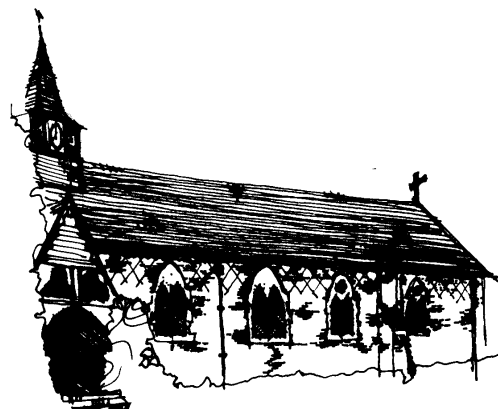
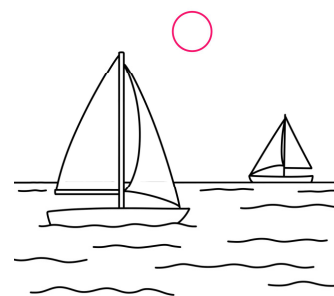
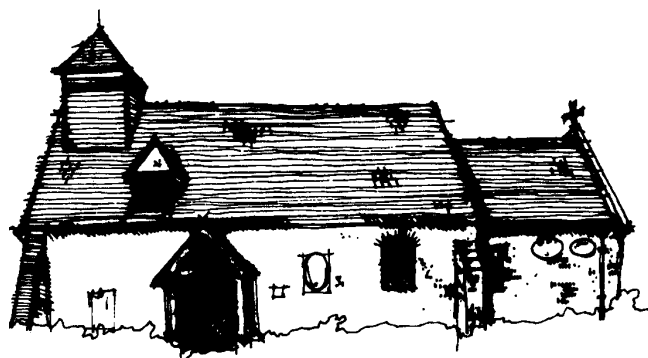




Five Alive!



A Monthly Magazine

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

August 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 Administrators: Sarah Boothman
& Kate Marshall

Items for 5 Alive

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

**Deadline for
September edition**

Mon 17th August

This edition
will be available by
Sunday 23rd August

From our Rector, Revd Tom Benson

Dear Friends,

August often feels different from the rest of the year. Schools are on holiday, many people take time away, gardens are in full bloom, and the sun is out. It is a season that reminds us of the importance of rest.

In the opening chapters of the Bible, we read that God rested on the seventh day—not because He was tired, but because rest is part of the rhythm of life that He created for us. In our busy world, it is easy to think that we must always be doing something, answering another email, completing another task, or rushing to the next appointment. Yet God invites us to pause, to notice His presence, and to be refreshed.

Jesus Himself often withdrew from the crowds to quiet places to pray. Even amid the demands of His ministry, He recognised the value of stepping aside to spend time with His Father. His invitation still speaks to us today: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Whether you are travelling this month, welcoming family and friends, working as usual, or simply enjoying the slower pace that August can sometimes bring, it is good to make space for moments of stillness. Sit in the garden with a cup of tea, take a walk through the countryside, watch the changing skies, or simply spend a few quiet moments in prayer. In these ordinary moments, we often become more aware of God's extraordinary grace.

As we enjoy the beauty of summer and look ahead to the busyness of autumn, may we remember that our strength comes not from constantly dashing about, but from resting in God's love and taking time to smell the roses.

In July we welcomed the Reverend Ann Devereux into our team and although she is primarily based in King's Somborne I am sure that we will be seeing her over the coming weeks across our benefice.

May God bless you, your families, and all those you love throughout this August.

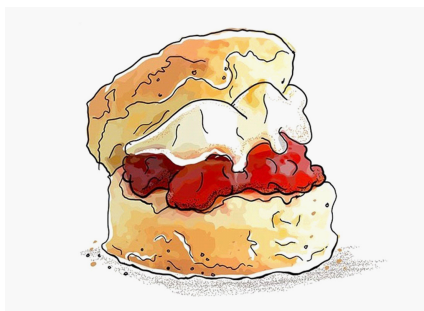
God bless you this season, Tom

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!

