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# THE LINK

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Methodist Link Churches Magazine

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May 2019 Volume 54. No. 4.

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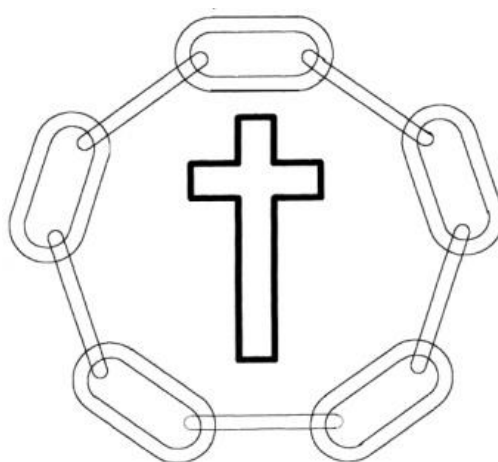
**BREAN**



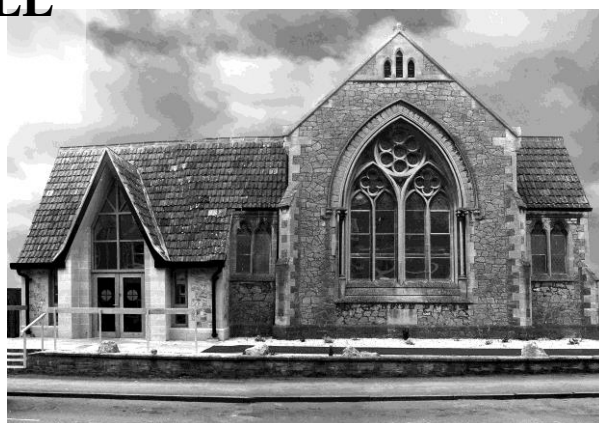
**BRENT KNOLL**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**



**EAST BRENT**



**BURNHAM ON SEA**

# Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

One of my favourite types of jokes are church bloopers. These are lists of things on Church notice sheets from around the world. One of my favourites is:

“This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.”

Sometimes we say one thing, but people can hear our words entirely differently. The same happened in Jesus' day. Jesus told the disciples what would happen to him in Jerusalem, but the crucifixion and resurrection was still a surprise. Jesus preached about the kingdom of God and as people heard the words they weaved in their own expectations. Rather than hearing what Jesus was saying, they heard what they wanted to hear. This is not unique to the people of that time, we do it ourselves all the time. We read stories in the Bible and interpret them in a particular way, bringing our own expectations and understandings and indeed our own faith to the Bible story. In this there has always been a danger, both in the institutional church and in our own personal discipleship, to create God in our image, rather than the other way around!

Those of us who met on Brean Down at 6am on Easter Sunday morning had the privilege of watching a remarkable sunrise this year. But we did not meet for our own gratification. We met to remember that on the first Easter Day, the third day, the moment of sunrise after the long night, there was a time of new meetings, those with the risen Christ. These new times brought hope of reconciliation and a new commission for the disciples; the beginning of a new creation.

Perhaps what the resurrection stories tell us is that we sometimes need to encounter something in such an earth-shattering new way, that it breaks through our own expectations and understandings. As our Easter season continues, I hope that all of us will meet the risen Christ in earth-shattering new ways. I hope that what we find in the garden, or on the road to Emmaus, or in the upper room, is not just someone who might comfort us, but the risen Christ who wants to remake us.

*Steve*

# Deaths

*Mrs. Jane Dichler of Burnham on 6<sup>th</sup> April*

*Mrs. Doris Clapp of Burnham on 20<sup>th</sup> April widow of the late  
Rev. Gerald Clapp*

*Mrs. Betty Griffen of East Brent*

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## Calendar

### APRIL

Mon 29th 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean

### MAY

Wed 1st 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Wednesday Group - Fundraising Effort  
for Christian Aid

Sat 4th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Church Funds by  
Dorothy

Sat 4th 12.00 - 4.00 BR Grand Sale at Brean Methodist

Sat 4th 10.30 on B/K Spring Coffee Morning at Brent Knoll

Mon 6th 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> 12.00 B/H Church Lunch - Dorothy

Sat 11th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Sat 11th 4.00 - 6.00 B/H Messy Church at Burnham

Sun 12th **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK Starts**

Mon 13th 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean

Tue 14th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - .Victoria  
Church - Local History - David Hart.

