
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

April 2013 Volume 48. No. 3.



Minister's Letter

The account of the last supper that Jesus shared with his disciples before his arrest has a different focus in John's gospel (Chapter 13) than in the synoptics. Here the focus is not on the sharing of bread and wine, but on Jesus taking a towel and a basin of water, and washing the feet of the disciples. This is Jesus taking on the role of a servant in order to demonstrate the way in which he expects his disciples to serve one another.

Later he reinforces this through his giving of a “new” commandment “love one another; as I have loved you, so you are to love one another. If there is this love among you, then everyone will know that you are my disciples” (John 13: 34-35).

This is why being a Christian is not something that can be done alone but something which must be done in fellowship with others. Those of us who have been following the Lent course on Spiritual Practices had the opportunity to explore this as we considered the following wisdom of John Wesley:

“Solitary religion is not to be found [in the gospel of Christ]... The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness.

This then is the way: walk in it, whosoever you are, that have believed in his name... You are taught of God, “not to forsake the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is”, but to instruct, admonish, exhort, reprove, comfort, confirm, and in every way “build up one another””. (John Wesley: Preface to hymns and sacred songs).

We are all part of the one body of Christ (Romans 12: 4-13) and as such we must care for every part of it. One part of a body that has become separated from the rest is useless. The body is only effective while every part of it is joined together into the whole.

Jesus went to the cross out of his great love for us and so that we could be one, both as a body together and with him. The great challenge is to love each other *as he loved us*: sacrificial love that is prepared to set aside all of our self for the sake of others. How prepared are we to meet this challenge?

Easter Blessings

Rev Andrew

Deaths

Mrs Beloris Jones Aged 73 years Funeral at Weston Crematorium
20th March. Conducted by Rev Andrew Biggs

Mrs Teresa Loosley Aged 48 years Funeral at Burnham Methodist
Church 27th March. Conducted by Rev. Andrew Biggs

Mrs Violet Boulton Aged 83 years Funeral at Burnham Methodist
Church Tuesday 2nd April at 1.30pm. Conducted by Rev Karen Murphy



Calendar

MARCH

Thur. 28th. 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion at Burnham.
Fri. 29th. 10.30am B/H Good Friday Service Burnham Methodist.
Fri. 29th. 7.30pm. Good Friday. Service at West Huntspill
Sat. 30th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning.
Sun. 31st. 10.30am Easter Sunday Family Communion at Burnham
(other services as per plan)

APRIL

Thur. 4th. 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Guest Speaker – Harry
Kempson.
Sat. 6th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle in aid of the
Heating Fund - Thursday Fellowship.
Sun. 7th. 4pm. Family Praise at Burnham
Tue. 9th. 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Members Afternoon –
"Bring and Buy"
Sat. 13th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Tue. 16th. 7.00pm. B/H General Church Meeting
Wed 17th 2.30pm on Afternoon Tea at The Towans NH Berrow Road.
Stalls & Raffle in aid of the Heating -Fund All
welcome
Thur. 18th. 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Names and their meanings
Sat. 20th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H RNLI Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle.
Sat. 20th. 7.30pm Burnham Choral Society Concert at St. Andrews
Church.
Sat. 20th. 7.30pm Concert at King Alfred's school by Stuart Townend
(writer of a number of hymns included in Singing
the Faith)
Sun. 21st. **LAST DAY FOR MAY LINK**
Tue. 23rd. 2.30pm. E/B "LINK Villages Fellowship - Chocolate Making
Demonstration - Mrs Marion Robinson
(Chocolate sale)
Sat. 27th. 10.00am Brent Knoll Spring Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy

- Sat. 27th.10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
 Tue. 30th. Link Committee at Brent Knoll
MAY
 Thur. 2nd. 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Guest Speaker
 Mr David Lee.
 Sat. 4th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle in aid of the
 Heating Fund.
 Sat. 11th.10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
 Sat. 11th. 7.00 for 7.30pm B/H The Trinity Entertainers. A Musical evening of Fun
 & Variety in aid of the Heating Fund **see page10**
 Tue. 14th. 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - 'Edith's Dream', Health
 care in Mbenguri, Cameroon (collection) Edith and
 Nicky
 Thur. 16th. 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Quiz
**B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll,
 E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill**