Prayer Spaces.....



At the end of term the Year 6 pupils at Awbridge were able to take part in Prayer Spaces enabling them to look at their time at school and the challenges and excitement of moving on to new schools in Year 7. This involved painted feet footprint journeys, praying for countries taking part in the World Cup and letting go of their worries!

Mary Savage and Rev Jane Thompson organised the activities for the young people.

Celebrating



1876

150
YEARS
2026

All Saints Church, Awbridge

Exhibition

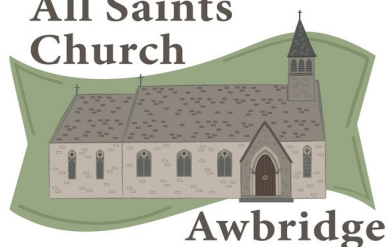
Monday 3rd - Friday 14th August 2026

Church will be open during daytime

Donations Welcome

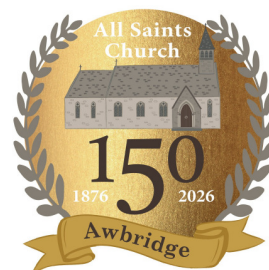


**All Saints
Church**



Awbridge

**Everyone is invited to
come to
All Saints Awbridge**



at 10am on Sunday 9th August

for a special service of Holy Communion celebrating

their 150th Anniversary

with Bishop Rhiannon, Bishop of Southampton

A message from Revd Anthony Cross

Dear all,

A very warm and heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone across the benefice who contributed to and attended my ordination as priest and my first Eucharist at King's Somborne. Thank you too for the lovely and generous gifts I have received. The pyx (a small silver holder for communion wafers) and the communion linens have taken up residence in my home communion case, and I look forward to using them in my visits around the benefices.

I would also like to express my thanks for the wonderful bring and share lunch. There was delicious food in abundance, and an amazing community feel to the whole event. My gratitude to those who co-ordinated the lunch, to all who prepared the food, and to the often-unsung heroes, those who moved tables and chairs, and did the washing up.



Speaking of abundance, all being well we are now in a season of priestly plenty, with Tom returned from study leave and Ann installed in King's Somborne. I would like to thank Jane for her support, wisdom and guidance, especially during Tom's time away. It has been immeasurable.

This celebration weekend has once again demonstrated the abundant and generous love of everyone across our benefices, and it is utterly joyous. My prayer for all of us is that we continue to share in that abundant and generous love across our communities and throughout our lives.

With heartfelt thanks,

Anthony

Anthony with his parents in the South Garth outside Winchester Cathedral following his priesting on 29th June. It was very special that his father, Revd. Canon Greville Cross was the preacher at Anthony's first celebration of Holy Communion at King's Somborne on 30th June.

Meet the Reverend Ann Devereux - *an introduction to the newest member of our clergy team, now living in the Vicarage at King's Somborne after being licensed by Bishop Rhiannon on Tuesday 7th July during a very joyful service.*

I was brought up in a large extended family and attended a Baptist church, Covenanters and youth camps. Although I had a Christian upbringing, family life was difficult, and I left home at 17 to make my own way in the world.

After five years as a police officer, I joined British Airways, which gave me the opportunity to travel extensively. Outwardly life was exciting, but inwardly I was running from reality, from the truth, and from God. Despite the glamour of an 80s lifestyle, I was deeply unhappy. Eventually I reached out to Jesus and was brought to my knees. This time I could no longer ignore his call.



I was baptised at 23, and the following years in London were full of joy, challenge and growth in faith. I then joined a mission team in Kentucky, USA, helping those who had been hurt by a charismatic fundamentalist Christian group. For 18 months I served the church through pastoral support and community outreach before returning to London, where God continued to guide and bless my life.

I trained as a Montessori teacher, established and ran a nursery school, and later moved to Southampton with my adopted son. After worshipping at St James' by the Park, I joined City Life Church, where I became actively involved while studying social work and working for eight years as a frontline child social worker, including fostering and adoption. To support family life, I later qualified as a secondary Religious Education teacher, where I was able to encourage and support young people while living out my faith.

