
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

May 2013 Volume 48. No. 4.



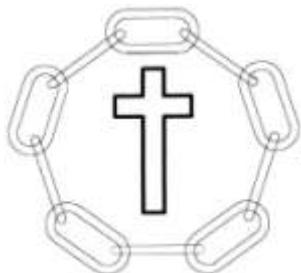
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

In a few weeks time Julie and I will be off on our holiday. This year though it is a different kind of holiday to that which we normally take, as we will be travelling with the Amos Trust to visit Israel and Palestine. The trip is billed as an "Alternative Pilgrimage" and we will be visiting many of the Holy Land sights including Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Mount of Beatitudes.

It will be amazing to think that we are walking in the places where Jesus once walked, seeing the sights that he saw (well they might not be quite the same after 2000 years but as near as!), and visiting the places that he visited.

But there is also sadness that the area remains one of conflict, violence and injustice. I was very much affected by a presentation that we saw at Greenbelt last year given by two women who had spent some time as "Ecumenical Accompanists" in Israel and Palestine. The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI):

"The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) is a World Council of Churches (WCC) initiative which was established in 2002 in response to a call made by the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, and Palestinian and Israeli NGOs. The mission of the EAPPI is to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in their non violent actions and concerted advocacy efforts to end the occupation".

Their role involves: Monitoring and reporting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law

- Supporting acts of non-violent resistance alongside local Palestinian and Israeli activists
- Offering protection through nonviolent presence
- Engaging in public policy advocacy
- Standing in solidarity with the churches and all those struggling against the occupation.

The two women described their experiences as witnesses to the difficulties faced by those living with occupation in very moving way, set to music and song.

Since then I have spent some time reading up about the history of the region and how things have come to be as they are today. The Amos Trust is an organisation that “promotes justice and hope for forgotten communities. Amos works with a network of community projects from around the world to raise awareness of, and provide support to responses that address the root causes of injustice and poverty”.

This is where the “alternative” part of our pilgrimage comes in – we will also be given the opportunity to meet with local people and projects, Palestinians and Israelis working for peace and justice, and to find out more from the people involved.

We are very much looking forward to our trip and would ask that you pray for the people of Israel and Palestine and that a way will be found to a lasting and just peace for all.

You can find out more at:

<http://www.amostrust.org/>

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/eappi>

Blessings

Rev Andrew



Burnham's new Steward Team

It was a joy to be able to appoint 6! new Stewards at the AGM last week, joining Hilary Malpas to make a team of 7 from the 1st May. Those appointed are: Marian Foster, Marian Kingsbury, Gerda Dixon, Dorothy May, Joan Wilkins and Carol Boocock. Please give them every help and support that you can and especially support them through your prayers.

Andrew



Wedding Angela to Jason on Saturday 13th April at Burnham



Calendar

APRIL

- Sat.27th. 10.30am Brent Knoll Spring Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy
Sat.27th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Tue.30th. Link Committee at Brent Knoll

MAY

- Thur.2nd. 2.30pm. Brent Knoll Emmaus Group
Thur.2nd. 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Guest Speaker Mr David Lee.
Sat. 4th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle in aid of the Heating Fund -
Sat. 11th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sat. 11th. 7.00 for 7.30pm B/H The Trinity Entertainers a Musical evening of Fun & Variety in aid of the Heating Fund see page10
Sun 10.30am Brent Knoll Church Anniversary - Rev Stephen Marr
Sun.12th 4.30pm Circuit Tea at Victoria W s M
Sun.12th 6.00pm. Circuit Easter Offering Service at Victoria W s M
Tue.14th. 2.30pm. E/B "LINK Villages Fellowship - 'Edith's Dream', Health-care in Mbenguri, Cameroon (collection) Edith and Nicky"
Thur.16th. 2.30pm. Brent Knoll Emmaus Group
Thur.16th. 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Quiz
Sat.18th. 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sun.19th. **LAST DAY FOR JUNE LINK**
Tue.28th. 2.30pm. E/B "LINK Villages Fellowship - AGM and Communion Revd Margaret Trapp"
Thur.30th 2.30pm. Brent Knoll Emmaus Group

