
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

October 2012 Volume 47. No. 8



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

As I gaze out of my window at the pouring rain I am very thankful that we had such good weather just two days ago. A day which I spent dressed as a cowboy with a red cowboy hat and at one stage riding an inflatable pony! I wasn't alone, I hasten to add – I was at the Bristol District Youth day known as the “Hucclecote Hoedown” since it took place at Hucclecote Methodist Church in Gloucester and had Wild West theme.

I was there in my capacity as a member of the Bristol District Youth event planning team. A great time was had by all including Rev Ward Jones, Chair of the Bristol District who didn't dress up as a cowboy! Ward though had a particular part to play in that the event was chosen as the place to enrol the new District Youth council and the new District Youth President and Vice President. Ward presented Alice Bayly from Chippenham with her “badge of office” and also with a candle to take with her as she visits youth events around the District. Jessica Chalmers from Castle Cary was enrolled as Vice President.

The District Youth Council, and the roles of District Youth President and Vice President have been recently revived after a hiatus of some time, at the request of young people in the District and this has been facilitated by Emma Mills the recently appointed District Youth Enabler.

It is good to know that Methodist Youth Work is alive and well in the District. It also demonstrates that it is a fallacy to assume that young people are not interested in the Christian faith or in the Methodist Church, although it is true that many have been put off on the past by churches which have failed to listen to what they have to say or to allow them to make positive and meaningful contributions to the life and leadership of the church.

At a conference that I attended last year, a speaker from “Youth for Christ” stated his view that churches should be prioritising resources for youth work, even above things like mending the leaking roof. He said “put a bucket under the leak for now, and when the church has grown to the point where that space is needed for someone to sit – you will have the resources to mend the roof!”

The point is that a healthy church should be offering Jesus' love to young and old alike and the way in which it allocates its resources should

reflect this. There are young people living near each one of our churches – how will you make contact with them? There are young people whose youth clubs have closed and who are struggling to find work in the current economic conditions. How will you show them that you care?

Churches with limited resources often link with other local churches either within their Circuit or ecumenically to offer something to the young people in their community. If you would like to find out more about youth work going on in the Bristol District you can look at the web site:

<http://bristoldistrictyouth.co.uk/Home.php>

Blessings,

Rev Andrew.



Deaths.

Lilian May Stone age 101 - Funeral at Brean on September 13th.



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Sat.29th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

OCTOBER

- Thur.4th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Hand Reflexology and Massage.
- Sat. 6th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle - Choir
- Sun. 7th 4.00pm B/H Family Service at Burnham Methodist Church – All Welcome.
- Tue. 9th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Milton Ladies Tea Speaker - Rev. Kath Allen
- Sat. 13th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
- Tue. 16th 7.30pm. B/H Church Council
- Thur.18th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Overseas Missions – Sheryl King - an American Missionary. (Sales table).
- Sat. 20th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning in aid of Educate the Kids (in Kenya)
- Tue. 23rd 2.30pm. E/B "LINK Villages Fellowship - The Wild West (1860-1900) Mr and Mrs Steve and Lynne Pigeon"

NOVEMBER

- Thur. 1st 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Do we mean what we sing?
- Sat. 3rd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning with Stalls & Raffle –in aid of Action for Children - Dorothy
- Sat. 10th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
- Tue. 13th 2.30pm. E/B "LINK Villages Fellowship - Missionary Aviation

Fellowship - Mrs 'Ben' Huddleston"
Thur. 15th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Guest Speaker –
Rev. Stanley Pipet.
Sat. 17th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning in aid of Educate the Kids (in Kenya)
**B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll,
E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill.**

**Join us at Burnham for our new
FAMILY SERVICE
at 4.00pm on the
First Sunday of the month.
Next one on 7th October.
Children must bring an adult
but adults may also come unaccompanied!**



**We also invite you to
CAFE CHURCH
a different type of evening service, hymns and songs, prayers
and informal discussion on challenging themes
- tea or coffee and biscuits as well!
Next Cafe Church on 25th November at 6.30pm.
but reminders will be given nearer the time**

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

We were pleased to recommence our new session of Fellowship on Tuesday, September 11th. when Rev. Andrew Biggs conducted our Dedication Service. Unfortunately there were not as many present as usual owing to various circumstances. After we had adjourned to the Schoolroom for tea and chat we remembered Lilian Stone who had been a member for so many years and was still our Treasurer at the age of 97 years and had recently passed away.

We welcome Mr David Mathewson on September 25th. His subject will be "Behind the scenes of the Coronation.

On October 9th. We look forward to the visit of the ladies from Milton Ladies Fellowship when the speaker will be Rev. Kath Allen. It is always a pleasure to see them.

We shall be transported back to 1860 -1900 on October 23rd. when Mr Steve and Mrs Lynne Pigeon will tell us of The Wild West".

Mr Ben Huddleston on November 13th will tell us about the work of the Missionary Aviation Fellowship.

We shall be pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join us on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons at East Brent.

