

LINK PLUS++++

April 2023

Dear Friends

The events of the first Easter Day transformed history and our world, but it was more than an event in history. As the first disciples soon realised, the Risen Jesus is not confined by time or place. As Easter people, we know his risen presence with us today.

And what assurance and hope that brings; not least in a world where there is so much darkness. We know that this Easter fellow human beings in Ukraine, and in many other places of conflict across the world, will be experiencing grief, anxiety, and suffering. For many, the consequences of pandemic and economic shock are still keenly felt, still impacting lives. The climate crisis has not gone away, and now threatens the future of those alive today. For some, there will be the individual pain of the loss of a loved one, or anxiety about illness or other personal grief.

John's Gospel tells us that the light which shines in the darkness has never been extinguished and the Easter message affirms that. For the Risen Jesus' first words to the disciples were 'Peace be with you' and 'Do not be afraid.'

A couple of important advance dates for your diary, both at Milton Methodist Church, but for the Circuit as a whole:

- Sunday 16th July – Service to say farewell to Rev Angie Hoare and Deacon Gary Hoare as they move to Harrogate. There will be tea served at 5pm followed by the service at 6.30pm.
- Saturday 2nd September – Service to welcome Rev Judith Lincoln and her husband Roger to this Circuit. The service will

be led by Rev Dr Jonathan Pye and will commence at 2.00pm.
Further details will follow.

Everyone is encouraged to come along to these important events in the life of this Circuit.

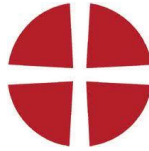
And a plea for Circuit Stewards, which is now critical! Paul Gregory is coming to the end of his appointment in August 2024. He has decided not to seek a further term, initially as a Circuit Steward and more latterly with responsibility for the finances of the circuit. We cannot operate as a circuit with only one Circuit Steward, and it may well mean the end of the independence of our circuit if no-one comes forward.

Our prayer, this Easter, must be that those who are suffering or are afraid will know that they are remembered by God and experience that reassurance of peace and hope. That prayer is for us too, as we look to the future here in this part of Somerset.

Happy Easter

Steve





Brean Methodist Church

<http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk>

The clocks go on, Spring flowers bloom all around us, and yes there is just a suggestion that the weather is that little warmer. Easter is upon us. A time of hope and expectation. Somewhere, somehow, I feel (we feel?) a little bit more energy to go with it.

It's a lovely time for a birthday. A lovely time for me then, until I am reminded that I was born on Adolf Hitler's fiftieth birthday and it brings me back down to earth. Never mind though, Easter transcends everything else. A long standing friend who used to be a Methodist minister but who is now a Roman Catholic priest (retired) in the US sent me a book recently. It is called Resurrection Faith, written by an Abbot who is head of a Catholic Seminary over there. Our friend had heard me speak recently and thought I might be interested.

Catholicism is not to my theological taste on the whole but I have skim-read much of it (I skim-read about as quickly as anyone else reads the full version). It is interesting in that it talks about faith and spirituality. I shall continue because I think we are encouraged to learn from each other and can learn from it.

The Easter season brings the return of our holidaymakers though some have already made an appearance. It is always a matter of great pleasure to see familiar faces back amongst us (especially as we are all getting into advanced years and nothing is ever certain). Our Easter services take on a familiar theme; Steve will be leading a party up Brean Down in the dark in order to celebrate resurrection with the dawn. (Meet at Brean Down carpark at 6.15am you are interested in joining the group.) This year, Stanley will be leading communion in our church at 10.30 with John to assist him. In the normal order of sharing

services once a month, St Bridget's would have joined us but Easter is clearly a time when the Parish Church wants to celebrate the occasion in their own way. Some of our members will join with other churches in our group on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

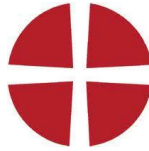
In February we celebrated 90 years since the building of our present church (with cake). Before that services were held in Southfield Farm and then in a cottage close to the present building; all 250 years or so, of it so far.

Covid doesn't seem to have left us yet, or coughs and colds, with our congregation reduced some weeks because of it. Fortunately people seem to be recovering over time; as are Kathy and Roger after their road mishap.

Our video screen is working well and we have now taken delivery of the lap top to make the manipulation of data that much easier. At the communion service at the end of March we were even able to have the words of the service displayed for us which meant no fiddling about with books. Thank you to David Easton (who took the service) for the work necessary to accomplish this; and to Anne who is the 'go to' person at our end.

We send to you all our greetings for Easter. Let it be a time of both quiet contemplation and joyous celebration as we remember the work and example that Jesus lays before us in our journeys.

Harvey Allen



**Brent Methodist Church
Brent Knoll**

We would like to thank everybody who came to our joint service with Brean and East Brent here at Brent Knoll back in February. Our offering was in aid of those affected by the effects of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, which is still having devastating consequences for the people of those Countries today. Thanks to your generosity, we raised £250 for the emergency appeal.

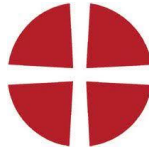
Rev Margarat Trapp has continued to lead us through our Lent course each Tuesday morning throughout Lent from 10.30am to 11.30am am (coffee available at 10.15am). The final part of this course will be on Tuesday 4th April.

