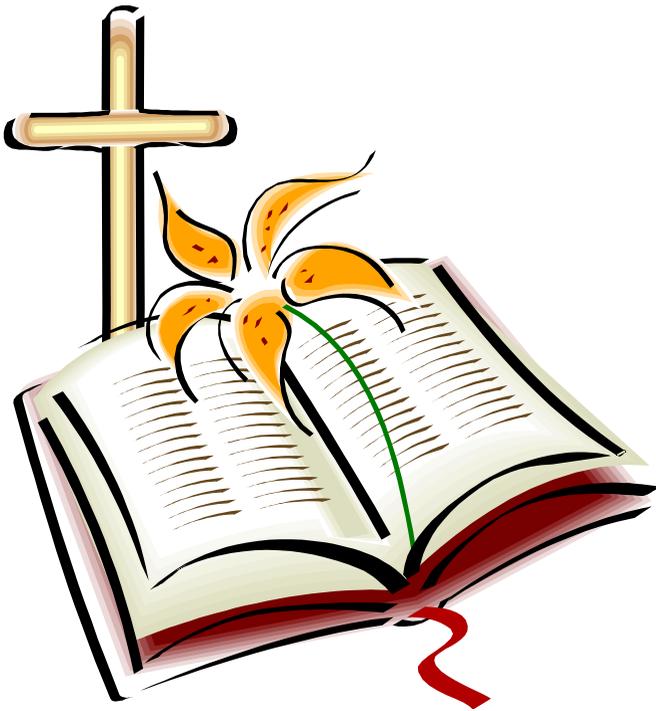

THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

April 2012 Volume 47. No. 3.



***EASTER
GREETINGS***

Minister's Letter

We've had a gloomy few days – the mornings and evenings have been foggy with the sun just managing to break through for just a few hours in the afternoon. Nevertheless there are signs of winter giving way to spring: buds, green shoots, the seagulls getting frisky on the roof tops!

Another sign that winter is nearing its ending was that yesterday, prompted by impending arrival of workman to mend the fence; Julie dug out her gardening gear and set to with some light pruning. A reminder that it is time to begin clearing away the winter debris and tidying up the garden ready for summer.

The period of Lent is perhaps a time to do something similar with our lives: A time to do some pruning – cutting out the dead wood of those things which come between us and God; a time to review our lifestyle and clear away those things which take the place of God in our lives.

I am reminded of the parable of the sower in Mark 4:3-9. The seed sowed by the farmer fell in various environments. Some fell on the path and was eaten up by birds; some fell on rocky ground where it could not take root and soon was burned out by the sun; some fell amongst weeds and thistles which grew up and choked it so that it produced no crop and some fell on good soil and produced an abundant yield.

Jesus explains that the seed represents the word – the good news of God's kingdom. The various types of ground represent us – the people who hear and receive the word. There are those who hear it but it passes them by – it doesn't touch their lives at all – these are those represented by the footpath, from which the birds fly down and take the seed.

For those represented by the rocky ground there is an initial enthusiasm when they hear God's word – they enter enthusiastically into the life of the church and worship, but they soon burn themselves out and when the going gets tough they give up and drift away.

Others have good intentions but allow the thistles and weeds of life to choke them. These represent those who allow other things to come between them and God – the cares of work, family, other interests, holidays – anything that takes the place of God and gets in the way of true discipleship.

Then there are those who represent the fertile ground – those whose commitment does not waver whatever the difficulties and challenges that the

Christian life presents; who continue to take seriously the commitments they made at their baptism or confirmation; who continue to fulfil the duties of church membership throughout their lives – but most importantly - those who take the demand of discipleship seriously so that their lives come to radiate the love of Christ to others.

Lent then is a time to clear the garden of our lives from the weeds and thistles of life in the world, to put down roots and ensure that we are fertile ground for the seed of God's word and Christ's love. Then as the gloom of winter gives way to the sunshine of spring and summer (we hope!) we will be really ready to celebrate the ultimate expression of God's love and grace in his risen Son on Easter morning.

