
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

November 2019 Volume 54. No. 9.



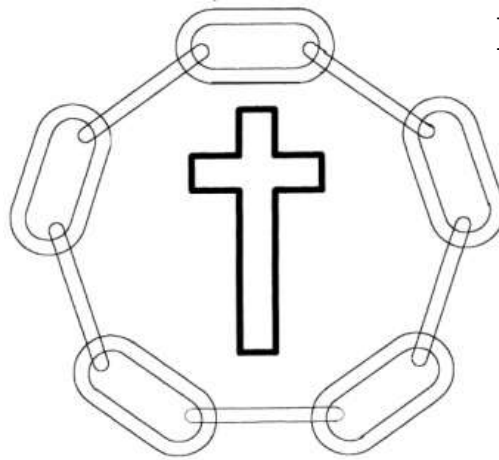
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

There is a wonderful opportunity for us.

Have you heard this comment recently either in your private life or in the life of the church? Life is full of wonderful opportunities, sometimes we take them, sometimes we miss them and wish later that we had acted sooner. One thing is certain, we cannot change the past or change decisions that we have made. Yet the future, well that is a different matter!

Here in the Circuit we have a wonderful opportunity in Weston-Super-Mare and whilst that may seem like a long way away it could have tremendous effects on our lives and churches here in the Link. In the new housing developments, we have been given the opportunity as a Methodist Church to do something, and we are looking at the possibility of employing a Pioneer Worker there. This will take money and resource from the Circuit but is also a once in a generation missional possibility. There are people even now working together to see how this might become possible. If successful we could have a resource that would be available for the future new housing developments planned around the Link area too.

Please support the Circuit in this initiative. Support with your prayers, and support with your affirmation and confirmation of the wonderful opportunity being afforded us. In the future, it is envisaged that each church in the Circuit will be asked to appoint a 'friend' of the work on the site at Meadfields (as it will be known); someone to support the work with time and presence as it gets off the ground, someone to champion the mission within their local church. Could that be you?

If you would like to support this wonderful opportunity, please let me know.

Every blessing.

Steve



Deaths

Mary Kempson 25th September 2019 age 60 Wife of Mark & Daughter in Law of the late Hazel & Harry Kempson Members here from 1969

