
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

February 2020 Volume 55. No. 1.



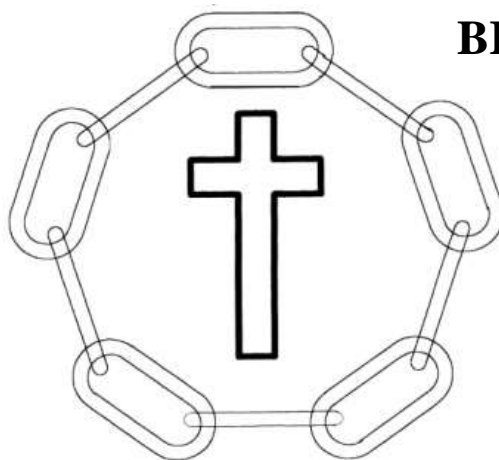
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

2020 Link Vision Group

We are already a month into the New Year, and 2020 brings us new surprises, new challenges and new opportunities in our lives. The same is true in the life of the church.

Specifically, as a Link group of churches we are being encouraged to talk more this year about the future of our witness, and what this part of the Circuit might look like in years to come. These thoughts and conversations will not be easy because we will all have to admit that we are all getting older, and we cannot do what we used to be able to do. We will have to admit that our churches are not attracting as many people as it needs to sustain it. We will have to admit that 'the way it has always been in the past' cannot easily be continued.

However, we must grapple with these difficult questions for the benefit of the Methodist Church in the future. We need to decide whether we just let things drift, or whether we positively manage what happens through radical thinking about where and what we should be. In the past church communities across the country have chosen to ignore the issues, and this had led to some unsatisfactory outcomes; but many Circuits are now progressing through the same kind of prayerful deliberations that we need to undertake. This has meant painful choices, and endings for some; for others it has been a springboard for surprises and new opportunities.

These conversations have started in the Link Vision Group, at which your church is represented, and your representatives will be talking with you about these things. If you do not know who attends on your behalf, then please ask me or one of your Stewards.

Happy New Year

Steve

P.S. The building on Mead Fields has started, please continue to pray for our plans on this development.

Deaths

Mrs. Jean LeSueur 25th November age 92

Mrs. Janet Durston 18th December age 94

Calendar

JANUARY

- Sat 25th W/H End of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Sat 25th 7.00pm BR Sausage and Mash, and Games, at Brean
- Tue 28th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Hymns and their Writers - Mike Bridges
- Wed 29th 11.00 - 12.00 B/H Bible Study
- Fri 31st 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill Methodist in aid of Victoria's Kitchen

FEBRUARY

- Mon 3rd 2.30 B/K Monthly Fellowship at Brent Knoll
- Wed 5th 11.00 - 12.00 B/H Bible Study
- Wed 5th B/H Wednesday Group of Fitness Expert
- Tue 11th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Paul Temple - Collection.
- Wed 12th 11.00 - 12.00 B/H Bible Study
- Wed 12th 12.00 B/H Communion followed by Church Lunch - Barbara
- Sun 16th 10.30 Brent Knoll & Brean Service at East Brent
- Wed 19th 11.00 - 12.00 B/H Bible Study
- Sun 23rd **LAST DAY FOR MARCH LINK**
- Tue 25th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship – Rev. Sharon Eldergill.
- Wed 26th 11.00 - 12.00 B/H Bible Study
- Fri 28th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill Methodist in aid of Victoria's Kitchen
- Sat 29th Somerset Churches Together AGM at Baptist Church W-s M

MARCH

- Mon 2nd 2.30 B/K Monthly Fellowship at Brent Knoll
- Wed 4th 11.00 - 12.00 B/H Bible Study
- Wed 4th B/H Wednesday Group A Life in Training – Linda James
- Fri 6th 10.30 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at St Andrew's Church Burnham
- Sat 8th 4.00 - 6.00 B/H Messy Church at Burnham
- Tue 10th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - T B A
- Wed 11th 11.00 - 12.00 B/H Bible Study

Wed 11th 12.00 B/H Communion followed by Church Lunch
Dorothy
Wed 18th 11.00 - 12.00 B/H Bible Study
Sun 22nd **LAST DAY FOR APRIL LINK**

World Day of Prayer

(Formally the Women's World Day of Prayer)

This years' service will take place at St. Andrew's Church
Burnham on Sea on Friday March 6th at 10.30 am.