A Happy Easter to all of you.

Andrew.



Deaths

Mrs. Dorothy Lang. Funeral Service at Burnham 6th March

Baptism

Oscar Stephen Son of Elizabeth & Philip Airey on 18th March.



Hazel Kempson

When my wife died in Weston Super Mare Hospital early in the morning Paul, Barbara, Mark, Mary & I saw mom peacefully go to her heavenly home. When this news was announced people from near & far sent us cards, letters, phone calls etc, etc. Please accept our grateful thanks for all the love & help we received, then & now.

On Thursday 17th May I am the afternoon speaker at the fellowship; my talk will be My Life with Hazel

From all our family our sincere, THANK YOU.

Harry.



CALENDAR

MARCH

Wed.	28th	2.30pm.	B/H	Bible Study Group All welcome.
Wed.	28th	12.00pm.	B/H	Prayer Meeting at Church. All Welcome
Wed.	28th	2.30pm.	B/K	LINK LENT COURSE at Brent Knoll
Fri	30th	10.00 - 12.00	W/H	Coffee Cake and Chat plus stalls at West Huntspill Methodist Church

APRIL

Sun	1st	3.00pm		Palm Sunday - Service on Brent Knoll at The Crosses
Wed.	4th	2.30pm.	B/H	Bible Study Group All welcome.
Wed.	4th	8.00pm.	B/H	Wednesday Group - Easter Thoughts – Hopefully With Rev. Sally Lacey
Thur	5th	2.30pm.	B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Maundy Thursday
Thur.	5th	7.00pm.	B/H	Maundy Thursday Communion
Fri.	6th	10.30pm.	B/H	Good Friday Service at Burnham
Fri.	6th	7.00pm.	W/H	Good Friday Service of Medication and Reflexion At West Huntspill
Sun.	8th	10.30pm.	B/H	Easter Day All age Communion Service at Burnham
Tue.	10th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Stanley Pipet.
Wed	11th	12.30pm.	B/H	Church Lunch. (Daphne Hill)
Wed.	11th	2.30pm.	B/H	Bible Study Group All welcome.
Sun.	15th			LWPT Sunday
Tues	17th	7.00pm	B/H	Burnham Annual General Church Meeting
Wed.	18th	2.30pm.	B/H	Bible Study Group All welcome.
Thur.	19th	2.30pm.	B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Favourite Psalms
Sat.	21st	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Coffee Morning in aid of Educate the Kids (in Kenya)
Tue.	24th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Crumbs from the Headmaster's Table. - Mr. B. Freestone.
Wed	25th	2.30pm.	B/H	Bible Study Group All welcome.
Wed.	25th	2.30pm.	B/H	Prayer Meeting at Church. All Welcome
Fri	27th	9.00 - 12.00.	W/H	Coffee Cake and Chat plus stalls at West Huntspill Methodist Church

MAY

Wed.	2nd	2.30pm.	B/H	Bible Study Group All welcome.
Wed.	2nd	8.00pm.	B/H	Wednesday Group - Film Night
Thur.	3rd	2.30pm.	B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Open Meeting
Sat.	5th	10.30am.	B/K	Spring Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll

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

Mothering Sunday Reflections

Mothering Sunday is a time when we make a bit of an effort to show our mums how much we care and how much we appreciate what they do for us. This year, for the first time, I couldn't do this as my mother has recently died so I 'm just paying a small tribute to her by writing about her life.

Obviously, my mother was important to her family, encouraging, supporting, and caring but having received many letters and cards since her passing I realise that she was a special person to lots of other people as well.

In one case, when she lived in Manchester, she became an honorary grandma to a family at her church who had no grandparents of their own. These longstanding friends made the trip from Manchester to her funeral which is quite a tribute to her. With them came a now-retired minister and his wife who were encouraged in their first posting 40 years ago by my mother (and father) and stayed friends ever since. Also another friend from the north came down specially and grandchildren travelled from Australia, Scotland and Ireland. She was a V I P to all these people.

