
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

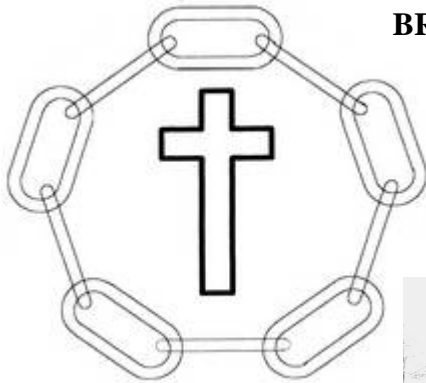
October 2008 Volume 43. No. 8.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



BURNHAM ON SEA



EAST BRENT



WEST HUNTSPILL

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you but I have great difficulty writing and reading text messages on my phone. A few months ago I had one that read **"JO40KIQ" 17/9./8.** The date I got straight away, that was easy. It was the first bit that had me puzzled, until I checked that the message came from my brother Andrew. Then everything became clearer. The message then read **Joanne's 40th birthday keep it quiet** and then the date of the party. Everything was as clear as mud until I began to put the pieces together. It can be a problem more common than we think.

In Church we do use language that sometimes even the ardent Methodist fails to understand. Some years ago a church decided to have a 25 day Countdown in December with a final poster stating He's here. After the Christmas break someone had written **WHO** in big black letters.

The idea was a good one but the Christian message we portray must be clear. Even to the point of stating the obvious while remembering it might only be obvious to us.

If you've not been to Burnham recently 'Congratulations' are in order. Check out the new entrance doors as they are now accessible from the roadside. How many have walked past and not noticed there was a Methodist Church there? Now there should be no excuse to be ignored.

I once heard a lecture called **"If we won't talk about it who will?"** It might not be everyone's cup of tea but we could try to be a little more proactive and clearer in the ways we share the Gospel message. It is good news you know.

Every blessing

Stephen

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Sat 27th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

OCTOBER

Wed. 1st 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - How the RNLI works.

Thur. 2nd 2.30pm Thursday Fellowship - Dedication & Communion – Rev. Stephen Hill.

Sat. 4th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Thursday Fellowship

Sat. 4th 2.30pm. District Network Service and Induction of Mrs. Joyce Pipet as District President at Victoria.

Sat 11th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

Tues. 14th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Rally at St. Andrews, Bournville.

Thur. 16th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Overseas Missions – Mrs. Chris Wray (SALES TABLE)

Sat 18th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of Secret World - Burnham Methodist Hall

Sat. 18th Evening Supper & Magic Lantern Show & Supper – Tickets £7.00 from Ros Anderson 783652 or Jackie Morris 785249

Sun 19th LAST Day for items for the November LINK

Mon. 20th 7.30pm. Circuit Men's Supper Club - Michael Horseman – "A Kiwi Experience"

Sat 25th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

Tues. 28th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs. Jean Tincknell.

NOVEMBER

Sat. 1st 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of Action for Children (NCH)

Wed. 5th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Jackie Morris's South African Trip at 68 Maple Drive.

Thur. 6th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Mrs. Sandra Brown – "More about Singapore".

Sat 8th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

Mon. 10th 7.30pm. Circuit Men's Supper Club - Cyril Routley - From Pillar to Post"



Your Opportunity to Visit BROADWAY LODGE

Weston s Mare

Treatment Centre for Addiction.

This is an opportunity to see Broadway Lodge from the inside. Rev. Peter Davis has arranged an evening at the centre to explain the service and to hear from a recovering patient.

When: Wednesday 29th October 2008
Where: Broadway Lodge, Totterdown Lane, off Oldmixon Road, W-s-M
Time: 7.15 for a 7.30pm start.

*This has been arranged by the Methodist Circuit Mission and Justice Committee.
Secretary Chris Williamson, Tel 01934 511715*



NETWORK

A Reminder: On Saturday, 4th October at 2.30p.m. Joyce Pipet will be the inducted as District Network President at Victoria Church in Weston. Rev. A. Ward Jones will be preaching and celebrating with other Circuit Ministers. There will be tea afterwards. EVERYONE is welcome. Please come and support Joyce this is a great privilege.