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> 2.30 B/H U3A Concert in Burnham Methodist

Sat 18th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee  
Morning

Sat 18th B/K Praise for Pets service at Brent Knoll

Sun 19th **LAST DAY FOR THE JUNE LINK**

Mon 20th 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean

Sat 25th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Mon 27th 10.30 BR Coffee Morning at Brean

Tue 28th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - AGM and  
Communion.

Fri 31st 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill  
Methodist see page 7

### JUNE

Sat 1st 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Church Funds by  
the Wednesday Group

Mon 3rd	10.30	BR	Coffee Morning at Brean
Wed 5th	2.30 - 4.00	B/H	Wednesday Group - Outing
Sat 8th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sat 8th	4.00 - 6.00	B/H	Messy Church at Burnham
Mon 10th	10.30	BR	Coffee Morning at Brean
Sat 15th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning
Mon 17th	10.30	BR	Coffee Morning at Brean
Fri 21st		B/H	Flower Festival at Burnham Methodist
Sat 22nd		B/H	Flower Festival at Burnham Methodist
Sat 22nd	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sun 23rd		B/H	Flower Festival at Burnham Methodist
Sun 23rd			<b>LAST DAY FOR THE JULY- AUGUST LINK</b>

## Do you remember Cyclone Adai?

Torrential rain and wind hit Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Many of you will have seen that Beira, Mozambique's second city, was flattened by the cyclone and that vast areas were flooded, affecting around two million people. I travelled in the affected area when the rivers were mere trickles; seeing a news item from Inchope, which had been turned into an island by the vast new lake made me recall how dry and dusty that area was when I passed through. It is difficult to cope with extremes.

Chikwawa district was one of the areas badly hit in Malawi. I headed up a water safety initiative there in the 1990s; I wonder how much the people remembered from that time when the waters rose. 187 evacuation camps have been set up in southern Malawi and schools and churches have also been used for temporary accommodation.

I know the area around Chimanimani in Zimbabwe well, as I used to take school pupils on expeditions up the nearby mountains and had a number of friends living there. The BBC report from there showed boulders in the centre of the town that were not there a few years ago, so I suspect there has been a major landslide due to the cyclone. The area was completely cut off because of bridges that had been swept away.

A month after the cyclone many of the roads are now passable, the number of new cases of cholera, typhoid and diarrhoea are diminishing, and many people who are able have started to return to their home areas. However, there is still a vast amount of international help needed and

Christian Aid is one of the charities that form the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) that has made a national appeal for donations. I hope that you will be reminded of this human situation when you come to think about Christian Aid Week this year.

### **Christian Aid Week Concert**

There will be a CONCERT on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church given by the Burnham U3A Concert Party to raise funds for Christian Aid, Burnham Methodist Church and the singing group. Tickets, £5 including programme and tea/coffee, are available Ann Hall. She can be contacted on 01278 789001.

Brian Foakes

(occasional organist at Burnham-on-Sea Methodist Church))



## **BREAN**

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

As I write this the Queen is celebrating her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. On Easter Sunday too! Yesterday it was my 80<sup>th</sup> so I've got a bit of catching up to do (as ever!)

Easter in our church is concentrated on Easter Day. At other times in the week members have gone to other churches to share in their worship, such as at St Bridget's earlier in the week and perhaps on Good Friday, and Burnham on Thursday evening. But on Easter Day there was both the sunrise service on Brean Down and our own morning service at 10.30.

Our Lent group had its last meeting at John and Linda's this week. In it we had an interesting discussion on joy.

