
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

March 2013 Volume 48. No. 2.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

The period of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and the scriptures set for reading on that day include Isaiah 58:1-12 and Matthew 6:1-6 and 16-21. Both the prophet Isaiah and Matthew's gospel calls us to something that goes deeper than outward observance of religious practices. Jesus effectively is saying that none of our religious practices whether, prayer, giving to charity or fasting will be accepted by God if it is not accompanied by sincerity and repentance for when we have done wrong. Our repentance if sincere should be transformational – it should change us from within so that we become more like Jesus who had no sin at all.

Our Christian journey does not end when we repent (which means “turn again”) and return to Jesus – the process we call conversion. In fact this is just the beginning of the process of discipleship through which we aim to become more like Jesus. John Wesley taught that we continue this process throughout our whole lives through taking part in spiritual practices which he termed “the means of grace”.

In his sermon on The Sermon on the Mount he says this:

“Oh how meek and gentle, how lowly in heart, how full of love both to God and man, you might have been today if you had only asked: - if you had continued instant in prayer! Therefore, now, at least, “ask, and it shall be given to you”.

Ask that you may thoroughly experience, and perfectly practice, the whole of that religion that our Lord here [in the sermon on the mount] has so beautifully described. It shall then be given to you, to be holy as he is holy, both in heart and in all manner of conversation.

Seek in the way he has ordained, in searching the scriptures, in hearing his word, in meditating thereon, in fasting, in partaking of the Supper of the Lord and surely you shall find: you shall find that pearl of great price, that faith which overcomes the

world, that peace which the world cannot give, that love which is the earnest of your inheritance.

Knock: continue in prayer, and in every other way of the Lord.....

But that your prayer may have its full weight with God, see that you be in charity with all people... Confirm your love towards one another, and towards everyone. And love them not in word only, but in deed and in truth..."

If you were at Milton to hear the Vice President of the Methodist Conference Mr Mike King preach last Sunday, that last paragraph may ring a bell. He spoke of the need for our churches to be outward looking, to engage with our communities in practical ways, to love in deed and not only with words. He pointed out that churches which do this tend to prosper while those that become inward looking social clubs tend to decline.

This season of Lent is a time for reflection and perhaps a time to assess how we are in our discipleship. How are we in our relationship with God in Christ? Could we do more to grow in God's love through becoming better acquainted with the Spiritual Practices?

If so then please consider joining the Lent Course "Exploring Spiritual Practices" at Burnham on Sea Methodist Church at 10.45am each Thursday during Lent.

Blessings

Rev Andrew



Death Mrs. Sheila Williams of Burnham Church. Funeral service at Burnham and burial at Berrow, conducted by Rev. Andrew Biggs on February 7th.



Calendar

FEBRUARY

- Sat 23rd. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Mon. 25th. 7.30pm B/H Emmaus Course at Burnham on Sea Methodist Church.
Tue. 26th. 2.30pm. E/B "LINK Villages Fellowship - 'Aloe Vera' its value and use - Mrs Nicky Burns
"
Wed. 27th. 2.30pm. B/H Prayer Group at Burnham All welcome
Wed. 27th. 2.30pm. Church Council: West Huntspill
Wed. 27th. 7.00pm W/H Alpha Course at West Huntspill Methodist Church
Sat. 23rd. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Thur. 28th. 10.45am. B/H Lent Course "Introducing Spiritual Practices"
Burnham Methodist Church

MARCH

- Sat. 2nd. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle in aid of the Heating Fund -
Church Council: Brent Knoll
Sat. 2nd. 2.30pm. Church Council: Brent Knoll
Mon. 4th. 7.00pm Reel Issues - Burnham Ritz Cinema - "Les Miserables"
Tue. 5th. Ministerial Synod
Wed. 6th. 7.00pm W/H Alpha Course at West Huntspill Methodist Church
Thur. 7th. 10.45am. B/H Lent Course "Introducing Spiritual Practices"
Burnham Methodist Church
Thur. 7th. 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Guest Speaker Rev. Margaret Trapp
Fri. 8th. Drop in for Christine Stephens Village Agent for Berrow, Brean, Brent Knoll and East Brent (see PAGE 8)
Sat. 9th. 9.30am - 4.00pm Churches Together Lent Study Day at Burnham Baptist Church
Sat. 9th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sat. 9th. Sunday Club Activity day at Burnham (check with Barbara Williams for details)
Sun. 10th. 10.30am. Mother's Day family service at Burnham
Mon. 11th. 7.30pm B/H Emmaus Course at Burnham on Sea Methodist Church.
Tue. 12th. 2.30pm. E/B "LINK Villages Fellowship - 'Diary of the Day' – Mrs Dot Reaney
Wed. 13th. 7.00pm W/H Alpha Course at West Huntspill Methodist Church
Thur. 14th. 10.45am. B/H Lent Course "Introducing Spiritual Practices"
Burnham Methodist Church
Thur. 14th. 2.30pm. Churches Together meeting at St Michael's Brent Knoll
Sat. 16th. 10.00am Coffee morning at Brent Knoll

