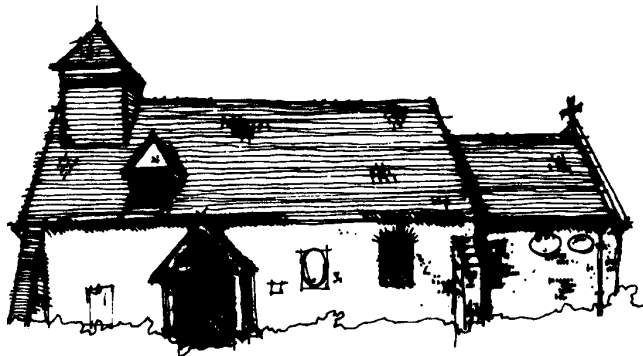


Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

July 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 Administrator: Sarah Boothman

Items for 5 Alive

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

**Deadline for
August edition**

Mon 20th July

This edition
will be available by
Sunday 26th July

From our Curate, Revd Anthony Cross

The song 'sumer is icumen in' – 'summer has come!' – is the oldest written song in the English language, copied down in the middle of the 13th century, probably around the time that work was started on St. John's, Farley Chamberlayne. As I write this on a damp and grey afternoon in mid-June, the hope of summer sunshine is still very much a hope for the future. We have seen a glimpse of sunshine and warmth in the mini heatwave in May, and we hold onto the hope of good weather to come.

By the time you read this, I will be on retreat in preparation for my ordination as priest on Saturday 27th June in Winchester Cathedral. There are three levels of ordination within the Church of England: deacon, priest and bishop. Last June I was ordained deacon, meaning servant. All clergy remain deacons throughout their ministry.

The liturgy of ordination, which is rooted in Scripture, tells us that priests are called to be servants, shepherds, messengers, sentinels and stewards. As servants and shepherds, we guide others whilst engaged in loving service to our communities. The role of messenger is the call to teach and preach to the people in our communities. As sentinels, or watchmen, we stand on the city walls between the secular and church worlds, observing what is going on in both and connecting the two for and with our communities. As stewards, we are to provide spiritual food for all, and to make best use of the resources we have been given.

As priests, we continue the work we do as deacons: preaching, ministering to the sick, and being a pastoral and spiritual presence within the benefices. But we also receive the ability to bless the people in God's name, officiate at weddings, and to preside at the Eucharist. I hope you will be able to join me as I celebrate my first communion at the King's Somborne patronal festival on Sunday 28th June at 10am. All are welcome.

We have further celebrations in July. Tom returns from his study leave on Monday 6th, and at 7:30pm on Tuesday 7th Ann Devereux will be installed as our House for Duty Priest in King's Somborne. We look forward to welcoming Ann and welcoming back Tom. We pray for them and their ministry.

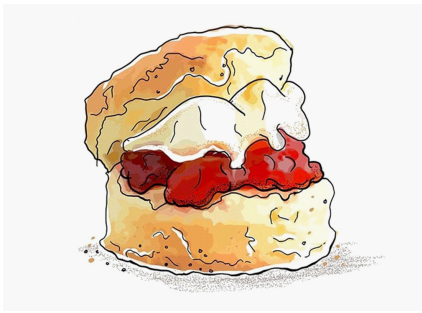
The summer weather may be inconsistent, but the love of God never wavers. As we enter into this season of sunshine, my prayer is that we all experience this love in all of our relationships and across our lives.

Anthony

An invitation for all church members

Rev Tom and Maryanne have kindly invited everyone to the annual **Cream Tea at the Rectory on Saturday 1st August.**

There are two sessions: **11.00 - 12.30** and **2.15 - 4.00.**



Please let Maryanne or Tom know which one you would like to attend on 01794 368335 or tbenson09@aol.com

Offers of scones to Maryanne, please!

There is limited parking at the Rectory for anyone with mobility issues. Everyone else please park at the Church Room SO51 0QH and walk up.

Please note: no parking in the road!

Winchester diocese - change to email addresses

If you have occasion to send an email to any officials in Winchester Diocese please note that all email addresses are being re-formatted.

Instead of **name.surname@winchester.anglican.org**

It will be **name.surname@winchesterdiocese.org**

Old addresses will work for a few months, but please update your contacts' lists soon!



Meadow Areas in Churchyards

In common with many local churches All Saints Braishfield is leaving several areas unmown for the summer. Paths have been cut through the grass to the north of the church so people can enjoy wandering through to appreciate the wild flowers and grasses.

