



# The Link ++

The newsletter for the Methodist Church in  
Burnham-on-Sea and the surrounding area

## June 2026

# A Message from our Minister

Dear Friends

In June we start our Preaching Series across the Circuit, using Paul's letter to the Philippians as our text. Over the Sundays of June, the preachers will be looking at this letter chapter by chapter as they seek to find God's truth for us in this time and place. In addition, there is a daily bible reading guide available on the Methodist Church website for your own personal study during the week.

This month, John and Linda James are organising a pilgrimage around our circuit churches on the 27th. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to visit all the churches in our circuit, share in fellowship, worship, and fun. I hope you will be able to join us.

As Summer starts and holidaymakers come to our area, we offer a place of welcome to all who seek to know God better, and to worship with them in joy and thanksgiving. May their visit be a blessing to them and to us.

Steve

Diary dates

10th June 7.30pm Local Preachers Meeting (Brean)

12th June 4 - 6pm West Huntspill 175th Anniversary display

13th June 6.00pm Philippine Evening and meal (Burnham)

14th June 3.30pm Circuit Service for West Huntspill 175th Anniversary

18th June 7.30pm Circuit Meeting (East Brent)

20th June 10am - 2 pm Burnham Summer Fair

27th June Circuit Pilgrimage

# Brean

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

The Easter season is behind us, liturgically speaking anyway. At its beginning, preachers brought Hope into this crazy world in which we live. And then at Pentecost, David Easton wrapped it all up with readings and words that translated our Hope into how we bring the message into our world by responding in Faith to the Love that is God. Varieties of gifts but one Spirit, says 1 Corinthians. We are all very different but in a unity of spirit all things are brought together. The extract we heard illustrated the great variety of gifts and I have no doubt that as we look at and engage with the intricacies of the world around us we are astonished, caught up in awe, at all that is around us and within.

It has been a good month in our church. Not hugely spectacular but quietly happy, a time together worshipping and sharing. Fifteen to twenty most Sundays including our holidaymaking friends and even a few who live and work around us and have felt moved to share worship and friendship in our midst. The canine visitor seems at one with us too.

The baptism of William went very well and a lovely lot of family and friends joined with us, and even stayed for coffee, joining in with our chat afterwards. I think it was significantly after midday before the chapel began to quieten down and we all went home.

It is good to be aware of activities in other churches in the Link and in the Circuit. Uphill, for example ran a flower festival in the middle of the month and several people in our church went and admired the displays; and Judy even did one of the arrangements, on behalf of our church. A splendid occasion. Our sister church in Brean, St Bridgets, is doing something similar later this month too. So that will be good. Their new vicar celebrated her arrival by taking a pilgrimage around all five of the churches for which she has responsibility, at the end of May.

And , in our Circuit, John James is leading a pilgrimage around all the Circuit's churches – see his item later in this edition.

We are pleased to know that Celia has had her operation and is now recovering. Though we don't see her as often as previously, since she had to move her membership to Burnham for health reasons, but she is still close to our hearts and it is cheering to know of her improvements

Well this Link takes us into the middle of the summer. Longest days and, if the forecasters are right, a lot more very hot weather. So keep safe everyone and, as they say, look out for your neighbour, may we all have a comfortable time. Harvey Allen

# Brent

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

I am short of news this month as I've been away and then not well. It was lovely to have Robin Jenks preach the other Sunday the 1st time for a while. I find his style of service very thought provoking but also calming. I hope he feels able to carry on preaching.

I am hoping to go over to Locking Castle to a service taken by Andy Pearce. I knew him as a very angelic looking young teenager when his family lived opposite us at Mark long years ago.

We continue to hold Andrew, Rosemary and family in our thoughts and prayers during his ongoing illness. He is very much missed by us all.

Ann Bown

*(and get well yourself too, Ann)*

# Burnham

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

At long last we are enjoying some beautiful weather and we are only just into what we hope will be a very pleasant summer. Burnham is rather busy these days; the waffle hub is doing a sterling job within the local Community; the food bank is very busy but I think that the amount of folk making use of their facilities is very worrying.

