
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

July - August 2013 Volume 48. No. 6.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

Many of you will be aware by now, that Julie and I spent 10 days last month in Israel / Palestine. We had a very interesting, busy and challenging time there. We visited the spiritually significant sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, Nazareth and Galilee, but we also got to visit sites which were way off the usual tourist routes and that gave us an insight into some of the problems which exist for the people trying to live their lives there.

There are many issues of injustice in the way that Palestinian people are, and have for 65 years, been treated by the Israeli government and the international community, implementing Zionist policies. Zionism is the ideology that says that the Jewish people have exclusive right to the "Land of Israel" based on the Old Testament stories of the Bible, whereby the land was promised to Abraham and given to the Jewish people after they had escaped from slavery in Egypt and wandered for 40 years in the wilderness. It is considered to be the "promised land". It is worth mentioning that no evidence, archaeological or otherwise, has been found to support the Biblical accounts of the Israelites being in that part of the world in ancient times. Many Biblical scholars now believe that the stories should be seen as theology rather than literal history.

The Zionist ideology began to grow from the late 19th Century, but it was during the British Mandate rule of Palestine in the early 20th Century that pressure really began to grow for a "home" to be provided for the Jewish people who had suffered anti-Semitic persecution over many centuries - often as a result of "Christians" believing that they were responsible for the death of Jesus (apparently forgetting that Jesus said "forgive them for they know not what they do.." from the cross, and most of what he taught about loving your neighbours and enemies). Persecution of Jews culminated in the holocaust during the Second World War, and many Jews began to immigrate to Palestine.

At this stage the UN agreed that the State of Israel should come into being. The British pulled out (after suffering terrorist activity by Zionist groups) and Israel declared independence in 1948. The trouble was that the Palestinian people who had been living on the land for generations were not welcome in the new state of Israel because it was to be a "Jewish State" not a joint Palestinian / Jewish state or a nation state which was

shared by Jews and others. In order for this to be maintained it was necessary to have a Jewish majority - and this meant both encouraging Jews to immigrate from other parts of the world, such as the USA, Iraq and Russia, and removing or “transferring” the native Palestinian majority.

In practice this resulted in Palestinians of 500 villages in the new Israel being forcibly evacuated from their homes and villages at gun point under cover of the 1948 war of independence. Many fled to Lebanon, Syria or Jordan, or to other villages in Israel or the West Bank. 1 million ended up in refugee camps where 3 million of their descendants remain to this day awaiting the day when their “Right of Return” under international law is realised. We saw evidence of this as we visited the remains of several villages which were demolished after the evictions. Fast growing trees have been planted over them to make forests which effectively hide the remains which might give rise to awkward questions and which are declared “National Parks”. We also visited refugee camps in Bethlehem and Jenin where people live in cramped conditions with poor housing (it was only ever intended to be temporary).

Since then an ongoing process of “Judaisation” has been implemented by successive Zionist governments of Israel. In 1967 the 6 days war resulted in Israel occupying the West Bank and Gaza which had been set aside for a possible Palestinian State and which had been administered interim by Jordan and Egypt. A policy of building Jewish settlements on the hilltops of the West Bank and joining them with dedicated motorways, not open to Palestinians, has effectively carved up the land making the possibility of a future state for the Palestinian people ever more remote.

Palestinians suffer in many ways from the occupation which is administered by military rule. The land is divided into zones which are surrounded by walls and fences. The result of this is that travel for Palestinians is restricted and access allowed only through check points with permits that are often denied. This in turn causes hardship by restricting access to medical facilities, and employment, denying access to the airport, restricting imports and exports thus causing economic hardship.

The zoning has resulted in Palestinians being separated from the land which made their living for generations, and which is confiscated by the State in many guises. This also prevents the natural expansion of towns and villages because building permits are rarely granted. Thousands of

houses are under “demolition orders” whereby they can be demolished by the military at any time. We even came across people whose houses had been demolished while they were out. No compensation is ever considered, and in fact the homeless family are usually presented with a bill for the demolition.

Water is also restricted with the Palestinian areas being allowed only 15% of the available water compared to 85% taken by Israeli communities - effectively this means that they have running water only 2 or 3 days a month while Jewish settlements nearby have it 24 hours a day.

