
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

April 2009 Volume 44. No. 3.

Easter Greetings



Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Over the last few weeks momentum has been gathering pace as we get nearer to the Easter experience. I say experience because for me I can only begin to explain my own faith when I look at the whole event.

Each piece when put together explains the worlds need for forgiveness and in Christ we are not only forgiven but in God's unique way we are accepted into his family. This act has eternal consequences.

A life changed by God through Christ's saving act is in itself a miracle. The Easter experience was the only act that could make it all possible.

It took seven days to create the universe. It also took seven days from Palm Sunday to Easter morning give or take an hour or two. An event of such significance it put the world right with God its creator.

In the business of all the preparations still set aside for God, each day during Holy Week I'm opening the church each lunch time from noon for twenty minutes for meditation and prayer. I've also prepared a study guide to follow. This can mean that during this time we can spend the time in prayer together.

During Lent, Christian's spend time building up their own spirituality. This year during Holy Week we can spend time building up the fellowship of the Church and within the Link.

Every Blessing

Stephen

CALENDAR

APRIL

- Wed. 1st. 7.30pm. Stewards Meeting at Church
Wed. 1st. 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Easter Talk by Rev. Steve Ayers.
Thu. 2nd. 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Wedding Memories – Members.
Fri. 3rd. 7.00 for 7.30pm. Fashion Show by Dorothy Howkins of W-s-M at Burnham Methodist Church
Tickets £5.00 from Dorothy May.
Sat 4th. 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Wednesday Group
Sun. 5th. am. Traidcraft table in the Hall
Sat 11th. 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome
Tue. 14th. 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Members Afternoon – Bring & Buy.
Thu. 16th. 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Mrs. June Nethercot.
Sat. 18th. 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of RNLI - Burnham Methodist
Sun. 19th. LAST Day for items for the May LINK
Mon. 20th. 7.30pm. Circuit Men's Supper Club - Peter Lamb – "Electrical Household Appliances"
Sat 25th. 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome
Tue. 28th. 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning at 4 Monmouth Farm Close Pawlett. Home of Rev. Robin Hutt & Ethel see page 4.
Tue. 28th. 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Paul Larcombe

MAY

- Sat 2nd. 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Thursday Fellowship.
Sat 2nd. 10.30 - on. Coffee Morning and Sale. Brent Knoll Methodist
Sun. 3rd. am. Traidcraft table in the Hall.
Wed. 6th. 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Trip to the Theatre.
Thu. 7th. 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Mr. Harry Kempson.
Sat 9th. 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome.
Tue. 12th. 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - New Horizon Singers – Collection for SURE (Somerset Unit Radiotherapy Equipment)



EASTER OFFERING DEDICATION SERVICE

This year's Dedication Service of the Easter offering is at Victoria Methodist Church on **Sunday, 17th May at 6p.m.** Tea will be served from 4.30p.m. giving us a time for fellowship and catching up with friends from around the Circuit. The speaker this year is Rev. Thurairajah Samuel, Superintendent of the West Mendip Circuit and who comes from Sri Lanka.

I'm fairly sure you know that the Easter Offering raises much needed money for the 'Fund for World Mission'. The service was prepared by the Past-President of Women's Network, Pam Turner and Mission Education. The theme of this year's service is "The Way".

This act of worship enables the whole church in Britain and Ireland to give to the work of the 61 Methodist Partner Churches overseas, so it seems only right that this year we are having a Circuit Sunday service (as is the custom in many other circuits) so that **EVERYONE** can join in, instead of being on a weekday which excludes so many people.

Let us all come together, on this special day, to worship God with joy and thanksgiving.

With blessings,

Di Smart

Women's Network Circuit Secretary



Rev. Robin & Mrs. Ethel Hutt

Invite you to celebrate Robin's 70th birthday

by coming for Coffee & Cake on

Tuesday April 28th 10.00 – 12.00

to raise money for **THE EVE APPEAL**

research into ovarian cancer

Remembering Mary Hutt and Ann Martin.

So, no presents, just come to

4 Monmouth Farm Close, Pawlett

off Old Main Road, opposite the British Legion.

Fashion Show

By Dorothy Howkins of W-s-M

In Burnham Methodist Church

On Friday 3rd April

7.00 for 7.30pm

**Tickets £5.00 Inc Tea/Coffee Biscuits
in aid of Redevelopment Fund**

130th Anniversary
Burnham-on-Sea Methodist Church

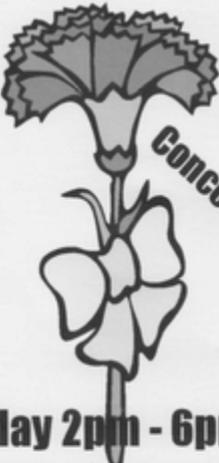
Flower Festival

June 5th, 6th and 7th

Refreshments
Organ Music
Cards
Plants
Concert Friday 6.30pm

Friday 2pm - 6pm
Saturday 10am - 6pm
Sunday 12md - 6pm

Services at 10.30 and 6.30 led by Reverend Ward Jones





Brent Knoll Crosses

Thanks to Jamie Gordon of Taunton for this photo

Palm Sunday 5th April 2009

Services to be held at

3.00pm on Brent Knoll

4.00pm at Brent Knoll Methodist Church

Please join us in this demonstration of the
Easter message to the surrounding area

Please remember that you are responsible for your own safety whilst on Brent Knoll.



