
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

September 2010 Volume 45. No. 7.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

As I write I notice the signs that summer is beginning to draw to a close and Autumn is just around the corner: the days are beginning to get shorter, the leaves are turning yellowish and the fruits are forming on the trees. The sunshine seems to have deserted us at present but hopefully we'll get some more before the summer finally passes away for another year.

At this time we look forward to a new year in both the Methodist and Academic worlds. As the holiday season draws to a close there will be many who are looking forward with hope, joy and perhaps some anxiety, to starting new phases of life at new schools, colleges, universities and places of work. This is also the time of year when many Methodist Ministers move to new stations and begin work in new circuits, students leaving college go out as Probationers and retiring Ministers "sit down" to become Supernumeraries. We wish them all well and hold them in our prayers.

Before that though Julie and I will be off to the Greenbelt Festival which is held over the bank holiday weekend at Cheltenham race course. What is Greenbelt? It is an amazing mix of music, talks, workshops, theatre, exhibitions and displays all rooted in Christian tradition. 21,000 people will attend the Festival over the weekend and many, like us, will be camping on the race course. It is difficult to give an accurate description because so much goes on all at the same time and you have to experience it to get the full flavour. This is my 20th year and I never fail to come away inspired and renewed spiritually. I would urge you, if you haven't experienced it to pop up for a day and see what it's all about¹.

In the mean time, as we begin a new Methodist year on the 1st September, I wish you all a Happy New Year and God's Blessings for the coming months.

Best Wishes

Rev Andrew



¹ <http://www.greenbelt.org.uk/>

CALENDAR

AUGUST

Sat. 28th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
 Mon. 30th 2.00pm. HOSPITAL FETE in Manor Gardens

SEPTEMBER

Wed. 1st 2.00pm B/H Wed Group outing for cream tea in the Quantocks.
 Sat. 4th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Choir
 Sun.5th 4.00pm. B/H Messy Church Rev. Andrew Biggs
 Tue 7th 7.30pm. B/H Worship Consultation.
 Wed 8th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch Club
 Sat 11th 7.00pm. Gospel Concert - The Gloucester and District Choir at Church of St Peter and All Hallows, West Huntspill
 Sat 11th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
 Sun. 12th 3.30pm. Churches Together Concert St John's Highbridge - West End performers, Philip Lee and Aaron Romano.
 Tue 14th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Milton Ladies visit – Rev. Geoffrey Fenton.
 Wed 15th 2.30pm B/H Stewards meeting at the Manse.
 Sat 18th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of Singing Children of Africa - All Welcome
 Sun. 19th B/H HARVEST
 Sun. 19th 7.30pm. LAST Day for items for the October LINK
 Wed 22nd 7.30pm. B/H Pastoral Meeting
 Sat 25th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
 Sun. 26th 10.30am. B/K Harvest Thanksgiving Service - Rev Pam Pembro.
 Tue 28th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Dedication Service – Rev. Andrew Biggs.
 Tue.28th 10.00am. B/H Property Meeting Burnham

OCTOBER

Sat. 2nd 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund – Wednesday Group
 Sun. 3rd 4.00pm. B/H Messy Church Rev. Andrew Biggs
 Sat 9th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
 Tue 12th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Mary Burgess – Puppets.
 Wed 13th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch Club
 Sat 16th 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Coffee Morning in aid of Singing Children of Africa - All Welcome
 Thur 21st 7.30pm. CIRCUIT MEETING at Brean (Not East Brent)
 Fri. 22nd 2.30pm. B/H Stewards meeting at the Manse.
 Sat 23rd 10.00 - 12.00. B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning All Welcome
 Tue. 26th 7.30pm. B/H Church Council

B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent, W/H West Huntspill.

Burnham Methodist Church Website.

After the paragraph in the last issue of the LINK we are pleased to announce that the web site is back on line with a New Web Hosting company. Please note the address is still the same as before.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

Editor.



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Our A.G.M. was led by Rev. Andrew Biggs. Unfortunately, Mrs. Joyce Pipet was unable to be present so Eileen Goundry reviewed the past year. The leaders and tea hostesses were thanked. Mrs Pipet stepped down as Leader and Eileen Goundry stepped up. Mrs. Christine Thomas was re-elected as new Leader. At the close of the business, Revd Andrew Biggs conducted Communion.

On July 6th, several members went to West Huntspill for a social afternoon with tea. Several varied games were played. Those who went said what a very enjoyable afternoon it had been.

