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# THE LINK

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## Methodist Link Churches Magazine

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February 2008 Volume 43. No. 1.

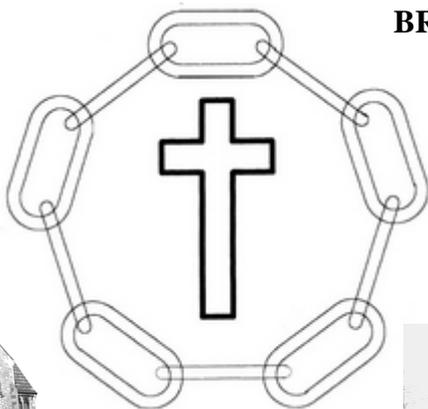
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**BREAN**



**BRENT KNOLL**



**BURNHAM ON SEA**



**EAST BRENT**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**

## *Minister's Letter*

Dear Friends,

I have just returned from a two week winter break at Denia on the Costa de Sol. We have had good dry weather with sun throughout. The wind tended to be cold. In all a very enjoyable break. On the Sundays the local English speaking Anglican Church held a service to which we were invited and with a number of other holiday people we accepted. We were fetched by car and taken to the Service and were pleased to be present.

In the evening at the Hotel, the Salvation Army hold a "Songs of Praise" evening in the lounge. A large number were present each week. It was obvious from the conversation that some present had been many times before and had come to know one another – one couple were present for the 12th year! The evening contained Hymns, mostly traditional to our surprise. The Band which consisted of Horn, Trombone, Bugle, Cornet and Keyboard played "Count your Blessings" as the opening Chorus. The Senior Officer, Captain Sandy came from America. As we entered we had all been given a Candy Cone – a short stick like a walking stick about three inches long. Captain Sandy told us some years ago a sweet manufacturer in America wanted to produce Christmas Candy with a Christian message and as we had entered we had each been given one,

WHITE for Purity.

HARD for the Rock on which we build our lives.

3 THIN RED STRIPES A reminder of the scourges (Pilate had Jesus flogged.)

THICK RED STRIPE Blood on the Cross.

The shape is the SHEPHERD'S CROOK –The Good Shepherd. Turned UPSIDE DOWN it is the Letter J. – for Jesus.

As we commence Lent very shortly we are reminded of the two events – the Birth of Jesus and his death.

Yes, we have many blessings and even if you had rain and we had sun I am sure we can find something each day for which to be thankful.

As we approach these days of Lent may we find a new strength in our faith and a deep peace in our hearts and lives.

Every blessing, *Joyce*

# CALENDER

## JANUARY

Sat. 26th. 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist  
Everyone Welcome.

## FEBRUARY

Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund –  
Wednesday Group

Sun. 3rd am. Traidcraft Stall in the Hall

Wed. 6th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - An Evening with Joyce Pipet.

Thur. 7th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Mrs. Sandra Brown.

Thur. 7th 2.30pm. LENT Ecumenical Bible Study at Brent Knoll  
Methodist Church.

Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of Secret World - Burnham  
Methodist Hall

Tues. 12th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Members Afternoon –  
Bring & Buy.

Wed.13th 10.00am. LINK Communion at - East Brent - All welcome.

Wed.13th 7.30pm. LENT Course in Methodist Hall Burnham - Speaker  
Rev. Kath Allen retired priest from Blackburn.

Thur. 14th 2.30pm. LENT Ecumenical Bible Study at Brent Knoll  
Methodist Church.

Sat. 16th. 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist –  
Everyone Welcome.

Sun 17th LAST Day for items for the March LINK

Wed.20th 7.30pm. LENT Course in Methodist Hall Burnham – Speaker  
Mary Witts - Course Director TEE in Ethiopia.

Thur. 21st 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Home Missions - Rev. Joyce  
Plumb. (Sales Table)

Thur. 21th 2.30pm. LENT Ecumenical Bible Study at Brent Knoll  
Methodist Church.

Sat. 23th. 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist –  
Everyone Welcome.

Tues. 26th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Mr. Arther Steele –  
Hebrides & North Scotland - Illustrated.

Wed.27th 7.30pm. LENT Course in Methodist Hall Burnham - Speaker  
Ven. Nicola Sullivan - Archdeacon of Wells.

Thur. 28th 2.30pm. LENT Ecumenical Bible Study at Brent Knoll  
Methodist Church.

## MARCH

Sat 1st 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund

Wed.5th 7.30pm. LENT Course in Methodist Hall Burnham – Speaker  
Pam Grottick - Chaplain to the Deaf.

Wed. 5th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - T.B.A.

Thur. 6th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Mrs. June Nethercot.

