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# THE LINK

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**Methodist Link Churches Magazine**

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**February 2018 Volume 53. No. 1.**

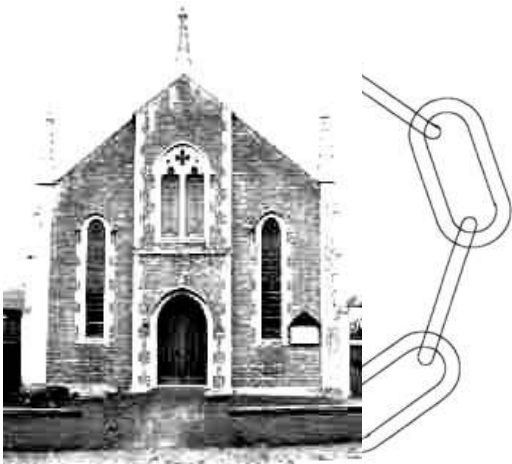
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**BREAN**



**BRENT KNOLL**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**



**EAST BRENT**



**BURNHAM**

# *Minister's Letter*

## **Is God Calling You?**

We know from the Bible that God calls people in a variety of ways and into a variety of services. Our Covenant Service reflects this in the words that Methodists throughout the world say each year. It highlights both positives and negatives in making ourselves open to the working of the Holy Spirit within us, and in hearing God's call to us. It reminds us that we may need to put some of our preferences and desires to one side in order to fulfil the purposes of God for our life. Yet it also affirms our delight and blessing when we find that our preferences and desires are in line with God's.

One of the great challenges for the Methodist Church is how it continues to 'be' in this generation, and specifically how it can operate in a world that is so different from that when its structures and practices were last given a significant overhaul. Much thought has been going on at Connexional level over the last few years and guidance as well as challenge is now being given to the Methodist people. The way individual churches mission in their community is seen as key to the longevity of the Methodist movement. This will mean doing different things, and different services having to be undertaken. Inevitably this kind of approach will result in change. Once again the words of our Covenant Service challenge us and help us. They acknowledge that within our thoughts about change there are our own hopes and fears – 'some will be suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both, in some we may please Christ and please ourselves, in others we cannot please God except by denying ourselves.' Thankfully the good news comes immediately after those words 'Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.' This continues to be my prayer for me, for you, and for all who are touched by the presence of our churches here.

Steve



## **Death**

Mr Tony Bishop on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January

## **Calendar**

### **JANUARY**

Fri	26th	10.00 - 12.00	W/H	Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill in aid of West Huntspill School
Sat	27th	7.00pm	BR	Fun & Games Evening at Brean Methodist All welcome

## FEBRUARY

Sat	3rd	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Fund Raising Coffee Morning by Choir
Wed	7th		B/H	Wednesday Group - First Aid in the Home Talk by St John's Ambulance
Sat	10th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	B/K	Joint Link Services at Brent Knoll
Tue	13th	2.30pm	E/B	Link Villages Fellowship - Educate the Kids Update (Donations)
Fri	16th	7.30pm		Father Heart Ministry Evening at St John's Ambulance Hall, Highbridge see page 7
Sat	17th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Friends of Weston Hospice Coffee Morning
Sat	17th	10.00 - 1.00		Experience Lent at Victoria Methodist Church see page 4 - 5
<b>Sun</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>LAST DAY FOR THE MARCH 2018 LINK</b>		
Thu	22nd	1.30pm		Somerset Churches Together AGM at Nailsea Baptist Church
Sat	24th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Tue	27th	2.30pm	E/B	Link Villages Fellowship - Berry & Fred Jenkins - 'The Good Life'

## MARCH

Fri	2nd	10.30am		Women's World Day of Prayer at the Catholic Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs
Sat	3rd	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Fund Raising Coffee Morning by Wednesday Group
Wed	7th		B/H	Wednesday Group - Easter Thought from Rev Steve Bennett
Sat	10th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Tues	13th	2.30pm	E/B	Link Villages Fellowship - Bill Fisher – Tales from the Potting Shed'
Sat	17th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Friends of Weston Hospice Coffee Morning
<b>Sun</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>LAST DAY FOR THE APRIL 2018 LINK</b>		
Sun	18th	10.30am	BR	Joint Link Services at Brean <b>B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill</b>

