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# THE LINK

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Methodist Link Churches Magazine

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October 2019 Volume 54. No. 8.

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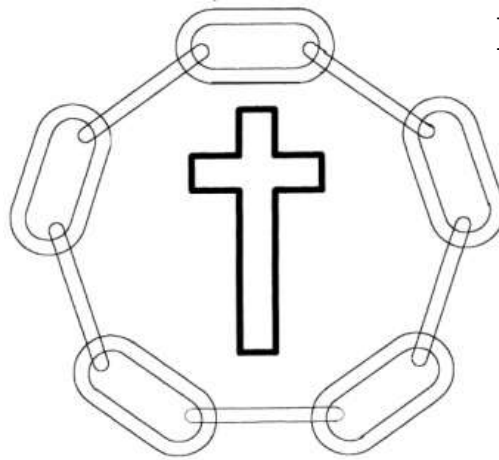
**BREAN**



**BRENT KNOLL**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**



**EAST BRENT**



**BURNHAM ON SEA**

# Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

## Should the church be political?

The events of this month have made us all wonder what on earth is going on in our political system. This reminded me of something that was said to me at the door of a church one Sunday morning.

As the preacher for that Sunday I was harangued because I had made a comment in my sermon that this person had deemed to be political. "The church has no place in politics, or to tell me what I should think!" was his considered response to what I had said. My response was to agree that 'party politics' should not be preached from the pulpit, but I disagreed with his comment in every other respect.

In reality, of course, my sermon was not about the party politics of the day, although it might have touched a few nerves. Rather my sermon was about Jesus' constant confrontations with the people who held power in his time. It was about the way in which Jesus challenged leaders about their lack of compassion, the way in which Jesus argued against their interpretation of the Law the way Jesus championed the underdog. The people he debated with may not have been called politicians, but the Scribes and the Pharisees were the law keepers and politicians of that country in that time. Yes, the Romans were in overall control, but the locals were allowed a semblance of freedom in their laws and beliefs. As long as they paid their taxes and remained peaceful that was all the Romans required.

In our tradition, the early Methodist movement was openly political, profoundly involved in the protection of rights for human beings; the right to be free from slavery, the right to education for children, the right to healthcare, the right to be treated fairly. More recently the Methodist Church has been at the forefront of campaigns about poverty, world debt, and the inequality in the benefits system, to name a few. In all these things we have heard Jesus' challenge for a compassionate and equitable world and realised that the only way of effecting change is being political.

So then, if the church is to follow Jesus' example it must speak into the politics of the day, especially where it sees injustice, denial of rights, personal and institutional corruption, greed and self-centredness. A few of our MP's are in the House of Commons because of their faith in God, which sows a yearning for a just and equitable country and world into their hearts. May it also sow those seed in us, challenging us to right wrongs.....challenging us to be political!

*Steve*



## Deaths

*Alex Ferguson* - Died 20<sup>th</sup> August. Funeral at Sedgemoor 19th September. Conducted by Rev. Steve Bennett

## Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

### OCTOBER

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> B/H Wednesday Group Macmillian Tea Party

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Church Funds by the Stewards

Tue 8<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - A Life in Training Linda James

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Sat 12<sup>th</sup> 4.00 - 6.00 B/H Messy Church at Burnham

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> **LAST DAY FOR THE NOVEMBER LINK**

Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Milton Ladies Visi

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> B/H Food Festival

### NOVEMBER

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning for Action for Children by Dorothy

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> B/H Wednesday Group Cake Decorating

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> 4.00 - 6.00 B/H Messy Church at Burnham

Tue 12<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm E/B Link Villages Fellowship - Fire Safety - Collection

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Friends of Burnham Hospital Coffee Morning

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> **LAST DAY FOR THE DECEMBER - JANUARY 2020 LINK**

# SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

## 25th AUGUST 2019

This morning the congregation of Burnham Methodist Church welcomed Janice Barrett and her friend Heather. They were to lead us in “a service to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Susannah Wesley’s birth”.

Janice set the scene as the narrator, introducing her friend Heather who took centre stage wearing a bonnet, shawl and apron typical of those which Susannah Wesley would have worn. They went on to describe the life of Susannah Wesley.

Susannah was the daughter of Dr Samuel Annesley and Mary White. She was born Jan 1669 and was the 25th of 25 children. At the age of 13, Susannah stopped attending her father’s church and joined the official Church of England. She married Samuel Wesley in November 1688, Samuel was 26 and Susannah was 19.

