
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

November 2012 Volume 47. No. 9.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

As I finish the current round of Church Councils I breathe a sigh of relief. Some Church Councils are invigorating; with issues discussed in a positive manner and with the advancement of Christ's Kingdom at the forefront of our minds. Ideas are suggested, examined and some are tried out and put into practice while others lead onto further ideas. People offer themselves to take on tasks, lead groups and fulfil appointments.

Unfortunately not all Church Councils are like this and sometimes the knowledge, the ideas, the energy needed to move things forward is just not there. The situation is not helped when someone *does* take on a task on behalf of the church and then finds that criticism drops on them like a ton of bricks!

How we deal with disagreement in Church life is crucial to the health of the community. A couple of months ago I wrote "We get the best out of people by making them feel good about what they are doing rather than making them feel that their efforts are not valued". We have to accept that when someone takes on a task within the church – they may do it differently to how we would do it or how it was done before – that does not make them wrong!

When I was teaching – if two children fell out in the playground I would take them to a classroom – sit them down quietly and get them to talk through the issues and about what response might be appropriate – or not! As adults we are expected to work these things out for ourselves and as Christians we are expected to take our lead from the example set by Jesus. Scripture has many wise words to help us, for example: Proverbs 15:1 says "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger". Sometimes the message we receive comes more from the way in which it is given than from the actual words used!

I have used these words from Colossians 3:12-17 before but I think it worth repeating them:

Colossians 3:12-15 NRSVA: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds

everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let us try even harder to make our churches positive, loving and encouraging places to be.

Blessings

Revd Andrew



Baptisms at Brent Knoll

In September.

Emma, Daughter, Elisha, granddaughter and Alfie, grandson of Sue & Keith Cox.



CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Thur. 1st	2.30pm.	B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Do we mean what we sing?
Sat. 3rd	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Coffee Morning with Stalls, Christmas Cards & Raffle in aid of Action for Children.
Sat. 3rd	10.30 - 12.00	E/B	Christmas Sale at East Brent
Sun. 4th	4.00pm.	B/H	Family Service at Burnham Methodist Church - All Welcome.
Sat. 10th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Christmas Sale & Coffee Morning in aid of Educate the Kids (in Kenya)
Tue. 13th	2.30pm.	E/B	"LINK Villages Fellowship - Mission Aviation Fellowship Mrs 'Ben' Huddleston
Wed. 14th		B/H	Church Lunch at Burnham
Wed. 14th	2.30pm.	B/H	Bible Study at Burnham All welcome
Thu. 15th	2.30pm.	B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Guest Speaker - Rev. Stanley Pipet.
Sat. 17th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	R.N.L.I. Christmas Fair & Coffee Morning
Sat. 24th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sun. 25th	6.30pm	B/H	CAFE CHURCH Service at Burnham Methodist Church - All Welcome.
Tue. 27th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Mrs Berry Jenkins (Collection)
Wed. 28th	2.30pm.	B/H	Prayer Group at Burnham All welcome
Wed. 28th	7.30pm.	B/H	Talking of God - Now is the time to talk of God - at Burnham All welcome

DECEMBER

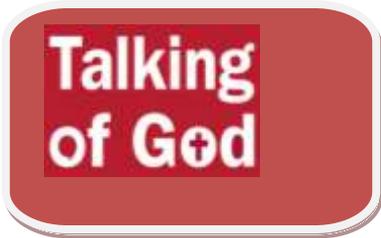
Sat. 1st	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle in aid of the Heating Fund - Fundraising Group
----------	---------------	-----	--

Sun. 2nd	4.00pm.	B/H	Family Service at Burnham Methodist Church - All Welcome.
Wed. 5th	7.30pm.	B/H	Talking of God - Now is the time to talk of God - at Burnham All welcome
Thur. 6th	2.30pm.	B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Christmas Stories and Carols
Sat. 8th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning
Tue. 11th	11.45am.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Christmas Buffet (11.45 for 12 noon)
Wed. 12th		B/H	Church Lunch at Burnham
Wed. 12th	2.30pm.	B/H	Bible Study at Burnham All welcome
Wed. 12th	7.30pm.	B/H	Talking of God - Now is the time to talk of God - at Burnham All welcome
Sat. 15th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Coffee Morning in aid of Educate the Kids (in Kenya)
Wed. 19th	7.30pm.	B/H	Talking of God - Now is the time to talk of God - at Burnham All welcome

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



Now is the time to talk of God



“We live in a world that is both exciting and challenging. A world in which local Methodism encourages us to remain proactive within our village, town and city. A world that is shattered through natural disaster and military attack. But a world

where people’s compassion and care for one another remains unquenched.

