
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

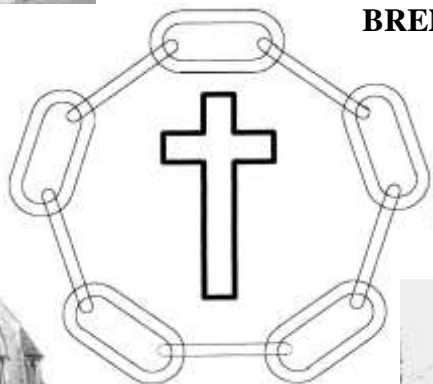
February 2007 Volume 42. No. 1.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



BURNHAM ON SEA



EAST BRENT



WEST HUNTSPILL

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

It's a few weeks since the beginning of the year and I wonder if you or yours are still keeping to those New Years resolutions. I knew for some it was a hard task to start with. Well I'm still walking the dog at least once a day and I'm glad to say we've moved on from just going round the block. Some of you I know now power walk and cycle around Burnham. While others like Martin Luther King "Have a dream."

It's making the dream a reality that causes the problem. I have the same problem with the garden. I like to see instant results with everything in its place and always in full bloom. I should I know keep to the advice given by my Maths teacher, "that big sums are made up of little sums". By taking smaller steps we can still achieve our goal.

After one New Year some twenty years ago two of the smaller churches in the Circuit suddenly had new people coming along. At one a married couple who felt now the family had moved out that they could once again go to church. At the other an elderly man who would arrive at church just as the door would open and then leave promptly when the preacher entered the pulpit. He never stayed for the service. Each week he came and left. It was some time before we discovered that he was a Quaker. By coming each week he found he could come close to God in the silence before the service.

And each week his prayer was this "Is this the place I can now call home?" Thankfully the answer was yes and at that point he began to stay for the service.

A verse I was given – Proverbs 19 v 21.

Every Blessing

Stephen

CALENDER

JANUARY

- Sat. 27th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.
- Sun. 28th 6.00pm. Mead Vale Church Worle Holocaust Memorial Service

FEBRUARY

- Thur. 1st 2.30pm. THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP - Mrs. Jill Udall – Responsibilities of Community Police Support Officers.
- Fri 2nd 2.30pm. Woman's World Day of Prayer at St. Mary's Berrow
- Sat. 3rd 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund – by the Thursday Fellowship.
- Wed. 7th 2.30pm. Money Raising Committee at 14 Priory Gardens.
- Sat 10th 10.00-12.00 **NCH Collection at TESCO.**
SCF Coffee Morning & Stalls.
- Sun. 11th am. **Traidcraft Stall in the Hall**
- Mon. 12th 8.00pm. **Monday Group** - Life as a Prison Guard by Brian Ducker.
- Tues. 13th 2.30pm. The LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Margaret Trapp
- Wed. 14th 10.00am. LINK Communion at East Brent
- Wed. 14th Stephen's Sabbatical Starts
- Thur. 14th 2.30pm. THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP - Diana Kidner – Time to move. (SALES TABLE)
- Sat. 17th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.
- Sat. 17th 9.30 - 3.30 The Preachers' Training Day at West Huntspill led by Rev. Stephen Dawes
- Sun. 18th **LAST Day for items for the March LINK**
- Mon. 19th 7.30pm. Circuit Men's Supper Club - Reg Porter in the North Cape.
- Sat. 24th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.
- 1.00 – 4.00 Table Top Sale in the Burnham Hall.
- Tues. 27th 2.30pm. The LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Karen Murphy Weston Hospice
- Wed. 28th Burnham Lent Course House Groups Commence.
- MARCH**
- Thur. 1st 2.30pm. THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP - Rev. Joyce Plumb Home Missions.

MARCH

Thur. 1st	2.30pm.	Brent Knoll Ecumenical Bible Study Group – Lent Course Starts in the Chapel Schoolroom
Sat. 3rd	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Choir.
Sun. 11th	6.30pm.	Special Circuit Recognition Service (Mrs Di Smart) at Milton



BIRTHS

A Son for Edward & Kirsteen Creswick.
 A Daughter for Mike & Paula Knott.
 A Daughter for Duncan & Elizabeth Keates.
 We offer our Congratulations to the three families.



