
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

December 2018 – January 2019 Volume 53. No. 10.

A Joyous Christmas
and a Happy New Year



Minister's Letter

What is the one thing that makes it Christmas for you?

Dear Friends

I have heard several suggestions over the years from those in the church and outside.

- For some it is the family reunited and Christmas parties.
- For some it is gathering together to watch the Vicar of Dibley Christmas Special, film repeats on the television, and the Queen's speech.
- For some it is in the age-old words heard and sung at Christmas Carol Service, Nativity, or Christmas Eve Midnight Communion.
- For some it is giving and receiving presents, sharing a meal, and the goodwill that seems to be part of the theme of Christmas both secular and sacred.
- For some it is just having a break from the hectic world of work.

This is not the full list and you will have your own thoughts.

Whilst there is no doubt that these can make Christmas a special time, we also know that for some many or all of the above will be missing from their Christmas this year. Our celebrations are often dependent on our personal circumstances, and circumstances change from year to year. We know that there will be people who will spend Christmas in hospital ill or at the bedside of a loved one, there will be those who will be without a home seeking shelter from the cold, there will be those who face their first Christmas after a family breakup or loss, and there will be those who are sad and alone. When all the trappings around Christmas are inappropriate because of circumstances, what is left for them?

John's gospel starts with the answer. To the joyful and the partygoer, to the giver and the recipient, to the sad and the lonely, to the poor and the rich, to the oppressed and the free, the message is the same, 'the Word became flesh, full of grace and truth, and lived among us'

God who is in all things and who created all things came to the world in Jesus so that we need never be on our own. Whatever we face,

however we are, whoever we are, God demonstrates his commitment to love us in the birth of his Son, the birth that we celebrate every Christmas. That is the thing that makes it Christmas for everyone.

May you know God's love whatever your circumstance this year.

Steve



Calendar

NOVEMBER

Tue 27th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Mrs. Margaret Scott.

Fri 30th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill in aid of West Huntspill School

DECEMBER

Sat 1st 10.00 - 1.30 B/H CHRISTMAS FAIR at Burnham See page 7

Mon 3rd 8.45 - 10.30 B/K Tea, Chat & Prayer at Brent Knoll Methodist

Wed 5th 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Wednesday Group - Christmas Talk

Thur 6th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - Christmas Afternoon

Sat 8th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Sat 8th 4.00pm B/H Messy Church at Burnham

Tue 11th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Christmas Tea – Christmas Poems, Stories and Carols.

Wed 12th 12.00pm B/H Communion & 12.30 Lunch - Barbara Williams

Thur 13th 7.30pm Choral Society's Concert at Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, see page 9

Sat 15th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Weston Hospice Coffee Morning

Sat 15th 10.30 Christmas Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll See Page 9

Mon 17th 10.00 Julian Meeting at St Andrews Church

Mon 17th 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Tea & Chat Burnham Methodist

Thur 20th 7.00pm. W/H Carol Service at West Huntspill Rev. Steve Bennett

Fri 21st 7.00pm. E/B Carols by Candlelight at East Brent Methodist Church

Sat 22nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Sat 22nd 10.30 - 12.00 BR Christmas Coffee & Carols at Brean Methodist

Sun 23rd 6.00pm B/H Carol Service at Burnham Rev Steve Bennett

Mon 24th 4.00pm BR Informal Carol Service at Brean Methodist

Mon 24th 11.15pm B/H Christmas Eve Communion at Burnham
 Tue 25th 10.00am E/B Short Family Service at East Brent Methodist
 Tue 25th 9.30am W/H Christmas Service at West Huntspill Rev
 Steve Bennett
 Tue 25th 11.00am B/H Christmas Service at Burnham Rev Steve
 Bennett
 Tue 25th 9.15am BR Christmas Service at Brean St Bridget's
 Fri 28th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee & Cake at West Huntspill Methodist

JANUARY

Wed 2nd 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Wednesday Group - Party Time
 Sat 5th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Church Funds
 Tue 8th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Members
 Afternoon - Bring & Buy
 Sat 12th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
 Fri 18th to Fri 25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 Sat 19th Prayer Day for Christian Unity at West
 Huntspill See page 9
 Sat 19th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning

Sun 20th LAST DAY FOR THE FEBRUARY LINK

Tue 22nd 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Deacon Gary
 Hoare
 Fri 25th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee & Cake at West Huntspill Methodist
 Sat 26th 10.00 - 12.01 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
 Sat 26th 7.00pm BR Sausages and mash and Beetle Drive at
 Brean Methodist Church

FEBRUARY

Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Church Funds
 Wed 6th 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Wednesday Group - Talk by Linda James
 "A Life in Training!"
 Tue 12th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Bargain Hunt –
 Veronica & Sheena



Letter from Joyce Pipet

Having written last month about our surprise that Stanley & I had when West Huntspill hosted a celebration meal for our 50th wedding anniversary, I felt I must express my appreciation of the lovely surprise that awaited me at the recent Circuit service when Revd. Dr. Jonathan Pye was our preacher.

During the service our Super, Steve, announced there were to be some presentations. The first went with many congratulations to our Deacon Gary Hoare who received his certificate for successfully completing a course with Cliff College on pioneering ministry. But then Steve asked people what they were doing 50 years back - leading on to say that that was the year when I'd been fully accredited as a Local Preacher and invited me to come & receive my certificate from Revd. Jonathan Pye. Another surprise moment to treasure and remember.

Thank you.

Joyce Pipet

Friends of Burnham Hospital

Friends of Burnham Hospital return to The Methodist Church for 2019

Pleased to announce that The Methodist Church in College Street have nominated us as their coffee morning charity for 2019 where we shall be in attendance on the 3rd Saturday of each month from January.

We shall be serving tea/coffee, biscuits and cakes, holding a raffle and selling quality goods including jigsaws, hand crafted cards, and notelets. We do hope you will join us and bring any unwanted gifts for us to sell.

All proceeds will go to the hospital.

For further information contact Vice Chairman

Ceri Joyce – 01278 323794

Traditional Christmas Concert

The Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society's popular Annual Christmas concert is on Thursday 13th December 2018 at 7.30pm.

For the first time we will be performing in the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Highbridge Road, Burnham-on-Sea.

We will be singing a premier of a brand new Christmas song written and arranged by a couple of choir members, along with a selection of wonderful traditional Christmas music from around the world, Bach's Chorales from Christmas Oratorio, Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. Ubi Caritas. Popular Christmas Songs by Parry, Gruber, Rachmaninoff and many others.

We will also be joined by The Burnham and Highbridge Band, who will be playing whilst you wait for the concert to begin and joining us for some of the wonderful Christmas music.

Why not come and enjoy some quality Christmas music.

Tickets are £7.50 which includes a glass of wine & mince pie and £5 for children including refreshments, they are available from: The Crafty Teacup, Burnham on Sea, also from choir members. Tickets may be purchased at the door, but best to get them early to avoid any disappointment.

We really appreciate the continued support we receive from you, the audience each year.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our friends and supporters a very Happy Christmas.

Our new Spring term will start on Thursday 10th January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church hall, Burnham on Sea. We will be rehearsing great music including Mozart's Requiem. New members are always welcome. Check out our new website. at www.burnhamandhighbridgechoral.org.uk There's a lot to see.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

In aid of Church Funds

Teas & Coffee,

A variety of Stalls, Raffle
& Light Lunches.

Saturday 1st December

10.00- 1.30pm

At Burnham Methodist Church

West Huntspill

Methodist Church

Remembrance Service

11th November 2018



Thanks to generous donations from the congregation we were able to purchase two of the “There But Not There” seated figures to



provide a focal point for our poppy display this year. They suffered a bit from the wind and rain we had during the week, but I am sure it was nowhere near as bad as the men in the mud of the 1st World War trenches.

We brought them into church for the service on Sunday morning, where they were joined by a ten inch “Tommy” and war medals brought by our preacher Michael Bridges in memory of, both, his Uncle and his

Grandfather, who fought in both world wars. Our 2 minutes silence finished with John playing a superb last post on the organ, and Maureen reading the village Roll of Honour.



