
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

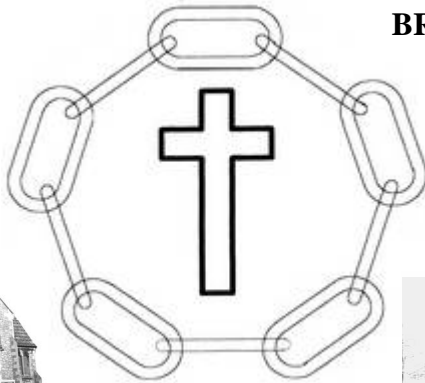
September 2008 Volume 43. No. 7.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



BURNHAM ON SEA



EAST BRENT



WEST HUNTSPILL

Minister's Letter

Greetings to all who belong in the Link and its friends. It feels good to be back.

Many thanks to you all for your prayers and support to me, my family and as Arthur Sach's would have said "and chiefly yourselves" during the time I was recovering from such a major operation. No matter what you felt at the time nothing really prepares you for such an ordeal.

Many thanks to the Link stewards and to Margaret and Joyce for all their work seen and behind the scenes. I know I have much to learn and catch up over the next month also.

We together as a Methodist people begin a new year together. I hope with some excitement rather than foreboding. Ready at times perhaps to face a new challenge or to stand on what is achievable and move forward with mission and conviction in mind.

Facing things as a church is one thing but facing it together with God at the forefront is something incredible indeed. You can't miss the Olympics if you watch the BBC, winning a medal, taking part even being there will be memories to treasure but the greatest honour for any participant is carrying your national flag. The Standard bearer of the Church is Christ himself but can we be faithful and courageous enough to find extra strength, stamina and Christian conviction to follow wherever he leads.

Every Blessing to everyone,

Stephen

Funerals

Vera Bolitho Thanksgiving service at Burnham 15th July
Leonard Dale Burnham - Funeral at Bristol.
Lilian Pearson Thanksgiving service at Burnham 31st July
Cyril Wright Thanksgiving service at Burnham 2nd Sept
Renee Browning Thanksgiving service at Burnham 5th Sept
Ron Bachelor Brent Knoll Died August 13th



CALENDER

AUGUST

Sun. 31st am. Traidcraft Stall in the Hall - Note Change of Date.

SEPTEMBER

Wed. 3rd 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Talk by Age Concern.

Sat 6th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund – Wednesday Group

Tues. 9th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Christine Judson – Milton Ladies Visit.

Sat 13th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

Sat 20th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of Secret World - Burnham Methodist Hall

Sun 21st 10.30 & 6.30 Harvest Festival at Burnham.

Tues. 23rd 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Dedication Service – Rev. Margaret Trapp..

Sat 27th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

OCTOBER

Wed. 1st 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - How the RNLI works.

Sat. 4th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Thursday Fellowship.

Sat. 4th 2.30pm. District Network Service and Induction of Mrs. Joyce Pipet as District President at Victoria.

Sat 11th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning - Burnham Methodist – Everyone Welcome.

Tues. 14th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Rally at St. Andrews, Bournville.

Sat. 18th Evening Supper & Magic Lantern Show Tickets £7.00.



WOMEN'S NETWORK

Thank you to everyone who came to the Tea Party at West Huntspill on 6th August. All but two circuit churches were represented and all three circuit ministers were present. **Wonderful!** We had a very enjoyable afternoon, with visits to the church and graveyard, thanks to John Lamb, for a walk round the countryside, thanks to Christine Thomas, a Bring and Buy table (thanks to Milton Ladies Fellowship) and the opportunity to see a video of the Matthew Rusike Children's Home for which we were raising money. Thank you to the Link Ladies and Gentlemen for providing a splendid tea and for setting and clearing up. It was all very much appreciated.

We thanked Jill Stedman for her contribution as Circuit President for the past three years with a gift and a card from the Committee, and welcomed Pam Pembro as our new President.

The afternoon raised £282, which added to what else we have raised during the year made a contribution of £490 to the District Project. Thank you to everyone.

DISTRICT PROJECT 2008/9

From September we will be raising money for MHA (Methodist Homes for the Aged) in the Bristol District for their chaplaincy work. There is a growing need for this and it is no longer possible for Circuit Ministers to provide all the chaplaincy care required. MHA are very concerned that people's spiritual needs are cared for, hence the need for additional funds. I am very happy to come to a Fellowship meeting and explain in more detail – it needn't take up the whole meeting – but I think it is helpful to know what we are being asked to give money to and for.

A Reminder: On Saturday, 4th October at 2.30p.m. Joyce Pipet will be inducted as District Network President at Victoria Church in Weston. Rev. A. Ward Jones will be preaching and celebrating with other Circuit Ministers. There will be tea afterwards. EVERYONE is welcome. Please come and support Joyce.

