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# THE LINK

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## Methodist Link Churches Magazine

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October 2011 Volume 46. No. 8.

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**BREAN**



**BRENT KNOLL**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**



**EAST BRENT**



**BURNHAM ON SEA**

## Minister's Letter

I am writing this on the day before the Bristol District Synod takes place at Kingswood School in Bath. However, I will not be there! This is because I will be involved in the organisation of the Bristol District Youth Weekend.

The Youth Weekend is organised every couple of years and is for young people aged 11-25. The weekend involves fun activities, worship workshops, live music and it's a fantastic opportunity to form friendships across the district. It is usually organised on a theme and this year's theme is 'the seaside'.

The main event is to be held at Portishead Methodist Church but on Saturday afternoon the programme includes a beach party at Brean. The Church members at Brean have very kindly agreed to make up packed lunches for the 60+ young people and their leaders before they spend the afternoon on the beach and then at Brean Leisure Park.

It reminds me of the MAYC London weekends that I attended as a young(ish) person in the 1980's. I remember standing in a packed Trafalgar Square with thousands of young people dressed in green and yellow and throwing pompoms around. I remember the shows at the Albert Hall which was also full to overflowing.

The Methodist Church has had contact with tens of thousands of young people over the past 30 years – but where are they now in our churches? Currently there are very few young people in our circuit churches – other than a few children in Sunday school – and very little work with children and young people taking place. I find this a concern on several levels:

1. Paul in 1 Corinthians compares the church of Christ to a body and points out that it needs all parts of the body working together to function and be healthy. But the body also needs to renew itself – new cells replace older cells as they die and fall away. The body of Christ is no different – it needs its younger members both to enable it to function effectively and to continually renew itself and stay healthy.

2. At Baptism the congregation is asked to make a promise: "Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that they may grow in the knowledge and love of his son Jesus Christ". What resources are we putting in place to ensure that this promise is kept for present and future generations?

Some churches are trying out new ideas to connect with families such as Messy Church. But these will only succeed with the active support of the

whole church – so please do your best to encourage and promote these initiatives and to pray for them.

Finally we celebrate with Katrina and Kelvin who brought their children Maxwel and Rhys to West Huntspill for a Thanksgiving last week (11<sup>th</sup> September). We rejoice with them and offer them our prayers and best wishes.

Rev Andrew

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## **STUART HICKS**

Members of the Link will be sad to learn that Stuart Hicks died on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at Holywell Nursing Home where he had been resident for the last two years or so. Farmer, life time member of Brean Methodist Church and a steward for over 60 years he contributed much to the working of the church. He was also active within the parish of Brean, having been a member of the Parish Council for very many years. Stuart was aged 91.

Our thoughts are with Margaret and all his family at this time.

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### **Deaths**

Mrs. Mildred Evans, Funeral at Burnham on 15<sup>th</sup> September

Mr. Stuart Hicks of Brean. Died 20<sup>th</sup> September, Funeral TBA

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## **CALENDAR**

### **SEPTEMBER**

Sun 25th	6.30pm.	Circuit Service at Milton - Rev. Ian White.
Tue. 27th	2.30pm. E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Dedication Service – Rev. Margaret Trapp.
Wed.28th	2.30pm. B/H	Prayer Meeting at Church. All Welcome
Fri 30th	10.00 - 12.00. W/H	Coffee Cake and Chat plus stalls at West Huntspill Methodist Church

### **OCTOBER**

Sat. 1st	10.00 - 12.00. B/H	Coffee Morning in aid of the Heating Fund
Thur. 6th	2.30pm. B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Keep Active.
Sat. 8th	10.00 - 12.00. B/H	Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
Tues 11th	B/H	U3A Concert in aid of Church Funds
Tue. 11th	2.30pm. E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Jordan & The Holy Land Mr. P. Price (Collection)
Wed.12th	12.30pm. B/H	Church Lunch. (June)

