
THE LINK

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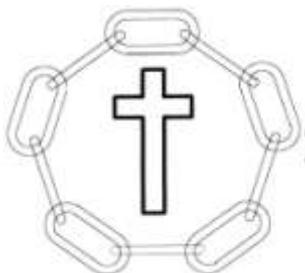
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

The Lenten season has begun. The opening words of our Ash Wednesday Communion Service (P141 in the Methodist Worship Book) tell us that: "At first this season of Lent was observed by those being prepared for Baptism at Easter and by those seeking restoration to the Church's fellowship. In the course of time all Christians were invited to keep these days carefully, to take to heart the call to repentance, to receive the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel, and so grow in faith and devotion to our Lord".

Lent is kept in a number of ways: some give up favourite foods or something they enjoy, others take up something - reading a passage of the Bible each day, for example.

It probably doesn't matter too much – as long as your *motivation* is about drawing nearer to God. In the book of Isaiah (chapter 58) – God tells the Israelites that their fasting is useless if they do it out of a motivation of self interest: "on such a day the fast you are keeping is not one that will carry your voice to heaven" he says. "Rather is not this the fast I require: to loose the fetters of injustice, to untie the knots of the yoke and set free those who are oppressed...? Is it not sharing your food with the hungry, taking the homeless poor into your house, clothing the naked when you meet them, and never evading your duty to your kinsfolk?"

So giving up foods, or taking up exercise is fine if you want to lose weight and stay healthy – but you can do that at any time. Lent, on the other hand, is about getting closer to God, "growing in faith and devotion". The hunger pangs of fasting and self denial are intended to be a reminder to spend time with God.

What God really wants is our obedience to his commands that we: "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." (from Luke 10:27). Loving God involves getting to know him and drawing closer to him.

There are a number of ways on offer which might help you to draw closer to God this Lent. Prayer and Bible study are important elements of discipleship so why not attend prayers on Wednesday's at noon at Burnham Methodist Church (not 7th March)?

Or join a **Lent group** such as the one I'm running at Brent Knoll Methodist Church where the theme will be "Mark's gospel for everyone" based on Tom Wright's book "Lent for everyone". This is part of the Big Bible "Big Read12" initiative see <http://bigbible.org.uk/big-read/bigread12/>. The time is 2.30pm on Feb 29th, March 8th, 14th, 22nd and 28th. Or you could buy the book and follow the daily readings and reflections.

Whatever you decide to do I pray that you will "grow in faith and devotion to our Lord".

Best Wishes

Revd Andrew



Deaths

Mrs. Hazel Kempson on Sunday 12th February. Cremation at Weston on Monday 27th February at 11.00am. followed by Service of Thanksgiving at Burnham Methodist Church at 2.30pm.

Mr. Leonard English Funeral at Burnham on Friday February 18th

Mrs. Barbara May of Highbridge Funeral Burnham Methodist on Monday March 5th at 11.45am. Cremation at Weston 1.00pm.



Thank you so much for the cards and good wishes received after the death of my dear dad Leonard English, and particularly for the support of Bridget and the choir during the funeral service.

It meant a lot to Paul and I to have our friends around us on this emotional occasion.

God Bless you

Sheila and Paul.



CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- Sun 26th 6.30pm. B/H Cafe Service
Tue. 28th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - House of Grace in Thailand
Rev. I. Boley (Collection)
Wed 29th 12.00pm. B/H Prayer Meeting at Church. All Welcome
Wed. 29th 2.30pm. B/K LENT COURSE at Brent Knoll