OUR NEW session starts on Tuesday, September 14th. when as usual we shall entertain the Ladies from Milton Fellowship. The Speaker will be Rev. Geoffrey Fenton. Following this we shall adjourn to the Schoolroom for tea.

We shall have our Dedication Service on Tuesday, September 28th. it will be led by Rev. Andrew Biggs.

On Tuesday, October 12th. Rev. Mary Burgess will be our Speaker on Puppets.

Mrs. Janet Cryer will tell us about Hearing Dogs for Deaf People on October 26th.

We are always pleased to welcome new members to our meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of each month in the Schoolroom of East Brent Methodist Church. Each meeting starts with a short service and ends with a welcome cup of tea and biscuits.

Eileen Goundry

Messy Church

Burnham's Messy Church continues to go well. Our next meeting is on Sunday 5th September at 4pm when we will be looking at the story of Joshua. You are welcome to come and join us, and if you have some children to bring we can guarantee them a fun afternoon. (No unaccompanied children please). We will continue to meet on the first Sunday of the month at 4pm for crafts and activities, with worship at 5pm and tea to finish.



To anyone who has an iPhone, did you realise that there is a FREE Methodist Church Application for it, that you can download from iTunes? It features a daily prayer from the Prayer Handbook and also a Bible Study section - it's really cool! I love it! Yes, I know we still can carry our pocket Gideons (as I do) but it's so great to see this modern approach too.

Best wishes,

Alison Crowther-Smith'



Churches Together

SWYM update & Concert

This month sees the launch of the 'SWYM Highbridge & Burnham Project' which is aiming to raise £12,000 to fund trainee Youth workers for next September.

The SWYM committee will be arranging events throughout the year which we will be asking you to support. However, we are also asking all the individual churches in the area to find their own ways to contribute. Please consider whether your church or group could give a donation, or run an event to support the project. If you need more information just ask.

Our first event is a concert given by accomplished West End performers, Philip Lee and Aaron Romano. They will be singing an inspirational mix of contemporary, classic and show tunes in what should be a highly enjoyable afternoon.

The concert will take place on Sunday 12th September, 3.30pm at St. John's church, Highbridge. There is no admission charge, but donations will be invited to launch the SYWM project. We really hope you are able to come.

Julie Biggs (SWYM project group member)

Sponsored Knit in aid of Arthritis Research.

Our annual Sponsored Knit-in was held on Thursday July 8th. We had a happy hour Knitting and chatting which resulted in raising £261.50 for the Arthritis Research Council who are most appreciative of our support.

Iris Hodgkinson.

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I awoke!-  
And stood before the dawn of day  
Letting nights dark shadows – still –  
With moonlight play  
And these – before the night should fade  
A myriad, shining point of light  
As far as human eye can scan  
I saw the stars  
Such beauty-  
Part of Gods eternal plan.  
Tis said “That midst all this-  
Only man is vile”  
Which gives us pause - to rest  
And think awhile  
Why us?  
Is it choice or duty?  
That we alone.-  
Can appreciate’  
Gods gift to us  
Of universal beauty.