Burnham started a youth club with help, on a Wednesday evening, and I had cause to pop in one evening and I was astounded to see young folk enjoying various games and activities. The shock was, that there was not a single mobile phone in sight!!

We also have an adult group on a Wednesday evening being run by the owners of a local shop entitled Crusader games and my word, the room has quite a number of members involved on a number of tables and it is so quiet one could hear a pin drop. Absolutely marvelous but I think I will stick to chess.

We have had a number of fund-raising evenings which have been based on a meal again based on the region of the world and coupled with very interesting talks and these evenings are proving to be extremely popular.

We do have a major project which is focusing the fellowship and that is the replacement of the hall floor. This is due to commence during June and will involve not only the floor being replaced but the stage being removed and the whole room having a makeover which is going to involve quite a few members getting paint brushes and rollers out. Exciting times in Burnham

Geoff

(see end of this magazine for details of fund raising event)

# West Huntspill

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

Here at West Huntspill we are preparing to celebrate 175 years of our Chapel building being dedicated for worship. We are not sure when the Dissenters started meeting in West Huntspill, but there must have been a society of like-minded people with influence who were able to put their minds to creating a centre for non-conformist worship in the village.

There are two church members who can remember the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Other anniversaries have come and gone with a variety of celebratory occasions.

This year we are also marking the time, 45 years ago, when the old school room was pulled down and the current vestry, kitchen, and toilet block were built in its place. Later on, it was the floorboards under the pews etc. that needed replacing so, after long discussions, and many fundraising events, the decision was made to remove the pews, put in a new concrete floor and bring the vestibule screen forward.

We had the Covenant Service in the chapel with the pews on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1996, and were back in fully refurbished building on April 4<sup>th</sup> ready for our Good Friday Service!

We now have a multi-functional area which has been used for many activities including Holiday Clubs, Art exhibitions, craft workshops, babes, tots and carers group, plus a variety of other events and meetings.

Our celebrations this year begin on Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> when the Chapel will be open from 4p.m. to 7p.m. John Lamb, our organist and local historian, is preparing a display of Chapel memorabilia that we invite you to come and view. Tea and coffee will be available.

On Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> the morning worship will be led by Revd. Stuart Innalls of Bridgwater. Then at 3.30p.m. there will be a Circuit open air service conducted by Revd. Steve Bennett, followed by a cream tea.

We look forward to welcoming you to that weekend.

**COME AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION!**

Christine Thomas.

*(Thank you to Christine who, with help from Joyce Pipet, has stepped in to cover for Janet J, once again not so well. Get better soon Janet)*

# The Link Fellowship

Our May meeting didn't go according to plan as Brian who was due to speak about his visit to Ethiopia was saddened to pull out as it was the funeral of a very good friend. We will book him to come at a later date.

However, we had a fascinating meeting as a little while back Christine Thomas had put forward the idea of people bringing something old that they possessed to talk about.

There were a few treasured dolls, books with inscriptions that meant a lot – Isn't it good to actually see an ancestor's handwriting. Celia brought her grandfather's truncheon, together a notebook with entries from the late 1800's into the early 1900's that told of events such as arresting a man for being drunk in charge of a horse and cart! The item that caused the most stir was the collar that John Lamb brought – with a silver inscription dating it to the mid 1740's – relating to bear baiting – In West Huntspill of all places. While that was shocking, there was also a letter from the local vicar. We expected him to condemn such events but instead his condemnation went to the local pub for all the beer that was sold at such events, leading to much drunkenness!

Our meeting in June – June 9<sup>th</sup> – will have John Lamb as our speaker, talking about the time he spent in Antarctica. Steve Bennett has kindly agreed to help show the pictures John has of this time. All are welcome to join us at 2.30 in the East Brent Church Hall.

At the time of writing Celia is recovering from an operation in Bristol and we send her our love and prayers.

