
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

May 2018 Volume 53. No. 4.



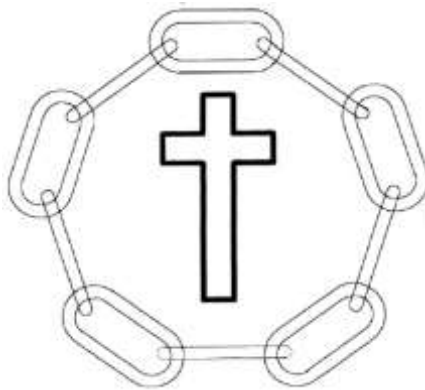
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM on SEA

Minister's Letter

‘When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place’. (Acts 2: 1).

The disciples gathered in an upper room with expectation that God would do something in their midst because Jesus had told them to wait for the gift from his Father. They were surprised by what happened, the Holy Spirit was poured out on them in a way never seen before, but they were not disappointed by it. We too are called to gather each week with a sense of expectation, even more so on Pentecost Sunday, knowing that whilst we might be surprised in what God has in store for us, we too will not be disappointed.

On the 21st April 77 members of our Circuit gathered to consider the future at St Andrew's Bournville. We looked at our mission, our property, finances, and our people, and tried to put into words the challenges that face us. We were reminded that in church life the ways in which we do things have to continually be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit. The power of God's Spirit gives us new delights in our worship, and fresh challenges in our lives of faith. The church cannot be static; it constantly needs to be transformed to meet the imperative of the Gospel in today's society. This transformation may disturb the status quo and involve issues that we would rather not face, but face them we must. Even though we might feel some things are outside of our direct control, we are not powerless. Ultimately, we place our church, its people, its buildings and its finances not into the hands of human beings, but into the hands of God.

Yet, if we put our church in God's hands we have to be prepared to let the wind of the Holy Spirit blow where it will, not where we will it! If we can do this, as we incorporate all that the Holy Spirit brings into our midst, our church life will be refreshed and renewed, and we will be part of it. I ask that when you pray for your church this month, may your prayer be

“Come, Holy Spirit, let your will be done”.

Steve



CALENDAR

APRIL

Sun 29th 4.00pm BR Easter Offering service at Brean

MAY

Wed 2nd B/H Wednesday Group - Speaker meeting TBA

Sat 5th 10.00 - 1.00 B/H SPRING FAIR at Burnham

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

Sun 13th To Sat 19th Christian Aid Week

Tue 15th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Air Ambulance (Donations)

Sat 19th 9.30 - 11.30 B/H Friends of Weston Hospice Coffee Morning

Sun 20th **LAST DAY FOR THE JUNE 2018 LINK**

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

Sat 26th FOOD FESTIVAL In Burnham

Mon 28th 10.00 - 12.00 Brean Coffee Morning All Welcome

JUNE

Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by Choir

Wed 6th B/H Wednesday Group - Outing to Walled Gardens of Cannington

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

Sun 10th W/H West Huntspill Church Anniversary

Sat 16th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Weston Hospice Coffee Morning

Sun 17th **LAST DAY FOR THE JULY - AUGUST 2018 LINK**

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

E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill.

Spring Fair

Saturday 5th May

10.00 - 1.00

Burnham Methodist Church

Variety of Stalls

Light Lunches Tea/Coffee

Churches Together

The latest Churches Together meeting was held on April 11th at West Huntspill Methodist Church when we were lucky enough to have the County Ecumenical Officer, Major Alan Dixon of the Salvation Army to update us and enthuse us. He told us of his visits around the area and encouraged us to keep in touch with each other, support each others events and engage with the local community. With this in mind, it has been decided to become involved with the Family Fun Day at the Apex Park on Wed August 1st by having a story tent with craft tables, stories etc. If anyone would like to help with this or has a tent or tepee large enough for about 20 people, please get in touch with Rev Sharon Crossman at St John's Church, Highbridge. Also at St John's there will be a Wedding Exhibition and Wedding Songs of Praise to celebrate the Royal wedding. There will also be the chance to renew wedding vows on this day. Again contact Rev Sharon Crossman if you are interested.

Bibles have been distributed to all the children in Churchfield School and it is planned to do the same in St Andrew's later in the year.

We are encouraged to look at the Thy Kingdom Come website.

Christian Aid Week is May 13th -19th and there is a list at the back of the church for anyone who would like to help with collecting at B and M on Thursday 17th May.

