
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

February 2019 Volume 54. No. 1.



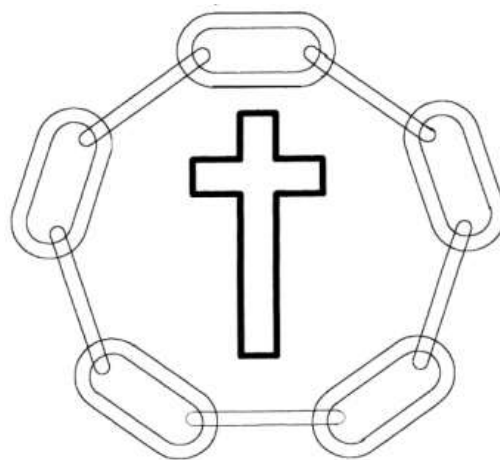
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

Friends

Over the next few months politicians in this country and from all over Europe are going to have to answer some very important questions. Since the EU referendum the debate on the way in which we should exit the European Union, or indeed whether we should exit at all have been the mainstay of our national news bulletins.

I know that as a minister I am not supposed to express political opinions, so I won't. But I have had several interesting conversations recently that have brought home to me that both sides of the debate have merit and issues. Perhaps this is why our politicians don't seem to be able to get anywhere near a consensus about what should happen at the end of March. Whatever I think, the decisions that will be made on our behalf are likely to have a long-term impact on this country and its inhabitants.

What really saddens me is the way in which the debate is being framed. People on each side are talking as if they are completely right and their opponents are entirely wrong. It is because of this that there is anger, name calling, distrust and hostility. It is with this in mind that I remind you, as I remind myself of the words in Romans 12: 14 - 18

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all.

For whatever happens, we are all in it together, and we will all have to live with each other when the dust has settled.

Steve

Calendar

JANUARY

- Fri 25th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee & Cake at West Huntspill Methodist
Sat 26th 10.00 - 12.01 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sat 26th 7.00pm BR Sausages and mash and Beetle Drive at Brean Methodist Church

FEBRUARY

- Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Church Funds by the Wednesday Group
Sat 2nd 7.00pm B/H BARN DANCE at Burnham Methodist see Page 4
Wed 6th 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Wednesday Group - Talk by Linda James "A Life in Training!"
Thur 7th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship
Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Tue 12th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Bargain Hunt – Veronica & Sheena
Wed 13th 12.30 B/H Church Lunch
Sat 16th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning
Sun 17th LAST DAY FOR THE MARCH LINK
Thur 21st 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship
Fri 22nd W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill Methodist see page 11
Sat 23rd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Tue 26th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship – "The Good Life" Berry Jenkin.
MARCH 10.30am BR Coffee Morning at Brean
Fri 1st 10.30am B/H World Day of Prayer at Burnham Methodist
Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Church Funds by the Stewards
Mon 4th 2.00pm E/B Tui's Clapp Memorial Service at East Brent Methodist Church
Wed 6th 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Wednesday Group - Cinema Visit
Thur 7th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship
Fri 8th 7.00pm B/H PhotoShow Burnham Lifeboats and their Crews - By John Strickland see page 4
Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Tue 12th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Chris Wray - Traidcraft.
Wed 13th 12.30 B/H Church Lunch
Sat 16th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning
Sun 17th LAST DAY FOR THE APRIL LINK

Burnham Methodist Church
College Street

BARN DANCE

Saturday 2nd February

At 7.00pm

“Bring & Share Supper”

In aid of Church Funds

Tickets £3.00

From Sandra Nelson 229424
or Dorothy May 784204



Slide Show Burnham's Lifeboats and their crews'

By John Strickland

8th March at 7.00pm

Methodist Church
College Street

Tickets £5.00

From Dorothy May 01278 784204



World day of Prayer

Following a national survey in which local committees were invited to participate, the title of the day of prayer on the first Friday in March has been changed from the Women's World Day of Prayer, to World day of Prayer, in line with many other countries around the world. The service is still prepared by the women from a specific country each year.

