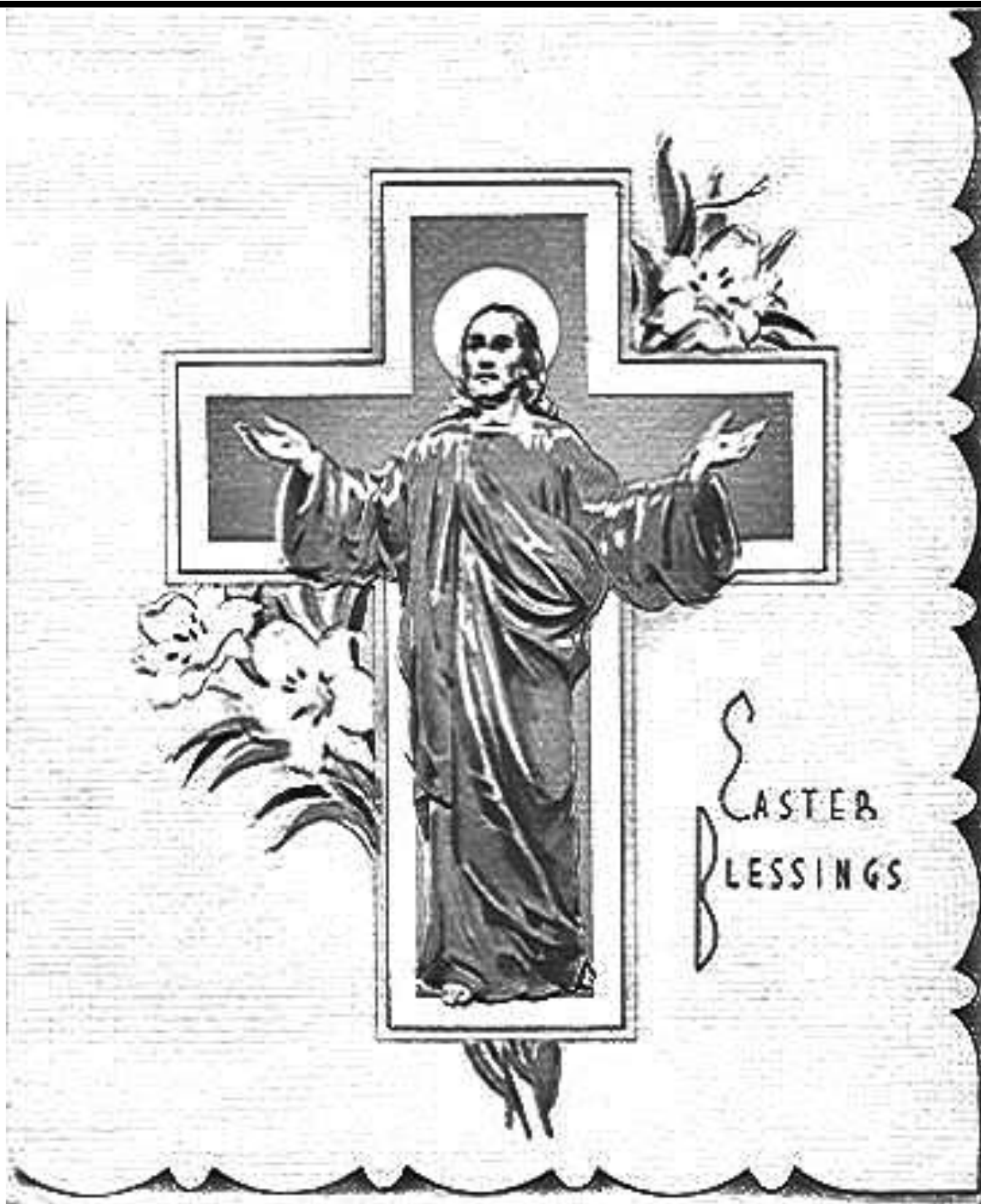

THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

April 2019 Volume 54. No. 3.



Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

It doesn't matter how many times we have read it, as we read through the Bible we are struck by things we have not seen before, or indeed if we have seen them, we have not given them enough consideration. Details in the accounts of the first Passiontide and Easter are the same.

