
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

March 2014 Volume 49. No. 2.



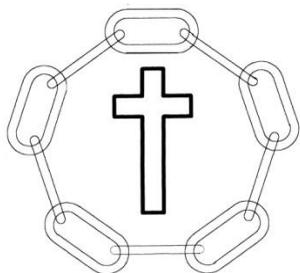
BREAN



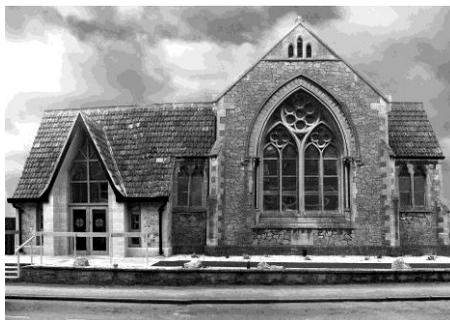
BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Calendar

FEBRUARY

Thur 27th 2.30pm B/K Emmaus Course at Brent Knoll
 Fri 28th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Meet & Chat Coffee Morning at West Huntspill

MARCH

Sat 1st 9.30 - 4.15 Inside out Discipleship Course at Portishead see
 February Link page 6

Sat 1st 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning
 Mon 3rd 2.30pm. BK LINK Meeting everyone welcome
 Wed 5th 12.00noon B/K Ash Wednesday service Rev. Andrew Biggs at
 Brent Knoll

Thur 6th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship Educate the Kids Kenya
 Dorothy May All Welcome

Fri 7th 2.30 pm Women's World Day of Prayer B-o-S Catholic
 Church

Sat 8th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
 Sun 9th 6.00 pm B/H Café Church - Lent
 Mon 10th B/K Start of Weekly Lent Course at Brent Knoll see
 Page 14

Tue 11th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Journey in the Diaconate
 Deacon Lois Tate

Wed 12th 12.30pm B/H Church Lunch Tickets £3.00 from Dorothy May
 2.30pm. B/H A Bible Study based on the WWD of P service at
 Burnham

Wed 12th 7.30pm. B/H Church Together LENT Course at Burnham
 Methodist Church see page 3

Thurs 13th 7.30 pm B/H Churches Together B-o-S Methodist
 Sat 15th 9.30 am Circuit Prayer Meeting Uphill
 Sat 15th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Educate the Kids (Kenya) Coffee Morning
 Sat 15th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Food Bank Volunteers Training Day All Welcome
 Wed 19th 7.30pm Church Together LENT Course at Burnham
 Methodist Church

Thur 20th 7.30pm B/H Circuit Meeting at Burnham
 Sat 22nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
 Sun. 23rd LAST DAY FOR APRIL LINK
 Mon 24th 9.30 - 4.00 W/H Prayer Plus Lent Retreat Day at West Huntspill
 See page 12

Tue 25th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Tools with a Mission –
 Charles Boyle (Collection)

Wed 26th 7.30pm. Church Together LENT Course at Burnham
 Methodist Church

Sat 29th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

APRIL
 Wed 2nd 7.30pm. Church Together LENT Course at Burnham
 Methodist Church

APRIL

Sat 5th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning
Tue 8th 2.30pm. E/B "LINK Villages Fellowship - Doggy Friends - Janet Southwell with Emily
Wed 9th 7.30pm. Church Together LENT Course at Burnham Methodist Church
Sat 12th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sun 13th 3.00pm Palm Sunday Crosses on the Knoll
Sun 13th 6.00 pm B/H Café Church - Palm Sunday – Harvey Allen
B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill

Unity in Diversity A Course for Lent

What is our Christian Faith? How does this relate to what those of other religions believe, in particular those religions which like ours look back to the tradition of Abraham? How do our practices differ from theirs and perhaps even more important. What do we have in common? These are some of the issues we hope to explore together during Lent this year.

In Churches Together we are fortunate to have the Revd Simon Bale as one of our members. Simon is the curate at S^t. John's Highbridge but previously worked in Bristol where he had much experience with the Inter Faith Forum ..He has given us much help in planning our programme and has arranged for two speakers to come from the Bristol Group. Valerie Emmott-Russell is a Progressive Jew who is very experienced in multi faith work and she will help Simon introduce the series on March 12th.

