



THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

December 2007 – January 2008 Volume 42. No. 10.

Christmas Greetings to Everyone

Superintendent's Letter.

As I write this letter Rev Stephen has only been home from hospital 24hours and only 12days since his operation. We are glad that he is making good progress and pray that he continues to gain strength. But I don't want to see him doing any work for at least two to three months. I am grateful for all those who have filled the gaps until the end of February on the Plan, and to those Supernumeraries who are offering pastoral care and support in the Link section of our circuit, as well as the continuing help of the stewards and other officers of the church.

Like many of us I suspect Stephen will want to get back to work as soon as possible, but the temptation to rush back could mean that further down the line we are back to square one and others are left to pick up the pieces. As we approach Advent we can take a lesson from God. This season in the church calendar is a time of preparation for the culmination of God's final plan as we await the Second Coming of Christ. At the end of time the final victory will be won and the scriptures remind us that all things will be made new. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Jesus reminds us that only the Father knows the time when this will happen. Daphne my wife tells me that I have no patience, it's true. I hate waiting in queues and will go without rather than wait in a shop. I become impatient at the slowness of the church at times, so I share something of Stephens's frustration. If we take a leaf out of God's book we will see that he does not hurry. How long it was before the first coming of Christ that we celebrate at Christmastide, and now two thousand years on we still await his coming again. During this advent season let us ponder on the wonder of God's patience and from it let us try to see that God's timing is perfect.

As we move through Advent and into Christmas let us once again prepare our hearts to receive him, and then unlike me who would take the decorations down on Boxing Day let us savour his presence with us and enjoy relaxing with him. One day Christ will come again in all his glory, until then let us enjoy the moment, for every day can be an advent experience when he comes again in our hearts.

May Daphne and I wish you all a very happy Christmas when it comes.

Every blessing

Robert.

CALENDER

NOVEMBER

- Sun. 25th **Church Gift Sunday.**
Tues. 27th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Mr. John Clayton – Lighthouses.
Thurs 29th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning - Burnham Stroke Club

DECEMBER

- Sat 1st 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Sunday Club
Sat 1st 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll Methodist Church.
Sun. 2nd 10.30am Toy & Gift Service. Burnham
Sun. 2nd am. Traidcraft Stall in the Hall
Sun. 2nd 3.30pm. Circuit "Wesley Celebration" at Victoria.
Tues 4th 6.45 for 7.00. Burnham Christmas Meal at The White Cottage W Huntspill
Wed. 5th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Christmas Customs - Rev Stanley Pipet.
Thur. 6th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Favourite Carols/Christmas Stories - Bring & Share.
Sat. 8th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of Secret World - Burnham Methodist Hall
Tues. 11th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Christmas Buffet.
Tues. 11th 2.30pm. Carol Singing at Beaufort House Rectory Road.
Wed. 12th 10.00am. LINK Communion at Brean.
Fri. 14th 7.00pm. Carol Service West Huntspill Methodist Church.
Sat 15th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds. All welcome.
Tues. 18th. 7.00pm. Carols in the Barn - Ash Lawn, Rooksbridge.
Wed. 19th 6.30pm. Carol Singing at Tesco in aid of NCH.
Fri 21st 11.00am Crib Service Burnham Methodist.
Fri 21st 7.00pm. Carols by Candlelight at East Brent.
Sun. 23rd 6.30pm. Carols by Candlelight. Burnham.
Mon 24th 4.00pm. Carol Service at Brean Methodist Church.
Tues 25th 10.00am. Short Family Service at East Brent Methodist Church.
Tues 25th 10.30am. Christmas Morning Service Burnham. Rev. Robin Hutt.

JANUARY

- Wed. 2nd 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Party.
Thur. 3rd 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Members Christmas Memories.
Sat 5th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Choir
Tues. 8th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs. Pat Hase - George Reed and Burnham.
Sat. 12th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of Secret World - Burnham Methodist Hall

- Thur. 17th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Video of Lost Buildings. Open invitation to other Churches. (Sales Table)
- Sat. 19th. 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds. All welcome.
- Sat. 19th. 10.00 - 5.00 Day of Prayer "Pray Without Ceasing" at West Huntspill Methodist Church.
- Sun 20th** **LAST Day for items for the February LINK.**
- Sun 20th 6.30pm. Churches Together United Service at Catholic Church - Rev Robin Hutt.
- Tues. 22nd 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Mr. Paul Temple – Luhimba Update.
- Sat 26th 10.00 – 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds. All welcome.

FEBRUARY

- Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Wednesday Group
- Wed. 6th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Mrs. Joyce Pipet.
- Thur. 7th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Mrs. Sandra Brown.
- Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of Secret World - Burnham Methodist Hall
- Tues. 12th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Members Afternoon – Bring & Buy.



