

LINK PLUS++++

November 2022



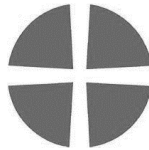
Dear Friends

The liturgy for this time of year moves away from the season of Pentecost and prepares for Advent, which begins at the end of this month. There are a number of church festivals in November that encourage us to remember. We have All Saints, All Souls, the festival of Christ the King; and in between we have Remembrance Sunday.

- All Saints reminds us that we are part of a worldwide church, and we give thanks for the ordinary 'saintly' Christian men and women who worshipped and prayed often in the same churches as we do today who have gone before us.
- All Souls allows us a moment of reflection as we remember with thanksgiving all those who have died. It offers us a window into God's heart of compassion for those who grieve and mourn. It reminds us too that we have a Saviour who has overcome the sting of death and provided for us the promise of eternal life.
- Remembrance Sunday focusses these thoughts on the sacrifice made by many for the country, freedom, and security we now enjoy. These acts of remembrance on the Sunday and on Armistice Day itself have grown in significance once more this century.
- The festival of Christ the King reminds us that for us all things are set in a faith that has a Saviour who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our Saviour, Prophet, Priest, and King. He will return to restore God's Kingdom.

In this period of reflection, memories, and thanksgiving it is good to be reminded that there is life beyond ourselves, and sometimes we need to stop and reflect that there is more to life than this present moment. This is a time to reaffirm that we believe that things will change, and that we will see a new creation. This is a time to share with each other joys and tears alike. This is a time to remember that Advent proclaims 'the light of the world has come', and he is still the hope for our world?

Steve



Brean Methodist Church

<http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk>

If I have a word for October it has been Food. And food has meant friends and sharing. The 9th was the day of our Harvest Festival. A joint service with our friends from St B's and attended by a number of our summer visitors. It was good to have Steve taking Harvest Service this year. Afterwards, we were twenty or so, sitting down to a splendid bring and share lunch that was enjoyed by all and provided enough for people to take home afterwards too. A lovely time together.

For July and I that wasn't the end of the process for we had a number of food occasions during the month not only with church members, but with friends and with family too (including one occasions when members of our family decided on the Thursday that they were all coming down for the weekend!!) Sharing in food is one of life's great joys but is it because of the food or is it because of the friends, both those who have been well established, and those who are new, some of whom we shall see another day or another year, and some with whom this was a brief chat before we go our separate ways. It sets us in mind by how much Jesus shared in food events. Even our coffee and biscuits after morning worship, and Monday coffee mornings add to the sense of fellowship and occasion.

Out thanks as always go to those who spend so much time in supplying and preparing our nourishment. Food, friendship and warmth will no doubt feature heavily over the coming months.

As highlighted last month, October has seen the installation of our new video equipment. The first week was very experimental as we sought to find how best to use the machine. Fortunately, John was the preacher on that day and as he was the one who knows about such things we were glad to use his experience. It might yet take a while to conclude our experimentation but to have such flexibility in the way we conduct services and other events is surely very satisfying.

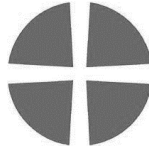
We also had our Church Council in October. Useful discussions, general appreciation for all those who administer the affairs of our church, and a general willingness to look forward in hope. Our building is in reasonable state, leaks have all been repaired and redecoration where paintwork behind the pulpit was damaged, is in hand. It was also pleasing to learn that there are now 137 'followers' who regularly read our Facebook page, 60% of whom live within 10 miles.

A number of us attended the Link meeting on 25th and were pleased to hear positive reports on the new arrangements in the group. The meeting welcomed opportunities to worship together and that we all support each other in events as far as possible and when time permits.

For ourselves, we shall attend Remembrance Day worship at St Bridget's on 13th November (at 10.50am but check nearer the time), but other services will all be in our own church at the usual time of 10.30am. Our Christmas events are on Saturday morning 17th December (Coffee and Carols), and Christmas Eve for our usual informal Carol service at 4pm. We usually get thirty to forty people joining us and hope we shall see you with us on these occasions. And for those who are energetic enough, we now have a bike rack installed at the rear of the building; its installation has helped us to achieve Bronze Level status in the Eco church scheme. In addition this year we shall hold weekly Advent groups, conducted by our minister at our house in Brean; all are invited but see Link for specific times.

Meanwhile make the most of November. With all the restriction on fuel and the cost of everything, we are aware it will be a difficult time for many of us.

Harvey Allen



**Brent Methodist Church
Brent Knoll**

We are open! I am delighted to report that It was decided, unanimously, at our final Church Council as Brent Knoll Methodist Church, that our Chapel is to remain open. We are planning future events for fundraising and to increase the presence of the Chapel both within the village of Brent Knoll and around the Circuit, including these dates for your diary.

On Saturday 5th November from 10.30am, we will be holding our Christmas Craft and Coffee Morning. Do come along to buy some early Christmas gifts and to enjoy the excellent homemade cakes I guarantee will be available.

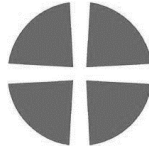
As we look towards Christmas, we will be sharing our Christmas morning worship at East Brent Chapel on Christmas morning, so we thought we would still celebrate the season here in the Village by holding a Carol Service at the Chapel on Monday 19th December at 6pm. Families are welcome, of course, as we celebrate the joy of the season together.

