

LINK PLUS++++

May 2023



Dear Friends

The Coronation of King Charles III will soon be upon us. Whether we are supporters of a system that includes a monarchy or not, I hope that we can all pray for the new King and for Queen Camilla.

We believe that Jesus is the King of kings and I remember Jesus' words to Pilate 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above' (John 19: 11). This verse reminds us of God's ultimate and eternal power and authority. That is why we raise a prayer for our King and country this weekend.

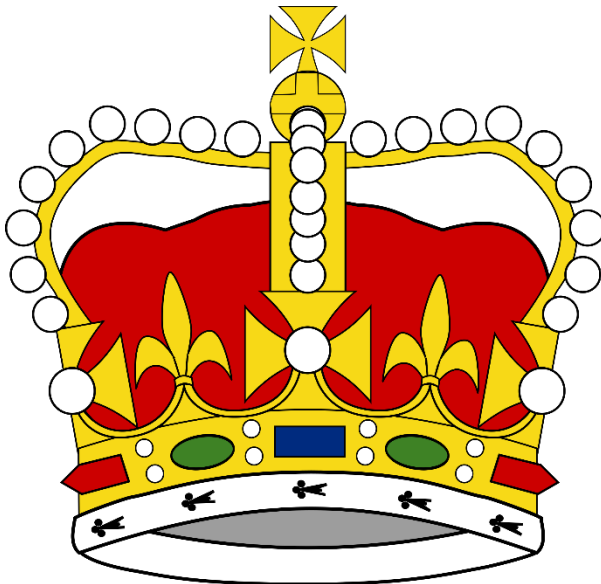
Here is one prepared especially for this occasion:

*We pray for our King,
that, both now and always,
God may grant him wisdom and grace
for his ministry among us.*

*By the power of the Holy Spirit,
may we, with Charles our King,
give ourselves to the service of God and others,
that our communities may flourish
and be places of trust and friendship.*

*Equip Charles our King and all your people
with the gifts to fulfil our calling,
that we may love as you loved,
serve as you served,
and willingly follow wherever you lead.*

Steve



Circuit Matters

Stewards

As announced at the last Circuit Meeting, our Circuit is in desperate need of Circuit Stewards. Paul Gregory has given notice of his intention to stand down after completing his term of office in August 2024. Whilst this is some time away, this Circuit cannot operate with just one Circuit Steward.

If people do not come forward by the June Circuit Meeting, then we will have to acknowledge that we will no longer be able to operate as an independent Circuit after 2024 and will need to find a Circuit to Join with. Because this is not a quick or easy process, we need to know whether we have a replacement for Paul by June this year.

Please search your hearts and if you feel you might be called to this important work, speak to one of the Ministers or Circuit Stewards who will be able to give you more information.

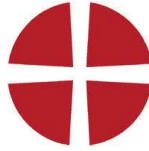
Please also pay that God's will might be done, and if that is to join with another Circuit, those conversations go well.

Rev Angie Hoare & Deacon Gary Hoare

As you will be aware, Angie and Gary leave this Circuit in July. Angie will be sitting down (the Methodist term for retirement!) and Gary will be taking up a new post in Harrogate. Their leaving service will be on 16th July at Milton Methodist Church. Tea will be served at 5pm, followed by the service at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Rev Judith Lincoln

We welcome Judith (and her husband Roger) to this Circuit in September. Her welcome service will be at Milton Methodist Church on Saturday 2nd September at 2pm and will be led by Rev Dr Jonathan Pye, Chair of our Bristol District.



Brean Methodist Church

<http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk>

The month of May is upon us. Easter is past though we still have another couple of weeks in which to make the most of the Easter season. And perhaps to look back at what we have experienced and learned in the process.

To paraphrase Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard (1813–1855), “Life must be lived forward, but it can only be understood backward.” I saw that phrase in a commentary on Jonah and the whale. Jonah knew what God was doing, and how God does it, and how right God is—but only after emerging from the belly of the whale.

I suppose we shall understand all the discombobulating things that are happening these days, sometime in the future. But we still have to live with it all in the immediate days ahead and rely on our sense of values and the love that arises from them, in doing so.

