
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

March 2019 Volume 54. No. 2.



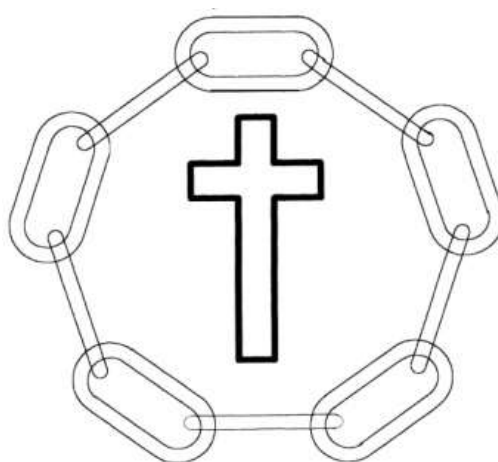
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

What is your favourite prayer? As you enter the season of Lent, I want to ask you this question. I once came across this prayer which I quite like:

So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. I'm doing quite well today. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Amen.

How about this one:

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and
ever Amen*

It has been estimated that on any Easter Sunday up to 2 billion people will say this prayer in various forms. That statistic alone should cause us to regularly reflect on what it says. But although the Lord's Prayer is of course something we have all said hundreds of times, how often do we stop to think what it is we are praying? One commentator writes

'Although it is prayed by all Christians, it never once mentions Christ. Although it is prayed by all churches, it never once mentions church. Although it is prayed on all Sundays, it never once mentions Sunday. It is called the Lord's Prayer, but never once mentions Lord. It is prayed by Congregational, Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Catholic Christians, but never once mentions congregation, priest, bishop or pope. It is prayed by Christians who split from one another over this or that doctrine, but it never once mentions a single one of those doctrinal issues. It is prayed by Christians who focus on what

it never mentions, and it is also prayed by Christians who ignore what it says.'

This is the Lord's Prayer, a prayer that is deserving of more than a brief thought this Lent.

Steve

Marriage Nicola Spendlove to Lewis Winder at Burnham on 16th February

Death Rev Arthur Mignot Aged 89 Former Circuit Superintendent

See report in Paper

<https://guernseypress.com/news/2019/02/04/death-of-minister-who-was-part-of-alderneys-history/>

Calendar

FEBUARY

Mon 25th 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean
Tue 26th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - "The Good Life" Berry Jenkin.

MARCH

Fri 1st 10.30am B/H World Day of Prayer at Burnham Methodist
Fri 1st 10.30am W/H World Day of Prayer at West Huntspill Methodist
Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Church Funds by the Stewards
Mon 4th 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean
Mon 4th 2.00pm E/B Tui's Clapp Memorial Service at East Brent Methodist Church
Wed 6th 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Wednesday Group - Cinema Visit
Thur 7th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship

Fri 8th	7.00pm	B/H	Photo Show Burnham Lifeboats and their Crews - By John Strickland see page 6
Sat 9th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sat 9th	4.00 - 6.00	B/H	Messy Church at Burnham
Mon 11th	10.30	BR	Coffee Morning at Brean
Tue 12th	2.30pm	E/B	Link Villages Fellowship - Chris Wray – Traidcraft.
Wed 13th	12.30	B/H	Church Lunch
Sat 16th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning
Sun 17th	LAST DAY FOR THE APRIL LINK		
Mon 18th	10.30	BR	Coffee Morning at Brean
Thur 21st	2.30pm	B/H	Thursday Fellowship
Sat 23rd	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Mon 25th	10.30	BR	Coffee Morning at Brean
Tue 26th	2.30pm	E/B	Link Villages Fellowship - Acupuncture – Dee Holbourne
Fri 29th	10.00 - 12.00	W/H	Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill Methodist see page 10
Sun 31st	Mothering Sunday		
APRIL			
Mon 1st	10.30	BR	Coffee Morning at Brean
Wed 3rd	2.30 - 4.00	B/H	Wednesday Group - Easter Talk
Sat 6th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Coffee Morning for Church Funds by the Choir
Mon 8th	10.30	BR	Coffee Morning at Brean
Tue 9th	2.30pm	E/B	Link Villages Fellowship - Rev. Rod Ingrouille.
Sat 13th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sat 13th	4.00 - 6.00	B/H	Messy Church at Burnham

Mon 15th 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean
Sat 20th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee
Morning
Sun 21st **LAST DAY FOR THE MAY LINK**

World day of Prayer

Following a national survey in which local committees were invited to participate, the title of the day of prayer on the first Friday in March has been changed from the Women's World Day of Prayer, to World day of Prayer, in line with many other countries around the world. The service is still prepared by the women from a specific country each year.