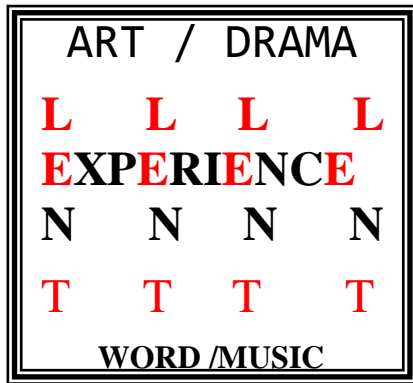
# CHRISTMAS FAIR

It seems such a long time since December 10th when we held our Christmas Fair. It was a great success and we raised £700.00 towards our Roof Fund.

Many thanks to everyone for their support.

Dorothy May.

Convenor



An exciting venture into expressing our understanding and experience of LENT in ART, DRAMA, WORD and MUSIC

WE invite EVERYONE who would be interested to explore ways in which LENT could be depicted through different artistic mediums to

## A Special Meeting to Experience Lent

At

**VICTORIA METHODIST CHURCH**

On

**SATURDAY 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

**10.00AM - 1.00 PM**

(with a simple lunch provided for any who would want to stay on after 1.00pm)

The aim of the morning is NOT to create but to explore... to stimulate individuals and groups to set out to create THROUGH LENT items of ART, DRAMA, WORD or MUSIC which express what Lent

means to them. Then to present what has been created at a special Gathering on

*PASSION SUNDAY*

*18TH MARCH 2018 - 3.00pm - 6.00pm*

*VICTORIA METHODIST CHURCH*

The programme for the 17th February is set out overleaf together with a tear-off form for you to register your interest - even if you are not able to attend that day

Please complete to give us an idea of numbers - even if not able to come on the 17th February and tear off this area and return via a Steward

NAME .....

CONTACT DETAILS (address/telephone/email)

.....  
.....

AREA OF INTEREST (if decided) .....

Interested but can't come on the 17<sup>th</sup> [  ] please tick

=====

**PROGRAMME FOR 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY - VICTORIA at 10.00am**

10.00 - Gather and Opening Devotions

10.15 - Sharing the vision of Experiencing Lent

13.00- LUNCH for those who would like to stay and continue talking and planning.

10.30 - Presentations by the 4 Group Leaders

How others in the past and today have expressed Lent in

**ART -- DRAMA -- WORD -- MUSIC**

11.15 - COFFEE and move into 4 Groups

11.30 - Groups to discuss

a. what Lent means to you

- b. How could we express these things by our own creative talents?
- c. How will we proceed to carry this out during Lent?

12.45 Prayers together

THE AIM is to plan how individuals or groups might work through Lent to produce creative work for presentation on Passion Sunday.

Individuals can do their own thing, but perhaps meet up with others during Lent. Groups (who may be joined by some who could not attend on the 17<sup>th</sup>) could meet through Lent to share with one another or actually work on their creation together.



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

"This year the Women's World Day of Prayer will be held at the Catholic Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs on Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10.30 am.

The service this year has been prepared by the women of Suriname and the theme is "All God's creation is very good"

The committee have decided this year to hold the service in the morning to see if this enables more people to attend unhindered by the need to collect children from school.

The service is always very thought-provoking, and we invite everyone, men and women to come & share in this worship with people worldwide.

Joyce Pipet



# Churches Together Report

The Churches Together group met in St Peter's and All Hallows church West Huntspill on Thursday 18th Jan at 7.30 when we were welcomed with a glass of mulled apple juice and nibbles! Chairman Rev Sharon Crossman welcomed everyone and opened with prayers for all the events that the local churches were involved with.

A letter had been received from Rev Marian Hance to thank Churches Together for their offer of money for the Christmas lunch she had organised at Burnham Methodist church for people on their own at Christmas. The lunch was very successful and our contribution was not needed due to the generosity of Asda who gave £200 and the donations from local businesses.

