

THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

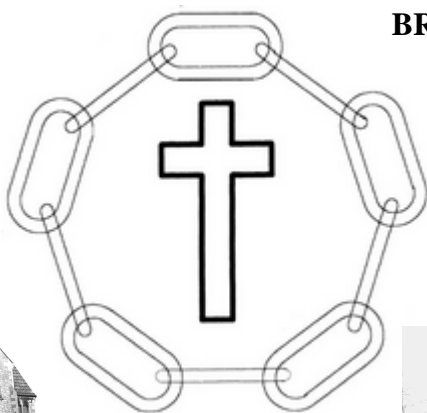
April 2008 Volume 43. No. 3.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



BURNHAM ON SEA



EAST BRENT



WEST HUNTSPILL

Superintendent's Letter

As I write this letter on Maundy Thursday I am anticipating all the events of Easter. The washing of the steward's feet this evening at Milton. The Leading of the Walk of Witness around the town in Weston, the preaching and leading of the worship at 6.30am. on Easter Sunday for the Sunrise service, as well as all the other services that I shall be taking, as well as a funeral after I have written this.

If one is not careful we can exhaust ourselves in doing, forgetting to experience the art of being. Don't get me wrong, I thoroughly enjoy all that is asked of me, especially in pastoral care and leading in worship. My concern is that if we are not careful we can race around like headless chickens forgetting what the purpose is of our existence.

I am greatly indebted to so many people across the circuit who give of their time and energy, as well as of their resources to maintain the worship and life of the Methodist cause entrusted to us. If however we fail to encounter the living God for which we are offering this service, then we need to pause and ask ourselves why we are doing it.

My thoughts are already beginning to think of Pentecost. Risen and Ascended the Lord promised to send the Holy Spirit to empower, lift and encourage the apostles and early church. This power was not only given to enable the work and mission of the church to move forward, but to enable the church to take time out to discern where God was leading them. The great festivals of the church encourage us to look back, look up, look forward and then to mission in the present day.

As we approach Pentecost may God enable us to perceive his will for us as individuals, and to discern his way for us as we seek to bring others into the light and knowledge of the Gospel.

My grateful thanks to all who are sharing the work load while Rev Stephen is still off sick, and our prayers and thoughts are with him as he looks to the future.

Every blessing

Robert.

CALENDAR

MARCH

Sat. 29th. 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

APRIL

Wed. 2nd 8.00pm. Wednesday Group

Thur. 3rd 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Speaker - Cllr. Dennis Davey.

Sat 5th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Choir

Sat 5th 6.30pm. A BIT OF A DO Supper & Show Tickets £7.00

Sat 5th 7.30pm. B & H Choral Soc Annual Concert at St John's Church Highbridge

Tues. 8th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Miss Ruth Burt - Rwanda

Wed. 9th 10.00am. LINK Communion at Brean - All welcome.

Sat 12th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

Thur. 17th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - T. B. A. (Sales Table)

Sat 19th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of Secret World - Burnham Methodist Hall

Sun 20th LAST Day for items for the May LINK

Tues. 22nd 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Tim & Bridget Christian – Musical afternoon.

Sat 26th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

MAY

Thur. 1st 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Ascension Day - Quiz.

Sat 3rd 10.00 - 12.30. RAINBOW FAIR

Wed. 7th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Walking Treasure Hunt.

Thurs. 8th 2.30pm. World Missions Circuit Easter Offering Service at Burnham. Speaker Rev. Carol Gill.

Sat 10th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

Tues. 13th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs. Beryl Griffiths - The Granny Trek.

Wed. 14th 10.00am. LINK Communion at Brent Knoll - All welcome.



Deaths

Mrs. Marjory Baxendale Funeral February 22nd at Taunton Deane Crematorium.

Mrs. Janet Terry Funeral March 18th at Burnham Methodist Church.

IN THE LIGHT OF EASTER

Preaching on Personalities of the Cross

The Link service held at Burnham on Easter Sunday evening brought to an end the Lenten series shared across all the Link churches.

We had looked at five themes each to be the subject in turn over the first five weeks of Lent: Peter and the male disciples, women disciples, disciples 'on the edge', Mary, and the opponents of Jesus. Over the winter months preachers had met together to discuss each of the themes, though each preacher was left to devise his or her own service.

