
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

March 2016 Volume 51. No. 2.



***EASTER
GREETINGS***

Minister Letter

Dear Friends

With Easter coming up quickly on our calendars we are challenged to take up the journey into Jerusalem with Jesus, to focus our lives on him and to praise God for the saving power of the cross. It is a time when we re-evaluate our priorities in the light of the selfless obedience of Jesus, knowing that Jesus went to the cross with eyes open wide, eyes that were fixed upon his father God. As we take this journey there should be a desire within us to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to make changes where required, and to grow closer to God.

All this is set in a world where the celebration Easter is continually being eroded, or being dumbed down. Where once the cross once stood prominently in the eyes of society, now pride of place is given to chocolate eggs, bunny rabbits and commercialism – a far cry from the festival we are celebrating in church. Don't get me wrong; I enjoy an Easter egg (or two!!) but it seems to me that the priorities are getting way out of balance.

The message we bring is that the importance of Easter is not consigned to history but continues to be a revelation of God's love for this time and this age. When the celebration of this important time in the Christian calendar is coming under attack from a society where selfishness and expediency try to overcome selflessness (we see this not just in the indifference of our world but in the way that school calendars are being re-arranged, and shop opening hours are being extended) we are called to stand in the knowledge that God's saving grace is seen in Jesus Christ sacrifice and the triumph of an empty tomb.

Perhaps it is time to stand up for Easter, engage the community in its meaning and purpose, and introduce others to God's transformational love.

Happy Easter

Steve

Calendar

MARCH

Wed	2nd	2.30 & 7.30		Churches Together LENT Course at the Baptist Church
Wed	2nd	8.00pm	B/H	Wednesday Group - Easter talk Rev. Steve Bennett
Fri.	4th	2.30pm	B/H	Women's World Day of Prayer at Burnham Methodist
Fri.	4th	2.30pm	W/H	Women's World Day of Prayer at St John's Highbridge
Sat	5th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Stewards & Thursday Fellowship
Tue.	8th	2.30pm	E/B	Link Villages Fellowship Members Afternoon
Wed	9 th	12.00am	B/H	Short Communion
Wed	9 th	12.30pm	B/H	Church Lunch - tickets Dorothy
Wed	9th	2.30 & 7.30		Churches Together LENT Course at the Baptist Church
Sat	12th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
Sun	13th			Link service at East Brent
Wed	16th	2.30 & 7.30		Churches Together LENT Course at the Baptist Church
Sat	19th	9.30am		Circuit Prayer Meeting at Milton
Sat	19th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	League of Friends Coffee Morning at Burnham Methodist
Sat	19th	3.00pm	B/H	Easter Praise (see Page 3)
Sun	20th			LAST DAY FOR THE APRIL LINK
Sun	20th	3.00pm		Palm Sunday - Crosses on Brent Knoll at 3pm followed at 4.00pm at St Mary's East Brent
Mon	21st	7.30am	B/H	Holy Week Meditation led by John Trebble
Tue.	22nd	2.30pm	E/B	Link Villages Fellowship Rev. Colin Speed – Easter Homily
Tue	22nd	7.30am		Holy Week Meditation led by Rev. John James
Wed	23rd	7.30am		Holy Week Meditation led by Rev. Steve Bennett
Wed	23rd	7.30am		Holy Week Meditation led by Rev. Steve Bennett
Wed	23rd	2.30 & 7.30		Churches Together LENT Course at the Baptist Church
Thu	24th	7.00pm		Maundy Thursday Service led by Rev Steve Bennett

Fri 25th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill
 Fri 25th 10.30am B/H Good Friday Service led by Rev Steve Bennett
 Fri 25th 6.00pm W/H Good Friday Service led by Rev Steve Bennett
 Sat 26th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
 Sun 27th 6.00 AM Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Brean Down
 (please note clocks go forward that night)

APRIL

Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Choir
 Wed 6th 8.00pm B/H Wednesday Group - Beadwork demonstration
 by Sandra Moon
 Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
 Sat 9th 7.00pm B/H INDIAN EVENING with meal £7.50 per person.
 Come and share in an Indian meal and hear
 about the visits of Steve and Liz Bennett to
 West Bengal
 Tue. 12th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship Rev. Marion Hance.
 Sat 16th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H League of Friends Coffee Mornings at
 Burnham Methodist

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



Café church dates at Burnham

We meet on the third Sunday evening in the month at 6.00 pm
 Sunday 20th March
 Palm Sunday & Crosses on the Knoll at 3.00 pm
 followed at 4.00pm in St Mary's East Brent
 Sunday 17th April at 6.00 pm TBA

Hello everyone,

On behalf of Milton Church I would like to invite everyone throughout
 our Circuit to Milton for the accreditation service for Heather Gale on
 Saturday 12th March at 3pm.