On March 19th.the session will be led by Farzana Saker, a Muslim woman who is a Development Officer for the Bristol Multi-faith Forum. Simon Bale, Richard Allen and I will lead the remaining three sessions in which we shall be looking at our own faith traditions and comparing our practices. We hope to conclude by sharing in a simple meal together and celebrate the Agape or Love Feast with bread and water. This was often used by early Methodists when they met in fellowship without an ordained minister.

All meetings will be held in Burnham Methodist Church starting at 7.30 on March 12th. 19th. 26th April 2nd. and 9th.

We do hope that we shall have a good attendance from all our churches but especially from our congregations in the Link .If you have any questions about the programme do ask me.

Margaret Trapp ☎760573

St. Andrew's Church Bournville
Weston s Mare
Arts & Craft Exhibition
Saturday 26th April
2.00pm - 4.00pm.

If you are interested in exhibiting or selling for the above event please contact Lesley Taylor on 01934 249437 by 24th March at the latest and a space will be reserved for you. There will be a £3 charge to pay for caretaking. Set up at 12 noon and finish at 5.00pm. Entry will be free to the public and we will be selling hot drinks and homemade cakes for Church Funds. There will also be a raffle.



GENERAL INFORMATION

The New Room / John Wesley's Chapel is the oldest Methodist building in the world. John Wesley built it in 1739 and enlarged it in 1748. The Chapel was used by John Wesley and the early Methodists as a meeting and preaching place, and it was the centre for helping and educating the needy members of society.

The buildings were restored in 1930, and then survived both the Bristol blitz and the post-war redevelopment of Broadmead. As well as the chapel itself, there are the Preachers' Rooms upstairs which house our accredited Museum.

These are exciting days for The New Room. The Horsefair Project will translate the rather drab courtyard into an imaginative new building, which will provide new visitor facilities, exhibition space, meeting rooms and offices, a resource centre and library to house the New Room's priceless collections, an education room and roof terrace, and a lift to provide all visitors with access to all parts of the Chapel. The preachers' rooms will house a new heritage museum. If you would like further information about the project, please contact The New Room Manager.

The New Room is open to the public Monday to Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is free but donations are welcome to help with expenses. A small charge is made for guided tours.

There is a regular service of Holy Communion every Friday at 1 pm to 1 15 pm, to which all are welcome.

The service is often followed at 1 20 pm by a short lunchtime concert, recital or talk.

On Saturdays, refreshments are usually available in the Chapel from 10 am to 2 pm.

Other events take place from time to time.

'The Shop at The New Room' is the only place locally for Christian literature and gifts. Our stock includes:

New and Second-hand Books
Greetings Cards; CDs and DVDs;
Creative Spirit' DVD, CD and Study Booklet based on the
Methodist Art Collection
Hymn Books including 'Singing the Faith'
(Music, Word, Large Print and Presentation Editions)
Bibles and Prayer Books
and a range of gifts.

For enquiries, please telephone or e-mail, or better still, come in to The New Room and browse our stock.

For further information about The New Room please visit our website
www.newroombristol.org.uk.

or contact David Worthington, The New Room Manager, at 0117 926 4740
info@newroombristol.org.uk;

For comments on this Diary Sheet

For comments on this Diary Sheet please contact

Phil Hewett at 0117 986 3535 rev@philhewett.co.uk

**Services, Recitals and Concerts
February and March 2014**

Friday 7 March

1.00 pm Holy Communion—Revd David Hardy (Stoke Gifford Bristol)

1 20 pm A lunchtime concert presented by Debra Anderson & Hannah Simmons

Friday 14 March

1.00 pm Holy Communion—Revd David Weeks
(The New Room Chaplain)

Friday, 21 March

1.00 pm Holy Communion—Bishop Hope Morgan-Ward
(North Carolina Methodist Conference, USA)

1:20 pm A lunchtime concert presented by Hayasaka Makiko (Organ)
Makiko is from Tokyo and is at present a PhD student in the music department of the University of Bristol.

Friday 28 March

1:00pm Holy Communion—Revd Vernon Godden (Gloucester)



Women's World Day of Prayer

The service prepared by the women of Egypt will be on
Friday 7th March at 2.30 pm in the Catholic Church – all welcome

A Bible Study based on the service will be on
Wednesday 12th February at 2.30 pm in B-o-S Methodist Church
again, all welcome

Circuit Prayer meetings

Please note the following dates for the next Circuit Prayer meetings.