Carol Service

Come and join us singing Carols
On Thursday December 20th at 7pm
Revd Steve Bennett will be leading the
service

Hot drinks and mince pies will be
served afterwards



Christmas Morning Service

The Church will be open at 8.45am for
breakfast before the service at 9.30am
led by Revd Steve Bennett
Methodist Church



Our December Coffee Morning

Will be held on December 28th 2018

10.00am -12.00

Table top sales

Free Coffee, tea and cakes and chat!

Proceeds for Action for Children





Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18th – 25th January 2019

Only Justice

West Huntspill Methodist Church

The material for this year's week has been prepared by the Christians of Indonesia, which is the largest country in South East Asia, made up of more than 17,000 islands, 1,340 different ethnic groups and over 740 local languages. It is estimated that 86% of the 260 million people, who live in the islands, are Muslim. About 10% of Indonesians are Christian, as well as Buddhist and Hindu communities. The national motto is Bhineka Tunggal Ika which means Unity in Diversity. Across the diversity of ethnicity, language and religion, Indonesians have lived by the principle gotong royong which is to live in "solidarity and collaboration". This means sharing in all aspects of life and regarding fellow Indonesians as brothers and sisters. This harmony can be very fragile at times and is threatened by the current liberal approach to economics which has led to a massive increase in the Islands economic growth, bringing with it corruption that is infecting both politics and business, often with devastating effects on the environment. Those who are supposed to support justice and protect the poor are failing to do so. Particular Ethnic & religious groups are becoming associated with wealth, increasing further the tensions between the many different communities.

Further details about the arrangements for this day will be available from the churches in the area or from Mrs Christine Thomas on 01278256771 in the New Year.

BRENT KNOLL

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

Minister Revd. Steve Bennett

We will be holding our Christmas coffee morning on Saturday 15th December at 10.30am. As well as an array of seasonal refreshments, homemade by members of our congregation, there will also be a cake stall where we can top up on some goodies for the festive season. I know for a fact that one member of our congregation has been sweating over a hot stove making mini Christmas puddings. We are hoping to have other stalls

available so please come and join us so we can enjoy a morning chatting and catching up with our friends throughout the circuit.

Our church will continue to be open on the first Monday of the month (3rd December and 7th January) for a time of quiet contemplation and prayer. Our doors will be open between 8.45am and 10.30am.

As we look to Advent, Christmas-time and the New Year, Rev Steve Bennett will be taking our family service on Sunday 23rd December at 10.30am. For those of you not having your own service that Sunday, do come and join us. We will be having an own arrangement service on Sunday 30th December where we will all be invited to choose hymns, bring readings or prayers as we look to the New Year. And our first service of 2019 will be our Covenant Service led by Rev Margaret Trapp.

Finally, some of our church members have been having a very tough time of it over the past few weeks and months. It goes without saying that not only are they sorely missed when they have been unable to join us on Sunday mornings, but that they are all very much in our thoughts and our prayers.

Christmas can often be a tough time when life isn't going as well as we'd planned (as so often it doesn't) and the media is full of commercials telling us what we have to do and what we have to buy in order to have the "perfect" Christmas day. The pressure can be enormous. But that first Christmas didn't depend on whether you purchased the "perfect" turkey. Made the "perfect" mince pies. Bought the "perfect" presents. That first Christmas was a tough one. That first Christmas involved a long journey. A birth in a simple stable surrounded by humble creatures. But nonetheless - that first Christmas was perfect. And that first Christmas present is one that keeps on giving to all who accept it. As we look around us at those who are lonely, suffering illness, reliant on the Food Banks for their Christmas meal or have no home at all, may we keep them in our hearts and our prayers at this time of year. And give heartfelt thanks for all the things we have in our lives which really matter - friends, family and loved ones.

From all of us at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, we wish you a season of peace and we wish you all the joy that is at the very heart of Christmas. And of course, a happy New Year to you all.

May God bless you

Rosemary Krull

EAST BRENT

Firstly, thank you to Cedric who very kindly prompted me to write this month's article.

