
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

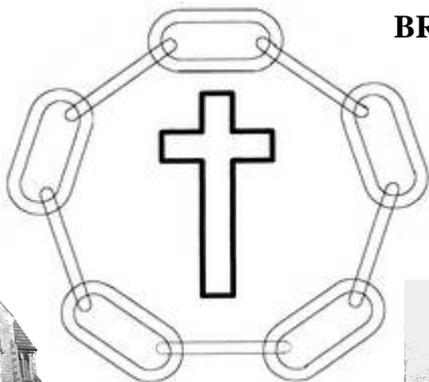
May 2008 Volume 43. No. 4.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



BURNHAM ON SEA



EAST BRENT



WEST HUNTSPILL

Minister's Letter

Lighthouses have always fascinated me. One of the memories of my childhood was the sight of La Corbiere lighthouse from the steamer as we went on holiday to Jersey: a sign that we had almost arrived.

That lighthouse warned of an area of treacherous rocks, still a danger to shipping. Others have been more important as a guide to finding the right channel through reefs or sandbanks.

Nowadays you can sometimes see just a domestic light bulb shining in the upper window of the lighthouse along Berrow Road. What a difference from the light that used to shine from its lantern for the guidance of shipping.

Like some other lighthouses the Burnham one has become redundant, not because there is no longer a need for guidance, but because other advances do a better job. A 'sat-nav' position finder will pin point one's position to within a few metres even if they sometimes lead some trucks to get stuck in narrow village streets

The church has often been compared with a lighthouse with a guiding light for all the world. The message entrusted to us in the church is eternally relevant: it is the news of God's all-embracing and victorious love revealed in Jesus Christ. It is the message of the risen Christ's presence in the world, providing support, warning and guidance to all in difficulty even in the most perilous situations.

The need for the Gospel's light never goes away, but the world we are in now has changed in so many ways so that old methods don't always work. Perhaps we should take a lesson from the lighthouses, constantly asking ourselves how we can continue to shine out by our faithfulness to Christ so that we continue to let the glorious light of the gospel be seen and understood by those round us.

John Le Sueur

CALENDER

APRIL

- Sat 26th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.
 Sun. 27th am. Traidcraft Stall in the Hall - Note date.

MAY

- Thu. 1st 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Ascension Day - Quiz.
 Thu. 1st 7.00pm. Healing & Wholeness Course at St. Marks Church
 Worle **See page 6.**
 Sat 3rd 10.00 - 12.30. RAINBOW FAIR Burnham
 Sat 3rd 10.30. Spring Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll
 Wed. 7th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Walking Treasure Hunt.
 Thu. 8th 2.30pm. World Missions Circuit Easter Offering Service at Burnham. Speaker Rev. Carol Gill.
 Thu. 8th 7.00pm. Healing & Wholeness Course at St. Marks Church
 Worle **See page 6.**
 Sat 10th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.
 Mon 12th to Sat 11th Christian Aid Week - Collections All Week
 Tue. 13th 2.30pm. LINK Fellowship - Mrs.Beryl Griffiths - The Granny Trek.
 Wed.14th 10.00am. LINK Communion at Brent Knoll - Cancelled
 Thu. 15th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Annual General Meeting.
 Thu. 15th 7.00pm. Healing & Wholeness Course at St. Marks Church
 Worle **See page 6.**
 Sat 17th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of Secret World - Burnham Methodist Hall
 Sat 17th 9.30 - 12.30. Churches Together at West Huntspill **see Page 8.**
 Sun 18th **LAST Day for items for the June LINK**
 Thu. 22nd 2.45pm Victoria Women's Fellowship (Network) Rally
 Sat 24th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.
 Tue. 27th 2.30pm. LINK Fellowship - A. G. M.
 Sat 31st 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

JUNE

- Wed. 4th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - A.G.M. and Meal,
 Sat 7th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Thursday Fellowship
 Sun. 8th Church Anniversary - Rev. Robin Hutt.
 Wed.11th 10.00am. LINK Communion at Burnham - Cancelled.
 Wed.11th from 3.00pm Afternoon Tea at Dorothy & Cedric's home - 6 Brightstowe Rd.

