
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

July - August 2009 Volume 44. No. 6.



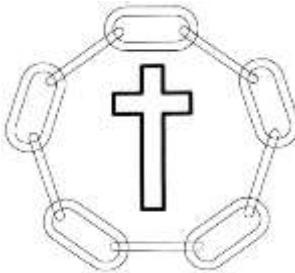
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

Of all the letters I have written for the Link magazine this understandably is the most difficult.

I do hope I don't need to be naming names as I try to put pen to paper to say quite officially "Thank you".

Five years ago some will remember when I first came back into ministry, as an individual, I had lost in some ways my identity but thankfully not my "Calling". Medically, at that time I was on the road to recovery even though since then we've had our ups and downs and other operations to contend with. Now, today I can truly say I feel a different person, stronger in my faith, my health and soon to be moving on and all of this made possible by your help and support.

I can thankfully say that "God has done and is doing a new thing" just to paraphrase the Psalmist. New things certainly happen and should continually happen within the Christian community. It is one of the identity markers which set us apart as being God's people

So we need to celebrate together who Christ is for us and to be the Christian community in this place who are able to speak out for him.

As my formal ministry comes to a close I have appreciated all of the support and prayers of the Link. I too will think of you all fondly and keep you in my prayers. I know for Andrew and Julie a warm welcome is waiting for them. Remember to build upon the strength of the Link and its fellowship together. Within each of your Church Council's keep focused but also find the time for humour and warmth towards each other. And that goes for worship too.

I do pray that God will bless you and continually build on the strengths of the Link and for Andrew's ministry.

Every Blessing,

Stephen.

As this LINK Magazine is being prepared for July – August. I would like to thank on behalf of the Stewards and Congregation, Stephen for his 5years of ministry here. Although he came on a part time basis and then has undergone further surgery we always have had his support.

He was quite thrilled to tell us of his forthcoming meeting with Betsan and now we are looking forward to August 1st and their Wedding in Burnham. As Stephen moves to be Superintendent in the Crosby Circuit of the Liverpool District, we wish him, Betsan and Chloe all the happiness on their new life together.

Dorothy.



CALENDAR

JULY

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat 4th | 10.00 - 12.00 | Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Choir – All Welcome |
| Sat 4th | 10.00 - 12.00 | Coffee Morning at West Huntspill Methodist Church in aid of the BARB - All Welcome |
| Sun. 5th | 5.00pm | Farewell Service for Stephen - Burnham |
| Sun. 5th | 6.00pm | Farewell Tea - Burnham |
| Sun. 5th | am | Traidcraft table in the Hall |
| Tue. 7th | 3.00pm | LINK Summer Garden Party at 'Thornberry' Church Rd Brean (next to Brean Methodist Church) |
| Thur. 9th | 2.30pm | Sponsored Knit-in in aid of Arthritis Research Burnham |
| Fri. 10th | 7.00pm | Cheese & Wine, Supper & Raffle at 5 Birch Lawn. |
| Sat. 11th | 10.00 - 12.00 | Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome |
| Sat. 18th | 10.00 - 12.00 | Coffee Morning in aid of RNLI - Burnham Methodist Hall |
| Thur 23rd | 10.00 - 12.00 | Trefoil Guild - Coffee Morning Burnham Hall - In aid of WaterAid Everyone Welcome |
| Sat. 25th | 10.00 - 12.00 | Coffee Morning in aid of RNLI - Burnham Methodist Hall |
| Wed 29th | 10.00 - 12.00 | Coffee Morning at the home of Joy & Tony 7 Naish Road |

AUGUST

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat 1st | 10.00 - 12.00 | Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Joyce & helpers |
| Sun. 2nd | am | Traidcraft table in the Hall |
| Wed. 5th | | Craft Morning at Locking Castle and Lunch followed by service at 2.00pm. |
| Sat. 8th | 10.00 - 12.00 | Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome |
| Sat. 8th | 10.00 - 12.00 | Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll Methodist Church |
| Sat. 15th | 10.00 - 12.00 | Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll Methodist Church |