JUNE

- Thur.6th. 2.30pm. Brent Knoll Emmaus Group
Thur.6th. 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - 'Keep Active'.
Thur.20th. 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - AGM – Rev. Andrew Biggs.
Sat.22nd. 9.30 - 4.30 Circuit Study Day at Locking Castle Church "Family Friendly Churches
Sun.23rd. **LAST DAY FOR JULY - AUGUST LINK**
Thur.27th 2.30pm. Brent Knoll Emmaus Group
Tue.25th 10.00- 5.00pm. Flower Festival at Bishops Palace Wells
to Sat.29th10.00- 2.00pm Ros is hoping to arrange a coach tel. 783652

B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll,

E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill



To our friends at the "Link Churches"

Brent Knoll Methodist Church

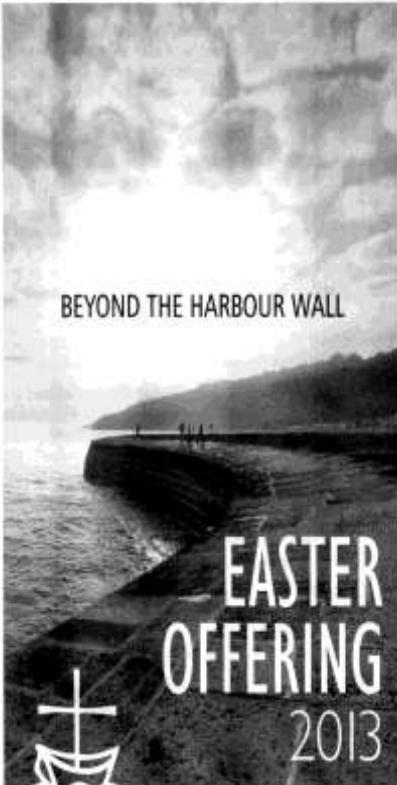
Spring Coffee Morning

Saturday April 27th 10.30am

All welcome

Best wishes

Ron Pycroft



Your local Easter Offering Service is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Easter Offering service, which this year will take place at:

VICTORIA METHODIST CHURCH W-S-M

on MAY 12th at 6.00pm..... Tea starting at 4.30pm.....

This act of worship enables the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland to give to the work of the 65 Partner Churches overseas.

You can donate directly to the World Mission Fund by going to www.justgiving.co.uk/mcfworldmission or cheques can be sent to Fundraising, The Methodist Church, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.
Email: missionfunding@methodistchurch.org.uk



The **Methodist Church** 

For more information on the work of World Church Relationships, please contact:
Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR
Tel: 020 7486 5502 (helpdesk)
Email: helpdesk@methodistchurch.org.uk
Website: www.methodist.org.uk

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New Anti-Poverty Campaign

Can you remember the “Make Poverty History Campaign of 2005 which urged world leaders to help alleviate the poverty and hunger which exists in so many areas of our world? Many churches had this slogan in black and white on their buildings. This was successful in that the world leaders made promises but they have only partially been carried out. Now we have a new campaign to tackle hunger, **ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF** - The **IF** campaign has the backing of Bill Gates, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and 100 organizations including MRDF, Oxfam and Christian Aid. It warns that malnutrition in childhood will trap almost a billion young people in poverty by 2025 and this is preventable. It is estimated that malnutrition will cost developing countries an annual £78 billion in lost economic output by 2030. **IF** calls on Prime Minister David Cameron to use the G8 presidency in 2013 to take action on the causes of hunger in the poorest countries. **There are 4 prongs to the campaign:-**

AID

Enough Food for Everyone IF we give enough aid to stop children dying from hunger and help the poorest families feed themselves.

TAX

Enough Food for Everyone IF governments stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries.

LAND

Enough Food for Everyone IF we stop poor farmers being forced off their land and grow crops to feed people, not fuel cars.

TRANSPARENCY

Enough Food for Everyone IF governments and big companies are honest and open about their actions that stop people getting enough food.
Together, we can make IF happen.

