
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

July - August 2011 Volume 46. No. 6.



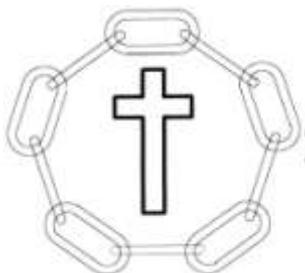
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who came to support me at my Testimony Service and all those who gave towards the lovely gifts I received – a home communion set and a stole plus a cheque. It was good to see so many of you and also those who travelled down from Hanham (some of whom I know read this!). It was a good day and I felt very supported and very blessed.

At this moment I am beginning to pack for the Ordinand's retreat which takes place in Liverpool. The information says that I am to stop work on the Friday evening before – to spend time with friends and family before taking time away from home. The retreat is time to reflect on being an ordained minister prior to being received into full connexion at the conference on Sunday morning and ordained in the afternoon.

The retreat Mission Statement speaks of this being a “gift of the whole church as the end of the pilgrimage towards Ordination draws near”. It is a pilgrimage which began when I first felt called to candidate for the ministry at least 7 years ago now (there can't be many jobs which have an application, interview and probation period lasting that long! 😊)

Although I have come across people who seem disillusioned with the church and its ministry – (“it's not the church I joined” is a phrase I've heard several times) I believe that it is an exciting time to enter ministry in the Methodist Church, because I believe that God still has work for the Methodist Church to do. It may mean that we have to work in very different ways in the future, and it may mean that we will have to work differently than we have been used to in order to carry out the church's mission of bringing new people to know and accept Christ in their lives. This makes entering ministry at this time an uncertain place to be and a scary one – but certainly an exciting one!

Blessings for a good and happy summer.

Rev. Andrew.



CALENDAR

JUNE

Sat 25th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

JULY

Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of the Heating Fund
Sun 3rd 4.00pm. The Ordination of Revd. Andrew Biggs at Leyland Road Methodist Church, Southport

Wed 6th 7.30 - 9.30pm. Introduction to "Back to Church Sunday" at Victoria W-s-M.

Thur 7th 3.00pm. on B/H Afternoon Tea at 6 Brightstowe Road. In aid of Heating Fund.

Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

Sun 10th 10.30am. Action for Children (NCH) Sunday

Sun 10th 4.00pm. W/H Songs of Praise on West Huntspill Common (on right, far end of W/H A38)

Wed 13th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch.

Wed 13th 2.30pm. B/H Bible Study Group All welcome.

Sat 16th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning by R.N.L.I.

Sat 23rd 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

Sat 30th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

AUGUST

Sat 6th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of the Heating Fund

Wed 10th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch. (Barbara)

Wed 10th 2.30pm. B/H Bible Study Group All welcome.

Sat 13th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

Sun 21st **LAST DAY for the SEPT LINK**

Sat 20th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning by R.N.L.I.

Sat 27th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

SEPTEMBER

Sat 3rd 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of the Heating Fund

Sat 10th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

Wed 14th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch. (Daphne)

Wed 14th 2.30pm. B/H Bible Study Group All welcome.

Sat 17th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning by R.N.L.I.

Sun 18th **LAST DAY for the OCT LINK**

B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill.



Songs of Praise

Sunday July 10th 2011

On the Common

Commencing at 4pm with a picnic

Bring your own food and drink

**Hymn singing, led by Mr Brian Dallimore will start at
5pm**

**If you have a favourite hymn you would like included, please let Maureen,
01278 783774 Christine, 01278 785200 or Janet, 01278 780636 know by
Tuesday July 7th**

Thanks

Thank you everyone for your prayers and the cards that you have all sent for me. It makes me feel surrounded by your love.

Mary Wilmott.

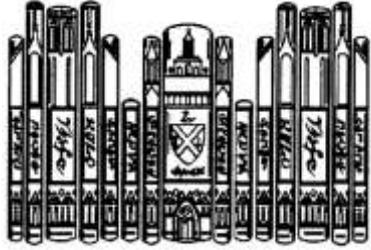
Coach trip to Sidmouth 5th August

A coach trip to Sidmouth on 5th August for shopping or Folk Festival approx £10.00 per person 9.00am start. Please phone 783652 to book.

