

# **LINK PLUS+++**

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## **April 2024**

### **FROM OUR MINISTER**

By the time you will read this newsletter Easter may already be over, the school holidays well underway, and the start of the influx of spring visitors perhaps occupying your time. Spring is a wonderful season of new life and new people, and it is appropriate that here in the Easter Season we remember that Jesus brought new life to the world through the wonder of his resurrection. That new life is not just something for the past, or some hoped for thing in the future; it is a reality that is for everyone in the here and now. God longs for us all to share in this Easter reality, and the life springing up around us at this time of year is a good reminder for us of God's faithfulness in every generation.

I like many others was blessed by the visit of Roger Jones to Burnham. We had a wonderful couple of days with Roger and the team from Christian Music Ministries. I look forward to all that God will do in our churches through the message he brought and the teaching he gave us.

By the time you read this I will be on Sabbatical. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers, and for sharing your good wishes with Liz and me for this time. We hope you will keep well until we see you again in July.

God bless you.

Steve

**We wish Steve a time of rest and spiritual renewal over the period of this Sabbatical and hope that both he and Liz will enjoy the times they shared together.**

# BREAN

I don't know about you but, in the last few days, I feel that I am waking up again after a sleepy winter. The arrival of Easter and the advent of April is enough to bring cheer and a renewed hope for the future.

Our church is looking better too. Roger has done a sterling job in cutting back the path verges; flowers and small plants have appeared on the doorsteps to welcome those who approach or just pass by.

The Cheltenham contingent of our summer regulars are already among us and the arrival of others is imminent. Welcome to another summer. Our Easter banner has been brought back into service to add to the welcome. 'He is risen' it says and we know that Easter Day is not the end; there's another six weeks of the Easter season to go. Plenty of time still to look forward in hope and cheerfulness.

Here at Brean, the ladies are leading a project with St Bridget's to have a village Flower Festival over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. St B's have chosen their arrangements to illustrate the hymn 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'; we are depicting the months of the year in our arrangements. It is intended that the festival will extend from 26<sup>th</sup> through to 30<sup>th</sup> May. Please put the event into your diaries and come and support us. There will be tea and cake awaiting you.

Joyce and Stanley led our Easter service. How good it was to see Stanley back in action again for this occasion, still showing his quiet authority in the pulpit, nearly thirty were there to appreciate the worship.

It was good to have East Brent and Brent Knoll with us for our joint service on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Again this meant we were a couple of dozen strong and we were blessed by Rev Judith Lincoln with us at Brean for the first time. We wish her well as she takes over Steve's Superintendency responsibilities during his Sabbatical.

Brean hosts a broad demographic of people, from the short term holidaymaker, through those working in the area, to the resident. All are welcome on a Sunday morning for fellowship, worship and a cuppa. Sunday Services this month are at 10.30am. Coffee mornings at 10.30 each Monday.

We wish you all the very best for the month ahead and beyond.

Harvey Allen

## BRENT KNOLL

Due to our ongoing decorating and repair work, we were unable to host our joint service with the village churches here at Brent Knoll on 17th March. Many thanks to Brean for stepping in and hosting in our place. We shall be joining our friends at East Brent later this month, so please note that there will be no service here at Brent Knoll on 21st April.

At the time of writing, we are still worshipping in the school room each Sunday morning as our worship area is being spruced up, and necessary quinquennial repairs carried out. We are so grateful to all the ministers and preachers who have adapted their services to provide really meaningful times of praise and fellowship during this time.

With those repair works in mind, we will be holding a fund raising Spring coffee morning on Saturday 27th April at 10.30am. And more importantly, a time to catch up with Circuit and community friends. Do come and join us!

But first and foremost, with all the disruption in mind, as with all our buildings within the Circuit, we are a centre of worship. The Church is made up of people - not bricks and mortar! At the time of writing, we're approaching Good Friday, the most poignant and holiest of days in our Christian calendar, before the wonder, joy and celebration of Easter Sunday. We don't know whether we'll be celebrating in the church or the school room. But it really doesn't matter. "Christ is risen!". That's the message we hold in our hearts, and that will be the heart of our celebrations.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, we continue to hold you all, our ministers, our members, our communities and the whole of our Circuit in our prayers.

