
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

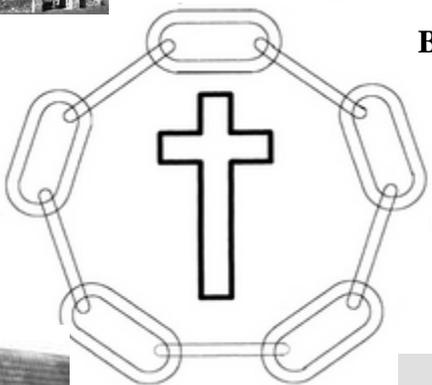
February 2009 Volume 44. No. 1.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



BURNHAM ON SEA



WEST HUNTSPELL



EAST BRENT

Minister's Letter

I thought for a change I'd start with a story I heard about a vicar who was walking down the street when he saw a dog surrounded by a group of boys. So, like the Good Samaritan he couldn't walk by. "What's going on then?" he asked.

One of the group explained the dog was the local stray. We all want him so we've decided that who can tell the biggest lie can then have the dog.

Taken aback by those comments the vicar launched into a lengthy sermon against lying and when he was a boy he would never tell a lie. Deadly silenceThen the smallest in the group picked up the dog's lead and with a deep sigh said "All right give him the dog."

I'm sorry Dennis and Harry. We normally have your stories but give me a chance. Things may not turn out the way you first expect them. The other is don't be too nosey - but we won't go there.

Soon it will be Pancake Day February 24th 2009. Even I know that a Pancake is made up of three basic ingredients, eggs, milk and flour so how creative could you be. So be just as creative during Lent. So why not put 5p. or 10p. in a jar each day and then give it away. Be careful with this one but try and say your prayers while walking the dog. Some days the dog might get a longer walk than usual and don't think of the extra pounds you could be losing in the meantime.

So don't do the obvious, be a little adventurous. We could be surprised but don't come home with a dog and if you do don't blame me.

Every Blessing

Stephen

Birth

Jackie & Dave Morris are pleased to announce the birth of their grandson Seth Christopher on January 6th. Second son for Catherine and Julian Morris.



CALENDAR

JANUARY 2009

- Sat. 24th. 10.00 - 5.00 Day of Prayer at West Huntspill Methodist Church
Tue. 27th. 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs. Joan Eales –
Somewhere to Go - Weston Super Mare - Collection
Sat. 31st. 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist –
Everyone Welcome.

FEBRUARY

- Sun. 1st. am. Traidcraft table in the Hall
Wed. 4th. 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Nursing by Mary Nicholson.
Thu. 5th. 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Rev. Karen Murphy – Weston
Hospice (Collection) - Open invitation to Churches
Together
Sat. 7th. 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund – Thursday
Fellowship.
Sat. 7th. 6.30pm. Supper & Magic Lantern Show.
Tue. 10th. 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Wiltshire Farm Foods –
Demonstration,
Sat 14th. 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee - Morning Burnham - All Welcome
Sun. 15th. LAST Day for items for the March LINK
Mon. 16th. 7.30pm. Circuit Men's Supper Club - Mike Wilkinson - "Weston-
super-Mare Trains"
Thu. 19th. 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Home Missions – Mrs. Joyce
Pipet
Sat. 21st. 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of RNLI - Burnham Methodist
Hall
Mon 23rd. Start of Fair Trade fortnight
Tue. 24th. 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs. Pat Lesley - Peter
Gillard Memorial School, India - Collection
Sat. 28th. 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham - All Welcome

MARCH

- Sun. 1st. am Traidcraft table in the Hall
Wed. 4th. 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Talk and Demostration by Miles
Tea.
Thu. 5th. 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Hill.
Fri. 6th. 2.30pm. Women's World Day of Prayer, Brean Methodist
Church - Speaker Rev Christine Judson