MARCH

- Thur. 1st 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - St. David's Day - Welsh Quiz
Fri. 2nd 1.00pm. B/H Frugal lunch - home made soup, a roll and fruit
Fri. 2nd 2.30pm. B/H Women's World Day of prayer service - Burnham
Methodist
Wed. 7th No Prayer Meeting this week
Wed. 7th 8.00pm. B/H Wednesday Group ??
Thur. 8th 2.30pm. B/K LENT COURSE at Brent Knoll
Sun. 11th 6.00pm. Circuit Service: Robin Jenk's accreditation as a local
preacher, at St. Andrew's Bournville
Tue. 13th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - CHAT - Rev. Pam Pembro.
Wed 14th 12.00pm. B/H Prayer Meeting at Church. All Welcome
Wed. 14th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch. (Joyce Pipet)
Wed .14th 2.30pm. B/K LENT COURSE at Brent Knoll
Wed. 14th 2.30pm. B/H Bible Study Group All welcome.
Thur. 15th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Show by Cedric May
Wed. 21st 12.00pm. B/H Prayer Meeting at Church. All Welcome
Thur. 22nd 2.30pm. B/K LENT COURSE at Brent Knoll
Tue. 27th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Members Afternoon Bring
and Buy.
Wed. 28th 12.00pm. B/H Prayer Meeting at Church. All Welcome
Wed. 28th 2.30pm. B/K LENT COURSE at Brent Knoll
Fri 30th 10.00 - 12.00. W/H Coffee Cake and Chat plus stalls at West Huntspill
Methodist Church
Fri 30th 7.30pm. B/H Concert by The Trinity Singers from Taunton in aid of
Heating Fund Tickets £6.00

APRIL

- Wed 4th 12.00pm. B/H Prayer Meeting at Church. All Welcome
Wed. 4th 8.00pm. B/H Wednesday Group - Easter Thoughts - Hopefully with
Rev. Sally Lacey
Thur. 5th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Maundy Thursday
Thur. 5th 7.00pm. B/H Maundy Thursday Communion
Fri. 6th 10.30am. B/H Good Friday Service
Sun. 8th 10.30am. B/H All age Communion Service
Tue. 10th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Stanley Pipet.
Wed 11th 12.00pm. B/H Prayer Meeting at Church. All Welcome
Wed. 11th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch. (Daphne Hill)
Wed. 11th 2.30pm. B/H Bible Study Group All welcome.
Sun. 15th Local Preachers Sunday

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

Churches Together are sponsoring a youth worker.

To help with the funding, the churches in the area have been asked if they will each provide a frugal lunch during Lent.

As the Women's World day of Prayer is being held at Burnham Methodist Church on Friday March 2nd, Joyce Pipet has offered to organise a lunch consisting of homemade soup, a roll and fruit. This will commence at 1.00pm before the service starts at 2.30pm. No tickets are needed for this, nor is there to be a set charge; but all contributions will be gratefully received towards this project.

Your Generous Support will be much appreciated.

Educate the Kids (In Kenya)

During 2012 the Charity Coffee Mornings on the 3rd Saturday of each month are for Educate the Kids. There are several stalls, a time of fellowship and friendship over a cup of Coffee or Tea. Also a chance to see pictures and learn more about the children we are helping.

The January Coffee Morning raised £191.00

The February Coffee Morning raised £210.00

We look forward to welcoming you there,

Dorothy May.

TRINITY ENTERTAINERS

IN CONCERT

at Burnham on Sea Methodist Church

On Friday March 30th

At 7.30pm.

Tickets £6.00 including refreshments

In aid of the New Church Heating

Doors open at 7.0pm.

Tickets from Dorothy May

The League of Light

**Will you join the League of Light and shine
into the lives of vulnerable children?**



The League of Light formed in 1932, when a group of our Methodist supporters began collecting money in special lanterns to help Action for Children (then the National Children's Home) bring light into the lives of vulnerable children.



Today, Action for Children works with around 50,000 children and young people. But tackling issues such as abuse and neglect on this scale is a huge task.

There are so many children growing up without the bare necessities in life - hot meals, decent clothes, and the love of their family.

That's why we're re-launching the League of Light.

So will you join us?