New Anti-Poverty Campaign

Can you remember the “Make Poverty History Campaign of 2005 which urged world leaders to help alleviate the poverty and hunger which exists in so many areas of our world? Many churches had this slogan in black and white on their buildings. This was successful in that the world leaders made promises but they have only partially been carried out. Now we have a new campaign to tackle hunger, **ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF** - The **IF** campaign has the backing of Bill Gates, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and 100 organizations including MRDF, Oxfam and Christian Aid. It warns that malnutrition in childhood will trap almost a billion young people in poverty by 2025 and this is preventable. It is estimated that malnutrition will cost developing countries an annual £78 billion in lost economic output by 2030. **IF** calls on Prime Minister David Cameron to use the G8 presidency in 2013 to take action on the causes of hunger in the poorest countries. **There are 4 prongs to the campaign:-**

AID

Enough Food for Everyone IF we give enough aid to stop children dying from hunger and help the poorest families feed themselves.

TAX

Enough Food for Everyone IF governments stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries.

LAND

Enough Food for Everyone IF we stop poor farmers being forced off their land and grow crops to feed people, not fuel cars.

TRANSPARENCY

Enough Food for Everyone IF governments and big companies are honest and open about their actions that stop people getting enough food.

Together, we can make IF happen.

The more of us who get involved, then the greater pressure there will be on world leaders to tackle global hunger in 2013.

info@enoughfoodif.org or write to Enough Food for Everyone

IF, John Smith Drive, Oxford. OX4 2JY.

Please sign up to this campaign, and I will try and get some more information on how we can become involved.

Pam Pembro Circuit Mission and Justice Committee



Prayer letter 2 from Daniel and Grace Pratt-Chapman and their little son Kwame-

Our Circuit Link in Cameroon, teaching in a theological college.

I was quite surprised, on arriving in Cameroon, to discover that I would be teaching New Testament. Having specialized in quite a different area I never expected to be teaching this subject. Despite this I am thoroughly enjoying the task. Today I have been preparing a class on 1 Corinthians. What still my heart are Paul's words in the opening chapter: 'Think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards...' (1 Cor 1:26) Were this statement applied to my own life it would be the understatement of the millennium I remember my first job interview after becoming a Christian. It was to serve as a youth worker with Ashby Youth for Christ. I remember thinking the interview had gone really well. Though I was accepted for the post, and things went well while I was there, I discovered later from one of the people who interviewed me that they were seriously unimpressed by me. When I pressed him for details he clarified that it wasn't that I came over as immoral or bad but that they saw nothing about me. When one considers that this was a voluntary post one begins to appreciate the state that I was in. Having concluded that there was no reason to take me on they decided they would close in a prayer. He said that it was at this point that they believed God was saying that He had called me - they decided to take the chance. When I think about my life then and now I can't really begin to understand what has happened. Back then I was struggling to do A Levels part time having practically failed them. I had no prospects of a university education. All I had was an offer to work with my Dads mate constructing a wall. I say this because I believe that it is God who has acted mightily in my life since then. Through the encouragement of retired ministers in Ashby, the patience of lecturers at Cliff and Wesley College, and the unending kindness of my doctoral supervisor, I have come to this point. I pray that we can also be encouragers to the students here, and that God will grant us the grace to teach well and love well, and that those under our care would know the love of Christ in all we say and do.

Other Prayer Requests

Please pray that we flourish here. There are many tests facing us, as lights and electricity are often turned off, and water is turned off during the day. We are managing well but sometimes it can get to us. Please pray also that our health will be good and that we will relate well to all.

Forgive typing errors (I write most of these on my mobile phone as internet access is often off for two weeks - and more)

In necessariis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus caritas



Prayer letter 3 from Daniel and Grace Pratt-Chapman and their little son Kwame

Our Circuit Link in Cameroon, teaching in a theological college.

