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# THE LINK

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## Methodist Link Churches Magazine

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November 2006 Volume 41. No. 9.

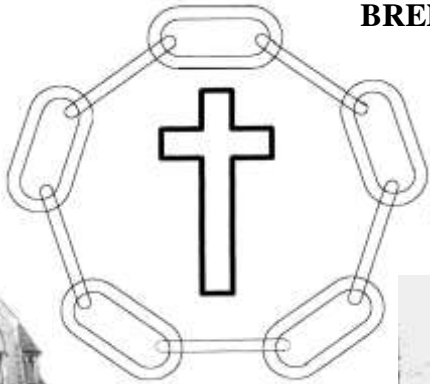
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**BREAN**



**BRENT KNOLL**



**BURNHAM ON SEA**



**EAST BRENT**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**

# *Minister's Letter*

November 06

Dear friends,

Once the clocks have gone back and we've enjoyed the extra hour in bed we can be sure that the nights have really drawn in. I spare a thought or two about my late father.

Coming from the East Midlands Dad like his father worked underground working for coal. With the darker nights and shorter days it deepened on dad's work pattern whether or not he would see any daylight or not. When he was on the night-shift, weeks could go by without dad seeing any daylight. Everything to dad for those few weeks became black, white with a lot of grey thrown in.

Coming from a mining family, I can remember the 3 day week with all its problems and yet my lasting memory is the welcome and security of arriving home on those dark nights to the warmth and glow of a coal fire.

Even during the warm days of summer there's always a shadow or two and on these wintry nights it feels much safer walking towards the light. If we do then the shadows fall behind us and our way ahead isn't clouded but bright.

It is increasingly important to the world that we as Christ's witnesses take that His Light into a world still with all its problems and still in need of a Saviour.

Don't forget to put your clocks back because if you arrive at church too early it's a bit embarrassing. With the coming of Advent in a few weeks time we are reminded that the Light of the world is coming into the world. Just a thought, at church we set aside a month to prepare for Christmas. History tells that Christ's coming was well on the way.

Every Blessing to you all

***Stephen***

# CALENDER

## NOVEMBER

Thur. 2nd	2.30pm.	THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP - Mr.Rupert Farthing - Waste / Recycling.
Sat. 4th	10.00 - 12.00.	Coffee Morning in aid of NCH The Children's Charity - Cards and Cakes etc.
Sat. 4th	10.30 - 12.00.	Christmas Card Sale at East Brent
<b>Sun 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4.00pm.</b>	<b>Evening Service at 4.00pm at Burnham.</b>
Wed. 8th	10.00am.	LINK Communion at Brean
Sat. 11th	10.00 - 12.00.	SCF Coffee Morning and stalls.
Sun. 12th	am.	Traidcraft Stall Burnham
Mon. 13th	8.00pm.	<b>Monday Group</b> - Film & talk on Uganda by Daphne Hill at 11 Steart Drive.
Tues. 14th	2.30pm.	The LINK Villages Fellowship - Paul Temple
Thur. 16th	2.30pm.	THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP - Members Favourite recipes - Tasting and sharing. (SALES TABLE)
Fri. 17th to Sun. 19th		METHODISTS FOR WORLD MISSION MWM (South West) Conference at "Sidholme" Sidmouth -see Sept LINK
Sat. 18th	10.00 - 12.30	<b>CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR Burnham</b>
<b>SUN. 19th</b>		<b>Last Day for items for Dec - Jan LINK</b>
Mon. 11th	7.30pm.	Circuit Men's Supper Club - Michael Horseman "The Kennet and Avon Canal"
Tues. 28th	2.30pm.	The LINK Villages Fellowship - Elizabeth Anne Flower arranging
Wed. 29th	10.00-3.00	ADVENT QUIET DAY at Milton

## DECEMBER

Sat. 2nd	10.00 - 12.00.	Coffee Morning in aid of the Sunday Club Funds
Thur. 7th	2.30pm.	THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP - Bell Ringers – Christmas Carols (East Brent)
Sat. 9th	10.00 - 12.00.	SCF Coffee Morning and stalls.
Sun. 10th	am.	Traidcraft Stall Burnham
Mon. 11th	8.00pm.	<b>Monday Group</b> - An Evening with Rev. Margaret Trapp.





