

LINK PLUS +++

(The Newsletter for the Methodist Church in Burnham-on-Sea and
its surrounding area)

November 2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

All we have of freedom
All we use or know
This our fathers bought for us
Long and long ago

(Rudyard Kipling)

In November we remember those who died to protect our freedoms. However, as has always been the case, these freedoms are controlled by those who have their own agendas or want to steer conversations to or from one direction or another. In recent years, some changes have been positive. The adjustment in language around ethnicity and sexuality has been good for all of us. Thinking carefully about the way our words and descriptions impact those about whom we are speaking, being considerate and compassionate; these things are all for the good of society.

However, some may not be so good. The restrictions on the right to protest, and the modern trend to ban things, or have public enquiries for every decision someone doesn't like, or to seek financial compensation for every choice of the past now considered wrong. These things worry me. Restricting freedom in this way does not encourage those in power to be courageous or timely in their decision making. It makes those who want to change systems and societies for the better reluctant to act. As freedoms

become more narrowly defined, what will the next thing be that comes under scrutiny?

As we remember those things that were fought so hard for, those things that many lost their life to protect, we too need to consider what we should contest and what we should protect today.

Steve

BREAN

(www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk)

There are days even in late October when the sun really does make our days most pleasant. But when it rains, by golly we know it. And so does our chapel kitchen. The flooding it takes when wind and rain combine makes more work for those who have to clear it all up. And our roof line makes it hard to locate where it comes in. Our stewards haven't been able to find it and neither has our builder. We seek advice from elsewhere and hope that, before long, we shall find the source and be able to win through. It will be an expensive operation otherwise.

I guess we all have our problems with our buildings. Money, knowhow, patience and faith, they all come in useful at such times.

Autumn is a time of bold colour and this year as much as ever. All reflected in our Harvest Festival arrangements. We are very grateful to those who supply and arrange the decorations for the church week by week, and Harvest is the time when our arrangers come together to provide a display of great parts. Other offerings around the church were, where appropriate, items that were passed on to the food bank run from Burnham (several bags full). We were glad to welcome St Bridget's congregation to our service and to have Steve to conduct the service. No special lunch to celebrate the occasion this year. Instead a buffet arrangement of savoury

items, cake and drinks were appreciated by those who were able to stay on after the service.

And missed your Monday bus into Burnham? What a disappointment, never mind, our church is only across the road from the bus stop so come over and enjoy a coffee while you wait for the next one. And we still have cake left over from the Harvest Festival yesterday. No charge.

Yes it did happen. And fellowship much enjoyed by both regulars and visitors.

And now, as winter approaches, we are into our regular monthly shared services. Very different this year as Brent Knoll are not represented as a separate community. We hope though that the BK faithful will still know that they are cordially invited even now if they normally worship elsewhere. It would be a shame to lose touch. This month's joint worship was held at East Brent and it was pleasing to see so many from our own church who made the effort to attend. With Rev Judith Lincoln holding the preaching role there were over twenty of us who enjoyed the occasion and, of course, the coffee and biscuits afterwards. We shall not be holding a Link service this month. Brean's joint service in November will be at St Bridget's as the village churches meet together for Remembrance at 10.50am on 9th. This year marks 80 years since the end of World War Two so it has especial meaning.

This month also marks the start of interviews for a replacement for Steve next September. We have already been told that the lack of ministers available puts us at some risk of not receiving a replacement yet even so we offer our prayers for our Circuit Stewards and to all those involved, for a satisfactory outcome to the process.

We also hold Cathy in our hearts this month. She had been in hospital from early in October and received oxygen to help her breathing. She is back home now, but it will be several weeks yet before she fully recovers. Get well Cathy, we have missed you not being around the place.