Funerals

Miss Hilda May King Cremation at Weston followed by Thanksgiving Service at Burnham on April 17th

Wedding

James William Creswick and Karen Heather Peak on April 19th at Burnham.



Victoria Women’s Fellowship (Network) Rally Weston-super-Mare

Will take place on Thursday 22nd May at 2.45pm at Victoria Methodist Church. All ladies are warmly invited to join in the celebrations.

The Rally will be held in the Church Hall and the speaker is the Rev. Karen Murphy.

Tea will be provided following the Rally and it would be helpful if you let either Jenny Williams ☎01278 765995 or Edna Field ☎01934 621012 know numbers to assist with catering.

The Rally is a grand opportunity for Fellowships in the Circuit to meet up again and it is hoped as many ladies as possible will join us to make it a really joyous occasion.



MISSION PARTNERS VISIT, WOMEN’S NETWORK RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE

Those of you who use the Methodist Prayer Handbook will see, on Day 19, that prayers are said for Rosemary Fletcher and James Rowley who are Mission Partners from the Bristol District in Sri Lanka. They are in England from now until June, when they return for a further two years to complete their 5-year appointment.

Rosemary was a Circuit Minister in Reading and Swindon and James a Project Manager before they went to Sri Lanka. She is (nominally) the New Testament Tutor at the Theological College Lanka (TCL), but teaches other subjects too. James is the Development Officer and teaches English.

Sri Lanka is made up of three ethnic groups – Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim, who make up four religious groups, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Christian. The Christians form about 8% of the population, 7% of whom are Catholics, the protestant minority includes Methodist, Anglicans, Baptists, URC and Pentecostals. Three languages are spoken – Sinhalese, Tamil and English (about 10%).

The College has 47 students, 12 of whom are women. Rosemary is the only female member of the Faculty, and a “foreigner”, something she is determined to change before she leaves, preferably with a Sri Lankan woman or if this is not possible by an Asian woman.

Rosemary and James told us something of the history, culture and customs of the country, but what was very interesting was the way in which Rosemary has to teach. Her pupils are a mixture of Sinhalese and Tamil most of whom do not speak English, certainly not fluently enough to cope with the lectures. Though by the time they reach the 4th year they are expected to be able to cope in English. Her lectures, therefore, have to be translated as she teaches! When it comes to marking essays, exam papers, or dissertations, someone has to sit with her to translate what is written into English so that she can assess that pupil’s progress.

In general, the students are very traditional and are still using the older Methodist Worship books, so that even using the 2000 MWB is seen as being very adventurous and anything outside that rather risky! When leading worship, Rosemary conducts the services in English, but what she says has to be translated into Tamil and Sinhalese as well.

Rosemary dresses in a Sari – she wore a beautiful turquoise and cream one in the evening – or “shalwar” – which is trousers with cuffs at the ankle and a tunic/dress, with short sleeves, which is calf length and the sides are split up to the waist. When leading worship everyone is required to wear white – the men in white cassocks and women wearing either sari or shalwar. When leading the 6.45a.m. service Rosemary wears the shalwar – being unable to cope with a sari at that time in the morning! Feet are bare and everyone sits on the floor. Older people (and the English) are allowed to sit with their backs against a wall!

On our last morning Rosemary led us in a Communion Service, Sri Lankan style, using two hymns from Sri Lanka, one set to a Buddhist tune which surprised me by its “western” melody. The Peace was shared by placing our hands together, prayer style, and bowing slightly to each other. Otherwise it was very similar to other Communion Services.

Both James and Rosemary are involved with the development of TCL – to provide its own Masters degree (going abroad is simply too expensive), further theological courses, together with coping with maintenance, finance, inflation (which is high), recruiting staff, and increasing the number of women on the faculty staff.

