
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

December 2019 - January 2020 Volume 54. No. 10.



Christmas
Greetings

Ministers Letter

Light of the world....let me see

How do we prepare ourselves for Christmas within the time of Advent?

There are some who will have finished their Christmas shopping, ticked off the writing of Christmas cards, and given or received all the necessary invitations. But I expect there are many, like me, who will have done none of these things; we who will dread hearing just how few days are left to do all the tasks on our tick lists. This is a busy time for the life of the Church, with congregations preparing for Christmas Fairs, Coffee Mornings and Carol Services, all of which need organising and doing. And on top of that there are the unending line of events outside of the church to which we are invited and asked to support.

And so, once again, we are challenged to make a space in the business to prepare our hearts, open our eyes to the Light of the world.

When Tim Hughes wrote 'Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness' (StF 175) he did not expect it to be an Advent hymn, yet the compilers of our hymn book place it firmly in this section. It is a worship song that was written in response to Philippians chapter 2 but it acknowledges the enormity of the Christmas message. In an interview about the hymn Tim said

'I'd been reading about the life of Jesus, and about us imitating Christ's humility, and the fact that Jesus gave up everything walked upon the earth, and was obedient even to death on the cross...so I began as often we do, to worship out of response to that'

What is our response to the marvel that in Jesus God came down to earth? I hope it is not just to make us tired and worn out by the business that has come to be associated with the season. I hope it can be that sense of awe and wonder that Tim felt.

Light of the world, this year....let me see....You

Happy Advent

Steve



Deaths

Mrs Sylvia Wright Sunday November 17 age 101

Calendar

NOVEMBER

- Sat 23rd 10.30 - 12.00 E/B Christmas Coffee Morning at East Brent Methodist Church
- Sat 23rd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
- Sun 24th 2.30pm B/K Time of Fellowship at Brent Knoll
- Tue 26th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Christmas Crafts
- Sat 30th 10.00 - 1.00 B/H CHRISTMAS FAIR at Burnham

DECEMBER

- Wed 4th B/H Wednesday Group Christmas Talk
- Sat 7th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Food Festival
- Tue 10th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Christmas Tea – Christmas Poems, Stories & Carols.
- Wed 13th 12.00 B/H Communion Service
- Wed 13th 12.30 B/H Church Lunch Barbara
- Sat 14th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
- Sat 14th 4.00 - 6.00 B/H Messy Church at Burnham
- Fri 20th 7.00pm E/B Carols by Candlelight at East Brent Meth
- Sat 21st 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning
- Sat 21st 10.30 - 12.00 BR Coffee & Carols at Brean
- Sun 22nd 5.00pm B/H Carol Service at Burnham
- Tue 24th 11.15pm B/H Midnight Communion at Burnham
- Tue 24th 4.00pm BR Informal Carol Service at Brean followed by refreshments
- Wed 25th 8.45am W/H Breakfast followed by 9.30am Service at West Huntspill
- Wed 25th 10.00am E/B Short Family Christmas Service at East Brent
- Wed 25th 11.00am B/H Christmas Morning Service at Burnham
- Sat 28th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
- Sun 29th E/B No Service at East Brent

JANUARY

- Fri 3rd 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill Methodist in aid of Action for Children
- Wed 8th B/H Wednesday Group Christmas Party
- Sat 11th 4.00 - 6.00 B/H Messy Church at Burnham
- Wed 8th 1 2.00 B/H Communion followed by Church Lunch Dorothy

Tue 14th	2.30pm	E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Members Afternoon – Bring & Buy.
Sat 18th	9.30 - 1.00	W/H Prayer Day at West Huntspill Balliol Hall
Sat 18th	Until	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sun 19th		LAST DAY FOR THE FEBRUARY LINK
Sat 25th	Until	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Tue 28th	2.30pm	E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Hymns and their Writers - Mike Bridges
Fri 31st	10.00 - 12.00	W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill Methodist in aid of Victoria's Kitchen

FEBRUARY

Wed 5th		B/H Wednesday Group of Fitness Expert
Tue 11th	2.30pm	E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Paul Temple – Collection.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Methodist Church

College Street

Burnham on Sea

Saturday November 30th

10.00 - 1.00

Variety of Stalls

**Homemade Cakes, Choc-a-holic,
Gifts, Cards & Raffle.**

Light Lunches Served from 11.00

Admission Free

In aid of Church Funds

SHOEBOX APPEAL.

