
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

November 2010 Volume 45. No. 9.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

There is a launderette in College Street, Burnham just down the road from the Methodist Church. I know this because we (well, Julie actually) found it very useful when our washing machine came to a clunking halt a couple of weeks ago. We only had to visit a couple of times though as John Lewis was very efficient at delivering a new one within a few days of our ordering it on the internet.

A week later it was time to say goodbye to the old one as it was loaded onto the Somerset Waste Partnership lorry, and I did so with some feelings of sadness – it had been a familiar sight in our kitchen ever since we got married in 1994. It had done good service but it was time to move on, a reminder that nothing stays the same or lasts forever however much we might wish that it did.

This time of year also reminds us that change is part of the nature of the world we live in. As the long summer days give way to long winter nights, as the leaves turn beautiful colours and then fall from the trees, making a mess to sweep up but revealing our view of Brent Knoll, we are reminded that the world does not stand still.

God has created a world which is constantly changing and moving on with the passing of time. While the seasons are cyclic and, as the writer of Ecclesiastes laments: “What has happened will happen again, and what has been done will be done again, there is nothing new under sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9), and yet no two seasons are ever exactly alike. The same writer admits that: “For everything its season and for every activity under heaven its time” (3:1) – the world moves on and we must move with it or risk being left behind.

We have a tendency to resist change and, especially as we get older, to look to cherished surroundings and ways of doing things to give us a feeling of security and a feeling of connectedness with our past. But if we allow this to take control, then we risk missing out on the new wonders which God has in store for us in the present and in the future. Instead it is to him we should look for our security because the one thing which we can be certain will *not* change is His love for us!

There definitely *is* a God who loves us – to the point of sacrificing his only Son on the cross for us. So put your faith, not in the uncertainties of the world, but in the certainty of His love – and enjoy your life!

Best Wishes,

Rev. Andrew.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- Wed. 3rd 8.00pm. B/H Wednesday Group - Christmas Crafts. A hands on evening with Dilly Hanson to start the festive season.
- Thur 4th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - Guest Speaker Kelton Black
- Sat. 6th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of Action for Children
- Sun. 7th 4.00pm. B/H Messy Church
- Tue 9th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Robert Channon.
- Wed 10th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch Club
- Sat 13th 10.00 - 12.30. B/H **CHRISTMAS FAIR - Stalls, Books, Jewellery, Handicrafts, Raffle, Cakes, etc.**
- Thur 18th 9.30am Visit to The Magistrates Court at St Georges see Page 10.
- Thur 18th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - "Fings ain't wot they need to be" Sandra Brown.
- Sat 20th 10.00 - 12.00.. B/H Bazaar & Coffee Morning in aid of Singing Children of Africa - All Welcome
- Tue 23rd 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Christine Nelmes.
- Sat 27th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H RNLI Fair & Coffee served by Church members.

DECEMBER

- Wed. 1st 8.00pm. B/H Wednesday Group - Brian Dallimore will talk on a Christmas theme.
- Thur 2nd 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - "Moose International" Terry Cornelius
- Sat. 4th 8.30am. Trip to Birmingham German Christmas Market back approx 8.30pm cost £16.50 tel. 783652 or speak to Ros. who needs to know by Nov.18th.
- Sat. 4th 10.00 - 12.00.. B/H Coffee Morning - Sunday Club.
- Sun. 5th 4.00pm. B/H Messy Church.
- Wed 8th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch Club
- Sat 11th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
- Tue 14th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Christmas Buffet.
- Wed. 15th 2.30pm. B/H Carol Singing at Beaufort House. Rectory Road.
- Thur 16th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - Favourite Carols & Christmas Stories – members
- Fri 17th 7.00pm E/B Carol by Candlelight Service East Brent Methodist
- Sat. 18th 10.00am BR Coffee & Carols at Brean
- Sun 19th 6.30pm B/H Carol Service Burnham
- Mon 20th 7.30pm. B/K Carols on the Green Brent Knoll
- Tues 21st 7.30pm. Carol in the Barn - Ash Lawn, Rooksbridge
- Thur. 23rd 6.30pm. B/H Carol Singing at Tesco.

Fri 24th	4.00pm.	B/H	Nativity Service Burnham
Fri 24th	11.00pm	BR	Communion Service at St. Bridget's Brean
Fri 24th	11.15pm	B/H	Midnight Communion Burnham
Sat 25th	9.15am	BR	CHRISTMAS Service at St. Bridget's Brean
Sat 25th	10.00am	E/B	CHRISTMAS Short Family Service at East Brent
Sat 25th	10.30am	B/H	CHRISTMAS Service Burnham
Sat 25th	10.30am	W/H	CHRISTMAS Service West Huntspill

B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill.



