
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

October 2010 Volume 45. No. 8.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

Discipleship is a theme that has been on my mind recently. It has been the theme of the lectionary readings on which I have been preaching over the last month. It was a theme at the recent Synod and it was also one of the themes on which Martyn Atkins (the General Secretary of the Methodist Church) was giving talks in the Methodist Church venue at the Greenbelt Festival.

Discipleship is about how we live our lives in relationship with Jesus Christ, and about how we develop our relationship with him so that we learn to follow him ever more closely. It is also about how we encourage new people into the faith and lead them to the point of making their own commitment to Jesus Christ. This is an area to which I think we have not always paid enough attention – to the detriment of a healthy church.

However there are a number of resources around at the moment which should encourage us all to renew our commitment to discipleship. Firstly Martyn Atkins has written a booklet called “Discipleship and the people called Methodists”. This explores discipleship in the Methodist Church from the early days as a Holiness and Discipleship movement led by the Wesley’s to the challenge of discipleship in the world of today. It is available free (except for postage) from Methodist Publishing.

Then there is Connect – the Methodist Church’s five year strategy for children and youth, with the aim of connecting children and young people with God so that they can: think as disciples, talk as disciples and be disciples.¹

One initiative that we can all engage with is Biblefresh. This is “an invitation to Deepen Discipleship” through reading the Bible, and is a project to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible in 2011. The Methodist Church is encouraging churches and individuals so sign up to 4 pledges: 1. Read the Bible, 2. Be trained in handling the Bible well, 3. Give generously to translate and make available the Bible in Burkina Faso and 4. To provide the opportunity for people to experience the Bible in new and creative ways. There will be further resources and Biblefresh events taking place throughout the coming year.

You can find out more about resources for Discipleship and about Biblefresh, including “A Word in Time: Online Bible Study” from the Deepening Discipleship web site: www.deepeningdiscipleship.org.uk.

So please make this time an opportunity to discover more about being a disciple of Jesus Christ – an exciting if sometimes risky journey!

Rev Andrew

¹ www.childrenandyouth.org.uk

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Sat 25th	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
Sun. 26 th	10.30am	B/K	Harvest Thanksgiving Service - Rev Pam Pembro.
Mon 27th	2.30pm	B/H	Fund Raising Committee at 14 Priory Gardens
Tue. 28th	10.00am	B/H	Property Meeting Burnham
Tue 28th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Dedication Service Rev. Andrew Biggs.
Tue. 28th	7.15pm.		Rabbi Ron Berry will be talking at the Catholic Church - They have extended an invitation to our congregation to join them - He is an excellent speaker and very open to questions.

OCTOBER

Sat. 2nd	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund – Wednesday Group
Sun. 3rd	4.00pm.	B/H	Messy Church Rev. Andrew Biggs
Thur 7th	2.30pm	B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Overseas Missions (Sales table)
Sat 9th	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
Tue 12th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Mary Burgess - Puppets.
Wed 13th	12.30pm.	B/H	Church Lunch Club
Sat 16th	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Coffee Morning in aid of Singing Children of Africa - All Welcome
Sun 17th.	6.30pm.	B/H	LINK Service - Preacher Rev Ward Jones Chair of the Bristol District
Thur 21st	2.30pm	B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Mary Willmott.
Thur 21st	7.30pm.		CIRCUIT MEETING at Brean.
Fri. 22nd	2.30pm	B/H	Stewards meeting at the Manse.
Sat 23rd	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
Sat 23rd	10.00 - 12.00.	E/B	Autumn & Christmas Sale at East Brent.
Mon 25th	12.30 - 2.30	B/H	Pudding Day at 36 Abingdon Street in aid of RD Fund 783652
Mon 25th	6.30 - 8.30	B/H	Pudding Night at 36 Abingdon Street in aid of RD Fund 783652
Tue. 26th	7.30pm.	B/H	Church Council
Tue 26th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs Janet Cryer – Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

NOVEMBER

Thur 4th	2.30pm	B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Guest Speaker Kelton Black
Sat. 6th	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	Coffee Morning in aid of Action for Children
Tue 9th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Robert Channon.
Sat 13th	10.00 - 12.00.	B/H	CHRISTMAS FAIR

B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill.

RE-DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE

Longwell Green United Church, Bristol

Saturday 19th March 2011

A Day conference organised by the Methodist Church Bristol District to encourage and equip local churches in the task of reaching out to local communities with the Good News of Jesus.