We will be joining our friends at St Michael's Church for Remembrance Sunday on 13th November, so please note, there will be no service held at the Chapel that day.

Since the last Link Magazine, we have formally joined with East Brent Methodist Church under the name of "Brent Methodist Church" and have had our first Church Council meeting together. Officers have been appointed and we are all grateful to those who have taken up posts.

With every blessing from us all here at the Chapel in Brent Knoll.

Rosemary Krull



**Brent Methodist Church
East Brent**

Where has the time gone? Another month seems to have flown by, my daughter is 48 in November it doesn't seem possible it only seems like yesterday that she and her brother were going to school now their eldest grandchildren are at school!

October was a link service at East Brent when the Revd M Pullen took the service it was lovely to see everyone there followed by coffee and chat in the school room. We were keeping our fingers crossed that his train wasn't delayed or Gordon and Gill were not held up bringing Michael back to the chapel. Everything went to plan and the service started on time.

We were pleased to be able to join for the first time with Brent Knoll for a joint service and Church council meeting as the Brent Methodist Church. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend as we were away in Devon celebrating my stepdaughter birthday with her young family. Aunty Evelyn wrote a few notes for me.

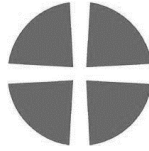
Brent Methodist Church Inaugural Church Council Meeting. Chaired by the Rev'd Steve Bennett. This meeting followed the usual Church Council format. Officers were appointed. It was agreed that our joint Covenant service will take place on January 1 2023 at East Brent and that we will have a joint service on the 5th of the month when 5 Sunday's occur.

I will not be able to be at the Covenant service as my Nephew is getting married in Cornwall on December 31st.

Our Christmas coffee morning and sale will take place at East Brent on Saturday 19th November between 10.30 till 12.00 we look forward to seeing you there.

We wish Gordon and Gill a lovely and relaxing holiday they will be missed at our services.

Ann Bown



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church
Burnham**

<http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk/>

It's hard to believe we are now in November and the clocks have gone back. The leaves have changed colour, the grass needs only one more cut before the Spring and animals are building their new homes for the winter.

We have spent this year catching up with friends and family, spending those precious times together, which we have not been able to do for some time. We recently welcomed into our church family Margaret Spaven as a Member, and Gary Carey, whose Service for the Admission of Local Preachers took place at Burnham.

Each week we have our notices to remind us of everything we are going to be doing and sometimes of the things we have forgotten we should be doing! We have various activities taking place and planned events which can be found on the church noticeboards and website. Our Christmas Fair at Burnham will be held on Saturday 26th November.

November brings Remembrance Day, a time to pause and think. I'm sure we all wonder what is going on in the world and how we can deal with the confusion that causes us stress and despair.

I wrote the Steward's column in a previous Link, where I shared a 'thought for the day' which I would like to share again.

'This day will come only 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, look after yourself and each other.

Marian Kingsbury

PLUS +++ POEMS, PRAYERS and OTHER MESSAGES

A poem chosen by Judy Allen

Judy's selection this month is from Robert William Service:

Courage

Today I opened wide my eyes,
And stared with wonder and surprise,
To see beneath November skies
An apple blossom peer;
Upon a branch as bleak as night
It gleamed exultant on my sight,
A fairy beacon burning bright
Of hope and cheer.

"Alas!" said I, "poor foolish thing,
Have you mistaken this for Spring?
Behold, the thrush has taken wing,
And Winter's near."

Serene it seemed to lift its head:
"The Winter's wrath I do not dread,
Because I am," it proudly said,
"A Pioneer."

Advent Bible Study

Judy & Harvey Allen have opened their home for an Advent Bible Study led by Rev Steve. Please come along and join us on 28th November and then 8th, 13th, and 22nd December.

Finally, please note the deadline for
the December Link Plus is
27th November.

LINK DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
Weekly		
Wednesday 10.00am	Zoom	<u>Link Bible Study</u> Meeting ID: 842 8627 4955 Passcode: 358753
Thursday 11.00am	Zoom	<u>Link Coffee Morning</u> Meeting ID: 854 3680 5731 Passcode: 419002
November		
2 nd 7.00pm	Burnham	Photography night with John Strickland
5 th 10.30-12	Brent Knoll	Coffee & Craft
15 th 7.00pm	Zoom	Circuit Safeguarding
19 th 10.30 – 12	East Brent	Christmas Fair
26 th 10am – 1pm	Burnham	Christmas Fair – stalls 10am – 12, food served from 11.30am to 1pm
28 th 7.00pm	Judy & Harvey Allen	Advent Bible Study 1 (see previous page)
December		
1 st 7.30pm	Milton	Local Preacher’s Meeting
6 th 7.30pm	Burnham	Circuit Meeting
7 th 7.00pm	Burnham	Weston Hospice ‘Light of life’ service
8 th 7.00pm	Judy & Harvey Allen	Advent Bible Study 2 (see previous page)
13 th 7.00pm	Judy & Harvey Allen	Advent Bible Study 3 (see previous page)
22 nd 7.00pm	Judy & Harvey Allen	Advent Bible Study 4 (see previous page)

NB Carol Services will be printed in December’s issue