Sat. 15th	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning in aid of RNLI - Burnham Methodist Hall
Sat. 22nd	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll Methodist Church
Sat. 22nd	10.00 - 12.00	Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome
Sun. 23rd		LAST Day for items for the September LINK
Sat. 29th	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll Methodist Church
Sat. 29th	10.00 - 12.00	Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome
SEPTEMBER		
Wed 2nd	7.30pm	Induction of Rev. Andrew Biggs & Rev. Sheila MaInally.
Sat 5th	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund – Wednesday Group
Sun. 6th	am	Traidcraft table in the Hall
Sat. 12th	10.00 - 12.00	Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome



THANK YOU.

Thank you, thank you. What a wonderful evening of entertainment the choir and friends gave us on Friday evening. What a lot of dedicated time for rehearsals and such a varied programme. Those who missed it missed a real treat. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Hilary Malpas.



A big “thank you” to the organizers, participants and helpers of the recent Flower Festival weekend.

Beautiful floral arrangements, highly entertaining concert, delicious teas and lunches with a warm and friendly atmosphere throughout.

Altogether a wonderful weekend despite the rain damage!

Sandra & Gerald Brown.



What a wonderful weekend we had at Burnham for our Flower festival. Starting on June 5th with our new Mayor Derek Cooper opening it, then we could go in to see all the wonderful flower arrangements. My special thanks to Daphne Hill who organised the flower arranging part of our Flower Festival. I'm sure she had many sleepless nights doing it. Also thanks to Tim and Bridget and the entire choir for all their hard work for the concert put on on Friday evening. Well done. Thanks also to Barbara Williams who organised the stewards rota over the three days. I must now thank all those who did such a great job on the catering side, but a special thanks to Ros who organised us all. On Sunday our Special services were taken by the Chairman of the Bristol Methodist District Rev. A. Ward Jones. We had a good tea in the afternoon with a very special cake made and iced by Dorothy, really lovely. I'm sure everyone who came enjoyed it in spite of the rain coming through on Sunday. Did it dampen our spirits or singing NO!

I am sure the Rev. Joyce Plumb was pleased with the result and sighed with relief when it was all over. My thanks to everyone especially those I have failed to mention.

Elsie Horsley.



Arthritis Research

Our annual Sponsored Knit-in will be held on Thursday July 9th at 2.30pm. We spend a happy hour Knitting and Chatting and the Arthritis Research Council are most appreciative of the result which generally amounts to £300.00 plus. Will knitters bring some double knitting wool and number 9 (3³/₄) needles. I have plenty of sponsor forms.

If you do not knit why not come along for a pleasant afternoon, and, of course, a cuppa, you will be most welcome.

Muriel Hyde.

COFFEE MORNING

By the Trefoil Guild

Thursday July 23rd

In aid of WaterAid

10.00 - 12.00

Burnham Methodist Hall.

Teas & Coffees Tombola, and Stalls

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 29th July

10.00 - 12.00

At 7 Naish Road, home of Joy & Tony.

Teas & Coffees Raffle and Bring & Buy

In aid of the Redevelopment Fund

Magic Lantern Show

Saturday Evening

October 10th 2009

6.30pm.

Burnham Methodist Church

Tickets £7.00

(£5.00 if you had tickets for February 7th)