**THE METHODIST CHURCH**

College Street,

BURNHAM ON SEA

**CHRISTMAS FAIR**

NOVEMBER 18<sup>th</sup> 2006

**10.00am – 12.30pm**

**VARIETY OF STALLS:**

**Christmas Gifts, Toiletries,  
Home Made Cakes, Groceries,  
Soft Toys, Bulbs, Competitions.**

**“Christmas” Raffle.**

**Coffee/Tea & Biscuits/Mince Pies**

**Admission Free**

**Proceeds in aid of the Church Redevelopment  
Fund**



# Coffee Morning

In aid of NCH The Children's Charity



**4<sup>th</sup> November**

10.00 – 12.00



Burnham on Sea



Methodist Church

College Street



NCH Christmas Cards,  
Cakes, Preserves Bric-a-Brac and Raffle

**East Brent Methodist Church**

Christmas Card Sale

Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>

10.30 -12.00 noon

Your Support will be appreciated

# ADVENT QUIET DAY

WEDNESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
10.00a.m. – 3.00p.m.

MILTON METHODIST CHURCH  
**“WHAT IS ADVENT?”**

Come and explore the meaning of Advent  
through reading, meditation,  
music, craft and prayer.

Opening and Closing worship.

A light lunch and other refreshments will be available at a small cost, so I would be grateful if you would let me know if you are coming by **Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> November**.

Thank you.

For more details, please contact Di Smart on 01934 645202

## METHODISTS FOR WORLD MISSION

MWM (South West) Conference

17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2006

at "Sidholme" – Sidmouth

See September LINK for Details



### Charity Carol Concert

This concert is one that you will not wish to miss, for the quality of the singing by the Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society will, as usual, be excellent. The Concert takes place at St. John's Church Highbridge on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, beginning at 7-30p.m. More details will be given nearer the time.



**YOU ARE WELCOME TO**  
St. BRIDGET'S, BREAN  
**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**  
ON  
**SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**  
2.00 – 4.00pm  
GIFTS, GARLANDS, GOODIES,  
DECORATIONS  
OR  
JUST COME FOR A DELICIOUS HOT DRINK, CAKE  
AND A VERY WARM WELCOME.

For further details contact Cedric Lodge on 751470 or Valerie on 780789



**Thanks**

To all the ladies who put on a Harvest Festival Supper at Burnham on 18th September.

Thank you. It was a very good meal. Hard work for all those involved but very much enjoyed by all.

Elsie and Eric Horsley



Thanks have also been received from those of our congregation who received gifts from the Harvest display.

## **LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP**

Revd Stephen Hill led our Dedication Service on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. taking as his talk the meaning of the Lord's Prayer to him. Following this we adjourned to the Schoolroom for tea and a chat.

On Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, we were pleased to welcome Revd Sam from Churchill. He showed a DVD presentation of the after affects of the Tsunami of 2004 in which he lost several members of his own family. He explained what is being done to help the villagers to become more independent - home building, a sewing co-operative, and road mending. Revd. Inderjit Bhogal, a former President of Conference had accompanied him to Sam's village where a service of Communion was conducted among the rubble. Many questions came from members. He brought three nightdresses which had been made by a group of women in the new community hall. He is still raising funds to help the ongoing work.

Mrs Pat Comer is to be our speaker on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

On Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, Paul Temple is to tell us of latest news on Luhimba, Tanzania, which he has recently visited, taking out a lorry filled with goods which has been left out there for the use of the villagers.

Do come along and join us for an afternoon of fellowship with a good speaker followed by a cup of tea on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month in East Brent Schoolroom.

Eileen Goundry



# BURNHAM

We send our warmest greetings to all who read our 'Link' magazine. Like most churches we too have celebrated our Harvest Thanksgiving, and were thrilled to have our Sunday Club members taking part in morning worship, and we thank them for their contribution.

We also celebrated 'Choir Sunday' when we heard our choir at their best, singing several musical items. We were especially grateful to Tim and Bridget, and also to Rev. Stanley Pipet who stood in at very short notice to lead both our Services on that day, when our Minister Stephen was taken ill.

We have now decided to open our Church Hall for coffee and teas on every Saturday morning (instead of the present 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays) We began on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 10.00am-12.30pm. and we offer a warm welcome, so if you are shopping, call in and join us.