Wed.12th 2.30pm. B/H Bible Study Group All welcome.  
 Wed.12th 7.30pm. B/H Church Council  
 Sat. 15th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning by R.N.L.I.  
 Thur.20th 7.30pm. Wells Cathedral - Melvyn Bragg will speak about his new book 'the Radical Impact of the King James Bible 1611 to 2011' (See page 10)  
 Thur.20th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Overseas Missions (Sales table)  
 Sat. 22nd 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome  
 SUN.23rd LAST DAY for the NOV LINK  
 Tue. 25th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - My Year As? – Mrs P. Alvis.  
 Wed.26th 2.30pm. B/H Prayer Meeting at Church. All Welcome  
 Fri 28th 10.00 - 12.00. W/H Coffee Cake and Chat plus stalls at W/H Methodist  
 Fri 28th 6.30pm.To WORLD MISSION Conference "Focus on China"  
 Sun. 30th 3.00pm. At Ammerdown Centre Radstock (See page 11)  
 Sat. 29th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome

**NOVEMBER**

Thur. 3rd 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - "Parts of the body"  
 Sat. 5th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of Action for Children  
 Tue. 8th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Fire Safety in the Home  
 Mr. B. Telfer

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

**Coach trip to Birmingham**  
 on Thursday 24th November  
 for shopping or Christmas market  
 cost approx. £15.00.  
 The more that go the cheaper it will be  
 Please phone Rosaleen 783652 to book

**Coach trip to  
 the Memorial Arboretum for the Forces**  
 in Staffordshire next May. It will be a two day trip with B & B –  
 EM, the first night, plus coach. It will be on a Friday and  
 Saturday-  
 I need to know before December to book hotel. Cost approx  
 £75.00 please phone Rosaleen on 783652

## I AM THANKFUL

For the wife who says it's hot dogs tonight  
Because she is at home with me and not out with someone else  
For the husband who is on the sofa being a couch potato  
Because he is at home with me and not out at the bars.

For the teenager who is complaining about doing the dishes  
Because it means she is at home and not on the streets.

For the taxes I pay  
Because it means I'm employed

For the mess to clean up after a party  
Because it means I have been surrounded by friends  
For the clothes that fit a little too snug  
Because it means I have enough to eat

For my shadow that watches me while I work  
Because it means I am out in the sunshine.  
For the lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning.  
And gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home

For all the complaining I hear about the government  
Because it means we have freedom of speech  
For the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot  
Because it means I am capable of walking and have transportation.

For my huge heating bill  
Because it means I am warm.  
For the lady behind me at church who sings off key  
Because it means I can hear.

For the pile of laundry and ironing  
Because it means I have clothes to wear.  
For the weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day  
Because it means I have been capable of working hard.

For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours  
Because it means I am alive.  
And finally for too much e-mail  
Because it means I have friends who are thinking of me

Live well, laugh often and love with all of your heart!  
Author unknown, courtesy of 'Good Morning Sunday'

Sent in by Shirley Pycroft

# News from the Methodist Conference

## A discipleship movement shaped for mission

In his general secretary's report to the Conference, the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins spoke of his hopes for the life, work, worship and mission of the Methodist Church and his belief that it must change to fulfil its calling in contemporary society.

"As disciples of Jesus we are called to become the Church God wants us to be," said Dr Atkins. "This will involve making some tough decisions. We don't have all the resources we would like to have but God has not given up on us. We must work hard to become a Church that demonstrates our faith through a commitment to justice and serving our local, national and international communities."

The wide-ranging report, *Contemporary Methodism: a discipleship movement shaped for mission*, addresses issues from church buildings to evangelism and the nature of local ministry.

The report was warmly received by the Conference, which commended it to the whole Church for study, response and action.

A shorter user friendly version will be distributed at district synods in the autumn and then available from Methodist Publishing. It includes discussion questions to encourage people to engage with the material. There is also a webpage to submit your comments.

## Our Calling's glorious hope

The newly-inducted president and vice-president of the Conference took elements of *Our Calling* for their Conference addresses.

## Caring

The Revd Leo Osborn challenged the assumption that the Methodist Church was welcoming, and emphasised the need for pastoral relationships in the church that go beyond a 30 second chat at the door on the way out.

"A relationship that does not have a pastoral element to it is hardly worthy of the name," he said.

He commended churches that organised welcoming teams to greet newcomers and praised the new vicar of a neighbouring Anglican church who began opening the



doors every day.

You can read the full text of his address on the Methodist Church web site

### **Learning**

Ruth Pickles chose “learning as disciples of Jesus” as the theme of her vice-presidential year.

