

Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

June 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

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	Mrs. Mary Savage	07516 010794
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	Miss Sarah Boothman	01794 368143
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	Miss Hannah Boothman	01794 368143
Michelmersh	Mrs. Clare Harvey	01794 368789
Timsbury	Mrs. Catherine Baker	01794 368364
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www.awbridge.church (Awbridge)

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Items for 5 Alive

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

**Deadline for
July edition**

Mon 22nd June

This edition
will be available by
Sunday 28th June

From our Associate Priest

I love June! It maybe just me, but personally June is one of the most hopeful months of the year! The weather is warming up, the days are at their longest, the trees at their greenest and there is still the hope of warmth and being outdoors for months to come.

For our youngsters, those in year 6 have finished their SATs - the fun of their last half term at primary school in full-swing: trips, sports day, the school fête and the time to cement those long-standing friendships. All this activity alongside the excitement - and natural nervousness, building towards September's next step.

Our older young people have finished university exams - and are heading home for the summer – and undoubtedly jobs to supplement their next academic year; while, of course, our teens are still head-down, with GCSEs and A' levels in full-swing... sadly often with warm weather, that they can't enjoy... quite yet...

Wherever we sit in the generations, summer is a season when life blossoms, when we get to live "life to the max", and there is hope.

As I write we are still in the Easter season, between Ascension Day and the celebrations of Pentecost. Pentecost is when Jesus was back with his Father and his Spirit and the Holy Spirit was sent by God to us, to be a constant, continual presence alongside. A presence with us, beside us, in the good times and the tough... with us during the exams, as well as in the celebrations and long summer after!

As we pray for Anthony as he is ordained priest and for Rev Ann Devereux as she prepares to join us in King's Somborne, I pray too that your summer is hope-filled - with a sense of God's presence with you and, during this beautiful summer month, may you experience life in all its fullness, "life to the max".

God bless,

Jane

Revd Canon Jane Thompson!

In our last Five Alive it was noted that Jane Thompson would be installed as an Honorary Canon of Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 10th May. The installation took place during a beautiful service of Choral Evensong, during which Jane and four other members of the clergy were installed. Following the service, the College of Canons went to the Lady Chapel where this photo was taken - Jane is to the right of the Dean, one to the left of Bishop Philip.



Jane's husband Chris has kindly supplied some helpful details for those unable to be present who would like to watch all or part of the service:

The service is available to watch on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIfT92QfhNA>

The recording is c 90 minutes - but the service starts after 13:00 - and if you love a traditional choral evensong with a fabulous Cathedral Choir and Organ and beautiful liturgy please enjoy the full service.

If your time is a little tight - then the installation starts after the first reading from around 30:40 (*ie 30 mins and 40 seconds into the running time!*)

If you want to discover more about the role of Honorary Canons you might want to listen to the Dean's sermon from 1:09:20

London Marathon Memories

On the 26th April 2026, 59,000 people took part in the Marathon along the streets of London. My daughter Zoe was one of them. She applied in the ballot which over 1 million people applied for and was offered a place. A non-runner up until this point as parents we were naturally concerned when she accepted. But knowing the challenge ahead she forged on with the training plan to get fit and ready. Training in the long cold winter months trying to fit running around her job as an Emergency Care Assistant with South Central Ambulance Service.

She knew that if she was going to take on this challenge it had to be for a good cause and born deaf, she knew exactly which charity to support, The National Deaf Children's Society. They had supported her while she was growing up, she attended clubs and days out organized by them meeting other children like her and allowing her to feel included. Zoe has never let her disability stop her doing what she wants, so running 26.2 miles wasn't going to stop her either.

As Zoe ran mile after mile on the day the support on the streets was incredible, the banners, the cheering, everyone encouraging all participants. Every runner was encouraged often by complete strangers. The atmosphere in the city was indescribable. For it seemed in this very moment, the amount of kindness, compassion, support, encouragement,



and love was filling the air. The smiles, the cheers, the clapping were infectious.

After she had crossed the finish line after 6 long hours the true achievement of what she had just completed sunk in.