During my first year of teaching, my youngest sister died from cancer. In that season of grief, I found a spiritual home at Ascension Church, Bitterne Park, where I fell in love with the liturgy, pastoral care and joyful community. I became deeply involved in church life, and when the vicar asked whether I had considered ordination, my first reaction was that I could never be good

enough. Yet the Holy Spirit continued to nudge and encourage me, and, in time, I answered God's call.

I noticed your vacancy some time ago, but after seeking advice it was clear the timing was not right.

Since then, my training incumbent moved on and our benefice has been in vacancy since October 2025. Over the past four years I have loved serving alongside the community at ACNB (*Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley*) and I now feel ready for this next chapter.

I look forward to living and serving alongside the people of King's Somborne and the wider Braishfield Benefice team, embracing village life—even the church bells through the night! Most of all, I long to share the love of Jesus, serve the community faithfully, and bring glory to our Heavenly Father.

Coffee, Croissants and Chat



and hear our fascinating speaker talk on

Brothers in Alms and Ancient Hospitality

Tuesday 11th August 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.

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



Hymns and Pimms

Come and join in on
Sunday 20th September, 5.00pm
at Braishfield Social Club
- outside if fine!

Hymn requests to Rev Tom by
Sunday 13th September or write on the
list at the back of the church

Everyone very welcome!

Organised by All Saints' Church

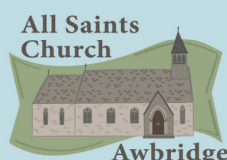
Braishfield

PIMMS & HYMNS

Sunday 30th
August 2026

5 - 6:30pm

All Saints Church,
Awbridge



Donations welcome

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.*

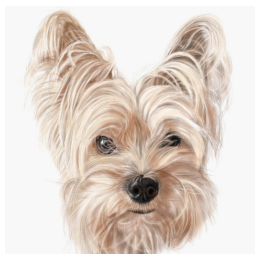
**Hosted by Braishfield
Ukulele Musical Society.**

BUMS



This is a free event.

If you would like more information or perhaps book us for an event contact:
jhldalton@hotmail.co.uk



Hampshire Open Studios supporting St John's

<https://what3words.com/calculating.aimless.sweetened>

Sue McLachlan. Animal Magic artist, will be exhibiting her work at her studio, **Silkstead, Newtown Road, Awbridge,**

Romsey, SO51 0GJ 22nd - 26th August, 10am - 5pm, and

also raising money for St John's Farley Chamberlayne through sales of refreshments and local produce/plants, and by holding a raffle. Please let Sue know if you are able to help by donating in any way. Please also visit and donate by having a cuppa and a piece of cake.

Sue is a pet portrait artist, who also portrays landscapes, wildlife, and human portraits in oils, watercolour and iPad drawings. 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>

N.B. **NO** Coffee and Chat at St John's, Farley Chamberlayne in August. Next one is Thursday 10th September, 10.30 - 12

The Michelmersh Monthly Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the Michelmersh Monthly Draw

July 2026 winners

1 st prize	£74.20	S Neil
2 nd prize	£37.10	Nick & Sarah Bone
3 rd prize	£21.20	David & Sue Phipp

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

Happy Birthday MSB!

Picnic and Concert Sunday 6th September St Mary's Church, Michelmersh

2026 is an auspicious year for Michelmersh Silver Band as it finds the band celebrating 140 continuous years of music-making. From humble beginnings as a village Temperance Band playing instruments purchased with money loaned by the then Rector of Michelmersh, the Reverend Canon Gore-Browne, the band has survived two World Wars and the Covid pandemic, to achieve the success it enjoys today.

Now considered one of the top bands in the South West, MSB as it is affectionately known, has achieved a standard of performance that village founders Tom Parsons and Thomas Topp would never have dreamed possible. Descendants of the two men still play in the band today, carrying the tradition into a fifth generation.

