
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

April 2011 Volume 46. No. 3.

Easter Greetings



Minister's Letter

As I look out of the window I see the daffodils in full bloom, the green buds appearing on the trees and the blackbird flying in and out of the hedge with a beak full of twigs! The days are getting noticeably longer and the snow and ice fast receding into the memory.

It should be a time for rising spirits and optimism as God once again reveals his handiwork in the beauty of creation. Yet as I look at the news this morning I hear that a third night of military action has taken place in Libya in order to “protect civilians” from a brutal regime.

Over the last week we have also seen the shocking pictures of the devastation left by the earthquake and tsunami which hit Japan, soon after the earthquake which hit Christchurch, NZ. We have also followed events as courageous workers at the Fukushima nuclear plant have risked their lives and future health to prevent a full scale nuclear catastrophe from developing.

Many people have lost their lives, their loved ones and their homes either through the action of natural forces or through the actions of other human beings. We might well find it difficult to be optimistic at such times, and we might well ask where God is in these situations.

One thing that we do know is that God loves each and every person since he has created each of us, and that he knows each of us intimately, whether or not we acknowledge him. Jesus said in Matthew 10:29-31:

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

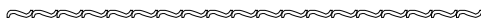
So I believe that we can have confidence that God will take care of those whose earthly lives have been cut short and will be alongside those who are bereaved and left behind searching for the remnants of their former lives before beginning to rebuild what they have lost. We know too that he is no stranger to the human condition or to suffering since he came in the person of Jesus Christ, suffering a painful and humiliating death by crucifixion in order to enable humankind to be reconciled to him – such was his love for us.

We know also that this reconciliation came about because Christ's death was followed by resurrection and that because of his resurrection many millions were enabled to enjoy new and eternal life in him, who would not have done so otherwise. Just as the dead season of winter leads to new life in the spring, so a season of resurrection and new life will arise from a season of death and destruction.

As we look forward to Holy week and Easter – the season in which we remember the suffering and sacrifice of Christ before celebrating his resurrection – we can be optimistic because of God's great love for us.

Peace and Blessings this Easter Time

Rev Andrew.



Christening

Kieran Knott, the son of Michael and Paula, brother to Jonathon and Rebecca. Grandson for Ruth Knott on 13th March at Brent Knoll.

Funerals

Mrs Edith (Peggy) Tucker at Burnham on 7th March

Miss Muriel Hyde at Burnham on 10th March

Mr. Eric Horsley at Weston Crematorium on 21st March

Death

Miss Margaret Waterhouse of West Huntspill on 21st March



CALENDAR

MARCH

Wed 30th 2.30 & 7.30. B/H The Churches Together Lent course at Burnham Baptist Church

APRIL

Fri. 1st 7.30am. B/H Early Morning Prayers in Vestibule with Andrew.

Sat. 2nd 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of the Highbridge and Burnham Youth Project

Wed 6th 2.30 & 7.30. H/B The Churches Together Lent course at Hope Baptist Church Highbridge

Wed. 6th 8.00pm. B/H Wednesday Group - Lent Groups

Thur 7th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - Citizen, Advice Bureau

Fri. 8th 7.30am. B/H Early Morning Prayers in Vestibule with Andrew.

Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

Sat 9th 7.30pm. B/H Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society in St. Andrew's Church Stainer's CRUCIFIXION and

			Malcolm Arnold's REQUIEM.
Tue 12th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Margaret & Peter Long Children of Fiji (Collection)
Wed 13th	2.30 & 7.30.	B/H	The Churches Together Lent course at Burnham Baptist Church
Fri. 15th	7.30am.	B/H	Early Morning Prayers in Vestibule with Andrew.
Sat 16th	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Coffee Morning by R.N.L.I.
	SUN.		LAST DAY for MAY LINK
Sun. 17th	3.00pm.	B/K	Service at the Crosses on the Knoll - 4.00pm at Brent Knoll Methodist.
Thur 21st	2.30pm	B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Show by Cedric May (Sales table)
Thur 21st	7.00pm.	B/H	Maundy Thursday Communion at Burnham.
Fri 22nd	10.00am	B/H	GOOD FRIDAY Service at Burnham
Fri 22nd	7.00pm	W/H	GOOD FRIDAY Service West Huntspill
Fri 22nd	7.00pm	BR	GOOD FRIDAY Service at St. Bridget's Brean
Sat 23rd	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
Tue 26th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs Joyce Pipet - Oberammergau 2010.
Sat 30th	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
	MAY		
Tue 3rd.	2.30pm	B/K	LINK Committee at Brent Knoll
Wed. 4th	8.00pm.	B/H	Wednesday Group - Speaker evening
Thur 5th	7.00am		
	- 10.00pm.	B/H	Council Elections
Sat. 7th	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Coffee Morning in aid of the Heating Fund.
Tue 10th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - New Horizon Singers (Collection for SURE - Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment)
Sat 14th	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
Sun 15th	4.30pm.		Circuit Tea at Milton followed by
	6.00pm.		EASTER OFFERING DEDICATION SERVICE at Milton
Thur 16th	2.30pm	B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Recycling – Somerset Waste Partnership
Sat 21st	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Coffee Morning by R.N.L.I.
	SUN.		LAST DAY for JUNE LINK
Tue 24th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - AGM and Communion – Rev. Margaret Trapp.
Sat 28th	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill.