In 2022 it will be the turn of England, Wales & N. Ireland to do so, and there is a team already preparing that service. Some of you will know Revd. Mandy Briggs who is the Education Officer at the New Room in Bristol. She candidated for the ministry from this circuit a number of years back, having been one of the local preachers Harold Speed had trained, and she is one of the members of the team who are preparing this service.

BUT this year's service has been compiled by the women of Slovenia.


It will be held on Friday March 1st at 10.30am in Burnham Methodist Church, and all are welcome to come and share in this service.

The theme this year is Come - everything is ready"

Joyce Pipet.



Slide Show
Burnham's Lifeboats
and their crews'
 By John Strickland
 8th March at 7.00pm
Methodist Church
College Street
 Tickets £5.00
 From Dorothy May 01278 784204



EAST BRENT

What a few lovely sunny days we have had. It's good to see daffodils, primroses, violets, and snowdrops all out in flower.

However we mustn't celebrate all things spring yet we after all are only into February

The best next join up will be over by the time you read this. – The Link service at Brent Knoll, once again we join together for Sunday Fellowship.

Next, we look forward to the great day of "Women's Day of Prayer" in various Churches of worship (Consult your own Church diary to find the nearest one to you.

East Brent Church meeting will be held on March 10th so bring your complaints or thoughts to this meeting.

Before the next magazine is out it will be Mothering Sunday on March 31st – just a reminder that Easter is fast approaching

News is short that I must mention our after-Church Coffee meetings when we discuss Church & Circuit news is volunteered, and we really do enjoy these informal meetings.

We talk about all sorts of subjects; these talks have made us a more caring group about all sorts of things

Welcome back Margaret from your visit to Australia we have thought about you as we do about Eileen and Joan.

Finally, a reminder that the memorial service for Tui Clapp will be held at our Church on Monday 4th March at 2.00pm.

Evelyn M. J. Tucker



BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

Well February is at an end. As I write this the sun is shining and it is unusually warm for a February day. We all remember last year when we thought we had seen the end of winter only to have that late blizzard of snow. At the start of March I am usually hunting around my garden for some daffodils to put on my Father's grave to celebrate Saint David's Day. This year my garden is full of all types of daffodils, so I will have plenty to choose from. Every day we are reminded of the wonder of God's world.

January and February have been a lovely time to be part of Burnham Methodists Church. Our Messy Church is growing. We have some regular families that come as well as grandparents with their grandchildren. In February we had the feeding of the 5000 people as the theme. The children learnt how so many people were fed. They learnt about food, they made their own picnic food, which they enjoyed eating sitting in a group, on the floor, as the 5000 did. We have been lucky to have gained some new Messy Church helpers. It has

been a delight to see all the children working and talking with the different helpers. The children gain such a lot from these sessions. One of my grandchildren was upset as she had to miss Messy Church to go to a friend's birthday party. She said she would rather have gone to messy church as it was such fun, but she didn't want to make her friend sad. Well done Messy Church. Thank you to everyone who helps, I know it takes a lot of planning and organising. Keep up the good work. If you have children or grandchildren who would like to come, please bring them along. It is the second Saturday of each month from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm. It includes craft activities, singing, a bible story and we end with the children and adults having some tea together. The theme for the next one, on March 9th, is 'A boat trip in a storm'.