Barbara Williams



Friends of Burnham on Sea War Memorial Hospital

Dear Friends of Burnham Hospital,

Sometime ago we pulled together a pool of volunteers, sadly we have lost a few and would like to expand the pool again.

As a committee we still have the ability to organise events but when the event arrives we do not necessarily have enough people to help.

If you would like to join the pool all you have to be is a fully paid up member of the friends and be happy for us to contact you by email as and when we need extra helpers.

When we are about to organise an event we may contact you by email and tell you what it is and ask if you are available to help, we set up a rota so you

only need to commit to as much time as you want. You are never left on your own there are always others there to help and advice. On receipt of the email all you have to say is Yes I can help or no sorry I am not available, it's as simple as that with no obligation.

So if you can help please let me know by email and I can add your details to the list

Kind Regards

Ceri

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Marketing and Publications
Friends of Burnham Hospital

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BREAN

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

So Spring came at last. Three or four days in the third week of April, and suddenly we were all happy bunnies together – as were the couple of rabbits we see every morning at the back of the chapel running around and digging up the grass.

Judy and I happened to be visiting friends up at Lechlade in the Cotswolds for a few days during this time and how glorious it was up there (we even missed the day of sea fret that tempered the coastal weather on one of the days). It seemed as though all of the colours of Spring had come out together – wonderful. If only we could capture and bottle the feeling of vibrant Spring and let it out again at other times when things don't go so well.

We were well represented at the Circuit Review session on 21st looking forward to where the next ten years will take the circuit. I counted close on 75 people present at St Andrew's for the occasion whether we answered the questions only time will tell, but perhaps the more important feature was that this was an opportunity for the

community that is our circuit to come together in fellowship and discovery. The spirit of Easter is still with us as we progress through various readings from St John's gospel. One of the strengths of Methodism, if we will allow it to be so, is that our system brings us into contact with preachers of differing understandings, and so it has been this year. None of us has the final truth and we can all learn from one another. And we can all chew over the fat during coffee anyway.

Mind you, our hierarchy, acting on rules and regulations set from even higher; don't make life any easier for us. Just when we think we have got on top of Safeguarding (or nearly), along comes all this paraphernalia about Data Protection and all the rigmarole there is to fill out. What's next I wonder?

Good to see our visitors back. Each week brings a returning face. By the third Sunday in April even Steve and Lynn were back; as the saying goes (and you have to be in the know to appreciate this), if the Pigeons have arrived can summer be far behind. Only James has yet to show his face. Hopefully we shall see a few new faces this year too.

While we talked and shared coffee after service my eye caught the All We Can literature that Celia had placed on the table. One card said HOPE and on the back was the motto 'Change happens when we all work together'. As we look to the future of the Circuit may that be our guiding principle.

Harvey Allen



WEST HUNTSPILL

Jars of Change for Water Aid



A very BIG Thank You to everyone who contributed to our Lent project. There were an awful lot of pennies to count, but the final total was **£106. 02p** Clean water shouldn't be available just for those people who are lucky enough to live in the right country, town or village. It should be available for everyone,



wherever they live. When someone no longer has to walk miles every day to collect water from a muddy pond and can get clean water locally, either from by turning on a tap, or pumping it up from a local well, everything changes for them. The health of everyone in the family improves, children can attend school and less of what little income the families have is spent on medicines for water borne diseases. A big change brought about by donating our small change!



THE KNITTED BIBLE IS COMING TO ROWBARTON METHODIST CHURCH, GREENWAY ROAD, TAUNTON. TA2 6LA

A date for your diary: Friday 15th June to Thursday 21st June 2018

As part of their 125th Anniversary Celebrations Rowbarton Church are hosting this exhibition for a week.

The Knitted Bible comprises of 34 scenes depicting stories from both the Old and the New Testaments. I also understand that the knitters in Rowbarton's congregation are busy creating a few more scenes.

The exhibition is free and is open on weekday afternoons 2pm - 4pm and Saturday 16th from 10am – 4pm

(Greenway Road is just the corner opposite Taunton Railway Station)



Our next Coffee Morning will be held

Friday May 25th

Table Top Sales

Donations to West Huntspill School

BRENT KNOLL

Minister Revd. Steve Bennett

We have recently added a prayer corner in our chapel set aside for private prayers. This area includes a beautiful prayer tree, which we had blessed at our Sunday worship, on which to hang prayer requests. This is available to anyone who would like to offer their own prayers to God. These prayers can either be written out on labels provided to hang on the tree or, for a more personal prayer, there are also coloured ribbons available. Each different coloured ribbon represents the prayer which is offered. Purple for offering praise to God, yellow for thanking God, red for asking God for help, blue for saying sorry to God and white for prayers of peace. There is also a book available for prayer requests. We hope that this space will be of value to all - both those who regularly come to our chapel for Sunday worship and those from the village who simply wish to spend a quiet moment in prayer. We are currently looking at having regular times when we can open our church specifically for that purpose.

