
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

October 2015 Volume 50. No. 8.



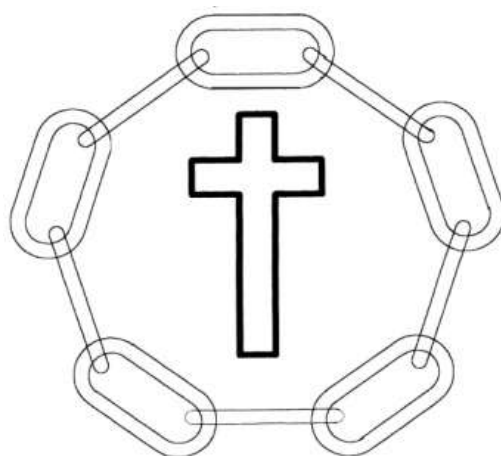
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letters

Dear Friends

This is my first contribution to the newsletter, and as I sit in my study my thoughts turn to the delights of the new church year and the challenges of new beginnings. Liz and I are now settled into our new home, we have met many people, and we have started to join in with the activities within the Link group of churches. Moving is never easy and this time of transition can be a difficult one, whether you are a minister or not! Yet whenever we have moved home I have been reminded of the real value of being a member of the Methodist Church family.

The introduction to 'Called by Name' the handbook that accompanies the learning material for new members of the Methodist Church reminds us all that

'To be a member of the Methodist Church is to play your full part in a huge worldwide community.'

Indeed there are many places throughout the world where you can walk into a Methodist Church and worship with people who are very much like our Methodist Church in terms of their beliefs and their sense of what is important, even if their worship might be quite different or the people might be from a different culture than we are. I have done so in places in North America, Africa, and Asia. This is only possible because our overriding belief as a denomination is that no one is beyond the reach of God's love, and that the gift of salvation is available to anyone who turns to God - a message of hope in a world that is often unjust and full of violence, hatred and greed.

Because of this, you don't even have to be a Member of the Methodist Church to be part of its worship and activities. The question of Membership is not at the top of the list when people are welcomed into its fellowship. More important is a personal response to the love of Christ, and a willingness to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

However people often feel that they want to make a more tangible sign of their belonging to their local church and the wider church community. They believe that God's call to them personally also means belonging to a church. Their response to God's love includes being part of the decision making processes of the local or national church, it includes holding positions of responsibility within the fellowship, and it includes a commitment to their local church family. Membership enables people to do these things. In recent years it has also been possible to hold Joint Membership with another recognised denomination, so being a Member of another church in the past does not make it necessary to cease that Membership in order to be a Member of the Methodist Church.

If you are not a Member of the church and would like to explore this further then please speak to me. For those who are Members, I hope it is useful to be reminded of these things.

I look forward to working with you all over the years ahead.

Steve



Deaths

Betty Jones Funeral Sedgemoor Crematorium 15th September
Trevor Mynett Funeral Sedgemoor Crematorium 17th September
Janet Bowerman Funeral Sedgemoor Crematorium 18th September



Calendar

OCTOBER

| | | | | |
|------|-----------------|---------------|-----|--|
| Thu. | 1 st | 2.30pm | B/H | Thursday Fellowship – Dedication & Communion Rev. Joyce F.Plumb. |
| Sat | 3rd | 10.00 - 12.00 | B/H | Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Wednesday Group |
| Thur | 8th | 2.30pm | B/K | Emmaus course at Brent Knoll Methodist |

Fri 9th 7.00pm B/H Antiques Valuation Fun Evening with Greenslade Taylor Hunt

Sat 10th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham

Sun 11th 10.30am Joint LINK Service at Brent Knoll

Tue. 13th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship Mr Richard Reeves –Blood supply Bikers. (collection)

Thu. 15th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - Rev. Steve Bennett BA

Sat 17th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning by & in aid of Biars

Sun LAST DAY FOR THE NOVEMBER LINK

Sun 18th 6.00pm B/H Cafe Church John Trebble.

Wed 21st 2.30pm B/H Bible Study at Burnham

Thur 22nd 2.30pm B/K Emmaus course at Brent Knoll Methodist

Sat 24th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham

Tue. 27th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship Rev. Stanley Pipet - Milton Ladies Visit

NOVEMBER

Thu. 5th 2.30pm B/H Thursday Fellowship - Mr John Trebble.

