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# THE LINK

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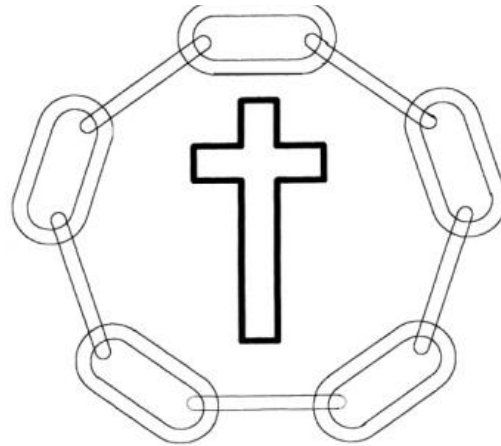
**Methodist Link Churches Magazine**

**February 2016 Volume 51. No. 1.**

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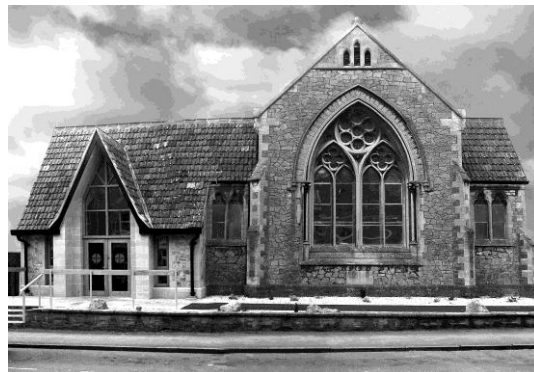


**BRENT KNOLL**



**EAST BRENT**

**WEST HUNTSPILL**



**BURNHAM**

# Minister Letter

Why do we ‘give up’ in Lent? The start of Lent marks a time when we think about giving up. For those of us who have already thought about what we might give up for Lent, the months of February and March will be ones where we are challenged to think about our preparation for Holy Week and Easter through our going without. Depending on what we have given up this will be more or less difficult. It can also provide us with a talking point for our non-Christian friends, relatives and acquaintances it can be easier to start a conversation about Lent when talking about our sacrifices rather than the sacrifice of our Lord. But whilst fasting and giving up are positive commitments to this time of preparation, perhaps the more important aspect of Lent is not so much what we give up, but what we put in the space that our giving up provides.

The whole point of giving something up should be to enable us to do something else, something good, something spiritual, and something that glorifies God. Then when we speak about our Lent sacrifices we can link them to that new aspect of our life of faith that we have replaced them with. If giving up is something you find difficult, do not give up! Try making space for something new instead. It might be that you would want to spend more time in daily prayer and devotion. Perhaps you would like to spend the time in the company of other Christians (for example at the Tuesday afternoon or evening Lent Course). Perhaps, for you, it is giving more of your time and resources in the service of others.

This Lent, don’t just give something up, make a conscious decision to do something new for Jesus as well.

**Steve**



## Deaths

**Gwen Oldham** Thanksgiving Service at East Brent 20<sup>th</sup> January

# Calendar

## JANUARY

**Fri 29th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee & Chat at West Huntspill**

## FEBRUARY

Wed 3rd 8.00pm B/H Wednesday Group - Cinema Trip to the Ritz  
Thur 4th 2.30pm B/K Emmaus course at Brent Knoll Methodist  
Sat 6th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the  
Wednesday Group  
Tue. 9th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Mr John Trebble –  
Musical Afternoon.  
Wed 10th 10.00am B/K Ash Wednesday service at Brent Knoll - Rev  
Steve Bennett  
Sat 13th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham  
Wed 17th 2.30pm B/H Bible Study at Burnham  
Wed 17th 2.30 & 7.30 Churches Together LENT Course at the  
Baptist Church  
Thur 18th 2.30pm B/K Emmaus course at Brent Knoll Methodist  
Sat 20th 9.30am BR Circuit Prayer Meeting At Brean  
Sat 20th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H League of Friends Coffee Mornings at  
Burnham Methodist  
Sat 20th 11.00am W/H Christian Aid AGM at West Huntspill  
Sun 21st LAST DAY FOR THE MARCH LINK  
Sun 21st 5.30pm B/H Cafe Church Rev. Steve Bennett  
Tue. 23rd 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship Rev. Stanley Pipet.  
Wed 17th 2.30 & 7.30 Churches Together LENT Course at the  
Baptist Church  
Fri 26th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee & Chat at West Huntspill  
Sat 27th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham

## MARCH

Wed 2nd 8.00pm B/H Wednesday Group - Easter talk Rev Steve  
Bennett  
Wed 17th 2.30 & 7.30 Churches Together LENT Course at the  
Baptist Church

