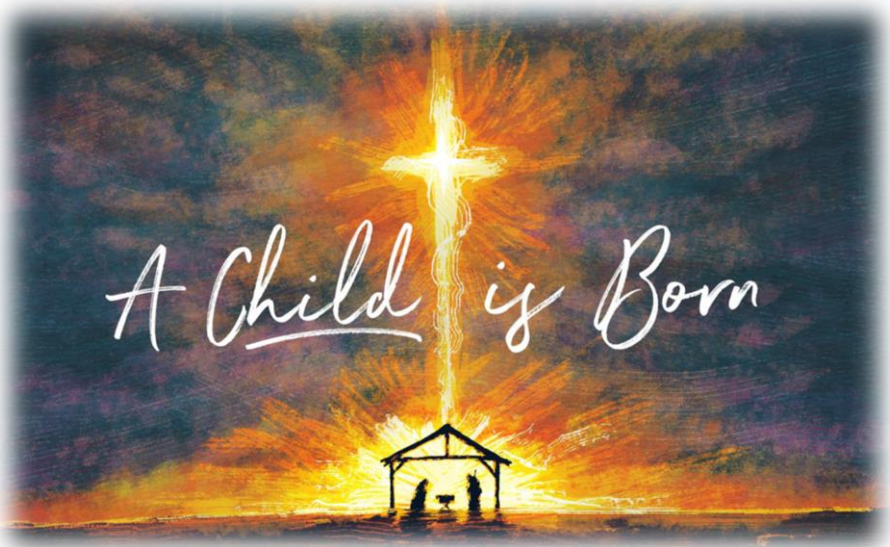


LINK PLUS++++

December 2022 & January 2023



A Child is Born

Dear Friends

After taking over at the beginning of the COVID pandemic, this is the last Link Plus++++ that I will compile. The Link Magazine will continue with Linda Trebble putting together the content for us all. She will be grateful to receive any items for the February edition by Sunday 29th January 2023. If you can email her (lindahelen47@aol.com) that would be her preferred way of reviewing the information.

The deadline for the February Link Plus
is 29th January 2023.

The last few years have been strange and unpredictable for all of us, but the season of Advent and the celebrations of Christmas continue to bring us hope.

This hope is twofold. Firstly, it is a revealing of the hope that we find in the Bible that has already been fulfilled in the birth of Jesus; Saviour, Messiah, God's Son. This is the hope already accomplished that we celebrate at Christmas. Secondly, the Bible tells us about a hope for something that is to come; that God's kingdom will be established, and Jesus will return.

As we make ourselves ready to celebrate the hope that has already been seen fulfilled, so we prepare ourselves for the hope that still is to come to pass.

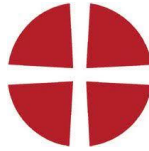
The bible tells us to 'be ready' yet many will spend more time making sure that they are ready for Christmas than being ready for Jesus' return. The New Year will start with people being unready and unprepared to stand in front of God and give an account of their life. What about you? How will the way you start 2023 make you more prepared for the hope of Advent that is still to be realised? This is a challenge for us all as we enter 2023



WELCOME
2023

Happy Christ centred Christmas, & Happy Christ centred New Year!

Steve



Brean Methodist Church

<http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk>

So, Rose said: 'Can we do something different this year.' We have been 'doing' our light-hearted Christmas carol service now since 1993. Not that we did the same thing each year of course. There were always different themes, sketches, and poems, and we have tried to move the carols round a bit even though some like Hark the herald angels sing, held its place year after all. Yes, we did change but when Rose said can we do something different, I guess we all had an instinct as to what she meant.

Of course, there is bound to be something different. We have now got our new video equipment which will give us a fresh approach. Not only will the carols be displayed on the new screen, but also that we shall be able to illustrate various of the features that will contribute to the service. But some intentions do not change. We have always tried, at 4 o'clock on Christmas Eve, to have fun within our faith, and to cut down on some of the verses in our carols so that we keep the flow going.

So, some 7 or 8 of us sat down at the end of November to work out a framework of how the service might proceed. Please come and join us if you can. A carol service is nothing without people to contribute to it. And our Saturday morning Carols and Coffee will also entertain us as in other years. The week before Christmas this year, Saturday 17th December from 10.30.

Christmas will also be on our mind on 10th December when we hold our monthly shared service with our Anglican friends. As in other years the service will be followed by a Christmas lunch, this year being a Bring and Share effort.