Eileen Goundry.



WEST HUNTSPILL

‘All is safely gathered in’ has been sung at most of the Harvest Festivals recently. But this is not the case throughout the world. At West Huntspill the table was filled with the usual gifts as a token of our thanks for the plentiful supply of food for us to enjoy. When you looked around the Church you may have been surprised to see some of the windows bare and one with a glass of dirty water and dried grasses. Other windows depicted products from corn, rice, wheat and a table with poor earth and peanuts. In the porch were various tools used in agriculture.

A reminder that not all countries have a bountiful harvest and the people are struggling to survive. This was illustrated with a presentation by Rev. Mike Williamson on behalf of MRDF showing how our donations are used in Malawi and other areas to provide seeds, tools and help to cultivate the land and produce food for their families.

Refreshments were served at the close of the evening service and the proceeds of the sale and collections were donated to MRDF.



BRENT KNOLL

At the time of writing, I've just arrived back from Synod. Rev. Margaret and I went with Rev. Andrew who kindly acted as chauffeur for the day. Now this might not sound exciting to you but it really was for me. I hardly ever get driven long distances anywhere so this really was a treat. When my late mother was alive I drove everywhere. And I mean everywhere. She loved nothing more than to be driven around Somerset, Devon and, in a moment of insanity, St Austell for the day. Now I am sure that every "designated driver" ("DD") knows that there is nothing more annoying than their passenger(s) shouting "Look at that!", "Isn't that beautiful!", "Goodness - did you see that?!" whilst pointing a finger at whichever area of natural beauty happens to catch their attention, frequently across the face of the DD. This annoyance stems from the fact that the DD, being a responsible person, is intent on not killing his or her eager passengers and therefore has to concentrate on an area of exceptional lack of beauty, i.e. the road. Black tarmac and white lines don't quite invoke the same sense of excitement as experienced by the DD's passengers.

Andrew took the road through Cheddar Gorge on the return journey. Now I've been to Cheddar countless times but never as a passenger. And it was *completely* different. I wanted to point out features everywhere. I understood why my passengers always pointed their fingers (frequently in front of my face) in the excitement of wanting to share the beauty around them. I managed some semblance of self-restraint by not doing this, but listening to Margaret pointing out various sites that I'd overlooked (being DD) made me wonder how much of my surroundings I'd taken for granted just because I hadn't taken the time to enjoy them. As you all know - Autumn is my favourite season in Somerset. I think I might indulge myself and pretend I'm a tourist this year.

On a more important note, a belated, but heartfelt thank you to all of our friends from the Link churches and the village who supported our August coffee mornings. A grand sum of £150.00 was raised and forwarded to the Children's Hospice South West.

God bless,

Rosemary Krull.

PREACHERS FOR SEPTEMBER AT 10.30AM at Brent Knoll

7th October Rev. Margaret Trapp. (Holy Communion)

14th October Mrs. Joyce Pipet.

21st October Rev. Andrew Biggs (joint service with Brean Methodist Church)

28th October Mrs. Di Smart.



EAST BRENT

As my turn at writing the article for The Link approached I re-read what I had written in previous years. I had commented on our Harvest Service and agriculture and once again we are approaching our Harvest Service and agriculture has been in the press recently. This time it is welcome publicity and some sympathy for farmers concerning the low price of milk. Back in 1993 we were one of the first farmers in the village to sell our cows, now there is only one of the previous five milking herds left in the village.

Our attendance numbers have been pleasing in recent months. We have recently celebrated the christening of Ryan David James Cross, a great grandson of Betty Griffin, when his family brought him to be baptised.

We have just returned from a weekend in North Wales where I noticed numerous chapels that were either boarded up, converted into residential accommodation or were being used for commercial purposes. We stayed in the village of Cynwyd, near Corwen and parked next to a Methodist chapel where workmen were painting the front railings. It was a large and well maintained building but has not been used for at least the last 4 months as far as the neighbours are aware. We often comment, as we return from the Sunday service, that the local garden centre has become the place to worship now.

If you watch the TV programme “Who Do You Think You Are?” you may have seen the edition concerning Greg Wallace, a presenter of Masterchef, who had a family connection with the Bible Christians. His great grandmother had been a member of the church and it was thought she may have been a preacher. Some denominations are still debating

whether women should be allowed to take services. Just goes to show that the Methodist Church was quite progressive even in those days!

Rosemary Gilling



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

Steward's Column

A little late I know but Happy New Methodist Year to everyone. At the start of this new year June and I are very happy to welcome Hilary Malpas to the stewarding team.

This coming year will see months of planning (and 2 years of a cold winter's church) come to fruition. We are all systems go on the new heating being in place before Christmas. (I was a little concerned when writing that last sentence in case any sudden obstacles should appear)! Viridor and Biffa have both awarded us substantial grants and with other grants and our own fundraising efforts we now have the funds in place to start work. Our consultant and the contractor we have chosen have sorted out the final specifications; the church council has unanimously agreed to the proposed scheme and once the copious paperwork has been dealt with the work will start in early November- giving Burnham a warm and cosy church in time for Christmas. This protracted wait for heat has been difficult for all of us members at Burnham – sometimes we have felt like a fractured community but in more recent times we have really pulled together and have come to realise the strength and purpose of our joint endeavours.

