
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

February 2015 Volume 50. No. 1.



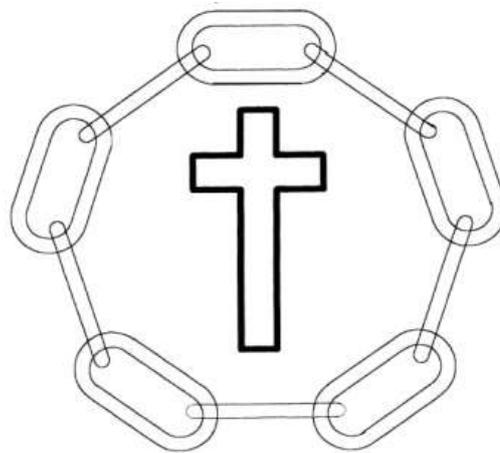
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM

Minister's Letter

I don't think it's too late to wish you all a happy new year, especially as I feel I rather missed out on the beginning of January with one of these nasty cold viruses which has affected so many of us. Now that February approaches it really feels as if the year has turned and the days are really beginning to lengthen. I think that we all respond positively to the growing light as the heart of the Christmas message is reflected in the natural world. The true Light has come, nothing can put it out and it is the source of Life and Hope. On Feb. 2nd we celebrate Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, the last festival of the Christmas Season and one which I always feel we should emphasise. It was a very special family occasion for Mary and Joseph but it was also a public one and its significance was recognised by two old people, Simeon and Anna, who remind us of the value of those who remain faithful and hold fast to the promises which they believe God has given. In their meeting with the infant Jesus they celebrate the joy and hope which is for all people but which Simeon especially recognises will only come to fruition at a cost. The time will come when a "sword will pierce Mary's heart". The shadow of Good Friday is already present. So, as we come to the end of Christmas we also begin to look towards Lent and the preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

By the time you read this we shall have had the week of prayer for Christian Unity and I hope that many of us will have been able to take advantage of the opportunities to pray together for our united witness and for peace in our troubled world.

May the Light of Christ warm our hearts, show us his way and strengthen us to walk within it throughout the coming year.

Margaret



Deaths

Rev. Ethel Myfanwy Bridges "Beth" on December 20th Thanksgiving Service on January 12th at Burnham Methodist Church

Miss Norma Waters on December 23rd Thanksgiving Service on January 14th at Burnham Methodist Church

Christening Posy Phelps Granddaughter of Bridget Christian on December 7th at Burnham

The LINK February 2015

Calendar

Mon 26th 2.30pm B/K Brent Knoll Bible Study Group

Tue 27th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Revd Pam Pembro

FEBRUARY

Thur. 5th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship

Sat 7th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Choir

Sun 8th 10.30pm Circuit Service & Communion at Victoria W-s-M Led by
The District Chairman Rev A. Ward Jones

Tue 10th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs Rosemary Baker Hymn
Sing Song

Wed 11th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch

Sun 15th 6.00pm B/H Cafe Church TBConfirmed

Thur. 19th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship

Sat. 21st 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning in aid of and by "Biars"

11.00am W/H Christian Aid AGM and Sale at West Huntspill .Tue

24th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Mr Derek Stevenson Wild
life"

Fri 27th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee & Chat at West Huntspill Stalls &
Traidcraft

MARCH

Thur. 5th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship

Sat 7th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Stewards &
Thursday Fellowship

Tue 10th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Members Afternoon Bring
and Buy

Wed 11th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch

Sun 16th 6.00pm B/H Cafe Church TBA

**B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent,
W/H West Huntspill**

The Revd. Beth Bridges

My memories of Beth go back to April 1957 when I joined her as a Probationer Deaconess in the New Forest at No Man's Land. We were on Caravan Mission working for 17 days visiting and holding mission meetings in two Churches about three miles apart. On one occasion Percy, a member at the Church, told Beth she had to ride on his motorbike to the next village. Beth got on and found there were no foot rests and she had to balance not only herself, but her shoes, - never again! At the end of the mission we had packed early ready to leave. Percy came around again and we pretended to be asleep. He started to sing, "God be with you 'till we meet again" in his strong Welsh accent. We had the caravan rocking with laughter until he went away. This was my first mission with Beth. We worked together for 2¹/₂ years in the Southampton, Bristol and Cornwall Districts.

