
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

March 2011 Volume 46. No. 2.



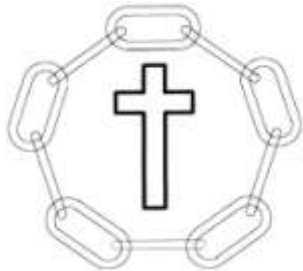
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

It feels like I've only just got over Christmas – but Lent is now only a couple of weeks away and in no time we will be looking towards Easter!

So what is Lent all about? The origins and development of it are complex and involve a mixing of early traditions which related to the preparation of catechumens (uninitiated adult converts to Christianity) for baptism at Easter, with an ascetical period of penance, and a post Epiphany fast. The actual number of days of Lent has also varied at different times and in different traditions.

Today Lent is the period of time in the church year leading up to Easter. It is a time for Christians to prepare through prayer, penitence, almsgiving and self denial for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the events of the Passion of Christ – his death and resurrection which culminate in the great celebration of his resurrection at Easter.

We take Lent as being 40 days beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday. “Ah” I hear you say – that is 46 days! – well we don't count Sundays – because Sundays are themselves mini-Easters. When Christians changed their day of rest from the Sabbath (sun down on Friday to sun down on Saturday) it was to celebrate on a weekly basis the day on which Jesus was resurrected – Sunday. So as Sundays are days of celebration – we don't count them as days of Lent!

Lent was also traditionally a time of fasting – strictly observed from the middle ages. Mostly people abstained from meat, eggs and dairy, some observed the fast by eating a meal only in the evening (similar to the Muslim fast of Ramadan). Today few Christians observe such a strict fast, but it is a good time to take stock of our spiritual health and perhaps consider our relationship with Christ and what changes we might make in our lives to ensure that we place him at the very centre of them.

Here are several ways in which you might mark Lent this year:

1. Attend the Ash Wednesday Communion service at Burnham Methodist Church at 10am on 9th March. This will include the ceremony of Ashes which is a sign of repentance and a symbol of mortality. (This will be optional in the service)

2. Join in the Lent course organised by Churches Together in Burnham and Highbridge. Based on “Christ and the Chocolaterie” by Hilary Brand, which is also based on the film and novel “Chocolate” and will include clips from the film. There are five sessions on themes related to change and acceptance.

3. Join me for early Morning Prayer on Friday mornings at 7.30am at Burnham!

Rev Andrew



CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Sat 26th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

MARCH

Wed. 2nd 8.00pm. B/H Wednesday Group - Alison Crowther Smith - Knitting

Thur 3rd 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - Guest Speaker – Gerda Dixon.

Sat. 5th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of the Highbridge and Burnham Youth Project

Tue 8th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Mr John Halls – The Art of Tasting, Buying & Blending of Tea.

Wed. 9th 10.00am. B/H Ash Wednesday Communion service at Burnham Methodist Church

Sat 12th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

Wed 16th 7.30pm. CIRCUIT MEETING at Milton

Wed 16th 2.30 & 7.30. B/H The Churches Together Lent course at Burnham Baptist Church

Thur 17th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - Irish Quiz – Joyce Beard

Sat 19th 10.00 - 12.00. W/H Coffee Morning at West Huntspill Methodist Church in aid of the Highbridge and Burnham Youth Project

Sat 19th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning by R.N.L.I.

Sat 19th 10.00 - 3.00pm The Bourne Again Identity - Longwell Green United Church, Bristol

Sun 20th

LAST DAY for APRIL LINK

Tue 22nd 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Members Afternoon Bring and Buy.

Wed 23rd 2.30 & 7.30. H/B The Churches Together Lent course at Hope Baptist Church Highbridge

Sat 26th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

Wed 30th 2.30 & 7.30. B/H The Churches Together Lent course at Burnham Baptist Church

APRIL

Sat. 2nd 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of the Highbridge and Burnham Youth Project

Wed 6th 2.30 & 7.30. H/B The Churches Together Lent course at Hope Baptist Church Highbridge

Wed. 6th 8.00pm. B/H Wednesday Group - Lent Groups

Thur 7th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - Citizen Advice Bureau

Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

Sat 9th 7.30pm. B/H Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society in St Andrew's Church Stainer's CRUCIFIXION and Malcolm Arnold's REQUIEM.

Tue 12th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Margaret & Peter Long - Children of Fiji (Collection)

Wed 13th 2.30 & 7.30. B/H The Churches Together Lent course at Burnham Baptist Church

Sat 16th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning by R.N.L.I.