It is not surprising that after 65 years of ongoing gradual confiscation of their lands, being forced to live in ever more crowded and cramped conditions, lives being ever more restricted and suffering ongoing humiliation and discrimination, the frustrations occasionally spill into violence. But we met with Palestinians and Israelis who are committed to working for a peaceful resolution to the situation through organisations such as Combatants for Peace, Wi’Am, and Sabeel.

As Christians we have a responsibility to speak and act against injustice wherever we see it occurring. Isaiah 10:1-2 says “Woe betide those who make unjust laws and draft oppressive edicts, depriving the poor of justice, robbing the weakest of my people of their rights.....”; Jeremiah 22:3 says “Deal justly and fairly, rescue the victim from his oppressor, do not ill treat or use violence towards the alien, the fatherless and the widow and do not shed innocent blood.” Through Amos 5:18, 21-24 God makes plain that our worship means nothing if we fail to allow “justice to flow on like a river”. Jesus tells us to love our neighbour as he loved us.

One thing we can all do is to pray for the people, the situation and for those who work for peaceful resolution. You can read more about our trip on my blog: 10daysmay.wordpress.com and there are also links there to information on some of the organisations I have mentioned and others.

Have a good and peaceful Summer

Blessings

Rev Andrew

Calendar

JUNE

- Sat 29th 10.00 – 12.00 B/H Shopper Coffee Morning
10.00 - 2.00 Summer Fayre at St Andrew's Church Bournville
W s M see page 6
- Sat 29th 2.30pm Summer Fete at the Towans Retirement Home
- Sun 30th 10.30am B/H Church Anniversary. led by Andrew Biggs

JULY

- Sat 6th 10.00 – 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning in aid of heating Fund by the
Stewards
- Wed 10th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch (Barbara Williams)
- Sat 13th 10.00 – 12.00 B/H Shopper Coffee Morning
- Sun. 14th Action for Children Sunday
3.30pm W/H Songs of Praise on the Common at West Huntspill
see page 7
- Sat 20th 10.00 – 12.00 B/H R.N.L.I. Coffee Morning
- Wed 24th 10.00am Coffee Morning at the home of Joy & Tony Bishop
7 Naish Road. see page 8
- Fri 26th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee Morning West Huntspill see page 8
- Sat 27th 10.00 – 12.00 B/H Shopper Coffee Morning

AUGUST

- Sat 3rd 10.00 – 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning in aid of Heating Fund.
10.30am B/K Coffee Morning Brent Knoll see page 9
- Sat 10th 10.00 – 12.00 B/H Shopper Coffee Morning
10.30am B/K Coffee Morning Brent Knoll see page 9
- Wed 14th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch (Daphne Hill)
- Thur. 15th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning at Daphne Hill's 11 Steart Drive
see page 9
- Sun. 18th LAST DAY FOR SEPTEMBER LINK
- Sat 17th 10.00 – 12.00 B/H R.N.L.I. Coffee Morning
10.30am B/K Coffee Morning Brent Knoll see page 9
- Sat 24th 10.00 – 12.00 B/H Shopper Coffee Morning
10.30am B/K Coffee Morning Brent Knoll see page 9
- Fri 30th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee Morning West Huntspill see page 8
- Sat 31st 10.00 – 12.00 B/H Shopper Coffee Morning

SEPTEMBER

Sat 7th 10.00 – 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning in aid of Heating Fund.
Tue 10th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Dedication Service
Wed 11th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch (June Parry)
Sat 14th 10.00 – 12.00 B/H Shopper Coffee Morning
Wed 18th B/K LINK Committee at Brent Knoll
Sat 21st 10.00 – 12.00 B/H R.N.L.I. Coffee Morning
Sun.22nd LAST DAY FOR OCTOBER LINK
Sat 28th 10.00 – 12.00 B/H Shopper Coffee Morning.

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



**S^t Andrews Church
Bournville**

Weston s Mare

GRAND SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 29th June 10.00am - 2.00pm.

In The Healthy Living Centre

Various Stalls, Tombola's and Raffle

Refreshments throughout the Fayre



**Do you enjoy a good sing
?**

then

Come and Join Us

Songs of Praise

On the Common

At West Huntspill

Sunday 14th July

3.30pm

**Led by Revd Andrew Biggs and Salvation Army
Band**

**Bring Your Food and Drink for a Picnic
afterwards**



Some chairs will be provided, but it
would be helpful if you are able to bring
your own.