BJH 15.6.10

~~~~~

Just a thought

"O would some power the giftie gie us
to see ourselves as others see us"

Robert Burns

I'm a Senior Citizen

I'm very good at telling stories... ..over and over and over.
I'm the life and soul of the party - even when it lasts as late as 8pm.
I'm the first one to find the bathroom wherever I go.
I'm awake at least three hours before my body allows me to get up.
I'm usually interested in getting home before I get to where I'm going.
I'm wrinkled, saggy and lumpy - and that's just my left leg.
I'm able to keep in touch with friends through the obituary columns.
I'm a storehouse of knowledge but, nobody asks me the questions.
I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a word you are saying.

Dennis Dixon



Mixed blessing

After years of suffering from impaired hearing, a man was finally given a new hearing aid that allowed him to hear perfectly.
Monitoring his patient's progress, the doctor remarked
"I'm sure your family are delighted that at last you can hear again"
The old man said: I haven't told them yet. I just sit around and listen to their conversations.
I've changed my will five times in the last two months"



Top of the range

An old man was excitedly telling his friend about his new hearing aid
"It's the best on the market," he enthused, "It wasn't cheap mind but worth every penny".

"What kind is it?" asked his friend.

"Half past three"

Methodist Toddler Group Report 2009/10

Name Methodist Toddler Group

We are a church outreach group serving all of our community and embrace equality and diversity.

Aims

To provide a social setting where mums, dads, and carers can support each other and their pre-school children in a safe environment

To encourage adults and children to have fun and be a friendly welcoming inclusive group.

To encourage children to mix, learn, and share through play and various activities as a stepping stone to school.

Activities

Provision of large assortment of age appropriate and safe toys, soft toys, books, ride on toys, prams, slide, swing, tent, educational toys, puzzles.

Craft activities

Various age appropriate seasonal, topical, and festive craft activities are offered with staff support throughout the year.

Table top activities and simple play crafts e.g. play doh are available every week.

Festivals/Church involvement

At present we have a Christmas service in the church each year followed by a party with Father Christmas.

Information on all appropriate church activities including festivals, Sunday club, and messy church are given to parent/carers attending our group.

Session entrance fee

Parent/carers are asked to pay £1 per group/family this includes unlimited refreshments from 9.45am to 11.00am.

Health & Safety

Risk assessments covering six areas have now been completed one of which was mentioned in the minutes of the church council meeting 15-6-10.

R.A. documents available to read on request.

Paul Creswick (Organiser) now represents “Methodist Toddler Group” on the church council.

H&S sign has also been generated to compliment R.A on hot drinks.
Some R.A. affects the wider use and users of the church.

Outreach awareness.

The Methodist Toddler Group and all information about it including mission statement is now advertised permanently in -:

Weekly News. Burnham library. www.burnhamparenting.co.uk

burnhamonseamethodistchurch.org. Burnham & Highbridge monthly paper.

Charity

Our chosen charity is at present Toy Box this charity supports street children in Latin America.

A new charity may be supported in the future. This would seem a good and fair thing to do.

Fair Trade products are used within the group where possible.

Future aspirations.

The “Methodist Toddler Group” is already a good model and needs few changes which are a credit to present and past teams, but we as a team have aspirations and are always looking for ways to improve our outreach service to the community.

Attendance 2009-2010

The number of parents attending over 33 week period =533

The number of children attending over 33 week period =719

The total number of people attending over 33 week period =1252

The average number of people attending each week =39

Present Staffing

There are at present five volunteers including one person From Huntspill Projects who is on a work placement.

Paul and Sheila Creswick

September 2010

'SINGING IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL'

'It is very therapeutic' - How about joining the friendly

Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society

We meet on Thursdays in the Methodist Church Hall, B.O.S.

Between September and March

Preparing for a **Carol Concert** and a **Spring Concert**.

New Members for all sections are made welcome,
especially **Tenors and Basses**.

Just ring 01934 732041 for more details ready for

7.30pm September 9th or just come along.

BEV HEARN Chairman



Harry's Column

HE WILL SIT LIKE A REFINER OF SILVER "Malachi 3:3 NLT

Are you in the refiner's fire today? If you are don't rebel or try to run away, just sit still and let the refiner do His work. The Bible says: 'He will sit like a refiner of silver, burning away the dross. He will purify [them], refining them like gold and silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the Lord.' A woman who read this verse at a Bible study wanted to know how it related to her walk with God, so she made an appointment with the silversmith. Without mentioning anything other than a general interest in the process, she sat and observed him work. She watched as he held the silver over the fire, explaining that in order to burn away every impurity he had to keep it in the middle where it was hottest. She asked him if he usually sat in front of the fire the entire time. 'Yes,' he replied, 'not only do I have to hold it, I must watch it if I leave it there too long it will be destroyed.' After thinking about that for a while she asked, 'How do you know when the process is complete?' Smiling, he replied, 'That's easy; I see my face reflected in it.'