- Fri. 6th. 2.30pm. Women's World Day of Prayer Baptist Church
Burnham
- Sat. 7th. 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund -
- Tue. 10th. 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Pam Prembro –
Susanna Wesley
- Sat. 14th. 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning – Burnham - All Welcome
- Mon. 16th. 7.30pm. Circuit Men's Supper Club - Rev. Karen Murphy –
"Weston Hospice"

MRDF

At the Circuit Epiphany Service in Burnham-on-Sea recently we raised £500.18 for MRDF's appeal for the emergency situations in Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many thanks to all who gave so generously. This will be used to help the thousands of people who face an uncertain future of insecurity, chronic hunger and sickness in those countries.

MRDF's free 6-part study pack/course this year has the title
"WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT CHANGING THE WORLD"
and covers such issues as poverty, injustice and natural disasters.

For copies contact MRDF direct or Chris Wray at Burnham.

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

23/2/09 to 8/3/09 is Fair Trade Fortnight and Burnham-on-Sea are having a coffee morning in the Methodist Hall to promote this on SATURDAY 28/2/09.

There will be craft, food and clothes on sale. As a Fair Trade Church this is our first event.

Please spread the word.

COWARD'S CASTLE

The people of this country have a healthy suspicion of dictators - whatever their creed and for this reason have a suspicion of parsons. They do not mind them playing games or taking part in politics; they do not object to them helping charitable causes or running Boys Clubs; but as soon as the parsons mount their pulpits and seem to become "spiritual" dictators then they are eyed with suspicion. The pulpit, in the minds of many folk, is a kind of coward's castle. It is a place where a man with certain ideas can expound them without fear or contradiction. It is a dictator's rostrum from which the word is spoken, and, having been spoken, must be believed. And because so many of us hate even the semblance of dictatorship, so many will not listen to the parson when he speaks. I do not believe that the British people are anti-religious - they like singing hymns and they believe in praying to God - but they are very suspicious of the parson who tells them what to believe, who uses a place where the congregation cannot "answer back" in order to do so, and who seems to resent any criticism that may be levelled against him.

Some time ago I listened to a radio Brains Trust Session in which Mr. E. Shinwell M.P. appealed for forthrightness in all matters of debate. And it is this spirit of forthrightness that I want to see exhibited in our churches. The very last thing that I desire is a pulpit which is regarded by people as a coward's castle. The world situation is too serious for a continuation of harmless platitudes from the pulpit and conventional politeness from the pew. People and parsons together must be prepared for a free exchange of views, for only by this means can we work out a common faith that results in common action.

To those of you who are in the habit of attending church, therefore, I would say: If you disagree with sermons, tell the parson so, and give him an opportunity to discuss their subject matter with you. And to those of you who do not attend church I would say: Try it sometime and tell the parson what you really think about the Service. After all, if he is prepared to defend his own position to you, you ought not to be ashamed or afraid to state yours to him.

The pulpit is not a coward's castle; it is a place from which a definite way of life is announced. And the parson is not a "spiritual" dictator; he is a man with a message for today. When next you visit a church service, then, please regard the pulpit as a place which starts you thinking, and the parson as one with whom you can discuss your thinking.

This was a Minister's message from Rev. Douglass Hubery in 1944 and still very applicable today.

THE PRATT GREEN TRUST

A 25th anniversary celebration

PAST; PRESENT; AND FUTURE? HYMNS AND SONGS IN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

**Coventry Cathedral
Saturday 28 March 2009**

**Timothy Dudley-Smith, OBE
Graham Kendrick
Bernadette Farrell
Janet Wootton
Andrew Pratt**

**Saint Michael's Singers
conducted by
Paul Leddington Wright
with Alistair Reid (organ)**

Live for a Change! Vocational Exploration Programme

Do you want to explore your calling to lay ministry? Is this a good time for you to meet with a small group of others from your Circuit to pray, read and discuss? Would you like to experience different types of ministry?

