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# THE LINK

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## Methodist Link Churches Magazine

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October 2007 Volume 42. No. 8.

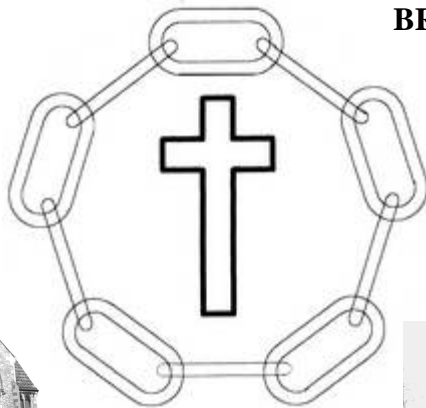
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**BREAN**



**BRENT KNOLL**



**BURNHAM ON SEA**



**EAST BRENT**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**

# *Minister's Letter*

*October 2007*

Dear friends,

Over the past months I have become deeply hurt at the many tragic stories we hear or read about on the television or in the news. I know and feel partly to blame for being one of the silent majority, for not knowing what to say. Gun crime, knives and violence in the home and the list goes on have so often been the headline grabbers for the politicians especially during the session of Party Conferences whatever persuasion.

Was it not Andy Warhol who said “that everyone can have their 15 minutes of fame”. Fame or headlines achieve little unless the subject stays near the top of the agenda and doesn't get filed under A.O.B. So often what should be cherished and applauded in life be it family, community or the bigger picture gets swamped by the dramatic. Such a shame!

In July, I spent a weekend at a college reunion. Even though they'd changed the dining room, the library and instead of a key we all needed a security code nothing had changed, but we had. With some greyer than others. What really enthused me was the excitement we, as minister had for the church and its people. Sharing and listening to what can only be called “Good News Stories” or because I was at Cliff College “Joyful News”. Yet little is told when we should.

Last month I tried to say that the Link is stronger together so following on from that the Link magazine is not only a church magazine but yours. Don't forget “the pen is mightier than the sword”. Share your stories of faith, enthusiasm, challenge, and encouragement, excitement if that's what it takes. The more we know each other the stronger we can be. By the way the odd joke wouldn't go amiss.

Every Blessing

*Stephen*

# CALENDER

## SEPTEMBER

Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> 10.00 – 12.00 Jumble Sale in aid of RD Fund. Burnham Hall.

## OCTOBER

Wed. 3rd 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Nursing by Mary Nicholson.

Thur. 4th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship -Overseas Missions Guest Speaker - Rev. John Le Sueur. (Sales Table)

Sat 6th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Thursday Fellowship

Sat 6th 6.30pm. Varetty Show & Supper - Burnham Hall in aid of RD Fund.

Sun. 7th am. Traidcraft Stall in the Hall

Tues. 9th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs. Moya Harris – American Adventure.

Wed. 10th 10.00am. LINK Communion at East Brent

Sat 13th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning arranged by Joyce Beard for the Burnham & Highbridge Stroke Club.

Thur. 18th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Network - Mrs. Joyce Pipet.

Sat 20th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds. All welcome.

Sun. 21st LAST Day for items for the November LINK.

Tues. 23rd 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs. Joan Bailley - Angels.

Sat 27th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds. All welcome.

## NOVEMBER

Thur. 1st 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Rev. Margaret Trapp

Sat 3rd 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid NCH Christmas Cards, Cakes .

Sun. 4th am. Traidcraft Stall in the Hall.

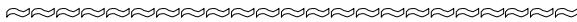
Wed. 7th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Ideas on Flower Arranging (Bring your own Flowers)

Fri. 9th until Methodists for World Mission Conference at

Sun. 11th Sidholme, Sidmouth details in September LINK

Tues. 13th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs. Margaret Edwards – From Little London, Leeds to Peshawar, Pakistan.

Wed. 14th 10.00am. LINK Communion at Brent Knoll.



## Funerals

**Joy Masterson** on September 17<sup>th</sup> at Weston Crematorium

**Valerie Goodare** on September 17<sup>th</sup> at Weston Crematorium

**Betty Hadfield** on September 26<sup>th</sup> at East Brent Methodist Church

## It's Teatime and you're all invited!!

Chris Wray and Joyce Pipet would like to invite you all to afternoon tea on Wednesday 10th October from 3.00 – 5.00p.m. in Burnham Methodist Church Hall.

This is part of a nationwide "Tea Time" event to raise money for Christian Aid to support their work in helping some of the poorest communities work themselves out of poverty.

