

[LINK PLUS +++](#)  
(The Newsletter for the Methodist Church in  
Burnham-on-Sea and its surrounding area)

APRIL 2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends

We find ourselves in Lent once more journeying with Jesus to Jerusalem. As Easter approaches, many around the world prepare to recall the obedience of the Son of God through the events that lead to his death and resurrection. In a world of busy schedules and never-ending to-do lists, the Easter season makes us pause for a moment, and remember Christ's resurrection, the pivotal event in Christianity. We stop to bear witness to the triumph over darkness, hope over despair, and life over death. We are called to worship, to proclaim the actions of a loving Father, the God who holds his children in love for all eternity.

Each year Easter invites us to think once more about our relationship with God, and God with us. A commentator on the gospel scenes of cross and empty tomb says that these things help us *'explore the transformative potential of faith in Jesus Christ. Faith which isn't about blind adherence to dogma but rather a courageous act of trust in someone greater than ourselves – Jesus Christ'*.

So, what is it that God wants to reveal anew to you this year?

- the reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is light.
- the invitation to renew your faith and trust in Jesus, who conquered death and offers eternal life to all who believe in him.
- to know for yourself that Jesus has the power to transform lives – your life.

- the inspiration to live your life with purpose and intention, guided by the teachings of Jesus.
- the rekindling of a sense of hope and anticipation for the future because of what Jesus has done for you.
- the reminder that no matter what trials you may face, God offers comfort, strength, and hope in the midst of life's challenges

Perhaps there is something that you would want to add to this list! Yet, however you approach Easter, whatever you might find yourself involved in (whether in the church or outside) the message of Easter is a challenge for our lives and is the glory of God's love for us.

Don't let Easter just pass you by!

Steve

### **BREAN**

([www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk))

It was a great delight a couple of Sundays ago to walk into the back of our church and find, as well as our usual bunch of folk waiting for the service to start, that the Cheltenham squad were back from their winter hideaway, all four of them, well three of them were, as one had developed a nasty bout of sciatica and was laid up in his caravan. It was a great pleasure to see them again, for you never know, as you say farewell for another year when they take their leave at the end of October, just how winter is going to pan out. It gave us all an enormous boost to see them again, and added much to the atmosphere of the morning; and I have no doubt that Steve, who was preaching on that day, was also uplifted by their presence. A happy and meaningful day that extended into coffee and biscuits afterwards. It was nearly 12.30 before we broke up and went home. It was all a reminder of how much our presence together, even as 'mere' members of the congregation, adds to the spirit of the worship and fellowship. (And then, right at the end of the month, Steve and Lynn popped up again; what a pleasure).

They missed the Beetle Drive though. That had been held earlier in the month. 25 were there, six tables of four and Anne to do the calling. Great fun amidst the uproar of getting Beetle right, or wrong. The scoring, the progression from one table to the next, even the number of legs for each beetle, all added to the confusion which was all sorted out amid much laughter. In 80 odd years I cannot remember having had to throw, not four legs but now six legs in order to complete the Beetle, though I am told that Burnham use this method. It is bad enough to have to throw a six for a body in order to start, or a five for a head, but to complete 6 threes before you can get to 'Beetle' can take an age. But Wikipedia says it is 6 legs so who am i to argue? It all adds to the fun anyway.

To put a topping to the occasion, Judy organised the sausage and mash supper that preceded the games (proper, butcher's sausages from Pynes of course; and thanks to Kathy who peeled the spuds, all of 'em). A great success. The whole thing reminded us of the cheerfulness that Spring heralds through blossom and blooms. Otherwise, March wended its usual way through the vagaries of the season. A cool, sometimes unpleasant streak of weather to start with but much better towards the end.

We were pleased as a congregation to be present at Burnham for worship led by the new Chair of District, Rev Dr Marcus Torchon, who was well received and is making a good impression all around. Mothering Sunday will have been and gone by the time this newsletter is issued. Here at Brean we welcomed East Brent and Brent Knoll this year.

And now it is April. We come to the end of Lent with the build up to Good Friday (Crosses on Brent Knoll everybody?), and then Steve leads a group up Brean Down for a short service at dawn on Easter Day. (Assemble in the NT carpark at about 5.45am). Later that day it will be the 10.30am service as usual

From us all at Brean we hope that Lent has been all that you will have wished and that you have a very happy Easter

**Harvey Allen**

## **A thought**

We are told that God made us in his own image. Unfortunately we have returned the compliment. *Voltaire*

***DON'T LET EASTER JUST PASS YOU BY!***

## **EAST BRENT**

([www.eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk))

Several of our members seem to be coming and going recently.