This years' service has been prepared by the women of
Zimbabwe.

All are warmly welcomed to attend.

Church action against Poverty.

I have received an email from Church Action for Poverty asking
for support for a venture that they must keep all our Members of
Parliament aware of the need for actions to be taken on poverty in
this country.

They are asking for people to knit/ crochet any kind of item of
food that can then be distributed among MPs.

It is something that I plan to support and have already asked a
few other people to support too. At present, I have already had one
carrot given to me!

If you would like to contribute, then please let me have any
items by 14th February (they need to be received by Church Action
against Poverty by 17th February, but I am happy to send any that
we make in one parcel.

Joyce Pipet

The LINK

The price of the link has been raised to £5.00 per year.

The last rise to £3.00 was in January 2004



BRENT KNOLL

(www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

Minister Rev. Steve Bennett

I'm sitting here typing this whilst it's still January. And I've got to admit, it's my least favourite month of the year, as it is for so many people. Christmas and New Year festivities seem to have faded into the far distance. Despite the days allegedly getting longer, it's difficult to see the light (literally) at the end of the winter tunnel. But there is a promise of better things to come. I've already seen snowdrops poking their heads through the ground and I'm always in awe of these amazing tiny but brave resilient flowers which seem to be able to weather any storm. There's just something so hopeful about them.

And that's how we at Brent Knoll began our New Year. Like all our churches in the Link, we renewed our Covenant promise of commitment to God at our Covenant Service on the first Sunday of the year. Rev. Steve took an excellent thought-provoking service which made us really look at what we were re-affirming. To go where God may put us - wherever that may be - when there is work to be done and when there is none. And here at Brent Knoll, we will certainly have our work cut out for us in this New Year of 2020. Our building has numerous problems which need to be addressed and we will be meeting up in February to discuss how we can manage this. And it's not simply about finances. Our congregation may not be the largest, but all share a deep commitment to God, our church and to one another. But like so many other churches within our Circuit, being a small congregation means that many of our members take on more and more responsibility as more work is shared out amongst a smaller group of people. At this time, a special thank you goes out to Gill Poulter who has been working with

surveyors to ascertain exactly what needs to be done to our building. It may be that we will need to hold fundraising events, but we are determined to do our utmost to keep our church building a part of both the Circuit and the Brent Knoll Village community. I will, of course, keep you updated over the coming months.

Margaret Trapp will continue to hold her monthly fellowship meetings on Celtic spirituality on the first Monday of the month - this month it will be held on 3rd February at 2.30pm in the schoolroom. Everyone who attends these meetings greatly appreciate learning about this truly interesting and inspiring subject and are very grateful to Margaret for continuing to lead these meetings.

There will be no service here at Brent Knoll on Sunday 16th February when we will be joining with our friends from **Brean** and Brent Knoll to worship together at East Brent Methodist Church.

In the meantime, from all of us at Brent Knoll, we wish you longer days, shorter nights and the hope of Spring in this month of February.

With every blessing from us all
Rosemary Krull.



EAST BRENT

Our Christmas services were well supported, not as many people as last year, but larger collections. We managed to send £300 to The Marafa John's Orphanage in Kenya.

The children from the local school decorated the Christmas tree for us, they had made some of the decorations themselves, and the tree looked lovely when they had finished.

One of the Sundays in December the preacher failed to turn up!! So we had a coffee and a mince pie, read the notices, took the collection, had a chat, then went home!!!

Our Covenant Service was on the first Sunday in January, which doesn't happen very often. We were pleased that Sunday to welcome the Revd. Peter Davis. He compared the covenant promises with New Year resolutions, giving us a very different way of looking at the promises we were making.

The very overgrown hedge and fence at the back of the car park has been removed, the ground along the rhyne will be levelled and the fence replaced. When the weather is better the hall and railings are to be re-painted.

The Link vision group met in January where a representative from each Church meets to discuss any problems which may be of concern in their Church or any successes. I was very relieved to know that each of the Link Churches has similar problems to ourselves. We looked at ways of the Churches supporting each other, and ways forward, a very rewarding meeting.

Jill Legg



BREAN

www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk

Happy New Year to one and all, even though it is now February (or will be).