We continue to remember in our prayers several members who are unable to be with us through sickness, but we are delighted to see two or three now safely out of hospital and back within the fellowship.

It's hard to believe that we shall soon be entering the season of Advent, the time when we begin hectic Christmas preparations. May it also be a time of spiritual preparation for us, as we prepare our hearts to welcome Gods greatest gift, the Saviour of the World.

June Nethercot on behalf of the Stewards.



## **BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT FUND**

Money raised to end of financial year from commencement of Fund £86,269.43.

Money raised during September, including loans, £6,901.04

OCTOBER saw us sharing a very happy time at the

“Pudding” Lunch and Evening. Thank you Ros and your helpers.

NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS FAIR 10.00 TO 12.30PM

Your help is required.

1. We need good condition “soft toys”.

2. Do you have any “unwanted presents” which may be just what someone else is looking for? (I can find 2 or 3!) Can you please look in your cupboards and drawers?

A BOX WILL BE IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE OVER THE NEXT THREE SUNDAYS.

The following groups will be glad of any help:

Cakes - Monday Club, Household Goods - Thursday Fellowship,

Toiletries – Choir, Mince pies - Dorothy

PLEASE MAKE EVENT KNOWN AND SUPPORT.

THANK YOU. JOYCE

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## **Well done Choir**

Thank you Choir for all the lovely singing you did on Choir Sunday 15th October 2006.

Thank you also to Tim and Bridget for all the hard work you put in with the choir.

We are so lucky to have a choir in our Church.

Keep up to good work.

Elsie Horsley.

# Thank you

Didn't the choir look and sound good on choir Sunday. Many thanks for your hard work. They looked very smart in their new outfits. Wouldn't it be nice to see them like that every Sunday?

Rosaleen



## Point of interest

Many of our congregation have shown an interest in how the donations for tea and coffee following morning service on Sunday's are used. Obviously I use some other money to buy the refreshments and the surplus is donated to charities as listed.

April 2005 - £25 to the Babe Appeal.

August 2005 - donation given from a service for the Niger Appeal

October 2005 - £35 given to MRDF for "Earthquake Appeal".

December 2005 - £14.77 for mince pies following Christmas Eve service.

April 2006 - £50 given to MRDF.

August 2006 - £50 given to BARB.

October 2006 - £50 to be given to Burnham Hospital.

I hope this meets with your approval and I'd like to thank you all for your donations and a big thank-you to all will help with serving the teas and coffees. Thanks also to Len who so kindly prepares the rota's for me as I am computer illiterate!

Hilary Wotton



# **Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?**

Food for thought submitted by Hilary Wotton from Pakefield Church

A young woman went to her mother and told her how hard life was for her. She didn't know how she would get through and felt like giving up. It seemed that as one problem was solved a new one arose. Her mother took her to the kitchen and filled three pots with water. When the water was boiling she placed carrots in one, eggs in another, and coffee beans in the third.

After twenty minutes she put the carrots, eggs and coffee into separate bowls and invited her daughter to examine them. First she felt the carrots - they were soft. Then the eggs - she took off the shells and they were hard-boiled. Finally she sipped the coffee and smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. "What does it mean, Mother?" she asked.

Her mother explained that each of the objects had faced the same adversity - boiling water, and each had reacted differently. The carrots went in strong, hard and unrelenting, but through the effect of the boiling water they had become soft. The eggs had been fragile, their thin shells had protected the liquid interior, but after experiencing the boiling water the insides had become hard. The coffee beans were unique, however - after they were in the boiling water they had changed the water. "Which are you?" she asked her daughter "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

No doubt you face difficulties at various times in your life, how do you respond to them? Are you the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and problems you become soft and lose your strength? Are you the egg with a malleable heart, but you change with the heat? After a death, a break-up, a financial hardship or some other trial, do you look the same on the outside, but on the inside you have become hardened? Or are you like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstances that bring the pain. When the water gets hot it releases the fragrance and flavour. So when the hour is darkest and the trials are greatest you find that what you have within you brings something good into the situation. How do you handle adversity?

Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

## **EAST BRENT**

Everyone loves a Harvest. It gives us an opportunity to decorate the Church with the flowers from the garden, vegetables that have been grown to perfection and fruit from a beautiful crop from the trees. For those of us who are not so fortunate, a visit to the fruiterer or supermarket helps us to make some contribution. We were delighted at East Brent to have the Brownies at our harvest this year and we are grateful to mothers who allowed their offspring's to place their gifts at the front of the Church.

Harvest is all about giving. What should we do with God's gifts? At East Brent, we sell the produce at the end of the service for what we hope is a realistic price and the remainder we give to the Free Church Home in Weston. Other Churches have different arrangements. Some auction it off but to do so needs a fairly big congregation. In Scotland, we used to create over one hundred parcels which we would hand round to the elderly or housebound. This was not always an easy or successful task. I remember handing a parcel of fruit to an elderly lady who had seen her ninetieth birthday many years ago to be greeted with " You should have given it to an old person". We then decided that we would decorate the Church but keep decorations to a minimum and instead support different good causes with cash donations.

We had a quite excellent October Communion led by Revd Stephen Marr. Instead of using the normal Communion books, Stephen used the short morning Liturgy written by the Iona Community and whilst we are not always enthusiastic about responses, this was a superb order of service. We are grateful to Stephen for all the hard work he had put in preparing for the service and for the excellency of his sermon and delivery. Certainly it was a service we shall remember. On Remembrance Sunday we shall be joining with St Mary's East Brent for a joint service and afterwards we will gather with British Legion and other friends in an act of remembrance at the War Memorial. This is not something we have done in the recent past but we are grateful to the members of St Mary's who joined with us at last year's remembrance service.

We are also looking forward with anticipation to our service on 26<sup>th</sup> November which will be conducted by our Superintendent minister Revd Terry Young. It is good to know that we shall be having other ministers within the Circuit conduct services in the Link Churches from time to time. This has been all too rare in the past.

We hope to attend the internment of the ashes of our good friend Dave Fortune, who passed away in the Summer. This will be held at Calne on 24<sup>th</sup>. October and we are delighted that Revd Stanley Pipet will officiate at the service.

Finally a plug for our Christmas Card sale which takes place in our hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>. November from 10.30 a.m -12.00 noon. This is always well attended and a special invitation is extended to other congregations within the Link. It would be a great joy to see you. Come and have a cup of coffee and buy your Christmas Cards!

David Craig.



## **BRENT KNOLL**

During this twixt and tween period between the harvest celebrations and Christmas there seems to be little activity on which to report. In any case, the continuing warm weather doesn't help us to focus our minds on a winter programme. No complaints! It saves the heating bills.

At our October Church Council we voted to go ahead with the next stage of a general overhaul of our building. We now await estimates for replacing the windows, which are in a bad state of disrepair.

We are also planning to hold a late autumn pre-Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup> 10:30am till noon. As well as an opportunity to chat over cups of coffee there will be a Bring and Buy and other items for sale. Please join us.

We send our love and best wishes to those who have health problems at this time, especially to our Minister Revd. Stephen. Kathleen Burrige has undergone hip surgery and Geoff Tullett is home now, after a long spell in hospital. We wish them all a speedy recovery and look forward to having them with us again.

We miss them.

Barbara Drew

# BREAN

Looking out of the window as I write this report it really looks as if summer has gone. It is very dull and yes it is raining and the heater is on indoors. Most people have had nice weather for their holidays this summer and we hope those who have to take a late holiday will be as lucky and we hope they have a lovely and safe holiday.

As most of you know we have been discussing drawing up a new LEP Covenant in Brean. On Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> October we are meeting after our morning service for lunch and then will discuss in our Church Council meeting. Our friends at St. Bridget's will also meet in their PCC and then we shall meet and finalise our thoughts and ideas. As a result we pray that we shall go forward with a renewed and united spirit doing what God has called us to do as Christians.

At the moment a group of us are working together in a craft class at Bridget's - busy making items for the Christmas sale to bring in some much-needed cash towards repair work on their Church.

From Brean we send our very Best Wishes to all our Link friends especially remembering those who are poorly - also the elderly ones who are unable to go out and those who are anxious.

God Bless,

Lilian Stone.

## Minister

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## Web Sites

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

**Deadline for the  
December 2006 - January 2007 “LINK”  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

**LARGE PRINT COPIES (A4 format) of the “LINK” are available.  
Please contact the Editor if you would like one.**

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