In our discussions we had encouraged each other to think 'out of the box'. For example, when we talked about the women we agreed that copying and translation of scripture and the traditions of the Church had given women a raw deal. We questioned whether 'man' and 'mankind' shouldn't also mean 'woman' and 'womankind'. We asked whether women would have accompanied men when Jesus commissioned them in twos to prepare the way for him. We claimed the woman anointing Jesus with expensive oil was performing a priestly function, and we hailed Mary on Easter morning as the first evangelist of the Resurrection.

We tended to look at Mary the mother of Jesus, in rather more human terms than some of the ethereal images that have come to us through the ages, have presented her. As one of our number said, she was an Aramaean peasant woman, and we reminded ourselves that at the Cross she was a woman approaching 50 now probably bearing a countenance lined and weather beaten by her lifestyle in a Mediterranean climate.

And when we discussed the opponents of Jesus we asked how much their upbringing and the political and cultural climate of the day could explain the hostile attitudes of those who confronted Jesus. We also questioned whether Peter's denial of Jesus was any less sinful than Judas' betrayal.

Clearly, as preachers we have gained by the sharing together and we hope that the Link churches have also enjoyed a series of worship planned in this way. If this is so, it is possible that a further series could be arranged for later in the year, perhaps at Advent.

Harvey Allen

LINK COMMUNION

LINK Communion services are held on the 2nd Wednesday each month when members from the LINK Churches meet together for a Communion service followed by Coffee or Tea and biscuits with a time of conversation and friendship.

The Services move around the LINK Churches on a rota. Why not come and meet members from other Methodist LINK Churches and see for yourselves the other Methodist Churches in the LINK.

9 th April	Brean.
14 th May	Brent Knoll.
11 th June	Burnham.
9 th July	East Brent.
13 th August	West Huntspill.
10 th September	Brean.
8 th October	Brent Knoll.
12 th November	Burnham.
10 th December	East Brent.



EASTER OFFERING – WORLD MISSION

This year's service is on Thursday, 8th May at 2.30p.m. at Burnham Methodist Church. The theme of the service is "Making a Difference – Transforming Lives" The speaker is Rev. Carol Gill.

Di Smart,

Women's Network Circuit Secretary.

Burnham Methodist Church invites
all "Link" members to share in
Sunday Evening Worship at 6.30pm.

April 6 th	Rev. Margaret Trapp. Communion
April 13 th	Mrs. June Nethercot.
April 20 th	Local Arrangement
April 27 th	at St. Andrew's

On behalf of Churches Together I want to thank Nigel and Jo May and Colin Burt and their team of helpers, for erecting the crosses on Brent Knoll and in such wet and windy weather. Also to express our appreciation to the anonymous donor of the two new crosses.

Many people look for the Crosses to be there every year and we trust they will cause folk to ask questions and look beyond the wood to Jesus.

Again many thanks to all involved.

David Lee.



CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid has been named as the top non-government performer in the second Annual Global accountability Report by the One World Trust. Well done Christian Aid management!

Christian Aid Week this year will be 12th to 18th May, and helpers are needed in Burnham for the door-to-door collecting. This year we have the opportunity to collect at Tesco in Burnham on 3rd June. I will be drawing up a rota and would appreciate offers of help to hold the tin there for an hour or two.

Watch this space as we are hoping to organise a quiz during Christian Aid week, on Wednesday 14th or Friday 16th.

Cliff & Chris Wray.



FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT - TRADICRAFT SALES

The coffee morning, the sales after the Women's World Day of Prayer Service and the sales after the Burnham Service in the middle of the fortnight, totalled up to £127.32 sales and £25.30 donations.

Many thanks to all who participated.

Cliff & Chris Wray.



SOCIETY BREAKS NEW GROUND

On Saturday 5th April, Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society will again be delighting music lovers in the area singing two choral works, with orchestral accompaniment and guest soloists.

This year's Annual Concert will be works by Haydn, 'LITTLE ORGAN MASS and STABAT MATER, both new to the Society's repertoire.