To celebrate this milestone in MSB history, we invite you to join us for a very special afternoon of celebration in our spiritual home of St Mary's Church on Sunday 6th September. The church grounds will be open from 2-00 pm for you to bring your own picnic (and seating), before the band performs a concert of music suited to a late-summer afternoon, in the church at 4.00pm. Proving the future of MSB is in very safe hands, the concert will also feature a performance by the very accomplished Michelmersh Training Band.



Entry on the day will be free with a raffle and bucket collection held for band funds.



SATURDAY 12th SEPT 2026

**Ride & Stride Day supports the fabric of our Churches & Chapels in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
This is a national fund raising event.**

Why not visit all the churches in the Benefice or go further afield to see more of the wonderful churches in Hampshire on Ride & Stride Day Saturday 12th September. Get yourself sponsored to raise some much needed funds for your nominated church – 50% of the sponsorship money for a nominated church is returned to them!

The Trust is run entirely by volunteers so almost all the money raised goes to our churches as grants for the maintenance, preservation and restoration of our church heritage.

Please join us and register for Ride & Stride on **Saturday 12th September**. If the date conflicts then pick another day to visit some of our county's wonderful churches by whatever means you wish! Enjoy a picnic and have a fun day exploring our wonderful cultural heritage!

Please raise sponsorship or make a donation. Click on the QR codes below. Participating churches in the County will be on Hihct website and it is best to check registrations shortly before the event.
<https://hihct.org.uk/participating-churches/>

Donate



Taking Part



www.hihct.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1181370

We already have some sponsored participants from two of our benefice churches - it would be great to have more!

Eco-tip for August: If you like flowers and butterflies why not join in the Big Butterfly Count, it is open till 9 August, see

<https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

We can also look after wildlife in the heat as drought and dryness can be dangerous for wildlife. Provide water for birds and insects - put a dish of water out to help wildlife stay hydrated. Insects, small mammals, birds, and even badgers, foxes, and deer could benefit. A stone in a plant saucer helps bees to perch and drink without drowning. These small actions make a big difference and are just some of the ways we can live out our calling to care for God's creation. See our blog on looking after wildlife in the heat for more warm weather eco tips: arochoa.org.uk/looking-afterwildlife-in-the-heat/



FLOWER FESTIVAL AT THE CATHEDRAL - a once every 4 years event

Experience Winchester Cathedral transformed by thousands of flowers, brought to life through immersive installations.

15th - 19th September

Prices:

£12 - £20 Book early, this event sells out!

Book online via Winchester Cathedral website

call 01962 857 275

or book in-person at the Box Office inside Winchester Cathedral

What's on? An over view of events in the Benefice in August/Sept

General

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 150th Anniversary Celebration Service with Bishop Rhiannon (see p.5)

Ride and Stride Saturday 12th September (see p.12)

Flower Festival Winchester Cathedral 15th-19th Sept (see p.13)

Awbridge

Pimms and Hymns Sunday 30th August 5 - 6.30pm Awbridge Church (see p.9)

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

Prayer Meeting Tuesdays 4th & 18th August 9.00am in Church

Awbridge Housegroup Tuesdays 11th & 25th August 7.30pm Chanwel House

Craft & Chat Group Fridays 14th & 28th August 10.30am - 12.30pm
Committee Room, Awbridge Village Hall - contact Sue Franklin 01794 322185

Awbridge Lunch Club Wednesdays 12th & 26th August 12 noon, Church Rooms
The Ark All Saints Church Baby and Toddler group, not meeting during August, restarts Friday 4th September

Braishfield

Singalong for All Not this month - starts again in September

Village Voices Monday 24th August 2-4pm, Church Room

Church BBQ Saturday 15th August from 4pm (see p.9)

Hymns and Pimms Sunday 20th Sept 5.00pm, Social Club (see p. 9)

Farley Chamberlayne

NO Coffee and Chat in August Next one Thurs 10th Sept 10.30am

Hampshire Open Studios supporting St John's 22nd-26th August (see p.10)

