
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

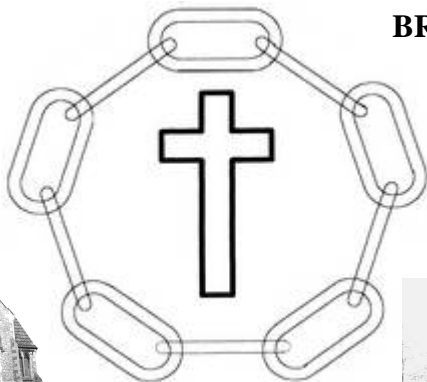
September 2007 Volume 42. No. 7.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



BURNHAM ON SEA



EAST BRENT



WEST HUNTSPILL

Minister's Letter

September 2007

Dear Friends,

I've never had an interest in jigsaws. They are one of those pastimes which I find frustrating because to me it's all a mess of colour. Other puzzles fascinate me because of the construction and design. For some crosswords pose the ultimate challenge or is it Sudoku. The type of interest could simply depend of whether your brain is geared more towards Maths or English. And if you have a bit of both you can always take up knitting. (You have to read and count at the same time)

My grandma loved knitting, she could never cook but once the nights began to draw in, each of her grandchildren would have a new pullover for the late summer and early autumn. Each pullover would have been made with each of us in mind. Designed with our interests embellished on its front or back from "Cowboys and Indians" to "Thunderbirds". Each made without a pattern book in sight.

Within the Link as a new Methodist year begins we are able to draw on our interests and strengths. We have often proved that we are stronger together in the support we give and the fellowship we share. Each month on the second Wednesday morning throughout the year we share around the churches our Link Communion which are a time for reflection and study. Soon the Link Fellowship will begin at East Brent with a varied session of speakers and interests and quite recently we have begun a Preacher's group. With other things happening in all our churches it is our togetherness which give us strength and by giving support to each other we can be effective in each of our communities.

Over our last year we have lost three of our Supernumerary ministers within the Circuit, Rev Bill Burrige and Rev Iain Craig at Brent Knoll and quite recently Rev Ken Derham from Weston. Each valued and remembered deeply for their ministry to us within the Link and we remember their families in our prayers.

What holds us together is always greater than what we are alone. The Christian Faith is so much more than simply an interest. God is inspirational in our lives in the preaching and study of His word. He is the life and breath of our conversations and even in those few words we are only scratching the surface. The Link allows us to discover and develop together and not on our own.

Just to ring the changes on the last Sunday evening being the fifth Sunday at Burnham we are holding a Service for Healing and Reconciliation. Like all the Link events and services it is open to all.

Every Blessing.

Stephen.



20th August 07

Dear Friends,

I write this letter with a great deal of sadness: Catherine and I have been here such a short time yet already we feel we have many friends, from within Victoria, Uphill and St Andrews, but also right round the Circuit.

We came with great expectations of what might be possible together and are already leaving. Too many issues, personal as well as Church, came together and the result you already know: I can only apologise. Both of us are left amazed by the kindness we have received from so many of you, calls, cards, flowers, gifts and emails bearing your love and concern. Your many prayers have buoyed us up. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness at what has been a difficult time.

I am feeling much better now, the rest, treatment and news of early retirement have all served to lift the cloud that seemed to envelop me and together, Catherine and I can now look to the future. A number of you have asked where we will be going so here is the address:

2 Tithebarn Cottages, Tockholes, Darwen, Lancashire, BB3 0LT.
Telephone: 01254 701311.

We move out on the 22nd August – almost exactly a year since we moved in. If any of you are ever travelling North you will be most welcome: just a

couple of exits up the M56, off the M6.

We leave knowing that you are in good hands and that God's blessing will be with you. You now will be in our prayers as we were in yours.

God bless you.

Terry and Catherine Young.