We have also seen some new faces in church over the last few months. Some are people who have moved into the area, some visit while on holiday and some have moved back. It has been lovely seeing them join in the services as well as other church activities. We are missing some of our usual members through illness or accidents. We wish them well and we remember them in our prayers. We have also had some lovely things to celebrate. Sylvia Wright has just celebrated her 101st birthday with her family and friends. We also had a wedding at our church, on February 16th, of two of our congregation, Lewis and Nicola. We send them all our love and best wishes for the future.

Marian Foster for the Stewards Team.



BREAN

Our coffee mornings continue to have been well received with upwards of ten or a dozen most Mondays. It is pleasing that this number includes people who do not otherwise come in to our church, and that once there, they stay for the duration of the session. Some of them also came to our Sausage and Mash and Beetle Drive on the last Saturday in January and brought members of their families. A lovely evening which will be repeated again next year we hope.

Our joint Church Council with our Anglican brethren was held after service on 10th February. We have adjusted our Ecumenical Covenant to get rid of meetings and roles within the framework so that there is now only one meeting a year and there are no appointed officers. We are hoping that there will be enough initiative and enthusiasm to see us through this next stage in our relationship.

All of our services in March are at 10.30am in our own church, except for 10th March when we join with St Bridget's at 9.15am. On that occasion they have the Bishop of Taunton, Rt Rev Ruth Worsley, coming to take the service.

And don't forget, coffee in our church every Monday at 10.30am. And yes we have had people come out from as far away as Burnham.

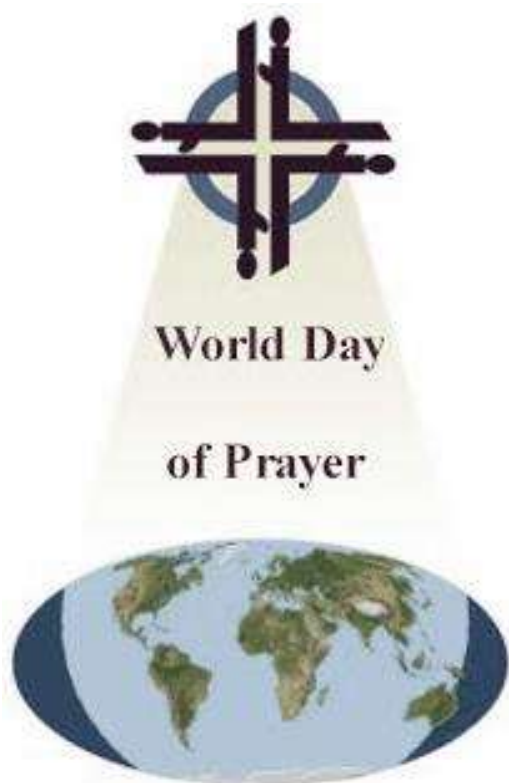
And a date for your diary please. It was 250 years ago that John Wesley is believed to have come to Brean, or at least to the farm that was the Hicks family home and has been ever since then. To celebrate the anniversary, we have employed Mark Topping to bring his characterisation of the life of Wesley himself. His performance will be on Saturday afternoon 20th July. More details later but meanwhile please put the date in your diaries. Most of all please come and support us.

March also sees the return of the first of our summer regulars, so welcome back folks. We hope that you have had a good winter and that the summer will give you a time of glorious refreshment

Harvey Allen

West Huntspill

World Day of Prayer



This year West Huntspill will be one of the churches hosting this service on:

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH at 10.30am

Light Refreshments will be available

from 10am

Everyone Welcome to attend.

Each year the service is put together by a different country. This year's service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia. We hear the stories of the Slovenian people, reflecting the political and economic struggles in that country from the time it was a socialist - communist state to the present day. We will be part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe – starting with the sun rise over Samoa and ending some 38 hours later back in the Pacific, as the sun sets over American Samoa. The wave of prayer will be shared by people in over 120 countries and islands around the world.



Our March Coffee Morning

Will be held on March 29th 2019

10am -12md Table top sales

Free Coffee, tea and cakes and chat!

