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# THE LINK

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## Methodist Link Churches Magazine

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November 2013 Volume 48. No. 9.

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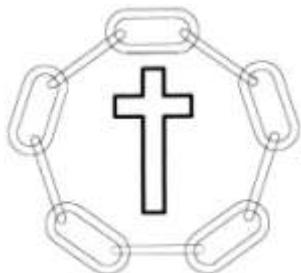
**BREAN**



**BRENT KNOLL**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**



**EAST BRENT**



**BURNHAM ON SEA**

# Calendar

## OCTOBER

- Sat 26th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning  
Mon 28th 2.30pm. B/K Bible Study led by Rev Margaret Trapp at Brent Knoll

## NOVEMBER

- Sat 2nd 10.30am. E/B Christmas Sale at East Brent Methodist Hall  
see page 3  
Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Action for Children Coffee Morning & Christmas Cards etc. See page 4  
Thu. 7th 2.30pm. B/H "Thursday Fellowship - Members Afternoon"  
Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Burnham Christmas Fair see page 4  
Sun. 10th 3.00pm W/H St John's Ambulance Cadets Remembrance Service at West Huntspill Methodist Church See page 5  
Mon 11th 7.30pm Burnham Pastoral Committee  
Tue 12th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship Childhood in Guernsey Revd and Mrs Stanley Pipet  
Wed 13th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch (Dorothy May) see page 5  
Sat 16th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning in aid of Educate the Kids  
Sun. 17th. LAST DAY FOR DECEMBER - JANUARY LINK  
Mon 18th Circuit Mens Supper Club see page 7  
Thu. 21st 2.30pm. B/H "Thursday Fellowship - Mrs. Joyce Pipet"  
Sat 23rd 11.00 - 4.00 BR Craft Fair at Brean Methodist Church Note changed times see Page 5  
Sat 23rd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning  
Mon 25th 2.30pm. B/K Bible Study led by Rev. Margaret Trapp at Brent Knoll  
Fri 29th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee Morning Meet & Chat at West Huntspill  
See page 6  
Sat 30th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

## DECEMBER

- Thu. 5th 2.30pm. B/H "Thursday Fellowship - "Christmas Message"  
Rev. Andrew Biggs  
Sat 7th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning  
Tue 10th 2.30pm. E/B "LINK Villages Fellowship - Christmas Lunch and Entertainment"  
Wed 11th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch (Ros)  
Thu 12th 7.00pm B & H Choral Soc. Christmas Concert at St Andrew's Church See page 6

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

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# Christmas Sale

**CARDS CALENDERS PAPER  
COFFEE**



**CAKES**

**JAMS**

**JIGSAWS**

**BRIC-A-BRAC**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**METHODIST HALL**

**10:30**

**EAST BRENT**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**  
**Action for Children (NCH)**  
**COFFEE MORNING**

**10:00 -12:00**

**Burnham Methodist Church**

**Stalls - cakes, bric-a-brac**

**Christmas cards & raffle**

**CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**Burnham Methodist Church**

**Saturday**

**November 9th**

**10.00 – 12.00**

**Cake Stall, Raffle**

**Christmas Gifts, Chocoholics**

**Books & Teas & Coffees**

**In aid of Church Funds**

**Any items for sale, please leave in the box at  
the back of Church or see Dorothy**

West Huntspill Methodist Church



**Remembrance Service**

**St John Ambulance Cadets**

**Sunday November 10th at 3pm**

**Led by Revd Andrew Biggs**

**Please come along and support these young people as they pay their respects to those who have died in the service of our country**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

**Church Lunch at Burnham**

Steak & Kidney Casserole with Dumplings & Potatoes

Tickets £5.00 from Dorothy May 784204

**BREAN CHURCHES**

invite you to a

**GRAND CRAFT FAYRE**

AT

**METHODIST CHURCH**

ON

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23RD**

**FROM 11AM TO 4PM**

All sorts of wonderful gifts to buy

Light refreshments available

*St Bridget's Church and Methodist Church working together in partnership*



**WEST HUNTSPILL**  
**Come and join us for**  
**Our usual monthly**

**Coffee Morning**  
**On**

**Friday 29th November**  
**10am – 12pm**

**Opportunity to Meet and Chat with others**  
**and enjoy free coffee and cakes**



**The Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society**

Registered Charity No 120722

With Musical Director Nicholas Bromilow

# Christmas Concert



**St. Andrew's Church**

Burnham on Sea

With the children from

St. Andrew's school.