CALENDER

SEPTEMBER

- Sat. 1st 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Wednesday Group.
- Sun. 2nd am. **Traidcraft Stall in the Hall.**
- Sun. 2nd 4.00pm. **Circuit** Tea – Victoria - Women's Network.
- Sun. 2nd 6.00pm. 20th Birthday of Women's Network Service at Victoria
- Thur. 6th 7.30pm. Circuit Meeting at Victoria.
- Sat 8th NCH Collection at Somerfields - Help required, please see Dorothy May.
- Tues 11th 2.30pm. LINK VILLAGES FELLOWSHIP - Milton visit – Speaker Rev. Stanley Pipet.
- Tues 11th 7.30pm. Welcome to Victoria of Rev. Carol Gill and Regognition of Rev. Robert Channon as Circuit Superintendent - at Victoria
- Sat. 15th 10.00 - 12.30 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds
- Sun 16th 10.30 & 6.30 Harvest Festival at Burnham
- Mon.17th Harvest Supper at Burnham
- Fri. 21st 7.00pm. Concert by the Choir "Captain Noah & his Floating Zoo" in aid of General Church Funds.
- Sat. 22nd 10.00 - 12.30 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds
- Sun 23rd Harvest Festival at East Brent
- Tue. 25th 2.30pm LINK VILLAGES FELLOWSHIP - Dedication Service – Rev. Stephen Hill
- Sat. 29th 10.00 - 12.00 Jumble Sale Burnham in aid of the RD Fund

OCTOBER

- Sat. 6th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Thursday Fellowship.
- Sat. 6th Evening Variety Show and Supper Burnham Hall in aid of the RD Fund.
- Sun. 7th am. Traidcraft Stall Burnham
- Tue. 9th 2.30pm LINK VILLAGES FELLOWSHIP - Mrs. Moya Harris – American Adventure Part 1.

Funerals

Rev. Bill Burrige at Victoria on 6th July.

Rev. Kenneth Derham at Uphill on 6th August.

Births

To Julian & Catherine a son Dylan David Morris born 21st June. A very welcome grandson for Jackie & Dave Morris.

A new Granddaughter for Bridget & Tim Christian. A daughter for Penny named Molly.



OBITUARY

The Rev William Burrige

THE Rev William Burrige, affectionately known as Bill, was born and brought up in a staunch Methodist family in Bletchley. On leaving school he worked first in the office of the London Brick Company and then as a reporter on the local newspaper.

He felt called to preach at the age of 18 and following his accreditation as a local preacher he trained at Westhill for youth work. As a convinced Christian pacifist he had been granted unconditional exemption from military service and was appointed as a lay pastor in Lincolnshire.

After being accepted as a candidate for the Methodist ministry he served for two pre-collegiate years in Abergavenny, where he met Kathleen. His studies continued at Hartley Victoria College, where he made lifelong friendships, particularly through his tea club, "The Cats Whiskers".

After college he returned to South Wales, where he began married life with Kathleen, and it was there that their three children, Elizabeth, Katherine and Francesca, were born. He served in Neath and then in Barry and was also District youth secretary before being stationed in Guernsey. The seven years there were crucial in the development of his special ministry in prayer and healing.

In 1963 he was appointed to Winton in the Bournemouth circuit with a special brief to sell the old Winton church and bring two societies together. Under his inspirational leadership a united congregation was formed and

provided with new and attractive premises for worship and community service. Monthly healing services were at the centre of his nine years' ministry in Winton and provided a natural foundation for his next task. Green Pastures, a Christian Home of Health and Healing, had been opened in 1955 but was now in need of a new director and in 1972 Bill was allowed by Conference to leave circuit ministry to undertake this work. He embarked on a project of new building and refurbishment with his usual enthusiasm and energy and he and Kathleen together developed a ministry of hospitality, prayer and healing which became known throughout the world. Bill was invited to speak in many countries about the healing ministry.

In 1984 Bill officially "sat down" but worked on, bringing new life to Crowe Hill church in the New Forest, near Ringwood. Next door to the chapel, which had six elderly members, was a condemned cottage which had been occupied by the caretaker and, in 1983, it was about to be sold. Bill asked to look at it and was inspired by a vision that the whole place could become a retreat centre for worship) renewal and healing. An appeal for prayer and financial support was launched and within a year £86,000 was raised.