Birth A 2nd daughter for Isabel & Robert and Granddaughter for Bridget Christian on October 3rd.

Baptism Tyler Drew Course on October 10th.

Funeral John Bradley on September 19th



CAROL SINGING

We will be Carol Singing on

Wednesday 15th Dec. 2.30pm. at Beaufort House Rectory Road.

Tuesday 21st Dec. 3.00pm. at Tudor Lodge Brightstowe Road

Thursday 23rd Dec. 6.30pm. at Tesco.

Do come along and join in! You will be very welcome.



Coach Trip to Birmingham German Christmas Market

Trip to Birmingham German Christmas Market on Saturday 4th December leave here at 8.30am back approx 8.30pm cost £16.50 tel. 783652 or speak to Ros. Who needs to know by Nov. 18th for the coach company.



Mis-placed word?

A busy mother suddenly thought that she hadn't seen her elderly next door neighbour for quite a while.

Feeling somewhat guilty she said to her young son "Just pop next door and ask how old Mrs Tucker is for me"

The lad came back and said "Mrs Tucker is very angry, she says it's none of your business how old she is.

BURNHAM ON SEA METHODIST CHURCH
COLLEGE STREET, BURNHAM ON SEA



CHRISTMAS FAIR

NOVEMBER 13TH
10.00am – 12.30pm

VARIETY OF STALLS
Home made Cakes, Handicrafts,
Choc-a-Holic, Jewellery, Bric-a-Brac,
Christmas Gifts, Books, Cards,
“Christmas Raffle”
Coffee/Tea & Mincepies/Biscuits

Admission Free
In aid of the Church Redevelopment Fund

FROM THE CIRCUIT TREASURER

At present we are entering a difficult period for our Circuit and Churches. Last financial year saw a £19,000 overspend in the Circuit, £10,000 of this overspend was budgeted. Therefore the Circuit finance has fallen below the reserve stipulated in its policy.

However this current year, now that certain obligations have been met, should see this deficit halved providing Churches respond to their commitment of submitting their assessments on time (thankfully they usually do).

The Circuit has no control over the District Assessment of £30,000 per year or the salaries of four ministers and running costs of their manses at £138,000 per year.

We the Circuit have to find this £168,000 before any other expenditure.

The only income for the Circuit is the assessment paid by each Church, which at present amounts to £166,000 per year. It is therefore the duty of Churches to achieve payment of their assessment before **ANY** other expenditure. Church stewards and treasurers are responsible for ensuring this is so.

Churches are also directed to keep six months expenditure in reserve, this should be stated in their Reserve Policy forms agreed and signed at Church Councils.

All treasurers are always invited to attend a short informal meeting after Christmas to discuss the following year's budget.

Information from District on any forthcoming stipend and district assessment does not materialise until then, but I believe that a 2.6% increase is probably what will be required from Church assessments for 2011/2012.

I hope the above helps to explain the reason for assessments and where this money goes, and with around 474 members in the circuit it roughly works out at £6.75 per week from all of us just to achieve the above.

In the meantime I am always available if you require further information and thank you all for your help and co-operation.

Gordon Legg

CHRISTMAS FAIR NOVEMBER 13TH 2010

YOUR HELP IS REQUIRED

There will be the following stalls and the person/ group organising same so please contact direct.

Cakes – Dorothy May
Tea/Coffee – Daphne Hill
Choc-a-Holics – Sunday Club
Books – Thursday Fellowship
Cards – Elsie Horsley
Calendars – Cedric May
Tombola – Ros Anderson
Handicrafts – Christine Thomas
Bric a Brac –
Christmas Gifts – Choir
Raffle – Glenda

All stalls will be glad to receive any gifts. If you can help in preparation or on the day please contact Joyce Plumb

PLEASE MAKE THIS WELL KNOWN AMONG YOUR FRIENDS.



Whoops

A grumpy elderly man with a persistent cough went to the pharmacy in search of a cure for his ailment.

The assistant recommended a standard cough remedy, but a week later the man was back, complaining the cure was not working.

So the assistant gave him a different cough medicine, but once again the man returned a week later complaining that this was not working either.

This time he saw the head pharmacist.