In 2022 it will be the turn of England, Wales & N. Ireland to do so, and there is a team already preparing that service. Some of you will know Revd. Mandy Briggs who is the Education Officer at the New Room in Bristol. She candidated for the ministry from this circuit a number of years back, having been one of the local preachers Harold Speed had trained, and she is one of the members of the team who are preparing this service.

BUT this years' service has been compiled by the women of Slovenia.

It will be held on Friday March 1st at 10.30am in Burnham Methodist Church, and all are welcome to come and share in this service.

The theme this year is Come - everything is ready"

Joyce Pipet.

Friends of Burnham Hospital

Friends of Burnham Hospital return to The Methodist Church for 2019 We shall be in attendance 3rd Saturday of each month from January. We shall be serving tea/coffee, biscuits and cakes, holding a raffle and selling quality goods including jigsaws, hand crafted cards, and notelets. We do hope you will join us and bring any unwanted gifts for us to sell. All proceeds will go to the hospital. If you have any goods or unwanted presents, we can collect - For further information contact Vice Chairman Ceri Joyce – 01278 323794 or email on ceri160443@sky.com

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL.

Thank you to everyone who donated filled shoeboxes and items to go in shoeboxes for the elderly and families. Our shoeboxes went via a vicarage in Wellington. Then to the Brighton headquarters, then on to Moldova, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Romania. This year the charity sent 40,000 shoeboxes filled with goodies. This charity also runs lunch clubs for the elderly and after school clubs for children.

Thank you to everyone who helped. We will be sending the next lot at the end of October 2019. If you want to find out more there are photographs of this year's deliveries on their website,

BRENT KNOLL

(www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

Minister Revd. Steve Bennett

On the last Sunday of 2018, we had a local arrangement where we were all asked to contribute a hymn, a prayer or a reading and it proved a really lovely time of worship. Still being within the Christmas period, some chose carols whilst others chose hymns, readings and poetry to welcome in the New Year. It was a time of reflection which we all enjoyed together. We also shared a good quantity of post-Christmas goodies before any New Year's resolutions kicked in.

Well now the Christmas decorations are most definitely down and we are all focussed on what 2019 will bring. It's the month of church councils and as we hold ours, we will be very much be looking to the future. We are all aware that within Methodism (as with many other denominations) there are challenging times ahead, but in our small chapel here in Brent Knoll there has always been an atmosphere of positivity and hope. Our Sunday morning congregation may not be the largest but we are very blessed that it is a congregation which cares and supports each other. And, of course, welcomes all who come through our door. Sometimes it seems easier to focus on things which aren't going so well than it is to look at the things which are. Amongst the things for which we are so grateful for is the fact that we are so blessed in our partnership with St Michael's regarding the ecumenical toddler group which has proved such a success over the years. Seeing the church and school room so full of children each Tuesday is definitely something which never ceases to raise the spirits.

These damp and colder winter months often prove quite a challenge for some of the members of our congregation, and who are having a particularly tough time at the moment. For all those who have been unable to join us in worship, you are still very much present in our prayers each Sunday - and during the rest of the week - and you are sorely missed when you are unable to be with us.

At the time of writing, it's still January. A month which for many (myself included) seems to be the longest month of the year. But the days are getting longer and I've spotted my first snowdrops. A sign that no matter how far away it may seem and how bleak the weather, there's the promise of Spring ahead and the hope of brighter days to come. I think we can all share a heartfelt "Amen" to that.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, we wish all our fellow Link members every blessing over these last remaining winter months

God bless

Rosemary Krull



EAST BRENT

Thank you to those who supported our Christmas Coffee morning. The support of the Link is very much appreciated. The Candle Light Service was well attended, many thanks to the readers and the mince pie makers, also to Margaret Scott for organising the service.