Thur. 6th 2.30pm. LENT Ecumenical Bible Study at Brent Knoll Methodist Church.  
Fri. 7th 2.30pm. Women's World Day of Prayer Burnham Methodist  
7.00pm. Women's World Day of Prayer at St. Bridget's Brean.  
Sat 8th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of Secret World - Burnham Methodist Hall



## **Birth**

Christina, a daughter for Elisi and Mele Vunipola, a sister for Luisa and Manu on the 10th December 2007.

## **Death**

Eve Hawkes formerly of Brean.



# **“Changing Lives for Mission Mission Shaped Ministry Course”**

**To be held at Taunton February to November.**

5 Saturdays and 9 evenings (Monday) starting February 2nd 10am – 4pm.

50 Places available to any Lay Person or Clergy involved in the Mission of the Church and/or Fresh Expressions of Church.

This is a real opportunity for those who are interested in ‘reaching out’ from our Church, and have the time and commitment to follow this Course through.

Further Information and details available from Eric or June. 01 278 795119.

# **BURNHAM & HIGHBRIDGE CHURCHES TOGETHER**

**LENT COURSE 2008**

**Wednesdays at 7.30pm**

**In the Methodist Church Hall**

Each week in our services we hear a huge number of words read. Prayed and preached. Yet so often we are not quite certain what these words actually meant when they were written or what they might mean for us as believers now.

**Theme; What do we mean by-**

So - Each week in our Lent Course we will take a different word

**Peace, Mercy, Holiness. Grace & Righteousness.**

and explore their meaning by looking at Scripture and discussing together what we discover about that word.

**We will be led each week by a different person**

Feb 13th	Peace Revd Kath Allen - a retired priest from the Blackburn Diocese.
Feb 20th	Mercy Mary Witts - Course director for TEE in Ethiopia
Feb 27th	Holiness Ven Nicola Sullivan - Archdeacon of Wells
March 5th	Grace Pam Grottick - Chaplain to the Deaf
March 13th	Righteousness Sarah Shepperd - STETS & 'Exploring Christianity' Tudor.

## **Day of prayer for Christian unity**

Held by the Ecumenical Prayer Group of West Huntspill, and was hosted by the Methodist Church there, this was a day with many thought provoking challenges. The prayer day began at least 15 years ago, and has evolved along the way, but always gives participants something to think about. This year's theme was, "Pray without ceasing"

After a welcome and short introduction by Rev. Walsh of Huntspill Church, Rev. Robert Channon, Methodist Superintendent spoke of

being" at peace" – with ourselves, with others, with events in our world. He asked us to think of signs of hope in our towns/villages, and to pray for them.

Our Roman Catholic contribution came from Mary Olsen, who "encouraged the faint hearted" by first telling us of her own experience at the wedding of a friend. We spent time talking to our neighbours about our own faint-heartedness, and listening to their accounts. Mary told us of a youth club she had known who used see; judge; act as their watch word:- see what is wrong; judge what to do, and act accordingly, sometimes praying, sometimes writing a letter [journalists consider 1 letter to be the view of 200 hundred people! (so few people make the effort)]

Then came "Help the weak", when Chris Williamson of Weston Victoria Methodist Church asked who are the weak. This session was split into 3 bits, with silence and prayer for (1) The world's weak; (2) The marginalised; (3) People we knew who needed prayer.

The 4th half hour was "be patient with all", led by Falcon Bell from the Quakers, with Bible and other readings, showing us that we must be patient always, we cannot do everything, the world is too big for that. We have to start where we are, and do only what we can. God has his own timetable, often on a different wavelength to ours! In answer to an invitation for our own thoughts, one person in the circle contributed:- Mother Theresa, when asked how she could feed all the world's children, said "One by one"

After lunch Rev. Christine Judson Curate at Highbridge in her session on "do good to one another" showed us an email I sent to her the night before, quite spontaneously about a university professor asking a class if

evil existed. Some said yes, but one student, proving with physics that darkness and cold were just expressions invented to explain the absence of light and heat, maintained that Evil was an expression invented to explain the absence of faith the 2nd student was Albert Einstein!. We also took a stone each from a box and used it as a prayer stone, thinking of evil we knew of, and praying about it. Very thought provoking. Lyn House of Hope Baptist Highbridge brought us lovely joyful song to illustrate “Rejoice always” (572 in “Mission Praise” if you wish to look it up) Lyn passed round pictures of Christ from many cultures and backgrounds, and invited us to swap and discuss with our near neighbours. This was challenging as many were modern images and not all what one would envisage as Christ - but then why not?

Beryl Thame from Cheddar a Mother’s Union member and Lay Reader, spoke about “prayer without ceasing”, then brought us a selection of prayers from the saints and others, finishing with “God be in my head”, which we sang.

Rev. Jim Hill, former Vicar at Huntspill in the 80’s took the final session – “give thanks in all circumstances”, taking us through be wise; make good use of our time and give thanks always for whatever life brings. Jim then led our Communion Service at the end of a thought provoking and inspiring day, one of the readings being Ephesians Ch. 4. vv. 1 – 6.