**12th December 2013**

**at 7pm**

**Prize Raffle**



**Refreshments**

Prizes include

**4 tickets to Animal Farm, Sunday Carvery vouchers for Brean Leisure Park,**

**£10 voucher for The Ritz Cinema.**

**Tickets £5**

**Children over 5yrs £2.50**

Available from **Grandma's Attic**, Victoria St. (Cash Only)

**Members, or on the door.**



We are grateful to **The Co-operative Funeral Care**  
B.O.S. for supporting this concert.

Dear friends

This is a “catch all” general appeal to include in Newsletters or in orders of service which contain announcements.

On 18<sup>th</sup> November, Revd. Elaine Brightwell will update the next meeting of the Circuit Mens Supper Club about the work of the Bristol Methodist Centre. At our last talk a few years ago, men brought clothing to be distributed or sold by the Centre and will do so again next month.

It may be that ladies in Circuit have unused clothing they are happy to donate. Several churches have men who attend the Club who would be happy to collect those items. Otherwise please contact me on (01934 525476) or [normanjlester@btinternet.com](mailto:normanjlester@btinternet.com)

*Norman*



## **EDUCATE THE KIDS (In Kenya)**

Our Church has continued to support the above Charity for part of the year since the RNLI had to cease their Coffee Mornings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday due to the lack of helpers.

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October. We held a Pre Christmas Sale. This was very well supported and £1169 was raised.

A group of 22 are travelling to Kenya on 17<sup>th</sup> November. It is intended that we will be providing lunch for about 650 children on 2 day before the School closes until January 2014. After the close our task is to complete forms giving details of families who wish their child aged 4 – 5 to start school in January.

It is a difficult decision selecting 30 children who are from the most needy families. We then hope to have enough people who offer to sponsor a child. This costs £6.00 a month (£72.00 per year) so if you would like to help in this way either speak to me or contact Sue Stevens Tel 01278 782789. It is rewarding to be involved.

Dorothy May

# HARRY'S PAGE

## Hard Way To Strength

Read:  
2 Corinthians  
12:1-10

My strength is  
made perfect in  
weakness.  
--2 Corinthians  
12:9

Diamonds are beautiful and valuable gemstones, but their beginning is common carbon--black, dirty and combustible. Through years of intense heat and high pressure, they become pure and strong. This makes them a good metaphor for spiritual strength: God uses intense outside forces to rid us of impurities and to perfect His strength in us. God's strength is made perfect in our weakness, says the apostle Paul (2 Cor. 12:9). I wish this were not true because I hate being weak. Chemotherapy and radiation treatments taught me more than I ever wanted to know about physical weakness. Then a minor event plunged me into a state of emotional weakness that caught me. Write your plans in pencil and remember that God has the eraser off guard. After losing 3 feet of hair and being bald for nearly

a year, one bad haircut should not have been a big deal. But it was, and I felt silly for being so weak. Some of us are able to create an illusion of strength and self-sufficiency. But sudden loss of health, employment or a treasured relationship is a startling reminder of our total dependence on God.