At its best, she said, “The Methodist Church has been at the forefront of helping ordinary people to develop into extra-ordinary people. Miners, fishermen, shop assistants, housewives ... learnt how to read, to speak in public, to get engaged in community affairs, trades unions, politics ... all through membership of the chapel and their class meetings. Knowing God’s love, they felt valued as individuals; their learning needs were recognised and addressed.”



Ruth concluded her address by asking those present what the future might hold for them and the Church, “I have my filled-in diary for the coming year, but don’t really know what lies ahead. It looks immense, exciting, daunting. How about you? Where do you find yourself on your journey? Will you too look with hope to the future? What exciting, but risky and costly, opportunities lie ahead for us as a discipleship movement?”

### **More than 30,000 Britons transcribe Methodists' Bible**



Thousands of people across Britain and Northern Ireland have hand transcribed the Bible in the last 12 months, and the final version was presented to the Methodist Conference earlier this month.

As part of the 400th year anniversary of the King James Bible, people were invited to join Methodists in handwriting verses from Scripture. Volunteers joined in from across communities, including prisons, schools, colleges, libraries, nursing homes, airports and shopping centres after Methodists voted to transcribe the Bible at the 2010 Conference in Portsmouth. An event outside London’s Westminster Central Hall attracted so many people that participants were limited to writing one word per verse.

President of the Conference, the Revd Lionel Osborn said, "The handwritten Bible has been a tremendous success. It has enabled people to engage with Scripture at perhaps a slower pace than usual and to really think about what they are copying. For many it has been a deep and enriching experience."

The Methodists' handwritten Bible, which will be bound in 31 volumes and then tour the country, will also be available to read online on the Deepening Discipleship website. Verses have been written in English, Chinese, Welsh and Braille with accompanying illustrations.

### **Methodists commit to carbon reduction**



The Methodist Conference has agreed that failure to acknowledge the urgent need for radical cuts in greenhouse gas emissions was "morally irresponsible" in a statement adopted by the Church.

The statement has been two years in the making. In 2009 the report *Hope in God's Future* addressed the need to look at climate change within a theological context. Over the past year, British Methodists have been asked about their views on climate change in a Church-wide consultation. Now that the statement has been adopted, it will stand as the official view of the Church.

This week the Church launched a webpage on how to reduce the carbon footprint of local churches. This will help to cut the Methodist Church's carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 in line with Government targets.

Churches are also encouraged to start up eco-congregations: an environmental programme for local churches in Britain and Ireland. Last week, Nailsea Methodist Church was officially named as an Eco-Congregation after four years of working towards a greener church.

### **The hundred churches challenge – benchmarking scheme**

We are inviting up to 100 Methodist churches across the country to road test a scheme so churches can measure and assess the carbon footprint in relation to other churches of similar size and usage.

We need churches of different sizes, ages, community activities as well as different levels of involvement in carbon reduction activities. In fact any church so long as you are able to identify someone who is willing to learn how the benchmarking scheme works. We estimate that this will require up to two days or as little as three hours of your time spread over the next three months.

### **Rediscover the joy of sport, say Methodist youth**



The Methodist Church is being encouraged to rediscover the importance of sport for engaging with young people in their faith and personal development.



"The joy of sports at a local level rekindles love and unity within entire communities," said Youth Assembly representative Hagar Opore-Aryee. "We the Methodist Church have a responsibility, an opportunity to stress the importance of developing and promoting sporting initiatives to maintain the health of our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit."

The report was warmly received by the Conference, which agreed to work with young people to develop strategies for promoting and supporting healthy lifestyles in local churches and districts across Britain.

The Conference also agreed to make worship leader training more accessible to young people.

"The young people of the Methodist Church are not passive – we make a massive contribution to its life, mission and worship," said Christy-Anna Errington, Methodist Youth President. "So we're really pleased to be able to contribute to the business of the Methodist Conference."

### **Big Society: engagement not endorsement**



Churches must not walk away from opportunities to serve their communities, despite many concerns expressed by Methodists about the Big Society. This was the message from the Conference's debate on the Big Society.

A report presented to the annual Methodist Conference expressed serious concerns about the government's use of the Big Society initiative to justify cuts in public spending.

"Not everyone will be able to join in the Big Society and benefit from its opportunities to the same degree," said Rachel Lampard. "Communities that lack resilience, confidence, practical and inner resources will be less able to participate, and may end up in competition with more articulate and powerful communities. The Big Society will look very different in Kensington and Chelsea than it will in Kensington, Liverpool. In reality, the Big Society could reinforce the fault lines in an already fractured Britain."

