
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

October - November 2013 Volume 48. No. 8.



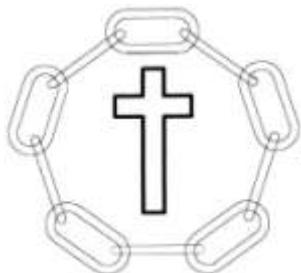
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

The signs of Autumn are upon us. The leaves are beginning to turn a beautiful range of colours (time to visit Westonbirt?); the days are drawing in quickly; those annoying “Daddy Longlegs” are trying desperately to get into every nook and cranny of our homes!

This is the time of year when we can look forward to Fireworks, Carnival, Halloween and Advent. It is also the time when many Methodist Ministers begin to prayerfully consider what the future holds and where God will lead them next in Ministry.

As many of you know, Methodist appointments are for five years in the first instance, and my five years in the Weston Super Mare and Burnham on Sea Circuit will come to an end at the end of July 2014. As I came here as a probationer and this was my first appointment in ministry, I have chosen not to ask for an extension to the appointment and so Julie and I will be moving on next August.

I have had several questions asked already about how the change happens and so I thought I would outline the process for you now:

At the end of September (i.e. now) those Ministers who will be moving the following August, prepare a profile about themselves. This details our family situation, our past experiences, theological outlook and approach to ministry.

At the same time the Circuit Stewards of those Circuits across the Connexion, who will require a Minister for next September, write a profile detailing the requirements of the Circuit and giving an outline of the post to be filled. This would include details of the churches in the section, the Circuit set up, the priorities for the next five years and the accommodation. These profiles go to the Chair of District.

The profiles are all published in a “book” in October, and Minister's and Circuit Stewards then have the chance to look through and identify possible matches or preferences, which are then communicated to the Chair of District.

This information is then fed into the Connexional “Stationing Matching Group” which meets in November, December and January. At these meetings a complicated process takes place which aims to match Ministers to vacancies. There is no guarantee that a match will be made in the first round - hence the Matching group meets more than once. Once a match has been made then visits of the Minister to the Circuit are arranged immediately.

The visit is to allow the Circuit and the Minister to discern whether the match made is right. It is not an interview or test, but an opportunity to meet, have a conversation and a mutual exploration. Two days are then allowed for prayer and further conversation before a mutual decision is made. If the decision is positive then the Circuit formally invites the Minister to take up the station. If the decision is negative then the profiles go back to the next round of the Matching Group, but since a great deal of time and effort is put in to prayerfully make “the best possible match of skills and graces” - it is hoped that this will be the exception.

The appointment is not officially confirmed until Conference meets in July and formally approves the stations, but assuming all is well, the removal vans will be on the road at the beginning of August.

Julie and I are just at the beginning of this process - so your prayers would be much appreciated.

Blessings

Rev Andrew



Deaths.

Mrs. Vera Titley. Funeral at Burnham on September 2nd



Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Sat 28th 10.00 - 5.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning & Foodfest
Mon 30th 2.30pm B/K Bible Study led by Rev Margaret Trapp at Brent Knoll

OCTOBER

Wed 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 Friends of Guiding Coffee Morning at Burnham Methodist Do PLEASE support us.
Sat 5th 10.00 - 12.00 Fund Raising Coffee Morning
Tue 8th 2.30pm E/B LINK Villages Fellowship visit of Milton Ladies & Tea - Rev. Sharon Crossman - Local Food Bank. (Collection)
Wed 9th 12.30pm B/H Church Lunch (Daphne Hill)
Wed 9th 2.30pm B/H Bible Study at Burnham
Thur.10th 2.30pm B/K Emmaus Course at Brent Knoll
Sat 12th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Sat 19th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Pre Christmas Sale & Coffee Morning in aid of Educate the Kids
Tue 22nd 2.30pm E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Introduction to Heraldry Mr Alan Gibbs
Thur.24th 2.30pm B/K Emmaus Course at Brent Knoll
Sat 26th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Mon 28th 2.30pm B/K Bible Study led by Rev Margaret Trapp at Brent Knoll

