
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

February 2017 Volume 52. No. 1.



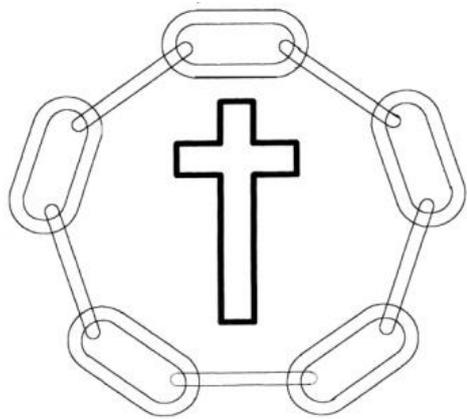
BREAN



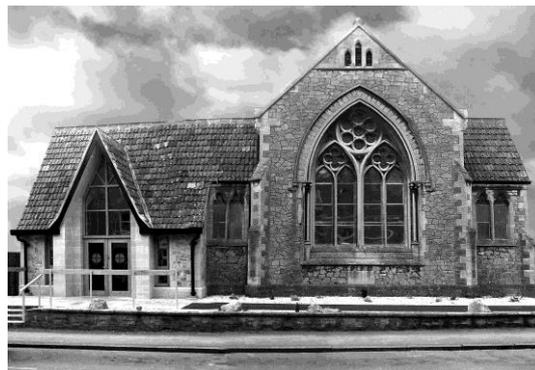
BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM

Minister's Letter

Discipleship (being Christ's disciples) in 2017

2017 is now a month old and with the daylight starting to get longer and the return to warmer days, we turn our thoughts to the things we should do together as God's family here in our Methodist Churches. Perhaps these are things that you will be drawn to because of the promises made in the Covenant Service.

Lent Course

Whilst Lent is later this year, and does not start until March, I thought it would be useful to give you details of the Highbridge and Burnham Churches Together Lent Course, so you can get dates in your diary. This year we are using material from 'Christianity Explored' and studying parts of Mark's Gospel. The course is being run in both the afternoons (at Burnham Methodist Church) and evenings (at Burnham Baptist Church) of Tuesdays, commencing on the 7th March.

What does God want us to do this year?

The answer to this question is one that taxes us all as we seek to hear the will of God for our church and our community. One thing is certain, and that is God does not want us to stand still and do nothing. There are many challenges for us in the year ahead as we come to terms with the facts of aging congregations, aging buildings, and the struggle to find people to undertake all the jobs that are so necessary to the successful life of our worshipping community.

But being Christ's disciples means having the faith and the courage to face the questions these issues raise, and to find solutions. There are several places in our Connexion that have already done these things and found that when they step out in this way God is not only alongside them, but has often gone before them. Town and country churches alike have found new ways of engaging with their communities and bringing God's word into the ordinary day-to-day lives of people around them. These initiatives often carry the label 'Fresh Expression', yet they are simply being Christ's disciples in their own places and contexts.

These Fresh Expressions of God's love for others like 'Bread Church', 'Art Church' even a 'Skateboard Church (in Launceston, Cornwall) and many other ways of being together, have been prompted by the Spirit, and encourage people to use their gift and skills in a different way.

I look forward to exploring our discipleship together in 2017.