A week later the head pharmacist and his assistant looked out of the window and saw the man slowly walking down the street.

He didn't cough once.

"That is amazing," said the assistant, "What cough remedy did you give him?"

"I didn't give him a cough remedy," replied the pharmacist.

I gave him a laxative. Now he is afraid to cough."

You Never Run Alone...

I started running about 2 years ago after being unwell for a long while on and off and losing quite a bit of weight. I really wanted to get fitter to see if I could support my body to be well, and being lighter made it possible for me to try running. I ran round the village at 5.30 in the morning so no-one would see me. Each week I got slightly better. Soon I could run a mile without stopping, then three miles...then six.

I was really keen and decided to set some goals. First, in 2010 I wanted to enter a proper 'race' and see what it felt like to run with other people. Of course, I chose the Hestercombe Humdinger (so called because of the killer-hills out in the Quantocks, especially the last one). 9.5 miles of running (or sometimes walking a bit) up massive hills and then gingerly running down the other sides, crab-like in case I fell! I loved it.

So I set another goal: to run a half-marathon, in 2010. I entered the Taunton, but a week before I got injured and had to pull out. Instead, and by way of training, I entered the Wellington 10 mile road race – 10 really tough hill miles all over the Quantocks. Then, I decided to run the Burnham half-marathon.

I asked you to sponsor me, half for the Messy Church, half for the Re-Development Fund. Why run for my church? Because, when I run, I often feel tired, sore, and I want to give up, or it's cold and windy, or I'm wet...then I feel that I am not running alone and that the Lord is with me. I don't give up. Sometimes, and this happens more often, I run feeling GREAT, I am free, I am fit, it is sunny and mild, the sea is clear as I run along the sea front, I meet nice dogs...then I also feel I am not running alone. Again the Lord is with me. Either way, I'm not alone.

Now, my faith and I do not have an easy time of it together. I tussle with it, it tussles with me. How I envy the perfectly secure! On Sunday 3 October, the morning of the half-marathon, it was vile weather, blowing a gale, raining, cold. I really didn't want to go. I was scared. I was scared I wouldn't be able to even run 13 miles – I never had before, the furthest was about 11 at that point.. I was scared I'd be last, that I'd be hurt, have to walk, feel stupid...all those doubts. And my heart said: where is your FAITH? God thinks you can do it, why don't YOU think you can?

At the start, my friend held my hand and she said: you'll be fine. It was OK for her, off she went, like a dog after a rabbit and I started my customary back-of-the-pack shuffle. Masses of people streamed past me.

I started to panic, and then – my music packed up. This is a disaster if you always run to music, as I do. I thought: I can't run on my own! Then I thought, no, you're not alone, just keep going. I think I was probably the only person there who ran the entire 13 miles with a slightly up-tempo version of 'What A Friend We Have In Jesus', 'Fight The Good Fight' and 'To Be A Pilgrim' mentally playing a running soundtrack as I hummed (panted) under my (very laboured) breath for over 2 hours.

When we reached Lympsham, and turned back towards Berrow, the wind was right in our faces and it almost blew me off my legs. Well, I knew it was coming but I was wet now and near to tears. I felt a warm, firm hand in the small of my back, pushing me gently into the wind, supporting me. 'Fight The Good Fight'. Indeed. All my might went into that last 6 miles.

When I reached Stoddens Road, I knew I was almost home. I had another little argument with God when I got back to the BASC ground and realised that the sadistic race organisers were going to make us run all the way round the field before the finish line - but God told me to shut up and keep running. Fair enough. Two hours and fifteen minutes – five minutes over my 'target' time, but I think that was the bit I spent taking off and putting back on my many layers of clothes! Also I wasn't last. Thank the Lord!

So, I did it. S/He did it. We did it. If I ever feel like giving up, God is there, with a wagging finger and a kind smile (or sometimes a bit of a telling off). If you gave some money for OUR church to support my run, good for you, you were with me too! If you didn't, well, it's not too late, I'm still aching, sore and have lost a toe nail, so YOU go and see Barbara right now - and give!

Alison, x



A Present Perhaps

We all like presents don't we! But has it happened to you that someone has asked you "What would you like for your – birthday Christmas anniversary"- and you've been stumped for an immediate answer? So what then? Consider the giver, think of the options – necessity or that luxury you would rather like? Something consumable or something that will last and be a long time reminder of your friend?

Let me give you an idea – which may surprise you. What about a words copy of the Methodist Hymn Book? It's a selection of many people's thoughts, through many years and from many places and circumstances.

