

---

# THE LINK

---

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

---

December 2015 – January 2016 Volume 50. No. 10.

---

A Joyous Christmas  
and a Happy New Year



## Minister's Letters

Dear Friends,

As we all look forward to Christmas and the proper celebrations we realise that for our church this is not just a time when we rejoice together, but indeed it is the time when we have the greatest opportunity to speak about our faith and what God in Jesus really means to us within our communities. It does not mean, as many outside the church would suggest, that we stand against the enjoyment of the season, or we become grumpy about the commercialisation of the festive time, that we would want to insist on solemnity and gravity when the world is full of people's fun and laughter. Rather it means that we join in with the fun and laughter, singing and merriment but with a determination that the name of Jesus Christ and the gift of God's love to the world is not forgotten. Once more to place the Christ from Christmas into the celebrations of this year. We will have the opportunity to welcome people into our churches, to share in religious words, to hear a bible story, with some for whom this may be the only such story they hear all year. In doing so it is important that we show that 'Love came down at Christmas' through the birth of the one who is 'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'. More than at any other time of the year we need to make a place of welcome and acceptance rather than judgement for those to whom God reaches out. Then before we know it we will be in the New Year, making our resolutions for another year to follow the Christ Child into the maturity of his life relevant teaching. We will be challenged by what it means to live in the Kingdom of Love, and to be part of a discipleship church in mission to others. Our ability to do the latter will rest on how we have treated those who come to the manger to find the baby wrapped in strips of cloth.

May all your events and celebrations this Christmas time be wrapped in strips of love.

*Steve*

# Calendar

## NOVEMBER

Sat 28th 10.30 - 12.00 B/K Brent Knoll Christmas Coffee Morning  
 Mon 30th BR Brean Advent Study Group

## DECEMBER

Wed 2nd 8.00pm B/H Wednesday Group- Christmas Thoughts by a member of the clergy  
 Thu. 3rd 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship Mrs Joyce Pipet.  
 Sat 5th 10.00 - 2.00 B/H Burnham Christmas Fair  
 Mon 7th BR Brean Advent Study Group  
 Tue. 8th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship Christmas Buffet Tea  
 Carols & Cakes  
 Thur 10th 2.30pm B/K Emmaus course at Brent Knoll Methodist  
 Thur 10th 7.30pm B & H Choral Concert at St Andrews Church  
 Burnham  
 Sat 12th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham  
 Mon 14th BR Brean Advent Study Group  
 Tue. 15th 2.45pm Carol Singing at Tudor Lodge Brightstowe Road  
 Wed 16th 2.30pm B/H Bible Study at Burnham  
 Wed 16th 10.15am Carol Singing at Abbeyfield Berrow Road  
 Fri 18th 7.00pm W/H West Huntspill Community Carol Service  
 Sat 19th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning by & in aid of Biars  
 Sat 19th 10.30 - 12.00 BR Coffee & Carol at Brean  
 Sat 19th 7.00pm E/B East Brent Carols by Candlelight  
 Sun 20th 6.00pm B/H Burnham Carol Service  
 Mon 21st BR Brean Advent Study Group  
 Thur 24th 4.00pm BR Brean Carol Service  
 Thur 24th B/H Midnight communion at Burnham  
 Fri 25th 10.00am E/B Christmas Morning Short Family Service at East Brent  
 Fri 25th 10.00am W/H Christmas Morning Short Family Service at West Huntspill

## JANUARY

Fri 1st 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee & Chat at West Huntspill  
 Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Choir  
 Wed 6th 4.00pm B/H Tea and Slide Show Changing Face of Burnham  
 Thur 7th 2.30pm B/K Emmaus course at Brent Knoll Methodist  
 Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham  
 Tue. 12th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Harvey & Judy Allen – World War 1

Sat	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00- 12.00		Coffee Morning By & For Hospital League of friends
Sun	17th	6.00pm	B/H	Cafe Church Mr. Chris
Wed	20th	2.30pm	B/H	Bible Study at Burnham
Thur	21st	2.30pm	B/K	Emmaus course at Brent Knoll Methodist
Sat	23rd	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
Sun	24th			LAST DAY FOR THE FEBRUARY LINK
Tue.	26th	2.30pm	E/B	Link Villages Fellowship - Mrs Marion Robinson Workbox.
Fri	29th	10.00 - 12.00	W/H	Coffee & Chat at West Huntspill