The aftermath of my birthday celebrations gave me my excuse for not making the effort to climb Brean Down at dawn on Easter morning, but I understand about 28 did make the effort. Once there they had a short service and then enjoyed sausage rolls.

John T took our 10.30 service. Steve had earlier blessed the bread and wine, so it was Extended Communion (would anyone

have noticed the difference if it hadn't been announced as such?). Again, about 28 people were present, and we shared in an excellent service that John took, with coffee and cake to follow in the schoolroom.

There are one or two developments in our church that need to be reported. The combined efforts of Anne and Morag have given us a new website (see the web address above) and a Facebook page (go to Facebook and type in Brean Methodist Church). It has been a super development, so well done to both of you. And Linda Trebble has also taken over from Fred as Senior Steward.

All our Sunday services in May are in our own church at 10.30am except for the one on 12<sup>th</sup> May which will be a joint service at St Bridget's church at 9.15am.

Remember we still have coffee and cake/biscuits every Monday from 10.30 for an hour or so. In addition, on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 12.00- 4.00 St Bridget's are having a Grand Sale in our building to raise funds for their recent repairs to St Bridget's church. And on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May the coffee morning will be raising funds for Weston Hospice, as we did last year. So please support us if you can.

As part of my own birthday celebrations I committed myself to the family to writing up something of my early life, so that way into the future, our children and grandchildren will have a reference point. I made a presentation to them of part of it over Easter but as it takes up over 30 pages of computer printing so far, there is much that they haven't yet seen. It was a considerable effort and I had to put aside my summary of life in our Link and Circuit until it was done. But a few people have said the summary should be continued and I will try to catch up on that again in future months, if Cedric can find me enough space.

*Harvey Allen*

# West Huntspill



**Our May Coffee Morning  
Will be held on Friday May 31st  
10am - 12md  
Free Coffee, tea, cakes and chat  
Proceeds for Alzheimer's Society**



**Christian Aid Week 2019  
12<sup>th</sup> --18<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
'All mums should live'**



Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

The picture shows Tenneh and her nurse, Judith playing with her 3 month old baby Ansumana. Thankfully he is a happy, bouncy baby. Sadly, Tenneh has loved and lost another baby before. When Tenneh's labour started during her 1<sup>st</sup> pregnancy, there was no health centre in the village, she had to use the traditional birth attendant. She fell unconscious and bleed heavily, with no medical training the attendant was out of her depth. Tenneh was very weak after the birth and her baby was not strong enough to feed properly and died when he was a few weeks old. Through their partner organisation RADA Christian Aid began funding work in the village to help improve access to health care and improve basic hygiene by raising the profile of handwashing. **Please look out for those distinctive red and white envelopes coming through your doors. Please be as generous as you can, so we can help to make childbirth safer for the world's poorest mums and babies.**



# **BRENT KNOLL**

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

## **Minister Revd. Steve Bennett**

During Lent, Rev Margaret Trapp held sessions on Ignatian prayer which were greatly appreciated by all who attended. So much so that Margaret kindly agreed to our request to continue to hold these each month. We will be meeting to discuss which pieces of scripture we'll be looking at on Monday 29th May at 2.30pm in the church. All are welcome to come along to learn about this form of prayer and meditation and enjoy this unique time of fellowship and reflection.

May is going to be a very busy month for us here at Brent Knoll and one which we are all looking forward to.

Our Spring coffee morning will be held on 4th May at 10.30am in aid of church funds. As well as homemade produce, there will be several stalls to browse over.

On 18th May, we will be holding our Praise for Pets service. This has proved popular over the years and is one of our favourite services in our church calendar. Every type of pet is welcome, and we will do our best to cater for every taste after this service. Homemade cakes and coffee for our human worshippers and various goodies for all non-human ones. This is also a time of remembrance for our furry, finned and feathered friends who are no longer with us and all are invited to bring a photograph of your best loved animal or animals to hang on our prayer tree which will be blessed, together with those pets present, during the service.

