

# THE LINK

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Methodist Link Churches Magazine

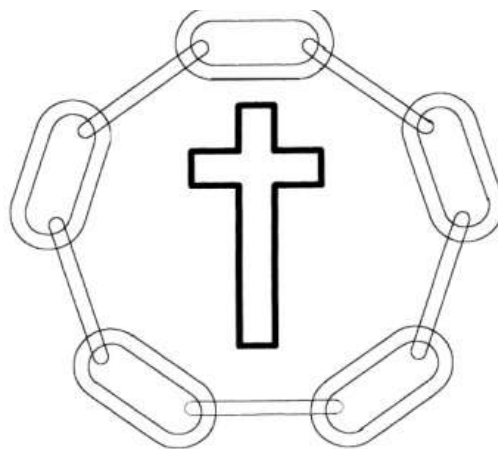
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October 2016 Volume 51. No. 8.

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**BRENT KNOLL**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**

**EAST BRENT**



**BURNHAM**

# Minister Letter

## *Standing on the edge, and gazing into the future*

*I sometimes wonder how Moses felt as he stood at the edge of the Red Sea, the army of Egypt at his back and the seemingly impassable in front of him. What his actual feelings were we do not know, but we are told in Exodus that in the midst of the panic and uncertainty that engulfed the people of Israel, Moses remained calm. He instructed the people 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today' (Exodus 14: 13) and then he prayed.*

*There are not many who are prepared to wear their hearts on their sleeves, the traditional way of this country is that of the 'stiff upper lip' and I think we can all see a bit of that in Moses' attitude to the people of Israel. Although he didn't know what was to happen, he didn't want them to see his uncertainty. So he reassured them, but then he prayed that God's love would guide and help him. How often do we find ourselves in this same position?*

*As Christians we are supposed to be confident in Christ, and in our future, and so we are when it comes to being in God's everlasting and eternal love. But what about the uncertainties of our everyday lives, those curved balls that life tends to throw at us, how do we cope with them? Often the response to the question "How are you?" is "Fine, thank you", when the reality of the situation is far from "fine"! Some people feel that*

*they have to be like Moses, reassuring and hiding their own anxiety and uncertainty, unable to share with others. Perhaps it is because they don't want to bother others with their troubles, or perhaps they feel that the questioner isn't really interested in what might be worrying them.*

*But the reality for all of us is that the future remains in a fog that only allows a partial glance of glorious hope and a glimpse into the possible. We are called to pray and to trust in God for what lies in the depth of the mists, and to share together as we experience the mystery of what is ahead. This includes sharing our uncertainties and our concerns, our hopes and our fears, within the family of God which is his gift to us.*

*When we are uncertain may we have the strength and courage to share with others. And as others share with us may we be compassionate in our listening, our understanding, and in receiving them with love.*

*Steve*

# Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

- Sat 24th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham  
Tue 27th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Mrs. Linda Trebble.  
Wed 28th 12.00 B/H Shoppers Service at Burnham

## OCTOBER

- Sat 1st 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Stewards & Thursday Fellowship  
Sun 2nd 10.30 B/H Family Service at Burnham  
Tue 4th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Milton Ladies Visit - Mrs. Chris Seward (District President MWIB)  
Sat 8th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham.  
Sun 9th Joint Link Services at Brean.  
Sat 15th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H League of Friends Coffee Morning at Burnham Methodist  
Sat 22nd 10.00 - 4.00 B/H Food & Drink Festival & Shoppers Coffee at Burnham  
Sun 23rd **LAST DAY FOR THE NOVEMBER LINK**  
Tue 25th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - A Methodist in Prague - Slide Show - Mrs. Marion Robinson.  
Wed 26th 12.00 B/H Shoppers Service at Burnham  
Sat 29th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham

## NOVEMBER

- Sat 5th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning for Action for Children  
Sun 6th 10.30 B/H Family Service at Burnham  
Tue 8th 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Army Life Before and after - Major Tony.  
Sat 12th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee at Burnham  
Sat 19th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H League of Friends Coffee Morning at Burnham Methodist

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

## Link to Hope Shoeboxes.

We are again joining with West Huntspill Primary School in sending shoeboxes of much needed items to Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania, via the Worthing based charity Link to Hope. We send boxes for the elderly, which include hats, gloves, scarves and socks, as well as toiletries, writing paper and pens, candles, sewing kits and sweets.

