

# LINK PLUS +++

## JULY & AUGUST 2024

**This month's Newsletter is headed by a contribution from Rev Judith Lincoln who has been acting as Superintendent minister in the absence of Rev Steve Bennett on Sabbatical. She Writes:**

This June has seen the passing of two people who have both become household names and "national treasures"- Rob Burrow, the former Rugby League player who had been living with Motor Neurone Disease, and Dr Michael Mosley, whose documentaries and podcasts made health, wellbeing and science accessible to many- even if some of his experiments weren't safe for teatime viewing! (Tapeworms anyone?)

I'm not a rugby fan, but couldn't help admiring Burrow for his courage in the face of a devastating illness, and likewise admired his wife, Lindsey, for the way she cared for him and kept the family together, and his friend Kevin Sinfield for his steadfast friendship. I expect many of us found the image of Sinfield carrying Burrow over the finish line at the Leeds Marathon, deeply moving.

It's not clear what the Burrows', or Sinfield's, beliefs are- but perhaps they have shown something of God's faithful love, that says to us, "I'm not going anywhere, I've got you". In Galatians Paul talks about "bearing one another's burdens": Charles Wesley says in a well-known hymn, "He bids us build each other up". I wonder where we each need to know God's love that goes the distance? Who particularly needs *us*, as Christ's people, to share that love?

With Mosley, it was partly the unexpectedness of his passing that shocked the nation. We were reminded of the fragility of life- and as Christians, reminded of where, amid the fragility, our strength and solid ground come from. But what many appreciated about Mosley, was his warmth and enthusiasm, his ability to explain things in an accessible way, and his ability to confront people with tough stuff yet do it graciously, inspiring people to change.. We don't know what Mosley's beliefs were- but may his enthusiasm inspire us to be enthusiastic about the hope we have in Christ, and be able to share it in ways that make sense to the people around us. May the Holy Spirit enable us to both challenge people and get on their wavelength.

Going into July... the General Election looms large, whether we've been avidly following the campaign or are sick of it. I hope and pray that, in the coming days, we will, as Jesus put it, love our neighbours as ourselves, consider what is God's best for our nation, and vote wisely.

With all best wishes, Judith

# BREAN

([www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk))

Well it has gone a bit quieter here I have to say. Thank you to everyone for your much appreciated comments on our Flower Festival. The project certainly did us a lot of good and the experience of two churches working together on a shared scheme was excellent. We were somewhat disappointed that Steve, our minister, was away on his Sabbatical and not able to share in our adventure, but the date was set by the needs of our Anglican partners on this occasion. They (St Bridget's) are constantly surprised, though, by what we can do without reference to the clergy and Stanley remembers an occasion elsewhere, when he was involved in a partnership which included an Anglican building where the vicar was expected to give permission even for an electric light bulb to be changed.

Our Anglican friends are currently in the process of seeking a new Rector, the previous one having left the Berrow and Brean churches at Easter. The Diocese had directed that they join up with the Anglican churches of Lympsham, Brent Knoll and East Brent (commonly referred to as TPOTS, the Parishes of the Three Saints). The appointment will also incur responsibility for four church schools, so you can see they are all very anxious about the pastoral, preaching and administrative load such an appointment will incur. Because we are in a fully authorised covenant, we must be advised of proposed ministerial changes and need to be satisfied that the relationship will be fostered by the incoming priest.

We continue to welcome our summer visitors, though our own congregation goes up and down dependent of our own holidays, and also by the call on the preachers in our midst to conduct services elsewhere.

Our coffee mornings are still being held on Monday mornings at 10.30, mainly supported by our own regulars but each week we hope that others will drop by and share a cuppa with us. We wish other churches well as they too hold coffee mornings and such during these summer months.

Our annual Open Air Service will be held this year on Bank Holiday Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August at 3pm. We hope you will come and support us as best you can, with your dog too, if you have one; we normally get two or three joining in. We have no morning service on that day.

In the meantime, enjoy your summer and be fully refreshed by it. And don't forget to vote!!  
Happy days from us all.

Harvey Allen

# **BRENT KNOLL**

[www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com](http://www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

At the time of writing, the Summer Solstice has just passed. It did, of course, mark the longest day of the year, after which the days will be getting gradually shorter. It's hard to believe after such an abysmal start to the season.

But here at Brent Knoll, we continue to look forward with optimism and hope. So, with that in mind, we will be holding our annual Summer coffee mornings on the first four Saturdays in August, from 10.30am onwards. All donations will go to various charities, both national and local. Please do come along and enjoy catching up with friends from the Circuit, Village and beyond.