This wonderful bee orchid is one of several growing in the roped-off area to the south of the church (*see photo below*). An interesting fact: bee orchids may only flower once in their lifetime, which explains their appearance in large numbers in some years and disappearance in others. The seeds germinate in the spring and can take as long as six years before they reach a flowering stage.

*Thanks to
Alan Lord
for the
photos*



NB
Awbridge definitely won the award for the most ox-eye daisies - a great profusion of them, interspersed with other wild flowers.

The Michelmersh Monthly Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the Michelmersh Monthly Draw

June 2026 winners

1 st prize	£70.00	James Bassant
2 nd prize	£35.00	Stuart Sachs
3 rd prize	£20.00	Carol Chapman

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

Welcome - and thank you!

If you glanced at the list of churchwardens inside the front cover you will have noticed two new names. Welcome to Mrs Franny Hornblow, who has been elected to serve at St Mary's, Michelmersh and to Mr Paul Newman, elected to serve at St Andrew's, Timsbury. Both, together with the other wardens from our churches, were sworn in at Romsey Abbey by Bishop Geoff Annas in a service on 18th June.

Franny succeeds Mr Peter Hill, who sadly died nearly two years ago, and Paul takes the place of Dr John Glasspool, who has stood down after 30 successive years' service. Welcome to Franny and Paul, and many, many thanks to John - who will still be very active in his roles as church organist and PCC Secretary among other responsibilities!

Ride and Stride – some background info....

What do you know of the **Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust?**

We are passionate about our ancient church heritage – we want to continue to give grants to churches in need, but to do this we need you to support our sponsorship campaign.

We also need more help to support our voluntary team, especially anyone with social media/communication skills – and of course a love of our ancient church buildings!

We are a charity formed in 1988 to support historic churches within Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Channel Islands with grants to help maintain and repair their buildings. We can award grants to churches of any Christian denomination, but they must be members of “Churches Together in England”. In this way we help to support our ancient building heritage and the local communities they serve.

Since foundation we have helped 319 churches scattered throughout our Trust’s region contributing 1 million pounds to essential repairs and refurbishment, where churches have struggled to find enough financial support to carry out the necessary works.

We have been donated over 1.1 million pounds in a large part by the incredible support of local church communities taking part in the **National Ride and Stride day (R&S)**, held on the second Saturday in September.

We are also fortunate to have benefitted from some significant legacies. We aim to spend the majority of our annual income each year through our grant giving; our expenses are minimal because we are all volunteers.

We reached our zenith of R&S donations in 2022 but since then our income has fallen. We are not sure why, but since 2019 the number of churches taking part in R&S has fallen each year from 136 in 2019 to 70 in 2025, although the total donation per sponsored church has remained unchanged.

In the past Ride and Stride has involved groups or individuals from a church getting sponsored to cycle or walk to as many churches as possible. However it has become a misnomer; sponsorship of any challenge on that day is perfectly permissible. Other examples are vintage car rallies and church bell ringing. Anyone can take part - you just need a modicum of imagination! Sponsorship money is divided equally between our charity and the church organising the event – a win/win for everyone.

We have an “easy-to-use” online fundraising platform, which can be accessed through our website <https://hihct.org.uk/>

Dr Tim Goulder Chairman

To contact H&IHCT please email: chairhihct@gmail.com

SUMMER SAX & BBQ

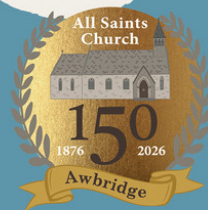


Licensed Bar
BBQ & Dessert
Raffle

Saturday 18th July 2026
7 - 10pm
Awbridge Village Hall



Tickets £20 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



Coffee, Croissants and Chat



come to hear about and see art of

Wildlife on your Doorstep

with a well-known local naturalist and artist

Tuesday 14th July 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.

Christian Aid Week 2026

Well done to Braishfield and Farley Chamberlayne for raising £1223.55 (inc Gift Aid of £173.55)) for Christian Aid.

This sum also includes £150 donated at the Lent Lunches earlier in the year.



Harbours of Hope: The Church Alongside Seafarers

Sea Sunday is a moment each year when churches around the world come together to pray for seafarers, give thanks for their vital work, and support The Mission to Seafarers' life-changing frontline ministry.