Sat 5th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Stewards & Thursday Fellowship

Tue. 8th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship Members Afternoon

Wed 17th 2.30 & 7.30 Churches Together LENT Course at the Baptist Church

Sat 12th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham

Wed 16th 2.30pm B/H Bible Study at Burnham

Wed 17th 2.30 & 7.30 Churches Together LENT Course at the Baptist Church

Sat 19th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H League of Friends Coffee Mornings at Burnham Methodist

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

### **Dates for your Diary**

Sat April	9 <sup>th</sup>	Indian Meal & Slides	Rev Steve Bennett - Burnham
Sat April	30 <sup>th</sup>	SPRING FAIR	Burnham
Fri June	17 <sup>th</sup>	Old Time Musical Evening	Burnham
July	30 <sup>th</sup>	To	
Aug	1 <sup>st</sup>	Flower Festival	Burnham

In aid of Burnham Roof Fund

### **Café church dates at Burnham**

We meet on the third Sunday evening in the month at 6.00 pm

Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	at 6.00 pm	Rev Steve Bennett
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	at 3.00 pm	Palm Sunday & Crosses on Knoll
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	at 6.00 pm	TBA

## HARRY'S Readings

### A Prisoner No More

**A** middle-aged man approached me after I led a workshop at his place of employment and asked this question: "I've been a Christian nearly my whole life, but I'm constantly disappointed in myself. Why is it that I always seem to keep doing the things I wish I didn't do and never seem to do the things I know I should? Isn't God getting tired of me?" Two men standing next to me also seemed eager to hear the response.

That's a common struggle that even the apostle Paul experienced. "I do not understand what I do," he said, "For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do" (ROM. 7:15). But here's some good news: we don't have to stay in that trap of discouragement. To paraphrase Paul as he writes in Romans 8, the key is to stop focusing on the law and start focusing on Jesus. We can't do anything about our sinfulness in our own strength. The answer is not "try harder to be good at keeping the rules". Instead, we must focus on the One who shows us mercy and cooperate with the Spirit who changes us.

When we focus on the law, we are constantly reminded that we'll never be good enough to deserve God's grace. But when we focus on Jesus, we become more like him. *RANDY*

*KILGORE*

I sometimes get caught in the cycle of trying harder to be good,  
failing, getting discouraged and giving up.  
Help me, Lord, to depend on Your grace and to draw near to You  
so that You can change my heart.



### LOOK FOR THINGS TO BE GRATFUL FOR

'**BLESSED BE THE LORD, WHO DAILY LOADS US WITH BENEFITS.**' *Psalms 68:19*  
*NKJV*

THE STORY is told of a twelve-year-old boy who had never spoken a word in his life. As a

result, his parents thought he couldn't speak. Then one day his mother placed a bowl of

soup in front of him and he took a spoonful. He pushed it away and said, 'This is awful; I won't eat it!' The family was ecstatic. His father said, 'Why haven't you ever talked to us before?'. The boy replied, 'Because up until now everything's been ok.' The only time some of us speak is to complain! You say, 'But I've got nothing to be grateful for' Really? If you slept eight hours last night, there are millions of insomniacs who would gladly switch places with you. If you have a job, a roof over your head, and three square meals a day, there are millions of unemployed people who would like to have your problem, If you were able to get out of bed this morning and move through the day pain free, you're

blessed with the gift of health. Without it you would truly have something to complain about! And what about your salvation? What price would you put on that? Your sins have been forgiven, you have peace with God, and when you die you have a home in heaven. Sure, we all have trials and tough days. But don't insult God and belittle His blessings by saying you don't have anything to be grateful for. It's time you started talking to yourself, as David the psalmist did: 'Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits' (Psalm 103:2 KJV).

BIBLE IN A YEAR    Gen  
46 – 48 | Matt 13:1 - 30



## **BiARS Coffee Mornings**

BiARS (Burnham Information and Rescue Support) held coffee mornings during 2015 at the Methodist Church in Burnham-on-Sea, on the third Saturday of each Month to raise money in helping to keep the Information Centre open. The amount raised totalled £1548.92

At the end of the year BiARS Chairman Mr Tom Ashton thanked the church for accommodating BiARS with their Coffee Mornings and presented a member of the church with flowers to decorate the church during the festive period.

BiARS Business and Tourism Manager Ian Jefferies stated, “The Methodist Church have been wonderful with their hospitality during 2015 and we thank them very much for use of the venue. I understand the Friends of Burnham Hospital have the slot for 2016 and I hope all that were fantastic in their support for us show the same support to the Friends.

