne
on 10th September, 10.30 - 12 noon.

The Michelmersh Monthly Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the Michelmersh Monthly Draw

August 2026 winners

1 st prize	£70.00	Franny Hornblow
2 nd prize	£35.00	Angelina Lavin
3 rd prize	£20.00	David & Sue Phipp

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

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
**MICHELMERSH
SILVER BAND'S**

140TH

BIRTHDAY

Picnic & Concert



**ST MARY'S
CHURCH
MICHELMERSH**

**CHURCH GROUNDS
OPEN FROM**

2PM

CONCERT AT

4PM

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

**BRING YOUR OWN
PICNIC & SEATING**

*Relax, enjoy the music
and celebrate with us!*

**ENTRY IS
FREE**



**BUCKET COLLECTION
AND RAFFLE
in aid of**



**MICHELMERSH
SILVER BAND**



SATURDAY 12th SEPT 2026

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

Why not visit all the churches in the Benefice or go further afield to see more of the wonderful churches in Hampshire on Ride & Stride Day Saturday 12th September. Get yourself sponsored to raise some much needed funds for your nominated church – 50% of the sponsorship money for a nominated church is returned to them!

The Trust is run entirely by volunteers so almost all the money raised goes to our churches as grants for the maintenance, preservation and restoration of our church heritage.

Please join us and register for Ride & Stride on **Saturday 12th 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!

Please raise sponsorship or make a donation. Click on the QR codes below. Participating churches in the County will be on Hihct website and it is best to check registrations shortly before the event.
<https://hihct.org.uk/participating-churches/>

Donate



Taking Part



www.hihct.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1181370

We already have some sponsored participants from two of our benefice churches - it would be great to have more!



WINCHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Sponsored by

JM FINN

Investment | Wealth



Scan here

Inspired by
our natural
surroundings

Creative
Director,
Angela
Turner

Wild!

**Festival of Flowers
& Nature**

BE PART OF THE BUZZ

14th - 19th September 2026

Book tickets scan the QR code,
call 01962 857275 or visit the box office

Hand drawn illustrations by
local artist Ros Ingram

What's on? An over view of events in the Benefice in Aug/September

General

Messy Church Friday 28th August 3.30pm Braishfield Church Room (see p.15)

Ride and Stride Saturday 12th September (see p.12)

Flower Festival Winchester Cathedral 15th-19th Sept (see p.13)

Awbridge

Pimms and Hymns Sunday 30th August 5 - 6.30pm Awbridge Church (see p.9)

Harvest Lunch Sunday 27th September 12 noon Village Hall (see p. 8)

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

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 1st & 15th September 9.00am in Church

Awbridge Housegroup Tuesdays tba Chanwel House

Craft & Chat Group Fridays 28th Aug, 11th & 25th Sept 10.30am - 12.30pm
Committee Room, Awbridge Village Hall - contact Sue Franklin 01794 322185

Awbridge Lunch Club Wednesdays 9th & 23rd September 12 noon, Church Rooms

The Ark All Saints Church Baby and Toddler group, restarts Friday 4th Sept

Braishfield

Singalong for All Monday 21st September 2.30pm Church Room

Village Voices Monday 24th August & 28th September 2- 4pm, Church Room

Hymns and Pimms Sunday 20th Sept 5.00pm, Social Club (see p. 9)

Farley Chamberlayne

Coffee and Chat Thurs 10th Sept 10.30am

Harvest Supper Friday 25th September

Michelmersh

Michelmersh and Timsbury Lunch Club Jubilee Hall Thurs 3rd Sept 1.00pm

Michelmersh Silver Band Picnic and Concert Sunday 6th Sept (see p 11)

FOMC Barn Dance Saturday 26th September 7.30pm in the Barns (see p.9)

Timsbury

Coffee, Croissant and Chat with guest speaker Tues 8th September

Celtic Prayer Tuesday 22nd September 11am in the church

King's Somborne

Songs of Praise and Cream Tea Sunday 30th August 3pm

Bible readings for SEPTEMBER /OCT

SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER - 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Ezekiel 33.7-11

Epistle Romans 13.8-end

Gospel Matthew 18.15-20

Psalm 119.33-40

SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER - 15th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Genesis 50.15-21

Epistle Romans 14.1-12

Gospel Matthew 18.21-35

Psalm 103.1-13

SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER - 16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Jonah 3.10 - 4.end

Epistle Philippians 1.21-end

Gospel Matthew 20.1-16

Psalm 145.1-8

SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER - 17th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-end

Epistle Philippians 2.1-13

Gospel Matthew 21.23-32

Psalm 25.1-8

SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER - 18th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Isaiah 5.1-7

Epistle Philippians 3.4b-14

Gospel Matthew 21.33-end

Psalm 80.9-17



SERVICES FOR AUG/SEPTEMBER/OCT 2026

FRIDAY 28th AUGUST

3.30pm	Braishfield	MESSY CHURCH	Team
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SUNDAY 30th AUGUST - 13th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00am	Timsbury	UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION	Team
3.00pm	Awbridge	BAPTISM	J.Thompson

SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER - 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	A.Devereux
9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION	A.Devereux
9.30am	Braishfield	FAMILY WORSHIP	T.Benson
10.00am	Michelmersh (& Timsbury)	MORNING PRAYER BCP	A.Cross
10.00am	King's Somborne	MORNING WORSHIP	H.Rowe & S.Kirby
1.00pm	King's Somborne	BAPTISM	A.Devereux
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	EVENING PRAYER BCP	T.Benson & A.Cross
6.30pm	Awbridge	DEANERY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP	J.Thompson

SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER - 15th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	Farley Chamberlayne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	T.Benson
9.00am	Awbridge Village Hall	FAMILY BREAKFAST SERVICE	T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	MORNING WORSHIP	A.Cross
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	A.Devereux
11.00am	Timsbury	FAMILY SERVICE	A.Cross
12 noon	King's Somborne	BAPTISM	A.Devereux
6.00pm	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson

SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER - 16th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30am	Awbridge	MORNING WORSHIP	H.Rowe
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	A.Devereux
10.00am	Timsbury	HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	FAMILY SERVICE & Blessing	T.Benson
3.00pm	King's Somborne	MESSY CHURCH	Team
3.00pm	Little Somborne	HARVEST	A.Devereux
5.00pm	Braishfield Social Club	HYMNS AND PIMMS (with Michelmersh)	T.Benson
6.00pm	King's Somborne	ALIVE	Team

SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER - 17th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER - 18th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

BCP = Book of Common Prayer - traditional language