The buildings were renovated, extended and beautifully decorated. Bill and Kathleen were installed as wardens and began a work which still goes on. Today the church membership stands at 50. In 1989 Bill and Kathleen retired again, this time to Somerset, where they could spend more time in the role of grandparents to Francesca's growing boys and visit the rest of their family in Kent and Canada. They were still in demand to help out at Green Pastures from time to time and Bill continued to share his expertise in the healing ministry,

He and Kathleen became valued and loved members of the village congregation in Brent Knoll and for as long as he was able Bill preached in the circuit. His fine voice and presence were in themselves an invitation to worship and his personal prayer life formed the foundation for all that he did.

A loving husband, father, grandfather and minister. Bill was surrounded by love to the end. He died in his 88th year and in the 62nd year of his ministry

Margaret Trapp

THANKS

From Kathleen Burridge

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the many friends of the Link Churches who sent cards and letters of sympathy when my beloved Bill went into the nearer presence of his Lord.

Thank you too for the contributions to M R D F in lieu of flowers.

I have felt wonderfully sustained and upheld by all the love and prayers surrounding me

Kathleen Burridge



The family of the late Winnie Blight.

We would like to thank those friends of the Link Churches for the support and offers of help given at the sudden death of Winnie – Mum, Nana and (great) Nana B.

Mum had not been ill but she had been getting very tired and frail. It was a blessing therefore that her death was so sudden and peaceful.

We have asked that any donations in lieu of flowers should be given to children's charities. Mum has always been associated with children, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Donations will be divided between NCH and the Babe Appeal for the new Children's Hospice and to the local health centre's Medical Equipment Fund.

Thanks to you all.



Organist Wanted

Following the recent death of our Deputy Organist Len Mitchelmore, Burnham Church is now seeking a person to play either the pipe organ, clavichord or piano for our Sunday evening services at 6.30pm. Anyone who is able to offer such services would you please contact Eric Nethercott (Senior Steward) Tel 01278 795119 for further details.

Choir Concert
Burnham Methodist Hall
Friday 21st September at 7.00pm.
Captain Noah & his Floating Zoo
Tickets £5.00 incl. Coffee & Biscuits
In aid of General Church Funds

Hello everyone.

We are having a Variety Show and Supper on Saturday 6th October and we are looking for anyone who has a "talent" they think could be used. If so please get in touch with Rosaleen Anderson or Ann Hall to discuss what you can do.

We would like to feature some from our church plus other friends. Here's hoping some of you can help.

Variety Show and Supper
October 6th
At Burnham Methodist Hall
Tickets on sale now
From JACKIE MORRIS
☎ 785249
Only £7.00

METHODISTS FOR WORLD MISSION
MWM (South West) Conference
9th - 11th November 2007
at
"Sidholme" – Sidmouth

Holy Places

“So much history-so much disconnection”

Speakers:

Jan Sutch Pickard & Rev. David Bull

They are Members of the Iona Community, and recent visitors to Palestine and Israel with the *Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel*. Jan was editor for the Overseas Divn. and Vice Pres of Conference, before becoming Warden of the Iona Community.

Martin John Nicholls,
of Christian Aid, will give an up to date presentation.

Rev. Barbara A Calvert
will lead worship and prayers through the week-end.

Student Guests from M.I.H. Bristol
Will make their own personal contributions.

Further details and Booking Forms from
the secretary Geoff Barraclough
36 Venator Place, Wimborne, Dorset. BH21 1DQ Tel: 01202 841240
or the treasurer Mrs. Vera Rose
2 Lightgate Lane South Petherton. TA13 5AU Tel: 01460 240393

20th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, 2nd September, Victoria Methodist Church, the Circuit is celebrating 20 years of Women's Network, with tea from 4.00p.m., followed by the service at **6.00p.m.**

This is an opportunity for everyone in the Circuit to celebrate the work that Women's Network has done in the past twenty years, building on the earlier efforts of Women's Work and Women's Fellowship – which affect everyone. This work includes the important issues of Domestic Violence, Racial Justice and Human Trafficking – all of which affect men and children as well as women. This goes alongside the pastoral work of enabling, equipping and encouraging women of all ages to take a full part in church family life. Not to mention the thousands of pounds raised for charities worldwide.