Just a thought

If your lips would save from slips
Five things observe with care,
of whom you speak, to whom you speak,
and how, and when, and where.

Dennis Dixon

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

There was a very good attendance on Tuesday, February 24th, when Mrs Pat Leslie gave a power point presentation about the Peter Gillard Memorial School in India. Mr Gillard had lived in Highbridge and become interested in a school in a very poor part of India. When he became ill with cancer, he decided to donate funds for the school. Mrs Leslie told us that there are many fund raising events in this area and many people sponsor children. Materials are very limited - the children still use slates and chalks - books which have been donated are left unused on the shelves. The children are educated up to the age of 15 years. Some children board as they are orphans. They have uniforms for school and National Costume on special occasions. At the close of a very informative talk, a collection was taken for the furtherance of the work at the school.

On March 10th. We were pleased to welcome Rev. Pam Pembro who told us the story of Susanna Wesley who was the 25th child in her family. She was a very educated woman in classics. She married Samuel Wesley and bore him 21 children several of whom died in infancy. She taught all her children in their letters which should be learnt in one morning. She spent part of each day in prayers with the children. It was quite a tempestuous marriage. Pam had researched her subject well. We had two visitors who had come to hear about Susanna Wesley.

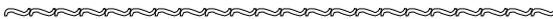
On March 24th. Yeo Valley Dairies are to give a video talk on the Dairy Farm and the need to diversify into yogurt making.

April 14th. is to be our annual Members' afternoon when there will be a Bring & Buy stall.

Rev. Paul Larcombe is to be our speaker on Tuesday, April 28th.

On May 12th. The New Horizon Singers from Taunton will entertain us with a selection of musical items. At the close there will be a Collection for S.U.R.E. (Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment) at Musgrove Park Hospital

Eileen Goundry.



ARE YOU??

Giving to your Church through Gift Aid

Gift Aid increases the value of donations to UK charities (The Methodist Church) by 28p for every £1.00 given by you, by allowing them to reclaim basic rate tax on your gift.

Making sure you've paid enough tax to use Gift Aid

You can use Gift Aid if the amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax you've paid in any tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next) is at least equal to the amount of basic rate tax the charity is reclaiming on your gift. You don't necessarily have to be working to be paying tax. Apart from tax on income from a job or self-employment, the tax you've paid could include:

- tax deducted at source from savings interest
- tax on State Pension and/or other pensions
- tax on investment or rental income

How to check if you've paid enough tax

To work out if you've paid enough tax to cover your donations, divide the donation value by four. For example, if you give £100 in a particular tax year you will need to have paid £25 tax over that period. ($£100/4 = £25$). (Note that this calculation is based on the basic rate tax of 20 per cent)

If you don't think you've paid enough tax this year, you may be able to backdate your donation. Or you can limit the amount that is Gift Aided if you pay only a small amount of tax.

But only UK tax counts, so if you only pay tax outside the UK you won't be able to use Gift Aid.

For further information please see your Church Envelope Secretary



THE MANY PARTS FORM ONE BODY!

CORINTHIANS 12:12 NIV

There is a wonderful story about Jimmy Durante, one of the truly great entertainers. He was asked to do a show for World War II veterans. He told them he was very busy but if they wouldn't mind him doing one short monologue and leaving immediately for his next appointment he'd go, they agreed. But when Jimmy got on stage he went through the short monologue then stayed and stayed. Soon he'd been on stage 15, 20, then 30 minutes. Finally he took a last bow and left. What happened?' Jimmy answered, - you can see for yourself if you look on the front row'. In the front row were two veterans, each of whom had lost an arm in the war. One his right arm and the other had lost his left. Together they were able to clap and that's exactly what they were doing, loudly and cheerfully.

