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# THE LINK

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**Methodist Link Churches Magazine**

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**May 2017 Volume 52. No. 4.**

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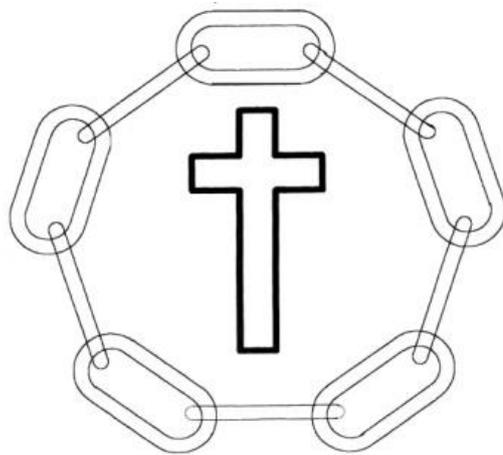
**BREAN**



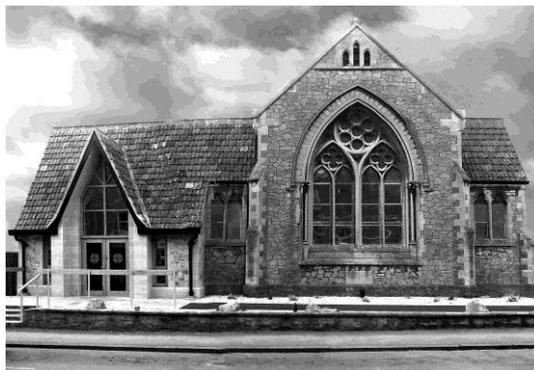
**BRENT KNOLL**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**



**EAST BRENT**



**BURNHAM**

# From the Minister Study

Dear Friends

As you will no doubt be aware, by the time you read this item I will be on 3 months' sabbatical.

The Methodist Church says that

*“A sabbatical is a gift from the Church to all presbyters and deacons and it is intended that during a sabbatical they will do something different which will inform and perhaps re-enthuse them in their ministry.*

*Sabbaticals are being introduced by many different types of organisations because they are recognised as a way to re-energise people by allowing them to explore a different aspect of their work or undertake some form of study; few organisations however can afford to make them compulsory as the Church has done for ordained ministers. For Methodist presbyters and deacons, a sabbatical is a time of grace allowing them to spend time with God doing something different.”*

This is what I will be doing; receiving this time and using it to do something different that draws me closer to God. I am grateful to the Supernumerary Ministers who have kindly offered to look after the link churches (if you do not know who is looking after you, then please contact one of your church contacts) and to the church stewards on whose shoulders much always seems to fall.

I will be back in August. I don't expect everything to have stood still while I have been away, and look forward to finding out whether your 3 months has been as spiritually profitable as I hope mine will be.

*Steve*



# Calendar

## APRIL

- Fri 28th 10.00- 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill  
 Sat 29th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham

## MAY

- Wed 3rd 7.00pm B/H Christian Aid Beetle Drive at Burnham  
 Thur 4th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - No meeting due to Election.  
 Sat 6th 10.00 - 2.00 B/H SPRING FAIR (lunch available from 11.30)  
 Tue 9th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Lumhimba – Mr Paul Temple.  
 Wed 10th 12.00 B/H Communion Service  
 Wed 10th 12.30 B/H Church Lunch  
 Sat 13th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham  
 Sat 13th Christian Aid Lunch at St Mary's East Brent  
 Sun 14th To Sat 20th May Christian Aid Week  
 Mon 15th 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Afternoon Tea, Cake & Chat - All Welcome  
 Thur 18th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - Mr Len Horlock  
 Sat 20th 10.30am B/K Praise for Pets Service at Brent Knoll  
 Sat 20th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H St Margaret's Hospice Coffee Morning at Burnham.

## Sun 21st LAST DAY FOR THE JUNE LINK

- Sun 21st B/K Brent Knoll Church 180th Anniversary  
 Sun 21st 6.30pm CIRCUIT SERVICE at Milton- Easter Offering Service  
 Tue 23rd 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - A.G.M. and Communion - Rev. Margaret Trapp.  
 Fri 26th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill  
 Sat 27th 10.00 - 4.00 B/H Burnham Food Festival

## JUNE

- Thur 1st 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - At home with Rev. Joyce Plumb.  
 Sat 3rd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by Dorothy & Helpers  
 Tues 6th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning at the home of Joy & Tony Bishop 7 Naish Road

Wed	7th		B/H Wednesday Group - Visit to Walled Gardens of Cannington
Sat	10th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham
Sat	10th	7.00	B/H Concert by David Jenkins at Burnham
Sun	11th	10.30am	B/H Burnham Church Anniversary
Sun	11th	11.00am	B/H West Huntspill Church Anniversary
Wed	14th	12.00	B/H Communion Service
Wed	14th	12.30	B/H Church Lunch - Daphne
Sat	17th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H St Margaret's Hospice Coffee Morning At Burnham.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>18th</b>		<b>LAST DAY FOR THE JULY - AUGUST LINK</b>
Mon	19th	2.30 - 4.00	B/H Afternoon Tea ,Cake & Chat - All Welcome
Sat	24th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham <b>B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill</b>



**Circuit Service May 21st  
Milton Methodist Church  
at 6.30pm**

At this service the Easter Offering gifts will be received and dedicated.

