
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

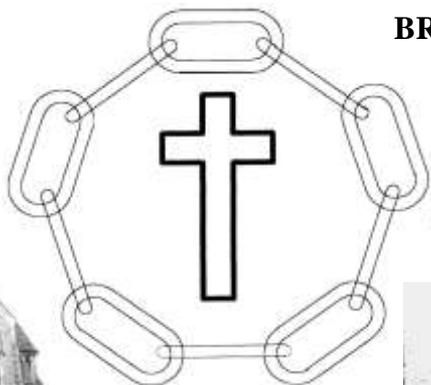
July - August 2007 Volume 42. No. 6.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



BURNHAM ON SEA



EAST BRENT



WEST HUNTSPILL

Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

If you've been watching BBC2 you may have noticed a change in the daily schedule. No "Ready, Steady, Cook". Just Tennis. So it must mean Strawberries and Cream, eyes glued to the box and Wimbledon.

Well speaking of tennis, the other evening I had a telephone call from my mother who after all the normal pleasantries posed the usual question. "When are you coming for a visit?" 15 Love. Once we've agreed on a suitable time the question then comes. "So how long can you stay?" 30 Love. No problem. Bring the dog. 40 Love. Then Game Set and Match. Mum goes on to say "and while you're here you can ..."

Good excuse for Retail Therapy.

There are times when we all need to be prompted in a certain direction. When the Holy Spirit came He is described as being a "rushing wind." Not a blizzard with no purpose. But He came with the direct act of God. In the Old Testament the "still small voice" came after the earthquake, wind and fire.

To stop, give time and listen to God. The first thing we have to do is stop. Sometimes we can all be so busy that our lives become so full. The outcome can seem to be purposeful in itself. What do we do when we need to charge our spiritual batteries?

Talk about being obvious but if time allows and you manage to get away on holiday can I suggest, take your Bible study notes with you and if you've missed reading your bible just read St. Mark's Gospel. It won't take too long. Trust me it's the shortest. You might even surprise yourself.

Have a good summer.

Every Blessing

Stephen

CALENDER

JUNE

- Sat. 23rd 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.
 Sat. 30th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.

JULY

- Sun. 1st am. **Traidcraft Stall in the Hall**
 Thur.5th 2.30pm. Sponsored Knit-in for Arthritis Research in the Hall.
 Fri. 6th **POSTPONED** Concert by the Choir in aid of General Church Funds
 Sat. 7th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - by Monday Group.
 Wed. 11th 10.00am. LINK Communion at Brean
 Thurs. 12th 3.00pm on Afternoon Tea at Dorothy & Cedric's
 Sat 14th 10.00 -12.05 **SCF** Coffee Morning and Stalls. Please support this last effort.
 Sat. 21st 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.
 Sat. 21st **NCH** Street collection in Weston s Mare.
 Sun. 22nd 6.30pm. **Circuit "Wesley Celebration" at Victoria.**
 Sat. 28th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.

AUGUST

- Wed. 1st 3.00 -5.00 Circuit Women's Network Tea party at Locking Castle.
 Thur 2nd 10.00 – 12.00 Coffee Morning at Joy & Tony Bishop's Naish Road In aid of R D Fund.
 Sat. 4th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund -
 Sat. 4th 10.30am Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll Methodist Church.
 Sun. 5th am. **Traidcraft Stall in the Hall.**
 Wed. 8th 10.00am. LINK Communion at West Huntspill.
 2.00pm. Brean Churches Fete at St Bridget's.
 Sat.11th 10.30am Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll Methodist Church.
 Sat. 18th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.
 Sat. 18th 10.30am Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll Methodist Church.
 Sun. 19th **LAST Day for items for the September LINK.**
 Wed. 22nd 10.00 - 12.00 Stanley & Joyce "Coffee & Cake" at 12 St Michael's
 & 6.00 – 8.00 Road in aid of R D Fund
 Sat. 25th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.
 Sat. 25th 10.30am Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll Methodist Church.

SEPTEMBER

- Sat 1st 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund -
 Sun. 2nd am. **Traidcraft Stall in the Hall.**
 Sun. 2nd 4.00pm. **Circuit** Tea and Celebration Service 6.00pm at Victoria Women's Network.