Show & Supper

From

Mrs. Ros Anderson Tel. 01278 783652

Harry's Selection

**'HE SAVED OTHERS; HIMSELF HE CANNOT SAVE..
MATTHEW 27:42**

When the pastor introduced the visiting speaker, an elderly preacher walked to the pulpit and told this story: 'A father, his son, and his son's friend were sailing off the Pacific coast when a storm overturned their boat sweeping all of them into the ocean. Grabbing a rescue line, in a split second the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life-which boy to throw the other end to and which one to sacrifice. He knew his son had accepted Christ and his friend hadn't. Anguished, the father yelled, 'I love you son,' and threw the rope to his son's friend. By the time he'd pulled the boy back to the capsized boat his son had disappeared beneath the waves. His body was never recovered. The father knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus and couldn't bear the thought of his friend facing eternity without Christ.' At the end of the service a teenage boy approached the old man and said. That's a nice story, but what father in his right mind would sacrifice his son's life in

hopes that the other boy would become a Christian?' 'You've got the point,' the old preacher replied. 'It's not realistic. But I'm standing here today to tell you that story gives me a glimpse into what "it must have been like for God to sacrifice His only Son for us. You see. I was that father, and your pastor was my son's friend.'

The Pharisees who watched Christ die said, 'He saved others; himself he cannot save.' And they were right; He couldn't do both, so He chose to save you. Today will you accept His offer of salvation?



One blustery day in June, our family, holidaying in the Canadian Rockies, went to a tourist site that was billed as a "must see." The cold wind made me reluctant to go on until I saw a group of people returning from the scenic spot. "Is it worth it?" I asked. "Definitely!" was their response. That gave us the incentive to go on. When we finally reached the spot, its beauty rendered us virtually speechless. "Wow!" was all we could manage.

Paul reached that point as he wrote about the work of God in saving Jew and Gentile in the book of Romans. Three things about God "wowed" him.

First, God is all-wise (11:33). His perfect plan of salvation shows that He has far better solutions to the problems of life than we are capable of devising.

Second, God is all-knowing. His knowledge is infinite. He needs no counsellor (v.34) and nothing surprises Him!

Third, God is all-sufficient (v.35). No one can give to God what He has not first given to them. Nor can anyone ever repay Him for His goodness. We can say with Moses, "Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?" (Ex. 15:11 ESV). What a marvellous God we serve! C. P. Hia

*By God's grace I stand on tiptoe,
Viewing all His wonders grand,
Praising Him who freely gave me
Simple faith to understand! -Bosch*

In God's character and in His creation, we see His majesty.

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

The Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, May 26th. was chaired by Rev. Stephen Hill. The outgoing leader, Mrs Christine Thomas gave her report in which she outlined events during the year. She thanked the leaders and the tea hostesses and wished them well for the following year. Mrs Janet Purnell was chosen as the new leader. After the business had been completed, Stephen led a short Communion Service.

On Tuesday, July 7th. Mrs Judy Allen has invited members to Afternoon Tea at her home in Brean at 3.00p.m.

Our next session begins on September 8th. when as usual we shall welcome the ladies from Milton Ladies Fellowship. The Speaker will be Rev. Sheila MacInally.

Eileen Goundry



BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

It's that time of year again, our double issue of the Link heralds the start of the holiday season and all the visitors that will be visiting us again this year. We hope all will have a lovely time and return feel very refreshed.

Before we look to what is to come, let us turn for a second to go back a couple of weeks and to Burnham Church celebrating their 130th Anniversary coupled with a flower festival. What a lot of talent we have. The displays were breathtaking and made the church a very beautiful, peaceful place to be. I hope all who came were amazed.

The hall on the other hand was a hive of industry as Ros and her team provided Tea and Coffee with cake in the mornings, a lunch and then afternoon cream teas. Altogether the whole weekend was a huge success and we as a church raised £1,305. towards our redevelopment fund which was a welcome boost.

We hope that everyone who is going away on holiday will have a very happy holiday and all come home refreshed and ready to start again in September for another year.

God bless you all and for those of our area who are unwell either in mind or body we pray that God's healing Spirit will visit you and make you whole again.

With love

June on behalf of the Stewards.

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**BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT FUND**

The Flower Festival was a tremendous success. Well over 500 people visited which included the Choir Concert and Sunday Services. A variety of expressions of thanks, appreciation, and surprise ("how it has changed since my Wedding in 1974 ) were written in the Visitor's Book. Visitors came as far away as Cheltenham, Oxford, Birmingham and Wiltshire.