Rev. John LeSueur on 21st October. We remember all the family and Jean,

~~~~~

## Calendar

### OCTOBER

Sat 26th B/H Food Festival  
Sun 27th 4.00pm B/K an Alternative Halloween at Brent Knoll

### NOVEMBER

Sat 2nd 10.00-12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Action for Children by Dorothy

Wed 6th B/H Wednesday Group Cake Decorating

Sat 9th 10.00-12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Sat 9th 10.30- 3.00 BR St Bridget's Christmas Fair at Brean Methodist Church

Sat 9th 4.00-6.00 B/H Messy Church at Burnham

Tue 12th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Fire Safety – Collection

Wed 13th 12.00 B/H Communion Service

Wed 13th 12.30 B/H Church Lunch - Dorothy

Sat 16th 10.00 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning

Sun 17th **LAST DAY FOR THE DECEMBER - JANUARY 2020 LINK**

Sat 23rd 10.30-12.00 E/B Christmas Coffee Morning at East Brent Methodist Church

Sat 23rd 10.00-12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Sun 24th 2.30pm B/K Time of Fellowship at Brent Knoll

Tue 26th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship Christmas Crafts

Sat 30th 10.00-12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

### DECEMBER

Wed 4th B/H Wednesday Group Christmas Talk

Sat 7th 10.00-12.00 B/H Food Festival

Tue 10th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Christmas Tea  
Christmas Poems, Stories & Carols.

Wed 11th 12.00 B/H Communion Service

Wed 11th 12.30 B/H Church Lunch - Barbara  
Sat 14th 10.00-12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning  
Sat 14th 4.00-6.00 B/H Messy Church at Burnham



# Churches Together

The Churches Together AGM was held at the Catholic Church on Thursday October 3rd at 7.15. Pat Nichols the acting chairman opened proceeds and welcomed everyone.

1. Most officers will remain as last year i.e Pat Nichols, chairman, Richard Allen vice Chairman, Rosemary Gilling secretary. Unfortunately, the treasurer is no longer able to carry on so this position is vacant. It is not very onerous and if anyone feels able to take this on please get in touch with a committee member.

2. Richard Allen will produce a leaflet of all the various Christmas activities in the different churches and he would like this information by Nov 15th.

3. The local Churches Together constitution was adopted having been approved by the chair of Somerset Churches Together, Alan Dixon, who we were privileged to have at the meeting.

4. We were given an update on the situation at Hinkley Point regarding having a resident chaplain on the site. It is good news and Rev Ewan Hoffman from Creech St Michael has been appointed for two years, starting in January. It is hoped that a team of volunteers can be trained to help in this work as 9000 people are expected to be working there in the near future.

We were also made aware of Churches Together's involvement in new housing projects throughout the area. It has been decided that each church will have responsibility for a certain area to avoid overlap.

Somerset Churches Together AGM is on Feb 29th at Weston Baptist Church - all are welcome to attend

5. Prayer update. The next Churches Together prayer event is at St Christopher's Church, Lympsham and all are cordially invited.

6. A representative from the Food Bank spoke to tell us that there were more people than ever needing the services of the food bank and we were urged to give donations particularly of tinned meat, fish and fruit.

7. The week of prayer for Christian Unity is Jan 18 - 26 and there will be a service probably at the Baptist Church. The meeting closed at 9.00 and we joined hands to say the Lord's Prayer.



East Brent Christmas Coffee Morning  
and Sale

Saturday 23rd November

10.30 – 12.00

Cakes

Christmas cards

Tombola

Coffee and chat

We look forward to seeing you.

Afternoon of Movie Music with Film Clips

on Wednesday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 2.00

at Burnham Methodist in the hall

Tickets £5 (From Barbara Williams)

to include tea/ coffee and cake



# BREAN

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

Harvest Festival was a great success. Steve Bennett took the service and just over 30 were at the lunch. even so we were three or four of our stalwarts missing because of our muddle over dates. It was a lovely occasion though, shared with our Anglican friends and several holidaymakers. So, thank you to those that came, to those who contributed, and to those who prepared the food. Any surplus from the proceeds will be sent to the Food Bank as will the tinned food used in the display.

Our own Church Council takes place on the day that this article is due to be in Cedric's hands, but as I shall be missing from the meeting, any relevant report will be in the next issue.

But the Big Issue for November is our third Craft Fair. The previous two were tremendously well received, one of them raising well over a thousand pounds. Our previous one was in 2015 and since then several of our ladies from both churches have worked hard, scouring exhibitions, magazines and stalls across the country, for ideas which they have then converted into a whole range of craft gift ideas, items small and larger. The Fair is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November from 10.30am to 2pm and, as in other years, there will be refreshments also.

We shall join with St Bridget's for the Remembrance Day service which will start at 10.50am in order to accommodate the two minutes' silence at 11 o'clock. We also start our winter cycle of services shared with Brent Knoll and East Brent, so we congregate at Brent Knoll this time, at 10.30am on 17<sup>th</sup> November. Both of our other services in November are in our own church at 10.30am.

In my last article for Link I referred to Rev Mark Oakley, Dean of Chapel at St John's College, Cambridge. A friend and I went to a day's conference that he addressed in Birmingham at the beginning of November. Our wives came to Birmingham too but preferred to spend their time wandering around the shops and centre of the city – goodness knows why!

Mr Oakley is a very entertaining speaker. In the morning he addressed themes from his first published book which he called *The Collage of God*. Writers and philosophers, he said are like either hedgehogs or foxes. Using an ancient Greek writer, he describes hedgehogs as knowing one great thing and interpreting God and the world from that one principle, a central vision. I guess that, guided by our doctrines and creeds, most Christians are like that. Foxes on the other hand know many things, they pursue many ends, often unrelated; and thus they build up a picture that is multi-dimensional but which creates a connected form. It is like building up truth from the outside into a central ideology; by taking a wider spectrum, for a Christian it may better explain the pain and suffering of this world as well as its joys and satisfactions. Aspects of love in its different forms.