Meetings start at 10am for about an hour with coffee from 9.30am.

Saturday March 15th at Uphill

Saturday April 26th at Burnham

Café church dates

Please note that from March onwards this will be ½ hour earlier at 6.00 pm

Sunday 9th March at 6.00 pm – Lent

Sunday 13th April at 6.00 pm – Palm Sunday (Harvey Allen)



Newsletter - February

Wow! What a difference a year makes, things have become very busy at Foodbank. Our 'food sorts' on Saturday mornings continue to be a hive of activity. Thanks to your generosity, our volunteers are kept busy sorting food and boxing it up, ready to help our clients. A big thank you for all you have given us. So far we have been able to help over 500 people in this financial year

Other Foodbanks have opened in the area, Bridgwater's foodbank opened in the summer and Axbridge-Cheddar in the autumn. These developments were important to us, as we anticipated an increase in demand, partly due to the implementation of changes in the way the benefits system and the previously named Social Fund operate. These changes have meant many more people have been referred to us, so much so that by the end of October we had helped twice as many people as we had in the previous financial year (2012-2013).

We are now open 5 days a week at 4 different venues, (see over). At two of the venues we operate alongside the CAB and other agencies. This means that if anyone is referred to us they can be helped straight away. It also means the client can bring their voucher to one of a number of places to receive their food. Whilst their food parcel is made ready they can stop, have a cup of tea or coffee and, if they wish share something of their story with us and meet a sympathetic ear. We were given a grant from the Somerset Community Foundation to set these up.

In December we said goodbye to two of our trustees Rev Andrew Jackson and his wife Julie. They have moved to Harrow NW London, where Andrew is now the Minister of Harrow Baptist Church



Dear All

We have a training day/volunteer event coming up on Saturday 15th March from 10am-noon at Burnham Methodist Church. If you are aware of members of your churches who might like to become more involved with the food bank, either at our Listening Places or in our warehouse - or perhaps behind the scenes in an administrative please do let either myself, or Simon Bale know and we'll ensure they receive an invite to the event or chat to them on another occasion. Simon has taken on the role of coordinating our volunteers

T. 07570 707400

E. info@highbridgearea.foodbank.org.uk.

Thank you all for your support.

Sharon
(Chair)

Reverend Sharon Crossman

Vicar of Highbridge

Associate Priest of Huntspill, East Huntspill & Mark

01278 789290



HARRY'S PAGE



THE HIDDEN LIFE

READ:

Colossians 3:12-17

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

---Colossians 3:17

THE BIBLE IN

ONE YEAR:

Genesis 20-22

Matthew 6:19-34

Some years ago I came across a poem by George MacDonald titled, "The Hidden Life." It tells the story of an intellectually gifted young Scot who turned his back on a prestigious academic career to return to his ageing father and to the family farm. There he engaged in what MacDonald called, "ordinary deeds" and "simple forms of human helpfulness." His friends lamented what they saw as a waste of his talents.

Perhaps you too serve in some unnoticed place, doing nothing more than ordinary deeds. Others might think that's a waste. But God wastes nothing. Every act of love rendered for His sake is noted and has eternal consequences. Every place, no matter how small, is holy ground. Influence is more than lofty acts and words. It can be a simple matter of human helpfulness: being

present, listening, understanding the need, loving and praying. This is what turns daily duty into worship and service.

The apostle Paul challenged the Colossians: "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus," and "do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance" (Col. 3:17,23-24). God takes notice and delights in using us. ---David Roper

Dear Lord, may I be willing to be hidden and unknown today, yet ready to speak a word to those who are weary. May Your Spirit touch my words and make them Your words that enrich and refresh others.

The way to accomplish much for Christ
is to serve Him in any way we can.



THE IMPORTANCE OF HABIT

‘...NEITHER CAN YOU DO GOOD WHO ARE ACCUSTOMED TO DOING EVIL
Jeremiah13:23NIV

THE FOUNDER of one of the world's most successful companies said, 'The individual who wants to reach the top must appreciate the might and force of habit. He must be quick to break those habits that can break him, and hasten to adopt those practices that will become the habits that help him achieve the success he desires'. This is true in all of life. A dream becomes a reality as the result of your actions, and your actions are controlled mainly by your habits. Speaker and author Robert Ringer says, 'The world is saturated with intelligent, highly educated, extraordinarily skilled people who experience ongoing frustration because of their lack of success. Millions of others spend their lives working hard, long hours, only to die penniless: What's the solution? Ringer says: 'Remember, life is nothing

more than the sum total of many successful years; a successful year is nothing more than the sum total of many successful months; a successful month is nothing more than the sum total of many successful weeks; a successful week is nothing more than the sum total of many successful days. That's why practising successful habits, day in and day out, is the most certain way to win over the long term: You have to take a realistic look at yourself to know where your habits are taking you. If your habits don't line up with your dream, then you need to either change your habits or change your dream. If you want to hold on to your dream, then be prepared to change your habits, because a bad habit never goes away by itself.



