
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

July - August 2019 Volume 54. No. 6.



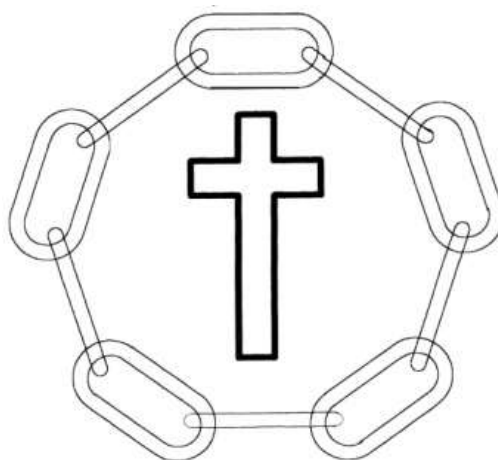
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

It is music festival time again and on the television, I have watched people queueing to get into venues. This week it has been the Glastonbury Festival, but this is just one of many during the summer. I am always surprised at how excited people are and how they are prepared to wait for hours, and sometimes for days, so that they can get the best seat, the best view. They get together and share their eagerness and excitement and somehow this keeps them warm. Most of all getting the front row experience makes the waiting worthwhile. I have never done such a thing. Have you?

There are few things, if any, I would be prepared to queue that long for. There are few things, if any, that I would anticipate with such excitement that I would be prepared to spend a cold wet night (as it normally is in this country) just to get a better view.

- Then I think of the anticipation of the Israelites waiting for the coming of the Messiah; their eagerness for God to move through the country and save God's people, a wait of centuries rather than days.

- Then I think of Jesus preaching on hillsides and in temples and I wonder about the excitement, anticipation, the wonder of the crowd. How long did they have to wait to get the best view on the hillside, the best seat in the synagogue? Would I have been prepared to queue or put myself out to hear the words of the Son of Man?

- Then I think of our worship. How eagerly do we anticipate each gathering? Do we have this sense of anticipation and excitement as we come together to worship God in his temple? How far will we put ourselves out as we celebrate all that God has done for us?

All this might sound a bit far fetched and I am not suggesting that people should queue overnight on a Saturday to get the best seat for Sunday worship (that's the back row in Methodism!), indeed worship

as we know it might not be something we would even think of or imagine in this way. But is this right?

The Bible tells us that we are people made for worship and this should be our greatest desire and delight. If it isn't then we really should be wondering what we are doing wrong and how we can make it so. Because if it is not fulfilling for us, how can we expect it to be fulfilling for others.

Steve



Calendar

JUNE

Sun 30th 2.00 - 5.00 Open Garden at the home of Dorothy & Cedric May 6 Brightstowe Road TA8 2HW in aid of Weston Hospicecare

JULY

Mon 1st 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean
Sat 6th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Church Funds by the Stewards
Mon 8th 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean
Wed 11th 12.30 B/H Church Lunch by Dorothy.
Sat 13th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sat 13th 10.00 - 1.00 Patchwork and Plant Sale at – Our Lady and the English Martyrs Church
Sat 20th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning
Sat 20th 2.30pm BR Time with John Wesley at Brean see Page 6
Tue 23rd 10.00 – 12.00 Coffee Morning at The Home of Mrs. Joy Bishop, 7 Naish Road
Fri 26th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill Methodist see page 11
Sat 27th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

AUGUST

Sat 3rd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Church Funds by the Choir
Sat 3rd 10.30 B/K Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll

Sat 10th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
 Sat 10th 10.30 B/K Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll
 Sat 17th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning
 Sat 17th 10.30 B/K Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll
 Sun 18th **LAST DAY FOR THE SEPTEMBER LINK**
 Sat 24th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
 Sat 24th 10.30 B/K Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll
 Sat 31st 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
SEPTEMBER
 Sat 7th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Church Funds by the Wednesday Group
 Sat 14th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
 Sat 14th 4.00 - 6.00 B/H Messy Church at Burnham
 Sun 15th B/K Harvest Festival at Brent Knoll
 Sat 21st 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning
 Sun 22nd **LAST DAY FOR THE OCTOBER LINK**



BURNHAM 140th ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate our 140th Anniversary it was agreed that we held a Flower Festival on 3 days – 21st 22nd & 23rd June. There were 19 beautiful arrangements around the Church. People were commenting about the wonderful perfume from the flowers as they entered the Church, and how well all the colours complimented each other.