We also send family boxes which include the same items plus toys, colouring books etc. if you could donate any of these items we would be very grateful. We have supported this charity for many years. We send the filled boxes about the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. You can find out more at [linktohope.co.uk](http://linktohope.co.uk) or just ask me.

Thank you.

Marian Foster 01278 785360.

**FRIENDS OF BURNHAM HOSPITAL**

# **Annual Music Night**

**Saturday 8th October**

**Doors open 7.00 for 7.30 pm start**

**At the Oaktree Arena,**

**Highbridge**

**Featuring**

**The King Alfred Concert Band**

**&**

**The Ambassadors of Jazz**

**Tickets £12.00**

**To include Homemade Pie  
and Mash**

**Tel: 01278 785727 or**

**07856 213289**

# BURNHAM

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

## STEWARDS COLUMN.

As I write this it says September 16<sup>th</sup> on the calendar but the weather this week has seemed more like spring or summer. Our congregation are not sure if they should wear a coat, bring an umbrella or wear their sun hat, some days you have needed all three. You can tell this as every week one of these items is left behind to be collected the next week and replaced by something different. Some of the plants in my garden are definitely confused, the cucumber has sprung back into life and grown several inches this week, one row of runner beans that had got damaged by a summer gale has suddenly produced lots of red flowers and a Poinsettia, that was a present last Christmas, has decided to produce new stems and leaves.

This Sunday is our Harvest when we gather our own harvest in and thank God for the food we eat but also think about those people who do not have enough. This year our produce is going to the charity Somewhere to Go, in Weston Super Mare, where it will be used to feed people less fortunate than ourselves. It is a time to thank God for all we have and to try and help those who have less than us.

The summer has been busy with floral displays, a concert, open gardens as well as the usual coffee mornings. The autumn looks as if going to be just as busy. We now have a service every Sunday evening in our Burnham Church, unless there is a circuit one in a different church. It has been very interesting to attend some of these as they are different to our morning worship. It is not just people from Burnham Methodist who have attended; we have welcomed Methodists from other churches, as well as

other local people and holiday makers. Café church is held in the Foyer, so we can drink coffee before we start, others services are usually held in part of the church. There is not usually a Sermon but a time when everyone can join in. The services have all been very different so each week there is a new surprise, so you cannot get bored and you certainly won't be able to fall asleep in a corner. One Sunday we talked about Disciples and another week Steve had us putting pins in maps after a discussion called 'Who is our neighbour.' I had forgotten that I had neighbours in Scotland, Switzerland and the U.S.A. It led to some very interesting discussions and the time just flew by. It would be lovely to see more of you there, do come and try something a little bit different.

In October some of the congregation are hosting children and adults from the Kenyan Choir, The Singing Children of Africa, who are raising money for the charity Educate The Kids. They are performing in several locations around the area as well as visiting some local schools. If you were lucky enough to see them last year I know, like me, you cannot wait to see them perform again, If you have never seen them do try to attend one of their concerts, you will leave full of joy, admiration and wonder.

Marian Foster





# BREAN

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

October opens with Harvest Festival. It is a shared service with St Bridget's and the service will be led by Deacon Gary Hoare. Afterwards 30 or so of us will sit down to lunch ably prepared by members of both Brean churches. It will be the time to celebrate the culmination of the annual cycle of creation and perhaps to reflect on the past and the future.

October is also the month for Church Council. How shall we reflect and consider? Shall we rejoice that we are still strong enough to continue as we are? Shall we look back over the holiday season and be glad of the company of those who have joined us in worship and fellowship? Or shall we ask ourselves why more of the 40,000 or so who holiday in our village each week during the height of summer don't come to church (either church for that matter). This year we made even greater efforts to publicise our services in the village and especially on caravan sites, and yet probably no more than 20 new faces have been seen. Do even church people want to go and worship any more unless it is part of their home pattern? Then again, as we grow older as a congregation (do I only speak about Brean)? what is it that we need to embrace? What does God mean to us in this scientific age? My own understanding of God has changed much since my young days as I am sure it has for many. 18 years ago the Methodist Conference voted to receive a report entitled 'A lamp to my feet and a light to my path' (still available free on the Methodist Website or even if you simply Google its title), in which it outlines how the bible has been interpreted over the centuries and how it is viewed today; and I could/can trace some of my own changes as I read it. Perhaps it's our own uncertainties in our day and age that hold us back from even quiet evangelism (whatever that

might mean). I do commend the report even now, indeed I would go so far as to say it ought to be read by everyone, it's not as dry as you might think. Dip into it, especially section 7.9 which outlines ways in which the bible is interpreted today. Greater discussions about it in our Councils might help us.

