
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

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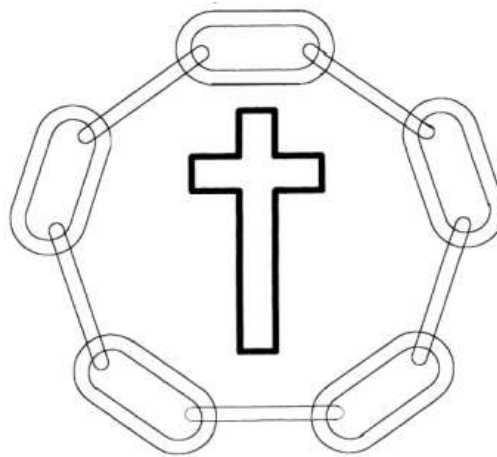
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I have a confession to make!

Nothing exciting sorry!

But I have a fear of birds...

Where this stemmed from I do not know, I am a Londoner who as a child would pester my parents to take me to Trafalgar Square to feed the pigeons, and would squeal with delight as they swooped down for the food I was holding, so no childhood trauma then!

But I have had some experiences during the past few weeks, relating to birds...

One on our holiday seeing large number of Storks on nests, some with their young, eagerly seeking food!

Then as I sat at my desk at home I was mesmerised by blue tits in the garden thoroughly enjoying the apple tree, which was covered in blossom, and finally as I sat outside the ICU ward at Weston General hospital, a pigeon sitting on a nest, way up in a tree, which did not look strong enough to stand up to the rather blustery weather!

I was able to enjoy these experiences because I was behind glass on each occasion!

As I reflected on God's creation, I thought of how many of us operate by putting up barriers, and how sometimes we put up barriers to God...

Allowing him just to get close enough to enjoy, but not close enough to touch us...

For when we are touched by God, we are challenged to change and take a different way of life...

As Les and I begin the process of moving to retirement I find that challenge is very much in evidence!

May we all remember to allow our relationship with God to grow without the barriers, for as Psalm 139 tells us:

Lord, you have examined me and you know me.

You know everything I do;

So hiding from God is pointless!!

And who knows if country living will see me enjoying birds without hiding behind glass!

Carol

Deaths

Mr. Len Lang aged 91 Funeral at Burnham Methodist 11th May

Calendar

JUNE

Thur	4th	2.30pm	B/K	Emmaus Course at Brent Knoll led by Rev. Margaret Trapp
Sat	6th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Stewards & Thursday Fellowship
Fri	12th	7.00pm	W/H	Evening of Desserts & Diversions at West Huntspill see Page 13
Sat	13th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
Sun		11.00 & 6.30	W/H	Anniversary Services at West Huntspill see page 14
Wed.	17th	10.00 - 12.00		Coffee Morning at the home of Tony & Joy Bishop, 7 Naish Road, Burnham In aid of Nepal Earthquake Relief.
Thur	18th	2.30pm	B/K	Emmaus Course at Brent Knoll led by Rev Margaret Trapp
Thur	18th	2.00 - 4.00	B/H	Folk & Traditional Dancing at Burnham see page 4
Sat	20th	9.30 for 10.00	B/K	Circuit Prayer meeting at Brent Knoll
Sat	20th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Coffee Morning by & in aid of Biars
Sun	21st	6.00pm	B/H	Cafe Church TBA
Sun	21st			LAST DAY FOR THE JULY - AUGUST LINK
Sat	27th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee at Burnham

JULY

Thur	2nd	2.30pm	B/K	Emmaus Course at Brent Knoll led by Rev Margaret Trapp
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 9
Sun	5th	6.00pm		Kenyan Choir – Love can turn the World – Concert at Burnham Methodist Church see Page 9
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 5

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

Café church dates at Burnham

Sunday 21st June at 6.00 pm TBA

Sunday 19th July 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.

Coffee Morning

At the home of Tony & Joy Bishop

7 Naish Road, Burnham

on Wednesday June 17th

10.00 – 12.00

Bring & Buy and Raffle

In aid of The Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund



Traditional Folk Dancing

& Social Dancing

1st & 3rd Thursdays 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Commencing 18th June until 3rd September

All ages welcome - no need to bring a partner.

