
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

May 2014 Volume 49. No. 4.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Calendar

MAY

Thu	1st	2.30pm.	B/K	Emmaus course begins again in the school hall at Brent Knoll.
Sat	3rd	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Choir
Sat	3rd	10.30am	B/K	Brent Knoll Spring "Bring and Buy" Coffee Morning
Sat	10th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sat	10th	7.30pm.		B & H Choral Soc. Concert at St John Church Highbridge £7.50 see page 6.
Sun	11th			CHRISTIAN AID WEEK Starts
Sun	11th	6.00 pm	B/H	Café Church – Christian Aid (Matt Dobson)
Tue	13th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - The Importance of Easter - Revd Brian Milloy
Wed	14th	12.30	B/H	Church Lunch
Sat	17th	9.30 am		Circuit Prayer meeting at Victoria
Sat	17th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Educate the Kids (Kenya) Coffee Morning
Sun.	18th			LAST DAY FOR JUNE LINK
Wed	21 st	7.30pm	B/H	Fashion Show and ½ price Clothes Sale by Dorothy Howkins of Weston-s-Mare see page 6.
Sat	24th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning & "Foodfest"
Tue	27th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - AGM and Communion – Next season resumes September 9th 2014
Fri	30th	10.00 - 12.00	WH	West Huntspill Coffee Morning
Sat	31st	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning

JUNE

Sun	1st	3.00pm		Easter Offering Service at Milton W-s-M followed by Refreshments.
Tue	3rd	9.30 - 1.00		Surprised by Age? Gathering at Cardiff See Page 5
Thu	5th	9.30 - 1.00		Surprised by Age? Gathering at Chippenham See Page 5
Sat	7th	10.00 - 12.00		Seminar at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist see East Brent item
Sat	7th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Wednesday Group
Wed	11th	12.30	B/H	Church Lunch
Sat	14th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sun	15th	6.00 pm	B/H	Café Church – (Rev Margaret Trapp)
Sat	21st	9.30am.	B/H	Circuit Prayer meeting at Burnham

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



Circuit Prayer meetings

Please note the following dates for the next Circuit Prayer meetings
Meetings starting at 10.00am for about an hour with coffee from

9.30am

The prayer meeting on May 17th will be at Victoria and June 21st at Burnham

Cafe Church dates at Burnham

- Sunday 11th May at 6.00 pm – Christian Aid (Matt Dobson)
- Sunday 15th June at 6.00 pm – (Rev Margaret Trapp)
- Sunday 13th July at 6.00 pm – (Rev Andrew Biggs)
- Sunday 10th Aug. at 6.00 pm – (Rosemary Krull)
- Sunday 14th Sept. at 6.00 pm – tba
- Sunday 12th Oct, at 6.00 pm – (Rev Sharon Eldergill, curate at St. Andrews)
- Sunday 9th Nov. at 6.00 pm – (Rev Karen Murphy)
- Sunday 14th Dec. at 6.00 pm – tba



We start with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or three from 5.30 pm and help ourselves to refills during the evening.

We sing a few hymns or songs, have a short talk followed by a discussion, then a few more songs, ending with the Grace at about 7.00 pm.

All are welcome to come and join us.



Easter Offering Service at Milton Methodist Church W-s-M

This year's Easter Offering service will be held at Milton Methodist Church on June 1st at 3pm, followed by a cup of tea and a biscuit.

The Theme is "Risk the path He trod" and includes stories from the world church.

This is a good opportunity to join together as a circuit to celebrate the work of the world church & to dedicate the gifts given through the Easter Offering envelopes.

Do please support this if you can.

Joyce Pipet.

War tears lives apart

Love can help piece them back together

'The Lord is my rock,
my fortress, and my
deliverer... in whom
I take refuge.'

2 Samuel 22:2-3

For a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is a part of daily life.

Right now, fuelled by the devastating violence in both Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the numbers of people driven from their homes by war is on the rise.

It stands at 42 million people – an appalling statistic and a stain on the conscience of humanity. We can't turn our backs. We must act now.

The good news is that your church can make a real difference.

Last year, a magnificent 20,000 churches across the country helped raise over £12m for Christian Aid Week.

This Christian Aid Week (11–17 May 2014) we want to go even further. We want every church in Britain and Ireland to get involved – whether by giving, acting or praying.

Together we can send people living in fear this message: you are not alone. We're with you, helping you to rebuild your lives, and working for peace.



Imagine what such an expression of love would mean to people searching for the strength to cope with the devastation of war, and how it could help to drive out their fear.