Seafarers are essential to everyday life, yet many work unseen, facing long periods away from home, isolation, and often dangerous conditions. Sea Sunday offers churches the opportunity to pause, reflect, and respond — standing alongside the men and women who keep our world moving.

Thanks to the prayer, generosity, and involvement of churches worldwide, The Mission to Seafarers is able to offer care, connection, and hope in ports across the globe. In 2025 alone, support through Sea Sunday and beyond helped us to:

- Make over 48,000 ship visits
- Provide shore leave transport for more than 150,000 seafarers
- Grow vital programmes such as our Family Support Network and SafeTALK suicide prevention training

These moments of care — a visit on board, practical help ashore, or someone to listen — can make a profound difference to seafarers far from home.

The Mission to Seafarers is a leading international maritime welfare charity and part of the Anglican church. The current Secretary General is Peter Rouch, who until 2020 was Archdeacon of Bournemouth.

Seafarers are responsible for transporting over 90% of the world's goods and fuels. Collectively there are an estimated 1.89m seafarers across the world operating on 74,000 ships. These men and women of all nationalities spend up to nine months at sea, far from families, friends and loved ones. The Mission provides help and support to these crewmen and women who face danger every day to keep our global economy afloat.

<https://www.missiontoseafarers.org> Sea Sunday is on 12th July this year.

Families

Some families are big,
Some families are small,
But no matter what size
It's the same for them all.

Families are fathers, that frown and say
"We didn't do things like that in my day!
That shirt's rather bright
That skirt's far too tight
Now tell me again, where you're
Going tonight"

Families are mothers, who flap and fuss
"Hurry up now or you'll miss the school bus!
Straighten your tie, tidy your hair
Are you sure those big ear-rings are what
You can wear?"

Families are brothers, that joke and tease
And when you're not looking they give you
a squeeze
They think they're much bigger and better
than you
And far more important in all that they do.

Families are sisters who share
all your things,
Your bedroom your records, your bracelets
and rings.
They use all your perfume and ladder
Your tights
Then keep you awake playing music
all night.

But God's family's a unit where we all belong
He supports us in trouble when things
Have gone wrong.
He shares in our gladness our sadness and fears.
He loves us and cares for us through
all of the years.

Thanks to Carol Renvoize for sharing this amusing poem which has a great truth in the final verse!

Braishfield parish church invite you to the

ALL SAINTS' SUMMER BBQ

Saturday 15th August from 4pm



in the church car
park, (church room if
wet)

Join us for a relaxed
afternoon of food, fun
and friendly company

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
DRINKS**

Bowl for donations,
suggested adult minimum
£5

Everyone very welcome!

Let us know you are coming by Monday 10th August for
catering purposes and to state dietary restrictions
email: seboothman@aol.com phone: 01794 368143 or add
your information to the list at church

Eco-tip for July.

It is **Plastic Free July** and this year A Rocha is thinking about laundry, a top source of microplastic pollution. Fibres from synthetic clothes (polyester, nylon, and acrylic for example) shed tiny fibres during washing and drying. These enter the sewage systems and are hard to filter out. Maybe we could use a microfibre bag or ball to catch the fibres. Learn more about reducing plastic pollution in the laundry process and about this year's campaign at www.plasticfreejuly.org



Photo: Irene Blake

News from Timsbury

'Timsbury's very own Agatha Christie' was the intriguing title of the talk at the enjoyable June Coffee, Croissants and Chat morning at St Andrew's Timsbury, the monthly event which continues to be well attended and much appreciated.

Michelle Newman, a parishioner at Timsbury, gave a talk about her time working as a Murder Detective in the Met which her audience found very interesting!



Hampshire Open Studios in August

Sue McLachlan. Animal Magic artist, will be exhibiting her work at her home in Newtown from 22nd - 26th August, 10am - 5pm, and also raising money for St John's Farley Chamberlayne through sales of refreshments and produce, and by holding a raffle.

Sue is a pet portrait artist, who also portrays landscapes, wildlife, and human portraits in oils, watercolour and iPad drawings. Her 13 year art business has developed and expanded to include traditional detail and looser style.

How to find the exhibition: Silkstead, Newtown Road, Awbridge, Romsey, SO51 0GJ From A27 Romsey to Salisbury turn right into Newtown Road signposted Newtown. Silkstead is 11th house past Doctors Hill on left hand side. <https://what3words.com/calculating.aimless.sweetened>

Dogs welcome. Toilet available. Gravel path, step into studio. Driveway, limited street parking.

