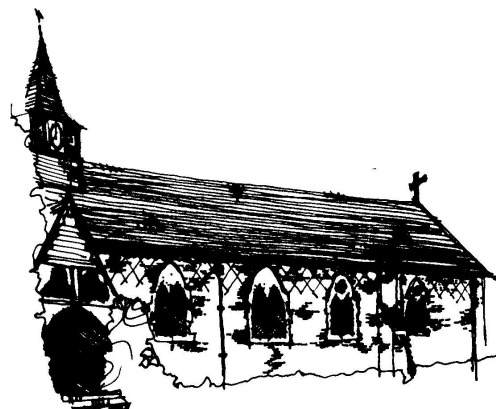
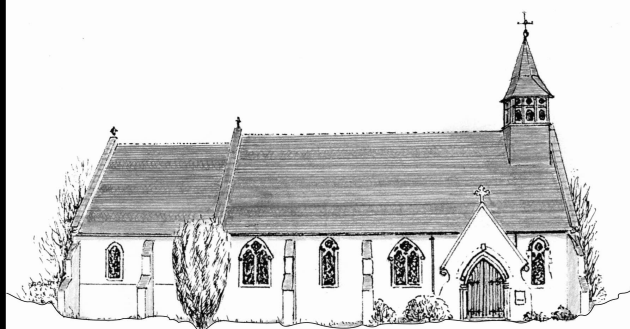




Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

October 2026

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF BRAISHFIELD

including the parishes of Michelmersh, Awbridge, Braishfield, Timsbury
and Farley Chamberlayne *[grouped with Somborne with Ashley]*

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

Curate: King's Somborne: Revd Ann Devereux 01794 328860
revadev316@gmail.com

Church Wardens - Braishfield Benefice

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
November edition**

Mon 19th October

This edition
will be available by
Sunday 25th October

From our Rector, Rev'd Tom Benson

Dear Friends,

October is one of those months when you really notice the changing of the seasons. The mornings become darker, the evenings draw in, and there is a definite nip in the air. The fields and hedgerows begin to change colour, and there is that wonderful smell of autumn leaves and wood smoke.

It is also a month which reminds us to give thanks. We have much to be thankful for: for the food on our tables, for those who grow and produce it, for our countryside and for the people who quietly care for one another in our villages.

Autumn also has a way of reminding us that life moves in seasons. The trees let go of their leaves, not because they have failed, but because it is simply time for them to do so. Perhaps there is something for us to learn in that. We do not have to hold on to everything. Sometimes faith means trusting God enough to let go, and believing that there will be new life in God's good time.

On the 30th of October, the 31st of October and the 1st of November we will be holding services of Remembering in our churches. These are a time where we invite you to come, remember and give thanks for the life of loved ones who have passed away. When we lose someone that we dearly love the world can seem to carry on without us, we can feel under a lot of pressure to 'move on' and it is very often a lonely time. These services aim to be a space to acknowledge our loss, give thanks for the lives of our loved ones and pay our respects. There is no time limit for grief so everyone is welcome whether your loss is recent or not.

The times of the services are :

Friday 30th October Awbridge 7pm
 Timsbury 7pm

Saturday 31st October Michelmersh 3pm
 Farley Chamberlayne 3pm

Sunday 1st November Braishfield 3pm
 King's Somborne 3pm

So, as the leaves fall and the evenings draw in, may we make the most of this beautiful autumn season. May our churches continue to be places of welcome, prayer and friendship, and may we remember that, whatever the season of life in which we find ourselves, God is with us.

God Bless, Tom

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 **Friday 23rd October 10am - 2pm**
Coffee, Sandwiches and Cake provided

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

Chris says 'It takes more time than people realise to do them.'

Please note these dates and get along to help Chris if you can.



You can message Chris on cookchris@aol.com to let her know if you plan to join one or other or both of these events



Remembering Services at our churches

(For dates and times see Rector's letter or back page)

Everyone is invited to come to a service and light a candle in remembrance of friends and family who have died, 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: braishfieldbenefice@gmail.com 01794 878020 to leave a message.