Others benefited from her fund-raising activities when she helped to raise money to buy a kidney machine for a local teenager who needed dialysis . She organised events in Grassington in support of the Heart Foundation and in Burnham her love of entertaining came to the fore when she hosted afternoon teas at her home to support church funds. I could go on!!

In conclusion, my mother loved her immediate family and we were her first concern, but wherever she lived the larger community benefited. Anyone needing a bit of t. l. c. or support was helped when possible. Many people will miss her because she 'got stuck in` and made a difference.



A very big "Thank You" to everyone who took part or helped in any way with the Women's World Day of Prayer service at Burnham on 2nd March. The collection raised £239.05.

Hilary Malpas

THE TRINITY ENTERTAINERS

IN A SONG & VERSE

CONCERT

at Burnham on Sea Methodist Church

On Friday March 30th

At 7.30pm.

Tickets £6.00 including refreshments

In aid of the New Church Heating

Doors open at 7.0pm.

Tickets from Dorothy May 01278 784204

or on the door

The Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society's Spring Concert.

It would be a shame to miss our Spring Concert which is at St. John's Church, Highbridge on 5th May at 7.30pm.

This year it is full of old favourites. We are also very lucky to have Mrs Mary Morgan as our soloist and a small orchestra.

Our main piece will be John Rutter's Requiem, which is always very well received. Alongside this we will be singing

Panis Angelicus,
Cantique de Jean Racine,
Mozart's Dominum Laudate
and Vivaldi's Gloria,

amongst others. If you were to write a list of the most popular pieces surely these would be amongst them. We are certainly looking forward to performing them.

So for an evening of popular choral music come and join us.

For tickets (£7.50), you may pay on the door, apply to any choir member or telephone 01278 783542.

We look forward to entertaining you.

Harry's Page (from his daily Bible readings)

THE MOMENT somebody begins to gossip stop them and ask, "Why do I need to know this? Have you talked to the person you're talking about?" Wise up; people who gossip can't be trusted! The Bible says that when you listen to gossip you are a troublemaker Troublemakers listen to troublemakers' And Jude adds: These are the people who divide you, people whose thoughts are only of this world' (Jude v. 19 NCV). Those are serious charges. And the Internet has only made the problem worse because now you can spread gossip faster and wider, and remain anonymous while you are doing it Paul speaks about those who 'devour one another...[and your whole fellowship]..: (Galatians 5;15 AMP). He says they should be avoided 'A gossip reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a babbler' (Proverbs 20.1 NRS). In other words, "keep clear of them the quickest way to end gossip is to confront those who are spreading it The church is not a 'tell all television show where we expose people and hang out their dirty linen for all the world to see-Quite the opposite: 'Fire goes out for lack of fuel, and tensions disappear when gossip stops' (Proverbs 26:20 TLB). Jesus taught us how to deal with personal difficulties when they arise: 1)'...Work it out between the two of you: 2) If he (she) won't listen, take one or two others along:3)If he(she)still won't Listen, tell the church leadership!(Matthew 1&15-17 TM).That's Christ's way, and it need be our way too

A SEARCH FOR THE TOP TEN

READ:

Psalm 119:97-104

Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. --Psalm 119:97

Bible Gateway, an online Bible resource, looked at the viewing habits of some of their 8 million monthly visitors. They found that John 3:16 was the most searched for verse in 2010.

I don't think it's surprising that it would be number one on the list. It tells us that God loved us so much that He sent His Son to rescue us from our sin and give us everlasting life. Number 10 on the list is Jesus' commission

to His followers to spread that good news: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matt. 28:19).

Also in the top 10 are Jeremiah 29:11 and Romans 8:28 about God's good plans and purposes for His people.