When we experience the fiery furnace of suffering--whether physical or emotional, whether persecution from without or humiliation from within--God's loving purpose is to make us pure and strong. --Julie Ackerman Link

God uses testing in our lives

To rid us of impurity

And teach us that our strength's in Him

And not in self-sufficiency. --Sper

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**Suffering is the fire that God uses to  
purify and strengthen us.**



## YOU CAN OVERCOME BITTERNESS

**‘STOP BEING BITTER AND ANGRY AND MAD AT OTHERS.’**

*Ephesians 4:31 CEV*

A MAN who had been bitten by a rattlesnake was rushed to the hospital. When he asked the doctor, ‘Is it life-threatening?’ the doctor said, ‘The bite isn’t, but the poison is.’ The ‘bites’ you suffer at the hands of others are painful and upsetting, but they’re not lethal. What happens to you normally doesn’t destroy you, but what happens in you afterwards can. Like venom, bitterness first poisons your mind, then your relationships. It causes you to replay the hurt until it controls you, stealing the future God planned for you. But it doesn’t have to be that way. You can overcome bitterness. God wants us to stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. And what God commands. He will give you the grace to do. When Peter asked Jesus, ‘Should I forgive my brother seven times?’ Jesus said, ‘No, you must forgive him seventy times’ (Matthew 18:21-22) In other words, ‘Forgive, and keep on forgiving until it no longer bothers you.’ What causes bitterness? Anger that’s allowed to take residence in your thought-life. God’s purpose for anger is to motivate you to tap into I power for solving problems; otherwise become permanent Solving the problem resolves and relieves your anger. But anger can become long-term bitterness which you fixate on ‘who did it to me,’ making you hostile, critical, blaming and punitive. You say, ‘Can I really stop my anger?’ Yes. With God’s help you can control your reaction and behaviours, and starve your anger of death. The fruit of the Spirit is...self-control (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV).



# BRENT KNOLL

**Minister Rev. Biggs**

We shared worship with two of our village churches last month and we would like to say thank you to Brean for hosting this. We owe you a special thank you for your generosity in sharing your delicious church anniversary cake with us afterwards! We are very fortunate to have such close links to other village churches in our area and look forward to hosting our next joint fellowship on 17 November here at Brent Knoll.

We will also be sharing worship on Remembrance day as we join St Michaels for this very special Sunday.

Ruth Knott's granddaughter Isobelle will be baptised on 3 November. It is always lovely to see one of the little ones who has enjoyed Toddlers being Christened in our church.

Both our bible study sessions and Emmaus Group are well underway. We are studying the Prophets and currently looking at the book of Amos. Our next session will be held on 25 November. The dates for Emmaus are 7 and 21 November. Both of these courses are open to all.

Many of us have succumbed to the various colds and other viruses which seem to be doing the rounds at the moment. To all of you who are suffering, we hope you keep warm and get well soon.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



## EAST BRENT

Looking forward, we are holding our annual Christmas Card Sale on Saturday 2 November from 10 am so do come along and buy some cards, cake and have a cup of coffee. You will be very welcome.

Looking back, our little church was beautifully decorated for the Harvest Service including some hops, not something you usually see in a Methodist Church. We were assured they were ornamental and not a beer making variety! Afterwards, the goods were donated to "Somewhere to Go" in Weston-super-Mare.

At our recent Church Council it was reported that we had received a letter about the Hinckley Point Consultation. Today, we have heard the announcement that Hinckley C is going ahead. Whatever your views, times change and we have to try and move with the changing times and the seasons roll on. We planned our Christmas Services and another Songs of Praise next summer. This week we are having an extra meeting to talk about the future of our church and the circuit.

I have been doing some family history research recently and have found it very engrossing. I have in my possession a large wooden truck lined with aluminium that has a “Bombay” sticker on the side of it. This once belonged to a great aunt who qualified as a doctor in 1904 and subsequently went to India as a Medical Missionary. I have been able to find out quite a lot about her i.e. where she studied, the journeys she made by ship to India and back again but you only get facts. The story behind the facts is left to my imagination. At the time there were very few careers open to women so she must have been a very resourceful and dedicated lady.

I also knew I had some connection with this area but did not realise that my great grandfather was born on a farm in East Brent Parish! On his marriage he moved some 20 miles to the other side of Somerset where the next 3 generations stayed and I grew up. On my marriage I moved to within 2 miles of where my great grandfather was born. It is intriguing to think he must have passed the house where I now live on many occasions and maybe even crossed the doorstep!