EASTER OFFERING DEDICATION SERVICE

SUNDAY, 15TH MAY 2011 AT 6.00pm. AT MILTON

This year's Easter Offering Dedication Service is at Milton Methodist Church at 6p.m. on Sunday, 15th May. Tea will be served from 4.30p.m. and the Ladies Fellowship Committee at Milton have very kindly offered to provide the tea this year, usually each church makes a contribution.

The theme of the service is "The Seeds of Life" and it's about harvest, hope and wholeness for all God's people.

As I hope you know, I keep saying it!, the Easter Offering raises money for the World Mission Fund which is used in many different ways; responding to disasters, funding Mission Partners and many individual projects. We may well be aware of this work in the developing countries but there is also work going on in Europe about which we may not be so aware.

Jesus told us to go into the world and make disciples. This is what some of the World Mission Fund is enabling in Europe. In some European countries help is needed to ensure their ministers are paid a basic minimum wage in order to carry out their duties. Funding is also needed for Theological Training.

In Prague there is a Mothers and Toddlers centre which is helping mothers to cope with motherhood, and also offers the opportunity for them to talk to each other while their children are cared for.

Other funding has gone to the Parents Centre in the Czech Republic, which provides education but also support in the difficult times that have resulted from the break up of the former Czechoslovakia.

One other example from Europe is the Youth Transformation Scheme in Estonia. The United Methodist Church is very small with about 33 members, but in addition there are about 20 young people involved in youth events. The aim is to strengthen their spiritual development. There is involvement with outreach to a hospital, prison and orphanage. Through these activities it is hoped that the young people will understand the church as a loving community and this will have a positive effect on those involved.

The Easter Offering is your opportunity to give to World Mission and the Dedication Service is an opportunity to celebrate what is done with this money, to hear stories of how people have benefitted and meet up with friends from around the Circuit (*and enjoy a good tea!!*)

Please put the date in your diary – **Sunday, 15th May 2011**

Di Smart. Women's Network Circuit Secretary.

Churches Together

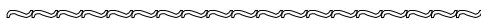
Lent course

The Churches Together Lent course is "*Christ and the Chocolaterie*" by Hilary Brand, which uses the film "Chocolat" as a starting point. The course will be held at Burnham and Hope Baptist Churches at 2.30pm and 7.30pm on Wednesdays, starting on 16th March at Burnham, and will be led by local clergy. The programme is as follows:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---|
| March 30 th | Burnham Baptist | Rev. Simon Lewis (pm) and Rev. Paul Kingdom (eve) |
| April 6 th | Hope Baptist | Rev. Graham Witts and Rev. Sharon Crossman |
| April 13 th | Burnham Baptist | Rev. Andrew Biggs |

I would encourage you to come along if you can.

Rev Andrew



Youth Project

Coffee Mornings

Fundraising for the Highbridge and Burnham Youth Project is well underway with several churches holding fundraising events and making donations. As part of our contribution we will be running our coffee morning on the 2nd April in support of the project. Please let me know if you are able to help. We will need a small team for each morning. Donations of anything to sell – cakes, books, bric-a-brac etc – would also be greatly appreciated.

I hope we will all be able to support this endeavour to do God's work in our community.

Thanks in anticipation,

Julie Biggs.



**GREATER
COMPASSION**

READ:

Isaiah 49:13 - 18

Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb?

Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you.