The Long Way to Rome by motorbike

Wine, Cheese
and Rev Tom's
Travels

Thursday 12th
November

7pm - 9pm

Braishfield Village Hall
Community Room

Tickets £6, please book with seboothman@aol.com
(Pay on the night, cash or card)

Everyone welcome!

A Lasting Legacy

Dear Friends,

As we move into autumn, there is something rather special about this time of year. It is a time when we naturally look back with gratitude for what has been given to us, and perhaps also look ahead to what we might leave for those who come after us.

That thought of legacy is one that has a particular place within the life of the Church.

Our churches have been handed down to us by generations of Christians who worshipped here, prayed here, celebrated weddings and baptisms here, and mourned their loved ones here. They cared for these buildings and, just as importantly, they passed on a living faith. We are here today because others before us believed that these places and this Christian witness were worth preserving.

One way in which we can help to continue that tradition is through leaving a gift to the Church in our will. A legacy need not be large. Every gift, however modest, can make a difference to the life of the parish and help ensure that our churches remain places of prayer, welcome and worship for generations to come.

Of course, making a will is a deeply personal matter, and our first responsibility is always to provide for our families and those closest to us. But once those wishes have been considered, some people find it meaningful to remember the Church that has been part of their lives. A legacy is, in a very real sense, a way of saying *thank you* for all that we have received, while helping to give something to those who will come after us.

Perhaps that is one of the great gifts of a Christian community: we are not simply here for ourselves. We are part of a story that began long before us and, God willing, will continue long after us.

Many thanks, Rev'd Tom Benson



“No matter how large or small, every gift in every will makes a difference”



A Lasting Gift to your Church



For further information visit
www.churchlegacy.org.uk

You can also discuss gifts in wills in confidence with the Treasurer or Incumbent.



 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
www.churchlegacy.org.uk

Romsey Deanery Link with the diocese of South Rwenzori in Uganda - Severe drought

Bishop Nason of South Rwenzori has sent the following message:

“Greetings from South Rwenzori Diocese. We are currently experiencing a serious drought. Farmers have failed to plant for the new season. Some that had earlier done so, nothing has germinated. Stand with us in prayer.”

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in South Rwenzori.

The diocese of South Rwenzori is in the southwest of Uganda. Kasese, to the north of Lake George, is the largest town in the diocese - see arrow.



Kasese ---->



Coffee, Croissants and Chat



with our Speaker:

Mayday, Mayday

Tuesday 13th October 2026

10.30am



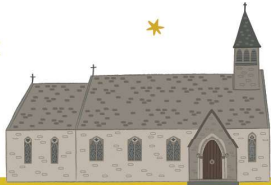
at St Andrew's Church, Timsbury

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.





All Saints Church Awbridge

CHILDREN'S FILM CLUB

Thursday 29th October
2:00pm



Refreshments available

Michelmersh harvest/church open day – Sunday 18 Oct 2026

1pm Harvest lunch in the barns – ticket only

£5/head for vegetable soup/bread/cheese/apple puddings

Raffle in aid of RABI



'RABI provides practical, financial and emotional support to farming people across England and Wales.'

2-7pm- Open afternoon in the church, not ticketed:

Collection of food and toiletries for the Romsey Food Bank all afternoon



2.30pm 'The Current Plight of Farming'

Talk by John Drake of Manor Farm

3.30pm Chris Thompson, Organist at All Saints Church Awbridge, to showcase and talk about the organ

4pm 'Ask the Vicar'. Tom Benson to answer any questions you might have on the church and its workings. He will have vestments, chalices and the register of deaths to show/try on

4.30pm Mary Harris, celebrated local historian, to talk on the history of the church and its environs

Throughout the afternoon these displays will be around the church:

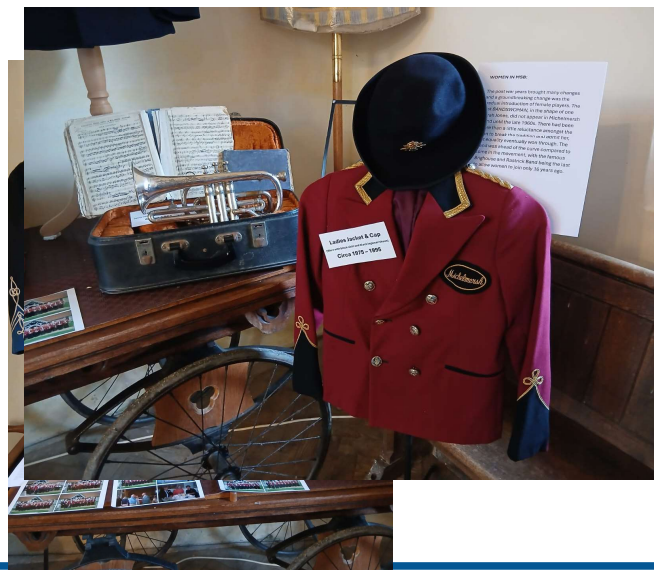
- Michelmersh Silver Band – old uniforms and photos. And an explanation of why it is linked to our church
- Friends Of Michelmersh Church
- Michelmersh Monthly Draw
- Booklet of history of the Michelmersh men killed in the WWs

6pm Harvest Festival in church

For more info and/or harvest lunch tickets please contact Franny Hornblow, 07881821513 or franny@prmotors.biz

Michelmersh Silver Band 140th Anniversary Concert on 6th September

The weather was perfect and it was a lovely afternoon of picnicing outside and music in the church. Many people in the audience were the descendants of past band members and all were delighted to hear the part they had played in MSB history acknowledged. There was a lot of emotion in the building!



The MSB is so grateful for the support shown in our home village. In terms of money, we collected £413 on the raffle and the 'hat collection' - a fantastic sum. Please pass on our thanks to all.

The photos show part of the display about the history of the Band.

The Michelmersh Monthly Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the Michelmersh Monthly Draw

September 2026 winners

1 st prize	£67.20	Stuart Sachs
2 nd prize	£33.60	Sue Holden
3 rd prize	£19.20	Sheila Neil

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



QUIZ NIGHT

Awbridge Village Hall

Saturday 24th October 7pm

Plus Raffle

Ploughmans Supper with Licensed Bar

Tickets £15 and are available by scanning the QR code or online at:
www.awbridge.church (150 Celebrations Page)
 Contact James Alexander for more information: jdalexander350@gmail.com

All Saints Church 150 1876 2026 Awbridge

Looking ahead - Bishop Philip will be coming to All Saints Awbridge on Saturday 14th November at 7pm to talk about his life and to share his music choices. Put the date in your diary now!



Messy Church Light Party Celebration

Friday 30 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



Vocations Morning

**Saturday 14th November
9:30am – 12:30pm**

St Luke's Church, Church Lane
Sway, Hampshire SO41 6AD

Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ, but you're unsure of what your next step might be?

Join the Diocesan Mission & Ministry Team, to find out more about the pathways available for both lay and ordained ministries. There will be a particular focus on opportunities for lay ministry including Exploring Theology, Bishops Commission for Mission and Bishops Permission to Preach.



DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER

For more information and to book,
please contact Tracey Clark:
Tracey.Clark@winchesterdiocese.org
01962 710983

What's on? An over view of events in the Benefice in October

General

Awbridge

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

Prayer Meeting Tuesday 6th and 20th October from 9.00 am in the church

Awbridge Housegroup Tuesday 29th September, 13th and 27th October 7.30 pm
Chanwel House

Craft & Chat Group 9th and 23rd October Contact Sue Franklin 01794 322185

Church Quiz Saturday 24th October. Awbridge Village Hall 7.00 pm See
page 12

Children's Film Club Thursday 29th October 2.00 pm in the Church

Awbridge Lunch Club Wednesdays 14th and 28th October 12 noon, Church
Room

The Ark All Saints Church Baby and Toddler group, every Friday during term
time Village Hall 9.15 - 11.00 am

Braishfield

Singalong for All Monday 19th October 2.30 - 4 pm, Church Room

Village Voices Monday 26th October 2-4 pm, Church Room

Harvest Supper Saturday 3rd October 6 - 8.30 pm Church Room.