Steve



Calendar

FEBRUARY

- | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|---|
| Thur | 2 nd | 2.30pm | B/H | Thursday Fellowship - We share our Christmas / New Experiences. |
| Sat | 4th | 10.00 - 12.00 | B/H | Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Choir |
| Wed | 8th | 12.00 | B/H | Communion |
| | | 12.30 | B/H | Church Lunch - Dorothy May |
| Sat | 11th | 10.00 - 12.00 | B/H | Shoppers Coffee at Burnham |
| Sun | 12th | | | Joint Link Services at East Brent |
| Tue | 14th | 2.30pm | E/B | Link Villages Fellowship – Members Afternoon with craft - Mrs. Joyce Pipet. |
| Thur | 16th | 2.30pm | B/H | Thursday Fellowship - Rev. Margaret Trapp - Iona. |
| Sat | 18th | 10.00 - 12.00 | B/H | St Margaret's Hospice Coffee Morning At Burnham. |
| Sat | 18th | 11.00 For 11.30 | W/H | Christian Aid A.G.M. At West Huntspill Methodist Church |
| Sun | 19th | | | LAST DAY FOR THE MARCH LINK |
| Fri | 24th | 10.00 - 12.00 | W/H | Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill |
| Sat | 25th | 10.00 - 12.00 | B/H | Shoppers Coffee at Burnham |
| Tue | 28th | 2.30pm | E/B | Link Villages Fellowship - Tales from the Potting Shed - Mr. Bill Fisher. |

MARCH

- | | | | | |
|------|------|---------------|-----|--|
| Thur | 2nd | 2.30pm | B/H | Thursday Fellowship - Mrs. Dorothy May - Kenya. |
| Sat | 4th | 10.00 - 12.00 | B/H | Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Wednesday Group |
| Fri | 10th | | BR | Indian meal to celebrate Steve's return |

from Durgapur. At Brean

Sat 11th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham

Sat 11th 7 for 7.30 B/H The Trinity Entertainers Concert at
Burnham Methodist

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

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## **CHRISTIAN AID**

The aim of Christian Aid is to help people around the world get out of poverty.

This is done by supporting local projects across 39 countries as well as helping when there are emergencies such as hurricanes and earthquakes.

Some of the funding for this aid is raised during Christian Aid week:- a week in May in which volunteers arrange events. This is done by local areas throughout Great Britain. The local area of Burnham and Highbridge need some more volunteers to ensure that this year's Christian Aid Week May 14th to May 20th runs efficiently.

If you are interested in joining the team of volunteers, come to the AGM of the local Christian Aid on February 18th at West Huntspill Methodist Church from 11 am when coffee and tea are available. The AGM will start at 11.30 am followed by a soup lunch.

Volunteers those interested in alleviating poverty and are not necessarily members of any particular church.

For more details please phone Katherine Main 01278 788 776

# CHRISTMAS FAIR

It seems such a long time since December 10th when we held our Christmas Fair. It was a great success and we raised over £1000.00 towards our Roof Fund.

Many thanks to everyone for their support.

Dorothy May.

Convener



## Church Lunch February 8<sup>th</sup>

Salmon or White Fish

Potatoes, Peas, Carrots & Parsley Sauce

Dessert Apricot Flan

Tickets £5.00 From Dorothy 784204



## Friends of Burnham Hospital

### What a year we had in 2016

We held 12 successful coffee mornings at the Methodist Church and raised a total of £1577.00. Our thanks go out to the Church for their hospitality and we wish them all the best with their roof fund. We hope we might return in the future.

Our October music evening raised a total of £538.00

Our Christmas concert raised an amazing £685.00 which we split between 'Friends' and the Methodist Church Roof Fund

### *Projects and purchases*

With your help and kind donations we funded the following at the hospital during 2016 which amounted to in excess of £12,000

ECG Machine, Auroscope and Ophthalmoscope, Dementia Clocks  
Magnifying Rulers & Stands Podiatry Plinths New furniture for the staff room  
A Bariatric Chair with cushions A bladder scanner

A major redevelopment and design of the courtyard garden (pictures on our website)      Plaques for the Memorial Garden

## **Moving forward through 2017**

### *What we need from you –*

We appreciate your continued support but can you spread the word, we still need more new members, find out how for a minimum donation of £5.00 per year by going to our website [www.friendsofburnhamhospital.org.uk](http://www.friendsofburnhamhospital.org.uk) you can also like us on Facebook.