Our calling as Christian disciples is to be able to talk about our faith in ways which build up our own confidence and which also encourage others on their own discovery and kindling of faith-talk.

Talking of God is a Methodist course for Methodist people. It is a unique contribution to the resources available to churches and church leaders.”

Talking of God aims to:

- enable local churches to gain confidence in speaking about their faith in Jesus
- deepen the relationships between individuals within a church context
- encourage the church to recognise the opportunities already offered to them to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

A number of conversations within churches in the Link have indicated that many people lack confidence in talking about their faith, especially with those outside of the church. At a time when many of our churches are struggling to keep going with fewer people, we need to build our confidence in talking about our faith with others.

I therefore intend to run this course in the near future for anyone who feels that they would like to build their confidence in talking about their Christian faith. The course will take place at Burnham on four consecutive weeks. It would help me if you would give an indication of your interest in coming so please ring or email – but you will also be welcome to just turn up!

Contact: apbiggs@gmail.com 01278 782306

Times and dates: 7.30pm Wednesday 28th November,
5th December,
12th December,
19th December



Come and join us for Bible Study



2nd Wednesday of each month at 2.30 pm
At Burnham Church

Come and join us for Prayer Group



4th Wednesday of each month at 2.30 pm

Join us at Burnham for our new

FAMILY SERVICE

at 4.00pm on the

First Sunday of the month.

Next one on 4th November.

**Children must bring an adult
but adults may also come unaccompanied!**



We also invite you to

CAFE CHURCH

**a different type of evening service, hymns and songs, prayers
and informal discussion on challenging themes
- tea or coffee and biscuits as well!**

**Next Cafe Church on 25th November at 6.30pm.
but reminders will be given nearer the time**

Thank you to Andrew

During this year Andrew has performed two services for us, in July the funeral service of Irene, Sue's mum and in September a triple Baptism.

On both occasions Andrew has supported us with the organisation of the services and shown sensitivity toward us.

Whilst the funeral was a somewhat sad affair the Baptisms were an absolute joy for us all. Elisha and Alfie our grandchildren were, to say the least, a handful during the service and a delight. When we gathered around the font Elisha immediately saw the possibilities of dunking her little yellow and blue striped duck (Ducky AKA Diddy) into the water, Alfie managed to throw his empty milk bottle into the congregation and Elisha battered Keith around the head with her candle. During all of this Andrew carried on with the Baptisms that included Emma age 28, our daughter who was to be a Godparent. Actually there were four Baptisms; Elisha was at her cutest when she placed her finger into the font and very carefully placed the sign of the cross on Ducky's forehead.

Once again a very relaxed and joyous occasion at Brent Knoll led by a very calm Minister, thank you Andrew and Brent Knoll from all the family.

Sue and Keith Cox.



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

The first of our October meetings was to host a meeting with Milton Ladies Group.

An annual event we were joined by about 50 people for a talk by Rev. Kath Allan an Anglican priest who has lately retired to the area. She gave us much to think about in her talk "Who is my neighbour"

After the meeting we moved into the hall for tea and fellowship, which was greatly enjoyed – catching up with many friends who have come over the years we have been doing this get together.

On October 23rd we welcome Mr. & Mrs Pigeon to tell us about the Wild West.

On November 13th Mrs 'Ben' Huddleston will speak on the Mission Aviation Fellowship.

On November 27th Chernobyl Children's' Lifeline (Collection) – Mrs. Berry Jenkins.

On December 11th 11.45 for 12.00 Our Christmas Buffet comes around again when we shall enjoy a delicious meal followed by a visit from East Brent First School Christmas presentation.