Several of us were able to attend the memorial service at Berrow Church for Rev Marion Hance who had been caring for the Anglican parishes after

the resignation of Rev Jonathan Philputt a couple of years ago. The villages are still without a rector/vicar and we hold them in or prayers also

Harvey

BRENT

www.eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk

Greetings from East Brent

[EDITOR: SUCH IS THE ENTHUSIASM (THAT'S THE WORD I WOULD USE ANYWAY) OF BRENT THAT I RECEIVED TWO VERSIONS OF THE REPORT THIS MONTH AND THERE IS SUFFICIENT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM SO I AM HAPPY TO SHOW BOTH.]

Can you believe that we have been worshipping as one family here for a month now? It's lovely to have a greater number of people to share fellowship with and the singing is so much better!! Our Church council became just that and not, as previously, a joint council, and we had enough matching table cloths, from our combined collection, to lay the tables for a lovely lunch before the meeting started. Sometimes the little things can make a lot of difference!

Thank you to all our preachers, with a special mention to Tim who volunteered to step in to fill the gap when we didn't have a preacher.

Our friends from Brean joined us on the last Sunday of the month and Judith led our worship. Lovely to see her, we don't get the chance very often but, just like the proverbial buses, she returns to lead next Sunday's worship as well. We look forward to that.

November is nearly upon us, as I write, so I must mention Remembrance Sunday 9th November. We will, as is customary, have a short morning worship starting at 10 a.m. Those who are able will then proceed to the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance followed by coffee back in our hall where everyone will be welcome. Rev. Steve is leading in Church and at the War Memorial.

Now is the time to mention Christmas..... an update on our Christmas Fayre,

Coffee will be served from 11a.m., concert at 11.30 followed by soup and rolls, coffee and mince pies and all the usual stalls. We'd love to see you so put 6th December in your diaries.

Best wishes from all at East Brent, keep dry and warm.

Margaret

How can it be November already, the months seem to fly by at an increasing speed! Autumn is my favourite time with the beautiful changes of colour in the trees and hedgerows.

It was lovely to have two preachers we haven't had for a while, Ruth Malayan and Janice Barrett.

We recently had our Church Council meeting and a lovely buffet lunch, thank you to everyone who contributed and to Margaret Scott who organised it.

Our remembrance Service is at the earlier time of 10.00 so Steve can take the service at the War Memorial at 11.00.

On December 6th we are having our Christmas sale and coffee morning with a difference, the All Sorts Choir are coming to sing for us in the Chapel followed by soup and rolls in the hall

It's lovely that Brian Dallimore is now back singing with choir.

With the clocks having gone back and the colder darker nights keep safe and warm.

Ann Bown

BURNHAM

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

This time of year altering clocks, dark nights is not my favourite time, But at Burnham life is rather exciting we are aware that we have new folk

attending morning service and sharing their experiences. We introduced a 'Good News' slot mostly after the first hymn and this has proved to be a success, folk are invited to share events that have taken place during the previous week and we enjoy quite a varied selection of good news.

We turn our thoughts to the waffle hub and this is seeing some really interesting returns. There is to be a meeting with senior citizens and the local MP .in the waffle hub on Thursday 6th November.

We had a new company book an evening event primarily a games event which has proven to be very well attended and in conjunction with church council ,waffle hub and the group plans which are in very early stages to introduce a youth club into the church so we have quite a lot happening at present.

Geoff

WEST HUNTSPILL

(www.wsmbos.org./westhuntspill.htm)

Coffee and Chat will be on Friday the 28th November Do come along and join us, we enjoy meeting up with our friends from the Link Churches. You know we have a sales table with many interesting items. And all donations are gratefully received this year for The Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Invisible Servants

Angels are only servants – spirits sent to Care for people who will inherit salvation. Hebrews 1 v14 NLT

Mick was driving up the motorway when he heard a deep voice say, 'Turn off at the next exit.' He doesn't have satellite navigation so he was startled enough to obey – and avoided a serious multiple accident. Was it an angel Mick heard? Eve's baby was sleeping safely in her cot, so Eve flopped into her bed next door. Suddenly she was woken from a deep sleep by acute fear. Rushing in she found her baby blue and lifeless; she had choked on her vomit and stopped breathing. Eve held her upside down and banged her back until the obstruction cleared. When the paramedics

arrived they said that Eve had been within a minute of losing her baby. Had God used an angel to wake her?

