
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

July - August 2015 Volume 50. No. 6.



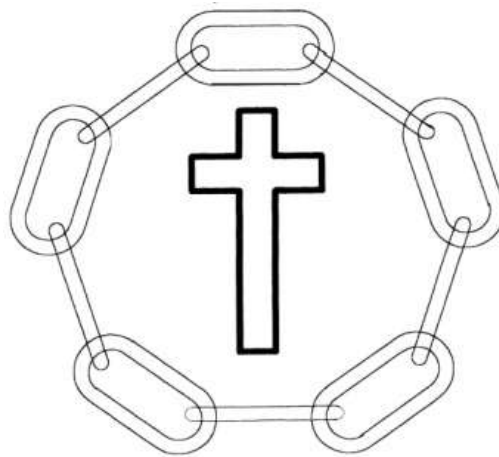
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM

Minister's Letters

“Summer suns are glowing over land and sea” run the first two lines of Wm. Walsham How’s well known hymn that, along with many others familiar to us, has failed to make it into Singing the Faith. I’ve chosen that hymn a few times over the years during summer months. But as you plan the service a few days ahead you know that by the time Sunday comes it will probably be pouring with rain. But it doesn’t matter, because the rest of the hymn is about God’s mercy and grace that stream across all the world, infusing even the extreme of death.

God’s love is for everyone, everywhere, everywhen. That understanding has to be at the heart of all we do in the church in the name of mission and witness. More important still, however, is that it has to be at the heart of our personal understanding and living of life.

With all best wishes

John



Dear Friends,

I have just finished reading a biography of Jorge Bergoglio, you know him better as Pope Francis. It is both a very interesting and at the same time a profoundly challenging book.

In it there is a description of the four principles that have been Pope Francis's guide and lode star ever since the day of his ordination as a Roman Catholic priest. They are 1) Unity comes before conflict 2) The whole comes before the part 3) Time comes before space 4) reality comes before the idea. Perhaps these can be summed up in the phrase "the need to see the big picture."

It is important that time is greater than space, that unity prevails over conflict, that realities are more important than ideas and that the whole is greater than the part. In the new beginnings and fresh starts that September brings let us all try as hard as possible to see “the big picture”.

It has been a wonder experience having the dust sheets of retirement shaken off this old wrinkly and having been able to serve you all in the last twelve months.

God bless you all,

Yours sincerely,

Stanley.



Sometimes it seems longer than ten months that I have officially been the Minister with Pastoral charge of Brent Knoll and I shall be very pleased to hand the responsibility to Stephen Bennett in September but I cannot say that the work has been onerous because we have such a supportive congregation in which everyone plays a full part. Many thanks to all of you especially to those who hold office and I don't think anyone will mind if I say a special word of thanks to Ron Pycroft who is not only a gifted and practical Property Steward but also keeps us on track in so many other ways arranging rotas, sharing the operation of the sound and music system with Gill Poulter and providing us with attractive and relevant notices every week. In connection with the property we shall be having repairs and decoration inside and out beginning on July 20th. so our series of four August coffee mornings begins ,on the second Saturday the 8th. All are welcome. And that reminds me of the hymn which I like to think of as a kind of anthem for all our churches. It is no. 409 in Singing the Faith "Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live" so that as the chorus says "All are welcome in this place"

A very special welcome to Stephen, Angie and Garry as they come to take up their appointments in the Circuit. I am sure they will have as much support as you have given to me and to Stanley and to John this past year and I hope they will be very happy and have fulfilling ministries among us.

Love to all

Margaret

Note from the retiring superintendent.

Having spent the last twelve years in the circuit, I leave with a sense of relief and anticipation as I move into a new phase of my life. I am not the sort of person for looking back too much, perhaps, because as Christians we should always be looking forward. Maybe that is one of the circuits failings, in that many people look back with rose tinted spectacles on what once was.

That said I look back with many happy memories of my time in the circuit especially preaching around the circuit and meeting some good and faithful people. I hope that my suggestion in placing the new superintendent at the Burnham end of the circuit will somehow encourage a strengthening of the circuit that often appears to work as two separate entities, which is one of its main weaknesses.

With the new ministerial team in place, I hope that new ventures will be explored to make the gospel relevant in times that are very different when most of the members in the churches first came to faith. The future of the church is not in the hands of ministers but in the hands of the people. Ministers can only encourage, and if people reject change then, the people can only reap what they sow. New, chairs, music or hymn books do not of themselves bring people into church. It is the outward love that is shown, by the indwelling love of God in His people that transforms people into new disciples.