There will not be a service on Christmas morning, for we always go across the road and share in the one at St Bridget's, 9 o'clock.

We duly marched over to St Bridget's for Remembrance Day Service on 13th November.

The 6th November was a very special day, the christening of Evelyn Sheri-Rose, granddaughter of Rose and Steve B. A lovely service, conducted by our minister. Our singing was enhanced by us being able to respond to the words of hymns displayed by our new projector out front, rather than being stuck in our hymnbooks, a heart-warming sound appropriate to the occasion.

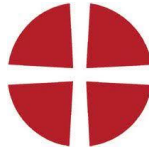
In January we shall join with Brent Knoll for our annual covenant service at East Brent starting at 10.30 on New Year's Day. Our Joint Service with St Bridget's will be at St B's the following week, 8th; at the early time of 9am. And, on a special note, don't forget Sausages and Beetle Drive at 7pm on Saturday 28th January in our church hall. All welcome but let us know beforehand so that enough sausages can be cooked.

Much as we shall enjoy our Christmas festivities, I am sure that the troubles of this world will not be far from our thought. The violence and sadness of Ukraine will be at the back of our minds; and the shortage of fuel, inflation and the effect of all this on the pockets of those who are most vulnerable in this country and elsewhere contribute to the need for continued efforts to bring justice and peace across the world.

So, without turning too far away from the turmoil of the present time, we hope that you and your families and friends will make the time and capacity to find and enjoy the love that centres our Christmas greeting.

Peace to you all this Christmas from us at Brean, and good thoughts for the New Year.

Harvey Allen



Brent Methodist Church

Brent Knoll

A huge thank you to everybody who came along to our Christmas craft and coffee morning last month. We all thoroughly enjoyed our morning and greatly appreciated all the homemade goods (including some wonderful cakes!) made by very talented craftspeople. I am delighted to let you know that we raised over £300 for Chapel funds. Again, thank you to all those who made this morning such a success.

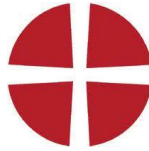
We will be holding a Christmas Carol service here at the Chapel on Monday 19th December at 6pm and all are welcome to join us. We will not be holding a service here on Christmas morning but will be joining with our friends at East Brent at 10am.

We are also looking forward to joining again with East Brent and Brean on New Year's Day where Rev Steve will be leading our Covenant Service.

As we travel through Advent towards Christmas, from all of us here at Brent Knoll, we wish you the peace, hope and every blessing of the Season as we continue to hold our Circuit, our Ministers and each other in our prayers.

May God bless you.

Rosemary Krull



Brent Methodist Church

East Brent



East Brent Christmas Dates

Friday 16th December 7pm

Carols by Candlelight followed by mince pies and coffee

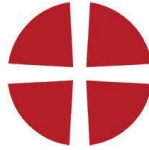
Sunday 25th December, Christmas Day, 10 am

Short Family Service

Sunday 1st January

Link Covenant service 10.30am

A very warm welcome to all.



Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church

Burnham

<http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk/>

My previous turn to contribute the Stewards' Column for Burnham was at Easter. At that time there were signs that church life was 'picking-up' post-Covid. It is wonderful to report that the trend has continued.

The numbers attending worship have continued to increase. Both longer-term and new-to-the-church folk are joining for worship and for other activities from Bible Study to Baby & Toddlers to Coffee Mornings. At present, on every day of the week, there is at least one church activity – be it a meeting in person or by use of Zoom. We pray that more people will find a welcome and spiritual sustenance within the church. We also pray that some will take on tasks within the activities to enable them to thrive.

A major change over the summer has been the start-up of the Waffle Hub. This community café, which meets in the church premises, is proving popular. It serves drinks together with both savoury and sweet waffles – they are delicious! There is always conversation to be enjoyed. The Waffle Hub is run by volunteers. Many are associated with the Methodist Church while others are associated with the Baptist Church, the Food Bank and other organisations within the town. If they wish, customers may pay a little more than the cost of their food and drink. This enables the Hub to offer the same hospitality to people who might feel themselves to be on the fringes of society. A welcome in a warm place with something to eat can be of great value in the world today.

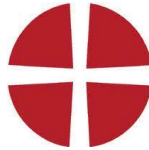
The last weekend of November, saw the Christmas Fair. The Mayor of Burnham opened the event at 10:00; there was a steady flow of visitors until 1:00 when the last of the lunches were served. Thanks are due to those who worked very hard for the success of the event.