The more of us who get involved, then the greater pressure there will be on world leaders to tackle global hunger in 2013.

info@enoughfoodif.org or write to Enough Food for Everyone

IF, John Smith Drive, Oxford. OX4 2JY.

Please sign up to this campaign, and I will try and get some more information on how we can become involved.

Pam Pembro Circuit Mission and Justice Committee



Prayer*4

It's my birthday on Wednesday. Don't worry about sending a card -just pray that Jose Mourinho wins the Champions League again this year. Actually I didn't know for sure I would see this birthday. We killed a snake in the house this morning. Well when I say "we" killed what I actually mean is that I ran to the seminary to ask if anyone had experience in this department (you see it's not in our job descriptions) and then ran back with five students, two sticks and a machete. If that wasn't enough, minutes later a spider tried to crawl up my leg. I will eat a lot of chips today (it could be my last). The roads here are also really dangerous. If you navigate a roundabout without hitting anything then your faith in God is really enhanced. I'm not advocating that we send atheists to Cameroon in the hope that they, on witnessing the snakes and roundabouts (could be a good board game), become theists. Nevertheless, I know atheists who have come to accept theism after escaping experiences far less frightening-it's amazing how most people pray when they are scared.

On a serious note I could have died the other day. I thought my time had come as the car started rolling backwards down a mountain. From the passenger seat I reached out for the handbrake and pulled as hard as I could. The brakes had failed. In the seconds that followed time seemed to come to a halt - as though someone had pressed the pause button. I asked myself "am I ready to meet my maker?" These profound philosophical reflections were brought to a shuddering halt when the car smashed into a wall and mercifully came to a complete stop. On exiting

the vehicle (our neighbours) my legs turned to jelly and my mind continued to race down into the abyss of "what might have happened." If the driver hadn't steered into the wall "I would have died." My legs became feeble under the weight of these thoughts. How precious life is. How sacred each moment. Have I completed the work appointed to me? Have I done all I am supposed to do? Am I immortal till my work is done?

In that instant Time became priceless. How I have wasted it. So often have I behaved as though my time belongs to me, that I can use it as I please. That day I realised that my time is not my own. I have no control over the duration of my life. All our time, life itself, belongs to God. Whether we realise it or not our lives are in God's hands. Pray that I would realise this truth. I am not my own. I belong to Christ. Thank God that Kwame and Grace were not in the car. Pray that we would be safe on the roads (which are overpopulated with motorcycles "who have no king and do whatever they like" Judges 17:6). Pray also that the Lord would keep our feet steady on the many steps ahead. That we would spend each moment employed for God, forgetting our own path, allowing Christ to lead us on.



Reel Issues

Reel Issues at the Ritz Cinema, Burnham on Sea is promoted by local churches in Burnham and Highbridge and is chance to watch and think about films together. It's a great opportunity to see a film on the big screen and to have the chance of an optional discussion afterwards.

All are very welcome.

Tickets can be bought in advance from the Ritz Cinema in the usual way or bought on the night.

Ticket Box Office: 01278 794123

Admission charges: Adults £5, Under 15's and concessions £4

For more information, telephone: 01278 794057 or

email: bosbap@hotmail.co.uk

VILLAGE AGENT

As I have now been in the job for five months, I thought it would be a good idea to report on my progress.

I have been contacted by a few people to date with widely divergent issues – this is encouraging and it has brought home to me how many people there are in my parish clusters who are caring for friends and neighbours. Caring doesn't necessarily mean being on call in a person's home 24/7, but shopping, driving to appointments, feeding the cat, sorting out the mail and so on. If this is you and you come across a problem that it causing you concern – then contact me – I may be able to help or, as they say, “know a man (or woman of course) who can”

I have come across a couple of things which might be of interest. Tea parties – this is a scheme currently operational in Bristol whereby a group of usually, senior citizens meet at one another's homes once a month and the host provides tea, maybe cakes or biscuits; it's a social occasion. I have been informed of a book club in Burnham and a confidence- building course. One other activity which might appeal is a knit and natter group – no explanation needed, but could be fun.