This is a Birthday Celebration and families join together to celebrate each other's birthdays, so let us all join together and celebrate this birthday as a Church family – men, women boys and girls – and do what the service proposes, go “Forward Together”.

Di Smart

Women's Network Circuit Secretary.

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Once again it's come around to September and we're looking forward to another session of the Link Villages' Fellowship.

The leaders, Mrs Celia Dewfall, Mrs Christine Thomas, Mrs. Joyce Pipet and Miss Eileen Goundry have met to discuss speakers and hope these will be of interest to everyone.

On Tuesday, September 11th, we shall start in the Church for the Service when as usual we welcome our friends from Milton. The Speaker is to be Revd Stanley Pipet. After this we all adjourn to the Schoolroom for a delicious tea and time of fellowship.

September 25th. will be our Dedication Service in the Church and will be led by Revd Stephen Hill.

On Tuesday, October 9th. Mrs. Moya Harris will give us part one of her American Adventure.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month at 2.30p.m. in the Schoolroom of East Brent Methodist Church and everyone is welcome. Each meeting lasts about an hour and we always conclude with a cup of tea and biscuit. Do come along and join us.
Eileen Goundry.



BURNHAM.

As we come to the end of August and the start of September which heralds the beginning of a new Methodist year, we think of all ministers who will have moved to new appointments or have retired and those who have taken up new positions within their Church or Circuit.

We were all very sad to receive a letter from the Circuit Stewards notifying us that our Superintendent Minister Rev. Terence Young was having to retire on health grounds on 31st August. Our thoughts and prayers continue for Terry and Catherine as they prepare for their future.

We think too of the children as they return to school perhaps a new school or those going to school for the first time, also those leaving home to go to college or university or work, we wish them all well.

On September 16th we shall have our Harvest Festival services when we can give thanks for all the food and flowers we share. On Monday 17th there will be our supper with an auction of the fruits and vegetables.

All the events arranged to raise money have been well supported and we now look forward to hearing that soon we will be able to commence work on phase one. We still need to raise more money, therefore many more events are being planned. Details will be in the Link and Sunday Notices later.

We remember all our friends who are unable to join in worship. We think of those in hospital for an operation, those receiving treatment in hospital or at home and those who are no longer able to get out. You are all remembered in our prayers.

Dorothy.

On behalf of the Stewards.

MONDAY GROUP

Now Wednesday Group

At the AGM of the Monday group it was decided to change the night that we were meeting because a few people were finding it difficult to make that evening. So after discussing it with the group it was decided to change the night to a Wednesday and also to the first week in the month.

This obviously meant a change of name so we will now be known as the Wednesday Friendship Group. We are also hoping that this will enable others who wish to join us to come along and see what a good time we actually have. All will be welcome, men and women. We have some very interesting speakers and also a few good social evenings as well so why not come along and see for yourselves. You will be most welcome.

Rosaleen Anderson on behalf of the Wednesday Group



NCH

The collection taken on NCH Sunday July 8th was £105.00.

On 16th August the Collection at Sanders Garden World raised £235.00.

I would like to thank all those who continue to support the work of NCH.

The next store collection will be at Somerfields on Saturday the 8th September.

Dorothy May.



Jumble Sale

Saturday September 29th 10.00 - 12.00 in the Hall

in aid of the Burnham Redevelopment Fund

Please contact Dorothy May ☎784204

BREAN

Yes it is that time again It seems ages ago since I saw Link report in my diary April in fact. Yes I had a wonderful holiday in Cornwall - not looking around old ruins or joining the crowds in the shops but enjoying nature in all it's wonders - watching dolphins basking in the sea only a few feet away and skylarks rising all around us and watching the sea continually changing colour - blues and greens I am certainly looking forward to the next one. We hope all those who have had a holiday had a lovely time. No doubt the awful floods have stopped a lot of people from going away. We think of them and hope their homes will soon be fit to live in. Thinking of our floods whatever must it be like in India at the moment. Pray that all the help they need will soon reach them.