"Whether your church is already active in evangelism, or is looking to kick-start it's outreach, this day is for you! Join us for the whole day or just a part.

Starts 10am with coffee and concludes at 3pm aprox.

1.45pm - 3.00pm "Worship and Bible Teaching: Re-discovering your purpose with the Right Revd Mike Hill Bishop of Bristol

The event is free. An offering will be taken for the work of sharing Jesus in the district.

Further information: 01934 835205 email:
sharingJESUS@bristolmethodist.org.uk



Are you interested in making a

Church Banners ?

Join a one day course on 9th October
between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm
at Milton Methodist Church,
Weston-super-Mare BS22 9RA
under the expert tutelage of

Jenny Lester.

Bring your sewing machine and lunch.
Tea and coffee provided.

To book a place 'phone
Barbara Chapman (01934) 413429

The course is **FREE!**



DISCIPLESHIP

It's easy in the morning sun, when youth is awash with hope and ideals, to take the vows of saints and get high on the thrill of tackling dragons and giants.

Much harder in midday heat, when perennial set-backs take their wearisome toll, while dark questions rise up and insinuate angst into the crevices of the soul.

Later comes the evening light, the landscape softens and lines blur a little, we limp where once we ran and wonder what's achieved in one's brief life-span.

**Great Source of life and time, stay close through all the hours of this one fleeting day,
that we may still stay true to what we have commenced and leave the finish up to you.**

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Our 2010 session got off to a good start on Tuesday, September 14th when we were pleased to welcome 35 members from Milton Ladies Fellowship. Our Guest Speaker, Rev. Geoffrey Fenton gave a very thoughtful talk on gardens – his great aunt and his grandmother's. His parents became Custodians for the National trust's Garden at Inverewe in Scotland. He told us of a very moving experience in the Abbey Gardens at Glastonbury just hours before his ordination. After the service we all adjourned to the Schoolroom for a delicious tea.

On Tuesday, September 28th, Rev Andrew Biggs will lead our Dedication Service in the Church.

Rev. Mary Burgess will give a talk on Puppets on October 9th.

We meet in the Schoolroom of East Brent Methodist Church on the second and forth Tuesday afternoons of each month at 2.30pm.

We are always pleased to see new members at our meetings. Come and enjoy fellowship and tea and biscuits at the end.

Eileen Goundry.



Harry's Column

'EXALT THE LORD OUR GOD, AND WORSHIP AT HIS FOOTSTOOL PSALM 99:5 MKJV

Never lose your sense of wonder, or you'll lose your motivation for worship. Unless you believe God is all-powerful, ever-present and approachable, you'll live in a state of anxiety believing that everything depends on you. You'll shrink from sharing your faith in case you're ridiculed or can't find the right words. You'll fail to be generous because the source of your security is in yourself. You'll avoid confronting those who need it, because without the certainty of God's acceptance you become a slave to people's opinions.

We live in a cynical age that discourages wonder. We've diminished the marvel and awe, yet deep down we still ache for it when you shrink your concept of God to fit your own rationale, you pray without faith, work without passion, serve without joy, and suffer without hope. And the result is fear, retreat and loss of vision. But there's one thing that's guaranteed to restore your understanding of how big and wonderful God is - worship. God created us so that when we experience something awe-inspiring we need to praise it, to wrap words around it. We don't worship God because He needs it, but because we do. Without worship our perception of Him is incomplete; we forget how great He is; we overlook our calling and become self-involved. We lose our sense of wonder and gratitude by plodding through life with blinkers on, and we become self-reliant, stubborn and proud. So, each day let us pause and say with the Psalmist,
'Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool...'(Psalm 99:5 NKJV)



An Epitaph seen on a dentist's tombstone.

Stranger approach the ground with gravity for John Brown is filling his final cavity.

SPARROW'S FLIGHT

READ:

Matthew 10:27-33

Not one of them falls
to the ground apart
from your Father's will.
--Matthew 10:29

After dinner one night a tiny brown sparrow flew inside our house through the front door. A chase ensued. Each time my husband got near to it the little intruder fluttered away in a desperate search for an exit. Before we could escort it safely outside, the bird toured the house so frantically that we could see its chest throbbing from its rapid heartbeat.

Sometimes we are like that little bird anxious, frazzled and afraid of what might happen next. It comforts me to think that "not one [sparrow] falls to the ground" without God knowing about it (Matt. 10:29). He sees and knows everything in our world.

