
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

May 2012 Volume 47. No. 4.



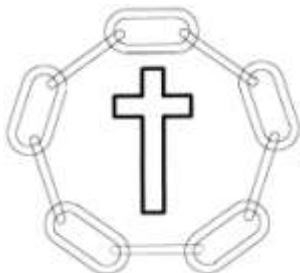
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

CALENDAR

APRIL

Fri 27th 9.00 - 12.00. W/H Coffee Cake and Chat plus stalls at West Huntspill Methodist Church

Sat. 28th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

MAY

Wed. 2nd 8.00pm. B/H Wednesday Group - Film Night

Thur. 3rd 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Open Meeting

Sat. 5th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle in aid of the Heating Fund - Sunday Club

Sat. 5th 7.30pm H/B The Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society's Spring Concert at St Johns H/B

Tue. 8th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Favourite Hymns – Miss Evelyn Tucker.

Wed. 9th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch. (June Parry)

Wed. 9th 2.30pm. B/H Bible Study Group All welcome.

Sat. 12th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Mon. 14th 2.30pm. B/H Worship Consultation

Thur. 17th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Ascension Day

Sat. 19th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle in aid of Educate the Kids (in Kenya)

Sun. 20th 4.30pm
6.00pm
Circuit Tea at Burnham followed by
The Circuit Easter Offering Dedication Service at Burnham

Tue. 22nd 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - AGM and Communion.

Wed. 23rd 2.30pm. B/H Prayer Meeting at Church. All Welcome

Fri 25th 10.00 - 12.00. W/H Coffee, Cake and Chat plus stalls at West Huntspill Methodist Church

Sat. 26th 10.00 – 2.00 SPRING FAIR Burnham

JUNE

Sat. 3rd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle in aid of the Heating Fund -

Sun. 3rd
Jubilee Weekend 3rd June – Possible Churches Together service at Marine Cove

Wed. 6th 8.00pm. B/H Wednesday Group - Treasure Hunt followed by Fish & Chips

Thur. 7th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Corpus Christi

Sat. 9th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Tues 10th B/H Church Council

Wed. 13th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch. (Rosaleen)

Wed. 13th 2.30pm. B/H Bible Study Group All welcome.

Sat. 16th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle in aid of Educate the Kids (in Kenya)

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

Easter Offering Dedication Service

The Circuit Easter Offering Dedication Service will be held at Burnham Methodist Church.

There will be tea provided at 4.30pm.

The service will be at 6pm (not 6.30pm as in the plan.)

Preacher the Revd. Carol Gill.

All welcome to share in the fellowship over tea, and / or the service.



Can You Help?

I am now comfortably resident at Beaufort House Rectory Road, and having transport each Sunday provided by Cedric & Dorothy, I think of those here, not so fortunate but who would love to sing hymns and have a short service on Sunday afternoon – No service on TV now apart from special Sundays .

Permission to do this has been given but we would need a supply of old hymn books and music plus helpers- A team leader and pianist – probably on a rota system, giving a short bible reading and a 5 minute talk.

Ministers are busy on Sundays, so this is for lay people. Are there any able and willing to do this service for about 20 residents, mostly in the 90+ age range?

Norma Waters



The Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society's Spring Concert.

It would be a shame to miss the Spring Concert which is at St. John's Church, Highbridge on 5th May at 7.30pm. See details in April Link

THE METHODIST CHURCH
College Street,
BURNHAM ON SEA

Spring Fair

MAY 26th

10.00am.- 2.00pm.

VARIETY OF STALLS:

Home Made Cakes – Handicrafts – Groceries

Chocaholic – Jewellery – Bric a Brac

Raffle & Competitions

Coffee/Tea & Biscuits

Admission Free

In aid of the New Church Heating

Harry's Page (from his daily Bible readings)

Saying the right thing the wrong way usually backfires. So here is 'a word to the wise; If you cannot receive constructive criticism, don't try to give it Before you criticise, ask yourself: 1) 'Am I interested in this person's good? Or do you just need to look good, to have all the answers, to control people, and to gain acceptance and prestige? but can't help others while you're focused on your own ego needs. 2) 'Am I blame-oriented and judgemental?' If so, you come across that way to others. '...Let us stop passing judgement on one another.; (Romans 14-13 NFV). To avoid blaming and judging you have to stop talking about why they did it, or who is to blame, or how stupid and selfish and crazy it was, or what's wrong with them, etc. That's problem-focused and polarising, and doesn't help. 3) 'Am I pointing the person toward solutions? God is a God of solutions. When he found us lost in sin He didn't give us a critical reminder of our weakness. Instead, '...When we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly' (Romans 5:6 NIV). He didn't give us an analysis of our problem, but a remedy. So, prayerfully suggest, I wonder if you might not get a more satisfying result by..' then let God drive it home! 4) 'Am I speaking truth in love?' Even your sincerest ideas need to reflect that you care. 'Speaking the truth in love.; (Ephesians 4:15 NKJV) opens their heart and prepares them to trust you. Love says. "Because I value you, I'd like to offer a suggestion would that be all right?"



