
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

July - August 2014 Volume 49. No. 6.



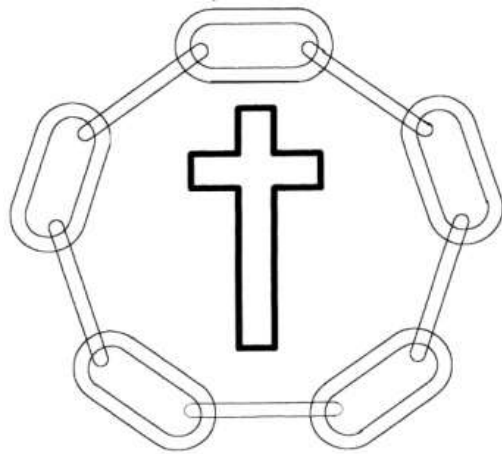
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM

Minister's Letter

As most of you will be aware by now, this will be my last Minister's letter because Julie and I will soon be on the move. On August 12th we will be moving to Hucclecote in the Gloucestershire Circuit, where I will be Minister for Hucclecote and Lonsdale Road churches. Julie will also be working for the Lonsdale Road church as Community Outreach Worker.

I am sure that as we enter a new phase of ministry we will face new challenges not least because churches of all denominations face the challenge of how to convince people that the way of Jesus is the way for their lives, and that the church is the means through which they can best live out their discipleship.

In an increasing secular society, continuing to convince people that they are in need of a saviour, who is Jesus Christ, is the only way that the church can continue to exist and yet the means to do this is harder than it has been in recent times. We have to be pro-active about it because the mechanism by which the faith and the church was passed from one generation to the next, that had served the church well for so long, has ceased to operate.

In recent weeks I have seen and heard some very concerning statistics about the Methodist Church, yet also some encouraging signs. Triennial statistics published recently have shown that in the last 10 years the Methodist Church has lost one third of its membership and half of its children and young people. This is concerning. Also concerning is that at least for the next few years there are around 30 more ministers due to retire than new ministers coming into the church. This will only exacerbate the shortage that has already been felt in this Circuit.

It is easy to be gloomy about such things. But there are also signs of hope. At a recent conference we heard about

several inspiring projects such as that at Trinity Methodist Church Ellesmere Port. Trinity was a traditional victorian Methodist Church building in the centre of a town that had seen many changes over the years. In common with many town centres over the last 50 years Ellesmere Port had changed from being a vibrant hub of the community with many shops and businesses to a run down high street with mainly charity shops and takeaway food outlets.

Trinity church, having reached a low point with leaking roofs and a membership unable to find the funds or the energy to continue, almost closed. Instead they turned to scripture to see what it could say to them about their situation and community. They consulted the local community to see what people “out there” wanted from their local church. They engaged an outside organisation to help them to engage with the community and manage the project and they prayed.

To cut a long story short they have ended up with a building that, from being locked up with closed doors most of the week, looks radically different and is open and inviting. It has become a vibrant hub for its community with a cafe, a Foodbank, a credit union and other services on offer to the community. It now has amazing opportunities to engage with people, to build relationships and to show the love of Jesus Christ in action, to who that the church cares.

You can see more at their web site:

<http://trinityellesmereport.org.uk>

I believe that God still has work for the Methodist Church to do. But that work involves re-engaging with our communities in new ways, not necessarily copying what others have done, but finding out what the local community needs and finding ways to meet those needs. Every community is different.

Maybe we need to start by forgetting about the church! Instead we can focus on sharing the love of Jesus Christ with

everyone and finding new ways to do that. Then we we may find that what God requires of the church becomes clear.

The current vision planning process taking place within our Weston Super Mare and Burnham on Sea Circuit offers a real opportunity to make radical and strategic decisions that could lead to genuine re-engagement with our communities. They will involve change, but the alternative is continued gradual decline, as what the church offers becomes more and more obsolete and irrelevant. We may not like change, but it tends to happen whether we like it or not!

Please pray for the continuing Vision planning process and for the Circuit meeting taking place this week.

Also this week (28th June) the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church takes place in Birmingham where reports will be heard, debated and adopted that will impact on the whole church. Please pray for those involved and especially for those who will be ordained as Presbyters and Deacons on Sunday.