This report recommended that the Methodist Church should continue to speak publicly about justice, whilst serving its communities locally, nationally and internationally.

## **The Methodist Church at Greenbelt 2011**



In its second year as a Greenbelt partner, the Methodist Church is sharing its enthusiasm for being a Christian disciple in the whole of life. At Galilee, the Methodist Church's venue at Greenbelt, there is a wide range of speakers, with the underlying theme of taking what you learn, and are fired up by at Greenbelt, out in the world.

People can come together in large or small groups, share time and experience with each other, and then hit the streets back home to start changing the world. There will be social media surgeries, opportunities for people to sample class meetings, some networking sessions and also a Greenbelt first, the Film School.

### **The Film School, staffed by BBC Producers**

80 attendees, aged 13-23 years, have the chance to form an instant production team, shoot a short film and receive encouragement, advice and feedback from a team of BBC producer-directors. 'Crews' will create a simple film on the subject 'One Minute God'. The hope is that those involved will use the skills learned to better-tell their faith stories, or challenge issues.

Note: All reports from the Methodist conference are available to be read in full on the conference web site:

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



## **WELLS FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE 2011**



**'THE BOOK OF BOOKS'**

**'the Radical Impact of the King James Bible 1611 to 2011'**

Melvyn Bragg will speak about his new book  
*on Thursday 20th October 2011 at 7.30pm in Wells Cathedral*



West Huntspill Methodist Church

# COFFEE MORNING



Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October

10.00am – 12 noon

COFFEE

BRING AND BUY

PLUS

OTHER STALLS



Proceeds For

The Churches Together

Highbridge and Burnham

Youth Project

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BURNHAM & DISTRICT

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## Harry's Page (from his daily Bible readings)

### LIVE!

'THEY WILL STILL BEAR FRUIT IN OLD AGE...' PSALM 92:14 NIV

Have you noticed that no matter how old certain people get, they never lose their attractiveness? It just moves from their face to their heart. Today, you get the impression that a person's usefulness ends at 65 or 70. What nonsense! What a waste of potential! Picasso produced some of his greatest works at 90. Rubinstein gave one of his greatest recitals at 89. Marjorie Stoneham Douglas, who's credited with saving the Florida Everglades, was still fighting for the cause at 100. Read your Bible: 'Moses was 120 years old when he died; his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated' (Deuteronomy 34:7). '...the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning...' (Job 42:12), Noah built the ark when he was 500, went into it for a while, then came out and started the world all over again.

'It ain't over till God says it's over', and if He 'ain't said so' live every moment He gives you to the fullest! The older the violin, the sweeter the tune', so pick up your bow and make some music. When someone told the 89-year-old poet Dorothy Duncan that she had lived a 'full life' she replied sharply, 'Don't you dare "past tense" me!' If you're not too old to learn and you haven't outlived your enthusiasm, you can 'still bear fruit in old age'. It's up to you. If you can breathe, pray! If you can speak, encourage others! If you can recall, share your wisdom. Remember creation? It's wonderful what God can do in just one day. So give Him all the days you have left.



## No Reverse

READ:  
Exodus 16:1-12

You shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. --Exodus 16:6

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR;  
Proverbs 27-29  
2 Corinthians 10

The first time I saw her, I fell in love. She was a beauty. Sleek. Clean. Radiant. As soon as I spied the 1962 Ford Thunderbird at the second hand car sales room, her shiny exterior and killer interior beckoned me. I knew this was the car for me. So I offered the cash and purchased my very first car.

However, there was a problem lurking inside my prized possession. A few months after I bought my car, it suddenly became particular about which way I could go. It allowed me to go forward, but I couldn't go backward. It had no reverse.

Although not having reverse is a problem in a car, sometimes it's good for us to be a little like my old car. We need to keep going forward – without the possibility of putting life into reverse.

In our walk with Jesus, we need to refuse to go backward. Paul said it simply: We need to "press toward the goal" (Phil. 3:14).

Perhaps the children of Israel could have used my car's gear box. We read in Exodus 16 that they were in danger of putting life into reverse. Despite the many miracles God had performed, they longed for Egypt and failed to trust that He could guide them forward.