Joyce Pipet

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CIRCUIT

On Saturday 27th June we're planning to hold a circuit pilgrimage, starting in the morning at Milton and then travelling by coach or minibus to all the churches in the Weston & Burnham Methodist Circuit. Our route will take us to Locking Castle, St Andrews Bournville, Uphill, Brean, East Brent, West Huntspill and ending at Burnham in the afternoon, when the bus will return us to Milton. At each place someone will meet us and tell us something about the life of the church. Judith will lead a brief act of worship at Milton at the start, and Steve will lead one at Burnham at the end. You are asked to bring a packed lunch - there will be a couple of opportunities for teas and coffees on the way. There is no charge for the pilgrimage but you are asked to make a voluntary donation of £5 towards the cost, payable on the day.

We need to take bookings in advance - in order to book your place please contact John or Linda James on 01278 787378 or 07789205920, or at

[johnandlindajames@btinternet.com](mailto:johnandlindajames@btinternet.com).

# THE LINK MAGAZINE

## THE STORY OF A PEOPLE

### - Part 3: More on the early 1980s

A brief look at the Calendar page for January 1982 shows how busy our churches were. Burnham, for example started with a well-attended New Year's eve party followed by a watchnight service. Children's Christmas parties followed on 2<sup>nd</sup> January (one for Juniors and one for the older children. Covenant evening service was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> with Tea beforehand. Not to be outdone, East Brent gloried in a Turkish banquet after which Jon and Jill Stedman, presumably staying at Milton while on furlough from the Mission field entertained with stories from their time in Ghana

During the month there were to be fellowships in different styles at all the churches and missionary meetings at several. Burnham who hosted a number of different fellowship styles, had meetings for each of them. Women's Fellowships and Mothers Union often seem to have met together. There was even a meeting to discuss Covenant Proposals.

A Link Concert was held at Brent Knoll Village Hall and Burnham were active in their Family Committee, making sure that as many people as possible had a proper connection with the church and its pastoral endeavours. This spirit of togetherness was an important feature of members and others meeting in Burnham

Later on a Neighbourhood Committee had the same objective for connecting with and between the rural churches also. A surge in ecumenism was noticeable in Burnham too; and at Brean a monthly house group was formed between the Methodist and Anglican churches that evolved, six years later into a formal Partnership. Preachers from the Link end of the Circuit were not left out and met every month separately from the more formal quarterly meeting. There was a break in the 90s but it later re-formed and local preachers were joined by supernumeraries and worship leaders

There were several reports on Christmas festivities in the churches, carol services especially, and a complimentary paragraph proclaimed the efforts of two of the young members who contributed to a 'Nationwide' carol writing competition. Here is the contribution from Wendy Saunter:

- Chorus:     *The Angel came down to Mary and said,*  
              A child that you will bear,  
              The holy child of God, our Lord,  
              Who will serve the Lord and care.
- Verse 1:     They packed their things upon a mule  
              With Mary on its back,  
              With Joseph ahead with his stick to protect,  
              To Bethlehem with their packs.
- Verse 2:     They arrived in the town and found nowhere to rest,  
              so they stopped at an inn to enquire,  
              ‘I’m sorry no room but a stable to give,  
              with cattle to give you some warmth.’
- Verse 3:     The baby is born and lain in a manger  
              And a star shines brightly above,  
              They call him Lord Jesus,  
              Like God he was full of love.
- Verse 4:     Three wise men came and gave treasures so rich,  
              Frankincense myrrh and gold,  
              They followed a star which God had sent  
              to a lonely cattle stall

Wendy Saunter is not a name known to me but, especially having written verse like this as a young person (I know not how old she was) I can’t help but wonder what has happened to her more than forty years later.

The other hymn writer was Philippa Christian, daughter of past organists at Burnham.

