
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

March 2020 Volume 55. No. 2.



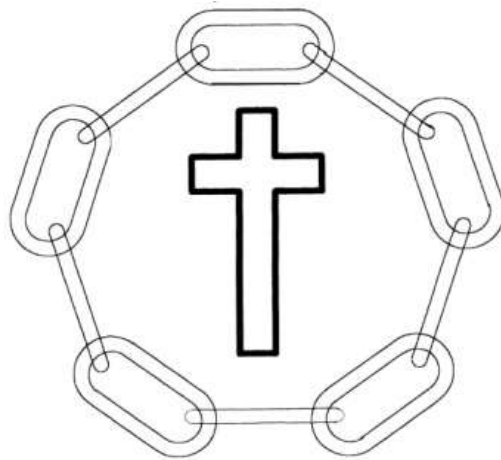
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

Lent - No shortcuts!

Lent has started, and we have begun a period of reflection which lasts for 40 days as a reminder of the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. Mark mentions the story briefly, and the full details appear in both Matthew and Luke. In all three gospels, the temptations occur before Jesus has commenced his ministry of healing and teaching. Have you ever thought that, given the solitary nature of these wilderness experiences, the details must have come from Jesus himself? He must have wanted his disciples to understand what had happened in that place.

We hear that the Devil lurked around Jesus who was weakened by 40 days of fasting, trying to dissuade him from embarking on his ministry before it had even begun. In the three temptations, the devil was trying to determine what sort of messiah Jesus would be. Would Jesus be a messiah who would miraculously address people's physical needs, would he seek a reputation that would bring him to everyone's attention, would he assume power and authority and rule the world?

Initially it can be difficult to understand why these three temptations were evil. But perhaps the answer lies in the fact that the Devil was offering Jesus enticing shortcuts. He tempted Jesus to experience the good parts of being human without the bad. He tempted Jesus to enjoy the taste of bread knowing hunger. He tempted Jesus to confront risk without real danger. Above all, he tempted Jesus to enjoy fame and power without the prospect of painful rejection which was part of God's plan. . He offered him an easy solution.

Sometimes we want an easy solution. We want to feel deeply spiritual and close to God, but without the disciplines of prayer and reading the Bible, we want to feel looked after and protected by the Christian community, but without the building of loving relationships, we want to have our churches full of new people, but without the responsibility we each have to share the good news of Jesus.

Perhaps acknowledging these things is a starting point for our Lenten devotions.

Steve

Calendar

FEBRUARY

Sat 29th 10.00 - 12.00 BH Shoppers Coffee at Burnham,
 Sat 29th Somerset Churches Together AGM at
 Baptist Church W-s M

MARCH

Mon 2nd from 10.30 BR Coffee & Chat at Brean Methodist
 Mon 2nd 2.30 B/K Lent course led by Rev Margaret
 Trapp at Brent Knoll
 Wed 4th B/H Wednesday Group A Life in Training
 Linda James
 Fri 6th 10.30 W/H Coffee, at West Huntspill prior to
 Fri 6th 11.00 W/H WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at St
 Peter's & All Hallows Church West
 Huntspill
 Fri 6th 10.30 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER at St
 Andrew's Church Burnham
 Mon 9th from 10m.30 BR Coffee & Chat at Brean Methodist
 Mon 9th 2.30 B/K Lent course led by Rev Margaret
 Trapp at Brent Knoll
 Tue 10th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - T B A
 Wed 11th 11.00 - 12.00 B/H The Pause for Thought Group
 Wed 11th 12.00 B/H Communion followed by Church
 Lunch Dorothy
 Sat 14th 4.00 - 6.00 B/H Messy Church at Burnham
 Mon 16th from 10.30 BR Coffee & Chat at Brean Methodist
 Mon 16th 2.30 B/K Lent course led by Rev Margaret
 Trapp at Brent Knoll
 Sun 22nd LAST DAY FOR APRIL LINK
 Mon 23rd from 10.30 BR Coffee & Chat at Brean Methodist
 Mon 23rd 2.30 B/K Lent course led by Rev Margaret
 Trapp at Brent Knoll
 Tue 24th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Lent
 Devotional - Rev. John James.
 Fri 27th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill
 Methodist in aid of Victoria's Kitchen
 Mon 30th from 10.30 BR Coffee & Chat at Brean Methodist
 Mon 30th 2.30 B/K Lent course led by Rev Margaret
 Trapp at Brent Knoll

APRIL

Wed	1st		B/H Wednesday Group An Easter Talk
Mon	6th	from 10.30	BR Coffee & Chat at Brean Methodist
Mon	6th	2.30	B/K Lent course led by Rev Margaret Trapp at Brent Knoll
Wed	8th	11.00 - 12.00	B/H The Pause for Thought Group
Wed	8th	12.00	B/H Communion followed by Church Lunch Barbara
Thur	9 th	7.00pm	B/H Maundy Thursday
Fri	10 th	10.00am	B/H Good Friday
Sun	12th		Easter Sunday

World Day of Prayer

(Formally the Women's World Day of Prayer)

This years' service will take place at
St. Andrew's Church Burnham on Sea
on Friday March 6th at 10.30 am.