The Annual Subscriptions to the LINK for 2007

If you have not yet paid please see your distributor or fill in the slip at the back of the magazine and hand to a Steward, or send to the Editor.
 Price £3.00 per annum. Inland Post £3.00 per annum.



LOCAL PREACHERS

At the recent Local Preachers Meeting we were told that Mrs. Di Smart had successfully completed her Training and would be recommended to the Circuit Meeting for full acceptance. Subject to this approval a Special Circuit Recognition Service will be held at MILTON on MARCH 11th at 6.30pm.

This will be led by the Circuit Staff and the address given by Rev. Stephen Marr.

We look forward to the sharing this Service and giving Di our full support as she moves forward in her Preaching Ministry.

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The Preachers’ Training Day will March 17th led by Rev. Stephen Dawes. It will be held at West Huntspill from 9.30am – 3.30pm. The programme can be forwarded to anyone who is interested. Please contact Revd. Joyce F. Plumb. 01278 794125

Many thanks.

Joyce Plumb, Local Preachers’ Secretary.

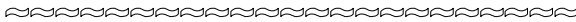
76 TROMBONES?

Actually not 76 but three trombones! To have 3 trombones as part of a small orchestra, with players of high quality drawn from all over Somerset and beyond, is quite unusual. However, on Saturday 24th March in St. Andrew's Church Burnham on-sea that is exactly what you can hear and see accompanying the Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society when it performs Mozart's REQUIEM and part of Handel's Oratorio SAMPSON.

The Annual Concert given by the Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society has for a number of years been a highlight in the cultural calendar of our two towns' This is a tribute to the Musical Director John Henshaw, who engages quality soloists, the bass and mezzo-soprano travelling up from Devon. This combined with the society members having rehearsed since September, you are guaranteed to have another excellent evening's entertainment.

Tickets for this concert which begins at 7-30p.m. on Saturday 24th March in St. Andrew's Church Burnham-on-Sea are £6.00 and available from G.C. Music, B-O-S, and Society Members.

The collection at the recent carol concert in aid of 'Renal Research' amounted to £221.



DISTRICT PRAYER DAY

Sunday, March 4th, St Andrews Church, Filton

An afternoon of opportunities to pray in different styles

Contemplative prayer, Prayer through creativity, Prayer for Revival, Labyrinth, Set All Free (connecting with 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery)

And Godly Play

3.00p.m. – 7.30p.m.

(Including evening service at 6.30p.m.)

No need to book – just turn up!

EXPLORING *FRESH* WAYS OF BEING CHURCH

An Introductory course sponsored by Bristol Methodist District and Wesley College

Looking at different models of church, the context of your church and what a *Fresh* expression could look like where you are. This introductory Course is intended to get you thinking about how you could develop *Fresh* expressions in your context.

The course is available

a) 3 Monday evenings: 5th and 19th February and 5th March from 7.00 – 9.00p.m.

OR

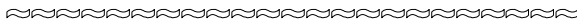
b) All day Monday, 12th February from 10.00a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

OR

c) All day Saturday, 17th February from 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m.

Cost £10.00 made payable to: Bristol Methodist District

Send to: Susan Graham, Wesley College, College Park Drive, Henbury Road, Bristol. BS10 7QD



Woman's World Day of Prayer

The service will be held at St Mary's Berrow on Friday 2nd March at 2.30 p.m. It has been prepared by the Christian women of Paraguay and is entitled “United Under God's Tent” our speaker his Mrs Pearl Hunt from Churchill.



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

On December 12th, we sat down to our delicious Christmas Buffet when we were pleased to welcome our Superintendent Minister, Rev. Terry Young and Catherine, his wife and Rev. Stephen Hill. Following the meal, the very young children from East Brent First School gave us a presentation of the traditional Christmas Story. Everyone enjoyed this and the children enjoyed their feast as a reward.

On Tuesday, January 9th, Mr John Paige showed a series of slides of Brent Knoll Church with the description of the pew ends and the significance of the animals etc. It was most interesting.

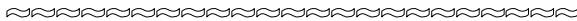
We shall hear about the Living Paintings Trust - Art work for the Blind on Tuesday, January 23rd.

Rev. Margaret Trapp will be our Speaker on February 13th. and Revd Karen Murphy will tell us of Weston Hospice on February 27th.

Rev. Pipet will be our speaker on March 13th.

If anyone would like to join us on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month, they will be made very welcome.

