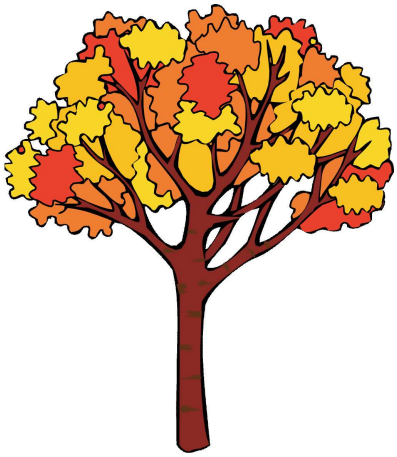








Five Alive!





A Monthly Magazine

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

November 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)*

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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 Dec/Jan edition

Mon 16th November

This edition will be available by Sunday 22nd November

From Rev'd Tom Benson

Dear friends,

This time of year can be a sad time for some people 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 churches 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 8th of November. It makes it a poignant, thoughtful time of year, a time to be together and reflect.

In villages such as ours, these names on the war memorials are not simply names in a history book. They belonged to real people and their absence left a mark on families and villages that lasted for generations.

Yet remembrance is not only about looking backwards. It also challenges us to consider the sort of world we are helping to create today. The words *"Lest we forget"* remind us not only to remember those who died, but also to remember the values for which they sacrificed so much: freedom, justice, compassion and peace. We also remember all those who continue to serve in our Armed Forces, and those who carry the physical and emotional scars of conflict. We pray for those caught up in wars today, for families who have lost loved ones, and for all who long for a safer and more peaceful future.

It was hoped that the First World War would be 'the war to end all wars', but history has shown us that that was not to be and now, over a hundred years later, the world seems to be entering a new and very dangerous phase. We think especially of the people of Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, The Gulf, Ukraine and Russia at this time. I am sure that you, like me, are holding them in your thoughts and prayers.
However, by and large the world is still a beautiful place where goodness, kindness and decency still hold sway, so even though we can be presented with images of horror we can see signs of God's goodness revealed. Look to the kindness of strangers, the beauty of creation, the wisdom that is shown by gentle people and there we find something of God revealed.

As we gather this November, may our remembrance be more than a ceremony. May it deepen our gratitude, strengthen our compassion and encourage us to play our own small part in building a world where peace may flourish.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

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 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 this date and get along to help Chris if you can.



You can message Chris on cookchrisr@aol.com to let her know if you plan to join this event.

Remembering Services at our churches

(For dates and times see 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAGGIE HATFIELD!

Maggie, pictured with Anthony, Jane and Tom outside Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 10th October after receiving her BPP