**FEBRUARY**

Wed	3rd	8.00pm	B/H	Wednesday Group - Cinema Trip to the Ritz
Thur	4th	2.30pm	B/K	Emmaus course at Brent Knoll Methodist
Sat	6th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Wednesday Group
Tue.	9th	2.30pm	E/B	Link Villages Fellowship - Mr John Trebble – Musical Afternoon.
Sat	13th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
Wed	17th	2.30pm	B/H	Bible Study at Burnham
Thur	18th	2.30pm	B/K	Emmaus course at Brent Knoll Methodist



**AFTERNOON TEA**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

at Burnham Methodist

4.00pm

Followed by

“Changing Face of Burnham”

A Photo Show by Cedric May

Tickets £5.00



# **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**Methodist Church**

**College Street Burnham on Sea**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00 - 2.00**

*Variety of Stalls*

*Homemade Cakes, Gifts, Books,*

*Handicrafts, Choc-a-holic,*

*Bric-a-Brac, Cards & Raffle.*

*Light Lunches*

**Admission Free**

**In aid of the Church Roof Improvement  
Fund**



# The Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society



With Musical Director Nicholas Bromilow

# Christmas Concert



Traditional Christmas  
carols and songs from  
around the world.

**St. Andrew's Church**  
Burnham on Sea.

With the **King Alfred's Brass Group.**

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**at 7.30pm**

Tickets **£5**      Children over 5yrs **£2.50**

Available from **Material Needs, High Street.**(Cash Only)

**Members, or on the door.**



# LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. we welcomed members of the Ladies Fellowship from Milton The Speaker was Rev Stanley Pipet Following the meeting, everyone enjoyed a delicious tea.

November 10<sup>th</sup> was our Members afternoon when several of us gave readings with Evelyn Tucker playing the piano for a selection of Hymns.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Margaret Scott gave a practical demonstration of making Marzipan Fruits.

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, we are changing this year to Tea, Cakes and Carols instead of the usual Buffet Lunch.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen will give a talk on World War 1 on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Miss Marion Robinson will tell us about her workbox on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr John Trebble will give us a Musical Afternoon on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

We are always pleased to welcome new members including men to our meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month at 2.30pm. at East Brent Methodist Church.

Eileen Goundry.



## HARRY'S Reading's

### YOU'LL ASK GOD TO BLESS THEM

**WALK IN LOVE, AS CHRIST ALSO HAS LOVED US. *Ephesians 5:2 NKJV***

WALKING IN love and forgiveness is difficult on several fronts. 1) It goes against your carnal nature. 2) There's a chance others may never know you forgave the offence. 3) Your heart could break as you watch God bless the offender in answer to your prayers, as if they'd never sinned against you in the first place. John Calvin pointed out that-praying like this 'is exceedingly difficult" and early Church theologian John Chrysostom called It 'the highest summit of self-control'. The Bible says Job's suffering ended and his prosperity was restored once he was able to pray for those who'd become a thorn in his side (Job 42:10). When you pray this way you put into practice the words of Jesus in His famous Sermon on the Mount:

'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven' (Matthew 5:44-45 KJV). That's Christ's standard of forgiveness, and its a high one. Maybe you're wondering how anybody could possibly live that way. Look at the life and death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Even while his enemies were stoning him, he prayed, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them' (Acts 7:60 NIV 2011 Edition). Therein lay one of the secrets of Stephen's great effectiveness. True forgiveness is the medicine that heals the deepest emotional wounds. It closes the door on the past, and gives you grace and motivation to move forward and enjoy the life God wants you to live.



## Crumbs of Time

**A friend was coming** to town. He is a very busy man and his schedule was tight, but after a difficult day in important meetings, he managed to see my family for half an hour for a quick and late dinner. We enjoyed his visit, but I remember looking at my plate and thinking, "We only got the crumbs of his time."

Then I remembered how many times God gets the crumbs of my time—sometimes just the last minutes before I fall asleep.

Daniel was a busy man. He held a high government position in the ancient kingdom of Babylon, and I'm sure he had a full schedule. However, he had developed the habit of spending time with

God—praying three times a day, praising God and thanking Him. This routine helped him develop a strong faith that did not waver when he faced persecution (DAN. 6).

Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. v.10
--

God desires a relationship with us. In the morning we can invite Him into our day, and then we can praise Him and ask Him for His help throughout the day. At other times we can treasure some time alone with Him and reflect on His faithfulness. As we spend time with God in prayer and in His Word, we grow in our relationship with Him and learn to become more and more like Him. As time with God becomes a priority, we enjoy His company more and more. *Keila Ochoa*

Dear Father, I want to have an intimate relationship with You. I invite You to be part of my entire day—from the time I awake until I go to sleep.

***Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.*** ISAIAH 40:31



# BRENT KNOLL

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

Minister Rev. Steve Bennett

I'm finding it quite difficult to write this article for the Christmas/New Year edition of the Link. In the past week or so the news has been filled with the bomb attacks in Lebanon, the hostage situation in Mali and, of course, dominated by the terrorist attacks in France.

But we're coming up to Advent - that season which is the very epitome of hope as we await the coming of the Saviour of the World. The Prince of Peace. And never more do we need to hold the Christmas message of hope and love closer to our hearts than at times like these. And there were some remarkable glimmers of hope within the horror we've seen on the news. The solidarity being shown with the Parisians. Global support and messages of love and consolation for them. The bravery of the emergency services and that of "ordinary" people who refuse to buckle under fear. All these actions and reactions were very much those of hope and love.

As we reflect through Advent and remember "the reason for the season", we're looking forward to sharing the Carol services which are being held throughout the Circuit and to our Christmas family service here at Brent Knoll on the 20<sup>th</sup> December which will be led by Rev Stanley Pipet.

Looking ahead, we are having our Covenant Service on the first Sunday of the New Year - a very meaningful start to 2016.

So from all of us at Brent Knoll, we wish you a happy, peaceful and joyous Christmas with every best wish to you all for the coming New Year.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



# EAST BRENT

Where does the time go? A fortnight ago we enjoyed our joint Link service at Brean where we were made to feel, as usual, very welcome. Not a '2 for the price of 1' but we were treated to a '3 for the price of 1' and our thanks go to Stanley, Joyce and Harvey for leading our worship. I don't know how Stanley managed to miss a reference to the bargain we were getting! This Sunday Chris made reference to the signs of Christmas which we might have been noticing, including our own Christmas card and stall coffee morning. We welcomed a few of you from the Link, it was obviously a busy week-end because numbers were down on recent years but we enjoyed coffee, tea and biscuits, and a few laughs, with those who were there. We have made £167 so far.

Some dates for next month

Friday 19th December, 7.00p.m Carols by Candlelight followed by coffee and mince pies. All welcome.

Christmas Day, 10.00a.m A short family service led by our Superintendent Minister, Steve. All welcome.

Sunday 27th December There will be no service at East Brent.

Coughs, colds and sore throats seem to be catching some people out now. We've missed Eileen on a couple of occasions and Bob was not at all well for a few weeks. Although we don't now see Gwen at Church we do keep in touch and were sorry to hear that she is currently in Weston Hospital. To all those who are under the weather we send best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Season's Greetings to you all,

Margaret.



# BURNHAM

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

## STEWARDS COLUMN.

Well, December is upon us – a time for being busy shopping to buy presents, wrapping all the presents, writing letters to go in all those cards, visiting friends & family, putting up the tree & decorating it, putting up all the other decorations, maybe cleaning the house ready for visitors, checking we've got our list ready for the food shopping, making the Christmas pudding & cake, sorting out costumes for the school's nativity (or other) play. Is there no end to all this activity?

But wait – isn't it also Advent? A time to think about the greatest present of all, God's gift to us of his son, Jesus and of what Christmas is really about. In fact Christmas doesn't really start until 25<sup>th</sup> and, some say, even the 6<sup>th</sup> January (yes, it's 12<sup>th</sup> night but it's also the day of Epiphany when the wise men visited the young child Jesus). As it lasts for a month, then the Christian decorations don't have to be taken down until the end of January!! At least that's my excuse for leaving them up.

It's also a time to think of others. Those less fortunate than ourselves who need to frequent the food bank. Those less fortunate than ourselves who have no homes, refugees from war or persecution. Those who have lost family or friends during the last year & who will have an empty chair at the festivities. Of course, we need to remember & pray for these folk not only at this time but throughout the year. We pray that whatever their faith or religion they may feel the love of God surround them, a light in the darkness, for Jesus promised at the end of Matthew's Gospel that he would be always with us, to the ends of the earth.

So we wish all our friends in the Link Churches and beyond a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year for 2016.

Hilary Malpas

# **CAROL SINGING**

We will be Carol Singing

**at TUDOR LODGE Brightstowe Road**

on Tues 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.45pm

**at Abbeyfield Berrow Road**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 10.15am

Do come along if you are able.