If any of these things are of interest then please contact me for details or to put your name on a waiting list. Of course, not everyone has transport and any activities need to be co-ordinated, so there is a real need for volunteers – such valuable people and not easy to find, but very rewarding work ,and it can make a real difference to the people less able to get out and about .So, if you enjoy tea and cakes, knitting, or reading books and would like to help organise a group, please contact me.

Finally, I would like to thank the many people who have helped and supported me through these first few months as a Village Agent.

Christine.

e-mail cstephensva@somersetccc.org.uk. Telephone or Text 07943 555519. Just leave your name and number and I will ring you back.





Flower Festival

Floral art through the decades



Tuesday 25 - Saturday 29 June 2013

The Bishop's Palace as you've never seen it before

**Five days of spectacular floral art on display in the grounds
and buildings of the glorious medieval Palace in Wells**

Sponsored by **Waitrose**

'Renowned floral art designers Pam Lewis, Lucy Ellis, Cathy Humphries, Coral Gardiner and Nick Heal will transform rooms within the Palace to reflect flower arranging over the last six decades. Outside, the arrangements will represent the future of flower arranging. Come and be inspired!'

Arrangements by Wells & District Floral Arts Society, celebrating 60 years of flower arranging with support of other local flower arranging clubs

Flower Festival at Wells. Ros is hoping to arrange a trip if there is sufficient support. Please see Ros for more details Phone 01278 783652

WESTON-SUPER-MARE & BURNHAM-ON-SEA

CIRCUIT STUDY DAY



Family Friendly Churches

Rev'd Mike Bossingham

Of the Family Friendly Churches Trust

ON

SATURDAY, 22nd JUNE 2013

AT

LOCKING CASTLE CHURCH

9.30a.m. - 4.30p.m.

See separate sheet for more details or visit:
familyfriendlychurches.org.uk

Family Friendly Churches

The day will consist of four sessions:

1. Introduction - content of the day and an exploration of the concepts of "Fresh Expressions" and "Transformation Church"

2. Welcome - looking at how we welcome families to our churches - starts in the car park, through worship to coffee. It includes an interactive audit of how welcoming the church is.

3. Model - churches have discovered numerous ways of worshipping. Not everyone has to

arrive and the same time and do the same thing. The session explores these different models and tells stories of where they've worked. It includes looking at what might work in your church.

These 3 sessions are for EVERYONE in the church.

4. Worship - This session will explore how preachers/leaders of worship can enable children to take part without making it a "children's" service. All are welcome, but is aimed mainly at those who preach/lead worship or feel called to do either or both!

Mike Bossingham is a Methodist Minister, called to ministry in 1987.

He has served in Maidenhead, King's Lynn and Cambridge. He has worked with children, young people and families in churches for 25 years. He now works full-time for the Family Friendly Churches Trust.

Lunch (soup and puds) will be provided by Locking Castle Church at a cost of £3.50. Please let Di Smart know if you wish to attend the day by Monday, 17th June at the latest. Phone 01934 645202; email diana.smart@virgin.net

HARRY'S PAGE

HOW TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S GRACE

'GRACE BE UNTO YOU, AND PEACE, FROM GOD..;

1 Corinthians 1:3 KJV

SEVERAL OF Paul's epistles open with the words, 'Grace be unto you, and peace, from God: That's because you cannot experience God's peace unless you first know how to receive His grace and walk in it There are three things about grace you need to understand: *a) it cannot be earned; b) it is God doing for you what you cannot do for yourself; c) it doesn't kick in until you stop struggling and trying to do it in your own strength.* The Bible says, '...God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble' (James 4:6 NIV). The 'humble' are those who admit their total inability to succeed without God's help, but the 'proud' are always trying to take the credit. They like to think it's their ability that gets the job done, so they've difficulty asking God for

grace, and even more difficulty receiving it. Peter writes, 'Grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18). You only learn to trust God--by doing it! You grow in grace by taking God at His Word, counting on His gracious provision for each day, and His intervention in situations that are difficult or impossible for you. There will never be a day when you don't need God's grace. And if you are willing to acknowledge you need it and receive it by faith, there will be no shortage of it 'For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favour upon favour and gift [heaped] upon gift' (John 1:16 AMP).