Sat. 16th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle in aid of the RNLI

Wed. 20th. 7.00pm W/H Alpha Course at West Huntspill Methodist Church

Thur. 21st. 10.45am. B/H Lent Course "Introducing Spiritual Practices" Burnham Methodist Church

Thur. 21st. 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Members 'Come and tell'.

Thur. 21st. 7.30pm Circuit meeting at Brean

Sat. 23rd. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Sun. 24th. LAST DAY FOR APRIL LINK

Sun. 24th. 3.00pm Palm Sunday - Dedication of crosses on top of Brent Knoll led by Rev Sharon Crossman.

Sun. 24th. 4.00pm Churches Together reflection at Brent Knoll Methodist Church led by Rev A Biggs

Mon. 25th. 7.30pm B/H Emmaus Course at Burnham on Sea Methodist Church.

Tue. 26th. 2.30pm. E/B "LINK Villages Fellowship - Addiction - Revd Peter Davis

Thur. 28th. 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion at Burnham

Fri. 29th. 10.30am B/H Good Friday Service Burnham Methodist

Fri. 29th. 7.30pm. Good Friday. Service at West Huntspill

Sat. 30th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Sun. 31st. 10.45am Easter Sunday Family Communion at Burnham (other services as per plan)

APRIL

Thur. 4th. 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Guest Speaker - Harry Kempson

Sat. 6th. 10.00 - 12.10 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle in aid of the Heating Fund -

Sun. 7th. 4pm. Family Praise at Burnham

Tue. 9th. 2.30pm. E/B "LINK Villages Fellowship - Members Afternoon – Bring and Buy

Sat. 13th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Tue. 16th. 7.00pm. B/H General Church Meeting

Thur. 18th. 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Names and their meanings

Sat. 20th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle in aid of the RNLI

Sat. 20th. Burnham Choral Society Concert at St Andrews Church

Sat. 20th. 7.30pm Concert at King Alfred's school by Stuart Townend (writer of a number of hymns included in Singing the Faith)

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



Churches Together Lent Study Day

This year Churches Together in Burnham, Highbridge and District will run a Lent Study Day rather than a weekly course. It is called "Fit for Purpose: **what is the purpose of God's church? what does it need to be and do to serve that purpose?**". Sessions will be led by local clergy and are based on material by John Bell, Ann Morrisy, Bishop Peter Price & Timothy Radcliffe, OP. It takes place on Saturday March 9 2013 9.30am - 4.30pm at Burnham Baptist Church.

For more information pick up a flyer at your local church or call 07899 923451



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Unfortunately, the meeting on January 22nd was cancelled owing to the snowy conditions.

Mr Brian Humphreys told us on February 12th. How he had become interested in a scheme at St Georges Community Church to help in the south west of Kenya. He first went out in 2006 and has been out every year since helping to build schools and spread the Christian message.

Mrs Nicky Burns is to speak on Aloe Vera - its value and use on February 26th

On March 12th Mrs Dot Reaney will tell us of her experiences and the lead up to her being chosen as a Torch Bearer for the Olympics.

Revd Peter Davis will be our Speaker on March 26th. when he will tell of the work among Addicts in the Weston-super-Mare area.

Our Members' afternoon will be on April 9th. There will be a Bring and Buy Stall.

If anyone would like to join us on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month at East Brent Methodist Church we shall be pleased to see you.