I leave you in the care of Steven, Angela and Gary and pray God's blessing upon you all. I thank you for your support over twelve years with all its ups and downs and move on to see what God wants of me in the future.

Blessings

Robert.



Deaths

Mrs. Dora Summerscales member at Burnham on 13th June.

Funeral at Sedgemoor Crematorium on June 23rd

Calendar

JUNE

- Sat 27th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
Sun 28th 10.30am B/H Church Anniversary Burnham Methodist
Sun 28th 6.30pm B/H Church Anniversary Songs of Praise
Burnham Methodist

JULY

- Thur 2nd 2.30pm B/K Emmaus Course at Brent Knoll led by Rev.
Margaret Trapp
Thu. 2nd 2.00 - 4.00 B/H Traditional Folk & Social Dancing
Sat 4th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the
Wednesday Group
Sat 4th 7.00pm Kenyan Choir – Love can turn the World –
Concert at St Andrews Church see Page 8
Sun 5th 6.00pm Kenyan Choir – Love can turn the World –
Concert at Burnham Methodist Church see
Page 8
Sat 11th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
Sun 12th 3.30pm A Farewell Service for Ward and Linda is
being held at Clifton Cathedral, see Page 7
Sat 18th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning by & in aid of Biars
Sun 19th 6.00pm B/H Cafe Church TBA
Sat 25th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
Thu. 16th 2.00 - 4.00 B/H Traditional Folk & Social Dancing

AUGUST

- Sat 1st 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Choir
Sun 2nd 6.00pm. Rev Carol Gill Farewell at Victoria W s M
Thu. 6th 2.00 - 4.00 B/H Traditional Folk & Social Dancing
Sat 8th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
Sat 8th 10.30am. B/K Summer Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll
Methodist
Sat 15th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning by & in aid of Biars
Sat 15th 10.30am. B/K Summer Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll
Methodist
Sun 6.00pm B/H Cafe Church TBA
Sat 22nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
Sat 22nd 10.30am. B/K Summer Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll
Methodist

Sun **LAST DAY FOR THE SEPTEMBER LINK**

Sat 29th 10.30am. B/K Summer Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll Methodist

Thu.20th 2.00 - 4.00 B/H Traditional Folk & Social Dancing

SEPTEMBER

Thu. 3rd 2.00 - 4.00 B/H Traditional Folk & Social Dancing

Sat 5th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Stewards & Thursday Fellowship,

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



**CHEDDAR
MALE CHOIR
CONCERT**



To be held in Victoria
Methodist Church W s M

on Saturday 1st August 2015

at 7.30pm.

To include a trio – Reflections –John Dando,
Brian Boderham and Elaine Marigold

Tickets £7.50

In aid of the Methodist Charity

Action for Children

Formally – National Children's Home

Café church dates at Burnham

We meet on the third Sunday evening in the month at 6.00 pm

Sunday	19 th	July	at 6.00 pm	TBA
Sunday	16 th	August	at 6.00 pm	TBA
Sunday	20 th	September	at 6.00 pm	TBA
Sunday	18 th	October	at 6.00 pm	TBA
Sunday	15 th	November	at 6.00 pm	TBA



We haven't yet finalised the speakers for these dates.

We start with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or three from about 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.



Rev. Ward Jones

Rev. Ward Jones has been Chair of the Bristol District for 17 years and as you know, is "sitting down" this year after 39 years in ministry.

A Farewell Service for Ward and Linda is being held at Clifton Cathedral, Clifton Park, Bristol BS8 3BX on Sunday, July 12th at 3.30pm.

More detail in the last LINK

We hope that this service will be a real celebration of Ward's ministry and that as many people as possible will be able to share in the day. If you have any queries regarding the service please contact Rev Mandy Briggs on 0117 926 4740 or via education@newroombristol.org.uk



Traditional Folk Dancing & Social Dancing

1st & 3rd Thursdays 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Commencing 15th June until 3rd September

All ages welcome - no need to bring a partner.

Come to Burnham Methodist Hall



The Singing Children of Africa Love Can Turn the World 2015 Tour

Many of you will remember 'The Singing Children of Africa', a group of Kenyan school children who have sung and danced their way into people's hearts on two previous tours to this area. Good news! A new group of Kenyan children will be staying with local host families during three weeks in June and July. They are here to promote and raise funds for the charity Educate the Kids which provides food and education for them and 600 fellow students in a severely under privileged area of Kenya, where life is desperately hard. The charity is run by volunteers and every penny raised gets directly to where it is needed to change a young life; no money is wasted on administration or red tape.