This years' service has been prepared by the women of
Zimbabwe.

Theme

Rise, take up your mat and walk

All are warmly welcomed to attend.

The LINK

The price of the link has been raised to £5.00 per year.

The last rise to £3.00 was in January 2004

Christian Aid

The Christian Aid AGM was held at West Huntspill Methodist Church on Saturday, February 8th at 10.30. Carol Boocock and I went along to represent our church.

1. Rev. Marion Hance opened the meeting with prayers and a short silence to remember Gill Miller who died very recently and who had been secretary of the local Christian Aid committee for several years.
2. Marion then updated us to the current position of Christian Aid nationally which is undergoing restructuring to best use the resources available to it. Therefore, all the regional offices in England are to close in June and Christian Aid is to withdraw its presence from twelve countries where it was previously involved. The central office will be in Warrington where a Central Supported Engagement Team will be set up with a representative for each area so there will still be someone with responsibility for this part of the country. Christian Aid's focus in 2020 will be on the urgent climate emergency, giving help to those most affected and least able to meet the consequences.
3. Christian Aid Week in Somerset and Bristol raised £178,000 and our own local churches raised over £4,000. This year our church will be collecting at B & M on one morning during Christian Aid Week May 10th – 16th - more details nearer the time.
4. It was decided that there would be no more AGMs but the church representatives and anyone else interested would meet annually on an informal basis for a soup lunch with a stall and each church would hold its own events and advertise them to the other churches in the area, which is more or less what happens at the moment.
5. Pawlett Christian Aid Group is holding a coffee morning on Saturday 16th May in the Royal British Legion premises in the village. All are invited to support this event.
6. Marion ended the meeting at 11.45, having thanked the committee for their hard work over the years.

A soup lunch was then served- many thanks to West Huntspill for their hospitality.

Barbara Williams



EAST BRENT

I have always thought February as a fairly quiet month weather wise, but not this year as we have all found out to our cost. Church wise it has been fairly quiet. We have been a bit smaller in congregation than usual. Margaret Scott has been to foreign parts to find some sun. Let's hope she found it.

We are glad that John was able to join us for a short while and have a talk with us over a cup of coffee.

We were the hosts for the "Link Service" last Sunday and we enjoyed conversation and coffee afterwards. It is certainly good to meet occasionally in a bigger group than normal.

We remember Diana (Bratt) who worshipped with us for quite a while, she had her hip operation and was back home after 3 days. She is remarkably well when I spoke to her after almost a week, and wishes to be remembered to all her friends at Church,

A couple of weeks ago we had a lady at morning service who has come to live in Lympsham. It was good to see her.

Finally, a reminder that Church Council meets on Sunday March 9th after morning service and church lunch.

Evelyn Tucker.



BURNHAM STEWARDS COLUMN

It's March! 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 – except when the storms arrive on our doorstep! 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 – 22nd March this year - when our service in Burnham will be led by Revd Angie.

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 26th February.

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 12th April.

On Maundy Thursday we have a Communion Service at 7.00pm and on Good Friday a Service at 10.00am. We would love to see you for any of our Services or other events, such as Messy Church, the monthly church lunch or our weekly Saturday coffee mornings.

Best wishes

Joan Wilkins

BREAN

www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk

Last month I mentioned the initiative our ladies had taken up of knitting little pouches to send to Australia to provide sanctuary for orphaned animals whose mothers had perished in the fires. Kathy sent the pouches, together with other relevant bits and pieces, off to the centre in Wells that was organising the venture in this part of the world.

But there seems to be no stopping our ladies because then Joyce took up the banner and the ladies then started to knit various forms of fruit and veg and other food imagery in a campaign by CAP (Christians Against Poverty). CAP will send representative samples of the handiwork to all British MPs in an effort to raise awareness about the extent of food poverty that exists in our country.

I don't know of any other effort that our church is doing (apart from our regular contributions to Food Bank), except that if anyone attends our Monday morning Coffee and Chat (every Monday morning from 10.30). They will see half the number there (and that includes people from the village who don't come regularly to church) busily clicking knitting needles and creating other forms of handiwork. You are welcome to join them; men too please, there is no compunction to knit one purl one.

And while on the subject of our outreach into the wider community, here's a correction to last month's Link. The collection at our Carol Service went to Action for Children, not All We Can. All We Can received our donation from our Christmas Card initiative and went to its Farmyard project.