Thank you to everyone who donated items or money to the shoes box appeal.

24 Shoeboxes were delivered to The Reverend Brieley in Wellington who runs the collection point for all the boxes sent from Somerset.

West Huntspill



Joy to the World!

Our November Coffee Morning

Will be on Friday Nov 29th

10am – 12md

Proceeds for Alzheimer's Society



Merry Christmas

Christmas morning

Breakfast served from 8.45am

Service at 9.30am

Led by Mr JohnTreble

Everyone Welcome

Coffee and Chat

**Please note there will be No
Coffee & Chat on 27th December,
but on the 3rd of January instead**

Donations will be for Action for Children



We will also meet again on our usual Friday

31st January 2020

Donations for Victoria's Kichen in Weston

10am - 12md

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18th – 25th January

Prayer Day at Balliol Hall

Saturday 18th January 2020

9.30am – 1pm

Unusual Kindness

Our prayer for Christian Unity is deeply rooted in the Bible. Jesus prayed that his disciples would be of one mind, so that the world might believe.



St Paul also urged churches to recognise their unity in Christ. The theme this year was chosen by the churches in Malta. The Gospel first came to Malta when St Paul was shipwrecked there. (Acts of the Apostles Chapters 27 & 28). St Paul and those with him encounter unusual kindness from the people of

that island.

In spite of the turbulence of the world at the present time , we can also discover acts of kindness, of love, forgiveness and hospitality in places or from people we did not expect. The theme will invite us to reflect on God's grace, that we can see around us if only we stop and look closely at what is in front of us.

The morning starts at 9.30am with a break for Coffee 10.55am and will finish with Communion at 12.30 – 1pm. A more detailed timetable will be available nearer the time.



BRENT KNOLL

(www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

Minister Rev. Steve Bennett

A big thank you to everybody who worked so hard to make our afternoon seasonal service in October such a delight. Celebrating an alternative to Halloween, we spent our time together enjoying meditations, pumpkin drawing and, of course, cake. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, we have had to cancel our November time together (which was due to be held on Sunday 24th) - but we will be starting these alternative seasonal afternoon services again in the Spring and as soon as I have details I will let you know.

Margaret Trapp will lead our ecumenical fellowship group on Monday 2nd December and Monday 6 January at 2.30pm in the schoolroom which will be followed by refreshments. The group will continue to look at Celtic worship - all are welcome.

As we go into Advent and look towards Christmas, we will be holding our Christmas bring and buy coffee morning on Saturday 14th December at 10.30am. All are welcome to come into the warm and enjoy coffee, homemade mince pies and catch up with Circuit and village friends.

We are looking forwards to joining our Link friends at Burnham on Sunday 29th December as we prepare to bid farewell to 2019 and look towards the coming new year. There will, therefore, be no service here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church that Sunday.

All that is left to say is that from all of us here at Brent Knoll, we will wish you all the peace and joy of the season. And a healthy, happy and contented 2020.

With every blessing

Rosemary Krull

EAST BRENT

I can't believe we are halfway through November already. For our first service of the month we welcomed Janice accompanied by Susanna Wesley a.k.a. Ann. I think it is fair to say that Janice had us all enthralled and Ann, as Susanna, really helped to set the scene. Thank you, Janice and Ann for an excellent service. Our absent friends don't know what they missed. I hope those of you who have already heard Janice's service centred on Susanna Wesley enjoyed it as much as we did. From a mother's point of view, I don't think I'd have coped with a family of that size and, as an ex-teacher, I don't think her method of educating her children would go down very well in the classroom today!

Harvey ably led our Remembrance Sunday Worship. We are very grateful to him for making contact with the C of E Church and arranging to share not only the service at the memorial but also our worship in church with one of their readers. The actual memorial service was well attended and plenty of people came back to the hall to warm up and chat over a cup of coffee afterwards.

This Sunday was a joint service at Brent Knoll where we had the pleasure of worship led by Jim. Two new hymns, thank goodness Jim can sing.

So, Christmas is fast approaching. We have our Carols by Candlelight on Friday 20th December at 7pm, followed by mince pies and coffee.

Christmas Day there will be the usual short family service at 10am.

A warm welcome awaits anyone who is able to join us.

Sunday 29th December there will be no service at East Brent.