Harry's Page (from his daily Bible readings)

TUE OCT 16 I TAKE JOY IN DOING YOUR WILL PSALM 40:8 NLT ARE YOU DRIFTING OFF COURSE

EMBARKING on a rafting trip with friends author John Blumberg Observed We had a hard time getting away from shore - there appeared to be enormous momentum keeping us grounded. Slowly it got easier and we decided to relax. And it was during our moment of pause that reality set in concerning our ever so gentle-drift out to sea. We immediately grasped for safety, one arm holding the raft, the other aggressively swimming. Twenty minutes later we'd made minimal progress. A lifeguard in a kayak appeared, and, comforted by his presence, we lightly commented about our distance from shore. But he wasn't laughing! Orange markers had warned us not to go beyond them, but we ignored them and drifted five times further out than we should. The lifeguard didn't leave, but he didn't assist us either. Forty-five minutes later I walked ashore shaking from exhaustion.' We don't run away from our values, we drift away and wake up in places we never meant to. Sin Is subtle; it lulls you into thinking you have it all together, then one day you discover you're In over your head. God's Word Is our safety marker. David said, 'I take Joy in doing your will...for your instructions are written on my heart.' The Hebrew word for 'heart means gut. It was used like we describe the heart as the core of our emotions. David's thinking and emotions were so sharpened by Scripture, it became...part of [his]... being' (TM). As a believer, God's Word should be so Ingrained in your heart that you want to do what's right, and take Joy' in doing His will.



UNUSED GEARS

READ: Titus 3:1-8

Be ready for every good work. --
litus3:1

My first bike had one gear. Whether I was going fast or slow, uphill or downhill, that gear did everything. My next bike had three gears: one for level surfaces, one for going uphill and one for going downhill. My third bike had ten gears, allowing me an even broader range of choices. Even though my

last bike had several gears to choose from, I didn't use all of them every time I rode. Some were best suited for starting and climbing, others were reserved for gaining speed and others were best for a leisurely pace. But the thing about gears is this: Even though I wasn't using all of them at the time, it didn't mean I would never need them.

The same can be true in regard to our spiritual gifts and abilities. During times when I feel I am not being used to do certain things I once did, instead of feeling useless and unappreciated I thank God for the 'gear' I'm currently able to use. Just because a skill is not needed right now doesn't mean it never will be.

Our spiritual gifts are needed in different ways at different times. Needs and circumstances change in unforeseeable and unpredictable ways. The apostle Paul reminded Titus, "Be ready for every good work" (Titus 3:1). May that be true of us as well. ---Julie Ackerman Link

*Heavenly Father, I need to remember that
what I do is up to You, but how I do it is up
to me. Whether I am busy or still, may I be
peaceable, gentle, humble, kind and loving*
Keep your tools ready---God will find work for you



Coffee Morning

Saturday Nov 3rd



10.00 - 12.00



**Christmas Cards,
Cakes, Bric-a-Brac and Raffle**

In aid of Action for Children Charity

You are cordially invited to
Educate the Kids
Singing Children of Africa
Reg charity SCO 27998
CHRISTMAS
COFFEE MORNING

10th November

10.00am. to 2.00pm.

At Burnham Methodist Church
College Street

Many Stalls:- Cakes, Gifts, Kenyan Jewellery,
Raffle, and Tombolas:- Adults, Girls, & Boys (a
Prize every ticket)

We look forward to welcoming you there

BRENT KNOLL

I was awoken at 5.30am on the first Sunday in October by the sounds of voices, water flowing and a water pump. The Lane had flooded and had decided to offload its excess water into the farm. My neighbours (who thankfully walk their dogs at a heinously early hour) found themselves between ankle and knee deep in water. They had started their water pump immediately, put sandbags outside my cottage and were doing their utmost to stem the flow. Had it not been for their hasty action the cottage would have been flooded. As it was, their home was ruined. All I lost was a freezer and its contents which were kept in the shed. It could have been so

much worse. By 8am my cat was standing on top of a sandbag wondering where on earth this river had come from. He was far braver than me. My wellies had a hole in them and I wasn't going anywhere. I have never experienced flooding before - even on this minor level. But my heart went (and will continue to go) out to everybody in this county who has lost much to our wet climate.