If the weather is wet, we will meet in the
Balliol Hall

Coffee Morning

**At the home of
Joy & Tony Bishop**

7 Naish Road

on Wednesday July 24th

from 10.00 am.

Bring & Buy Stall & Raffle

All welcome

In aid of the Heating Fund



Come and join us for

Our usual monthly

Coffee Morning

At West Huntspill

On

Friday 26th July 2013

and on

Friday 30th August 2013

10.00am – 12.00noon

BRENT KNOLL METHODIST CHURCH
August Saturday Coffee Mornings

August 3-10-17-24

10.30 am

Everyone Welcome



Coffee Morning

at the home of Daphne Hill

11 Steart Avenue

on Thursday August 15th

10 00 -12.30

All welcome

“Prayer Plus” of WEST HUNTSPILL

Will be holding a

“SILENT Retreat Day”

At

West Huntspill Methodist Church

Monday 23rd September

Led by Rev. Margaret Trapp

10.00am – 4.00pm

(Coffee/tea from 9.30am) Everyone is welcome.

Please let us know if you would like to come, either to Janet J. Tel:
01278 780636

Or Janet T. Tel: 01278 795447

(Bring your own packed lunch. Drinks will be provided)



Strawberry Tea

What a lovely afternoon we had on June 19th at Dorothy & Cedric’s sitting under two gazebos to shelter us from the wind.

There was a cake stall groaning under all the cakes of various kinds and scones, and a raffle with many good prizes.

Then to the “eats” a table spread with a variety of sandwiches and rolls and several kinds of cakes plus lashings of strawberries and cream.

A very enjoyable afternoon thank you Dorothy & Cedric. A pity there were not more people to share it as we are benefitting from the new heating system.

Strawberry Tea

Cedric & I would like to add our thanks to everyone who helped including our 2 friends who loaned and erected their gazebo's also to those who came and supported us, sitting in the garden, listening to the lovely bird song while enjoying the strawberries and cream.

The result was £231.50 towards the Church heating.

Dorothy.



ACTION FOR CHILDREN

The result of Burnham Home Collecting Boxes was £506.00.

Many thanks to the box holders. If you wish to help the work of Action for Children in this way please see me.

Dorothy.



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Our Link Fellowship drew to a close on Tuesday, May 29th with the A.G.M and Communion led by Rev. Margaret Trapp.

We begin our new session for 2013/14 on Tuesday, September 10th with the Dedication Service,

Our next meeting will be on September 24th

On Tuesday, October 8th, we shall welcome the ladies from Milton to our meeting. This will be followed by a delicious tea. We look forward to seeing them each year.

If anyone would like to join us on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month we shall be pleased to see you. The meetings start at 2.30p.m. in the Schoolroom of East Brent Methodist Church. Following the meeting, a cup of tea and biscuit and chat is enjoyed.

Eileen Goundry

HARRY'S PAGE

THE REASON we don't turn to God more often is because at some basic and unconscious level we are not 'fully convinced' He is able and willing to move on our behalf. Being able to admit that to yourself is humbling; it's also the point at which you begin to deal with your lack of faith in God. Nothing in your life will change until you pray, 'Lord, help me. I say things with my lips that I don't follow through in my behaviour.'

Once you begin to pray that way you can start walking through your Bible, rediscovering that 'God is able.' He's able to provide for you when you're in a wilderness. He's able to defeat the giants that stand in your way. He's able to go through fiery trials with you and bring you out

unharmd. He's able to promote you when you've been overlooked or opposed. 'Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us' (Ephesians 3:20 NKJV).

Whatever it takes to own the words, 'God is able,' do it; otherwise you won't be able to pray with confidence. You'll make a few wishes on your knees, but you won't be able to persevere in prayer until you know in your heart of hearts that God is able--and that He's willing! Nothing is too difficult for Him. He's just waiting for you to recognise that, and to come to Him in faith asking for help.



To GOD BE THE GLORY

Chenaniah, leader of the Levites, was instructor in charge of the music, because he was skillful.

--1 Chronicles
15:22

When Jason was asked to sing at a church he was visiting, he was delighted to participate even though he wasn't asked until a few minutes before the service started. He chose a familiar hymn, "To God Be the Glory;" because it was a song that was especially meaningful to him. He practised it a few times in the church basement and sang it without accompaniment in the church service.

