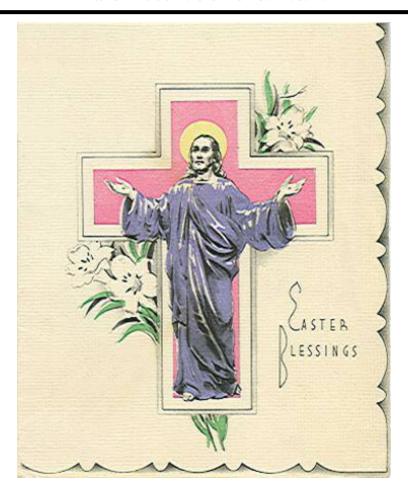
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

March 2008 Volume 43. No. 2.



Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

"The night was pitch black. For some reason, the lights on the aircraft carrier had been turned off. The Navy pilot trying to fly back to the ship realised with dismay that he was unable to locate it. Staring intently down into the vast expanse of black ocean, he suddenly saw, in the darkness, a trail of light. With joy, he knew at once what the light was; it was the wake of his aircraft carrier. The light had been created by tiny, glowing sea creatures in the ocean. They had been stirred up by the propellers of the huge ship. Carefully, the pilot followed the trail, and landed safely on the carrier"

These words were printed in the "Upper Room" daily devotional readings.

This reminded me of the time I visited the Upper Room in Nashville, Tennessee. I was taken there by friends from the exchange I was on at Huntsville, Alabama. Behind the Altar Rail is a large wood carving which took 50 workers more than 14 months to complete. It is similar to the painting of The Last Supper by Leonardo de Vinci, "One of you shall betray me." (See photograph next page)

I had been told to ask for the spot to kneel at the Communion rail where you look right into the eyes of Jesus. We arrived in time for the morning prayers and were handed an individual prayer request. Mine read, "Someone suffering from a road accident and finding life very difficult". This became personal to me from the road accident of 1976 when I was severely injured so much I was given little chance of living (less than 40%)! After the service I made the request and knelt at the rail in the appropriate spot. Yes, I was looking right into the eyes of Jesus. This was a deeply moving experience.

These two pictures remind me of this time of the year. The days of Lent, looking at Jesus, coming to the cross and then beyond, the Resurrection.

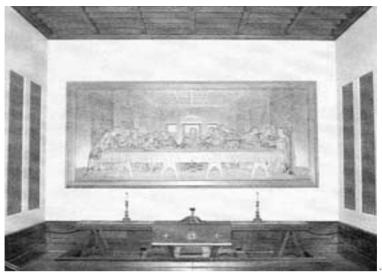
The greeting on Easter morning comes anew.

"Christ is risen"

"HE IS RISEN INDEED"

Easter greetings and blessing to you all,

Joyce



See Minister's Letter

CALENDER

Sat. 23th. 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

FEBRUARY

Tues. 26th	2.30pm.	LINK Villages Fellowship - Mr. Arther Steele -
		Hebrides & North Scotland - Illustrated.
Wed.27th	7.30pm.	LENT Course in Methodist Hall Burnham – Speaker
		Ven. Nicola Sullivan - Archdeacon of Wells.
Thur. 28th	2.30pm.	LENT Ecumenical Bible Study at Brent Knoll
		Methodist Church.
Fri. 29th.	10.00 - 12.00	Fair Trade Coffee Morning at Chris Wray's
		6 St Michael's Rd. All welcome.
MARCH		
Sat 1st	10.00 - 12.00.	Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund by The
		Thursday Fellowship
Sun. 2nd	6.00pm.	District Service at Bristol Cathedral President of
	•	Conference Rev. Dr. Martyn Atkins
Wed.5th	7.30pm.	LENT Course in Methodist Hall Burnham - Speaker
		Pam Grottick - Chaplain to the Deaf.
Wed. 5th	7.30pm.	Wednesday Group.
Thur. 6th	2.30pm.	Thursday Fellowship - Mrs. June Nethercot.
Thur. 6th	2.30pm.	LENT Ecumenical Bible Study at Brent Knoll
		Methodist Church.