--Isaiah 49:15

I first met my wife, Marlene, at university. I was majoring in pastoral studies, and she was working on a degree in primary education. The First time I saw her working with children,

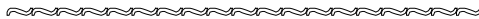
I knew what a natural fit this was for her. She loved children. It became even more obvious when we got married and had children of our own. Seeing her with them was an education in unconditional love and acceptance. It was clear to me that there is nothing in all the world like the

tender love and compassion of a mother for her newborn child.

That's what makes Isaiah 49:15 so remarkable. It's here that God told His people, who were feeling forsaken and forgotten (v.14), that His compassion is even greater than a mother's;"Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you." Sometimes we face struggles in life, and we are tempted to think that God has forgotten us. We may even believe that God no longer loves us. But God's love for us is as expansive as the open arms of Christ on the cross. And the tender compassion of our heavenly Father is more dependable and more enduring than the love of a nursing mother for her infant. Be comforted – His love never fails. – Bill Crowder

God will not forget His children
Nor will He forsake our care;
His compassion is enduring--
Even when we're unaware. –Sper

**God's love for us is as expansive
As the open arms of Christ on the cross.**



WHAT I FEARED HAS COME UPON ME ‘ JOB 3:25 NIV

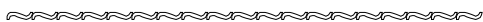
Nick was a tough guy with a bad outlook. He worked on the railways. One night after all his fellow workers had gone home he accidentally locked himself in a refrigerated carriage.

Worried that the temperature was below freezing, he yelled for help, but to no avail. The more he thought about his situation the colder he felt, until eventually he started shivering uncontrollably.

Convinced he was dying, he wrote a letter to his family outlining what had happened. The next morning they found Nick's body. An autopsy revealed that he had indeed frozen to death. But the Investigators discovered something puzzling. The carriage in which Nick was trapped was out of order and had been disconnected. The night he froze to death the temperature in the box car was 16.1degrees, just below room temperature. But because he expected to die, he lost the battle in His mind.

What you believe about your life is more important than what anyone else believes. Job said 'What I feared has come upon me' Be careful what you anticipate; negative expectations become self-fulfilling prophecies. God has promised to help you, but you get the deciding vote.

By focusing on the negative you're agreeing to let Satan defeat you. Jesus said,'...According to your faith will it be done for you'" (Matthew 9:29NIV). Another translation puts it like this: "'Become what you believe"...'(TM).So get into agreement with God's Word and focus on His promises instead of your problems. When you do, your faith will take you to new levels of victory. But it's up to you to take the first step!



STARS OF THE FUTURE

At the Spring Concert of the Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society on Saturday 9th April at 7-30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Church, Burnham-on-Sea, the Society, directed by Ray Willis with John Bodiley as organist, are performing Stainer's CRUCIFIXION and Malcolm Arnold's REQUIEM.

All the soloists are students of music, one auditioning for a Choral Scholarship to Cambridge University and another was in the heats of the Young Musician Competition.

Tickets at £7-50 can be bought from members or ring 01278 783542 or hazelnut33@btinternet.com

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

We were pleased to welcome Mrs Pursey on Tuesday February 22nd, who told us how she and her husband had decided to open a shop in Weston-super-Mare to sell Christian Books, After overcoming difficulties, they opened a shop selling children's books, Christian Books and serving light meals. They were open for several years before having to close for several reasons. She brought a selection of cards for different occasions to sell.

Mr John Halls on March 8th. told us of the origins of Miles Tea which had started in his family, how the teas are selected and bought. They still operate from Minehead and coffee is roasted in Porlock. He brought along his very antique weighing scales with a very old sixpence which acts as a balance and his tea pot with serrations on one side to act as a strainer in the tasting process. During his talk, members were asking questions and making comments. It was a most interesting and informative talk.

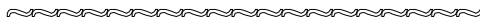
On March 22nd, we are to have our Annual Members Afternoon. Evelyn Tucker has arranged the afternoon and several members will take part in reading poems or choosing their favourite hymns. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall.

Margaret and Peter Long will be our Speakers on April 12th when they will tell us of the valuable work they carry out in Fiji. There will be a collection for their work in Fiji.

On April 26th, we look forward to hearing Mrs Joyce Pipet tell of their tour to Oberammergau last year to see the Passion Play.

The New Horizon Singers will pay a return visit with their lovely selection of music on May 10th. There will be a collection for S.U.R.E. - The Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment.

Eileen Goundry.