As we explore how to move into the future, with all the changes that entails, developing and supporting the ministry of the people of God who are Methodists is an important priority for the District, as well as the local Circuits and Churches.

You are invited to participate in this programme, which includes three study days at Sarum College and small group work in your local area. The Introductory Study Day is scheduled for Saturday 18 April at Sarum College in Salisbury. Small local group meetings, scheduled according to your time and needs, will take place between the study days. A further Vocations Day in the District is scheduled for 7 November.

More information will be available soon. Contact Susan if you are interested and would like more details. Enrolment is opening shortly.

Susan Graham
Bristol District Development Enabler
dde.bristol@btinternet.com
07595 516873

Magic Lantern Show

Saturday Evening
February 7th 2009 6.30pm.

Burnham
Methodist
Hall

Tickets £7.00
Show & Supper
From
Mrs. Ros Anderson
Tel. 01278 783652
or
Mrs. Jackie Morris
Tel. 01278 785249



We aim to provide an authentic Victorian/Edwardian entertainment, using original slides & lanterns which would have enthralled an audience long before the advent of cinematography through to the first world war.

To enhance the beauty of these hand-painted photographic slides, we are indebted to the virtuosity of our pianist -
Mr. Eric Holdaway -
Who is often in the dark -
In more ways than one !

You are invited to sing along with Eric and, for certain shows, we are delighted to have our very own guest singer -
Beverley Gregory

Women's World Day of Prayer ~ Friday 6th March 2009 at 2.30 pm in Burnham Baptist Church

'IN CHRIST THERE ARE MANY MEMBERS YET ONE BODY'

On Friday 6th March over 3 million people worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a service prepared by Christian Women in Papua New Guinea Emma Wilcock, President of the National Committee for Women's World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, said:

'This is always an exciting day. The extent of unity in prayer is shown by the fact that the first service will begin at sunrise in Tonga and travel around the world until the sun sets in neighbouring Western Samoa. By then, the Day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland alone over 5,000 services will have been held.'

Papua New Guinea is a land of many ethnic groups and over 800 distinct languages of which more than half are unrelated. As a result, there is great cultural diversity, yet the women of Papua New Guinea have emphasized the oneness there is in Christ.

In spite of gender inequality, women in Papua New Guinea are beginning to take their place in professions previously closed to them. There are now women who are pilots, engineers, doctors, lawyers, judges, lecturers and also officers in the military forces. In this way, they make a very positive contribution to their nation.

Further information and resources can be found on the Women's World Day of Prayer website at www.wwdp-natcomm.org

Do come and join us for this annual service. Men are also welcome.

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday March 6th 2009

The Service this year has been prepared by
the Women of Papua New Guinea
and is entitled

"In Christ there are many members yet one body"

Brean Methodist Church 2.30pm. Speaker Rev Christine Judson

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday, November 25th we welcomed Rev. Robert Channon as our guest speaker.

The children from East Brent First School gave us a presentation of the Nativity Story told by the animals present at the Stable following our delicious Buffet Lunch. The children, though so young entertained us all - thanks go to Mrs Francesca Bowkett and all the parents who contribute so much.

Mrs Margaret Edwards gave an illustrated talk as a continuation of last year's talk "from Little London, Leeds to Peshawar" - she told of the differences of the different peoples in the area. Mrs Christine Thomas read a poem explaining the Twelve Days of Christmas.

On January 27th. Mrs Joan Eales will talk about the scheme in Weston-super-Mare "Somewhere to Go". There will be a collection for this project.

On February 10th we are to have a demonstration and tasting by Wiltshire Farm foods.

Mrs Pat Lesley will tell us about the Peter Gillard Memorial School in India on Tuesday, February 24th. There will be a collection for the school project.

On March 10th Mrs. Pam Pembro's subject will be Susanna Wesley.

On March 24th Yeo Valley Dairies are to present a video of the history of the Dairies and the production of organic yogurts. There will be samples.