Come to Burnham Methodist Hall



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. This is a chance for people from all over the district to join together to give thanks for Ward's ministry and for his service to the Methodist Church. Those taking part will include Bishop Declan Lang and Rev Steve Wild

Please advertise this service in your church in May and June. Ward has issued an open invitation to all who wish to attend and we hope every church will be represented.

Some practical points to note:

There is a car park at Clifton Cathedral but this will only be available for special guests who have been personally invited by Ward. Please get to Clifton in good time to find a parking space - we have been assured that parking will be available in the roads surrounding the Cathedral and that the local Residents Parking Scheme does not operate on a Sunday. Attendees are encouraged to car share.

After the service, refreshments are being served in the main hall at Clifton High School in College Road which is a two minute walk from the Cathedral. Again, no parking is available at the school but there should be spaces available in neighbouring roads.

Maps indicating the route will be available at the cathedral on the day.

The congregation at the Cathedral celebrates its usual evening Mass at 6pm. After Ward's service, it would be helpful if we could walk over to Clifton High School as soon as possible to allow preparation for the next service. Ward will be available to meet and talk with people at the school. We are very grateful for Clifton High School and Clifton Cathedral's help in hosting this event.

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

HARRY'S Column

When We're Let Down

On 4 August 1991, the MTS Oceanos cruise ship ran into a terrible storm off the coast of South Africa. When the ship began to sink, the captain decided to abandon ship and left with his officers, failing to notify those on board of any problem.

Passenger Moss Hills, a British musician, noticed that something was wrong and sent out a Mayday signal to the South African coast guard.

Then, taking matters into their own hands, Moss, his wife Tracy and other entertainers on board helped organise the evacuation of all passengers by assisting them as they were lifted into helicopters.

Sometimes those we look to for leadership can let us down. When King Saul and his officers faced the belligerent insults of the Philistine giant Goliath, they responded with fear and timidity (1 SAM. 17;11).

But a young musician and shepherd boy named David had faith in God that transformed his perspective on this threat. David said to Goliath, "You come to me with a sword.... But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts"(v 45). David defeated the enemy and turned the tide of battle (v.50) He did not look to earthly leaders for his strength but to the living God.

When others let us down, God may be calling us to provide leadership in His strength and for His honour DENNIS FISHER

Dear Lord, I don't have the power on my own to lead others through a difficult situation. But You are all-powerful. Give me the courage to help others as I rely on Your strength that cannot fail.

Only as we follow Christ can we lead others in the right direction.

Taken from "U C B Word for Today"

TODAY'S READING
1 Samuel 17:33-50

The LORD does not
save with sword
and spear; for
the battle is the
LORD'S and He will
Give you into our
hands, v. 47

BE OPEN TO CORRECTION

'...THEY DID NOT RESPOND TO CORRECTION..' Jeremiah 2:30 niv

HOW DO you respond to correction? By taking offence? By interpreting it as rejection? By getting defensive? By shooting the bearer of bad news and making sure they never get to you again? By keeping score and saying, 'In comparison to what I've accomplished in life, you've done nothing'? By giving in to self-pity and thinking how hard your life is because people don't understand or appreciate you? We need people who'll be honest with us. Why? Because we're too easily blinded by our egos! When God sends somebody to correct you, it's because He wants what's best for you. His willingness to correct you actually demonstrates how much He cares for you. If you are not disciplined...you are illegitimate children and not true sons' (Hebrews 12:8 NIV). So

check your spiritual birth certificate! People who are open to correction generally exhibit these four qualities: 1) **Vulnerability**. When they're wrong they're capable of admitting it—even before they're confronted. 2) **Teachability**. They're willing to hear, quick to learn, and always open to counsel. 3) **Availability**. They don't try to avoid you. 4) **Honesty**. They are committed to the truth, regardless of how much it hurts. You say, 'That's a high standard.' You're right! It's a standard pride resists and fragile egos run from. There's something in each of us that would rather look good than be good. So when God sends people into your life who love you enough to be straight with you—be open to them. Your personal growth and success depend on it.