We remember those we know who are still struggling with ill health and wish them, and you, A Blessed Christmas and A Happy, healthy 2020

Margaret

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BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

Well, it's that time of year that people either love or hate. Most love it because it is the festive season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The time we remember God's love and how he sent his son to do his work. It's the time of Christmas Fairs, Carol Services, Nativity Plays, Christmas Lunches, Carol Concerts and so much more. Most people love this time of year with its noise, jollity, music and family get together. All the churches in our link area have so much going on that you are spoilt for choice. Which events will you attend and which will remind you of the true meaning of Christmas? One of my son in laws said recently "It's not really Christmas until I have sung a few carols." Well there are plenty of events where you can go and join in the carol singing. We have a carol service on Sunday 22nd at 5.00pm, followed by coffee or tea and a mince pie, a midnight service on December 24th starting at 11.15 and a Christmas Morning service at 11.00. Everyone is welcome to any or all of these services.

We must always remember that this may be the time of year that some people cannot enjoy. Perhaps they are alone with no one to wish a Happy Christmas or to share a Christmas greeting with. There are many elderly people in this area who find Christmas difficult. It may be they have lost a love one recently, have a family member in hospital or they may live alone. There are also the people who visit the Food Bank at our church who cannot afford the things they would like to eat over Christmas or presents for their families. Some families have to choose between putting the heating on or buying food. We often don't realise how lucky we are. We should remember these people in our thoughts and deeds in the next few months. Can we bring a little Christmas Cheer to someone who otherwise would not enjoy Christmas this year?

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas from Marian Foster and the Stewards Team.

BREAN

www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk

The rain swept down with a vengeance. It looked as though all the years of hard work would come to nothing, or very little anyway. But in the end, the church filled up nicely and after a couple of hours the rain began to relent.

The Craft Fair was a success after all. It was always going to be so in one sense because, to get people working together with vision and purpose, is always a success. But in the end over £900 was raised. The ladies who had toiled away for months and even years, visiting other shows and reading magazines and books for ideas, had wanted to donate the proceeds from the sale, to St Bridget's church who had been left with £50,000 to raise for roof repairs and other costs, after a quinquennial inspection. The present St Bridget's church goes back to the 13th century so, apart from helping our partner church and its congregation in Brean, it has been a heritage project for the community. Thanks then to all who contributed to this event.

The next weekend was Remembrance and our congregation duly attended the village War Memorial in the churchyard, with appropriate service in St Bridget's afterwards. A lovely morning for November and appreciated by all (though three of the four preachers we have at Brean were taking Remembrance services elsewhere).

The week after that, Brean, East Brent and Brent Knoll congregations came together for a joint service at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, the first of our monthly joint services over the winter season. Coffee afterwards for those of the 30 who attended worship, helps us all to feel even more part of one another.

And now it is new year. Well, lectionary-wise anyway, for Advent sees us return to the gospel of Matthew as the major gospel for reflection in a new liturgical year. Our Advent study series will ask the question. What was it like for the communities for whom Matthew wrote the birth stories and who had no idea of the stories that were in Luke's gospel. It's worth clearing your mind and asking yourself that question because, despite being only half the story we know, new insights can form in the mind.

We shall be having our usual Christmas events. Coffee and Carols on Saturday 21st December from 10.30 to 12.00, and the informal Carol Service at 4pm on 24th (followed by refreshments). We have been grateful for the support of Link members at these events in past years and hope that you will support us again this year.

And then it will be Christmas. The gospels are set in a world of discord and of violence, a world lacking in social justice. Into that world a baby was born, and perhaps we can see echoes of that social climate even now. Yet hope remains within us, so, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, it is a proper time to pray for peace and justice, just as it must have been back then.

So peace and love from all of us, to you, at Christmas; and a renewal of vision and hope for the New Year.

Calendar

Sunday service times:

December 1st 10.30am;
8th 10.30am (St Bridget's join us, lunch afterwards);
15th 10.30am;
22nd 10.30am;
29th no service (Link service at Burnham 10.30am)

January

5th 10.30am;
12th 9.15 am Joint Service at St Bridget's;
19th 10.30am,
26th Covenant service 10.30am.

Other events are:

December

21st 10.30am to 12 noon. Coffee and Carols. Please come.
24th 4pm. Our (informal) Carol service with refreshments
25th 9.15am. Morning service at St Bridget's

January

28th (Saturday) 7pm. Games evening. Sausage & mash for supper, beetle drive and other games to follow.

Harvey Allen

Minister and Circuit Superintendent

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www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

**The Deadline for the
FEBRUARY 2020 LINK
is Sunday 19th January 2020**

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