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# THE LINK

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Methodist Link Churches Magazine

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November 2018 Volume 53. No. 9.

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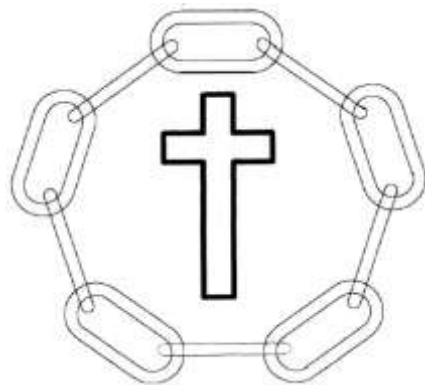
**BRENT KNOLL**



**BREAN**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**



**EAST BRENT**



**BURNHAM on SEA**

# Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

As we approach our Remembrance Day activities and services this year I am mindful that our remembering will be both secular and sacred.

As communities we look back 100 years to the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. We remember those who served and those who lost their lives in that war and in the many conflicts that have followed. Our churches will join in these recollections, giving emphasis on the word of God for peace and reconciliation.

The church itself had a significant role in World War 1 and one that we should honour as we remember. Over the last few months I have been researching the experiences of Christian Ministers who volunteered as Chaplains to the armed forces. I have read accounts of their involvement, and the way in which they had to deal with situations that were so much different from the day-to-day life they were accustomed to at home. In August 1915 there were 620 serving Chaplains in the armed forces, and by August 1918 this number had increased to 3,416. At least 185 gave their lives in service to the colleagues and friends.

The Revd Robert Wilfred Callin (a Methodist Chaplain on the front line) wrote of his time during the Somme offensive in which the British 5th Army was pushed back over 30 hard fought over miles:

*'For a fortnight practically without sleep or proper food we existed, and we fought, to our own battalion in particular falling the deathless honour of fighting the rear-guard action which covered the Division in its retirement. My duties were innumerable – but seldom the work of an orthodox minister at home. I buried no dead for that had to be left to the enemy. I preached no sermon – I passed Good Friday and Easter Sunday without being aware of them. But the last messages and the hurried talks at midnight; the ceaseless journeyings on behalf of the needs of the fighting men – these were part of my work. I walked until the bones of my feet felt as though they would go through my boots. I rode until my legs were raw and I was so tired I dared not sit on a horse. To stop was to sleep, anywhere, anyhow. Yet my lot was*

*mild compared with the lot of the fighters. It would be folly for my feeble pen to attempt any adequate description of the horror, the supreme courage, the incredible fatigue of that time. No one can realise it but those who were in it.'*

We remember that the loss and devastation of World War 1 did not prevent another conflict some 20 years later, and that wars continue to rage across our world. As we do so we give thanks for the work of Armed Forces Chaplaincy which continues today, bringing God's love into situations where love is difficult to find.

**Steve**



## Calendar

### OCTOBER

- Fri 26th 10.00 - 12.02 W/H Coffee & Cake at West Huntspill Methodist  
Fri 26th 7.00pm. Fourth Friday at Towans Cottage  
Berrow Road  
Sat 27th FOOD FEST in Burnham  
Thur 1st 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - We share together

### NOVEMBER

- Sat 3rd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Action for Children Coffee Morning  
Mon 5th 8.45 - 10.30 B/K Quiet time of prayer and meditation at Brent Knoll Methodist  
Wed 7th 7.00pm CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS at The Catholic Church see page 8  
Wed 7th 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Wednesday Group - Christmas Crafts by Linda Kruger  
Sat 10th 4.00pm B/H Messy Church  
Tue 13th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Celebrating Centenaries. - Bring & Buy  
Wed 14th 12.00pm B/H Communion & 12.30 Lunch Dorothy 784204  
Thur 15th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - Mrs. Joyce Pipet  
Sat 17th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Weston Hospice Coffee Morning

Sun 18th **LAST DAY FOR THE DECEMBER 2018 - JANUARY 2019**

- Sun 18th 10.30 E/B Joint Link Service at East Brent  
Mon 19th 10.00 Julian Meeting at St Andrews Church  
Mon 19th 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Tea & Chat Burnham Methodist  
Fri 24th 10.00 - 12.03 W/H Coffee & Cake at West Huntspill Methodist  
Fri 23rd 7.00pm. Fourth Friday at  
Sat 24th 10.30am E/B Christmas Sale at East Brent Methodist Church  
Tue 27th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Mrs. Margaret Scott.  
Fri 30th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H Coffee, Cake & Chat at West Huntspill in aid of West Huntspill School