As a means of enhancing our worship, large TV-type screens have recently been installed in the worship area. This not only enables the words of hymns

and songs to be displayed, but also provides additional options for preachers. Two preachers have used clips from feature films to illustrate their messages; others have used short, informative videos and pictures.

As we move through Advent to Christmas, we reflect on God's goodness and the Good News that we have to share in our community at this time.

David Patient – for the Burnham Stewards



Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church

West Huntspill



Christmas Services

Carol Service – Tuesday 20th December – 7.00pm

With refreshments any donations for “Action for Children”

Christmas Day Service come and join us for breakfast at 8.45am followed by our Service at 9.30am

“Coffee and Chat” will be held on Friday the 30th of December. 10.30am – 12 Noon. Do come and join us in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

January 2023

Sunday Services at 11.00am

Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday the 3rd and 17th January
Coffee and Chat Friday the 27th 10.30am – 12 Noon

The Joy of Sharing

by kind permission of Doreen Manning

Not many weeks to Christmas
Its time to start preparing
What shall we do for Christmas?
It's time for loving and caring
Why must we wait for Christmas?
For all the joy of sharing.



Believe me, sharing is a joy,
Share what it means to you,
Tell someone of that baby boy
And what He came to do
Tell how He came to love and save,
Save them from Satan's snare.
He gave them power o'er death and grave
That's what we ought to share.

So as we're approaching Christmas
And time to start preparing,
Will you wait till Christmas?
For time of love and caring.
Or make today like Christmas
And know the joy of sharing.

From all the members of West Huntspill Methodist Church. We would like to wish everyone

"A Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful and Happy 2023

PLUS +++ POEMS, PRAYERS and OTHER MESSAGES

The Link Fellowship

In September a meeting was held at East Brent Methodist Church Hall to discuss the future of the Link Fellowship. We hadn't been able to meet since the beginning of the pandemic, and this first meeting was to discuss how we should go forward. It was well attended in spite of apologies for some who are no longer able to come. Tribute was paid to Eileen Goundry who felt she was no longer able to attend, but who had kept the register, and had sent birthday cards to members for many years. A letter of thanks was sent to her.

It was decided that the group would meet once a month, and initially these would be themed members' afternoon. October saw a beautiful variety of readings and poems on Harvest, while in November the theme was Remembrance. Along with items from printed sources there were a number of personal recollections. It has been a delight to welcome some new members.

December's theme is to be Christmas, followed by afternoon tea. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, so that meeting will be on December 13th at 2.30pm.

Our next two meetings are on January 10th and February 14th at 2,30p.m
In January Gill Poulter will do an afternoon of pencil and paper games, while in February Evelyn Tucker is doing a session on water.

All are most welcome to join us.
Joyce Pipet







Advent Bible Study

Judy & Harvey Allen have opened their home for an Advent Bible Study led by Rev Steve. Please come along and join us on 8th, 13th, and 22nd December.

A happy and blessed Christmas to you all



Carol Services

16 th 7.00	East Brent	Carol Service 
17 th 10.00am	Brean	Coffee & Carols 
18 th 6.00pm	Burnham	Carol Service 
19 th 6.00pm	Brent Knoll	Carol Service 
20 th 7.00pm	West Huntspill	Carol Service 
21 st 6.00pm	Mead Fields WSM	Carol Service 

LINK DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
Weekly		
Wednesday 10.00am	Zoom	<u>Link Bible Study</u> Meeting ID: 842 8627 4955 Passcode: 358753
Thursday 11.00am	Zoom	<u>Link Coffee Morning</u> Meeting ID: 854 3680 5731 Passcode: 419002
December		
1 st 7.30pm	Milton	Local Preachers Meeting
6 th 7.30pm	Burnham	Circuit Meeting
7 th 7.00pm	Burnham	Weston Hospice 'Light of life' service
8 th 7.00pm	Judy & Harvey Allen	Advent Bible Study 2 (see previous page)
13 th 2.30pm	East Brent	Link Fellowship
13 th 7.00pm	Judy & Harvey Allen	Advent Bible Study 3 (see previous page)
22 nd 7.00pm	Judy & Harvey Allen	Advent Bible Study 4 (see previous page)
January 2023		
10 th 2.30pm	East Brent	Link Fellowship
19 th 7.00pm	Zoom	Circuit Property Meeting
28 th 7.00pm	Brean	Sausage & Mash