Taken from "Our Daily Bread Ministries"



**Prayer letter from Daniel and Grace Pratt-Chapman
and their little son Kwame-**

Our Circuit Link in Cameroon, teaching in a theological college.

"9 Suitcases?" asked the port official.

"Yes Sir" I answered (they're very formal here) "and some other smaller baggage's."

We didn't want to carry much. It's far easier to travel light. Still I thank God that a person is not defined by what they possess.

"So all together its 1.7 cubic metres?" the official asked.

"Yes" I said.

They say that you can only take to heaven what you have given away. The first time I heard this I didn't really get it. After all, how can you take what you have given away to heaven?? But the more I think about it, the more (I think) I understand.

"Your belongings will take about 6 weeks by sea sir. Are you sure you don't want to use Air freight?"

"No sir" I answered. "While it would be nice to have the shipment quickly I won't have anywhere to store it if it comes right away."

Here in Cameroon the difference between the rich and the poor is more apparent. The rich here do not walk. They drive around in

cars. They build large ostentatious houses with huge walls. They have security guards, dogs and place metal bars on their windows.

It's easy to think that money brings happiness. But when you look at the rich, the bars on their windows reveal the truth: their freedom has been stolen by their fear of thieves. Their wealth has turned them into prisoners. Their possessions have enslaved them.

"Okay Sir. Well. I wish you all the best in whiteman country. Is it cold there?"

"Cold... It's plenty cold there...freezing..." I answered.

"Chineke!!! So why are you leaving Africa?" He asked.

"I didn't plan it this way... but I guess God knows what He's doing."

The more we have, the more restricted we become. Our belongings possess us far more than we realise. We get tied up by these things and, in the process, we lose our freedom.

I'm not pretending poverty is some romantic or ideal holy state. I certainly don't believe the answer is to start talking to animals. Nevertheless, there is something quite liberating about giving your belongings away. Every item I leave behind, it's as though I feel a little lighter, freer.

I think this is why it is said that we can only take to heaven what we have given away. If we cling to this world, unable to part with our earthly goods, it will be difficult to acquire eternal things.

Pray for us. Our term of service in Cameroon will soon come to an end.

We didn't expect to be leaving Africa at this point-but then life is full of unexpected twists and turns. As things stand, we are being stationed in the UK.

We thank you all deeply for your support. It has really meant a lot to us. If you can, do pray for the congregation who may be receiving us they'll need your prayers :-)

(Ecclesiastes 3:11)

<https://soundcloud.com/lovehappyjoyjoy/change>

Visit of the Kenyan Choir – Love can turn the World Tour 2015

From June 24th until July 16th, Burnham will be welcoming a group of children from The Jolaurabi School near Mombasa Kenya. This is the school we have supported raising money at our monthly Coffee Mornings in previous years.

There are 23 children aged between 9 and 13, 4 older boys (2 Drummers and 2 singers) and 4 teachers. They have been spending a lot of time after school learning the songs and all the movements. I am sure you will be very keen to see the group this time.

The opening Concert is at St John's Church Highbridge at 7.00pm on Saturday June 27th.

Further Concerts are as follows

July 4th Saunders Garden World 10.15 – 12.00 & 2.00 – 4.00

July 4th S^t Andrew's Church Burnham 7.00pm.

July 5th Burnham Methodist Church 6.00pm.

July 6th S^t. Michael's Church Brent Knoll 7.00pm

July 11th Saunders Garden World 10.15 – 12.00 & 2.00 – 4.00

Had Sue & I been able to visit the school between 26th April and 18th May, we would have shared in their rehearsals and brought photographs back with us.

Do come along and show your support. It is good to have full Churches at the various venues.

Dorothy May

EAST BRENT

We have come to that time of the year once again when our Link Fellowship meetings take a break for the summer!! months. We have had many diverse and interesting subjects and talks finishing with a Policewoman telling us their work in and around this area entails. It was most interesting.

Before our Methodist year starts in September we will be saying goodbye to our superintendent Robert and our Minister Carol. It will be a sad time for us as they have become friends as well as ministers to us but we wish them well for the future but hope that some time they will come back and visit us.

At last the election has come and is now over and finished with and I am sure that whatever party we prefer we would pray that the successful party will be as fair to all sections of Society as it is possible to be.