Di Smart

Circuit Network Secretary

METHODIST HOMES SUNDAY

A very big thank you to all who contributed to Methodist Homes Sunday. Almost every church in the Circuit responded and I was able to send £595 to MHA (this doesn't include Gift Aid). Thank you all very much indeed.

May I just ask that those who haven't been told, note that I am now the Circuit MHA rep. Thank you.

Di Smart



BURNHAM METHODIST CHURCH

REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

The new foyer extension is now in it's final stage, and we have been able to find a buyer for the church pews which have been removed.

Rev. Robert Channon said that there may be some of our friends in the 'Link' churches or community who may like to 'sponsor' one of the new chairs for the worship area. Perhaps to celebrate a special anniversary, birthday or event.

The chairs are £60 each and anyone who would like to celebrate in this special way would be very welcomed.

Please contact Eric Nethercot on 01278 795119.

Please note: No plaques will be placed on chairs!

Many Thanks.

Eric.



LINK VILLAGES FELLOWSHIP

We are looking forward to the start of our new session of the Link Villages' Fellowship which begins on Tuesday, September 9th. at 2.30p.m. This is the afternoon when we entertain the Ladies from Milton Ladies' Fellowship. The guest speaker will be Rev. Christine Judson from

Highbridge. The service will be followed by a delicious tea in the Schoolroom.

On Tuesday, September 23rd our Dedication Service will be led by Rev. Margaret Trapp.

Members will go to St. Andrews Church, Bournville on October 14th at 2.30p.m.

We are always pleased to welcome new members. We start each meeting with a short period of devotion and usually have an interesting speaker. After this we enjoy a cup of tea and a time of fellowship.

Eileen Goundry.



SUNDAY CLUB

Burnham on Sea Sunday Club will again be filling shoe boxes in the autumn to be sent to Samaritans Purse. We are joining with West Huntspill Primary School as they are a collection point. Samaritans Purse have asked if people could include knitted articles in the boxes this year. They have requested hats, scarves, gloves and hand puppets, as well as the usual sweets, toiletries and toys.

On their website they have knitting patterns for hats and two types of puppets, one of which is so easy some of the children at the school are making a few. If you need a copy of the pattern you can either look at the website <http://www.samaritanspurse.uk.com> or ask Marian Foster for a copy. The website also includes ideas for filling the shoe boxes as well as information on the children it helps.

The boxes need to be filled by the middle of October as they are collected the first week in November.



DO YOU ENJOY SINGING

After a very successful Spring Concert and a well deserved Summer break the Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society will begin rehearsing for a concert at Christmas and next Spring. This season the Society will be conducted by Andrew Davidson, Head of Music at Chilton Trinity School Bridgwater.

New members are assured of a warm welcome to rehearsals, which are enjoyable. All the music is supplied and will be taught! The reading of music is not essential.

Rehearsals begin on Thursday 4th September 7-30 p.m. at the Methodist Church Hall, College Street, Burnham-on-sea, Music is supplied, As well as booking the date now you might wish to ring 01934 732041 if you need more information.



Action for Children (NCH)

The collection at Tesco Store on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd August amounted to £475.00 Many thanks to those members and friends who stood and collected. Also to the Shoppers who gave so generously.

Dorothy May



Magic Lantern Show

See opposite

Saturday Evening October 18th

Burnham Methodist Hall

Tickets £7.00- Show & Supper

From Mrs Ros Anderson Tel 01278 783652



We aim to provide an authentic Victorian/Edwardian entertainment, using original slides & lanterns which would have enthralled an audience long before the advent of cinematography through to the first world war.

**To enhance the beauty of these hand-painted photographic slides, we are indebted to the virtuosity of our pianist -
Mr. Eric Holdaway -
Who is often in the dark -
In more ways than one !**

**You are invited to sing along with Eric and, for certain shows, we are delighted to have our very own guest singer -
Beverley Gregory**

BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

September and the beginning of a new Methodist year. We remember all the changes which take place. All Ministers who have moved to take up appointment in new Circuits and those who are retiring. We think too of all the children and young people. Those children who are beginning their school life, those who are moving up to new classes and also all those who have completed their education and are commencing work. Then there are those who are leaving home to take their place at university or college. We wish everyone happiness and success.

In Burnham we too are seeing changes. The new entrance to the church is nearing completion and there are many people saying how good it is looking. Inside the church there is change too. The pews have been sold and taken out, so for a while our services will be held in the Hall.

On September 21st we shall have our Harvest Festival Services. This is a time when we give thanks for all our food and flowers which give so much pleasure. The weather this year has caused lots of problems and all gardeners are saying what a bad time it has been.

During July and August we have had some further money raising events. These have all been a happy time of fellowship in addition to raising money. Many thanks to all who have arranged these and to everyone who has supported.