Demonstrate God's love for those living in poverty and show how much good the church is doing in the world this Christian Aid Week.

Together we can reach the 42 million people caught up in conflict and help them live a life free from fear.

Could you provide the gift of hope?

- £15** could provide blankets for refugee children to protect them from bitter night-time temperatures.
- £40** could provide enough good quality and nutritious food for two refugee children for a month.
- £150** could help us provide specialist emotional support for a child deeply traumatised by the horror of war that they've witnessed or experienced.

**Be an instrument of God's peace.
Give, act and pray this Christian Aid Week.**

caweek.org



Invitation

Methodist Homes (MHA) would like to invite you to “**Surprised by Age?**” - a morning gathering to explore how ageing, spirituality and faith are at the heart of the Church’s mission, based around MHA’s own story. We are hosting this event at two different venues and dates:

Tuesday 3rd June 2014, 9.30am – 1.00pm at Cathays Methodist Church, Crwys Road/Fanny Street, Cardiff CF24 4NE

AND ALSO ON...

Thursday 5th June 2014, 9.30am – 1.00pm at Ladyfield Evangelical Church, Hungerdown Lane, Chippenham SN14 0BA

Includes lunch

The morning is aimed at providing church members, clergy, pastoral leaders and informal carers with both inspiration and ideas that will help the Church to continue recognising and addressing the needs of older people in the future.

The event is free and will be led by Revd Dr Keith Albans, MHA’s Director - Chaplaincy & Spirituality. Two breakout sessions will explore a variety of relevant topics, including Dementia, Spirituality and Later Life, Dying and Death and Serving Older People in the Community.

We do hope you will be able to join us in exploring later life in all its fullness. Your help in spreading the word amongst your own worshipping communities and networks would be very gratefully received.

For more information go to <http://www.mha.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

To book your free place email rachel.walker@mha.org.uk before 28th May.

They shall bear fruit in old age. They shall be fresh and flourishing.” **Psalm 92: 12-15**

MHA Epworth House, Stuart Street, Derby, DE1 2EQ
Phone: 0113 272 8471 | Email: rachel.walker@mha.org.uk

MHA is a charity providing care, accommodation and support services for older people throughout Britain. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for older people, inspired by Christian concern



FASHION SHOW & SALE

By Dorothy Howkins

all clothes at ½ price

at

Burnham Methodist Church
Wednesday 21st May - 7.30pm

Admission £3.50

In aid of Church Funds

Refreshments Raffle

WEST SIDE STORY



By BERNSTEIN **V** HANDEL'S

MESSIAH,

CORONATION ANTHEMS

&

MANY OTHER COMPOSERS



Sung by the

Burnham & Highbridge

Choral Society

Directed by Nicholas Bromilow

With Guest Soloist

Mary Morgan

With an Orchestral Ensemble



Saturday, 10th May, 2014 at 7.30pm

St. John's Church, Highbridge, TA9 3HS.

Tickets £7.50 available from members,
Grandma's Attic, Victoria St (cash only), also
by ringing:- 01278 783542, or on the door.

Registered Charity Number 1097213

HARRY'S PAGE

HE WON

'...HE MADE A PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF THEM Cohssians2:15 NIV

THE CROSS is universally recognised as symbolising the Christian faith. We've all seen baseball players crossing themselves before going to bat... jewellery stores selling gold crosses...and bakers celebrating Easter with hot cross buns. One author says: 'Christianity has become a religion of the cross - the gallows, the electric chair, the gas chamber, in modern terms. Normally we think of someone who dies a criminal death as a failure. Yet Paul would later reflect that "Christ forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code...that was against us... He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" On one level I think of individuals in our own time who disarmed the powers. Racist sheriffs who imprisoned Martin Luther King Jr....the Soviets who deported Solzhenitsyn...the

authorities who imprisoned Nelson Mandela... ail thought they were solving a problem. Instead they ended up unmasking their own violence and Injustice...When Jesus died. Even a gruff Roman soldier was moved to exclaim. "...This man truly was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54 NLT)...He saw the contrast between his brutish colleagues and their victim who forgave them in His dying gasp. The pale figure nailed to a crossbeam revealed the ruling powers as false gods who broke their own lofty promises of piety and justice. Religion, not irreligion, accused Jesus; the law, not lawlessness had him executed. By their rigged trials. scourging...and violent opposition to Jesus, the political and religious authorities exposed themselves for what they were...Each assault laid bare their illegitimacy, yet in the end **"He won!"**



STRAWBERRY MESS

READ:

Philippians 4:1-5

Be of the same mind in the Lord.