As Julie and I move to pastures new, I offer you every blessing and pray that through God's Holy Spirit and the Love of Jesus Christ, every future challenge will be met with wisdom and courage.

We would be pleased to see you if you are passing our way in the future. Just take Junction 11A of the M5 and follow signs to Hucclecote. Our new address will be: 120 Hucclecote Road, Gloucester, GL3 3SB.

Best Wishes

Rev Andrew.

BETH MAKES HISTORY

Methodist Church celebrates

40 years of women's ordination.

On Saturday 21st June, the Methodist Church in Great Britain celebrated forty years of women's ordination. Although women were permitted to become deacons in the Methodist Church from 1890, they were not ordained as presbyters until 2nd July 1974, at the Methodist Conference in Bristol. Three of the original seventeen ordinands – the Revd's Marjorie Hopp, Elizabeth Hodgkiss and Jennifer Lunn, participated in the celebration at Wesley's Chapel in London on 21st June 2014.

Revd's Andrew Biggs, and Joyce Plumb visited Beth to represent the Circuit and share in Communion and present a Bouquet of flowers. We are sure Beth was able to understand what was happening and gave us a smile! Though very frail she received the Communion and was able to share some of the words.



Calendar

JUNE

Sat 28th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

JULY

Thur 3rd 2.30pm B/K Emmaus Group at Brent Knoll

Sat 5th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Wednesday Group

Wed 9th 12.00for12.30 B/H Church Lunch

Fri 11th 10.30 - 8.00 W/H Exhibition of Paintings at West Huntspill Methodist Church

Sat 12th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Sat 12th 10.30 - 5.00 W/H Exhibition of Paintings at West Huntspill Methodist Church

Sun 13th 2.00 - 5.00 W/H Exhibition of Paintings at West Huntspill Methodist Church

Sun 13th 6.00 pm B/H Café Church – (Rev Andrew Biggs)

Sat 19th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Educate the Kids (Kenya) Coffee Morning

Sun 20th 5.00pm Circuit Tea at Burnham.

6.00pm B/H Circuit Service & Farewell to Rev. Andrew Biggs conducted by Rev Robert Channon

Wed 23rd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning At the home of Joy & Tony Bishop 7 Naish Road - Bring & Buy & Raffle

Fri 25th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H West Huntspill Coffee Morning

Sat 26th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Mon 28th 2.30pm. B/K Brent Knoll - Bible Study

AUGUST

Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Choir

Sat 2nd 10.30 - 12.00 B/K Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll

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

Sat 9th 10.30 - 12.00 B/K Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll

Sun 10th 6.00 pm B/H Café Church – (Rosemary Krull)

Wed 13th 12.00for12.30 B/H Church Lunch

Sat 16th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Educate the Kids (Kenya) Coffee Morning

Sat 16th 10.30 - 12.00 B/K Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll

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

Sat 23rd 10.30 - 12.00 B/K Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll

Fri 29th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H West Huntspill Coffee Morning

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

SEPTEMBER over the page

SEPTEMBER

Sat	6th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Wednesday Group
Tue	9th	2.30pm.	E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Next season resumes September 9th 2014
Sat	13 th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sun	14th	6.00 pm	B/H Café Church – tba
Sat	20 th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H Educate the Kids (Kenya) Coffee Morning
Fri	26th	10.00 - 12.00	West Huntspill Coffee Morning

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

Cafe Church dates at Burnham

- Sunday 13th July at 6.00 pm – (Rev Andrew Biggs)
Sunday 10th August at 6.00 pm – (Rosemary Krull)
Sunday 14th September at 6.00 pm – tba
Sunday 12th October at 6.00 pm – (Rev Sharon Eldergill, curate at St. Andrews)
Sunday 9th November at 6.00 pm – (Rev Karen Murphy)
Sunday 14th December at 6.00 pm – tba

We start with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or three from 5.30 pm and help ourselves to refills during the evening.

We sing a few hymns or songs, have a short talk followed by a discussion, then a few more songs, ending with the Grace at about 7.00 pm.

All are welcome to come and join us.

