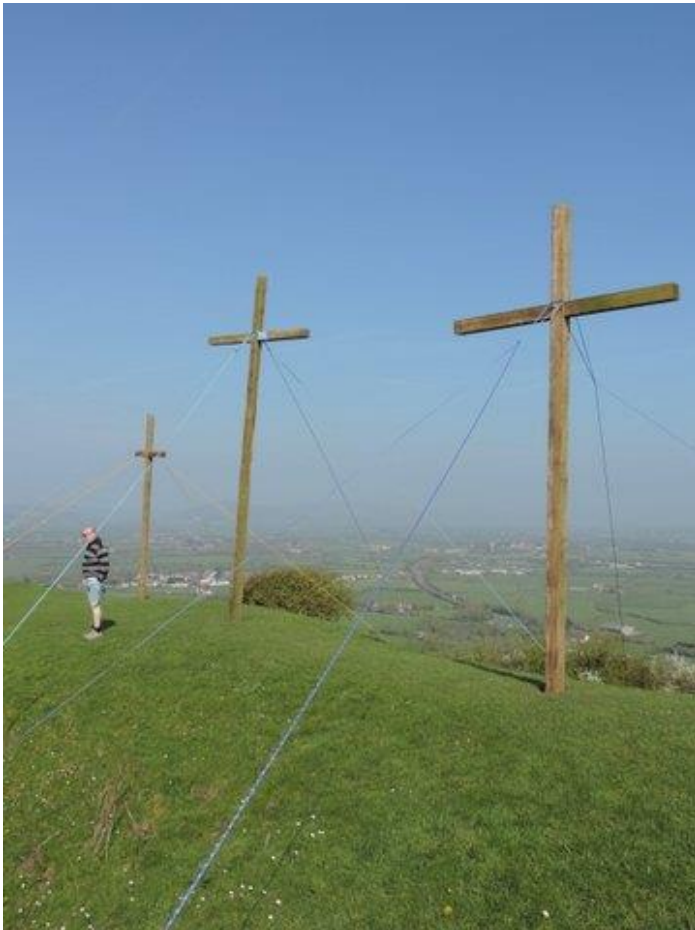


# LINK PLUS++++

March 2024



Brenk Knoll Crosses

Dear Friends

As many will know I will be going on Sabbatical on the 1<sup>st</sup> April for three months. This is a time for study and refreshment, and I will let you know what I have done when I return. In the meantime, I am grateful to all those who have kindly offered their time and energy to cover in my absence. The following will provide ministerial support:

Burnham Highbridge & Huntspills      Rev John James &  
Rev Jim McKnight

East Brent      Rev Tim Widdess

Brent Knoll      Rev Margaret Trapp

Brean      Rev Stanley Pipet

*(NB please contact a Steward in the first instance if unsure)*

Harvey Allen has kindly offered to produce this publication for the next three months. If you are not a church member, please let me know if you want a copy sent to you by email (I need permission to share your email address with him under Data Protection legislation).

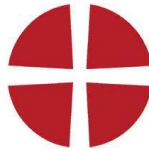
Thank you, too, to Rosemary Krull and church Sabbatical contacts who have made this possible.

The church calendar this month provides scenes with many different emotions for us. As we follow Jesus through Lent, we are aware of the inevitability of his suffering and death. We too join with the sorrow of Jesus' followers as we look at the cross and see his life come to an end. Yet even as we remember the events of Holy Week, we are aware of the glorious victory of the empty tomb, the celebration of resurrection, the acknowledgement that 'death could not hold him'. Even if you are not able to watch the sun rise on Easter Sunday morning from Brean Down, you can rise that morning proclaiming "Christ is Risen. Alleluia".

This is a message that reminds us that from sorrow comes joy, from persecution comes triumph, from Good Friday comes Easter Sunday; all this heralds God's everlasting promises for me and for you.

May we live as Easter People.

Steve



**Brean Methodist Church**

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

There are signs in the air that our village is waking up to the coming of tourists again. Activities on various sites gives us a clue, the slow trundle of caravans being transported down the road is another, as are the moans of various friends who live along the Berrow Road and elsewhere, that they soon will have to wait for ages to turn right across the passing traffic.

As I speak, the Council are busy closing the roads also, in order to fill in some of the potholes that shake our cars along the way. That at least will be a blessing even though it may not take long before the holes reappear.

The season of Lent was heralded, as ever, by Pancake Day. At home, we had two celebrations, at the first of which our eleven year old grandson was visiting us and who therefore enjoyed helping to make them. Our second followed three days later and was especially for a friend who had missed out. Consumption of lemons in our house hit an all time high this year, but who cares about that?

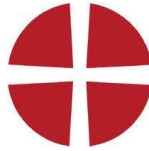
Nature too is having a ball and so much blossom is declaring itself already. So too are the Spring flowers and greenery where we keep on declaring 'early this year, isn't it'? On the other hand we look out at the eucalyptus tree and once again fear that it is dying on us. I don't suppose though, that this will be any different from other years and by the middle of May we shall remark upon how healthy the tree looks. Nature teases us from one year to the next. Roger has been busy clearing the encroaching turves from the pathways (thank you Roger) and this together with replanting of the flowerpots will hopefully welcome more visitors.

