
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

April 2010 Volume 45. No. 3.



Photograph by Nigel May

Minister's Letter

Driving down the motorway this week I had a strange experience - I began to feel uncomfortably warm! The sun was shining and as I looked down at the display in my car which shows the outside temperature I noticed that it was registering 15 degrees! What a difference from only a week or so ago when I was still putting on my scarf and gloves to go outside!

This unfamiliar warmth, along with the flowers blooming in our pots and the strange antics of the birds in the garden are sure signs that spring is almost here. What a blessing after the cold winter we have endured!

The changing of the seasons at this time of year is a good metaphor for the parallel changing of the seasons in our church life. As we reach the end of Lent we begin to play out in our liturgical life the great drama of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, the passion and the empty tomb.

This is the most important season of all for the Christian church. It is far more important than Christmas which celebrates a birth because Easter celebrates the reason for the faith – the empty tomb which signified that Christ was not held by death but had risen, enabling humankind to be reconciled to God through faith in Him.

At this time of year I think it is important that we keep this firmly in the fore front of our celebration. Just as the presents, parties and festive customs at Christmas can obscure the central message of Christ's birth, so placing too much emphasis on chicks, fluffy bunnies, chocolates and flowers can obscure the central message of the empty tomb.

It can sometimes help to try and imagine the events as they would have been experienced by those who originally lived them out. As we experience through our liturgies the events of the last supper, and the crucifixion, *we* know that all will be well on Sunday, *they* didn't.

I'm reminded of Tony Campolo - a speaker at Greenbelt many years ago who gave the sermon at the Sunday communion. I remember the effect his words echoing across the countryside had on me as he shouted "Its Friday BUT SUNDAY IS COMING!"

HAPPY EASTER!

Rev. Andrew

CALENDAR

MARCH

- Sat. 27th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome
Sat. 27th 7.30pm. Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society concert at St John's Church H/B
- Sun 28th 10.30 & 6.30 Palm Sunday
Sun 28th 3.00pm. Crosses on Brent Knoll.
4.00pm. Service at St Mary's East Brent.

APRIL

- Thur. 1st 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - "Call my Bluff".
Thur. 1st 7.00pm. Maundy Thursday Service at Burnham
Fri 2nd 10.30am. Good Friday Service - Burnham
Fri 2nd 7.00pm. Good Friday Service - West Huntspill Methodist Rev. Andrew Biggs.
- Sat. 3rd 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Choir
Sun 4th 8.00am. Easter Communion - Burnham
Sun 4th 10.30 & 6.30 Easter Day Services.
Wed. 7th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - An evening with Rev. Andrew Biggs.
- Fri 9th Young People's Easter Party - Burnham Methodist
Sat. 10th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome
Tue. 13th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Members Afternoon – Bring & Buy.
7.30pm. Messy Church Meeting.
- Thur. 15th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Members Favourite Poems
Sat. 17th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of Singing Children of Africa All Welcome
- Sat. 17th 7.00pm. Barn Dance In aid of RD Fund in Burnham Methodist Hall.
- Sun. 18th LAST Day for items for the May LINK
Sun. 18th Open Gardens in Brent Knoll in aid of St. Michael's Church
- Sat. 24th CRAFT & PRODUCE SHOW at Burnham Methodist Church.
- Sat. 24th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome
Tue. 27th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - New Horizon Singers – Collection for SURE (Somerset. Unit Radiotherapy Equipment).

MAY

- Sat. 1st 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Sunday Club
Sat. 1st 10.30 - 12.00. Spring Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll
Wed. 5th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Reflections on being the Mayor.

CALENDAR Cont.

MAY

Wed. 5th	6.00 – 8.00pm.	Tea/Coffee and Dessert at 14 Priory Gardens.
Thur. 6th	2.30pm.	Thursday Fellowship - Simon Anderson – “Support Dogs”. Open invitation to other Churches (Collection)
Sat. 8th	10.00 - 12.00.	Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome.
Tue. 11th	2.30pm.	LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Stanley Pipet – Bert Brown & his Fuchsias.
Sat. 15th	10.00 - 12.00.	Coffee Morning in aid of Singing Children of Africa - All Welcome.
	am.	Prayer Morning in Burnham Church.
Sat. 15th	7.30pm.	Cheddar Male Choir at Victoria Methodist Church. in aid of Burnham Redevelopment Fund.



Young People's Easter Party

On Friday 9th April we will be having an Easter Party at Burnham church for young people aged 13 and over who are associated in some way with one of the Link churches. If you know of anyone who might like to come please let us know and we can let them have an invitation.