Thank you

Rosaleen

WELLS FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE 2011



ADVANCE NOTICE

‘THE BOOK OF BOOKS’

‘the Radical Impact of the King James Bible 1611 to 2011’

Melvyn Bragg will speak about his new book
on Thursday 20th October 2011 at 7.30pm in Wells Cathedral

This book is the definitive history of one of the most influential books in the history of the world. King James Bible, in its 400th anniversary year, is both the standard scriptural text and, for centuries, the best-selling book in the English-speaking world. Melvyn Bragg reveals the political, linguistic, and religious influences the Bible has had throughout the centuries.

This is the story of the 300 year fight to get the Bible into the English language, and the grisly deaths of many of the Oxford scholars involved in its translation. It is the story of Henry VIII’s Reformation and James of Scotland’s determination for his version to become England’s bible when he assumed the throne. It is the extraordinary story of William Tyndale – a master of English to rival Shakespeare.

The political history of the Bible is equally remarkable. It was used as a source of propaganda in the English Civil War, and has inspired debates about democracy and justice from the American War of Independence to the speeches of Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy. And then there is its impact on culture, above all on language. The King James Bible has had a profound effect on the English language over the last 400 years.

Melvyn Bragg has written several works of non-fiction as well as his bestselling novels. He was born in 1939 and educated at Wigton’s Nelson Thomlinson School and at Oxford where he read history. He is President of the National Campaign for the Arts and Mind, and in 1998 he was made a life peer.

For more Information about the Wells Festival of Literature 2011 or to contact us, see our website on www.wellslitfest.org.uk. Tickets £12.50 on sale in July or early August.

You can contact us on mail@maddiebrown.co.uk

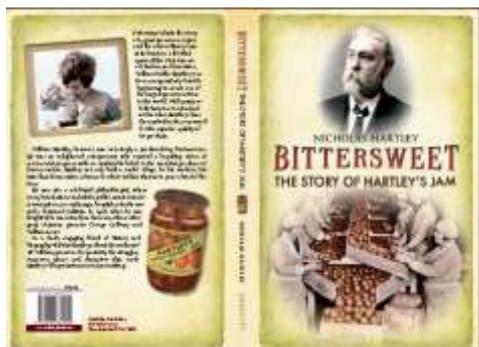
Other Keynote events:

Friday 14th October, Shirley Williams on her autobiography ,at 7.30pm in St Thomas's Church

Saturday 15th October, Pam Ayres on her autobiography, at 6pm in the Town Hall

Saturday 15th October, Matt Frei, 'America's Role in the World Today' at 8pm. in the Town Hall

Friday, 21st Oct. Peter and Dan Snow, "Woolf and Wellington, two great commanders' at 7.30pm in St Thomas Church



Hi, I have just published a book about Hartley's Jam. I attach a copy of the front cover.

I am writing to see if you might be interested in putting a short piece about the book/the business in your magazine.

Sir William Hartley, the founder of the business (my great, great grandfather) was a well known supporter of the Primitive Methodist movement, who not only founded the Chapel Aid Association, which effectively rescued the movement from the debts incurred in building chapels and churches, but also pumped huge amounts of money into the Hartley Theological College at Manchester. In 1909, he was elected President of the Primitive Methodist Conference. He also purchased the movement's headquarters in London, the former Holborn Hall.

The Hartley factory in Aintree was opened in 1886. The business employed over 2,000 workers. A second factory was opened in Bermondsey in 1901.

Hartley's sold its products around the world. The firm also supplied the White Star Line, shipping out of Liverpool, and Cunard. Hartley's Marmalade was said to stand on the breakfast table of King Edward VII, and when Scott made his trip to the Pole, he carried supplies of Hartley's preserves with him.

William Hartley was a well known Victorian man of commerce, who introduced a profit sharing scheme for his workers that was years ahead of its time, free medical treatment and a pension scheme.

He was also a well known philanthropist, who gave away almost £1 million in his lifetime. Among his benefactions were a Botanical Institute in Liverpool and a home for consumptives at Delamere Forest. In 1909, when Louis Bleriot made his historic cross-channel flight, Hartley offered £1,000 for the first person to fly from Liverpool to Manchester.

I hope the above is of interest. I have photographs that can be used as illustrations, if required.