You may not take to some of the language – hopelessly out of date, you'll say – but get the idea and build on it. "Onward Christian Soldiers" – it's not only the Salvation Army that needs them.

So think about it. Seriously. And in quietness choose words for your self that will lift you out of the jargon of the newspapers and prove a blessing for the rest of your life.

E. L.



You are invited to visit

THE MAGISTRATES' COURT

on

Thursday 18th November at 9.30am.

This is an opportunity to see the Courts in action.

This special event has been arranged for the Methodist Circuit by the Mission and Justice Committee, and we are grateful to the staff of the Court for making it possible.

We meet at the front entrance of the Court at 9.30am and will be there until approximately 12.30pm.

In order to be able to give the Court some idea of the number of people wishing to attend it would be helpful if you could phone either Chris Williamson on 01934 511715 or John Stedman on 01934 622870 by Thursday 11th November and they will be able to answer any questions about the day.

The address is:

**The North Somerset Court House
The Hedges, St George, Weston-super-Mare BS22 7BB**



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Rev. Andrew Biggs led our Dedication Service on Tuesday, September 28th. He took as his subject The Kingdom of God telling us of an experience when on a Boys' Brigade Camp Conference in adverse weather conditions, he felt the Kingdom of God was very present. After the service everyone went into the Schoolroom for a cup of tea and chat.

On October 12th Rev. Mary Burgess told us of what she had done in her Sabbatical when she went on a Story Telling Course which included Puppet making. She told us how she made a mould of a head in clay which was then fired. She then used this mould to make a puppet's head. After it was finished it looked like the head of an African Woman - as she had lived in Africa she named the puppet Mpala whom she used to tell her story of a family with HIV/AIDS. She then visited New Zealand and by changing adornments the girl was transformed into a Maori woman who told stories of N. Z.

Mary changed the puppet into a black European girl whom she called Destiny. Destiny wanted to do many things but seemed to fail in everything but was told that when she felt she was failing she was helping and encouraging those around her. This was a most inspiring afternoon.

Mrs. Janet Cryer is making a welcome return visit to tell us of "Hearing Dogs for Deaf People" on October 26th.

We shall welcome our Superintendent Minister, Rev. Robert Channon on Tuesday, November 9th.

Rev. Christine Nelmes is to be our Speaker on November 23rd.

We shall have our Christmas Buffet on December 14th when the children from East Brent First School will give us their Christmas presentation.

Eileen Goundry



Link Directory Update

You may remember that earlier in the year it was agreed to produce a directory of all the members/attendees of the Link churches so that we can all contact each other more easily. Well, it is nearly ready!

In the next few weeks a draft will be sent to each church to check so that

we can make any corrections or add any extra information. Remember, anyone is welcome to be in the directory if they think their details would be useful to people in the Link. Once completed the directory will be available on request from your church stewards.

Rev. Andrew & Julie Biggs



News from Churches Together

Thank you to everyone who came to the ‘West End Voices’ concert in September. Over £550 was raised for the Highbridge & Burnham Youth Project (in partnership with SWYM), a great start to our fundraising. However, with a target of raising £12,000 by Easter we still need your help! Churches and groups are now being asked to give donations or hold fund raising events for the project with the hope of putting in an application for 2 trainee youth workers to start in September 2011. Once here the trainees will help to support community & school Youth work in Highbridge & Burnham. The money raised will help towards their tuition fees and cover their board and lodging while they are here.

Steve Ayres, the minister of Burnham Baptist church, has begun a series of ‘Reel Issues’ film nights held on the first Monday of the month at Burnham cinema. The evenings give the chance to enjoy watching a film together and then offer an opportunity for discussion. They have been well received and it is hoped that they will continue in the New Year. All welcome. See posters for details.

A new logo has been adopted consisting of the English Churches Together logo with the addition of Burnham lighthouse.

Rev. Christine Judson (St. John’s, Highbridge) is moving to become vicar at Portishead. She will be replaced by the Rev. Sharon Crossman who is being installed at St. John’s at 7pm on Thursday 28th October. We wish them both well in their new appointments.

The Christian Union at King Alfred’s, which Andrew has been supporting, is flourishing. Please continue to pray for them. The new head teacher at Churchfield Primary School, Highbridge (formerly St. John’s & Beechfield) is keen to develop church links, and several clergy are regularly taking assemblies.