Looking ahead, we now have a date for our "Praise for Pets" service which will be held on Saturday 30th June at 10.30am. We would love you to come along and bring your best loved pet or pets with you - whether furred, feathered or finned - all will be welcome! We will be asking the local RSPCA if they would like to join us and possibly bring one of their pets who are cared by them but looking for a "forever" home. This service will include a time of praise and an opportunity to bring a photograph or prayer request for your pet - or to give thanks for one which although no longer with us is remembered fondly. These prayers and photographs will be hung on our prayer tree which will be blessed during worship. Refreshments for all our two and four legged friends will, of course, be available after the service.

In the meantime, from all of us at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, we wish you a peaceful Maytime.

With every blessing

Rosemary Krull



EAST BRENT

Well it's my turn for the Link again unfortunately, and at East Brent we have been blessed with a line of excellent preachers, beginning with Rev. Jim McKnight on Easter Sunday and although we had many of our regulars missing, we made up by the attendance of Paul, Julie & Ethan plus two visitors staying at the Knoll Inn who certainly new the hymns including a new one that Jim played on his guitar, also good to have Joan back with us with her daughter & husband, Jill & myself were quite exhausted after flying back from South America the night before and with me on vestry duty, but it was a great service & the bare cross was decorated with flowers & stood outside for passers-by to admire for a few days, we are most grateful to Evelyn for this annual event. Well to follow this we had our unconventional Brian Dallimore, I say no more!!

We have now sold all of our Church pews bar one, so anyone interested will need to get a move on, they are 9ft long & have the umbrella stand accessories with it, no cushion but is nearly 150 years old.

We miss Tui & Margaret Green who is recovering from a hip operation, also Diana & Bert Bratt who have been quite poorly, we also send our condolences to Val & family on the death of Val's mother who was always at our Christmas services.

Well today 15th we had our Super Steve & he was super Steve, we may have confused ourselves with hymn numbers but so what!! It was a joyous hour & a pleasure to be worshipping at EAST BRENT as there is no other place like it.

Gordon Legg



BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

Hi everyone

I think spring has arrived, so the weather people tell us. We no longer need buckets in the church. The roof has been properly tested by the elements this year. For our official celebration of the completion of the works we invited the mayor, a representative from Viridor (our generous benefactors) Russ the architect and the property committee. The unveiling of the plaque was undertaken by Maddox, our youngest member (even if he is too young for actual membership). The event was covered by Burnham-on-Sea.com.

We had a wonderful Easter celebration. On Palm Sunday the fittest climbed to the top of Brent Knoll when we were reminded of Calvary and the way Christ suffered so we can live and follow him in his footsteps. The crosses are visible from the M5. In church, the Lenten Cross looked wonderful as it was stripped down, and then filled with flowers on Easter Sunday morning.

We lost a dear friend, Frank Kerrison, a lovely gentleman, who will be missed. We have welcomed a new lady to our church, Ann.

We have a busy time ahead, not a week goes by without something to do either morning, afternoon and evening. The events committee are doing a cracking job.

Our evening service has gone back to 6pm. I did enjoy the 4.30pm ones, especially on dark nights. I had my evening visit to West Huntspill, as the evening service moves around the area.

We are at a difficult time and will all need prayers to be sent for our leaders, and hope they make the right decisions. Looking back at history this is nothing new, with our Lord at our side we will get through.

Burnham is enjoying an influx of visitors and we look forward to seeing those who visit our church.

Enjoy our brief sunny days. Until we meet again.

Ann Smith, Steward

Minister and Circuit Superintendant & District Chairman

Rev. Steve Bennett,
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Circuit Web site www.wsmbos.org
www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk
www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org
www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

<p>The Deadline for the JUNE 2018 LINK is Sunday 20th May 2018</p>
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LINK ORDER FORM

If you do not have the 'LINK' regularly and would like to do so, please fill in the slip and hand to a Steward. or send to the Editor.

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