The Bible tells many stories of how God sent angels to intervene in the lives of His friends. When Daniel was flung into a cage full of hungry lions an angel put muzzles on their mouths. (Daniel 6 v 22). Elijah was alone in the desert, suffering from exhaustion and dehydration, so God sent an angel with food and water (1 Kings 19 v 5-7) Jesus desperately needed encouragement and company in Gethsemane; because His friends were all asleep an angel was dispatched to care for Him instead (Luke 22 v 43). When God sees that we urgently need help, I wonder if he first looks for a human to rescue us, and, if no one responds to His nudge, does He have to use an angel instead?

Lord, I'm sorry for all those times when I felt I was too busy or tired to ring, write to or visit someone when you prompted me to do so. Please make me more aware of your voice.

From "A Year's Journey with God" by Jennifer Rees Larcom
J.Johnson

THE LINK FELLOWSHIP

Our speaker for the Link Fellowship in October was the Revd. Peter Davis who gave us a fascinating talk based around his experiences of helping people with addiction problems. This evoked quite a variety of questions afterwards and made a very interesting afternoon.

Next month our November meeting is on Tuesday 11th at 2.30 pm and Revd. Judith Lincoln will share some of her experiences that came from her recent sabbatical.

In December we shall be meeting at midday to have a shared lunch, followed by Christmas readings and carols. This will be on Tuesday Dec 9th.

Joyce Pipet

THANKSGIVING & **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**

Every few years we hold a service of remembrance and thanksgiving for loved one who have died. In this service we offer prayers for those who are passing through times of sadness, and light a candle in memory of those who have passed away. The service will be held in Burnham-on-Sea Methodist Church at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 16th November 2025.

If you would like to join us, to either light a remembrance candle for a loved one, or just sit quietly to remember them, then please contact me by 9th November. If you cannot attend, but would like a candle to be lit, please let me know.

We give a warm invitation to anyone who would like to join us for these meeting

Steve

STATIONING: PART 3

Even now our Circuit Stewards (7 of them) are busy familiarising themselves with details of those ministers who are available for Stationing next summer and which has been sent to them from Connexional Office. They are the Circuit Invitation committee (CiC).

That number of ministers on the list has been seriously curtailed over the years, to about a quarter of what it was 35 or 40 years ago. It takes little imagination to recognise the stress that this brings to the Stationing process.

Covid has been responsible for a large chunk of this loss but there are other reasons too, for example, more people nowadays go into ministry in middle age rather than straight from education., thus offering perhaps 25 years of ministry rather than 40.

It is a dilemma that the church must deal with, though so far it seems to have had little success.

From the details they receive, our stewards must make a small selection of ministers they consider suitable for our circuit and present it to the Chair of District. The Chair compiles a list covering the whole district and hopes, at the two day Matching Meeting with his/her fellow Chairs in mid-November, to emerge with proposed matches for the circuits involved. A list is also prepared at Connexional level of Circuits where an appointment is of such importance that it is claimed a priority and needs to be 'matched' first.

The District Chair passes details of any proposed match to our Circuit, and the minister will immediately be invited to inspect the circuit. Rosemary Krull as Senior Circuit Steward will be at the heart of this, first arranging a visit by the minister and his/her spouse or partner. The minister will expect

to have a tour around the area of the circuit and to visit each church and the manse. Along the way he/she may be introduced to members of the circuit. After lunch the minister will meet with the CiC in an informal gathering, circuit and minister to ascertain whether they can work together in an acceptable environment.. The spouse/partner is not formally part of the discussions (it is stressed that we are employing the minister not the other) and this is very strictly applied.