His second book, called *The Splash of Words* explores the way that poetry and poetic expression can help us to discern things about God that are unexplainable. Much of the Bible is like that, he says; his lecture on this theme showed how taking time to explore poetic meaning can be release a deeper richness to our understanding, whether it be scriptural or secular.

Oakley's third lecture, in the afternoon, turned into an examination of the way that polarity is an issue in our contemporary life, people adopting seemingly unreconcilable differences with each other. It is a time, Oakley argues, when the Christian church must stand up and reach out, must become vulnerable even, in order to address this polarisation and the dreadful results that might otherwise result

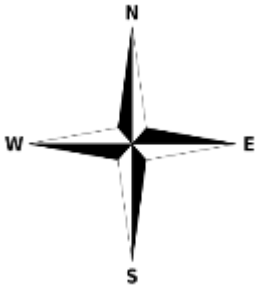
I hope I have interpreted his lectures correctly. It was a very interesting Conference.

*Harvey Allen*





# West Huntspill



**Compass Disability Services working in  
partnership with Terracycle**  
**Every item recycled generates a cash donation to  
the charity**  
**Cash not Trash**

**We recycle bread packaging:** Any brand  
**We recycle crisp packets:** Any Brand including outer sleeve of  
multipacks

**We recycle personal care & beauty packaging:** Any brand of  
plastic foil on deodorant, packaging of wet wipes, pots, tubs, tubes  
and trigger sprays

**We recycle air and homecare packaging:** Any brand of plastic  
wipe packaging, plastic bottle tops, pumps, caps & trigger sprays.

**We recycle toothbrushes & toothpaste tubes:** Any brand. We  
recycle cracker, biscuit and cake wrappers: Any brand including  
multipacks.

**We recycle baby food pouches:** Any Brand including the caps.

**Your recyclables can be left at Bedrock Furniture in Bath Road  
Bridgwater TA6 4PN**



**These are items that we all use, and it is  
useful to know that they can be recycled  
somewhere and benefit this worthwhile  
charity.**

**Our November Coffee Morning**

**Will be on Friday Nov 29th**

**10am – 12md**

**Proceeds for Alzheimer's Society**



# **BRENT KNOLL**

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

**Minister Rev. Steve Bennett**

We had a wonderful time at our Seasonal Celebration back in September. We were delighted to see so many of our young people in attendance. Celebrating all things Autumn and Harvest we planted bulbs, had a competition to identify berries and leaves, sang songs and ate plenty of delicious cake. It was a time of laughter and fellowship and was thoroughly enjoyed by all - both the children and grown-ups alike.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our next time of fellowship as we celebrate the season. On 27th October we shall be meeting again in the schoolroom at 4pm, this time to celebrate an alternative Halloween. There will be pumpkin carving, songs and - yes - plenty of cake. Our November time of fellowship will be held on Sunday 24th November as we shall be looking towards Advent.

Margaret Trapp will continue to lead our ecumenical fellowship which meets on the first Monday of each month. This month we will meet on 4th November at 2.30pm in the school room and we will be learning more about Celtic worship, looking particularly at the church in Ireland and the life and work of St Patrick. All, of course, are welcome.

As we look ahead, we will be holding our Christmas coffee morning on Saturday 14th December at 10.30am. Do come along and join us as I'm sure that in addition to coffee and cake there will be an abundance of homemade mince pies.

There will be no service at Brent Knoll Methodist Church on Sunday 10th November as we will be joining our friends at St Michael's for a service of remembrance but the following week, we will be having a Link service when we are joined by our friends from Brean and East Brent.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll, as the days grow shorter and the darker nights draw in, we wish you every blessing.

Rosemary Krull

# EAST BRENT

I can't believe how quickly this year is going, we are already talking about Christmas, which reminds me our Christmas Coffee morning is being held on November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10.30 – 12.00 we hope as many as are able will come.

I missed the service on September 29<sup>th</sup> as I was in a choir at Mark Church but was back in time for coffee and then our lunch and P.C.C. meeting. We were pleased to have Ken McNally and his wife stay for lunch and he told us how a lot in the Circuit think his name is Kevin not Ken what delightful company they were.

Our numbers are low at the moment with Jill and Gordon away and John still not 100%. We hope he is soon feeling better, it is nice to see him for coffee when he feels able. We are missing Di and Bert and wish them both well in the future'

Look forward to seeing you all at our coffee morning

Ann Bown



## BURNHAM.

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

### STEWARDS COLUMN

Autumn for many people is a time of wonderful sunsets, the wonderful colours as the trees shed their summer foliage but not for me. The last ball has been bowled, the cricket season is over, the harvests are all safely gathered in and all we have are dark mornings and evenings. Many years ago, a friend said to me no sun, no leaves, November!

However, I was on Exhibition duty last week and driving back to our base we were passing some fields and there was this lovely delicate shade of green on the top of the soil and I realised that this was new growth towards next year's crop. New growth, this made me think of our situation in life. The planning that is going on in Weston with the housing projects new growth. We then look towards West Huntspill and their development, again new growth, it has certainly made me review my thoughts, we are so fortunate to have new growth around us, so let us give our grateful thanks and look forward with a spring in our step.

Geoff

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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.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk)  
[www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com](http://www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Deadline for the<br/>DECEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2020 LINK<br/>is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b></p> |
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## LINK ORDER FORM

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