Sat 7th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning for Action for Children

Sat 14th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham

Sun 8th 10.30am Joint LINK Service at St Briget's

Tue. 10th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship Members Afternoon

Thur 12th 2.30pm B/K Emmaus course at Brent Knoll Methodist

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

Antiques Valuation Fun Evening

There is to be a Fun Evening for members of the congregation and friends

on Friday 9th October at 7pm at church.

This will take the form of an Antiques Valuation Evening when a representative of Greenslade Taylor Hunt will talk about the items brought by the audience and give a valuation. Tickets are £5 which includes tea/coffee and cake, and are available from members of the Mission and Church Life Group.

Proceeds are for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and the church sound system.

Barbara

Café church dates at Burnham

We meet on the third Sunday evening in the month at 6.00 pm

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| Sunday 18 th | October | at 6.00 pm | John Trebble |
| Sunday 15 th | November | at 6.00 pm | Rev Steve Bennett |



We start with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or three from about 5.30 pm and help ourselves to refills during the evening.

We sing a few hymns or songs, have a short talk followed by a discussion, then a few more songs, ending with the Grace at about 7.00 pm.

All are welcome to come and join us.



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday, September 8th our fellowship began its 2015/16 session with our Dedication Service taken by Rev Margaret Trapp. Following the dedication, Margaret told us of a recent holiday - an archaeological tour to the Shetland and Orkney Islands. She spent some time on each set of islands and was most impressed by the Italian Chapel built by Italian Prisoners of war. It had been adapted from two Nissan Huts which had been allocated for use as accommodation and recreational activities. There were artists, metal workers etc. among the prisoners of war who were stationed there as they built defences at Scapa Row. Over the years groups have come over from Italy to carry out repairs etc.

Mr Richard Reeves will tell us of the work of the Blood Supply Bikers on October 13th. There will be a collection on that occasion.

On Tuesday, October 27th, we have our annual visit from the Milton Ladies Fellowship when our Speaker will be Rev. Stanley Pipet

November 10th. Will be our Members' afternoon when there will be a Bring and Buy Stall.

We shall be pleased to welcome any new members on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month at 2.30pm. at East Brent Methodist Church.

Eileen Goundry

HARRY'S Readings

The Great Healer

The doctors I know are smart, hardworking and compassionate. They have relieved my suffering on many occasions, and I am grateful for their expertise in diagnosing illnesses, prescribing medication, setting broken bones and stitching up wounds-But this does not mean I place my faith in doctors rather than in God"

For reasons known only to God He appointed humans to be His partner's in the work of caring for creation (GEN, 2:15), and doctors are among them. Doctors study medical science and learn how God designs the body. They use this knowledge to help restore us to a healthy condition. But the only reason doctors can do anything to make us better is that God created us with the ability to heal. Surgeons would be useless if incisions didn't heal.

Scientists can learn how God created our bodies to function, and they devise therapies to help restore or cure us but not healers 'God is (EX, 5:26) - Doctors simply cooperate with God's original intent and design.

So I am grateful for science and doctors, but my praise and thanksgiving go to God, who designed an orderly universe and who created us with minds that can discover how it works. I believe, therefore, that all healing is divine because no healing takes place apart from God.

Father God, You are the Great Doctor, and I ask for healing whether mind body, spirit or in all these. I believe You will give what is best Thank You for Your goodness, kindness and love in all things.

When you think of all that's good, give thanks to God.

HARRY'S Readings Cont.

BE OPEN TO CORRECTION

'THEY DID NOT RESPOND TO CORRECTION...Jeremiah 2:30 NIV'

HOW DO you respond to correction? By taking offence? By interpreting it as rejection? By getting defensive? By shooting the bearer of bad news and making sure they never get to you again? By keeping score and saying, 'In comparison to what I've accomplished in life, you've done nothing'? By giving in to self-pity and thinking how hard your life is because people don't understand or appreciate you? We need people who'll be honest with us. Why? Because we're too easily blinded by our egos! When God sends somebody to correct you, it's because He wants what's best for you. His willingness to correct you actually demonstrates how much He cares for you. 'If you are not disciplined...you are illegitimate children and not true sons' (Hebrews 12:8 NIV). So check your spiritual birth certificate! People who are open to correction generally exhibit these four qualities: 1) Vulnerability. When they're wrong they're capable of admitting it even before they're confronted. 2) Teachability. They're willing to hear, quick to learn, and always open to counsel, 3) Availability. They don't try to avoid you. 4) Honesty. They are committed to the truth, regardless of how much it hurts. You say, 'That's a high standard.' You're right! It's a standard pride resists and fragile egos run from.

