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# THE LINK

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**Methodist Link Churches Magazine**

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**October 2009 Volume 44. No. 8.**

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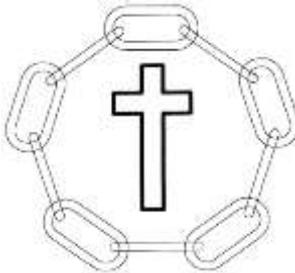
**BREAN**



**BRENT KNOLL**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**



**EAST BRENT**



**BURNHAM ON SEA**

# **Minister's Letter**

*The Eagle Has Landed*

*(or – the Removal Van that Limped Home!)*

Well, we have arrived! Julie and I moved in on the 24<sup>th</sup> August under inauspicious circumstances: Our removal van arrived four hours late on the back of a breakdown truck! We were, however, very grateful to the removers for working late and getting all our worldly goods in on the same day.

Julie and I have met lots of people in the last few weeks but I know we have many more to see and if we haven't met you yet then I hope we will do so very soon.

We would like to convey our thanks for the warm welcome we have received – to everyone who has sent cards and flowers and messages, and to those who worked so hard to prepare the manse for us.

Julie has put several bird feeders in the garden and we have been enjoying looking out through the patio doors and watching the birds feeding on them and splashing about in the bird bath. So far we have seen a variety of birds including: Great tits, blue tits, chaffinches, sparrows, a coal tit, a wren and some blackbirds. One morning we had a green woodpecker on the lawn. We even had a toad and a couple of mice in the garden as well as a squirrel which has been enjoying the peanuts we put out for the birds!

Watching these has reminded me that we have so much to thank God for in creation. I am reminded of the words of Psalm 8:

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour.*

*You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

We are reminded that we have the whole of creation to thank God for, that all creation is his and that we are but stewards of it.

At this time of Harvest Festivals, as we celebrate let us rejoice and give thanks to God for all his good gifts to us.

Best Wishes

Andrew

## Deaths

David Pike Funeral at Weston Crematorium Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September

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### Brent Knoll

Ruth Knott and family wish to thank all our friends from the Link Churches whose kind thoughts and prayers are much appreciated following the passing of Bert. He will be greatly missed.

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## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- Sat. 26th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome  
Tue. 29th 7.30pm. Burnham Worship Consultation Committee

### OCTOBER

- Thur. 1st 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Mr. David Lee.  
Sat 3rd 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Sunday Club & Shell Group.  
Sun. 4th. am Traidcraft table in the Hall  
Tue. 6th 2.30pm. "LINK COMMITTEE MEETING" at Brent Knoll  
Wed. 7th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Nursing.  
Sat. 10th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome  
Sat. 10th 6.30pm. Magic Lantern Show - and Supper  
Tue. 13th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. John Stedman  
Wed 14th. 7.30pm. CHURCH COUNCIL  
Thur. 15th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Overseas Missions.  
Sat. 17th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of RNLI - Burnham Methodist Hall  
Sun. 18th LAST Day for items for the November LINK  
Tue. 20th 7.00pm. Fashion Show by Dorothy Howkins W-s-M at Burnham Methodist (Note change of Day)  
Sat. 24th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome  
Tue. 27th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Sue Hunt - Wiltshire Farm Foods.  
Fri. 30th 6.30pm. METHODISTS FOR WORLD MISSION Conference at Radstock  
Sat. 31st 11.00 – 3.30. JAM FESTIVAL & Lunches Burnham in aid of the RD Fund

### NOVEMBER

- Sun. 1st. am. Traidcraft table in the Hall  
Wed. 4th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Craft Evening.  
Thur. 5th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Bob Telfer – Fire Precautions.  
Sat 7th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of Action for Children  
Tue. 10th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Paul Temple - Work in Tanzania - Collection.

Sat. 14th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome  
Thur. 19th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Joyce Dunbavan – Sounds  
and Voices.  
Sat. 21st 10.00 - 12.30. BURNHAM CHRISTMAS FAIR



## THANK YOU.

Thank you Dennis for all your funnies you put in the link. Last month I was feeling not so great but when I picked up my link and started to read your bit it made me laugh and we all need to have a laugh now and then so keep them coming Dennis. Bless you.

