
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

December 2017 - January 2018 Volume 52. No. 10



*A Happy Christmas to
all Our Readers*

Minister's Letter

As we make our way through Advent and Christmas, the TV screens will quickly move from the finals of Strictly Come Dancing, the Christmas films and seasonal programmes, to the traditional New Year revelry. In households, the shopping for Christmas will be replaced by the post-Christmas rush for sale items in the bargains of the New Year. In some lives the celebrations will have brought over-indulgence and fatigue, and a need to return to gym or diet. For many Christmas will be over before it begins; once again, there is a real possibility of being so busy that they will miss Christmas altogether, and skip from Advent to the New Year.

Yet this is to miss the promise of Christmas – the assurance that God is with us in a very real and personal way. The Incarnation (God coming to earth in Jesus) brings with it a special message of hope for the world. If we take time to stop and look at the baby lying in the manger, we can see the most incredible and overwhelming evidence of God's love, not only for creation in general, but for us individually. This is not only a season of goodwill for others, but in a very special way, it is a season of goodwill to each one of us – God's good will.

This may be a busy time for us all. We will be sharing Christmas Good News with others again this year in our church life, through carol singing, the nativity, and in our worship. We will be sharing the Good News with others through our giving and receiving of hospitality, in our family gatherings, and in our caring for others. But I hope that in all of this busyness we will be able to stop, and rest.....if only for a moment.....to see 'the light of the world' illuminating God's kingdom around us.

I would like to wish you a steady, peaceful and fulfilling Christmas, and to remind you that there is no need to rush too quickly to the New Year sales, for there is far more to receive in the Nativity than a quick glance will allow.

Steve

Calendar

NOVEMBER

- Sat 25th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
Sat 25th 10.30 - 12.00 B/K Christmas Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll
Tue 28th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Rev Colin Speed

DECEMBER

- Fri 1st 7.00pm B/H Christmas Concert by U3A & Impromptu Plus
Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by Dorothy & Helpers
Sat 2nd 4.00 - 6.00 B/H Messy Church for all the Family - Do join in
Wed 6th B/H Wednesday Group - Christmas Gifts
Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H CHRISTMAS FAIR Burnham
Sun 10th 10.30am B/K Joint Link Services at Brent Knoll
Tue 12th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Christmas Tea and entertainment
Wed 13th 12.30 B/H Church Lunch - Daphne Hill
Fri 15th 7.00pm E/B Carols by Candlelight at East Brent - Mince Pies & Coffee
Sat 16th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H St Margaret's Hospice Coffee Morning At Burnham.
Sat 16th 10.30am BR Coffee & Carols at Brean Methodist All welcome
Tue 19th pm Carol Singing at Beaufort Ho Rectory Rd Burnham All welcome
Wed 20th 10.00am Carol Singing at Abbeyfield 15 Berrow Rd Burnham All welcome
Fri 22nd 6.30pm W/H Carol Service at West Huntspill led by Rev Steve Bennett
Sat 23rd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
Sun 24th 4.00pm BR Carol Service at Brean Methodist All welcome
Sun 24th 11.15pm B/H Service Rev Steve Bennett
Mon 25th 8.45am W/H Breakfast at West Huntspill
Mon 25th 9.30am W/H Christmas Day Service at West Huntspill led by Mr John Trebble
Mon 25th 10.00am E/B Short Christmas Day service at East Brent
Mon 25th 11.00am B/H Christmas Service Rev Steve Bennett

Fri 29th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill In aid of Action for Children
 Sun 31st 10.30am B/K New Year's Eve Service at Brent Knoll
 Sun 31st 4.30pm W/H Tea & Watch Night Service at 5.30pm led by Rev Steve Bennett

JANUARY

Wed 3rd B/H Wednesday Group - Party Time
 Sun 14th 10.30am E/B Joint Link Services at East Brent
 Tues 9th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship – Members Afternoon 'Do you remember' - Bring & Buy
 Sun 21st **LAST DAY FOR THE FEBRUARY 2018 LINK**
 Tue 23rd 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Major Tony - Army life
 Fri 26th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill in aid of West Huntspill School
 Sat 27th 7.00pm BR Fun & Games Evening at Brean Methodist All welcome

FEBRUARY

Wed 7th B/H Wednesday Group - First Aid in the Home – Talk by St John's Ambulance
 Sun 11th 10.30am B/K Joint Link Services at Brent Knoll
 Tue 13th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Educate the Kids Update (Donations)

B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill



The Coffee Morning on 4th November

Raised £210.00

Many Thanks to All who Supported this.

