
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

May 2011 Volume 46. No. 4.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

I read recently that John Wesley used to ask a question of his preachers and society members which was “How is it with your soul?” This is an important question and one which we don't ask often enough of each other these days. It is about the health of our relationship with God – how well are we listening to his will for our lives? How are we progressing in learning more about Him and His ways? How well are we doing living our lives in connection with Him?

Recently at Burnham, as part of our Stewardship scheme “Gifts from God, Gifts for God”, we sent out response forms asking about the activities that people are involved with in the church; what skills and talents they might have to offer etc. Of the responses received so far it concerns me that over 60% have made no response in the section “Deepening our relationship with God and one another” – which asks about current participation or future interest in being part of a discussion, prayer, or Bible study group.

In a recent sermon I spoke about how we develop relationships with one another: When we meet someone for the first time we feel we have to be on our best behaviour – keep the conversation going. But as we get to know someone and spend time with them a friendship grows and maybe even a deeper relationship still – until we reach a point where we can just feel comfortable in their company without the need to keep up appearances. We develop such a knowledge and understanding of the other person that we know their thoughts, their needs and their feelings without even having to ask.

Such a relationship is only developed and maintained through devoting time to it – if we neglect it; it begins to die until we reach the point where it is no more than an annual exchange of Christmas cards!

Our relationship to God is no different. We must devote time to it in order to allow it to develop. Simply going to church on Sunday is not enough – worship is important but it alone will not save our souls! We need to develop a close relationship to God such that we reach the point of being comfortable just to be in his presence, of knowing and instinctively understanding his ways and his will and of placing our faith and trust in Him:

Psalms 139:2-6 NRSV You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. (3) You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. (4) Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. (5) You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. (6) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me.

One way of developing our relationship with him is by learning more about Him through daily prayer and Bible study, and by joining in discussion with other Christians so that we can learn from their experiences. A daily time set aside to read and reflect on the Bible and to pray, and times to meet with other Christians to do so together are essential to our spiritual health and to keeping us grounded in the knowledge and love of Christ.

When I was 15, I was given a New Testament at school by the Gideons. Inside it said “This book is given to you with only one request, that you read it every day” and I have tried to do so ever since. There are many publications which can help to get us started and which I have used over the years which are available from such sources and Scripture Union or the Bible Reading Fellowship and any Christian bookshop. A very under used resource is the Methodist Worship Book, which includes a section for morning and evening prayer designed for daily personal devotion as well as for use with others. It includes prayers, Psalms and passages of scripture for each day of the week. It is especially useful if used in conjunction with the Methodist Prayer Handbook.

If you would like to know more about these resources, or others, or if you would like to talk about ways in which you can develop your relationship with God, then please come and speak to me!

As we enter the Easter season – when we celebrate the great act of love and grace in God’s giving up the life of his son so that we might be enabled to come into relationship with him I ask *you* the question: “How is it with your soul?”

Rev Andrew



Funeral

Mrs. Iris Loat at Burnham on 13th April



Photographs by Jo May
of the erection of the
Crosses on Brent Knoll
on Saturday 16th April
2011

CALENDAR

APRIL

- Tue 26th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs Joyce Pipet - Oberammergau 2010.
Sat 30th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

MAY

- Tue 3rd 2.30pm. B/K LINK Committee at Brent Knoll
Wed. 4th 8.00pm. B/H Wednesday Group - Speaker evening
Thur 5th 7.00 - 10.00. B/H District and Parish Council Elections
Sat. 7th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of the Heating Fund
Tue 10th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - New Horizon Singers (Collection for SURE - Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment)
Wed 11th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch
2.30pm. B/H Bible Study Group. All welcome.
Sat 14th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
Sun 15th 4.30pm. Circuit Tea at Milton followed by
Sun 15th 6.00pm. EASTER OFFERING DEDICATION SERVICE at Milton
Thur 16th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Recycling – Somerset Waste Partnership
Sat 21st 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning by R.N.L.I.

Sun 22nd.

LAST DAY for JUNE LINK

- Tue 24th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - AGM and Communion – Rev. Margaret Trapp.
Sat 28th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

JUNE

- Wed. 1st 8.00pm. B/H Wednesday Group - Outside visit possibly to the Walled gardens at Cannington.
Thur 2nd 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Oberammergau – Joyce Pipet
Sat. 4th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of the Heating Fund.
Wed 8th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch
2.30pm. B/H Bible Study Group. All welcome.

B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill.