If you're in the refiner's fire today, remember a) He knows what He's doing, so trust Him b) He won't allow you to be destroyed by the circumstances, or take His eye off you c) when the process is complete, you'll be more like Jesus and less like your old self. Isn't that what you want? Isn't that what you've prayed for?

**GUILTY OF
PLENTY**

READ:

1 Timothy 1:12-17

The grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant.

1 Timothy 1 - 14

The Bible in one year:

Job 5-7

Acts 8:1-25

A man was filling out a job application when he came to the question "Have you ever been arrested?" He wrote "No" The next question, intended for people who had answered "Yes" to the previous question, was "Why?" The applicant answered it anyway: "I never got caught," He evidently knew he was guilty of plenty!

So was the apostle Paul. He knew he had personally done wrong and sinned against God. He wrote, "I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man" (1 Tim- 1:13)-He even called himself the "chief of sinners (v.15).

We too were once separated from the Lord because of our sin and were considered His enemies (Rom. 5:10; Col.1:21). But when we confessed our sin and acknowledged our need for His forgiveness. He cleansed us and made us new.

Those of us who have known the Lord for many years may have the tendency to forget what we've been rescued from and forgiven of. Sharing about our past and current failures and giving praise to God for forgiveness will help us not to come across as "holier-than-thou" to people who don't yet know the Lord.

The truth is we've all been guilty of plenty, and God deserves the glory for His mercy toward us. –

Anne Cetas

All that we were -- our sins, our guilt,

Our death -- was all our own;

All that we are we owe to Thee,

Thou God of grace, alone. –Bonar

Grace is everything for those who deserve nothing.



BREAN

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

Happy New (Methodist) Year everyone. September is the start of the annual (merry) go round. New thoughts, new endeavours, new excitement!!! Well isn't that what it ought to be anyway?

Our roof and ceiling, and all the ancillary bits and pieces of decoration required by the quinquennial have now been completed and we gave thanks for all that during a service that Rev Andrew took recently. Our thanks too to Margaret and Anne Hicks for overseeing all the works that have taken place.

We have been blessed by a continuing number of visitors. How they help to encourage us during the summer months!

Now, as the autumn is advanced we have restarted the Monday coffee mornings for our resident population. They will now be called CAMEO – in other words Come and Meet Each Other. It is our way of reaching out into our neighbourhood in a non-pressured way. (And a welcome awaits you too if you are nearby.) Archbishop Rowan Williams quotes Father Antony one of the Desert Fathers of the third and fourth centuries; in spite of their self imposed exile they knew the value of neighbourliness:

Our life and our death is with our neighbour; if we win our brother, we win God; if we cause our brother to stumble, we have sinned against Christ.

In neighbourliness we share our food, for it's Harvest Festival this month; more reason to put on weight, I guess. And then you reflect – how would those struggling with the floods in Pakistan, love just a fraction of what we eat to excess! The annual go round is not so merry when you think of their suffering.

Harvey Allen

BRENT KNOLL

Once again we enter this beautiful season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, and we are reminded that in Methodism, it will soon be time to prepare for the start of our New Year in September. Groups that have had their summer break re-start, and we look forward to our Harvest Thanksgiving weekends. As we thank God for the generosity of his fruitful creation, we are fully aware of the terrible situations in both Pakistan and China due to floods, with so many hungry people in need, how can we with so much, share with those in need? Food for thought!!!

As in previous years, we have opened our door for coffee and refreshments on August Saturday mornings, and we appreciate very much those Link members who have made the effort to join with us in fellowship. All proceeds this year will go to M.R.D.F. Pakistan Appeal.

Our little chapel has had a 'facelift' during the holidays, both inside and out, and everything looks very fresh and clean, we are thankful for all who helped to make this possible.

Harvey (Brean) raised some very interesting questions in last issue of Link magazine. Perhaps humankind has not lost confidence in the eternal message of God's love and care, but has lost confidence in the Church itself in expressing that love? Just a thought, as so many say they 'believe' but see no point in coming to worship? Many churches are celebrating 'Back to Church Sunday' on 26th September, a concept that calls us to simply take a moment to invite someone we know who used to come to church, to return. We also ensure they are made to feel welcome and included.

Many in our fellowship have been unwell in recent weeks, and we send warm greeting to those who are unable to come to church due to frailty or poor health. We do miss you, and remember you in our prayers with love, best wishes.

Our own Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on 26th September at 10.30, led by Rev Pam Pembro, and we warmly welcome everyone to our special day.

June Nethercot.

EAST BRENT

We have had a variety of weather this year, starting off with snow and hard frosts which resulted in all the potholes in the roads, later we had a very dry spell when most of our lawns had brown patches, We then had some lovely sunshine, when we thought at last we were going to have a good old fashioned English summer, but unfortunately it didn't last long. Then came the rain when the children were on holiday.

“Through all the changing scenes of life”

We all survived though because that is how nature is and in the end it all seems to come right.

My husband and I have had varied holidays this year, we went to Italy in June and saw Herculaneum and Pompeii and walked to the top of Vesuvius and saw the crater. Then later in July we went to Scotland and took a trip to Mull and Iona and saw the Abbey where they still hold services, a lovely peaceful place.