Funerals

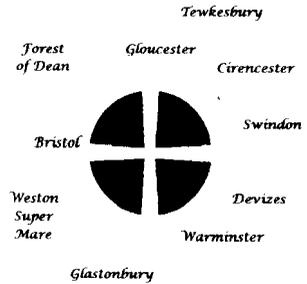
Mrs. Winifred Blight June 13th at Burnham

Mr. Len Mitchelmore June 21st at Burnham.



RESHAPING for MISSION'

A message from the
District Chairman,
Ward Jones



You may know or have heard of plans to redraw the boundaries of our Circuits. This leaflet is intended to explain what is happening and why and also to illustrate what might be possible in the intended larger configurations.

Background

In February 2006 the Methodist Council encouraged Circuits (the word 'Circuit' is also used in this document to cover our United Areas) to review the use of their resources (people, property and finance) and also their boundaries (and consider possible new alignments). At the Methodist Conference in July more formal proposals will be introduced to take the process forward.

This challenge was shared with the Representative Session of our District Synod last autumn. Since then all our 22 Circuit Leadership Teams have begun to explore the challenge and respond to it and 12 of out of 22 Circuits are now actively pursuing new relationships, with the intention of being in a planned new configuration by September 2008.

In April, the Representative Synod asked all Circuits to work towards new configurations by September 2009 at the latest. It also pledged resources to help this process (e.g. financial resources from the District Advance Fund; leadership training for new Leadership Teams; and the availability of our Training and Development Officer to explore new ways of working). The title *Reshaping for Mission* was given to this activity.

It is important to realise that early on, as the larger Circuits come into being, the delivery of ministry and mission will probably be focused within the areas

covered by the current Circuits. So, at local church level change will not be so obvious (e.g. Circuit Plans may be made separately at first). As time goes on, then more and more will be organised corporately. The degree of integration achieved early on will vary from Circuit to Circuit. At the very least there will be a unified budget, Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting.

Why are we addressing *Reshaping for Mission* now?

Because our Circuits face a number of challenges which demand attention and action. For example challenge ...

- **... from within the Circuit**

e.g. maintaining a particular number of paid ministers (*“Shall we drop a minister next time round?”*); providing volunteers to fill a number of roles within the life of the Circuit

- **... arising from the needs of the Connexion**

e.g. Our structures are still shaped as they were when Methodist membership was 2 or 3 times what it is in 2007. This creates significant pressure nationally, so that when we come to stationing for example, Conference need to provide some 600+ Superintendents from a reducing pool of suitably experienced ministers.

- **...arising from the world in which we seek to mission.**

The world of 2007 is a very different one to what it was even five years ago. Current surveys tell us that some 60% of the British population are beyond the reach of the churches. And yet many within this group ARE interested in the spiritual dimension of Life. Our traditional ways of working cannot touch such people.

- **... by an increasing number of people who are anxious to deliver ‘Fresh Expressions’ of what it is to be Church today.**

Among this group are more and more ministers who have particular gifts which they feel are being frustrated by demands to fulfil a traditional and often ‘inward-looking’ ministerial role.

ALL OF THIS SAYS WE CANNOT GO ON AS WE ARE.

Within Methodism, we’ve been tinkering with our structures for over 50 years. Something more radical is required, unless we are to quietly fade away (which is where the statistics indicate we are heading). Remaining as we are is not an option. There is a need to act now.

Reshaping for Mission offers a unique opportunity

It is intended to encourage us to take stock of how we currently work: offering a unique opportunity to refocus on our resources and consider how we might find new and creative ways of using them to be more effective in mission; to produce fewer circuits which are also ‘Fresh Expressions’ of what it is to be a Circuit.

Thought and planning will need to be given to fresh ways of working, e.g. how will we use local preachers (hopefully allowing them to remain very local, if they wish, or to lead worship across a wider area)? What will be the best way to develop our Circuit identity? When, where and how will we conduct our Circuit business? What is it essential that we consider as a Circuit and what can be left to local churches? How can we use new technology to enable effective communication across the Circuit?

Why focus on the Circuit?