Deaths

Mrs. Ruth Knight Funeral at Burnham Monday 5th November.



ABBNEYFIELD

There is a vacancy at Abbeyfield house on the Berrow Road for a lady or gentleman of mature years who has found that living on their own and being responsible for maintaining a house and garden is more difficult than they wish to continue with.

For further details please contact the House Manager on 01278 787359



NCH Carol Singing

We will be singing at Beaufort House Rectory Road on Tuesday 11th December at 2.30pm. and at TESCO's on Wednesday 19th December at 6.30pm. Do come along and join us. Dorothy May



Burnham-on-Sea Methodist Church

Invites you to a Coffee Morning

in aid of

Secret World Wildlife Rescue

Saturday December 8th

10.00am – 12noon

in the Church Hall

Meet Pauline Kidner, founder of Secret World
and some of her friends.

Raffle, Cakes, Plants and Toys Bric a brac, Jewellery,
Videos, CDs and Tapes



CHRISTMAS AT EAST BRENT

Tuesday, 18th December at 7.30pm

Carols in the Barn at Ash Lawn Rooksbridge

Friday 21st December @ 7.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Followed by coffee & mince pies

Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day at 10.00am

Short Family Service



DAY OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2008

METHODIST CHURCH - WEST HUNTSPILL

Saturday, 19TH January 2008, 10.00am – 5.00pm

We celebrate 100 years of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (1908 – 2008) as we join our prayers with our brothers and sisters across the world and with Christians of all denominations over the past century.

Pray Without Ceasing

10.00am	WELCOME & INTRODUCTION	
10.15am	Session one	Be at Peace....."
10.45am	Coffee	
11.15am	Session two	"encourage the faint hearted"
11.45am	Session three	"Help the weak"
12.15pm	Session four	"Be patient with all"
12.45pm	Lunch (drinks and snacks lunch provided)	
1.45pm	Session five	".....do good to one another"
2.15pm	Session six	"Rejoice always"
2.45pm	Session seven	"Pray without ceasing"
3.15pm	Tea	
3.45pm	Session eight	"Give thanks in all Circumstances"
4.15pm	Quiet Time	
4-30pm	HOLY COMMUNION	

**METHODIST RELIEF DEVELOPMENT FUND - THE YEAR
2006/7**

Total received £1,719,000

Breakdown of every £1 donated:

- 64p went on grants to development projects in the world's poorest countries.
- 10p went on humanitarian aid.
- 8p went to UK-based campaigning or development education organisations.
- 11p went on charitable activities in the UK including development awareness.
- 5p went on fundraising.
- 2p went on governance.

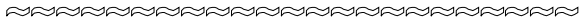
Donated by our circuit £2441.10

DONATED BY THE LINK CHURCHES £1010.00

In the words of Revd Dr Peter Byass, Chair of Trustees, "A big thank you to everyone who contributed - and a big 'please' to continue your support in the year ahead.

“There is so much still to do.”

Chris Wray



CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

The Holy Child in the manger lies,
Shown to the world through the wise men's eyes
They offer their gifts in the stable cold,
Incense, myrrh and the finest gold.
Frankincense for a child divine
Gold for Kingship, a royal sign,
Resinous myrrh, whose bitter breath
Speaks of rejection, grief and death,
Godhead, glory and suffering,
Strange are the gifts the wise men bring

Love is our gold, our incense prayer,
Our myrrh his sorrow in which we share.,
Two thousand years have passed away
The Epiphany rests with us today.
The stable is gone, there's nothing to see.
The world must meet him in you and me.

Contributed by June Nethercot.

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday, October 23rd, our Speaker, Mrs Joan Bailley took as her subject "Angels". She spoke of various types of Angels, both good and bad, but she dealt mostly on good angels. She told us of various occasions when people felt that their "angel" was looking after them or was trying to tell them something. This was a thought provoking afternoon when people were left to make up their own minds.

Our Speaker, on Tuesday, November 13th, was Mrs Margaret Edwards - her subject was from "Little London, Leeds to Peshawar, Pakistan". She was Head teacher in a multi cultural school in the centre of Leeds with children from a wide variety of countries from Afro Caribbean to many parts of Asia. When her family had grown up, she decided that she wanted to gain more experience of the Asian culture and applied to the British Embassy School and was given a two year contract. After completing this she decided to stay on and work with the refugees - an experience which she found very rewarding. She showed a series of slides of scenery before going on to show conditions of life there. It was a most interesting afternoon.

Mr John Clayton will tell us of Lighthouses on November 27th.

Our annual Christmas Buffet will be on December 11th. at 12.00 noon after which the children of East Brent First School will give their Christmas presentation.

Mrs Pat Hase's subject on January 8th. 2008 will be "George Reed and Burnham".