Among all this though are the awful tragedies that occur, the earthquakes and the floods, and there is so little we can do to help those affected ,but let us hope they can find comfort and peace from their religion, and give them hope for the future as we all need to do when a personal tragedy hits us.

We must now look forward to the autumn and the rest from the garden chores.

God bless you all.

Ruth Moxey

BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

So here we are at the start of another Methodist year and a whole year since Andrew and Julie came to join us in Burnham on Sea. While I think it has been a challenging year for them I hope it has been rewarding and enjoyable too.

The introduction of Messy Church is proving to be a growing success. The children (and parents) who attend the activity and church sessions (not forgetting the gathering together for the tea that follows) are deriving great enjoyment from all we have to offer and are being introduced to stories from the Bible and learning also that worship is fun and relevant to them. We want to nurture our families and pray that our numbers keep on increasing.

It has been interesting to meet the many summer visitors to our church. Every week there are new faces in the congregation, some who have holiday homes in the area and return to worship with us on more than one occasion. A very interesting (and interested visitor) was a young man from the Czech Republic. He had been to the service at the Catholic Church and came into our church just as the last people were leaving after morning service. He had a good look round and took some photographs and after talking to him for a while we invited him to join us for the 6.30 service which would be the presentation service to celebrate Jean Le Sueur's 60 years as a local preacher. Karel (I think that's the correct spelling of his name) thought about it and asked that if there was to be a presentation would there be hymns and prayers as well. Assured that there would be he said he would be delighted to come. He duly came and after the service I asked him if he had enjoyed our service. I loved his reply – he said that he really appreciated – “the gentle jokes”. What a lovely response!

Another visitor was also a young man who last visited 15 years ago and had been encouraged by Tim Christian as a 16 year old to take up playing the organ. He had taken Tim's advice and is now the church organist and steward at Handforth Methodist Church in Cheshire. A self-confessed “organ freak” (his words – not mine!) he came down to our circuit to play as many organs as he could in his day trip and he finished up at Burnham. (I did try to entice him here

as our resident organist but as ours was the fourth offer he had had that day, and as he is very happy at Handforth, I think our chances are remote.) He has offered to come back to Burnham in December and play some suitable Christmas music during one of our open coffee mornings – (date to be arranged) – so do come along to hear him play – he is very good!

I hope you are all enjoying the summer time. Mixed weather I know but at least it's warm. To those of you in the Link who have not been able to enjoy the warmth because you are unwell and may have been in hospital, especially Joyce Plumb and John Le Sueur, we all send our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery and a return to full health.

Oh, I almost forgot – the Burnham choir intends to raise money for a practical memorial to our much-loved Tim Christian. We are going to publish a cook-book which will hopefully be on sale for Christmas. If you have a favourite recipe you would like to donate to the book we would be most happy to receive it.

Blessings to you all.

Ann Hall.

(on behalf of the Burnham Stewards)



The Church Lunch Club

It will continue monthly on the second Wednesday of each month. The two course meal, followed by tea or coffee, will be served in the Burnham Methodist Church hall. There is a limit of 20 people and tickets must be obtained in advance to avoid wastage.

September 8th the menu is Pork, Roast potatoes and vegetables. Sweet Pineapple upside down pudding & Custard. Tickets £5.00 from Daphne Hill or Joan Wilkins.

BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT FUND

We express our grateful thanks to those who organised and hosted money raising events during July and August. These were great times of fellowship and friendship and much appreciated by all who supported.

Gardner's Question Time,	£260.50
Strawberry Tea - Dorothy and Cedric May,	£305.65
Coffee Morning - Joy and Tony Bishop,	£112.00
Coffee Morning - Daphne Hill,	£140.00
Open Gardens,	£408.00

Watch the Church Notices for further events.

Christmas Fair. Provisional date Saturday November 28th.

Pudding Evening

Fashion Show.

Can we make a sustained effort to clear the balance of approx. £2,000 as soon as possible? Thank you. Joyce Plumb.



Sweetland festival

Did you know that the organ at Burnham was made by the Bath organ builder William Sweetland? St. Michael's Without Church in Bath are holding a festival to mark the centenary of his death including an exhibition and a series of concerts.

The festival runs from 18th – 25th September. More information can be found at www.bathcelebrities.com or I can let you know more.

Julie Biggs

Minister

Rev. Andrew Biggs, 28A Caernarvon Way. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2DQ
andrew.biggs@bristolalumni.org.uk Tel. (01278) 782306

Editors

Cedric & Dorothy May, 6 Brightstowe Road. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2HW
cedric.may@btinternet.com Tel. (01278) 784204

Web Sites

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

**The Deadline for the
October 2010 “LINK” is
Sunday 19th September 2010**

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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.
Price £3.00 per annum. Inland **Post £4.00** per annum.

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