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# THE LINK

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**Methodist Link Churches Magazine**



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**April 2007 Volume 42. No. 3.**

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## Minister's Letter

# Easter Greetings

Dear Family

For Catherine and I this is going to be our first Easter in Weston-super-Mare. Always a favourite season. All our gardens and the fields around us will be full of new life; a reminder to us that new life is to be found in Jesus.

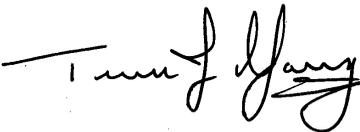
This most important of Christian festivals celebrates the central tenets of our faith: the life and death of Jesus, his resurrection and glorification. At the end of the Easter season is the celebration of his continued presence amongst us in the gift of the Holy Spirit.

It is a season full of joy and surrounded with mystery. Impossible to know exactly what took place or how but undeniably an event which has shaped the world ever since and has deeply influenced the daily lives of Christ's followers; drawing from them deep commitment and lifelong service.

Commitment strong enough to entice people to lay down their lives and service profound enough to move others and change the society in which we live. In our modern age and Western reticence, when fanaticism is so unpopular, it is difficult to imagine the power with which many have lived their Christian lives.

It is a power that is derived from a message known and felt by the Church: that Christ *is* risen, he *is* alive! That central item of faith has empowered the saints, inspired the reformers and encouraged our preachers. It is a tenet of faith that can, and should, empower, inspire and encourage us as we serve our Lord and Master.

God bless you and have a glorious Easter.



## Cover Planned for Stephen's Sabbatical

For Pastoral needs the first call is on each Church own members contact the Senior Steward.

In more serious cases each Church should call on the following people in the in the order given.

In cases of serious emergency at unsociable hours the first call should be a member of the full time staff. |For all other matters of Church business the point of call is the full time member of staff and the senior steward.

### **Burnham**

1. Joyce Plumb
2. Margaret Trapp
3. Terry Young

### **East Brent**

1. Stephen Marr
2. Robert Channon

### **Brent Knoll**

1. Margaret Trapp
2. Joyce Plumb
3. Carol Gill

### **Brean**

1. Stanley Pipet
2. Terry Young

### **West Huntspill**

1. Joyce Plumb
2. Margaret Trapp
3. Carol Gill



### **Births**

Georgina Margaret White 16<sup>th</sup> March. A Granddaughter for Mrs. Val James (Burnham)

### **Deaths**

Gilbert Dibble a life long member at Brent Knoll.



## CALENDER

### **MARCH**

- Sat. 24th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.  
Sat. 24th 7.30pm. B. & H. Choral Soc. Annual Concert at St. Andrew's Church.  
Tues. 27th 2.30pm. The LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs Judith Champion - My Art Work.  
Sat. 31st 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.

### **APRIL**

- Sun. 1st am. **Traidcraft Stall in the Hall**

Sun. 1st	10.30am	<b>Palm Sunday "It's a Miracle" presentation by the Choir at Burnham.</b>
Sun. 1st	3.00pm.	<b>Service at the Crosses on Brent Knoll</b>
Sun. 1st	4.00pm. App	<b>Service at Brent Knoll Methodist Church</b>
Mon. 2nd	8.00pm.	<b>Monday Group</b> - An evening with June Nethercot.
Thur. 5th	2.30pm.	THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP - Councillor Denis Davey - A year as Mayor at Burnham & H/bridge.
Thur. 5th	7.00pm	<b>Mauddy Thursday</b> Communion in the Schoolroom.
Fri. 6th	10.30pm	<b>Good Friday</b> Service - Rev. Stanley Pipet.
Sat 7th	10.00 -12.00	Coffee Morning in aid of Redevelopment Fund
<b>Easter Day</b>		
Sun 8th	8.00am.	Holy Communion - Rev. Stanley Pipet.
	10.30am.	Holy Communion - Rev. Joyce Plumb.
	6.30pm.	Rev. Terence Young
Tues. 10th	2.30pm.	The LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Christine Nelmes.
Sat. 14th	10.00 - 12.00	<b>SCF</b> Coffee Morning and Stalls
Mon. 16th	7.30pm.	Circuit Men's Supper Club - Michael Horseman on the A.39 between Bath and Falmouth
Tues. 17th	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning at Hilary Wotton's. 11 Eastleigh Close
Thur. 19th	2.30pm.	THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP - Mrs Joyce Beard – QUIZ.(SALES TABLE)
Sat. 21st	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.
Sun. 22nd		<b>LAST Day for items for the May LINK</b>
Tues. 24th	2.30pm.	The LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs Hase – Victorian Holidays
Sat. 28th	10.00 - 12.00	Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.
<b>MAY</b>		
Thur. 3rd	2.30pm.	THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP - Mr. John Coombes – Video of St. Andrew's Church Sculptures.
Sat. 5th	10.00 -12.00	Coffee Morning in aid of Redevelopment Fund
Sun. 6th	am.	<b>Traidcraft Stall in the Hall</b>
Tues. 8th	2.30pm.	The LINK Villages Fellowship - Network at Milton.
Tues. 8th	2.30pm.	Women's Network Easter Offering Service is at Milton Methodist Church
Fri. 11th		Supper / Charles Wesley Celebration Hymns – Choir.