Di Smart

Circuit Network Secretary

Tools for Self Reliance

Weston-super-Mare and District Branch

A national charity working to help relieve poverty in Africa.

The charity seeks to help people in African countries to be self-reliant by providing them with refurbished carpentry, engineering, building and blacksmith tools. We also collect and refurbish non electrical sewing machines.

These U.K. donated tools are cleaned, repaired and reconditioned by volunteers at various centres. The local centre in our area is based at the Carlton Centre in Weston-super-Mare, where the volunteers meet on a Wednesday from 2p.m. - 4p.m.

Once the tools have been refurbished they are put into carpenters', builders' etc. kits and shipped from TfSR headquarters in Southampton.

The tools are distributed; full training is given to enable individuals to set up their own businesses, earn their own living and support their families and communities. Recent shipments have been made to Zimbabwe, Uganda, Ghana, Zambia etc.

Donations of tools are urgently needed at the local branch.

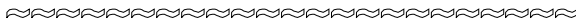
We are dependent on donations by the public and local organisations to continue our work.

Please contact either Peter Hughes (01934 852701) or Vicky at the Carlton Centre (01934 643323) if you are able to donate any unwanted tools.

Tools can be taken to the Carlton Centre or arrangements can be made for volunteers to collect them.

Anyone wanting more information, literature or wishing to get involved with this worthwhile project, please contact Vicky or Peter.

Make Poverty History



THOUGHTS

Think of a meeting without a clear agenda,
Think of a chair with no one in to lead
And how should we fare without some minutes taken?
No reminder kept of actions we agreed
We thank you Lord for those who mind our business
We thank you Lord, and bless your holy name.

Think of a Sunday without any notices
No way of knowing what's coming day by day
Think of 'The Link' with nothing but blank pages
How shall we tell what people have to say?
We thank you Lord for editors and typists
We thank you Lord, and bless your holy name.

Think of an offering but nobody to count it
Pay into the bank or check the envelopes
Think of a covenant without the tax refunded
For the simple reason no one knew the ropes
We thank you Lord for those who keep the records
We thank you Lord, and bless your holy name.

Think of a cash book without any entries
Column ruled and ready but nothing more to show
Think of a ledger no debts and no credits
How shall we know how much we own or owe?
We thank you Lord for treasurers and accountants
We thank you Lord, and bless your holy name.

Think of a building, the lighting and the heating
But maintenance unplanned and no one has a clue
Think of insurance and legal complications
Without expert guidance on what we ought to do
We thank you Lord for business skills and effort
That help your church to praise your holy name.

LINK VILLAGES FELLOWSHIP

What a lovely start we had to our 2008/09 session of Fellowship when we welcomed Rev. Christine Judson, the Curate of St John's, Highbridge on Tuesday, September 9th.

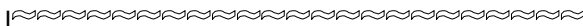
Several members from Milton Ladies' Fellowship joined us as usual on this first afternoon. Christine Thomas opened the service. Rev. Christine said she was pleased to have been invited. She then produced many varied penguins from her bag - she has been collecting them for many years. Some were toys in various media; there was a tea towel, a length of fabric, books, puzzles, a lamp and so many others! Members were asked to choose an item which was of interest to them and then say why they had chosen it. Several interesting stories came out. Christine had explained that she had been confirmed in the L.E.P. at Worle and was an Anglican and Methodist. She had been a science teacher and she brought some aspects of science into her talk. Following the service we all adjourned to the Schoolroom for a delicious tea – it was good to see everyone getting together for a chat around the tables.

On Tuesday, September 23rd, we have our Dedication Service which will be conducted by Rev. Margaret Trapp.

On Tuesday, October 14th, we are to go to St Andrews, Bournville to join in their Rally.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month at East Brent Schoolroom. We are always pleased to welcome any members from the Link Churches to our meetings. We start with a short time of devotion followed by a speaker. At the close, we all enjoy a cup of tea and chat. Please come along.

Eileen Goundry.



**Magic Lantern
Show
Saturday Evening**

October 18th

**Burnham Methodist
Hall**

Tickets £7.00

Show & Supper

From Mrs. Ros Anderson

Tel. 01278 783652

or Mrs. Jackie Morris

Tel. 01278 785249



We aim to provide an authentic Victorian/Edwardian entertainment, using original slides & lanterns which would have enthralled an audience long before the advent of cinematography through to the first world war.