A great deal of hard work and preparation by our people went in and a spirit of joy and happiness prevailed throughout. We had a good start with the Mayor of Burnham and Highbridge opening the Festival. The choir excelled at the Concert and gave an evening much enjoyed by all present. The Revd. Ward Jones served us well on Sunday. Despite the storm at tea time it was a most successful weekend. The final total was £1,305. thank you everyone.

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The Church Council on June 10<sup>th</sup> received the statement from the projector Coordinator, Eric Nethercot and the Treasurer, Rev. Joyce Plumb, regarding the costs of the redevelopment. Details can be seen on the notice board in the Hall.

We now have to raise the final amount of £21,000 on this part of the project of which we have raised £2,500 to date.

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We shall continue to list the events due to take place and ask for your support.

July 10<sup>th</sup> Wine and Cheese Evening at the home of Eric and Elsie Horsley

July 29<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning at the home of Joy and Tony Bishop.

We need offers for Coffee Mornings/Evenings or any other event for Fund Raising in August.

Lunches will be served - Please watch the church Notices for date.

Joyce F. Plumb



### **Sunday Coffee**

I'd like to thank you all who have supported me by helping with the serving of tea and coffee after the Sunday morning Church service, and with the washing up etc. afterwards.

A big thank you to Len Lang who has kindly prepared the rota's for me during this time – as I am completely 'computer illiterate!'

Daphne Hill has kindly agreed to take over from me as from July 5<sup>th</sup>, and I know you will all support her as you have me,

I thought you would like to know how I used your kind donations for tea & coffee, I have enclosed the info as enclosed for the period up to July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you again,

Hilary (W)

|               |        |                                       |
|---------------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| April 2005    | 25.00  | Babe Appeal.                          |
| August 2005   | 50.00  | M.R.D.F. Niger Crisis Appeal.         |
| October 2005  | 35.00  | M.R.D.F. Earthquake Appeal.           |
| December 2005 | 14.77  | Coffee & mince pies for Carol service |
| April 2006    | 50.00  | M.R.D.F.                              |
| August 2006   | 50.00  | B.A.R.B.                              |
| October 2006  | 50.00  | Burnham Hospital.                     |
| December 2006 | 50.00  | Church Funds                          |
| February 2007 | 50.00  | Church Funds                          |
| May 207       | 50.00  | Church Funds                          |
| August 2007   | 50.00  | Weston Lupus Group                    |
| January 2008  | 100.00 | Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance       |

|            |        |                                   |
|------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| April 2008 | 50.00  | Sounds & Voices talking newspaper |
| July 2008  | 100.00 | St. Margaret Somerset Hospice     |
| March 2009 | 100.00 | Weston Hospice Care               |
| June 2009  | 75.00  | Eve Appeal.                       |
| Total      | 899.77 |                                   |



## Missions Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>

Missions Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup> at Burnham We are delighted to be welcoming Mr Robert Dungey from Mission Aviation Fellowship to take the service and tell us about the work of this organisation. The purpose of M.A.F. is to fly light aircraft in developing countries so that people in remote areas can get the help they need. Every three minutes an M.A.F. plane is taking off or landing somewhere in the world. Passengers contribute what they can towards the cost but the balance is made up of gifts from people who believe that others should have a better life spiritually and physically. We are looking forward to learning more about this work and invite you to join us.



## BREAN

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

It was the longest day of this year. The congregation were into the first verse of Love Divine when the preacher exited rapidly out of the front door. Was this some sort of midsummer madness? The second verse came and the third was well on its way. But just as they got into 'lost in wonder', the preacher returned brandishing the sermon he'd left at home!

Well you have to laugh! It's what makes the world go round.

The church is getting spruced up and there is an air of expectation already, for the wedding on the 4<sup>th</sup> July of Alison and Adrian, home for the event from USA. We wish them every blessing and hope that the weather is kind for the day.

We wish Stephen all the very best too, for his marriage in August and for his move to Lancashire in August.