**Prayer letter from Daniel and Grace Pratt-Chapman
and their little son Kwame-
Our Circuit Link in Cameroon, teaching in a theological
college.**

“A striker who can’t kick a ball” they asked? “Yes” I said. As you can see the seminary rather wishes it hadn’t picked me to play upfront in the college football tournament. I was quite amazed that I had been picked. I’ve never played here before, so I don’t know why they wrote my name down on the list. It makes one wonder how selections are made. My football skills can best be summed up in the following way: I can run really fast and, if I’m lucky, the defenders think I can play football, panic and if the ball lands somehow in front of me I try and kick it really hard (or dive). There is a thirty percent kick accuracy rate (possibly 20%) but then if do manage to kick the ball (which is not very often) there is a chance (1 in a million) that it might go somewhere in the direction of the opposition goal (roughly in the same way as a rugby kick). Anyway, the best skill I have is fooling the opposition into thinking I can play by running at them like a freight train (have you seen Forest Gump?). I just keep running in the hope that I will be able to distract the defenders enough so that someone who can actually play football can get the ball and score. Of course, after the first game they know you can’t play. But for that first game, some of them genuinely thought I could play as the service I was getting was also not too good. In sum, though I didn't get the call up for Brazil I have a feeling that Jose Mourinho would be proud of me ... after all he did sometimes play a defender (Robert Huth) in attack simply because he was tall (which I now learn was the criteria for my own selection).

I love football. Though I cannot play it, I love the way in which different skills can be combined to make a team. If you know your skill, and you use it in a way that benefits the team, then you can help the team (even if you really can’t play football). I love football because if you try and play every position you actually spoil the game. I can’t play every position (any position) but

because I knew I couldn't do anything with the ball I was actually able (in the first game) to do something to help. I learned a lesson from this. It's so easy to be tempted to try and be all the things that we are expected to be – when in fact we can't (Jesus wasn't what people expected him to be). Doing everything in such circumstances actually forces everyone else out-it leaves them on the bench when they could be playing their part. I realised that in my day to day life and work it can be so easy to try and fix everything, save everything stop everything that's going wrong from going wrong etc. By doing this I actually stop other (quieter) people from having a chance to do what they can do. Maybe they cannot do the things I can do, but the thing that they can do they can probably do better than one person can carrying the world on their shoulders.

I realized, while playing football badly that day, that actually we are putting people out of a job (so to speak) when we try to do everything. Now, when I hear the phrase: “He does everything....” Whether that be “everything” in the church or the workplace it makes me uncomfortable. In such cases I think it might even be better if the person stopped doing “everything” - in the case of the church doing everything is actually making one person into the body of Christ when in fact the body is full of different gifts that are all to be used together. For these reasons I thank God that I am inept (except when it comes to killing snakes) as I now see that it is when I have been useless that I have been able let others do things. I am glad that there is so much I am absolutely incapable of doing. It means other people get to do something too. To paraphrase our beloved apostle: in our weakness we are strong.

Pray for me and Grace as we seek to be, not what people want us to be but, what God wants us to be. Pray for Kwame and John that their parents will allow them to be, not what we think they ought to be but, what God wants them to be.



COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 23rd July

At the home of Joy & Tony Bishop 7 Naish Road

Burnham on Sea

10.00 - 12.00

Bring & Buy Stall & Raffle

HARRY'S PAGE

STOP COMPARING YOURSELF TO OTHERS

'...THEY... COMPARE THEMSELVES WITH THEMSELVES 2 Corinthians 10:12 NIV

ONE DEFINITION of success is. 'Gaining wealth and fame.' But how much wealth do you need to be successful? How much fame? Should you pick an arbitrary target? Should you compare yourself to others? What if you have decided to devote yourself to raising children of character, or serving your church and your community? Does that mean you are less successful? No. Success is doing the best you can, with what you have, wherever you are in life. The Bible warns, When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise' When you play the comparison game you are like the two cows that saw the milk lorry go by with a sign, 'Pasteurised, homogenised, Vitamin A added: One cow said to the other, 'Makes you feel sort of inadequate, doesn't it? God will help you

to be all that you can be, but He will never help you to be someone else. When you focus your attention on who you aren't, by comparing yourself with someone else, you lose sight of who you need to become. Ever heard of the eighteen/forty/sixty rule? When you're eighteen, you worry about what everybody's thinking about you. When you're forty, you realise that it doesn't really matter what they think about you. When you're sixty, it dawns on you that most of them weren't thinking about you at all Pauls life changed dramatically with one question: 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' (Acts 9:6 NKJV. Only when you ask that question, will you discover who you are and what God's called you to be

AN HONEST HEART

READ:

Psalm 15

I know also, my God,
that You test the heart
and have pleasure in
uprightness.!