Regards,

Nick Hartley



Harry's Page

A lady was driving along a back road in stifling hot weather when she passed an elderly man attempting to fix a flat tyre. A woman alone can't be too careful; nevertheless, she hoped somebody would stop. When nobody did, she went back and found the old man weak and perspiring. 'Thanks,' he gasped. 'I prayed somebody would stop.' Using her mobile phone to call for help, the woman waited with him. He introduced himself as Bill Krumweide, talked about his family and his hobby of collecting antique farm equipment. He offered to pay her but the Good Samaritan said, 'Just knowing I was an answer to prayer is enough.' Ten years later the same lady was worried about her aging father, who could no longer take care of the family farm. When she called a volunteer organisation for help, four men arrived with heavy equipment and spent three days planting the crops. One of the men looked familiar, and when he introduced himself she realised why. It turned out he was the elderly man's son. Bill Krumweide, Jr. 'Thank you for helping my dad all those years ago,' he said. 'I'm the one who owes you,' the woman replied. 'It's amazing how one kindness followed another and connected our families in a bond of gratitude. And it started... with an old man's prayer.' What goes around comes around: The deeds of a man's hands will return

to him.' God rewards us '...according to [our] work' (Proverbs 24:12 NAS). You don't live in a vacuum. The Bible says, 'knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord...' (Ephesians 6:8 NKJV).



WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND

Over the past several years, I've been privileged to travel with teenagers on eight mission trips. One thing I've learned in those excursions is that teenagers are not too young to make an impact for Jesus – either on me or on others whose lives they touch.

I've also noticed that the teenagers who make the biggest impact for Christ match the characteristics Paul told Timothy about in 1.Timothy 4:12. Trying to convince Timothy that his relative youth did not have to be a deterrent to his ministry. Paul told him to "be an example to the believers" in several areas.

In word: Young people who make a difference for Christ control what they say, avoid negative talk. And speak words that honour God. *In conduct:* Teenagers who practice discretion in their behaviour shine for all (he world to see. *In love:* By taking heed of Jesus' words to love God and their neighbour (Matt. 22:37 - 39) teenagers please Jesus and touch hearts. *In faith:* Those who put their faith into action change lives. *In purity:* It's tough to be morally pure and doctrinally sound, but teenagers who are can set an example for the rest of us.

Paul's words aren't just for the young generation. All of us should be an example in word, conduct, love, faith, and purity. That's how we make an impact for Christ. - Dave Branon

*O Christians, remember, you bear His dear name,
Your lives are for others to view;
You're living examples - men praise you or blame,
And measure your Saviour by you. - Anon.*

**The most valuable commentary on the Bible
is a godly life.**

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday, May 24th. Rev. Margaret Trapp conducted our A.G.M. The report of this year's meetings was given by Eileen Goundry who is to stand down as leader and we welcome Mrs Celia Dewfall as the new leader. All officers are to remain in office. Thanks were expressed to everyone.

Following the business meeting, Rev. Margaret Trapp led the Communion Service. She explained that it was Wesley Day and she put on a beautiful stole which Judy Allen had made for her.

The next meeting of the Link Villages' Fellowship will be on Tuesday, September 13th, when as usual we shall be pleased to welcome the members of Milton Ladies Fellowship. Details of this will be given in the September issue of the Link.

Eileen Goundry



BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

On the Saturday afternoon of 4th June Burnham Church was full of people wishing to be a part of Andrew's Testimony Service. There were representatives from all the Link Churches and a large contingent from Hanham Church in Bristol where Andrew had worshipped and been encouraged to go into the ministry. The Link churches made a collection for Andrew to give him a gift to commemorate his Testimony Service as he goes forward to Ordination - and a stole and a Home Communion Set were presented to him by one of our Sunday Club and Messy Church boys, Liam. We were very proud of the way Liam handled this very important job. Everyone seemed to enjoy the tea party after the service - and were intrigued by the cakes on which were the pictures of the Link Churches. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the afternoon very special for Andrew and Julie.

Life is an enigma at times, isn't it? One minute everything seems to be going really well and then it changes in the twinkling of an eye! Ha Ha! I had, what was a very routine cataract procedure, at Musgrove on 8th June and for the first time in ages I could see very clearly and people were remarking how well I was doing. Then, late Sunday afternoon my vision went in the eye that

had been the object of the procedure the previous Wednesday. Ann rushed me to Musgrove and within 2 hours an operating theatre had been opened and prepared, a consultant, theatre nurses and a microbiologist had been called in and I was admitted to hospital with a serious eye infection which, I have now been told, has, almost certainly, taken away my vision from my left eye. (Ann has said she will make me an eye patch and I've been offered a real parrot to sit on my shoulder!) We read so much in the press about the failings of the NHS but from my own experience – I know that nothing is too much trouble for the doctors, the nursing staff, the ward cleaners, the clerical staff - they are all unfailingly respectful, kind, compassionate and professional. I am sure those of you who are in hospital or who are about to go into hospital will find the same caring approach. I thank God that there are people for whom caring for others is their vocation.