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Fri. 7th	10.30am.	Women's World Day of Prayer at Brent Knoll Methodist Church
Fri. 7th	2.30pm.	Women's World Day of Prayer at Burnham Methodist Church
Fri. 7th	7.00pm.	
Sat 8th	10.00 - 12.00.	Coffee Morning – in aid of Secret World Burnham Methodist - Everyone Welcome.
Sun 9th	am.	Traidcraft Stall in the Hall - Note 2nd Sunday this month.
Mon 10th		Work Starts on the Burnham Redevelopment
Tues. 11th	2.30pm.	•
Wed.12th	7.30pm.	LENT Course in Methodist Hall Burnham – Speaker Sarah Shepperd STETS & 'Exploring Christianity' Tutor.
Sat.15th.	10.00 - 12.00.	Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham Methodist Hall
Tues. 18th	3.00 - 4.30.	
Thur. 20th	2.30pm.	Thursday Fellowship - Maundy Thursday - No meeting.
Thur. 20th	7.00pm.	Maundy Thursday LINK Communion at Burnham.
Fri 21 st	10.30am.	Good Friday Service at Burnham Methodist Church.
	7.00pm.	Good Friday Service at East Brent Methodist Church.
Sat. 22nd. 10.00 - 12.00.		Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.
Sun 23rd		LAST Day for items for the April LINK.
Tues. 25th	2.30pm.	LINK Villages Fellowship - To be arranged.
Sat. 29th.	10.00 - 12.00.	Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.
APRIL		•
Wed. 2nd	8.00pm.	Wednesday Group
Thur. 3rd	2.30pm.	Thursday Fellowship - Guest Speaker - Cllr. Dennis Davey.
Sat 5th 10.00 - 12.00.		Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund by the Choir.
Sat 5th		A BIT OF A DO Supper & Show Tickets £7.00 on sale now
Sat 5th	7.30pm.	
Tues. 8th	2.30pm.	
Wed. 9th		LINK Communion at - All welcome.

THE EASTER STORY

Upon a hill three crosses stand; A darkness falls across the land; Lightning flashes, thunder rolls, And underneath those sombre poles Soldiers while away their time Unheeding Him who's done no crime.

'Water, water', comes the cry, A sponge of bitter wine's held high, And forcibly between His lips The bitter tasting liquid sips. The garments that He used to wear By lots the soldiers 'tween them share.

And so the day drags slowly on Until He calls: "'tis done, 'tis done -To my Father's hand I now commit My soul and my eternal spirit." And as these final words He cries Our Lord and Saviour Jesus dies.

They placed His body in a cave, A stone protection to it gave Then resting on the Sabbath Day Returned to find it rolled away And Jesus walking upon earth With the Easter message of rebirth.

Geoff Tullett (Brent Knoll) written 1987

EASTER OFFERING - WORLD MISSION

I know it has been said before, but I'm going to say it again. The Easter Offering is an opportunity for us **ALL** to contribute to World Mission. The service to dedicate these offerings and is prepared by the Women's Network Team, but it is for **EVERYONE**. In many Circuits around the Connexion, this service takes place as a circuit service on a Sunday evening, and means that everyone is enabled to attend. In some Circuits it is the best attended Circuit event of the year.

This year's service is on Thursday, 8th May at 2.30p.m. at Burnham Methodist Church. The theme of the service is "Making a Difference – Transforming Lives" The speaker is Rev. Carol Gill.

Envelopes for your contributions will be in the pews at Easter and I hope you will be able to be in the pews on 8th May!

Di Smart,

Women's Network Circuit Secretary.

Burnham Methodist Church invites all "Link" members to share in Sunday Evening Worship at 6.30pm.

March 2^{nd.} District Service at Bristol Cathedral

March 9^{th.} Rev. Robert Channon. (Superintendent Minister)

March 16^{th.} Palm Sunday Mr. David Lee

March 23^{rd.} Easter Day Link Preachers.

March 30^{th.} Mr. Len Horlock.

BURNHAM & HIGHBRIDGE CHURCHES TOGETHER

LENT COURSE 2008

Wednesdays at 7.30pm In the Methodist Church Hall

Each week in our services we hear a huge number of words read, prayed and preached. Yet so often we are not quite certain what these words actually meant when they were written or what they might mean for us as believers now.

Theme; What do we mean by-

So - Each week in our Lent Course we will take a different word

Peace, Mercy, Holiness. Grace, & Righteousness.

and explore their meaning by looking at Scripture and discussing together what we discover about that word.

We will be led each week by a different person

Feb 27th Holiness

Ven Nicola Sullivan - Archdeacon of Wells

March 5th Grace

Pam Grottick - Chaplain to the Deaf

March 13th Righteousness

Sarah Shepperd - STETS & 'Exploring Christianity' Tutor.

SOCIETY BREAKS NEW GROUND

On Saturday 5th April, do make a note in your diary now, Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society will again be delighting music lovers in the area singing two choral works, with orchestral accompaniment and guest soloists.

This year's Annual Concert will be works by Haydn, 'LITTLE ORGAN MASS and STABAT MATER, both new to the Society's repertoire.