The Society has acquired a reputation for quality and this concert in **St. John's Church Highbridge** at 7-30 p.m. on Saturday April 5th will be no exception.

Tickets at £7.50 will be available from G.C. Music, B.o.S, - Society Members and at the door.

Do Come. Celebrate the coming of Spring!

Saturday April 19th

10.00am – 12 noon

Burnham Methodists

invite everyone to a

Coffee Morning for Secret World.

Meet Pauline Kidner and some of her furry/feathered friends.

Raffle, cakes, bric-a-brac, cards, books and videos.

SPIRITUAL DEAFNESS

I often wonder, as I mingle with Christians in church, how many of them really are quenching their deep longings and thirst in God. On the surface it appears that in many cases they are; they sing lustily, raise their hands in worship, some even dance in church. But how many understand that life is not found in a church, but in God? Unless we draw our life from Him, not only on Sunday but every day of the week, we will be quickly drawn to other sources of satisfaction.



LIVING DANGEROUSLY

Everyone is thirsty.

Everyone longs and seeks to have their thirst satisfied.

Any attempt to satisfy that thirst outside of a relationship with Jesus Christ will lead to problems.

Can anything be simpler? If we do not find our satisfaction in God, we will find it elsewhere and in ways that violate the design of our beings.

Listen now to what the prophet Amos says will be the end of those who go to the temple on the Sabbath, engage in superficial worship, then go out to meet the needs of their souls in ways that dishonour the Lord:

“The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “when I will send a famine through the land – not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord.”

Follow me closely now because this was a serious issue for Israel: If you do not pay attention to the need of your soul to maintain a close relationship with Me, a time will come when you won't be able to hear My words and I will leave you to your own devices. In other words, if you don't heed My Word, Then you won't hear My Word.

From Selwyn Hughes book “Christ Empowered Living”
Both sent in by Harry Kempson.

GOODNESS and MERCY

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe.

So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbour if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her.

She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbour and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbour boy he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the boys walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally he said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?"

Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is."

The friend said, "Well, who is she?"

"That's Just Shirley Goodnest," Timmy replied, "and her daughter Marcy."

"Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us? "

"Well," Timmy explained, "every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!"

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always

Dennis Dixon

LINK VILLAGES FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday, February 26th Mr Arthur Steele showed some of his beautiful slides of the Hebrides and the north of Scotland. He gave a very interesting commentary on the pictures with the history involved.

Mrs Mary Witts who is a Course Director for Anglican tutors in Ethiopia told us of her work there on Tuesday, March 11th. She passed around one of her Course workbooks. She goes out to Ethiopia three times a year training the Ethiopian Biblical Students - a very inspiring talk.

On Tuesday, March 25th, we are to welcome Rev Robin Hutt to speak on the Annunciation.

Miss Ruth Burt will tell us of Uganda on April 8th.

We shall welcome Tim and Bridget Christian for a musical afternoon on April 22nd.

Mrs Beryl Griffiths will tell us of the "Granny Trek" which she did with a friend and two dogs walking from the- East Coast of England to St David's in Wales to raise monies for the Children's Hospice (South West) at Wraxall on May 13th.

We are always pleased to welcome anyone who would like to spend an hour with us on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month. At the close there is always a cup of tea and biscuits.

Eileen Goundry.

A BIT OF A DO

Supper & Show

Saturday 5th April

Tickets £7.00 on sale now from Jackie Morris ☎ 785249

Supper at 6.30pm

In aid of the Burnham Redevelopment Fund

BURNHAM.

March has been a month of preparation as many attended the excellent lent course or followed one of their own at home. Additionally there has been The Passion drama on TV to watch. It all seems almost too good to be true that Jesus could have dealt with sin forever, so I at least need lots of time and telling to really take it in, through all my senses.

We are glad that Stephen is gradually recovering, and continue to pray for him and for all the others we know who are not well at the moment and need our prayers. It was good to hear in the News that Shannon had been found. Also that Sports Relief did so well in raising money for young people in Liberia.

This year in Burnham the Methodist Church hosted the Women's World Day of Prayer, prepared by the women of Guyana, where we learnt about their country and pondered on the subject of God's Wisdom.