At SUPA Club (the after school club at St Andrew's School) we were teaching the 8 to 10-year olds about Luke's account of the Last Supper. There are some difficult issues in this passage, and I had arrived prepared to explain what we meant in the breaking of bread and wine signifying the breaking of Jesus' body and the spilling of Jesus' blood, about death and sacrifice. But the conversation took an unexpected turn. One of the children had something else on their mind. They said....

“That's weird! If I was having a meal, and I knew I was going to die, I would never have invited the person who was going to give me up to my party. Why did he do it?”

That's a good question isn't it? There are several doors this question opens. For us, it took us into a discussion about the nature of God's love and the forgiveness of the cross. It brought the conversation to consider our own attitudes to God, our ability to forgive, and ultimately how little we really understand about the wonder of the nature of God.

Perhaps, somewhere in Easter week, each one of us could just spend a moment thinking about these things. Perhaps we can see ourselves as being not so different from Judas (a person who wanted Jesus to conform to his idea of what a Messiah should do and how the Messiah should act), yet a person that Jesus invites to his table, a place of friendship and forgiveness.

This Easter we are offered body broken and blood shed on the cross, and invited into the family of God.

Steve

~~~~~  
*Death Miss Bridget May O'Neill 1966 – 2019 of  
Huntspill*  
~~~~~

CALENDAR

MARCH

Sun 31st Mothering Sunday

APRIL

Mon 1st 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean

Wed 3rd 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Wednesday Group - Easter Talk

Sat 6th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Church Funds by the Choir

Mon 8th 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean

Tue 9th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Rev. Rod Ingrouille.

Wed 10th 12.30 B/H Church Lunch

Sat 13th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Sat 13th 4.00 - 6.00 B/H Messy Church at Burnham

Sun 14th 3.00pm Palm Sunday Short Service on Brent Knoll led by Rev Steve Bennett

Sun 14th 4.00pm B/K Palm Sunday Short Service at Brent Knoll led by Rev Steve Bennett followed by refreshments

Mon 15th 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean

Fri 19th 7.00pm W/H Good Friday Meditation Led by Rev Steve Bennett

Sat 20th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning

Sun 21st **LAST DAY FOR THE MAY LINK**

Mon 22nd 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean

Tue 23rd 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - .Members Afternoon - Bring & Buy

Fri 26th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee & Cake at West Huntspill Methodist

Sat 27th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Sat 27th 7.30pm B & H Choral Soc Concert at St Andrews Church

Mon 29th 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean

MAY

Wed	1st	2.30 - 4.00	B/H	Wednesday Group - Fundraising Effort for Christian Aid
Sat	4th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Coffee Morning for Church Funds by Dorothy
Mon	6th	10.30	BR	Coffee Morning at Brean
Sat	11th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sat	11th	4.00 - 6.00	B/H	Messy Church at Burnham
Mon	13th	10.30	BR	Coffee Morning at Brean
Tue	14th	2.30pm	E/B	Link Villages Fellowship -.Victoria Church Local History - David Hart.
Sat	18th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning
Sat	18 th	10.30	B/K	"Praise for Pets" service at Brent Knoll
Sun	19 th	LAST DAY FOR THE JUNE LINK		



Reflections on the work of All We Can.

I know that this is a Methodist fund that is well supported from the churches in the Link. Some may remember it better as the Methodist relief and development fund, but it does amazing work both in emergencies such as we have seen in the crisis caused by the cyclone that hit Mozambique and neighbouring countries and in ongoing support to communities to improve their quality of life

From Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th March Margaret Trapp and I were able to attend the District MWiB Experience, held for the first time at Ammerdown.

The leader this year was a former Vice President of Conference -Jill Barber. She led five sessions based on the overall theme "Hidden Voices -Women making a difference."

The final session was entitled "inspirational Women in India". This was based on her experience when, as Vice president, she had been able to visit one of the projects supported by All We Can in north east India.

For many of us it was a story with elements that shocked us.

I, like many other people there, were aware of the caste system in that country, with the Dalits as the lowest caste. However, this

was not the whole story, for beneath the caste system there are the forest people - indigenous tribes whose existence is barely acknowledged. The ones Jill visited were in the north east corner of the country, a people who had lived off the forested land for centuries. But, rich resources of coal had been discovered there, and while the mining companies had signed declarations that they would restore the land after the coal had been extracted, this had not been the case. These villages had been left in dire poverty.