We are always pleased to see anyone who would like to join us in the Schoolroom of East Brent Methodist Church at 2.30pm. on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month.

Eileen Goundry.



The future of Women's Network

Many changes are taking place in Methodism at this time, and one concerns the future of Network.

A consultation document has been produced by the Network Connexional team which seeks to set up a new charitable organisation to cover the kind of issues that Network did.

However this involves an ongoing, major, and at present, unknown cost, which would have to be financed from individuals or from churches. Those to whom I have spoken about this have been very concerned that this kind of organisation would absorb money which they would far rather see go direct to charitable giving.

Up until Monday 12th November, this was the only option which had been presented, without consultation at any wider level. That day I was present at a meeting in Worcester where representatives of Network from the Bristol, Birmingham and Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury Districts were present. We were unanimous in expressing severe reservations about the proposals which had been put before us, and found that we could begin to contemplate "what ifs".

What if there was not a connexional presence as such? Could we survive? What other resources were available that we could tap into?

From this discussion has come a second proposal, drawn up by the Revd. Julie Hulme, which she has circulated to those of us who were present in Worcester. This envisages a far looser structure (tapping into existing organisation such as the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women,) without the constraints of financing a new organisation. This, to my way of thinking, would be a way to embody the essentials of what I have treasured in Network without losing control of allocating our resources.

I have circulated copies of both documents but, if you haven't seen them and are interested to do so, then please contact me - Joyce Pipet 01278 795764

If you feel strongly about this issue, then please write to-
Women's Network, Methodist Church House,

25 Marylebone Road, LONDON NW1 5JR

BY - 3rd December 2007 - there is not much time if you wish to make your views known.

BURNHAM.

BURNHAM STEWARDS

"Soon, soon, the Saviour of the world will be born,
Born into the strong arms of a woman,
Born into the cupped hands of a carpenter"

The clock ticks, the hours and days pass by, and Christmas is almost here once again.

The Season of Advent is a time of preparation, getting ready for the birth of the Christ-child. Amidst the frenzy of preparation, with gifts to buy, cards to write, food to bake, I hope and pray that all of us will be able to take a little time out to prepare ourselves spiritually as well.

Time to look into the manger and see in the face of the baby Jesus, the human face of God. We have each been loved into existence by the One whose birth we celebrate at this time, the One who gives meaning, truth and love to human life. Let us be truly ready to welcome our Saviour on his birthday. "O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord"

We remember in our thoughts and prayers, all who will be missing a loved one this Christmas, the lonely and the housebound, and those who are sick in body mind or spirit. Especially we remember our minister Rev Stephen as he recovers from his transplant surgery.

We send Christmas greetings to all readers of the 'Link' wishing everyone a happy and blessed Christmas.

June on behalf of the Stewards.



Thank you

Dear Friends,

Following my recent accident and operation at Weston hospital I would like to thank all my friends in the Church for their Cards flowers and good wishes. (Our home was beginning to resemble a Florist's shop after a while)

Special thanks are also due to Ros for her arranging to get our car home and then taking David to A&E. It was 1am when they got home and also to Barbara and the Children of the Shell Group for their best wishes and concern.

I am making good progress with the scar well healed and I am able to walk a little bit without using the zimmer provided there is furniture etc to hang onto if necessary.

I hope to be back with you all again soon.

God Bless you all,

Pat Palmer.

BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT FUND

Money raised in October:	£567.55
Transfer from Main Account -3 rd payment £500.00	£1,167.55
Money raised by Members (Includes Promised loans)	£90,696.96
Legacies, Interest, Gift Aid etc.	£31,674.78

TOTAL RAISED £122,371.74

We thank Ros and her helpers for a great evening at the “Variety Show and Supper”

“CHRISTMAS FAIR”

Very many thanks to all who worked and all who supported the Christmas Fair on Saturday. There were people coming in and out during the whole morning and a great time was shared by all. The dry, sunny, morning was indeed a great help! The final result of the Fair was £861.00. Again very many thanks. Joyce.

BRENT KNOLL

Our youth groups are once again in full flow with a regular 6 at Shell Club and 15 at the 12-15 Club. We have a new pool table and some of the youngsters have already been given trophies which they are able to keep. It's lovely to see trophies and shields from years gone by displayed so prominently when I visit homes of our club members. We now have an assistant youth leader, Tom Kettleborough from Weston who has joined us and is already popular with the young people.

In our Shell Club prayer we pray to show kindness to others, this was emphasised last week by asking the children to not simply ask others in the playground if they wanted to play but to say 'I/we would like you to play with us'. In November we will enjoy the annual circuit ten pin bowling which is organised by Sheila at Milton.

Some of our congregation are not well at the moment and we pray for them and all the people involved in caring for them.