That's a picture of what happens in church: -but the many parts make up only one body when they are all put together. So it is with the 'body' of Christ. But to enjoy its benefits you have to go, and when you get there you must reach out to others so that you can know and be known, strengthening and being strengthened. Pew-sitting, back of the head fellowship won't do. Someone sitting next to you has 20/20 vision where you have blind spots. You need their counsel, correction and comfort; and they need yours. When that happens, the church is working like it's supposed to



**“WHO EVER SOWS GENEROUSLY WILL ALSO REAP
GENEROUSLY!**

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 Niv

Have you ever gone to a restaurant with somebody whose meal cost £8, and watched them struggle over the tip? They have £2 in change, and they know that leaving just £1 might be thought of as stingy. Yet do they leave £2? Not on your life! That would be too much. Instead they'll waste ten minutes getting change for that second pound so they can leave £1.50 tip and save themselves 50 pence, rather than 'sow generously' and leave a little extra. What would have happened if they'd left the full £2? They would have made the waiter or waitress's day. Fifty pence may not seem like much, but the message that goes along with it can mean the world to someone. It says, 'Thanks, you did a good job, I appreciate you. You're valuable.' Maybe this message gets lost; your server just sweeps up the tip without counting; but you, the one who 'sows generously' will still 'reap generously'. What an opportunity. We can increase

the happiness of others, and bless ourselves, with just pocket change. This is just one tiny example of the many ways in which the small things we do have surprisingly big repercussions. Small acts of kindness set the tone for our day. Going the extra mile whether it's a slightly larger tip. An unexpected compliment or gift, or just holding a door open for someone - costs very little and gets you a lot. And here's one more thought: we can have mountain-moving faith, understand and explain all the deep doctrines of the Bible and get top marks for personal holiness, yet God's Word says that without love 'I am nothing' (1 Corinthians 13:2).

Harry Kempson. from "Bible In a Year Reading:"



Dennis's Jottings

Two Ministers were having lunch at a farm during the progress of certain church anniversary celebrations. The farmer's wife cooked a couple of chickens, saying that the family could dine on the remains after the visitors had left. But the hungry Ministers wolfed the chickens bare. Later the farmer was conducting his guests round the farm, when an old rooster commenced to crow loudly. "Seems mighty proud of himself" said one of the guests. "No wonder" growled the farmer, "he's got two sons in the Ministry!"



A wood merchant retired with a fortune of £500,000. That was success. His ability to retire with £500,000 was due to hard work, strict attention to duty, absolute honesty, economic living and to the death of his uncle who left him £499,900.



A middle-aged man shuffled along bent over at the waist. As his wife helped him into the doctor's waiting room a nurse viewed the scene with sympathy, "Arthritis with complications?" she asked. The wife shook her head, "Do it yourself" she explained, "with concrete blocks

Dennis Dixon

BREAN

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

Now where was I? Yes, looking forward to Lent, and our ecumenical study group. The first meeting was on Shrove Tuesday so what better way to begin than to enjoy Judy's pancakes. We all enjoyed them so much (and the fellowship around the table too of course), that we decided this would be the way to go for the remaining study sessions. Food for the body and then food for mind and spirit. No one seems to be fasting in Lent it seems – or at least not the 7 or 8 of us in the group. And besides, meals were a common feature in Jesus' ministry.

Like those of you who are linked in to the Burnham Churches Together scheme, we are studying the York course that has been recommended, and are finding it very stimulating.

Talking of food we also hosted the Circuit Preachers Study Day too – and guess what, a splendid hot meal was provided for us in the middle of the day by the ladies of the church. It was a good day all round with the District Chairman at the helm for the study sessions.

Food also provided the platform from which our Church Council gained inspiration on the 8th March. Worship (with communion also), gave way to soup and salad and puddings, and then in a thoroughly proper state of mind we gave our attention to the business of the day.

In the middle of all this, there was the Circuit Men's Supper Club which meets at Victoria. Those of us who go there (ask Harry!) know that the large amount of delicious food served up is not for the faint hearted!

Lent – well I ask you!!!

But then we have been chastened to learn of the passing of Joan Gilbert. Joan (then Joan Morgan) came to the village in the early 1980's with her then husband who died soon afterwards. Her second husband died earlier in the year and Joan decided to return to family in Wales towards the end of last summer.

Walter Godwin is now back home after a period in hospital following a fall. His enthusiasm for life continues undaunted as any visitor will tell you and we hope he will feel able to come back to church very soon

April fills us with anticipation for the returning and new visitors. They provide an important fellowship for us as we share worship and then a coffee and biscuit afterwards. How grateful we are for those who week after week cheerfully provide us with nourishment.

Most importantly, have a very blessed Easter from all of us at Brean.

Harvey Allen.



EAST BRENT

We have been rather depleted in numbers during March with people away on holiday or away unwell.

I am only able to attend every other week through work commitments. It was lovely on Sunday the 15th to see so many in Chapel for the baptism of Joshua and we welcomed him and his parents Lee and Victoria and the rest of his family to a lovely service taken by Margaret Trapp. What a beautiful spring morning it was, let's hope it continues until Easter.

We would ask you to continue praying for David and Eileen during a very difficult time.

Ann Julyan.