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



Churches Together Lent course

The Churches Together Lent course is "*Christ and the Chocolaterie*" by Hilary Brand, which uses the film "Chocolat" as a starting point. The course will be held at Burnham and Hope Baptist Churches at 2.30pm and 7.30pm on Wednesdays, starting on 16th March at Burnham, and will be led by local clergy. The programme is as follows:

March 16 th	Burnham Baptist	Rev. Andy Jackson
March 23 rd	Hope Baptist	Father Tibor Szende
March 30 th	Burnham Baptist	Rev. Simon Lewis (pm) and Rev. Paul Kingdom (eve)
April 6 th	Hope Baptist	Rev. Graham Witts and Rev. Sharon Crossman
April 13 th	Burnham Baptist	Rev. Andrew Biggs

I would encourage you to come along if you can.

Rev Andrew

Youth Project Coffee Mornings

Fundraising for the Highbridge and Burnham Youth Project is well underway with several churches holding fundraising events and making donations. As part of our contribution we will be running our coffee mornings on 5th March and 2nd April in support of the project. Please let me know if you are able to help. We will need a small team for each morning. Donations of anything to sell – cakes, books, bric-a-brac etc – would also be greatly appreciated.

I hope we will all be able to support this endeavour to do God's work in our community.

Thanks in anticipation,

Julie Biggs.



THE LINK

The first LINK magazine was produced in March 1965 presumably by Rev. John Tucker who was Minister at that time. Mr. Arnold Holdin became editor in March 1966 and produced it until his death in December 1983. Mrs. Rene Ashbee had helped him by typing and distribution from the July – August 1983 issue and took on the task of Editor with the January 1984 LINK until March 1987 when Jackie Jenkin became editor until the December 1998 – January 1999. I took on as Editor with Dorothy's help from February 1999 until now.

I have been involved with the production of the LINK since 1980 by doing the duplicating on a Gestetner in the early days when it was printed on Quarto and stapled in one corner. (I only did the duplicating taking the printed pages back to the Editors to assemble and staple as necessary). In 1981 I found we could stick the typing stencils together with correcting fluid, so I cut the stencils which were then typed by the Editors as loose A5 pages. I then stuck the stencils back together with the corresponding page and duplicated them, still returning them to the Editors to collate, staple and fold for distribution in the same format that is used now (ie. A4 folded into an A5 booklet.)

In 1987 I was able to purchase a used Electronic stencil cutter so then the Editors were able to type on plain A5 paper and with the

event of Word processors and Computers it was possible to vary the styles and sizes of the type and insert drawings and pictures. These were then cut onto the stencils for duplicating.

But in 2003 the supply of Electronic Stencils ceased with the wide spread use of photocopiers, so from the December 2003 copy until March 2005 the LINK was photocopied at the circuit office at St. Marks Church in Worle.

In April 2005 the Church obtained our own photocopier on a 5 year rental agreement, so I was back printing the Link. With the coloured cover the front and back pages were produced on colour paper first, then the other pages were printed on white paper which came off the photocopier already collated to which the cover page was added stapled and folded to complete the copy.

In October 2009 when the agreement was nearing the end of the agreed term, and would need to be renewed, the Church agreed to purchase a refurbished photocopier which is far more useful as it will automatically use coloured paper for the cover sheet and collate the whole LINK which can be stapled and folded while the next copy is printing. A Laptop can be connected and the LINK produced without a printed original.

The LINK has always had the chain link symbol on the front except for special editions. Nigel and Karl Vickers toured the LINK Churches and Karl did some line drawings of the Churches which were added to the front cover for the 25th Anniversary copy of the LINK and subsequent issues until Black & White digital photos were used from April 2004 as it is today with minor amendments.



Burnham needs a new treasurer and I have said I will take it on, if someone will take on the Editing of the LINK. Any offers could be from any of the LINK churches. I will still do my part by photocopying and distribution.

Cedric.



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

As Mrs Julie Draper was unable to be our speaker on January 25th. owing to illness, we were very pleased to have Mrs Sue Medicott. She gave a very interesting talk on the Hospice over the ages - when they started as Hospicium to give shelter to travellers when they were on their way to the Crusades and other long distances when travel was so slow. Dame Cecily Saunders started the modern Hospice Movement for those with life threatening illnesses - they give quality care in the latter period of life. They offer treatment both in the home and in the Hospice; the patients also receive care by having someone to talk to and making them feel cared for in having make up and nails done. She explained Palliative Care - the word palliative comes from Pallias - a blanket or shawl to wrap around and protect. This is what they try to do to make a patient feel protected when they most need it. At the close, there were several questions from members. She also sold CDs which had been recorded by Wells Cathedral Choir, the profits of which go to St. Margaret's (Somerset) Hospice.