This was a fascinating insight into the work of Mission Partners and added another dimension to the already challenging, uplifting and affirming experience of the Residential, looking at our faith journey, individually, in the church and in the Community, which was led by Myrtle Poxon former Vice-President of Conference.

Di Smart



The Diocesan Renewal Group is offering A Healing and Wholeness Course

To be held on Thursdays evenings from 24th April to 15th May
At St Mark's Church, Worle Weston super Mare (Just off the M5)
From 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm until 9.30pm

Each evening will consist of Worship,
Teaching and Practical Ministry.

Programme:

- Week 1 Jesus shows God's desire for us to be whole
- Week 2 "Washing machines and dustbins" - memories, hurts and pain
- Week 3 Spiritual healing
- Week 4 Why do we need spiritual protection?

The course will be based on material written by Revd Don Brewin which has been used by SOMA (an Anglican mission and renewal organisation) in many countries overseas. It is also supported by Resource - an organisation committed to growth in faith in this country.

Further details can be obtained from:
Keith Powell 01643 831330 or Nigel Rawlinson 0117 3039220

RAINBOW SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY MAY 3rd

10.00am – 12.30pm.

Plants, Stalls, Raffle

Tea/Coffee

In aid of the Redevelopment Fund

Spring Coffee Morning
at BRENT KNOLL

Methodist Church

Saturday 3rd May

10.30am – 12.00noon.

Stalls

Come for a Coffee and a Chat
and meet friends

BURNHAM AND DISTRICT CHURCHES TOGETHER
WEST HUNTSPILL METHODIST
CHURCH

SATURDAY MAY 17th

9.30.AM -12.30.PM

WHERE ARE WE GOING

A CHANCE FOR YOU TO MEET
AND DISCUSS WITH
ROBIN DIXON

(SOMERSET CHURCHES TOGETHER ECUMENICAL OFFICER)

**WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR
THE CHURCHES IN
THE BURNHAM AREA.**

ALL WELCOME

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED



LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving, he announced triumphantly, and she turned into a telephone pole!

From D. Dixon

HARRY'S COLUMN

An extract from DERK COOK BOOK

“Men! What’s missing in today’s Church?”

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem He was betrayed to the Jewish religious authorities by a man who had seemingly been a follower and disciple for three years. Judas Iscariot had heard Jesus' teaching, seen Jesus’ miracles and lived in the company of Jesus’ other disciples. If ever there was a warning for religious people, Judas Iscariot is that warning- It is obviously possible to be religious and yet not be right of Jesus. At the same time, inwardly, you can still be completely self centred, money motivated and proud of your religious associations.

Attending church is not enough. Having your name on a church roll is not enough. Baptism is not enough. You must, personally, turn from sin and trust fully in Christ. You not only have to be in the crowd with Christ; Christ has to be in you. Are you Christ's/Man?



I have shared with you excerpts from United Christian Broadcasters publication “The World for Today” I have received from their Chief Executive and quote from it.

In 1986 God spoke to me and told me: “I still love the people of the UK and in the future I am going to re-visit the UK in revival power. This revival is going to be so vast that the churches will not be able to cope with the influx of new believers and I want Christian radio to cover the whole country to support the churches in nurturing and feeding these young Christians and helping them grow in faith’. So I am writing to ask you if you will stand with us in faith, believing that together the mountain of £1.2million will be moved’.

If this resonates with you and you wish to help to help in this mission – Gifts can be sent to

United Christian Broadcasts Ltd. Westport Road, Burslem Stoke on Trent ST6 4JF. Cheques Credit/Debit Cards.

Could it be that the Burnham Church Redevelopment is God’s way of preparing us to be part of his scheme!!!

Harry Kempson.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE FEELING THEIR AGE

Who are the bedrock of our faith? We the elderly.