It has been a good month here at Brean. Palm Sunday saw Michael Pullan taking our service. Previously he was a minister in our Circuit but now he is a supernumerary and lives to the north of us, so it was good to renew acquaintance. Kathy, in spite of her bad leg, shamed us all by joining Steve for the sunrise service on top of Brean Down on Easter Day. Our 10.30 service saw John T and Stanley share worship and communion. Lovely in that that they are both part of our own community, that a lay person should be part of it and that Stanley, even though he has withdrawn from taking services, should find the strength to overcome his physical difficulties to preside at the communion table.

I have lost count of the roles that John has taken on in our Church and in the Circuit. Not only as a preacher of long standing, but as Treasurer and Steward and as authority on many of the things that the Government has required us to exercise. He also undertook the exhausting lead in the disposal of our Victoria property in Weston that was finally resolved a few months ago. Less well known is that he has been active at District level also including currently, as convenor of District Sabbatical committee.

But that is not the end of it. How many of you realised that he is also a volunteer at Weston Hospital? So much so that his colleagues at the hospital nominated him for an award within the Bristol and Weston Hospital Trust; Volunteer of the Year. Reasons? Well there were five put forward;

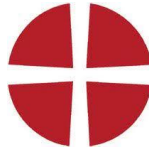
- He always shows willingness.
- He guides and assesses the situation.
- He works well and supports his fellow volunteers.
- He is always calm and helps visitors to feel safe and reassured.
- He always shows a positive attitude

A fine example. John didn't get the final award but to be one of the four finalists in such a big area is an achievement in itself. So well done John for this and for all the rest that you do. We are proud of you. And we do not forget Linda who stands with you in all that you do. A joint recognition, surely.

May is upon us. The Coronation to look forward to. We, like so many elderly ones, are supportive of the process, and feel it contributes to the comparative stability we enjoy as a nation. So we shall be there watching the process. And on the Sunday we, as a church, will be enjoying a bring and share lunch after worship.

And to help us further enjoy the month, we are encouraged to refrain from mowing our lawns – give nature a chance they say; hear, hear, I'll drink to that. Happy days to all

Harvey Allen



Brent Methodist Church Brent Knoll

We were so sorry to hear of the passing of Ruth Knott last month. Ruth has been at the heart of church life here at Brent Knoll for so many years, including all the work she did helping out with our toddler group. Despite having moved to Tudor Lodge in Burnham, Ruth always wanted to hear news from the church and all those who are part of it. She will very much missed by so many people, not only from the Chapel but the whole village. Our sympathy, love and prayers go out to all Ruth's family. There will be a service at **Weston Crematorium** on Tuesday 23rd May at 10.30am. This will be followed by a thanksgiving service celebrating Ruth's life here at the Methodist Church at Brent Knoll at 2pm.

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate Easter Sunday this year. The Church looked wonderfully Spring-like and a big thank you to Gill for arranging the flowers. She chose blooms from her garden which complimented the colours of Spring perfectly. Also, thank you to Sue for the Easter cakes which we all enjoyed following this very special service.

Thank you too to all who came to our Spring coffee morning at the end of April. It was a wonderful turn-out as we welcomed friends from the Village and from around the Circuit. Again, thank you to all who made this morning so successful.

We are delighted that members of the former Brent Knoll WI group are now meeting in the school room on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm for a meet and chat. It doesn't matter if you were not

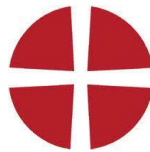
a member of the Brent Knoll WI - all are welcome! The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10th May.

Of course, the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla will take place on Saturday 6th May. Across the Country, many will be celebrating this event over an extra Bank Holiday weekend. We will continue to pray for King Charles and Queen Camilla and hope that all those who will be celebrating this occasion will have a wonderful time.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, we wish you every blessing as we continue to hold you all in our prayers.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



**Brent Methodist Church
East Brent**

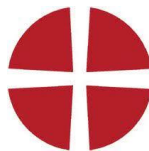
Well it's my turn to write this report and as Jill and I have been away all over Easter I haven't a lot to report, I do know that at East Brent the cross from Heath House was again beautifully decorated and carried outside for all in the village to see as is the tradition also the organ has again played up, and they had some good Easter Services.

Jill and I attended three Church Services on the ship over Easter all performed by the Chaplain Reverend Canon John Tapper. He performed Communion on each occasion from the stage and although he took wine with his helpers from the chalice, wine was not part of the communion for the congregation only wafers. Having a reasonable attending congregation in the theatre at all three services meant the singing was a pleasure to participate in although there was one exception as one hymn in the order of service was unknown to all and

we were of varying denominations. Anyway the Canon gave a very interesting address regarding the Road to Emmaus , and it is always an experience to join with fellow Christians for services held on cruises when the ship is at sea on a Sunday.

