

LINK PLUS++++

October 2022

Dear Friends

Over the last few weeks many of us have enjoyed harvest celebrations across the Link. With this being such a rural area, it is right and proper that we remember those who work on the land to bring us our daily food. At this time, we remember our need for spiritual food too, and give thanks to God for providing our 'daily bread'. One of the challenges for us all is how we receive food, of both kinds.

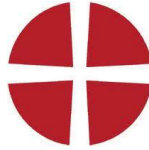
With our physical food, we are reminded of our need to be stewards of creation, to be concerned about eco issues such as 'food miles' and sustainable production. Do you know, for instance, that in some cases food from abroad has less of a carbon footprint than the same food produced in the UK*. It is not just about reading the labels, it is about educating ourselves to find out the truth behind the small-print.

With our spiritual food, we are reminded that we need regular meals of God's word. Just as we would not limit ourselves to physical food only on a Sunday and starve for the rest of the week, so the Word of God is there to sustain our daily lives. There are opportunities across the link to join in with others in Bible Study and in prayer, both online and in person, to add nutrient to your diet.

We thank God for his harvest.

Steve

**the method of production has a large impact on sustainability that can more than offset the additional transportation costs.*



Brean Methodist Church

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

I wanted to start with a light-hearted reflection about having just taken down the Queen's Jubilee bunting we had left up for the summer, before we learnt of the death of the Queen. But then I thought I ought to be a bit more deferential. After all, her passing has left us all somewhat bereft. Elizabeth II had been a special person and you can admit that whatever your view on royalty as such. Personally, I support what we have. As one newspaper comment said, you would think that monarchy is a terrible system, one where a small group of people enjoy such privileges and honour, and yet somehow it has worked for us. And much of the credit must go to the Queen herself. Her presence will be very much missed for in some way she filled a place in our lives that was individually hers.

She is worthy of our prayers and we, as a congregation, thank our preachers for being able to include time for remembrance during the course of our services. Our prayers now are for Charles, our new king in his journey, seeking to evolve the role of monarchy in our continuing progress as Nation, Commonwealth, and even in the world as a whole. God bless him.

The tableaux that were on display during our Open-air Songs of Praise are still in evidence in the church. Our thanks to West Huntspill for their loan. To show them at their best, we have rearranged our seating from having two central aisles, to having the seating in the middle of the area and aisles at the sides. It took a few moments to get used to at the start. We had previously rearranged them after Covid to give as much space as we could between members of the congregation. It can be refreshing to change the seating around occasionally. They are now as the old tip-up seating was 30 years ago. What goes round comes around and no mistake.

The final arrangements are in hand to instal video equipment in the church. This could be in place before you read this but will certainly be completed within the next week or so. Preachers will then be able to have their hymns projected onto the wall (even using hymns not in the hymnbook) and to use software to illustrate elements of their service as they wish. Thanks to John and others involved in the selection and installation of the equipment.

October starts with our autumn Church Council. After morning service, as is traditional with us these days. Helps to concentrate the mind. Not that we neglect any opportunity to be involved in important debate of course.

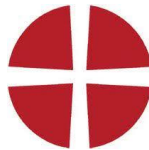
After that is Harvest Festival. Our friends from St Bridget's will join us for that and we will enjoy a bring and share lunch afterwards.

On 16th we join with East Brent/Brent Knoll for a shared service (to be held at East Brent, not Brent Knoll as previously arranged)....and a fortnight later, I guess, we shall be into November.

Congratulations to Burnham for having got Waffle Hub up and running. A lovely opportunity and it is good to learn of people giving their change to boost the charity coffers. Judy and I enjoyed our waffles when we ventured inside during September, and we thoroughly recommend that you do too.

Take care of yourselves, everybody. Love from us all.

Harvey Allen



Brent Methodist Church

Brent Knoll

Back in August, we met with our friends from East Brent Methodist Church, where it was confirmed that the two churches will officially join together under the formal name "Brent Methodist Church". At present, we will continue to keep our two buildings open and we look forward to our first formal Church Council in October. We are also looking forward to worshipping at East Brent in October for the first of our Link Services of the new church year, where we will be joined by Brean Methodist Church.

Last month, I said I would let you all know how much monies were raised from our August coffee mornings for various charities and local causes. I am delighted to let you know that we raised: £166 for All We Can; £200 for MacMillan Cancer Support; £200 for the RNLI; and £100 for Brent Knoll School. Once again, thank you to everybody who made these mornings so successful.

We held our Harvest Festival service last month which was led by Brian Dallimore and enjoyed by all. All non-perishable donations were sent to the Food Bank in Burnham, as were monies received from donations from perishable produce. Thank you to all who contributed and who helped decorate the chapel.

Since the last edition of the Link, the Country learned of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. So many found comfort from the vigils and services of all denominations held both in our village and in the surrounding areas. Thank you to Rev Steve who led a moving service of reflection and thanksgiving at Burnham Methodist Church, for the life of Her Majesty.

And, of course, we continue to hold our Ministers, the Circuit and its members in our prayers during these difficult times. And there is no doubt there are difficulties and challenges ahead. But to all, we wish you the peace of the Lord, and hope and faith for the future.

God bless you.