The Scriptures are filled with truths to search out and share. In Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, the psalmist shared his thoughts about the Word and his desire to search it and be taught by God. He said, "Oh, how I love Your law!" (v.97). Our Bible reading for today shows some of the psalmist's reasons for loving it: It gives him wisdom and understanding, it restrains his feet from evil, and it is sweet. Therefore, it's his meditation "all the day".

Let's keep taking the time to read the Bible. The more we search the Word, the more we'll grow in our love for it and its Author (v.97). --Anne Cetas

**Concert by the
Cheddar Male Choir**

Saturday 21st April at 7.30pm.

At St Andrew's Parish Church Burnham.

In Aid of Burnham Methodist Church New Heating Fund

Soloist Francesca Bowkett

Tickets £7.50 from Dorothy May 01278 784204

Doors open 7.00pm

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday, February 28th we were pleased to welcome Rev. Ian Boley and his wife, Wendy to our Fellowship. He is a retired Methodist Minister and spent time in Thailand. A pastor and his wife were out one day when two young children followed them. When told to go home to their parents - they replied that their parents had died (from HIV/AIDS). The pastor took them home and cared for them. As time went on more orphaned children arrived. It was decided to set up somewhere for the children to live and be looked after and educated. Over the years, numbers have increased and there are now 60 children being looked after. They receive an education, medication to combat Aids and a secure home.

Rev. Boley and his wife took turns to relate the development over the years. At the close of the meeting a collection was taken to assist in the work of the "House of Grace".

Revd Jill Putnam from Weston-super-Mare came to tell us about the work of **ChAt** (Chaplains about town). This was first started in 1999 when it was felt that something was needed in the Town Centre for those who were in need of help and counselling. It was a vision of Revd Norman Wallwork and it was started as a Pilot Scheme in Weston town Centre- Revd Putnam is Lead Chaplain - she works 4days a week for **ChAt**, one

day at St Peters, Milton, and Sundays at St Peters. They have opened a shop in Meadow- Street where new items are sold, an inner room where they can speak to people and at the rear is a Chapel They are there for anyone who needs them. Some of the people are homeless and go to "Somewhere to Go" during the day for food and a shower. The project was set up with a grant from the Bristol Methodist District and the Diocese of Bath and Wells. It was a very inspiring talk.

March 27th; is our Members afternoon when there will be a Bring and Buy Stall.

Rev. Stanley Pipet will be our speaker on April 10th.

On April 24th, Mr Brian Freestone will give us "Crumbs from the Headmaster's Table)

May 8th. Will be an afternoon of Favourite Hymns arranged by Miss Evelyn Tucker.

We are always pleased to welcome new members.

Eileen Goundry



WEST HUNTSPILL

Good Friday 7.00pm. Service of Medication and Reflexion led by Rev. John Stedman.



New Venture

Coffee & Chat on Friday 27th April will be extended. We will open our doors at 9.00am. In the hope of welcoming some young parents and toddlers as they return from taking their school children to school. We also look forward to seeing our regulars and others later in the morning



BRENT KNOLL

For the first time, I attended "Women's Day of Prayer", hosted this year by Brent Knoll. Talented readers, thought provoking meditations and talk, wonderful hymns led by our visiting choir and well led by Margaret. It may have been the first I've attended but definitely not the last!

I've also been thoroughly enthralled by the Link Lent course at Brent Knoll. It's always wonderful to share views, experiences and thoughts, especially during this time of Lent. I've learnt so much from listening to others and although the end of Lent is a wonderful celebration, I will be missing the fellowship I've enjoyed during this time. But the Emmaus course at Brent Knoll Methodist Church will be continuing and all are welcome. I would thoroughly recommend it.

At the time of writing I have just returned from visiting my sister and her family in London. Now bearing in mind that I've only been away for eighteen months, I didn't expect to feel like "Crocodile Dundee" on his first visit to New York. However, with all the crowds on buses, trains and in the shopping centre, I nearly had a "Mick Dundee" moment - particularly the scene (for those who have seen the film) where he climbs a lamp post to avoid all the crowds coming towards him. I had also forgotten those moments when busy people are in such a hurry that they forget that some of us just want to stroll and enjoy the views - my sister took me to see the Olympic stadium amongst other sights. If I had £1 for every time someone bumped into me (and *I* apologised) I would probably have enough money to treat my Rust Bucket to a re-spray.