Please contact Dorothy May Tel 01278 784204

Harry's Page (from his daily Bible readings)

CONSIDER THE SOURCE

READ:

James 1:12.18

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights. --James 1:17

I love cinnamon. I love cinnamon rolls, cinnamon crackers, cinnamon sweets, cinnamon toast, cinnamon apples, and cinnamon biscuits. Cinnamon is one of those spices that make other things taste better. However, it never crossed my mind to think about where cinnamon comes from. Then, on a recent trip to Sri Lanka, I learned that 90% of all the cinnamon in the world comes from that island nation located in the Indian Ocean. For all of the cinnamons I've enjoyed over the years, I never stopped to consider its source.

Sadly, my walk with Christ is sometimes like that. God has blessed me with a wonderful wife, five children, and grandchildren who are more fun than a barrel of monkeys. In the midst of my enjoyment of them, however, I sometimes fail to consider the source of those blessings--what the hymn writer called the "fount of every blessing". James put it like this: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (1:17)

How ungrateful we would be to enjoy the rich blessings of life without thanking the Father who is the source of all of creation. --Bill Crowder

*Dear Lord, from whom all blessings flow,
Most precious gifts dost Thou bestow;
So truly faithful may I be
As Thou art gracious unto me. —Roworth*

Gratitude is a God honouring attitude.

IT IS ALWAYS a lot easier to stand on the sidelines and take pot-shots than to get involved and try to help. The Bible repeatedly warns us not to criticise, compare, or condemn one another. When you judge what someone else is doing in sincere faith, you are on dangerous ground with God. 'What right do you have to [judge] someone else's servants? Only their Lord can decide if they are doing right.'(Romans14:4 CEV). Since you are not their 'lord' you need to exercise wisdom and restraint refuse to stand in judgment on those whose opinions differ from yours. Here Paul

weighs in: 'Why, then-criticise your brother's actions, why-try to make him look small? We shall all be judged one day, not by each other's standards or even by our own, but by the Judgment of God' (Romans 14:10-11). Whenever you take it upon yourself to analyse, scrutinise and categorise one of God's children, four things happen: 1) you upset their Father. 2) You display your ego and Insecurity. 3) You set the standard by which you yourself will be judged. 4) You alienate people. When you get a reputation for being critical, people will avoid you like a plague. They know that if you criticise others you will criticise them too. The Bible says: 'Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault' (Romans: 14:19 TM). Someone said, the largest room in the world is room for Improvement' If you doubt that, look at the disciples Christ picked and promoted---then look in the mirror.



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

On January 24th. members listened to Mr. and Mrs Endall tell of their experiences on the TV programme "To Buy or Not To Buy".

Rev. Robin Hutt gave us a very interesting talk on his experiences as a Methodist Minister in Toxteth, Liverpool 8,

There was strong Methodist / Roman Catholic presence with much understanding. He told us of some of the characters of both denominations in a multicultural area. It was a great opportunity to hear of the way things work out after the riots.

On Tuesday, February 28th. Rev. I. Boley will tell us of the "House of Grace" in Thailand. There will be a collection at this meeting for the cause.

Rev. Pam Pembro on March 13th will tell us about the CHAT Project in Weston-super-Mare.

We shall have our Members' Afternoon on March 27th. when there will be a Bring and Buy Stall.

On Tuesday, April 10th. our speaker will be Rev. S. Pipet

Unfortunately, at the last meeting we were told of the deaths of two of our members and one who has joined a Day Centre in Wedmore.

Eileen Goundry.

BREAN

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

Our Church Council meets later this month and I shall pass on the reins of Church Council secretary after 15 years. It seemed a good idea to look back therefore, at the first Council for which I wrote the Minutes. Most prominent was our discussion about, and then approval for, the reconstruction of our entrance lobby. It is difficult now to imagine how constrained that area was in those days, and how much of an improvement the development gave to us. We were fortunate in that our investment was still providing us with enough funds to carry out that improvement.