DECEMBER

- Sat 1st 10.00 - 1.30 B/H CHRISTMAS FAIR at Burnham  
Mon 3rd 8.45 - 10.30 B/K Tea, Chat & Prayer at Brent Knoll Methodist  
Wed 5th 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Wednesday Group - Christmas Talk  
Thur 6th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - Christmas Afternoon  
Sat 8th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning  
Sat 8th 4.00pm B/H Messy Church  
Tue 11th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Christmas Tea - Christmas Poems, Stories and Carols.  
Wed 12th 12.00pm B/H Communion & 12.30 Lunch  
Sat 15th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Weston Hospice Coffee Morning  
Mon 17th 10.00 Julian Meeting at St Andrews Church  
Mon 17th 2.30 - 4.00 B/H Tea & Chat Burnham Methodist  
Fri 21st 7.00pm. E/B Carols by Candlelight at East Brent Methodist Church  
Sat 10.30 - 12.00 BR Christmas Coffee & Carols at Brean Methodist  
Mon 24th 4.00pm BR Informal Carol Service at Brean Methodist Church  
Tue 25th 10.00am E/B Short Family Service at East Brent Methodist Church



## **"T'was on a Sunday morning-The preacher came to call"**

To take the service at West Huntspill Methodist Church.

All was prepared, and her journey had let her arrive in plenty of time, which was a very good thing, as she had no idea what awaited her there.

She hadn't needed to prepare a meal as Christine Thomas had invited her and her husband to lunch. A most welcome gesture as the bathroom was being re-furbished courtesy of Methodist Ministers' Housing Society, so the bungalow was a bit chaotic at the time.

As she entered the church through the vestry, there were tables laid ready for some event down one side, but she presumed that there was to be a booking later on and people had had permission to lay up early.

Her misapprehension was shattered when she was led to one of the windows where there was a banner proclaiming that it was celebrating a 50 wedding anniversary.

THEN the penny dropped - the church were putting on a surprise celebratory lunch for Stanley and me. I am not often left speechless, or caught near to tears, but I was overwhelmed by the kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity of the church community there.

I did have a bit of time to compose myself before I led worship, but, I can never remember having such a surprise before a service! And the look on Stanley's face when he arrived was a sight to behold. Christine had asked him to park at the church, as the Close where she lives can get very congested. But when he drove in there were rather a lot of cars there, including mine, so he thought he ought to see what was happening!

The meal - a Sunday roast with all the trimmings plus a gorgeous selection of puddings - was such a memorable time of friendship and fellowship for us both.

How can we say a big enough thank you to West Huntspill for such a tremendous surprise!

But that thankyou comes from our hearts.

Joyce Pipet

# Friends of Burnham Hospital

Friends of Burnham Hospital return to The Methodist Church for 2019

Pleased to announce that The Methodist Church in College Street have nominated us as their coffee morning charity for 2019 where we shall be in attendance on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from January.

We shall be serving tea/coffee, biscuits and cakes, holding a raffle and selling quality goods including jigsaws, hand crafted cards, and notelets. We do hope you will join us and bring any unwanted gifts for us to sell.

All proceeds will go to the hospital.

For further information contact Vice Chairman

Ceri Joyce – 01278 323794

## COFFEE MORNING



In aid of

Teas & Coffee, Cake Stall,  
Christmas Cards, Raffle & Bric-a-Brac

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

At Burnham Methodist Church



# **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

In aid of Church Funds

Teas & Coffee,

A variety of Stalls, Raffle  
& Light Lunches.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

10.00- 1.30pm

At Burnham Methodist Church

Churches Together in Burnham, Highbridge & District



# CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS

in Burnham, Highbridge &  
surrounding villages

This is not just a meeting - it is a call, a plea, it might be a vision of what could be.....

It's not all weird..... honest - I just want us to have a get together and really wonder what God might be asking of us in our towns and villages and how together we might get on board.....