They are mentioned on Day 5 of our Prayer handbook "When I came here I lost my faith." These were the words a student told me last week after class. Though I was shocked to hear him say this I am sorry to say that this is not the first seminary in which I have heard these words. When I probed deeper he revealed that when he began to study the New Testament he became increasingly sceptical about the historical evidence for Jesus' life, death and resurrection. At this point I asked him a question. Why did you come here? What brought you here initially? He disclosed that he believed that God had spoken to him. It was at this point that I reminded him of Paul's calling: "I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ." (Gal 1:12) I pointed out that the Christian faith is not built upon human intellectual achievements. Though we do not have a time machine to take us back to the Damascus road, in order to gather scientific data about the risen Lord Jesus' appearance to Paul, the Holy Spirit witnesses the resurrection of Jesus to our hearts. We can experience the power of the risen Lord Jesus in our daily lives. This, not the quest for the historical Jesus, is the basis of our Faith. On hearing this, the student asked if he could come and talk to me more often. "By all means" I said, "in fact you can accompany me to the village on Sunday and you can help me lead the service." Please pray for this student and for so many others who are struggling with similar issues. Kwame is really inspiring all and sundry to embrace the Apostolic Faith. Yesterday he pointed at the fridge and said "AMEN." This morning he waved his arms at me (I was eating a biscuit) and again said "Amen." He grows in faith each morning. Pray for God's protection over him.

Pray also for Grace (who as you know has two children - one more unruly than the other).





Flower Festival

Floral art through the decades



Tuesday 25 - Saturday 29 June 2013

The Bishop's Palace as you've never seen it before
Five days of spectacular floral art on display in the grounds
and buildings of the glorious medieval Palace in Wells

Sponsored by **Waitrose**

'Renowned floral art designers Pam Lewis, Lucy Ellis, Cathy Humphries, Coral Gardiner and Nick Heal will transform rooms within the Palace to reflect flower arranging over the last six decades. Outside, the arrangements will represent the future of flower arranging. Come and be inspired!'

Arrangements by Wells & District Floral Arts Society, celebrating 60 years of flower arranging with support of other local flower arranging clubs

Flower Festival at Wells. Ros is hoping to arrange a trip if there is sufficient support. Please see Ros for more details ~ Phone 01278 783652

WESTON-SUPER-MARE & BURNHAM-ON-SEA

CIRCUIT STUDY DAY



Family Friendly Churches

Rev'd Mike Bossingham

Of the Family Friendly Churches Trust

ON

SATURDAY, 22nd JUNE 2013

AT

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH

9.30a.m. - 4.30p.m.

See separate sheet for more details or visit:
familyfriendlychurches.org.uk

Family Friendly Churches

The day will consist of four sessions:

1. Introduction - content of the day and an exploration of the concepts of "Fresh Expressions" and "Transformation Church"

2. Welcome - looking at how we welcome families to our churches - starts in the car park, through worship to coffee. It includes an interactive audit of how welcoming the church is.

3. Model - churches have discovered numerous ways of worshipping. Not everyone has to

arrive and the same time and do the same thing. The session explores these different models and tells stories of where they've worked. It includes looking at what might work in your church.

These 3 sessions are for EVERYONE in the church.

4. Worship - This session will explore how preachers/leaders of worship can enable children to take part without making it a "children's" service. All are welcome, but is aimed mainly at those who preach/lead worship or feel called to do either or both!

Mike Bossingham is a Methodist Minister, called to ministry in 1987.

He has served in Maidenhead, King's Lynn and Cambridge. He has worked with children, young people and families in churches for 25 years. He now works full-time for the Family Friendly Churches Trust.

Lunch (soup and puds) will be provided by Locking Castle Church at a cost of £3.50. Please let Di Smart know if you wish to attend the day by Monday, 17th June at the latest. Phone 01934 645202; email diana.smart@virgin.net

VIVALDI GLORIA &

EXCERPTS FROM

LES MISÉRABLES



Sung by the



**Burnham & Highbridge
Choral Society**

Directed by Ray Willis

With Guest Soloists

Pamela Rudge & Anne Stanford

With an Orchestral Ensemble



**Saturday, 20th April, 2013 at 7.30pm
St. Andrew's Church, Burnham on Sea.**

Tickets £7.50 available from members.