At our Church Council Meeting on 13th October, Revd Margaret Trapp reported that the Toddler Group had continued to flourish under her joint leadership with Jane Hannah and with Margaret Smith from the Anglican Church. Margaret herself will resign from this position at Christmas and we now need someone else who can commit themselves to working with the Toddler Group every Tuesday in term time. This would involve preparation beforehand, helping during the session and clearing up afterwards. Jane would feel happier if the joint leader could be from the Methodist Church so if there is anyone from the Link Churches who could offer to undertake this work Margaret would be delighted to hear from you.

Our Link Villages Fellowship is held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 2.30pm in East Brent Methodist Hall. Please note that ALL are welcome - not just Methodists! This month Mrs 'Ben' Huddleston will be talking about the Mission Aviation Fellowship on 13th November and Mrs Berry Jenkins will be telling us about the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline. I really recommend these afternoons.

God bless

Rosemary Krull

PREACHERS FOR SEPTEMBER AT 10.30AM

- | | | |
|------------------|----------|---|
| 4 th | November | Revd Andrew Biggs (Holy Communion) |
| 11 th | November | Revd Andrew Biggs Remembrance Sunday |
| | | Joint service at Parish Church |
| 18 th | November | Revd Robert Channon |
| | | (Link Service held at Brent Knoll) |
| 25 th | November | Revd Stephen Marr |



EAST BRENT

Well at last Church Councils, Circuit Meetings and year end accounts are now thankfully behind us and perhaps we can relax a little and devote a little more time to our own Churches. At East Brent we enjoyed our Harvest Morning Service with Revd. Pam Pembro and after a sale of produce the remainder went to “Somewhere to Go” in Weston. The following week our Church Council followed the morning service and lunch (slightly copying Brean) instead of the usual High Tea after the meeting, well what a turnout for this!!! More at an East Brent Church Council than the last 40 years, was it FOOD, FELLOWSHIP or FASCINATION, I believe it to be all three!!! Anyway no real problems at the meeting, so we survive for another year if our imminent quinquennial brings no unforeseen problems. Jill and I looked around Mark Graveyard when passing the other day as a sort of inspection for the Circuit as this Circuit is responsible for its upkeep and I’m pleased to report how tidy it is kept by Mr Don Kelson, what a quiet and peaceful area it is, we are grateful for having someone to keep it in good order.

We are now looking forward to the start of Link Services firstly at Brean and then at Brent Knoll and with Christmas around the corner East Brent has the following events:

CHRISTMAS SALE 10.30 TO 12.00 SATURDAY 3rd NOVEMBER

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT 7.00pm FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS MORNING 10.00am SHORT SERVICE

We look forward to welcoming everyone to East Brent at anytime and wish all our friends in other Churches well at this time.

Gordon Legg

BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

Steward's Column

After months, if not years, of saying “no” when asked to be a steward, as I can't commit to doing any more than I do at present. After all, somebody else can do it, can't they? But somebody else and anybody else have both refused and only nobody else was left. So it was agreed that I wouldn't have to do any more on a Sunday as the jobs are being shared out amongst the congregation and so I said “yes”.

This is the year of Jubilee, when in the Old Testament debts were wiped out and we could start again with a clean sheet. (Deuteronomy ch 15 The year for cancelling debts v 1 At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts.)

As the chorus of the hymn says:

Behold He comes riding on the clouds,
shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee,
out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

So why are there so many long faces? So many complaints? Don't you know, have you not heard the good news? Jesus is alive!! He died on the cross that our sins may be forgiven, but he rose again and is alive today. We should be joyful, full of joy and wanting to share the good news with our friends and neighbours.

Criticism, unless constructive, only serves to demoralize and cause to lack confidence; but encouragement will do the opposite, so build up confidence and you will soon eradicate the need for criticism.

So lift up your hearts and be positive; look around at the many signs of God's wonderful creation. Pray for the world that God's will **WILL** be done; the hungry **WILL** be fed – there is enough food to go round if only we will share.

At Burnham we have a Prayer Group that meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30 pm, when we pray for the world, our community and more personal prayers. Anyone and everyone will be very welcome to join us. We also have a Bible Study Group that meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2.30 pm – again all are welcome to join us. Some of us come to the lunch at 12.30 and stay on for the study.