All are welcome to share in this celebration of the work of the world church.

It is very appropriate that as a circuit, we are dedicating our gifts on this day, as it will be Aldersgate Sunday when we remember Wesley's conversion

It was Wesley who said "The world is my parish", and so we join to celebrate the work of Methodism in the World Church.

While the Easter Offering and the accompanying service is organised by Methodist Women in Britain, all the money raised goes to support the work of the World Church.

All are welcome to come and share in this celebration

# Spring Fair

Burnham Methodist Church  
Saturday May 6th

**10.00 – 2.00**

Coffee/Teas

Lunches From 11.30

Stalls to include Cakes, Books,  
Bric-a-Brac, Plants, Jewellery,  
& Many Others

**Raffle**

**Admission Free**

Proceeds for the Roof Fund

## **Praise for Pets Service**

Brent Knoll Methodist Church

**Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30am**

All pets Welcome "Great and Small"

Come and share a time of praise and thanksgiving for all  
our much loved animals and pets--Past and Present

A memory tree will be available to add photos and names

Please join us afterwards for Refreshments and

**"Treats for All"**

# BURNHAM METHODIST CHURCH



Saturday 10  
June 2017  
at 7 pm

DAVID JENKINS IN  
CONCERT

'MUSIC TO DISCOVER

Sandwiches and cakes will be served  
during the interval and CD's of "The Salisbury Suite"  
and "The Dartmouth Suite" will be available

**Tickets £7**

## Vandals wreck Easter crosses

Vandals have torn down three wooden crosses erected on the top of a landmark hill to commemorate Easter

The display was unveiled on the summit of Brent Knoll in Somerset on Palm Sunday where it was seen by thousands of passing motorists on the M5.

But the crosses, which were secured by ropes, were wrecked in a late night attack on Friday.

Local Tory MP James Heapey wrote on Twitter yesterday: "Who on earth does this sort of thing? It's just so spiteful."

Colin Burt, one of the display organisers, said "We are sickened and very angry – it's shameful.

"The crosses are there for a special reason at this time of the year and they should be respected".

"We were due to take the crosses down on Sunday but instead a walker found the crosses had been lifted out and pushed over. All three have been damaged, several lifting ropes have been stolen and the metal supporting poles have been removed too"

From The Western Daily Press Monday 24 April

# BREAN

[www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org](http://www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org)

Well, as they say, from little acorns..... Last year's dozen on Brean Down at dawn on Easter Day became twenty this year. Not only that but the Anglicans of Brean and Berrow rustled up 15 for a short communion service on the beach below. Afterwards, for those so inclined, there were bacon sarnies back at the chapel (or rather in our house because the electrics in the chapel took fright at us arriving at 6.45 and promptly went on strike). Clearly not used to Methodists getting up so early!

Our members who went to worship in the week prior to the Festival mainly supported those of our Ecumenical partners and the services were much appreciated. Our Lent study group was also enjoyed, with diverse views being shared over the six week course.

Rev. Steve Bennett took our 10.30 service on Easter day, the first time I can remember that we had our own minister for the Easter morning communion, and we were blessed by the appearance of several visitors on this occasion.

It was quite a good Easter for the holiday industry too, I think, with better weather than we sometimes get at this time of the year. The Easter message is one of hope and with the announcement of a General Election in a few weeks' time, we can but hope and pray that the Spirit will be with all those involved that they will campaign with honesty and integrity in all their dealings.

It was sad to hear that Leo Alp had died. Leo came into preaching at around the age of 70, so is an inspiration for those of senior years who feel a call to lead others in worship. He gave sterling service to the work of the Church and will be remembered fondly not only at Church Road but in the Circuit in general.

Finally, here at Brean, we send our best wishes to our minister, Steve, as he embarks on his three months Sabbatical period. May it be a refreshing and rewarding time Steve, and we look forward to welcoming you back in August.

*Harvey Allen*

# WEST HUNTSPILL

## Christian Aid Week May 14<sup>th</sup> \_ 20<sup>th</sup> 2017



When Christian Aid Week was first launched 60 years ago, the refugee crisis after the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war was still ongoing and was every bit as challenging as the situation today. People responded to the cry for help in their thousands, donating money, organising events, lobbying their politician's and inspiring others to do the same. It took a long time, but at the end of the 1960's the last refugee camps in Europe were finally closed, and people could rebuild their lives in peace and safety.