My mind was far from writing a contribution. Life is getting back to normal, so I am going to briefly cover 2 months! We very much enjoyed a surprise visit from Charlene, her husband and sister. The 'grape vine' works pretty well in the Link churches so many of you will already have heard about the visit. They actually arrived on the day when we had our 'own arrangement' followed by lunch, followed by our Church council. We had catered, as usual, but had overestimated numbers by 3! We usually have plenty anyway, but it meant we were able to offer them lunch and say, quite honestly, that there was plenty. It was obviously meant to be. We enjoyed an extremely sociable lunch once we managed to stop Steve and our visitors comparing notes on life in Devon (I think it was Devon and not Dorset, apologies if I've got this wrong). We didn't make them stay for Church Council.

We have since enjoyed a Link service at Brean and then, last Sunday, a Link Service here at East Brent.

It's good to have Jill and Gordon back from their holidays – just in time for a busy few weeks. We have our Christmas sale on Saturday and Carols by Candlelight on 21st December. Gordon is tasked with putting up the Christmas tree in the Church ready for the Rainbows to decorate again for us this year.

We look forward to seeing many of our friends over the next few weeks and wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Carols by Candlelight 21st December 7 pm

Christmas Day Short family service at 10 am

All Welcome

Margaret Scott



BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

A range of mountains, a magnificent star-studded sky, a night scene: I am in awe of what I see in front of me and that is just the screen that Microsoft provides for me when I log in on my laptop. I stare at the screen for ages wishing we could see the stars like that here in Burnham. Something as insignificant as a computer screen makes me see the wonders of the universe and a continuing wish to thank our God for what He has created for us. But then we can see God's wonders of creation by just opening our eyes and seeing what is outside our own front door. I love the drive back from Weston down Accommodation Road and Red Road – It's my "Big Sky" route home and I look out for any wildlife I may encounter - herons usually (and other cars on the road I hasten to add) and I say thank you for all that is around me.

Back to the real world of everyday church life here in the Burnham metropolis. It is generally a good time for our church community. New people are being seen in church and are being made very welcome. One lady who has recently joined (and we really hope that Burnham Methodist Church is the community she feels at home in- and her husband of course) is getting used to being greeted by "Oh hello Katie – aren't you a lovely girl". (Katie is her guide dog!) –always the lovely dog first. Jackie doesn't mind she knows how special Katie is. It is good to see a mix of well-known faces and new faces in our congregation. It gives us hope and encouragement for the future.

By the time you read this Burnham will have had its regular Church Council meeting. We now hold them after service on Sundays. This seems to be a more convenient time than previous evening meetings. Our Worship Group, Mission and Life Group, and our Property Group are all working hard to develop and enhance our work within the Burnham area. Messy Church is growing and is great fun, with relevant activities, music, videos, lots of singing, prayers, a strong message and a super sharing

meal to finish (prepared by Dorothy – thanks Dorothy, always something good to eat!)

And so to Christmas – is it just me or has this year just raced by? Our Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 1st December. Lots of stalls and games – do come along. Obviously if you are reading this after the 1st December you've missed it – sorry about that. Burnham's Carol Service will take place on Sunday 23rd December at 6pm. We would be very happy if you could join us. Our Christmas Eve Communion service starts at 11.15pm and our Christmas Day Service begins at 11am. We then move into a New Year 2019 and we have our Covenant Service on 6th January to renew our commitment to God and the church.

I am really looking forward to our Advent and Christmas services. This is such a wonderful time of year as we await the birth of the Messiah. On behalf of the seven Burnham stewards may I wish you a peaceful, fulfilling and very happy Christmas and all God's blessings for 2019.

Ann Hall for the Burnham Stewards



BREAN

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

Well. that got us worried for a bit! We knew that our semi-healthy numbers during the summer months were going to take a hit come November with all our visitors gone home, but to come into worship on a Sunday morning and see only 6 or 7 people was a bit of a shock; and repeated the next week too! Fortunately, that has been rectified somewhat as members have returned from Canada, Japan, Europe and even Britain. The same thing happened, I think, for our November joint service at East Brent when there were less than 20 people in the congregation from all three churches as people enjoyed late season breaks (or suffered the colds and sneezes of this time of year).