The National Christian Resources Exhibition is to be held at Sandown Park, Esher from 15-18 May. If anyone wishes further information contact Rev. Joyce Plumb. Look on the Burnham Notice board or [www.creonline.co.uk](http://www.creonline.co.uk),

# THANK YOU!

I don't really know **how** to say thank you for last Sunday evening. It was a wonderful service and it was so wonderful to see the church full and all the circuit churches represented.

Thank you especially to all the Milton ladies who made cakes and served the tea and coffee, not to mention washing up afterwards. If I could, I'd give you each a bouquet.

Last night was not the time to thank people but I would like to record my very grateful thanks to my tutors, Barbara Hillier from Winchester (Eastleigh Circuit) and to Margaret Trapp whom you all know. I would never have made it without them.

I would also like to thank Stephen and Anne Marr for their support and encouragement and love through all the 7 years of my Christian life.

Thank you to the Circuit for the gift of my lovely books "No Ordinary Man" by Nick Fawcett which I will be sharing with you over the coming months and (hopefully) years!

It was a memorable evening, very humbling, very challenging and very affirming. With God's help I will do my best to live up to the promises I made. I look forward to worshipping with you.

With Love and Blessings,

***Di Smart***

*12<sup>th</sup> March 2007*



## **In the beginning, God ..... In the beginning was the Word**

I propose to start a Bible Study discussion group to study the books of the Bible in detail. The first subject will be Genesis chapters 1 to 11 over 7 sessions, beginning on Tuesday afternoon 10<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm. at 21 Ashcott Drive (785884). If anyone is interested, but cannot make that day and time please let me know as I am happy to change subsequent meetings.

Hilary Malpas

**'...I TRY TO FIND COMMON GROUND WITH HIM SO THAT HE WILL LET ME TELL HIM ABOUT CHRIST...' 1**

**CORINTHIANS 9:22 TLB**

Josh McDowell writes 'An executive 'head hunter' who goes out and hires corporate executives for other firms once told me, 'When I get an executive I'm trying to hire for someone else, I like to disarm him. I offer him a drink, take my coat off, then my vest, undo my tie, throw up my feet and talk about baseball, football, family, whatever, until he's all relaxed. Then when I think I've got him relaxed I lean over, look him square in the eye and say-what's the purpose in your life?' It's amazing how top executives fall apart on that question.' Well, I was interviewing this fellow the other day, had him all disarmed with my feet up on my desk talking about football. Then I leaned over and said -what's the purpose in your life, Bob? Without blinking an eye he said to go to heaven and take as many people with me as I can.' For the first time in my career I was speechless.'

There are basically five reasons why we don't share our faith more often, and not one of them will hold up when we stand before Christ:

- 1) We think it's the preacher's job
- 2) We aren't sure of our salvation
- 3) We fear being rejected
- 4) We've never taken responsibility for learning how
- 5) Our love for Christ has grown cold.

But not Paul: he said, '...whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him'. Can you say that?