Jill & Gordon are now on their travels and their absence makes us very aware of how much they do for us, so thank you Jill & Gordon.

I was away at the time of the District Presbyteral Synod which was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March at the Catholic Church in Burnham. Unfortunately, due to requirements for a large space and parking, our own churches were not deemed suitable. Thanks to all who made soup, baked cakes and helped on the day. It was quite amusing that several people turned up expecting to attend Mass only to be informed by our car parking steward that the church was full of Methodists!

East Brent School has recently had a SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools). This should take place every five years but due to Covid was considerably overdue. It aims to focus on the school's effectiveness and distinctness as a church school. As a Foundation Partner (previously known as Governor) I should have been in attendance. However, the school is only given one week's notice of the inspection and it was the very week I was away. I understand all went well and the inspector was pleased with what she saw. I felt for the Headteacher and her staff when they also had an Ofsted inspection the following week, for which they only receive one day's notice! The school has approximately 50 pupils and is struggling for numbers but have a lovely new pre-school building. To that end they are promoting their pre-school and we have been displaying an advertising banner on our wall which is about to be renewed. Our own church website has been updated and renewed and made much more user friendly. I am told we need to consider running a Facebook page alongside this .....

Rosemary Gilling

## **BRENT KNOLL**

([www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com](http://www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com))

As we look forward to the wonder and joy of Easter, we shall be sharing our Easter Sunday worship at East Brent on 20th April. Please note that there will be no service at Brent Knoll on that date.

Looking ahead, we will be holding our Spring coffee morning on Saturday 3rd May at 10.30am. We are very much looking forward to meeting up with our Circuit, Link and Village friends over refreshments.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, we wish you all the joy of the promise of Easter as we continue to hold the Circuit and the Village in our prayers.

God bless

Rosemary Krull

---

## **BURNHAM**

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

We started the month of March with a very special service on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, it was led by THE REVEREND DR. MARCUS TORCHON, who is the Chairman of the Bristol and District Methodist Churches. It was a very interesting service. We were joined by members of several other Methodist Churches in our area who had closed their church for the morning so they were able to join us. It was lovely to see our church so full and to welcome our visitors. It was a very interesting service in which we all learnt a lot, including thinking about the hymns we sang, the words that were used and their meaning. I think we will look more carefully at the words we sing and what they actually mean.

The church is busy most days of the week. The Waffle Hub is open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am – 2 pm and on Wednesdays from 10 am to 4 pm. There are often people there who are able to help with any problems people might have. A mother and Toddler group runs every Friday morning. There is a Knit and Natter group which meets every Wednesday afternoon from two pm. Even if you don't knit or crochet you will be made very welcome, just come for a chat with our very friendly group.

Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> was a Messy Church afternoon at our church. . A good time was had by all. We would like to thank all the people who give up their afternoon to work with local children and show them that going to church can be great fun.

Marian Foster

---

### A LETTER OF THANKS

Our Circuit is situated at the South West corner of the Bristol District. It then stretches north up as far as Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury and east to Swindon and Cirencester, and the border of Oxfordshire, before coming down south as far as parts of Wiltshire. A synod representing the whole church in the District is held twice a year and the ministers also meet twice a year for fellowship and to discuss those matters that affect clergy alone. This year this Presbyteral Synod met early in March, and in the spirit of Ecumenical co-operation the Roman Catholic church graciously offered their church in Burnham. Janet Widdess organised the refreshments and allied arrangements. Afterwards she received this tribute from the Synod Secretary, Deborah. As Janet comments:

Lovely letter received from Deborah. ( P.S Sec ).

To which I add my thanks to Alice, Linda, Joyce, Rosemary K, Joan , Andrew, and everyone who made cakes and soup:

15th March 2025.

Dear Janet and team!

Thank you once again, for your splendid hospitality towards the members of synod at Burnham R.C. Church on Wednesday.

You managed superbly in a strange venue to serve us most generously and with gracious smiles.

It's a lot of hard work - I know! and we really appreciate your efforts on our behalf. I would be most grateful if you ensure all members of the team receive our heartfelt thanks.