The Society has acquired a reputation for quality and this concert in **St. John's Church Highbridge** at 7-30 p.m. on Saturday April 5th will be no exception.

Tickets at £7.50 will be available from G.C. Music, B.o.S, - Society Members and at the door.

Do Come. Celebrate the coming of Spring!

Women's World Day Of Prayer ~ Friday 7th March 2008

the Women's World Day of Prayer service for the villages of Brent Knoll, East Brent, Lympsham and Bleadon will be held in **Brent Knoll Methodist** Church on Friday March 7th at **10.30 am**. when the speaker will be Mrs. Joyce Pipet. We hope that a good number will be able to come.

Women's World Day Of Prayer Friday 7th March 2008

at 2.30 pm in Burnham Methodist Church

Over 3 million women worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer on Friday 7th March. They will be using an order of service prepared by Christian women from Guyana. Emma Wilcock, National President of Women's World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, said: "This is always an exciting day. The extent of unity in prayer is shown by the fact that meetings will begin at sunrise in Tonga and finish only with sunset in neighbouring Western Samoa, after there have been meetings in over 170 countries. In the British Isles, there will be well over 6,000 prayer services in different places. They bring together women, men and young people from every background and a very wide range of Christian traditions."

Many women of Guyana still bear the marks of those who experienced and fought against slavery and the system of indentured labour, with the imperialism and discrimination which that involved. In recent years, women in Guyana have been Prime Minister, President, Chief Justice and Director General of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, as well as holding many other senior positions at home and in international organisations. However, domestic violence and human trafficking remain problems in the country. The-'Women's World Day of Prayer meetings contribute to strengthening the dignity of women. In this country, 270,000 service sheets will be distributed, including some in Braille.

Do come and join us for this annual service. Men are also welcome. Tea will be served afterwards.

Women's World Day of Prayer

This year the service will be held at St. Bridget's Church Brean on Friday 7th March at 7.00pm. The speaker will be Mrs Di Smart.

The service has been prepared by the women of Guyana in South America and is entitled "God's wisdom provides new understanding".

A warm welcome to everyone.

Saturday March 8th

10.00am - 12 noon

Burnham Methodists
invite everyone to a
Coffee Morning for Secret World.
Meet Pauline Kidner and some of her furry/feathered

friends.
Raffle, cakes, bric-a-brac, cards, books and videos.

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

To celebrate Fair Trade Fortnight (29 February to 9 March) we are having a coffee morning at 6 St Michaels Road on Friday 29th February, 10am to 12noon.and all are welcome

Hope to see you there.

Cliff & Chris

WHY YOU BELONG IN CHURCH

'GOD IS BUILDING A HOME. HE'S USING US ALL - IRRESPECTIVE OF HOW WE GOT HERE - IN WHAT HE IS BUILDING: EPHESIANS 2.20 tm

Paul writes: 'God is building a home. He's using us all-irrespective of how we got here – in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day - a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home' (Ephesians 2:19-22 TM).

There are times when we need to be alone with God in prayer. But there are other times when we can only experience the fullness of His presence as we come together with His people. The church is like a corporate headquarters. When people who are individually indwelt by the Spirit meet there for worship, praise, instructions, encouragement and service. God's Spirit shows up in a powerful way and we grow as we experience His presence and hear His Word.

The world and circumstances may beat us up all week and make us feel like losers, but when we gather with other members of Christ's body we are reminded that we are on the winning side. It's hard to celebrate all by yourself. When you have something worth celebrating you call people together so you can share the joy. Jesus Christ is so excited about His victory at the cross that He calls us together each week to celebrate what He achieved for us and celebration, like spiritual growth, is a group project.

Sent in by Harry Kempson.

LINK VILLAGES FELLOWSHIP

We were very pleased to welcome Paul Temple back again with more news of development in Luhimba, Tanzania. He gave a power point talk with pictures taken in 2007 when he spent five months there. He showed all the people who had volunteered their time to work in the village. The lorry donated by a Weston-super-Mare contractor had arrived in the village having been impounded on arrival owing to Customs. Unfortunately, the donor has since died and was therefore unable to see how the goods were received. The lorry, Mr. Rusty, is now being used in other areas. He received several pairs of spectacles which will be taken out in April. IF ANYONE HAS ANY PAIRS OF OLD SPECTACLES, I SHALL BE PLEASED TO GIVE THEM TO PAUL.

On Tuesday, February 12^{th.} several members had selected readings or chosen their favourite hymn. It was a very pleasant afternoon. The Bring and Buy Stall was well supported and raised £29.00.

