

LINK PLUS++++

November 2024

Dear Friends

Welcome to the November Link Plus.

I apologise for the lateness of getting this to you, but the Methodist Church has changed the way in which their email system works, and this has caused one or two issues. I am sure it will be for the best in the long term and the short term pain for all using the system will be worth it. Like many people, I don't like it when change is imposed upon me. There is a tendency to want to complain, even though I know it won't do any good. Decisions have been made and I have to live with them in the best way that I can.

I did not mean to be political, but as I write this message there are two other changes happening in the Western World, and they both deserve some comment.

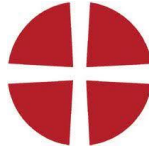
We have just received the first budget from the new government. I have been intrigued that all the commentary about this has been about how it impacts the individual. There has been little discussion about how it might change the country. As normal, if the individual is worse off, then it is seen to be a bad budget (and visa-versa). Yet we are a country where there is a deep need for change. In the Waffle Hub we see the impact of benefit rules and housing systems not only on the poorest in our community, but those who we ought to look after. My hope is that the government will act with compassion for those who

are least able to cope, and that we live with the changes that might be needed for a fairer society. Decisions have been made and we have to live with them!

This month will see much change for people in USA as they choose their next President. My prayer for them is the same. I hope too that the divisiveness seen in the electioneering will be resolved and rifts will be healed for the benefit of all humankind. I hope that all in that country will be able to accept that decisions have been made and they have to live with them.

Yet, these are all 1st world issues. In the poorest of countries there is often insufficient money to make fiscal decisions, and in many the democratic system (if it exists) is flawed. People have little say in the decisions that are made – and they have to live with that. I give thanks that, flawed as our system might seem at times, we can have a voice within our democratic system. The question for us as God's people is how often and on what issues we are prepared to speak up about.

Steve



Brean Methodist Church

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

It was a joy to worship with our Link friends at Brent Knoll again. Since I am no longer preaching on the Plan regularly, I have missed the regular connection we have with friends across the other churches. This fellowship is one of the strengths we share in Methodism that is unique and fulfilling. In our (Judy and my) early days living in Brean, the wife of the then Chairman of District, June Lunn, was elected Vice-President of Conference for the year and as such travelled the country, or Connexion as it is called, and always made reference to our links both locally and nationally, as 'The Fellowship of the People called Methodist'. As British Methodism's numbers have reduced (overall) to about half what it was 50 or 60 years ago, we do well to remember that relationship goes to the heart of God and needs care and encouragement.

So, after service, we partook of refreshments 'in the round' and our conversations were shared with our neighbours across the circle in the room. The welfare of our friends both present and afar was uppermost in our mind and of course we put the world to rights (what a pity it doesn't listen!) and caught up with items of interest locally.

A major topic within that informality, was the sale of Unity Holiday Resort and the Leisure Centre in Berrow/Brean together with all the other amenities and caravan sites that are associated with it. The House family, the retiring owners, brought a long tradition of farming (mainly dairy) into the locality; It had been the joining together of farms which gave it the earlier name of Unity Farm, and which then slowly developed into the holiday empire it eventually became.

At the heart of October's events was our Harvest Festival celebration on Sunday 13th. The church was nicely decorated for the event, special comment being made of a large marrow that held centre stage. A bring and share lunch followed for the appreciative diners who were with us. Unfortunately Steve was much under the weather on the day and was not able to stay for lunch so many thanks to him for conducting the service particularly in those circumstances. Thanks too to those who gave and to the ladies who decorated and brought all the catering arrangements together.

But what made the celebration to be of special pleasure was that Roger was received as a member of our church. He had started to come to worship more than a year ago having been brought along by Kathy D. They had known each other for 30 years and had both been widowed. And they are to be married on 16th November; so our congratulations to them both, we wish them well for the rest of their lives together.

Church Council had been a week earlier We are very fortunate in that, at this time in the cycle of church life we are sufficiently blessed in our property, finance and people resource to maintain our commitments without too much concern. Yet we are also aware that things can change very quickly, a situation of which we were very mindful as we conversed together. We were very grateful to Janet W, our link to the Circuit Meeting, for coming and relating to us of some of the concerns of our wider fellowship within the circuit and plans for the future. Though we may feel somewhat removed at times, we are all part of this wider group.

