

LINK PLUS++++

February 2024

Dear Friends

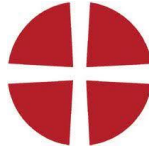
February sees the church enter into Lent once more, starting with Ash Wednesday on the 14th.

In the past this has been seen as a season for abstinence and using the time/money/effort of those things given up to concentrate on the Word of God, the sacrificial love of Jesus, and the empowering of the Holy Spirit. We do these things in preparation for the death and resurrection of our Lord.

What you give up is up to you, but I would like to suggest some things you might take up in their place. Andrew Roberts in his book 'Holy Habits' suggests 10 habits that should form part of a Christian life based on Luke's record of the community of Jesus' followers in Acts 2: 42 - 47. As you read the list below, you might think one or more of these worthy of further consideration this Lent.

Holy Habits	
1. Biblical teaching	6. Serving
2. Fellowship	7. Eating together
3. Breaking bread	8. Gladness and generosity
4. Prayer	9. Worship
5. Sharing Resources	10. Making more disciples

Steve



Brean Methodist Church

<http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk>

The Sunday after Christmas Kathy and Roger walked into church. 'We are engaged' they said. We all knew they had gone away for a few days over Christmas but no one (as far as I knew) guessed that this would be the outcome. How lovely that romance can still blossom among senior citizens and good luck to them both for the future.

The church had a very successful Christmas even though they were not with us. A congregation that tipped over the forty mark enjoyed our 30th Christmas Eve carol service. Four o'clock on Christmas Eve with tea and cake to follow seems to fit quite well. We kept our fingers crossed this year because many people will have gone to morning service in their own church and felt that that was sufficient, a dilemma we have to face every 4 or five years. Our collection at the service on behalf of Action for Children amassed more than £160 for which we give many thanks. Our thanks also to those who took part in the service, whether in its preparation, in catering and just as important, in coming to share with us.

The surplus made from the Christmas meal we shared on 10th December brought in another £85 or so. This meal was much enjoyed and St Bridget's were able to share with us too, which was very nice. And we have in recent years, stopped sending Christmas cards to each other but instead sign one large card and make a donation in lieu, in aid of All we Can, which this year produced £100 to finance a domestic water scheme in Africa.

People are so very generous, thank you to those who who have contributed, not only from us but even more, from those who have received the benefits in different parts of the world.

The remaining Christmassy event was the Carol and Coffee morning held a week before Christmas and which Rose and Anne present for us. A good old sing song heralded Christmas week and got us off to a great start. So finally thanks you to everyone who has contributed to the Christmas season in our church in any way whatsoever, and this includes Rose's Steve who worked hard erecting and then dismantling the Christmas tree that lit up the outside of our church for the month. The tree was much appreciated by all, whether member of the church or simply one of those passing by.

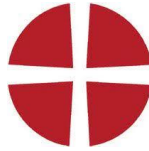
We hope that your churches too had a happy and hopeful Christmas season.

January started with the annual Covenant Service led by Steve. It was good to be joined by members from East Brent and Brent Knoll, so Happy New Year to you all.

January also highlights the birth of the Scottish poet Rabbin Burns and a few of us shared an early Haggis evening with 60 more at Burnham Church. Again a lot of work went into the event so thanks to Liz and Barbara and their team for putting on the event (and to the comic artist who introduced the evening and kept the ball rolling, much to the appreciation of those who were on the same table as we were). The haggis was marched into the event accompanied by appropriate music and addressed in the words of Burns' poem, by Jim McK. A very happy evening.

Now it is February and that tantalising glimpse of Spring is welcomed by ever longer daylight periods; by the slow emergence of snowdrops and crocuses and the like; and by Pancake Day. So take heart for the future, from all of us at Brean.

Harvey Allen



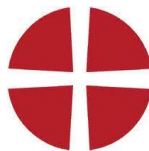
**Brent Methodist Church
Brent Knoll**

We began our New Year by joining with Brean and East Brent Churches for our Methodist Covenant service. And It was a lovely start to 2024 to share this special service. We're looking forward joining with them again on 18th February at East Brent.

We are looking to open our building more and explore ways in which to make it of more use to the village. At the moment, the bell ringing group meet each Saturday and the ladies from the former WI group meet monthly. We also want to hold more coffee mornings for fellowship and to raise funds for both our church and for other good causes. Watch this space! Our first coffee morning of the year will be in the Spring on Saturday 27th April at 10.30am.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll, we wish you all every best blessing as we continue to hold our churches, our ministers and our Circuit in our prayers. God bless.