--1 Chronicles 29:17

I came across an epitaph on an old gravestone in a cemetery the other day. It read, 'T Holgate: An honest man.'

I know nothing of Holgate's life, but because his marker is unusually ornate, he must have struck it rich. But whatever he accomplished in his lifetime, he's remembered for just one thing: he was "an honest man":

Diogenes, the Greek philosopher, spent a lifetime in search of honesty and finally concluded that an honest man could not be found. Honest people are hard to find in any age, but the trait is one that greatly matters. Honesty is not the best policy;

it's the only policy, and one of the marks of a man or woman who lives in Your presence. David writes, "LORD, . . . who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly" (Ps. 15:1-2).

I ask myself: am I trustworthy and honourable in all my affairs? Do my words ring true? Do I speak the truth in love or do I fudge and fade the facts now and then, or exaggerate for emphasis? If so, I may turn to God with complete confidence and ask for forgiveness and for a good and honest heart—to make truthfulness an integral part of my nature. The One who has begun a good work in me is faithful. He will do it. —

David Roper

*Lord, help me to be honest
In all I do and say,
And grant me grace and power
To live for You each day. —Fitzhugh*

**Live in such a way that when people think of honesty
and integrity, they will think of you.**



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

Burnham Stewards

The summer months are often a quiet time in the church: but in June we celebrated our Church Anniversary, and have been holding the usual weekly coffee mornings and the church lunch - many thanks to Dorothy for agreeing to do this lunch at short notice. Ann Hall and Daphne Hill have been undertaking the Worship Leaders Course - well done to them as it is hard work with a lot of homework!! Some of our congregation will be holidaying, and we wish anyone who is going away an enjoyable holiday and a safe journey.

In August it will be time to say goodbye to our Minister and his wife, Andrew and Julie, as they move to a new church in Gloucestershire. We extend our thanks to them for all they have done for the churches in our area and send our very best wishes for their future happiness. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend a special "Farewell Service" to be held in our church on Sunday, 20 July, at 6pm. There will be a buffet beforehand at 5pm.

As they begin the next chapter in their lives we pray that God will guide, support and encourage them as they meet new opportunities and challenges in their new church.

It will also be a time of new beginnings for us as we extend a warm welcome to Revd John James. From September he will be overseeing our church in Burnham during the coming year, so we also pray that his time with us will be happy and fruitful as we work together for the benefit of our church.

On a personal note I would like to thank my fellow stewards for their support and friendship during the past year. I feel we have worked together as a successful team. I should also like to take this opportunity to thank members of the church who have given so freely of their time and efforts, and those who are planning to do so in the future, to contribute towards the finances and smooth running of the church.

May we look forward to the next year with optimism and enthusiasm.

Joan Wilkins

BREAN

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

I am continuously astonished at the sheer tenacity that Nature displays. Five months ago we all suffered some dreadful storms and the dunes here at Brean were cut back to reveal cliffs 8 and even 10 feet high in places. Over the months those cliffs have been further eroded by wind and general usage but slowly some sand is being laid at their feet. The sand is now so very dry because of the gorgeous weather we've been having (well it has been at the time of writing), you would think nothing could grow in it. And yet, walking the dog this week we found several clumps of grass pushing out of the sand on the beach some 25 yards from the cliffs down towards the tide line.

The good weather has brought a lot more visitors this summer so far and we've had about twenty people in our congregation most weeks. It is really satisfying to feel that visitors want to worship with us, and to stay for coffee and chat afterwards.

Our 'tea party' at the end of May to raise funds for Weston Hospice Care was another great success. We were helped by the boldness of some of our younger members who stood out in the breeze at the front of the chapel and encouraged people to come in and buy the cakes on offer. In all we raised about £130, so our thanks to all those who came, and to all those who helped.

Congratulations and best wishes to Luke and Teraza who get married in our church at the end of July. They and Malachi (and Fonzy the dog) are then off to Southwold in Suffolk where Luke has been appointed Director of Music at a school on the edge of the town. We wish them well but we shall miss them.