NOVEMBER

Sat 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Action for Children Coffee Morning with Christmas Cards on sale.
Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H **BURNHAM CHRISTMAS FAIR**
Tue 12th 2.30pm E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Childhood in Guernsey Revd and Mrs Stanley Pipet.
Wed 13th 12.30pm B/H Church Lunch (Dorothy May)
Sat 16th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning in aid of Educate the Kids
Sun.17th. **LAST DAY FOR DECEMBER - JANUARY LINK**
Sat 23rd 11.00 - 4.00 BR Craft Fair at Brean Methodist Church **Note changed times**
Sat 23rd 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
Mon 25th 2.30pm B/K Bible Study led by Rev Margaret Trapp at Brent Knoll
Sat 30th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

DECEMBER

Sat 7th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning
Tue 10th 2.30pm E/B LINK Villages Fellowship Christmas Lunch and Entertainment.
Wed 11th 12.30pm B/H Church Lunch – Christmas menu
B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill

Circuit prayer meetings

At the recent Circuit Meeting it was felt that it would be good for us all to meet on a regular basis for prayer. A regular meeting would allow us together to ask for guidance for our Circuit concerning the probable changes that will happen over the next few years, to ask God for support for our Circuit leaders and for our Ministers. It would also be an opportunity to pray for support our individual churches, for the events that are taking place and for each other.

It is hoped that the meetings will be open and informal where everyone is welcome to contribute to open prayer, join in with collective prayer or silently bring our concerns for the Circuit to our Heavenly Father.

It is expected that this prayer time will be moved around the Circuit and the first will be at Milton on Saturday 19th October starting at 10am. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available from 9.30am.

Please come and join with others in our Circuit and together we will see how God will guide us and bless us. If you are unable to come on that day then please join us in prayer at that time where-ever you may be.

If you need more information please telephone Malcolm Gale on 01934 526815.



Reflections on Greenbelt 2013.

Some years back there was a series of books entitled 1,000 – things to do – places to visit paintings to see etc – before you die.

Our son and daughter in law were determined that on my “to do” list, should be to experience camping in a tent, and to that end, persuaded me to join them and our little granddaughter at the Greenbelt festival. This has been held for forty years on the August bank holiday weekend, and is currently based at Cheltenham Race course.

And, yes, I actually enjoyed surviving under canvas, but had a very interesting time tasting what Greenbelt had to offer.

I say tasting because, let me explain. Daily there were at least 20 venues each with a rolling programme of events starting at 8-9am until midnight!

And these offered a very comprehensive mix of worship, music, performing arts, visual arts, comedy, talks and discussions catering for a very wide spectrum of tastes. Some of the events were especially aimed at the many children who were attending.

As you may imagine, I had thought that choosing what to attend would be a problem with so much choice. But some of my choices were made for me. Shortly after arriving, our daughter in law sprained her ankle badly, so I decided it would be good to go with whoever was looking after Alys to whatever they were attending. So I had great fun sharing in Moo- music! Cup cake worship and Nursery Rhyme mass (where we sang the responses to nursery rhyme tunes!). This was balanced out by the Christian Aid morning devotions entitled “Tea Toast and Holy Ghost”, the memorable Sunday morning open air communion shared with at least 10,000 other, the Big Sing with the Iona Community, P for Power – a talk by John Bell, again from the Iona community. On a totally different plane, Dot & I, with a sleeping Alys, listened on the fringes to the Monday afternoon gig by the rock band, Fat and Frantic, whose music filled our house when John was in his teenage years. – No prizes for guessing where John was! The final event we shared together was the family Ceilidh with a tremendous Scottish band giving a “lot of welly”.

I have found it hard to believe what a variety I experienced in such a short space of time! I’ve come back with vivid, uplifting memories. Oh, and before we left, Dot commented that, having got their heads around camping with one little one, what was to stop them going with two next year! – “and of course, you’ll come with us again, won’t you?”