However, a couple of Indian women who had graduated from university with degrees in agricultural sciences had learnt of the situation and decided to try to make a difference. The first obstacle they had to overcome was the culture of the villagers. Men moved around freely, but women were confined to the hut where the extended family unit lived and were not permitted to talk to anyone outside of that hut. While that very narrow existence was hard to imagine, there was another restriction that those of us listening could not begin to imagine. Women were only allowed to leave the hut at night to go to the toilet. At no other time were they allowed to go to the toilet! While the need to train one's body to that regime horrified us, there was further distress caused when we learnt that men knew that women would be out in the fields at night, and women often had to endure sexual harassment and/or rape.

I should add here that men were able to work part time in the mines, though nothing was made easy for them there.

These two graduates, supported by All We Can, were trying to change the culture. The first thing in each situation was to train a man to be able to persuade other men to allow the women of the families leave the confines of their huts - a major undertaking! Then these women were taught how to work the fields - having been given information as which crops could survive in such poor soil. They acquired goats and were able to improve their diet with the milk produced, not to mention being able to barter with surplus crops and animals. Grants were available from the government, but these people were illiterate, and had no idea of how to fill in forms, nor did they have bank accounts into which the grants could be paid. So the women were taught how to sign their names, and how to run a bank account so that not only could they apply for grants, but they could save money that they earned. Another feature that was being

worked on was that of provision of toilets. The male worker in the village Jill visited had installed one for his family, and the hope was that others would follow suit - but ensuring that women could use them too, as there was evidence that in some villages where a government grant had provided a toilet for the village - the men had claimed it as their property.

But gradually the life of these tribal people was being improved, and women were beginning to find a voice to say the things that were important to them - not perhaps the same agenda that the men had!

Last year as in other years at Brean we had a communal Christmas card, and afterwards chose from the catalogue of gifts that All We Can produce what we wanted to pay for as a gift to go overseas. At various times we've sent sheep, chickens, a bee hive, a bicycle and other farming items. It was a joy to see how such gifts are used to change the lives of many

Joyce Pipet



Easter Offering 2019

The Easter Offering envelopes will be available in our Methodist churches prior to Easter.

This is something that Methodist women, through in recent years MWiB (Methodist Women in Britain), have organised for about 135 years, with all of the monies raised going to the World Mission Funds.

Last year the Connexional offering raised over £355,000 for which World Missions were extremely grateful.

It is an excellent opportunity to support this work.

Later, on the next plan, we shall have a circuit Easter Offering Dedication service, the date and place to be announced.

The theme this year is "Longer tables, shorter fences".

Joyce Pipet

LOCAL PREACHER

JULIE Biggs was recognised as a local preacher at a service of recognition at Churchdown church near Gloucester. Mrs Biggs, who is lay worker at Lonsdale Road church in the **Elmbridge/Longlevens** area, received a warm welcome from a packed congregation and thanked everyone for supporting her through her six years of study and examination. The congregation, which included friends from as far afield as Crewe and Ledbury, along with representatives from churches across the county, were welcomed by superintendent minister the Rev Dr James Tebbutt. Local preachers' secretary Adele Garner read a letter confirming Mrs Biggs's appointment from the President, the Rev Michaela Youngson.



Julie Biggs (left) being welcomed by Adele Garner.

Spring Concert with Mozart and friends

The Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society are performing their Annual Spring Concert on Saturday 27th April 2019. It will be at St. Andrew's Church, Burnham-on-Sea, TA8 2AQ. Starting at 7.30pm.

The choir will be performing Mozart's Requiem. Along with pieces from Bach and Hayden.

They will be joined by four professional soloists, and two pianos. Musical director, Nicholas Bromilow will be conducting.

Tickets are £10 and will include wine or soft drinks, and a programme. They will be available from: www.burnhamandhighbridgechoral.org.uk, Treats, high street, Burnham, or choir members. Tickets may be purchased at the door, but best to get them early to avoid any disappointment.