Subsequently the CiC meet together to resolve whether they wish to invite the minister. It is expected that the whole process will take no more than a fortnight or so.

The decision is conveyed to the minister, who has had time to consider his/her response to the invitation also. And to the District Chair. The decision is provisional at this time for the Circuit Meeting needs to endorse it at its next meeting. Even that is not final and it is not until next July when, on the very last morning of the Conference, a full list of all the Stations in the Connexion is circulated to all the representatives. Then, as the very last item of business, the President calls each District Chair in turn to ask whether the 'Stations' as shown on the list is correct. Each Chair responds 'content'. Finally, the assembly approves the result by Standing Vote and then, and only then, is each minister assured of his/her place for the next year. Until then no minister is certain of his/her place. From then on, they, ministers and circuits can breathe again

About two-thirds of proposed matches are confirmed after the first round of Stationing and a further matching round is held a month later in order to deal with ministers and stations still in limbo. Between the last Matching Round and that Conference vote, a small committee seeks to deal with what is left. Sometimes ministers who have had a period away from

fulltime ministry will seek to return; or we might attract a minister from overseas or a minister from another denomination might ask to be accepted. With the possibility of further movement therefore, Circuits are not allowed to seek lay resources to cover some of the outstanding tasks until very much later in the year. It is not an easy time for anyone. At such times we can but pray, and wait

Harvey Allen

SNIPPETS

Q. How does Moses make tea?

A. He brews it.

Q. What did Jonah's family say when he told them about what happened at Ninevah?

A. 'Sounds fishy.'

Q. Which King like to do things on his own?

A. Solo-mon.

Q. Why did Adam and Eve do maths every day?

A. They were told to be fruitful and multiply.

Q. What did Adam say to Eve when handing her something to wear?

A. Take it or leaf it.

POETS' CORNER

Over this year Kathy Hurrell has entertained us with stories from her travels in Australia and New Zealand. But Kathy is also a competent poet, as these two verses demonstrate

THE SLEEK HIPPOPOTAMUS

There once was a sleek
hippopotamus

Whose outlook on life was
dichotomous

Her ardent desire was to rise
from the mire

And escape the mundane and
monotonous.

She achieved her success, with
amazing prowess

Defeating each ploy to deflate

Her ego intact, after every
attack

She searched, with intent, for a
mate.

Her suitors awaited, with
passion unsated

For selection, according to size

For in hippos regime, the
highest esteem

May come as a pleasant
surprise.

For bigger is better, convention
unfettered

REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance is sorrow

Remembrance is joy

Remembrance can comfort

But also destroy

But memories keep living

When loved ones are dead

Continue to haunt us

In heart and in head

Remembrance is holding

The ones we have lost

Who inhabit our memories

At measureless cost

We will not forget them

Our love is so strong

It binds as together

As years rumble on

Our arms may be empty

Our souls hold them near

Enclosed in each heartbeat

And water is thicker than blood

With freedom to choose, to win
or to lose

To surface - or stay in the mud!

Forever more dear

It triggers our memory

To spotlight our pain

To tear our defences

Again and again

QUIET MORNING

What a wonderful Quiet Morning we shared at Uphill last month. Led by Steve. Marr, the theme was "Autumn Hope".

We began with a time of contemplative worship and the most beautiful prayer:

"In the fading of the Summer sun,
the shortening of days, cooling breeze,
swallows' flight and moonlight rays.

WE SEE THE CREATOR'S HAND

In the browning of the leaves once green,
morning mists, Autumn chill,
fruit that falls, frosts first kiss,
WE SEE THE CREATOR'S HAND"

We then spent an hour or so being thoughtful, mindful and contemplating the Bible verses, quotes and prayers which began our time together.

The results were simply a joy. Experiences shared, whether in the form of drawings, poems, thoughts and more. I am sadly unable to share those from the others who attended, and more gifted than I, but I was inspired to write the attached poem.