That is often what happens of course and explains why a small congregation can feel vulnerable to the changes that can take place unexpectedly.

We joined with our Anglican friends around the War Memorial at St Bridget's on Armistice Sunday to remember personal tragedies of war and armed conflict, thinking this year especially of the centenary of the end of the First World War. Judy and I were visiting family in Loughborough and so we joined with at least 10,000 people around the 60 feet high carillon in their public park. Civic dignitaries and hundreds of uniformed young people were present at a very impressive ceremony of remembrance. At 11 o'clock thousands of red poppies were released from the top of the carillon into the breeze of a sunny morning, many being caught up in the trees around. An impressive sight.

We are now turning our attention to Christmas and the first conversations are taking place as to what we shall include in our family carol service on Christmas Eve. Rosemary has written another of her sketches (as she did with such success last year) and this will be supported by various readings, music and verses from carols. We've been doing this now since 1993 and have much appreciated the support, we've received from Link friends. So please come and join us if you can.

We also have our regular coffee and carols get together on the Saturday morning before Christmas, so please come and join us for that too if possible

Judy goes off and plays music for the ladies and gents at Kathleen Chambers Home every fortnight and has volunteered herself and me to run a short carol service for them at 3pm on Sunday 23rd December. We'd be happy to have support – let us know if you can come.

So a summary of our services and events (All at our church unless shown otherwise):

December 2nd

Normal service at 10.30am;

December 9th

Joint service with Anglicans at 10.30am followed by lunch. Let Judy know numbers for lunch please;

December 16th

Normal service at 10.30am;

December 22rd

Coffee and carols led by Anne and Rosemary, 10.30am to 12noon;

December 23rd

Please note there will be no service on this day;

December 24th

(Christmas Eve)– Family Carol service at 4 o'clock. 40 minutes or so of Christmas fayre, and refreshments to follow;

December 25th

(Christmas Day) – service at St Bridgets, 9.15am;

January 13th

Joint service at St Bridgets, 9.15am;

January 6th, 20th, 27th – normal service at 10.30am;

January 26th

Sausage and Mash evening, 7pm; followed by a Beetle Drive, as last year.

From Brean we wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Harvey Allen.

Minister and Circuit Superintendent

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Web Sites

Circuit Web site www.wsmbos.org
www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk
www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org
www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

<p style="text-align: center;">The Deadline for the FEBRUARY 2019 LINK is Sunday 20th January 2019</p>
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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.

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OUR LINK AND CIRCUIT

Did you know that in 1973, Burnham Church asked to be taken out of the Weston-Super-Mare circuit and joined with Bridgwater?

When I finished as Circuit Meeting Secretary, I agreed to take the older Minutes of our meetings to the Somerset Archives Centre in Taunton (where our Church archives should also go, of course).

When I came to sort through them I found that they go back to 1973, and some of them are particularly interesting. I am therefore in the process of going through them and will report on the best bits for the Link over the next few months. Because we are a Circuit, there will also be reference to other parts of the Circuit too. In order to provide a proper picture, I will fill in the gaps as best I can, and I am sure that, where appropriate, someone will correct me for inclusion in future issues.

My first report covers the period April 1973 to March 1974.

Organisation

In those days there was a Quarterly Meeting of Ministers, Circuit Officers and Church Representatives. All Local Preachers were also members. Before each Quarterly meeting there was also a smaller Finance meeting to clear the more detailed aspects ready for approval by the Quarterly Meeting. Each Church had both a Church Council, and a Trustees Meeting for Property matters.

But all that was about to change and at the March 1974 meeting, members were given details. The scheme more or less set things up as they are now, though members may not realise that we are now only required to have two Circuit Meeting (in March and September); to have more is for our own convenience. Church Trustees were also discontinued as a separate body. There had been a number different models of 'ownership' of church property but it was now all to be held in the name of the wider church 'at Manchester' as it became known. The Church Council became the Managing Trustees of church property, just as the Circuit Meeting comprises the Trustees for Circuit matters.