Apart from all that, February was a quiet month. Though you wouldn't think so as we chat around the coffee table after worship. March will see the first of our summer visitors and we look forward to that. On two Sundays we shall join with friends elsewhere, at St Bridgets on Mothering Sunday, 10th and at Brent Knoll on 17th. Now we are into Lent and the long process up to Easter is under way. Those of us who take part in Steve's Wednesday morning Zoomed Study Group, are now looking at the events during the Last Week before Easter. Easter Day is on 31st March and it will be a joy to have Stanley and Joyce leading us at that Resurrection Day service. It is also the day when clocks go forward an hour so we'll keep our fingers crossed that we will get to church on time.

The next day of course, Steve starts his three months' Sabbatical. We wish you all the very best for rest and renewal Steve and hope that Liz will also be able to benefit from the time.

From us all, enjoy the coming of March, and make the most of Lent . We send you all our very best wishes as we prepare for the Easter season.

Harvey Allen



## **Brent Methodist Church Brent Knoll**

After having enjoyed joint services with our friends from East Brent and Brean over the past couple of months, we're delighted to be hosting our next Link service on 17th March, which will be led by Rev Judith.

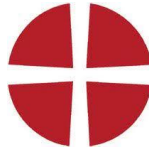
At the time of writing, some building and decoration work has begun on our building. We are determined to maintain our presence in both the Circuit and the Village, so at our recent Church Council we voted to approve these works. These include lead work and repairs to our roof and redecoration of our worship area. We had to relocate to the schoolroom for our Sunday service, but that didn't stop us sharing a thoughtful and meaningful time of worship led by local preacher Ruth Malyan.

We are currently looking at ways to raise funds and, as reported in last month's Link Magazine, intend to hold more coffee mornings for fellowship and to raise funds for both our church and for other good causes throughout the year. Our first will be held on Saturday 27th April at 10.30am.

But we are, first and foremost, a Church and a place of worship. And as we travel through Lent and onwards towards Easter, from all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, we wish each and every one of you the joy and the peace of the season.

And we would all like to take this opportunity of wishing Steve, our own minister and Circuit Superintendent, a restful, restorative and well deserved sabbatical. God bless you

Rosemary Krull



**Brent Methodist Church  
East Brent**

The time has come for me to write the note for the Link. What has happened! What we discussed etc. etc.

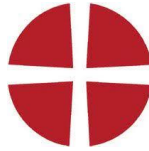
One thing very much on the agenda whether in the church or in the street is the weather. I must admit that it looks like I am living by a lake. From all my windows I can see the flooded moors – the water is as high as I have ever seen it. There seems no respite at the minute and real ‘country folk’ a talking about what we can’t do – no sowing of seeds in field or garden – no tidying of pots and borders, ‘it will all come right in the end’.

We were pleased to host the joint Link Service last Sunday, when we met Rev Judith Lincoln – some for the first time. This service helps us to meet in a larger group than usual and to meet friends we do not see so often.

Our Sunday services continue as usual led by a variety of Ministers and Preachers to whom we are forever grateful. We propose to have our Church and Vestry decorated so we shall be worshipping in the hall while this is done. The time of Lent has begun, and our thoughts are based on Easter.

Amongst all that is going on in our world both good and bad may we remember these thoughts amongst the eggs, the flowers, and the decorated crosses. Happy Easter blessings to all in the Link from the East Brent Family.

Evelyn Tucker



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

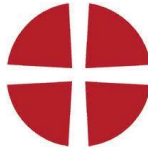
**<http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk>**

Following Covid, our congregation began to consider the church's future; its goals and how to achieve them. Three years have passed. At our latest progress meeting, we felt that significant progress has been made under each of the four Methodist Way of Life elements of Worship, Learning & Caring, Service and Evangelism. In headline terms we have seen: newcomers to worship; a greater warmth in relationships; an increase in service to the community; and more people becoming aware of God's goodness. However, we are in no position to 'rest on our laurels' – there is much more to do. This will be a topic for discussion at Church Council on 3rd March.

A significant amount of the increase in service to the community has been enabled by the Waffle Hub and the Food Bank. In the New Year, the Waffle Hub and the many groups associated with it began to be open on five days a week. Although the Hub, like the Food Bank, is a separate entity from the church and is a charity in its own right, there is a strong connection with the church. The increase in the number of people entering the premises provides opportunities for engaging with the community in Burnham.

Readers will have seen publicity about the Worship Works event to be led by Roger Jones and his team on Saturday 24th March. We are grateful to those who have been praying and preparing for the weekend. It will be a blessing to many Christians in the area. We will also be welcoming Roger as he leads morning worship on the following day.