We shall have our Members' Afternoon on April 14th when there will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall

We are always pleased to welcome new members - do come along for an hour of Fellowship and cup of tea. We meet in the Schoolroom of East Brent Methodist Church at 2.30p.m.

Eileen Goundry

Victory through intimacy

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM. / PHILIPPIANS 3:10 NKJV

Paul writes: 'That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings.' Now, we know about resurrection power. It's the power that raised Jesus from the dead. Think; what problem or need do you have that resurrection power can't handle? What is dead in your life that needs to be raised, or broken that needs to be fixed? When you make intimacy with Christ your top priority, you tap into this power.

Why is it that some Christians live as 'more than conquerors,' while others seem to go around defeated all the time? The answer isn't in their circumstances, because victorious Christians and defeated Christians face basically the same land of trials. The answer isn't in who goes to church more often, or who reads the Bible and who doesn't. The answer is, victorious Christians know Christ more intimately, therefore they experience His life-giving power!

But a lot of us would like to put a period after the words. The power of His resurrection' No, if we're going to know Christ intimately we must also know Him in 'the fellowship of His sufferings.' This word 'sufferings' means more than just enduring a bad allergy season or having a bump in your car. For Paul it meant being badly beaten and beheaded But it also meant a special kind of intimacy with the Lord that can't be known any other way. If you've ever suffered deeply with another person you understand what this means. We'll never truly be intimate with somebody if we say to them, 'I only want to share the good times with you, keep your suffering to yourself. 'Getting the idea?

From "Word for today" sent in by Harry Kempson.

SOCIETY COMMEMORATES 250th ANNIVERSARY

The composer Handel died in 1759 and one of his lighter but enjoyable lesser known works, ACIS and GALATEA, is being performed for the first time by Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society at 7-30 pm. in St. Andrew's Church Burnham- On-Sea on SATURDAY 28th. MARCH.

Accompanied by an appropriately sized orchestra, recruited from London along with visiting soloists the evening will include FAURE'S REQUIEM

Tickets to include refreshment will be on sale from Society Members, G C MUSIC, and at the door.

Do Come

Burnham on Sea

Adult School Charity

Invites applications for charitable grants

Claimants should have empathy with the aims of the trust which are, broadly, the advancement of the Christian religion and there from, the relief of people in Burnham on Sea and neighbourhood who may be in particular need.

Written applications, please, by

Monday 9th February 2009

To Mr. T. Christian
8 Chapel Lane
East Huntspill
Highbridge
Somerset
TA9 3NQ

EAST BRENT

Well, the tree has been dismantled, the trimmings and decorations packed away in a box and put in the cupboard or the loft for another year and as the saying goes – out of sight out of mind. I hope the magic religious significance of Christmas hasn't been dealt with in quite the same way – for Christmas is for all the year.

It seems quite some time since we were looking forward to our Candlelight Carol Service which as usual was a great success. The decorations and the candles lend themselves to a very intimate celebration and a time of fellowship afterwards was enjoyed. Thanks to the small band of decorators who made it possible.

The Advent theme was concluded by Mrs. Jean Le Sueur on the Sunday before Christmas – another good service by the local preachers - to whom we must be internally grateful for all the work and thought which must have gone into their series of Sermons.

Christmas morning saw us at our usual half hour service taken by the Revd. Stephen Marr. We thank him for coming to take the service and the message entitled “Where do you put the Baby Jesus”.

Our collections at both the Carol and Christmas service which amounted to £200.00 were for the Luhimba project. This year we are hoping to buy some animals – cows, pigs, sheep, goats etc.

On our last Sunday of the year we had our Covenant Service taken by Rev. Joyce Plumb. The service reminds us of our commitment in furthering the work of God during the following year never mind the ups and downs in our life. We were a bit short on numbers on the Sunday because of coughs and colds.