Sadly one young person who attended our Sunday School 20 years ago died in October, David Melhuish aged 32 years. We have fond memories of him and pray for all his family at this time.

In December we start our Christmas celebrations with a coffee morning on Saturday 1st December. We look forward to seeing you to enjoy fellowship and refreshment with us. Our nativity will be on Sunday 23rd December when we hope the young people involved with our church will read and take part in the nativity scene led by Margaret Trapp.

Our service on the 30th will be a Carol Service led by Margaret. We welcome Margaret again on the 6th January when we hold our covenant service.

On the 20th January there is a Churches Together United Service at Our Lady's Catholic Church in Burnham at 6.30pm. This will be led by Robin Hutt.

Sue Cox

BREAN

“Lord Give us Peace and start it in me” This was the message from Rev. Sally Lacy on Remembrance Sunday. We must always remember those who gave their lives hoping to bring Peace to the world – but it must start somewhere and so we pray - Let it begin in ME. – St. Bridget’s Church was almost full and mostly with folk who don’t usually come to Church and we had a very moving and thoughtful service which we hope they will think about in the days to come. Thanks to the Vicar for her message and warm welcome

Now our thoughts are beginning to turn to Christmas with Coffee Mornings and Fairs and Carol Services. We look forward to our Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm. This is always a happy occasion with usually a good attendance – but we always have room for more and so please come and join us. It makes a good start to Christmas Celebrations. We wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Let us not forget those who are on their own and would no doubt welcome a bit of company for an hour or even a phone call.

We are glad to report that Daphne is at home now, and we hope she will soon be really fit. We remember all those who are not well, and pray for them.

We sang a hymn at the Remembrance service which I had never heard before and will leave you with a few verses from it.

Best Wishes to all Link friends. Have a lovely Christmas and we pray for Peace in 2008.

Lilian Stone.

Put Peace into each other’s hands and like a treasure hold it,
Protect it like a candle flame with tenderness enfold it.
Put Peace into each other’s hands with loving expectation,
Be gentle in your words and ways in touch with God’s creation.
Put Peace into each other’s hands like bread we brake for sharing,
Look people warmly in the eye, our life is meant for caring.
Put Christ into each other’s hands, he is loves deepest measure.
In love make Peace, give Peace a chance and share it like a treasure.

EAST BRENT METHODIST CHURCH

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas Sale, we had a very enjoyable morning with a steady flow of customers, and equalled last years effort.

We had a reasonable congregation for the Remembrance morning service conducted by the Rev. Stanley Pipet, before walking to the War Memorial where Stanley took charge of the short service there, before returning for a welcome cup of coffee.

We are looking forward to our **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** on Friday 21st December at 7.00pm followed by coffee and mince pies. The Church lit only by candles is always beautifully decorated, warm and welcoming and is an experience not to be missed. East Brent was the first to introduce the candlelight service in the area, and originated from being seen and experienced in Woolacombe. If you would like to share in the traditional carol service, singing the well known carols, then you will be very welcome to join us.

There will also be a warm welcome as always for you at our **HALF HOUR CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE** at 10.00am.

Lot's of families and friends that we only see at Christmas join us for this joyous celebration, and you are assured of getting home in time to cook the lunch.

We wish everyone a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you at our Christmas Services.

Tip - you may well have to come early to get a seat!!

We are pleased to hear that Rev. Stephen Hill is now out of hospital and hopefully on the road to a speedy recovery.

Jill Legg

WEST HUNTSPELL

St. John Ambulance Officers, Cadets and Badgers would like to thank Rev. Carol Gill for hosting a brilliant Remembrance Day service on the 11th of November. We appreciated the events that took place during the service for example, an exercise involving making weapons of war out of clay, which were then destroyed and turned into symbols of peace. For example, bows and arrows, cannons and guns were smashed and turned into doves, poppies, hearts and other symbols of peace.

Cadets, Badgers and members of the congregation also lit candles in honour of the fallen heroes of war and also in hope that the church can lead the way into peace.

As a Cadet it was nice to hear it was interesting to hear some of the stories of the Second World War that involved members of St John ambulance doing heroic deeds that saved many lives.

Overall a brilliant service, the best that we have ever experienced before and would be honoured to be invited to the same service next year.

Thank you,

Sergeant Andrew Jennings

St John Ambulance, West Huntspill cadet division

The LINK

The Annual Subscription to the LINK is now
due for 2008

Please see your distributor

The cost is £3.00 per annum and £3.00 for
Inland postage if required.

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

**The Deadline for the
February 2008 “LINK” is
Sunday 20th January 2008**

**LARGE PRINT COPIES (A4 format) of the “LINK” are available.
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.
Price £3.00 per annum. Inland Post £3.00 per annum.

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