On Tuesday, February 8th Miss Evelyn Tucker gave us an afternoon of favourite Hymns. Members had chosen their favourites and Evelyn had researched into the background of the Hymns - their writers and the composers of the tunes. We sang whole hymns - not the first verse and the last which made them more meaningful. It was a lovely afternoon and Evelyn said she had so many that she could do another afternoon in the next session. Thank you, Evelyn.

On February 22nd Mrs A. Pursey was our Speaker.

Mr John Halls is to come on March 8th. to tell us of the Art of Tasting, Buying and Blending of Tea.

We shall have our Members' Afternoon on March 22nd. when there will be a Bring and Buy Stall.

Mr Peter and Mrs Margaret Long will come on April 12th. to tell us of the work they do in Fiji in building Schools, Nurseries, building bridges etc. There will be a collection.

Eileen Goundry



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STARS OF THE FUTURE

At the Spring Concert of the Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society on Saturday 9th April at 7-30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Church, Burnham-on-Sea. The Society, directed by Ray Willis with John Bodiley as organist, are performing Stainer's CRUCIFIXION and Malcolm Arnold's REQUIEM.

All the soloists are students of music, one auditioning for a Choral Scholarship to Cambridge University and another was in the heats of the Young Musician Competition.

Tickets at £7-50 can be bought from members or ring 01278 783542 or hazelnut33@btinternet.com



BREAN

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

It's been a good weekend. A walk on the beach on Saturday afternoon with the dog Sam, and for the first time this year we could feel the hint of warmth in the sun on our faces. Above the shoreline flocks of dunlin wheeled to and fro as though they too knew that this was a new day. The winter might yet bite us back but surely we know that the hope of Spring cannot be far behind.

And then today we have enjoyed worship with our fellow congregations from the village churches as we met at East Brent. Forty of us being at peace together in a small church that was comfortably full was a warming experience.

February is not such a bad month is it? The sound of birds as they sing their hearts out in search of a mate; and then the nesting boxes are gradually filled. The days slowly lengthening; it is now past six o'clock before the daylight passes from us. The snowdrops giving way to crocuses; and the smell of hyacinth when entering a room that has been closed up all night.

There are going to be difficult days before us, the economic climate will see to that and we know not what will be the effect of disturbances in North Africa and the Middle East, but surely our faith encourages us to seek out and appreciate what is good in our lives. The Sermon on the Mount urges us to make the most of each day, of each moment.

Our congregation continues faithfully. We had a splendid games evening with proper butcher's sausages and beans afterwards, shared with friends from St Bridget's. And the monthly joint service with them was also notable. And our Monday morning coffee gives a valuable service even though we would like to see more people there.

We remember our older members who are not able to worship with us as they would like, and we look forward to

meeting visiting friends who return to us during the holiday months.

And yes we shall enjoy our pancakes at the due time, though whether that will be on the Tuesday or whether we shall simply extend the Monday coffee morning has yet to be decided. We shall also be meeting in Church Council this month.

Meantime we wish everyone the very best as we approach the month when we get a Spring in our step.

Harvey Allan



WEST HUNTSPELL

This is the year in which we celebrate the 160th Anniversary of our building, of course there was a group of Methodist meeting in the village before that who were inspired to erect the Chapel

We are planning some special events during the year and hope you will be able to join us for some if not all.

Anniversary weekend will be Friday the 10th Saturday the 11th and Sunday 12th June. The theme for the weekend will be Craftsmen's Art and Music's Measure, various local craftspeople have been asked to mount displays, there will be a Dedication and Light entertainment on Friday evening.

On Saturday the displays will be on view with background music - Coffee - Light Lunches and Tea will be served. On Sunday our Anniversary Services will be led by former minister Rev. Nicola Reynolds.

On Sunday, 10th July we are having a Songs of Praise on the Common in the village at 4.00pm. (more details later)

Saturday 20th August we shall have a stall at the Village Flower Show as we have done for the past 32 years.

We are hoping to get some commemorative gifts and goods to sell and hope these and the event will remind the community that we are present in the village.

We are pleased to report that our first Coffee and Chat at the end of January went well and we were encouraged by the number who came in. We look forward to the next one (details elsewhere)

West Huntspill Methodist Church
COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 19th of March
10.00am-12 noon
COFFEE STALLS Etc
Proceeds for the
Churches Together
Highbridge and Burnham Youth Project



BRENT KNOLL

At this uneventful time of the year I find myself at a loss for anything to report beyond nattering on about longer days, shrubs and trees coming into bud, daffodils bursting into bloom and birds and frogs very active. Admittedly all these signs of spring lift our spirits and goodness knows they need lifting after the long hard winter. I never cease to marvel at the way the seasons succeed each other without fail, totally ignoring man's efforts to improve or destroy the natural order of things God's plans work unaffected by our futile tinkering and it's wonderfully comforting and reassuring.