Because it’s prime reason for existence is to enable individual churches in their mission. This is expressed in our Standing Orders,

The Circuit is the primary unit in which Local Churches express and experience their interconnexion in the Body of Christ, for purposes of mission, mutual encouragement and help

..... The purposes of the Circuit include the effective deployment of the resources of ministry, which include people, property and finance, as they relate to the Methodist churches in the Circuit, to churches of other denominations and to participation in the life of the communities served by the Circuit

What might a ‘Fresh Expression of Circuit look like?

It will require new ways of working. The driving force must be the encouragement and enabling of effective mission. Here are some possible ways for doing things differently:

i. Leadership: Perhaps a team of superintendents who share responsibilities, with one as lead super, or the appointment of a superintendent who has pastoral oversight of the whole Circuit, without responsibility for a particular church – who has the time, space and availability to relate across the whole of the Circuit.

ii. Ministry: Every congregation having a lay person (affirmed by the Circuit) who is the focal person for them and the first point of contact (for those who remember the Revd Nigel Collinson's presidential theme of 'a pastor for every church' – this is an attempt to put that model into practice). This would allow presbyters, deacons and lay workers to carry a responsibility for named churches, but also be released to offer their particular gifts and talents more creatively across the Circuit and in the wider community.

Some of the possible benefits from larger Circuits

- A more focused relationship with diocesan and/or local authority boundaries – enabling a greater clarity as to who can 'speak' for Methodism in the locality
- Across the Circuit, fewer people with special skills will be needed e.g. to look after such matters as finance, safeguarding, property, or to serve as Circuit Stewards. A larger pool of potential post holders will be available for each task.
- More flexibility in the use of our resources
- Larger Circuit Advance funds which will make possible more creative and more substantial new initiatives

Some of the challenges in creating larger Circuits

- Getting used to different ways of working e.g. how we use our ministers and Local Preachers
- Accepting a lay leader in the local church
- A feeling of being more remote from 'the Circuit'
- A sensitivity to carbon-footprint implications

I hope you will catch the spirit of *Reshaping for Mission* and commit yourself to engaging positively with the challenge it offers.

Ward Jones

BREAN CHURCHES

Invite you to our

FETE

At

St Bridget's Church

Brean

on

Wednesday 8th August

at

2.00pm.

White Elephant, Cake Stall,

Tombola, Craft stall,

Games, Fun, tea and cakes,

etc...etc...

Afternoon Tea
At Dorothy and Cedric's
6 Brightstowe Road
Thursday 12th July
3.00pm onwards
Teas, Cakes, Raffle and Bric-a-Brac
Everyone Welcome.
In aid of the Redevelopment Fund.

COFFEE MORNING
10.00 – 12.00
Thursday 2nd August
at the Home of Joy and Tony
11 Naish Road
Everyone Welcome
In aid of the Redevelopment Fund.

Wednesday, August 22nd.
Stanley & Joyce Pipet invite everyone to
"Coffee & Cake"
at 12, St. Michaels Road,
Burnham on Sea.
10.00am to 12.00 noon
& 6.00pm to 8.00pm.
In aid of Burnham Methodist Church
Redevelopment Fund.

Sabbatical Report

It's just a month since my return from Sabbatical. I feel and hope you may agree that I look both refreshed and renewed.

My sabbatical began mid-February which at the time of writing these notes seems a long way away. My initial plan was to spend my first week on a walking holiday in Keswick. Things didn't quite go according to plan because the accommodation was double booked. It happened to be Half Term. This extra time made sure I had in reason everything at home in order and packed away.

The Lake District was as ever beautiful and the scenery spectacular but wet. The weather didn't stop the walking or the enjoyment. The dog needed a bath every time we went out. Thankfully she's only small.

Spending a week with long time friends gave me the chance to talk things through and to unwind.

Before the Sabbatical started I had already begun walking the dog and going to the Gym. So in earnest I go to the Gym three times a week but at the moment it's down to two. At the Gym I spend time with a cardiac workout, again walking on a treadmill. Normally walking one and half miles speeding up as I go along with a five minute break and then repeat.

This came in useful because I had a call from Oxford to go in for an angioplasty. The plan was to change the stents I have in my heart.

While I was on the table the plan changed because this would have postponed the transplant for a year. Bad idea.