There was even sufficient I see for us to donate £500 to the Bristol Centre, something we did for three years running, and which was part of our continuing commitment in those days to share our advantage. That is hardly the case now, of course. A couple of years ago, we had to apply to the Connexion in order to capitalise some of our investment in order to help pay for the renewal of the roof. Nowadays the small income from what is left, is hardly sufficient for us to balance the books and pay our way in the Circuit.

We have great sympathy with Burnham in their difficult circumstance, therefore. Concern about the viability of our cause is a spectre we are all living with more and more just now.

A look back at our Church Council then, also gives us time for reflection and room for thanks to remember the service that the servants of the church have given: Stuart Hicks, Lilian Stone and Walter Godwin (who were all stewards), Daphne Price (who played the organ), and Eve Hawkes who worked quietly and without fuss as Communion Steward. Lilian of course continues in her prayerful concern for all even though she is confined to home, and Daphne is living in Swindon. The rest have all gone to greater glory, Stuart and Walter, just this winter.

And to add to that list Kath Hopkins also died in the last month. A more recent member than those others, but one who was very much part of our lively fellowship and a regular attender until only a couple of weeks before she went into hospital. Kath had been active in the community life of the village and will be much missed. Rev Andrew took her cremation service which was attended by a goodly number from family friends, church and community life.

We have enjoyed joint services with our Anglican friends and also, at other times with members from East Brent and Brent Knoll Methodist Churches. It is good to meet like this once in a while and next month it is the turn of Brent Knoll to welcome us to one of their services.

At the end of January we held a very successful Social and Games evening and on Shrove Tuesday we are enjoying/will have enjoyed pancakes.

At our Church Council. Morag Wood will take over as Secretary so thank you Morag and here's our best wishes.

Now who would like to write the Link report each month?

Harvey Allen



WEST HUNTSPILL

Free Coffee



Cake

& Chat



10.30am – 1.00pm



**On Friday 24th February and
Friday 30th March**

We will be having a Lent Lunch



**Soup & rolls will be served from 12noon
onwards. Donations in aid of The
Highbridge & Burnham Youth Project
will be most welcome.**

**FAIRTRADE produce
Toys for young children to play.
Wheelchair Access.
ALL WELCOME**

Here at West Huntspill for Christmas 2012 we aim to make a Christmas Tree with knitted squares, which will later be turned into blankets to send to those in need.

If you are willing to knit; what you need to do is find any odd balls of green double knitting wool hiding in your or your friends homes. Then take size 8 (4 mm) needles and cast on 30 stitches, knit 50 rows then cast off. Also we need knitted or crochet decorations in bright colours measuring 2 - 3 inches in length. Christine and Janet J. Have patterns if you need them.



BRENT KNOLL

Over the last few months I have, for the first time, read the Bible from cover to cover. I thought I knew it very well but how wrong I was! I have so many new questions to ask and have taken new comfort in texts which I'd previously taken for granted. My reading of the bible also coincided with my joining the Emmaus group (I attend the Thursday meetings at Brent Knoll led by Revs Andrew and Margaret) and the introduction to Brent Knoll of the new hymn book "Singing the Faith". New hymns, new insight into the scriptures and a chance to share with and listen to others. How wonderful it is that our faith is a living faith!

My faith in others was also boosted during February. My car had to go in for an MOT. Now everybody who knows me knows I love my car (named Silky by me and RB (Rust Bucket) by my friends). She is of great sentimental value to me. She's a twenty year old two seater Honda CRX with a tiny engine and a rusty body. One of my best memories is of me and my mother driving onto the beach at Brea, top down (none of this electric roof business - it has to be hauled off manually, stored in the boot and it weighs a ton) with my eighty year old mother wearing "shades" and a baseball cap wanting to know if she looked cool (she did). So you can imagine how low my heart sank at the words no owner of a well loved, ancient (I prefer vintage) car wants to hear. "This needs a welder." The chap from the local garage said he didn't want to give me hope but each wheel arch

could cost between £45 - £300. PER SIDE. After smelling salts had been wafted under my nose I told him to do what he could. Now had this happened at my old garage in Essex, the mechanic would have been rubbing his hands in glee at the prospect of a woman, who, when asked to pop the bonnet up opened the petrol cap instead, uttering the words "Do what you can". (I was charged £7.50 for a side light bulb just before I moved down here.)