Thanks, Rev. Andrew & Julie Biggs



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday, February 23rd, Mr. Roger Flower gave a very interesting, illustrated talk on the work of B.A.R.B in the many various types of rescue the vessel does in this area - stranded bathers, dinghies, cows, horses etc. The first rescue hovercraft "Spirit of Lelana" is now showing signs of being in need of replacement so funds are urgently required.

The craft named for Lelana's sister "Life of Elizabeth" is still very necessary. A collection was taken for their running costs.

Mrs. Pearl Hunt presented a display of butterflies in various media which she had collected over the years following the death of her son

when she was not a Christian. Through prayers and a healing service she found Christianity and now gives talks on her experiences.

On Tuesday, March 23rd, our Speaker is to be Mrs. Jean Tinknell. We look forward to hearing her again.

As we were unable to meet on January 12th owing to the snow we shall have our talk on Reduce, Recycle and Rescue your Waste by Hilary Manning on April 13th.

We look forward to a return visit by "The New Horizon Singers". This Choir sings all over the area and raises funds for S.U.R.E. - Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment at Musgrove Hospital, Taunton. There will be a collection on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 27th.

Rev. Stanley Pipet is to give a talk on Bert Brown and his Fuchsias on May 11th. Stanley has a great interest in Fuchsias - types and propagation.

Eileen Goundry.



Craft and Produce Show

Saturday April 24th

Burnham Methodist Church

In aid of The Redevelopment Fund

Lots of classes to enter from
Baking to cards and flowers to crafts,
Entry forms and details available from.
Ros Anderson - BoS 783652
Lunches served as well.



BARN DANCE
Saturday 17th April
7.00pm

Burnham Methodist Hall

In aid of the Redevelopment Fund

Tickets £3.00

**Bring and Share Supper
& Raffle.**



CHEDDAR MALE CHOIR
CONCERT

at

Victoria Methodist Church
Weston s Mare

in aid of

Burnham Methodist Church
Redevelopment Fund.

Sat. 15th May
at 7.30pm.

Please book the date now,
Tickets £6.00 further details later.

FOOD HYGENE COURSE.

A month ago we held a food hygiene course in the church hall for a group of our members plus others from various churches in the area and I am very pleased to tell you that they all passed. So congratulations to all of you. I think they all enjoyed themselves at least after the last question was answered!!!!

We are hoping the end result will be lunches in the church more often etc. Anyway thanks to all who took part.

Rosaleen Anderson



(Missing from the Photograph are June Parry & Mary Willmott)



Harry's Selections

I WILL GIVE YOU WORDS AND WISDOM..' LUKE 21:15 NIV

God doesn't Issue rules and regulations for every moment; instead, He provides guide lines and principles and allows us to make decisions. That's because He's glorified when we choose to consult, trust and obey Him. James writes, 'If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all...' (James 1:5 NIV). You havent really begun to live until you've learned to tap into God's wisdom. When you do you'll be amazed how clearly things come into focus. With God's wisdom comes a remarkable absence of fear. We're no longer intimidated by circumstances

or the opinions of those around us. We can lose a job or get promoted, and neither will derail us. We can get into an unexpected valley or soar to the pinnacle of success and cope equally well with both. That's because the wisdom of God gives us balance, insight and stability. None of these is a natural trait; each is a by-product of the wisdom that comes from God. We don't get them simply because we're Christians. No, we get them because we ask for them. God's wisdom provides us with the sixth sense needed in confusing situations, and the strength to press on confidently in spite of unanswered questions. Do you need wisdom today? Spend time with the One who said, 'I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to... contradict (Luke 21:15 NIV). It works like this: when you make Jesus Lord of your life you're given access to the wisdom of God. With the Son of God, comes the wisdom of God. It's all part of the package.

“The Great Christian is one who is small enough to let God be great in his /her life Agree?”



DON'T FORGET

**READ:
Deut.8:1-2,10-18.**

Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments. Deuteronomy 8:11.

One of my favourite Far Side cartoons is captioned "Superman in his later years." It shows the elderly Man of Steel perched on a window ledge, ready to leap, as he looks back and says, "Now where was I going?"

Forgetfulness happens to us all, and while our occasional lapses may be amusing or annoying, a lack of memory toward God can be disastrous.

With the people of Israel poised to enter the Promised Land, Moses challenged them to "remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness" (Deut. 8:2) and to "beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments" (v.11).

Forgetting God can spring from: *Testing* (vv. 2 – 4) God allowed His people to hunger and then provided manna. When we lack the necessities of life, it's easy to feel that God has somehow forgotten us. *Satisfaction* (w.10 - 11). Abundance or need may produce spiritual amnesia because both cause us to

focus on ourselves, not on God who provides. *Pride* (vv.12 - 16). If prosperity brings a feeling of self accomplishment, then we have forgotten God.