Wishing everyone a happy and warm summer.

Margaret Green,

East Brent



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN.

We have just celebrated Ascension Day. I think some of the most comforting words in the Bible are from St. Matthew's Gospel, chapter 28 and verse 20, And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have

commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Wherever we are and whatever we’re doing, Jesus is always with us. This reminds me of the poem Footprints; as we go through life we have our constant companion, although we may not always be aware of him. – This is the two sets of footprints in the sand. But there are times when we feel alone through worry or distress and we cry out for our companion, why isn’t he there? We only see one set of footprints behind us. The answer comes that he is there and that that is when he is carrying us; the single set of footprints are his, not ours.

We remember those of our own number who have recently been bereaved or are unwell and those awaiting operations or results. May they find comfort and strength at this time.

As the day of Pentecost comes, we are reminded of the promised Holy Spirit to give us the courage and the knowledge to spread the word in this troubled world of ours. The news tells us of boatloads of people on all parts of the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean. We pray that these refugees from war zones, famine and disease and also refugees from the earthquakes and tsunamis may find peace and rest and new homes, whether in their own lands or in new lands. We pray for all those workers who go to help them.

As Spring turns into Summer and the trees get their coats of green leaves; the flower buds burst into bloom; the birds build their nests. All reminds us of new life and hope for the future; truly we are blest by the richness of God’s gifts to us.

We thank God for the ministries of John, Margaret, Stanley and Carol during this year. They are serving us very well and will deserve a rest come August.

Hilary Malpas

BREAN

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

This will be a shorter message than usual because my computer is giving me problems. It has decided to work only in fits and starts so I am waiting at the screen for one of its 'go' sessions. It keeps telling me it is working very hard elsewhere but not on this operation (though when I switch on the Activity Monitor it looks as though the machine is 98% idle!)

It's been good to see our holiday makers back at church. There were over 20 of us for our service on Pentecost Sunday, including Steve and Lynn Pidgeon here for the first time this year. It was one of Rev. Stanley Pipet's specials too, so it was a very happy service and enjoyed our coffee and biscuits afterwards in the schoolroom. The village has been busy over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Like everyone else we all felt sad at the events that are unfolding in Nepal and our church collection raised £130.00 for the work of All We Can and its partners out there. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We remember Iris and Dave and their daughter who has been seriously ill following a recent stroke. We hope she gets better very soon.

Well, it looks like I've got to the end, eventually, so let's keep our fingers crossed that my computer will allow me to email this to Cedric. I think I will try to fool it by using Judy's email address!

Harvey Allen (at last, and at 10.30pm on Monday)



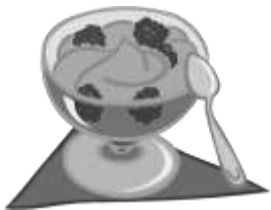
West Huntspill Methodist Chapel

ANNIVERSARY

Evening of Desserts

and Diversions

Friday 12th June



7.00pm



Come and Join us
as we Celebrate:
with

Puddings and Games



*Come and Join us
as we Celebrate:
with
Puddings and Games*

All Welcome



WEST HUNTSPILL METHODIST CHAPEL

Anniversary Services

Sunday 14th June

Morning Service at 11.00am

Led by Rev. Linda Chester

Followed by a Celebration

Bring & Share Lunch.....

Evening Service at 6.30pm

Led by Rev. Robin Hutt

Followed by tea/coffee & biscuits

All Welcome

BRENT KNOLL

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

Minister Revd. Margaret Trapp

We celebrated our church anniversary in May which was followed by a bring and share lunch which only reinforced my opinion that our congregation really should enter The Great British Bake Off! And we were very grateful to the young people there who helped with readings and the refreshments afterwards.

Our Emmaus course led by Margaret Trapp will continue on Thursday 4 and 18 June at 2.30pm in the schoolroom to be followed by refreshments.

Some of our Brent Knoll church family have been feeling under the weather suffering health problems at this time. All have been sorely missed and we wish them a speedy recovery. They are, of course, all in our prayers.

God bless



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**The Deadline for the
July – August 2015 “LINK” is
Sunday 21st June 2015**