A few of our members have suffered ailments in the past weeks but most are on the mend now.

There is a Garden Party on behalf of the Link Fellowship on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm at Thornberry. All are welcome. Park in the church car park next door.

Our condolences to Burnham over the flooding that took place during the Flower Festival weekend. The Festival otherwise sounds to have been a great success. Judy was pleased to have been able to do an arrangement (God is with us every step of the way) on Brean's behalf before we flew off to Krakow for a few days.

While we were there we visited Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps. It was a salutary reminder of how extremism can creep into a population without people realising the danger it presents. How many people in Germany even as late as 1930, I wonder, would have been appalled at the atrocities that would be committed in their names over the next 15 years? I dread to think how we too could so easily slide into a culture of intolerance to minorities and harden our hearts to the integrity and openness that we cherish so much. In these days of economic and political uncertainty we all have to be on our guard.

In spite of that have a great summer everyone.

Harvey Allen



## WEST HUNTSPILL

West Huntspill Methodist Church

Coffee Morning

Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> 2009

10 am to 12 Midday



Various Stalls  
In Aid of BARE

BURNHAM AREA RESCUE BOAT

## BRENT KNOLL

I am writing this during a week's holiday, staying in the middle of nowhere surrounded by fields, horses and cows outside our windows and sundry dogs and guinea fowl quite at home in our garden, so it is not easy to switch my mind back to the Link and our friends there.

First, many congratulations to Burnham Church for their very successful Anniversary celebrations, especially as, despite somewhat adverse, unforeseen problems, the show went on! Everything from the beautiful flower arrangements, the various events and the excellent catering bore witness to the determination, dedication and skill of a team of hard working people whose efforts were much appreciated.

Looking back to last month, our Spring Coffee morning was a successful, happy occasion with many people there both from the village and the other LINK Churches. The proceeds amounted to £316, which will be shared between M.R.D.F., the Children's Hospice and B.A.R.B. Our thanks to all who supported us.

As we come to the last few weeks of Stephen's ministry in our circuit, we extend to him, Betsan and Chloe our very best wishes for their future in the Crosby Circuit. Now we look forward to having Andrew and Julie with us and pray they will settle happily into this new very different period of their lives. Andrew will have the responsibility of four Churches. It is ours to support and nurture him as he sets out on his new career "with God's help we can"

Owing to an important event on August 1<sup>st</sup> our usual Saturday morning, Coffee morning's will be on the following four Saturdays. Please come and join us for a chatter and cuppa. We look forward to seeing you.

We send greetings and best wishes to all our friends in the LINK and to the other churches in the circuit as well.

Barbara Drew,

# EAST BRENT

It has been an interesting few weeks at East Brent. Although I missed the last family service, as, unfortunately, did most of the Brownies, I understand the sermon talked about using the fingers on your hand as a prayer book which made an interesting and thought provoking sermon.

Pentecost was followed by Trinity Sunday and we all appreciated Chris's analogy of the Trinity using water as the example. I won't spoil the story for you but we were told that had it been a family service or one with some children present, we would have had full visual effects. I think we felt as if we had missed out and I, for one, look forward to one day being able to enjoy the 'full version'!

Our own minister was with us last Sunday. Back to ordinary Sundays, he said. In fact it was a special Sunday for us because it was Stephen's last Sunday at East Brent. It was good to be able to share in Holy Communion with him on this occasion.

A lot of young people are involved with exams at this time of year and we wish them all every success. Most of the hard work will have been done by now and they are probably waiting anxiously for results. We hope those results will be the ones they want and if they are unlucky then they will be able to see past the disappointment to the alternatives which will surely be open to them.

Safe journeys if you are travelling and I hope everyone has the chance to enjoy the summer where ever you are.

Margaret Scott

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

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

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

**The Deadline for the  
September 2009 “LINK” is  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

**LARGE PRINT COPIES (A4 format) of the “LINK” are available.  
Please contact the Editor if you would like one.**

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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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