Dorothy May



The Friends of Burnham Hospital

Christmas Concert

With U3A CONCERT PARTY

& IMPROMPTU PLUS

Friday 1st December

at 7.00pm

Methodist Church

College Street, Burnham-on-Sea

Get in the mood for Christmas!

What better way to start than a

FREE ENTRY Concert!!

All proceeds split between the Friends and

the Methodist Church

Raffle & Retiring Collection

Refreshments

Don't be disappointed Free Tickets from

Bernie 785727 or Community Centre Office 792666



WEST HUNTSPILL

OUR COFFEE MORNINGS

Will be held on

Friday December 29th & January 26th

10am – 12md

Table Top Stall

Free Coffee, Cake and Chat

Donations to Action for Children in Dec &

West Huntspill School in Jan



CAROL SERVICE

Friday 22nd December

6.30pm led by Revd Steve Bennett



CHRISTMAS DAY

Breakfast from 8.45am

Celebratory Service at 9.30am

Led by Mr John Trebble



New Year's Eve

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

Afternoon Tea at 4.30pm

Service at 5.30pm Led by Revd Steve
Bennet

BRENT KNOLL

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

Minister Revd. Steve Bennett

At the time of writing, we're preparing for, and looking forward to, our Christmas Coffee Morning here at Brent Knoll which will be held on Saturday 25th November from 10.30am onwards where we hope our Link and Circuit friends will join us for festive fare and fellowship - and of course, mince pies - many of which I know will be homemade as we have some excellent bakers within our congregation!

Our church was closed for two Sundays during November - once as we shared Remembrance Sunday with our friends from the village at St Michael's Church and once as we shared Link worship with East Brent. But normal services will very much be resumed here during December as we enter Advent.

We begin our Advent worship on 3rd December when Revd Margaret Trapp and Harvey Allen will be taking our service where we will be joined by our friends from Brean and East Brent as it is our turn to host the Link Fellowship. And on Christmas Eve, our morning worship will be led by Revd Steve which, I'm sure, will prove to be a time of celebration for all the family as we look forward to Christmas Day.

Looking beyond Christmas, as New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we will be holding a New Year's Eve Service at 10.30am where we will reflect on the outgoing year and look forward to 2018.

From all of us at Brent Knoll, we wish you a peaceful Advent and a very happy Christmas. And, of course, every blessing for the New Year to come.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



EAST BRENT

I'm sure everyone is going to say the same – where has the last month gone? Perhaps it's because we have all been so busy that the time just seems to fly by faster and faster.

Remembrance Sunday saw us at the memorial in East Brent again. The service was led, jointly this year, by our own minister and the Anglican minister. The traffic gave us a quiet time, which always seems so important, and Mr Searle braved the exceedingly cold wind to play for us. Hot drinks, back at our hall afterwards, were much appreciated by many.

Thank you to those who supported our Christmas coffee morning. We do enjoy the company. We also welcomed 2 ladies, on a 'Tinsel and Turkey week-end' at Pontins, who were spending the morning just driving around the area and looking for any 'Christmas' themed events that they could call into. So many times we ask ourselves 'Is it worth doing?' Perhaps we are being given our answer.

Our Link service was led by Jim McKnight. He didn't quite manage to get us dancing in the aisle but we enjoyed his guitar accompaniment for our last hymn.

Our condolences, thoughts and prayers go to Anne Bown as she mourns her son and the rest of his family as they mourn a father, brother and uncle.

With best wishes to you all for a Blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year from all at East Brent



East Brent Christmas Dates

Friday 15th December 7pm

Carols by Candlelight followed by mince pies and coffee

Sunday 24th December

There will be no service in our Church

Monday 25th December, Christmas Day, 10am

Short Family Service

A very warm welcome to all.



BURNHAM

STEWARDS REPORT

As you may all have noticed the repairs to the roof are in full swing. As I write there are piles of tiles waiting to go on the roof and men hard at work. We hope that the next time you pass by it will be completed. It will be lovely not to have our services accompanied by the drip drip of rainwater into the buckets that are dotted around the church.