Today, there are 65 million people worldwide fleeing from conflict, war and disasters. They face making decisions that we can barely imagine having to make. Good choices are not possible when you have the choice of staying and being bombed, killed or tortured, or braving a dangerous journey to search for safety. Having survived the difficult and dangerous journey to Greece, the people are not free or safe. They are not allowed to move forward, and must spend time in a refugee camp. Here they may be lucky and be allocated a flimsy tent, that offers very little protection against the weather. There is little or no schooling for the children and no one knows what will happen to them next. Will they be sent back or will they be allowed to move forward? If so when? Time after time the refugees speak of the agony of living in limbo – their time is in the hands of others.

Christian Aid has been working with refugees for decades and it won't stop. Speaking the language of love and welcome is a challenge in a world of fear and closed doors. To continue to meet this challenge they need support and resources.

**When your distinctive envelope arrives on your doormat or you see people in the local supermarkets with their red and white tabards and tins, Please be as generous as possible to support Christian Aid to assist these people who have and are still suffering so much, through no fault of their own.**

**Thank You**



**West Huntspill**  
**Our regular Coffee and Chat Morning**  
**Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> 2017**  
**10am -12noon**

**Table Top Sales and lots of free coffee, cakes and  
chatter**  
**Donations for Christian Aid**



**BRENT KNOLL**

**[www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com](http://www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)**

Our "Praise for Pets" service is fast approaching - please come and join us on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am to celebrate and give thanks for our furry, finned and feathered companions, all of which, of course are welcome as they're the central part of our time together! There will be a time for each pet to receive a blessing and for those of you unable to bring your beloved companion along, we will have a prayer/memory tree for you to hang a photograph of your pet, past or present from. We will also be handing out cards to hang on the tree where you may like to write your pet's name. A prayer will be said over all the cards and photographs during the service. And please stay afterwards for refreshments - we will be providing drinks and treats for both humans and animals alike.

It will be a weekend of thanksgiving and festivity for us at Brent Knoll as on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May we will be celebrating our Church's 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which will be followed by a shared lunch.

And from all of us at Brent Knoll we'd like to send Rev Steve our very best wishes as he begins his well deserved sabbatical. Our love and prayers go out to both Steve and Liz over the next three months and we will look forward to seeing them back in August.

God bless

Rosemary Krull

# EAST BRENT

It was good to get away from the busy and hectic Easter Holiday makers at Brean for a peaceful hour or so of reflection on Easter Sunday at East Brent. The bare cross was decorated with posies and after the service placed outside for all who pass by to see the lovely colours of flowers covering the cross.

We are pleased that Evelyn is back and playing the keyboard at our services, the organ itself will be repaired in the coming week and various items are to be looked at ready for the summer quinquennial.

Steve will shortly be on his sabbatical and we wish him well during his time away and re-assure him that East Brent can more than cope.

Bob Otley has re-joined Burnham after many years worshipping at East Brent, we are sorry to lose his fellowship and generosity during those years and wish him well with settling back at Burnham.

Our best wishes go to Eileen Craig from all at East Brent as we do miss your presence amongst us, but rest assured you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Gordon Legg



## BURNHAM

[www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk)

### STEWARDS COLUMN.

As I am writing this column we have just had our Easter services and celebrations. It was lovely to welcome not only our own members but people from the Link Churches, as well as some lovely holiday makers, to these services. The church was nearly full on Easter morning with many visitors joining the congregation. We would like to say 'Thank you' to the small hardy group who toiled up Brent Knoll to put up the Easter Crosses before Easter. My Grandchildren look for them each year and then tell us the Easter story while we

are on our way to school. Easter would not be Easter without the Crosses on top of the Knoll.

At Burnham Methodists we are trying to explore a few different ways of doing our services. We have been looking at our Communion Services and how we can improve them. We have tried taking the communion rail away as some people felt it came between them and the act of communion. We have also tried making one short queue to receive the communion, this meant you could join the queue when you wanted and so spend less time standing at the front of the church. There have been a lot of discussions about this and many people have said that they have enjoyed trying different ways. We will continue to explore different ways and see which ways work best for our congregations and the ministers.

We are continuing to enjoy our evening services, they are all different. Sometimes we sing a variety of old and new hymns. In some services we may have a discussion and on other occasions we may watch some video clips and discuss what we have seen. No two services are the same. We know that there are many different ways of praising the Lord and we know that different people like different forms of worship. If you have not yet come along do try and come, you will be made very welcome.

Marian Foster.



**From the Editors**

We send Steve & Liz our Love and Best wishes on his Sabbatical.

## Minister and Circuit Superintendant

**Rev. Steve Bennett,** Is not available as he is on his sabbatical.  
Please contact your Church Stewards

## Editors

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## Web Sites

Circuit Web site [www.wsembos.org](http://www.wsembos.org)  
[www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk)  
[www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org](http://www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org)  
[www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com](http://www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

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<p><b>The Deadline for the JUNE 2017 LINK is Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017</b></p>
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## LINK ORDER FORM

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