
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

March 2015 Volume 50. No. 2.



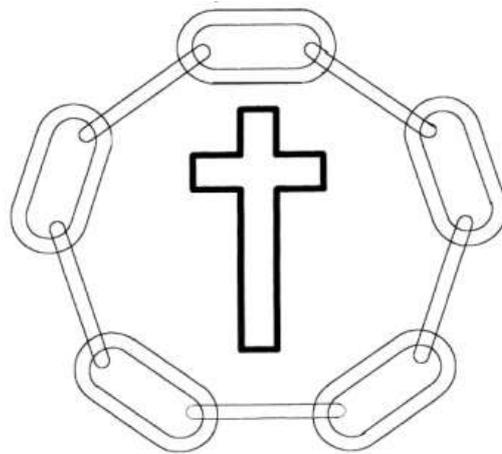
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

There's a programme on Radio 4 in which they play a panel game called Mornington Crescent. The players mention London street names in sequence until somebody is deemed to have arrived at 'Mornington Crescent' and the game ends. It all becomes increasingly complex as a series of ploys and variations are introduced, and challenges are made quoting obscure and little-known regulations. I was given a book a couple of Christmases ago about the game, some of its famous players through several centuries, some of the controversies that have arisen through dubious interpretations of the rules, etc.

Which is all fine. Except of course that there is no such game as Mornington Crescent. Listen to Jack Dee and the team on Radio 4, and the spirited responses of the audience, and they'll make it sound like there is. But it's just a joke. A very good joke, of long standing, that has been nurtured and developed into a minor industry. But there's nothing there.

There are of course those who believe the Christian faith is like a giant game of Mornington Crescent, that a whole structure of tradition, belief, rules and regulations and culture has been fashioned from an empty myth, a myth that the churches have conspired to keep going for 2000 years. We have to admit that what we know about the central figure of our faith – Jesus – is tantalisingly little (and there's even some doubt about some of the things we think we know). But the Jesus of history leads us to the Christ of faith, and millions of people across the entire world over 20 centuries have found in this figure someone above all others in whom the secret of life – and the secret of our own lives – resides.

People enjoy conspiracy theories, whether centred around the da Vinci code or the deaths of President Kennedy, Princess Diana, Elvis Presley or Michael Jackson. But it would be tragic if our taste for conspiracy theories were to lead us to mistrust a faith that has challenged and comforted and energised all sorts and conditions of

people for 2000 years – the truth that God loves all humanity AND each human being, and chose to become one of us in the person of Jesus.

With all the faults and failings of the churches and those of us who call ourselves Christian – and we know these faults and failings have been and still are many – it is this truth that underlies all our worship and witness : it is this truth that makes sense of life in all its complexity, joy and pain.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely

John.



Calendar

FEBRUARY

- | | | | | |
|-----|------|---------------|-----|---|
| Tue | 24th | 2.30pm. | E/B | LINK Villages Fellowship - Mr Derek Stevenson - Wild life |
| Wed | 25th | 7.30pm | | Churches Together Lent Course at St John's Highbridge |
| Fri | 27th | 10.00 - 12.00 | W/H | Coffee & Chat at West Huntspill Stalls & Traidcraft |

MARCH

- | | | | | |
|-------|------|---------------|-----|---|
| Wed | 4th | 2.30pm. | B/K | Lent Course at Brent Knoll Methodist |
| Wed | 4th | 7.30pm | B/H | Churches Together Lent Course at Burnham Methodist |
| Thur. | 5th | 2.30pm. | B/H | Thursday Fellowship |
| Fri. | 6th | 10.00am | E/B | Women's World Day of Prayer at East Brent Methodist |
| Fri. | 6th | 2.30pm. | | Women's World Day of Prayer at St. Andrew's Burnham |
| Sat | 7th | 10.00 - 12.00 | B/H | Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Stewards & Thursday Fellowship |
| Sun | 8th | | E/B | LINK service at East Brent - Preacher Mr. Michael King |
| Tue | 10th | 2.30pm. | E/B | LINK Villages Fellowship – Members Afternoon Bring and Buy |
| Wed | 11th | 12.30pm. | B/H | Church Lunch |