KNOWING GOD'S WILL

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

-1 Thessalonians 5:18

THE BIBLE IN ONE
YEAR:

- 2 Chronicles 1-3

I tell my friends in jest that I make three difficult decisions every day: What should I eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner? I live in Singapore where we enjoy the food of the Chinese, Malay, and Indian cultures, to name just a few. We are spoiled by having so many choices.

Life is full of decisions--far more serious ones than choosing what to eat. Perhaps this explains why some people constantly

wonder what God's will is for their lives.

Discovering God's will is not necessarily a complicated process. He has given us many simple and clearly stated principles for life. For example we are told, "This is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men" (1 Peter 2:15). In

1 Thessalonians 4:3 we read, "This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality". Also in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 we are told, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you".

As we live by faith and do what the Bible clearly tells us to do, we can be sure the Lord will lead us through the difficult decisions when the options may not be clear. Above all else God's will is that we submit to Him and be willing to follow wherever He leads. --Albert Lee

*If you will choose to do God's will
And follow what is right,
God will confirm to you His truth
And give you greater light.---D. De Haan*

**The best way to know God's will
is to say "I will" to God.**



The Trinity Entertainers



On Friday 30th March the Trinity Entertainers came to Burnham to entertain us. There were 13 in the group, travelling from Dorset, Yeovil and Taunton. They certainly entertained us with song and verse. Everyone who came along said what a wonderful group they were and would I arrange for them to come along again.

The amount raised for the New Heating Fund was £205.00



Cheddar Male Choir Concert



On Saturday 21st April the members of Cheddar Male Choir gave us another wonderful evening. The Choir had chosen St Andrew's

Church as their venue. The Soloist I had arranged was Francesca Bowkett and she was delighted to sing that evening. Francesca is now President of the Choir and this was her first concert as President. Once again a wonderful evening of lovely singing.

The amount raised was £560.00 again for The New Heating Fund.

Many Thanks to all who supported either or both of these two evenings.

Dorothy May.



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Several people took part in our member's afternoon on Tuesday March 27th – some read poems, others had chosen hymns for which as usual Evelyn played. The Bring and Buy Stall was well supported.

Rev. Stanley Pipet gave a meditation on the Lord's Prayer on April 10th.

We had a talk by Mr. Brian Freestone on April 24th. His subject was "Crumbs from the Headmasters Table"

Evelyn Tucker has again arranged an afternoon of Favourite Hymns chosen by members.

Our AGM and Communion will be held on Tuesday May 22nd.

Eileen Goundry



BRENT KNOLL

For the first time since moving to the area, I was able to attend every Easter service. This included the Palm Sunday service at the top of Brent Knoll. This was also the first time I had "climbed" the Knoll. I use the term "climb" loosely as I was overtaken by virtually everybody, including some walkers thirty years older than myself. I ended up hauling myself up to the top gripping onto the handrail and I think I completed the final steps on my knees (or it felt like it). However, both the service and the views were worth the effort. I awoke Monday morning congratulating myself on my lack of aches and pains, and crawled out of bed on Tuesday morning unable to walk. Shocked at my unfitness, I have taken up a friend's invitation to join their walking group. And guess where the first walk I'll be attending is taking place? Yup - up Brent Knoll...

I was also invited by a friend from our church to join her and her family for Easter lunch. I can simply say Jill cooked the best roast potatoes I have ever eaten. And believe me - I ate a whole lot. Well I did read somewhere that carbohydrates are necessary if you are taking up a fitness routine. And that's my excuse and I'm sticking to it.

Brent Knoll Methodist Church will be holding it's **Spring Coffee Morning** on **Saturday 5th May** at **10.30am**. A welcome open to all.

God bless from all at Brent Knoll.