If you are already a member and have not received our Newsletter it could be we don't have your correct email address so please contact us [ceri160443@sky.com](mailto:ceri160443@sky.com)

You may have had a clear out following Christmas, or you may be preparing to have a 'spring clean' if so, do you have any unwanted presents that are suitable for our ongoing raffles. We are also in need of donations - boxes of chocolates or biscuits and bottles, You can contact Ceri to arrange a collection on 01278 323794 or 07977191799

If you know of any events that are taking place where we might have a table to sell quality bric-a-brac please let me know by email and I can investigate [ceri160443@sky.com](mailto:ceri160443@sky.com)

### **Forthcoming events**

We are holding two quiz nights at the 'Ritz' on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February & Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August.

The quiz is family friendly, teams of 6 are invited to arrive from 7.45pm, and admission is £1.00 per person. "Hand out rounds" are given out at 8pm and the questions start promptly at 8.30pm ending about 10.30pm. There will also be nibbles supplied and a raffle will be held. All the money raised on the nights in question will be donated to the Friends of Burnham Hospital so please join us.

In July we will be holding an afternoon 'cream tea' at the hospital.

We shall also launch our annual 'summer raffle'

More information to follow as there will be plenty of other events to whet your appetite so please watch this space.



# THE TRINITY ENTERTAINERS

at Burnham on Sea  
Methodist Church  
on Saturday March 11th  
at 7.30pm.  
Doors open at 7.00pm.  
FUN and VARIETY

Coffee Tea and  
Tickets from Dorothy  
Biscuits including  
May refreshments  
Tel. 01278 784204

## Raffle

All Proceeds

for the Roof

Fund

**BRENT KNOLL**

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

Minister Revd. Steve Bennett

All of us here at Brent Knoll were sorry to hear of the passing of Margaret Sheldon on 10<sup>th</sup> January. I never had the privilege of meeting Margaret, but on speaking with our own Rev. Margaret Trapp I very much feel that the loss was mine.

Margaret Trapp told me that Margaret Sheldon was an absolute gift to the Methodist Church here in Brent Knoll, being a member for over 40 years before she moved on to Weston. She was our Church Secretary for many years, took part in our Sunday School and helped with teas and coffees in the formative years of the toddler group. And as a keen and gifted gardener, she boosted our wares at our Spring coffee mornings with the wonderful plants that she brought along with her and which she had raised from seed.

As well as being such an integral and well loved member of our church she was also a great friend to Brent Knoll village and took an active role in all aspects of its life - Good Companions, the WI, helping to test the Brownies when they went for their badges and even being in one of the groups who helped collate the Brent Knoll Village News in the good old days when they had to be printed off a duplicator in the vestry in St Michael's Church. Margaret Trapp told me that Margaret Sheldon had a great sense of humour and all those who knew her would remember her with much love and affection. And it goes without saying that our love and our prayers go out to her family at this time.

Early in January, we all met up on a Saturday morning to answer the questions posed in the Circuit review. It was possible for us to do it all together as we are a smaller congregation. The only mistake we made was thinking that a whole morning would be enough! The whole process of responding to the questions posed prompted us to look at the wider purpose of our church and opened some brave discussions. Where are we now? Where are we going? How can we get there? - whilst all the time "keeping it real" as we talked honestly and openly about our hopes and fears for the future. We are going to meet up in the first week of February to discuss Circuit. Where do we fit in in the life of our Methodist Circuit? Where does the Circuit fit into the life of our church?

One thing which has come out of this is that we realise that we can all voice our opinions knowing that they will be listened to in a safe, respectful and dare I say it - family environment - and it's brought our already close congregation even closer.

Blessings from all of us here at Brent Knoll

Rosemary Krull



## **EAST BRENT**

Having replaced the pews with chairs there has been much speculation in the Link as to how we would light our Carols by Candlelight Service, after some thought Gordon made new brackets and fastened the candle poles along the walls, the light was then reflected off the walls enabling everyone to see (even better than before). The Church was once again comfortably full, and we were pleased to welcome some families from the village – at last -. Many thanks to Evelyn for the window arrangements, Margaret Scott for arranging the programme and the ladies for serving the coffee and mince pies, the only panic, was no one had brought any milk!!