BREAN

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

So, I did get my article done last month, and I did finish my book. After 35 years I have finally got to the end of reading the Chronicles of Thomas Covenant. Well, there were ten volumes, and the last one only came out in the autumn, but I am glad that I persevered. It is about a man who suffers from leprosy and has already lost part of his hand. Circumstances find him transported to a land of fantasy, a land of great blessing but now being slowly overcome by Lord Foul, the Despiser, who preys upon people's fears and causes despair to ferment; the Land itself is slowly being corrupted. Covenant cannot believe he is in this place but finds that when he is emotionally intense he generates phenomenal power through his platinum 'white gold' wedding ring. But by book six, when the first adventures end he realises that the power lies within himself, and through that power he redeems the Land by sacrificing his own life. At the same time when he returns to this world he finds that his life here is also being sacrificed as he

seeks to save another. The Chronicles are allegorical and we know that the Redeemer has to be raised to life; so it is, and in the fantasy Land Covenant is joined by a woman he knew in the real world who has been shot dead, and by her adopted son. The upshot is that separately and then together, this trinity oppose Lord Foul and all his powers in an effort to bring final redemption and peace to the Land.

Along the way they realise that the only way to do so is to confront their own worst fears, to address those elements of themselves that are most likely to bring “despair”. There is something for ourselves in this. There are many times we shy away from doing the things we know we should. And I guess I feel like that as we look at the issues that arise from the Circuit's Vision project. We know that if the Circuit, indeed if our own churches are to survive in the longer term, we've got to look at ourselves and do something, even if it is only as a step by step process. But it is so much easier to look the other way...

After last year's efforts with giftie things for the successful Craft Fayre the Brean churches held in November, our house is this year being filled up with papier maché. There are days I even have to have breakfast on my knees what with the kitchen table being filled up with an assortment of moulds drying off overnight! So yes the ladies (mainly) are off again. Don't expect anything this year they say, but next year , who knows!. What with the craft group and the book group, the ecumenical activities of the village still continue, even if the worship side is sometimes lacking in support.

We had our church council this week. It's a pastoral event as well, for it is good to chew the fat and to bond together in this way, especially as lunch precedes the meeting. We could not find enough volunteers to fill all our places on the Circuit Meeting however, but then we realised that so many of our members hold circuit appointments that half the church council are on the Circuit Meeting anyway.

Our Christmas coffee and carols event on the Saturday before Christmas was considered such a success that we wanted to have another such morning, this time concentrating on hymns from the new hymn book that we haven't sung before (or not much anyway). We also thought we should buy some mugs for coffee rather than rely on the cups and saucers. So please book that date, we hope you will support us for our New Music/New Mugs coffee morning on Saturday 5th April at 10.30am.

Right then. Back to my books. It is such a long time ago since I started, and I missed so many clues on the way through that I thought I should start Mr Covenant's Chronicles again. A book a month perhaps. Nothing you need me for before Christmas is there? Only another 5000 pages to go.

Harvey Allen

WEST HUNTSPILL



Coffee Mornings



We are going to extend our Coffee mornings to every Friday

From the 21st of March

Same times 10am - 12md

Same free Coffee and Cakes

Opportunity to meet and chat with others



“Prayer Plus”

West Huntspill

“Lent Retreat Day”



West Huntspill Methodist Church

Monday 24th March

Led by Rev. Margaret Trapp

10.00am – 4.00pm

(Coffee/tea from 9.30am) Everyone is welcome.

Any further information: Tel: either to Janet J. Tel: 01278 780636
Or Janet T. Tel: 01278 795447(Please bring your own lunch. Drinks will
be provided) “You will need a Bible and writing materials, and if you wish
some drawing materials. It may be possible to walk outside some of the
time.”