We are now back with the living attempting to lose weight and thrust ourselves into meetings i.e. Link and joint Church Council. Perhaps we can resolve our differences and get our Churches motivated to work for their survival. !!!

Gordon Legg



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church
Burnham**

<http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk/>

As I write this I can hear the wind howling and rain spattering the windows - a sure sign we are nearly into May!

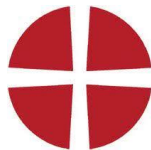
However I will not complain as we have just had a truly lovely Easter. Here in Burnham on sea we started on Psalm Sunday with Messy Church. Around 12 children and their families joined us for fun activities, lively worship and tea of hot dogs and ice cream.

On a completely different note Maundy Thursday and Good Friday saw quieter more reflective services. On Friday Steve finished by playing "The power of the cross" by Stuart Townsend and no-one seemed to want to leave but stayed to listen to the powerful words. This was followed by the Walk of Witness, ending with shared fellowship at the

Catholic Church. I think my favourite though was the Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday on Brean Down. The moment the sun rose over the sea we sang "Thine be the glory" is something I will remember. On a more basic level the bacon and sausage rolls Liz provided were really good too!

Easter Communion followed with a packed church, we kept running out of tea and coffee! A truly special Easter and I hope however you spent yours you managed to find Peace and Joy. As we move towards Summer I pray God will continue to bless all our churches and the work we do in his name.

Very Best Wishes , Jackie Clark.



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church
West Huntspill**

Our services take place every Sunday morning at 11.00am.

The Prayer Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons at 2.00pm.. If you know of anyone in need of Prayer, please let Mrs. Christine Thomas know.

Coffee and Chat will be held on Friday the 26th of May.
Do come and join us in a warm and friendly atmosphere.
Donations in aid Weston Hospice Care.

PLUS +++ POEMS, PRAYERS and OTHER MESSAGES

The Link Fellowship

April's meeting took place on the Tuesday after Easter, we enjoyed a wide ranging selection of readings and poems based on Easter and Spring ranging from an account of Easter Day some centuries ago to a piece written by one of our members at a quiet day that had been held a short while before. Some were thought provoking, while others raised a smile. Instead of our usual tea and biscuits, we were treated to homemade Easter biscuits, and chocolate nests containing little Easter eggs or an Easter bunny. These were greatly enjoyed as a special treat.

Next month's meeting is on Tuesday May 9th when members have been asked to share either their favourite book or recommend a book they have read recently. However as this is shortly after King Charles' coronation, this may enter the discussion too.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at East Brent Church Hall at 2.30 pm. And all are welcome to join us.

Joyce Pipet.

**Please note that the deadline for the June
Link Plus is 28th May.**



Joyful Spirit

Gospel Choir Concert

St Mary's Church,
East Brent. TA9 4HZ

Friday 19th May at 7.30pm

Tickets cost £8.00

From Carole Carter 01278 760435,
Dot Coles 01278 760600 or the Church Office

Refreshments will be available
**Gospel - Folk - Jazz - Classical - Pop
and much more**

All proceeds go to St Mary's Church and East Brent Village Hall

DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
Weekly		
Wed 10am	Zoom*	Link Bible Study
Thurs 11.am	Zoom*	Link Coffee Morning
Tue/Wed & Thurs 9.00am – 5.00pm	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Café and associated activities.
*Contact Rev Steve for zoom links		
May		
6 – 8 th		Coronation Weekend
12 th 6.00pm	Burnham	French Meal
14 th – 20 th		Christian Aid Week
16 th 7.00pm	Zoom	Circuit Safeguarding
23 rd 2.00pm	Brent Knoll	Funeral for Ruth Knott (see Brent Knoll news)
June		
19 th 7.00pm	Burnham	Beetle Drive
20 th 7.30pm	Brent Knoll	Circuit Meeting
21 st 7.30pm	Burnham	Local Preacher's Meeting
25 th	West Huntspill	Church Anniversary
July		
15 th 3.00pm	Burnham	Musical Cream Tea
16 th 5.00pm	Milton	Tea and Farewell Service for Angie & Gary Hoare