CHAT

As this Circuit has contributed a considerable amount of funding for Chat (Chaplaincy about Town) I thought that you would like to see this report written by a trainee Lay Reader who was on placement with us.

Pam Pembro.

Dancing in the Street

In October and November 2009 I found myself at Chat in Weston-Super-Mare.

Chat offers a confidential listening ear and signposting service to those who live, work or find themselves in Weston's town centre. It has a wide ecumenical front and its mission is "to express God's love in the High Street"

It has a shop front and office close to the town centre (Meadow Street) selling cards and some fair trade goods. The volunteers offer a drink and biscuits or cake to anyone who drops in (free of charge). It has taken time to build up good relationships and trust in the town. In the summer on Fridays, Chat erects a tent called the Listening Post on the High Street offering listening, signposting, information and prayer. There are approximately 20 trained volunteer chaplains from local churches, who listen to, and pray (if needed) with those who drop into the tent or the shop. Volunteer chaplains are also often to be seen walking in the town in their bright yellow fleeces or tee shirts, chatting to shoppers and holiday makers and of course listening to any concerns they may have.

I worked with the chaplains, led and participated in the daily worship and prayer at the start and close of each Chat day and participated in the fellowship forum for the volunteer chaplains. I visited the local Children's Centre, Police Station, care homes and retail centre with the chaplains.

Richard Holloway (1997) writes of Jesus gathering around himself people from the edges of society and describes this kind of work as "dancing on the edge". The lonely, depressed, needy, hurting, those who are physically, emotionally, socially and physiologically disabled, damaged sufferers of domestic abuse, and those who have received or are receiving treatment at the town's drug rehabilitation centres, are the people who are welcomed and shown God's love by Chat.

BRISTOL DISTRICT AUTUMN SYNOD 2010

The Bristol District Autumn Synod in the Representative Session met on Saturday 11th September at Kingswood School in the North East Somerset & Bath Circuit. Members were welcomed both by Rev Ian Souter, Superintendent, and the Head-Teacher Simon Morris. The opening devotion led by United area of Wiltshire and the closing worship, which included Communion, was led by the Chair Rev A. Ward Jones. At the part of the devotion Chair has invited the new four Deputy Chair of the District Rev David Alderman (Wiltshire); Rev David Hart (Bristol); Rev Roly Sims (Somerset) and Rev Carrie Seaton (Gloucestershire) and to the new Members of the District policy committee Convenor, Rev Andrew Prout and **new Assistant Synod Secretary**, Rev Ajay Singh. to take the vows then appointed Rev Ajay Singh as Assistant Synod Secretary by taking approval of the Synod. then chair to take the agenda had a rich variety of topics which stimulates our interest and send us away, conscious of new challenges and resources and enriched and encouraged by sharing in the wider fellowship which was built around '**Look yourself on the wider map not in the small boxes**'. This brought members hopeful with the collective sense of fellowship in the wider British Methodist Church.

Rev Andrew Prout presided the election to elect the District Representative for next three years by ballot and the synod voted in favour of Rev Ajay Singh (B&SGC) Following matters of administration under '**Social Media Guidelines**' Rev Rachel Borgars, brought awareness regarding its uses, such as facebook, twitter to the Church's work with young people relating with six guiding principles. Rev Susan Graham updated with '**Training connexion Year**'. Rev Ian Souter (Rep. to World Church Relationship), stated in the '**World Church presentation: 'All Partners Conference**', that there were 44 Representative from 60 different countries took part in this conference. Some of the partners commended to help and committed to set at least one

point of support from their own resources. Mr. Tom Pye who been to Tanzania for the project '**HIV Education in Tanzania**', presented a detailed report about the challenges and struggles faced by those people who are either HIV positive or affected by it and encouraged the Synod to be the part of the support team to them.

In 2011, to mark the 400th Anniversary of publication of the King James edition of the bible, Rev Rachel Borgars on behalf of the District, is working with the **Biblefresh** initiative to host a regional event on 22nd May 2011 at Bristol Cathedral as part of a UK-wide initiative to raise the profile of the bible in our world.

Methodist Conference feedback: The Chair, Rev A Ward Jones brought back from the Last Methodist Conference at Portsmouth regarding the **closure of the Wesley College and MIH consultation**. A great concern was placed by Rev Dr. Jonathan Pye (current Principal, Wesley College) regarding the use of the premises and the process of its closure especially regarding the available resources and heritage at Bristol District. The suggestions has been requested, in which way it to continue for the future use of that great resources. Following the issue from the Methodist Conference under the heading '**Leading and Presiding: Developing the Presidency of the Conference**', Synod showed their motion unanimously in favour of 'to maintain the status quo of the Presidency of the Methodist Conference'.