Several weeks later Jason learned that some people in the church didn't appreciate his ministry. They thought he was showing off.

Because they did not know him, they wrongly assumed that he was singing to impress them, not to honour the Lord. From the Old Testament we learn that God appointed people with skill to be involved in temple worship. From construction workers to worship leaders—people were chosen based on their skill (1Chron. 15:22;25:1,7).

The Lord gave each of us different talents and spiritual gifts to be used for His glory (Col.3:23-24). When we serve with that purpose, not to lift up ourselves, we don't need to be concerned with what others think. God gave His very best to us—His Son Jesus—and we honour Him by giving our best to Him.—Julie Ackerman Link

*The Master needs what you have to offer,
No matter if you think it's small;
His work on earth is done through His children,
So give Him your best, give your all. --Hess*

We are at our best when we serve God



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonse.org.uk

When I was asked to write an article for the Link, my first thought was ‘how do I start’ and ‘what shall I write about’? Harvey Allen’s sermon on 26th May gave me my subject.

In September of 1914, Anglo-Irish explorer Ernest Shackleton set out on the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition with the goal of being the first man to traverse the Antarctic continent. Aboard what would become his aptly-named ship, the Endurance, he and 27 men set sail for the South Pole. But along the way, the ship became trapped in ice, setting off a series of events that would lead him away from his original goal.

Numerous times, Shackleton and his men felt incredibly hopeful that a goal was in sight and things were turning their way, only to have these hopes utterly dashed.

Hope. Progress. Crushing setback. Hope. Progress. Crushing setback. This was Shackleton's reality for a year and a half. Such a string of endless disappointments might have made a lesser man want to curl up and die. But not Shackleton. Although he had moments where the weight of the situation sat heavily upon his shoulders, he would always shake off the gloom and resiliently move forward once more; his spirit could not be defeated.

The final stage in Sir Ernest Shackleton's struggle to reach civilization—and thus save the *Endurance* crew—was the historic 26-mile crossing of South Georgia Island, which had never before been traversed.

With five of his men Shackleton sailed more than 800 miles in the lifeboat, the *James Caird*, surviving 17 days in the world's stormiest seas. Upon reaching South Georgia, they thought nothing else could go wrong but they had landed on the uninhabited south side of the island. Realizing that the boat could not successfully circumnavigate the island, with its rocky coastline and rough waters, Shackleton formulated a desperate back-up plan. He took two men, Frank Worsley and Tom Crean with him to try and reach civilisation.

Again times of desperation overwhelmed the men but they recalled feeling another person with them, a fourth member of the team and their faith guided them to their destination. Worsley immediately departed to rescue their three companions who were stranded on the other side of the island and then they all returned to save the remaining 22 men.

So what can we learn from Shackleton, a HERO in the eyes of his men:-

H – he had HOPE and the tendency to look for alternative pathways to reach his desired goal. He concentrated not on the things that couldn't be altered and weren't under his control, but on what he could do.

E – he had EFFICIENCY and confidence that he would succeed at a given challenge.

R – he had RESILIENCE and the ability to bounce back from failure and keep forging a head.

O – He had OPTIMISM and the expectation of positive outcomes

Worsley said of the man they called “The Boss” – we loved him, to me he was a brother.

There is no reason why we cannot be like Shackleton, let us all have faith and become that ‘HERO’.

Marian Kingsbury



BREAN

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

'Mediterranean' is 'negative reindeer' or at least that's what my computer said.

Our coffee discussions after worship on Sunday centred around the Sobinov Children's Folk Orchestra from near Moscow, who were performing at the Princess Hall on Saturday night. They were exceptional. Our son Luke had heard them play at Bridgwater on Friday and thoroughly recommended them to Judy and me. They were on a tour and were also due to play at Exeter and Oxford this week.

Earlier we had spent Saturday at Locking Castle listening to Mike Bossingham talking to us at the Circuit Day on Family Friendly Churches. He raised some very interesting points and I am sure that he has given us all some new ideas, though as I reflect upon the occasion I also feel a little disappointed. I am sure others will disagree with me but I felt it didn't seem quite geared to our situation, and in particular he raised many points that we had no opportunity to discuss before the end of the day.