I would like to say a big Thank You to everyone who helped. The flower arrangers, the tea and coffee makers, the Stewards who were there to help welcome visitors and keep an eye on everything.

To continue our celebrations, we had tea followed by a Songs of Praise Service arranged by our Minister Rev Steve. This was well supported – a very fitting end to our Anniversary Weekend

Thank you all,

Dorothy May

P.S.

There are some photos on the Website look at

<http://methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk/photographsFF19.htm>

John Wesley is travelling the country once more...

An Evening with
John Wesley
with Mark Topping as John Wesley



*"Mark's presentation brings John Wesley to life
and allows him to speak to our day"* Rev. Dr John Newton



In this inspiring presentation John Wesley shares something of his life and adventures. History is brought to life, providing an insight into what Wesley was like and into his Christian faith. With wit and passion Wesley challenges listeners afresh to join him in what he sees as his mission:

My business on earth is to do what good I can.

"I want to commend this presentation - Wesley speaks to the present age" Rev. Inderjit Bhogal

"I felt I stood in the presence of John Wesley - history is brought to life" Rev. Norman Wallwork

***Brean Methodist Church presents
a matinee performance
on Sat 20th July 2019 at 2:30pm***

*Tickets available from Morag Wood on 01278-751660
or from church members*

£10 per person including a 'Summer Tea' to follow

PATCHWORK AND PLANT SALE

Patchwork quilts, cushions, bags and other items made by Pat Nicholls,
Plants grown by Sue Harvey and Pat



Saturday, 13th July 2019
10 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

**OUR LADY AND THE ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH,
HIGHBRIDGE ROAD, BURNHAM ON SEA, TA8 1LL**

Refreshments and raffle

the proceeds of which will be used to defray the costs of the
Festival of Flowers and Quilts, 12th -14th September

The church will be open for people to see how the building has changed in the
last few years.

BRENT KNOLL

(www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

Minister Rev. Steve Bennett

We will be holding our annual August coffee mornings in aid of charity on the first four Saturdays of that month from 10.30am. The charities we have chosen to be represented at those morning are the RNLI, Weston Hospice, Multiple Sclerosis UK and the Methodist Charity "All We Can". Do come along to enjoy fellowship and refreshments - and of course a warm welcome.

Looking ahead, our Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 15th September. This is a very special service for us in our rural community and we all enjoy decorating the church together - using all things seasonal and with local produce. The service will be followed by a hot shared lunch with our usual array of tempting puddings to follow.

We are also looking to try a different form of worship at a different time on the last Sunday of September - more details to follow in September's edition of The Link.

But before that, we have summer to look forward to. As our young people prepare to break up from school and we prepare for holidays, from all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, we wish you all the joy and (hopefully!) the sunshine that July and August can bring. Whether you are planning to go away or enjoy a "staycation" here in our beautiful County, we wish you a peaceful, safe and refreshing time,

God Bless

Rosemary Krull



EAST BRENT

Quite a few of our members have been on holiday, visiting relatives, or not well during the last couple of months. So, few would have been available last Sunday for local arrangements that we cancelled the service altogether. (Gordon and I and family were in Suffolk for the weekend for a granddaughters wedding).

Our 148th Church Anniversary passed by in May with hardly a mention, we shall have to start planning for our 150th before long!! (Something else to talk about over coffee).

Congratulations to John and June as they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary and hope that they have many more happy years together.

We remember and send our love to those that aren't able to attend anymore and to those of our Church family who are not well. The after Service coffee area is still very popular, especially the biscuits, with so much chattering it's a job to get everyone out of the door to lock up!!

Jill Legg



BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

Only a month since our last Link, and what a busy time it's been. The Food Festival drew in a number of people from all over the country with Burnham Methodist Church providing teas and coffees for the visitors.

Last month, Ann wrote about trying out our new activity of spending some time with the older ones to talk about what they get from Messy Church and giving them the opportunity of talking about what works well and how the sessions can be developed further. This was met with enthusiasm and everyone was forthcoming with their views and ideas for future meetings. We will be back with Messy Church in September and plan to expand on our numbers of participants and helpers. We need your help with this, so please pass the word around and come and join the team.

As I write this column, the Flower Festival is taking place, with the Church becoming a ray of colour and beautiful aromas. Let us take a moment to

appreciate all that we have been given. We celebrated the 140th Church Anniversary with a Songs of Praise Service.