Eileen Goundry



HARRY'S PAGE

Crying Out To God

Read
Psalm 142

By prayer and
supplication...let
your requests be
made Known to
God.
Philippians 4:6

After all these years I still don't fully understand prayer. It's something of a mystery to me. But one thing I know: When we're in desperate need, prayer springs naturally from our lips and from the deepest level of our hearts.

When we're frightened out of our wits, when we're pushed beyond our limits, when we're pulled out of our comfort zones, when our wellbeing is challenged and endangered, we reflexively and involuntarily resort to prayer. "Help, Lord!" is our natural cry.

Author Eugene Peterson wrote: "The language of prayer is forged in the crucible of trouble. When we can't help ourselves and call for help, when we don't like where we are and want out, when we don't take who we are and want a change, we use primal language, and this language becomes the root language of prayer."

Prayer begins in trouble, and it continues because we're always in trouble at some level. It requires no special preparation, no precise vocabulary and no appropriate posture. It springs from us in the face of necessity and, in time, becomes our habitual response to every issue--good and bad--we face in this life (Phil. 4:6). What a privilege it is to carry everything to God in prayer! --David Roper

*What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer. --Scriven*

Gods help is only a prayer away



LOVE

' LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER
1 JOHN 4:7 NLT

LOVE IS slow to suspect but quick to trust; slow to condemn but quick to justify; slow to offend but quick to defend; slow to expose but quick to shield; slow to reprimand but quick to empathise; slow to belittle but quick to appreciate: slow to demand but quick to. In every circumstance, seek to help and support you. If you're down and I can lift you, I'll do that If you need something and I have it. I'll share it with you. If I need to, I'll give it to you. No matter what I find out about you no matter what happens in the future--either good or bad--my commitment to you will never change. And there's nothing you can do about it' 1 Corinthians 13:7 NKJV says love:

1) 'Believes all things' When someone you care about is called into question, love says, that's not the kind of person they are; that's not what they meant'

2) 'Hopes all things: Love sees people not just as they are, but as they can be through God's grace. And if you let Him, God will download that kind of love into your heart.

3) 'Endures all things: The word 'endure' is a military term. It means driving a stake into the ground, ifs like saying, 'I'll stand my ground in loving you' Today, take the love that God has given to you, and give it to others.

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DROP IN ON FRIDAY MARCH 8TH 2013

TO BERROW VILLAGE HALL

FROM 2.00PM TO 4.00PM

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO
MEET YOUR VILLAGE AGENT, CHRISTINE
STEPHENS.**

**HEAR MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT AIMED AT
GIVING SUPPORT AND INFORMATION TO OLD
AND YOUNG ALIKE WHO MAY WELCOME A
HELPING HAND DEALING WITH DAY TO DAY
PROBLEMS.**

Christine and Berrow and Brean Residents Association extend an open invitation to all residents of Berrow and Brean, Brent Knoll, East Brent, Lympsham, and Burnham Without. Representatives from the Fire Service and NHS Health Promotion for older people, as well as the Community Police Officer will be there to answer any questions you may have about their areas of expertise.

Tea and cakes will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Victoria House, Victoria Street, Taunton, TA1 3JZ
Tel: 01823 331222 Email: info@somersetcc.org.uk Website: www.somersetcc.org.uk

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BREAN

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

Life is moving towards the Spring. We've had a few days very pleasant weather, though the forecasters tell us not to give up on winter just yet. After the winter that we've had we look forward to longer days and a bit of warmth. But I am also aware that those are the very ingredients that bring about the annual invasion of our quiet way of life by all and sundry. And sometimes I don't like the thought.

How very ungenerous of me! But perhaps those are the very motives that drive us to hold on to the status quo in our lives when what we should be doing is to step out and embrace new experiences and challenges.

The Vice-president when he worshipped with us at East Brent challenged us to do just that. Put what we are doing and should be doing high up on our church agendas. Put finance and property and church organisation at the bottom of the list, and put the people of the community at the top.

I guess that, at our Church Council we must have inadvertently done that already, for we forgot to appoint our church officers and circuit representatives altogether!!

We were pleased to share worship with East Brent and Brent Knoll when the Vice-President came. And it was an especial pleasure to reflect that he grew up in the local area and that his parents were part of the East Brent community even within our own memories.