Christmas morning was also well supported and many thanks to John Trebble for taking this half hour service, £300 was collected from the two services which will be split between our two charities, one in Luhimba and an orphanage in Kenya.

The New Year has not started too well, water has been spilt from the dehumidifier, a large area of carpet in front of the vestry door has had to be lifted up to enable the underfelt to dry. Then last Sunday the organ wouldn't work, so the service was moved into the hall to use the piano. Do mishaps still happen in three's!!!

We send our love to Eileen Craig who is not at all well, and hope that she will soon start to improve, and to other members who have not been well.

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year and look forward to meeting up at our Link Services.

Jill Legg



## **BURNHAM**

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

### **STEWARDS COLUMN.**

The start of another year – Christmas is over, New Year celebrations are now past and here we are in January 2017. Didn't 2016 fly by or is it just me? Did you make any New Year resolutions? I decided not to do so as I always break them by the 3rd January at the latest. I did however decide that I would talk to God a lot more and more importantly to listen to what He has to say to me. I don't really class that as a New Year resolution as it's what I should be doing all the time but I do get sidetracked by general day –to-day stuff!

Christmas here at Burnham went very well - our Carol Service was very well attended and enjoyed by all – it was a really spiritual occasion and the candles glowing on the window sills added much to the ambience of the evening. Our Midnight Communion on 24<sup>th</sup> December was also well attended and as always it was very special to be able to take communion on the eve of our Saviour's birth.

So 2017! I think this may be a year of momentous happenings - a year where prayer will be needed more than ever. We live in unstable times – so much taking place around the world that is unsettling and here at Burnham we still have the Roof! Aaah – the roof. You must be tired of hearing about our roof! It still covers the building but we still have buckets in place and chairs moved for when it rains. Hopefully, with lots prayerful pleas to God and the wider congregation, and grant providers the solution to the problem comes a little closer. We live in hope.

As you know we now have a service of worship every Sunday evening. These services are totally different to our Sunday morning

worship and are proving to be popular with a steady (and growing) number of people. We sing joyfully well-known and new-to-us songs – usually from StF, listen to a brief talk from the service leader and then usually have discussion and comment time and everyone

joins in and has their say. I think we all find it stimulating (and **challenging on occasions**). **Do come and join us – it's a very rewarding way to worship.**

We have, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in the month our Tea and Chat session for anyone (non church especially) to come and have tea and cake and meet other folk just to talk to – bring your knitting, embroidery, puzzles, painting (and ironing! If you want to)

As this piece for the magazine is referred to as the steward's column I can give you an update on the team. We (all 6 of us) have decided to put ourselves forward for re-election at the AGM in April. We work very well as a team and greatly support each other in all our endeavours. We have an Own Arrangement service coming up on the 12<sup>th</sup> February and all the stewards will be taking part in the preparation and the service itself. We are looking forward to a thought provoking but fun service.

Our lovely Harry Kempson has at last left Musgrove Hospital after being there since October and is now residing at Frith House in Burnham. We all wish him a comfortable and happy life there and hope he's keeping the staff on their toes! To all who are unwell and unable to fully feel the warmth of the church community at this time – we wish you a return to full health and to church.

We wish all of you a calm and peaceful 2017.

Ann Hall - on behalf of the Burnham stewards

# BREAN

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

A lovely cartoon appeared on Facebook yesterday. We are inside a traditional church where the peace is shared by the minister uttering those words from the pulpit 'The peace of the Lord be with you' and the people respond without any thought or feeling with 'and also with you'; except on this occasion there had been problems with the audio system. The minister making excuses intoned 'Apologies that we are having trouble with the speaker system this morning' to which the people automatically responded '.....' (yes you've guessed it).