YES!!

Joyce Pipet

Friends of Guiding Coffee Morning

The Friends of Guiding invite you to join them for a cup of Coffee on Wednesday, 2nd October, in the Methodist Church Hall, Burnham on Sea, from 10 am to 12 noon.

Who are the Friends of Guiding? Well, we are a small group of ladies, still members of the Guide Movement, dedicated to helping the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, and their Leaders, in our Guiding District of Burnham on Sea. We give them any support they need, including grants towards new uniforms for the Leaders; also grants to girls going on International trips which cost a lot of money these days, but are a wonderful learning experience they will never forget. For instance, we have just had a large group of local girls and leaders go on a trip to our International Guide Training Centre in Mexico - all self funded. This cost each person a lot of money and they all worked so hard to raise it themselves.

So this is why we are having a Coffee Morning - to raise money to help our local Guiding District in the future.

Do PLEASE support us. See you there.



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

We were pleased to welcome Revd Carol Gill to our first meeting for the Dedication Service. We followed the order of service when her thoughts dwelt on fellowship. After the service we moved into the Schoolroom for tea and a chat as it is a long time since we last met.

On Tuesday, September 24th Revd Andrew Biggs told of his and Julie's recent visit to the Holy Land.

We look forward to seeing the ladies from Milton Ladies Fellowship on October 8th. Revd Sharon Crossman will speak on the Food Bank. There will be a collection at that meeting. It's always good to renew friendships,

On October 22nd, Mr Alan Gibbs will give us an Introduction to Heraldry.

Revd Stanley and Mrs Joyce Pipet will tell of their childhood in Guernsey on November 12th.

If anyone would like to come along to the Link Village's Fellowship you will be very welcome. We meet in the schoolroom of East Brent Methodist Church at 2.30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month.

Eileen Goundry



HARRY'S PAGE

GOD HAD OTHER PLANS

READ:

1 Peter 1:1-9

A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

--Proverbs 16:9

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:

Proverbs 30-31

2 Corinthians 11:1-15

My friend Linda grew up planning to become a medical missionary. She loves the Lord and wanted to serve Him as a doctor by taking the gospel to sick people in parts of the world where medical care is hard to find. But God had other plans. Linda has indeed become a medical missionary, but not the way she expected. At 14 years old, Linda developed a chronic health problem that required her to be hospitalised for major surgery several times a year. She survived bacterial meningitis that left her in a coma for 2 weeks and blind for 6 months. She once celebrated two birthdays in a row in the hospital without going home in between. She has had several experiences when she was not expected to live. Yet Linda is the most vibrant,

grateful and cheerful person you will ever meet. She once told me that her mission field, as she hoped and planned, is the hospital. But instead of serving God as a doctor, she serves Him as a patient. No matter how sick she is, the light of the Lord radiates from her. Linda exemplifies the teaching of the apostle Peter. Despite her trials, she rejoices, and the genuineness of her faith brings "praise, honour and glory" to Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:6-7). ---Julie Ackerman Link

*Lord, I'm so thankful that no matter where
We are, we can serve you. Help me to reflect
Your image in my current situation, even
If it's not where I hoped I would be.*

Write your plans in pencil and remember that God has the eraser

GROWING IN FAITH
.FAITH COMES BY HEARING, AND HEARING
BY THE WORD OF GOD.'
Romans 10:17 NKJV

IF YOU want to know how strong your faith is, pay attention to what's coming out of your mouth. '...The word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it' (Hebrews 4:2 NKJV). It's not enough to read God's Word; you must internalise it, and then vocalise it. We say all kinds of things, but the truth is that we don't really believe them because they don't show up in the way we live. You should live in such a way that if God is not who He says He is, you'll fall flat on your face. This means:-

- 1) Looking for opportunities to trust God more.
- 2) Trusting Him to come through for you regardless of the situation.
- 3) Strengthening your faith for the tough times ahead. And here's

how you do it 'Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.' If someone could stick a thermometer under your tongue and take your spiritual temperature, the thing that would cause it to rise or fall would be the time you have spent in God's Word. You say 'Right now my faith is very low.' Then start spending more time reading God's Word. You say, 'I wish I had the faith of so-and-so.' There's no mystery about how to close the gap between your faith and that of others just spend more time in the Scriptures. Rearrange your priorities, take control of your time and put Bible reading at the top of your to-do list if you're serious about growing in faith, it's a price you must be willing to pay.