At Brent Knoll we have a number of folk on the sick list and they are sorely missed. We hold them in our prayers and hope to have them back with us before long. It is wonderful to have had Ronnie and Shirley Pycroft with us for the past two Sundays and thank God for Shirley's miraculous survival through a critical time at Christmas.

There must be others like me wondering whether the publication of yet another Hymn book at a time when our churches are struggling with financial problems, is appropriate. I understand it is an excellent collection of hymns old and new and I know we must not reject efforts to enhance our worship but is this the right time? I shall be interested to know how all the churches in the circuit respond

I confess that I had misgivings about the joint covenant service with Brean and East Brent but it all went so well, good attendance and a happy time afterwards enjoying a chat and a cup of coffee. Now I look forward to next Sunday at East Brent and hope it is something we can continue to do in the future.

We send our greetings to all the LINK Churches and look forward to the days ahead when we can emerge from hibernation and enjoy closer Fellowship.

Best wishes to one and all,

Barbara Drew.



EAST BRENT

The first of the joint services with Brean and Brent Knoll was well attended and enjoyed by all. We are hosting the February one and Brean in March.

Our Church Council was well attended. All the committee reports were positive and encouraging. The property was reported to be in good order. The hall roof will be re-felted in the summer when hopefully it will be better weather. Future events were discussed and dates set for the year ahead. It was agreed to invite the Brownies to attend the Mothering Day Service instead of the usual fourth Sunday. We are very grateful to Evelyn, who makes around thirty posies for all the children's mothers and the ladies in the congregation. We finished the meeting with a good spread of cakes and savouries and a "nice" cup of tea.

Evelyn celebrated her 80th birthday with a party in the hall, which was a great success. We also send our congratulations to Daphne Price who was 90 yrs a few days ago. At last Gwen Oldham is home from hospital, we send her our love, and hope that she will soon be back in her pew, we missed you. We also send our love to Eileen Craig in Scotland, we miss you too!!

Gordon and I are pleased to be back home after an eventful holiday, thank you for all your cards and enquiries. Most of the bruises are gone now!! The cold weather doesn't seem to have affected the snowdrops – huge drifts of them are in flower in the garden – a sight to behold.

Jill Legg

Ed. (Gwen has been back into Musgrove Park Hospital and had a pacemaker fitted and is now in Burnham Hospital and is expecting to return home this weekend 26th Feb)



BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

So – our beautiful church here at Burnham remains unused! The boilers no longer function and the refurbished interior is cold and dark and we are still struggling with how best to move forward. But, we can still heat the church hall – fortunately that has its own heating system – and our worship in that space is joyful and very well attended. New faces are appearing at our services and are made most welcome. Yes – we would like to be in the church itself but we have many blessings for which to be thankful. We can still meet together in worship – and where we meet is not the most important thing – the congregation together is the church after all!

Isn't this time of year exciting- we have snowdrops in our garden and crocuses peeping through on the overgrown rockery and my moribund passion flower by my front door, which I thought was unlikely to survive the winter, is showing signs of new life with tiny little green shoots appearing. I'm sure you have grasped by now that Barry and I are not gardeners but the jungle that is our back garden, which I'm sure is a haven for all sorts of wildlife, is to be tackled this year and coaxed in to some sort of pleasing array. This early part of the year sees a renewed energy particularly as we begin to think about Easter and the deep significance that special time in the Christian calendar has for all of us. The choir at Burnham is busy rehearsing the Easter Cantata – “It Took a Miracle” which we will be singing on Palm Sunday as well as the choir contributions to the services on Good Friday and Easter Day. Barry and I are really looking forward to the Lent course this year especially after seeing the film “Chocolat” as part of the Reel Issues programme at the Ritz cinema. (It was the first, and probably only time I have been offered (and taken) a chocolate before and after a film showing.) I think the Lent course will be very thought provoking.

Lent will also be the subject of our 6th March Messy Church worship – you are very welcome to drop in and see Messy Church in action – activities start at 4.00pm – the service of worship at about 5.00pm followed by the buffet tea. At our February Messy

church we had 14 children + assorted parents and grandparents and 2 babies. Julie had set up a toddlers corner and that was a great success.

It is very good news that our “hospital” folk are now doing well. Harry Kempson is back with the choir – we missed you Harry and Doris Clapp is recovering well too. I know that there are lots of colds and coughs about and our thoughts and prayers are with all who are not too well at the moment.

We send greetings to all our friends in the wider circle of the Link

Ann Hall

Minister

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

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April 2011“LINK” is
Sunday 20th March 2011**

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