WEST HUNTSPILL

Greetings from West Huntspill.

We are delighted that Janet Johnson, Janet Thompson and Kay Lloyd are to be received into Membership, all three have been regular worshipers for some time, and have entered fully into the life of the Church.

We are sad to announce the death of Margaret Waterhouse on Monday 21st March.

The plans for our redecoration and some electrical work are in hand and should be complete by the end of May ready for our Anniversary weekend in June.



WEST HUNTSPILL METHODIST CHURCH

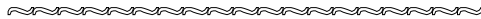
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

of Reflection & Meditation

Led by Rev. Stephen Marr

at 7.00pm on Friday 22nd April.

Offering for Christian Aid



BRENT KNOLL

This is not my month by which I mean I was to write the link for Brent Knoll next month and not today at short notice. This is fine for me as we will be in France next month and writing to everyone in the link would have been even more difficult. For the first time this visit we will be a family spanning four generations, my mother age 91years and granddaughter age 11 months will be with us. Some of you have met Elisha who is staying with us for a while and has served to do for me what the gym could not and reawakened maternal instincts in my mother that we would have not thought possible. Mum (Irene) has taken it upon herself to watch over the baby and remind us of how to look after her, on top of this our thirteen year old Cavalier dog has also taken to guarding the baby's bedroom door from all comers, even when the baby is downstairs. That's the peaceful calm and collected account of life at the moment; a lot of the time I wonder where the hidden camera is filming the chaos and confusion!

Therefore the calm of church on a Sunday is very welcome; we have that at Brent Knoll and enjoyed the same at East Brent a few weeks ago with a joint service. Keith has just reminded me we have plans to go to Brean this Sunday which I am sure will be equally as calming.

On the 13th March we welcomed lots of people in our church for the Christening of Ruth and Bert Knott's grandson, Kieran Knott, the son of Michael and Paula, brother to Jonathon and Rebecca.

On the 12th March we held our Church Council meeting when it was agreed to donate money held by our Youth Groups, which no longer meet, to the Highbridge and Burnham Youth Project.

Several dates agreed are; Mothering Sunday with Andrew on the 3rd April and Easter Sunday Communion with Margaret on the 24th April.

Our prayers, as always, are with family and friends who are in need, with some of the tragedies that have occurred recently we must also think of the many people worldwide who have suffered and may well suffer for months to come.

Sue Cox.



EAST BRENT

Well it's good to know that Gwen Oldham is now back home, but our thoughts and prayers go also to Margaret Green who is having a difficult time at present.

Sunday 6th March was a family service with Norman Lester doing a marvellous job under the watchful eye of Trevor Hunt. Anne Hunt delivered the children's address and the Hunt's supplied bulbs for the Brownies to take home, plant and study their growth.

Jill and I were missing from East Brent on the 13th not because Chris Williamson was taking the service but we were at the Ammerdown Conference Centre, Radstock. It was the Weston & Burnham's Circuit Stewards turn to organise The Bristol District Officers & Circuit Stewards training weekend (I will be very brief). In attendance was the Chairman of the Bristol District Rev. Ward Jones and his wife and the President of the Methodist Conference Alison Tomlinson and her husband. Alison (the President) chaired two of the Saturday sessions speaking about the Power of Knowledge!! The communion service on the Sunday was very moving with the President delivering the address. This was a brilliant weekend and very well organised by the Weston & Burnham Circuit Stewards.

By the time Sunday 20th March arrived we had thankfully completed the glut of Church Councils, financial and Circuit meetings, so the service at Brea on the Sunday was a joy to attend with the four country Churches uniting together, what a difference for us walking to Church, the communion service was excellently conducted by the Rev. Carol Gill with our Superintendent Rev. Robert giving the address. We look forward to the next!!

The Brownies have agreed to attend Mothering Sunday instead of the usual 4th Sunday in March and the Rev. Carol Gill will be conducting this family service.

We have heard nothing from the contractors building the low cost housing opposite the Church with regards to digging across our car park for drainage, so maybe they have found an alternative route?

We now know tickets are available for Rev. Andrew Biggs's Ordination Service at Leyland Methodist Church, Southport on Sunday 3rd July at 4pm. we await Norman Lester's return from holiday to see how travel arrangements are progressing.

Gordon Legg..

BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

Greetings to you all!

As in every family, the church family at Burnham has had its share of sorrows and joys during the last month.