**East Brent Methodist Church  
Good Friday Service  
6th April 2007  
at 7.00 p.m.  
Led by Revd Stephen Marr  
Please come and join us**

**EASTER SERVICES AT BURNHAM.  
Palm Sunday. 10.30am. "It's a Miracle" - Choir.**

**Maundy Thursday, 7pm. Holy Communion. Rev M. Trapp  
(In Schoolroom)**

**Good Friday, 10.30am. Rev. Stanley Pipet.**

**Easter Sunday. 8am. Rev Stanley Pipet. Holy Communion.**

**10.30am. Rev Joyce Plumb. Holy Communion.**

**6.30pm. Rev Terence Young.**

**We extend a warm welcome to all who join us for our Easter Services.**

## **Coffee Morning**

**at the home of Hilary Wotton**

**11 Eastleigh Close, Burnham**

**on Tuesday April 17th, 10.00 until 12.00**

**Cake Stall and Raffle**

**Proceeds to Church Redevelopment Fund**

**Please come along**

# THE JOURNEY

A Festival of Arts, Crafts and Flowers  
will be held at

Hope Baptist Church, Church Street, Highbridge

from

Friday May 25<sup>th</sup> to Monday May 28<sup>th</sup>

**ALL WHO COME WILL BE WARMLY WELCOMED**

The Festival will include floral and art displays in the church depicting the life-journeys of Moses and Christ, and the first Pentecost. An arts and crafts exhibition in the hall will celebrate the God-given creative talents of those associated with "Hope". Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May

The church will be open from 6.00pm for a preview, followed at 7.30pm by an evening with a Celtic harpist and singer/songwriter, Carol Arblaster.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May

The church will be open from 10.00am to 5.00pm. At 7.30pm there will be an evening with a local history speaker, Pat Hase.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May

Morning worship at 11.00am will be a "Songs of Praise" and evening worship at 6.30pm will be a Churches Together United Service.

The church will be open from 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May

The church will be open from 10.00am. to 5.00pm. At 7.30pm there will be entertainment provided by Woolavington Handbell Ringers and vocal soloists, Katie Sadlier and Sue Hicks.

Throughout the Festival friends will be available to welcome visitors and light refreshments will be provided, as will a programme giving details of the theme of the exhibits

## 1912 Gilbert Dibble 2007

We give thanks for and celebrate the life of Gilbert Ruskin Frost Dibble a great village character, the longest serving member in any of the Link Churches, a much loved friend and a man of quiet devotion and confident faith .Gilbert's family moved to Brent Knoll, from East Brent, when he and his twin brother Austin were two years old and Gilbert has been part of the life of the Methodist Church here ever since The monthly letter from Brent Knoll gives some indication of how much we shall miss his cheery presence, always accompanied by flowers from his garden and, in season, fruit from his orchard .At the Harvest Season Gilbert came into his own, boxes of apples , including Annie Elizabeth and the famous Tom Putts, appeared in abundance and when he took over as auctioneer for the sale of produce he had his own unique style ! Bids soared and sweet items might be knocked down suddenly to the familiar words "I'll have ee"! For the past 15 or 16 years Gilbert has also enjoyed being Father Christmas for our Toddlers Group. The first year he did this he still had his tractor and you can imagine the delight of the little boys when he arrived on that. But it is as a faithful Church Steward that he will be especially missed. For many years he served with Roland Chivers, who, in stature towered over Gilbert and always took the lead in looking after the preacher and offering prayers in the vestry but when he became ill Gilbert stepped into his place with no fuss and it has been a great gift to anyone who came to lead a service just to have him there .He would have been greeting people, sometimes whistling away, not always realising that he could be heard throughout the church ,- his refusal to have a deaf-aid did cause some difficulties as well as much amusement - and then he would step into the vestry to pray in his own quiet and sincere way for the needs of the world ,which he was aware of throughout the week , and for the service and the preacher. He would usually begin by quoting a verse from a hymn and one of his favourites was "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness". Words are always inadequate to express our appreciation of someone we have loved but I can hear Gilbert saying to me now, as he did in our last conversation "Don't you worry about me my dear. I shall be all right" .We rejoice that he has passed quietly and peacefully into the hands of God, in whom he put his trust and all is well.

## LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

We were pleased to welcome Rev Karen Murphy on Tuesday, February 27th. when she gave us a picture of her life before she came to Weston-Super-Mare to take up her position as Chaplain to Weston Hospice. She had become interested in the Hospice movement in Leicestershire when she worked as a part time Chaplain. When she saw the post advertised for a Chaplain for Weston, she applied and was accepted. She told us some of her experiences with the patients and families.

Rev Piper from Brent Knoll told us of the "Joy of Lent" as we move towards Easter on Tuesday, March 13th.

Mrs Judith Champion is to tell us of her Art Work on March 27th.