A fortnight earlier I had been present at a gathering at Clevedon attended by representatives of 6 or 7 ecumenical churches in Somerset. It is very interesting to see how LEPs vary across the county and how they respond to the different challenges. At Clevedon, one of the Methodist Churches closed down and Methodism put a million pounds into improving the Anglican Christ Church. At Sandford on the other hand, they decided to close the Anglican Church and are now trying to get their decision agreed by the Diocese. One church said that they had four key elements behind ecumenical working:

sacrifice – everyone needs to remove 'sacred cows' at some time or other adaptability – seeking to accommodate rather than compromise, and being prepared to be flexible in worship risks – it requires faith for there is no safe way to move forward together trust – in one another and in God.

In discussion it was agreed that sometimes rules have to be ignored though it was remarked that it is always wise to 'cover your back' whenever possible.

At the end someone quoted the wise words of Rev Robert Warren who wrote The Healthy Churches Handbook and who suggests we don't try to do everything but 'choose one thing we are called to do and do it well'

Well we have had a decent month for visitors, one week counting about 30 in the congregation. Perhaps our new clear windows have helped us to be less forbidding; trouble is though that they need cleaning more often! And it was especially good to see Iris Barratt among us last week. She also brought various craft items that David had made for the Craft Fayre that the two Brean Churches are planning for November 23rd. Please keep this date free in your diaries; the ladies have been very busy and very creative. Cupboards are already choc-a-bloc full with goods to sell.

Don't forget to pray for the Methodist Conference in London from 6th to 11th July (and follow it on-line if you can).

I think this is a double issue of Link, so we send you our very best wishes for the rest of the summer.

Harvey Allen



BRENT KNOLL

Minister Revd. Biggs

I'm writing this just after East Brent's afternoon of songs of praise and cream teas. An absolutely magical afternoon sharing hymns we love, both modern and traditional, and hearing two talented soloists perform. A big thank you to our wonderful hosts from all we Brent Knollians who attended.

On an equally happy note, we had a baptism on 2nd. June where we welcomed Leanna Elton into the church. A big thank you to her parents Hazel and Brian who not only brought their daughter but also a delicious array of homemade cakes for us all to enjoy after the service.

We will be holding our traditional summer coffee mornings every Saturday in August (except the last Saturday, 31st) between 10.30am - 12 noon. It is for all to enjoy a good chat so come and bring your friends. We look forward to seeing you.

It seems hard to believe that the next Link will be the September issue. So with that in mind, from all of us at Brent Knoll, we wish you a happy, sunny (hopefully) and relaxing summer.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



WEST HUNTSPILL

July

Sun. 14th 3.30pm
Songs of Praise on the Common
at West Huntspill
see page 7

Fri 23rd 10.00 - 12.00
Coffee Morning West Huntspill
see page 8

August

Fri 30th 10.00 - 12.00
Coffee Morning West Huntspill
see page 8

September

Mon 23rd 10.00 - 4.00
“SILENT Retreat Day”
at West Huntspill Methodist Church
see page 10

EAST BRENT

As a result of Michael King's challenge to do something different for outreach we held a 'Summer Songs of Praise' on Saturday 15th June – free tea with scones, cream, jam and strawberries included. If you didn't come you missed a treat. We were thrilled with the number of people who came and they all said they enjoyed themselves. A very big thank you to our guest singers, Glynn and Bernie. Not a murmur to be heard from the audience while they were singing apart from the chorus of one of Glynn's songs which he invited us to join in. Join in, we did, with gusto. Thanks, also, to Elaine who accompanied Glynn and Bernie and to Evelyn who accompanied the community singing on our newly tuned piano. I think we managed to fit in all the requests. Carol, though having been unwell earlier during the week, led the afternoon for us. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this new event such a success. I gather a request has already been put in for a repeat next year and Glynn has said he will be there so look out for the date if you missed it this year.

A number of our small congregation are still struggling with illness or accidents. We think particularly of Gwen and Eileen and look forward to the day when they are fit enough to join us again. Suzanne (apologies if I have mis-spelt your name) had a nasty accident on her bike but is now able to join us again for Sunday worship. We hope the bones mend quickly for you.

So – this is summer? Well we hope to see some more of the sun. Best wishes to all who are taking holidays and safe journeys. To those staying at home - at least some time to relax.

Best wishes from all at East Brent.

Margaret S.



Minister

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

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

**The Deadline for the
September 2013 “LINK” is
Sunday 18th August 2013**

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