--Philippians 4:2

My husband and I had recently moved into our house when a man dropped off a large box of strawberries on the pavement outside our front door. He left a note saying he wanted us to share them with our neighbours. He meant well, but some children discovered the box before any adults did and had a strawberry throwing party at our white house. When we returned home we saw children we knew watching us from behind a fence.

They had returned to the 'scene of the crime' to see how we would react to the mess. We could have just cleaned it up ourselves, but to restore our relationship, we felt it was important to talk with them and require their help in cleaning our strawberry-stained house.

Life can get messy with relationship struggles. This was the case in the Philippian church. Two faithful servants, Euodia and Syntyche, were in sharp disagreement. The apostle Paul wrote to the church to encourage them to work through their problems (Phil. 4:2). He also wanted another person to come alongside them with a spirit of gentleness. He wrote, "I urge you also, true companion, help these women who laboured with me in the gospel" (v.3).

Realising we've all made messes in life, we can trust the Lord to help us deal gently with others. --Anne Cetas

Dear Lord, please give me discernment and courage in my relationships. Help me by Your power to be gentle and show the same love to others that You have shown to me

True love both confronts and restores.

BRENT KNOLL

Minister Rev. Andrew Biggs

After getting back from the Good Friday service, I had a look at the TV schedules for the weekend. Programmes included The Great Northern Passion, The King of Kings, The Bible, Easter from Kings, as well as a variety of Easter related contemplations and services on the radio. It really was cheering to see so many relevant programmes available over this, the most important weekend of our Christian calendar.

A few dates for your diary. We will be holding our Spring bring and buy coffee morning on Saturday 3rd May from 10.30am onwards. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there. And our Emmaus course begins again on Thursday 1 May at 2.30pm in the school hall.

We will be celebrating our church anniversary the Sunday after our coffee morning. Sadly this will be the last which our own Rev Andrew will take but we look forward to sharing lunch after the service.

Our love and best wishes go out to Ruth Knott who has been unwell at the time of writing. Ruth, we wish you a speedy recovery and you (together with other members of our church family who have been unable to attend services) are in our prayers.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



EAST BRENT

Mothering Sunday at East Brent with Revd Andrew Biggs was a service with a difference that all enjoyed and ended with posies made by Evelyn given out by all so I am told as my absence was due to being on loan to Brent Knoll as they were not expecting any males and required one for a sketch they were doing about a family. As it happened there were several men and children that attended and will I am sure remember the story of Noah complete with animal noises told by Julie Biggs, posies were also given to everyone and then coffee, as I was rushing back to East Brent I declined coffee and thought I would manage to get one at East Brent unfortunately I was too late, you see things don't always work out as anticipated.

The following week we had our acting Senior Circuit Steward Norman Lester take our local arrangement service, very interesting and thought provoking (why does God let all these catastrophes and accidents happen when he could easily help in preventing all this!!) what energy and dedication Norman has as the same weekend with a few others completely arranged for the Circuit hosting the Synod at St Andrews where 120 from District attended.

We have now at long last had the two trees at the rear of the car park completely cut down, this has made it lighter but more importantly will stop all the leaves blocking the gutters and drains which have been a nuisance for many years.

Easter Sunday we have Revd John Stedman with Holy Communion and the bare cross will be decorated with flowers and stood outside for all waiting at the traffic lights to see!!

The Circuit Away-day is on 26th April at Winscombe not a convenient time for all as the holiday season is upon us and some have to work also being school holidays some are away etc., never the less those that can attend will possibly be able to give the Circuit some direction. Then on 7th June as many representatives as possible from all Churches should attend the seminar at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist 10-12.30 with regard to ministerial/deacon appointments. There are going to be many changes of personnel paid and non-paid in this circuit let us hope and pray that any new appointments keep the continuity on what decisions are arrived at, which has not always happened in the past.

Gordon Legg

BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

I can't believe how quickly this past year has gone by! Our new Stewards' Team began their term of office at the beginning of May 2013, with the suggestion we be stewards provisionally for one year in the first instance. May 2014 approached rather quickly and here we are with our team continuing to serve as stewards for the coming year! I want to say a big Thank You to our church members-and congregation for all their support and encouragement this past year. You have all really helped us carry out our duties the best we can (hopefully!), but do please tell us when we don't get things right! (One at a time though, please!) Thanks too to Ann and June for their help when we became stewards last year. Not forgetting our visiting Ministers and local preachers, who helped us "settle-in" with our Sunday duties at the beginning, until we got used to what we were meant to be doing! We as stewards were meant to be a "calming influence" before Sunday service, but I can't help thinking sometimes the role was reversed.