We hope you will come and enjoy a choice of sandwiches, scones and cake; and leave a donation for Christian Aid.

There will be Traidcraft items for sale, and free recipe leaflets **featuring recipes from round the world.**

Who knows - these recipes may even feature in our cake selection! Do come and join us and enjoy tea in the company of friends and help a good cause at the same time.

Looking forward to your company on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Joyce Pipet.


## Variety Show and Supper

October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm

At Burnham Methodist Hall

Tickets on sale now

From JACKIE MORRIS

 785249

WEST HUNTSPILL METHODIST CHURCH  
A MUSICAL EVENING

With the JAY SINGERS

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October

7.30pm.

Everyone Welcome Retiring Collection

Proceeds for the Special Baby Care Unit

At Musgrove Park Hospital

**Organist Wanted**

Following the recent death of our Deputy Organist Len Mitchelmore, Burnham Church is now seeking a person to play either the pipe organ, clavichord or piano for our Sunday evening services at 6.30pm. Anyone who is able to offer such services would you please contact Eric Nethercot (Senior Steward) Tel 01278 795119 for further details.



**COMPASS BRAILLE**

It was in 1996/7 that the Bristol District had as a “Special” Project to raise money for Compass Braille. Here in Burnham and the Link section we gave our full support with money raising efforts.

In 1990 the work had been set up in a disused Methodist Chapel at Mortonhamstead Devon.

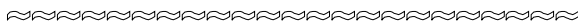
At the time Beth and I went down to understand the work and I began speaking on behalf of Compass Braille. We were graciously received. At the time there was a project for producing Bibles in Braille for Indian Languages.

In the last few months support has been given for a new Braille School in Bartimai for the Visually Handicapped, Mission to the Blind and Ephphatha Blind Mission. In May a request was received from Malta for help for a seven year old who lost his sight when he was five. 64 Gospels have gone to Rwanda and 60 complete NT's for Nepal.

Now the time has come for Compass Braille to relocate from Mortonhampstead to Ware in Hertfordshire. Here there will be more space and a central location with good access to the A10 and M25 as well as the Airports of Stanstead and Heathrow.

As Compass Braille leave Devon we continue to pray for the work of Translation and give our support.

Joyce F. Plumb



Many people failed to persuade me to take a respite break from my role as Hazels 24/7 carer. Following my mini stroke (a TIA) I then took this advice, but, where to go on my own?

I contacted WESTERLY a long established retirement home at Minehead started by LPMA but now L W P Homes and spent a week there. I did not look forward to going but on arrival I enjoyed the wonderful warm welcome from staff, residents and particularly Winifred (widow of the Reverend Alfred Cartwright who had also lived there for years) and now Winifred's sister. The same day Zinnia and Chris arrived on a family visit, and still they live in Brazil and send their love and best wishes to you all.

Christians are always welcome whether for holidays or retirement, where for some readers may not be too far away. A suggestion, why not contact the managers Mr. and Mrs. Ogden arrange just a holiday, but use it to sample the Fellowship, the cleanliness, comfort, caring, really good food plus, if you wish, morning devotions taken by residents, local Christians etc. Try it and I feel sure you will not find a better Christian holiday / retirement experience.

Telephone 01643 702066 at King Edward Road, Minehead.  
Harry Kempson.

# He Did It for You

## BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED ISAIAH 53:5 NIV

Max Lucado writes: ‘I received a call from a friend named Kenny. He’d just returned from Disneyworld. “I saw a sight I’ll never forget,” he said. He and his family were in Cinderella’s castle. Suddenly all the children rushed to one side. Cinderella had entered. She stood waist deep in kids, each wanting to be touched. Kenny turned toward the other side of the castle. It was now vacant, except for a boy; his age was hard to determine because of the disfigurement of his body...he stood watching...longing to be in the middle of the kids reaching for Cinderella. But can’t you feel his fear; fear of yet another rejection? Fear of being... mocked again? Don’t you wish Cinderella would go to him? Guess what? She did! She walked across the floor, knelt at eye level with the stunned little boy and placed a kiss on his cheek. “I thought you would appreciate the story,” Kenny told me.

‘I did. It reminded me of another one. The names are different, but isn’t the story the same? Rather than a princess of Disney, it’s the Prince of Peace. Rather than a boy in a castle, it’s a thief on a cross. In both cases a gift was given. In both cases love was shared. In both cases the lovely one performed a gesture beyond words. But Jesus did more than Cinderella. Cinderella gave only a kiss. When she stood to leave she took her beauty with her. The boy was still deformed. What if Cinderella had done what Jesus did? What if she assumed His state? What if she had somehow given her beauty and taken on his disfigurement? *That’s what Jesus did - for you!*

Soul Food Reading: Ezek 5-9 Mark 10; 23 – 34; Ps 142; Pr 19: 21 – 23.