Susannah & Samuel had 19 children, but sadly 8 of her children died as infants. Four of the children who died were twins and a maid accidentally smothered one child. Susannah died July 1742 when only eight of her children were alive. She was buried at Bunhill Fields, Islington. Two of those surviving children went on to be John and Charles Wesley, the founders of worldwide Methodism.

Subsequently I searched the internet for further information and found this prayer, written by Susannah, which I would like to share with you all:

“Help me Lord, to remember that religion is not confined to the church. Nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in Thy Presence”

It was an honour and a privilege to be given an insight into the interesting life of Susannah Wesley who never preached a sermon or published a book or founded a church. She is known as the Mother of Methodism.

So, many thanks to Janice and Heather for presenting a service with a difference and introducing us to such a wonderful story.

Sandra Nelson

Burnham Methodist Church



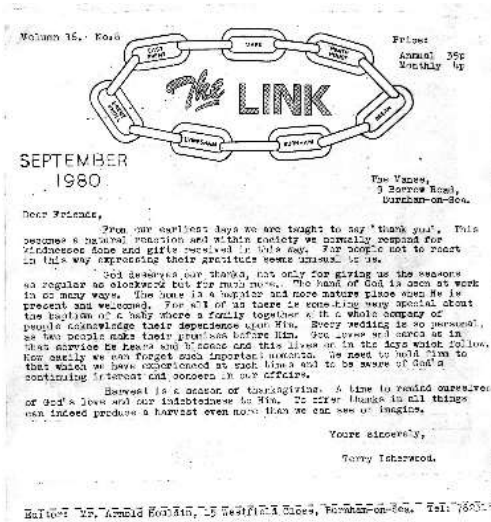
## **LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2019.**

The charity also runs lunch clubs for the elderly in some of the poorest areas. If you would like to help this charity that sends shoeboxes filled with desperately needed items to the elderly and families in Moldova, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Romania. They go to some of the poorest people in Europe. If you would like to fill a shoebox or have items, you could donate please contact me as I have leaflets you could have. In the elderly shoeboxes they ask for such things as shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrush, a new hot water bottle, socks, gloves, scarves and hats, scissors, candles and holders, soap and flannels. The family ones are similar but also includes toys, colouring books and crayons or pens and small games. The shoeboxes go to people who have no electricity and live in house that we would consider shed. If you want to find out more or want to donate please ring me, Marian Foster, 01278785360. If you want to find out more about the charity you can look them up on the internet at Link to hope. I will be taking the filled shoe boxes to the local collection point, which is a Church of England minister in Wellington by the 5th of November. Thank you.



# A History of The LINK Magazine

The link was first published in 1965 as Quarto size sheets and stapled together in the corner. It was produced by Mr Arnold Holdin The July – August 1983 copy gives Mrs Ashby as doing the typing and Distributing – Arnold still Editor until December. Mrs. Ashby took on as The Editor from January 1984 until April 1987. Then Mrs. Jackie Jenkin became Editor up to January 1999. From February 1999 I edited and typed the LINK with Dorothy's help proof reading.



My earliest copy is for September 1980 priced at 4p a month and 35p per annum. This increased in 1981 to 5p & 40p and 1984 to 6p & 45p by September 1988 it was 10p & £1.00 From December 1999 the cost was £1.00 per Annum plus £2.00. Postage where applicable January 2001 saw an increase to £1 50 p/a £2.50 for post. January 2004 saw an increase to £3.00 p/a & post still £2.50. November 2005 the postage was increased to £3.00 and then in September 2009 to £4.00, June 2012 the postage increased to £6.00

I think I may well have been running The LINK off on the duplicator and then letting Arnold, with help of others collate the pages, staple and distribute the LINK.

About that time, I was given a BB badge to use in the LINK with the instruction – cut a hole in the stencil and stick the badge over the hole using correcting fluid -no problem, it was fine.

This set me thinking, could I do this for other things. The stencils we used were pre-cut with the Link and Chain symbol. Yes, we tried, I cut the stencils to A5 size and after Arnold had typed them, I stuck them together again and duplicated the Link as an A5 booklet.

The first copy produced this way was either June or the July/August 1981 (I have no June copy) I did this until in June 1984 I bought 2 S/hand Electronic Stencil Scanner which I used until Electronic stencils became unavailable in Europe. So, the Church bought its 1<sup>st</sup> Photo copier.