The support and love continued on the journey home, people giving up their seats on tube trains without being asked for weary runners and supporters. The spoken Congratulations to runners as they got on at stations continued. Their medals wore proudly around their necks. The compassion for all people was gentle and considerate.

I'm going to bottle the feeling we all felt on that day, and keep it in my heart to draw on, when I feel discouraged with events in the world or the selfish acts of others. For I've truly experienced and seen the power of love and kindness in action.

Katie Walton

The Michelmersh Monthly Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the Michelmersh Monthly Draw

May 2026 winners

1 st prize	£70.00	Sue Holden
2 nd prize	£35.00	Sue Phipp
3 rd prize	£20.00	Colleen Crockett

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

Rev'd Anthony Cross - arrangements for ordination as a priest and first Celebration of Holy Communion

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June



Anthony was ordained a Deacon last June, which gave him the title 'reverend' and enabled him to work in our parishes. While a deacon, he can take services of the Word but is not able to preside at a service of Holy Communion.

After serving for a year as a deacon in the church it is usual to be ordained as a priest, and Anthony will be **ordained priest in Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 27th June at 4pm.** We originally thought the service would be later in the day! All who would like to may attend the service in the Cathedral. A tip - if you sit near one of the TV screens you will have a good view of what is going on in the distance! You can of course watch from home - the service will be live-streamed from the cathedral. Find the link from www.winchester-cathedral.org

On **Sunday 28th June, Anthony will preside at a service of Holy Communion for the first time. This service will be at St Peter & St Paul, King's Somborne, beginning at 10am.** It will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch in the Village Hall.

Everyone is of course most welcome to come to the service and to the lunch.

Linda Aucock of King's Somborne will be co-ordinating food for the Celebration Lunch, and we hope that each parish will be able to contribute. Please offer to your churchwardens who will be checking with Linda - we need to make sure it's not all puddings or all salads! Plates of food can be delivered to the Village Hall from 9am.

Anthony is generously providing a welcoming glass of prosecco or a soft drink for everyone - and tea/coffee/water will be freely available. You are welcome to bring extra drinks for yourself if you would like to.

We look forward to celebrating with Anthony over this special weekend.

Birthday Celebrations at The Ark!

The Ark Baby and Toddler Group celebrated its 20th year in April and continues to thrive. The group was set up and is still run by members of All Saints Church Awbridge together with some wonderful parents of past and present children. We meet at Awbridge Village Hall on Fridays 9:15 to 11:00 during term times.

All bumps, babies and toddlers are welcome together with their parents/grandparents/carers!

Come to
The Ark
Playgroup!

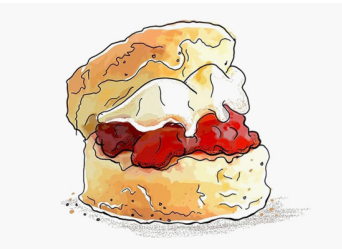
Friday mornings during term time
9.15-11am
Awbridge Village Hall

Come play, chat and have fun together at our relaxed, friendly playgroup!

Activities for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers
Finishing with snack, story and song time
Tea/Coffee and biscuits for the grown-ups!



A date for our diaries - Rev Tom and Maryanne have kindly invited everyone to the annual Cream Tea at the Rectory - this year on Sat 1st August.



Sing Along

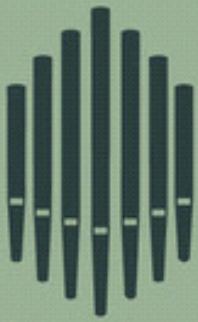
All welcome to join us on the 3rd Monday* of each month during 2026 at All Saints Church Room, Braishfield.SO51 0QH. Starting at 2.30pm until 4.00pm we will be singing some of your favourite songs and providing song sheets should you wish to sing along with us. We would welcome anyone including those 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: jhdalton@hotmail.co.uk



ORGAN *festival*

Come and hear the fabulous new Hauptwerk organ at All Saints Church Awbridge

All recitals are from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm with an interval to enjoy a summer evening Pimms in the church grounds

3 JUNE Chris Thompson and The Second Wind Quartet
Music for Organ and Saxophones

10 JUNE Freddie Line - Organ Scholar Elect at Hertford College Oxford
Organ repertoire from German Baroque to the early 20th century

17 JUNE Lyndon Ford - Portsmouth Diocese
Marches and Mayhem!

24 JUNE Sam Sleath - Southampton University
From Suite Gothique to Star Wars

Donations to the 150th anniversary fundraising campaign for much needed repairs and refurbishment of the church building



What is Jesus like?