At BiARS we have a tremendous group of volunteers who cannot be thanked enough for once again showing their support in organising these events. The volunteers deal with questions from over 80,000 visitors and locals each year plus the many enquiries by phone and email at the Information Centre on the seafront and this money will go to ensuring we can continue this valuable service”.







# Burnham & Highbridge Churches Together Lent Course 2016

## FRUITFULNESS ON THE FRONTLINE.

Wednesdays in Lent, with sessions at  
2.30pm and 7.30pm. Baptist Church,  
College Street, Burnham on Sea.

Wed 17 Feb	The Big Picture
Wed 24 Feb	Modelling Godly Character
Wed 2 Mar	Making Good Work
Wed 9 Mar	Ministering Grace and Love
Wed 16 Mar	Moulding Culture & Mouthpiece for Truth and Justice
Wed 23 Mar	Messenger of the Gospel & The Journey On





# EAST BRENT

Thinking back over the Christmas Services, we remember the Church being full, the decorations, the Christmas tree and the candles. Many remarked how warm and inviting the Church looked as you walked in. The half hour Christmas morning service, led by the Revd. Steve was also well attended. It was good to meet the families again who come back home every Christmas and share the services with us. Everyone enjoyed singing the familiar carols, then most people went into the hall for coffee and mince pies. Thank you to all who made our Christmas Celebrations such a happy time, from the washer-ups to the mince pie makers.

We are sorry to report the death of Gwen Oldham, a long-time member of East Brent. Although Gwen has not been able to attend services for over two years, due to ill health, she was always interested in everything that was going on.

We look forward to welcoming Margaret and Roy Scott back home after eight weeks in Australia, spending time with their granddaughter.

Several of our members have been unwell, we pray that Margaret Green and Eileen Craig will soon be well enough to worship with us again and that Tamara, Ann's granddaughter and John Leather's wife will continue to improve.

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

Jill Legg



# BURNHAM

[www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk)

## STEWARDS COLUMN.

As I write this I am spending a few days in Nottingham, with my daughter and family. (Hope the e-mail gets to Cedric in time for Sunday 24th, the deadline for the February Link!). I'm not sure what the weather is like in Burnham at the moment, where I left Spring bulbs beginning to peep through the ground last week. We've had no rain here, which makes a change, but one night of snow! (which soon disappeared), and now have a very keen frost everywhere, which makes the trees and bushes look pretty, but freezing to the fingers and toes! At least it's seasonal though.

We had a lovely evening Carol Service at Church on 20th December, followed by coffee and mince pies, and it was good to see many people share with us. A group sang Carols at two of the Nursing Homes prior to Christmas. We had a lovely Christmas Eve Service at 11.15pm, with Communion, and then our Christmas Day service, both taken by Rev. Steve Bennett.

On Sunday morning, 3rd January, we started the New Year with our annual Covenant Service, taken by Steve. Once again we made our Covenant with God at this very special Service. I am sure so many of us will have shared in many, many Covenant services in the past, but each service is special and is a challenge to each of us. We make our promises, and we pray that God will help us to keep those promises and our Covenant with him. It is wonderful to remember that so many other people are sharing in the same Methodist Service.

There have been many disasters and terrible things that have happened in the world in 2015. We think of all those countries where there is suffering and hurt, and we think of

all the families closer to home who have had to cope with the terrible flooding to their homes.

We think too of all those in our churches, and other people known to us, who are not well at the moment, either in hospital, at home, or in our local Nursing Homes. We think of those among us who are anxious, lonely, housebound or missing a loved one. You are all in our prayers.

Christmas and New Year are over once more, and we now look forward to Easter which will be here soon, with all its promises of Hope for the future. May each of our Link Churches and our Circuit work together, to support each other, so that we may show to all those people around that we care. We send our best wishes to all our Link friends.

Carol Boocock



# BREAN

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

Well one by one, or rather two by two, we all came back after Christmas. Fred and Berry had been on what turned out to be a rather eventful cruise, Stanley and Joyce had been to family in the Midlands, and Judy and I had been to Suffolk over the festive season.

We left the remaining few to cope with the Christmas Eve carol service which they did with great aplomb. It was a happy time, with humour and a message to herald the birth of Jesus, and we were very pleased to welcome so many friends who had come to support the occasion. But that was to be the last service in our own church until the middle of January.

Tradition has us being at St Bridget's church for Christmas morning and, with so many away, our stewards felt it best to dispense with the 'Sunday after Christmas' service. The first Sunday of each month we share with St Bridget's and it being an 'odd' month we were at the Anglican Church for January 3rd. The following week we, and our friends from East Brent, were at Brent Knoll.