Proceeds for Alzheimer's Society

BRENT KNOLL

(www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

Minister Revd. Steve Bennett

At the time of writing, two weeks after we had snow, the sun is shining, and the temperature has gone up by 10 degrees. I'm cautious in my optimism as I remember saying the same thing last year when my comments that Spring had definitely arrived were quickly followed by "The Beast from The East". But the days are definitely getting longer and driving through Brent Knoll last Sunday I couldn't help but feel uplifted by the daffodils popping up along the road. So, with that in mind, we have set a date for our Spring coffee and sale morning which will be held on May the 4th (or "Star Wars Day" as we were reminded by Rev Steve - I'll leave you to work that out). All proceeds from this morning will be going towards church funds.

I'm sure that those of you who have recently visited the church will have noticed the ever-increasing amount of damp towards the back of our building. We have already had surveyors take an initial look but will need to carry out a survey in order to ascertain the exact source of the damp. It's a problem which affects so many older buildings, but we are hoping that we will be able to get this sorted in order to keep our building up to scratch so that it may continue to be used by worshippers, the Circuit and other community groups within the village.

Lent begins this month on 6th March, a time of reflection and preparation for us before the celebrations of Easter. So, from all of us at Brent Knoll, we wish you peace and every blessing during this holy season.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



Minister and Circuit Superintendent

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Web Sites

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

<p>The Deadline for the APRIL 2019 LINK is Sunday 24th March 2019</p>

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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ADDRESS.....
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LINK **£3.00** Postage £..... Donation £..... Total £.....

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

OUR LINK AND CIRCUIT

Part 3 - September 1975 to 1976

In the Church Year 1975-76 the Circuit meeting gathered on only two occasions, in September and March. This was the legal minimum under the new structures. The arrangement was to last for five or six years before our Methodist love of committees broke through and we reverted to the traditional four gatherings a year.

In September 1975, the fifty people at the Circuit Meeting welcomed Deaconess Pat Gregory and Revered Alan Hale to the circuit. Pat joined the staff to continue the excellent work that Phyllis Maland had undertaken in the Circuit; and Alan had received permission to serve the church outside the Circuit system in that he was now to be Assistant Head of 6th form at Broadoak school in Weston-super-Mare.

At the end of the period the circuit bade farewell to Rev Peter Philipson and his family amid many plaudits for his work within the circuit, but especially from the churches in the Link end. Peter next went to The Forest of Dean Circuit before being stationed in Newquay and where he sadly died while still serving. A nice man, a gentle giant (he was a large man), as I remember.

During the year, two new Local Preachers moved into the Circuit, Miles Dawes and Tim Lansdown. Miles was elderly and blind and lived in Weston. He no longer took services, though he sometimes helped out with prayers, but he maintained a valuable ministry in the way that he supported and encouraged others. Tim came as Assistant Manager of Lloyds Bank (at Highbridge I think) and over the next ten years he and his family were to become valuable assets to the development of the society at Burnham, and supportive to the Link as a whole. Around 1986 he then moved to another bank appointment. When Rev Terry Isherwood died a couple of years ago Tim was asked to give one of the eulogies at Terry's funeral.

Finance

As now, finance dominated much of the discussion at meetings. The Treasurer strongly urged members who paid tax, to add to the

value of their offering by using the Tax covenanting principle, and he showed how the Circuit and Churches could gain through this system. This was an opportunity strongly supported at Connexional level too.

There was a voluntary aspect to Circuit Assessments and to meet the stresses that were arising, Brean was selected for particular thanks for agreeing to raise its contribution by 10%.

The cost of producing the Circuit Plan was rising considerably. Until then, for each Quarter, a 24 page booklet was issued costing 6d and subsidised by advertisements on alternate pages. It must have been time consuming to produce. It was printed by a firm in Kent which must have also added to administrative time and cost. The Circuit Meeting agreed to set up a group to look at what alternatives there might be.

(I have added a further item about the Circuit Plan of this period, at the end of this summary)

Ecumenical

The Ecumenical work at Worle was beginning to take shape. A joint Anglican/Methodist council was set up and an Ecumenical Magazine was produced for distribution. Rev W S Terry a supernumerary minister was appointed to supplement the pastoral work of the parish.