Eileen Goundry



Churches Together in Burnham & District

Lent Course - Starting Wednesday February 28th 2007

It has been decided to hold house groups again this year, either afternoons or evenings or both.

We are aware that some churches will be doing their own Lent meetings and it is not our intention to compete, but to offer a Lent devotion for those who have not got one and maybe offer an alternative time.

We are aware that many look to the United Lent Course with anticipation, and also value its importance as a preparation for Easter.

This year we are using the York Course entitled "Can we build a better World" based on the life of William Wilberforce and the bicentenary of the abolition of slavery.

If you wish to take part please sign the form at Church before February 4th or Contact David Lee.

'NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER...'

HEBREWS 10:25 KJV

The Church is God's life-support system for individual Christians. Nobody expects a baby to grow on its own, and God never meant for us to grow and develop spiritually in isolation. Spiritual growth is a group project, which should be good news to you because that means you don't have to do it all by yourself. You need to be surrounded by spiritual fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters who can help you. Adam's aloneness was the only part of creation that God said was "...not good..." (Genesis 2:18 KJV). The universal church is made up of believers everywhere, the local church is made up of believers somewhere. The writer in Hebrews states, 'Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do...' (Hebrews 10:24-25 TM). You say, 'But I don't need encouragement and I don't need help.' Perhaps not today, but what about next week or next month? And what about the people who need your help and encouragement?

There are two kinds of growth: 1) Symbiotic growth, which occurs when two organisms both benefit by the relationship 2) Parasitic growth, which occurs when one organism feeds off another without giving anything back. Paul describes the church as '...God's household' (Ephesians 2:19 NIV) in which the members grow by being fitted together... 'and by being'...fitted together... 'and by being '...built together for a dwelling place of God.. .' (Ephesians 2:21-22 NKJ). We are all to be part of something bigger than any one of us. There is no mention in Paul's words of individual growth apart from the church. We only grow as we connect, relate, contribute and receive one from another.

Soul Food Reading: Gen 24-25:18; Luke 2:8 20; Ps 71:1-16; Pr 2:1 2

From "The word for today" sent by Harry Kempson.

BURNHAM.

Happy New Year to all Link readers from Burnham-on-Sea. As 2007 gets underway it seems timely to reflect on the parts we each play in the life of the church, our town and the world. Here in Burnham we have Jenny who keeps the church and hall pleasantly clean and fresh, a team of music makers who brighten our Sunday worship, preachers who lead us in worship and help us to grow spiritually; and lots of people who take an interest in new comers, visit the sick, lead children's groups, arrange flowers, look after finances, provide transport, make coffee, pray.....the list could go on! We all do our best to further God's work.

On a wider front, global warming is becoming quite a big issue. Somerset County Council are setting up a website to help us locally to 'Rise to the Challenge' and complete a survey (www.somerset.gov.uk). Maybe this will mean changing our way of life a little.

The web is making communication so easy these days. Did you know there is a website called Young People as Prophets (www.ypap.org.uk) where young people can publicise their thoughts on what they think God is saying to the community. One recently posted comment was: "I think God is saying the church should get its act together and show the world what a loving, caring community really is." I was encouraged to think young people are interested enough to voice an opinion and are given an opportunity to do so. Challenging, though, isn't it.

Our own minister, Rev. Stephen Hill, as you all know, is off from 14th February for a 3 months' sabbatical, and we wish him a time of deep spiritual refreshment, fulfilling and empowering.

Chris - for the Stewards



BURNHAM ON SEA REDEVELOPMENT

MONEY RAISED IN DECEMBER 2006 = £315.00

Total raised by members £82,963.77

TOTAL RAISED (INCLUDING BEQUESTS, GRANTS RECEIVED and LOANS PROMISED ETC. £109,110.74

We are very grateful for all the Money Raising Events, Gifts and Regular Donations, Thank you. It is important that money raising continues.

We must raise by our efforts £92.000 (the equivalent of £1,000 per member) before work can commence.

A Fund Raising Committee has been fixed for FEBRUARY 7th at 2.30pm at 14 Priory Gardens. We need to make future dates and arrangements and would be glad to hear of any offers of help or ideas for money raising.

Joyce F. Plumb (Secretary/Treasurer)



A TABLE TOP SALE

A table top sale is to be held on Saturday 24th February from 1 o'clock until 4 o'clock. Tables can be rented at a charge of £5.00 Further details from Rosaleen Anderson 783652 or Barbara Williams 782483.



THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who so generously sponsored me to do the dip in the sea on December 30th for Secret World Wildlife Rescue. Eight of us in fancy dress braved the waves at Lyme Regis and it was surprising how the sea wasn't nearly as cold as I had expected. It was rather rough and most of us got out after a short time, but we did get really wet as did the onlookers, as there was a torrential down-pour at the time! The final total isn't yet known, but with your help I raised £361.00

Thank you all.

Daphne Hill

NCH

On behalf of NCH the Children's Charity I would like to thank everyone who came to Carol sing. The amount collected at Tesco's in the hour we were there was £90.00. Donations were received from Beaufort House and Abbeyfield making a total of £150.00. Also to all who took part in the Christmas Appeal "Count Your Blessings" this raised £90.00



We have been allocated a date to collect at Tesco's for NCH. This is on Saturday February 10th. Anyone who is able to help please let me know
Dorothy May.



Avon Gorge Abseil

A Sponsored Abseil down the side of the Avon Gorge is to take place on Saturday and Sunday March 17th & 18th in aid of NCH. Could you take part to raise funds for NCH?.

Outdoor Pursuits have all the expertise and equipment you will need to have a fantastic and safe experience abseiling 120 feet over the edge of the Avon Gorge and raise money for the UK's largest children's charity at the same time!

To be guaranteed a place, simply complete the application form, (all the sections please as the information we have requested is essential to ensure your safety and enjoyment on the day) and return it to us as soon as possible with a £10 non-returnable entry fee. Cheques should be made payable to 'N.C.H.' and sent with the application form to the address on the form. Each abseiler is being asked to raise a minimum of £75 in sponsorship and limited edition t-shirts will be presented to everyone raising over £125. Anyone who raises over £200 will go into the NCH Prize Draw.

Further details from Dorothy May ☎01278 784204

BRENT KNOLL

As we battled with rain and gales I don't think I can be alone in feeling that I've had enough of this January. Till now I've taken the line that by the end of December we are over the hump and at least, the days will be lengthening if nothing else, but my views have changed. Old age, I expect!

By now Christmas should be a thing of the past but I'm sure I speak for all of us at Brent Knoll when I recall with gratitude the efforts of all those who made Christmas 2006 such a joyous occasion for us all. Our thanks go to Jill Poulter for her beautifully decorated chapel, to Rev. Margaret Trapp for a lovely well attended Carol Service and to Sue and Keith Cox and all who took part in the Christmas Eve Nativity. It's not easy for teenagers to perform with all eyes upon them but they did so, seriously and well. The readers from the gallery were excellent too. Thank you to you all.

Sadly with the death of Sybil Bachelor we have lost one of our faithful adherents. Although for health reasons Sybil and her husband have not been able to attend regularly for some time, we shall miss her bright, cheery presence and we extend our deepest sympathy to Ron and the family. We remember, too others of our fellowship who cannot often be with us now, and want them to know that they are in our thoughts and prayers. Especially we think of Bill and Kathleen Burrige experiencing many problems and difficulties. We miss them all.

For Lent our Ecumenical Bible Study group will be using the same course as the Churches Together groups throughout the LINK area. The first meeting is on Thursday March 1st at 2:30pm in the chapel schoolroom and all are welcome. We should like to feel that Reverend Iain Craig will be well enough at least to join us but in any case we know that we shall be in good hands with Rev. Margaret Trapp to lead the discussions. We send Iain and Jennie our best wishes for better health in the coming year.

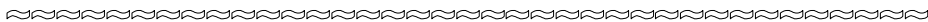
To all our friends in the Link Churches we send our greetings and best wishes that we may continue to enjoy the fellowship and friendship we share with them.

Barbara Drew

BRENT KNOLL Cont.

From Kathleen Burrige

Bill Burrige is now in Hill View Nursing-Home and Kathleen would like you to know how much they appreciate all the lovely cards and comforting messages they have received both regarding Bill's illness and the sudden deaths of Kathleen's brother and his wife.



