

# LINK PLUS++++

## October 2024

Dear Friends

Welcome to the October Link Plus.

As usual, this month we have contributions from around the Link. I am grateful to those who contribute on a regular basis. However, I would be pleased to receive pieces/information for the second section of the publication. This could be anything you feel might be of interest to others in the Link. Please send them to me at [steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk](mailto:steve.bennett@methodist.org.uk).

Many items this month have been about autumn, harvest, and church councils. At Burnham we had a wonderful weekend with church council and Harvest meal on the Saturday, Harvest Service and Messy Church Harvest on the Sunday. It was all go, but really enjoyable! So many people worked really hard to make the weekend a success.

As I go around the Link for Harvest celebrations, I am thankful to everyone who provide gifts for the benefit of the various organisations that are being supported through our Harvest offerings. As we remember the goodness of God, so we recognise our responsibilities as God's good people – our responsibilities to God's creation and all that is in this world we are given stewardship over.

I am reminded of the words of the Louis Armstrong song:

*I see trees of green  
Red roses too  
I see them bloom  
For me and you  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world*

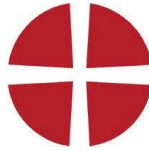
*I see skies of blue  
And clouds of white  
The bright blessed day  
The dark sacred night  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world*

*The colours of the rainbow  
So pretty in the sky  
Are also on the faces  
Of people going by  
I see friends shaking hands  
Saying, "How do you do?"  
They're really saying  
I love you*

*I hear babies cry  
I watch them grow  
They'll learn much more  
Than I'll ever know  
And I think to myself  
What a wonderful world  
Yes, I think to myself  
What a wonderful world*

May we always rejoice in God's wonderful world

Steve



## **Brean Methodist Church**

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

So summer is finally over, though we might be excused for still wondering when it is going to start. In our fifty years of living in Brean, there have been a variety of different patterns. In 1976, for example, the start of summer was noted for stifling heat, such that we had swarms of ladybirds by the end of May, and the dry hot weather continued until the end of August. But on the Sunday night of the Bank Holiday weekend, the weather broke into the most tremendous downpour. Caravan sites were flooded, and holidaymakers were quickly on their way home. And, if I remember rightly, we (Judy and I in our business) had over two hundred newspapers unsold on that day and we were still trying to sell bread, heavily discounted, a couple of days later. Not such a profitable weekend that one.

Many years later, perhaps into the 1990s by now, we had so much rain during the summer we were beginning to wonder where the summer visitors had gone; but about the third week, the sun came out and overnight, the crowds were back with a vengeance; made up for lost time; lasted through September very nicely. And, in several years we had nice sunny weather, but also a cool northeasterly wind (a bit like times this year) which often made things somewhat chilly. Oh, to be retired and watch the different seasons go by without wondering how the business might be affected.

The weather doesn't stop Roger doing his bit for the church though. His latest project has been to trim all the sides of the chapel drive so that the banks are all clear of the tarmac surface. Very neat it looks too. Thank you, Roger, all very much appreciated. This and a couple of

pots of flower by the front doors help to keep the church looking more attractive again.

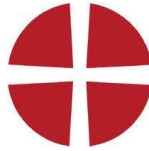
We have had a couple of reminders this month about the importance of the 'fellowship of the people called Methodist' and the sudden move into September has reminded Judy and I that we didn't get to as many of the summer coffee mornings as we had intended. And as I am getting to the end of my regular preaching journey, I realise too how important that contact and means of encouragement and support between the people of the churches, has been. Links such as we enjoy are features of our churchmanship and we are very much aware of the stresses that our ecumenical partners Brean must now be feeling as they manoeuvre themselves into a wider arrangement within a group of churches that will serve Brent Knoll, East Brent and Lymsham.

Zoom has allowed us to maintain our contacts within our section both in our Thursday 'coffee' Zoom, and in the Wednesday study Zoom that will take off again later this month. All good fun and ways to get together; speak to Steve for contact details if you are interested. And for links within the Circuit too. We will do our best to get to the afternoon Circuit service at Milton on 6th. A chance to catch up on friends across the area and to corporately meet with the new Chairman of District (and perhaps have a bit of cake with a cuppa afterwards?).

October will be the month for our Church Council. Much as before I guess, and yet something crops up each time that gets us talking. A major item will surely be the church and circuit policy that must be worked through, especially in mind that Steve will be 'sitting down' in 2026 and we have to give thought to the type of ministry we feel appropriate at a time when things are changing so much. And the week after will be Harvest Festival followed by lunch. Time to consider not only our links with one another but also with Creation itself.

Have a good month everyone.

Harvey Allen



**Brent Methodist Church  
Brent Knoll**

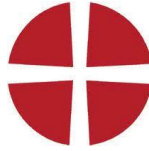
Many thanks to all who donated produce to our Harvest Festival back in September. All non-perishable goods were donated to the Food Bank.

We are delighted to be welcoming our friends from Brean and East Brent Methodist Churches on Sunday 20th October. The service will be led by Rev Judith. We are all looking forward to this time of shared worship.

At the time of writing, I have just returned from Brent Church's Council Meeting. Many thanks to East Brent for hosting as we thoroughly enjoyed coming together in fellowship. With that in mind, it was agreed by all at that meeting that, on the next plan, we will alternate worship between our two buildings on the final Sunday of the month.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll Church, we continue to hold our Circuit, its Ministers and its Members firmly in our prayers and send you every blessing.