The Tourist Information Office, also by ringing-
01278 783542, or on the door.

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THE TRINITY ENTERTAINERS

A MUSICAL EVENING OF
FUN and VARIETY

at Burnham on Sea
Methodist Church
on Saturday May 11th
at 7.30pm.

Tickets £7.50 including refreshments
Doors open at 7.00pm.

Raffle

Tickets from Dorothy May
Tel. 01278 784204

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at East Brent Methodist Church Hall at
2.30pm. All Welcome.

- 9th Apr Members Afternoon - Bring and Buy.
- 23rd Apr Chocolate Making Demonstration Mrs Marion Robinson
(Chocolate sale)
- 14th May 'Edith's Dream', Health-care in Mbenguri, Cameroon
Edith and Nicky (collection)
- 28th May AGM and Communion – Rev. Margaret Trapp.

BREAN

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

Oh, they marched them up to the top of the hill But only one came down...

Only Margaret that is. All the others were left frozen to the crosses that had been erected on the top of the Knoll or had raced home for a nice hot cuppa, no doubt. The rest of us were sat there in the warmth of Brent Knoll chapel waiting for the time of reflective worship that the Rev Andrew had prepared. We all had some (very valid) excuse of course for not braving the desperate winds on what seemed like one of the coldest days of the year! The village Link churches were well represented at this latter service which was good to see.

Mind you those of us from East Brent and Brean had been worshipping at Brent Knoll on the previous Sunday too, for it was the last of our monthly joint service in the current series. It was a very happy occasion, led by Rev Carol with humour and perception. I was left with the feeling that we could, perhaps ought, now to expand our joint activities beyond a monthly service in winter.

This Link is published on Easter Day. Still in March!! When will they sort out a regular date for the festival we might ask. We hope that all have woken up with fresh vigour and hope even though we have all had the chance of an extra hour in bed. ** Christine Thomas tells me that they have got into the routine of putting up a banner on the cross on West Huntspill Chapel at dawn. Well done. What a pity I couldn't be there (wait a minute while I shuffle through my file of excuses!).

Elsewhere there are a few signs of Spring. Although the snowdrops hung on for a while they tell a story of winter; I don't remember seeing many crocuses, but I always think of Spring when the daffodils trumpet their way into our vision. Besides, Rosemary's lambs have started to arrive in gay abandon (can we still use that word these days?) so much so that they prevented her from coming to play the organ one Sunday.

It can still be a bit cold in church even though the heating is on, and we have agreed to put some double glazing in to help next winter. Perhaps April will bring a bit of warmth. It should do, for it will still be the Easter Season, the season of hope and promise. Enjoy.

Harvey Allen

** Editor - Harvey you will be late if you have that extra hour in bed. "Its spring forward , fall back"!!!

WEST HUNTSPILL

5 in a haystack & 2 in the kitchen

LET US PRAY

PRAY IN THE SPIRIT AT ALL TIMES AND ON EVERY OCCASION..

Ephesians 6:18 NLT

IN AUGUST, 1806, five Williams College students met in a field for one of their twice-weekly prayer meetings when a thunderstorm drove them to take refuge in a nearby haystack. Continuing in prayer, Samuel John Mills shared his burden that Christianity should be sent abroad, and the group prayed that American missions would spread Christianity through the east. The haystack prayer meeting held in Williamstown, Massachusetts, is viewed by many scholars as the spark that ignited American support for world missions. In 1808, the haystack prayer group and other Williams students formed 'The Brethren,' a society organised to effect, through its members, a mission to the unsaved.

Within a few years they inspired the founding of the American Board of Commissioners for" Foreign Missions (ABCFM). Several of the students, including Adoniram Judson, went to Asia as missionaries (the first foreign missionaries sent from America in 1812). Samuel John Mills stayed stateside to recruit others, and helped organise the American Bible Society and the United Foreign Missionary Society. In its fifty years, ABCFM sent out over 1,250 missionaries.

In 1961, the American Board merged to form the United Church Board for World Missions (UCBWM). After 150 years, the American Board had sent out nearly 5,000 missionaries to 34 different fields. And it all began with five young men praying in a haystack! Nothing can take the place of prayer--not money, not programmes.