Mrs Di Smart is to be our Speaker on Tuesday, April 10th.

We are always pleased to welcome new members. Our meetings last for about an hour and always end with a cup of tea.

Eileen Goundry



## NCH

### Sponsored Abseil

On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> March Moira Anderson successfully completed the abseil in the Avon Gorge. The total she raised in sponsorship was £370.00. It was a very cold, windy Saturday afternoon but she appeared very 'sure footed' as she came down. Congratulations Moira. On behalf of NCH our thanks.

Dorothy May.



**NCH House to House** collection in Burnham during the whole of April. If you can help please see Dorothy or ☎ 784204.



# BURNHAM.

We send our greetings to all who read the Link magazine this month.

We are now well into the season of Lent and looking forward to the joy and celebration of Easter day, with all its hope and promise. All around we see signs of new life and we thank God for the loveliness and beauty of this season.

As a fellowship, we always look forward to welcoming a new child into Gods family when parents bring their little ones for christening, and in February we have been doubly blessed. On February 25<sup>th</sup> Sasha Mollie Keates and William James Creswick were christened by Rev Carol Gill, and we all shared in the happiness of their parents and family members.

On a blustery March 17\* many of us sponsored Moira Anderson as she abseiled down Avon Gorge on behalf of the N.C.H. Well done Moira, we thank you for your courage and daring, and especially for the money raised for the important ongoing work of this charity.

Many of our members have been poorly for various reasons and we reassure them of our continuing prayers that God will give them strength and support.

We miss you in our fellowship and worship, and pray that you will be well enough to join us again soon.

Our Minister Rev Stephen is now a third way through his Sabbatical. We hope that this time will benefit him and trust that he is gaining strength both physically and spiritually.

We are also grateful for those who are standing in his stead at this time.

We wish everyone the blessings of this Easter Season.

June. - for the Stewards

## WORLD SERVICE & MISSION 2005/2006

World Mission (Overseas Missions)	Rev. & Mrs. J. Le Sueur
JMA	Mr. Tim Christian
Bible Society	ceased to exist as local committee
Christian Aid	Mr. & Mrs. C. Wray
Home Missions	Mrs. E. Horsley
Network (Women's Work)	Miss Muriel Hyde
NCH Action for Children	Mrs. Dorothy May

The above form our representatives for World Service & Mission. All deserve our grateful thanks for the work they do in organising activities and events to raise money. These events include coffee mornings, collecting boxes, envelopes in pews, sales tables, house to house collections, etc. We are also grateful to those of you who give or help in any other way. Keep up the good work! Our giving via boxes and pew envelopes is slightly down overall. If anyone would like to have a collecting box or make a donation or help in any other way, please see the appropriate name above.

The numbers available for house to house collecting get fewer each year, resulting in several roads having no-one collecting in them. If you can spare a few hours during the one or two weeks of the NCH or Christian Aid house to house collections to collect from the few houses around you, then please see the named person above, or one of the stewards.

The results of their efforts are summarised below:

	2005/06	2004/05	2003/04
	£ (to nearest pound) £		
World Mission (O. M)	393.64	439	595
JMA	185.95	242	258
Bible Society		131	166
Christian Aid	493.80	732	1119
Home Missions	567.51	391	462
Network (W Work)	1061.67	317	259
NCH Action for Children	2954.50	2881	1641
{Church Charity MRDF }	464.05	2021	254
{Retiring Collections (Missions)}			
Total	6121.12	7154	4754

Hilary Malpas (Secretary).

# BREAN

No doubt when you read the LINK last month a very familiar name came up and we remember in love a local preacher who took our Sunday morning service from time to time. We miss seeing him now but know he is still very much with us. Yes it's Harry and he is still preaching to us. Get out at last month's LINK and read his article again and you can almost hear him speak. Thank you Harry and God Bless you and Hazel.

Like other churches we have started our lent discussion group. Sally, the vicar of St. Bridget's has been leading us and we have enjoyed down to earth discussions and well worth taking the time to come together.

This year some of our members and members of St. Bridget's joined at St. Mary's for the Woman's World Day of Prayer it was a lovely simple service and we listened to Mrs. Pearl Hunt from Churchill we felt at one with all the other hundreds of services around the world. Also we felt very close to the women of Paraguay and we remember them in our prayers.

