

LINK PLUS++++

March 2023

Dear Friends

There has been a significant anniversary recently and one more to come this month. The 24th February saw the 1st anniversary of the invasion of The Ukraine.



On the 23rd March we will remember the 3rd anniversary of the day that the 1st COVID lockdown was announced by Boris Johnson.



Both of these events continue to impact our economy, our Health Service, our lives, and the life of the Church.

The impact of lockdowns and COVID are ones that have been discussed in all our churches and we are still feeling the effects of the forced lack of activity during this time, the loss of loved ones, and the hard work needed to re-establish the churches place in the community.

The effect of the war in The Ukraine has been more subtle here in the UK. Although there have already been countless (and mainly

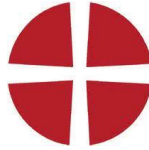
unacknowledged) loss of life and injury for Russian and Ukrainian alike, we in this part of Somerset have, in the main, simply watched with horror as the events unfold. Some have welcomed refugees but not everywhere has seen an overflowing of such hospitality.

However, we have felt other impacts of the conflict. Inflation, driven by food and fuel shortages, is at a 40 year high and the increase in our heating bills has been notice by all the Treasurers! In the same way our folks are contemplating the heating of their homes. Many are looking at the forthcoming energy price cap review – with talk of further increases to bills as government help is withdrawn – and wondering how they will be able to manage.

Here the church has been able to take positive action. In Burnham we have been able to use the Waffle Hub as a ‘Warm Space’ where we heat our building and invite those unable to afford heating at home to come in. This could be done in all churches, and a grant is available from the Methodist Church on a District level to cover some of the associated costs. If there is not a ‘Warm Space’ in your community this is something you might think about. It is not just a problem for this winter; I suspect that the issues driving prices up will not be quickly resolved.

Whilst we don’t call it an anniversary, we are quickly moving forward to the Passion – that time we remember the obedience, suffering, and victory of Jesus. In this time of Lent, we are challenged to look at our lives, to repent of our sinfulness and allow the Living God to direct our very being. Whilst this is a personal reflection of faith, it includes how we interact with and serve others, remembering that when we do things for the very least, we do them ‘unto him’. Jesus gave us the ultimate example of this life of goodness and faithfulness. May our lives mirror his model of love.

Steve



Brean Methodist Church

<http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk>

On 18 April 1930 , the BBC's news announcer had nothing to communicate. "There is no news," was the script of the 8:45pm news bulletin, before piano music was played for the rest of the 15-minute segment.

I feel a bit like that. We have had two or three months with plenty to say. But now February has been a bit flat with regards to news. We worshipped with our friends from East Brent and Brent Knoll on 19th and we had our Church Council on 12th but even that was over in little more than an hour and a quarter.

So February has been a month of quiet contemplation. Kathy and Roger continue their slow but steady recuperation after their mishap in Weston which is good to see, and Jimmy is also improving albeit very slowly. One spark was that we offered the collection on 12th for All We Can's earthquake appeal for Turkey/Syria. We raised £205 on the day. What a very generous response; thank you everybody
And so we move into a new quarter. A sense of sadness here as Stanley has decided to give up taking services regularly. The years take a great toll on us all of course, but this is a great shame, for he has been a much loved preacher. Invariably he would finish his sermons with 'thank you for listening'. No problem Stanley, it was always a joy. We shall now look forward to seeing you in the pew with us even more often.

And of course, we shall start to see our summer visitors trickling into our midst once again. We shall give Stuart from Cheltenham an even

greater welcome for he fell seriously ill at the end of last summer and had to spend considerable time recuperating. It will be a great pleasure to hear the door open and see him in our midst once again. We had a very enjoyable Advent study series before Christmas but will not run a separate Lent series this year. Instead we shall join with the one that Margaret will lead at Brent Knoll on Tuesday mornings. Well, not a great lot to report but, in the end, more than I thought. It is surprising what you can find if you look hard enough

RADIO TIMES 18th APRIL 1930

I looked up that day when the BBC had nothing to report. By then the organisation was just short of 8 years old. It had a single National station plus a couple of Regional ones, and a few Regional variations. To the National band The national one, at least, was transmitted from Daventry in Northants, not a place that trips off the tongue, but which was chosen I guess, because it was high enough up and about as close to the middle of the country as you could get. The programme was not, what you might call, a varied selection. This is the Radio Times listing for the National Programme on that day:

10.15am – The Daily Service

10.30am – Greenwich Time Signal, Weather Forecast, Close Down

3.30pm - Concert with soloists, by The Wireless Military Band

5.00pm - Poetry Reading

5.20pm - Concert, by The Wireless String Orchestra

6.30pm – Sports News

6.50pm – The Service, from St George’s Chapel Windsor

7.45pm – BBC Concert – Wagner’s Parsifal, conducted by Henry Wood from The Queen’s Hall

10.00pm – Close Down

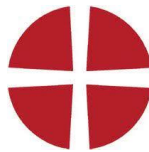
The News, of which there wasn’t any, was planned for the interval break in the evening’s concert. At this time, the BBC got much of its news from agencies and this day being Good Friday perhaps helps to explain the absence. And, in those days people were still used to

getting their news from Newspapers, so the BBC was not particularly well organised in its news gathering.