So the first part of the sabbatical was to improve my health and stamina. The second was to involve other forms of worship. After being a Methodist for so long I felt the need to stretch my legs and look at both old and new forms of worship. This I found exciting but at first rather draining. At first, something would be said during a service and I would automatically go into work mode. By the end of the service my sugar had dropped, I needed a bottle of lucazade. Panic over, but I had to learn how to switch off during a service (only for medical reasons I might add) but over the weeks things improved and now I can cope within a service.

One of the new areas of prayer which I found interesting was "Soaking". Being together in a room with the sole purpose of individual prayer and fellowship with God. A time for contemplation, prayer, study and quiet was set aside and each session was led/guided by a companion whose role was to be available to pray with and support the group. It simply was amazing.

Other things to do. Reading is the main component to any sabbatical. I had the opportunity to read and study the minor prophets. The last twelve books of the Old Testament. I studied Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Habakkuk and Zephaniah.

Music, I had opportunity to spend time on two retreats to sit and play my guitar and begin again to write some music. The aim was to help the blood circulation to my left hand and improve my grip, also to rediscover some music ability.

I spent time visiting family and became a godfather to my nephew Ethan who is two. Being busy every Sunday you're never asked or never get involved on such occasions.

While at home I managed a visit to the Genesis Project which is formed by a group of Christians from my home village. They have formed a company to help provide local amenities but their sole ethos is Christian. It began with a small sports centre which has grown in size and facilities and they now run a local doctors surgery. In principle they are taking the Church out and meeting local needs.

I am very grateful for the opportunity of spending a sabbatical in such a way. Practically I just couldn't travel the world because of the transplant, which is still on the cards. But I feel better prepared for ministry and whatever life issues come my way. And thanks for your many prayers which help me daily.

Stephen



WOMEN'S NETWORK 20th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the coming together of Women's Work and Women's Fellowship to form Women's Network. This coming together followed detailed discussions and consultation with over 10,000 women in Methodist churches throughout the Connexion. (Women's Network is not something you have to join but something that all women in the church can access if they wish). Both Women's Work and Women's Fellowship had been involved in the same sort of activities and projects and it was considered sensible to join together to avoid duplication and make best use of resources.

So, on **SUNDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER** , there will be a Circuit Tea and Celebration Service at Victoria Methodist Church. Tea will be at **4.00p.m.** with the service starting **at 6.00p.m.** Sandra Lewer, Connexional President of Women's Network will be the speaker and members of churches around the circuit will be taking part.

This is **NOT** a ladies only service – it is for **EVERYONE** of **ALL** the churches throughout the Circuit.

PLEASE come and support this very special event in church life, learn a little more about what Women's Network has done and is doing, and enjoy meeting others across the Circuit.

If you have any queries, please contact Di Smart, Circuit Women's Network Secretary.

Thank you.

Di Smart



Circuit Women's Network

Tea party at Locking Castle on Wednesday, 1st August from 3 - 5 p.m. in aid of the Babe Big Appeal. There will also be an opportunity to buy gifts in aid of the Babe Big Appeal.

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Our last meeting of the year was the AGM. Minutes were circulated and accepted after which the leaders took us through a résumé of the year's programme.

All the officers and the committee were thanked and two more people were added to the existing two leaders. The existing leaders Mrs C Dewfall and Mrs. C. Thomas were joined by Miss E. Goundry and Mrs. J. Pipet.

These will now prepare for next year's programme. We are still financially viable and were able to make a contribution to East Brent Church for the use of the hall and also £50 was to be sent to the Babe Appeal.

Our meeting concluded with the celebration of Holy Communion taken by Rev. Margaret Trapp. We are indebted to Margaret for taking our AGM and the Communion.

To all members have a good holiday and we will see you in September.



Save the children fund

Save the children have been active in Burnham for many years and since 1998 we have held a Coffee Morning in our Methodist Hall on the 2nd Saturday of every month. They have been happy and worth while occasions raising funds and drawing attention to the suffering of children world-wide needing our help and our prayers

In our last financial year we sent £1480 to our headquarters, mostly results of our coffee mornings. In addition to this Mrs Sheila Williams sent a further £204.00 after her sponsored Wessex Walk. This she has done year after year and we are so grateful to her and to all who have sponsored her.