Some tributes I have received speak of this time. "Beth who made such an impression on me as a teenager. Full of love, laughter and life". "She played a great part in my Christian life". We visited every home in each village or community inviting people to come and share with us. Every day we held a prayer meeting from 9.40 - 10.00 at which people were invited to join with us, and they did. In praying for the work of the mission one prayed, "Lord get rid of the cobwebs" to which Beth said, "Lord get rid of the spiders!". We held Sunshine Corner for the young children, "6.45 Special" for the next age group, and an evening rally. An appeal for commitment was made towards the end of the campaign. Beth often wrote her own children's stories. She used to like to sing solos and spoke with great passion of following Christ.

Prior to my joining Beth she had worked as a Probationer in Bow Street Mission, followed by Gateshead for 5 years.

Beth came into the Weston Super Mare Circuit in 1960 to Bournville for four years where she was involved in the local community work and all the activities at the Church which included Boy's Brigade and Life Boy's, and served as the first woman Padre in South West England; Guides, Brownies and a Youth Club as well as all the other usual activities. She assisted the Superintendent Minister as secretary and led the Ladies Class at Victoria.

In 1964 Beth moved to Cardiff to Tiger Bay, a multi-racial area, where she faced new challenges. The old building was to be taken down and a new Church built. She spoke to me of the work in which she was involved reaching out into the community, and became a well known person, coming into contact with people like, George Thomas MP, Alan Alberg of the Jamaican Embassy, and the singer, Shirley Bassey. She became the assistant to the Chairman of the District. Her stories are too numerous to recall here.

There is no doubt that Beth always had a calling for the Ordained Ministry. When the way opened up to candidate she was accepted and appointed to Pocklington, East Riding of Yorkshire 1974. Great changes were to take place in the Circuit and Churches were closed. Here Beth became the first woman Superintendent and served as Chaplain to the Mayor for two years.

Following this period Beth returned to Wales to Tenby, Pembrokeshire. She became involved with the Pembroke and District Choir with whom she kept her links for many years even going from Burnham with them to the Royal Albert Hall. During this time Beth had an American exchange to Oneida which again led to many new exciting experiences.

After 5 years in Tenby, and by now able to retire, Beth was invited by the Chairman to go to Tredegar, Ebbw Vale. A Church was sold and a school taken over and reorganised.

Finally Beth retired to Burnham where she was in the Choir and the Choral Society. She took services regularly on our Plan, and the neighboring Circuits, West Mendip, Cheddar and Bridgwater. She covered the pastoral care in retirement for one year, at Uphill and S^tAndrews.

When I came to Burnham in 1993 we managed many holidays and for several years hosted at the Methodist Holiday Hotels in Hastings, Llandudno, Paignton and Weston Super Mare.

As Deaconesses we were called to go where we were needed most. As you have read you will see what a variety of ways Beth served. Beth pioneered the way for Deaconesses to remain in the Order when they married whereas previously they had to resign. As a Presbyter she was a regular attender at Conference and was for some time a Conference elected delegate, In our Circuit she started the monthly Communion and Fellowship Meeting for the Retired Ministers', Wives, Husbands, and Widows.

She will be missed by her family and friends with whom she shared much.

To sum up Beth I would say that she was a born preacher, who lived her faith in the Church and community.

Joyce.



THE INVITATION PROCESS FOR OUR NEW MINISTERS – PART 5

Most people are now aware that we have been very successful in finding three ministers to fill our staff posts for September. They are:

Rev Stephen (Steve) Bennett, as Superintendent and presbyter to the Link churches. Stephen is currently Superintendent of the Nottingham North Circuit;

Rev Angela (Angie) Hoare, as presbyter to the Weston churches. Angie is currently presbyter in Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit;

Deacon Gary Hoare (Angela's husband), as deacon serving in Weston. Gary is presently serving in the Yeovil Circuit.

It is anticipated that Gary will split his time between regular pastoral work and specified projects. To facilitate this he and Angela will spend their first few weeks with us in exploring with the new Superintendent and the Circuit Stewards, how best to allocate their time.

All three ministers featured in the short lists that the Circuit Stewards prepared before the matching process. Remember that a deacon is not a 'second class' minister but, under our Methodist Constitution, an ordained minister who has received separate and often specialised training to work within the church and community.