Sharon Rowe who is based in Plymouth and responsible for promoting work with young people in our Churches across the South West guided the Synod on '**youth Participating Strategy & Work with Young People**' that it's time for change. We need to enable in growing of the young people in mission & community work and in the life of the Church. She encouraged the Synod to send **two representatives to Youth Assembly** of the Methodist Church.

After Lunch, in the afternoon session, it's been highlighted about '**City of Sanctuary**' by Bristol Group. 'City of sanctuary' is a national movement to build a culture of hospitality for people

seeking sanctuary in the UK. It's goal is to create a network of towns and cities throughout the UK which are proud to be places of safety, and which includes people seeking sanctuary fully in the life of their communities. It's a place where a broad range of local organizations, community groups and faith communities, as well as local government, are publicly committed to welcoming and including people seeking sanctuary. The Bristol District has been invited to pledge support, so it's been requested that the members of the Synod to extend their support to 'City of Sanctuary'. Synod received an update from the Mr. Robert Beckham, Dist. Treasurer on the District's finances. Who has brought into the knowledge of the Synod regarding the forthcoming increase in the assessment. The Rev Paul Edward, plugged under the District event about '**Bourne Again Identity**' (a film known to many, but perhaps not all of you).

At the end of Synod after final administration and courtesies in the closing worship, we recognised the work of our four **new Deputy Chairs** of the District, Rev David Alderman (Wiltshire); Rev David Hart (Bristol); Rev Roly Sims (Somerset) and Rev Carrie Seaton (Gloucestershire) along with our **new Policy Committee Convenor**, Rev Andrew Prout and **new Assistant Synod Secretary**, Rev Ajay Singh. An offering was received The amount was £534.11 with an additional gift aid recovery during the worship of £79.08, making £613.19 to be split 50/50% between the Tanzanian Aids Project and MDRF Pakistan Flood Appeal. Members of the United Area of Wiltshire and especially the staffs & the team with the Head-Teacher Simon Morris of Kingswood School in the North East Somerset & Bath Circuit were thanked for their hospitality, and appreciation expressed to all who had served the District in the last twelve months. There were a lot to grasp and widely to share in the life of our respective Churches.

Rev Ajay Singh – Synod Assistant Secretary.



Ref: D&M/SCS | Youth President | 27 Sept 2010 | Version 1

Letter from the Methodist Youth President

Hi,

I'm Christy-Anna, the new Youth President of the Methodist Church. I took over from Pete Brady on September 1st.

I'm 23 and I live on Portland, in Dorset (Southampton District). I applied for the position of Youth President because I wanted to be involved in the exciting work and vision of the Youth Participation Strategy. I am passionate about all ages working together and I want to see more young people empowered to take action to change things that concern them in their local churches and communities.



I'm writing to you in your position of leadership to tell you about the Methodist Youth Assembly, taking place this year at the Liddington PGL Centre, near Swindon from Friday 19 November to Sunday 21 November.

I'm really looking forward to Youth Assembly because it's a great place for me to get to know more young people and find out their opinions, concerns and hopes about the church and their lives. It's also a place where young people can get to know me and other members of the Children & Youth team.

So, what is Youth Assembly?

Youth Assembly is planned by young people who volunteer to be facilitators of the business. They are assisted by members of the Children & Youth team. Young people come to Youth Assembly from all over the Connexion. But they won't be alone for long, because once they arrive they'll soon make friends and meet other like-minded people.

It's a place for young people to listen to each other and to God, and to talk about the issues that really matter to them. It provides time and space for young people to worship and have fun together and the resolutions that come out of Youth Assembly are passed on to Methodist Conference. It is a fantastic way of getting young people more connected with the Church and with other young Christians.

It's time to book now

Each Methodist District sends two youth representatives to Youth Assembly. But it's open to **any** young person aged 11 to 23 connected in some way with the Methodist Church. (Small groups from uniformed organisations, or other informal groups who meet in Church buildings are also welcome.) A place at Youth Assembly costs just £60 for the weekend and you can book online at **www.methodistyouthassembly.org.uk**

There are only 350 spaces available and they're going fast, so If you want to be sure of a place, book quickly!. **Bookings should be made before October 1st 2010 if at all possible.** Please encourage your young people to attend. Book them in as soon as you can, or pass this information onto someone who will – especially to your young people themselves, as they can, of course, book themselves into the event.