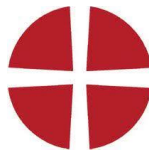
And so we come to November. We hope that everyone gets through Hallowe'en without mishap, and then of course there is winter carnival, which we used to go to regularly but nowadays our attendance is less frequent (well , it's our age you know !). Enjoy it if you go, we hope the weather is dry and clement for you.

After that it will be Remembrance. We join with St Bridget's for a service starting at 10.50 and including the usual ritual in front of the Memorial outside. Events in the world today remind us of the commitment and danger with which we and others are constantly faced

And so in these balmy days of late autumn, the evenings are drawing in and the nights getting longer. Advent starts at the end of the month...

Our love to you all.

Harvey Allen



**Brent Methodist Church
Brent Knoll**

As we do each year, we shall be joining with St Michael's Church in Brent Knoll for Remembrance Sunday on 10th November, so there will be no service here at the Methodist Church that Sunday.

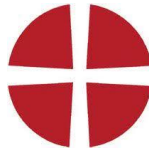
A couple of dates for your diaries, we will be holding our Christmas coffee morning on Saturday 30th November at 10.30. Please do come along for refreshments (including mince pies, of course!) and to meet up with Church, Circuit and Village friends.

And our Carol Service will be held on Monday 16th December at 6.30pm. For the past two years, we have been delighted to have been joined by our local Handbells Group and we are hoping this new tradition will continue this year.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll, we continue to hold our Circuit, our Ministers and our Churches in our prayers and send you every blessing.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



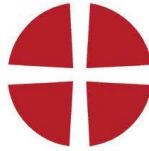
**Brent Methodist Church
East Brent**

I unfortunately missed our harvest festival and joint service and meeting with Brent Knoll as I was away in a very soggy Devon.

We have had preachers this month that rarely come to us. We had Revd Pullen to take communion it always amazes me that he takes the service with very few if any notes. Revd. Judith took the link service at Brent Knoll and this morning we had Revd. Karen Murphy who's theme was peace, not only world peace but starting with peace within ourselves a very thought provoking service.

As we end another month we start to think about Advent and Christmas. Our Christmas sale and coffee morning is on Saturday 23rd November at 10.30 till 12.00 we look forward to seeing you there.

Ann Bown



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

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

No excuse for being late!

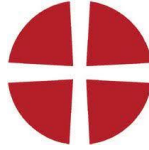
This weekend the clocks go back and with it time for an extra lie-in, or minutes to be ready for worship. There is a rhythm to the natural year. Lighter days and darker ones. There is a similar rhythm in church life with times of joy and sorrow.

Today we look back and remember the loss of Bridget Christian, a longtime member of the church. Bridget used her God given gift to enrich our worship through music. We also stand alongside Sheila and her family as they grieve the death of Steven, both son and brother.

As a church we look ahead too. When Steve retires in August 2026 it will bring a significant change to the ministry team. Following our morning service this Sunday people met to share their hopes and concerns. Rosemary Krull facilitated discussion as we considered what Burnham congregation would like to happen. What might be feasible within the constraints of central Methodism. Our labours were 'rewarded' by a delicious sit-down meal prepared by Linda James.

Meanwhile we stay focused on the present. The Alpha course continues. The unexpected loss of our lapel mike has led to a better-quality sound system being installed. On Saturday November 2nd we have a joint venture with the Friends of Burnham Hospital. There will be stalls in both the church and the hall plus the essential tea and coffee with a little extra to eat besides. By the next Link, we will be preparing for Christmas!

Linda Patient on behalf of the stewards



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

Approaching November there are so many things to look forward to. Maybe not the shorter days and long hours of darkness. But the lights of fireworks and Carnival, the brightness of the Red Poppies worn as a symbol of Remembrance, and the changing colours of the leaves.

If you came to our October coffee morning, there were Bramble leaves on the tables, their colours and variety were amazing, a true wonder of nature at its best.

As we remember those who have fought and died for our country, we are only too aware of the conflict in many areas around the world and pray earnestly for PEACE. Alan Gaunt puts it neatly in his hymn 'We pray for peace' (StF 719).