EAST BRENT

TUI CLAPP

In March we said goodbye to Tui Clapp with a Thanksgiving Service at East Brent Methodist Church. Her ashes were interred with her late husband Roy in the parish cemetery.

Tui was forthright, compassionate, caring, practical and thrifty! For instance, memorably when one member of our congregation cycled to Rookery in his scout uniform collecting for “Bob a Job” week, he was invited to weed the vegetable patch. Three hours later he finished the job and Tui handed over the “bob” i.e. 5p in new money. Her Christmas gifts to the family could be “unusual”. On one occasion her daughter-in-law a set of drains rods and children often received a packet of seeds!

Tui had a special relationship with Ashlawn Farm, Rooksbridge, having arrived there as part of the Land Army to assist on the farm and in the house. She hated the gravel at the front of the farmhouse as her duties included keeping it weed free with a hoe. A very tedious task.

She recounted having to queue to collect her wages from the farmhouse and her place was at the back of queue because the men were considered superior! Tui certainly proved this not to be the case in the rest of her life.

When she married Roy Clapp and moved to The Rookery, which was then a real working farm, the door was also open as was the welcome. She also operated a very successful B & B for several years to supplement their income.

Tui was a staunch supporter of the Methodist Church in the village but also in the wider area and involved with other denominations. She was involved in starting up a Young Wives group in East Brent in the 1980s with the then Vicar's wife and encouraged many to go along.

Church life was a significant part of her life. She was a Church Steward at East Brent and very involved with the Circuit. She & Roy hosted an annual BBQ for the Circuit at The Rookery.

She was also a Governor at Brymore School at Cannington, for a number of years.

When she and Roy moved to Abergavenny in Wales, and "retired" she & Roy contributed again to the local community and church. They welcomed visitors from Somerset enthusiastically and Roy was always happy to show them around their beautiful garden while Tui cooked roast Welsh lamb and provided homemade Welsh cakes.

After Roy's death, Tui remained in Wales for a few years before deciding she would move back to Somerset and she took up residence in Beaufort House, Burnham-on-Sea. During this time she returned to East Brent Methodist Church and was a regular attendee before she died in January 2019.



BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

As I sit and write this the sun is streaming in through my window on a lovely spring day. It looks as if the winter is at last, behind us and the spring is springing.

A couple of weeks ago we had a lovely wedding in our church of Nicola Spendlove to Lewis Winder which was a lovely day. We send our many congratulations to them both.

It is lovely to see so many of our congregation in the morning services on Sundays.

This is the spring time when we celebrate Easter and all that means to us. We think ahead to firstly Good Friday when Jesus was crucified and died on the Cross. Then we come to the glorious Easter Morning when he arises up from the grave

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)



Friends of Burnham Hospital send thanks to the Methodist Church

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Methodist Church in College Street for letting us host the charity coffee mornings on the third Saturday of each month for 2019.

March gave us our third coffee morning and I am very pleased to announce that for the first quarter we have raised a total of £868.09 which is an amazing sum for 6 hours of sales!

The turnout for each of the mornings has been amazing, it's so nice to see people chatting and enjoying themselves. We have had some lovely feedback about our stalls which is great.

For those who have not yet visited us we sell super hand crafted cards, Bill's lovely handmade bird boxes, wooden key rings, wooden gift tags and a great selection of Bric-a-Brac. We hold a raffle which is extremely popular with great prizes, our teas/coffees and locally handmade cakes are a must.

Our next coffee morning will be on Saturday April 20th from 10am till 12 noon so please come and help us to celebrate Easter Saturday with a promise of more chocolate prizes in the raffle!!

Now for the normal stuff..... we are always looking for suitable prizes for our tombola's and raffles, bottles are always welcome in addition chocolates, sweets, books and quality Bric-a-Brac. If you have anything to donate you can bring it to the coffee morning or I can collect at a time to suit you. Either give me a ring on 01278-323794 or send me an email ceri160443@sky.com.