Wed 11th 2.30pm.		Lent Course at Brent Knoll Methodist
Wed 11th 7.30pm		Churches Together Lent Course at Catholic Church Burnham
Thu 12th 2.30pm.	B/K	Emmaus Course at Brent Knoll
Sun 15th 10.30am		Mothering Sunday - Led by John Trebble at Burnham
Sun 15th 6.00pm	B/H	Cafe Church TBA
Wed 18th 2.30pm.	B/K	Lent Course at Brent Knoll Methodist
Wed 18th 7.30pm		Churches Together Lent Course at Hope Baptist
Thu 19th 2.30pm.	B/H	Thursday Fellowship
Sat 21st 10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Coffee Morning by & in aid of Biars
Sun 22nd		LAST DAY FOR THE APRIL LINK
Tue 24th 2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Hannah Thomas Work in the Ambulance Service
Wed 25th 2.30pm.	B/K	Lent Course at Brent Knoll Methodist
Wed 25th 7.30pm	W/H	Churches Together Lent Course at West Huntspill Methodist
Fri 27th 10.00 - 12.00	W/H	West Huntspill Coffee & Chat Morning
Mon 30th 7.30am	B/H	Prayer Meeting and Breakfast
Tue 31st 7.30am	B/H	Prayer Meeting and Breakfast
APRIL		
Wed 1st 7.30am	B/H	Prayer Meeting and Breakfast
Thu. 2nd 2.30pm.	B/H	Thursday Fellowship
Thu 2nd 7.00pm	B/H	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Fri 3rd 10.30am	B/H	Good Friday Service
Sat 4th 10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Wednesday Group
Sun 5th		EASTER SUNDAY
Wed 8th 12.30pm.	B/H	Church Lunch

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

a

Women's World Day of Prayer.

The villages of
East Brent, Brent Knoll, Lympsham and Bleadon
are holding a joint service at
East Brent Methodist Church
for this year's Women's World Day of Prayer.

The service has been prepared by
Christian women of The Bahamas and promises to be
very colourful as well as thought provoking.

Please join us on March 6th at 10.00 a.m.
and afterwards for coffee.

Women's World Day of Prayer 2015
Service at St Andrew's Church Burnham
2.30p.m. Friday 6th March

Theme:-

Jesus said to them
"Do you know what I have done to you?"
followed by refreshments.

All, men and women alike. are welcome to share
in this act of worship prepared by the women of
the Bahamas

Café church date at Burnham

Sunday 15th March at 6.00 pm –



From January we will revert to the third Sunday evening in the month

We start with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or three from 5.30 pm and help ourselves to refills during the evening.

We sing a few hymns or songs, have a short talk followed by a discussion, then a few more songs, ending with the Grace at about 7.00 pm.

All are welcome to come and join us.

A concert celebrating music across the centuries



The Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society's Spring concert will be celebrating the 700th Anniversary of St. Andrew's Church by performing music that spans the Centuries.

It will include great composers such as:- John Dowland (1562-1626), & Henry Purcell (1659-1695), to our modern greats Karl Jenkins (1944) & Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber (1948).

We will be joined by Baritone soloist Amon-Ra Twilley. Although Ra is only 23 yrs, he has sung as a treble at Tewkesbury Abbey with choirmaster Ben Nicholas. He attended Cheltenham College singing in the chapel choirs and the barbershop group. Then having undertaken a gap year at Sherborne School as a Choral Scholar, he studied at Royal Holloway College, University of London, also as a Choral Scholar in the chapel choir led by Rupert Gough. Ra has an MA in Music Education and Performance from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, where he was a Trinity College London Choral Scholar in the Old Royal Naval College chapel choir directed by Ralph Allwood. Ra now sings with professional choirs as well as opera companies and enjoys teaching singing.

The concert will take place on **Saturday 25th April 2015** at 7.30pm at St. Andrew's Church, Burnham on Sea.

Tickets will be available from Material Needs, High Street, Burnham on Sea (Cash only please), Choir members and at the door.

Come and enjoy this celebration of great music.

BREAN

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

We're back! Back from a week in Lanzarote staying with Judy's brother and partner at their timeshare. Never been there before. Three things stand out about Lanzarote— it's a bit warmer than it is here most of the time, volcanoes (the place is littered with them), and César Manrique the artist whose works are also well in evidence.

So we came back knowing that there was a Link report to write! We missed the Circuit Service and the Joint Church Council but apart from those notable events, nothing much seems to have happened in the last week. And as I write this, I can't find anyone else who can tell me about what went on!

At our own Church Council we gave attention to the running of the church and re-elected everyone to do the jobs they have done for the last year. We looked at the quinquennial report and realised that although there aren't many problems in the church building, even the bits that we ought to do cost us. And thinking about the Circuit Vision (we shall all have to report on our plans when we get to the Circuit meeting at the end of March), we gave attention to improving the way our church is seen from the road – the notice board for example; and we even gave thought to putting glass into the front door so that the church is less daunting to 'outsiders'.

