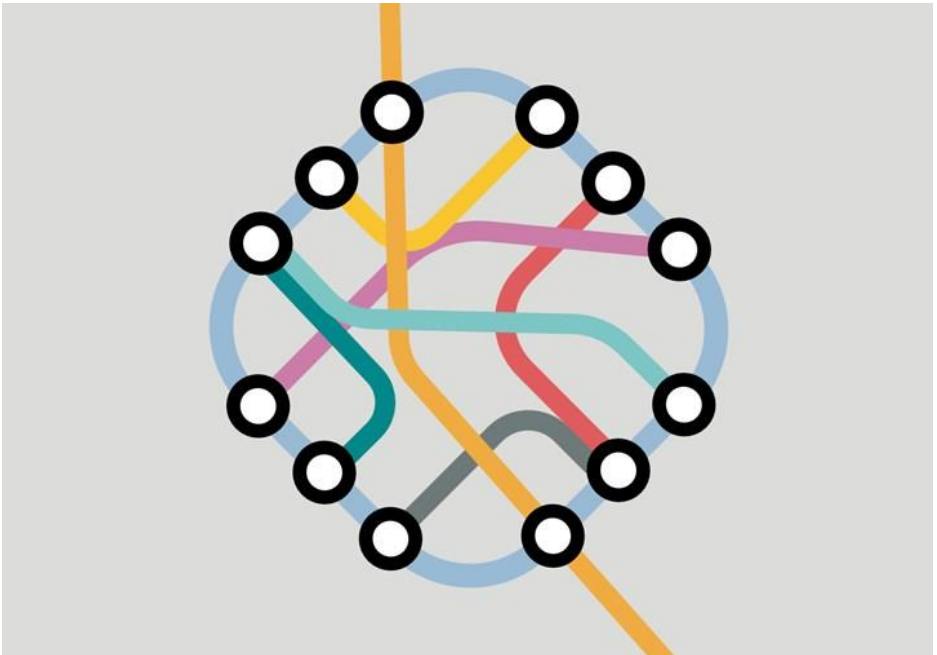


LINK PLUS++++

October 2023



Dear Friends

One of the stations in the Methodist Way of Life is Prayer.

I would like to thank you for all the prayers for my Mum who is back in Burnham Lodge Nursing Home for end of life care.

We have heard the sad news of the death of Norman Lester in the last few days. Norman was Circuit Steward when I arrived in Burnham, and a Local Preacher in the Circuit. The thanksgiving service for Norman will be at Locking Castle on 26th October. If anyone would like me to take a tribute on your behalf, please let me know.

Sadly too, Paul Creswick has died after a long battle with Cancer. Some of you will know Paul from his singing in operatic societies, his work, as well as being a faithful member of the church in Burnham. Paul's funeral is at Burnham on the 27th October at 11.00am

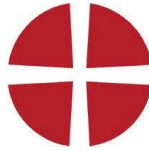
Please pray for both families at this time.

Jesus said "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." as he reminded his disciples to live as those prepared for all things, even death.

Although they were from different strands of theological thinking, I knew both Norman and Paul as people of strong faith. They were both prepared for the end of this life. So, as we say farewell to them, we give thanks that God still holds them both in the palm of God's hand.

We pray that we may continue to have the faith for what lies ahead of us.

Steve



Brean Methodist Church

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

When you come home after ten days of holidays it can seem like someone has taken that period out of your life. How else can September have gone so quickly; and here I am still trying to catch up with jobs a fortnight later. We went on a cruise around the UK starting from Bristol's Portbury Dock and it was good to be able to mark off various 'bucket' list places on the way— John O' Groats, for example, and with it Dunnet Head, the most northern part of the British Isles mainland. Also on our list was Northern Ireland with a visit to the fabulous Titanic Museum, the magical Isle of Skye and, would you believe it Monet's Garden, at Giverny. The tour company, in its wisdom, had decided that a tour round the UK wouldn't be complete without a day's visit to Honfleur in Normandy. But the option of a trip to Monet's Garden was definitely on our wish list anyway, so that was fine by us (except of course that our Insurance Cover had to be extended); we spent a couple of hours feasting on the colours and schemes that stretched out before us in the bright sunlight, well exceeding our expectations.