Building work has begun in Burnham, but it's 'business as usual' and as I write this we look forward to celebrating Easter in worship and sharing the joy of His resurrection. As we see gardens and parks coming back to life with flowers and blossoms may His new life bubble in our hearts and become translated into action.

We extend our love and greetings to all the people in the Link churches.

Chris Wray on behalf of the Burnham Stewards.



THANKSI would like to thank everyone who supported my Afternoon Tea which raised £107.20 for the Redevelopment Fund. Also thanks to all the helpers.
Mary Wilmott.

BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT

Bequests, grants, interest etc.	£33,866.91
Money Raised by members	£91,187.79
TOTAL	£125,054.70

FUTURE EVENTS

April 5th	6.30pm	“SUPPER AND SHOW”
May 3rd	10.00am	Rainbow Spring Fair
June		Afternoon Tea at Dorothy and Cedric May’s
July 9th		Coffee Morning at Hilary Wotton’s
August 6th		Lunch at Daphne Hill’s

“RAINBOW SPRING FAIR”

May 3rd. 10.00am – 12.30pm

Plants, gifts, toiletries, cakes, raffle & Coffee/Tea

Please support and make well known.

This is our major “spring” money raising event.

It is good to see the work on the new building as the foundations are being prepared.



NCH The Children’s Charity

During April we have our House to House Collection, Anyone who is able to collect no matter how small a street, please let me know so that we can continue to help the work of N. C. H.

Dorothy May.



BURNHAM-ON-SEA METHODIST CHURCH LIBRARY.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Recommended reading for March is "Who moved the stone?" by Frank Morison,

As I understand it, Frank Morison was a well known and very experienced barrister and either an agnostic or an atheist. He knew, or at least thought he did, that miracles do not happen and the resurrection of Jesus Christ was a miracle therefore it did not happen. He set out to write a book to prove once and for all what really happened. He would examine all the evidence, the record of the witnesses and so forth and with his legal experience and forensic skills show what was the true story. He says himself that this book was a book that refused to be written. When he weighed the evidence, looked at his experience of witnesses, trustworthy or otherwise over the years of his legal practice, he came to see slowly but surely that there was only one explanation for the resurrection - that it really did happen as the New Testament claimed that it did. Through trying to write a book to disprove the resurrection Frank Morison came to faith.

The book Frank Morison did write in the end is "Who moved the stone?" This book is about the evidence that convinced him that the Easter story is true. We have two copies in the Church Library and is recommended reading to all who want to seriously examine the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Stanley Pipet.



WEST HUNTSPILL

We were delighted to host the Women's World Day of Prayer this year for the Churches in Highbridge and the Huntspill's.

We are pleased to report that at least 6 Churches in the area were represented and that they all took an active role in the service. (there were also men and a child in attendance)

Everyone enjoyed the service with Rev. Joyce Plumb leading and the address given by Rev Christine Judson (Curate of St. John's Highbridge) was appreciated as she spoke on the seeming perversity of God's Wisdom.

The service was followed by tea and cake and a buzz of happy chatter and fellowship.



Good Friday Evening Service at West Huntspill Methodist Chapel.

Good Friday at the West Huntspill Methodist Chapel, was truly an ecumenical service. Taken by Kelton Black of the Highbridge Gospel Centre and attended by people from the Gospel, Methodist and Anglican churches.

A service of meditation and worship, centred on the Crucifixion, the theme of the bible readings were Smell, Touch, Sound, Taste, and Sight.

SMELL. The woman of Bethany who poured an expensive perfume over Jesus head, in Jesus words, " To prepare my body for the burial". We were each given a handkerchief with perfume on to smell.

TOUCH. The soldiers put a crown of thorns on Jesus head. We each touched a crown of thorns.

SOUND. Jesus was nailed to the cross. We heard the sound of a hammer knocking in nails

TASTE. Jesus was offered vinegar to drink on a sponge. We each tasted vinegar on a small piece of sponge.

SIGHT. The crucifixion must have been quite a spectacle. We were asked to visualise in our minds the scene at the time.

The hymns in our service were, "There is a green hill far away", "The old rugged cross", "When I survey the wondrous cross", "And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood ?". When we came to the final prayers, we had relived in our minds the Good Friday of over two thousand years ago.