From small beginnings, the Day of Prayer is now filling the chapel, which has its downside as well as good points. Some people spend only part of the day there, which makes room for a wider participation. Sometimes one feels that a little more space for silence and contemplative thought would be good, God moves in mysterious ways and many different ways to communicate, what suits one doesn’t suit others. The Joy of the Day of Prayer is that there is usually something for everyone.

Pauline Chadwick.

Member of the Huntspill Prayer Group – Outreach team.

# LINK VILLAGES FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday, November 27th, Mr John Clayton told the history of Lighthouses around the coast in saving many lives and vessels over the years.

Members enjoyed a delicious Buffet Lunch on December 11th, after which the children from the first year at East Brent First School gave their Nativity Play. This was very well performed and the children enjoyed it and the "eats" afterwards.

Mrs Pat Hase paid a return visit on January 8th when she gave a power point talk on the life of George Reed and Burnham-on-Sea. He was the Squire of East Brent. He is remembered in the Parish Church in Burnham and East Brent. At one time he lived in the Manor House in Burnham and donated funds for the School. There are reminders of him - The former Reed Arms, a plaque in the School – now removed to the new Junior School, plaques in Burnham and East Brent Churches. His grave is in Burnham Churchyard. It was a most interesting afternoon.

On Tuesday, January 22nd., we had a return visit by Paul Temple when he gave an update on the work in Luhimba.

February 12th. Will take the form of a members' afternoon, following which there will be a Bring and Buy Stall.

Mr Arthur Steel will show slides of the Hebrides and Northern Scotland on February 26th. and on

March 11th Mrs Mary Witts will talk about a visit to Ethiopia.

Eileen Goundry.



East Brent First School Nativity Play

## Obituary: Common Sense

We mourn the passing of a beloved old friend by the name of Common Sense who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such value lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm and that life isn't always fair. Common Sense lived by simple sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Sent in by Harry & Kempson from the Porchester "The Vine" March 2005

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student; however they could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, and criminals received better treatment than their victims. He finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, she spilled a bit in her lap and was awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by two stepbrothers. My Rights and Ima Whiner. (I am a whiner)

Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone.

# BURNHAM.

As this is the first “LINK” for 2008 we wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful year.

All the Christmas Services and Carol singing were well supported. Now with all the decorations and cards taken down we can still remember the real meaning of Christmas – the birth of Jesus. On January 6th we had our Covenant Service conducted by the Rev. Joyce Plumb, an opportunity for each member to renew their covenant with God.

Each Sunday in our Link Churches we pray for one of these churches on a rota basis. There is an opportunity to meet friends from the Link Churches on the second Wednesday of each month when there is a Communion Service at 10.00am followed by fellowship over a cup of tea or Coffee. This is also a chance to see inside that Church.

There are many of our congregation who are not well. We remember them in our prayers and hope that they will soon be well and able to return to worship.

The weather is not good with all the rain and wind but we are fortunate that we have no problem with flooding. It is encouraging to look around the garden and to see some spring flowers a sign of new life.

Burnham & Highbridge Churches Together have arranged the Lent Course beginning on Wednesday 13th February for 5 Wednesdays to be held in our schoolroom at 7.30pm. The theme “What do we mean by - *Peace, Mercy, Holiness. Grace, & Righteousness*”. Do go along whenever you are able.

With every blessing for 2008.

Dorothy for the Stewards.

## A Christmas Poem

We have a list of folks we know  
all written in a book  
And every year at Christmas time  
we go and take a look  
And that is when we realise  
that these names are a part  
Not of the book they're written in  
but of our very heart  
For each name stands for someone  
whose path touched ours and then  
Left such a print of friendship  
that we want to touch again  
And while it sounds fantastic  
for us to make this claim  
We really feel we are composed  
of each remembered name  
So never think our Christmas cards  
are just a mere routine  
Of names upon a Christmas list  
forgotten in between  
For when we send a Christmas card  
that is addressed to you  
It's because you're on the list of folks  
we are indebted to  
And every year when Christmas comes  
we realise anew  
The biggest gift life can give us  
is meeting folks like you  
And may the spirit of Christmas  
that forever and ever endures  
Leave its rich blessings  
in the hearts of you and yours

Sent in by Joy Bishop

# Church Flowers

I expect that most people when entering the Church, notice the flowers on the table by the door?, and also when sitting in the pews, see the lovely arrangements on the stand at the front.

Do you wonder who does them?, people are welcome to add their names to the dated list in the vestibule, perhaps in memory of a loved one – or give the money for them to be done.

For more than 20 years Muriel Hyde has been responsible for flowers, but now through ill health has handed this responsibility to Mary Chalker, and we wish her well for volunteering to do this.