I can promise it will be a truly uplifting experience. Free concerts, followed by a retiring collection are held as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
Fri 26 June	Beachcomber, Warren Road, Brean	8.00pm
Sat 27 June	St. John's Church, Highbridge	7.00pm
Thu 2 July	Farmer's Tavern, Leisure Centre, Brean	7.00pm
Sat 4 July	Sander's Garden World, A38, Brent Knoll	10.15am
Sat 4 July	Sander's Garden World, A38, Brent Knoll	2.00pm
Sat 4 July	St. Andrew's Church, Burnham-on-Sea	7.00pm

Sun 5 July	Methodist Church, College St., Burnham	6.00pm
Mon 6 July	St. Michaels Church, Brent Knoll	7.00pm
Tue 7 July	Beachcomber, Warren Road, Brean	7.00pm
Fri 10 July	Farmer's Tavern, Leisure Centre, Brean	7.00pm
Sat 11 July	Sander's Garden World, A38, Brent Knoll	10.15am
Sat 11 July	Sander's Garden World, A38, Brent Knoll	2.00pm
Tue 14 July	St Mary's Church, Bridgwater	7.00pm

With kind thanks to the venues above for providing the concert facilities free charge.

If you would like more information about the charity or you can help in any way please visit www.educatethekids.com

or contact Sue Stevens on 01278 782789.

Sue Stevens



LINK FOR HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2015.

LINK FOR HOPE sends shoeboxes filled with items to families and also elderly people in The Ukraine, Romania. Bulgaria and Moldova every autumn. I and some other teachers in the area have been sending shoeboxes with this charity for many years. This year they are asking for more help than ever as they are dealing with refugees from Syria who have arrived in Bulgaria and people made homeless in The Ukraine. If you would like to help by filling a shoebox or donating items such as toiletries, sewing kits or hats/scarves/ gloves or socks please let me know. This charity also does specific boxes for the elderly which include the above items but also pens and paper, windup torches and new reading glasses. The charity also collects unwanted foreign coins which they sell and use the proceeds to run lunch clubs for the elderly. If you feel you can help or want more information please contact Marian Foster on 01278785360, you can also find out more about their work at www.linktohope.co.uk.



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN.

As I write this we look forward to what, we hope, will be the "summer" months of July and August. It has been so lovely to have had some warm sunny days, and to see the gardens and hedgerows looking so colourful, and to hear the birds singing once again. We are coming to holiday-times again, and whether we are going away on holiday or just spending leisure time at home with friends and family, may we feel refreshed and renewed and looking forward to the start of another Methodist year in September, with all its challenges and changes.

It hardly seems a year since we were thinking we at Burnham were going to be without a Minister for a year, and I second Hilary's thanks in the June "Link" for the ministry of the Rev. John James. You were here for us in our "hour of need" John! On behalf of the stewards' team, and our church congregation, "Thank You" for your Ministry, pastoral care and friendship to us here in Burnham. The year is going by just too quickly!

Before the July/August "Link" is available we shall have had our Church Anniversary. As part of our Anniversary Celebrations this year, on Sunday 28th June the morning service will be a Family Service, and in the evening there will be a "Songs of Praise" service. John has asked members from the congregation to choose a hymn that's significant for them, and then briefly say something about why it's special to them. I thought "Ok. It can't be too difficult for me to choose a favorite hymn". Well, not so easy after all! Can't remember how many times I changed my mind, but finally going back to my first original choice! My choice - a great hymn of Fellowship - "All praise to our redeeming Lord, Who joins us by His grace". What wonderful hymn books we have, with our old favorites, and now many new modern ones as well.

We think of all those in our own church and in the Link churches who are not well at the moment. You are in our prayers, and we hope you are soon feeling much better. We are so thankful that Dorothy is now out of hospital, and recovering from her recent illness.

We give our love and good wishes for the future to our Superintendent, Robert, and to Rev. Carol Gill, as they leave our circuit shortly. We will miss you both. On a personal note, I remember with thanks the lovely service Carol took at Burnham church on the occasion of my granddaughter's christening, along with the christening the same morning of the grandson of Paul and Sheila, two of our church members (almost 8 and a half years ago). Time flies Carol!

Our good wishes to all our friends in the Link churches.

Carol Boocock



BREAN

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

There was a time when we arrived in church for worship to a quiet, almost reverential attitude, but one in which there was also a background of one to one conversations. Quite irritating at times because you thought everyone should know you ought to be quiet before the service starts.

Nowadays all that has gone by the board. Without any clear signalling of change being allowed, there is now a welcoming and cheery banter across the room as regulars and visitors arrive and enjoy each other's presence, and short conversations and laughter. Having exercised all that energy, the bustle quietens down naturally in those last three or four minutes before worship starts.