Our November Coffee Morning will be on Friday the 29th November from 10.30am – 12 noon. This will be our last for donations for 'Somerset Wildlife Trust'. Decembers Coffee Morning will be on Friday 3rd January when donations will be for 'Action for Children'.

Enjoy the lights of November.

With best wishes from

Christine Thomas, Janet J. & Kay

PLUS +++
POEMS, PRAYERS,
and OTHER MESSAGES

A poem from Harvey Allen

Much have I spoken of the faded leaf;
Long have I listened to the wailing wind,
And watched it ploughing through the heavy clouds,
For autumn charms my melancholy mind.

When autumn comes, the poets sing a dirge:
The year must perish; all the flowers are dead;
The sheaves are gathered; and the mottled quail
Runs in the stubble, but the lark has fled!

Still, autumn ushers in the Christmas cheer,
The holly-berries and the ivy-tree:
They weave a chaplet for the Old Year's bier,
These waiting mourners do not sing for me!

I find sweet peace in depths of autumn woods,
Where grow the ragged ferns and roughened moss;
The naked, silent trees have taught me this,—
The loss of beauty is not always loss!

Elizabeth Drew Stoddard

The Link Fellowship

Our October meeting took place on a very wet Tuesday afternoon, but we had a very good attendance with two guests joining us. We were delighted to welcome back Pastor Jade from Hope Baptist Church. She had visited us earlier in the year because of hearing her speak briefly

about her experiences from a visit to the Holy Land during the World Day of Prayer whose service this year had been prepared by Palestinian women. Her account of her visit had held us spellbound, and it wasn't until a member needed to leave for an appointment that we realised how time had flown. That was at the point when she was about to talk about the time she had with the party from Bristol Bible College being shown around Jerusalem. She suggested giving a brief resume over the cup of tea, but we felt that rather than rush that we would invite her back for the second time. I was very thankful that we had done so as we had another riveting afternoon as she related the time spent in Jerusalem and the environments. She brought photos for us to look at afterwards, but her narrative was so vivid that we felt the need of no visual aids while she was speaking. Once more we lost all track of time, and then over the cup of tea she circulated talking the individuals over questions they wanted to raise with her. Her account provided us with quite an insight as to how in places Palestinians and Israelis have good relations, but also those areas where such relationship were very stained.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday November 12th when the speaker will be Janet Widdess on her experiences in nursing entitled "In my Day". This will be at 2.30 p.m. at East Brent Methodist Church Hall and all are welcome.

Joyce Pipet

**The deadline for the
December / January Link Plus is
25th November**

DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
Weekly		
Wed 10am	Zoom*	Link Bible Study
Thurs 11am	Zoom*	Link Coffee Morning
Mon 10-2 Tues 10-2 Wed 10-4	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Café and associated activities.
Mon 12 noon	Burnham	Weekday Holy Communion
* Contact Rev Steve for zoom links or information		
November		
2 nd 10am – 1pm	Burnham	Joint Coffee & Stalls with the Friends of Burnham Hospital
12 th 2.30pm	East Brent	Link Fellowship
23 rd 10.30-12	East Brent	Christmas Fair
26 th 7.30pm	St Andrew's	Local preachers and Worship Leaders
30 th 10.30-12	Brent Knoll	Christmas Fair
December		
4 th 7.00pm	Burnham	Light up a life (Weston Hospice)
7 th 10am – 2pm	Burnham	Christmas Fair
11 th 7.30	Brean	Circuit Meeting
15 th 3.00pm	Burnham	Messy Church
16 th 6.30pm	Brent Knoll	Carol Service
17 th 7.00pm	West Huntspill	Carol Service

18 th 6.00pm	Mead Fields	Carol Singing
20 th 7.00pm	East Brent	Carol Service
21 st 10.00am	Brean	Singing the Carols
22 nd 6.00pm	Burnham	Carol Service
24 th 4.00pm	Brean	Carol Service
24 th 11.15pm	Burnham	Christmas Eve Communion



Christmas Day services are as follows

West Huntspill 9.30 (breakfast served from 8.45am)

East Brent 10.00am

Burnham 11.00am



Please note that Beth Missen is prepared to place events on the Circuit website if she is given the information.