To enhance the beauty of these hand-painted photographic slides, we are indebted to the virtuosity of our pianist -
Mr. Eric Holdaway -
Who is often in the dark -
In more ways than one !

You are invited to sing along with Eric and, for certain shows, we are delighted to have our very own guest singer -
Beverley Gregory



A Gardener's Prayer.

Lord God, bring it about somehow so that it rains every day from about Midnight to three in the morning, but you know, slowly and warmly enough for the Sweet Williams, Rock Roses, Lavender and those other plants, which, by your infinite wisdom, are known to you as drought loving plants (if you like, I'll write them down for you on a sheet of paper); and let the sun shine all day but not everywhere, for example, not on the gentians nor the spiraeas or rhododendrons. Let there be lots of dew, only a little wind, plenty of worms but no aphids or snails. Let it rain diluted dung water and pigeon droppings once a week. Amen.

[Translated from "A Gardener's Year Book by Karel Capel]

Sent in by Barbara Drew

BREAN

www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org

Now as September takes us past the autumn equinox, the weather is beginning to give us a few days at least of warm sunshine, and the farmers are belatedly able to get the end of their harvest in. Yes, in spite of the vast array of caravan sites, there are still a few fields at Brean that become golden yellow and we can sing with the rest about bright globes of gold the fields adorn – if you know where to look for them that is.

It has all been very late this year so it was with expectation of a harvest safely gathered in rather than the fulfilment of it, that we celebrated Harvest Festival on the 21st. A church simply but carefully adorned by Judy with help from others, a service nicely conducted by Pam Pembro, a sketch superbly performed by Vicky and Becky, and a few visitors to supplement our numbers, what more could you want to complete our thanksgiving?

Those who have relied upon holiday makers have not had it quite so good though, and we sympathise with them. We too have missed some of our usual visitors for it is a joy to welcome them to our midst.

But now we turn to autumn. Our Church Council is on October 16th – what excitement will that hold for us I wonder! Meanwhile, our study group which we share with the Anglicans meets monthly and this year we shall follow a biblical theme. And then Christmas will be upon us. What a thought!

One or two in our midst are feeling the frailty of age and for them as for others across the Link who are in the same state we send our prayers and best wishes.

Lilian is taking time off from her usual contribution (at the time of writing she is enjoying a holiday down in sunny Cornwall), but have no fear, for she will return to her Link duties next month.

Harvey Allen

BRENT KNOLL

The youth work at Brent Knoll has resumed after the summer break with the Shell Club and 12-15 Club meeting on Monday evenings and the Toddler Group on Tuesday mornings. The youth clubs are led by Keith and me with help from Tom and a Rota of volunteers. Tom is employed by the church ensuring that there is a second person on site, he is well liked by the young people and is, thankfully, more able at moving the equipment up and down the stairs.

One aspect of our church which very much helps with welcoming young people is the work carried out under the supervision of our property steward. Ron has made our return to the school room a much brighter event and we thank him for this. This and all the other ways in which the whole membership welcomes the use of the premises for youth activities is a credit to the church; it makes our job easier knowing we are thanked and prayed for.

To help with funding for the youth work Keith and I are hosting a coffee morning on Saturday 1st November from 10.30 at home, 26 Highbridge Road, Burnham on Sea. We hope that people from the Link and the Circuit will come along and support Brent Knoll's ongoing work with young people.

On a personal note Keith and I would like to thank everyone who has supported our fostering over the past nine years. Brent Knoll and others throughout the circuit have welcomed various different children at services, events and clubs. In July of this year Keith and I were granted Special Guardianship to Ricky who has been a member of our family for eight years whilst remaining very much in contact with his birth family. Ricky is now in his last year at school and working hard towards his GCSE's, he hopes to attend Bridgwater College to take a BTEC course in IT.

So to end please come along and see us on 1st November, at home not the church, and we will make you welcome.