What a difference, and as one who thought the first scenario was the correct one, I am now all for the second. Perhaps it is because we have a permanent arrangement of the chairs in a semi-circle and can see

across the room so much better; but somehow the ice is broken, and when we worship we worship together in a more positive fashion.

I'm sure that our visitors have appreciated it and feel welcomed. And we have had a reasonable number so far this year, all things considered.

We have also welcomed the young people and their families from Yatton, who spent one Saturday using our premises and gaining access to Beach and Down. It was not the first time they've been here and they, and we, hope they will come again. Rumour has it that Locking Castle are contemplating a similar event later in the summer. With our premises and position, we are very handily placed for this sort of venture.

We still hear from some of our fellowship who have moved away; from Roger Course, from Daphne Price who is coping with illnesses, and from Iris Barratt whose daughter has been seriously ill. All still keep in touch via the Link magazine and we send our love to them all.

We are coming to the end of the year in which we were supposedly without a minister. But then we've had Rev. Stanley Pipet around to keep an eye on us! 'Nuff said, I think. His impact on us all (and on the Anglicans as it happens), has been a warm and generous experience. There is at least one Caravan Site and their employees (not to mention their dogs) who look forward to their coffee times with increased expectancy when they see Stanley's figure approaching! Thank you Stanley, you're a star.

Now we begin to turn our gaze to September when the Circuit get a new staff team. A time of new challenge and direction perhaps – let's hope we are ready for it.

Enjoy the summer everyone.

Harvey Allen



BRENT KNOLL

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

Minister Revd. Margaret Trapp

A very big thank you to everyone who supported our Spring coffee morning back in May. £110 was raised for church funds and we are all very appreciative of your generosity.

We will be holding our Summer coffee mornings in August but please note that these will be held on Saturday 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th August starting at 10.30am. There will not be a coffee morning on Saturday 1st August. We look forward to seeing our Link church friends over refreshments.

We will, of course, be welcoming our new Superintendent Minister, Rev. Steve Bennett who will be arriving in the summer and will begin his ministry with us from September. But all of us here Brent Knoll Methodist Church would like to say a very big thank you to Rev. Margaret Trapp who has been looking after us for the past year when we have been without a minister. She has worked tirelessly and has led us in worship, in meetings and has provided us all with support and pastoral care. We are so very grateful to her for all she has done for us.

All that is left to say is that, from all of us here at Brent Knoll, whether you are going away or staying at home in our lovely County, we wish you all a safe, peaceful and happy Summertime.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



EAST BRENT

Our Church has had a 'Make-Over' you wouldn't know as the walls have been painted the same colour again – but the mould speckles have gone.

The outside of the hall has been re-stained where needed. The weeds have been weed killed and the grass cut. Brambles still need removing from the car park border otherwise we are tidy for another year.

The Church cleaner has decided that on reaching the grand old age of 75 she should retire, therefore decisions will have to be made soon, shall we employ someone else, or have a rota? We probably should have a meeting, the brass already needs cleaning!!!

The Revd. Carol's last service in our Church is on July 5th we shall miss her loving, caring ministry but we look forward to being part of the Link again, some would say that we never left!!

A good number of the East Brent congregation joined with West Huntspill to celebrate their anniversary. It was a joy to meet up again with the Revd. Robin and Ethel.

We send our best wishes to John and June and hope that they will both be feeling better soon.

Jill Legg



LINK ORDER FORM

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 £6.00** per annum.

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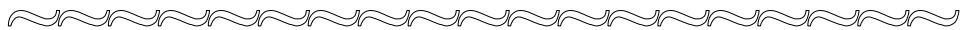
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Please make Cheques Payable to **“Burnham on Sea Methodist Church”**



Ministers:- Acting until Sept 2015

Burnham on Sea Methodist Church

Rev. John O. James, Wisteria Cottage, Watchfield, Highbridge TA9 4RB

Tel. (01278) 787378

Brean and West Huntspill Methodist Churches

Rev. Stanley Pipet B.D. 12 St Michael's Road Burnham on Sea. TA8 2BQ

Tel (01278) 795764

Brent Knoll Methodist Church

Rev. Margaret Trapp B.A. 7 Coombe Side Brent Knoll Highbridge TA9 4ED

Tel (01278) 760573

East Brent Methodist Church

Rev. Carol E. Gill B.A. Willow Lodge 31 Laural Drive Uphill Weston s Mare

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Web Sites

New Circuit Web site www.wsbos.org

www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk

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

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

**The Deadline for the
September 2015 “LINK” is
Sunday 23rd August 2015**