We are approaching the lovely and thought provoking time of Jesus' birth. It is a time to sing with joy the new and old carols we all enjoy so much. It is a time when we welcome visitors to our church to join in with the celebrations. It is a time when we think of families and presents. It is also a time when our thoughts turn to people who find this time of year very difficult to deal with. It is at this time of year when The Food Banks are at their busiest and need our support.

On behalf of all the stewards we would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and joyful Christmas and New Year.



CAROL SINGING

The Choir will be Carol Singing at
Beaufort House Rectory Road on Tuesday 19th December in
the afternoon, and
Abbey field 15 Berrow Road on Wednesday 20th December
at 10.00am

If you would like to join them your help will be appreciated



BREAN

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

There is so much going on in the world these days, it is difficult to come to a judgement and assess our priorities. Issues such as climate change (not just how what we put into the atmosphere but how we get rid of some of the damaging carbon dioxide already there), arms sales, the developing situation (as I write this) in Zimbabwe, Brexit and how it will come about, the warring factions in Myanmar, the Middle east and so on, the balance of wealth between the haves and have nots, what to do about the decline in people who identify with Christian groups, the increasing tendency to spread half truths and non-truths via social media, drugs the list is endless about which we should be informed.

Judy and I, spent a week in Amsterdam at the beginning of November. It is a super city with an efficient and affordable transport system, very friendly people, culturally very mixed, and plenty to see and do. But what surprised us most was drugs. We had known that in the much debated realm as to whether 'soft' drugs should be readily available, the Netherlands had committed to a more liberal stance than we have; but we hadn't been prepared for the way that they were being advertised openly in well set up shops across the capital. We took a picture of one such place. On a professionally produced board at the front of the shop, it listed 25 different forms of cannabis with such exotic names as delhi cheese, bubble yum, chocoloco, northern lights. All openly available.

It is clearly a situation which divides people in the Netherlands too. Our apartment had notices in it which said No Smoking and No Drugs (at least that is what I think the symbols meant). Here, in this comparatively peaceful part of our world, where a lot of all this passes us by, I wonder whether we ought to be better informed about some of these contentious issues, before we are overwhelmed by judgements that are foisted upon us. The trouble is, it is too easy to ignore them.

That, believe it or not, brings us to Christmas. The Jews too, had issues and practices foisted upon them by their self-seeking leadership. Jesus, from within Jewish society, faced up to the corruption and exposed it. We celebrate his birth because in him was someone filled with the love of God, who was brave enough, sufficiently well informed, dedicated to the truth of God's law, and charismatic in his leadership, to face up to worldly power. The Christmas story tells us of those from the humblest in society to the greatest who had the vision to perceive the potential for what Jesus became.

Here at Brean we shall celebrate much of the wider Christmas season with our friends from St Bridget's. On December 10th we have our monthly joint service which Steve will share with the Reverend Jonathan Philpott the vicar of St Bridget's, and afterwards we shall enjoy a Christmas lunch together. On Christmas Eve we shall hold our Carol Service at 4pm in the Methodist Church. We've been doing this at this time for over twenty years now. It is an informal 40 minutes or so with carols, readings, and sketches. It is our way of saying our preparations are now ready (or should be) so let us rejoice at the prospect of a new birth. All are invited and we have been blessed by friends from Link Churches over the years. All are invited too, to Coffee and Carols on Saturday 16th December from 10.30am; again this has been well supported by Link friends and we are very grateful for that so please come.

Then it is January again. 2018. On the last Saturday we hold our games evening. This year it will take the form of a Beetle Drive, preceded of course by sausages (Pynes) and mash. All are invited but please let us know (751434) so that we can anticipate the catering needs. 27th January 7pm.

So, from us all at Brean, here's wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a very peaceful New Year. May it be all that you look for in the love of God.

Harvey Allen

CHRISTMAS AT BREAN

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER

COFFEE AND CAROLS

10.30AM

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24TH

CAROL SERVICE

4PM

ALL ARE VERY WELCOME

AND AFTER CHRISTMAS

JOIN US FOR BEETLES AND MASH

JANUARY 27TH AT 7PM

**SAUSAGE AND MASH FOLLOWED BY
BEETLE DRIVE**

ALL AT BREAN METHODIST CHURCH

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

**The Deadline for the
February 2018 LINK is
Sunday 21st January 2018**

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.

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