Yours in Christ

Deborah ( P.S. Sec )

## WEST HUNTSPILL

([www.wsmbos.org./westhuntspill.htm](http://www.wsmbos.org./westhuntspill.htm))

Our Coffee Morning will be Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30am till 12 noon, to which all are welcome. We will have the usual Sales table. As you know we do not charge for coffee, tea, cakes or biscuits, but we welcome Donations, which will be for the R.N.L.I. a very worthwhile Charity.

As we are preparing to remember Christ's sacrifice for us on Calvary. I have found a Hymn that I can remember singing years ago, it is by William Walsham How

It is a thing most wonderful,  
Almost to wonderful to be,  
That God's own Son should  
come from heaven  
And die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true;  
He came to this poor world  
below,  
And wept and toiled and  
mourned and died,  
Only because He loved us so.

I cannot tell how He could love  
A child so weak and full of sin;  
His love must be most  
wonderful,  
If He could die my love to win

I sometimes think about His  
cross,  
And shut my eyes and try to see  
The cruel nails, and crown of  
thorns,  
And Jesus crucified for me.

But even could I see Him die,  
I would but see a little part  
Of that great love, which like a  
fire  
Is always burning in His heart.

It is most wonderful to know  
His love for me so free and sure;  
But tis more wonderful to see  
My love for Him so faint and  
poor.

And yet I want to love Thee, Lord;  
Oh, light the flame within my  
heart,  
And I will love thee more and  
more  
Until I see the as Thou art.

A very blest Easter and love to all from West Huntspill  
Janet Johnson

### POEM

by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu.	I thought about the smile and then realised its worth,
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.	A single smile like mine could travel round the earth.
I walked around the corner and someone saw me grin;	So if you feel a smile begin don't leave it undetected,

### THE LINK FELLOWSHIP

Our numbers were lower than usual in March as those from Brent Knoll had a church council, one member had a funeral to attend, and another was due to have a hip operation a few days later.

However, those who were able to attend had a thought provoking time when readings and poems linked to Lent were shared, but these finished on a lighter note with thoughts of the temptation to break a vow when something was given up for Lent.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday April 8<sup>th</sup> when our speaker will be Paul Temple who will give an update on the work in Luhimba – a project that has been supported for many years by East Brent Methodist Church, and the Link fellowship.

As usual, this meeting will be at the East Brent Methodist Church Hall at 2.30 p.m. and all are welcome.

Joyce Pipet

---

### THE LIGHT

I saw this item the other day, that impressed me. Taken from the writings of a lady called Rosemarie Harding. It moved me because 60 years ago I walked into my office where I worked in London and had a very similar experience, something that has stayed with me and supported through my life ever since though perhaps not quite so intensely. Rosemarie said:



'I can't say exactly where the Light entered, where it started from. Suddenly, it was just there with me. A white light, bright enough that it should have hurt to look. But it didn't hurt. In fact, as the Light grew and enveloped everything in the room, I felt the most astonishing sense of protection, of peace. It surrounded me and I was in it, so joyfully. I don't know how long I was engulfed by this Light, this space. But when I came out of my room my family was looking at me oddly, like there was something different about me they couldn't quite name....

The Light became a kind of touchstone in my life. It was so much love. Like an infinite compassion. At the same time it was something very precious and intimate. It awed me, really. And when I walked out of the room, everything looked different. Clear. It was like a heightened sense of presence. Almost a shine. '

I wonder how many other people have felt this movement within them and would care to share their experience.

---

### A THOUGHT

As I walked out of the door toward the gate  
that would lead to my freedom,  
I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind,  
I'd still be in my prison

Nelson Mandela

### PROSE & POETRY

*Last month I invited you to tell us about books that have moved you this year. We don't need to have a run down of the plot but give us some idea of books that moved you, or might encourage us to read them too (or not of course).*

**Celia:** I have just finished a library book written by Father Alex Frost, an Anglican priest the book **"Our Daily Bread: From Argos to the Altar - A Priests' story"** It made compelling reading, down to earth if you

don't mind getting through the swear words throughout. He tells how he became a Priest at 40, having not long come to faith "Bemused wondering what had happened to make me wear a dog collar" expletives removed! It tells the stories of the people in his Parish of Burnley, Lancs, through lockdown - heartbreaking, funny, challenging, a book I couldn't put down A totally honest book about the people, the Church, and the need and poverty; but their resilience astounded and humbled him. He is really the living the Gospel Jesus preached and I would really commend it. It has been a good book to read at the beginning of Lent and given me a lot to think about . *Celia D.*  
*Perhaps you belong to a book club and have discussed your book when you have met together.*

**Rosemary G** finds it a challenging experience. This is one of hers:

We started the year with a choice of mine which was **The Daughter of Time by Josephine Fey**. I do try to find something different, and this one didn't disappoint. In 1990, this novel was named the greatest mystery novel of all time by the British Crime Writers' Association. It was described as a gripping historical mystery and a detective story with a very considerable difference.