Last Sunday we met at St Bridget's for our United Service and we sang a hymn the words of which I had never heard before but a well-known tune fitted it. The theme was that no matter what comes - difficulties or illness or whatever and the verses end with "**I am there**" I'm sure the words have stayed with us ever since and is a real assurance for the days to come.

So from Brean we send our best wishes especially to those who are poorly or lonely or anxious - always remembering "**I am there**"

Lilian Stone.



# BRENT KNOLL

## “HE IS RISEN”

As Easter approaches we must remember the suffering Jesus went through the week before until Easter Sunday when he rose triumphantly from the grave as we sing “He lives, he lives Christ Jesus lives today” there is a grand feeling of triumph in a heart's.

Our service on Easter Sunday will be conducted by the Rev. Margaret Trapp to be followed by Communion and then coffee afterwards. If you are able to come to this service we will be delighted to see you.

It is going to be very strange for a while to walk into the church on Sunday morning and not to be greeted by our very good friend Gilbert Dibble, looking smart with his buttonhole and little brooch on his lapel. Gilbert first started attending our church when he and his twin brother Austin were two years old. The miniature chairs they sat on are still in the school room as Gilbert loved to point out. He was such a popular character we knew we could not accommodate all those wishing to attend his funeral in the Church so the Rector Rev Martin Lee gave us permission to have it at St. Michael's. The service being led by Rev. Margaret Trapp. We were extremely grateful for this kindness. The following Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March a service of thanksgiving for the ninety-four years there Gilbert had been alive was held in our Church, which was practically full. It was a wonderful service again conducted by the Rev. Margaret Trapp. She gave the congregation a chance to mention their memories of Gilbert. There was quite a response from a number of people.

At our Church Council held on Saturday morning the 3<sup>rd</sup> March Keith Cox was asked if he would take on the duties of steward in Gilbert's place. We are delighted he agreed to do so. It was also announced Ron Pycroft has taken over the job of Property Steward. He has been working hard on arranging for new windows. At the moment we are awaiting Planning Consent.

Another thing agreed at the Church Council was to make a donation of £200.00 to the Babe Appeal and £200.00 to NCH, both worthwhile causes.

A future date for your diaries is that on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May we will be having our Spring Sale commencing at 10.30am

## EAST BRENT

Lent has now moved on from its mid-point, Mothering Sunday, when we gave thanks for the gift of the Mother Church and also recall the gift of our own mothers. We move from the baking of Simnel Cakes to Easter Eggs, Easter Biscuits and shops full of cards and other Easter offerings. At East Brent, we have some significant and challenging services in the run up to Easter. We had a family service on Mother's Day with a busy church and we were delighted to welcome back Joyce Pipet to lead our service. It was good to have some participation from our Brownie Pack and we must thank Evelyn for arranging the many posies which were distributed to the mothers in the Congregation. Next Sunday, we shall have to be up at the crack of dawn, as this is when the clocks go forward one hour. At this service, Revd Margaret Trapp will dedicate a bible in memory of Rev. Rex Oldham. Rex was a great servant of East Brent and his pastoral work in visiting the Congregation is sorely missed.

On Palm Sunday we will be handing out the palm crosses and we are delighted that Michael King has agreed to lead our service. Michael is employed by the Methodist Connexion as Team Leader of World Church Relationships. Michael's parents, Joan and Arnold were faithful members of East Brent for many years and it will be good to hear of his work in World Mission and to find out how Joan is keeping.

We then move on to Good Friday and the high point of the Christian Calendar where Christians around the world celebrate the resurrection, the pinnacle of our faith. We shall have a service at 7.00 p.m. on Good Friday and this service will have a "follow on" to Easter Day. We shall go from the bare cross and empty garden on Good Friday to the fruits and flowers of Easter Sunday. Both services will be conducted by Revd Stephen Marr. We know how meticulous Stephen is in his preparation, and these services will be both challenging and thought provoking. Everone will be very welcome.

Have a happy and blessed Easter.

David Craig.



# Minister

Revd. Stephen Hill, 28A Caernarvon Way. Burnham on Sea. TA8 2DQ  
On a sabbatical until Mid May.

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Rev. Joyce Plumb

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## Web Sites

[www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk)  
[www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org](http://www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org)

**The Deadline for the  
May 2007 “LINK” is  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2007**

**LARGE PRINT COPIES (A4 format) of the “LINK” are available.  
Please contact the Editor if you would like one.**

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