We continue with our Church coffee mornings on a Saturday, 10.00-12 noon, including the Educate the Kids (Kenya) coffee mornings, to both of which we give a warm welcome. Thank you to all our helpers each Saturday.

We have recently held our Churches Together Lent talks on Wednesday evenings, and we are continuing with the Emmaus Course at Burnham, led by Reverend Andrew. These Monday evenings have been very special to our regular group of approx. 10 people, including Andrew. I know that each one of us has found some weeks quite challenging, and we've gone home with lots to think about after many of our discussions.

On Saturday 26th April we have our Circuit Away Day when we shall be thinking about the future of our circuit and its needs, and how best it can function so that we may reach out to the people around us.

At the time of writing this we are sharing in our Easter Services, and we look forward to the promise that Easter brings once more. In St. John's Gospel, Ch. 13, we have Jesus' words "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another". May we be able to carry Jesus' commandment through this Easter, and in the weeks to come, and thus show we care to those around us.

Carol Boocock

BREAN

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

Well Lent has gone by, we can forget the luxuries we went without and we can enjoy our chocolate again (though I have to confess I never gave it up). And Easter has gone by too, though perhaps we ought not to cast that aside in the same way.

I find that each year I come away from the great Festival with a fresh point for thought. At the Maundy Thursday service this time, as I sat with others from most of the Link churches in Burnham's re-furbished worship area (so much more complete now that the splendid pulpit area is in place), I thought how good this would feel if the place was full. It came to mind again at Brean on Easter morning as we held a stone in our hand while Julie led us through a meditation on the empty tomb. I had been at Milton the previous week and had concentrated on the only words from the Palm Sunday story that appear in all four gospels (well except for a couple of minor differences in Luke) 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' The story is nothing without these words. It is a shared pleasure even in a troubled world. Back to that first Easter morning, take away the shock and the empty tomb is a scene of joy also if rather different. So can and should worship together be.

In my reveries I just wondered what it would be like if sometime in the winter we could come willingly and together to one of Burnham's regular services. We could fill the church between us. It would be an act of faith to close our own church and the service would have to be positive and lively to have effect. I wonder whether we don't spend too much time being reverent and not enough being joyful in church. Shared joy can be infectious - we ought to do more of it.

And the other side of the coin of course would be for Burnham then to do the same at one or more of the other Link churches.

Ah well, I can but dream!

Back to earth and it is good to see a few of our summer visitors coming to church. A couple are set to be with us all summer and others came for the duration of their holidays. All make a welcome change. When we think of the tens of thousands who come to the area each week on holiday, it is sad that so many don't come to church even though they would always go

to church when at home, yet we must not cease to provide a welcome and as we move into May and June we shall hopefully attract a few more of them.

We also had a happy Saturday morning just before Easter when we sang some of the new hymns in our Hymn Book and drank coffee from our new mugs. There was some confusion as to dates (all caused by me I'm afraid so my apologies for that) but we got sorted out in the end.

By the time that this Link is published we shall have had the Circuit Away day. Those who went will have had their own input to any circuit initiatives that have been devised and have helped to form Circuit policy. Let's hope it gives us all a new start

Harvey Allen



WEST HUNTSPILL

Thank you for an excellent Link and congratulations to our Editors.

Several people at our coffee mornings have asked me to publish my attempt at a "Coffee morning prayer". So here it is.

Coffee Morning Prayer

Lord this is our plea.
When serving tea,
Bless the cake
That people take.
What can we do?
That is of you
Tell us Lord Jesus
What pleases?
We'll do it with a smile,
We'll go the extra mile.
Bless this time
And make it Thine.
Amen.

If anyone wishes to use it, you are very welcome

Janet M. Thompson





Coffee Mornings

We are reverting back to the last Friday of every month so the next one will be **Friday 30th May 10am - 12md**
Opportunity to meet and chat with others



Crosses on Brent Knoll 2014



Palm Sunday Afternoon

The 3 Crosses had been put in place on Saturday in readiness for the short service on Sunday afternoon. The Service was taken by Rev. Stephen Ayres, Burnham Baptist minister. The photograph shows some of those who had made it to the top of Brent Knoll.

It was very dry underfoot but it was still a hard climb for some of us, the wind was very strong and was blowing us about making it hard to stand. However we felt it was all a worthwhile. I was very glad to have a helping hand.

Dorothy.

Minister

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

Circuit Web site

<http://westonburnham.wix.com/w-s-mb-o-smethodists>

**The Deadline for the
June 2014 “LINK” is
Sunday 18th May 2014**

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