Everyone is welcome.

Thank you

Best wishes, Malcolm

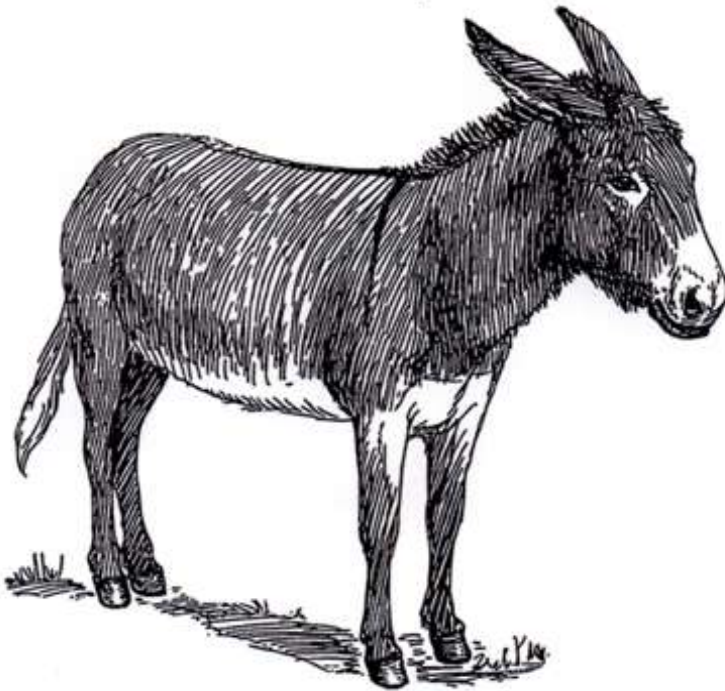
Burnham-on-Sea Methodist Church Presents
A BIG EASTER SING including material from

By Sheila

Wilson

Easter Praise!

on Saturday 19th March at 3pm



At Burnham-on-Sea
Methodist Church
College Street,

From 3pm to 5pm, please join us to learn the songs including 'It's Jesus!', 'Show me the money', and the title song 'Easter Praise!'—please bring a packed tea.

Evening service begins at 6pm.

For more details, please contact Rev Steve Bennett

Women's World Day of Prayer

The service for the Women's World Day of Prayer this year is being held in our church on **Friday 4th March at 2.30 pm**. The theme this year is 'Receive children, receive me' and has been prepared by the women of Cuba. The service is to be preceded by tea / coffee which will be served in the foyer and taken into the service.

Hilary Malpas



Year of Mission

In this year of Mission and the reminder to make converts and new members I am reminded of my days of "missioning" on Caravan Mission. I was with Beth Bridges for 2 1/2 years 1956/59 Previously Beth had been on Caravan Mission for two years one of which was in the Isle of Man. It was a surprise and a joy to me to read an obituary on John Kennaugh from the Isle of Man in the Methodist Recorder on November 27th which made special reference to Beth's ministry. (Two of my friends from away phoned to tell me).

At the age of 16 John Kennaugh went to a Caravan Mission in 1954 led by Deaconess Beth Bridges and Margaret Horn. It was at one of these meetings John made a commitment to be a Christian and from then on dedicated his life to following God and serving his fellow man; Sunday School Superintendent, Local Preacher and Circuit Steward and a life-time in farming. Serving as Circuit Steward he was the representative to Conference and set out determined to find Beth who by then had become the first woman Superintendent Minister. However before he could find her she had sought him out! I am so glad that John wrote to Beth on the occasion celebrating 40 years of women in the ministry and though very ill herself I am sure it meant a great deal to her. Beth was with us in Burnham from when she retired in 1989 until her death on December 20th 2014. In her early years of retirement she served faithfully this Church and Circuit until her health began to fail.

I share this with you as along with our "Bournville, Weston Super Mare" friends (Now St Andrew's) I recall those years and the amazing ministry she carried out.