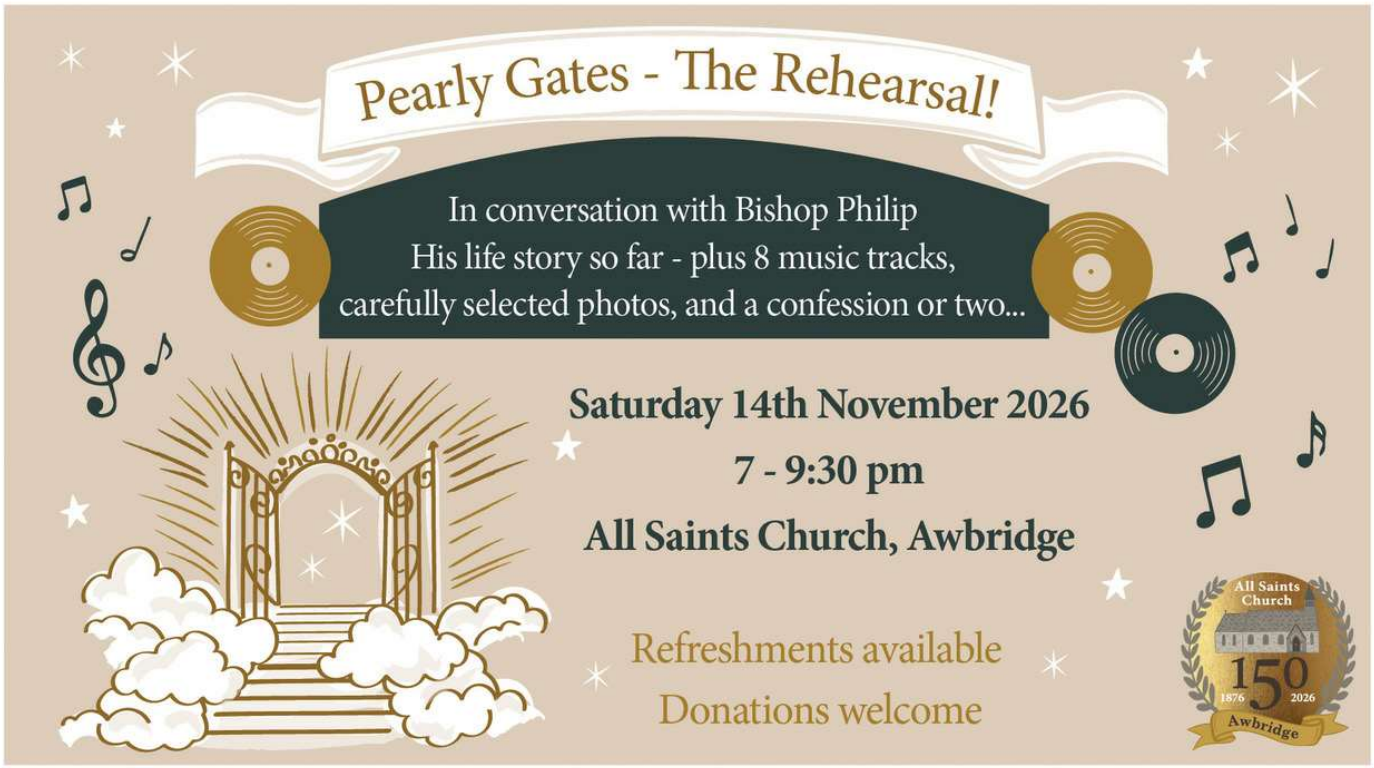
More than 45 people were licensed and commissioned for lay ministry at a special service at Winchester Cathedral last Saturday, surrounded by family, friends, clergy and members of their local churches. This included Maggie Hatfield from Timsbury who was awarded the Bishop's Permission to Preach, for which she has been studying.

Bishop Philip described the service as an 'incredibly important and significant' occasion in the life of our diocese. The service marked the culmination of up to two years of hard work, study, learning and personal growth.

In her sermon, Bishop Kelly thanked all those being licensed and commissioned for sharing their gifts and graces and encouraged them to respond to God's call with humility, perseverance and a sense of humour. She said, "It turns out that God doesn't call the equipped, rather he equips the called, and God has been doing that with people like you and me for centuries and it turns out He's rather good at it.

"Today as you are licensed and commissioned, there is the witness and affirmation of the wider church that you are offering yourselves to serve, to take your place, to play your part in the mission and in the ministry of God. It's going to be a joy, and at times it may be a frustration. You will be called to exercise your ministry in ways you may not even yet imagine, and at other times you may be overlooked or caused to lay things down and that has to be okay as well."

Worship was led by a band from St Wins in Totton and testimonies were shared from people celebrating the next step in their ministry.



Don't miss hearing Bishop Philip's music choices and life story!





Saturday 21st November
9.30am Churchyard Working Party
at All Saints Braishfieldwith refreshments - bacon butties! We will be raking leaves amongst other tasks! Please bring your own tools.

How Michelmersh celebrated harvest in 2026





Being conscious of the terrible conditions for farmers (weather wise and financially) this year, we in Michelmersh celebrated harvest in a different format. We had a ticketed lunch in the lovely barns. A variety of home made vegetable soups and crumbles, cheese and bread. With 50 people attending we were at capacity and there was a warm, friendly atmosphere throughout. We held a raffle in aid of RABI, the farmers benevolent charity. Then we had a free and non ticketed open afternoon in the church. Our flower team pulled out all the stops and the arrangements were absolutely STUNNING and the subject of much comment. Against this backdrop we had displays from the Michelmersh Silver Band, The Friends of Michelmersh Church and the Michelmersh Monthly Draw.

We were delighted that 4 excellent speakers gave wonderful talks on rural life and the church: John Drake of Manor Farm on 'The Plight of Farming'; Chris Thompson on the history and condition of the organ – with a short recital; Tom Benson – 'Ask the Vicar'; Mary Harris, celebrated local historian on the history of the church and Manor Farm

We concluded the day with our Harvest Festival.

You can see from the photos how many people came together - fantastic teamwork and lots of skills on display (cooking, flower arranging, presenting, preparing and tidying up). We also showed talent at chatting, eating and listening. It was a wonderful afternoon with the church being used by many people and enabling a real coming together of parishioners, old and new.