Regretfully we now find it necessary to close our branch and so our Coffee Morning on July 14th will be our final effort.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the church for the use of the hall and all those who have supported us so generously year by year. Please could you make a special effort to be with us on July 14th.

Muriel Hyde

It's a small world!

The following is an email that I received via the church website.

Hello there,

I was perusing the burnham-on-sea.com website as my ancestors came from this area and I am a family historian. I happened to click on the link regarding the churches in the area and as I knew they were Methodists I went to your website. Imagine my delight when I was able to read about my ancestors there. Richard Hodges senior was my great great great grandfather and Albert Hodges (Richard's son) was my great great grandfather. His son Gabriel emigrated to New Zealand in 1870.

After reading the 'History of the Church' page, I wondered if there was any other reference to the Hodges family in the booklet that this information was extracted from. Are the booklets still available? How can I purchase one?

Thanking you in anticipation from a very excited,

Jenny Hodges Dunedin New Zealand

I have subsequently emailed a copy of the 1979 Church Centenary booklet to Jenny. For anyone who is interested, the text relating to Jenny's ancestors is reproduced below.

Before 1860 the Wesleyan Methodists met in a room in College Street that was also used as a drapery and grocery business. This followed an agreement between Richard Hodges, grocer and draper and Richard Hodges, Senior, Joseph Board, Henry Board, Gilbert Frost, James Lovibond, J.M. and James Leaker to let the room for an annual rental of £3. 0s. 0d for five years. According to a document of 1863 Richard Hodges occupied a house on the south side of College Street and his father owned a house and coal yard in Berrow Road.

The foundation stone of the first Methodist Chapel in Burnham was laid on July 12th 1859, following the purchase by eleven trustees, of a plot of land on the corner of High Street and Adam Street on June 27th 1859 from George Reed.

It was built at a cost of £300 by Albert Hodges, brother of Richard and opened on January 17th 1860 by Rev. J. Rattenbury. The stained glass window borders, which cost £1. 4s. 0d were still visible until 1968. This 'New Chapel' was in use for 19 years and housed the Sunday School until 1906. In 1862 a harmonium was bought for £12 and in the same year bills of one shilling each were paid to remove the snow and mow the chapel yard.

Webmaster

Nigel May

www.methodistchurchburnhamonseal.org.uk

BURNHAM.

Greetings to all readers of the 'Link' from Burnham-on-Sea.

"Jesus wants me for a sunbeam" was probably one of the earliest choruses we learned at Sunday School, but how many of us ever achieve "Sunbeam Status?" One person who did was our own Len Mitchelmore who died on the 13th June.

Len will be lovingly remembered by us for the many gifts he shared within our fellowship, but especially for the exuberant joy he gave when playing the organ, and for his beaming smile, given in welcome to all. Len was truly our own 'sunbeam' - always radiating the love and warmth of our Lord. We thank God for the life and witness of Len.

This past month we have celebrated our 128th Church Anniversary with an anniversary tea and services led by our Minister Rev. Stephen. We also welcomed Tony Jasper and his Jasperian Theatre Company who performed "Wesley 1707" a most thought provoking drama exploring the life of Chas. Wesley in his tri-centenary year.

Several of our congregation have shown an interest in becoming Church Members and are meeting regularly to discover what being a church member is all about. We are thrilled about this and offer them all our prayerful support- looking forward to the day they become confirmed members.

We continue to pray for the sick and those with special needs. As we go into the Summer months, we hope all friends within the Link will find some time for recreation- time to relax, to enjoy the blessings of this Season, and time to draw nearer to God, ready for all the challenges that lie ahead!

God Bless. - June. for the Stewards.



Arthritis Research

Our Annual sponsored knit in will be held on Thursday July the 5th at 2.30pm. in the Burnham Church Hall

We have a happy hour of knit and chat and generally raise about £300 for which the Arthritis Research Council are most appreciative. Will knitters please bring some double knitting wool and number 9 (3^{3/4}) needles. I have plenty of sponsor forms.

Muriel Hyde.



Thursday Fellowship

Members of the Thursday Fellowship have learned with regret of the passing of Len Mitchelmore. Len was a chairman of the group and will be greatly missed

The AGM of the Fellowship was held on 17th May. This was chaired by Rev. Joyce Plumb.