The Rainbows decorated the Christmas tree again this year and made a good job of doing so, the parents came into the Church as well to sing Carols with the girls, and with the help of Revd. Steve.

The Christmas Morning Service was also enjoyed by the families that attended, many thanks to John Trebble for sharing this time with us, a total of £300 from the two Christmas Services has been sent to the Marafa John's Orphanage in Kenya.

I am sorry to report that Tui Clapp died suddenly just after Christmas. Tui came from Wales to live in Rooksbridge as a Land Army Girl, she married Roy Clapp and lived at Rookery Farm, Edingworth where she and Roy attended our Church. On retirement they moved back to Wales, then about three years ago Tui moved back to live in Beaufort House. She started to attend Burnham Church but didn't settle so arrangements were made to collect her so that she could attend East Brent again. We have fond memories of the Clapp family and their devotion for East Brent. A memorial Service will be held at East Brent Methodist on March 4th (Tui's 95th Birthday) at

2pm followed by the placing of the ashes in St. Mary's Churchyard with Roy's.

On a brighter note, three members have had Birthday's in the first two weeks of January, congratulations especially to Joan Hicks on her 97th Birthday, she is hoping to start attending our services again when the weather gets a bit warmer.

Jill Legg



BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

Hi everyone.

Happy New Year-

In our Carol service the Church was packed, nice to see new faces. Steve had a busy time covering his services.

The new notice board, proved a hit visible to Passing People, showing off Christmas Poster. We have a good one planned for Easter, which is late this year

In January we said good bye to Sandra & Gerald Brown who have moved nearer to family.

This New Year brings us new challenges besides Brexit.

We are lucky, welcoming new faces.

Several people have had falls lately. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Some good new ideas for fundraising this year watch this space.

At the end of December, several members of the congregation went to West Huntspill where we had high tea before Steve's service. Always a warm friendly welcome.

All for now.

Ann Smith,

Burnham Stewards.



BREAN

...and we nearly ran out of milk! After a gap of several years we have re-started our Monday coffee mornings in January. On the first morning we were half a dozen or so, including one lady new to us; but on the second Monday we had grown to 19 including 4 children. That might not sound much, but for a small rural church 19 means it's exciting times!!

Indeed! Since the last Link we have also been joined on a permanent basis by Kathy, one of our regular summer visitors who has now moved into the village. Even the thought of winter gales couldn't put her off.

Our sausage and mash, and beetle drive social evening will have been held by the time most of us have got hold of this Link. Sorry, therefore but, unless you picked up the details from the last issue, you've missed it already.

Christmas was full of fun and reflection in our church. Rosemary and Anne ran their Coffee and Carols venture for about 40 of us, an excellent turnout for the Saturday morning before Christmas; and on Christmas Eve nearly 50 people came to our annual Carol Service and where the collection for Action for Children raised £112.13. On the Sunday after Christmas, Stanley, Joyce and I reflected on the changes that Jesus brought to the lives of his contemporaries and how all that influences us as we venture into another New Year. Thanks to everyone who came to us over the Christmas period, to those who took part in the events, and to those who provided the wherewithal that added to the occasions.

Again this year, rather than send Christmas cards to each other we all contributed to a single card for all to sign; our donations in lieu raised £124 which we chose to give to one of the schemes highlighted by "All We Can"

It's all change in Brean village too, as the powers that be have been laying new super-fast broadband cable through the place. The world even more at our fingertips than it was previously! Perhaps, one of these days, they will even find ways to do all this without digging up the pavement! As I look back to my childhood, how remarkable have been the changes to my/our lives.

All of our services in February are in our church at 10.30am except for 17th February when we meet with East Brent and Brent Knoll churches at Brent Knoll, and where Joyce is taking the United Service. On 10th February St Bridget's congregation join us in the Methodist Church and we shall hold our Joint Church Council after the service.