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place" (Prov. 15:3), and nothing escapes his attention including you and me. God understands and values the finest points of our being. Jesus said, "The very hairs of your head are all numbered" (Matt 10:30)

It's amazing that God keeps a tally of our personal trivia and is even aware of a bird's misfortune. Since He knows about these small details, we can trust that He sees and cares always informed by His perfect knowledge of us and our circumstances. Let's trust Him with our anxious concerns, -Jenniter Benson Schuldi

If God sees the sparrow's fall,
Paints the lilies short and tall,
Gives the skies their azure hue,
Will He not then care for you? --Anon.

His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.



WEST HUNTSPILL

Harvest Celebrations

As we walked in through the doors of the church on Sunday 12th September a wonderful array and smell of fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers greeted us. Those who looked hard enough, found fish, coal and water in the display, celebrating the harvest of the sea and the essential minerals in the earth. I think most of us present could probably remember sitting in front of a coal fire! An adequate supply of clean drinking water is essential for life, and something we in this country tend to take for granted.

Others are not so fortunate.

For the evening service we were joined by our friends from other churches in the Burnham area & also from Bridgwater. The leaders of our worship at both the morning and the evening reminded us that there were several countries in the world that would not have a harvest this year, due to natural disasters or man's inhumanity to man.

I think that Fred Pratt Green hymn summed up the theme of the day:

God in his love for us lent this planet.....

Long have our human wars ruined its harvest:

Long has earth bowed to the terror of force;

Long have we wasted what others have need of,

Poisoned the fountain of life at its source.....

Earth is the Lord's; it is ours to enjoy it,

Ours, as his stewards to farm and defend.....

there is plenty for all **IF** we can learn how to share it" (F. Pratt Green)

The donated produce was sold after the evening service, raising one hundred and twenty two pounds which combined with the cash collection from each service, has enabled us to send two hundred pounds to the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.

Maureen.

BRENT KNOLL

Keith and I have just returned from a lovely 'Songs of Praise' service led by Margaret Trapp, the congregation sang their choices well and we were grateful to Joan for playing the organ to so many hymns. We took with us, to the service, my 91 year old mother and 5 months old granddaughter who were both made very welcome. We have some new members who we are pleased have come to join us at Brent Knoll.

Since my last article for the link Keith and I no longer run the youth groups however somewhere along the way I became Treasurer; I am not sure that writing about the finances will be anywhere near as much fun as the children and young people.

I can tell you that having a new granddaughter, who we have to stay most weekends, is an absolute joy even if we are shattered by Sunday teatime.

As Treasurer I can now see firsthand the good work that we at Brent Knoll as I am sure all other churches do by way of support to charities and appeals. Money raised with Ruth's August coffee mornings and the Sunday refreshment donations along with mission boxes are a great support to people all over the world who are helping those in need.

We always think of people we know who are having difficulties whether it be with health, finances or other problems in their lives. In troubled times it is a comfort to know that our friends are praying for us. Our prayers this morning went out to everyone around the world.

To close I will share a child's view of God with you; a four year old when asked by his mum why he had drawn an easel in the corner of his picture of heaven he said 'because God is an artist' mum asked 'how do you know that'? The little boy replied 'you know, our father who art in heaven'!

Regards to all,

Sue Cox.

EAST BRENT

As I write this the Pope has just arrived in Edinburgh on a state visit. In spite of the apathy that was being predicted in the press a large crowd did turn out to see him. It is encouraging that despite all of the other commitments many people have during the day in the middle of a week they have been interested enough to make an effort and go along.

East Brent has attracted a few visitors during the summer months including some people enjoying a holiday on a small caravan site in Rooksbridge and two from North Yorkshire who also brought their dog with them. The dog was in a pram!

It was a pleasure to welcome Rev. Margaret Trapp and Rev. Stephen Marr to East Brent recently after quite a long interval.

Harvest Festival was celebrated with Rev. Carol Gill and was a Family Service with the Brownies in attendance. As usual our small church was beautifully decorated. Some produce was sold afterwards to members of the congregation with the remainder being delivered to The Links Free Church Home in Weston-super-Mare.

Congratulations to Alice Gilling, a Young Leader with East Brent Brownies, who celebrated her 18th birthday on 21st September.

We look forward to another sign of autumn on the calendar, our Church Council meeting on Sunday 10th October.

BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

As we start another Methodist year we can look back over the past months with great excitement. Here at Burnham we have started Messy Church on the first Sunday in the month and are building up a good number of regular attendees. I must admit I was a little sceptical about this new outreach but have been pleasantly surprised at how well it has been received by the local population and the dedicated helpers who do a lot in preparation for this event. We hope and pray that this venture will grow and grow and bring more young people and their families to church.

Our luncheon club has also taken off very well and is going from strength to strength. We are limited to 20 diners which is a good number to cook for and we hope that everyone who attends these lunches will feel that they have been well fed!

We can now look forward to the many activities we have coming up in the not too distant future including our Harvest Festival which is on Sunday 19th September and this year we are following the morning service with a lunch instead of having it the following Monday evening. The menu will be cold meat and jacket potatoes.

The warm summer days seem a distant memory now but hopefully we will have a few more sunny days before the long nights draw in.

There are a number of our congregation who are still unwell and unable to come to our services and we pray that they will continue to know that they are in our prayers for a recovery and that they will soon be able to worship with us once again.

We hope that everyone in the link area has had a lovely summer and perhaps some have even managed a holiday either in this country or abroad. I managed to get a week on Corfu which was lovely and very worthwhile. I came back feeling refreshed and ready to start again. I think it is important to have a break away from everyday activities so that one can recharge the batteries and be ready to do what we have to do.

We wish all our friends a happy new Methodist year and hope that the New Year will bring forth new challenges which we will take up with enthusiasm.

With every blessing.

June on behalf of the stewards.



The Church Lunch Club

It will continue monthly on the second Wednesday of each month. The two course meal, followed by tea or coffee, will be served in the Burnham Methodist Church hall. There is a limit of 20 people and tickets must be obtained in advance to avoid wastage.



BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT FUND

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE OF THE CHRISTMAS FAIR WILL BE
NOVEMBER 13TH.

The Planning Committee will meet at 14, Priory Gardens on Monday, September 27th at 2.30pm. We would be pleased to receive any ideas you may have regarding stalls, help etc.

Full details will be announced in the next copy of The Link.

Joyce F. Plumb



THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Thursday Fellowship meets at Burnham on Sea Methodist Hall on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month from Sept 16th to 16th June (except the month of January) from 2.30pm.

There are a variety of speakers and we welcome new members to any meeting.

Secretary. Joyce Beard 07706 868648



BREAN

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

Somerset lost last week in the CB40 final and have now been runners up in each of this year's three cricket competitions. Each time the bridesmaid yet so nearly the bride!!

Gareth Malone in his attempts to get boys at Primary School to learn to read and write (BBC1), set up a series of competitions because he says that it is natural for boys to compete and in this way they will become enthused. A marked contrast here to the movement twenty years or so ago that said competition was bad and where sports days were run without such cut and thrust activity.

In this way ought we to have competition with our ecumenical partners to see who can attract more worshippers? Or because there are not so many 'boys' in our churches would this be seen as 'not proper' in a Christian fellowship!! I say this tongue in cheek I guess (but only just a bit).

We had our Ecumenical Church Council this month and agreed dates and things for the winter – joint services, social evening and meal times, prayer and study groups and so on. We have postponed our Harvest worship to the Joint Service on 2nd October and in doing so have moved the Supper to be a Lunch after that service.

Meanwhile we still have a few visiting worshippers with us and that is always a good thing. This week in Brean is the Cowboy and Western celebration. Originally held at Pontins as one of their special weeks, it has now expanded to be a ten day festival, and spread over into other sites and venues. One couple attending will have a ceremony at our church where they renew their wedding vows.

Our Monday coffee mornings have begun well with 15-20 people attending on each occasion. It's a very happy gathering as the table is expanded with every new arrival so that we can all share coffee and biscuits together.

No competition there then! As far as I could see there were no injuries in Malone's competition and all were friends again afterwards – he saw to that. I am not certain whether on the day after the last final, Somerset players were all that enthused by their competing. It had been

a long hard summer and they had done extraordinarily well to be as close in all forms of the game, but it was not victory. Even so, towards the end of the season, they had the generosity of spirit to allow one of their South African players to return home to play in an international competition although he was still contracted to Somerset. That's the beauty of competition – play it hard, play it fair, but remember the ultimate prize is not the immediate result.

Enjoy October, may there be some good weather, some fine fellowship, some uplifting worship - and perhaps just a little bit of competition if we can find it.

Harvey Allen.

Minister

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

**The Deadline for the
November 2010 “LINK” is
Sunday 24th October 2010**

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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.
Price £3.00 per annum. Inland **Post £4.00** per annum.

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