We are now well into Lent, the time of preparation for Easter. Pancakes were enjoyed on the Monday before because so many had other commitments on Shrove Tuesday. A game of Trivial Pursuit followed, made all the more enjoyable because all the questions were thirty years old and we had forgotten all the answers. After more than an hour the game had to be abandoned because no group had collected more than three wedges.

On another front, our new grandson Malachi, is out of hospital and progressing well. He was taken there within the first week of his life with what doctors eventually treated as a viral infection. He will still be on medication for six months before further assessments will be made. But it now looks hopeful and we send our thanks for your prayers and good wishes.

So now we shall look forward to the first of our summer visitors shan't we?
And then it will be Easter. Gosh, all these new experiences in our pilgrimage of life.

Harvey Allen



BRENT KNOLL

Minister Revd. Biggs

The start of Lent began with our own Reverend Biggs taking the Ash Wednesday service in Burnham. The sermon was thought provoking, the hymns wonderful and the service was very much appreciated by all who attended.

Following swiftly after was The Link service hosted by East Brent the following Sunday. This was presided over by Michael King (Vice President of Conference) and included another brave and thought provoking sermon together with the joy of seeing a church full to capacity. All hymns were sung out joyfully - even one that none of us knew! Tea and coffee followed the service, provided by our kind hosts, and we all left wishing that our churches could be so well attended every week as we all enjoyed our time in fellowship together. We were also reminded how very fortunate we are in having our Link services as, apart from sharing worship together, we spend time with friends whom we might not see so often.

As Easter approaches, Brent Knoll Methodist Church will be holding a service after the blessings at the top of the Knoll on Palm Sunday. As always, a warm welcome awaits all who attend.

From all of us - a blessed Eastertide.

God bless

Rosemary Krull

PREACHERS FOR MARCH AT 10.30AM

3rd March Rev Margaret Trapp (Holy Communion)

10th March Joyce Pipet (Mothering Sunday)

17th March Rev Carol Gill - **Link service at Brent Knoll**
(Passion Sunday)

24th March Rev Peter Davis (Palm Sunday)

31st March Rev Margaret Trapp (Holy Communion) (Easter
Sunday)



EAST BRENT

There is not much activity Church wise to report this month but East Brent congregation has been fortunate to have attended two special services this month

The first was the combined service at Brean when we reminded ourselves of the special covenant we make with our God. It was nice to be part of a larger congregation for this special service

Then last Sunday we were privileged to welcome the Vice President of Conference Mr. Michael King to take our joint service. It was a great honour that he wanted to come to East Brent especially with his association with the Church through his parents Arnold & Joan.

People of the Church families of all three Churches remembered afterwards how much they enjoyed the service. We learnt a new hymn courtesy of Rose who played for me.

On behalf of myself thank you Rose for coming to the rescue.

Evelyn Tucker.



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

Barry and I (and friends) have just spent a few days at Cricket St Thomas Hotel – a precious few days “getting away from it all” and having some rest and relaxation. What bliss!! Nothing to do but eat (lovely food), walk around the extensive grounds, play mini golf, swim in the pool, have a couple of pampering sessions in the spa and enjoy all the entertainment on offer. (I’m beginning to sound like an advert in a travel brochure so I’ll stop!) However during our time there we went to the tiny church of St Michael for a short communion service which I found to be quite a spiritual experience. (I must add that the organist was also the greeter at the door, the giver out of the hymn books, the collector of the offering, the reader of the lesson, the helper during communion, general organiser of the priest (no permanent vicar) and the one who explained the Anglican procedures during the service as the congregation was made up entirely of those holidaying at the hotel – how about that all you fellow stewards!!!)

The time I spent away from Burnham particularly as Lent started during the week gave me the opportunity to think – not about all the commitments I have to the church and congregation but about my commitment to God. Sometimes it feels as though the practicalities of church life overtakes what being a Christian is all about. Being away from the decision-making process, even for a short time, gave me pause to re-evaluate where my priorities lie and this inward deliberation is still very much on-going. During this period of Lent (I usually do something like give up chocolate or cake) I am resolved to give more time to God- give more time for talking to Him and definitely giving more time to listening – I'm pretty rubbish at that. I really do need to listen more or else I won't know what God has in store for me. So by Easter day I may know the way forward and may even have lost a bit of weight (no chocolate!!)

Burnham has lost a dear friend this month, Sheila Williams. We extend our love and sympathy to Sheila's family and friends. Some of our members are not in the best of health, or undergoing tests and our prayers and thoughts are with them and all in the Link who are under the weather at this time.