Mission and Outreach

There were regular reports from Mission groups and outreach. Reports were received at most meetings from Overseas Missions, Women's Work, Home Missions, Christian Citizenship, Youth Work, Methodist Homes for the Aged and Women's Fellowship all of whom had their own committees and officers. Indeed, there was another committee, one established to find and propose officers for these committees.

Evelyn Tucker, now organist at East Brent was appointed to the District Council of Youth at this time (as well as being secretary to the Manses Committee).

There were 7 youth groups across the Circuit for 11-13 years with 75 members, 5 groups for 13-17 years with 21 members, and 5 groups of uniformed young people (Girls and Boys Brigade mainly) with 56 members. In some ways this doesn't sound a lot, until, that is, you compare it with today.

In 1973 the amount raised for Overseas Missions was £2260.85 (including JMA) and for Women's Work it was £923.64. I rather feel that this exceeds the sum raised for Overseas work even today (though of course there were Special Sundays when whole collections were given to wider aspects of the Church's ministry).

Burnham Church and others

As regards to what happened to Burnham's request to join Bridgwater, well you know the answer, but at the time discussions were to be held, and the reasons will have to wait until the next report. I haven't got that far yet. However, the Minutes indicate that assessments at the time had to be increased somewhat much to the angst of some churches. Presumably Burnham was one of those that protested, so much so that Church Road volunteered to increase its own assessment to help Burnham cope!

Berrow Methodist Church was giving much concern. Estimated costs of repair were 'considerable' and a meeting was to be convened to talk about its future.

Membership

Membership figures were given at each meeting. At the start of the period the figure was 1092 and at the end it had become 1073. (Today it is somewhere around 400)

Manses

1973 was a notable turning point for manse furnishing which, until then had remained manse property. Now ministers would be responsible for their own furnishing and Weston (like many across the country) resolved that existing furniture would be passed over to the minister on the understanding that, upon removal to another circuit, the minister either took the furniture with him or arranged for its disposal. Doubtless this new arrangement considerably increased Circuit's contributions to removal expenses!

Conference

It was announced that Conference would be coming to the Bristol District in 1974 and the Circuit was asked to provide accommodation for 20-25 representatives giving them a bed for the period as well as breakfast and an evening meal.

The Circuit was also to be involved in stewarding and hosting the Conference itself and a committee was formed for this and to raise funds to help run the event. It was notable that one of the functions was a concert arranged by the Circuit Staff and deemed to be of sufficient appeal to run for performances over two nights (the Minutes do not say what acts the individual ministers took on for themselves)

Local Preachers

There were 40 accredited local preachers during this year and one under training. There was concern at the end of the year, when fuel became short and petrol increased in price quite considerably. Ministers were covered by Connexional standards, but the size of the increase was of sufficient concern for the Circuit meeting to discuss how to recompense LPs taking services at the far reaches of the Circuit. These days very few Local Preachers claim expenses.

It was reported that preachers were studying William Barclay's book, Jesus Christ for Today, that they had found it very useful and they commended it for study to the rest of the Circuit.

Congratulations

The Circuit sent greeting to Rev Fred le Sueur and Mrs le Sueur on the occasion of their Golden Wedding. He had spent a full term as a minister and had been a District Chairman at one stage. In retirement he lived at Berrow and (son) John and Jean came to live there when they retired also.

Weston Churches

An extension to Bournville Methodist Church was opened in 1973 to cater for the needs of the community. Nowadays, of course, Methodists and Anglicans in Bournville form an ecumenical partnership and meet at St Andrew's the purpose-built Community project on the Bournville estate.

It was a new starting point for the church in Worle. The existing Church in Lawrence was given only a short time before it became unusable and the rapid increase in population brought discussion as to the future needs of the area. Discussions were therefore inaugurated with the Anglican Church and the following motion was passed at the Circuit Meeting:

"The Quarterly Meeting approves in principle the joint Anglican/Methodist acquisition and development of a new church site in Madam Lane, Worle, and the formation of an area of ecumenical experiment in the ecclesiastical parish of Worle.

And finally

The Circuit meeting was reminded of the upcoming Flower and Vegetable show at East Brent Methodist Church. (Members today are perhaps unaware that this very popular event was held annually in early September until comparatively recently.)

Harvey Allen