The Stewards express thanks to the Circuit Staff for their help during this period and especially to our Superintendent minister, the Rev Robert Channon, for standing aside and allowing the Reverend Stephen Marr to Chair the process. Thanks also to our District Chairman who, faced with an unprecedented 17 'stations' to fill in the District this year, was able to come up with these matches for us.

All three ministers expressed their appreciation of the Vision that the Circuit presented to them and that is a tribute to all members of the circuit who took part in the questionnaires and discussions last winter.

Which means of course that we now have an obligation to respond as best we can to our Vision report that was accepted by the Circuit Meeting last June. Some progress has been made already:

- the changes in staffing arrangements have all been actioned or will be in September;

- the Circuit Stewards are meeting regularly to continue arrangements and monitor the Vision; and they have begun to create a profile for the employment of a part time Circuit Administrator. They are also looking at ways in which churches and preachers can collaborate even more. Their next meeting is scheduled for early March

- the Regional Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network team duly came and led us in a half day seminar at St Andrew's in October. They gave us a few ideas for making progress and a report of the seminar is on our website. Church Councils are asked to consider the Vision Report and the report on the seminar at their Church Councils in February/March – please! It would be good if, when the new ministers arrive, we can say that each church has got a forward looking plan for the future.

- under the stewardship of John Trebble, our website is taking shape. John gave us a demonstration of it at the last Circuit Meeting. It is available to all, including the general public. Items relevant to members of the circuit only are held in a separate section. The website address is www.wsmbos.org. Circuit members are encouraged also to access the members only area (press “News” then “Intranet”; there you will find you must insert a user name which is 'BURN1' and a password which is 'A1wsmbos'. If there is any Circuit news, it will be put there, so please keep a regular contact.

(Harvey Allen, on behalf of the Circuit Stewards)

Somerset Churches Together at the Glastonbury Festival 2015

(The Sanctuary Marquee)

Dear Friend,

We would like to invite you to apply to join the community that is running the Church Tent at the Glastonbury Festival 2015. Applications will be considered from Somerset and neighbouring counties.

The Church Tent will be open from Thursday 25th June to Monday 29th June 2015.

As in previous years, we have updated our application process to bring it into line with current Health and Safety and Child Protection procedures. This is to protect people visiting the marquee as well as our volunteers.

We can only accept volunteers who will attend the mandatory training sessions on the evening of **Friday 12th June and all day on Saturday 13th June** in Chilcompton, Somerset. This is required due to the important information presented at the training to comply with Health and Safety requirements and help us all work well together as a team. More information about this day will be sent to you nearer the time when we confirm that you will be part of the team.

If you are interested, please complete the Application Form and return it to us as soon as possible. **The closing date for applications is Monday 2nd March 2015.** We will inform you if you have been successful via phone or email by the end of March. At that time we will cash your cheque or destroy it if you are not accepted.

Please ensure that you read all the information listed above before you complete the Application Form.

I enclose the following information:

– Guiding Statement – Application Form – Volunteer Job Description – The Role and Responsibility of a Shift Leader – Volunteer Information

Editors Note. There is too much to include here approx 12 pages. If you are interested please email me cedric.may@btinternet.com and I will email it all to you

West Huntspill

Day of Prayer for Christian Unity



I would like to take you through the very thought-provoking day, which 50-60 people attended at West Huntspill Methodist Chapel on Saturday 17th January.

The theme “The well is deep” chosen by the churches in Brazil, is based on Jesus meeting with the woman of Samaria at the well.

Session 1. John 4 v 4. Led by Gabrielle Grace. We were asked what it would mean to go through Samaria physically or spiritually. Also, what could we learn; from other churches. We sat quietly and waited on the Lord to give us answers..

Session 2. John 4 v 6. Led by Joyce Pipet Points to ponder were: what are the reasons for disputes and competition between other churches? Again we waited on the Lord. My thoughts were perhaps we have preconceived ideas of other faiths, what is a true worshipper? Is it being Spirit-led?