St Bridget's are now without a rector after Rev Sally Lacy retired in January, and the changes that both churches will experience in the coming year, give us the chance to review our partnership and work out the best way to move forward together within our community.

March sees the first of the returning summer visitors. A report recently suggests that there will be less of them this year than previously because the strength of the pound will encourage more people to visit Lanzarote and other places where there is more sunshine – though I guess that pundits have been wrong before!

So we are back, and so is the clock on the church tower. The Parish Council have paid to have it put right (it is their clock when all is said and done) so we shall look forward to see it doing its duty when the hour goes forward later in the month (which is where it's problems started last year anyway!)

Harvey Allen

WEST HUNTSPILL

Coffee and Chat

Friday 27th March

10.00am – 12.00md



However cold and wet it is outside you
will be sure of warm welcome inside
Table top sales and Fairtrade goods



LINK ORDER FORM

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.

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Please make Cheques Payable to “**Burnham on Sea Methodist Church**”

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

BRENT KNOLL

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

Minister Revd. Margaret Trapp

After a lot of frustration trying to get into Burnham from Berrow via either East Brent or Brent Knoll, I found the sudden springing up of daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops had a much needed calming effect. I don't want to speak too soon but it really does seem that Spring has finally sprung.

Margaret Trapp will be leading our Lent study course here at Brent Knoll which begins on Wednesday 4th March and then continues each Wednesday up to and including the 25th March. Emmaus will be held on Thursday 12th March. Both of these will start at 2.30pm and will be followed by refreshments.

We are much looking forward to the Women's World Day of Prayer service at East Brent on Friday 6th March and a reminder that this is not a "women only" event!

Looking ahead, our annual Spring "Bring and Buy" Coffee Morning will held on Saturday 23rd May from 10.30am onwards. As always, we look forward to the opportunity of catching up over refreshments with our Link friends.

Wishing you all a very happy start to the Spring season and don't forget to put your clocks forward on the 29th!

God bless

Rosemary Krull

EAST BRENT

Writing the column for the March LINK has come upon us very quickly with only a couple of weeks on which to report happenings in the Church.

The last visit to our Circuit by the Chairman of the District enabled many of us to join a much greater congregation to worship on a Sunday morning. It was quite a long service and for those who had to travel some distance I hope no one had put their dinner to cook as usual.

We have our Church meeting this weekend – I wonder what will come out of that. Welcome back to Bob back in Church after his accident looking hale and hearty Next month we have a LINK service at East Brent on March 8th when Michael King will conduct our service

We have spoken to the other LINK Churches and first to be a little different we are having a Buffet Lunch in the hall after the service, with each Church Brean, Brent Knoll and East Brent providing various items. Your Link representative will have a list within the next couple of weeks.

Do please come and stay for lunch. It will be the last joint service until the autumn so will be a fitting end for our joint services for this session.

During the week we have been much saddened by the death of Annette Berry (The Brownie Leader before the group disbanded in East Brent) We send to Jim and the children our deepest sympathy and trust that they will be consoled and find the peace of God during the coming days

Evelyn Tucker.

BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

It's March! A month of re-awakening and new birth, and what a treat it is to hear bird song once again after the quietness of the winter months. The sight of all the colourful spring flowers now growing everywhere really brightens up our days, and as we pass the fields of sheep we take pleasure in the sight of baby lambs at play. March also brings other changes for it is in this month that spring officially begins, and at the end of the month the clocks go forward an hour to British Summer Time giving us longer days. There are lots of things to be thankful for in March and we mustn't forget to remember with gratitude our mothers and their unending care and love for us. This we do on Mothering Sunday – 15th March this year - when we are holding a Family Service here in Burnham led by John Trebble.

At this time of year Christian thoughts are centred on Lent and Easter. Lent is a period of reflection and preparation before Easter and this year it started on 18th February. Easter is a moveable feast as it is based on the lunar calendar. In western Christianity Easter always falls between 22nd March and 25th April. It is usually celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon on or after 21st March. This year Easter Sunday is on 5th April.

Our celebrations in Burnham for Holy Week will begin with a short Prayer Service at 7:30am! followed by a light breakfast on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (30th, 31st & 1st). On Maundy Thursday we have a Communion Service at 7pm and on Good Friday a Service at 10:30am. We would love to see you for any of the above Services.

Best Wishes

Joan Wilkins

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New Circuit Web site www.wsembos.org
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www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org
www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

**The Deadline for the
April 2015 "LINK" is
Sunday 22nd March 2015**