Coming back to us in the "Link" Churches it has been a sad time having lost a number faithful members. We remember them in love and thanks for lives lived serving our churches in their own way and we remember the loved ones left behind.

There have bright days too and we had one in Brean when we held our fete at St. Bridget's. The weather was super - just right with very warm sun but also a slight breeze blowing. We held it at the back of the church - well stocked tables with all sorts of goods and real bargains too. Also we had half a dozen games for everyone to enjoy - children and adults and as the Church bells rang out to tell the village we were ready for the business it seems the people came from nowhere. It was a wonderful effort - a lot of hard work but well worth it to see the united effort from everyone who helped. We were dog tired at the end but everyone was happy because we felt it was a job well done. We were pleased to see Stephen helping with a game called Rat the Brat. which I understand was not so easy - Rats are not easy the catch!! Also our Vicar Sally and amongst other jobs made sure we had a nice cup tea from time to time. The first count of takings was £750.00. No doubt some will be added to that. On behalf of St. Bridget's folk we say thank you very much to those who is any way helped to make it such a good day and we hope to repeat it in the future.

Efforts like these are great means of strengthening the bonds to which we have committed ourselves in our Ecumenical promises and must be encouraged.

We send all our Best Wishes to our Link friends especially to any who are going through a difficult time and especially need our prayers.

God bless you,

Lilian Stone.



EAST BRENT

There have been fewer of us in the pews on Sunday morning over the last few weeks as various members of our congregation have been on holiday. We hope that they have enjoyed a rest and a change of scene, and look forward to seeing them again. We have been delighted to welcome a few visitors who have been holidaying in the area.

September sees the recommencement of our Church activities and our Harvest Festival. This will be celebrated at our family service on the 23rd of September where we welcome the Brownies and the young people. There will be a chance to purchase any of the produce while enjoying a coffee and chat after the service. The surplus produce will be given to 'The Links' a free church home in Weston.

We were delighted to see the Revd. Stephen Marr in our congregation last Sunday and looking so well. We needed a preacher for the last Sunday in August and are so pleased that Stephen felt that he would be able to take this appointment.

Gwen Oldham is home from hospital but confined to her chair, she looks very well and keeps cheerful. We send her our love and best wishes, and hope that she will soon be back in her usual pew.

Jill Legg

BRENT KNOLL

The summer, if “summer” we can call it, so mixed up has the weather been, is passing rapidly and we shall soon be into the new Methodist year with all the decisions and changes it will bring

We have been deeply saddened by the news that Reverend Terry Young is unable to continue his ministry with us, and we hope and pray that he and Catherine will soon be restored to health and able to enjoy their retirement. Meantime, decisions have to be made concerning the circuit, a heavy responsibility for those directly involved and we pray that they will be given the necessary guidance and wisdom.

At Brent Knoll our August Saturday coffee mornings are under way with support from friends in the village and the Link. If the chatter and laughter are anything to go by then we feel we are providing a happy break in life’s busy schedules.

Our windows are now in place, an excellent reproduction of the old ones so that there is no question of “sticking out like a sore thumb”. It is good to know that mopping-up operations will no longer be required! Our building is now, hopefully, in good trim at least till the next quinquennial.

We were deeply saddened by the death of our dear friend Bill Burridge but rejoice that he and his grieving family are released from the agony of the deterioration during Bill’s last months. We give thanks for the Bill we remember, a fine preacher and a radiantly outgoing personality who was indeed, very special to all who knew him. As a result of the appeal for donations in his memory £1,000 was sent to M R D F, a wonderful tribute to a wonderful man.

We look forward to the resumption of the regular LINK winter programme and to renewing fellowship with all its members.

Barbara Drew,

Minister

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

**The Deadline for the
October 2007 ‘LINK’ is
Sunday 23rd September 2007**

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