We send our love to Margaret (G) whose daughter is in hospital having had an operation on Christmas Day. As far as I know she is now progressing.

Our best wishes go to anyone in “The Link” who is suffering with coughs and colds and the like, in this very cold weather.

Finally the East Brent church family wishes the people of the “Link” New Year Greeting (if a little late) and a Peaceful and blessed 2009.

Evelyn M. G. Tucker.

BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

“Christmas comes but once a year and when it comes it brings good cheer!”

Well, we at Burnham Methodist Church would certainly agree with that old maxim, especially late last year with all the redevelopment and redecoration of the church coming to fruition at the start of the Advent period. So it was, on the coldest day of the winter, thus far, the Re-dedication of the Church went ahead as planned on Sunday 7th December.

The service was graced by the presence of many of our friends and well-wishers from within our circuit of churches and we were pleased and heartened to see you all. Our Worship was led by Rev. Stephen Hill, Rev. Robert Channon and Rev. Robin Hutt and the opening ceremony included the cutting of the ribbon by the Mayor of Burnham, Councillor Peter BurrIDGE-Clayton and the unlocking of the doors by Miss Muriel Hyde. It was very good to have Eric and June Nethercott with us. As you know Eric (who is the redevelopment co-ordinator) has been ill so it was particularly joyful that he had recovered sufficiently to be able to be with us again and unveil the Rededication Plaque.

All went as planned on the day (if there were any glitches I personally missed them!) – From the Introit sung by the choir to the final Doxology. Everything seemed to have gone very well and provided much to talk about whilst having a welcome “cuppa” afterwards. Many people took the opportunity to look around the building at all the changes that had taken place – the church itself with its simplicity of decoration and the beautiful and spiritual new cross made for us by Eric Horsley from the seat of an old pew, the new kitchen facility which we hope will be well used and our new toilets with wheelchair access.

We are indeed fortunate to have had so much support to enable all this to have been achieved, so, on behalf of the Stewards a big ‘Thank You’ to all who helped in any way in the preceding years and of course, on Thanksgiving and Dedication Day.

Also on behalf of the Burnham Stewards may I take this opportunity to say that we hope everyone in the Link had a happy Christmas and we wish you God’s blessings and Grace for the New Year.

Barry Hall



The interior of Burnham Methodist Church



At the opening

It has been mentioned already about how well the Opening and Rededication Service went on December 7th.

Although the photographer sent photographs to the Weekly News they have never been printed. It was certainly a very important happening and we felt many readers of the paper would have liked to have seen pictures and details of all the changes to the church.

These are 2 of Cedric's photographs. Anyone who would like a colour copy please ask him.

BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT

The money raised now stands at £204,514 and the expenses to date £183,000. The final figure for this stage of the work is not yet known. However we do know that Fund Raising has to continue and loans of nearly £20,000 have to be repaid as well as continuing to look to the next phase at the rear of the premises.

We shared together in rejoicing at the Opening of this phase of the building and it was a great event. Many favourable comments have been made. In three months we shall look at where we stand and some of the difficulties we have faced - some now in hand and others needing attention- but like moving into any new home there are always big adjustments to be made. We thank everyone for help and patience given in the last month or so.

Fund raising and special events will continue to be notified and your support needed.

Joyce F. Plumb



THANK YOU

I would like to thank Eileen & Tony Stephens for the use of their house in Boniface Walk on the 16th Jan. This is where we held an afternoon tea to raise funds for the church. They had very kindly volunteered the use of their house as it is much larger than mine. They have been supporting us throughout our fund raising, coming to everything we have done over the past few years.

Also a big thank you to the cake and scone makers who donated their goods. Everyone who came had a really good time a good gossip and enjoyed their tea. We raised a total of £127.65

The only thing against it was the fact that I was quite ashamed of our church as only three people from the church actually turned up to support us. So I hope you can all imagine how embarrassing that felt, not just for me but for this really lovely couple who were trying to help our church

Rosaleen Anderson

BREAN

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

I've sat here chewing my pencil and marvelling at how Lilian has managed all these years, month in and month out, to find something new and interesting to say to the readership of Link each time.