I take very seriously the damage we are doing to the ecology of our planet through greed and exploitation, and even care-lessness, but I wonder whether Climate Change is the right phrase to use to describe the weather right now. Seasons coming early perhaps and with more intensity are variations from what is normal. I remember the times when snowdrops always appeared first, in January, and then crocuses showed up before snowdrops ended; and then daffodils followed on. We seldom saw a daffodil before March 1st, the Welsh National Day. Come to that do we ever see as many narcissi these days (though I appreciate that daffodils are of the same genus)? My childhood recollection is that they graced our highways and byways in copious numbers almost as a precursor that daffodils were on their way.

My fear is that Climate Change will become a catch-all term for society and lose its impact for us as individuals. God gave humankind this planet and all that is in it for humankind to steward, to care for. And that gives each one of us awesome responsibility.

We have been trying to brighten up the front of the church, and at the end of last summer we started to put a few flowering plants outside to give it a bit of colour from the road. Already this year passers-by have said how much they have appreciated the display of daffodils that currently adorns the path. It was nice to hear those

comments and such an array might help people reckon we are not so remote as they might have thought.

But the weather has been a major influence over the past few weeks. Our Sausage and Mash and Beetle Drive evening was one of its victims. Only about 16 people turned up on the night, and considering the wind and the rain, who can blame others for staying at home? As a result, I guess we all ate more sausages than we ought to have done, but we still enjoyed the evening very much.

We hope that the weather improves very soon as we are due to have our remaining wooden framed windows and the back door replaced in the next few weeks. The flat roof over the front porch was waterproofed recently as part of the works necessary after our latest quinquennial.

We held our joint meeting with St Bridget's in February. The need to work, pray and socialise together was emphasised, as was our commitment to the parish of Brean. But it is easy to make commitments in a meeting. Time will tell whether our enthusiasms will be reflected in action.

Our own Church Council takes place at the beginning of March after morning worship. In the tension between each person wanting his or her say and the counter attraction of getting home for Sunday lunch, I wonder where the balance will lie!

March is also the month of returning holiday visitors. We look forward to their presence and to learning of their winter experiences.

Harvey Allen



West Huntspill



Coffee Morning.

Friday 27th March 2020

10am – 12md

Proceeds for Victoria's Kitchen

Free Coffee, Chat and Cakes

World Day of Prayer



**This will be held at St Peter's and
All Hallows Church**

Church Rd West Huntspill TA9 3RN

On 6th March 2020 at 11 am

Preceded by Coffee from 10.30am

The service has been put together by Christian Women in Zimbabwe with the theme

"Rise! Take up your mat and walk"

We will be encouraged to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that has plagued their country over many years. They share their challenges and the hope they have for the future. Zimbabwe means "house of stones". The first Europeans from Portugal arrived in the 15th century, and helped to establish a sophisticated culture. In the 19th century British business Cecil Rhodes began exploiting the area's mineral wealth. In 1895, under British colonisation, the country is renamed Rhodesia. Many indigenous populations were dispossessed and there was a long history of political unrest and suppression under white minority rule. In 1965 Ian Smith, the president declares independence from Britain and the country's economic situation deteriorates after sanctions are imposed by the E.U. In 1979 a unity government was formed and the country's

name was changed back to Zimbabwe. The political situation has remained very volatile ever since. The theme reflects the hope the people have for the future as they continue a turbulent journey towards full reconciliation between all groups of the population.

BRENT KNOLL

I seem to have started every article of the Link magazine this year by mentioning the weather - and this month is no different. To be honest, it's been quite a difficult subject to avoid as we seem to have had every weather system imaginable over the past few months (except for snow, but let's not go there). Storm Ciara was swiftly followed by Storm Dennis which, at the time of writing is subsiding. With that in mind, it's difficult to believe that Spring begins this month as the clocks go forward and we look forward to lighter, and hopefully brighter, evenings.

And we are also at the beginning of Lent this month (Ash Wednesday being on 26th February, of course). Rev Margaret Trapp will be leading a course every Monday during Lent at 2.30pm in the schoolroom at Brent Knoll Methodist where we are going to be exploring Mark's gospel. All are warmly invited to attend these sessions which will be followed by refreshments.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be joining with our friends from Brean and East Brent on Palm Sunday where we will be sharing worship led by our Chair of District, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Pye. We thank Brean Methodist Church in advance for hosting this joint Link service.

In the meantime, it seems March winds have arrived early, but the weather is always unpredictable this time of year. Stay safe and stay warm and from all of us at Brent Knoll Methodist Church we wish you every blessing at the start of this holy season of Lent.

With every blessing from us all

Rosemary Krull

Minister and Circuit Superintendent

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**Circuit Web site www.wsmbos.org
www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk
www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk
www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com**

**The Deadline for the
APRIL 2020 LINK
is Sunday 22nd. March 2020**

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