Session 3. John 4 v 17. Led by Rev. Paul Kingdom. We reflected on how we define or see people. This was illustrated by pictures. For example do we see the wheelchair or disability and not the person? or the uniform? Do we judge people by outward appearances? We were given Galatians 3 v 26 – 29: “For you are all one in Christ Jesus.” A further thought, do we all tend to gravitate toward those who are similar to us (like minded)? Should we make a point to seek out and appreciate people who are not like us?

Session 4. John 4 v 28. Led by Pat Nicholls.

“Then the woman left her water jar” A question to us, to answer on a piece of paper supplied: what would you leave behind as we

enter 2015? Our answers were put in a “water jar” to be composted. Later more answers came to me, such as self and fear.

Session 5. John 4 v 11. Led by Rev. Simon Bale and Louise. No bucket. Once again questions and paper for answers. In what ways might your church need help, practically and spiritually? Or give help? Our answers went in the bucket provided, to be gone through later. Who knows what will come from these replies.

Session 6. John 4 v 14. Led by Brian Molloy. “Only Jesus can give us living water” John 7 v 39 Jesus was speaking of the Spirit. We were urged to move forward and were reminded what binds us together are our desire to obey Jesus and the Bible.

Session 7. John 4 v 7. Led by Rev. Tonya Nixon. We were given a piece of A4 paper , shown how to fold, tear and unfold it to reveal a cross. Then to write on one half, four people who had helped us enrich our experience of God, and on the other half, four people we had helped. Then fold it and carry it in our pockets.

We concluded with Holy Communion, which concentrated on the Lord God Almighty, Creator of the universe, the Alpha and Omega.

All the leaders were excellent and from several different denominations. The day also included prayers, singing, lunch, tea, coffee and fellowship.

I would stress this report has been written from my notes and also contains some of my thoughts. Please read the passage from John 4 and ponder on the questions....

Janet M Thompson



**Prayer letter from Daniel and Grace Pratt-Chapman
and their little son Kwame-**

Our Circuit Link in Cameroon, teaching in a theological college.

Africa in Miniature. That is how the guidebooks describe Cameroon. Indeed there are a variety of geographical settings within the nation. In the far north you have desert. In the north-west you have highlands which can get really cold. Where we live would be a rainforest (if the trees hadn't been cut down to make the town). Many of these diverse climatic contexts are represented by the students who come to the seminary. They come from a variety of different backgrounds. Some come from the tropical part in which we live and thus are quite used to the heat. If they are sent to the colder north-west they find it hard adapting to the colder weather. Those who come from the north-west find the heat, and the mosquitoes, in Kumba intolerable. What's more, some of the students come from urban environments, and some come from rural backgrounds. The differences between these contexts can be as sharp as the difference between Leicestershire (which as we all know is one of the classic examples of Western civilization) and the polar ice caps.

Another complication is the language differences. Cameroon has 230 indigenous languages. Moreover, during colonial times Cameroon was divided between the English and the French. As a result the west (where we live) is English speaking and the east is French. Many of the students at the college, indeed many Anglophones, do not know French. This can make it difficult for them if they are posted to a church in the east of the country.

When you ask Cameroonians what they consider to be the key challenges for itinerant ministry here they usually stress the fact that if they are posted to a rural setting they may have

to walk for several days in order to reach their different congregations. One man told me how he had to cross several rivers. As there are often no bridges he explained how he would have to wade through them. Once, during the rain season, the water came right up to his neck and he was nearly swept away. In rural areas the manses are likely to have dirt floors. This is a problem because it means the local wildlife can enter your home much more easily. Instead of having a nice rug, you get a carpet of ants. One pastor told me how he killed more than twenty snakes in his first year. Combine this with trekking through mountains and forests and you can see why many suffer ill health after a few years there.

However hard these challenges may appear most pastors say that the most difficult thing they face is being posted far from their families. While I value itinerancy, and recognise its important place within the tradition of the church, I sometimes wonder if it isn't built around a patriarchal vision of family life – in which one person works and the other simply follows them wherever they go. The modern world is of course quite different. Many Cameroonian families have both parents working. It is not uncommon in Cameroon for someone to be posted 9 hours away from their spouse. Even if their loved ones are able to travel with them they may be posted to a location where there are no schools. In such cases they often have to leave their children with relatives in areas where the education provision is more robust (John Wesley founded Kingswood School because of the similar difficulties faced by his itinerant preachers). Most Cameroonians I have spoken to say that while they find this difficult, being far from their children, they consider their education to be far more important than their own presence. It must be a profoundly difficult decision to make though. Some children are left with grandparents at a very young age. While I know that in the UK people do go to boarding school, children here can see

their parents very rarely; especially if they are stationed in rural areas.