Sent in by Harry Kempson



# LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Our 2007/ 08 session started on a beautiful summer's day when our friends from Milton Methodist Ladies' Fellowship joined us - some came by coach and others travelled by car.

We were pleased to welcome Rev. Stanley Pipet as our Guest Speaker. Joyce Pipet led the service and then was followed by Stanley who gave a very interesting talk on the history of Christianity from the death and resurrection of Jesus through all the different branches spinning off over the 2000 years. We all had sheets to follow this development throughout the ages. Rev. Stephen Hill gave the Benediction and the Grace before we all adjourned to the schoolroom for a delicious tea which was enjoyed by everyone.

Our Dedication Service is to be on September 25th. And will be led by Rev. Stephen Hill.

Mrs. Moya Harris will tell us of part of her American Adventure on Tuesday, October 9th.

On October 23rd, we are to hear about Angels from Mrs. Joan Bailley.

Mrs. Margaret Edwards will take us on a journey from Little London, Leeds to Peshawar, Pakistan on November 13th.

We are always pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join us in the Schoolroom at East Brent Methodist Church at 2.30p.m.on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month.

Eileen Goundry





## A Parable

I guarantee you will remember the tale of the Wooden Bowl tomorrow, a week from now. a month from now. a year from now.

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family all together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult

Peas rolled off his spoon on to the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about father," said the son. "I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor."

So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner.

Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl!

When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometime he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone.

Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food.

The four-year-old watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making? Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents so that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the table cloth soiled.

I've learned that, regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life. I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life."

I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I've learned that every day, you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch - holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. I

Dennis Dixon.



## **BURNHAM.**

As we enter this Season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' we send our greetings to all readers of the 'Link' magazine,

This past month in Burnham we have had times of celebrations and also sadness.

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> during worship we welcomed eight new members into Church membership, good news indeed!

Our Harvest Thanksgiving began on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September with an entertaining and inspiring Service taken by Rev. Karen Murphy. We enjoyed our Harvest Supper which was followed by an Auction of goods by Stephen. All proceeds went to the M.R.D.F. for relief work in Sudan/Darfur.

Sadly, two of our members have died, Valerie, and Joy. We thank God for their lives, praying also for comfort and strength for their families. We also send our sympathy to our friends at East Brent following the death of Betty Hadfield.

We continue to remember in prayer all those who are sick or recovering from operations, and we look forward to them joining us in worship when they are fully well again.

Eric - for the Stewards.

# BURNHAM ON SEA REDEVELOPMENT

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the money received during the year. Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 – August 31<sup>st</sup> 2007.

RASIED BY MEMBERS £27,241.42 (Includes loans)

OTHER MONEY £6,649.50 (Includes Gift Aid, Interest etc.)

**TOTAL AT AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup> 2007**

**RAISED BY MEMBERS £88,085.57**

**FULL TOTAL £120,774.35**

Thank you to all who worked and supported through August – Coffee Mornings at Church, At the home of Tony and Joyce Bishop, also at the Home of Stanley and Joyce Pipet and 5 personal gifts.

Events planned:

JUMBLE SALE SEPTEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR NOVEMBER 17TH**



## HOSPITAL FETE

On a glorious August Bank Holiday Monday, we were able to set up our stall at the Hospital Fete on the usual site.

We were grateful for all the items we had been given and all the help on the day. There were crowds of people in the Manor Gardens. At the end of the afternoon we were thrilled to be able to hand over £273.00. This is the most we have ever taken. We do appreciate having our hospital with all the facilities it can provide. Many thanks to everyone who gave items, and those who came and helped.

Dorothy May.

## Arthritis Research

On July 5<sup>th</sup> a few of us met to spend a happy hour together knitting, chatting and, of course, enjoying a cuppa. As a result I was able to send £363.50 to the Arthritis Research Campaign.

I have received a most appreciative letter from their Fundraising Administrator, and she is most anxious that her thanks are passed on to the knitters and to all who sponsored them, and this I gladly do.

Muriel Hyde.