However you are observing Lent, either by sacrifice or doing something extra, may you have peace and God's blessing during this time.

Ann Hall

Educate the Kids

On behalf of the Educate the Kids Charity I would like to express my thanks to the Church for allowing us the use of the 3rd Saturday each month for Coffee during 2012 and Sale of goods. I would also like to thanks friends who came each Saturday to help on the various stalls. Also to everyone who came to show their support.

The photograph shows Sue Stevens, Eva Winslade and myself proudly holding the cheque for £3700.00 which was the amount raised – a Christmas sale in November raised £1328.00 and the remainder on the other Saturdays. This money will be used to help the needy children.



This year the R N L I are holding Coffee mornings on the 3rd Saturdays to help their funds

Details of 2 recent visits to Kenya

On November 13th a group left Burnham to travel to Heathrow ready to fly out to Mombasa arriving on Friday 14th it had been agreed that we would provide lunch for all the children for 4 days – totalling just over 600 children. Saturday early some of the group set off to the local market to purchase the necessary food. This was quantities of Rice, Beans, Onions, Tomatoes, Potatoes, Carrots, Bananas, Oranges, Cooking Oil and Salt.

Later on Saturday the remainder of the group arrived making a total of 23.

On Monday morning after breakfast 2 groups set off, some to the Kindergarten and the other to the primary. We were taking potato peelers; vegetable knives and aprons ready to start preparing the vegetables. There were 2 regular cooks to give us our instructions and they did the cooking – large pans on wood fires. When it came to lunch time we were able to serve the children, under supervision as to quantities. The children had been asked to bring a plate or dish. What variations there were in the shapes and sizes. The children came class by class and lined up in a very orderly queue.

Friday was the last day at School before their long holiday. On that morning all the children gathered at the Kindergarten for a closing ceremony. There was a dancing display by some of the small children, recitations and singing, very well arranged. It then came to prize giving when the top 3 children in all classes receive a prize and then any children who had achieved special recognition also receive a gift. This was a lovely ending to their school year. The children were then able to leave for home knowing that school started again on January 8th.

In the afternoon 16 children came to the hotel to play in the swimming pool and have a meal – sausages and chips before going home. These children were all sponsored by people who were on that trip. This was a fun afternoon. One little 6year old girl had 3 plates full. She obviously wasn't used to seeing spare food wasted.

On Monday morning of our 2nd week we were all back at the kindergarten. When we arrived there were so many parents and children waiting outside as they were all eager for their child to begin school. It has to be organised well Firstly the child's birth form is checked to make sure they are within the age group 4 – 5 years. Some of us sit at a table with a teacher and interpreter and in turn a parent is asked questions about family circumstances, accommodation and are the parent(s) employed. These forms are to be checked and a list made of parents to return the next day. We then go in groups to visit homes in different areas. There we check how much or little they have in their home. This really opens your eyes to just how much poverty there is. By the 3rd day the selection of the most needy children are listed on the school gates inviting them to report at school that day. This time 60 children – 2 classes were to start so before we left all the children had their photographs taken and all children allocated to a sponsor. After all this it was time to pack our cases and prepare for our flight back to UK arriving on December 1st. A busy and rewarding time.

Return trip on January 4th.

Only 6 of us were to return to the school ready for the start of the new school year on 8th January. Almost all of the 60 new children were eagerly waiting. Sue, Eva and I were soon busy getting the children into School uniforms. They were then all given a hand knitted Teddy, the boys then had a small toy car each, all had school bags, the girls had handkerchiefs and small dress hangers and then sun hats for most children. They were

very excited at receiving gifts. Also we gave out pants, socks, and shoes. We take out so many clothes and shoes whenever possible.

After 10 days working at school we went off for 5 nights real holiday before returning home on January 19th



Church Heating

The installation of the new church heating at Burnham is now completed with the exception of a few minor details.

The new heating is to be dedicated on Sunday 3rd March at 4.00pm followed by a Tea



A view of 2 of the boilers upstairs, a 3rd boiler is situated in the old boiler room stairs under the vestry.

Minister

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

**The Deadline for the
April 2013 “LINK” is
Sunday 24th March 2013**

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Please contact the Editor if you would like one.**

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