There are no easy answers. The great difference in the standards of education available in rural and urban areas of the country makes it hard for parents here. The choice is often between seeing your children and educating them well. Pray for these pastors. Pray that wherever they are sent they will have the strength and wisdom to know how to handle the circumstances in which they find themselves. Pray that they would have the determination and courage to face all these challenges in the power of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Action for Children

We, as a Church continue to support the work of the Methodist Children's Charity – Action for Children

The following amounts were raised

Coffee Morning in November raised	163.00
Christmas Cake raffle	39.00
Carol Service on 22 nd December	160.72
Christmas Morning Loose Collection	159.37
Donation Carol Singing	<u>70.00</u>
	<u>£592.09</u>

Thank you for your generous support. I am now emptying the League of Light Home Collecting Boxes. If you would be interested in taking a box please let me know.

Dorothy

Educate the Kids in Kenya

Jolaurabi School

I would like to thank everyone who supported our Charity Coffee Mornings on the 3rd Saturday of each month during 2014

Also a big Thank You to the members of the Church who came along to help on the stalls.

The total amount raised was £4179.21p included in this amount was £1458 raised at the Christmas Fair on 15th November. Nearly all of the Christmas Fair money was used to pay for one of the School Boys to have an operation on his arm. All hospital fees have to be paid and they can prove to be very expensive but all very necessary.

The remainder of the money will be used to pay for 2 clever boys to enable them to move on to further their education at a Secondary School. Every child's education has to be paid for. At Jolaurabi it costs £6 per month at Kindergarten and primary and then £25 per month at secondary school.

Sue and her husband Ray & 4 others have just returned from almost 2 weeks, they were out to select children to commence school now. They have chosen about 50 who will now be able to be at school.

Dorothy May

Café church dates at Burnham

Sunday 15th February at 6.00 pm –
Sunday 15th March at 6.00 pm –



From January we will revert to the third Sunday evening in the month

We start with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or three from 5.30 pm and help ourselves to refills during the evening.

We sing a few hymns or songs, have a short talk followed by a discussion, then a few more songs, ending with the Grace at about 7.00 pm.

All are welcome to come and join us.

Harry's Page

WHEN GOD Is QUIET

READ:
1 Kings 19:1-12

As [Elijah] lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."

—1 Kings 19:5

I love to take pictures of sunsets at Lake Michigan, America. Some are subtle shades of pastel. Others are bold strokes of bright colour. Sometimes the sun sinks quietly behind the lake. Other times it goes down in what looks like a fiery explosion.

In pictures and in person, I prefer the latter. But both show the handiwork of God. When it comes to God's work in the world, my preferences are the same. I would rather see dramatic answers to prayer than ordinary provisions of daily bread. But both are the work of God.

Elijah may have had similar preferences. He had grown accustomed to being the centre of God's grand displays of power. When he prayed, God showed up in dramatic ways—first in a miraculous defeat against the prophets of Baal and then in the end to a long and devastating drought (I Kings 18). But then Elijah felt afraid and started to run. God sent an angel to feed him to strengthen him for his journey. After 40 days he arrived in Horeb, God showed him that He was now communicating in a still small voice, not in flashy miracles (19:11-12).

If you're discouraged because God hasn't shown up in a blaze of glory, perhaps He's revealing Himself with His quiet presence. — Julie Ackerman Link

Lord, may we see You today in the small details of life in ways that we hadn't noticed before. Thank You for the gift of Your quiet presence, wherever we may find it today.

God is in the small things as well as the great.