Friday 29 May 15.30 to 17.30
All Saints Church Braishfield

messy activities - celebration - feast

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

Braishfield Memories Someone very kindly lent Jane Thompson a copy of this book a few weeks ago. Please remind her if it was you - she has read it and would like to return it!

Farley Chamberlayne Green Lanes Challenge Cup

On the morning of Saturday 16 May, stalwart parishioners from Farley Chamberlayne set off in different directions from St Johns, clutching bin-bags for the inaugural F.C.G.L. Challenge: to clean up local lanes - the threatening rain not diminishing enthusiasm in any way. Two hours later, with bags filled to varying degrees, everyone reconvened in the church for the great weigh-in to see who would win the re-purposed Miranda Neame Challenge Cup (formerly for the F.C. Flower Show). As it happened, the scales failed to perform, but it was unanimously agreed that Team McClachlan were run-away victors with their two bags and hunks of metal. This herculean effort was especially noteworthy as Sue was hampered by a broken hand! We all enjoyed a picnic in the church together, washed down with lovely hot tea and coffee, for which many thanks go to Hannah. It was noted that the lanes are in fact very green at this time of year regardless of litter – so this event might be brought forward in 2027, to a time when litter is more visible. Credit should also go to the Rawson-Smith family, who pick up litter year-round, without the lure or glory of winning a trophy for it!

Melanie Legg

Hannah Boothman presents the trophy to Mike and Sue McClachlan



Croatia with some church-crawling thrown in

There are several things you notice when you visit Croatia. In no particular order: there is an amazing absence of vowels. So, somehow the word for a town's square is "Trg". It is puzzling, but can explain why you never want to play Scrabble with a Croat.

Another thing is the method of driving. Although many drivers, being tourists, drive just like here, their own style of locomotion has a whiff of the parasuicidal about it. So, you know if the car behind you is Croatian, as it will be two feet from your rear bumper. Speed restriction signs are regarded as challenges instead of limits. White lines in the centre of the road, especially approaching bends, mean, to a Croat, "This is probably a good place to overtake". Indeed, the only people I found with a more intense suicidal ideation when driving, are the Bosniaks. If you see a car with BiH on the numberplate, it's best to pull over till they have shot past. If you're annoyed by bad driving, it's better to holiday in Italy.

There are an awful lot of churches, chapels and roadside shrines. The smallest of these, are, of course, denoting where some local has removed their DNA from the gene pool; usually using a car in some way.



Croatia, where the local people are ethnically Croats, is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic. 85% identify as Roman Catholic, and whereas one might say that it doesn't translate into attendance, in fact, my observation has been that churches there are often full, and not with just older people. Sadly, in anywhere other than the bigger towns, the churches are often locked.

Lubnice (above)- perhaps the most remote village in Croatia: high up on the island of Lošinj. Inhabited for over 4,000 years Resident population in 2025:- One! Number of churches that I could count: Three, plus one ruin.

In the eastern parts of the country, where there were many ethnic Serbs, the prevailing denomination is Serbian Orthodox. After the tragic "Homeland War"- as it is known there, many Serbs left, or were driven out in "Operation Storm". So, one doesn't have to go far inland from Zadar into an area known as the Krajina, or, to some, Vukojebina, where there are still ruined buildings, and half abandoned villages. The Serb areas can also be identified by the Cemeteries as the gravestones are inscribed in Serbian Cyrillic.

Orthodox church in Kistanje (below). I spent some hours of my holiday trying to decipher the inscription which seems to be in a script variant of Serbian Cyrillic. I only really managed the last word: “našeg” which means “ours” in English. Never mind: it kept me out of the local bars. I’ve always had a secret ambition to play the organ in an Orthodox Church.