A significant outcome of our time of trial is the formation of a group to work together to formulate a mission plan for Burnham Methodist Church for the coming years to develop the ministry and evangelism to the wider community to ensure that Burnham thrives and flourishes in the future.

We have decided, for the time being at least, to change Messy Church to a Family Service. After 2 years it was clear that the core group of children and their wider family was becoming smaller. The group of stalwart helpers was also decreasing (mainly by ill health and the ageing process!!) so the Family Service has arrived. Same day – the first Sunday in the month, same time – 4.00pm but without the activities and tea afterwards. We've only held one so

far but it was well attended and fun for both children and adults. Do come to the next one – 4pm on Sunday 7th October!

Cafe Church is also proving to be quite successful – we meet in the foyer, have tea or coffee, we sing we pray, Andrew leads us into a topic (no sermon as such) and we discuss the theme of the evening together. It's a more informal way of worshipping God together. By the time you read this you will have missed our latest Cafe Church – the next one is not till 25th November but do join us then if you can.

Talking about heating – hasn't it got much colder in the last few days. I went into church on Saturday morning and the temperature was below 60 degrees so Daphne and I very gingerly tried out the gas blaster heater to see if it was still working properly after its summer break. Thankfully it was so we had a warm church on Sunday even if I had forgotten to switch it off and had to leave Harvey in the middle of the announcements to shut it down. (Its very noisy)!

We have our Harvest Festival on Sunday 30th September – our harvest donations this year will be going to the Highbridge and Burnham Foodbank. Not a traditional harvest of grown produce but tins, packets and glass are all made from materials that come from the ground. (Can't say the same for plastics of course – but the foodbank needs our help and it is for local people).

Our prayers and thought go out to Harry Kempson who is now recovering in Burnham Hospital after a heavy fall and an operation to pin broken bones. Bless you Harry –we miss you! To everyone else we know who is unwell, down in the dumps, awaiting treatment or otherwise unable to join the church worship on Sundays we are thinking of you and wishing you well.

With God's Blessing

Ann.



BREAN

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

Lilian Stone

Lilian Stone died this month aged 101. Born in 1911, she was 7 at the end of the First World War, grew up through the 1920s and experienced the years of the Thirties depression. Another War followed during which she knew at firsthand about the bombs that fell on her home city of Bristol, and then there were the post-war years that saw a gradual improvement in lifestyle. She and her husband Don grew their retail business together before they retired and bought a bungalow in Brean. Don died in the mid-1970s.

Lilian was a member of our church for 40 years or so, and a continuing presence until the last four or five. Conscientious as a steward her constant theme was how to make the church more aware of the neighbourhood around us, and conversely how to make the neighbourhood more aware of the church. She was active in all that the church did, a diligent supporter of our ecumenical partnership with St Bridget's and a regular attender at Circuit meetings and other fellowships especially those that involved the ministry of women.

She joined in with much that was going on in the Village. Don had been on the Parish Council, and Lilian was a founder member of what was then called Brean Senior Fellowship. When that foundered she was just as keen in her support of our Link Fellowship. She was constantly involved in other village groups especially those where she could help practically, in catering and elsewhere.

Even when she became housebound in later years, she retained a vital interest in all that was going on, whether it be in the church or in the village, and she was particularly assiduous in maintaining her prayer life. A bright and lively mind, she looked forward to completing her Sudoku and if one did not work out, she would wrestle with it until she found the solution.

Lilian was an important and well-loved member of our church community and we shall miss her. We send our condolences to her daughter Dorothy and son-in-law Trevor, and too all her family.

Our Christian hope assures us of God's continuing love into eternity and we warmly commend Lilian to His keeping.



This month too, Iris and Dave Barrett have moved to be closer to their daughter in Nailsea. They will be missed. Dave was particularly clever with his woodworking skills, and several of our homes are decorated with the fruit of his labours. Iris has been a regular attender at worship and a stalwart in the kitchen. Tea and coffee after service, coffee on Monday mornings and even cake on occasions have been provided by Iris. Although she had her health problems in recent months she still maintained that witness with unfailing cheerfulness.

To Iris and to Dave, we wish you well in your new home and thank you for your fellowship with us in the past.

We are still welcoming visitors at worship most weekends though this will drop off a little through October. It is still a joy to have people come through the doors from various parts of the country and we hope that they find a welcome amongst us.

October brings Harvest Festival on the 7th, our Church Council on 14th and the Ecumenical Council on 19th. We hope you will pray for us in our endeavours, as we shall do with you.

Harvey Allen



Minister

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

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November 2012 “LINK” is
Sunday 21st October 2012**

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The LINK October 2012