Finally we left in silence, to go home and reflect and prepare for **EASTER DAY.**

BRENT KNOLL

We celebrated Women's World Day of Prayer at Brent Knoll in March, a service led by Margaret Trapp which was thoroughly enjoyable. The church was decorated with paper birds and fish from Guyana which had been made by the children and young people from all our groups. Our Mothering Sunday service was well attended and the flowers were wonderful.

Our youth groups are doing well although numbers have not been so high this year; we hope to have an advertising drive after Easter for the Shell Club. Any boys or girls from school years 2 - 6 are welcome whether they live in or outside of the village. We meet on term time Mondays from 6 -7.00pm. Activities include craft, board games, darts and bible study which will take place in May.

We have had a new surface laid at the front of the church which looks very smart and some more decoration inside is planned for the holidays. The hymnal ordered in memory of Gilbert Dibble has been ordered and I for one can't wait to try it out.

Saturday May 3rd at 10.00am. Please come along to our Spring Coffee Morning and enjoy refreshment and fellowship with us.

One issue very much on my mind at the moment is the problem surrounding teenagers; this can range from helping with the choice of academic options to the more serious such as involvement with drugs or coping with young people taking their own lives. There is no easy answer and I wish I had a magic wand; however what we can all do is to pray to give both the parents, family members and young adults strength to overcome their difficulties.

Sue Cox

BREAN

Another month has gone and we come to Easter weekend, but before that we celebrate Mother's Day and what a lovely service that was. We joined together at St Bridget's for it. The service was led by the Vicar, the Rev. Sally Lacy and the word 'Mother' was very prominent all through it – different kinds of 'Mother' even a mother who had had an abortion. It was a very moving and uplifting service and it was evident that it was felt by the large congregation present. We all received a spray of daffodils during the service – even the Dads too which was nice.

Next came Palm Sunday and we would like to say "thank you" to the Rev. Stephen Marr for a lovely service. I'm sure everyone present were blessed and uplifted and we had much to think about.

Another event this month was the Women's World Day of Prayer which was held at St Bridget's this year and a good number attended and was shared with St. Mary's Berrow as well. Judy led it and Mrs. Di Smart gave a very moving talk. Voices all around the Church could be heard taking part and we enjoyed a nice cuppa to finish with: Our thanks to Celia for once again arranging it.

All around the circuit, Lent courses have been taking place and now we face the happenings of Easter – with first the agony of Good Friday and then the rejoicing of the resurrection – a date in the calendar which means so much to Christians. Let us pray that folk who don't normally come to church will be moved to come on Sunday.

From Brean we send Best Easter Greetings – remembering all who are not well and any who are facing difficult times and we remember you all in our prayers.

God's Blessing to you all.

Lilian Stone.

AST BRENT

It was a shame that there were so few people at East Brent to listen to a meditation drama for Good Friday evening, written and led by the Reverend Stephen Marr and ably assisted by Robin Jenks, Mrs Marr and Di Smart.

“I was Right wasn’t I”, was the title, with dramatic readings with effects, and times for quiet meditation. It doesn’t seem to matter how many times the Easter Story is retold it can still enthral and focus your mind with fresh reasoning as to why it happened as it did.

Many thanks to Stephen Marr, for his thought provoking production. He must have spent a lot of time and effort in putting it together.

A Good Friday evening service has been held at East Brent for around eighteen years. It would be a great pity to have to stop now, through lack of support. We do thank Brent Knoll for their turnout.

The large cross – bare for Good Friday was decorated with flowers for Easter Sunday and then placed outside the Church, to remind people of the real meaning of Easter and that it is not just a holiday.

Our Church Council has been postponed until April to enable our Superintendent the Rev. Robert Channon to chair the meeting – hopefully the agenda will not be too long – so that we can enjoy tea and cakes afterwards – before making our way home.

Jill Legg

Minister

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www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk

www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org

**The Deadline for the
May 2008 “LINK” is
Sunday 20th April 2008**

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Please contact the Editor if you would like one.**

If you do not have the ‘LINK’ regularly and would like to do so, please fill in the slip and hand to a Steward. or send to the Editor.
Price £3.00 per annum. Inland Post £3.00 per annum.

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