Cedric May

# BURNHAM.

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

## STEWARDS COLUMN

The ducks are playing in the stream by my garden fence on this sunny day, while I am writing the passage, far away from Parliament squabbles and problems in this world God has made a beautiful world. We are surrounded by nature's wonder and seasonable changes.

Autumn is creeping in and we will all be celebrating harvest thanksgiving in our various Churches. We have lost some members through age related illness, death or moving nearer to relatives, but on the plus side we have welcomed new people into our congregation, who have chosen to worship in our Church.

Looking forward to seeing Rev. Andrew and Julie Biggs (guest speakers) at West Huntspill Harvest evening service.

I recently enjoyed an open-air service of Songs of Praise at Brea, celebrating God's love amongst the masses.

October is Macmillan Cancer support charity - see [Link](#) for details, a good charity and yummy cakes.

Enjoy what is left of the sunny days.

Ann Smith



# BREAN

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

It seems to have been a good blackberry season. We picked some the other day and of course the odd one found its way into my mouth. My taste buds immediately took me back nearly 70 years to a hedgerow off the A5 south of Stony Stratford in the 1950s (top of the hill and turn right, go through the gate and across the field, since you ask). Why that spot comes to mind I don't know since we only went there twice; our normal hedgerows were much closer and across the fields from our village towards Castlethorpe.

What a miracle the brain is; filled with all sorts of relevant and not so relevant information and resources, yet it still linked my taste buds of today with history and place from many years ago.

And the blackberries in the back garden proved ecumenical in the end because it inspired Judy and her friend Sheila, out into the pathways between Stoddens Road and Brent Knoll to fill baskets with more of the fruit. Apple and blackberry dumpling to follow didn't help the diet very much!

Our Monday coffee morning also brought its harvest last week when about 15 people turned up, including nearly half the Parish Council for some reason. Let's hope the word spreads and they advertise the coffee morning as a chance to meet our councillors.

There are still one or two of our holiday visitors around but that will reduce over the next few weeks. As in other years it has been good to have them around and to chat over coffee both on Sundays and on Mondays. To all those departing, thank you, have a good winter, keep up with us through the Link and on-line, and we look forward to seeing you next year (please).

Our Open-Air Songs of Praise held on 4th September was well received. Again, there was a goodly number (and three or four dogs). It was particularly nice to have a couple who, instead of just standing outside at the bus stop, actually dared to come in and join us while they waited for their bus! They couldn't stay for refreshments



afterwards, but the tea and cake was much appreciated by those who did.

Several of us went to the Circuit afternoon event at Victoria on 8th September to have a talk from Jonathan Pye, the District chairman on 'United in Love' the report from this year's Conference that will return to Conference next year for decisions on how the church addresses the question of marriage and of couples living together. The chairman urged us not to come to quick decisions but to listen to all sides and stories in the love that unites us.

Our Harvest Festival this year is on October 13th. We got into a muddle on dates this year, forgetting that we had changed our monthly joint services to the second Sunday of the month; and as usual we shall enjoy lunch together with our Anglican friends (and anyone else who cares to come after the service.

And while on ecumenical matters, Judy displayed one of her patchwork quilts and did a pedestal flower arrangement at the exhibition at the Catholic church in September. As those of you who went or who keep up to date with the news on Burnham-on-sea.com will know, it was a super exhibition and well worth going to. They are a very friendly and welcoming crowd at the Catholic church.

All our services this month are in our own church at 10.30am

At a recent service Rosemary grasped the nettle of a difficult reading from Luke and preached on honesty. I have been taking Church Times recently; it is good to keep up with some of the issues that the Church of England has to deal with, and it contains a good number of articles of a general nature. Above all, it is not afraid to recognise that there is a considerable variety in the way people understand and express their faith, something I don't see so much in the Methodist Recorder.

Recently its diary page was given over to Rev Mark Oakley, an Anglican priest and currently Dean of St John's College, Cambridge. He recalls going to a deanery synod when he was a curate and hearing a visiting professor talking on the subject of being honest about the difficulties of preaching on biblical interpretation and of how a text without context can often be a pretext. At the end of his lecture, an

elderly man got up and thanked the professor for saying things he had himself thought privately, but had never voiced, because he knew that his vicar would be angry with him. Suddenly a voice from the back called the man's name, John. It was his vicar. He had wanted to talk about this subject for more than 15 years but had never done so because he thought that John would be angry with him. John and the vicar were last seen heading for the pub together!!

Honesty of belief? Do we simply accept what we hear from the pulpit without comment? It begs the question; in the current age of science and when we are confronted by an overwhelming collage of interpretations, do we hold down our doubts and queries in case they are belittled, and we feel chastised?