WEST HUNTSPILL

At the beginning of February our Christmas Celebrations seem a very long time ago. We had a very successful Carol Service, where the children in the Badger section of St John Ambulance, invited their parents and siblings to watch them using puppets to tell the story of Michael Mouse. Michael was a little mouse, who the other animals would not allow to enter the stable to see the baby Jesus, because he had not brought a present with him. Eventually Michael scabbled up the side of the stable and pushed himself through a little gap in the wall where he had a "mouse- eye" view of the little baby and his parents. Michael was very surprised when Joseph looked up and thanked him for blocking the gap with his body, because he was keeping the cold draught away from the tiny baby. Michael had brought a present after all - he had brought himself. +A message that was relevant for the adults as well as the children. It is also the message that we take forward into the New Year, as we have our Covenant services, and remember the Wise Men bringing their gifts to Jesus in the Epiphany services. The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity also comes at the end of January. We mark this week at Huntspill with our annual Day of Prayer when Christians of all denominations offer themselves to spend time together to understand and try to overcome some of the barriers that divide us.

BREAN

Yes it has been and come and gone again. All that preparation and finding places to hide presents and writing of those cards and making puddings and cakes and then putting up the tree and decorations. What a lot of busy bees we were. Yes it was Christmas. But to us who are Christians it meant much more than all that. It was the beginning of a new life in the birth of a baby but also a new way of life for the generations to come

On Sunday 14th January we held a united Service at S^t Bridget's. It was our Covenant Service but also it was a day when we met to renew our LEP Covenant between our two Churches. After committing ourselves to God afresh in our Covenant service with them before everyone present committed ourselves to –

“Strive to devise ways to develop the mutual friendship and encouragement between our two churches because we believe He is calling us to express ourselves to work together in proclaiming the Gospel and by caring within the community. We will endeavour to use our resources of people and buildings in the service of God and to encourage spiritual growth within our congregations. Our prayer and desire is that our affirmation of common purpose may deepen the conviction that Methodist and Anglican of Brean are not strangers but pilgrims together in Christ

So a new life begins in 2007 and we pray it will grow and grow in every way.

We were so pleased that our superintendent and his wife were able to be with us and his words of encouragement were a blessing to us all. Stephen our own Minister gave the sermon which also was encouragement and help as we go forward. We were invited to stay to lunch and what a lunch it was too!! No not just a sandwich and biscuit but a table laden with goodies. Thank you very much to all the ladies for providing it all. Also to the Rev. Sally Lacy who put so much into the preparation of the service. It gave us all much to us think about.

So we go forward in faith and determination feeling blessed that we have taken part in this act of Unity.

We send our best wishes for 2007 to all our Link friends and Circuit asking that you remember us in your prayers.

Lilian Stone.

EAST BRENT

The start of a New Year is always a special time. New Life is stretching out in front of us as we step into the future, full of resolutions knowing that we will not be able to keep many of them but also knowing that God is with us. In the Methodist Church, there is the beginning of the Calendar Year, the Methodist Year beginning on 1st September and for some unknown reason, our freewill offering envelopes starting on 1st February. The Calendar Year marks a time when we move from Christmas into the days of Epiphany and is the time when we have our Covenant Service. Is this just another service or is it a form of commitment? Does it disturb our one hour a week Christianity? In these days of almost continuous TV reality shows where we vote people off week by week, why do we not turn things round and vote people in? Most of our friends are Christian but do they all come to Church? Why should they not come to the party?

Last week we were privileged to have Rev. Pam Pembro take our service. The prescribed reading was "The Wedding Feast at Cana of Galilee" and this she developed into "Caring for others" and perhaps this is a way of demonstrating our faith. It was good to have Gordon and Jill back after their adventures in the Caribbean and the Panama Canal. Air travel has meant that we can go to the ends of the Earth and be back within a matter of hours.

We were delighted at the turnout for our "Carols by Candlelight" at the end of last year. It was an extremely foggy night but the Brownies were there in force together with their Mums and Dads and for this we were very grateful. It was good too to have Rev. Michael Pullan back to read one of our lessons. Fortunately the fog had largely cleared by the time we had finished our coffee and mince pies and were ready to go home.

As we enter another year, we know we have nothing to fear as we continue our pilgrimage of faith.

David Craig.

Minister

Revd. Stephen Hill, 28A Caernarvon Way. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2DQ
stephen@hill735.fsworld.co.uk Tel. (01278) 782306

Editors

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

Web Sites

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

**The Deadline for the
March 2007 “LINK” is
Sunday 18th February 2007**

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