A leaflet will soon be available showing all the events being organised by the various churches in the area during Lent and Easter.

It is hoped that all churches will discuss at their church councils the suggestion to join the organisation "Churches against Poverty". It was also hoped that Churches Together will become involved in the Family Fun Day held at the Apex Park in August. A story tent was suggested along the lines of Open the Book scheme but more details later.

Churches Together voted to fund the purchase of children's Bibles to be given to primary age children in the area. £200 was set aside from the Youth Fund for this purpose.

## Dates for your diary

- 16th Feb      Father Heart Ministry Evening 7.30 at St John's Ambulance Hall, Highbridge. See poster for more details
- 22nd Feb      Somerset Churches Together AGM at Nailsea Baptist Church 1.30
- 27th March    Jeff Lucas evening 7.30 at Berrow Church. More details to follow

The meeting ended at 8.50 with a prayer.

# Friends of Burnham Hospital

## Reflections on the old and A New Year ahead

Well what a year we had in 2017 so many events we managed to organise. Highlights included our Garden Party at the hospital, 2 Quiz Nights at the Ritz, our Party Night and Music Night at the Oaktree, as well as our Christmas Music Concert. We also purchased many items during 2017, the slit lamp and the scoop stretcher being the latest additions.

Over the year we had help from other organisations. We had an offer to work with the Hornby Exhibition Group resulting in us receiving a donation from them, The Masons in Burnham arranged for the War Memorial to be upgraded for us. However, the biggest surprise came from Burnham & Berrow Golf Club, Captains, Peter Amos and Jane Moreton nominated the Friends to be their major charity for 2017 and donated a massive sum, we were amazed by the generosity of the club. More about how we intend to use this money in the coming months.

As we move forward into 2018 we have a Quiz Night at the Ritz on 9<sup>th</sup> February and our grand Party Night entitled “Starry, Starry Nite” with the ever popular ‘Lipinski Band’ at the Oaktree on the 24<sup>th</sup> March, we have already sold some tickets so don't miss out contact Bernie on 01278 785727.

Watch this space for more exciting news.

Ceri Joyce

Marketing and Publicity

Friends of Burnham Hospital





# BRENT KNOLL

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

**Minister Revd. Steve Bennett**

It seems a long time ago now, but we bid farewell to 2017 and looked towards the New Year with a wonderful local arrangement on New Year's Eve. It proved to be a time of reflection looking both back over the past year and forwards to the future, as we prepared to continue our journey of faith and fellowship into the year to come. Thank you to all those who contributed and organised this service.

We are sending out our every best wish to Heather Poulter who has been accepted by Balloon Ventures to spend three month in Africa as a volunteer. This is a charity committed to defeating poverty through enterprise and which works with micro businesses in Africa and Asia. There will be some fund raising events to help Heather on her way including a coffee and cake morning here at Brent Knoll which will include a bring and buy sale. The date has yet to be confirmed so please keep an eye out for further details. Heather will also be washing cars and doing an abseil. She has already completed a day long sponsored silence which I have heard from a reliable family source proved quite a challenge! Well done and good luck Heather.

As we move through February, looking towards the beginning of Lent, from all of us at Brent Knoll, we wish you a peaceful start to this very special and reflective season.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



# EAST BRENT

Only ten people supported our sale in November other than our own members, just three from the Link Churches. Those who did attend had an enjoyable morning, with some visitors who were just passing.

This year the Rainbows, who meet in our hall, were asked if they would like to decorate the Christmas tree, yes, they would be delighted, and made some decorations to put on it. Twenty four girls turned up on the day, Highbridge pack had joined with ours. They were split into three groups of eight, all the decorations were put on the tree, so you could hardly see any green – a real rainbow of colours. They didn't use the decorations that they had made as they wanted to take them home. When the parents came to collect the children, they came into the Church to admire the tree, while the girls sang their Rainbow song and away in a manger. Please can we do it again next year, please!!!

Although attendance was down at both our Christmas services the collection at the door was well up on other years. After the Christmas morning service lots of people told me how much they had enjoyed the service and asked who the preacher was, (Revd. Steve). One lady asked for a plan so that she could come again when he was preaching. Perhaps she'll start a fan club!!