All The Comforts Of Home

Read:
John 14:1-6

In my Father's house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you, - John 14:2

Once, during my time as a human resource officer for a construction company, we took on some jobs which were based quite far away. This meant our workers were faced with a 2 hour commute each way, plus a full workday. To ease the burden we booked hotel rooms for the week, but we also arranged vans and drivers to transport those who decided to commute. Almost every worker took the vans!

One of our grumpiest workers discarded his usual demeanour as he described the thrill and surprise of his wife and four boys on the first night - he hadn't told them he had an option to come home, so he showed up unexpectedly to surprise them. Later his wife called to thank the company owner, telling him their family was "loyal for life" to anyone who understood how

important home was to workers.

Anyone who has been deprived of home, even for a short time, will understand the comfort Jesus' disciples drew from His words when He promised that an eternal home awaited them (John14:2).Then, to make their joy complete, Jesus told them He would prepare and guide them to that home, and, joy of joys. He would be there too (v.3).

Remember the greatest comfort of this life: Jesus promised That one day we will go home to be with Him.--Randy Kilgore

*Heavenly Father, we praise You fo rthese words
From Jesus that touch the deepest longing in
Our soul –the hope and comfort of home. We
Want to be with You. In Jesus' name, amen.*

**There is no place like home--
Especially when home is heaven.**



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

On March 26th, Rev. Peter Davis told us of the work being done at Broadway Lodge in the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts of all kinds.

April 9th. was our Members' afternoon when several members gave readings or chose their favourite Hymns.

On April 23rd. Mrs Marion Robinson gave a demonstration on Chocolate making. There were Chocolates to buy at the close of the meeting.

May 14th Edith and Nicky will tell of Edith's Dream - Healthcare in Mbenguri in Cameroon. There will be a collection at this meeting.

Our A.G.M. which will be led by Revd Margaret Trapp will take place on May 28th. This will include Communion.

Eileen Goundry



BRENT KNOLL

Minister Revd. Biggs

At the time of writing we're all looking forward to our Spring coffee morning on 27th April. Coffee, tea, bring & buy & most importantly a chance to meet and chat with our Link and Brent Knoll friends.

The new Emmaus "term" started on April 18th. The subject is "Building stepping stones to faith". All are welcome - don't worry if you can't make every session - or have missed the first. We meet at our Church at 2.30 on the following Thursdays: 18th April, 2nd May, 16th May, 30th May, 6th June, 27th June.

Our church anniversary is being held on Sunday 12th May led by Rev Stephen Marr followed by a bring and share lunch - which we are all looking forward to.

Wishing you all a very happy May (including both Bank Holidays) - with (hopefully) an improvement in the weather.

God bless

Rosemary Krull

Minister Revd. Biggs

PREACHERS FOR MAY AT 10.30AM

5 th May	Rev Andrew Biggs (Holy Communion)
12 th May	Rev Stephen Marr (Church Anniversary)
19 th May	Rev Pam Pembro
26 th May	Mr David Lee

EAST BRENT

On Easter Sunday the Revd. Joyce Plumb led our worship incorporating Holy Communion the bare cross was decorated with posies and after the service placed outside for all passing by to see. We had a good congregation it was good to see Joan and Eileen back in their pews and Bob and Margaret also, unfortunately we are still missing Gwen at the moment. Evelyn did a splendid job with the posies and Revd. Joyce with our morning worship we all thank them both for making Easter Sunday so special (Easter eggs included). Trevor and Ann Hunt led our worship on Sunday 7th April and it was good to have the different input that they very often bring to a service. We shall be welcoming Janice Barrett on this coming Sunday the 14th who is standing in for Joyce Pipet and we look forward to another interesting morning of worship.