The January 1982 edition also quotes a poem from Max Ehrmann, the US poet very popular around that time and who wrote *The Desiderata* (that begins ‘Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember that peace there may be in silence’) A bit long to be included in *The Link* perhaps so the following poem was used instead It is called *LOVE SOMEONE*. I find it even more moving than *Desiderata*:

Love someone – in God’s name  
love someone – for this is  
the bread of the inner life, without  
which a part of you will  
starve and die; and though you  
feel you must be stern,  
even hard, in your life of affairs,  
make for yourself at least  
a little corner, somewhere in the  
great world, where you may  
unbosom and be kind

## NUMBERS

Finally, have a look at the membership numbers declared for that year. They are impressive but I do not know how many were children, nor do I know whether they included people who were not formally members but who came along on occasion,

Membership Numbers declared for the 1981/2 year: 251 in total:

Burnham 161

East Brent 26

Brent Knoll 14

Brean 23

Mark 8

Heath House 10

Lympsham 9

Harvey Allen

## LETTERS AND MISCELLANY

### A FOLLOW UP TO LAST MONTH'S ARTICLE ON SIDHOLME

*Tim and Hilary Lansdown were members at Burnham from the mid 70s to mid 80s. As well as being a local preacher, Tim was a church steward and was a member of various committees in the church and circuit. Hilary was also much involved, in children's activities and elsewhere. Their two young daughters attended Sunday School. In the late 1980s the family moved to Bristol where Tim had a new appointment in his bank. He retired from his work several years ago, of course but, as a keen supporter of Bristol City Football Club he and one of his daughters are regular attenders at Ashton Gate and often appear in photos on Facebook. Tim writes:*

*"Thanks for the memories*

What a joy it was to read Harvey's piece in the May Link; it certainly rekindled some memories of the very happy years we spent living in Burnham from the mid-seventies to the mid-eighties. And the Sidholme weekend certainly played a big part of those recollections. As well as the Lunns leading us, another year we had Rev Dr. Ivor Jones (see StF 318). Like many others we also experienced 'the hand on the shoulder'; Hilary to organise the children's session and me to run a quiz, University Challenge style. It was a great family weekend which only replicated the atmosphere of all the churches in the Link.

We look upon those ten years we spent at Burnham with our young daughters as the happiest period of our lives and belonging to a vibrant, growing church was a considerable part of that. Tim and Hilary Lansdown"

*Thank you Tim and Hilary. It is good to hear from you.*

Judy and I remember that both of our sons were also much taken with the weekends at Sidholme. Being from one of the village churches, there were fewer chances for them to mix with other youngsters, so Sidholme was a valuable chance for them to get to know others, and after all these years, Luke does accept that some of them stretched the rules a little in some of their activities. The snooker room was a favourite place for example and, though under 14s weren't allowed to play on the table, adults weren't around all the time were they? Luke remembers that adults entering the room were informed that they had been asked to hold the cue for someone who had had to go to the loo.

Secret Midnight feasts were also common amongst some of them too, crisps and biscuits being very popular at the time as they secretly hid behind the organ in one of the community rooms

Harvey

## POETRY CORNER

As summer  
arrives our  
flowers call us.

Here are two  
poems from D.  
H. Lawrence

### Red Geranium and Godly Mignonette

— D. H. LAWRENCE —

Imagine that any mind ever thought a red geranium!  
As if the redness of a red geranium could be anything  
but a sensual experience  
and as if sensual experience could take place  
before there were any senses.  
We know that even God could not imagine  
the redness of a red geranium  
nor the smell of mignonette  
when geraniums were not, and mignonette neither.  
And even when they were, even God would have to have a nose  
to smell at the mignonette.  
You can't imagine the Holy Ghost  
sniffing at cherry-pie heliotrope.  
Or the Most High, during the coal age,  
cudgelling his mighty brains  
even if he had any brains: straining his mighty mind  
to think, among the moss and mud of lizards and mastodons  
to think out, in the abstract, when all was twilit green and muddy:  
"Now there shall be tum-tiddly-um, and tum-tiddly um,  
hey-presto! scarlet geranium!"

We know it couldn't be done.

But imagine, among the mud and the mastodons  
God sighing and yearning with tremendous creative yearning, in  
that dark green mess  
oh, for some other beauty, some other beauty  
that blossomed at last, red geranium, and mignonette.

### Thought

Thought, I love thought.

But not the juggling and twisting of  
already existent ideas  
I despise that self-important game.