I am sure that all members of our congregation would wish to join me in expressing our most grateful thanks to Muriel for having done this work so admirably for so long.

Norma Waters



**Saturday February 9th**  
**10.00am – 12 noon**  
Burnham Methodists  
invite everyone to a  
Coffee Morning for Secret World.  
Meet Pauline Kidner and some of her  
furry/feathered friends.  
Raffle, cakes, bric-a-brac, cards, books and  
videos.

# **BRENT KNOLL**

Although Christmas is very much a thing of the past, so quiet have been the weeks since then, it is worth casting our minds back to the various events and celebrations of a very loved season in our church calendar.

The coffee morning, despite a lower attendance than usual, raised £315.00 which we have shared between the NCH and buying a camel, through M.R.D.F. for use in Kenya

The young people's nativity was presented seriously and well, with the excellent readings from the gallery. We were pleased to welcome a good number of parents and are grateful to Sue and Keith, who trained the youngsters and organised the service.

On the last Sunday of the month Rev. Margaret Trapp skilfully wove the readings and prayers round our own individual choice of Carols combining all into a lovely meaningful service, so bringing an end to our celebrations. A big thank you to her and to all who contributed in various ways to the events of the Christmas season.

Our ecumenical Bible study led by Margaret, will be looking at St. Mark's version of the Passion. We meet every Thursday during lent in our schoolroom at 2.30pm starting on February 7th. All are invited to join us.

Barbara Drew.

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## **Women's World Day of Prayer**

This year the service will be held at St. Bridget's Church Brean on Friday 7th March at 7.00pm. The speaker will be Mrs Di Smart.

The service has been prepared by the women of Guyana in South America and is entitled "God's wisdom provides new understanding".

A warm welcome to everyone.

# BREAN

It is unbelievable that so much has happened since the last report, - All that preparation and planning – the buying and" wrapping of presents – all the cards to be written – the cooking of pies and puddings – to say nothing about Coffee Mornings – Lunches – Carol Services. What busy bees we were – or at least some of us were. Then the big days comes with family gatherings and meeting folk we haven't seen for ages. – All this because a baby was born – but what a baby! Because of him we are blessed in so many ways. – The trimmings are all gone and the house is tidy and quiet and already we are halfway through the first month. Our thoughts this month are on the Week of Prayer being held in so many churches and we are told to pray without ceasing.

Coming back to the days before Christmas, our churches resounded to the singing of carols. We are lucky in Brean – we have two churches to go to, so some of us joined together at St. Bridget's for their carol service and the church was nearly full. After all the singing we enjoyed a glass of mulled wine and a piece of Christmas cake.

Then we joined again in our service on Christmas Eve and here we saw folk who no one seemed to know but they all enjoyed joining in and a good time was had by all.

Now we must face the New Year and whatever it brings. For us at Brean we had sad news only 4 days into the New Year the news that Eve Hawkes had passed away. She left Brean earlier in the year and went to live with her daughter in Cornwall, but she spent the last few months in a nursing home. Eve will be remembered for a number of things – she was Communion Steward and we remember her white and beautifully ironed communion cloth. Also she was Door Steward for a number of years and will be remembered for her warm welcome to everyone. The news came as a shock to us but we are thankful that she is at peace now and has been reunited with her husband Ted.

For our first Sunday service in our church we welcomed Jean and John Le Sueur to lead it. Jean had a very nasty cold and we hope it wasn't too much of a strain. – Being the considerate husband John he is he took over the readings and prayers which helped quite a bit.

It was good to see Daphne and Margery and Walter all there and hope this year will be a better one health-wise for them. We send New Year greetings to you all and especially to the lonely ones and any who are going through a difficult time and we do remember you in our prayers.

God's Blessings for 2008.

Lilian Stone.

## **EAST BRENT**

For the last couple of months many of the village hall meetings have been using the Methodist hall, as the village hall has been unusable whilst the whole floor has had to be replaced. This has meant that our hall has been in use most days, and not having a caretaker has made things very difficult, as it has not been altogether trouble free!!!

We are pleased that the village hall is now open again, and that we were able to be of use to the various organisations, who have now returned to the usual venue, and we to a quieter life!!

We have recently had our quinquennial inspection, hopefully nothing too expensive will be revealed. We know that the decoration of the Church vestry is high on our own list.

We are pleased that the Rev. Stephen Marr has finished his course of treatment at the Oncology Unit in Bristol and that he is looking forward to preaching in the circuit again.

We are however sorry to hear that Rev. Steven Hill has returned to hospital.

On Good Friday we are planning to hold the usual Good Friday Service at 7pm 21st March.

Please put this reminder in your diaries and try to support us.

Jill Legg

# Minister

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## Web Sites

[www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk)  
[www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org](http://www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org)

**The Deadline for the  
March 2008 “LINK” is  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

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