YOU'RE NAMED IN GOD'S WILL

'...THE WORD...WHICH CAN...GIVE YOU AN INHERITANCE ' Acts 20:32 NIV

LINDA KNOX was in her eighties when she died of malnutrition in her Chicago apartment. Apparently she'd lost her sight, and her mind had failed. Among her belongings they found the equivalent of £102,000 in uncashed cheques, £113,000 in works of art, £240,000 in Jewels, and £31,000 in antiques. In all, she had an estate worth £492,000—yet she died alone in poverty. And what's worse, she'd drawn up a will leaving these things to friends and family members. But she never filed 'it with the courts and it was never executed, so her beneficiaries were unaware of their inheritance. There's a lesson here for you. When Christ died and went back to heaven. He left a will. And you are named In it! You say, 'Where can I Find a copy in his word you are an '[heir] of God and a [coheir] with Christ' (Romans 8:17

NKJV). Once that truth gets down into your soul, your attitude toward reading the Bible wilt be revolutionised. Instead of spending mindless hours watching TV or surfing the Internet, you'll start mediating 'day and night' in the Scriptures. As a result, you'll start to 'prosper in all that you do' (Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:2-3). Now you can understand why David said, I will delight myself In Your commandments, which I love-.The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver (Psalms 119:47, 72 NKJV). Peter wrote: 'His divine power has given us everything we need for life...He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate In the divine nature...' (2 Peter 1:34 NIV). What more could you ask for?



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

Burnham Stewards

I am sure it is not too late to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful 2015 as this is the first LINK magazine of the New Year

Our Christmas trees are now recycled or packed away along with the decorations. All Services arranged were well supported. It was a joy to hear everyone talking together over coffee and mince pies following the Carol service

The New Year began with our Covenant Service and this included the reception of Sandra Brown, Valerie James and Dora Brooke as new members and Colin Caswell and Geoffrey Stait transferred from other Churches.

We heard just before Christmas of the passing of Rev. Beth Bridges on 20th December just a month before her 94th birthday.

Then on 23rd December the passing of Norma Waters aged 94. Both funerals services have taken place in Church. They were both well loved and faithful members.

I visited Beth soon after she retired in 1988 and came to live in Burnham. She very quickly became one of our family and often came in to the shop usually coinciding with our coffee or afternoon tea time. Beth was always willing to take services and everyone said she just loved her preaching. She had many friends from other circuits where she had worked both as a Deaconess or Minister. Beth will be missed by so many.

On February 8th there will be NO MORNING SERVICE in our Church. It is hoped that everyone will be able to get to Victoria Methodist Church in Weston S Mare. Our Chair of the District Rev. A. Ward Jones is taking this service which will be his final one in our circuit before he retires in August 2015. If you require transport please have a word with me. There will be a service at Burnham at 2.30pm on this Sunday.

The weather has been very changeable with a lot of rain and very strong winds, many people have been unwell. We remember you and hope you will soon be well enough to return to worship. Also to those unable to get out due to age and frailty you are all remembered

Best wishes, Dorothy.

The LINK February 2015

BREAN

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

So we all sat round after service drinking our coffee and tea. It had been the first time we'd worshipped in our own church this year. The first Sunday had been shared with St Bridget's in their church. It was the last service conducted by Sally Lacy, the rector, before she retired and as she wanted to be in both of her churches on that day, we had had to be up early for a service at 9.15am. Unfortunately, their organist hadn't received or had forgotten about, the change. But our own Rosemary Baker was on hand and dutifully stood in as an excellent replacement. Sally had also forgotten her sermon notes so had to race back home to get them. A memorable occasion! Sally's goodbye was at Berrow the following Friday so we all turned up in force on a windswept rainy evening. Then on the second Sunday we and East Brent joined with our friends at Brent Knoll for the monthly shared service.

So now, on the third Sunday of the New Year, we were drinking coffee. Christmas was fading in our memory, though we rejoiced at the response to our Coffee and Carol's morning on the Saturday before Christmas, and at the very successful Christmas Eve Carol Service. We thank everyone for their support for these ventures and we were glad in our turn to be able to go to others in our group, and to the Christmas services at St Bridget's our ecumenical partner. We raised about £145 at the Carol service most of which has gone to Action for Children (we were obliged to send a small amount to other charities for using their scripts during the service). We also raised £46 from each other by subscribing to a communal greeting rather than giving individual Christmas cards – these proceeds will support projects being run by All We Can (it will buy a sheep and a beehive)

As we drank our coffee we reflected on the very meaningful Covenant service that Stanley Pipet had conducted and we looked back and we looked ahead.