Sue

EAST BRENT

Last month you benefited from a BOGOF from East Brent! For the non-supermarket shoppers amongst you this stands for Buy One Get One Free. There was a mis-understanding and I thought it was my turn to submit the article from East Brent for which I apologise to Ruth Moxey. My punishment is to have another turn this month!

As I write this we are approaching our Harvest Thanksgiving Service. As a member of the agricultural community I have been well aware of the problems farmers have been facing in reaping the harvest this season with the constant wet weather we have experienced this summer. Although recently it seemed to be a case of “water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink”! Some of you will have been affected by the lack of a water supply across the area a few weeks ago. Our taps were also dry when I tried to make the morning cup of tea at 7 a.m. At that stage we were not aware that the leak was on our land! Unbeknown to us Wessex Water were already in situ excavating a 15 feet deep crater in our field. You may have seen the photographs in the local press or the regional TV coverage. I should add that the leak was not caused by the use of any agricultural equipment. It took a couple of days to fix and we are told that more long time repairs will be required so Wessex Water will be returning next Spring. This reminds me of new beginnings ...

Our church was full recently for the double Christening of two grandchildren of Anne Julyan. It is always a pleasure to welcome visitors to celebrate a happy family occasion and Christenings are few and far between at East Brent!

Rosemary Gilling

BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

We send our greetings to all readers of the 'Link' remembering in our prayers especially those who are unwell, or in any kind of need at this moment.

September is traditionally the month when we hold our 'Harvest Thanksgiving' Services. A very special time to reflect on the goodness and generosity of our Creator and to remind ourselves that harvest is a time for not only thanksgiving, but for sharing what we have been blessed with.

Here in Burnham, our harvest was very different this year due to the limitations placed on us by the redevelopment project, but it was special for another reason this year.

On our harvest Sunday, we were able to walk through and admire the new entrance foyer for the first time.

We saw the harvest of the skilled labour which is working so hard on this project, and we appreciate with thanksgiving the generosity and time of so many who have enabled this to come to fruition. We look forward to the final completion when church, kitchen, and crèche area are renewed.

June. (On behalf of the Stewards)



BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT

Money raised by members:	£108,398.40
Of which £120 for chairs and £1,474 for Kitchen Equipment	
Money from other sources including Legacies, Circuit, Trusts, Interest etc.	£50,767.62
TOTAL AS END OF FINANCIAL YEAR, AUGUST 31ST 2008.	<u>£159,166.02</u>

Building Expenses to Aug 31st **£86,752.48**

THANKS

Thank you to all who have worked so hard – and continue to do so, raising money for the Redevelopment of the premises.

During the last month or two, extra money has been raised for the kitchen equipment. It was not originally expected to be renewing the kitchen at this time, but the Church Council had to accept the kitchen floor was getting very dangerous and so the work was brought forward. This is the reason why we have had extra efforts for new ovens, hob etc.

We are so pleased the new entrance is now open and we can see some results for all our efforts!

Treasurer: Joyce F. Plumb



MEN ONLY ?

When the Burnham members of the men's Supper Club which met at Victoria Church Weston could no longer attend, & perhaps now can, will be pleased another opportunity has arisen. A member from Weston now lives in Burnham will transport any wishing to go, - door to door service.

Each meeting starts with an outstanding supper, a speaker, offering an opportunity for sleeping it off. The cost will be £5.00. It will start again on Monday October 20th at 7.30pm. then monthly.

Men who are potential members please let Harry Kempson know ASAP Telephone 792306, this to let the caterers know to prepare for us.

Now a suggestion for the deserted wives. Would this make the opportunity for you all to have a get together. A good idea ?

Minister

Rev. Stephen Hill, 28A Caernarvon Way. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2DQ
stephen@hill735.fsworld.co.uk Tel. (01278) 782306

Editors

Cedric & Dorothy May, 6 Brightstowe Road. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2HW
cedric.may@btinternet.com Tel. (01278) 784204

Web Sites

www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk
www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org
www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

**The Deadline for the
November 2008 “LINK” is
Sunday 19th October 2008**

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

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.
Price £3.00 per annum. Inland Post £3.00 per annum.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

POST CODE.....CHURCH.....

LINK £3.00 Postage £..... Donation £.....

Please make Cheques Payable to “Burnham on Sea Methodist Church.”