Mr Arthur Steele will show some of his excellent slides of views of the Hebrides and Northern Scotland on February 26^{th.}

On Tuesday, March 11^{th.}, we shall welcome Mrs Mary Witts who will tell us of Ethiopia.

We are always pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Eileen Goundry

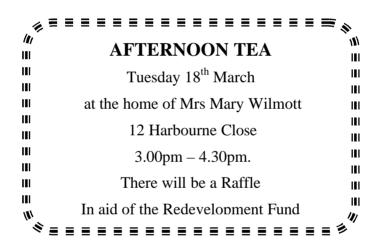
A BIT OF A DO

Supper & Show Saturday 5th April

Tickets £7.00 on sale now from Jackie Morris 2 785249

Supper at 6.30pm

In aid of the Burnham Redevelopment Fund



BURNHAM.

Greetings to all readers of this month's 'Link' magazine.

This month we continue on our Pilgrimage through Lent, rejoicing in the promise of new life at Easter.

For many months our Preachers have been meeting in fellowship at Judy and Harvey Allen's and have planned a series of Lenten Services for the Link Churches. This theme is "People of the Passion" and we look forward to the culmination of this theme at our Link Service on Easter Sunday evening 6.30pm at Burnham. We do hope as many of our 'Link' friends as possible will be free to join with us. We appreciate the hours of preparation our Supernumeries and Preachers have given to this, and to every church service they prepare week by week in our Circuit.

This month we have also been pleased to welcome to our pulpit the District Chairman, Rev Ward Jones.

We have, at last, made good progress with our Redevelopment Project. Building work commences on the first stage on March 10th, and should take approx. 12 weeks to complete.

Many of our Church members are suffering various ailments at present, we do miss everyone in our worship, and continue to remember you in our prayers. Thankfully, our Minister Rev Stephen is progressing, and will be returning to us as soon as he is 100% fit and well.

As we see signs of new life all around us, and consider the mystery of divine love that is Easter, may our hope and faith be rekindled as we say with thanksgiving, "Christ is alive. He is risen from the dead. Allelulia.

Every blessing. Eric - for the Stewards.

THANKS

A thank you from Elsie Sealey for the flowers and visits she has had since leaving her bungalow to move to Tudor Lodge.

BURNHAM REDEVLOPMENT

Bequests, grants interest etc.

£33,490.79

The money raised to January 31st: By members £92,068.16

Total

£125,558 95

Our continued thanks for all the effort and support that is being shown.

FUTURE EVENTS

March 18th Afternoon Tea & Raffle at The home of Mrs Mary Wilmott 12 Harbourne Close, Burnham

April 5th Supper & Show" 6.30pm Tickets £7.00 For more information contact 01278 785249

May 3rd RAINBOW (SPRING) FAIR - further details later.

The building work will commence on March 10th. The work commences with a new building which will be the entrance with Toilets and Coffee/Tea Bar and entrance to the main worship area. Looking at the building from College Street this will be on the left and the present entrance later closed and used as an emergency fire escape. Work on this is expected to be about 3 months.

It is with great joy and anticipation we look forward.

NCH The Children's Charity

The amount collected in the Home Collecting boxes emptied during January was £600.00. I would like to thank all the box holders. Three of the box holders died during 2007 so if you would like a box, please let me know.

During April we have our House to House Collection, Anyone who is able to collect no matter how small a street, please let me know so that we can continue to help the work of N. C. H.

Dorothy May.

Sylvia and Cyril Wright invite you to join them for Tea and Cakes at

58 Burnham Road, Highbridge,

on Tuesday March 11th 3.00pm to 6.00pm to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Donations may be given for the Redevelopment Fund.

Parking opposite in Pepperal Road. Bus Stop – Morland Road.

BURNHAM - ON - SEA METHODIST CHURCH. THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Here at Burnham- on - Sea Methodist Church our Church Library has been refurbished. Some of the old books have been culled. (Stanley Pipet assures us that they have been put down humanely!)

Some fresh books have been added to the library and all have been sorted alphabetically by author. If you wish to take out any books there is now a library record book can you please put your name and date in the record book at the appropriate entry in the book and then, later, record the date when you returned the book. If you have any comments, suggestions or questions about our Church Library can you please have a word with Stanley Pipet.

BURNHAM-ON-SEA METHODIST CHURCH LIBRARY.

THE LIBRARY 'BOOK OF THE MONTH'

6

'The Great Divorce' by C.S. Lewis. This is one of the lesser known writings of C.S. Lewis and deserves to be much better known then it is. The great divorce is the separation of heaven and hell. Did you know that there are daily charabanc trips from hell to heaven and that the day trippers do not have to come back - but they do!