Humility, obedience, and praise help us remember God's faithful provision and care. Let's not forget to thank Him today for all He's done. –David McCasland

Lest I forget Gethsemane,
Lest I forget Thine agony,
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary. - Hussey

Never let the abundance of Cod's gifts cause you to forget the Giver.



WEST HUNTSPILL METHODIST CHAPEL

Over the past few months we have tried to bring to you the various activities that our Chapel is involved with. One of our members joined the COASTLINE SINGERS CHOIR some three years ago and here is her contribution.

West Huntspill Methodist Chapel is the very pleasant meeting venue for one of our local choirs. The Coastline Singers Choir meet here every Tuesday evening from 7.30pm to 9.30 pm where we enjoy singing & also rehearse for the varied programmes for forthcoming choir performances/bookings. The most recent one being for the Highbridge Festival of Arts where we were fortunate enough to win another gold medal, our third gold medal for the three years in which we have entered the competition. Throughout the year the choir enjoy singing at local retirement and nursing homes and at Christmas, carol concerts at the various homes as well.

Sometimes we are rewarded for our efforts with donations and any money raised in this way is given out to local charities. Future bookings for the choir include Mark Friendship Club on 15th April, the Princess, Burnham on 9th May where they will be singing alongside the King Alfred Concert Band, in aid of St Margaret's Hospice, and on 22nd May they join local opera star Tim Pitman at St. Peters Church West Huntspill a concert in aid of Help The Heroes.

The choir is a very ecumenical group with members from all walks of life & from many different churches, though church membership is not a requirement. At present we have Methodists, Baptists, Anglicans, Catholics etc., all singing together in harmony.

The choir welcomes anyone who takes pleasure in singing - no audition is held. So if you would like to join please contact Jacqui Grimsley on 01278 789772. The experience of singing in the lovely Chapel at West Huntspill is very enjoyable – and the various performances/bookings are great fun as well. Maybe I will see you at the Princess on 9th May, I do hope so.

Kay Lloyd



BRENT KNOLL

Easter Greetings to all our friends throughout the Link. We hope the weather will be fine but even if it's wet and windy nothing can detract from the joy of the message, "Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!"

In many churches it is the custom that no "alleluias" should be sung during Lent. That may not be our tradition but I still like to sing as many "alleluias" as possible during the Easter Season, Alleluia or Halleluiah means "God be praised" and is derived from the Hebrew so as we celebrate Jesus Christ – Risen from the dead the word is also a link with Jesus in his life and ministry. From a boy Jesus would have learnt a similar cry of praise. It was that grounding in faith from a tiny child that carried Jesus throughout his life, so that at the end, in all the bitterness of the cross he could say "Father into your hands I commend my spirit" Jesus was blessed with human parents who knew that their responsibility was not only for his physical well being but for his spiritual nourishment also. We may not all have children of our own but we all have a responsibility for the younger generation, especially for the children with whom we come in contact. In the baptismal service we all promise to play our part in the nurture of those who come to be baptised and we do try to make the church a place of welcome, especially for children, but we know that we always be alert to see what else we could do, and we must continue to pray, especially for the children we know and their families.

We also pray for our other members especially those who have not been well. By the time you receive this edition Barbara Drew should have been fitted with a pacemaker and she and Bill will be spending Easter with their daughter and family in Surrey. We hope that will be a time of blessing for them all.

There are two events in the next month which I hope will be of interest. St. Michael's Church is organising 'Open Gardens' in Brent Knoll on April 18th. This should be a lovely afternoon. On Saturday May 1st we shall be holding our Spring Coffee morning (10.30 – 12.00) and we shall look forward to seeing you then.

I'll finish with a prayer which is in our Lent Course "When I survey....."

Korean Blessing

May the Christ who walks with wounded feet,
walk with us on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands;
stretch out our hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with wounded heart,
open our hearts to love.

My love to you,

Margaret Trapp.



EAST BRENT

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of David Craig. Our condolences and prayers go to Eileen in Scotland and to his sister Margaret & family in our own district. While in this area he worked hard for our Chapel and also the circuit. On Mothering Sunday his sister read an obituary written by his friend and also spoke about her young brother.

On a happier note what a lovely family/holy communion service we had led by Carol Gill, I'm sure the Brownies and adults enjoyed it even if not all of us liked wearing paper hats, but I'm sure they will remember a beautiful service. Unfortunately there were no brownies with us on Mothering Sunday, but Evelyn made lovely bunches of flowers for all the ladies present, mine are still looking lovely as I write this.

3 months of the year have quickly passed and we look forward to spring and the Joyous time of Easter.

Ann Julyan

BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonse.org.uk

The snow and ice seem a memory now (not too distant though!) with the daffodils and other spring flowers now appearing our thoughts turn to Easter.