The programme for the coming year is being finalised, the first meeting will be a Dedication and Communion on 20th September



THANKS

Many Thanks to all who visited or sent cards following my recent accident, and for the lovely flowers which I so much enjoyed. I hope soon to be back amongst you all.

Sincere good wishes from.

Norma Waters.



I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and the letters I have received. It does really help when you now so many people are praying for you. I am with you in spirit on Sunday mornings. God Bless.

Ann Martin.

Smile

Harvest is a time when we give thanksgiving to God for all he has given to us. Christmas is a time when we give to others in celebration of the birth of God's son, Jesus.

The Sunday Club will again this year be sending shoeboxes of gifts & toiletries to the children of Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. The boxes need to be completed by the end of October, ready for transporting in early November

If anyone would like to give items for the boxes, please hand to one of the Sunday Club staff.

Items on list include: hair care (comb, brush, hair slides);

toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, flannel, soap);

writing materials (notebooks, pads, drawing & painting books, pens, pencils, sharpener & eraser, crayons, paints & brushes, ruler, maths set);

clothing (hat, scarf, gloves, mittens, balaclava);

small toys (dolls, cars, skipping ropes, balls, soft cuddly toys);

sweets (small bags, well in date, no chocolate)

NO second-hand or used items, NO English reading books, NO glass (breakables, NO guns or war items, NO battery operated items, NO medicine

Items MUST NOT be individually wrapped (Customs)

Items for boy or girl. Age ranges 2 - 5 yrs, 6 - 9 yrs, 10 -16 yrs.

If anyone would like to fill a box themselves, there are some leaflets giving instructions on how to fill a box. Only items on the list are acceptable, as they have to pass through customs of several countries.

It costs £2 to transport each box, so any donations will be welcome and can be given to any Steward or Sunday Club Staff.

Thank you for all your contributions.

BURNHAM ON SEA

REDEVELOPMENT FUND

MONEY RAISED IN MAY 2007 £1,057.14

TOTAL RAISED BY MEMBERS AS AT END MAY £85,328.63

Coffee Morning	55.25
Choir (Wesley Evening)	245.36
Anonymous	2.80
Odd Coins	11.00
Rainbow Fair	677.73
(Received since £40 making a total of Total £717.73)	
Gifts by Direct Debit	65.00

TOTAL RAISED (Including Bequests, Grants, Loans, Interest and Loans promised etc. **£114,449.69**)

FUND RAISING FUTURE EVENTS

- July 12th. Afternoon Tea at Cedric and Dorothy May's
- August 2nd. Coffee Morning at Joy and Tony Bishop's
- August 22nd Stanley & Joyce "Coffee & Cake" at 12 St Michael's
Road

More Summer Outside events would be welcomed - contact Joyce.

THANKS

It is an opportunity this month to Say "Thank you" to the groups that regularly share in the monthly Coffee Mornings. Your help is greatly appreciated and this year to date £824 has been raised with two months still to go!

Joyce Plumb



WEST HUNTSPELL

Thank you to all our entertainers and our audience who attended the evening of Light Entertainment on June 8th. Not only did we all have a good evening of friendship and fellowship, but as a result of your generosity we have been able to send a cheque of £100.00 to The Methodist Relief and Development Emergency Fund for the Dafur Appeal

On Sunday 10th June we celebrated the 156th Anniversary of the opening of the chapel. The morning service was taken by the Revd Malcolm Adams who was our Minister in 1996, when we removed the pews, and replaced the rotting floorboards, thus making the space inside the church a multipurpose area. It was good to see him again. Retirement and the Crewkerne air obviously suits him, he didn't look a day older! He introduced his address by quoting from " Oliver ", using the theme that we can always ask God for more. What a surprise we had when John our organist, played the Oliver theme tune as the last voluntary. He just happened to have the music with him! After the service we all enjoyed a very good lunch together at The Scarlet Pimpernel.

At the evening service we were very pleased to welcome the Circuit's most recently recognised Local Preacher, Mrs. Di Smart and some of our friends from Pawlett.

A memorable day.