This was not about fundraising, but we made £330 (£125 to PCC, £125 to the barns and £80 to RABI) Plus 7 full crates of food for the Romsey Food Bank.



Bonfire Night

at St Andrew's Church, Timsbury

Saturday 7th November

Welcome from 5.30pm for refreshments

Fireworks 6pm / Bonfire lighting 6.30pm

Come and enjoy the bonfire and a firework display to mark the Autumn season





Soup, hotdogs and hot drinks to purchase.



Cash and card payments

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.



Coffee, Croissants and Chat



with our mystery speaker's subject:

Walking by the light of head torches, yellow arrows and scallop shells!

Tuesday 10th November 2026

10.30am

Everyone welcome!

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.

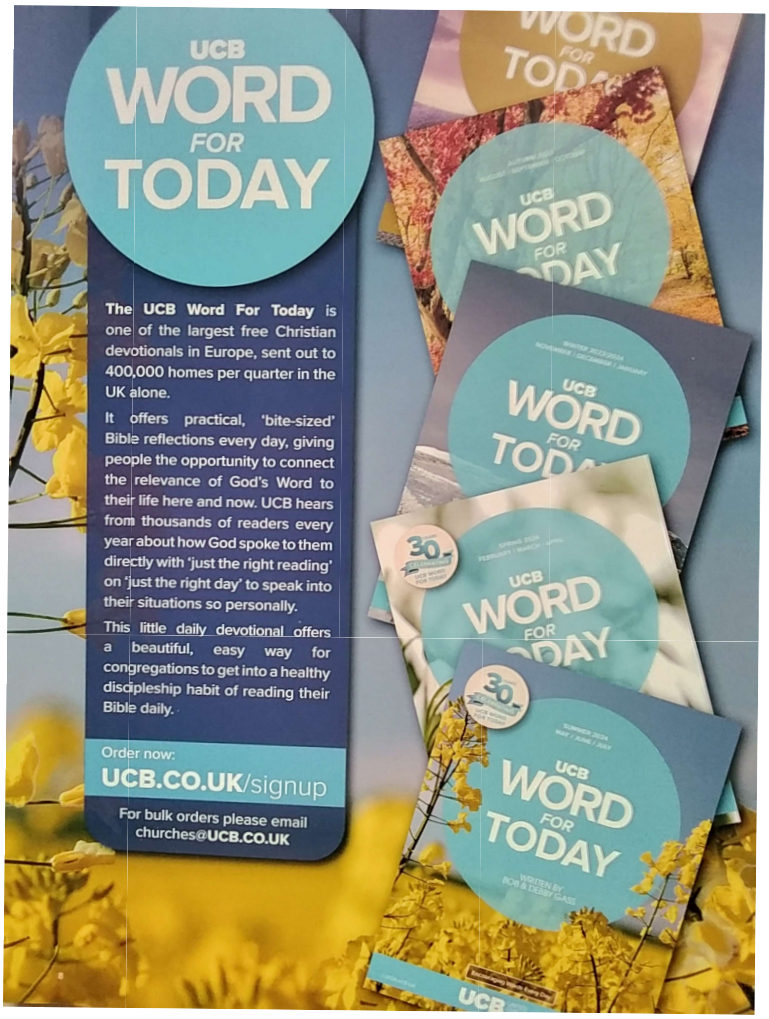








Please note that there is no Five Alive at the end of December so information for January needs to be included in the November edition. The deadline is Monday 16th November.



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!

The Michelmersh Monthly Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the Michelmersh Monthly Draw

October winners

1st prize	£75.60	Colleen & Bob Crockett
2nd prize	£37.80	Anonymous
3rd prize	£21.60	Sarah Medley

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



St John's Farley Chamberlayne enjoyed an excellent Harvest Supper at the end of September. Around 70 people sat down in the church and appreciated the plentiful food which had been provided. Despite the church having no cooking facilities or running water, a two course meal plus hot drinks was seamlessly served up!