Since our last Link Magazine we have had five members of our congregation pass away. These were, in July, Vera Bolitho, Leonard Dale and Lily Pearson and on Friday, August 22nd Cyril Wright and Renee Browning. We continue to remember their families.

We continue to remember in our prayers all who are ill and housebound.

On behalf of everyone we are very pleased to welcome Stephen back after his successful operation and period of recuperation.

Dorothy,

On behalf of the Stewards team.

BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT

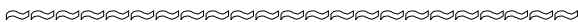
MONEY RAISED BY MEMBERS		<u>£105,432.40</u>
In July: Coffee Morning Choir	£85.16	
Gift JFP	£100.00	
Hilary Wotton Coffee Morning	£153.45	
Mothers' and Toddlers	£50.00	
T. & J Bishop Coffee Morning	£92.00	= £480.61
OTHER MONEY		<u>£ 50,084.62</u>
Includes £4,000 from Circuit		
<u>TOTAL £155,517.02</u>		

Our grateful thanks to all who during July and August have held money raising events for the Redevelopment of the Property. These have also included the Kitchen Equipment.

The times we have shared have been great times of fellowship and friendship: To Hilary Wotton, Tony and Joyce Bishop, Daphne Hill, Dorothy and Cedric May, Ros Anderson, Eric and Elsie Horsley. "Thank You for opening your homes". A Gift has also been received for chairs.

We are now able to see the new frontage of the Church and many pleasing comments continue to come our way. We look forward to the continued improvement inside with the opening shortly, of the new entrance and work on the Kitchen and the Church commencing (the pews now having been sold and removed).

Joyce Plumb



Ellens Cottages

There are two vacant sets of accommodation at Ellen's Cottages. There have been changes in the conditions for occupation eg. The age of 60 is no longer a necessary condition. Anyone interested please phone Mr. Brian Bell, Clerk to the Trustees, on Tel. 783502 or write to 12 Cross St. TA8 1PF

BREAN

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

It is nice to have a break from routine some time but when it means no link to read for two months we are always glad when the time comes to get it again to hear what everyone has been doing. It seems the main thing most of us have been doing is grumbling about the weather so I will refrain from mentioning it except to say how sorry we feel for the people on holiday. So many had to cut them short because of flooded fields and others were cancelled.

The other topic of conversation was the visit of the Children's choir. Weren't they great? They must have been worn out by the end of their visit As I mentioned in June we were going to join with St. Bridget's to hear them at St. Mary's. What an inspiration they were. Church was full with children sitting on the floor of the isle and as we listened to them I'm sure it brought tears to more than one persons eyes. Best wishes and blessing to the folk who saw the need of the children and not only taught them to sing but also brought them to the Christian Faith.

This year seems to have flown by and now in August our thoughts turn to the Harvest season. We are holding our Harvest Service on September 21st when Rev. Pam Pembro will be leading it.

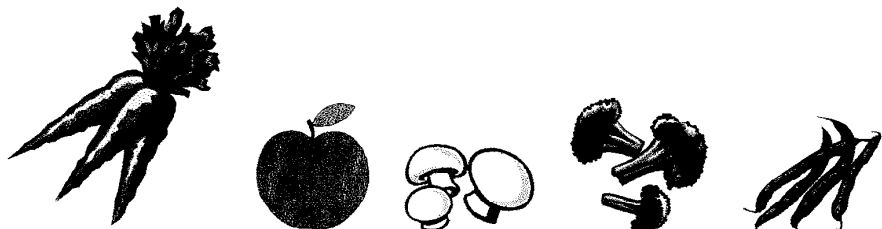
Like some other churches we have had a slight problem this summer with the absence of an organist. It is a very busy time for our organist but thanks to the modern age in which we live we can solve the problem. Thanks to our friends at Brent Knoll who told us of a wonderful system they have installed and which we now also possess - nothing seems impossible these days of technology. By pressing a few switches and dialling the hymn number - hey presto anyone would think the organist had arrived. Another problem solved. We have not forgotten those who are poorly or going through a difficult time and remember you all in our prayers

Lilian Stone.



WEST HUNTSPILL

You are invited to:



WEST HUNTSPILL METHODIST CHURCH

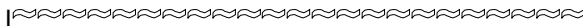
HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES

SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2008

11am Service led by Revd Stephen Hill

*6-30pm Service led by Revd Sam Thuraiajah
from Churchill*

Refreshments & Sale of Produce after evening service



BRENT KNOLL

As we come to the close of another Methodist year, we look back on the last twelve months and we wonder about the year ahead. Asking ourselves how best we can play our part in the work of the Circuit and what we need to do to make our presence in the village more attractive to the people around us. It is easy to feel discouraged and give up but we know we must press on.