Rosemary Krull

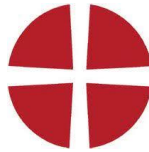
East Brent

Once again, we have arrived at the month of October – ‘Harvest Time’. The weather has not been too kind to us with regard to the fruits of the garden and so we must be thankful for what is available. We have become so used to going to the shop and getting what we want and not thinking about alternatives. Lots of people are used to thinking ‘I must have this fruit and it must be that shape’. Our forefathers wouldn’t have given that a thought because you used whatever you grew in your garden and if it didn’t produce fruit or foliage, then you did without it and used what you could find (strange meals at times!). Forgive me as I write about something that was a common occurrence as a person who has lived in the country all their life, with no shop.

We were much heartened that we did gather quite a harvest of both vegetables and dry goods which we sent to Morland Community Pantry to help them in their work helping people in need in Highbridge.

Our Church meeting is to be held this Sunday, so I can’t give you any news about the future. I hear this week that COVID cases are on the rise in the West, so do have your job if offered one.

From all the East Brent family. Take care and God bless.
Evelyn Tucker



Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church

Burnham

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

When I thought about writing this, I was going to mention change, such as coming into the Autumn Season. Never could I have imagined how monumental a change we would all be facing. The Queen, who was on the throne when I was born, has passed and now we have a King - that will take some getting used to!

Although I am not an ardent monarchist, I have been surprised at how unsettled this has made me feel. I found help and strength by reading Hebrews chapter 13 verse 8, which says "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and for ever. No matter what happens in our world his love and presence remain with us".

On a lighter note, September has seen the opening of our Waffle Hub in Burnham on sea. This Community Cafe is the idea of Liz Bennett, who felt strongly that God was calling her into this project. The cafe is a welcoming space for all, warm and friendly.

The Waffles are pretty good too ! I can recommend the strawberry and ice cream one. I hope to see you there.

Jackie.

West Huntspill

We have now merged with Burnham to become the Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church. We still operate much as we have always done but we look forward to the benefits of sharing together. The first of these occasions was for our Harvest Festival evening service when we welcomed people from Burnham and elsewhere to our church for worship, sale of goods and refreshments.

Looking to October, we are holding a Craft Surplus Sale on Saturday 15th 10.30am – 12 noon. If you would like a table to sell crafts, please contact Christine Thomas on 01278 256771 (£7 for a large table or £5 for a smaller one).

PLUS +++ POEMS, PRAYERS and OTHER MESSAGES

The Link Villages Fellowship

The Link Villages Fellowship had been unable to meet since March 2020 because of Lockdown, and following that, the ongoing rates of the covid infection.

So I called an informal meeting on Tuesday September 13th to discuss how it was felt we might move forward as a Fellowship. To my delight there were 12 of us present.

I had apologies from Eileen Goundry who felt that she was no longer able to attend, and a letter of thanks was to be sent to her to thank her for the contribution she had made to the Fellowship over many years.

There was a very positive discussion about renewing the group, and it was decided that at least for the present we would meet on the second Tuesday of each month - at East Brent at 2.30pm as we had done previously. It was felt that between now and Christmas we would have themed members' afternoons; and then see about having speakers on some occasions thereafter.

The theme for October will be Harvest; that for November, remembrance: then the final session of 2022 will be an afternoon of Christmas readings, poems and carols followed by an afternoon tea.

Two people were welcomed to that meeting for the first time, and we would extend that welcome to anyone else who would like to join us. At present we have only women who attend, but we have had men come in the past - so I reiterate - All are welcome.

Joyce Pipet

The Waffle Hub Community Café

The waffle Hub is now open from 9am – 5pm, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Come along and enjoy a Waffle!

‘Waffle is Conversation
Waffle is Food’

Liz Bennett (for the Waffle Hub Steering Group)

A poem chosen by Judy Allen

With half an eye of the Queen’s funeral day, Judy found this poem by William Wordsworth, written for a different set of conditions of course (it is descriptive of London and the Thames in the early morning), but seemingly relevant to our occasion.

Upon Westminster Bridge.
Earth hath not anything to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty:
This city now doth, like a garment, wear
The beauty of the morning: silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
Ne’er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! The very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

Advent Bible Study

Judy & Harvey Allen have opened their home for an Advent Bible Study led by Rev Steve. Please come along and join us on 28th November and then 8th, 13th, and 21st December.

**Finally, please note the deadline for
the November Link Plus is
29th October.**

LINK DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
Weekly		
Wednesday 10.00am	Zoom	<u>Link Bible Study</u> Meeting ID: 842 8627 4955 Passcode: 358753
Thursday 11.00am	Zoom	<u>Link Coffee Morning</u> Meeting ID: 854 3680 5731 Passcode: 419002
October		
9 th	Brean	Harvest Festival & Lunch
13 th 2.30pm	East Brent	Link Fellowship - Harvest
15 th 10.30am - 12 noon	West Huntspill	Craft Surplus Sale (see West Huntspill report for details)
25 th 2.00pm	Brean	Link Committee
November		
2 nd 7.00pm	Burnham	Photography night with John Strickland
15 th 7.00pm	Zoom	Circuit Safeguarding
19 th 10.30 – 12	East Brent	Christmas Fair
26 th 10am – 1pm	Burnham	Christmas Fair – stalls 10am – 12, food served from 11.30am to 1pm
28 th 7.00pm	Judy & Harvey Allen	Advent Bible Study 1 (see previous page)
December		
1 st 7.30	Milton	Local Preacher's Meeting
6 th 7.30	Burnham	Circuit Meeting
8 th 7.00pm	Judy & Harvey Allen	Advent Bible Study 2 (see previous page)