You may have seen the local news where, back in May, a large nature themed quilt was unveiled by 22 local quilters (one of whom, Gill Poulter, is, of course, a member of our church). The quilt took 500 hours of work to complete and each square contains a suggestion for simple actions which people can take to reduce climate impact or help reverse the loss of biodiversity in their local environment. It was initially on display in Wedmore, but is available for local organisations to put on display. We are delighted to be showing this quilt here at the church in August, so do come along to have a look during our coffee mornings.

As we prepare to welcome visitors and holidaymakers to our beautiful County, from all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, we wish you all a safe, peaceful and restful Summer as we continue to hold our Circuit in our prayers.

God bless  
Rosemary Krull

# BURNHAM

<http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk/>

## STEWARDS COLUMN

July has arrived and we have had the longest day of the year! Where have the first 6 months gone. It doesn't seem that long ago when we were on the top of Brean Down at six in the morning with Rev Steve, for the Easter Sunrise Service as he waited to go on Sabbatical, and now he is back.

We would like to say a very big thank you to Rev John James and Rev Jim McKnight who have guided us through the last three months to ensure all ran smoothly. Jim led the Church Anniversary Service at Burnham, and John at West Huntspill with tea and cakes being served (cakes at West Huntspill, but only biscuits at Burnham). They have also had to brave several Steward, Property and other meetings.

In April, I attended the Spring Harvest in Minehead for the day, with three other church members, a first for me. What was I expecting, I really didn't know. The first thing I noticed was the amount of people all together, with the same aim, a time to find spiritual refreshment, to hear God's voice and to be inspired to go back to our communities and make a difference. We attended various events and activities and I plan to go next year for the week, as a day is definitely not long enough.

We are hoping to arrange a visit to John Wesley's Chapel, The New Room in Bristol, and if you are interested, please can you let me know, and more information will then follow.

Each week we have our notices to remind us of everything we are going to be doing and sometimes of the things we have forgotten we should be doing! We have various activities taking place and planned events which can be found on the church noticeboards and the Burnham Methodist Church website.

Before I end this month's column, I would like to again share a 'thought for the day'. This day will come only once. Challenge yourself by saying "just for today I will enjoy each moment to the fullest and try not to tackle all life's problems at once. Just for today I will try to enjoy every one of God's blessings".

Until the next time, look after yourself and each other

Marian Kingsbury

# EAST BRENT

([www.eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk))

This quarter's plan showed that the three link churches would continue with joint services throughout the summer. As we have never closed through the summer for a service in another church we agreed between the churches to keep our own church open, but it mean't that we required to find 2 extra preachers each. We at East Brent are very grateful to the Revd. Tim Widdess who readily agreed to conduct services for us.

We all agreed that the June services would be based on Genesis, and have been very surprised how interesting the services have been. Genesis is not a book that is usually chosen to preach on, but we have learnt a lot about the early church and enjoyed the services, or was it the hard work that the preachers had put into the morning services.

For about two months the meter from the solar panels has not shown any units, so we have had the panels cleaned as they were filthy with algae etc. but still nothing registered on the meter, so after some advice we have had the meter replaced, hopefully the sun will keep shining and produce electricity for us but probably not enough to cover the costs!!

About 6 weeks ago I planted six Foxglove plants at the back of the car park, they grew well and had just started to flower but, two weeks ago the plants had gone and just the holes left where they had been, I hope they are flowering well in their new home!!

I won't be planting any more!!

Jill Legg

East Brent Methodist Church

# WEST HUNTSPILL

([www.wsmbos.org./westhuntspill.htm](http://www.wsmbos.org./westhuntspill.htm))

It was so good to see some of our friends from the Link at our Church Anniversary on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June. Some of us were able to share with Burnham their Church Anniversary in the morning.



**Prayer Group** will now be meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. If you know of anyone in need of Prayer, please let Mrs. Christine Thomas know.



**Coffee and Chat** will be on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> in July and Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> in August 10.30am – 12 Noon. Please come and join us, we love to meet up with our friends from the Link Churches. This year we are raising funds for the SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST



**Babes, Tots and Carers.** Meet on Wednesdays at 1.30pm till 3.00pm, term time only Contact Carol Hester 01278 780730 for full details.

Happiness is to have enough for the  
day's needs with some to spare  
for those who have not. It is to possess  
the love of friends and to have knowledge  
that all is well with them.

IT IS TO LIVE IN PEACE  
WITH ALL MEN.