However, when talking this over with my niece, she said: "You've got a short memory Auntie. That was YOU 2 years ago. You're not like that anymore - you're a country bumpkin! But don't worry. You're so much nicer now. Anyway, you've put on so much weight you couldn't fit into your City suits anyway.". I realised that this was the biggest compliment I've ever been paid (after I'd stopped grinding my teeth regarding the weight comment and realising, of course, that thoughts of thwacking your niece (and Goddaughter) were entirely inappropriate and utterly politically incorrect...

All said and done, I loved visiting London again. And, of course, I loved seeing my family. But most of all - I loved coming home. I used to holiday in Somerset and drive back home to Essex. Now I drive to London and come home to Somerset. With all the good, bad and sometimes ugly times I've experienced since moving here, I still think that makes me a very lucky gal.

God bless and a happy Eastertide to you all from your friends at Brent Knoll.

Rosemary Krull

As well as the services listed below, there will also be a service at the top of Brent Knoll at 3pm on Palm Sunday (1st April). And Brent Knoll Methodist Church will also be holding a Spring coffee morning on Saturday 5 May at 10.30am. A welcome open to all.

PREACHERS FOR APRIL AT 10.30AM

- 1st April: Mr Harvey Allen (Palm Sunday)
8th April: Rev. Margaret Trapp (Easter Sunday – Holy Communion)
15th April: Mr Stanley Hall
22nd April: Mrs Janice Barrett
29th April: Rev. Andrew Biggs (Holy Communion)

God bless.

Rosemary Krull



EAST BRENT

We were all sorry to hear that Carol was unwell and was unable to take our last service of February.

We are pleased to hear that she is better. We were grateful to Stanley Pipet for standing in for Carol. I've missed two services at East Brent through work but I was able to make it to West Huntspill where I received a warm welcome.

What a lovely service we had on Mothering Sunday led by Pam Pembro. It was nice to see three girls making bunches of flowers for their Mums during the service.

A big thank you to Evelyn for making such lovely bunches of flowers for us to take home.

Next Sunday we look forward to meeting with Brean at Brent Knoll for another joint service and so Lent is nearly over and we look forward to Easter

Ann Bown.



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

Again this month we have known the sadness of funerals from within our community.

On March 5th Gordon May and his family came for the funeral of Barbara, while on March 6th it was the funeral of Dorothy Lang and we remember Len, Barbara and Susan as they grieve their loss; and we keep them in our thoughts and prayers as well.

But there have been joyful occasions too. On Mothering Sunday, March 18th Elisabeth and Philip Airey and their older son Jacob brought Oscar Stephen to be baptised, and we continue in our prayers for that family too.

Mothering Sunday reminds us how far on we have journeyed into Lent, when soon, once again we shall be recalling the events of Palm Sunday, Holy Week which includes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, culminating in the joy of Easter Day. Do look at the calendar of events to see which services are happening and when; and give them your support.

I'd also like to draw to mind the Burnham Annual General Meeting which is being held on Tuesday 17th April, commencing at 7.00 p.m. with

a bring and share supper. Please attend this if you can as important decisions will be on the agenda affecting the life of the church.

On a personal level I have to express my concern about the number of people who will be left as stewards once we get to this meeting. There will be only Ann Hall and myself serving in this capacity.

I would like to pay tribute to the work Ann has done during her time as chief steward, as she has undertaken considerably more than that role should involve, and she has done it very conscientiously, giving so much of her time to it.

My concern is that with my national role as LWPT Advocate which still has some months to run, and my involvement with MWiB (Methodist Women in Britain) at a District level, not to mention local preaching to which I still feel passionately called; there is no way I can give anything like the time and energy that Ann has to stewarding and I may need to reconsider my commitment to that if more people do not come forwards to be a part of the stewarding team.