Thank you. Rosaleen.

<p>Coach Trip to Worcester Christmas Market On Saturday. 28th November. Great Day Out To book phone Ros on 783652.</p>
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## Arthritis Research

As a result of a happy hour spent knitting, tea drinking and chatting on July 9<sup>th</sup> I was able to send £400 to the Arthritis Research Campaign. I have received a truly appreciative letter from their fundraising administrator, so thanks to the knitters and to all who sponsored them

Muriel Hyde.



## SHOE BOX APPEAL

West Huntspill Primary School is again sending shoe boxes filled with gifts to Romania and Moldova. This year we are sending family boxes, which include such things as bottles of shampoo, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, toys, chocolates, sweets, items for school work, sewing kits, etc.

If anyone would like to donate any items or money towards the charity please give the items to either Marian Foster or any member of the Sunday Club team before October 19<sup>th</sup>

# Magic Lantern Show

**Saturday Evening  
October 10<sup>th</sup> 2009  
6.30pm.**

**Burnham Methodist  
Church**

**Tickets £7.00**

**Show & Supper**

**(£5.00 if you had tickets  
for February 7<sup>th</sup>)**

**From Mrs. Ros Anderson  
Tel. 01278 783652**



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



## **Burnham-on-Sea Adult School Trust**

is a Christian based charity and invites applications for  
**Small Charitable Grants**

from people living in and around Burnham-on-Sea who may be in a particular need.

Written applications please by 30th November 2009

To: B Poole  
The Chippings

21 Stoneleigh Close  
Burnham-on-Sea  
TA8 2EE

# FUNNIES

A new superintendent was visiting a church and talked to an old man who had been a regular churchgoer for forty years.

"You must have seen some changes in the church during your forty years"

"Yes, I have" replied the old man "and I've opposed every single one of them"

Dennis Dixon



A woman by the name of Gladys Dunne was visiting a church for the first time. After the service, as the congregation was exchanging greetings, she extended her hand to one old man and said "Hi, I'm Gladys Dunne" The old man said "I'm glad he's done too"

Dennis Dixon



## A few more "hiccup" from Church notice boards

The choir conductor invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

The 2010 Spring Council Retreat will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Minister is on Sabbatical. Messages can be given to the Church Secretary.

The Outreach Committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are afflicted with any church.

Dennis Dixon



### The **LINK COMMITTEE MEETING**

will be held at Brent Knoll

on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm.

Anyone interested in furthering the work of the Link is invited to attend.

# JAM FESTIVAL



ON



**SATURDAY**

**31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER**

**Burnham Methodist Church**

Open for Public Viewing from  
11.00am until 3.30pm

Competitions, Local Craft Stalls, Jam Stalls  
Tombola and Raffle

**Morning Coffee, Lunches and  
Afternoon Teas Available**



For Jam Festival Entry details, or to book a Craft table contact:  
Ros Anderson on 783652

South West Autumn Conference  
at the  
Ammerdown Centre, Radstock, Nr Bath  
30<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009

# Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land"

"Overseas Fellowships in the U,K.

The Conference will be led by:-

Michael King:  
Methodist Church Leader in World Church Relationships,

Revd. George Mawire:  
Methodist Church Zimbabwe, now in circuit in London

Revd. Graham Shaw:  
Recently Mission Partner in Zimbabwe

Revds. Audrey and Ed. Standhaft  
Circuit ministers in Bristol

The Conference commences at 6.00pm. on Friday and concludes with an  
act of worship after lunch on Sunday.

**Further details and Booking Forms from the treasurer  
Geoff Barraclough**

7 Pine Tree Close. Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1BP Tel:- 01202 841240  
e-mail: geoff\_barraclough@tiscali.co.uk

# LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Our 2009/10 session began on a lovely sunny afternoon. We were pleased to welcome our friends from Milton who join us each year for the first meeting. Our Guest Speaker was Rev. Sheila Macnally, the newly appointed Minister from St Marks, Worle. She gave each of us a 1p. coin with the portcullis and gave a very inspiring talk of the symbols on the reverse side:- the Cross, the Crown, the Portcullis, the chains and the figure 1 at the bottom; we then looked at the Queen's head and she reminded us of the words of Jesus "Render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what is his". She gave her testimony of her call to be a Christian, call to Ministry and her Circuit work. The Service was led by Mrs Joyce Pipet. After this we all adjourned to the Schoolroom where we enjoyed a delicious tea and fellowship.