Kind Regards

Ceri Joyce

Vice Chairman

Check out our website just click www.friendsofburnhamhospital.org.uk

BREAN

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

When Judy and I left home for a couple of weeks to stay with friends at the beginning of March, we took one look around us and said, these daffodils look nice but they aren't all out yet and with the winds and rain that are forecast, they will be all over by the time that we come back. Well we came back on the 20th and were delighted to see that they were all, or mostly, still out. We had been to Birmingham; but when I tell you that the temperature was in the 60°F range every day and past 70°F on three or four, you would be right in assuming the Birmingham was not the one we know about. Our friends have retired back to Alabama, to the city of Birmingham where they grew up; he had retired from being Chair of Medicine at a major hospital and has just published a book he edited on The Racial Divide in American Medicine. We first met him in 1970 or 1971 when, as a student, he

came over to have experience of our NHS as it existed in a London hospital. He stayed with us and we have remained friends with him, his wife and his family ever since. How the strands of Methodism stretch out across the world!! He is still involved in the United Methodist Church and when he and his wife settled back in Birmingham, they particularly chose a Methodist Church which embraced the whole community, whatever colour, age or sexual orientation. But there's a problem. Each State has its own Conference structure and there is a General Conference beyond that which has responsibility to define wider issues within the church. And there are overseas Conferences in Africa, South America and elsewhere that also have representation on the General Conference; they are very influential and, in general, very conservative. Over the last few years there has been much debate about how far gay and other LGBTQ minorities can be allowed to serve the church. It has been a divisive issue and a compromise hoped by many that each of the subsidiary Conferences across the US would be allowed to decide for itself. But the General Conference voted marginally for the implementation of traditional values such as on ordination and whether same sex weddings can be authorised by the church. Some of these issues have already been addressed in our Church but others are due for debate in the 2020 Conference. The conservative result of the vote brought about much upset and feeling of isolation for those affected and those who had stretched out their hand in mutual support, with the threat of individuals, churches and even Conferences leaving the Church and setting up their own structures. Our friends' church in Birmingham, Alabama, is caught up in that frenzy and in the last month there has been much pastoral work reaching out to those affected. On our last Sunday, we went to a morning service in that church. They have two worship centres, one for traditional worship and one for more 'contemporary' worship. On this Sunday they held joint worship and were also joined by a healthy youth contingent which normally congregates as a 'church without walls' and who had been holding a Youth Weekend. Towards the end of the service, the pastor invited young people to come to the front and add their prayers and prayer topics to the intercessory ones. It was not to be what you might think. Young people one after the other put in their own words, their

frustrations about the way the church was being run over the issue. They knew full well what was involved about gay and minority members, they had grown up with the debate, and each one in turn prayed for all the members of the church, prayed for a unity in the Spirit to hold the Church together, to respect each other's position and to move forward together in the overwhelming love of God. As part of the discussion it was stated that the General Conference which held the debate was comprised of only 7% of young people under the age of 35. This is their Church of the future and yet young people are marginalised as to its decision making process. The decisions have to be ratified by a Judicial Council in May but clearly the UMC is a church divided and this will affect its influence and care in ministry; perhaps as we pray for the church and people overseas, we ought to spare a thought for our Methodist brethren in America. I recognised that we are no better as regards youth representation, but I begin to wonder whether there ought to be an upper age limit beyond which we old ones cannot cast our vote for the future of our Church (and come to that of society at large). We would join in the discussion of course and encourage where we can; we may have words of wisdom, but should we vote for a future we might not be part of? Meanwhile, back at the Ranch, as it were, everything has continued in an orderly pattern. Services have been held and we are looking forward to Easter. There will be the annual Easter daybreak gathering on the top of Brean Down and our Easter morning communion at 10.30 which Steve and John T. will take between them (though we shall only see John). Morag has started a Facebook page (go to Facebook and type in Brean Methodist); all our future events are held there. And all our services in April will be at 10.30am in our church (St Bridget's join us on 14th); with coffee on Monday mornings, including Easter Monday as we reflect on the week leading up to Easter and on the events of Good Friday and Easter Day in particular, we pray for God's blessing on us all. Happy Easter everyone.

Harvey Allen

West Huntspill



Good Friday Mediation

April 19th at 7pm

Led by Revd Steve Bennett

Our April Coffee Morning

Will be held on April 26th 2019

10am -12md Table top sales

Free Coffee, tea and cakes and chat!