The Radio Times covered all these programmes, and more articles in its 60 page weekly magazine which is available on-line. The programmes were a bit more extensive and varied on other days, but not a lot 'Good Evening. Today is Good Friday. There is no news.'

I wonder whether that will hold true for this year.

Harvey Allen



**Brent Methodist Church
Brent Knoll**

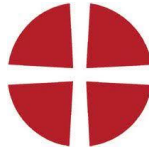
On February 19th we hosted the Link Service for the village churches and we were delighted to have such good support from East Brent and Brean, both in the service and afterwards when we enjoyed coffee together. The worship was led by the Rev. Stanley Pipet and we had a memorable time. Our grateful thanks to Stanley, not only for this service, but for all that he has done since his so-called retirement. We noticed that he is no longer going to be planned regularly so presumably we shall not see him at Brent Knoll as often as we have done, and we will miss him. Thank you Stanley, we hope that you will be able to relax a bit more though we know that you will still be taking an active part in many things, especially at Brean and we will look forward to seeing you at our next Link Service later this month.

At the time of writing, I have just returned from the first session of the Lent course which Rev Margaret Trapp had kindly agreed to lead here at the Methodist Church at Brent Knoll. It was a meaningful and thought-provoking time of fellowship and we look forward to our next session. As a reminder, we will continue to meet on each Tuesday morning throughout Lent from 10.30am to 11.30am (coffee will be

available for those who would like it at 10.15am). The theme is "The Servant King" and combines some Bible study and discussion with 'lectio divina', which is a devotional and meditative way of reading scripture in the Ignatian tradition. All are welcome!

God bless, from all of us here at Brent Knoll.

Rosemary Krull



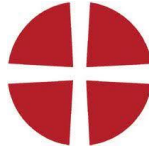
**Brent Methodist Church
East Brent**

February seems to have passed like flash however 'church' has carried on at East Brent with a few changes. Two of our congregations having operations – though not long stages in hospital. Ann has had an operation on her shoulder and Jill has had a foot operation - one has had her arm in a sling for six weeks the other walking with great difficulty. We trust both will be back to normal as soon as possible. On behalf of the congregation we send both of them our love and good wishes – for myself I hope it won't be long because the singing has lost its strong soprano tune for a while. The rest of us carry on at a quieter tone with no real problems yet.

The highlight of the month was the Link service at Brent Knoll, Although not too many in the congregation it was nice to meet as a larger congregation – rather more than we get in our individual churches every Sunday.

As we enter the Lent period of the year may you all have a time to think of the Easter Season – its message and its meaning. To all our friends in the Link, the East Brent church family send you greetings for a happy and thoughtful Easter time.

Evelyn Tucker



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church
Burnham**

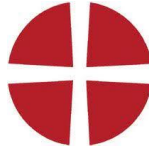
<http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk/>

Springtime. It's a lovely time of the year Daffodils appearing, snowdrops and the first sign of the tree's beginning to show the early signs of life. We at Burnham are also seeing changes. The congregation we are seeing more folk joining in with worship .We are seeing the toddlers and baby group going from strength to strength and the support for the waffle hub is truly wonderful.

We are giving a trial run to the Messy Church in April. My word there is a lot to be thankful for and we extend a warm welcome to you all to come and join us for any of the events which interest you.

We are so fortunate at present, but with high's there comes lows, and we all feel the heart ache and sadness with the Earthquake disaster in Turkey and Syria, may our prayers be with the families who have lost loved ones and those with injuries. Let us also give thoughts and prayers to all the emergency teams working so hard to bring relief to those who are displaced.

Geoff



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church
West Huntspill**

Our services take place every Sunday morning at 11.00am.

The Prayer Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons at 2.00pm. March dates are the 7th and 21st. If you know of anyone in need of Prayer, please let Mrs. Christine Thomas know.

Coffee and Chat will be held on Friday the 31st of March. Do come and join us in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Donations in aid of Parkinson's UK



World Day of Prayer this year is Friday March 3rd. Following is a note about last year's local Service from Mrs. Janet Thompson.

"The Amazing Seed

At the World Day of Prayer in March 2022 I found a seed attached to my booklet. Later at home I planted it. Put it on the window sill and forgot it. Then I noticed it had sprouted! The seed was a bit sad, but after several repots later it was transferred to my largest clay pot. God gave it water and warmth and I fed it. It grew to 7-8 feet (see photo)



It had a flower as big as a dinner plate and the bees loved it Then , it produced a seed head. It was moved beside the bird feeding station. The birds loved it, some seeds were spilt on the soil. Will they grow this year? I will let you know. The whole process gave me such pleasure, a huge thank you to the lady who attached the seed. God bless".