*Harvey Allen*



## **West Huntspill**

### **Week Of Prayer For World Peace 2019**

**October 13<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>**



This Week of Prayer was started as a Christian initiative in 1974. It soon became an interfaith activity and now welcomes everyone of all faith traditions or none. The first Chairman established the guiding principle of the week by saying that he believed that “The peace of the

world must be prayed for by the faiths of the world”. The prayers used during the week are from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh traditions. The three churches in East and West Huntspill will be

sharing in these prayers during this week. These prayers are being said by our neighbours, in localities all over the world, acknowledging that there is only one humanity, but that we all have different life experiences. Interfaith partnership does not mean that we do not disagree in our theological thinking, but we can stand as friends and pray for peace in this broken world.

“ Love is the bridge between you and everything” Muslim Prayer  
“It is not enough to pray for peace. We have to work for it – to denounce injustice, not just when it is committed against us, but also when it is committed against others; to defend human rights, not only ours, but also theirs” Jewish Prayer



## **Our October Coffee Morning**

**Will be on Friday 25<sup>th</sup>  
October**

**10am – 12md**

**Proceeds for Alzheimer's  
Society**

## **Poppy Collection**

Although there will no longer be a house to house collection in the village poppies, crosses etc will be available at this event.



# BRENT KNOLL

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

**Minister Rev. Steve Bennett**

At the time of writing, I have just returned from our Harvest Festival. The church looked wonderful and a big "thank you" goes out to everyone who helped decorate it. The greenery and foliage were all handpicked and most of the fresh produce home grown. We'd also like to say thank you to Chris Seger from Seger's Fruit and Veg in Draycott who donated a box of fresh goods. All non-perishable donations will be sent to the Foodbank, as will the money raised from the sale of perishable produce. The fresh produce which was not taken will be sent to the Healthy Living Centre on the Bournville in Weston. Our service was led by Rev Steve Bennett and was both thought provoking and uplifting. After the service we all shared a hot lunch, beautifully prepared by members of our congregation who again, we'd like to give our heartfelt thanks to for all their hard work.

As mentioned in last month's magazine, on the last Sunday of each month, we are having an informal time of fellowship enjoying cake, refreshments, singing and activities. We hope this will be a time where people of all ages in the village who may not be able to come to church on a Sunday morning will be able to come and join us at a different time. These times of fellowship will be following the themes of the season and this month, we shall be meeting on Sunday 27th October at 4pm in the school room. It goes without saying that all are welcome to come and enjoy the fun and fellowship.

Margaret Trapp will continue to lead our ecumenical time of fellowship on the first Monday of each month. We shall meet up on Monday 7th October at 2.30pm in the church where this time together will be based on a Celtic theme. And again, all, of course, are welcome to join us.

In the meantime, from all of us here at Brent Knoll, we wish you every blessing.

God bless

Rosemary Krull

# EAST BRENT

From East Brent Methodist Church a belated Blessed New Year from the beginning of September. May all your plans for the next year come to fruition after much thought and prayer. Our congregation has been depleted a little of late with People on holiday and some who are ill.

To Eileen and Joan, we send our blessings and to John who is going through a bit of a rough patch at the moment.

We would like to extend our thanks to Diane Brat who has supported for many months at morning service.

We understand their reason for going but we shall be sorry not to see them at Worship on a Sunday morning.

Now to happier things our harvest on September 22<sup>nd</sup> We were sure it wasn't going to be a large amount of fruit and vegetables on show. We were surprised by the amount that appeared.

Some offerings were sold after the service and the remainder given to a Charity "Somewhere to Go" in Weston

Although we give thanks on Harvest Sunday that is not to say we should only give thanks on that day – we must continue all year round to say Thanks for all the many gifts we receive the whole year round.

A reminder of Church Council meeting on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> – although by the time you read this it'll be over!! We shall discuss the state of affairs of the Church.

As it takes place at East Brent can I remind you that the Link Villages Fellowship meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month for Fellowship, . We should be pleased to welcome anybody who would like to join us for Fellowship usually a talk and a cup of Tea.

Evelyn M. J. Tucker

## Minister and Circuit Superintendent

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## Web Sites

Circuit Web site [www.wsmbos.org](http://www.wsmbos.org)  
[www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk)  
[www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk)  
[www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com](http://www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Deadline for the NOVEMBER 2019 LINK is Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b></p>
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## LINK ORDER FORM

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