I realise we do have problems in finding the people we need to carry out the functions we at present offer in the church, and I am also aware that many of you would like to be able to do more, but cannot because of age, health or family commitments. Consequently perhaps we should consider how we operate as a church to see what the right way forward could be.

When Rev. Ward Jones came to preach a few Sundays back, he met with the stewards prior to the service, and suggested that there could be help from a couple of the District teams to talk through what we might be able to do, but in the light of the forthcoming AGM, I felt I ought to put you in the picture as to where I see we are.

This may seem rather “doom and gloom” but as we go through Lent we face afresh the sorrow of Good Friday, that is then followed by the hope of Easter Day.

May you find blessings and strength in the light of Jesus’ Good News.

Joyce Pipet

BREAN

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

When I was sorting out my papers in order to pass over files to Morag our new church secretary, I found a copy of the Link for September 1983 which I had clearly kept as a souvenir. For many of us, to look back like this, is a time of nostalgia, but new members may be astonished at what went on in The Link in those days.

At Brean it was the 50th anniversary of our congregation worshipping in the current premises. Before that the church had used a cottage fifty yards away since 1837; and before that a room in Southfield Farm had been established in Wesley's day. The Anniversary was celebrated by a tea party for the whole village and which was, if I recall, so successful that we organised one the next year too. Our Harvest Festival was on August Bank Holiday weekend, a practice that had developed in order to capitalise on the holiday visitors.

And then in September of that year we ran a Conference on "The use of resources in the Village Church" at which the guest speaker was Rev John Clarke the Connexional Rural Life Secretary. Between 40 and 50 people attended the Conference drawn from the village, the Link, our ecumenical partners and from the wider district.

Elsewhere in the Link, Carol Boocock did a report on the annual Link barbecue held at Rookery Farm (yes it was still a farm in those days and run by Roy and Tui Clapp). Always a great success this, with raspberries and ice cream to go with the burgers and sausages, croquet on the lawn and games for all ages, including a pillow fight for the children!

Plans were under way for the November weekend away at Sidholme. Dr Ivor Jones of Wesley College was booked to be guest speaker for the weekend. My recollection is that 60 or 70 people attended most years.

East Brent's Flower & Vegetable Show was another September event, and then Burnham held a Flower Festival later in the month.

Lymphsham and Heath House Churches were still open that year. And so was Mark. Regular worship was also conducted at Frith House. A Link

Neighbourhood committee had been set up to look at the care needs of the area. There were representatives from all the Link Churches on the committee though to be fair, I don't think it survived more than a couple of years.

Youth were well catered for, not just at barbecue and Sidholme but by Boys' Brigade and Sunday school and an active Circuit Youth group who had arranged their own barbecue evening in the summer.

All this as well as the regular fellowships, coffee mornings and mission activities in the separate churches. All of the Churches looked forward to Harvest Festival and many held Monday evening events also. Brent Knoll rejoiced that at least eight of its men were engaged in painting the outside of the church (though it was noted that not all of the paint went into the right place – I guess it was a woman that wrote that report!)

There was a lot going on but as I read the magazine I was struck by the confidence and faith that we showed in organising some quite high profile events, and the support that we had from all the churches.

It is much quieter now, both here at Brean and elsewhere. During this last month we have held a very successful Pancake evening and a beetle drive to end the occasion, with proceeds earmarked for the Burnham and Highbridge Youth Project; two Lenten lunches with proceeds to Christian Aid; and a Church Council meeting. We have welcomed East Brent and Brent Knoll congregations to a joint service and by the time this Link is published we shall have joined East Brent to worship at Brent Knoll.

Our summer visitors are beginning to trickle in, and very welcome they are too. For Easter is coming and so we send our greeting for the Festival to you all. Happy Easter.

Harvey Allen

Editor:- I have copied the September 1983 LINK in full and have had it put on the Burnham Website with this month's LINK where it can be viewed at www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

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

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