We have run and shone and heated the world as we taught, lived, praised and talked of Christ and The Way. Now we have slowed as surely as molten lava from the volcano slows and eventually comes to rest, to harden, to bear weight and not to yield. On us will grow, at first, a few small plants, then thin soil until eventually there will be great depths of earth supporting much life. We shall not be worn away entirely but support all the unknowing who in their turn will come to do the same, just as we are the followers of the faithful who preceded us.

So, although we no longer have the strength to fight the good fight, we have the power to sustain those who do; by our support for their actions, our prayers in all circumstances, our love for everyone in faith and where possible those without faith. We can be a balm for those who are wounded, uphold those who waver, delight in fellowship and sing praises to our lord until the time comes for us to go to our rest with all the saints. And in all these things we shall be led by the Holy Spirit and bring joy to those in the heavenly places.

Lawrie White

This came to me from a couple who were at Lee Abbey when I went a few weeks ago. Written by an ex London detective now long in retirement at Shepton Mallet with his wife (Jean) a retired London Criminal Justice Lawyer. I thought quite suitable for LINK readers. Jean said Lawrie had me in mind when preparing it for their Parish Magazine.

Harry

BREAN

We hear quite a lot about D.I.Y. these days and it can be quite interesting to see what some D. I. Y. folk can do - my mum used to say you don't know what you can do if you don't try.

Like other churches we had a D. I. Y service this month when one person gave the word of welcome and call to worship and another person had chosen the hymns - another led us in prayer and several did the readings and Harvey provided the sermon. We ended with a rousing hymn. There was a spirit of united effort and everyone was blessed by having taken part.

We were rather disappointed - number wise when we met for the United Communion Service this month at Brean. It was led by Rev. Margaret Trapp and was a time of blessing for the 9 who attended. It is so important that we meet together each month in this way - sometimes it is the only means of meeting with members of the Link and we do miss the fellowship.

We lost another member of our village recently when Reg Gilbert passed away. When he lived in the Midlands he was Superintendent of the Sunday School there and did a lot of things for Brean one way or another. Joan his wife hasn't been able to come to church but now has rejoined us in worship – although not too well herself. We are sorry to say Celia's brother Jimmy is not well and is causing concern to Celia. Please remember them both in your prayers.

There are so many folk who are unwell or have someone who is going through a difficult time and we do remember them in our prayers.

We have had some lovely sunny day lately and that makes us feel better especially when we see gardens full of flowers so early and when we feel the warmth of God's sun on us. Let's hope we get plenty more.

God's blessing to you all from Brean.

P.S. A local preacher had this favourite saying, "If you are too busy to pray then you are TOO BUSY"

Lilian Stone.

BRENT KNOLL

At the last Link committee meeting, we discussed the way forward for the Link, recognising our need for each other, but also the difficulties for our small, largely village fellowships as we struggle to up with the running of our own churches, and at the same time finding the time and energy to share in others' activities. Joint evening services are poorly attended, especially in winter, but there are opportunities for getting together at the various week-day events which take place in all our churches.

So, why not join us at Brent Knoll at our Spring Coffee morning? There will be a few stalls and of course , we welcome support for these, but we want to emphasize that this is a social occasion and a time to meet up with members from other churches and our friends from the village – Come and enjoy a leisurely cup of coffee and a chat on Saturday May 3rd at 10.30am.

Faced, as indeed we all were this quarter with the ominous letters “L.A” (in the plan) our first reaction was to shut our minds to it as something far too ahead to worry about. However time rushes by, we have had to put our heads together and a very salutary and heartening exercise it has been. I say “salutary” because it has made us appreciate the debt of gratitude we owe to our ministers and local preachers who lead our services so faithfully week after week. I fear we are all guilty of taking them for granted and forgetting to express our appreciation with that one, simple word, **“Thank you”**

In addition Bill and I wish to express our appreciation of the way our members have responded so willingly to our appeal for help in putting the service together. It has made it so easy to work out an order of service and I think all have enjoyed the challenge. Nonetheless, we hope the need doesn't arise too often!