The book was written in 1951, and so must be read with that in mind as parts are not what we might now consider to be politically correct Inspector Alan Grant of Scotland Yard, recuperating from a broken leg, becomes fascinated with a contemporary portrait of Richard III that bears no resemblance to the Wicked Uncle of history. Could Richard have been the victim, turned into a monster by the Tudors?

*Your book need not be all plain sailing. Sometimes you have to plough through the pain and dross in order to reach the nuggets. Rosemary again:*

If you can get past the first few chapters of this book which recount the trapping of small birds and is not an enjoyable read, **Songbirds by Christy Lefteri** (who also wrote The Beekeeper of Aleppo) is an eye opener. It explores the plight of female migrant domestic workers in Cyprus. The novel is based on a true story of love and loss and follows the disappearance of Nisha, a Sri Lankan maid, and the search for her by her lover Yiannis and her employer Petra. This reveals the darker side of a migrant's life, where impossible choices leave them vulnerable, captive and worse.

*Thank you to both Celia and Rosemary for your contributions. And to others of you, can you contribute? What reading has moved you this year? The holiday season is getting closer and we are all looking for something to keep us interested. Send me an email with your choice: harveyjallen@gmail.com*

## DON'T LET EASTER JUST PASS YOU BY!

### DIARY DATES

<u>Regular days</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Event</u>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Brean</b>	<b>Coffee morning</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Zoom</b>	<b>Coffee chat (details from Steve)</b>
<b>Monday to Thursday</b>	<b>9.00am – 2.00pm (Wednesday to 4pm)</b>	<b>Burnham</b>	<b>Waffle Hub Community Cafe and Associated Activities</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Burnham</b>	<b>Knit 'n Natter</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Burnham</b>	<b>Mothers and Toddlers</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1.30pm - 3.00pm</b>	<b>West Huntspill</b>	<b>Babes, tots &amp; carers group</b>
<b>April 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Top of Brent Knoll</b>	<b>Erecting of Crosses</b>
<b>April 17<sup>th</sup> – Thursday</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>West Huntspill</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday service</b>
<b>April 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Burnham</b>	<b>Good Friday service</b>
<b>April 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday</b>	<b>6.00am</b>	<b>On Brean Down</b>	<b>Sunrise service. Meet at bottom of hill at 5.45am</b>
<b>April 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday</b>	<b>10.30am to 12 noon</b>		<b>Coffee morning – see West Huntspill news</b>

APRIL 25TH -FRIDAY	LAST DATE FOR NEXT LINK	SEND TO HARVEY ALLEN	EMAIL: harveyjallen20@gmail.com
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Friday	10.30 to 12noon	Brent Knoll	Coffee morning with stalls

## WELCOME TO ALL

If you are visiting our area, or perhaps even coming to live here and are looking for a church, you will find a warm welcome at each of these churches. All are in or adjacent to main roads and parking is close by. Burnham has no on site parking for the general public but the Somerset Council carpark in Oxford Street (opposite Lidl) is close by and parking is free after 6pm and on Sundays at the moment. These churches (collectively we call them The Link) form part of the Weston-super-Mare and Burnham-on-Sea circuit of the Methodist Church. Rev Steve Bennett exercises Pastoral care of the Link churches and is Superintendent Minister of the whole circuit. Rev Judith Lincoln has care of the Weston churches at Uphill and Milton and at the ecumenical ones at Bournville and Locking Castle. Each church has its own website and further information is contained on the Circuit site on: [wsmbos.org](http://wsmbos.org)

---

Link Plus+++ is issued on or around 1<sup>st</sup> of each month except for January and August. Members of our congregations are encouraged to receive a copy each month. Register your interest by sending your email to our minister, Steve, on: [steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk](mailto:steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk)  
**And thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue. It is much appreciated and I hope that you and others will continue to do so.**

**And as the saying goes:**

**DON'T LET EASTER PASS YOU BY**