Conducting the wedding will be about the last function that Andrew performs before he and Julie move to their new appointment in Gloucester. To them both, thank you; we hope that the move goes smoothly and that you find fulfilment in your new posts.

To everyone we send our best wishes and we hope you all enjoy the summer.

Harvey Allen

WEST HUNTSPILL



Coffee Mornings

Last Friday of every month

so the next ones will be

Friday July 25th and August 29th

10.00am – 12.00md

Free Coffee and Cakes

Table Top sales

Opportunity to meet and chat with others



Huntspill Art Group

Exhibition of paintings

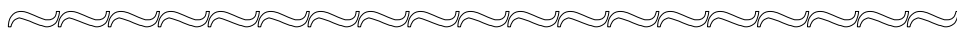
At West Huntspill Methodist Church

Friday 11th July 10.30am – 8.00pm

Saturday 12th July 10.30am – 5.00pm

Sunday 13th July 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Refreshments served



BRENT KNOLL

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

Minister Rev. Andrew Biggs

Well it's certainly been a "Flaming June" (and I'm also thinking of the spectacular lightning and thunder we had here as well as the glorious sunshine). And as summer seems to have finally arrived, we will be holding our summer coffee mornings here at Brent Knoll on the first four Saturdays in August from 10.30am. We are always grateful for the fellowship and support we share with all of our Link friends during this time and we look forward to seeing you.

June was also another month of goodbyes. This time to Brian and Janet Purnell who have moved to Taunton. We were so sad to see them leave us but wish them every best in their new home and look forward to seeing them on their promised return visits.

We will, of course, also be saying goodbye to our own Rev Andrew and Julie Biggs in August. We would like to say a big thank you to Andrew for looking after us at Brent Knoll over the past five years and wish both him and Julie a very happy time in their new post in Gloucestershire - they will both be very much missed. We are thankful that Rev Margaret Trapp will be taking pastoral care of us for a year following Andrew's departure and we are very grateful to her for agreeing to take us on.

Two more dates for your diary. Emmaus will be held on Thursday 3rd July and our monthly bible study group will meet on Monday 28th July (we will continue our journey through Acts, looking at Paul's trial). Both begin at 2.30pm in the school room and will be followed by tea and coffee.

From all of us at Brent Knoll, we wish you all a happy and relaxing Summer whether you are going away or enjoying a break at home.

God bless

Rosemary Krull

Educate the Kid



Photo's taken in May 2014 2 days after Sue & I arrived so did the rain. This shows the ground inside the primary School.
Wellington boots will be taken next year.



Children from The Kindergarten are so happy to receive 1 sweet.



Walking through the village to visit a family. The children were on their way home – Parents don't come to meet them.

EAST BRENT

Last year we were challenged by the Vice President of Conference, Michael King, to do something different, when he came to preach. So June of last year we arranged an afternoon of ‘Songs of Praise’ with tea. This year the ‘Summernote’s’ very kindly agreed to sing for us. Nine gentlemen and their lady accompanist entertained for an hour with a selection of songs from ‘Amazing Grace’ to ‘What a Wonderful World’ we then enjoyed scones, jam, cream and strawberries with a welcome cup of tea in the hall. After a good chat and more tea we set off home having enjoyed a super afternoon – and all for “free”. Something similar will be happening next year – Try not to miss it, many thanks to Margaret Scott for organising another successful afternoon.

In May our Church was 143 years old and our Hall was 50 years old. We were told that a wooden building wouldn’t last, but we have proved the experts wrong.

We were pleased to welcome Julie Biggs to one of our morning services, only the second time that she has been with us. Julie preached on the Trinity, which lots of experienced local preachers find difficult, but Julie’s explanation was simple and easily understood, Well Done!!

On Sunday a local family are having their two boys aged 18 months and 6 months Christened in our Church, at least 45 people are expected to join with us. I shall have to remember to provide a towel as the Revd. Carol always uses lots of water – scooped up in a shell!!

Jill Legg.



Minister

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www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk

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

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

Circuit Web site

<http://westonburnham.wix.com/w-s-mb-o-smethodists>

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**The Deadline for the
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Sunday 23rd August 2014**

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