Now, we must go back to the ninth century where two monks, who were evangelising the Slavs (Saints Cyril and Methodius, who probably lived in Thessalinika) decided that the Greek Alphabet was not good for Slavic pronunciation, so they decided to invent one of their own. We call this “Cyrillic”. This is used in Russia and Bulgaria mainly. I thought I had mastered this, and was feeling pretty pleased with myself, only to find that the Serbs were ahead of me and had their own version, with some different letters! So, before each holiday in Croatia, I have to do a bit of revision. Well, as if that weren’t enough, for some reason, probably to do with annoying foreigners even more, our two saints and their team, decided to invent a whole

different alphabet, called “Glagolitic” which was used almost exclusively in the church. I hope you're following, because this is interesting. (Possibly- if you are into obscure linguistic stuff.) In their services, until about 150 years ago, both the Roman Catholics and the Orthodox used a language that was not the local one, but known as “Old Church Slavonic”. Indeed, priests and educated people in slavic countries, including Russia, could speak it to one another. So rather like Latin was for western Europeans four hundred years ago. But this was written in Glagolitic, which was the equivalent of turning it into Martian for people like me. I am NOT learning the Glagolitic alphabet! Serbian Cyrillic is bad enough.

John Glasspool

†	Ɑ	Ɱ	Ɐ	Ɒ	ⱱ	Ⱳ	ⱳ	ⱴ	Ⱶ
a	b	v	g	d	e	ž	z	z	i
ⱶ	ⱷ	ⱸ	ⱹ	ⱺ	ⱻ	ⱼ	ⱽ	Ȿ	Ɀ
i	g	k	l	m	n	o	p	r	s
Ɀ	ⱽ	ⱼ	ⱽ	ⱼ	ⱽ	ⱼ	ⱽ	ⱼ	ⱽ
t	u	f	ch	o	št	c	č	š	ъ
Ɀ	ⱽ	ⱼ	ⱽ	ⱼ	ⱽ	ⱼ	ⱽ	ⱼ	ⱽ
y	ь	ě	ju	ę	ę	ję	ję	f	ÿ

South Rwenzori Link



Come and hear about our projects

Beautiful garden at Old Rectory Stockbridge

(kind permission of Robin & Chrissie)

Tuesday 16th June

6.00 - 8.30 pm

Canapés/wine
soft drinks

Entry by donation

Guest speaker

Bishop Kelly,
Bishop of Basingstoke

ROMSEY
DEANERY
LINK
WITH
SOUTH
RWENZORI
UGANDA

Bishop Nason of South Rwenzori requests our prayers for the forthcoming clergy and clergy spouses conference in June 2026 to be a time for encouragement and growth.

Also Bishop Nason asks: "Kindly pray for us because Ebola is in the neighborhood. We pray that it doesn't enter into my Diocese and we pray for its disappearance from Uganda....."

House Duty (HfD) priest coming to King's Somborne

As you may have heard, Rev'd Ann Devereux has accepted the appointment of House for Duty Priest. [HfD means that she is provided by the diocese with a house to live in, but not a stipend (salary)]. Ann will be living in King's Somborne and working part-time. She is currently ministering in the Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley benefice. Rev Tom Benson will continue to be the Priest-in-Charge of King's Somborne.

Anne will be licensed for her new role on **Tuesday 7th July at 7.30pm** in St Peter & St Paul's church. If you would like to come along to welcome

Ann to our Group of parishes please send by 2nd July 2026 to

joanapleyard@aol.co.uk or janetoingleon@gmail.com

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

General

Messy Church Friday 29th May 3.30 - 5.30pm Braishfield Church Room (p 9)

Organ Festival at Awbridge Saturday evening in June (see p 9)

Ordination of Rev Anthony Cross Saturday 27th June 4pm (see p7)

Licensing of Rev Ann Devereux Tues 7th July 7.30pm (see p 13)

Prom Praise from the Albert Hall in Romsey Abbey Sat 6th June 7.30pm

Awbridge

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

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 2nd & 16th June 9.00am in Church

Awbridge Housegroup Tuesdays 9th & 23rd June 7 for 7.30pm Chanwel House

Craft & Chat Group Fridays 5th & 19th June 10.30am -12.30pm

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

Awbridge Lunch Club Wednesdays 10th & 24th June 12 noon, Church Rooms

The Ark All Saints Church Baby and Toddler group, every Friday in term times

9.15-11am, Awbridge Village Hall (ie Every Friday except 29th May)

Braishfield

Singalong for All Monday 15th June 2.30pm Braishfield Church Room (see p.8)

Village Voices Monday 22nd June 2-4pm, Church Room

Diary Date - Church BBQ Saturday 15th August

Farley Chamberlayne

Pre Walk BBQ Sunday 31st May 6:00 for 6.30 pm in the garden at Oakfield.