Unfortunately, since that afternoon, we have heard of the sad passing of Mrs Cynthia Manley, a leader of Milton Fellowship, whilst on holiday with her husband, David. Our thoughts and prayers go out to him at this time.

On Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rev. Margaret Trapp is to lead our Dedication Service.

Members were invited to go to St Andrews, Bournville on October 13<sup>th</sup>. but owing to the illness of their Leader who feels she cannot go on, we are to have our usual meeting on that afternoon. The Speaker will be Rev. John Stedman who will tell us of the meetings he attended when the Methodist Church in The Gambia received its autonomous status after many years being part of the British Methodist Church, He served in The Gambia for many years as a Missionary.

Wiltshire Farm Foods are to give a talk and demonstration of their products with a tasting of various dishes on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

We shall be pleased to welcome Paul Temple again on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. as he will give us an update on his recent visits to Luhimba in Tanzania and the ongoing work there.

Eileen Goundry

# WEST HUNTSPILL

Our Ecumenical Prayer Group meets once a fortnight in the home of one of its members. Its main activity after brief introductory devotions is to prepare the prayer list for the two villages of East and West Huntspill. This includes church activities, community activities, special social groups, mission links with Christians working in Pakistan and Iraq and individuals known to us in special need of prayer (names are only printed in full with the persons permission otherwise just Christian names are used) The list is then delivered to the sixteen or so members of the group and at least two people each day of the week will use it each day of the week as part of their own personal prayers. Parts of the list from time to time are used in the Sunday notice sheets of both the Parish Church and the Methodist Chapel.

Another activity of the group is the plan and host the annual Day of Prayer for Christian Unity. Plans are now beginning for the 2010 event which will be held on Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January in the Methodist Chapel. Please make a note of the date. Further details will be given later.

Margaret Waterhouse.

# BRENT KNOLL

At Brent Knoll we are back into the swing of things with our toddlers and youth groups. The Mums and Toddlers meet on Tuesday morning, the Shell Club for boys and girls from school years 2-6 meet on Wednesday evening and the 12-15 Club for boys and girls from school years 7-11 meet on Monday evening.

At our second meeting for the 12-15 Club we talked to the young people about internet security and gave them leaflets for themselves and their parents to look at. Although I consider myself computer literate I had, until recently, not taken time to look at social networking sites on the internet such as Facebook. Whilst there has been some bad press in the media about these sites they can be a very good way for young people and adults to keep in touch. However we have also seen, firsthand, some very inappropriate communication involving young people. As parents, carers and even grandparents we should be monitoring our children in the same way we would watch and guide them at the park, swimming or when they take the family car for the first time. You do not have to be an IT wizard to at least just look at what your children/young people are writing on their 'public wall'; what is written can be viewed by many many people worldwide and often it is information or comments you would not expect or want your child to say out loud in the supermarket. For my own part I discovered my son had detailed his name, address and then announced when we were all off to France!

The above shows just a small part of the work with our young people; of course we also have others in the church involved in ministry, stewardship, property, music, flowers, refreshments and finance which make up the whole picture.

It was lovely to see so many people support Ruth Knott and her family at the services for Bert, he will be sadly missed.

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September the youth groups and members from the congregation shared the experience of Nutty Noah, a magician who kept us all amused and intrigued for an hour. It was wonderful to watch the 'grown ups' and children enjoy themselves together.

We have our council meeting on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October which will, if as it usually is, be productive for our church.

Sue

# EAST BRENT

We have had a makeover! Not by Gok Wan or Trinny and Susannah but a painter and decorator and our little church is looking fresh and clean again. For a few weeks during the summer, services were held in the hall but it is nice to be back in the church once again.