Rosemary Krull



**Brent Methodist Church
East Brent**

Our Church was once again decorated with candles and greenery for the Christmas Services. The local school children decorated the huge Christmas tree with decorations that they had made themselves. More people attended our Carol service this year, even some from the village. It was such a happy enjoyable service, singing the well known

carols by candlelight. The coffee and mince pies were also enjoyed after the service. Many thanks to John Trebble for conducting our short Christmas morning service which was also well attended.

Joining together with the Link Churches for our Covenant Service enabled us to hold it on the first Sunday in January, which doesn't happen very often, it's good to meet up with our friends from other Churches for the link services, but it's a pity more from the link don't attend.

We were especially pleased to welcome back two of our congregation who have not been well.

Jill Legg

Here is a piece Rosemary wrote for the district Eco-Magazine

SILVER ECO AWARD FOR EAST BRENT METHODIST CHURCH

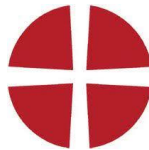
When our Senior Circuit Steward (also Eco Champion) started talking about awards for being an Eco Church we thought this was somewhat far-fetched. Then we heard of a couple of churches in our Circuit had indeed reached a bronze award, so a challenge arose. If they can do it, then so can we! We already had solar panels which had been installed several years ago so surely this would give us a head start?

The number of questions that appear on the application form were somewhat daunting and had to be referred to several different members of our congregation, for instance the Property Steward who has an immense and intimate knowledge of our buildings. He could answer the questions as to whether the roof was insulated etc. Our church building has been in situ since 1871. The church still has the remnants of a stable at the back where the preacher could leave his horse during a service. The adjacent prefab hall was constructed in 1964. This means that we are very limited as to what can be done to the buildings to make them more eco-friendly. We have installed a small bike rack, a bug hotel on the exterior of the hall and left a pile of

bricks and logs in our small garden area and we do install LED lights where we can when the existing bulbs fail.

We discussed other questions over coffee after our church services in particular the more personal ones as to whether individual members invest their funds ethically and whether we could support an eco-charity with our Christmas collections this year. The latter is easily done and the literature or website of the Methodist relief & development organisation "All We Can" gives numerous suggestions. It was surprising how many changes could easily be made to earn a few more points i.e. eco-friendly cleaning products, sustainably sourced/Fairtrade tea & coffee, toilet paper, recyclable cups & cutlery. After several attempts at the online questionnaire, we were ready to submit our application for a bronze award.

We would have been more than happy with a bronze award, but we were amazed to jump straight to a silver! We would encourage other churches to have a look at this scheme as they may be surprised how achievable it is!



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church
Burnham**

<http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk/>

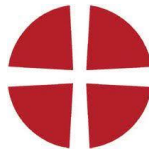
It seems a very long time since our Christmas celebrations. It was lovely to see so many people at each of the services. It was nice to see so many people at the Christmas Eve Midnight service, especially those who joined us from other churches.

Our church is always busy these days. We have a knit and natter group on Wednesday afternoons, a mother and toddler group on Friday morning, a coffee morning on Saturdays, the Waffle hub Mondays to

Fridays as well as groups that hire the hall. We even have a special meal every couple of months. They are always a great success. The one last month had sixty plus people there. A good time was had by all.

At the moment we have several members of the congregation who are either waiting to go into hospital for an operation or have been in hospital or are very unwell. We wish them well and remember them in our prayers.

Marian Foster on behalf of the stewards.



Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church West Huntspill

The Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday afternoons at 2.00pm. on the 6th and 20th of February. If you know of anyone in need of Prayer, please let Mrs. Christine Thomas know.



Coffee and Chat Friday the 23rd February 10.30am – 12 Noon. Please come and join us, we love to meet up with our friends from the Link Churches. At our January Coffee morning we presented a cheque for £652.00 To Karen from Parkinson's UK. Which was raised through our coffee mornings last year, thank you to all who contributed.

Babes, Tots and Carers. Wednesdays at 1.30pm till 3.00pm, term time only. Contact Carol Hester 01278 780730 for full details.

Old fashioned Sundays

by Geoff Tullett (From "Restless Seas" and Other Rhymes)

Whatever happened to old fashioned Sundays

Which once were the week's day of rest?
Today they're no different from all of the week,
No longer a day that's been blest.

Six days should we labour and do all our work,
The seventh should be for a break;
But now we go shopping, pubs open all day;
That surely must be a mistake.

They don't have the atmosphere that we once knew,
An aura of peace filled the air;
You could sense it was different but now it's the same;
And nobody much seems to care.

Janet J. & Kay

PLUS +++
POEMS, PRAYERS,
and OTHER MESSAGES

QUIZ NIGHT

St Marys Church Room, Berrow

Saturday 10th February at 7pm

Teams of 6. £5 per person.