Rev .Joyce F. Plumb



Concert

Mass for Peace

On 23rd April 2016 at 7.30pm the Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society will be performing the ever popular 'The Armed man' - A Mass for Peace by Carl Jenkins at St. Andrew's Church, Burnham-on-sea. This will be the second time that the choir have sung this piece of music. The first time was in 2006, when they were the first choir in Somerset to perform it. In 2015 some of the members were lucky enough to sing this at the Royal Albert Hall, in front of the composer who was in the audience. This year's performance will be led by their M.D Nicholas Bromilow. They will be accompanied by a small vibrant orchestral ensemble and two soloists, Katy Garden and Amon-Ra Twilley. The choir will also be singing a selection from 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat



Christian Aid Report

The Christian Aid AGM took place at West Huntspill Methodist Church on Saturday February 20th with a welcome tea or coffee at 11.00. There were 22 people there which I think was a record number and after prayers, the meeting started with the present committee agreeing to hold office for another year which was much appreciated. The treasurer reported that Christian Aid Week events and collections in our area raised £6144.63 last year plus several extra appeals and activities making a total of £7298.88. This year however, there is likely to be a substantially lower figure due to the closure of Morrison's where a lot of collecting had taken place over the last few years. Unfortunately other supermarkets and stores in the area, with the exception of Asda, were less keen to allow collections. The committee is still looking for other venues to collect in during Christian Aid Week but without success so far. We were lucky to have Fiona Dabhorn from Christian Aid South West to talk to us. She gave details of an exhibition of photographs showing the work being done in Haiti by Christian Aid in

partnership with local organisations, to help particularly after the 2010 earthquake. This exhibition will be in St Andrew's Church from Sunday 24th April - 23rd May so do go along and see it.

Christian Aid Week (15th-22nd May,) events start with the annual quiz in St Andrew's Hall on Friday 13th May at 7.00 pm when it is hoped that a team from each local church will take part. We hope to collect at Asda and two churches are doing house- to -house collections. More events will be announced later on, so please support them if you are able.

The meeting closed at 12.15, after which homemade soup, rolls, cheese and fruit were enjoyed by all.



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN.

It's March! The month when spring begins and winter is over. The time when we look forward in hope to the longer warmer days ahead. This last winter has been a strange one and the weather people tell us that December was the warmest and wettest on record, leaving nature all topsy-turvy. There were some summer flowers still blooming at Christmas to mix with the early daffodils.

We seem to have been bombarded by many storms this winter, often bringing disasters with them. The North was the first to suffer before Christmas with severe flooding causing disruption and devastation. In the New Year it was our turn in the South and, though there were some floods here in Somerset, thankfully they were not as severe as 2 years ago.

In our church we have several forthcoming events for us all to look forward to and enjoy. These include an Indian meal & slide show, the Spring Fair, Old Time Musical evening and Flower Festival – please see The Link for further details. I would like to thank everyone involved for their willingness to give of their time and energy to organise these events. Our church will benefit from the extra revenue generated and I hope that everyone will find something of interest to attend.

At the end of this month we shall be celebrating Easter, the most important Festival of the Christian calendar. There will be the usual special services and the choir are busy practising for these. We are again planning to begin Holy Week with a short Prayer Service at 7:30am! followed by a light breakfast on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (21st, 22nd & 23rd). On Maundy Thursday we have a Communion Service at 7pm and on Good Friday a Service at 10:30am. Our Easter Sunday Service is at the usual time of 10:30am

We also have an 'Easter Praise' event taking place on Saturday 19 March at 6pm: if you enjoy singing come along to the rehearsal in the afternoon at 3pm. Please look out for the posters for more details.

My year as Senior Steward is nearly over, and I should like to take this opportunity to thank not only my fellow stewards, but also church members for their help & support during this time.

Best wishes

Joan Wilkins



BREAN

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

At 10.15 on Saturday morning I looked across at Judy and said, 'so what shall we do next?' It was only then that I realised that I had promised to open up and put the heating on for the Circuit Prayer Group that had already been meeting for nearly an hour in our chapel. Fred had asked me to do so a couple of weeks ago and had even reminded me on Thursday. The trouble was that I hadn't even bothered to put it onto the calendar because I knew that I would remember! Whoops!

But with suitable Methodist resilience, those coming (and fortunately there were members of our church there), had sorted themselves out, put on the electric fires to give some sort of heat, and made themselves coffee.

It had been several months since I had last (bothered to) attend a Circuit Prayer meeting. Now they were down to ten or twelve in number, so it

looks as though other people had taken the same view as me. Which is a shame and is a comment on our prayer life perhaps. So I thought I'd better try to go to the next one; at Milton on 19th March, 9.30am – see you there?