Rosemary Gilling



## **BURNHAM**

**[www.methodistchurchburnhamonse.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonse.org.uk)**

### **Letter from Burnham Stewards.**

The Calendar is telling us that we are nearing the end of October but the weather has not had the usual Autumnal nip in the air. However as we put the clocks back on Saturday / Sunday we will be made aware that with the earlier darker evenings winter is approaching.

As we start November we are reminded of the outside activities. Firstly the fireworks on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November followed by the Carnival on Monday November 4<sup>th</sup>

Our Church Christmas Coffee mornings begin on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November proceeds for Action for Children.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> we are holding a Christmas Fair in aid of our Church Funds. More details in this issue. Do come along to support and meet with friends while enjoying a Coffee or Tea.

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November we are invited to visit Brean Methodist Church between 11.00am and 4.00pm where members there are holding a Christmas Fair. There will be lots to see and purchase your Christmas Gifts.

The next issue of the LINK will be for December & January so all the Christmas services will be shown then.

We remember in our prayers all those who are unwell or not able now to get out to worship. Reading the LINK keeps us all in touch.

Dorothy.



## **JMA - JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL**

2012/13 saw JMA collections raise a total of £132.95 – a big thank you to everyone who donated.

This money contributes to helping people and supporting projects around the World. The money collected is used to help mission work overseas and at home.

In the last year JMA and the World Mission Fund has helped the people across Jamaica, Cuba, the Bahamas, Haiti and the Dominican Republic following devastation caused by hurricane Sandy. Haiti was still recovering from the 2010 earthquake with the streets of Port au Prince being flooded leaving people without homes and jobs. A grant of £18,000 was sent to help rebuild their lives.

In Pakistan a grant of £20,000 was sent to support women's development in the community with projects being set up such as the Earning Hands Project which trains women in skills helping them to generate income.

Srijana lives in Togo and tells us how when people think of Africa, often negative things spring to mind first. People tend to think of poverty, droughts, famine, wars, corruption and a poor standard of living. Srijana doesn't deny these exist, but one of the biggest lessons she has learned in Togo is hope. She sees people making the best of things, putting family first, making themselves selfless, never complaining, accepting it as part of their life here on earth. They don't expect too much from life and are not upset when not much is given as a whole. Togo is hopeful, changing for the better, developing slowly to build a better place.

We can all make a difference, creating change, giving people hope for the future and supporting the very important work JMA does.



## **BREAN**

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

With the change in the weather this week the good summer seems finally to be over and our seasonal visitors are reluctantly departing for the winter. We look forward to seeing them all again next year and are thankful that during the summer some of them have swelled our congregation.

Thankfulness is something I think we most appreciate at the harvest season of the year. We joined with our friends from St Bridgets at the start of the month for a joyful Harvest Thanksgiving and it was lovely to see the church glowing with autumn colour and full of people. A special thank you to the Revd Brian Milloy for taking the service and leading us in singing both modern and traditional harvest hymns. A splendid Harvest Lunch followed – thoroughly enjoyed by all and we are grateful to everybody whose hard work made it possible.

The following week we all enjoyed the joint Link Service with our friends from East Brent and Brent Knoll (our October Count figures are looking very good so far!) and it was good to have a chance to chat over coffee and cake afterwards. The present building at Brean was opened in 1933 so it is our 80<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and we took the opportunity to share a birthday cake in celebration.

Finally another request for support for our Grand Craft Fayre on Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11am – 4pm. There will be light refreshments and lots of wonderful items just in time for Christmas.

Harvey and Judy are away on their travels at present but will be back soon.

Regards

Anne



## **WEST HUNTSPILL**

### **Progress update on our Knitted Squares**

Do you remember all those knitted squares that made up our Christmas tree last year? Thanks to our hard working knitters, sewing, rather than knitting, we have been able to send 11 blankets to this new charitable health centre in the Cameroon. 6 cot size blankets have also been sent to Bristol Children's Hospital. And there are still more squares waiting to be joined together!



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

**The Deadline for the  
December 2013 – January 2014 “LINK” is  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

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

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