It is good news that our Minister Stephen has overcome his health problem and is now sufficiently fit to resume duties in September. We pray that all will go well for him during this last year with us and in his plans for the future. We thank God for Margaret's unfailing care and for her ministry to us during Stephen's absence and should like to feel that she's now going to give herself a break - but doubt it, knowing her as we do and her devotion to her calling.

Our August coffee mornings have been very happy occasions though not as well attended as we had hoped. Life in Brent knoll village offers many alternative attractions and competition is severe, but we have welcomed friends from other churches and are especially grateful to East Brent for faithful support.

We look forward to another successful season for our Mothers and Toddlers, and for our Youth Clubs. Dates will be publicized as soon as available.

On a sad note, we have lost a number faithful member, making it three since Christmas. Ron Bachelor died on August 13th in the Towans, following a severe heart attack. Since the death of his wife about 18 months ago, Ron had found life increasingly pointless and irksome, but he retained his interest in the chapel and always loved to have visits from Margaret and our members. We shall miss him.

We shall be starting the New Year with the hope that we can rest on our laurels, for a while, as far as the building is concerned. The schoolroom, vestry and vestibule have all been redecorated, giving a bright cheery welcome to all who enter. It has made a big difference.

Our greetings to all our friends in the Link,
Barbara Drew.

EAST BRENT

We recently had a “local arrangement” Sunday and Jill Legg and Evelyn Tucker had worked hard to make it a very enjoyable and thought provoking service even though the congregation was few in number.

Attendance at East Brent has been lower than usual during the summer as members go on their holidays or have other commitments and it was mooted that perhaps we should close during August. This suggestion was not seriously considered however!

At East Brent we often seem to be regularly discussing how to attract people to come along and join our little church. I am sure this must be a constant debate in other churches as well.

Although many people do not profess to be religious or attend church they are often drawn back to our churches at the important stages in their lives or at times of trouble.

I have been lucky enough to be invited to five weddings this year (it must be my age!) Interestingly all of them are taking place in a church even though the families involved are not all church goers. You could say that the participants are looking for a beautiful venue but these days you can be married in so many lovely buildings and unusual settings.

Wedding No. 1 and Wedding No. 2 were quite different but both were lovely family occasions and the participants had obviously worked very hard to make the day very special and memorable.

Wedding No. 3 was in Ely Cathedral which was a very grand setting. However the service was still very personal as several family members took part. The marriage ceremony took place in a smaller part of the Cathedral which was closed to the public for the duration but they were still allowed in the main body of the building. The bride and groom left the Cathedral via the knave and the guests followed on behind. This felt very grand as the tourists stood to one side and watched! I was quite surprised by the number of visitors to the Cathedral who were just sitting and listening to the service and organ music and also enjoying the happy occasion. It also struck me how many people are sufficiently interested in religious buildings and drawn to them enough to visit them when they are on holiday.

When there is a tragedy in our country one of the first things to be organised is a Memorial Service as again people need our churches as a focus and to give them some comfort while they grieve. Alternatively, on happy occasions there may be a Service of Thanksgiving.

By the time you read this I will have been to Wedding No. 4 which is taking place in a village church on the Dorset/Somerset border and maybe even Wedding No. 5 which is in Yorkshire. Due to the travelling, once again Andrew and I will be missing from our own congregation on that weekend.

During all of these weddings I have been taking notes as our son is getting married in August 2009 and yes, he was christened at East Brent and attended our Sunday School and he and his fiancée have chosen to be married in a small village church in Wiltshire!

I will close with the following verse which was apparently seen in a church porch:

When you were born your parents brought you here
When you were married your partner brought you here
When you die your friends will bring you here
Why not try coming on your own sometime?

Rosemary Gilling.



By now most of our summer will be over although we haven't had as good weather as we would have wished for, and therefore most of us haven't had as good a crop of fruit and vegetables as usual. But we must be thankful we aren't living in a country where if the weather isn't right and the crops fail it means starvation.

My husband and I have just returned from holiday in a small village called Wengen in Switzerland which can only be reached by a cog railway. It was eighteen years when we went before. As our holiday approached I wondered if the small English speaking church which I then attended would still be there. It was and on the Sunday morning I went along to the service and was amazed at how full it was, not one seat was empty.

I realised then that probably holiday makers look forward to coming to our churches and how important to them it is that we are still open and there to welcome them

Our harvest will soon be upon us and that is always a time of year to be thankful for all our blessings

God be with you all,

Ruth Moxey.

Minister

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

**The Deadline for the
October 2008 ‘LINK’ is
Sunday 21st September 2008**

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Please contact the Editor if you would like one.**

If you do not have the ‘LINK’ regularly and would like to do so, please fill in the slip and hand to a Steward. or send to the Editor.

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