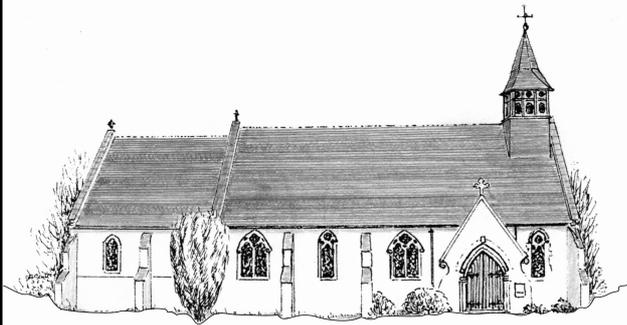


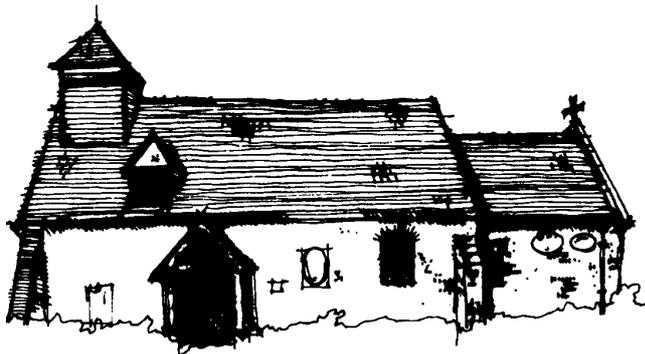


Holy Week

30<sup>th</sup> March - 4<sup>th</sup> 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](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  
MAY edition**

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April**

This edition  
will be available by  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 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)



**Oasis**  
Christian Centre

25 Church Street  
Romsey  
Hampshire, SO51 8BT  
Telephone 01794 512194  
Email: [shop@oasisromsey.co.uk](mailto:shop@oasisromsey.co.uk)  
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](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 <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, 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 22<sup>nd</sup> March after 11.15am Morning Prayer

**Michelmersh:** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April following 6pm Evening Prayer

**Braishfield:** Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April following 9.30am Holy Communion

**Timsbury:** Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April following 6pm Evening Prayer

**King's Somborne:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm

**Awbridge:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm



## Eco-Easter Trail in Awbridge

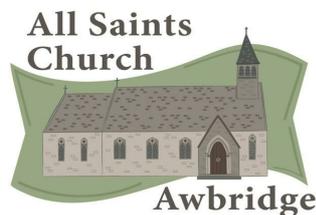


**Monday 6 April 2026**

**All Welcome 10 00-11 30 am**

**All Saints, Awbridge**

**Church Lane, Awbridge SO51 0HN**



For Info contact:

[marysavage126@gmail.com](mailto:marysavage126@gmail.com)



# Contemporary Worship

at

## All Saints Church Awbridge

Sunday 12 April 6.30pm

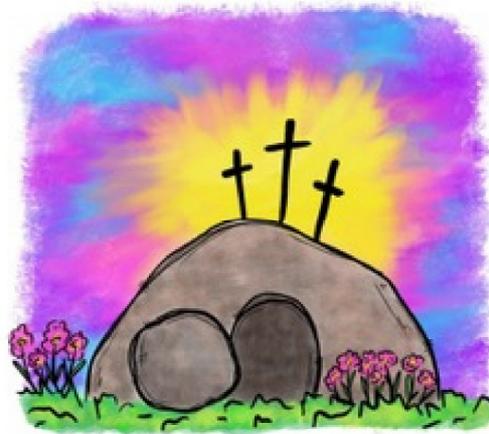
&

Sunday 3 May 6.30pm





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

## Pearly Gates - The Rehearsal!

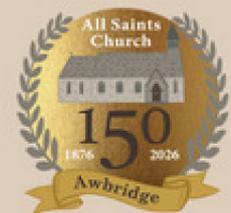
In conversation with Bishop Rhiannon  
Her life story so far - plus 8 music tracks,  
carefully selected photos, and a confession or two...