Rosemary Krull

PREACHERS FOR MAY AT 10.30AM

6 th May	Mr Brian Dallimore
13 th May	Mr David Lee
20 th May	Mr Chris Williamson
27 th May	Rev John Stedman (Communion)



EAST BRENT

Well what a good April, Easter Sunday we were delighted to welcome and receive the membership transfer of Suzanne to East Brent, Carol as usual did us proud and we even had Easter Eggs and later hot cross buns with our coffee in the hall.

Two weeks previously I had turned the off peak heating off because of the warm weather, unfortunately it did not last and the Church was very cold indeed, the decision was quickly made to turn it back on. (It is not pleasant to worship in freezing cold Churches!!!).

We are experiencing problems with our outdated Church loop system, which was originally given and installed by Arnold King 20 years ago, and so the decision to update the entire sound system was made. Arnold's son Michael King is vice president elect of the Methodist Conference and will be preaching at East Brent in the new year (watch this space) he is well worth listening to.

It was good to read Harvey Allen's notes on link activities of the past, reminding us of the many hours of fellowship we enjoyed, I recall with 'PAIN' the two sponsored walks I participated in, part of the Mendip Way from Cheddar Gorge to Uphill and then the first Mary Jones walk when the rain just absolutely sheeted down the whole time. We were cold and wet but still managed to complete the walk, but the coach driver thought he was driving a sinking ship back to Somerset!!

Our circuit of late appears to have more and more events and meetings in the daytime, no wonder the younger element don't attend, I'm not saying they will in the evening, but if you are working or at college etc., it makes it a non-starter!!!

At East Brent now, we have coffee in the Church after each service. This is organised by Rosemary. We all appreciate this and is an experiment working well, it wets yer whistle after the hearty singing from 'Singing the Faith'.

Gordon Legg



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

A few days after Easter Sunday:

“Have you heard the good news?” – my friend asked me .

“What good news?” – I replied, concentrating on something else.

“Jesus is alive!” – She responded joyfully.

My feelings after that exchange were a mixture of guilt (that I hadn't immediately understood what she was saying), impatience with myself that my mind was so full of other things that the wonder of Easter had been overtaken by the constraints of everyday life, joy that what she had said was true and a real gratitude to my friend that she had brought me back to the fundamental core of our faith.

Having been senior steward at Burnham for almost my allotted year I can honestly say that there are aspects of the position that seem far removed from faith and the words – ‘Where is God in this?’ seem to have become my personal mantra – and sometimes I have to say to myself that I don't know. But I carry on, aware that if I do something that appears right to others it is God driven and when I get things wrong – well, that is down to me disregarding or misinterpreting the answers to my prayers.

Joyce Pipet told you in last month's issue about the lack of stewards at Burnham from the end of this April. No-one has come forth to fill the vacancies so Joyce and I have asked for volunteers to take on some of the “housekeeping “ tasks in preparation for our services of worship– particularly as there will only be one and, occasionally, no steward on duty. We were thrilled when several people immediately offered to help in any way needed (a big thank you to Harry Kempson who started the ball rolling!) Joyce and I will be getting together soon and developing the stewards, helpers, greeters (and Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all) rotas. What Joy!! On a very positive note – Andrew and the stewards will be meeting with Susan Graham to discuss the future of Burnham with regard to the development of our mission and ministry. This meeting has been facilitated by Ward Jones and we are very grateful for his input.

We have had two excellent fund-raising evenings recently. The first was an evening's entertainment by the Trinity Entertainers from the Yeovil area – a great evening of music and laughter. The second was a choral evening, held at St Andrews Church, by the Cheddar Male Choir with local soloist, Francesca Bowkett. This too was a superb evening. Both concerts were in aid of our heating fund (we have now been given a grant by Viridor and are in the process of applying to Biffa and other possible grant donors for further funding) and both evenings were organised by Dorothy May. We greatly appreciate all Dorothy's hard work.

Over Easter our services were very well attended. Our service on the evening of Maundy Thursday was a communion service and those of us that were there felt the spirituality of the occasion. The Good Friday service was based on the stations of the cross and the single red carnation placed on the communion table was a truly mind-focusing symbol of the crucifixion – as was the symbolic clearing of the communion table and the silent exiting of the church after the Maundy service. Easter Day was the really joyous time with the communion service in the morning and the evening service given to the choir who sang the John Petersen cantata – “The Glory of Easter” which was narrated by Julie Biggs. The choir was joined by some members of the St. Andrews church choir so the congregation consisted of members of both churches and several visiting holiday makers. I think it was a glorious end to our Easter celebrations. And so! I'm back to the “glory of Easter” -

JESUS IS ALIVE! ALLELUIA!!