Dorothy

## **BREAN**

[www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org](http://www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org)

I remember Robin Hutt saying, several years ago now, that the older he gets, the less he knows but the more he knows more securely. I hope I have properly quoted the gist of what he said but as I advance in years, I know what he means. As a preacher of course, I am encouraged to keep up with my studies and can assert how my thinking has changed over the years. But the same goes for all of us surely. We come to church and hopefully gain something from what we experience. But at times show much more can we gain from study groups where we can hear the thoughts of others and perhaps also contribute our own (limited perhaps, yet valid nevertheless) views. Advent is one of those times when the particular focus of Christmas and its meaning can give us especial insights into the meaning of our faith. Our own Advent study groups this year start on Monday afternoon 30<sup>th</sup> November and continue over four weeks; all are invited.

At a time when our numbers seem to be in decline, attention to study and prayer groups can help to give us hope for the future. Our monthly prayer group has been going for over a year now. There may only be

half a dozen of us but our November meeting suddenly took off in new ways of expressing ourselves before God in prayer.

It is a call to hope through deepening fellowship.

We were pleased to welcome East Brent and Brent Knoll churches to our joint worship this month. No preacher had been assigned to take the service so Stanley, Joyce and I shared it between us, what someone elsewhere seems to have styled The Brean Mission Band by adapting a Sankey type hymn line. We enjoyed the experience together and hope it was worthwhile for those who came.

It is sad to report that Iris and David Barrett's daughter Vicky, died this month. She had been seriously ill for several months so her passing, though poignant is also a release. At the time of writing David is also suffering serious illness which adds to the load that Iris carries. Though they all moved away a few years ago they remain in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

On a happier note it is good to report that Morag and Steve Wood's elder son, Jamie, has announced his engagement to Holly. A celebratory occasion for them and for the wider Hicks family.

Now for Christmas. Many of our Christmas events are shared with our ecumenical partners, St Bridget's, and by shared attendance at other Link Churches. Our contributions to the Festival are:

Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup> from 10.30 to about 12noon. Coffee and carols. An informal gathering which Anne and Rosemary will lead;

Christmas Eve at 4pm. A light hearted family service to welcome the Christmas season. Forty minutes or so of verses from carols, readings and sketches.

They are both held in our church and in past years we have been delighted to get support for both of these occasions from our friends in the whole Link area and we hope that you will continue to support us this year

We wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas and New Year

Harvey Allen

# WEST HUNTSPILL

Christmas Day at The Methodist Church Come and join our Celebrations on this very special Day



We will be serving breakfast from 9.15am

There will be a short Celebratory Service at 10.00am

Led by Mr Len Horlock from Brent Knoll



## Coffee and Chat Morning

### New Year's Day

January 1st 2016 10.00am – 12.00md

Come along and bring neighbours and friends

Free Coffee, cakes and plenty of chat

We shall also be having our last Friday of the month Coffee Morning on Friday 29th January 2016 10.00am - 12.00pm.



West Huntspill are pleased to announce in the Link Magazine that Barbara Lee has been nominated for the 2015 PCC's Pride Award for outstanding people.



## The Oxford Ridgeway Ultra Run



A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all who supported Tony Hayes in this difficult run. I am very pleased to say that we have raised a total of FIVE HUNDRED & FIFTEEN Pounds.

It's amazing how those small blue pieces of paper add up so quickly. (I suppose it works just the same the other way around, they soon disappear from your purse!).

The money has gone to Christian Aid to be used in their work with refugees coming into Europe.



## Our Community Carol Service will be on

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

**At 7pm**

Led by Revd Steve Bennett

Do come join us. There will be a warm welcome for you  
Mince pies and hot drinks served afterwards

Minister and Circuit Superintendant  
Rev. Steve Bennett, 28A Caernarvon Way. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2DQ  
[Steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk](mailto:Steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk) Tel. (01278) 784808

Editors  
Cedric & Dorothy May, 6 Brightstowe Road. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2HW  
[cedric.may@btinternet.com](mailto:cedric.may@btinternet.com) Tel. (01278) 784204

Web sites- Circuit - [www.wsmbos.org](http://www.wsmbos.org)  
[www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk)  
[www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org](http://www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org)  
[www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com](http://www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)  
[www.eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk)

**The Deadline for the  
February “LINK” is  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**LINK ORDER FORM**

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 £6.00** per annum.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

POST CODE.....CHURCH.....

LINK **£3.00** Postage ..... Donation £.....

Please make Cheques Payable to “Burnham on Sea Methodist Church”