Well it's halfway through April and stewards from our Churches are to be thinking about staff changes in our circuit. They are part of the Invitation Committee and should be attending the meeting on Invitation and Stationing to be held at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church on Saturday 18th May as decisions will be required on appointments at the September Circuit Meeting at East Brent.

We require the East Brent congregation to think about the forthcoming Sunday of Local Arrangements and what suggestions they have or if they are able to contribute/participate in, your ideas to Jill please as soon as possible.

We hope all are coping with this long spell of cold weather which is also costing our Churches extra on heating bills as well as ourselves hopefully the heating can be turned off shortly and a long warm summer we will enjoy.

Gordon Legg



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk

A visit to Saint Helena

I've just come back from a wonderful holiday of a lifetime, visiting my son, David, on the island of Saint Helena (the second most remote place in the world, as it takes a week to get there) via Ascension Island. A great adventure as I hadn't been out of Britain since 1967!!

Flying over the South Atlantic at 40,000 feet as dawn was breaking we saw some beautiful cloud formations, tinged with a rosy pink. No sign of land or ships, just us and the clouds between sea and sky.

Transferring from land to boat was an art – first from the steps on the jetty onto a small boat, then from that small boat onto a flat barge, then from the flat barge up the gangplank to the boat. All the time the waves caused the swell to rise and fall by about 6 feet, so it had to be timed right. We had to trust in the boatmen to tell us when to wait and when to step out. In the same way we have to trust in God for his right timing.



Up in the hills there are lots of lookout posts (left from guarding Napoleon) some of which are just caves in the volcanic rock. On one of our walks I saw this cave with a large stone just the other side of the path and it reminded me of the empty tomb with the stone rolled away. Where was this? Why, on Ascension Island, where else?

The nationals of Saint Helena are known as "Saints"; they are descended from many nations – Philippines, China, South Africa, black Africa, South America, Europe and Britain – and are multi-coloured with no racism. They also work on Ascension alongside the RAF and Americans. With such a small population (800 on Ascension and 4000 on Saint Helena) tourists stand out and yet we were made welcome – every time you pass someone you greet them. If you are in a car, driving or a passenger, you wave at every other car and also at everyone you pass whether they are walking or just sitting outside their house. If you are walking, then you wave at every car that passes and at anyone else you pass. My arms got quite tired at times & I thought of our Queen who has to wave on ceremonial occasions.

Yet there was a contrast to this.

I was there on the first Friday of March and wanted to join in the service for the Women's World Day of Prayer. They also alternate the host church and this year it was in the Salvation Army hall (with a gecko climbing up the wall). Their service had been arranged by the Church of South Africa, so the order of service had English on the left page and Afrikaans on the right page. It was basically the same as our service. I sat down, smiled at my neighbours and joined in. Afterwards they had a shared meal, which I didn't stay for as I was being collected. I did speak to my neighbour, who replied but didn't continue the

conversation & no-one spoke to me, even when I stood up to go. I found this strange as the subject of the service was "I was a stranger and you welcomed me". I was a stranger but I didn't feel welcomed in the church. Apparently it takes several weeks for the Saints to get used to your face before they speak in Church!! Are we sometimes guilty of the same act?

Both islands are volcanic. Ascension is fairly flat with beaches; it has one large, green hill that has had vegetation introduced on it to induce rain to provide water (it drains into underground holes and is pumped out and purified for safe consumption). The rest of the island has hills of varying consistency, from loose scree, to boulders, to pumice, to clinker and just solid ash. Any vegetation is prickly pear or thorn bushes. In contrast Saint Helena has no real beaches, just bare steep cliffs rising out of the sea, but most of the inland is steep green hills, some covered in grass and trees, others in flax, with the roads zigzagging up with the most acute hair-pin bends before running along the ridges. The water situation is the same – I didn't see any rivers and only one small stream, even the waterfall had dried up!