I was sad when I read the last “Link”, that West Huntspill Christmas events were not reported. So I Decided I would rectify that, because we had such a joyful time.

It was a wonderful team effort, from the moment we decided to decorate the Church windows with carols illustrating the Christmas story. Then we held a continental breakfast and Christmas Day service, attended by 22 people. Our Christmas coffee morning was attended by 24 people, who were served tea or coffee and hot mince pies. We felt truly blessed.

We are planning more events in the coming year.

In March – the Food Bank continues every Friday from 10.30am to 12.00, plus coffee and things to do for anyone else who wishes to come along. So why not come and bring a lonely person.

The Emmaus course continues, and is on the 12th & 26th March 7.30pm – 9.00pm.

We are holding a quiet retreat day on March 24th – see details in the “Link”

Also on the 28th March we have our usual Coffee Morning with stalls.

Just to let everyone know we are alive and well!!

Janet M Thompson.



BRENT KNOLL

Minister Rev. Andrew Biggs

It's such a British trait to talk about the weather but I felt I couldn't avoid mentioning it. The situation, especially in and around the Levels, has been a real tragedy. If anything positive can be said to have come out of this dreadful situation it's been the pulling together of people around our County contributing monies, food products and offering support to those who are suffering. Just as it should be, in my opinion. And I know all of those who have been affected have been in all our churches' prayers.

We country churches in the south of the Circuit held our "Vision" meeting last month as we thought about the future of our churches and our Circuit. We were all encouraged, not only by the turn out, but by the heartfelt desire of all of us to play a larger part in our communities and to discuss ways in which we can

achieve this. A big thank you to Brean for their excellent hospitality as we shared lunch together afterwards.

Future dates for your diaries - our own Rev Andrew is taking an Ash Wednesday service at Brent Knoll at 12pm. And instead of our monthly bible study group, Rev Margaret will be taking a **weekly Lent course beginning on Monday 10th March at 2.30pm**. We look forward to seeing as many of our Link church friends as possible at both the events.

Whatever you're giving up, taking up or simply appreciating this important time in our church calendar, we wish you a very blessed Lent.

God bless
Rosemary



EAST BRENT

Our numbers have grown during Jan/Feb even though 2 or 3 have been poorly. Most stay for coffee afterwards which is served in the Church, a time of friendship and fellowship and to catch up on any news.

Nearly everyone stayed after the morning service for the Church Council or was it the lunch that did it!! The meeting lasted longer than usual with lots of discussion on future events. Another summer 'Songs of Praise' with scones, strawberries and a concert in the Church were discussed. Everyone wanted to be invited and to help where they could.

The Link service and vision meeting was discussed, it would appear that the three link churches must work closer together in future years, we all enjoy the joint services and getting to know the other members of the link. Perhaps more social times together would be the answer, thirty years ago we had a link cricket team, a BBQ at Rookery Manor, and a weekend away at Sidmouth but of course we were all younger then.

Congratulations to Margaret and Roy Scott on the birth of their first grandchild, they will be travelling to Australia in a couple of months to spend some family time together, it was a joy to see photos of their beautiful baby.

Many thanks for all your enquiries after my health, the vertigo has gone but I'm still very unsteady on my feet (no I'm not drunk). The doctor has assured me that I will get better, but not when!!!

Jill Legg

BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonseal.org.uk

Church Lunch
Wednesday 12th March
12.30pm.

Menu main course only:- Chicken In Honey Sauce
Potatoes, Peas, Carrots and Cauliflower
Tickets £3.00 from Dorothy May

I must apologise that the LINK is a week late this month and was not in the Churches on the last Sunday of the month as has always been the rule.

I have been rather busy of late and adding 7 days to Sunday 23rd gave me the 30th forgetting there was only 28 days this month.

I had some items for the LINK which I thought was earlier than usual but not everyone's, several only came late last week even on Sunday 23rd.

Whilst adding new dates to my Calendar I noticed I had Feb 23rd as the last day for items for the March LINK although on the back page of the last LINK it was February 16th.

My apologies,

Cedric (Editor)



Minister

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Web Sites

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

Circuit Web site

<http://westonburnham.wix.com/w-s-mb-o-smethodists>

**The Deadline for the
April 2014 “LINK” is
Sunday 23rd March 2014**

**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. Inland **Post £6.00** per annum.

Please note the increase in postage.

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