EAST BRENT

I enjoy the television satirical programme "Have I got news for you". There is always plenty of news to discuss nationally but what if you don't have much news to share locally? The Superintendent in this quarter's plan states that the pressure to merge Circuits is quite irresistible but what are the benefits? Are we allowed to discuss these or are changes to be forced upon us? The Circuit Meeting arranged for 11th June was cancelled but we understand that a joint meeting was held with Gordano Circuit on 12th June. As we at East Brent did not know it was taking place, we are unable to report.

We are now in the period of "Ordinary Time". I am not quite sure what we mean by "Ordinary Time". No time is ordinary as we make our way through the calendar year. At this time we celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of Charles Wesley and the maxim "Keep Sunday Special" still applies. We have had an unusual month at East Brent. Some of our preachers have had a star after their name, which means that they require transport and this has been achieved but not without some difficulty. As far as the current plan goes, it has been rather like waiting for a bus and then two arrive at the same time.

It has also been a time for holidays and several of our members have either been on holiday or about to go but the important thing is, the Church is always there for all people and the fellowship continues. We were glad to see Stephen Hill back at East Brent last Sunday. We hope he feels refreshed after his Sabbatical and we look forward to hearing about it in due course. An added bonus was that we had some visitors with us at the service.

We understand that Tom Hadfield has not been too well and our thoughts and prayers are with him.

David Craig.



BRENT KNOLL

When I am asked to write this article the first thing I think of is the youth groups. The teenage club does not run throughout the spring/summer months, however, the Shell Group is doing well with five regular members who enjoy making paper boats to float, finger painting and other such activities. I have been asked when our next skating trip is planned, well hopefully in September. In May Brent Knoll and Milton joined forces to put on a circuit disco which was thoroughly enjoyed by young people from 6 to 16 years of age. In July we will spend a night camping at Brean with the young people who took part in our Bible Study, this will also include a visit to Street open air swimming pool and a walk up Glastonbury Tor. As usual, when I am in the middle of one of these activities, I shall wonder, yet again, why in the calm of my office I thought it was a good idea! The toddler group meets on Tuesday mornings with refreshment and chat for Mums and Tots alike.

With young people in mind I would like to ask that everyone offers a prayer for young people throughout the world who are in any way involved in war, whichever 'side' they may be on.

Sadly we learned of the death of Len Mitchelmore on June 13th. We offer our Sympathy to Len's family.

We are sending out our annual invitation to everyone in the link and beyond to come and join us for coffee and fellowship in August, on Saturday mornings at 10.30am - noon.

Congratulations go to Mary Frost on celebrating a very special birthday this month. We also give our very best wishes to Michael, Paula, Jack and newly christened Rebecca when they move to their new home.

Whilst thinking about an ending to this article an in flight speech by the pilot of a plane I was on yesterday sprang to mind. He gave us a very reassuring talk which ended with "goodbye" which was slightly disconcerting as we were 39,000 feet up in the air.

All the best

Sue Cox

BREAN

It's the middle of the summer already. Holidaymakers are with us again and will continue to be so for a while yet. We are very glad to see returning friends and new ones worshipping with us but how we wish that more would come as well. It makes such a difference especially to a smaller church when we see new faces. Lilian too is on holiday so that's why I am contributing this month's piece.

It is good to see Wal and Marjorie Godwin back worshipping with us after recent illness but we are sad that Daphne Price is ill in Frenchay Hospital. We wish her well for a full recovery.

We continue to join with St Bridget's in our monthly services and also in a monthly study/prayer group. On Wednesday August 8th from 2pm to 4pm the two churches are running a fete to raise funds. We hope that as many people from the Link as possible will come to support us.

A meeting was held at Yatton recently when we were invited to discuss the possibility of joining with Gordano Circuit (which extends from Portishead to Clevedon and Yatton). It is part of a move across the Bristol District (and even across the Country) to make bigger circuits in order, so it is claimed, to make more efficient use of resources and and give better focus to mission. We are in a difficult position in the Link and we might well ask whether it would be more appropriate to look to one of the existing Somerset Circuits either to the south or to the east. The problem is that there seems no ideal solution. I hope that members of the Link end of the Weston and Burnham Circuit will be given a full opportunity to discuss the proposals.

The next edition of this newsletter will be dated September so from all of us at Brean we hope that you all enjoy the rest of the summer and have super holidays where possible.

Harvey Allen

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