Happiness is to have strength to face with  
courage all that the day may bring. It is  
to cherish the gift of laughter, to be quick  
to note all that is lovely and of good report.  
Happiness is to find our joy in the common  
things of life, for so will youth abide in  
our hearts till the end of our days.

Author unknown (Produced by Ashtree Crafts,  
Williton, Somerset)

To all our friends in the Link. We do hope that you all have a great Summer with family or friends, whether you are going away or staying close to home. God bless you all.

Janet J and Kay

# The Link Fellowship

The Rev. Rodney Ingrouille was our speaker for the June meeting of the Link fellowship. He based his talk on the story of Deborah and Jael – found in Judges 4; challenging us as to how we saw prophecy and also the ethics of tactics in war. It made many of us want to re-read the story again once we returned home. Over our cup of tea, Christine Thomas produced a list for people to sign for contributions for our next meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup> which will be a games afternoon with the invitation to bring a board game or two to share. This will be followed by a strawberry tea, and will conclude the sessions until September.

We shall recommence on Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup> with our AGM and communion.

We meet at East Brent Church Hall at 2.30p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month and all are welcome to come and join us.

Joyce Pipet.

## POETRY CORNER - BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

(a bit High-Brow this month but persevering brings its own rewards – eventually)

### **Sonnet 18: Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?**

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And ever fair from fair sometime declines  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;  
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:  
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

# FINAL THOUGHTS

After this issue, Steve takes back control of this Newsletter. Thank you all for your support during my time compiling this newssheet. It has not always been the easiest task around but that has been largely of my own making. Back in March I changed my word processing package and I have found the transition rather difficult for my mind to get hold of. It has been an important reminder that, as we get older, it can be more difficult to grasp new features and routines. Somehow though, with continuing help from others, I've managed to get through.

We are reminded that as our minister returns to full time ministry among us, we should remember to hold him in our thoughts and prayers. It is a big step in transition from the intensity of full-time ministry into the very different rhythms of a Sabbatical but in many ways it is just as difficult for a minister to move back again at the end of this period. Ministers are reminded by the District that the return from Sabbatical needs to be taken with care. We can help that process by not overloading Steve for a while.

In the meantime we have been well served by Rev Judith Lincoln who took over as superintendent after having been with us in the Circuit only since September. Thank you Judith for all that you have given. She too now needs time for reflection and renewal. And thank you too to Supernumeraries, local preachers and stewards for your help in keeping a smooth flow of Church and Circuit activities through these months.

In her opening contribution to this newsletter, Judith commented in the inspiration of two individuals one of whom was Dr Michael Moseley who tragically lost his life in Greece early in June. A respected broadcaster he also wrote several books, one of which, called **the fast diet 5:2** was published ten years ago and has been very successful. It advocates intermittent fasting (two days a week) and points out that early humankind did not have the luxury of three meals a day but ate hugely when it could knowing there would be enforced fasting at other times. My wife, Judy, was recently diagnosed with early diabetes and on page 50 of the book we find that, not only did a trial group lose weight but that insulin problems had improved significantly in those who followed this two fasting days pattern.

So Judy and I started the fast for ourselves last week and both of us lost two pounds in the first week. To our surprise we found the fasting days were very easy to follow .

Harvey



# DIARY DATES

<b><u>Regular days</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Event</u></b>
<b>Monday (except Bank Holidays)</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Brean</b>	<b>Coffee morning</b>
<b>Wednesday (restarts in September)</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Zoom</b>	<b>Link Bible study (details from Steve)</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Zoom</b>	<b>Coffee chat (details from Steve)</b>
<b>Monday - Friday</b>	<b>9.00am - 5.00pm</b>	<b>Burnham</b>	<b>Waffle Hub Community Cafe and Associated Activities</b>
<b>Wednesday (term times)</b>	<b>1.30pm - 3.00pm</b>	<b>West Huntspill</b>	<b>Babes, tots &amp; carers group</b>
<b><u>Other dates</u></b>			
<b>To 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>Daily</b>	<b>Leeds</b>	<b>Methodist Conference</b>
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>3.00pm onwards</b>	<b>Uphill</b>	<b>Posh tea – it's Anniversary time</b>
<b>Fridays 26<sup>th</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>10.30am to 12noon</b>	<b>West Huntspill</b>	<b>Coffee and Chat</b>
<b>Saturdays 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> August</b>		<b>Brent Knoll</b>	<b>Coffee morning</b>
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August</b>		<b>Burnham</b>	<b>Picnic</b>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Brean</b>	<b>Open Air Service</b>
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>		<b>Burnham</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>