**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November**  
**7pm (but you can roll up later it's ok)**  
**Our Lady Catholic Church**  
*(The round one on Highbridge Road)*  
**TA8 1LL**  
**Burnham -on-Sea**

*"Who are we as a bunch of Christians in the Burnham and Highbridge Area?"*

*"How can we celebrate who we are in God's name?"*

*"Where do we go from here?"*

***If you'd like to know more, make a comment, moan about the poster or to ask if there will be chocolate biscuits please contact Rev Preb Sharon Crossman (she's the one at St John's in Highbridge and has some role with Churches Together at the moment.....)***

***[CTBurnhamandHighbridge@gmail.com](mailto:CTBurnhamandHighbridge@gmail.com)***

***Seriously we would do so much better if we got together.....***



# BREAN

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

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, Judy, Joyce, and I, together with Margaret Trapp, went up to The New Room in Bristol to listen to a talk given at an open meeting of Reflect, the Methodist Retreat Group, by the President of the Methodist Conference, Rev Michaela Youngson. Its subject followed her theme for the Presidential year, Radical Grace, Transforming Hope, and she illustrated the talk (as did others present) with examples of how a gracious reaction has transformed awkward and even dangerous situations into fruitful response. A risky but a proper way of using the Spirit in faith.

The previous Sunday I had been at East Brent for worship. At coffee after the service we dared to discuss the sermon of the day and then moved into the Power of Positive Thinking, the use of the energy of the Spirit to properly meet the challenges of our lives.

Recently I have been reading a book by Fr Richard Rohr. He runs a Centre for Contemplation in Arizona. The book deals with the interaction of the aspects of the Trinity which we call Persons but which he calls Relationships, a term to explain the constant and lively movement of Father, Son and Spirit that he defines as The Divine Dance. Rohr adds that God's love is already present within us but means nothing unless we choose to become a mirror reflecting that love by our response in spiritual faith. The Dance was present in Jesus and is potentially in us too. So become part of it, says Rohr. Taking such risks leads us into spiritual growth

Coincidentally, taking risks, which we do all day, every day and in all sorts of ways, was the theme of Steve's sermon at the first joint service of the winter, when East Brent and Brent Knoll churches shared worship with us the day after Judy, Joyce, Margaret and I had been to the New Room. It was a lovely sunny morning and I think we felt that Dance as we worshipped together. And the last of our summer visitors were still with us; it has been a real pleasure to have had them all in our congregation again this summer and we look forward to their return next year.

We shared with West Huntspill (and I think other church(es) before them) a common loaf for Harvest. It was a magnificent loaf with a selection of differently shaped bread rolls artistically arranged on top. The Anglicans from St Bridget's were with us for morning worship and for the excellent lunch afterwards. John Trebble conducted the service and we expressed our thanks to those who decorated the church for the Festival so well, and to those who provided and helped make the lunch so enjoyable.

So that leads us into our Church Council. Happily, our treasurer has been able to balance our financial books satisfactorily with enough to spare for our re-decoration which at last looks to start on November 5th. We formally approved a revised Covenant with St Bridget's church, we approved all our Church policy papers (which Anne had thoughtfully worked out for us beforehand), we allocated our share of the balance money from the ecumenical kitty before agreeing other donations too, and we approved dates for the next few months. So please put these dates into your diaries – we would love you to be with us:

Christmas coffee and carols      Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10.30am to 12 noon

Informal carol service:              Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4pm

Sausages and mash and Beetle Drive:      Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 7pm

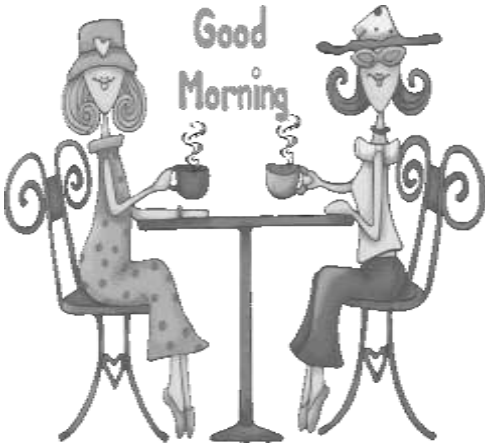
Next year is the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Methodism in Brean. It looks as though John Wesley visited but we cannot be sure that he preached. Our plans are not yet finalised, but we will publicise them in due course.

Meanwhile, if you are in Bristol, make the effort to visit the renovated New Room, the first ever Methodist building. It provides a good cup of coffee and snacks, and a visit to its museum is very rewarding. You'll find it along the Broadmead shopping centre.

In November all our services are in our own church at 10.30am except for Remembrance Day when, as is traditional, we will join with St Bridget's in their church at about 10.45am for worship.