This service will form part of our church anniversary celebrations which will culminate on Sunday 19th May when our own Minister, Rev. Steve, will preside over our time of worship. Our fellowship will continue over lunch, held in our schoolroom after the service. We really are looking forward to this time of thanksgiving for the years our church has been a place of worship and part of our community here in Brent Knoll.

All that remains to say, is that from all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, we wish you all every blessing during this beautiful month of May.

God Bless

Rosemary Krull



# EAST BRENT

East Brent continues to keep its presence shown in the village although very few villagers attend Church apart from at Christmas. Our services have been encouraging and the attendance at them stable.

Our electrical inspections have been completed and apart from a few minor items passed satisfactory although quite expensive for a small Church such as ours, also what could be further expense was the completely saturated toilet in the hall, the reason being that the hot water over the tap had been left on from the safeguarding meeting on the Thursday to it being discovered on Sunday morning before the service, the toilet was steaming with condensation on the ceiling walls and floor, what a disaster, water and electric meters ran for three days non-stop, we are now having to look at alleviating this happening in the future, and let's pray that more consideration is thought when using the facilities in future.

Anyway the weather has become warmer and we are able to turn the heating off, Easter is proving to be good this year, at East Brent the cross that started as plain and bare has been decorated with colourful flowers and stood outside the Church for all that pass by to admire, also when you turn away and look up at Brent Knoll the crosses on the Knoll can be seen reminding us all of their significance, it is good to know the younger element continue with this tradition.

We think of Joan who has not been too well of late and Eileen in Tudor Lodge, East Brent miss you both. I also have sadly to report the death of Betty Griffen and our thoughts go out to Bill and family, Betty for many years helped with our hall lettings and held the hall keys in the village for us, her association stretches back 60 years plus and Bill standard bearer for East Brent British Legion ran the East Brent Methodist Church football team on one of Joe Gillings field, he also helped with the youth club in the hall.

East Brent sends an Easter goodwill message to all our Link friends.

Gordon Legg

# BURNHAM.

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

## STEWARDS COLUMN

I am writing this column at the end of Holy week, but is that a contradiction in terms! Surely it is not the end of holy week but the beginning of all that Jesus had said would happen he would arise from the grave and so our faith through the words of the disciples has continued to grow.

But back to the start of Holy week Palm Sunday. Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem crowds formed everywhere they cheered and threw garments and cheered truly wonderful scene. This year the Circuit Service was Held at Milton Church and we too had much to celebrate two Ministers had completed 60 years' service, Rev. Joyce Plumb and Louis Tait and we had an insight into what life was like when in 1959 they took up their appointments what a fascinating experience .I am sure that I was not alone in feeling very humble in listening to their words again a wonderful service and with a full Church giving so much power to the hymns certainly made it a service to remember.

Moving on through the week and Maundy Service again give an insight into what our lord was going through washing the feet of his disciples' feet including Judas' I am always uncomfortable with Maundy Thursday knowing the terrible treatment he endured alone and his words to the Father 'if possible let this pass from my lips yet not my will but your will be done' .

Six AM Easter Sunday saw quite a number of us gather on the top of Brean down for a Sunrise service this is a very moving service and the words Christ is risen Alleluia really does lift the spirits . This Holy week certainly has the wonderful Palm Sunday the sadness of Maundy Thursday and the wonderful Sunrise on Easter Sunday certainly reinforces the words our lord is risen and lifts us to give thanks to our God.

In Steve's address on Maundy Thursday he talked about Jesus washing all the disciple's feet and he said that Jesus' feet were on the path towards the dramatic, trials and ultimately to the cross and Steve asked in which direction were our feet heading. I found this statement has given me food for thought.

Geoff Stait for the Stewards Team.

## Minister and Circuit Superintendent

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## Web Sites

Circuit Web site [www.wsmbos.org](http://www.wsmbos.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 2019 LINK is Sunday 19th May 2019</b></p>
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## LINK ORDER FORM

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