Thanks

Jean and I would like to express our thanks to all those who have given us support in the last few weeks by their thoughts prayers and practical help.
John Le Sueur

Church Lunches

What a splendid group of ladies we have in our church. We refer of course to the ladies who cook and present our monthly lunches ably assisted by Cedric & Stanley on occasions.

We have attended seven so far and every meal has been delicious, the happy and friendly atmosphere is an added bonus.

We hope to be at the next lunch and thank you all most sincerely for what you do for us.

Sandra and Gerald Brown.



EASTER OFFERING DEDICATION SERVICE **SUNDAY, 15TH MAY 2011 AT 6P.M. AT MILTON**

This year's Easter Offering Dedication Service is at Milton Methodist Church at 6p.m. on Sunday, 15th May. Tea will be served from 4.30p.m. and the Ladies Fellowship Committee at Milton have very kindly offered to provide the tea this year, usually each church makes a contribution.

The theme of the service is "The Seeds of Life" and it's about harvest, hope and wholeness for all God's people.

As I hope you know, I keep saying it!, the Easter Offering raises money for the World Mission Fund which is used in many different ways; responding to disasters, funding Mission Partners and many individual projects. We may well be aware of this work in the developing countries but there is also work going on in Europe about which we may not be so aware.

Jesus told us to go into the world and make disciples. This is what some of the World Mission Fund is enabling in Europe. In some European countries help is needed to ensure their ministers are paid a basic minimum wage in order to carry out their duties. Funding is also needed for Theological Training.

In Prague there is a Mothers' and Toddlers' centre which is helping mothers to cope with motherhood, and also offers the opportunity for them to talk to each other while their children are cared for.

Other funding has gone to the Parents' Centre in the Czech Republic, which provides education but also support in the difficult times that have resulted from the break up of the former Czechoslovakia.

One other example from Europe is the Youth Transformation Scheme in Estonia. The United Methodist Church is very small with about 33 members, but in addition there are about 20 young people involved in youth events. The aim is to strengthen their spiritual development. There is involvement with outreach to a hospital, prison and orphanage. Through these activities it is hoped that the young people will understand the church as a loving community and this will have a positive effect on those involved.

The Easter Offering is your opportunity to give to World Mission and the Dedication Service is an opportunity to celebrate what is done with this money, to hear stories of how people have benefitted and meet up with friends from around the Circuit (*and enjoy a good tea!!*)

Please put the date in your diary – **Sunday, 15th May 2011**

Di Smart

Women's Network Circuit Secretary



Harry's Page

BREATH OF LIFE

The Spirit of
God has made
me, and the
breath of the
Almighty gives
me life.
--Job 33:4

In his book *Life after Heart Surgery*, David Burke recalls his close brush with death. Lying in his hospital bed after a second open-heart surgery, he found himself in incredible pain, unable to draw a full breath. Feeling that he was slipping toward eternity, he prayed one last time, trusting God and thanking Him for forgiveness of his sin.

David was thinking about seeing his dad, who had died several years earlier, when his nurse asked how he was feeling. He replied, "*I'm okay now*" explaining he was ready to go to heaven and meet God- "Not on my shift, buddy!" she said. Soon the doctors were opening his chest again and removing two litres of fluid. That done, David began to recover.

It's not unusual for any of us to ponder what it will be like when we face our final moments on earth. But those who "die in the Lord" have the certainty that they are "blessed" (Rev. 14:13) and that their death is "precious in the sight of the LORD" (Ps. 116:15).

God fashioned our days even before we existed (Ps. 139-16) and we exist now only because "the breath of the Almighty gives [us] life" (Job

33:4). Though we don't know how many breaths we have left--we can rest in the knowledge that He does. --Cindy Hess Kasper

God holds our future in His hands
And gives us every breath;
Just knowing that He's by our side
Allays our fear of death. --Sper

From our first breath to our last, we are in God's care.