Farley Chamberlayne

Coffee and Chat Thursday 8th October in the Church 10.30am

Shoebox Preparation See page 4

Michelmersh

Michelmersh and Timsbury Lunch Club Jubilee Hall Thurs 8th October 1.00pm

Harvest Open Day Sunday 19th October See page 10

Timsbury

Coffee, Croissant and Chat with speaker Tues 13th Oct 10.30am (see p.9)

Celtic Prayer Tuesday 20th October 11.00 am at the Church

Bible readings for OCTOBER/NOV

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

SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER - 19th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Isaiah 25.1-9

Epistle Philippians 4.1-9

Gospel Matthew 22.1-14

Psalm 23

SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER - LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Old Testament Acts 16 6-12a

Epistle 2 Timothy 4.5-17

Gospel Luke 10.1-9

Psalm 147.1-7

SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER - LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - BIBLE SUNDAY

Old Testament Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18

Epistle 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8

Gospel Matthew 22.34-end

Psalm 1

SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER - ALL SAINTS DAY

Old Testament Revelation 7.9-end

Epistle 1 John 3.1-3

Gospel Matthew 5.1-12

Psalm 34.1-10

Eco-tip for October: Greening your home this Autumn.

Tackle climate change and reduce your heating bills by finding and reducing the draughts in your home. Find the gaps that let cold air in and warm air out (keyholes, letterboxes and gaps around windows, doors, loft hatches and floorboards for example). Do what you can to fix these gaps - there are lots of tutorials on how to do this online.

It's also a good time to prepare for winter by putting radiator reflector foil or baking foil behind the radiator. This will reflect heat back into your room.

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2026

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
2.00pm	Awbridge	BAPTISM	T.Benson
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	EVENING PRAYER BCP	T.Benson

SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER - 19th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	Farley Chamberlayne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	A.Cross
9.00am	Awbridge Village Hall	FAMILY BREAKFAST SERVICE	J.Thompson
9.30am	Braishfield	MORNING WORSHIP	S.Kirby
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION with Baptism	T.Benson& A Devereux
11.00am	Timsbury	HARVEST FESTIVAL with MTB	A.Cross
6.00pm	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson
6.30pm	Awbridge	DEANERY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP	J.Thompson

SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER - LUKE THE EVANGELIST

9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	A.Devereux
10.00am	Timsbury	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	A.Cross
11.15am	Farley Chamberlayne	FAMILY SERVICE & Baptism	T.Benson
6.00pm	Braishfield	EVENING PRAYER BCP	A.Cross
6.00pm	Michelmersh	HARVEST FESTIVAL	T.Benson
6.00pm	King's Somborne	ALIVE - INFORMAL WORSHIP	H.Rowe

SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER - LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - BIBLE SUNDAY

Clocks change today!

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

FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER

11.00am	Braishfield	MESSY CHURCH	Team
7.00pm	Awbridge	REMEMBERING SERVICE	
7.00pm	Timsbury	REMEMBERING SERVICE	

SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER

3.00pm	Michelmersh	REMEMBERING SERVICE	
3.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	REMEMBERING SERVICE	

SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER - ALL SAINTS DAY

8.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	
9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION	
9.30am	Braishfield	FAMILY WORSHIP	
10.00am	Michelmersh (& Timsbury)	MORNING PRAYER BCP	
10.00am	King's Somborne	MORNING WORSHIP	
3.00pm	Braishfield	REMEMBERING SERVICE	
3.00pm	King's Somborne	REMEMBERING SERVICE	
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	EVENING PRAYER BCP	

BCP = Book of Common Prayer
- traditional language