Michelmersh

Michelmersh and Timsbury Lunch Club Jubilee Hall Thurs 3rd Sept 1.00pm

Michelmersh Silver Band Picnic and Concert Sunday 6th Sept (see p 11)

Timsbury

Coffee, Croissant and Chat with speaker Tues 11th August 10.30am (see p.8)

Celtic Prayer Tuesday 25th August

King's Somborne

Marquee Markets Saturdays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd 29th August 10 - 12 noon outside the church

Bible readings for AUGUST /SEPT

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

SUNDAY 9th AUGUST - 10th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament 1 Kings 19. 9-18

Epistle Romans 10. 5-15

Gospel Matthew 14. 22-33

Psalm 85.8-13

SUNDAY 16th AUGUST - 11th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Isaiah 56. 1, 6-8

Epistle Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32

Gospel Matthew 15.[10-20], 21-28

Psalm 67

SUNDAY 23rd AUGUST - 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Isaiah 51.1-6

Epistle Romans 12.1-8

Gospel Matthew 16.13-20

Psalm 138

SUNDAY 30th AUGUST - 13th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Jeremiah 15. 15-21

Epistle Romans 12.9-end

Gospel Matthew 16.21-end

Psalm 26. 1-8

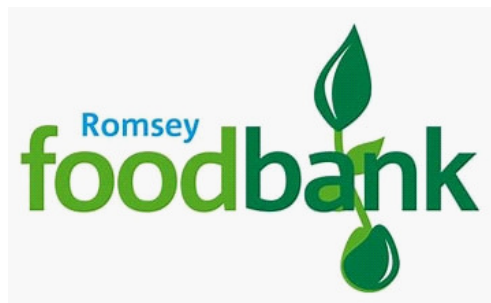
SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER - 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Ezekiel 33. 7-11

Epistle Romans 13.8-end

Gospel Matthew 18.15-20

Psalm 119. 33-40



The school holidays can be a difficult time for families on low incomes, with no school meals available. All donations for the Romsey/Andover Foodbank will be welcome. There are a variety of collection points including some supermarkets.

Smaller packets etc are most useful. All foods should be at least 3 months before the expiry of their 'best before' date when donated.

SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY 2nd AUGUST - 9th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	A. Devereux
9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	FAMILY WORSHIP	A. Manners
10.00am	Timsbury(& Michelmersh)	MORNING WORSHIP	J. Thompson
10.00am	King's Somborne	MORNING WORSHIP	A. Devereux & H.Rowe
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	EVENING PRAYER BCP	T.Benson

SUNDAY 9th AUGUST - 10th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	Farley Chamberlayne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	T.Benson
9.30am	Braishfield	NO Morning Worship	
10.00am	Awbridge	150th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE WITH BISHOP RHIANNON	T.Benson & J.Thompson
10.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION	A.Devereux
11.00am	Timsbury	NO Family Service	
6.00pm	Michelmersh	HOLY COMMUNION	T.Benson & A.Devereux

SUNDAY 16th AUGUST - 11th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

SUNDAY 23rd AUGUST - 12th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

FRIDAY 28th AUGUST

3.30pm	Braishfield	MESSY CHURCH	Team
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SUNDAY 30th AUGUST - 13th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00am	Timsbury Awbridge	UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION BAPTISM	Team
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SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER - 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00am	King's Somborne	HOLY COMMUNION BCP	A.Devereux
9.30am	Awbridge	HOLY COMMUNION	A.Devereux
9.30am	Braishfield	FAMILY WORSHIP	T.Benson
10.00am	Michelmersh (& Timsbury)	MORNING PRAYER BCP	A.Cross
10.00am	King's Somborne	MORNING WORSHIP	H.Rowe & S.Kirby
1.00pm	King's Somborne	BAPTISM	A.Devereux
6.00pm	Farley Chamberlayne	EVENING PRAYER BCP	T.Benson & A.Cross
6.30pm	Awbridge	DEANERY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP	J.Thompson

BCP = Book of Common Prayer - traditional language