It was a good trip, our first sea cruise, and very reasonable for what we experienced. We were still sailing down the Channel when we began getting messages from friends who had seen an item about the voyage on Points West that evening; it seems to have been the first out of Bristol since Covid and therefore deemed newsworthy. Judy and I had gone with our friend Sheila, and it was also nice that, unknown to each other, church friends Tim and Janet had booked on the same trip. There was also a lady from Uphill, so the Circuit was well represented! The voyage took away our preconception of what sea cruising entailed, and we found it a very pleasant way to spend our time. A time to get away from things, a time of discovery, and of rest, recuperation, and

even of contemplation, amidst all the other features a cruise might provide. I am sure we shall do it again.



(photo supplied by Janet)

Our church has started the new church year looking very smart, as Roger has got to work clearing the paths and shovelling away our weeds. He has also begun persuading the moles that there are better places for them in which to dig their holes. Thank you, Roger, it is much more appealing when the church looks clean and welcoming

Congratulation to Joyce (in anticipation that she will complete the final three days of the Trussell Trust September Step up Challenge (three days to go as I write this) Well done Joyce. I can imagine that I might step up and do half and hour two or three times in a month but each

day, every day, well I don't think so. (And congrats too, to anyone else who has been doing it)

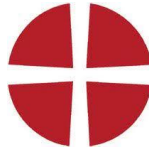
And well done to John T as well. For many years now, John has held a variety of Church appointments at District levels and has fulfilled them with distinction. And enthusiasm. But age is catching up with him too and he has finally been able to get rid of the last of them.

Our Anglican friends in Brean are living through difficult times as the Diocese struggles against reductions in clergy numbers. For about 50 years they and Berrow have been working as a single Benefice. Now they are to be brought together with the Knoll group, under the one vicar, 5 parishes in one.

The start of October sees our Church Council after morning service. What delight lies in store for us I wonder. And, the following Sunday brings our Harvest Festival. Apart from a few visitors perhaps, we shall welcome our friends from St Bridget's to the service and to a bring and share lunch afterwards. A happy time in prospect.

Peace to you all for the days that are ahead, from us here as Brean

Harvey Allen



**Brent Methodist Church
Brent Knoll**

We enjoyed a wonderful Harvest celebration here at Brent Knoll last month, led by Rev Steve. Thank you to everyone who generously brought gifts to this service. Non-perishables were passed on to the Food Bank, as were monies donated for fresh produce.

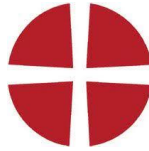
We are looking forward to joining with our friends from Brean and East Brent for a joint service on Sunday 15th October. The service will be held at East Brent chapel, so please note there will be no service here at Brent Knoll on that Sunday.

And as this year speeds along, a date for your diaries. We will be holding our Christmas coffee morning on Saturday 25th November.

Every blessing from all of us here at Brent Knoll.

Rosemary Krull





Brent Methodist Church East Brent

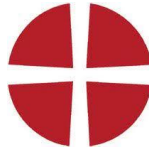
I have just realised that it is up to me to write this month's note for the Link!

The church at East Brent is a place of worship, expectance, the only problem being the lack of people to help our church be a bigger influence on the area. There are usually lots of cars parked on a Sunday so it is possible that someone, someday may investigate what goes on inside the building. We always work, hope and pray.

Like most churches we have celebrated the traditional service of Harvest. Vegetables were again in short supply due to the weather, but many gifts were gathered – the majority of which were donated to the Highbridge group who make meals for people who are short of the necessities of life. Our Sunday worship was conducted by Rev Jim McKnight. His sermon was for me, and I think several others, a very moving and thoughtful message that will be remembered for a long time.

Our faithful and small congregation continue to worship every Sunday and enjoy each other's company. As we continue with the autumn and winter sessions at East Brent may we wish you success in your winter sessions, in whatever you attempt or try out.