We remember those who are unwell or in any distress and pray for God's blessing on them and on us all.

Hilary Malpas

BREAN

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

October has been a busy month here at Brean.

There's nothing like putting food on the table to bring the people in, and more than forty people sat down to an excellent Harvest lunch on 7th. Stanley Pipet had taken the United Service earlier at which thirty attended. And right good that was too. The church had been nicely decorated with flowers, vegetables and a good array of tinned foods that will be taken to the Food Bank. St Bridget's also contributed tins for the Food Bank from their Harvest Festival and the surplus of £175 from the lunch will be added to that in order to support the work that the Food Bank is doing locally. A special thanks to the ladies who helped to arrange the Church and prepare the lunch.

Judy and I were pleased to be able to take some American friends, who were staying with us, to our Harvest Celebrations. They too are Methodists, from Mississippi, and we had previously been able to drive them to Pill near Bristol (where Francis Asbury had begun his American adventure to spread Methodism there), the New Room in Bristol (the oldest Methodist Chapel in the world), and Hanham Mount (where John Wesley first preached in the open air). Then, on Sunday afternoon we trudged through the mud to the top of Brent Knoll the view from which Wesley wrote 'the globe of earth...can hardly afford a more pleasing scene.'

A week after Harvest, food on the table helped persuade us all to stay on after the Service for our Church Council. It is a good opportunity to meet around the table and prepare ourselves for the more serious discussions that would follow. There were about 15 of us present on this occasion.

But food was not necessary on 21st when again, 30 people were present, this time for our joint Service shared with friends from Brent Knoll and East Brent. This is the first of the monthly gatherings planned for our churches over the winter months, and it is good to see that support continues from last winter.

Goodness only knows what the powers-that-be will make of our October count this year!!

Our Church Council was very positive and we welcomed a couple from St Bridget's who took part in our discussions (they even sat patiently through our completion of Annual Property returns, not the most thrilling item on the Autumn agenda!!)

That led to the Ecumenical Church Council on 19th. These days we often feel that our Covenant is faltering somewhat, though to be fair we normally have good meetings. But perhaps the most positive developments take place outside of the formal proceedings and as such, don't get reported. For example, the ladies from the Churches have separately agreed to work over the next few weeks making up Christmas trees for display in both Churches. And a book reading group has been established these last three or four months. Membership of the groups is not restricted to the Churches (nor should it be) but it is good to see them taking place in this way. One or two shoots like this just give me the feeling that the Covenant is beginning to find new life.

Well now it's nearly November. By the time you get this Link, the clocks will have gone back, and an Arctic cold snap is forecast. Heigh ho, life goes round again.

Harvey Allen



WEST HUNTSPELL

This year seems to have flown past and we are once again approaching the seasons of Advent and Christmas, preparations are in hand for various activities (More details next month). We have spent time along with our family and friends knitting green squares and decorations for our Knitted Christmas Tree. We are looking forward to constructing, and putting it on display.

The knitted squares will then be made into Blankets for those in need. If you have any squares you have knitted please could I have them by 12th November, I am willing to collect them if required just give me a ring (leave a message if I'm not here)

Christine Thomas 📞 01278 785200



Thank the Lord for bringing together such a wonderful group of people at West Huntspill Methodist Church.

From the moment I first walked in I was welcomed, shown love and given encouragement. Then as my situation changed I was given practical help and prayer support, this Christ like fellowship has continued for me.

This same fellowship is here for all. May God continue to bless all concerned?
Janet M. Thompson.

Minister

Rev. Andrew Biggs, 28A Caernarvon Way. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2DQ
andrew.biggs@bristolalumni.org.uk Tel. (01278) 782306

Editors

Cedric & Dorothy May, 6 Brightstowe Road. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2HW
cedric.may@btinternet.com Tel. (01278) 784204

Web Sites

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

**The Deadline for the
December 2012 – January 2013 “LINK” is
Sunday 18th November 2012**

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

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

Price £3.00 per annum. Inland **Post £6.00** per annum.

Please note the increase in postage.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....
.....
.....

POST CODE.....CHURCH.....

LINK **£3.00** Postage Donation £.....

Please make Cheques Payable to **“Burnham on Sea Methodist Church”**