God bless you

Rosemary Krull

# **BURNHAM**

We at Burnham were very fortunate on Palm Sunday to have a morning service led by the musical director Roger Jones and in the evening the service was led by Steve.

Both services put a completely different and meaningful look at the Lord's entry into Jerusalem and the true meaning of the word Hosanna. How powerful both services were.

The contrast with the two very different crowds that welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday and the very hostile crowd that called for Jesus to be crucified has certainly given me a lot of food for thought.

We are now back into summertime (certainly not whilst I am writing these notes!!) After such a long-drawn-out winter it is so good to see and feel the warmth of the sun. The trees and plants are beginning to take on a light green hue as new growth starts to appear and we pray for good weather to enable the harvest to be a successful one for our farmers.

However, we must pray for an end to the hostilities in Gaza and the Middle East also Ukraine and the many other conflicts around the world. We all know how the power of prayer can overcome evil and bring peace let us join together this Easter time in praying for an end to conflicts.

Tracy White

# EAST BRENT

Our church has had a makeover! We have been holding services in the hall for the last few weeks whilst it has been painted internally, including the vestry. A local painter has done an excellent job and at a very reasonable rate. Since then, some Spring cleaning has been carried out and this morning we were back in the church building. It definitely had a new glow. There was a little bit of “where is this?” and “where is that?”, but after some scurrying about the missing objects were found and put back in place.

Our Mothering Sunday service taken by Revd Steve was very moving as usual. Thanks must go to Evelyn for the preparation of small posies which were handed to each member of the congregation.

We have recently welcomed Revd Judith to East Brent for the first time and have recently attended a Link Service at Brean which was also a first time visit for Judith. There was a good turnout at this service and it is enjoyable to be part of a crowd which boosts the singing, and to share in conversation and fellowship after the service.

We wish Steve well for his forthcoming sabbatical and trust he will come back refreshed and renewed.

Rosemary Gilling

PS. If you are missing a pair of spectacles which are coloured two tones of blue and which were left in our church after our Carols by Candlelight service please contact me.

# WEST HUNTSPILL

**The Prayer Group** will be meeting on Tuesday afternoons at 2.00pm. on the 2nd and 16<sup>th</sup> of April

If you know of anyone in need of Prayer, please let Mrs. Christine Thomas know.

**Coffee and Chat** this month will be on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am – 12 Noon

Please come and join us, we love to meet up with our friends from the Link Churches.

**Babes, Tots and Carers.** Wednesdays at 1.30pm till 3.00pm, term time only  
Contact Carol Hester 01278 780730 for full details.

Jan Ty writes.

Janet J asked me to write something for the Link Magazine. Well, here it is, for better or worse!

My daughter Kathryn and I have attended a lot of Thanksgiving Services lately. They have been as varied as the people whose lives were being celebrated. Some had very large congregations, some very small. We heard about wonderful lives lived, aged between 62 and 93 years old. We met lovely people at various wakes. Thanks to all the people who conducted the Services.

I was delighted and excited to read that the Methodist Church is going green. Congratulations to the East Brent Chapel. We must all continue to do our bit to save God's wonderful planet that He's given us.

By the time you read this I will have planted some vegetable and flower seeds. Vegetables for us and flowers for the Bees and Butterflies. I have also planted some seeds from my World Day of Prayer Sunflower – do you remember I wrote about it? It started with a single seed attached to the World Day of Prayer programme in 2021.

Spring is with us, a new life, new beginnings, thanks be to God.

Janet J. & Kay

# ROGER JONES

Worship Works.

How brilliant it is to see a dream become a reality.  
That's what happened on Saturday 23rd March at Burnham Methodist Church, when a man called Roger Jones and his team came to lead a day on Worship Works. (Yes, it does!)