BRENT KNOLL

What short memories we have! Not so very long ago we were grumbling about the endless cold and almost resigning ourselves in advance to yet another spring and summer like last year's. Now after a few days of lovely warm sunshine daffodils everywhere and the birds loudly proclaiming their territorial rights, our woes are forgotten and we rejoice in the beauty all around us. We are fortunate to live in a land where God's creation isn't being destroyed by warfare or exploitation for material gain.

At Brent knoll we are looking forward to Palm Sunday when, after the ceremony on the Knoll, we shall be welcoming everyone to a service in our chapel and a chance to chat over tea afterwards. We hope to see a good crowd and that the less hardy who don't feel up to climb - and descent - will join us just for the time together in the church.

We very much enjoyed the Women's World Day of Prayer service held, for our area, this year in Bleadon Parish Church. It was particularly special in that the Rev. Bethan Guttridge gave the address, having travelled from Watchet where she is now stationed. She intrigued us with a demonstration of weaving, using strips of paper each representing the many and varied gifts which make up the body of the Church and which to our amazement, when completed, and she lifted it up revealing the cross on the back. No glue, no surreptitious bits of Selotape, no paper clips. All very clever.

In case I put off any would be donors to BIBIC. I feel I should report that the matter has been satisfactorily resolved. Apparently the original cheque went missing in the vast quantities of data at Weston Daily Press office and another cheque sent direct to BIBIC, has now been gratefully acknowledged.

Time passes quickly and I realise it is not unduly early for me to announce the date of our spring Coffee Morning and Sale. It will be on Saturday, May 2nd from 10.30am onwards and we hope for your support

We send Easter greetings to all our friends in the Link

Barbara Drew.

BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

It is so hard to realise that almost 3 months of 2009 have gone. During the last few days of glorious sunshine we have been able to see many changes in the gardens and countryside. The spring flowers are flowering well, new leaf growth is showing on trees and the birds are busy building their nests. On Sunday 29th we have to remember to put our clocks forward an hour and so beginning British Summer Time

We are part way through lent, having had Mothering Sunday remembering our own mothers and the Mother Church. On April 5th at the morning service on Palm Sunday the choir will be singing John Peterson's "No Greater Love". In the afternoon for those able to walk to the top of Brent Knoll there will be a short service at 3.00pm. followed by a service at 4.00pm. in Brent Knoll Methodist Church. On Maundy Thursday a communion service will be held at 7.00pm. in East Brent. Good Friday Services will be at 10.30 am at Burnham and 7.00pm. at West Huntspill. On Easter Sunday am. Services at 8.00am. and 10.30am. will be taken by our minister Stephen. Our greetings there is Hallelujah, He is risen, He is risen indeed.

As I said at the beginning how quickly to months are speeding by. We realise that Stephen is preparing for his move to Liverpool to become Superintendent. We understand his final service will be on the 5th of July. I have met our new Minister Andrew Biggs and his wife Julie when they visited all the link churches on 24th January. The meeting was very brief 25 minutes and this was spent showing them around our premises. We shall look forward to getting to know them and working with them. The welcome service will be in Burnham on Wednesday 2nd September.

We remember all those who are unwell and unable to get to worship. You are remembered in our prayers. Our Easter greetings to everyone in the Link churches.

Dorothy on behalf of the Stewards.

BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT

The money raised now stands at £215,579.01 I am still unable to give the final report.

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 3rd. Fashion Show by Dorothy Howkins of Weston Super Mare. Tickets available from Dorothy May

June 25th. Afternoon Tea at the home of Dorothy and Cedric May.

The major event being planned is the

“FLOWER FESTIVAL AND CELEBRATION OF THE 130TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY” JUNE 5th – 7th.

Friday 5th Opening at 2.00pm with a Concert in the evening.

Saturday 6th Church open for viewing of arrangements from 10.00am - 6.00pm

Sunday 7th Special Services led by the Chairman of the District, Rev. A. Ward Jones. The evening service will be a special "Favourite Hymns".

There will be “*Birthday Tea*” at 5.00pm and cutting of the cake.

The Church will be open for viewing of arrangements from 12.00am – 6.00pm.

Further details later but we ask for your help and support. If you would like to help in anyway, or wish to know more, please contact me.

Joyce F. Plumb



Action for Children

In February I was able to send £580.00 from the home collecting boxes. I would like to express thanks to everyone who has a box. If anyone would like to have a box please let me know.

During the month of April we have been allocated our house to house collection in Burnham. If you are able to help no matter how small an area please let me know. Dorothy 784204

On the 24th March we held a store collection at Sanders Garden World and collected £260.00. Our thanks to those who helped with this collection.

Minister

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**www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk
www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org
www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com**

**The Deadline for the
May 2009 “LINK” is
Sunday 19th April 2009**

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