It will be a challenging year for us at Brean. We need to spend a lot of money on re-roofing and although there is a capital fund on which we receive interest, the powers that be may not allow us to draw on the capital.

At Brean on the 1st February we shall observe the Annual Covenant service, delayed a little beyond most of you so that we can share the service with our Anglican friends from St Bridget's. Afterwards we shall have a light lunch together.

I guess we shall all look forward to pancakes at home on the 24th, and then we shall be into Lent.

Our church was full to overflowing (about 100) early in January when Jo Paine, one of the village stalwarts and who used to own the Brean Bird Garden with her husband Reg, had her funeral service at our church. It was a very positive service which Stephen took admirably.

We were glad to be able to share in the Circuit Epiphany Service at Burnham and again rejoice at the excellent renewal scheme there.

Stuart Hicks is now resident in Holywell at Brent Knoll, and Lilian herself is recovering slowly at home. Both are still very alert, but sometimes the body isn't so willing... Our prayers are with them at this time, as they are with all those others who are finding life a bit harder than usual.

And now, in the last couple of days we hear of Stephen's proposed replacement coming to visit the Circuit. So welcome Andrew Biggs and your wife Julie. By the time this Link is published we hope that your visit has been successful and that you look forward to coming to the seaside in September.

Harvey Allen

BRENT KNOLL

Christmas seems a long time ago but I have vivid memories of our Christmas service, who said never work with animals and children?

We put on a streamlined Nativity with many children and young people off sick so for the days leading up to our service we juggled to end up with no shepherd or sheep (unless you count the group of late comers who entered the service at the appropriate time and confused everyone!), a King (Sophie) who became Mary, a Welsh Herod (Brian) replaced by Bill (Senior Steward), one King (Ryan) who brought all the gifts, no Innkeeper, no Angel and a Donkey (Imogen) who really did not see herself as an angel and Joseph (Sam) a neighbour of ours who was brought in at the last minute. Happily the five narrators, Keith, Ana, Hamish, Ashleigh (did not faint this year) Heather, were on top form in the gallery. Our makeup artist (Liz) struggled with so few to paint along with trying to convince Jack to get into the sheep costume, she failed. You may wonder about the baby, well he was the most reliable of all and arrived on time and was calm throughout, as only to be expected considering it was his day. A big thank you to those who helped make our Nativity as interesting and enjoyable as always.

Sadly on the day our senior steward assumed that Keith and I had spent the night before out on the tiles! The reality was that we were barely holding out against flu followed by bronchitis. So our Christmas and New Year remained subdued to say the least. Hopefully most of you who were ill over Christmas are now recovered.

We managed to rustle up some youth to go along to the pantomime at Weston Playhouse in January which was organised by Sheila Carpenter at Milton. The pantomime was very enjoyable, I caught the egg thrown out by Timmy Mallet which promptly cracked but fortunately had been blown beforehand!

Our Shell Club still has only three regular members but they enjoy their activities which range from painting to Lego building. The 12-15 Club has a regular 15 members who keep Keith, Tom our paid assistant and the parent volunteers on their toes particularly when playing darts.

We owe huge thanks to everyone who donated money towards our youth work especially West Huntspill Methodist who were so generous.

Although we are unable to meet with our new Minister when he visits we will be glad to welcome him to our clubs which we are so proud of at Brent Knoll.

All the best

Sue

Minister

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www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk

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

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

**The Deadline for the
March 2009 “LINK” is
Sunday 15th February 2009**

**LARGE PRINT COPIES (A4 format) of the “LINK” are available.
Please contact the Editor if you would like one.**

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.
Price £3.00 per annum. Inland Post £3.00 per annum.

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