That sort of unthinking participation was not the feature of our Christmas services however. The week before Christmas, our Coffee and Carols morning was well attended (just over 30 I think), well led by Anne and Rosemary, and thoroughly enjoyed by all. At our Christmas Eve Carol Service we had to keep on bringing in more chairs as more and more people arrived. In the end about 65 people enjoyed a rich mixture of carols, readings and sketches. £155.95 was raised for Action for Children, which we think is a record amount. Well done to all those who took part.

In the middle of January we had our Annual Games evening. One or two were away with other commitments or with flu, but even so about twenty people enjoyed a cosy evening of fun, laughter and Pynes' Proper Jobs. In Rosemary's absence her quiz to round off the evening was replaced by a version of Trivial Pursuit which quickly became known as 'Charles' rules'.

As with all of these events, we were blessed by the presence of people from the local community and from the Link and our wider Circuit. Thank you for your support (And as a PS we in the village churches would love to see more people from Burnham at our gatherings, please.)

As a future event please note that on March 10<sup>th</sup> we are having an Indian meal to celebrate Steve's return from Durgapur. More details next month.

On a sadder note, one of our regular attenders from past years, Rosemary Cook, died at Christmas tide. She had been in failing health for some years but was a regular reader of the Link magazine. Our Ecumenical partners at St Bridget's also suffered a couple of losses in the last month with the passing of Barbara Scrivens and Jane Attwater. Jane was the wife of Jeremy, the Lay Reader at both Brean and Berrow Anglican Churches and regularly supported our joint events. Barbara was organist at St Bridget's for many years and with her husband Fred, hosted our monthly Ecumenical House Groups in the early days of our Partnership. Our condolences to the family and friends of all these people.

We are running a House Group on Thursday afternoons at Sunningcrest looking at the Sermon on the Mount, which coincides with the lectionary readings for the coming weeks. The Advent course that we held in November/December was well received by all.

It's the start of a new calendar year so we send greetings to you all at this auspicious time

*Harvey Allen*



## **THE LINK Subscription**

Can I remind you that the subscription for the LINK is due for renewal in January each year.

Please pay your Church distributor or send to the Editors. Thanking you.

# WEST HUNTSPILL



**Annual General Meeting At Methodist Church  
Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 11-30am  
Coffee and Bring and Buy Stall  
From 11am**

**Homemade Soup Lunch after the meeting at 12-30pm  
Everyone welcome to all or any part of the meeting**

**Our regular Coffee and Chat Morning  
Will take place on  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
10am – 12md**



**Table top Sales and lots of Coffee, Cake  
and Chatter**



## Minister and Circuit Superintendant

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## Web Sites

Circuit Web site [www.wsembos.org](http://www.wsembos.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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**The Deadline for the  
MARCH 2017 LINK is  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

## 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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|          |                              | BREAN          | BRENT<br>KNOLL   | BURNHAM                    | EAST<br>BRENT                 | WEST<br>HUNTSPILL |
|----------|------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 5th Feb  | 10.30am<br>11.00am<br>6.00pm | Williamson     | Marr HC          | Jenks<br><br>Hoare         | Luker                         | Gale              |
| 12th Feb | 10.30am<br>11.00am<br>6.00pm | LS Brent       | @Easi Brent      | OA<br><br>Bennett          | G Hoare                       | Jenks             |
| 19th Feb | 10.30am<br>11.00am<br>6.00pm | Allen          | Horlock          | J PIPIT FS<br><br>McKnight | Treble FS<br><br>Patient Cafe | Dallimore         |
| 26th Feb | 10.30am<br>11.00am<br>6.00pm | Lester         | Krull            | James                      | Marr HC                       | Bennett HC        |
|          |                              | <b>Circuit</b> | <b>service @</b> | <b>Milton</b>              | <b>Circuit</b>                |                   |