We had our Church Council at lunchtime on Sunday. A healthily vigorous affair for the most part, I think. We sorted out who is to do what, decided who we wanted to take our Harvest Service, suggested that our August ecumenical service be held in the afternoon and outside at the front of the church, allocated a little money for bits and pieces around the church (including a separate notice board for the things that take place from time to time), and wondered if we could get excited yet about the year 2019 which is the 250th anniversary of John Wesley preaching in Brean.

And as an advance notice, the ladies of the two churches in Brean have accumulated enough material to hold a Craft Fayre again this year, on Saturday November 19th from 11am to 2pm. So please put this in your diaries. It was a super event the last time it was held and raised about £1200 for church finances. And oh yes, the men will get involved as the time gets near.

This month we look forward to the first trickle of holiday visitors to our village. Those that make it to our doors are assured of a good welcome and, of course, a cup of coffee and chat after the service. We look forward to their arrival.

Harvey Allen



WEST HUNTSPILL

Day of Prayer for Christian Unity

Held on the 23rd January at the Balliol Hall



This year's material was written by the churches in Latvia. Which gave us the opportunity to reflect on Jesus' call for Christians to be "salt and light" in the world, which is something that none of us can live without, even in today's high tech world!

West Huntspill Prayer Group invited people from many different Christian denominations in the area to discuss and pray about what it means to be Church in the world today. There are many examples of people in churches working together to make their communities better places with food banks credit unions, street pastors. Not preaching or judging, but loving people and fulfilling a need.

Unity and mission must go together. It was a very thought provoking day, interesting discussions with time for prayer. It was good to see so many people there, old friends and new.

Thank you to all the speakers also those who worked so hard behind the scenes, organizing, catering and preparing the visual displays.

Maureen

P.S. Did you watch “Songs of Praise” on the 14th February? Perhaps we can learn from the village of Congresbury?

Janet J

Coffee, Cake & Chat Friday 25th March – 10am – 12noon
Good Friday - Service of Reflection and Meditation – 7.00pm
Easter Day – Sunrise Service – 6.30am
Morning Service -11.00am led by Robin Jenks
Evening Service – 6.00pm led by Rev. Steve Bennett

Women’s World Day of Prayer

“Receive Children. Receive Me”

Prepared by Christian Women of Cuba

4th March 2016

St. John’s Church

Highbridge

2.30pm

Everyone welcome

Day of Prayer for Christian Unity

I am going to use a borrowed acronym - KISS in writing my report – Keep It Short & Simple! Hopefully!

Welcome and introduction – David Holley – Anglican.

Let the stone be rolled away - Revd Duncan Tuck - URC.

Revd. Duncan told how a meeting with someone and a lunch with his family, resulted in the stone in their life being rolled away and they were set free! (Full story next month. Read Philippians 2: v 1-11

1. **Called to be Heralds of Joy** - Revd Sharon Eldergill
There are over 200 mentions of joy or joyful in the Bible. Joy can be costly – the ultimate example being Jesus. James says something about this in his letter. James 1: v 2-4 (The whole of James is well worth reading) We listened to music and were given stones to help us let go of our sorrows “jewels” to take away, to remind us of the Joy of the Lord. We prayed that the Lord would equip us to be His heralds of Joy.
2. **The Witness of Fellowship** - Lyn House – Hope Baptist. Read John 17. We had a poem. Then in mixed groups as an exercise to list 5 essentials of Belief/Theology/Faith and 5 essentials of Practice, followed by a discussion. We discovered basically they were the same. Love; guidance through the Bible, of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit, Prayer, Music and Unity.
3. **A Priestly People called to proclaim the Gospel**- John Trebble – Methodist. Romans was quoted Chapters 8: & 11: v25. We looked at the parable of the “Sower and the Seeds.” Christians have good words to pass on we were reminded. We need the Word of God, which comes from God in a personal relationship with God. God is love. We had a discussion on “Who is it that hears the Word?”
4. **Listen to this dream** - Janet and David Hill – Anglican.
We started with 2 prayers. Then Joseph’s dream was read (See Genesis 37: v 5-8. We heard 2 quotes, one from Martin Luther’s speech “I have a dream”. Also about Choirs getting together and the twinning of three Cities, Exeter, Hanoi and Yaroslav after W.W.II. Psalm 98 and Romans 12: v 3-13 were read. We heard how David worked in Oman, had friendly relationships with Muslims and worshipped with all Christian Denominations. Also how a Church in Muscat was allowed to be built by the Sultanate. Question:- How can we bring the dream to reality.
5. **Hospitality in Prayer** – Revd Sharon Crossman – Anglican.
We began with a quiet time, then slowly and reflectively a prayer. We asked different people “How important is it to pray together?” 1 Peter 4: v 7-10 was read. Then in groups we asked “What would it mean for

the Church to be “One” in your locality” Finally we held hands in a circle and said two meaningful prayers.