We need to keep moving ahead in our walk with God. Don't back up. Look forward. Press on. --Dave Branon

*When long and steep the path appears  
Or heavy is the task,  
Our Father says, "Press on. My child;  
One step is all I ask." --D. De Haan*

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When facing a crisis, trust God and move forward.

## **WORLD CHURCH CONFERENCE**

*at the Ammerdown Centre,  
Radstock nr. Bath*


**28th - 30th October 2011**  
*Friday evening to Sunday afternoon*

## **"FOCUS ON CHINA"**

Our thinking during the weekend will be informed and stimulated by the two speakers who have personal experience of working alongside Chinese Christians and by the sharing of our MWM President and students from Overseas.

Organised by  
**Methodists for World Mission**  
(South West)

Conference Booking Form and additional information overleaf

  
*Why not consider asking your church, district or deanery to sponsor a representative to attend the conference?*

## **LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP**

On a bright day, we were pleased to welcome 17 members from Milton Ladies Fellowship to our opening meeting. Unfortunately there were several of our members who were unable to be present; however it was a good meeting. Our Speaker, Mrs Jean Tinknell told us about being on duty in the sanctuary at Glastonbury Festival – She had volunteered three years ago and has been to every Festival since. It was a very worthwhile opportunity. She brought photos, wrist bands, tickets etc to pass around.

After the meeting, we adjourned to the Schoolroom for a delicious tea.

Future meetings:-

- Sept 27<sup>th</sup> Rev. Margaret Trapp will conduct our Dedication Service.
- Oct 11<sup>th</sup> Jordan and the Holy Land – Mr. P. Price – Collection.
- 25<sup>th</sup> My Year As? – Mrs. P. Alvis.
- Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> Fire Safety in the Home – Mr. B. Telfer.

We are always pleased to see new members or if you would like to come along on any occasion you will be very welcome. Each meeting starts with a short service followed by our speaker. We end each meeting with a cup of tea and biscuits and a time to chat.

Eileen Goundry



## WEST HUNTSPILL

On the 11th September we had our Harvest Thanksgiving Services. In the morning Rev. Andrew Biggs led the service, which was also a Dedication service for Maxwel and Rhys who had been brought along by their parents, family and friends as they wished to thank God for these precious gifts and they along with their sponsors promised to bring the boys up in the knowledge of the Lord. We, the congregation also promised to support this family in prayer. It was good to have the Chapel so full of young people for this happy occasion. In the evening Rev. Robert Channon led the Service, after which we all had a cup of tea and then most folk took of the harvest produce they wanted and gave a Donation for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. In all it was a most uplifting day.

Please remember that we have "Coffee, Cake and Chat" on the last Friday every month, between 10am - 12 noon. It is a most enjoyable time meeting new friends and also catching up with friends from the Link who have come, we have Fairtrade products for Sale also a table with a few pieces of Bric-a-Brac. Next is Friday 30th September then Friday 28th October. We look forward to meeting up with you then.

We are also having a Coffee Morning for the Highbridge & Burnham Youth Project (SWYM) on Saturday 15th October; see Notice in this Link.

# BRENT KNOLL

As the evenings draw in and the temperature drops, we are thankful for our homes, our health and our well-being.

At the start of the Methodist New Year we are grateful for our church and friends we meet there. As the meetings start we hope we may grow in our belief and comradeship in the fellowship we keep.

We hope that everyone has enjoyed their summer holidays, and feel refreshed by them. Some of us may have visited Methodist Churches around the country whilst on holiday. It is interesting to see their way forward, and perhaps adopt some of their ideas.

It is our Harvest Festival next Sunday when we give thanks for all the things we have taken for granted over the year. We think of the disasters during the year when people have been left with nothing.

We think of people who are unable to come to Church through illness or some other reason and hope that they will soon be well enough to join with us again.

All good gifts around us,  
are sent from heaven above  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
For all his love.

Shirley Pycroft



# EAST BRENT

We are pleased that Jill Legg is back amongst us again although she is now leaving us for a holiday! Thank you to all who have willingly helped to spread the load. During Jill's absence the congregations have swelled with several visitors but I am sure that was just a co-incidence! It is always interesting to find out where the holiday makers have travelled from, where they are staying in the area and why they chose to visit this part of Somerset.