Messy Church

Light Party Celebration

Messy Church

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 November

General

Messy Church 30th October 11am Braishfield Church Coom see p.12

Awbridge

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

Prayer Meeting Tuesday 3rd and 17th November from 9.00 am in the church

Awbridge Housegroup Thursday 29th October, Wednesday 11th and Tuesday 24th November 7.30 pm Chanwel House Contact Lynda Tucker

Craft & Chat Group 6th and 20rd November From 10.30 - 12.30 Contact Sue Franklin 01794 322185

Cinema Club Wednesday 25th November 2pm in the church

Awbridge Lunch Club Wednesdays 11th and 25th November 12 noon, Church Room Contact Sarah Keith

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

Pearly Gates with Bishop Philip - Saturday 14th November 7 - 9.30pm See p.6

Christmas Fayre Friday 27th November Awbridge Village Hall 2.30 pm See p.10

Advent Carol Concert with the Eldon Singers Sunday 29th November See p.6

Star of Bethlehem Friday 4th December 7pm in the church See p.10

Braishfield

Long Way to Rome + Wine and Cheese Thursday 12th November FULLY BOOKED - PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE TO CHUCH ROOM

Singalong for All Monday 16th November 2.30 - 4 pm, Church Room

Churchyard Working Party Saturday 21at November 9.30 . See p.6

Village Voices Monday 23rd November 2-4 pm, Church Room

Farley Chamberlayne

Coffee and Chat Thursday 12th November in the Church 10.30am

Shoebox Preparation See p.4

Michelmersh

Michelmersh and Timsbury Lunch Club Jubilee Hall Thurs 12th November 1.00pm

Timsbury

Bonfire Night Saturday 7th November. See p.8

Coffee, Croissant and Chat with speaker Tues 10th Nov 10.30am. See p.9

Celtic Prayer Tuesday 17th November 11.00 am at the Church

Bible readings for NOV/DECEMBER

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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER - 3RD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT
Micah 4. 1-5
Romans 8.31 - end
1 Corinthians 15. 50 - end

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER - 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT
Old Testament Zephaniah 1. 7, 12-end
Epistle 1 Thessolonians 5. 1-11
Gospel Matthew 25. 14-30
Psalm 90. 1-8 [9-11] 12

SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER- CHRIST THE KING
Old Testament Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20-24
Epistle Ephesians 1.15-end
Gospel Matthew 25.31-end
Psalm 95. 1-7

SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER - ADVENT SUNDAY
Old Testament Isaiah 64. 1-9
Epistle 1 Corinthaians 1. 3-9
Gospel Mark 13. 24-end
Psalm 80. 1-8

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Old Testament Isaiah 40. 1-11
Epistle 2 Peter 3.8-15a
Gospel Mark 1. 1-8
Psalm 85. 8-end



Advent Sunday 29th November 6pm

Advent Carol Service with Braishfield Church Choir

St John's Farley Chamberlayne

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER - ALL SAINTS DAY

8.00am	King's Somborne	**HOLY COMMUNION** BCP	A.Devereux
9.30am	Awbridge	**HOLY COMMUNION**	A.Cross
9.30am	Braishfield	**FAMILY WORSHIP**	T.Benson
10.00am	Michelmersh (& Timsbury)	**MORNING PRAYER** BCP	M. Hatfield
10.00am	King's Somborne	**MORNING WORSHIP**	Team
3.00pm	Braishfield	**REMEMBERING SERVICE**	J.Thompson
3.00pm	King's Somborne	**REMEMBERING SERVICE**	A.Devereux & T. Benson
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	**EVENING PRAYER** BCP	A.Cross

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER - 3RD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

10.50am	King's Somborne war mem	**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE**	A. Devereux
11.05am	in church		
10.45am	Farley Chamberlayne	**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**	A.Cross
10.15am	Awbridge School*	**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**	J.Thompson
10.50am	Braishfield War Mem	**UNITED SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**	T.Benson
10.45am	Timsbury	**FAMILY SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE**	M.Hatfield
6.00pm	Michelmersh	**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE with Michelmersh Silver Band**	T.Benson
6.30pm	Awbridge	**DEANERY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**	J.Thompson

SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER - 2ND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

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

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER - CHRIST THE KING

8.00am	Michelmersh	**HOLY COMMUNION BCP**	A.Cross
9.30am	Awbridge	**MORNING WORSHIP**	T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	**HOLY COMMUNION**	A.Cross
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

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER - ADVENT SUNDAY

10.00am	King's Somborne	**UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION**	T.Benson & A.Devereux
3.00pm	King's Somborne	**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**	A.Devereux & T.Benson
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	**ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**	A.Cross

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

** Followed by laying of wreaths at War Memorial at 11 am*

BCP = Book of Common Prayer - traditional language