When I picked the car up it had been repaired for £100. For BOTH sides. When I told the mechanic that he was my new best friend and related the tale to him of the Essex bulb he replied "You're in Somerset now. Proper people, proper prices".

And it hit me again how lucky I am to live and worship here.

God bless.

Rosemary Krull



Apart from the services listed below, Brent Knoll Methodist Church will also be hosting the Women's Day of Prayer 2012 on 2nd March.

- 4th March: Rev Andrew Biggs: Communion
- 11th March: Rev Joyce Plumb
- 18th March: Rev Margaret Trapp (Mothering Sunday)
- 25th March: Rev Robert Channon (Link Service)



EAST BRENT

We've started the spring cleaning here at East Brent. The hall ceiling has been repainted and some of the vestry walls emulsioned. The ground at the back of the Church has been tidied and the shrubs along the car park fence severely pruned. It was suggested at our last Church Council, the September one that coffee is provided after every Sunday service not just once a month as before. As often happens the one that makes the suggestion has to carry out the job and so we are grateful to Rosemary who has undertaken this job, and instead of heating the hall each week we have been staying in the Church for refreshments and this has worked quite well.

We hope that Gwen will soon be well enough to be back in her pew – we do miss her!

The joint services have been very well received at East Brent, it's a joy to be part of a larger congregation, the singing, and the friendship and fellowship, the meeting up with old friends and not getting home until 1.30pm to start cooking the Sunday roast.

We look forward or not to the round of Church and Circuit meetings which always happen at this time of year, we seem to talk of the same things each time with no answers forthcoming and very little if any progress.

Anyway Gordon and I are now back in full swing again after our break, the highlight was being able to land on the Falkland Islands and see for ourselves the tremendous task our troops had in regaining the islands for the Falklanders.

Jill Legg.



Thank you Evelyn, for the welcome of myself and Margaret into your Church community.

May I say how friendly the whole congregation has been to us.

The Church is small and cosy and has an average of thirteen people attending regularly; we could do with a few more.

Margaret has been a member of the Methodist Church for the whole of her life mostly in the City of Bath.

I myself am new to the Church, but feel now totally at home after only a few months. If you are unsure of joining the Methodist Church come and join us, you will be welcome and surprised.



BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

I hope that you aren't all expecting two columns from us this month, we are back to the normal one report (I hope!).

Sadly we have said goodbye to Sheila Creswick's father whose funeral was this morning, and Hazel Kempson died last Sunday. Hazel had been a stalwart here for over 40 years, steward, Sunday school teacher and a choir member for many years. She was supportive to all that was going on. Although she has not been seen here for a few years due to her deteriorating health, she is fondly remembered by many and much missed. Our love and prayers go out to Harry, whose devotion to Hazel over these years has been inspirational, and to the rest of the family.

The main topic of conversation of the past months has been the church heating, or lack of it. The stewards decided that we should worship in the nice warm hall and not spend money on buying a heater while we need to raise such an enormous sum to have new central heating installed. We were overruled by church council who felt we should be in the church, even if we got really cold. So we have a calor gas blower heater which is not really satisfactory although it is the same version as we borrowed at Christmas. Or is it just that it is colder now? We really look forward to spring. In the meantime we are investigating grants – large ones! What will happen about this problem is in all our prayers and we hope that you will join us in this.

Talking about spring, I have just bought primulas to add a bit of colour to my front garden and am trying to pluck up the energy to go out in the cold to plant them, but my dog feels a run on the beach would be a much better idea – expect she will win.

Best wishes to you all from the Burnham Stewards,

Daphne Hill

Minister

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www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

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

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

**The Deadline for the
April 2012 “LINK” is
Sunday 18th March 2012**

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