Minimum donation £15.00 per person for the church fabric fund. Pay bar for drinks. Please make sure Iain Chisholm knows in advance that you will be attending.

Farley Walk - the Farley walk will be *The Wayfarer's Walk (the 30th fund-raising walk arranged from Farley since 1996)* from Emsworth to Inkpen

Beacon on the North Hamshire Downs. The start will be on Monday 1st June from Farley and the finale dinner will take place at the White Heart in Overton.

Coffee and Chat Thursday 11th June from 10.30am in the church

Michelmersh

Extraordinary APCM Sunday 31st May at 12 noon in the church

Village Lunch Thursday 11th June 1pm Jubilee Hall Contact Sarah Medley sarahmedley5@gmail.com

Timsbury

Coffee, Croissant and Chat with speaker Tuesday 9th June 10.30am

Bible readings for JUNE

SUNDAY 7th JUNE - 1st SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Hosea 5.15 - 6.6

Epistle Romans 4.13-25

Gospel Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26

Psalm 50.7-15

SUNDAY 14th JUNE - 2nd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Exodus 19.2-8a

Epistle Romans 5.1-8

Gospel Matthew 9.35 - 10.8 [9-23]

Psalm 100

SUNDAY 21st JUNE - 3rd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Jeremiah 20.7 - 13

Epistle Romans 6.1b - 11

Gospel Matthew 10.24-39

Psalm 69.14-20

SUNDAY 28th JUNE - 4th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - St Peter & St Paul

Old Testament Zechariah 4.1-6a; 10-end

Epistle Acts 12.1-11

Gospel Matthew 16.13-19

Psalm 125

SUNDAY 5th JULY - 5th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

For Old Testament Zechariah 9.9-12

For Epistle Romans 7.15-25a

Gospel Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end

Psalm 145.8-15

Contemporary Worship

at

All Saints Church Awbridge

Sunday 14 June 6.30 pm

FRIDAY 29th MAY

3.30pm Braishfield **MESSY CHURCH** Team

SUNDAY 31st MAY - TRINITY SUNDAY

10.00am Farley Chamberlayne **UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION** J.Thompson
Preacher: M. Hatfield

SERVICES FOR JUNE

SUNDAY 7th JUNE - 1st SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am King's Somborne No service - see 10.00am
9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** J.Thompson
9.30am Braishfield **FAMILY WORSHIP** A.Manners
10.00am Timsbury(& Michelmersh) **MORNING PRAYER BCP** A.Cross
10.00am King's Somborne **HOLY COMMUNION** Bp Rhiannon
6.00pm Farley Chamberlayne **EVENING PRAYER BCP** J.Thompson

SUNDAY 14th JUNE - 2nd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

SUNDAY 21st JUNE - 3rd SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9.30am Awbridge **HOLY COMMUNION** J.Thompson
10.00am King's Somborne **HOLY COMMUNION** Visitor
11.00am Timsbury **HOLY COMMUNION CW** J.Thompson
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 **HOLY COMMUNION BCP** J.Thompson
6.00pm King's Somborne **ALIVE INFORMAL SERVICE** Team

SATURDAY 27th JUNE

4.00pm Winchester Cathedral **ORDINATION AS A PRIEST - Anthony Cross**

SUNDAY 28th JUNE - 4th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - St Peter & St Paul

10.00am King's Somborne **UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION
& PATRONAL FESTIVAL**
First communion celebrated by Rev Anthony Cross
3.00pm Farley Chamberlayne **BAPTISM** J.Thompson

SUNDAY 5th JULY - 5th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

BCP = Book of Common Prayer - traditional language