The first event of the year was our Games evening. About twenty came for games, Sausage and Mash, and Rosemary's quiz which kept us longer than usual while we racked our brains to find the proper answers!

Five of us were at the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity day event at West Huntspill where speakers kept us interested in the topic of the day and provided us with food for our bodies as well as our spirits.

January gives way to February and we still haven't had a 'proper' winter. And Easter is early this year so, before we know it, Lent will be upon us. St Bridget's are organising a study group and I see that there are other Lenten events

throughout the Link churches and Circuit also. I guess that details will be on the Circuit website ([www.wsmbos.org](http://www.wsmbos.org)).

February also stands for meetings as we hold both our Church Council and our Ecumenical Council meetings this month. These are gatherings for all our church members to attend as we seek to know God's purpose for our church and community.

Sad to report that Dave Barrett died in January. He had been a stalwart supporter of much that we did in Brean and his carpentry supplied us with clever pieces of woodwork over the years. Dave and Iris moved to Nailsea three or four years ago but have kept in touch with us in various ways ever since. We send Iris our condolences and assure her of our continuing thoughts and prayers.

Harvey Allen



## WEST HUNTSPILL



### **Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Pride Awards**

We are very pleased to congratulate, one of our members, Mrs Barbara Lee on being chosen to receive this award. Barbara has written about the occasion for us.

On December 15<sup>th</sup> I was invited to the Avon and Somerset Headquarters to attend the award ceremony for services to the community. This was a very inspiring occasion hearing what people had done to improve their own communities. I was given a certificate in a proper glass frame!

The ceremony was followed by lunch. In spite of the alleged high security, I found my umbrella had disappeared, What if I'd hidden a bomb in it?! It turned out to have been borrowed, not stolen. I got it back! It was a privilege to meet Sue, the Police and Crime Commissioner. I had only been following the old Harry Secombe song "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain", which was sung through my growing up years by my Dad and now by my son.

Barbara Lee

Philip, Barbara's son, is a professional singer, he has sang for us during services on many occasions, the last time was on Christmas morning, when he sang that old Harry Secombe song "If I can help somebody" as a tribute to his father, David, who had passed away earlier in the year. There wasn't a dry eye in the house. Maureen.

### **Thank You**

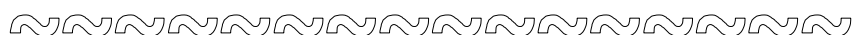
Thanks to your generosity at the Carol Service and New Year's Day Coffee Morning we collected £166.50 for Action for Children and £171.13p for the Cumbrian Flood Relief Fund over the Christmas period.

### **Christian Aid AGM**

Will be held at the Methodist Church on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am. Coffee and Tea will be served at the start of the meeting and there will be a soup lunch afterwards. A warm welcome to anyone interested in the work of Christian Aid

### **Coffee & Chat Morning**

This will be held on Friday February 26<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – 12.00md  
Table top sales, free coffee and cakes.



# **BRENT KNOLL**

**[www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com](http://www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)**

**Minister Rev. Steve Bennett**

Those of you who have visited Brent Knoll Methodist Church recently could not help but notice our new lectern. It really is a beautiful addition to our church and will be enjoyed by all who share worship here. A huge thank you to Margaret Trapp who donated it - it will be something we will all enjoy for many years to come.

Lent begins on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February and Rev Steve will be taking in Ash Wednesday service here at Brent Knoll at 10am.

Instead of our Emmaus course during the Lenten period, Margaret Trapp will be leading a six week Lent course, the resources for which will be provided by the Charity "Embrace the Middle East" whose work involves tackling poverty and injustice in that area. Each session will introduce us to a new woman from the bible who encountered Jesus and was changed forever and will bring us face to face with a woman from the Middle East today who is being empowered to live a fuller life through the work of Embrace. This Lent course will take place weekly in the school room in the afternoon but if you'd like to come along please check our website or our notice board for exact dates as these haven't been confirmed yet.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



## Minister and Circuit Superintendent

Rev. Steve Bennett,  
[steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk](mailto:steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk)

28A Caernarvon Way. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2DQ  
Tel. (01278) 784808

## Editors

Cedric & Dorothy May,  
[cedric.may@btinternet.com](mailto:cedric.may@btinternet.com)

6 Brightstowe Road. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2HW  
Tel. (01278) 784204

## Web Sites

Circuit Web site [www.wsmbos.org](http://www.wsmbos.org)  
[www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk)  
[www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org](http://www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org)  
[www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com](http://www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Deadline for the MARCH 2016 “LINK” is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2016</b></p>
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## LINK ORDER FORM

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