There's something in each of us that would rather look good than be good. So when God sends people into your life who love you enough to be straight with you, be open to them. Your personal growth and success depend on it.

BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN.

Whilst looking for a document the other day, I came across the following:-

‘We trained hard, but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form into teams, we would be re-organised, I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by re-organising, and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation’

This left me thinking, why is this the case? I agree we need to make changes to meet current demand, but does this need to happen every time a new situation arises. Has it always been like this or is it the intense speed and expectations of life today. Should we not sit back and give ourselves time to reflect? How do we manage this in the circuit?

Balance, that’s what we need, to assess where we are going, what we want to achieve and how to work together to get ourselves there - this can be done, but not alone. How can we re-organise and make changes without the confusion? – Everyone’s ideas and contributions are needed – please bring yours to our attention.

Marian Kingsbury



BREAN

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

Looking at my computer this morning, the UK Methodists Facebook page carried discussions on all sorts of things from 'How was Sunday for you', through 'Yes I am a Christian and the biggest hypocrite but God hasn't finished with me yet' to ideas for how newly appointed Worship Leaders can lead an Ecumenical Harvest Festival service; then to Whether you are punished for your sins or by your sins, Where people were baptised, and Whether you can be saved even if you are not a Christian - most respondents said yes to this last (though I am not sure we use that sort of language these days do we?).

It is good to live in the part of the country that we do but sometimes it is also good to listen to what others are saying. It freshens us up and keeps us abreast of what it's like in the wider world.

So it's been encouraging for us at Brean to receive visitors and to share coffee with them after service. They bring news from wider Methodism and other Christian communities into the heart of our fellowship. But October is come upon us (already?) and we must say goodbye. Some visitors are so regular that they become part of us so it's a particular wrench to keep on saying 'shan't see you then till next year'. We've loved having you all with and around us and you help to make our church what it is.

But it is not all goodbyes. We were well represented at the welcome service for our new staff team on the first week of September and we were pleased that our ecumenical partners at St Bridget's Church were also represented. So, welcome among us Steve (and Liz) and Angie and Gary. Dare we say we face some challenging times in your company?

Our church was also closed on the second week of September. Our Anglican friends kindly delayed their Harvest

festival by a week so that we could join them for their 9.15am service. We put a notice on the door of our church to point people in that direction but unfortunately some visitors had relied on our website and turned up at the normal time to find the door closed on them! We were sorry to have missed their company but the website now says that visitors should check with the stewards.

St Bridget's Harvest Festival was appreciated by all, and now we look forward to our own celebration. This will be on October 4th and will be taken by Steve. St Bridget's congregation will be with us and lunch will be served after the service at about 12noon. We will be pleased to see others there too but please let Judy know beforehand if you will be wanting lunch.

Our Ecumenical Church Council meets in early October. The partnership has stuttered a bit in recent years and the officers of the Council have all been Methodists. St Bridget's church has fewer attenders than we do these days and perhaps they feel vulnerable because of it. We don't want to let the covenant dissolve because of the good relationships that exist between us and which have encouraged such things as the Book Club and Craft Group both of which continue to flourish and both of which encourage people who are not members of either congregation, to attend.

Our own Church Council is at lunchtime on November 1st. It's All Souls Day, so let's hope that any Hallowe'en parties have not been too exuberant!

Harvey Allen



West Huntspill

Harvest Thanksgiving

Many thanks to all of you who supported our Harvest services. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to send two hundred pounds to help provide some of the basics essentials in the refugee camps. The local churches are collecting a variety of items, to help this group of people who really do have nothing. Consequently the list is extensive, from beds, clothes, basic hygiene and sanitary products, non perishable food and cooking equipment. If you could donate any of these items, they can be left in St John's Church at Highbridge. Please contact Revd Simon Bale email sjbale@icloud.com Tel 01278 792701 for further information and to arrange collection of larger items.