It was a day of deep spirituality and laughter.  
A day of music and singing.  
A day of new insights and old traditions.  
A day of meeting old friends and making new ones.  
A day to reflect, rejoice and remember.  
A day to learn.

Tim and I had worked with Roger in previous circuits and when we came here we were delighted to meet and to become friends with Jacky and Martin Clark. We found a lot in common, not least that they knew Roger very well from Birmingham days. Talking together we thought it would be wonderful if we could invite him to Burnham to lead a day for us in the Circuit.

A vision that became a reality, except that...Covid came, and the pandemic put a stop to all our plans!

Roger leads these days, weekends and residential events all over the country and is booked up months ahead. It's well over a year since the date for us was confirmed and the planning could begin again.

Roger also led the Palm Sunday service at Burnham the next day. A service filled with music and praise and the reminder of "Hosanna. Jesus save us now."

The challenge for us now is how do we build on what we have learned and experienced.

How we let the Holy Spirit lead us forward.  
How we let God have His way with us.

Watch this space.

Janet Widdess.

# LINK FELLOWSHIP

## The Link Fellowship.

For our March meeting, Janet Johnson, Gill Poulter and I brought the items we had knitted in the last two Lent Knitalongs which are produced by Victoria Methodist Church in Bristol. So we had a display of three cushions with the scene of the open tomb picked out in knit and purl stitches, and two scarves with various symbolic patterns – e.g. palm trees, and on the last segment – the empty cross. This year the item is a shawl, which Janet and I have begun, but which will not be completed until Good Friday. We have been following the daily meditations and knitting the rows of the pattern set for that day. We shall bring these to the next meeting. But for this meeting, I shared some of the meditations that had been given earlier in the month. These gave a time for personal prayers as well as sharing appropriate hymns.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm at East Brent Methodist Church hall when our speaker will be Pastor Jade from Hope Baptist Church. During the service for the World Day of Prayer which was held at her church, she had spoken briefly about her visit to Palestine. This was very apt as the service this year had been written by Palestinian women, and those of us who hear her felt it would be good if she could come and share more of that experience.

Everyone is welcome to join us in this Fellowship.

Joyce Pipet



# POEM

## Home Thoughts, from Abroad

Robert Browning

O, to be in England  
Now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England  
Sees, some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf  
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England – now!

And after April, when May follows,  
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!  
Hark, where my blossom'd pear-tree in the hedge  
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover  
Blossoms and dewdrops – at the bent spray's edge  
That 's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,  
Lest you should think he never could recapture  
The first fine careless rapture!  
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,  
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew  
The buttercups, the little children's dower  
Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower!

## DIARY DATES

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Time</b>  | <b>Location</b>           | <b>Event</b>   |
|--|--------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Weekly</b>  |              |                           |  |
| Monday   | 10.30am      | <i>Brean</i>              | Coffee Morning   |
| Wednesday<br>(except first<br>Wednesday in<br>month) | 10.00am      | <i>Zoom</i>               | Link Bible Study   |
| Thursday   | 11.00am      | <i>Zoom</i>               | Coffee Morning   |
| Monday –<br>Friday                                   | 9.00 – 5.00  | <i>Burnham</i>            | Waffle Hub<br>Community Café<br>& Associated<br>Activities |
| <b>Other Dates</b>                                   |              |                           |  |
| April 2, 16  | 2.00pm       | <i>West<br/>Huntspill</i> | Prayer Group   |
| April 9  | 2.30pm       | <i>East<br/>Brent</i>     | Link Fellowship  |
| April 26   | 2.00pm       | <i>West<br/>Huntspill</i> | Coffee & Chat  |
| April 27   | 10.30am      | <i>Brent<br/>Knoll</i>    | Coffee morning<br>(to raise money<br>for repairs)          |
| May 26 – 30  | 10.00 – 4.00 | <i>Brean</i>              | Flower Festival  |

The deadline for the May Link Plus is  
26<sup>th</sup> April.

Please send contributions to  
Harvey Allen at  
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