**NCH**

COFFEE MORNING  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
10.00 – 12.00  
Burnham Methodist Hall  
Christmas Cards, Cakes, Raffle  
Everyone Welcome

# BREAN

As most of our LINK folk will know we celebrated the 20th birthday of Women's Network on September 2nd at Victoria. The hall was full of ladies with a few men as well - yes men are invited to join us in our meetings and there was much chatter and laughter as you can imagine - as we met friends we hadn't seen for a while. It was 4o'clock and time for tea – and what a spread it was. When we had eaten we went into the church for the service. Our speaker was Mrs. Sandra Lewer the Network Connexional President. She started her sermon by asking for 8 or 9 volunteers. She then threw a ball of string holding on to the end - over to the one opposite in the circle of volunteers. Each one then threw it back holding on to their bit and what did we have? Yes a network of string. We belong to a network of people all over the country who worked in so many ways bringing help of all sorts to those in need.

Sorry to our Brean folk for taking up space to give this report but Eileen usually reports on network matters but she was unwell and wasn't able to come to the celebrations.

This summer is passing into autumn and farmers are reaping their harvest and so we come to Harvest Thanksgiving Services. Our friends at St. Bridget's will be holding their service on 30<sup>th</sup> September. Then they will be joining us on 7<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am. for our Harvest Service to be followed by a cold lunch. The service will be taken by Rev. Pipet. We shall look forward to a time of joyous thanksgiving.

It was very pleasing to see Daphne once again in church and pray she will soon be completely recovered. Walter and Margery have their good and bad days but it is nice when they are able to come and join us so we hope they will have more good days than otherwise.

We send our best wishes to all our friends in the LINK and to any who are going through a difficult time, we remember you in our prayers, and wish you well.

God bless,

Lilian Stone.

## **EAST BRENT**

I write this article with a heavy heart. In my original draft of this month's link article, I sent my congratulations to Betty Hadfield on celebrating a very special birthday and wished Betty and Tom many more years of happiness together. Unfortunately, Betty was suddenly called to God's nearer presence three days later and this has left us all in a state of shock. Betty was a true Methodist and her life was lived for her Church. Even though we remember her for her constant love of Lympham and East Brent, she served her Church in other parts of the country before coming to live in this area. She will be greatly missed. We send our love and deepest sympathy to Tom and her daughter Elizabeth.

Last Sunday was our Harvest Festival and it was a real joy to have so many Brownies with us. The church was well filled not only by the Congregation but by the many gifts of fruit and produce. Some were grown organically and some bought in the supermarkets. It is all God's gifts and after the service we were able to sell some of the produce, with the remainder going to the Free Church Residential Home in Weston.

It is not only the inside of the Church that has been decorated but so has the outside of the hall with a freshening up of the paint work and the replacement of the guttering. We are very lucky to have Gordon to undertake all this work, quietly and unassumingly and we can never thank him enough.

On a personal note, Eileen and I have decided to return to St Andrews. We have many friends there but the move is mainly on health grounds. There are many things we shall miss, not least the friendship of all the congregation at East Brent and those in the Link. The welcome which they gave us, when we came south ten years ago, will be a memory that will stay with us and we shall be much the poorer without their fellowship.

Thank you all so much.

David Craig.

# BRENT KNOLL

The sudden death of Betty Hadfield must be in all our minds and our sympathy out to our friends at East Brent and especially to Tom and to Betty's daughter, Elizabeth and her family. We shall all miss Betty very much but they will feel her loss most keenly. She always shared her many gifts generously but unobtrusively and it was such a pleasure just to meet her. She made the day brighter.

Most of us will have celebrated Harvest by now and have perhaps sent a gift to MRDF [Methodist Relief and Development Fund]. At synod an excellent presentation was given on behalf of the Fund and I felt that this is a work we can really be proud of. It is only a small organisation compared with Christian Aid or OXFAM but it concentrates on small projects which might otherwise be overlooked and makes a point of working with local people, using local skills and local material wherever possible. It has achieved many "small miracles". It deserves our continued support. Synod also welcomed a visit from some of the Christian Aid walkers, highlighting the devastating effects of climate change, particularly for the poorest people. We can all make a difference in our homes and in our churches by being more careful with energy use and recycling as much as possible. We are called to be concerned for the environment and to care for all people if we really try to love God and love our neighbours as ourselves.

My love to you,

Margaret.

## Minister

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## Web Sites

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

[www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org](http://www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org)

**The Deadline for the  
November 2007 “LINK” is  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2007**

**LARGE PRINT COPIES (A4 format) of the “LINK” are available.  
Please contact the Editor if you would like one.**

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If you do not have the ‘LINK’ regularly and would like to do so, please fill in the slip and hand to a Steward. or send to the Editor.

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