Sponsored Run



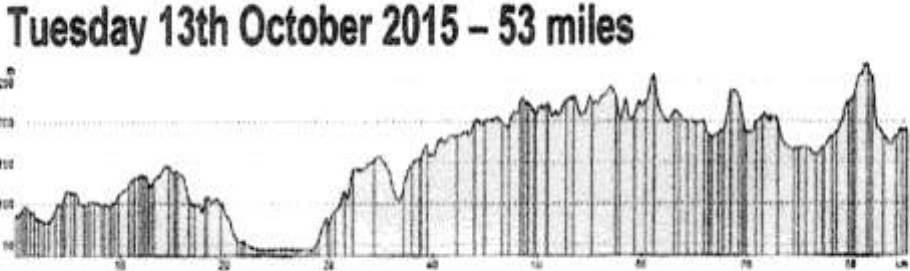
Happy Birthday
and
Good Luck

To celebrate his 40th birthday, on the 13th October Tony Hayes, son of one of our members is taking part in the Oxford Ridgeway Ultra Run, wearing the number 40, in recognition of his special day. The run starts south east of Didcot and follows the Ridgeway National Trail to Marlborough. It is a double marathon of 53 miles, in a wooded hilly environment, which includes an ascent of 972 meters and a descent of 869 meters. My knees ache at the thought of it! He is requesting sponsorship. originally, for the Methodist Church, but we feel the Refugee Crises need is greater.

As it is such a gruelling run Tony

suggests that he is sponsored by the mile. I will be organising sponsorship forms in the near future. If you feel you could sponsor Tony, please contact Maureen on 01278 783774

Forms will be available at the Church and from all church members.



BRENT KNOLL

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

Minister Revd. Steve Bennett

As promised, here are the funds raised, through your generosity, from our August coffee mornings: RNLI: £92.26; Ghurkas: £79.35; MIND: £65; MS Centre: £116.50. Although our coffee mornings are about getting together and enjoying village and Link friends' company, we'd like to say a big thank you to all who attended, helped and donated monies for these excellent causes.

At the time of writing, I have just come back from our Harvest Festival service. The morning started off misty and very appropriately Autumnal and suited our harvest decorations very well. Another well deserved thank you needs to go to everybody who decorated the church and brought produce and flowers. We'd especially like to thank Steve for taking an excellent service - and also for his and Liz's company afterwards as we shared a bring and share lunch together.

A few of our church family members have been under the weather recently and were unable to join us for this service. You were greatly missed on Sunday and you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

A reminder that going forward, Emmaus will be held in our schoolroom on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 2.30pm. Taken by our own Rev. Margaret, all are welcome. We share refreshments afterwards.

God bless,

Rosemary Krull.



EAST BRENT

We have not a lot of news to offer this month after the summer ‘slow down’

But first things first we are delighted and rejoice that The Revd Steve and Liz Bennett have come to join us in the circuit. We already feel he is an ‘old friend’ and that he has been with us for much longer than a month. We pray that he will enjoy his stay among us and that much will be accomplished while he is here.

I have to report that the web site for East Brent is now up and running – but for an ‘oldie’ like me that doesn’t mean a lot I’m afraid.

Today we have had our Harvest Festival Celebration. We welcomed back a former Circuit Minister the Rev. Michael Pullen. We enjoyed a thought provoking service hymns and talks on 4 different aspects on the term HARVEST with appropriate Bible passages.

This service was followed by a Church Lunch and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and made approx £300.00 monetary wise.

We think of those people in our congregation who go through illnesses which stops them from coming to Church every Sunday.

Ann’s granddaughter is progressing slowly but it’s going to be a long road for her and her family. We think of them often and pray that her recovery will continue.

We look forward to the first of another season of monthly joint LINK services on 11th October. Always a good occasion and to meet altogether on a Sunday Morning in a larger group is ‘good for the soul’.

So here’s looking forward to October 11th and seeing you again

Evelyn Tucker



Minister and Circuit Superintendent

Rev. Steve Bennett, 28A Caernarvon Way. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2DQ

Steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk

Tel. (01278) 784808

Editors

Cedric & Dorothy May, 6 Brightstowe Road. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2HW

cedric.may@btinternet.com

Tel. (01278) 784204

Web Sites

Web sites- Circuit - www.wsbos.org
www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk
www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org
www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com
www.eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk

**The Deadline for the
November 2015 “LINK” is
Sunday 18th October 2015**

LINK ORDER FORM

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 **£6.00** per annum.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....
.....
.....

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

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

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