Further info: Telephone 07818 062559 email: sue@animalmagicart.com
<http://www.animalmagicart.com>

Celebrating



1876

150
YEARS
2026

All Saints Church, Awbridge

Exhibition

Monday 3rd - Friday 14th August 2026

Church will be open during daytime

Donations Welcome



ROMSEY DEANERY LINK WITH SOUTH RWENZORI DIOCESE,
UGANDA

Bishop Nason Baluku of South Rwenzori requests our prayers for the big Youth Conference being prepared by his Diocese to take place in January 2027. The plan is for 30,000 young people to be involved, so it is a huge undertaking.

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....."



Awbridge village invited all village organisations to have a stand at the annual parish meeting or Assembly in May. All Saints Church highlighted their hospitality with coffee and home made biscuits. Ark, Craft and Chat and the Village Lunch, were other activities which were featured. All evidence of an active church community!

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

General

Licensing of Rev Ann Devereux Tues 7th July 7.30pm at King's Somborne (see p 15)

Cream Tea at the Rectory Sat 1st August - please book your place see p.4

Awbridge Church Exhibition Monday 3rd - Friday 14th August in the church, daytimes only

Awbridge

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

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 7th & 21st July 9.00am in Church

Awbridge Housegroup Tuesdays 7th & 21st July 7.30pm Chanwel House

Craft & Chat Group Fridays 3rd, 17th & 31st July 10.30am -12.30pm
Committee Room, Awbridge Village Hall - contact Sue Franklin 01794 322185

Awbridge Lunch Club Wednesdays 8th & 22nd July 12 noon, Church Rooms

The Ark All Saints Church Baby and Toddler group, every Friday in term times
9.15-11am, Awbridge Village Hall - ending for the summer on Friday 17th July

Braishfield

Singalong for All Not this month - starts again in September

Village Voices Monday 27th July 2-4pm, Church Room

Diary Date - Church BBQ Saturday 15th August

Farley Chamberlayne

Coffee and Chat Thursday 9th July from 10.30am in the church

Michelmersh

Michelmersh and Timsbury Lunch Club Jubilee Hall Thurs 16th July 1.00pm

Timsbury

Coffee, Croissant and Chat with speaker Tuesday 14th July 10.30am

Celtic Prayer Tuesday 21st July

Bible readings for JULY

SUNDAY 5th JULY - 5th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Zechariah 9.9-12

Epistle Romans 7.15-25a

Gospel Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end

Psalm 145.8-15

SUNDAY 12th JULY - 6th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (Sea Sunday)

Old Testament Isaiah 55.10-13

Epistle Romans 8.1-11

Gospel Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

Psalm 65.1-end

SUNDAY 19th JULY - 7th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Isaiah 44.6-8

Epistle Romans 8.12-25

Gospel Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

Psalm 86.11-end

SUNDAY 26th JULY - 8th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament 1 Kings 3.5-12

Epistle Romans 8.26-end

Gospel Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

Psalm 119.129-136

SUNDAY 2nd AUGUST - 9th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Isaiah 55.1-5

Epistle Romans 9.1-5

Gospel Matthew 14.13-21

Psalm 145.8-9, 15-end

House Duty (HfD) priest arriving at 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 moving from 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 her, please do!

SERVICES FOR JULY

SUNDAY 5th JULY - 5th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	J.Thompson
9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION	J.Thompson
9.30am	Braishfield	FAMILY WORSHIP	A.Cross
11.00am	Michelmersh (& Timsbury)	MORNING WORSHIP	J.Thompson
10.00am	King's Somborne	MORNING WORSHIP	S.Kirby
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	EVENING PRAYER BCP	A.Cross
6.30pm	Awbridge	DEANERY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP	J.Thompson

SUNDAY 12th JULY - 6th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	Farley Chamberlayne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	A.Cross
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	T.Benson
6.00pm	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION	A.Cross

SUNDAY 19th JULY - 7th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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	T.Benson
6.00pm	Braishfield	EVENING PRAYER BCP	T.Benson & A.Devereux
6.00pm	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	A.Cross

SUNDAY 26th JULY - 8th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

SUNDAY 5th AUGUST - 9th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

BCP = Book of Common Prayer - traditional language

Would you like to check information online or see 'Five Alive' in colour?

Visit <http://www.asbchurch.org> (Braishfield)

or www.awbridge.church (Awbridge)