Proceeds for Alzheimer's Society



I have been following Harvey's historical write up with interest. Margaret

Waterhouse from West Huntspill was also a member of the Worle Ecumenical Committee, crossing Circuit and District borders to do so. (West Huntspill was in the Bridgwater Circuit, Plymouth and Exeter District in those days!) Those of you who remember Margaret will know that she was born in Halifax and brought up in the Primitive Methodist tradition, her parents were the caretakers of the Church next door. There was a passageway into the schoolroom from the house, a lovely space for Margaret, her sister Dorothy and their friends to play! Margaret trained as a Youth Worker and became an accredited Local Preacher. In spite of her strict Methodist upbringing Margaret's life experiences convinced her that ecumenicalism was the way forward. She lived and worked in Keynsham prior to her move to Somerset and West Huntspill. The Superintendent Minister in the Bridgwater Circuit at that time had just moved from the Keynsham area and knew Margaret and we think it must have been him who recommended her for the Worle Ecumenical Committee. She also worked hard to get the Methodist and the Church of England in Huntspill to work closer together.



BRENT KNOLL

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

Minister Revd. Steve Bennett

We were all so very sorry to hear of the death of Malcolm Holness on 28th February. Malcolm was a well loved member of our congregation and he will be dearly missed. Malcolm's thanksgiving service was held here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church on 12th March and it was such a poignant time of remembrance. Malcolm's wife Sheila read the poem, "They that love The World" by William Penn and Malcolm and Sheila's two daughters, Victoria and Jacqueline, wrote a moving tribute to their father which they have kindly allowed us to share here:

"Malcolm Henry Holness was born on 17th March 1935. A quiet observant man with, nevertheless, a dry sense of humour, he didn't tell many stories from his childhood. One we did hear of, was how he accidentally set light to his bed while mixing his own gunpowder in a pestle-and-mortar to make a rocket! And so, his early interest in Chemistry took root - a path he followed right through to a Doctorate and then his career as a Government scientist. He always enjoyed learning new skills and was a superb gardener, creating a beautiful garden together with Sheila, using its plentiful apples to brew cider. In recent years he began pottery classes, researching and creating an accurate scale model of a 13th century ship which he was very pleased with. He had a particular passion for growing orchids, continuing his family's tradition. In fact, at one point, he had to take a break from showing them, because he ran out of space for the specimens he won as prizes! He was a man with a quiet, yet fierce love of his family and was deeply proud of his children and grandchildren. He also loved music and enjoyed playing the violin in earlier years. He was extremely knowledgeable about music. Malcolm became a member of this church when he moved to Brent Knoll. His dignified and sincere faith and the friendships he found here, were of great comfort to him, particularly in these last difficult months."

Our love and prayers go out to Sheila, Victoria, Jacqueline and to all the family.

Rev Margaret Trapp has been leading a time of Ignatian prayer during Lent. This has proved to be a very meaningful and spiritual time for all who have attended. This time of prayer will continue to be held on each Monday during Lent at 2.30pm in the church. All are welcome.

As we move through Lent and look ahead to Holy week and Easter Sunday, Rev Steve Bennett will be taking a short service at the top of Brent Knoll at 3pm on Palm Sunday (14th April) and will lead another short service here in the church at 4pm, which will be followed by refreshments. On Easter Sunday, Rev Margaret Trapp will be leading us in a family service of celebration.

Looking further ahead, we will be holding our annual "Praise for Pets" service on Saturday 18th May at 10.30am. All creatures great and small are welcome. Any furry, finned or feathered friends will be invited to receive a blessing, and there will be a time to celebrate those pets who are no longer with us as our prayer tree will be made available to hang photos and prayer cards. These too will receive a blessing and a prayer of thanks during the service. Needless to say refreshments will be provided for all who attend, no matter what their dietary requirements (I did hear someone congratulate us on the quality of our dog chews last year as well as the more traditional fare of coffee and cake).

From all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, may we wish you every peace and blessing as this most holy season reaches its climax. From the poignant events of Holy Week to the celebrations of Easter Sunday, we wish you all the hope and joy this season brings.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



Minister and Circuit Superintendent

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

<p>The Deadline for the MAY 2019 LINK is Sunday 21st April 2019</p>

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