*Harvey Allen.*

# WEST HUNTSPILL



## Our October Coffee Morning

Will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

10am -12md Table top sales

Free Coffee, tea and cakes

Proceeds for West Huntspill School

## Golden Wedding Celebrations

On September 23<sup>rd</sup> members and friends of the church, sat down to a special lunch to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Rev. Stanley and Joyce Pipet. Stanley and Joyce are supposed to be retired, but we are very grateful for their continuing contribution to the life of the churches in the Burnham area.



After our recent **Harvest Thanksgiving Services**, we were able to send £100 to Methodist Relief and Development Fund who are able to support people in need, both in this country and overseas.



## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank You to all who donated to the magnificent total of **£349.00** Thank you, also, to those who worked so hard, baking, serving coffee, manning stalls, and of course, the clearing up afterwards.



# **BRENT KNOLL**

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

**Minister Revd. Steve Bennett**

On 11th November we will be joining our friends at St Michael's in Brent Knoll for a joint service of remembrance. This year will be a particularly poignant one as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. It was also known as "The Great War" and "The War to End all Wars" because the loss of human life was so great that it was beyond imagination that such bloodshed, the like of which had never been seen before, could ever happen again. Sadly we are all too aware that this did not prove to be the case and during our time of reflection we will remember not only those who lost their lives during the First World War, but those who died during many subsequent conflicts. But as we remember those who have fallen we give thanks to those of our armed services who work tirelessly today in often near impossible conditions to maintain peace and to provide aid to those who so desperately need it. And we can only pray that a time will come when there truly is an end to conflict and a time of peace on Earth.

As we are fast approaching that time of year when we celebrate of the coming of the Prince of Peace, we will be holding a Christmas Fayre here at the Methodist Church on Saturday 15th December at 10.30am. As well as refreshments (mince pies, of course, guaranteed), we will have a stall selling, amongst other things, home made cakes as we put the very capable bakers in our congregation to work. Do come and join us for this festive time of fellowship.

Our church will continue to open on the first Monday of the month (this month, 5th November) between 8.45am and 10.30am for a time of quiet prayer and contemplation. All are, of course, welcome.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll, we hope that you all have a safe time during firework and carnival season - and that for all of us with pets - that they remain stress free and safe indoors during this noisy but happy time.

God bless

***Rosemary Krull***

**EAST BRENT**

**Christmas  
Sale**

**CARDS CALENDARS PAPER  
COFFEE**



**CAKES**

**JAMS**

**JIGSAWS**

**TOMBOLA**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>**

**METHODIST HALL 10:30**

**EASTBRENT**

# BURNHAM.

[www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk)

## STEWARDS COLUMN

My last link column was in April when everyone was talking about spring and the unexpected snow falls – little did we know the summer would be one of the hottest on record. And now, looking out the window, the leaves are red and brown, the grass is green (again) and animals are building their new homes for the winter. Let's not forget how beautiful the world is and treasure our seasons and the planet.

It's hard to believe we are now in November and the clocks have gone back, where has this year gone! We have had so many activities taking place and so many more to come.

We recently celebrated Harvest at Messy church, which was great fun with crafts, painting, games, worship and a lush tea, a sharing time was had by all. We are slowly growing in numbers and would ask you to pass the word around or if you are able to help, please let us know (always looking for more support). Messy Church takes place the second Saturday of the month.

We have our usual activities taking place including Saturday coffee mornings, Wednesday group, Church lunches and Tea and Chat – details to be found on the notice-board and in the notices or contact the Stewards for more information.

Don't forget to look out for all our fundraising events, come and be part of these. Our Christmas Fair will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December, a time to have fun and share with others.

November brings us Remembrance Day, a time to pause and think about the important things in life. Every week at Burnham we have our notices which I love, they remind me of everything I am going to be doing, and sometimes of the things I have forgotten to do! One of my favourite sections is the 'thought for the day', which I wish to share with you from this week's sheet.

'This day will only come once. Challenge yourself by saying "just for today I will enjoy each moment to the fullest and try not to tackle all life's problems at once. Just for today I will try to enjoy every one of God's blessings". Until the next time

Marian Kingsbury

*On behalf of the Burnham Stewards.*

## Minister and Circuit Superintendent

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## Web Sites

Circuit Web site [www.wsmbos.org](http://www.wsmbos.org)  
[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)

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Deadline for the DECEMBER 2018 JANUARY 2019 LINK is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b></p>
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## LINK ORDER FORM

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.

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