BRENT KNOLL

Our love and prayers go out to Joan Latham on the loss of her husband Ted. I had never had the pleasure of meeting Ted myself so it was wonderful to hear about him at both his service and at Harvest Festival (especially regarding his work at the church and his unfailing sense of humour). And even more so hearing from Joan herself and the members of the church who knew him so well. Joan - it goes without saying your church family are here for you.

At the time of writing I have just come back from our Harvest Festival. The church looked absolutely lovely and thank you to everyone who helped and brought produce for both decoration and the bring and share lunch which followed it. It was so good to see so many people who all thoroughly enjoyed this special service in our calendar, especially the children. We have recently set aside a permanent area in the church for children who attend our Sunday services. They thoroughly enjoy this - almost as much as we love seeing them. And a thank you too, to Heather Poulter and Henry who read from scripture. We wish them both every best as they start University in Aberdeen and Sheffield respectively.

By the time The Link has been distributed, we will have had the second of our "coffee and chat" mornings. This is a time when we get together and talk about our church and share ideas about the future. One of the items we're currently thinking about is our website. A big thank you to Ronnie who looks after this for us. Already both our home and gallery pages have been updated to make it, we hope, even more welcoming.

Our Emmaus course, which will began on 26th September will continue on Thursday 10th and 24th of October and our bible study group will start on Monday 30th September and be held on the last Monday of each month. Both of these begin at 2.30pm and all are welcome.

Finishing on a light note, I went back to Essex for the weekend at the beginning of September to attend a friend of mine's welcoming service into the Southend on Sea Circuit. As well as this, I also went to a service at my former church, Wesley Methodist Church in Leigh on Sea. One friend of mine, who is a communion steward there, told me what happened at the

church's previous baptismal service. The baptism went off with great success and the congregation was preparing themselves for communion. Head bent, my friend heard a rustling from the baptismal party and when she looked up she saw someone had opened, and was passing around, a box of chocolates. To add insult to injury, what was the brand of said confectionary? "Black Magic." You couldn't make it up.

God bless
Rosemary Krull



EAST BRENT

We had four children under 10 at our communion service taken by Revd Margaret Trapp and it was very interesting on hearing their different responses to various questions such a change for East Brent to have youngsters join the morning worship. We then attended the Circuit Service at Milton, Norman Lesters Accreditation as a Local Preacher and how much enjoyment to join with a full congregation, which was also the case when we joined with Locking Castle for the Celebration of the New Ministry of Tom Yacomeni, although this service was very different, and one wonders what the future holds at Locking with 20 young persons being planted from St Pauls to back the new man!!!

We are now right in the hectic time of Circuit Meetings and Church Councils with all the end of year finances and the completing of re-invitation and profile of ministers in this circuit. It is a struggle to get circuit finances ready for an early circuit meeting which will be the same next year because of further ministerial appointments. Anyway we do enjoy our own Church Council (the lunch beforehand). At East Brent we have now had a removable ramp made for the entrance to the Church (note:- it is not a ski slope). Our Harvest service is on Sunday 22nd September at 10.30am all welcome, we did enjoy the Harvest at West Huntspill with a well presented Christian Aid Talk by two of their workers.

Our condolences to Sue and Keith Cox on the tragic death of their son and also to Joan Latham on the death of Ted who was a Circuit Treasurer some years back.

Lastly East Brent welcome the Circuits decision to re-invite Revd Carol for a further year until her retirement in 2015.

Gordon Legg



BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

Letter from Burnham Stewards.