It's always a pleasure to host the Link services, sharing the worship, having a good sing and chatting with a coffee afterwards. I have noticed that some members from each Church don't attend these services, and our numbers have been dropping off, perhaps we need a rethink on this format?

Jill Legg



# BURNHAM

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

## STEWARDS COLUMN.

To coin a phrase it's been a funny old month! All the excitement building up through Advent, the Joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus, and then the approaching of the New Year. Many of us enjoyed a Watch night Service at West Huntspill Methodist Church albeit held at the more respectable time of 5-30 in the evening. The ladies had provided afternoon tea and then we joined in the service led by Rev Steve Bennett. Steve provided a number of questions for us to ponder over as we prepared for the New Year.

Well here we are at the end of January already to mark off the first month of the New Year. What if anything, have we achieved? Do we look back already at resolutions discarded diets already consigned to memory.

What now, I heard a phrase on the radio it went, the reason that a rear view mirror in a car is quite small, but the windscreen is a larger area, which means that we should look forward to the future rather than what is past and is disappearing as we move into the year.

Now we look into the garden and what had been hard frozen earth is now beginning to show the green shoots of new life what an exciting time, likewise at Church we too are witnessing growth in the attendance of the Sunday Afternoon/evening services are very thought provoking and we meet, although on Church premises but not necessarily in the Church itself We are joined by members of other churches in our circuit and quite often we start with a cup of tea/coffee the fellowship is so warm and the opportunity to make new friends and enjoy our time together. If you are interested and would like to know more, do talk to any of the Stewards who would be only too pleased to guide you through the service. Likewise Messy Church is encouraging youngsters and families who don't necessarily attend Church at present to come and spend time having fun, with the opportunity to join in with games and make new friends, yet more green shoots of new life.

Geoff - on behalf of the Burnham stewards

# BREAN

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

First a word of thanks to all of you from The Link churches who supported our Christmas related events. Thirty came to the coffee and carols morning which Rosemary and Anne led superbly. Then we had nearly 50 at the happy carol service on Christmas Eve afternoon. Thank you all for your support. It is very much appreciated.

In January, our church has been empty for two consecutive weeks as we have worshipped at St Bridget's on the 7th and at East Brent on the 14th I was preaching elsewhere on 7th but I am told that the Methodist contingent outnumbered the Anglican's at St Bridget's. The difficulties that the Anglicans face will undoubtedly be in our minds as we discuss the future of our partnership later this month.

Judy and I went to the day conference at West Huntspill on 20th at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Christine Thomas had put in a lot of work in organising speakers and a very imaginative spiral of circular stones to illustrate the subjects. It was a pity that the day wasn't better supported. In previous years 30 and more used to attend, with people coming and going during the day. At one time I counted 18 people in attendance I think this was the most at any one time) of which 8 were Methodist four from Brean, 5 or 6 were from Independent Congregations, one was a Baptist and three or four were Anglicans. It doesn't say much for the spirit of cooperation between all the churches of Burnham and District unfortunately (though perhaps I should to admit I don't support other events as much as I ought.

Over the winter months our worship arrangements with St Bridget's and with East Brent and Brent Knoll, mean that there is no worship in our church on 7 Sundays over the winter months. While we hope that no visiting worshipper is inconvenienced it does mean we save nicely on heating costs; and with our astute treasurer at the helm we are persuaded to pay our collections dues by Bank Debit, so we don't lose out on income either!,

So now, as the day stays light for a bit longer, we begin to look forward to warmer times (and even perhaps a bit less wet than recently).

Rosemary is getting ready for her lambing season, Becky is getting ready to go to New Zealand next month for about a year, our shipmates are looking forward to a few months on land. By the time that this Link is published we hope that our rafters will have stopped echoing to the call of 'Beetle'. And also this month the decorators are due, soon to be followed by the installation of a new front door which, hopefully, will give us a less intimidating aspect to prospective visitors.

*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 17<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 23<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.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.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 2018 LINK is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018</b></p>
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## 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.

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