Autumn is the time of year for change. Best wishes to all students who are returning to University, College and School after the summer break. Some of whom will be facing the challenge of new surroundings and making new friends or leaving home for the first time. We have one daughter who is preparing to return to Portsmouth for her final year after a "sandwich" year working for a large company. As I am writing this she is trying to write a "reflective" essay on her work experience. Our younger daughter has finished a two year course at Bridgwater College. She has entered the world of work as a Nursing Assistant at Weston Hospital in order to also gain some experience with a view to becoming a nurse.

By the time you read this we will have enjoyed our Harvest Festival Service with the Brownies and will be preparing for our Church Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Rosemary Gilling





# BURNHAM.

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

## STEWARDS COLUMN

Happy New Year to one and all. As we begin a new church year this is probably the best time to look back over the last year and think have we done everything we should have done? I know I have had a difficult year but I hope I have done my best to help and do what was required of me.

On Thursday we said goodbye to Mildred Evans, (Marion Foster's mother). She had had a good life and our sympathy is with her family and friends.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> we have our Harvest Festival when we will be bringing gifts for the same charity as last year "Somewhere to Go" based in Weston on the Boulevard. Joan Eales who is the charity organiser will be at the Harvest Service to take part in the service with Joyce Pipet and will tell us about the work of the charity.

We hope you have all had a good summer and that if you have managed to get away then you are feeling refreshed and ready for the New Year ahead. I was lucky enough to have two weeks in Turkey during August, but must say that it was a little too hot for my liking as it was well into the 40's during the day and did not drop much in the night-time either.

We wish Robert every good wish for his remaining time with us and are happy that he is staying on for the time he wanted.

We now look forward not only to the New Year but also to Andrew's first year as a fully ordained minister and look forward to all he will have to share with us.

To all our readers who are still unwell we wish you a speedy recovery and hope that you will soon feel better and able to worship with us once more.

May God bless you all.

June, on behalf of the Burnham's stewards.



# BREAN

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

I'm writing this the day after having been up to Lord's to watch the CB40 cricket final between Somerset and Surrey. Somerset lost – again. That's five finals lost in three years, a record of its own I would have thought. Never mind, the Somerset supporters enjoyed it and appreciated all the good play. Which is more than the Surrey supporters did for they sat there quiet in their little compounds and could not even bring themselves to clap when Somerset and their players reached recognised milestones on the way!

Appreciating what others do can sometimes be the most testing of actions, but when we do, it can be the most rewarding. Judy and I went to the Somerset Flower Show at the Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet a week or so ago. Not something I looked forward to. It was going to be a duty visit and not much more. But having got there, I could not fail but be impressed by some of the exhibits, the dahlias, for example; and some of the entries in the largest vegetables section were truly astonishing. In the end I was glad I went.

We met with St Bridget's in our Ecumenical Council this month and were pleased that Celia has been able to give up the roles of secretary and treasurer. She has held the posts for several years now and in doing so has effectively held the Council together. So well done Celia and thank you. Fred Jenkins is taking on as treasurer and writing the minutes of the meetings is going to be rotated to different members on each occasion we meet.

We sorted out various dates for joint services and how to plan worship every three months where the people themselves are responsible for the content. We thought about our study group as well; a subject is always difficult but finally we agreed that we would meet together at the end of November and read aloud, chapter by chapter, the gospel of Mark, next year's lectionary gospel, in the expectation not only that we would have a better

grasp of the gospel as a whole but that also the reading would raise enough topics for discussion to last us across the winter.

Our own Church Council meets on 16<sup>th</sup> October. As before we reckon that the way to get people interested in meetings is to arrange food, so we shall have a snack lunch after service and then proceed with the meeting at about 12.30pm. We are not, of course, the only church Council to do this, but it makes sense to us.

Before that, on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, it's Harvest Festival. Rev. Carol Gill has agreed to take our Service which, being the first Sunday of the month will be a joint service with our friends from St Bridget's church.

And...wait for it, wait for it.....lunch will be enjoyed after the service!

We wish Rev Robert well on the recent extension to his ministry as superintendent. May he have a more settled period than events have provided him with more recently?

Well the cricket season is over, and the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is giving way to the season of gales and storms. At the end of the month we put the clocks back.

Winter is nature's way of preparing for another year. We too live a life of cycles. If autumn is upon us, then spring will come too. God bless.

Harvey Allen



**Minister**

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- [www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.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 2011“LINK” is  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2011**

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

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