Don't forget to take a look at Generous

The outcomes from Youth Assembly are recorded on our 'Generous' actions website (see **<http://methodist.generous.org.uk>**), where young people can sign up to act together on the issues raised at Youth Assembly.

Decisions, decisions

In addition to the actions and outcomes you can see on the Generous website, the Youth President elections are held at Youth Assembly, along with those for any other positions that are open to young people (like positions on Methodist Council or the Youth Participation Reference group).

Want to know more?

For more information, posters, flyers and publicity about Youth Assembly please email Jude Levermore on **levermorej@methodistchurch.org.uk** or get in touch with the Participation Project Manager closest to you geographically (see below).

Regional Participation Project Managers

South West	Sharon Rowe	07791425501
Midlands	Lynne Norman	07772311815

But wherever you go online, make sure your young people come in person to Methodist Youth Assembly, 2010: Generate! See you there!

Thank you,

Christy-Anna

Methodist Youth President

BRENT KNOLL

Autumn really is here. We've had those still, misty, 'Novemberish' days already but now there are clear blue skies, bright sun by day and the first frost at night. We enjoy the glow of the last flowers and at the same time prepare for the next year with spring bulbs and wallflower plants. The leaves fall but new buds have already formed. In the changing seasons there is always the hope of new life.

Death and Resurrection are at the heart of our Christian faith but sometimes in the church it is difficult to reflect this faith in our practices. We cling on to what is familiar when perhaps we have to let go in order that something new may come into being. As a congregation we enjoy our fellowship together but we need to be constantly alert to see where the spirit may be leading us. We are where the Spirit may be leading us. We are sorry that it is no longer possible to run Youth Clubs on our premises but we are very grateful for all the work Sue and Keith and their helpers have done over the years, and for the many young people who have come through our doors and have enjoyed good experiences. We may never know what fruit may come from all the work that has been done.

With the help of our friends at St. Michaels, the Toddler's group is still flourishing and we are glad that our schoolroom has been made available for the membership classes, Andrew is holding, and also for the Emmaus Course organised by the Revd Simon Lewis from the United Benefice. At our Church Council all of us were prompted to think about what a commitment to Church membership means and no doubt we shall go on considering this prayerfully. A focal point for this may be the Annual Covenant Service

At the Link Committee it was suggested that the Village Churches might share in some services and we hope that this may be possible at the Covenant Service which will take place here on January 2nd.

Our loving greetings go to all members of our congregation who are no longer able to meet with us and to all our other friends throughout the link.

Love from,
Margaret.



EAST BRENT

Well thankfully end of year accounts are now completed just have to prepare and submit them to Church Council and Circuit meetings, what busy months September and October were.

Alice Gilling celebrated her 18th birthday and is now a fully qualified driver. Her sister Hannah celebrated her 21st birthday (busy times for the Gilling family and no doubt expensive).

Harvests have now been celebrated in each of our Churches. The Rev. Carol Gill conducted ours at East Brent to a reasonable size congregation, and presented an interesting interpretation of Harvest. How good it is to have these different ideas incorporated alongside traditional ones.

The following week Rev. Robert Channon led our worship incorporating Holy Communion and it was good to sing old and well known hymns particularly as only a few of us were present, at least with Robert even the hard of hearing can hear every word. (Pity quieter speakers don't learn from this). On returning to Brean, Jill and I attended the Harvest Lunch, we obviously missed their service but not their excellent meal, congratulations to all, and thank you.

The next week following an excellent morning service led by Chris Williamson, we had our Church Council chaired by the very able Rev. Carol Gill, it goes without saying that the meeting itself ran through the agenda like clockwork, and came to the hardest decision of the afternoon, which of the sandwiches and cake would I choose!!

We are missing one or two through illness and holiday, Gwen Oldham has been admitted to Weston Hospital, she is progressing well and tests she attended in Bristol were fine, unfortunately she has now picked up an eye infection. We wish her well and a speedy recovery. Margaret Scott is off to Australia visiting her son for a month. (Not to watch the cricket).

The last of the cowboys have now departed from Brean, the summer season basically finished, so shortly after the Circuit meeting Jill and I will depart to warmer climes for a few weeks rest (hopefully).

We shall then be looking forward to the Christmas Programme of events:-

17th Dec 7.00pm Carols by Candlelight at East Brent
21st Dec 7.30pm Carols in the Barn at Ash Lawn,
Rooksbridge
25th Dec 10.00am Short family service at East Brent
26th Dec no service at East Brent

Please try and come to an event at East Brent, we need your support.

