

LINK PLUS++++

November 2023



Dear Friends

This month is one of fireworks, memories, and remembering.

Soon our skies will be filled with light and smoke in a time that is joyous and wonderful for people, but not so good for animals!

We remember the saints and the souls, who have gone to glory, especially those who have been special in our lives. We remember

their faith, the mark they have left upon us, and the goodness of God that has shone through them. And we give thanks.

We will remember the horrors of war. This year, once again, there are fewer and fewer people who remember with clarity the events of the Second World War. We can learn about it on the television and in books, but the personal reality of living through such a time of loss, terror, bombing, and bravery, is fading away. There have been projects to preserve the memories for posterity of people who lived through both World Wars for the children of tomorrow lest they forget....

Our generations seem to have forgotten already. Today wars rage again in Russia & Ukraine, Israel & Gaza. There are 18 terrorist insurgencies (mostly in Africa) and 9 civil wars ongoing around the globe. Again, we approach a time of remembering to acknowledge we have not learned the lessons of the past.

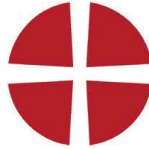
We seek God's forgiveness for the madness of humanity and God's help to bring peace to shattered lives. And we start by seeking peace around us and within us.

We must remember them all!

Steve

A prayer from the President and Vice-President of Conference

God of peace and compassion,
We pray for all impacted by the escalation in conflict in Israel-Palestine
For all who are mourning
For all who are fearful, today, and for what may lie ahead
For all traumatised and re-traumatised by what they have experienced.
Enable us to stand in solidarity with people of peace
May your Spirit bring peace and healing to your troubled world. **Amen**



Brean Methodist Church

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

The last of our summer holiday regulars are off home this weekend, and with strict instructions to keep healthy over the winter so that we can welcome them back next year.

I thought of our visitors earlier in the month when Judy and I went up to the Lake District to spend a long weekend with our granddaughter and her husband. We visited the local Methodist church and eventually at the end of the service we were given a quiet welcome. All very pleasant but some difference from the more rumbustious (though still heartfelt) welcome they get at Brean. We do so very much enjoy having our visitors and it will be much quieter now over the winter.

Never mind, there are other compensations. Worshipping with our friends from other Link churches for example. This month, on October 19th we meet at Brent Knoll. We look forward to it.

We had a super weekend in the Lakes and bright sunshine throughout. It's a lovely part of the country especially in the autumn sunshine. We don't realise down here just what goes on that is beyond our knowledge. A running club, for example, doesn't just mean a few laps round a track or throwing a missile, but fell running for miles and miles up and over those hills. They seem to enjoy it. There are competitions most weekends in the winter and both granddaughter and her husband had just completed a 50 mile race up and over the hills including Helvellyn and other hills right to the top. Over 300 racers took part in the competition and 250 finished it. I am exhausted just to think about it.

So this is the time to list our Christmas events:

BREAN'S CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday 16th December from 10.30. An hour of coffee and chat as we sing carols together;

Sunday 24th December at 4pm. Informal carol service. As final preparations are hopefully completed, here are 40 minutes of carols (somewhat shortened), sketches and 'togetherness' followed by cakes and other refreshments that continue our traditional way of welcome to the Christmas season.

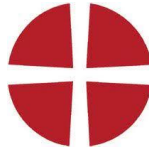
We hope that, as in past years, you will do your best to join with us. We will very much be glad of your company.

And, at the same time we hope that you too will be well blessed by attendance at your own festive occasions.

On Christmas morning we generally visit St Bridget's to join in their Christmas morning service that normally starts at 9.15.

Meanwhile our thoughts and prayers go with Stanley as he goes through a period of tests and examination to determine the cause of a problem from which he has suffered these last few months. And of course that sentiment also includes any of your members that need our prayers at this, time.

Harvey Allen



**Brent Methodist Church
Brent Knoll**

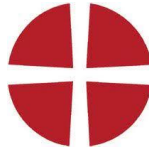
We're joining with St Michaels Church at Brent Knoll for Remembrance Sunday, 12th November. A time to remember those affected by war.

As Christians (and human beings) we would truly hope that these things are in our memories. But sadly, not so. The conflict in Ukraine, the horrors in Gaza/Israel, at this time, prove war/conflict is never ending. Our prayers at this time go, especially, to the peacekeepers. Those who are in our Services who put their own lives at risk to ensure the safekeeping of others affected by conflict. Especially the children. Especially - the children.

We're hosting our next Link Service here at Brent Knoll on Sunday 19th November where we'll be joined by our friends from East Brent and Blean.

And finally, a reminder that we shall be holding our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25th November from 10.30am. Do come along and join us. Monies raised will go towards church funds to help keep our Chapel open.

Every blessing from all of us here at Brent Knoll.
Rosemary Krull



**Brent Methodist Church
East Brent**



East Brent Christmas Dates

Friday 22nd December 7pm
Carols by Candlelight followed by mince pies and coffee

Monday 25th December, Christmas Day, 10 am
Short Family Service



**East Brent Christmas Coffee Morning
and Sale**

Saturday 18th November
10.30 – 12.00

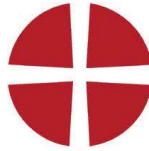
Cakes

Tombola

Christmas cards

Coffee and chat

We look forward to seeing you.