What about the games evening? said someone. We do this every year in collaboration with St Bridget's and invite all to an evening that ends with sausages and mash. Our ecumenical council had left it to be arranged outside the meeting so we will talk about that with them at the first opportunity and look to a date at the end of February, perhaps Friday 27th. So keep an eye on the Circuit website and we'll put any details on there.

And then it was pointed out that the date of our next joint service with St B's corresponds with the feast date of St Bridget herself, February 1st and that it would be nice to remember that. Duly noted, said the preacher for that day.

We look forward (we think) to the challenges and opportunities 2015 will bring, to a new holiday season and to welcome a new minister in September (while also saying a big thank you to Stanley for his ministrations this year). Meanwhile the book group and the craft group, both of which are led by members of the two churches continue to thrive. The craft group gave a demonstration of their skills at a recent meeting of the Link Fellowship and were very well received.

So having written (more or less) this Link report, those around the table finished up their coffees and teas and went home to lunch.

Harvey Allen

WEST HUNTSPILL

Coffee and Chat

Friday 27th February

10.00am – 12.00md



However cold and wet it is outside you
will be sure of warm welcome inside
Table top sales and Fairtrade goods

Christian Aid AGM

Christian Aid in Burnham and District

will be holding their AGM on

Sat February 21st at 11.30am in the

West Huntspill Methodist Church

. Tea and coffee from 11.00am and bring and buy stall.

Soup Lunch will follow the AGM.

All Welcome



LINK ORDER FORM

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 £6.00** per annum.

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Please make Cheques Payable to "**Burnham on Sea Methodist Church**"

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

BRENT KNOLL

Minister Revd. Margaret Trapp

From the wonderful traditional carols by candle light service to the Christmas morning worship - we'd like to extend a big thank you to East Brent. And to Brean for their Christmas Eve celebration. Sadly, I was unable to further share the celebrations with Burnham and West Huntspill over the Christmas period, but have heard from those who were able to attend how wonderful they were. How lucky we are to be part of a very close Link network of churches.

We all participated in our carol service at Brent Knoll on the Sunday after Christmas - and were very blessed to have a full complement of children who contributed to the morning as only children can. We all particularly loved the wee one who tried to blow out each and every candle on the Advent ring thinking it was a birthday cake. Which it really was, wasn't it?

I quite like February. Not just because the days seem just that little bit longer but it sees the start of Lent - a time that, as Christians, we traditionally take stock as we reflect on the events leading up to Easter.

Margaret Trapp will be taking our Lent study course, the first of which will take place on Monday 23rd February at 2.30pm in the school room. Our Emmaus course will continue on Thursday 5th February at 2.30pm. Both of these will be followed by tea and coffee.

At the end of this month, we will all be preparing for the Women's World Day of Prayer which will be held at East Brent Methodist Church on Friday 6th March. This year's service has been written by the Christian women of the Bahamas. Although written by women, all are invited!

From all of us at Brent Knoll, whatever you are giving up or taking on, we wish you a peaceful start to the Lenten season.

God bless

Rosemary Krull

EAST BRENT

It seems a long time since we celebrated Christmas. The Church was again beautifully decorated with a large Christmas tree, holly, flowers and candles.

The Candlelit service was well attended as was our Christmas morning service, we were unable to find anyone to conduct this short service, so a big thank-you to Rosemary Krull who stepped into the breach and helped to organise and lead it. Once again with a little help from our Church funds, we will be sending £150 to the Luhimba Project and to the Marafa John's Orphanage in Kenya.

I don't remember it ever happening before but we had our Covenant service on the first Sunday of the New Year at East Brent. The Revd. Carol led us in this service, which she had simplified giving us a much greater understanding of the commitment that we were making.

It was good to join with the Link congregations at Brent Knoll, a chance to have a good sing and share fellowship with one another. Last Sunday we welcomed Rosemary Krull again, who with Len Horlock took part in our morning service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob who fell and put his hand through a glass door and cut it very badly. He has been in Hospital for weeks, we send him our love and best wishes hoping he will be home again soon.

After the recommendation from our Church Council four pews have been removed from the back of the Church, this was done to give more room to have coffee after the service, but most people still stay in their pews, so that didn't work!!!!

The Church family at East Brent wish all our readers of the Link a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Jill Legg



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Brean and West Huntspill Methodist Churches

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

**The Deadline for the
March 2015 “LINK” is
Sunday 15th February 2015**