Did you know about the bishop in hell who is a frequent passenger on the bus but always comes back because he cannot stand the certainty of heaven. He Much prefers the speculation and uncertainty of his theological debating group. This is a wonderful parable by C.S. Lewis and explores both the strengths and the weaknesses of the Christian life. I can recommend it to you.

Stanley Pipet.

BRENT KNOLL

Mid February and the sun is shining on snowdrops, primroses and daffodils, we are already halfway through Lent so it is also time to send Easter greetings I as one of the Link Preachers it's been good to meet together to plan our preaching for Lent and we hope that the congregations will have found this helpful. We also hope that there will be a good representative number at our Link Service at Burnham on Easter Sunday evening. The Link Preachers will be planning this and I expect that there will be an opportunity for some feedback.

At Brent Knoll we had a very interesting afternoon at the end of January when we had a demonstration of a music system. We have been very blessed to have Joan Latham giving a wonderful lead to our singing over the years and we hope she will continue to do so. This system could never replace her but it could provide a useful backup and Joan and Ted might even be able to start a holiday on a Saturday instead of Sunday afternoon!

Our regular Ecumenical Group, which normally meets at 2.30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, is meeting weekly up to and including March 6th We have been looking at the Passion Narrative in Mark's Gospel and we have been pleased to welcome some friends from other churches. The Youth Groups and Toddlers continue to meet and it's been good to see new members there too. We hope that some will be able to join us for the Family Communion Service on Mothering Sunday on March 2^{nd.} I'm looking forward to going to the District Service in Bristol Cathedral that same evening. This year the Women's World Day of Prayer service for the villages of Brent Knoll, East Brent, Lympsham and Bleadon will be held in our church on Friday March 7th at 10.30 am. when the speaker will be Mrs. Joyce Pipet. We hope that a good number will be able to come.

We send our greetings and good wishes to everyone and especially to Stephen. We hope that his health continues to improve and that we shall see him again soon.

Love to all, Margaret.

BREAN

Less than two months ago we were preparing for the birth of Christ - now we are preparing for his death. Lent classes have started in our churches and homes and there will be much discussion and opinions on the subject of Easter. Before our first Lent class we enjoyed a social evening of pancakes and games and quite a crowd joined in. We had three cooks making pancakes as fast as we could eat them and the games and fellowship afterwards made it a lovely day. On the previous Sunday we were joined by our St Bridget's members for our covenant service which was led by Rev. Joyce Plumb. It was good to see her looking so well after her operation. We joined in lunch together afterwards of homemade soup and assorted cheeses and rolls and mouth watering sweets and a good time was had by all who came.

Members of our churches everywhere know that there have been changes to the makeup of the circuits all over the country and it seems very likely that it will happen in our area too.

Much prayer has been offered concerning this and we must pray that the right steps will be taken for the future - that doesn't always mean what we want but what is right for the continued outreach of each church.

Sometimes we have to take an unwelcome step so as to go forward. The theme for the year seems to be "Pray without ceasing"

We send our love and best wishes and prayers to all fellow Christians as we prepare ourselves for Easter.

God's blessing to you all.

Lilian Stone.

EAST BRENT

There is not much to report for the last month as it seems a very short while since we had February Link Magazine.

I deputize for Jill this month while she is away on holiday in New Zealand and enjoying a very good rest I have no doubt.

The congregation is depleted with four regulars missing. Nevertheless we try our best and we will all gain something of the presence and word of God even though we are a small company.

We are now into the period of Lent and we look forward to the different services leading up to Easter Sunday.

The first Sunday in March will be Mothering Sunday when we hope that the Brownies and their Mums will join us. All the ladies in the congregation will receive a posy.

Moving on to Good Friday we are extremely pleased that Rev. Stephen Marr has agreed to conduct our service at 7o'clock. How glad we are that he feels well enough to take the service.

On Easter Sunday our Easter Communion will be led by Rev. Stanley Pipet. The Easter Cross will be decorated as usual (posies please) and the Cross will be placed outside afterwards.

We are already seeing a host of golden daffodils and clusters of snowdrops reminding us that the seasons are changing and as we celebrate Easter during the month of March let us remember the Glory of Easter is not just a pious hope.

The Glory of Easter is a fact – it is good news – so rejoice in The Glory of Easter.

Evelyn Tucker

Minister

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

The Deadline for the April 2008 "LINK" is Sunday 23rd March 2008

LARGE PRINT COPIES (A4 format) of the "LINK" are available. Please contact the Editor if you would like one.

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. <u>Inland Post £3.00 per annum.</u>
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Please make Cheques Payable to "Burnham on Sea Methodist Church."