We also had a local arrangement where all the Stewards contributed to a hymn, a prayer, a reading and with the help of the congregation managed to write our own church song (although still working on finalising the music and verses).

Don't forget all our activities which take place at Burnham and please look at the notice boards for updates and details.

We look forward to welcoming you all to take part in our events and wish you a very happy July

Marian Kingsbury



BREAN

www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk

On 8th September 1769 John Wesley preached at Brean. Well that is the firmly held view related down the years by the Hicks family even though documented proof cannot be established. It is a reasonable assumption though, since Wesley records visits to both Lympsham (where, on one occasion he fell off his horse into a rhine and had to be helped out) and Brent Knoll; and a view of an 18th Century map, in days when there was no north/south Coast Road, shows that access to both villages was surprisingly easy. On 8th September Wesley climbed to the top of Brent Knoll and declared 'I know not I ever saw such a prospect' and Rev. Bill Kemm, Anglican rector of Brean says in his book on Berrow and Brean at the end of the 1980s, that this was the most likely date for his visit. Whether this was the occasion for a full preached service or simply 'tea and a chat' is uncertain but Bill Kemm adds 'Wesley could have spent that night at Brean, for the next day his diary simply records "I returned to Bristol"'

There was no Methodist Church as such during Wesley's time. Methodism was a movement within the Anglican church. William Hicks was churchwarden and he, with others had ventured up to Newgate prison, Bristol to see a hanging (which was a popular public event in those days – it disgusted and disturbed him). While there he

heard Wesley preach and invited the man to preach at Brean if he was ever in the vicinity.

After the visit, a preaching room was set up in Southfield Farm, was licenced for marriages in 1804, and continued there until 1847 when a cottage close to the present church was converted for use for Methodist worship and as a schoolroom. As Methodism split into different forms in the 19th Century, the Brean community continued as Wesleyan Methodists. In 1932 the Wesleyan, Primitive and United Methodist churches combined to form the Methodist Church as it is today. The United Methodist Church itself had been formed in 1909, from other, smaller groups including the Bible Christians (as was the church at Brent Knoll).

Methodists continued to worship at the Anglican church on Sunday mornings until the 20th Century, joining for worship on their own premises on afternoons or evenings, often in congregations that overflowed the building. It was around the time of the 1932 Methodist Unity that the present church was built, the land having been gifted by members of the Hicks family.

So this year is the 250th anniversary of Wesley's visit and Mark Topping is bringing his celebrated re-enactment of parts of Wesley's life to Brean Methodist Church on Saturday July 20th at 2.30pm. He has been performing this routine for 13 years, in more than 175 churches and theatres. The drama looks at Wesley's adventurous life – including his confrontations with the drunken mobs which were frequently stirred up to disrupt his preaching.

It will be an entertaining afternoon and there will be tea afterwards. Please come if you can. Tickets can be obtained from Morag Wood on 01278 751660.

Elsewhere we have continued to welcome visitors to our midst throughout the summer so far and shall continue to do so in the months ahead.

We shall though be sad to see Fred and Berry depart for other pastures. Fred has been lead steward in the church and his handiwork was much in evidence in the upkeep of the property; Berry's handicrafts will also be much missed. Both have added much to the

positive and friendly atmosphere in the church. Berry has not been well recently and has needed hospital treatment, so this move, to a smaller property at Thornbury, near Bristol, comes at an appropriate time. We wish you both well, Fred and Berry, and thank you for all that you have contributed to the work of the church at Brean.

Our services in July and August are all in our church at 10.30am except for the one on July 14th when we meet at St Bridget's at 9.15am

Harvey Allen

West Huntspill



Our next Coffee Morning will be held on

July 26th

August Coffee Morning on 30th

10am - 12md

Free Coffee, tea, cakes and Chat

Proceeds for Alzheimer's Society

We have an Own Arrangement service planned

on July 28th and are looking forward to

welcoming the young people's band from

the Gospel Hall to lead our worship.

Minister and Circuit Superintendent

Rev. Steve Bennett, 28A Caernarvon Way. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2DQ
steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk Tel. (01278) 784808

Editors

Cedric & Dorothy May 6 Brightstowe Road. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2HW
cedric.may@btinternet.com Tel. (01278) 784204

Web Sites

Circuit Web site www.wsmbos.org
www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk
www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk
www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

<p style="text-align: center;">The Deadline for the SEPTEMBER 2019 LINK is Sunday 18th AUGUST 2019</p>
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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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