Next Sunday – 26th June is Burnham's Church Anniversary. Andrew's friend and colleague – Philip Warrey has been invited to lead our Worship and I understand that it will be a fun, family service (and there may be puppets!!) So do come and join us.

We are thinking and praying for all those in the Link who are ill and in need of medical help – and we hope you are receiving the best care and attention that I have been given. Our prayers are with you.

Our very best wishes to all our Link friends.

Barry Hall



Gifts from God – Gifts for God: A Stewardship Scheme for Burnham

As we considered the difficulties of meeting financial obligations, of finding people to carry out the essential jobs involved in running a church, and of maintaining a building that requires much time and effort – a Stewardship scheme was suggested by one of our Supernumerary Ministers. After doing some research and obtaining information about how such schemes have helped other churches – the Burnham Church Council last Autumn decided to go ahead with the idea.

The Stewardship scheme was launched with a presentation at the Church General Meeting on 5th April and followed up the following Sunday morning with a sermon on the theme of giving (if you missed it you can read it on my blog: <http://writingsapb.blogspot.com/>).

At the same time a leaflet explaining the scheme, along with a “time and talents” response form were distributed to all church members and regular attendees (90 in all). The response form contained a tick list of skills and talents under headings of: “Deepening our relationship with God and one another”; “Practical housekeeping”; “Gathering for worship”; and “Reaching out to others”. Responses could indicate the areas in which people were already involved as well as areas they would like to offer skills and talents, or enquire about the possibility.

A separate finance form was included to encourage participation in the envelope scheme, gift aiding or giving through standing order.

The scheme encourages church members and regular worshipers to consider what they give back in response to what we have received from God. People are asked to review their current giving in time, talents and money bearing in mind that scripture tells us that we should give in proportion to the blessings we have received.

To date, of the 90 forms and leaflets distributed, 31 have been returned – a take up of 35%. This is a little disappointing given the positive response indicated at the Church Meeting (a take up of around 60% was hoped for).

Of the responses received – 65% indicated what people are already doing/offering to the church. 35% showed an interest in offering or taking up something new. On the finance side 71% indicated what they were already doing and 7% offered to consider gift aid or paying by standing order. 21% said “no”.

17% showed an interest in “Deepening relationship...”; 32% in “Practical Housekeeping”; 33% in worship related activities and 16% in outreach.

Of course we cannot measure all results of people’s re-assessment of their giving of time, talents and money – some results will only be seen in due course by their fruits. However some general observations were made at church council:

- Most church members feel that they are already at the extent of their giving.
- We are unlikely to make up the shortfall in finances through giving alone.
- While participation in the practical aspects of church life is strength we need to encourage greater participation in discipleship activities such as prayer, Bible study and outreach/ evangelism.

In due course this information will be followed up on by the Stewards and Minister and also by Church Council as we seek further steps in leading the Church forward.

Rev Andrew

BREAN

www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org

Lilian Stone's Centenary was celebrated in style over the Bank Holiday weekend. Over 100 cards received and £600 raised for her charities! What a splendid response. In the last Link I spoke of some of the things that happened internationally in the year Lilian was born. More significantly perhaps it was the three hundredth anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible, not the first Bible in English of course, but the one that outlived the rest in popularity. So Lilian has lived during a quarter of that Book's life. And Christianity was already in existence four times longer than KJV has since endured. What fun you can have with figures!

Judy and I joined with others in the reading of the whole of KJV at St Andrew's Church in Burnham in the last week of May. Our section was the first ten chapters of Deuteronomy! Try it sometime, all those names of places!! We were glad to be part of the project but it all seemed a bit pointless somehow, reading scripture in what for the most part, was an empty church.

Our congregations are a bit up and down. Only ten people turned up for the joint service we shared with St Bridget's on the first Sunday in June, and then a couple of weeks later nearly twice that for one of our regular Sundays. We welcomed Rev Brian Milloy, retired Baptist minister who used to be at Hope Baptist Church, Highbridge, for our joint service. It was a fun service as well as a serious one as he played guitar to our singing of what for most of us was a new hymn.