Roy Wareing was the leading Methodist figure in this development and worked long and hard over the next few years to bring the project into fruition. Worle was to be the first Anglican/Methodism Covenant in the Bath and Well Diocese.

Missions and Ministries of various kinds

There seems to have been a stronger bond between Circuit and Connexional departments.

Ben Boulter, the Circuit Secretary for Christian Citizenship, now termed Department for Social Responsibility (DSR), reported that the Connexional Department was producing a new publication, and this was widely distributed among the churches most of whom had their own SR secretaries; however he subsequently had to report that a price

increase in the magazine had resulted in a reduction in those buying it, so I wonder whether this might have been a re-vamping of an existing publication rather than a totally new one. The date of the Christian Citizenship Sunday was announced on which date the new District Chairman (Rev Ian Lunn) would be taking a Circuit Service. The Methodist Homes for the Aged was now being taken under the wing of the Department too. Each church was expected to contribute £3.50 for every 100 members to the running of the Department.

Christian Citizenship dealt with the rightness and wrongness of our society in days that were (ever so slightly?) less tolerant than they are now and a resolution from Women's Fellowship (WF) meeting at Uphill reflected concern about 'the many Television programmes where SEX – BAD LANGUAGE and VIOLENCE seem to dominate, thus corrupting the minds of our Young People.' (The capitals are as written in the Minutes). A petition was proposed for submission via DSR, but it was noted that it needed as many as 100,000 signatures to be effective, though the Division may have had similar appeals from around the Connexion and they could all be put together. The situation had also been discussed at District level and many individuals had written to their MPs.

It may seem, looking back, that times have moved on and the church too, but it is perhaps, good to reflect the passion with which members of church were involved in the ways of society. Some years ago, Robin Jenks tried to get an open forum set up where issues of the day could be discussed, but his other responsibilities prevented him from getting the project firmly off the ground.

Women's meetings were also very strong with support from all parts of the Circuit. Reports were made on Women's Fellowship (WF) District meetings in Bristol and a Retreat that was held at Almondsbury. A proposal was made that the WF and Women's Work (WW) consider whether there was merit in combining the Circuit meetings into one Women's Fellowship.

And finally...

The year was to be the final goodbye to Berrow church but such farewell was put on hold for a while when the application to change the

premises into accommodation was refused by the Council and further work was necessary to get the plans agreed. Better news at East Brent though when the circuit gave permission for a new organ to be purchased. It is still in use today

A PLAN DIVERSION

Eventually the Circuit Meeting agreed that changes be made to the design of the Plan and how it was produced. I have a copy of the Plan for October to December 1969 (the Plan followed the calendar year in those days) and it includes a lot of information - names, addresses and phone numbers of all Clergy, and officers of Circuit and every Church for example. Other details included the number of members of each church, the latest Financial Statement from the Circuit accounts, circuit notices, details of meetings and any travel arrangements for preachers. It is salutary to realise that even in that comparatively recent time, a good number of preachers were without their own transport. In that quarter, for example, the entry for 21st December alone reads 'Rev J O Clutterbuck takes Mr Balfour (to Lympsham), Dr. Wigfield (to Brent Knoll), Mrs Coles to Berrow for Brean' Mr Clutterbuck was preaching at Berrow that day and so I assume that someone from Brean would have had to go to Berrow to collect Mrs Coles. And that was by no means all. Fortunately, morning services were universally timed at 11 o'clock in those days, so this will have helped. Years later the system was replaced by the host church having to go to pick up the preacher from his/her home, and as cost of petrol rose, I remember Brean at least, complaining about the cost and time involved if the preacher came from, say Worle.

Interestingly, most churches at the Link end of the Circuit also had a midweek service (Burnham on most weeks and East Brent, Brent Knoll, Brean and Mark, once a month).

That Plan for 1969 also shows Berrow of course but there are other churches shown that might not be familiar. Sunnyside for example was a Methodist Church in Weston situated between the railway and Drove Road. That closed in 1969. Hill Road, Mark and Heath House churches were to close many years later so more of them anon, and Bournville morphed into St Andrew's when eventually it joined with the Anglican church in an ecumenical covenant.

Harvey Allen