Evelyn Tucker



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church
Burnham**

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

The signs of Autumn are now with us darker mornings and darker evenings but with the warm sun making the days feel very pleasant and all is seemingly well.

I came back from holiday a couple of weeks ago and it was very noticeable from the aircraft window how green the fields appeared to be. There was no doubt that our lord has again provided the farmers with a good harvest. We at Burnham have just celebrated our Harvest festival and by the time you read this we will have celebrated our harvest supper and beetle drive.

In Burnham we are seeing growth in folk attending Sunday morning services and the Waffle Hub is continuing to flourish with new groups attached to the Waffle Hub joining in . The Church is now being used seven days a week. We have new groups hiring various rooms. We are conscious that our Lord is at work within the building but, we must encourage folk that are new to us are made to feel welcome, and are encouraged to stay and join us in tea, coffee and biscuits after morning service.

I felt that the circuit meetings I have attended recently are reflecting a move bringing us together in fellowship and that with new circuit stewards joining in sharing the duties there is a feeling of exciting times ahead.

Geoff Stait for the Burnham Stewards.

PLUS +++ POEMS, PRAYERS, and OTHER MESSAGES

The Link Fellowship

The Fellowship began its new session with the AGM and communion, led by Revd. Steve Bennett. It was good to get together again after the summer break, and only two members were absent due to being on holiday. There were no minutes from the 2019/20 session as that AGM had been cancelled due to lockdown, but reports were read both on what had happened prior to that, and on the 2022/23 session.

The financial report was given, and discussion took place as to future fixtures might be.

The programme until Christmas was finalised with a meeting with a harvest theme on October 10th bringing contributions for the Trussell Trust; November 14th there will be a visit to Wells Cathedral to see the "Threads through time" exhibition; and then our Christmas meeting on December 12th will take the form of a buffet lunch followed by a time of Christmas readings and carols.

Thanks were given to all who helped run the Fellowship in any way. Steve's message on Fellowship followed by an informal communion followed by tea & biscuits brought the afternoon to a close.

Joyce Pipet

This month's poem selected by Judy Allen carries the thought of Autumn slowly passing through

Leave me O love

Leave me, O love which reachest but to dust,
And thou, my mind, aspire to higher things;
Grow rich in that which never taketh rust:
Whatever fades but fading pleasure brings.
Draw in thy beams, and humble all thy might
To that sweet yoke where lasting freedoms be,
Which breaks the clouds and opens forth the light
That doth both shine and give us sight to see.
O, take fast hold; let that light be thy guide
In this small course which birth draws out to death,
And think how evil becometh him to slide
Who seeketh heaven, and comes of heavenly breath.
Then farewell, world! thy uttermost I see:
Eternal Love, maintain thy life in me.

**Please note the strict deadline
for the November Link Plus
is 23rd October (I am away the
following week)**

DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
Weekly		
Wed 10am	Zoom*	Link Bible Study
Thurs 11.am	Zoom*	Link Coffee Morning
Tue/Wed & Thurs 9.00am – 5.00pm	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Café and associated activities.
		*Contact Rev Steve for zoom links
October		
8 th	Brean	Harvest Festival
10 th 7.00pm	East Brent	Circuit Safeguarding Meeting
21 st 10 – 4	Burnham	Food Festival
23 rd 12 noon	Burnham	Wedding Mary Chalker to Sam Monk
26 th 2.00pm	Locking	Funeral – Norman Lester
27 th 11.00am	Burnham	Funeral – Paul Creswick
November		
7 th tbc	Burnham	Visit of Bishop Sameer from India
18 th 10 – 12	East Brent	Christmas Fair
25 th 10.30-12	Brent Knoll	Christmas Fair
December		
2 nd 10 – 1pm	Burnham	Christmas Fair
6 th 7.00pm	Burnham	Weston Hospicecare Service
7 th 7.30pm	Zoom	Local Preacher’s Meeting
12 th 7.30	East Brent	Circuit Meeting

**Please make sure
that your
Christmas
arrangements
are in
the next
Link Plus**