We are by the way, trying out our new hymnal at this service. At least one member to date knows which buttons to

press! However we are only too aware that this gadget is just a standby and a very much second best. Nothing can take place of our excellent organist, but we hope that Joan and Ted will now be able to plan holidays or take the odd Sunday off without feeling they are leaving us in the lurch.

Assuming that Rev. Stephen reads the Link we should like him to know that he is not 'out of sight, out of mind'. We can imagine his frustration and impatience that convalescence is slow but we continue to pray for his return to health and strength and hope it will not be too long before he can start to plan positively and confidently for the way ahead.

With best wishes to one and all,

Barbara Drew,

Spring Coffee Morning
At BRENT KNOLL
Methodist Church
Saturday 3rd May
10.30am -12.00noon.

Stalls

Come for a Coffee and a Chat
and meet friends

EAST BRENT

We were pleased to welcome our Superintendent Minister the Revd. Robert Channon to chair our Church Council meeting last Sunday afternoon. A good attendance of members listened to a synopsis of the recent quinquennial report. Various items will need some attention over the next five years including the redecorating of the Church. It was pointed out that the kitchen in the hall is rather dated. I can't think why, it's only 44 years old!!

We were assured that the Brownies, who meet in our hall, would welcome a visit from the minister at their meetings and will continue to share in our family services on the fourth Sunday of the month.

The monthly link report will continue, but on a rota basis with most members willing to write a month's notes. The business side of the meeting was soon over after which we all enjoyed a delicious tea which members had provided (well worth attending for).

We were sad to hear that the monthly link communion is to finish as numbers have dropped so much. It seems a very long time ago when I used to attend with a young grandchild in tow. We must be careful not to keep looking back at the "good old days" but forward to the future and to new things that we can all share together.

Jill Legg,

BURNHAM.

BURNHAM STEWARDS

We send our greetings to all readers of the "Link" hoping that this lovely season with its promises of hope, new life and longer days, will lift all our spirits.

Have you ever thought how dull life would be without our Church!

No: "stepping stones" of celebration throughout the worshipping year.

No: Opportunity to meet socially or share in fellowship.

No: Focus each week to prepare spiritually for the week ahead.

No: Opportunities to be 'involved' with like-minded friends--and so much more.

How truly blessed we are to be people of faith in this community, however Church doesn't just happen. Many people give time and energy enabling it to function smoothly, and we are extremely thankful to them. This month one of our Stewards, Chris Wray, is stepping down from her role as steward. We thank Chris for all the hard work and commitment she has given to us, and we shall miss you Chris. We are now in the process of appointing new Stewards, and we welcome the gifts and experiences they will bring to our church.

Well, our building project moves along according to plan, and although this has brought its own challenges, we look forward to seeing it develop further as the weeks pass by. I, for one, will be delighted to get into the kitchen when it is newly refurbished!

In Burnham we have been very focussed on raising money for our building project, but we have also been very aware of the need to look farther afield into our community. The coffee morning we hold on the third Saturday each month raises money for our chosen 'charity of the year' This year we are supporting "Secret World" Wildlife rescue centre and this week we were delighted for Rev Joyce to present a cheque for £630.00 to the charity, the result of money raised so far this year.

We continue to remember in prayer, all those who are unable to come to worship through frailty or sickness. We especially look forward to the time when our Minister Stephen is fully fit and back with us.

As we celebrate this month the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we hope and pray that Gods Spirit will move us, shake us, inspire and guide us- on His pathway.

June, on behalf of the Stewards.



BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT

TOTAL raised to date £129,270.91

Our thanks to Ross and the Wednesday Group for a great result on the evening "Supper and Show".

May 3 rd	Rainbow Spring Fair 10.00am – 12.30pm
June 11 th	Afternoon Tea at Cedric and Dorothy May's.
July 9 th	Coffee Morning at Hilary Wotton's
August 6 th	Lunch at Daphne Hill's

We continue to watch the work of the building with great interest especially now the foundation is completed and the walls going up.