Become God's Friend

‘ "I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS" ’ John 15:15 NKJV

David desired to know God above all else. He used words like longing, yearning, thirsting and hungering. 'I ask only one thing of the Lord. This is what I want: Let me live in the Lord's house all my life.' (Psalm 27:4 NCV). Again he said, 'Your love means more than life to me...' (Psalm 63:3 CEV). Jacob's desire was so intense that he wrestled with God all night, saying, '..."I will not let you go unless you bless me"' (Genesis 32:26 NIV). And the amazing thing is. God, who is all powerful, let Jacob win. Why? Because wrestling requires personal contact; it brings us close to Him. Paul was another man who was passionate about his friendship with God. '... [My determined purpose is],... [that I may... become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him]...' (Philippians 3:10 AMP). You say, 'I'd like to have a closer relationship with God, but I'm so busy.' The truth is, you are as close to God as you desire and discipline yourself to be! Friendship with God must become your passion. You must intentionally seek it. That means answering questions like, 'Do I value it more than anything else? Is it worth giving up other things for? Is it worth developing the habits and skills required? Am I willing to say, 'Lord, more than anything else, I want to know You?'' God's answer to that prayer has always been: '..."When you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed"' (Jeremiah 29:13-14 TM).

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Our annual members afternoon took place on March 22nd led by Evelyn Tucker. Several members took part in poems, readings, etc included a group meditation on “The sermon on the Mount” - a very thoughtful afternoon.

On Tuesday, April 12th we welcomed Margaret and Peter Long. In 1999 they went to Fiji to renew acquaintance with a university friend of Margaret's who was Fijian. They saw a need on some of the isolated islands for provisions for education, water and sanitation. They go out twice a year now for two months at a time. They have set up six “Sunny Smiles” Nurseries, sanitation and water facilities. Some children had to cross by swimming a very dirty river - sometimes the children would not get to school for days owing to the force of water in the river, so they have raised funds for a bridge which vehicles can use also. Other projects include equipment for blind children and boxes of baby clothes for the poorer mothers and portable equipment for the nursery to use on visit to outlying areas. Sponsorship from firms in England is put to very good use.

On April 26th Mrs Joyce Pipet is to tell of the pilgrimage she and Stanley made to Oberammergau last year for the Passion Play.

The New Horizons Singers are to pay a return visit on May 10th. There will be a collection for SURE - Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment.

Our AGM and Communion will take place on May 24th

Eileen Goundry.



BRENT KNOLL

As I write we are still in the period of Lent and the state of our world it is in keeping with the dark days of the betrayal of Jesus to the be followed by the agony of the cross. I well remember the story of the crucifixion being read in my home church and as she listened watching the tears course down my mother's face such was her sorrow. But we know the end of the story and are able to celebrate the resurrection and Easter Day joyfully proclaiming "He is risen - he is risen indeed".

I have often wondered and I am sure you will have too how folk who have no Christian belief or Church Fellowship get on in their life. For the great blessing which has come to us through the Gospel is the Fellowship of Christian believers

I have enjoyed a lifetime of Church fellowship and although I can only infrequently attend at Brent Knoll now I can join them in spirit with those at worship, visualising them at prayer and am kept in Fellowship by phone calls and visits.

On April 9th friends gathered at the home of Ruth Knott, invited by her to share in what was called an American Tea when each one brought enough for their own tea to share, but this was in fact a surprise birthday 80th celebration for Rev. Margaret.

We wish you Margaret, many more happy birthdays with us and would like you to know how much we appreciate all you do for us at Brent Knoll and in the Circuit you contribute a great deal to our Fellowship

And if our fellowship below
In Jesus be so sweet,
What height of rapture shall we know
When round His throne we meet!

Easter greetings to you all,

With Love,

Kathleen Burridge.

BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

It is now well and truly springtime and looking around there is so much blossom around that it makes one feel that surely summer is just around the corner. As I pass many of the caravan sites, they seem to be filling up hourly with the many holiday makers heading for our part of the county. We hope that the good weather will continue for the holiday makers and the residents alike.

In the past few months we have lost some of our members and we still feel their loss. We have the Easter services to look forward to and the following weekend there is the Royal Wedding.

It seems to me that like Christmas, the message of Easter is not the real reason many people keep the Easter holidays. We seem to have hot cross buns in the shops all year around as well as chocolate eggs. How many really know the sacrifice our Lord made for us and the debt that we will all owe for all our lives.

It is good to see that some of our members are well enough to return to church and we welcome the fact that they are making a good recovery.

We wish all our friends a very happy Easter and hope that all those that are still unwell will soon feel better.

Lots of love from Burnham.

June on behalf of the stewards.



Action for Children

The Home Collecting Boxes have been emptied for 2010. The total amount was £541.00. If you would like to have a box please contact me.

The small change soon mounts up during the year.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Dorothy May

BREAN

www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org

'Link item please' said the email. Well it would wouldn't it, just when I've got a very busy day and we're off visiting tomorrow for a couple of days. Trouble is one can assume too much. Like assume the Link will be a week later. Because that would tie it in with the end of the month. Trouble is I didn't think to check.