The middle of the summer brings an end to the school year and several of the young people who have links with us have been reaching the end of their courses, winning prizes (that's Becky winning the Best Documentary Photograph at the end of her course at Bridgwater), taking exams and preparing for university. Well done to all of you.

It's been good to see a few more of our summer visitors on some weeks. Good too to see Iris back with us too, though Dave her husband may have to have hospital treatment.

Congratulations to West Huntspill on their very successful anniversary weekend. They certainly put a spark into their witness that puts us to shame.

Our best wishes to Joyce Pipet as she embarks on her year as Advocate for LWPT (Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust). We should feel proud for her of the honour she has been given. The Advocate before her was Deacon Myrtle Poxon, an ex-Vice President; and the person taking over from her will be Brian Thornton also an ex-Vice President. Well done Joyce, carry on the good work.

As this is the last Link before September, our best wishes to you all for all that you will be doing over the summer. Stay safe.

Harvey Allen



WEST HUNTSPILL

We began our 160th Anniversary Celebrations on Friday 10th June with a short Service of Dedication led by Rev. Andrew Biggs for the newly painted Church, updated Public Address system and the new carpet and of course the Crafts on show over the weekend and the music which was heard. We had a variety of entertainment and refreshment later in the evening. We also launched our Calendar for 2012

The Chapel was open Saturday when we had a steady flow of visitors Coffee Lunch and Teas were available.

On Sunday Rev. Nicola Reynolds led Services at 11.00am. & 6.30pm. We had visitors at both services Nicola encouraged both congregations to look forward in the Spirit of Pentecost. A celebration lunch was served at Greenwood where the Birthday cake was cut.



In the picture

Rev Nicola Reynolds Ivor Hawkes Gwen Slocombe & Caitlyn Griffin.

We continue our Celebrations on Sunday 10th July with Songs of Praise on the Common details on page 4

The Common is diagonally opposite the Crossways Inn on the A38 in West Huntspill

BRENT KNOLL

As we enjoy the warmer weather, the longer evenings and look forward to holidays, we remember members missing from our congregation. Barbara is at Tudor Lodge and when she is well enough will be moving to be near her family. We will miss her and wish her every happiness in her new home. We give thanks for all that Barbara and Bill have done for our church over the years. Irene has had a stay in hospital and Carol is unwell, we hope for better news of them soon.

Our Chapel was represented at Andrew's Testimonial Service on June 4th when he was presented with a stole and home communion set from the "Link Churches". Our prayers and good wishes go with Andrew and Julie at Andrew's ordination service at Stockport on July 3rd as they continue a new chapter in their lives.

In August we will be having our Saturday Coffee Mornings which will be on August 7th 14th 21st 28th we look forward to meeting friends from the village and the "Link" Churches and any visitors who may be on holiday.

The Churches Together meet on July 14th at Brent Knoll.

The Toddlers Group continues to be very popular - they have their annual outing to Court Farm on July 13th, so we hope that the weather will be good for them for this event.

We will be pleased to welcome to our Sunday services any folk who may be on holiday in our area.

We wish everyone a healthy and happy summer

Shirley Pycroft.



EAST BRENT

It's a small world! This was proved, once again, at East Brent recently when we welcomed two visitors to our morning worship. We were chatting after the service and the lady was telling us that she had come from Bath to visit/support her friend who had recently had a nasty accident. They decided to come to us for morning worship having

previously attended one of our Carols by Candlelight services where they were surprised but pleased to see Carol's name on the order of service and, yes, it was the same Carol who had done her first year as a minister in one of their circuits. By this time Stanley, who had been waiting very patiently for us by the door, decided to join us to be greeted by 'We know you from somewhere else don't we?' I left them working out exactly which church/circuit they had been in at the same time. We look forward to these visitors joining us again and wait to see who they recognise next time.

So, June again and the exam season – good luck to anyone involved in exams this year. June is also the beginning of holiday time for a lot of people. If you are lucky enough to go away we hope your break is all you wish for and you come back refreshed. If you are staying at home let's hope you at least get the chance to spend time with friends, put your feet up, enjoy some sunshine or whatever brings you pleasure and rest.

Margaret Scott



Minister

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- www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk
- www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org
- www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

**The Deadline for the
September 2011“LINK” is
Sunday 21st August 2011**

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

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 £4.00** per annum.

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