Bring your own snacks and/or drinks.

Tea and coffee provided in the interval.

Contact Della on 01278789023 or 07759899334 to book your table.



WORSHIP WORKS

With *Roger Jones*

The day is designed for
all who love praising Jesus.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Burnham-on-Sea Methodist Church, College Street,
Burnham -on-Sea TA8 1AS

**Saturday 23 March 2023
10am-4.30pm**

Cost £5

To book please telephone Janet Widdess:
01278 229014

Uphill Quiet Day

Just a reminder of the RETREAT Centre Programme for the next few weeks and Lent.

1st FEBRUARY – QUIET MORNING ... To be led by Rev Pam Pembro on the theme of "Candlemass"

15th FEBRUARY – QUIET DAY (LENT) Rev Tim Erridge - As we start Lent, Tim will be leading us on the theme-

"Seeking Peace for the World - turning to God in our hearts"

Please publicise this as widely as you can and please let me know (01934633311 s.j.marr@btinternet.com) if you wish to book a place

7th MARCH – QUIET MORNING ... To be led by Mrs Janice Barrett

28TH MARCH – QUIET MORNING ... Maundy Thursday & HC... To be led by the Rev Judith Lincoln

Many thanks for your support.

Every blessing Steve Marr

The poem chosen by Judy Allen this month is by Alfred Lord Tennyson

The Snowdrop
Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid!
Ever as of old time,
Solitary firstling,
Coming in the cold time,
Prophet of the gay time,
Prophet of the May time,
Prophet of the roses,
Many, many welcomes,
February fair-maid!

The Link Fellowship

Since I last wrote the Link Fellowship has enjoyed two meetings. The first in December was when we gathered at lunchtime to share a buffet meal that Christine Thomas had organised by asking people to sign up to a superb assortment of items, both savoury and sweet. This was followed by people sharing seasonal readings and choosing carols to sing. We were saddened that Evelyn Tucker was unable to attend due to illness, but were delighted when Rev. Steve Bennet came in time for this part of our gathering; and was pleased to provide an accompaniment for the carols. Meeting at this time meant we were able to be away to our homes before the day got too dark.

The January meeting tested our brain power and lateral thinking. Gill Poulter provided a fun but challenging afternoon with a variety of puzzles created quite some time back by a family member. She treasures them but was so glad that they could be appreciated by others. One set involved a set of beautifully drawn illustrations from which we had to work out what town was indicated.

We meet again on Tuesday February 13th which happens to be Strove Tuesday. Pancakes will be on the menu for refreshments, and we shall be looking at what people have found to share – either about Shrove Tuesday, or favourite egg recipes or even what might be given up or taken up for Lent. As usual our meeting will be at East Brent Hall at 2.30 p.m. and all are welcome.

Joyce Pipet.

'Black Lives Matter as an Expression of Black Theology'

Led by Professor Anthony Reddie

10am-4pm, Wednesday 20 March 2024

The Ammerdown Centre, near Bath/Radstock/Frome

Don't miss this amazing opportunity to meet Professor Reddie as he leads a participative, inclusive and humorous conference/workshop at Ammerdown. Anthony is internationally recognised as one of the top academics in the field of racial justice. He is a Methodist theologian and Oxford University professor.

The day-long event includes morning coffee, a two-course lunch and afternoon tea. Only £40 per person. Please book online at: <https://www.ammerdown.org/WhatsOn/1139-/Black-Lives-Matter-as-an-Expression-of-Black-Theology> or contact Ammerdown (quoting "Anthony Reddie conference, March 2024") Email: admin@ammerdown.org Phone: 01761 433709.

Please note the deadline for the March Link Plus is 26th February

DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
Weekly		
Wed 10am	Zoom*	Link Bible Study
Thurs 11am	Zoom*	Link Coffee Morning
Tue/Wed & Thurs 9.00am – 5.00pm	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Café and associated activities.
		*Contact Rev Steve for zoom links
February		
5 th 7.00pm	Rudge House	Sabbatical Group Meeting
7 th 7.00pm	Zoom	Circuit Safeguarding Meeting
10 th 7.00pm	St Mary's	Quiz Night
13 th 6.00pm	Burnham	Pancakes & Beetle Drive
28 th 7.30pm	Burnham	Local Preacher's Meeting
March		
4 th 7.00pm	Burnham	Quiz Night
6 th 7.30pm	St Andrew's	Circuit Meeting
23 rd 10-4.30	Burnham	Worship Workshop (Roger Jones)
28 th 7.00pm	West Huntspill	Maundy Thursday Service
29 th 10.00am	Burnham	Good Friday Service
31 st 6.00am	Brean Down	Easter Sunrise Service