As the summer draws to a close, students are now packing for university for the first time or returning for another year and we wish them all well. Our own house has been bursting at the seams with all of our family home for a few weeks as well as visits from various friends. It has been lovely to have them but I shall be glad to get back to a routine and when some of their belongings have been removed from our hallway! Why do they seem to return with much more than they left home with?!

Several folk have been away on holiday over the last few weeks and it has been good to see them again and hear about their travels. We now look forward to Harvest Festivals and no doubt Christmas will soon be upon us.

Rosemary Gilling

# BURNHAM.

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

## STEWARDS COLUMN

So – here we are – Summer officially over and Autumn starting its mellow journey onwards. Lots of holidaymakers came to our bit of Somerset and brought much needed revenue to the town, some of whom made repeat visits to the new-look church and were impressed by the changes that have taken place since their last visit. A highlight of the summer was the wedding of Stephen and Betsan. It was a joyous occasion and we wish them well and hope that they are settling into their new home and life in Crosby.

But the Methodist New Year brings with it invigorating and exciting new beginnings now that Andrew and Julie are finally among us. We of the Burnham family welcome them wholeheartedly and offer our prayers and support for a fulfilling and happy life as Andrew begins his new ministry. The Circuit Welcome Service for Andrew and Sheila was a key event in our calendar and was so well attended it was practically “standing room only”. The sound of all the many voices raised together in the singing of the hymns was, as my son would say –“awesome”! The whole service was inspiring.

Many people in Burnham have not been too well of late and we wish all of them a speedy return to health and fitness. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Harry Kempson who is now recovering at home, to Elsie Horsley who has very recently returned home from Weston Hospital, To Pam and Len Horlock, and to Tim and Bridget Christian. We all know when your hands (and shoeless feet) are on the organ Tim!

And now Harvest Time is here – we are looking forward to Andrew’s first harvest service with us here at Burnham and our harvest supper on Monday. Harvest is a great time for thanking God for all his gifts to us, not only for our abundance of food but for all the many blessings He bestows upon us.

Greetings to all the Link churches from the Burnham Stewards during this “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”

Ann Hall

# **BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT FUND**

At the end of the financial year we had £4,373 towards the £20,000 still required.

We say Thank you for the Coffee Mornings. Those who gave through Gift Aid will be pleased to know we received a further £488.00

## **Planned Events**

October 10<sup>th</sup> Magic Lantern Evening

October 20<sup>th</sup> Fashion Show

October 31<sup>st</sup> Jam Festival & Lunch

## **Christmas Fair**

**21<sup>st</sup> November 10.00 – 12.30pm**

I will be pleased to receive any offers of help.

Joyce



## **Burnham on Sea Hospital League of Friends**

August Bank holiday Monday was again a fine day for the Hospital Fete. During the morning everyone was busy in the Manor Gardens setting out their stalls, and this year saw more people doing just this.

At the end of the afternoon we had raised £137.00 for the League of Friends.

Cedric & I would like to thank everyone who contributed goods and those who came along and bought from us.

Dorothy

# BREAN

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

As we welcome in the new Methodist Year we have all been enjoying the wonderful September weather which has been such a bonus after the disappointing summer and brought many welcome visitors to the church in recent weeks. Hopefully our usual correspondent Harvey and Judy are enjoying equally good weather on holiday in Turkey.

Today we celebrated our Harvest Festival and gave joyful thanks for all God's 'Good Gifts'. The church was beautifully decorated entirely with fruits and flowers from local gardens and we welcomed our organist Rosemary back from her summer break. We look forward to our Harvest Supper later in the week when we will join with St. Bridget's and others from the village in fellowship.

We also give grateful thanks that Jimmy Steadman is improving after his sudden and serious illness and we hope that he will soon be home from hospital. We continue to hold him and Celia in our thoughts and pray for his continued recovery.

We are looking forward to Andrew coming to take his first service at Brean in a couple of weeks which will be a United Service with St. Bridget's.

Every Blessing.

Anne Hicks

# Minister

Rev. Andrew Biggs, 28A Caernarvon Way. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2DQ

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

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

[www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com](http://www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

**The Deadline for the  
November 2009 “LINK” is  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

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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.

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