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

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

October has been a time of mixed emotions for the Burnham on Sea congregation.

On October 8th we were delighted to be present as Tracy and Chloe were made members of the Methodist church by confirmation. Along with Alison who became a member of the Methodist Church and Olive, who transferred within Methodism, all became members of the church family at Burnham. It was wonderful to welcome each one of them. It was a lively and joyful occasion.

A further joyful occasion took place on Monday 23rd October, when a former choir member, Mary Chalker married Sam Monk.

However, we have shared less happy news too.

It was with sadness that we learned of the deaths of David Williams, Valerie Bennett, Audrey Rogers and Hilary Wotton. They were known and loved by our church family. We give thanks to God for their lives. Our prayers are with their families.

We continue to pray too, that those who enter our building each day, will in time be drawn to find out more about 'church' and hear the good news of Jesus.

Linda Patient, on behalf of the stewards

PLUS +++ POEMS, PRAYERS, and OTHER MESSAGES

The Link Fellowship

The theme for this month's meeting was Harvest/ Autumn, and after a reading from Psalm 65, we enjoyed singing some harvest hymns and hearing some poems and readings connected with harvest or autumn. Among these were alternate words to "Come, you thankful people, come" that focused on the theme of a supermarket harvest but ending with the challenge of where Christ was in all this. While this hymn had been read to us; we were provided with the words and invited to sing about ploughing the fields with tractors, providing a new slant on familiar words. A variety of readings followed ranging from a description of Harvest home from "Larkrise to Candleford" to a poem on bindweed which raised quite a chuckle. Gifts of nonperishable foods were brought that I subsequently took to the Food Bank, who were delighted with our contributions. Our collection that day was going to the Trussell Trust to support their work with Foodbanks.

Arrangements are in hand for our visit on Tuesday November 14th to Wells to see the exhibition "Threads through Creation". Christine Thomas has booked a coach to leave East Brent at 10am that morning, which will cost £10 per head. The only other cost is a suggested donation of £7 to enter the Cathedral. There is no extra charge to see the exhibition. The coach will leave Wells promptly at 1.45pm to return in time for the school run.

As we shall be out for our November meeting, Christine Thomas circulated a list for people to sign to bring food for our December meeting which will be a bring and share lunch on Tuesday 12th ; 12 noon for 12.30pm - with carols and poems to follow.

Joyce Pipet

November

by Thomas Hood

Judy's poem this month is the aptly named November. Just keep your tongue in your cheek as you read it, and say to yourself, 'yes but December follows it and just think about the joys that that brings'.

No sun—no moon!
No morn—no noon—
No dawn—no dusk—no proper time of day.

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member—
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds!—
November!.

The Trussell Trust

On the final day September I completed the Trussell Trust Challenge to walk for a half hour each day of the month. I missed only one day when the road outside our home was flooded, so made up for it with two separate half hour walks the following day!

I have been delighted with the response from friends online and from people here signing up to my sponsor form. I had hoped I might raise £250, even wondering if that might be a bit ambitious; but I was amazed when I counted up both sources of donations to find they totalled at least £533.50p. I say at least as there was one anonymous online donation. This amount and the name of the donor were withheld.

I am extremely grateful to all who have contributed to my fundraising. Thank you all very much.

Joyce Pipet

**Please note the deadline for the
December/January Link Plus is
23rd November**



DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
Weekly		
Wed 10am	Zoom*	Link Bible Study
Thurs 11am	Zoom*	Link Coffee Morning
Tue/Wed & Thurs 9.00am – 5.00pm	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Café and associated activities.
*Contact Rev Steve for zoom links		
November		
18 th 10 – 12	East Brent	Christmas Fair
25 th 10.30-12	Brent Knoll	Christmas Fair
December		
2 nd 10 – 2pm	Burnham	Christmas Fair
6 th 7.00pm	Burnham	Weston Hospice Care 'Light up a Life' Service
7 th 7.30pm	Zoom	Local Preacher's Meeting
12 th 7.30	East Brent	Circuit Meeting
16 th 10.30	Brean	Coffee & Carols
17 th 6.00pm	Burnham	Carol Service
18 th 6.00pm	Brent Knoll	Carol Service
19 th 7.00pm	West Huntspill	Carol Service
22 nd 7.00	East Brent	Carol Service
24 th 4.00pm	Brean	Informal Carol Service
24 th 11.15pm	Burnham	Christmas Midnight Communion

25 th 9.45am	West Huntspill	9.45am breakfast and Christmas Day Service at 9.30am
25 th 10.00am	East Brent	Christmas Day Service
25 th 11.00am	Burnham	Christmas Day Service
January		
7 th 10.30am	Brean	Link Covenant Service
7 th 3.30pm	Burnham	Messy Church
14 th 10.30am	Burnham	Covenant Service
18 th 7.00pm	Zoom	Circuit Property Meeting
21 st 11.00am	West Huntspill	Covenant Service