Janet.J & Kay

PLUS +++ POEMS, PRAYERS and OTHER MESSAGES

The Link Fellowship, February 2023

Our meeting in February was led by Evelyn Tucker who presented a fascinating afternoon on the theme of water. Our numbers were depleted by a combination of illness, accidents, and commitments during half term, but those who were able to be present enjoyed a good time of fellowship.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday March 14th at 2.30 pm in East Brent Church Hall when Revd. Jim McKnight will give a Lenten devotion. And, I haven't forgotten. Last time I included a few of the puzzles that Gill Poulter had set us in January, and I promised the answers this month.

So, remembering that each answer is a part of the body, the answers are:-

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. What a carpenter uses – nails. | 2. Two tall trees – palms. |
| 3. Two students – pupils | 4. Top of a hill – brow |
| 5. Small quick animal – hare | 6. Two flowers – iris |
| 7. Two kinds of fish – sole & eels | 8. Weather cock – vein |
| 9. Military equipment – arms | |
| 10. Four legged animal that beats – heart. | |

I hope you enjoyed trying them out . We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to come to this gathering.

Joyce Pipet

The World Day of Prayer

(Previously known as the Women's World Day of Prayer.)

While it has not been possible to organise a service here in Burnham, anyone interested is invited to join in the one being held in St John's Church Hall, Highbridge, on Friday 3rd March at 2p.m.

This year's service has been prepared by the women of Taiwan, and is entitled "I have heard about your faith".

Joyce Pipet.

Link Lent Course

During Lent, we are meeting at Brent Knoll Methodist Church on Tuesday mornings from 10.30am to 11.30am (coffee will be available for those who would like it at 10.15am).

The theme is "The Servant King" and combines some Bible study and discussion with 'lectio divina', which is a devotional and meditative way of reading scripture in the Ignatian tradition.

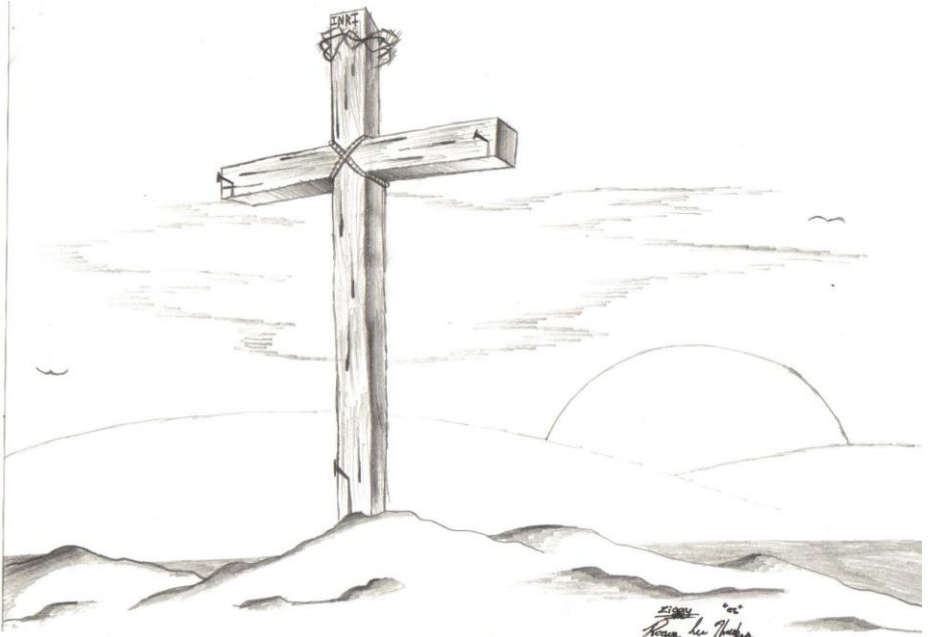
All are welcome. If possible, please bring a Bible and writing materials.

10.15am: Coffee

10.30: Group starts with a prayer

11.30: End/sharing Grace

**Please note that the deadline for the
April Link Plus is 26th March.**



ENRI
Kopje des Heiligen

DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
Weekly		
Wed 10am	Zoom	Link Bible Study
Thur 11.am	Zoom	Link Coffee Morning
Tue/Wed & Thur 9.00am – 5.00pm	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Café and associated activities.
March		
7 th 10.15am	Brent Knoll	Lent Course
14 th 10.15am	Brent Knoll	Lent Course
14 th 2.30pm	East Brent	Link Fellowship
21 st 10.15am	Brent Knoll	Lent Course
22 nd 7.30pm	Uphill	Circuit Meeting
25 th	Cricklade	Representative Synod
28 th 10.15am	Brent Knoll	Lent Course
31 st 10am -12	West Huntspill	Coffee & Chat
April		
2 nd 3.30pm	Burnham	Messy Church
6 th 7.00pm	Burnham	Maundy Thursday Communion
7 th 10.00am	Burnham	Good Friday Service
7 th 7.00pm	West Huntspill	Good Friday Meditations
9 th 6.15am	Brean Down	Easter Morning Sunrise Service