So, we are into 2020 and it seems to be all change. The first stage of the Brexit challenge, and the promise of radical changes in the way our Government is organised. Changes to the structure of our royalty with Harry and Meghan being allowed to go off and do their own thing. The necessary changes in Australia after the devastation brought about by bush fires largely set alight by the intense heat they have suffered; and then of course by the opposite as violent storms further weakened the earth and all it contained. Even the press have changed, for now that the England Cricket team have started to win overseas, they are prepared to offer a few words of congratulation and affirmation. You never know, Somerset might even win the Cricket Championship and Bristol City FC win promotion to the Premiership!

And for us in the church, it would be nice to say no change, but in the near future I guess we must deal with not being able to afford the Circuit staff numbers we have, while at the same time face new challenges as both Weston and Burnham continue to increase in population and confront growing pressure on public services (but with new opportunities for church congregations perhaps).

It would be nice to say that here in Brean we shan't be affected too much, but we, like others, are well aware of falling numbers and that it is difficult to persuade those outside to come and share our fellowship. Our congregation numbers in January have averaged only about nine members and most of the other Village Churches are in the same boat, none of them having regular attenders below the age of 50 I think. For us at Brean we can look forward to a few summer visitors to give us fresh heart but for all of us it is perhaps a time to look at changes and perhaps take a few risks (but goodness knows what!)

This didn't stop us having a good Christmas and we hope you all did as well. A much enjoyed Christmas lunch after our joint service with St Bridget's was much appreciated. At about the same time the Christmas tree was erected outside the church by Steve and Roy Baker. It was a beacon of welcome to the village throughout the Christmas period (though someone did see it as an invitation to 'nick' three of the lights at the back of the tree while it was up)

Then it was time for Coffee and Carols led by Anne and Rosemary on the Saturday morning before Christmas and finally there was our Carol Service on Christmas Eve to which about 45 people came. We so much appreciate the support we get from other churches at this season and throughout the year. Thank you.

As in past years we joined the suggestion from All We Can, that supplies the growing needs of agriculture in Africa, and donated about £80 raised by members and others; the funds raised were in lieu of us sending Christmas cards to each other. A healthy sum went to All We Can from the collection at the Carol Service as well.

Perhaps a new recognition of the support and togetherness that we can share and which is part of our traditional Methodist Heritage and sense of 'Connexion', should be our big change for the year. To enthusiastically support each others events wherever we can would mean that the sheer presence and pleasure of a greater fellowship together might well attract others into our midst?

It you get your copy of Link early, please don't forget it is Sausage and Mash, and Games, in our church at 7pm on Saturday 25th January. Pynes' delicious sausages are a key feature and then there is Beetle to follow.

This month the ladies of the church have responded to the call to make pouches for the young of animals that have perished in Australia this last month or so. Australia is a far away place but the tragedy that has befallen the country is a tragedy for us all. As we sympathise with the people of the country there is a real sense that we suffer with them as well.

But the new year brings hope as well and the lighter nights are symbols of new visions. We look forward to 2020 in the Presence of God's spirit among us and within us, as we journey on.

Harvey Allen



West Huntspill



A Very BIG Thank You to everyone who contributed to last year Coffee Mornings. We raised £555 . 72p for Alzheimers Society. I am hoping that one of the local support workers will be able to attend in February so we can present the cheque. Our project for 2020 is to raise funds to support Victoria's Kitchen at Victoria Methodist Church in Weston, where they try to ensure that people who are homeless get a hot meal.

Our next Coffee Morning will bne on 31st January and then the 28th February. As usual there will be table top sales, free tea, coffee, cake, and of course, plenty of chat. We look forward to welcoming you.



Minister and Circuit Superintendent

Rev. Steve Bennett, 28A Caernarvon Way. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2DQ
steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk Tel. (01278) 784808

Editors

Cedric & Dorothy May 6 Brightstowe Road. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2HW
cedric.may@btinternet.com Tel. (01278) 784204

Web Sites

Circuit Web site www.wsmbos.org
www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk
www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk
www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

<p style="text-align: center;">The Deadline for the MARCH 2020 LINK is Sunday 22nd. February 2020</p>

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 £5.00 per annum. Inland Post £7.00 per annum.

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