6. **Hearts burning for Unity** – Revd Steve Bennett – Methodist.

We heard Luke 24: v 13-36 The walk to Emmaus. We heard of one Church of many not bound by “man made rules. True unity is the journey from Emmaus to Jerusalem. Two questions – Is mission just an excuse for perpetuating our own particular tradition? What challenges and opportunities would there be in doing mission together? We need to look outside our “walls” to the needs of people. A meditation and prayer followed.

We closed with songs of praise and saying “The Grace” followed by a quiet time and Holy Communion. (Please look up the bible references.) Thanks were given to all the helpers who made this wonderful day complete. It was not easy condensing the day, sadly I couldn’t include all the wonderful prayers and hymns, but these are the comments I felt led to write about.

Comments would be welcome, very welcome. Please remember unity is ongoing, not just for a week but something we should aim for, until the Church is one.

Janet Thompson – West Huntspill



BRENT KNOLL

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

Minister Rev. Steve Bennett

This time of year makes me realise how beautiful the Somerset countryside is. Sharing the Palm Sunday service at the top of the Knoll is something I find truly special. For those of you unable to make that service (which begins at 3pm on 20th March beneath the crosses) there will be another at St Mary's at East Brent straight afterwards to be followed by refreshments.

On Easter Sunday morning, we will have another chance to enjoy the great outdoors as Rev Steve will be taking a sunrise service at the top of

Brean Down at 6am. Having never been to one myself I'm personally looking forward to the challenge of getting up at 5am whilst trying not to think of the lost hour of sleep as the clocks go forward that weekend! But I know that it will be worth it.

One date for your diaries - we will be holding our Spring Coffee Morning and "bring and buy sale" on Saturday 30th April at 10.30am. As always, we look forward to sharing refreshments and chatting with our friends within the Link and around the Circuit.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll, we wish all our church and village friends a happy, joyous Easter.

God bless

Rosemary Krull

EAST BRENT

I have just remembered that it falls to me to get the news from East Brent to the "LINK" by tomorrow. Although February is a short month it has been busy nevertheless

We like a lot of our Churches had our Church meeting on February 7th. We enjoyed a buffet lunch before we got down to business. It was reported that our solar panels are now up and running we are now assessing the comfort of various chairs for comfort and value in a hope of purchasing some for Church

Our Church continues to be a place of prayer, worship and friendship, and we look forward to being a light in the village.

Several of us attended the Ash Wednesday service at Brent Knoll. A very thoughtful service in order to begin the session of lent.

Our monthly Link service on February 14th at Brean It is a good to be part of a larger congregation and although not quite so well attended it was a service and especially to meet Rev. Angie Hoare. Everyone I spoke too had been encouraged by her message based on Jonah.

The same Sunday evening saw us at a Circuit service at Burnham a change from normal but still a good experience for meeting people

from the other end of the circuit. We hope this will encourage people from different Churches to get to know one and another – not just office holders at the Circuit Meetings.

Rev. Steve gave us a bit more about Jonah but quite different from the morning. Thanks to both Ministers for dissertations about Jonah.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming Rev. Pam Pembro to preach. We haven't seen her for a long time. She brought her husband with her. We hope this will happen again when we have her return to take another service on the next plan.

We remember in our prayers those of our Link community – both known and unknown who are under the weather at the moment. May God bless you all?

As I write we hope to welcome Margaret Scott back tomorrow from her visit to Australia and we wish Happy Holiday to Jill and Gordon who are off to a cruise for a fortnight. As this magazine will be out before Mothering Sunday may you all enjoy your day in your Mother Church.

To all in the Link we hope to enjoy better weather not quite so cold and wish you a Happy Easter when it comes but before that Link service at East Brent on March 13th **DON'T FORGET** you will be most warmly welcome.

Evelyn Tucker



Minister and Circuit Superintendant

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Circuit Web site www.wsmbos.org
www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk
www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org
www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

<p>The Deadline for the April 2016 “LINK” is Sunday 20th March 2016</p>

LINK ORDER FORM

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