We started out together on our walks, all of which were described in a booklet for letterbox walks, but there were several I didn't complete. I watched my sons as they traversed a narrow path/ledge round a very steep scree covered hillside until they became specks like ants moving in the distance, disappearing then re-appearing on the horizon; then the return journey back to me. Or they disappeared down a steep slope to re-appear some half hour later on a narrow ridge below me leading to the letterbox and, again, returning safely. Needless to say I prayed each time that they would return without mishap.

I guess we are like that with God – we go away on dangerous paths and then (hopefully) return to him, but all the time he keeps watching over us.

If anyone has a computer & wants to know more & see photos, Robert has set up this web-site blog of our holiday –

<http://www.rileyrob.co.uk/st-helena/sth.htm>

He kindly hasn't mentioned leaving me behind to wait and watch. He also hasn't said that I held them up whilst going up the 699 steps (each 11 inches high) of the near vertical Jacob's Ladder; dizzy heights!!

The cold British weather has helped to bring me "back to earth". We look forward to the spring as the flowers are beginning to show. We remember those who are unwell and pray they will soon be feeling better.

Congratulations to Angela and Jason on their marriage on 13th April. We wish them a long and happy life together.

From 1st May Ann Hall and June Parry cease to be stewards. We thank them both for their sterling work during their term of office under difficult circumstances and wish them a more relaxing future. We welcome six new stewards – Carol Boocock, Gerda Dixon, Marian Foster, Marian Kingsbury, Dorothy May and Joan Wilkins – who join me for this coming year.

Hilary Malpas

BREAN

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

“Let there be light...”

Well we didn't intend it that way. We knew we had to do something about the windows. The wooden frames were beginning to rot away and they needed painting too. So we counted the pennies and having got some estimates, Margaret our Treasurer, reckoned we could afford to replace the windows down the sides of the church with double glazed units. The remaining decision was what sort of glass did we want? After debating it to and fro we decided to be bold and have clear, plain glass rather than the coloured frosted glass that was there previously. After all it might take away some of the mystique that an outsider might have thought pervades the church (any church come to that). And then when we looked around us we said, 'you know it might also make it a bit lighter...' And lo, it came to be!

We have also persuaded ourselves that it feels a bit warmer too. But then we've only had it a week or so.

Easter has come and gone, though strictly it is still the Easter season. Rev Stanley took our Easter Service and we all rejoiced for the occasion of remembering the Resurrection. The following week was our joint service with St Bridget's which Chris Luker led for us. And then we had an LA. Several people were away so the rest of us all did our bit in preparation and taking part of the service. Expecting only 7 (though 11 turned up) we all sat round in a semi-circle and mostly did our bit from our chairs. We decided we quite liked it that way round (though we couldn't decide where to put our books between hymns) and may keep the cosy half circle for a while. As long that is, as preachers don't feel intimidated by having everyone sit at the front!

The first summer visitors have arrived, cold though it is. They are very welcome as are all who venture through our doors at worship time. And the coffee afterwards is free...

Harvey Allen



WEST HUNTSPILL

Easter Day dawned cold and bright and a number of us gathered beneath the wooden cross on our Church lawn. We fixed two banners to the cross one side read “He is risen” the other “Jesus lives” we read a hymn and offered prayers of hope that the message of Easter would have some relevance to those who passed by. Later in the day flowers were placed on the cross by members of the community,

Mr Brian Dallimore led our morning worship and we were able to have communion as the bread and wine had been blessed at the Maundy Thursday Communion at Burnham.



Burnham & Highbridge Food Bank

On Friday morning the Community of West Huntspill came together to discuss the possibility of opening an Outlet and Listening Point for the Highbridge and Burnham area food bank. There were representatives from the Methodist Church the Parish Church and those with no particular Church connection.

Rev. Sharon Crossman gave an outline talk on what was needed and how things could be done. It was agreed that we had the necessary premises and personal to make such a venture work. Mr, Alum Davis agreed to take over all responsibility for the project and a date was made for the next meeting to make detailed plans and a date for opening the Outlet on Friday mornings.

If you are interested and or would like to be involved on a Rota Basis the next meeting is Friday 10th May at 10.30am in West Huntspill Methodist Church.



Minister

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