So what is there to say? We covered Easter last time. Each month seems the same - what's different, what's new, what is there to celebrate? Perhaps we ought to have the Link every two months.

We are pleased to see more visitors as the holiday season takes hold. We are pleased to see the array of colours that are in our hedgerows and gardens. We are pleased to see more smiles on faces as the warmer weather gives us fresh expressions.

We are sorry though to learn of Rev. Robert's illness and send our best wishes for an early recovery. As we do to all those others of our folk who are not well at this time.

Knowing that the Easter season extends on for a few weeks yet, let us say again, Happy Easter everyone. May it be a blessed time.

As a recompense for such a short piece here is a conversation I received by email.

THE LORD'S PRAYER -"Our Father Who Art In Heaven.

Yes?

Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.

But — you called ME!

Called you? No, I didn't call you..I'm praying, Our Father who art in Heaven.

There — you did it again!

Did what?

Called ME. You said," Our Father who art in Heaven" Well, here I am..What's on your mind?

But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day.

I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, Kind of like fulfilling

a duty.

Well, all right. Go on.

Okay, Hallowed be thy name.

Hold it right there. What do you mean by that?

By what?

By "Hallowed be thy name"?

It means, it means . Good grief, I don't know what it means. How in the world should I know?

It's just a part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?

It means honoured, holy, wonderful.

Hey, that makes sense. I never thought about what 'hallowed' meant before. Thanks.

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in Heaven.

Do you really mean that?

Sure, why not?

What are you doing about it?

Doing? Why, nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you got Control, of everything down here like you have up There. We're kind of in a mess down here you know.

Yes, I know;

But, have I got control of you?

Well, I go to church.. That isn't what I asked you.. What about your bad temper?

You've really got a problem there, you know. And then there's the way you spend

Your money – all on yourself. And what about the kind of books you read?

Now hold on just a minute! Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest

of those People at church!

Excuse ME.. I thought you were praying For my will to be done.. If that is to happen,

It will have to start with the ones Who are praying for it. Like you – for example ...

Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it,
I could probably name some others.

So could I.

I haven't thought about it very much until now, But I really would like to cut
out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free.

**Good. Now we're getting somewhere. We'll work together – You and
ME. I'm proud of You.**

Look, Lord, if you don't mind, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot
longer than it usually does. Give us this day, our daily bread.

You need to cut out the bread. You're overweight as it is.

Hey, wait a minute! What is this? Here I was doing my religious duty, And
all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.

Praying is a dangerous thing. You just might get what you ask for.

Remember, you called ME – and here I am. It's too late to stop now.

Keep praying. (pause ..) Well, go on.

I'm scared to.

Scared? Of what?

I know what you'll say.

Try ME.

Forgive us our sins, As we forgive those who sin against us.

What about Ann?

See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up! Why, Lord, she's told lies
about me, spread stories.

She never paid back the money she owes me.. I've sworn to get even with
her!

But – your prayer – What about your prayer?

I didn't – mean it..

**Well, at least you're honest. But, it's quite a load carrying around all that
bitterness and resentment isn't it?**

Yes, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even with her. Boy, have I got some
plans for her.

She'll wish she had never been born.

No, you won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet.

You know how unhappy you are – Well, I can change that.

You can? How?

Forgive Ann. Then, I'll forgive you; And the hate and the sin, will be
Ann's problem – not yours.

You will have settled the problem as far as you are concerned.

Oh, you know, you're right. You always are. And more than I want
revenge,

I want to be right with You. (sigh). All right, all right. I forgive her.

There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?

Hmmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all! In fact, I feel pretty great!

You know, I don't think I'll go to bed uptight tonight. I haven't been getting
much rest, you know.

Yeah, I know. But, you're not through with your prayer, are you? Go on.

Oh, all right. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can
be tempted.

What do you mean by that?

You know what I mean.

Yeah. I know.. Okay.

Go ahead. Finish your prayer.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Do you know what would bring me glory? What would really make me
happy?

No, but I'd like to know. I want to please you now... I've really made a mess
of things.

I want to truly follow you.... I can see now how great that would be. So, tell
me . . .

How do I make you happy?

YOU just did^o.

Harvey Allen

Editor note. We aim to get the LINK into the Churches for the last Sunday of the month . This month that is the 24th the earliest it can be except for February when it could be the 22nd

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**The Deadline for the
June 2011“LINK” is
Sunday 22nd May 2011**

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