God bless  
Rosemary Krull



**Brent Methodist Church  
East Brent**

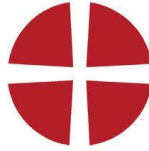
Every year as I write my Link notes for the October Link, the topic has been about our Harvest Festival. Until now that is. Because this year we haven't had it! It comes on the last Sunday of September, a service which will be followed by the first of our joint church meetings with Bren Knoll friends this church year. We all hope that things go well for both our churches – but more about this in the months to come.

Our congregation varies little week to week, but we come to worship, to meet each other, to have coffee and discussion about anything of interest, be it religious, worldly, or about the way we live our lives week by week. It is good that we can have a conversation with the visiting preacher over a cup of coffee.

We remember those of our family who have loved ones, Roy (Margaret's husband), June (John's wife) and our friend Gary. May God bless them in their struggles and we pray that brighter days lie ahead.

Finally, we wish a happy 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary to Jill and Gordon on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you for all they do in the church, a lot unseen and never thought about, but it 'happens' every time.

Evelyn Tucker



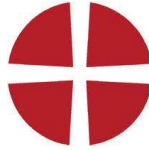
**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church  
Burnham  
<http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk>**

Well, there is no doubt Summer is over. As I write this I have three layers on and I can hear the rain pouring down. Despite this I always feel Autumn is a new beginning with hope and opportunities. Probably because my working life was spent in schools.

Here in Burnham we certainly have new beginnings. Our Alpha course has just started and a new weekday communion has started on Mondays. We have our Methodist Way Of Life meetings on the 24th of September and Messy Church on September 22nd as well as our Harvest service that day.

It is hard work and helpers are a bit thin on the ground but it is wonderful to have the opportunity to Praise God and share his blessings with others.

Jackie Clark [ on behalf of the stewards.]



## **West Huntspill**

Prayer Group meet on the first Tuesday of the month. If you know of anyone in need of Prayer, please let Mrs. Christine Thomas know.

Coffee and Chat will be on Friday the 25th October 10.30am – 12 Noon. Please come and join us, we love to meet up with our friends from the Link Churches. This year we are raising funds for the SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST.

We had a very well attended Macmillan Coffee morning in September. Many thanks to those who came and supported us.

Babes, Tots and Carers. Meet on Wednesdays at 1.30pm till 3.00pm, term time only. Contact Carol Hester 01278 780730 for full details.

Love and many blessings to all our friends in the Link.

Janet J. & Kay



# PLUS +++ POEMS, PRAYERS, and OTHER MESSAGES

## A poem from Harvey Allen

Here is a poem that, for many of us, goes back to schooldays and GCEs. The author, W H Davies, also wrote a book, called The Autobiography of a Super Tramp. Which also appeared in the GCE syllabus.

Leisure (1911)

What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare?

No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows:

No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:

No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance:

No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

## **The Link Fellowship**

The Link Fellowship resumed its meetings in September after a summer break.

This first session was the AGM and communion presided over by Revd. Steve Bennett. Nearly everyone was able to be there, and it was good to catch up after the break.

Thanks were extended to all who contributed to the continuing running of the group – especially to Christine Thomas who organises the tea rota and refreshments at events such as our Christmas meal; to Evelyn Tucker who always provides a flower arrangement and who plays the piano for the meetings; and to Janet Johnson who is our treasurer. A donation was agreed to be sent to East Brent for the use of their hall. As part of a simple but moving Communion service Steve spoke about the challenges of change that we face, and the importance of relying on God especially at such times.

As usual we concluded the afternoon with tea and biscuits.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday October 8th at 2.30pm at East Brent Church hall when our speaker will be Pastor Jade from Hope Baptist Church. She came to us last session and spoke about the trip to the Holy Land that she had taken with Bristol Bible College, but hadn't got as far as Jerusalem when we realised the time, so asked her to return so that she could give this the attention it would deserve. All are very welcome to join us on this or any other of our sessions.

Joyce Pipet

## **A poem from West Huntspill**

Jeremy Taylor was chaplain to King Charles the first, Bishop of Down and Connor, and is often regarded as one of England's finest writers.

Many of his thoughts are still worth sharing today, but I particularly like his take on love and friendship.

“The more we love,” he wrote, “the better we are, and the greater our friendships are, the closer we are to God.

Nice thoughts – but with a hint that we have a role to play in it all.

Love and friendship are “doing” words.

Let’s do them both to the best of our ability, and we will inevitably find ourselves closer to God.

From “The Friendship Book 2018”

**The deadline for the  
November Link Plus is  
25<sup>th</sup> October.**

## DIARY

| Date & Time                       | Location | Event  |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--|
| <b>Weekly</b>                     |          |  |
| Wed 10am                          | Zoom*    | Link Bible Study                                     |
| Thurs 11am                        | Zoom*    | Link Coffee Morning                                  |
| Mon 10-2<br>Tues 10-2<br>Wed 10-4 | Burnham  | Waffle Hub Community Café and associated activities. |
| Mon 12 noon                       | Burnham  | Weekday Holy Communion                               |

\* Contact Rev Steve for zoom links or information

|                               |                        |   |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>October</b>                |                        |   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> 7.00          | East Brent             | Circuit Safeguarding Meeting                                    |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> 9am-10        | Zoom*                  | Circuit Prayer  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> 3.00pm        | Milton                 | Circuit Service   |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm       | St Andrew's<br>Burnham | Burnham, Highbridge & Area<br>Churches Together Songs of Praise |
| <b>November</b>               |                        |   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> 10am –<br>1pm | Burnham                | Joint Coffee & Stalls with the Friends<br>of Burnham Hospital   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> 10.30-12     | East Brent             | Christmas Fair  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> 10.30-12     | Brent Knoll            | Christmas Fair  |

**Please note that Beth Missen is prepared to place events on the  
Circuit website if she is given the information.**