Thought is the welling up of unknown life  
into consciousness,

Thought is the testing of statements  
on the touchstone of consciousness,

Thought is gazing onto the face of life,  
and reading what can be read,

Thought is pondering over experience,  
and coming to conclusion.

Thought is not a trick, or an exercise,  
or a set of dodges,

Thought is a man in his wholeness,  
wholly attending.

— D. H. LAWRENCE —

And now something else  
to think on, completely  
different

*For every minute you are  
angry you lose sixty  
seconds of happiness.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Calendar

	Time	Location	Event
<b>Regular Days</b>			
Mondays (except Bank Holidays)	10.30 am	Brean	Coffee 'n' Chat
Wednesday (except 1st Wed of month)	10.00 am	Zoom	Weekly Bible Study
Wednesday	2.00 pm	Burnham	Knit 'n' Natter
Thursday	11.00 am	Zoom	Coffee 'n' Chat
Friday	Morning	Burnham	Mothers and Toddlers
<b>Other Dates</b>			
Wednesday 10th June	7.30 pm	Brean	Circuit LP Meeting
Friday 12th June	4.00 pm - 7.00 pm	West Huntspill	175 Years Anniversary Celebration
Saturday 13th June	6.00 pm	Burnham	Philippine evening and meal
Sunday 14th June	11.00 am 3.30pm	West Huntspill	175 years Service Open Air Service and Tea
Thursday 18th June	7.30 pm	East Brent	Circuit Meeting
Saturday 20th June	10.00 am - 2.00 pm	Burnham	Summer Fair
Saturday 27th June	start mid-morning	start at Milton	Circuit Pilgrimage
Friday 17th July	10.00 am - 12.30 pm	Jesama, Hurn Lane, Berrow	Garden Party to raise funds for Burnham Church Hall Refurbishment
Saturday 18th July	2.30 pm	Burnham	Leaving Service for Rev Steve and Liz Bennett
Sunday 30th August	3.00 pm	Brean	Open Air Service
Saturday 5th September	2.30 pm	TBA	Welcome Service for Rev John McNeill

## LINK MAGAZINE

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue. It is much appreciated and I hope that you and others will continue to supply articles for future editions.

Thanks to the efforts of Nigel and Jo May, each edition is held on the Burnham-on-Sea website <http://burnhamonseamethodistchurch.org.uk/>

Contributions are welcome and encouraged. Will stewards please remember that the newsletter not only provides information for our congregations but also keeps us in touch with people who are not our members. Maybe, just maybe, something that you have contributed, will encourage a visitor or even a potential resident to sample the warm welcome our churches offer.

The Link is published on or around the 1st of each month except for January and August. Closing date for the receipt of your item is the 25th of the month before publication and to be included on the circulation list send your email address to our minister on:

steve.bennett@methodist.co.uk

The next edition of the LINK covers both July and August. Please email your contribution direct to

[HarveyJAllen@hotmail.com](mailto:HarveyJAllen@hotmail.com)

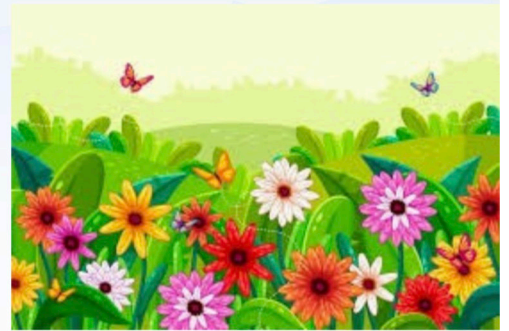
**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS 25th JUNE**

# Open Garden

Friday 17th July 10.00am-  
12.30pm & 2.00pm-5.00pm

At the home of Nigel & Jo May

Jesama, Hurn Lane, Berrow, TA8 2QT



**In aid of the Church Hall Refurbishment Fund.**

Tea / Coffee Cakes & Biscuits

Come and sit and chat in the garden.

Large drive for parking, or nearby car park at Berrow Nature Reserve (just past John Fowler on the Coast Road).

Number 20 bus stops at the end of Hurn Lane.