And of course, every Monday from 10.30am, there's coffee in our Schoolroom. All are welcome.

P,S. Judy says that's rubbish, we didn't run out of milk, we always cater for more than expected!



Thank You

Your generosity at Coffee Mornings this past year has enabled the church to raise **£572.00** for **West Huntspill School Amenity Fund**. I will be contacting the school in the next few days to arrange to give them the money. The charity chosen for 2019 is the Alzheimer's Society.

The Carol service, Christmas morning service, and the December Coffee Morning raised a total of £158.68p for Action for Children.



Our February Coffee Morning
Will be held on February 22nd 2019
10am -12md Table top sales
Free Coffee, tea and cakes and chat!
Proceeds for Alzheimer's Society



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Web Sites

Circuit Web site www.wsmbos.org
www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk
www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org
www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

<p style="text-align: center;">The Deadline for the MARCH 2019 LINK is Sunday 17th February 2019</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.

Price £3.00 per annum. Inland Post **£6.00** per annum.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....
.....
.....

POST CODE.....CHURCH.....

LINK **£3.00** Postage £..... Donation £..... Total £.....

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

OUR LINK AND CIRCUIT

Part 2: April 1974 to August 1975

...well I could find no further comment in the 1974-75 papers about Burnham leaving the Circuit. The subject seems to have been lost in the fog of forty-five years past. I guess that people quietly reflected on the issue and found there were ties to Weston-super-Mare that were more valuable than trying to start again elsewhere. The issue of boundaries was raised again at the end of the 1980s though, when the District was trying to find a rational way out of a situation to the east of us and it was mooted that all of the Link churches move into the (then) Bridgwater circuit. I was present in a meeting when Tui Clapp (who died recently) spoke for those present when she said that though she preferred to stay with Weston, she was happy to join with Bridgwater but did not want to leave the Bristol District to join with Plymouth and Exeter. In those days our ties with wider Methodism were more important than they are now.

Perhaps events in more recent years have had something to do with the loosening of ties across the Connexion. The new structures recognised the seven sub-committees of Ministries, Mission (now combining both Home and Overseas work), Education and Youth, Social Responsibility (the new name for Christian Citizenship), General Purposes, Property and Women's Fellowship, that supported the Circuit Meeting (as the Quarterly Meeting was now to be known). Each church supplied members to most of those committees and the Circuit Meeting elected principal officers of each. These committees then sent one or more representatives to the appropriate District Committee; but slowly interest waned and from about 1995 Districts and Circuits were given licence to form their own ways of fulfilling their mission and abandoned most of these gatherings, partly I think because of growing absenteeism but also in the hope that members' energies would be put 'to the coalface' rather than at interminable meetings.

As mentioned in my earlier report, Trustees committees were abandoned in the new structures and trustee business was absorbed into the Circuit meeting. All members therefore had to be recorded. How many members today remember the elected officers from our Link Churches in 1975, the membership number for each church is also shown:

Burnham – Cedric May, Les Jenkin, Stanley Tarr, Harry Kempson, Arnold Houldin, Mrs Ann Pearce. 130 members;

East Brent – Fred Gale, Gordon Legg, Mrs Joyce Plimley. 20 members;

Brent Knoll – Mr Chivers, Ronald Frost, Mrs S. Trapp. 19 members. (It was a sign of those days when women were referred to by their husband's initial. Margaret thus became Mrs S Trapp);

Brean - Roger Course, Edward Allport, Stuart Hicks. 13 members (Roger now lives in South Devon, takes the Link every month, but has not been well lately);

Mark – Mrs Hardacre, Ruth Moxey, John Sheppard. 13 members;

Lympsham – Mr Davis, Mrs Rush, Miss H M King. 13 members;

Heath House – Evelyn Tucker, Stanley Tucker, Mrs S Tucker. 12 members.