The Dance of the Phoenix Leaves

This is the season of the Phoenix,
as nature displays her final fire.
The leaves are burning red and gold
as they prepare themselves for the pyre.

Preparing for their final dance,
glorious to behold,
A final dance of colours bright,
those embers of red and gold.

They give themselves so freely,
they fall without a backward glance,
As they twist and twirl in Autumnal winds,
in their glorious final dance.

Why do these leaves surrender so freely?
Why don't they cling on to the tree?
Why are they so eager to surrender life?
What do they know that we can't see?

Well, each leaf is truly a Phoenix,
that's why they dance with glee,
They know that from their falling,
they won't die, they'll simply be set free.

Those leaves aren't falling from the tree,
they're dancing towards the ground.
They're answering the call from their children the seeds,
a truly beloved sound.

Those seeds will be nurtured,
fed and loved by each leaf which willingly fell.
When they burst forth in the Spring,
they will carry with them, a leaf who within them will dwell.

Each leaf is truly a Phoenix,
accepting each turn of the wheel.
They accept nature's call, as each Autumn they fall,
they know it's the Earth that they heal.

Why can't we be like those Phoenix Leaves,
accepting nature's cries?
With confidence, acceptance, with trust and love,
knowing that when we fall, through faith we may rise.

Rosemary Krull

The next monthly Quiet Morning will be held on Thursday 6th November at Uphill Methodist Church. We meet at 9.30am for refreshments before going into the Church at 10am.

All are welcome (and made very welcome!).

On a personal level, I would like to thank both Revs Judith and Steve who have been leading these mornings this year. A time which is appreciated by all who attend - especially when Judith came back from sabbatical and took us with her on her journey.

The poem I was inspired to write was based on trust and faith. I just wish I could include all the other wonderful contributions of our time together.

Rosemary Krull

THE NEXT ISSUE

Link Plus+++ is issued on or around 1st of each month except for January and August. Members of our congregations are encouraged to receive a copy each month. Register your interest by sending your email to our minister, Steve, on: steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE.
ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MUCH APPRECIATED. SEND YOUR
ITEMS TO ME:

harveyjallen@hotmail.com

Please get your items to me by 25th of the previous month

The last date for the December/January edition (remember it covers Christmas and New Year) is

25th November



Christmas Concert and Fayre
Methodist Church, East Brent

Saturday 6th December

NEW this year

Following our successful concert earlier in the year, the popular, local choir 'All Sorts' are returning with a Christmas themed concert. Coffee will be available in the hall from 11 a.m. Concert starts at 11.30 am so enjoy listening, and joining in, to what promises to be a really festive occasion followed by soup and rolls, coffee and mince pies in the hall.

Then browse the stalls:-

Books

Jigsaw puzzles

Bric a brac

Tombola

Cakes (of course!)

No tickets, just come and enjoy!

DIARY DATES

<u>Regular days</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday (except Bank Holidays)	10.30am	Brean	Coffee morning
Thursday	11.00am	Zoom	Coffee chat (Details from Steve)
Monday to Thursday	9.00am to 2.00pm Wednesday to 4pm	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Cafe and associated activities
Wednesday	2.00pm	Burnham	Knit 'n' natter
Friday	Morning	Burnham	Mothers and toddlers
<u>Other Dates</u>			
6 th November	10.00am Coffee from 9.30am	Uphill	Quiet Morning
9 th November	10.00am	(East) Brent	Service followed by Act of Remembrance beside the War Memorial
9 th November	10.50am	St Bridget's Brean	Remembrance Service and Act of Remembrance
16 th November	6.00pm	Burnham	Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service
22 nd November	10.00am to 2.00pm	Burnham	Christmas Fair
26 th November	7.30pm	Zoom	Circuit LP meeting
30 th November	10.30am	Burnham	Holy Communion Service led by Chair of District
2 nd December	7.30pm	Burnham	Circuit Meeting
3 rd December	7.00pm	Burnham	Weston Hospice 'Light up a Life' service