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

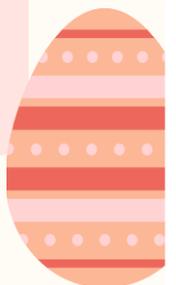
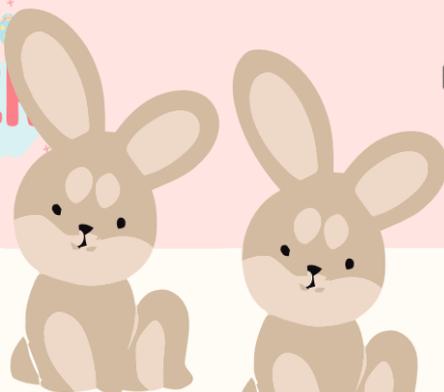
Telephone 01794 512194

Email: [shop@oasisromsey.co.uk](mailto:shop@oasisromsey.co.uk)

[www.oasisromsey.co.uk](http://www.oasisromsey.co.uk)



Happy  
EASTER



## Overview of events in the Benefice in April

### General

**Messy Church 'Easter Excitement'** Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 3.30pm Braishfield Church Room

### Awbridge

**An Evening with Rod Bransgrove** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March (see p.6)

**Cinema Club for Grownups** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2.00pm in the church

**Eco activities & Egg Trail** at All Saints Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 10 - 11.30am

**Children's Film Club** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2.30 - 4.00pm Church Rooms

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

**Prayer Meeting** Tuesdays 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April 9.00am in Church

**Craft & Chat Group** Fridays 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am -12.30pm

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

**Awbridge Lunch Club** Wednesdays 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> April 12 noon

**APCM** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 7.00pm Church Rooms

**Pearly Gates** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm Braishfield Church Room (see p.10)

**Village Voices** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2-4pm, Church Room

### Farley Chamberlayne

**Coffee and Chat** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30am in the church

### Michelmersh

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

**Michelmersh and Timsbury Lunch Club** Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 1.00pm

Jubilee Hall. Contact Sarah Medley 07817 043422

or [sarahmedley5@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmedley5@gmail.com)

### Timsbury

**Coffee, Croissant and Chat with speaker** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am (see p.7)

**Celtic Prayer** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b> BCP
9.30am	Awbridge	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>
9.30am	Braishfield	<b>FAMILY WORSHIP</b>
10.00am	King's Somborne	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>
11.00am	Michelmersh (& Timsbury)	<b>MORNING WORSHIP with BAPTISM</b>
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>EVENING PRAYER</b> BCP
6.30pm	Awbridge	<b>DEANERY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP</b>

## SERVICES FOR MARCH/APRIL

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

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

### **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 BCP</b>	J.Thompson/A.Cross
6.00pm	Michelmersh	<b>EASTER PRAISE WITH HOLY COMMUNION</b>	T.Benson/A.Cross

### **FRIDAY 10th APRIL**

3.30pm	Braishfield	<b>MESSY CHURCH</b>	Team
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### **SUNDAY 12th APRIL - 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8.00am	Farley Chamberlayne	<b>HOLY COMMUNION BCP</b>	J.Thompson
9.00am	Awbridge Village Hall	<b>FAMILY BREAKFAST SERVICE</b>	J.Thompson
9.30am	Braishfield	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>	A.Cross
10.00am	King's Somborne	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	J.Thompson
11.00am	Timsbury	<b>FAMILY SERVICE</b>	A.Cross
6.00pm	Michelmersh	<b>EVENING PRAYER</b>	A.Cross
6.30pm	Awbridge	<b>DEANERY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP</b>	J.Thompson

### **SUNDAY 19th APRIL - 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

### **SUNDAY 26th APRIL - 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

*BCP = Book of Common Prayer - traditional language*