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death of Muriel Hyde. She was one of our older members and had been a very faithful member of the church for many years. However, I don't think it was until her funeral, which she herself had planned and prepared, that many of us realised how many areas of church life she had been involved in! It was a remarkable testimony to a remarkable woman.

Hers was not the only death that we mourn. Eric Horsley died earlier in February, and we remember with gratitude the tremendous support he gave to Elsie in her commitment to the church in all that she did. We miss them all, and our thoughts and prayers go to family and friends who grieve their passing too.

Our thoughts and prayers reach out too to all those who have been unwell during the past month. In particular we remember the Rev. John Le Sueur who has had to spend quite some time in hospital and we uphold both him and Jean as he now continues to recover at home. Joan Underwood has also had a spell in hospital but has now been able to return to Tudor Lodge.

But there were joys too, and we rejoice to welcome Wendy Blood, Jean Kerrison, and Joan Wilkins into full church membership during the morning service on March 20th, which was conducted by the Rev. Andrew Biggs.

As we move into April, don't forget the Lent challenges with which Andrew finished his ministerial letter last month! The Ash Wednesday Communion service was a very moving beginning to this period of Lent; so while you may have missed that, there is still time to attend the Churches Together Lent Course, or to join Andrew in early Morning Prayer on Fridays 7.30am throughout Lent. Perhaps if that's too early for

you, you might consider adding an extra time of prayer to your own weekly routine?

In your prayers don't forget the needs of our church. In the notices we've been reminded of the positions in the church that need to be filled; and how, as a church we must seriously consider the way forward for the future. But do give thanks for all who do give generously of their time and talents in many ways. Their service is much appreciated. There is an excellent opportunity to take part in this consideration of the future of our church at the Annual Church Meeting to be held on April 5th at 7.00pm. so do add this to your prayers too. (The evening will include a bring & share supper.)

By the time April is over we shall have passed through Lent and Holy Week into Eastertide, with the joy and celebration that that brings, so it's a month of very varied spiritual reflection. For me, it will be a time enhanced by the images which remain vividly in my memory from seeing the Oberammergau Passion Play last year. But I pray that these weeks will be a time of reflection and renewal for all of us as we seek to deepen our commitment and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

So may you be enriched by this time of Lent and Eastertide, and rejoice in our risen Lord!

Love & blessings to all our friends in the Link,

Joyce Pipet.



BREAN

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

50! Five-o!

That was the number worshipping here this morning. A nearly full church. We were joined by our friends from Brent Knoll, East Brent and West Huntspill at the service. Rev. Robert preached and Rev. Carol led the service and presided at the Lord's Table. Lovely atmosphere, glorious singing and worship well conducted. Coffee and chat lasted another hour afterwards – fellowship indeed! An exhilarating experience and let's hope we have more shared services in this way in the future.

We were particularly pleased to see the return of Wal and Marj, their first attendance since November. Since then Wal has had serious heart surgery and it has been a slow path to recovery. But, as he says, at 90 years of age, what more can you expect! He's still as cheerful as ever, in spite of everything.

In Lent we are joining with St Bridget's for a weekly house group studying a course that helps us to explore our pilgrimage. As for April we look forward to sharing Mothering Sunday service with our friends from St Bridget's. The service is at our church on 3rd April.

We held our Church Council at the beginning of March. We re-elected officers and members of circuit committees, reflected on the services and events of the last few months and looked forward to the summer. We also decided to run a coffee morning with a Bring & Buy sale on Saturday 23rd April (Easter weekend) from 10.30am, in aid of the South West Youth ministry project being set up by Burnham and District Churches Together; you are all invited. Please support this worthy cause.

We are also trying to commend our church to wider Methodism as a suitable venue for day visits and seminars. As a start the District Youth weekend will include a day in Brean on 17th September. Our ladies in particular, are already trying to work out what 80 hungry young people are likely to want in their lunch boxes!

At the end of our service today we were told of the decision of Rev. Sheila McNally to seek a termination of her appointment. It is a sad time for her and for the people at Worle. We hold them in our prayers during the next difficult months. We shall have to wait and see whether there will be a replacement for Sheila in September.

Easter is coming upon us. In this world troubled by natural disaster and human exploitation, may this festival yet be a blessed time for us all.

Harvey Allen.

Minister

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

**The Deadline for the
May 2011“LINK” is
Sunday 17th April 2011**

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