To go back a little several of our women took a course on Food Safety in Catering Level 2 and we were all surprised when we all passed. We can now use the kitchen!! We were presented with our certificates during the morning service on Home Missions Sunday by Mrs Joyce Pipet.

Our Easter services will again this year be many starting on Palm Sunday and the service at the crosses on the top of Brent Knoll. I wonder how many travellers along the motorway who see the crosses really know the true meaning of these?

Rev Joyce Plumb is progressing well after her knee operation and we wish her continued progress and look forward to seeing her again in Church. We are also still praying for Len and Pam. There are a few others of our congregation who are unwell and we wish them all a full recovery and hope that they will soon be well enough to worship with us again.

We look forward also to sharing our first Easter with Andrew and Julie as this will be their first with us this year. We hope sincerely that we will be able to share with them many more Easter services during the coming years.

We wish all our friends in the Link a truly peaceful Easter and pray that all who are sick and unable to come to worship will feel the warmth of the Holy Spirit on them speeding their recovery.

With best wishes and much love to you all,

June, on behalf of Burnham Stewards.

BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT FUND

Amount needed £21,563. At the end of February we had raised £10,403.63. In the month of February we raised £818.00 which included a legacy of £500.

PLANNED EVENTS

April 17 th	7.00pm.	Barn Dance
May 5 th .	6pm- 8pm	Coffee and Dessert at 14 Priory Gardens
May 15 th	7.30pm	Cheddar Male Choir at Victoria.
May 29 th		SPRING FAIR 10.00AM – 12.30pm
June 18 th		Gardeners Question Time
June 30 th	3.00pm - on	Strawberry Tea at Dorothy and Cedric's
July - TBA		Coffee Morning at Joy and Tony Bishop's
August 22 nd		Open Gardens Afternoon– details nearer the time

Please watch Church Notices for other Coffee/Mornings and events



Action for Children

The amount collected in the Home Collecting boxes (formally League of Light) was £567.00. On behalf of Action for Children I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who has a box. This is an easy way to collect the money by emptying our purses and pockets of the small coins. Over the year it surprises us how much has been saved. If you feel able to help in this way please see me and I can let you have a box.

I have received details of the House to House Collection. Again we have been allocated the whole month of April. If you are able to help, even if it is only a small area, please let me know.

Thank you for all your help.

Dorothy May.



R.N.L.I. COFFEE MORNINGS

Just to let everyone who supported the coffee mornings held in the church last year the RLNI made £1,320.00 plus. They just wanted to say thank you to you all and say they were very pleased with the results.

BREAN

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

I was much taken by a letter from Rev Norman Wallwork to the Methodist Recorder a few weeks ago. If I understand him right (and I don't have the exact words in front of me now) he says that we give too much attention to the symbolism of the empty cross at Easter and even dress it up in garlands; instead we should give more attention to the empty tomb. I don't suppose everyone will agree with him but it is good and right that we re-examine our long held views and attitudes from time to time. And there is a logic in it. The empty cross is a symbol of the evening after the crucifixion when Jesus' body has been taken down by his friends and family to be buried. The empty tomb on the other hand reminds us of what marvellous event happened afterwards. The empty tomb tells us of the Hope that lies in the heart of God.

At Brean we hope that the renovations to the roof will be finished by Easter. The early estimate of about three weeks looks to have been a bit optimistic and there will certainly be a lot to clear up after the scaffolding has come down. We are already finding that there has been more damage to the ceilings than we expected so there will be much to do before Easter comes. We have held some of our services in the school room; it is sometimes good to do things differently.

The LEP Review seems to have gone well, though we shall see when the report from the Review Team is received in mid April. There were joint sessions and then each of us was given opportunity to meet with the team and express our own thoughts. Lunch was taken together on both days of the Review, on the Saturday in our church and on Sunday, after a joint service, in St Bridget's.

We had had our own Church Council the weekend before – a light hearted affair even though we were aware of the seriousness of some issues that we faced.

We heard with sadness about the death of David Craig and our thoughts have been with Eileen, with Margaret Hicks his sister, and with all the family at this time.

It has been good to see the Spring flowers providing us with colour. The snowdrops have lasted the longest that I can remember for a long time. And if the daffodils are a bit late, then we can enjoy them all the more. And the birdsong means, it's that time of the year again.

We live in hope, especially at Easter. Our summer visitors are beginning to return this month. So perhaps our church will be packed full on Easter Day when Rev. Andrew comes to take our Easter Service – well we can hope can't we?

Meanwhile from Brean we send our best wishes to all our friends in the Link at this auspicious time of the year.

Harvey Allen



Minister

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www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

**The Deadline for the
May 2010 “LINK” is
Sunday 18th April 2010**

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