The truth is, we can do great things after we pray, but we cannot do great things until we pray. So the word for you today is , "Let us pray.'

Taken from 'The UCB Word for today'



Having read the above, you might be wondering, why 2 in the kitchen? Well two of us at West Huntspill Methodist Church, have been meeting in the kitchen at the Church, to pray before the Sunday services at approx. 10.15 to 10.30

You are welcome to join us. Janet (T) & Janet (J)



BRENT KNOLL

Minister Revd. Biggs

Unfortunately, having pulled a minor back muscle, I was unable to attend several services during March. However, I have it on good authority that it was a joy to see the church full on Mothering Sunday. All the children who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves as did all the adults who each received a bunch of daffodils to celebrate the occasion.

At the time of writing, I've returned from another wonderful Link service - this time led by Rev Carol at Brent Knoll. Despite being a luddite when it comes to all things computer related, I managed to post the following on Face Book: "You know you're in a Methodist church when the machine plays the wrong tune, the minister suggests singing it unaccompanied, the congregation belts it out & no-one even notices the lack of music". This, of course, in no part detracts from our irreplaceable retired organist Joan, nor our equally irreplaceable workers of musical magic Heather & Gill Poulter.

By the time of publication, we will have enjoyed the Palm Sunday service at the top of Brent Knoll, blessing the crosses, and the service held at our church afterwards.

A date for your diary - our Spring Coffee morning and "bring and buy" will be held on Saturday 27th April at 10am.

Blessings from all at Brent Knoll to our fellow Link churches.

Rosemary Krull

PREACHERS FOR APRIL AT 10.30AM

- 7th April Robin Jenks
- 14th April Len Horlock
- 21st April Local arrangement
- 28th April Chris Williamson



EAST BRENT

It's been a busy month at East Brent, starting with our lunch. PCC meeting afterwards, what a very enjoyable day. Thanks to Margaret Scott for organising it. Unfortunately there were no children with us on Mothering Sunday, Stanley asked us not only to think about mothers but people who mothered and nurtured us during our lives.

Another enjoyable morning when we met at Brent Knoll for our Link service how good it is to all meet up, we even manage to sing unaccompanied!!

We are still missing Joan & Gwen from our services, we hope they will soon be back with us. We are pleased that Bob has been able to join us again after his accident.

We look forward now to a joyful Easter and now spring is officially here better weather.

Ann Bown.



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk

As I start to write this it is difficult to know what season we are in as the rain is lashing down and hammering against the window. We are being told that we can expect more snow! This is supposed to be spring time when we celebrate Easter and all that means to us. We hope you all had a happy and joyful Easter and that you were surrounded by your family. My grandson goes skiing on Easter Saturday to Austria with his school so I hope he will enjoy it as he is not a very good traveller.

April sees our AGM and we hope that the matters that will be discussed will bear fruit. It is a hard time I think for many churches when the congregation seems to be getting older and not a lot of younger people to take their place. We desperately need more people to volunteer for offices in the church so that the jobs that are currently being done by few may be extended to more people so that the load is not so hard to bear on the few.

It is the time that the garden should be awakening but the only sign of spring is one lonely daffodil and a few little buds on some bushes that should be in bloom now. The garden is very soggy so we are unable to do much there.

We hope that those of our congregation and others that are known to us who are unwell will soon be back to health again with the help of the Holy Spirit and pray that his healing hand will rest upon you all.

With love and blessing to you all.

June Parry (for Burnham Stewards)



Minister

Rev. Andrew Biggs, 28A Caernarvon Way. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2DQ
andrew.biggs@bristolalumni.org.uk Tel. (01278) 782306

Editors

Cedric & Dorothy May, 6 Brightstowe Road. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2HW
cedric.may@btinternet.com Tel. (01278) 784204

Web Sites

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

**The Deadline for the
May 2013 “LINK” is
Sunday 21st April 2013**

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

If you do not have the ‘LINK’ regularly and would like to do so, please fill in the slip and hand to a Steward. or send to the Editor.

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