Berrow

Burnham might have been staying put, but Berrow were going out. The June 1974 meeting heard that the congregation were now meeting in the Schoolroom and the cost of repairs to the building would be very expensive. It was agreed therefore that the church be closed and the place be put up for sale. Little remains now except for 'Chapel Lane', the name of the cul de sac leading off Barton Road opposite Berrow playground.

Members were encouraged to worship at Burnham and for many years there was a bus link from Berrow to Burnham church every Sunday morning. A welcome service was arranged for Berrow members at Burnham on the first Sunday of October, the service being led by the chairman of the District.

A first for Brean and a series of arrivals and departures

As well as being the last Quarterly Meeting meeting under the old structures, June 1974 was the first time that a Quarterly Meeting had been held at Brean, as far as was known.

September 1974 saw the arrival of two new Circuit Stewards. We only had two Circuit Stewards in those days and Messrs Nash and Peacock (who had served for 15 years) were replaced by John Temple and Ken Monk. Perhaps this was as a direct result of the new structures which determined that appointments to committees should be for a maximum of six years (though this stipulation was later relaxed for small churches). Messrs Nash and Peacock were however presented with Gift tokens for their efforts as Stewards over such a long

period, and Rev George Daniels (a supernumerary) thanked them on behalf of the ministers and laymen (I've put that last clause in to again show how PC terminology has influenced us in the years since).

The March meeting was sad to learn of the death of the LP secretary, Mr Jarvis. Norman Gale of Worle was appointed by the LP meeting to take over. Unfortunately about three years later he also died in office. I don't dare say who took over from Norman, though thankfully he is still around.

Finances and Property

The Treasurer commended the Covenant scheme and reported that a tax rebate of £2085 was received in respect of the previous year.

The preaching fee for supernumeraries was raised to £2.50 (LPs do not get paid of course)

Finances were causing problems in the wider church too and the Circuit offered £500 from the Advance Fund towards the cost of providing a new manse for the incoming Chairman of District. And £50 was also offered to a Bristol church said to be in financial difficulty. Several of our own churches were described as struggling but doing their best to meet the demands of the new assessment.

Reports were made about repairs and improvements to manses, Manses were insured for a grand total of £41,000 and the churches for £666,250!!!

Staffing

It will be a surprise to many that by March 1975 it was already known that Rev Peter Philipson would be leaving at the end of August 1976, and that his replacement was known already too. Rev Terry Isherwood was currently serving in Africa (Rhodesia) and could not therefore be invited for a conversation, but the stewards had had very warm commendation from Rev Dr Colin Morris and had made the invitation on that basis.

Rev Morrell left in 1974 having served the Circuit and especially the Milton and Worle area, with distinction. His station was filled by Rev Roy Waring who was officially welcomed at the September meeting. Sister Phyllis Maitland also retired. She was much loved and had served mainly on the Bournville Estate, I think. She had grown to love the area enough to remain in the Circuit on her retirement

Youth

The Superintendent (Rev Maurice Gatehouse) encouraged churches to give more responsibility to young people so that they would feel involved in church processes.

It was reported that of the 14 churches in the Circuit, 5 had a children's ministry with a total of 60 children in the 11-13 age group and 84 children in the 13-21 range.

A youth week was organised for the week beginning July 6th starting with a service at Milton, then rallies for juniors on the 8th and seniors on the 9th, ending with a swimming gala on the 11th.

The young people were encouraged to attend the District Rally at Kelston near Bath on 12th and 13th July.

Numbers

Circuit membership 1064, community roll 1909, Sunday School roll 303. Local preachers 27 men and 10 women of whom 25 were active.

Date of next meeting, Mr Chairman?

The Circuit meeting decided to make full use of the new structures by not holding a meeting at all in the summer of 1975.

Footnote

...and in 1975 a young lay couple who had previously been in London, moved into the Circuit with their two young sons expecting a quiet life in sleepy Somerset. Now I wonder who they could have been...