Our Blessings to all in the Link - Ann Hall



This will be my final passage as a Steward as I am standing down (again!) as I have done four years the second time around and I have personal reasons too. I shall still worship at Burnham and will be around to help if the need arises.

Well they say there is a drought and that we need rain but I think they may eat their words after all the rain we have had lately. As I keep saying God will look after his world the best way he can. We can still see all the wonder of nature in the trees that are in bud, the new life in the gardens and countryside and we know that summer is on its way whether it be a good one or not.

We continue to pray for a lot of our congregation who are ill, or in mourning and hope that they will soon be well and healed in body and mind.

Last week we had our Annual General Church Meeting which was fairly well attended and led to a good discussion in groups as to where we want our church to be in ten years' time. It was surprising the different slants that this produced. This week now we have our Church council and hope that this will be a stimulating meeting.

We would welcome anyone who feels that they are called to be a Steward, there are now only two Stewards at Burnham and we wonder whether they will be able to carry on unless more names come forward. We pray that some people will feel the call and come forward.

We pray that all who feel ill or low will know that the Holy Spirit is with them helping them to overcome all.

With love and blessings from the Stewards and congregation at Burnham.

June

BREAN

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

'OK,' I said as we sat drinking coffee after service, 'so what do I put in the Link report this month?' There was stunned silence. Then 'I know' said one, 'Berry's gone to Chernobyl. You could put that in.'

People do an awful lot of good in life but don't make a song and dance of it. But many years ago when the Chernobyl nuclear fiasco alarmed the world and caused incredible damage to people and nature, Fred and Berry's church (they were then in Cornwall) played host to a group of children from the stricken area, giving them a respite from the tragedy and an assurance that the world cared about what had happened to them. Since coming to the Burnham area, Fred and Berry have kept in touch with their Cornish friends and now Berry has taken up the opportunity to travel to Eastern Europe for ten days to meet up with their contacts again. They will find things still very primitive out there so it will not be a comfortable trip at any level. Berry is due back soon after this edition of the Link is published and I'm sure will have much to tell us. I guess the Church calls this **Mission**, though I am not a fan of the word for that makes it sound like a calculated discipline; I am simply touched by the uncalculated way people respond in love to the needs of the world around them.

Then Judy and I added our two pennyworths to the conversation, we had been to a friend's party the previous evening at Mark Village Hall. It was announced as her 79years and 361st day birthday and the central feature of the evening was to be a fun casino run by Weston Lions Club. We were each given 5 tokens (called chips) and there we were among 120 people wondering quite what to do with them. People were given the opportunity to buy more chips with the proceeds from the sale going towards funding the Avalon Camps for deprived children from Bristol, a charity that has been run by another friend of ours for the last 25 years. The camps are held for two weeks in the summer using a field on the outskirts of the village. Judy won rather a lot of these chips, and then gave them away before we left. Some might say this whole evening presented us with a **moral question**. Well, discuss. We didn't need to, for to us, the party was the gracious invitation from a friend, and our response was simply thank you, we'd love to come and share fully in the celebration.

Finally it was Celia's turn to add to the conversation which she did by adding a touch of humour to a potentially serious problem. A few months ago she moved round the corner to a new house and in the process has had work done to her conservatory. One day in the last week or so her carbon monoxide alarm went off. Her neighbour was called and then the gas company. When the gas man arrived his meter went berserk and he ordered Celia out. 'The last time my meter went this high' he said, 'we evacuated the whole street!' Neighbours were helpful and supportive, even if a little concerned for themselves too. Eventually the problem was traced to the floor of the conservatory and finally disappeared though Celia was understandably on edge for a couple of days. I guess the church would like to put this into another category, that of **Health and Safety**. In practice though it was an issue that caused concern and disruption but which was solved on the spot with the help of neighbours and others.

After all that news and discussion, nobody seemed to want to take away the latest edition of Mission Matters!

It is surprising what you can talk about round the coffee table! And how relevant that can be to the issues of the day. But do we come to church just to worship? There is more to the fellowship of the church than that. The success of the Link churches in the 1980s owed much to personal invitation to those outside the direct influence of the church to be part of the wider fellowship without having a specified commitment to it.

Our joint service this month is at S^t Bridget's and Rev Andrew has been asked to take the whole service himself including communion. It is something of a milestone and we wish Andrew well.

Harvey Allen

Minister

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

**The Deadline for the
June 2012 “LINK” is
Sunday 19th May 2012**

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