David Patient for the Burnham Stewards



## **West Huntspill**

The Prayer Group will be meeting on Tuesday afternoons at 2.00pm. on the 5th and 19th of March. If you know of anyone in need of Prayer, please let Mrs. Christine Thomas know.

Coffee and Chat this month will be a week earlier on Friday the 22nd March 10.30am – 12 Noon. Please come and join us, we love to meet up with our friends from the Link Churches.

Babes, Tots and Carers. Wednesdays at 1.30pm till 3.00pm, term time only. Contact Carol Hester 01278 780730 for full details.

### **“Signs of Hope” by Chrissy Greenslade**

WHAT do they tell you, the signs all around;  
The shoots bravely budding in dark, dampened ground.  
When winds are still blowing, grey skies threaten snow,  
And spring’s long in coming so spirits are low?  
That just like the daffodils longing to bloom,  
Hope’s stirring and pushing its way through the gloom,  
So press on regardless have courage and smile,  
Though plants are still sleeping, they’ll wake in a while,  
Then suddenly you’ll find that spring’s in the air,  
Your heart filled with sunshine and flowers everywhere!

Janet J. & Kay



**PLUS +++**  
**POEMS, PRAYERS,**  
**and OTHER MESSAGES**



# **WORSHIP WORKS**

With *Roger Jones*

The day is designed for  
all who love praising Jesus.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Burnham-on-Sea Methodist Church, College Street,

Burnham -on-Sea TA8 1AS

**Saturday 23 March 2023**  
**10am-4.30pm**

Cost £5

To book please telephone Janet Widdess:  
01278 229014

### **Uphill Quiet Day**

Please contact Steve Marr (01934633311 s.j.marr@btinternet.com ) if you wish to book a place

7th MARCH – QUIET MORNING ... To be led by Mrs Janice Barrett

28TH MARCH – QUIET MORNING ... Maundy Thursday & HC...

To be led by the Rev Judith Lincoln

Many thanks for your support.

Every blessing Steve Marr

### **The poem chosen by Judy Allen this month is from a unknown author**

#### **March Wind**

March wind is such a jolly fellow

He likes to joke and play.

He turns umbrellas inside out

And blows men's hats away

He calls the pussy willows

And whispers in each ear

“Wake up you lazy little seeds

Don't you know that Spring is here.”

#### **The Link Fellowship**

This year our February Link Fellowship fell on Shrove Tuesday. This gave great scope for a variety of springtime poems and information based around the day. I began with an opening devotion from the Wild Goose publication “Eggs and Ashes”. As I mixed the various ingredients for pancakes there were thoughts about the significance of them in our lives. The joy of doing that was that Kathy Davies has cooked pancakes which were warmed in the oven, and served with a variety of fillings for the refreshments at the end. These were greatly enjoyed, especially as I heard a comment later that at least one person couldn't remember the last time they had had a pancake; and what fun it had been to share them together. So, many thanks Kathy!

Our next meeting is at East Brent Methodist Hall on Tuesday March 12th at 2.30 pm and will take the form of a devotional for Lent. All are welcome to join us.

Joyce Pipet.

**'Black Lives Matter as an Expression of Black Theology'**

Led by Professor Anthony Reddie

10am-4pm, Wednesday 20 March 2024

The Ammerdown Centre, near Bath/Radstock/Frome

Don't miss this amazing opportunity to meet Professor Reddie as he leads a participative, inclusive and humorous conference/workshop at Ammerdown. Anthony is internationally recognised as one of the top academics in the field of racial justice. He is a Methodist theologian and Oxford University professor.

The day-long event includes morning coffee, a two-course lunch and afternoon tea. Only £40 per person. Please book online at: <https://www.ammerdown.org/WhatsOn/1139-/Black-Lives-Matter-as-an-Expression-of-Black-Theology> or contact Ammerdown (quoting "Anthony Reddie conference, March 2024") Email: [admin@ammerdown.org](mailto:admin@ammerdown.org) Phone: 01761 433709.

**Please note the deadline for the  
April Link Plus is 26<sup>th</sup> March.  
Please send contributions to  
Harvey Allen  
[harveyjallen@hotmail.com](mailto:harveyjallen@hotmail.com)**

## DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
<b>Weekly</b>		
Wed 10am	Zoom*	Link Bible Study
Thurs 11am	Zoom*	Link Coffee Morning
Monday - Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Café and associated activities.
		*Contact Rev Steve for zoom links
<b>March</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm	Burnham	Quiz Night
6 <sup>th</sup> 7.30pm	St Andrew's	Circuit Meeting
12 <sup>th</sup> all day	Devises	Presbyteral Synod
17 <sup>th</sup> 3.30pm	Burnham	Messy Church
23 <sup>rd</sup> 10-4.30	Burnham	Worship Workshop (Roger Jones)
28 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm	West Huntspill	Maundy Thursday Service
29 <sup>th</sup> 10.00am	Burnham	Good Friday Service followed by a walk of witness from the Catholic Church to St Andrew's
31 <sup>st</sup> 6.00am	Brean Down	Easter Sunrise Service