THANKS

Thank are expressed to everyone who helped to make "**A BIT OF A DO**" so successful. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Rosaleen

RAINBOW SPRING FAIR

SATURDAY MAY 3rd

10.00am – 12.30pm.

Plants, Stalls, Raffle

Tea/Coffee

In aid of the Redevelopment Fund

WORLD SERVICE & MISSION 2006/2007

We desperately need new volunteers to be reps for the various missions branches. If you feel able to help as a rep, please speak to the current rep or myself.

World Mission (Overseas Missions) Rev. & Mrs. J Le Sueur retiring

JMA

Mr. Tim Christian

Bible Society
committee

ceased to exist as local

Christian Aid

Mr. & Mrs. C Wray

Home Missions

Mrs. E Horsley

Network (Women's Work)

Mrs. Doris Clapp

NCH Action for Children

Mrs. Dorothy May

The above form our representatives for World Service & Mission. The Bible Society no longer has anyone collecting for our church; Rev. & Mrs. Le Sueur are retiring as our World Mission reps and if no-one takes over we will no longer have collections from our church.

Thanks are due to Miss Muriel Hyde, who has retired from being Network rep after many years. Mrs Doris Clapp has taken over Network until a permanent rep has been appointed. All deserve our grateful thanks for the work they do in organising activities and events to raise money. These events include coffee mornings, collecting boxes, envelopes in pews, sales tables, house to house collections, etc. We are also grateful to those of you who give or help in any other way. Keep up the good work! Our giving via boxes and pew envelopes is slightly down overall. If anyone would like to have a collecting box or make a donation or help in any other way, please see the appropriate name above. **We desperately need new volunteers to be reps for the various mission branches.** The numbers available for house to house collecting get fewer each year, resulting in several roads having no-one collecting in them. If you can spare a few hours during the one or two weeks of the NCH or Christian Aid house to house collections to collect from the few houses around you, then please see the named person above, or one of the stewards.

The results of their efforts are summarised below:

	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05
	£	£	£
	(to nearest pound)		
World Mission (0 M)	298.15	394	439
JMA	389.13	186	242
Bible Society			131
Christian Aid	797.24	494	732
Home Missions	336.38	567	391
Network (W Work)	194.34	1062	317
NCH Action for Children	3177.91	2954	2881
{Church Charity MRDF }	904.31	464	2021
{Retiring Collections (Missions)}			
Total	6097.46	6121	7154

Hilary Malpas (Secretary).

BURNHAM METHODIST CHURCH LIBRARY. BOOK OF THE MONTH.

Recommended reading for this month is “God is Green” This is written by the Rev Ian Bradley, who is an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland. He is well known in Church circles as a writer and broadcaster on ecological and environment issues.

The book argues that Christianity is in its essential being a ‘green’ religion. However, he also argues that often this ‘green’ emphasis, seen so well in the Psalms, has sometimes been overtaken in the Christian Church by arguments for a ruthless exploitation of our world in the service of industry and capitalism. Man is seen as master of creation,

Ian Bradley argues that man is put on earth by God to care for creation as manager and curator not as owner and that we have a responsibility to God to care for creation. Above all it portrays God as the Creator who cares about and sustains in being all his creation, and Jesus as the Cosmic Christ.

Stanley Pipet.



BEING THANKFUL

A rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, ‘So your mother says your Prayers for you each night? That’s very commendable. What does she say?’

The little boy replied, Thank God he's in bed"

UNTIMELY ANSWERED PRAYER

During the minister's prayer' one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?

Tommy answered soberly' I asked God to teach me to whistle and He just then did!,

D. Dixon.

The LINK May 2008

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Web Sites

www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk

www.tarrsfarm.co.uk/breanmethodistchurch

**The Deadline for the
June 2008 “LINK” is
Sunday 18th May 2008**

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Please contact the Editor if you would like one.**

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 £3.00 per annum.

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