As Spring has arrived, we will be holding a Spring coffee and cake morning here at the Church on Saturday 29th April at 10.30am. We will also be having some stalls which will hopefully include plants. Do come along, as I know our accomplished bakers will be busy making delicious refreshments, and you will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, may the joy of Easter Sunday be with you all.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



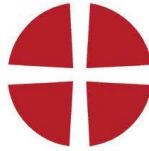
**Brent Methodist Church
East Brent**

We have just returned from the Link Mothering Sunday Service at Brean. It is unusual for us not to be in our “mother church” on Mothering Sunday and looking back through previous submissions to The Link I see that I commented on it in 2020 when lockdowns were imposed on us. Nevertheless it was a most enjoyable and happy service and we were grateful to receive a small & cheerful spray of daffodils, carnations and some greenery.

Brean were also celebrating their 90th anniversary and provided delicious cakes to go with our after the service cup of coffee. At the risk of being provocative Andrew was telling me on the way home that his Uncle Bert Gilling was one of the original founders of the church along with some members of the Hicks family of course.

Can I remind you that crosses will be erected on the Knoll again this year and if you are physically able to help with this then please meet in the grassed car park opposite the farm on the Brent Knoll side at 2pm on Saturday 1st April or 2.30pm at the top of the knoll. The service at the top will take place on Sunday 2 April at 3pm.

Rosemary Gilling



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church
Burnham**

<http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk/>

Easter! A time of hope and new beginnings. For the first disciples, the events transformed their lives. Jesus, whom they thought for ever entombed in a dark cave – ALIVE!

It was the start of a life-changing adventure.

This month, as we celebrate Easter, we share their joy, their hope and sense of adventure as we journey with the risen Christ, trialing new ventures.

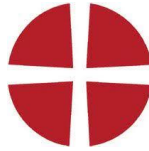
Messy Church has returned. The inaugural session is on Palm Sunday, 2nd April, from 2.30 to 5.30. With informal worship, crafts, games and food, it will share the message of Easter with families. A second event is proposed for 4th June.

‘Knit and Natter’ is offering companionship in another way. In addition to chatting over a cuppa, there’s the opportunity to use creative skills to help others. Among items presently being knitted are a teddy for Kenya, a hat for a premature baby and a prayer shawl.

Two ‘new’ ventures, each adding to the life of the church as we journey with Jesus.

The stewards wish every-one a Spirit filled Easter, full of joy - and a sense of adventure!

Linda Patient [on behalf of the stewards]



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church
West Huntspill**

Our services take place every Sunday morning at 11.00am. Our Easter Day Service is on Sunday the 9th of April, you are very welcome to join us on this special day.

On Good Friday we are having a Service of Reflection at 7.00pm led by Rev. Tim and Mrs. Janet Widdess

The Prayer Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons at 2.00pm. April dates are the 4th and 18th. If you know of anyone in need of Prayer, please let Mrs. Christine Thomas know.

Coffee and Chat will be held on Friday the 28th of April. Do come and join us in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Donations in aid of Parkinson's UK (local branch).



We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Janet J and Kay.

PLUS +++
POEMS, PRAYERS and OTHER
MESSAGES

'Your Best Friend' by Doreen J. Manning

Do you have a special friend?
One on whom you can depend.
A pal, a buddy or a mate,
One who makes you feel just great.

A friend you tell your troubles to,
One who knows just what to do.
Makes you laugh when you are low
Knows the moment to let go.

As a child I longed for one,
Someone who could share my fun,
With imagination I'd pretend
My dear old teddy was my friend.

An old coat button was our "tele-com",
Messages raced to and from,
Called him at first signs of trouble ,
He came to the rescue at the double.

Now I have another friend,
One on whom I can depend,
No need to fret or even fear,
This one's real and ever near.

It's Jesus Christ, my Lord and King,
I trust Him in everything,
When I'm weary, He carries me,
I'm His little lamb, you see.

Are you His lamb and know His voice?
When He calls, do you rejoice?
He's the one I recommend,
Choose Him now as your Best Friend.

Submitted by Janet J & Kay (West Huntspill)

The Link Fellowship

This month the Fellowship were delighted to welcome Revd. Jim McKnight who shared a devotional afternoon prepared for the Lent season. His theme was "Oasis in the Wilderness" and presented a challenge as to where and how we found our own oasis.

It was good to see a larger number of people able to attend having recovered from illness and injuries.

Next month, our meeting is a day after the Easter Bank Holiday, so members will choose favourite Easter Hymns and bring readings or poems based on a Spring/ Easter theme.

We are always please to see anyone who would like to join us on the second Tuesday of the month at East Brent Church Hall at 2.30 pm.

Joyce Pipet

**Please note that the deadline for the May
Link Plus is 28th April.**

DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
Weekly		
Wed 10am	Zoom	Link Bible Study
Thur 11.am	Zoom	Link Coffee Morning
Tue/Wed & Thur 9.00am – 5.00pm	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Café and associated activities.
April		
2 nd 3.30pm	Burnham	Messy Church
6 th 7.00pm	Burnham	Maundy Thursday Communion
7 th 10.00am	Burnham	Good Friday Service
7 th 11.00am	Burnham	Walk of Witness St Andrew's - OLEM
7 th 7.00pm	West Huntspill	Good Friday Meditations
9 th 6.15am	Brean Down	Easter Morning Sunrise Service
25 th 2.00pm	Brent Knoll	Link Committee
26 th 7.00pm	Burnham	Foodbank AGM
29 th 10.30am	Brent Knoll	Spring Fair
May		
6 – 8 th		Coronation Weekend
12 th 6.00pm	Burnham	Meal
16 th 7.00pm	Zoom	Circuit Safeguarding