I can't believe the past year has gone by so quickly, and here we are into our new Methodist Church year! We look back over the past year with all it brought us, and now we look forward to the coming year, with all its challenges and opportunities.

I think most of us will have had our summer holidays now, and been able to enjoy the lovely summer weather we have had, whether we've been away for our holidays or just been at home. I hope you will all have had a happy and relaxing time. Some of us may have spent holiday-time visiting our families and friends who live a distance from us. I find this to be a special time. I am lucky, I only have to travel to Nottingham or Leeds to spend, time with my family, but many people are separated from their families by great distances and miss them when they have to return home from spending time with them. However even though we are separated by distance from our loved ones, nothing can stop the love we share. A text from Romans, chapter 8, vs.39 has a special meaning for us. It says, "Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord". I believe that wherever our family, or friends, are we will always be joined together by God's love, and we will feel closer to them. I found, this "Thought for the Day" recently (from an edition of "The Upper Room" Daily Meditations) - "Love links us to God and to each other".

We give thanks for our Harvest Festival service led by Rev. Andrew on 15th September and say Thank You for the lovely after-service lunch we had, prepared by Daphne and Joan (proceeds from the Harvest going to the Food Bank). We send our love and good wishes to Dorothy and Cedric's son, Stephen, and his wife Erin on their recent marriage in Canada.

We also think of any young people known to us who are starting at College or University, or starting new jobs and careers.

As I write this, we have a happy occasion to look forward to at our morning service on the 29th September, when one of our choir members, Ann Smith, is being baptised and received into membership. The service, followed by Holy Communion, will be taken by Rev. Andrew, and we want Ann to know she has our love and support as she becomes a member at Burnham. God Bless, Ann.

We send our good wishes to all our friends in the Link Churches, and especially to any of our friends who are not feeling too well just now. We think of you.

Carol Boocock



BREAN

www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org

Well as you open your copy of the Link at the end of September or beginning of October, have a thought for us in Brean. Someone, somewhere in the village is prancing around with their revolver at the ready waiting for their chance to leap out on their next victim!. It's the week of the Country and Western Festival at Pontins you see. Well not just at Pontins, though it was they who started it. Many of the other camping and caravanning sites as well as places of entertainment will be joining in the fun and games. And I guess that Steve Pigeon will arrive in Church dressed in his full deputy marshals regalia, with Lynn, his very special lady, on his arm. Quite a contrast that for Steve, from the August Bank Holiday, when he led our worship service in splendid fashion.

September has been a relatively quiet month though the number of visitors has kept up and there were over twenty of us worshipping together last week. We thank all of our visitors for sharing with us and enjoying a coffee and chat in the schoolroom afterwards. Now though we shall begin the drift down to winter numbers. But what am I saying! This month we start our joint services with East Brent and Brent Knoll when we welcome our friends to worship with us on 13th. And on 6th we share Harvest

Festival with St Bridget's at our church, with lunch to follow. So there's still a bit of life yet!

October is the month of meetings too, with our Church Council on 27th after worship (and food again), and the ecumenical council with St Bridget's also during the month.

Our ladies are still busy with those of St Bridget's in preparing items for the Craft Fayre on 23rd November. It looks like being a major event in our church life and we hope that as many of you as possible can come for it. 11am to 4pm at the Methodist Church (not 10am to 4pm as I put in the last Link). There will be drinks and light snacks available too. Proceeds will be shared between St Bridget's and the Methodist Church.

We were sorry to learn of the passing of Ted Latham. He had been a good friend to us all and our thoughts are with Joan at this time.

No one from our church went to the Link Meeting in September (sorry, we all forgot), but I understand it was suggested that The Link magazine becomes a bi-monthly publication. Cedric wasn't at the meeting either so cannot comment as to when this revision will start. If it is so, this may be the last contribution before the Christmas number. Enjoy the autumn with all the rich colours that it presents to us.

Harvey Allen

Editor. We were still on our way home from Stephen & Erin's wedding at Lake Louise in the Rockies, on the afternoon of the Link meeting



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Sunday 17th November 2013**

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