Gordon Legg



BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

.STEWARDS COLUMN

As October comes to an end, and we look ahead to November it's good to remind ourselves of what has been happening, and what's in store.

We began the month by celebrating the World Church, and had a very interesting and informative morning when Mrs Mary Witts, wife of the Rev. Graham Witts from St. Andrew's Parish Church came to share with us her experiences in Ethiopia where she was director of theological studies, training the local Anglican priesthood. Following this, she presented the JMA certificates, revealing that as a child she had attended a Methodist Sunday School and had herself collected for JMA. We extend our congratulations to all the children who collected a superb total of over £366, and to Marion Kingsbury who so ably enables them to do so.

The following Sunday we welcomed baby Tyler Drew Course along with his family and friends to our church for his baptism. It was lovely to see the church so full, and to have to find extra chairs to accommodate everyone.

Then we had an evening Link service where the preacher was the chairman of the District, the Rev. A. Ward Jones. It was good to be able to share this time of worship with friends from the other churches.

So, there has been much happening on Sundays, and I haven't even mentioned Messy Church that had its highest attendance to date for the October session. Do hold that work in your prayers.

However, the month has brought cause for concern about some of our church members who have needed hospital treatment during the month.

We remember them, and remember too, those of our members who are not in the best of health at present. Our prayers go out to them as well. But we prepare for November, and that brings with it our Christmas Fair that will take place on November 13th. There will be a variety of stalls, and we do invite you to come and support this as we seek to clear the outstanding debt on the redevelopment. We really are getting very close to clearing it!

The poet Thomas Hood wrote

“No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds,
- November.”

The month may bring the darker days, and the solemn ceremony of Remembrance Sunday, but with the church year reaching its climax the next Sunday with the theme of Christ the King, we can find hope & inspiration, as we look to begin the Christian year once more with the arrival of Advent on the following Sunday, preparing our hearts to remind ourselves of what God has done, what he is doing, and what he will do in the future.

So, on behalf of the Burnham stewards, I wish you God’s peace & blessing for the coming month.

Joyce (Pipet)



BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT FUND

We acknowledge the following special events and the money raised:

Evening Meal - Dorothy and Cedric £208.00

Sponsored ½ Marathon Alison Crowther Smith £59.00

The **CHRISTMAS FAIR** will be held on Saturday, **NOVEMBER 13th**
from 10.00am – 12.30pm

Please see main advert on page 5 for full details.



A Small Request

Do you have an electric hand mixer which you no longer use, if so could you contact Rosaleen Anderson, or any of the lunch club caterers.

Thank you

BREAN

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

I was preaching at Bournville last Saturday. As I motored along the winding road from Brean to Weston I was cheered by the lovely morning sunshine, in stark contrast to Saturday's rain (what a day to re-open the Grand Pier again after its re-building). I drove onto the estate in a good mood and was startled by the sight of two donkey statues near where the old Methodist Church once stood (I am told that there is a third on the opposite side of the road). They were really a treat standing there in the sunshine. I was shocked because this didn't reconcile with the character of this estate that you see in the media. Talking to people at the church, it seems that these metal sculptures were part of a couple of dozen or so placed around Weston for the summer. All the rest have had to be taken indoors because of vandalism. But not those on the Bournville Estate!!

The church community there is in good heart and have seen an increase in worshipping congregation in recent weeks. A team of two or three young Christian adults is working around the estate talking and meeting with people especially teenagers, about life and its meaning, and worshipping at the church. It was a very good morning and I felt very encouraged by the positive Spirit there, and by the developments taking place.

Here at Brean we had our Church Council in October and shared fellowship over lunch. Again a happy time mulling over the past few months and setting out plans for the future. We also had the Circuit meeting at Brean this month – though of course those of us who don't get to attend, will never know what happened unless we go and ask!

In November our joint worship with St Bridget's is on the second Sunday (14th) as this will be the Remembrance Service

We hold in our prayers, those of our number who have been poorly, including Kath Hopkins who has had a difficult few days recently.

But when we sometimes feel ourselves vulnerable in numbers and energies, we can gain inspiration from Bournville who after several years of change and upheaval have held on in faith and now enjoy the increase.

Harvey Allen

Minister

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

**The Deadline for the
December 2010 - January 2011 "LINK" is
Sunday 21st November 2010**

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