Well if you've persevered and got this far in this report, let me highlight the

### CRAFT FAIR

#### AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, BREAN

Being arranged by the two Brean Churches with help from their friends. I mentioned it back in March. One was held three years ago with great success and this is its follow up. One room in our house has already been filled with items that the ladies have devised and created; and my computer is constantly being hi-jacked while a certain person searches high and low on the web for new ideas! I shall be glad of its return, just as it would be nice to get our spare room back before Christmas. And that's just this household! The date is

SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

FROM 11AM TO 2PM

Please make a note of the date. Refreshments will also be available. They even wanted some of us to dress up, for the occasion, Stanley as Father Christmas and me as one of his elves; well Stanley can please himself but for me, no way José!!! Still it should be a good event . Please give us your support.

Harvey Allen





# **WEST HUNTSPILL**

**Our September Coffee Morning**

**will be in**

**Support of MacMillan**

**Cancer Care**

**Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**10.00am – 12md**

Plenty of Cakes, Coffee and Chat

Do Come and join us raising money for this  
worthy cause

# BRENT KNOLL

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

## Minister Rev. Steve Bennett

It's always the "first times" which seem the saddest after the loss of a family member, isn't it? The first birthday, first Christmas, first anniversary etc. Well it's been so for us at Brent Knoll since Mavis Fairchild passed after a short illness in August. She was such an integral part of our church, such a valuable part of its life for many years as she supported it and worked tirelessly for it - always quietly and in the background. She was a church steward for many years and it's difficult to come to the church now unable to see her unfailing smile and the warm welcome she was always guaranteed to give. She was expert at arranging our flowers and we greatly miss her displays. She was one of our Communion Stewards providing the bread, preparing the wine and making sure the white cloth on our Communion table was spotless and starched. She was very much in our thoughts on our first communion since her passing.

We've also had our harvest festival last month. Mavis would always provide something tempting for our bring and share lunch and produce for our table. I know that I shall certainly be thinking of her come Christmas. I shall never forget her accidentally tipping up our nativity set causing some of the figures to fall out and the sheer angst she felt when she told me that Joseph had been decapitated and Gabriel's wings had been clipped. Despite a sleepless night worrying needlessly as her husband Roy expertly mended them so that no-one would ever know they'd been broken she still managed to share her contagious laughter the next morning in church.

But perhaps we shouldn't talk about her passing. She was loyal to her Salvation Army roots as they had helped

her and her family so much when Mavis was young so we should use instead the phrase they used. Mavis has been promoted to glory. And she certainly earned her stripes. God bless you Mavis, you'll always be dear to us.

Well we did have our harvest festival last month and what a time of fellowship and worship it was. The church was full and it was lovely to see so many young people in the congregation. Jim McKnight led our worship and we sang, prayed and laughed throughout. Jim and Alice joined us for the sharing lunch afterwards. Thank you to everyone who contributed but a special thank you to Gill and Carol for organising and baking so much food.

Please save a date for your diaries. On Saturday 12 November at 2.30pm we'll be holding an afternoon of singing, led by Jim McKnight. The songs will mainly be those choruses which we used to sing at Sunday School a few (ahem!) years ago but seem to have disappeared from our worship since the introduction of new hymn books. I'll give you more details in the next edition of the Link.

In the meantime, God bless from all of us at Brent Knoll.

Rosemary



# EAST BRENT

Panic broke out in my house on Saturday evening when I realised that it was my turn to write the LINK report. Where does the time go? We were spoilt by the hot summer days we have just had, but then the season of mists and mellow fruit fullness has come upon us when we realise it is Harvest Celebration time. We have not held one yet – next week by which time you will have missed it if you are reading this on Sunday afternoon. News is short this month.

Comments have been pleasing by various people about our new chairs. We have had some “Happy Services” lately whether that is due to the chairs I can only guess. For my part it’s very comfortable to sit and listen to the sermon and see the preacher’s face full on and not sideways.

To members of East Brent a reminder that Church Council meets on Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss Church business.

Another date in advance Christmas Coffee Morning and Card Sale will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup> not as previously arranged (because of a clash of dates)

Evelyn Tucker



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## Web Sites

Circuit Web site [www.wsmbos.org](http://www.wsmbos.org)  
[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)

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**The Deadline for the  
November 2016 LINK is  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2016**

## 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.

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