

# LINK PLUS++++

## December 2024 & January 2025

Dear Friends

What a year it has been, and it is not quite over yet! If you are like me at all, there are times we look back over this past year in wonder and amazement. It has been quite a journey! Nevertheless, we have come through 2024, and 2025 will soon be with us – a fresh journey of faith

As the magi started out on their journey, they knew that there was something special ahead. As they reached their destination they found Jesus, a gift even beyond their expectations, more precious than the gifts they brought! Their willingness to go on the journey was rewarded with a glimpse of the divine. As we rejoice in our Christmas activities, and start our 2025 voyage, may our willingness to take these as step of faith give us a glimpse of the divine too. For the message of Christmas reminds us of a hope that is steadfast and certain (as the writer of Hebrews puts it). We remember the words of John's gospel "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it"; and as we do may we realise afresh that God has and will continue to help us and see us through.

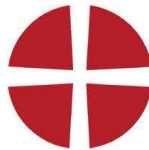
In 2025 the Living Jesus, can be seen in us, in every act of love and kindness we extend to one another, in every action where we point to the creator of the universe, in every word that speaks peace and love into the world. For God can overcome any barriers the world can create and God offers to restore us at all times and through all things. Ultimately, we the church are the body of Christ!

I for one am incredibly blessed and honoured to run this race with you.

You may be familiar with this prayer which I offer to each one of you.

May you be filled with  
the wonder of Mary,  
the obedience of Joseph,  
the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the determination of the magi,  
and the peace of the Christ child.

Happy Christmas and a blessed NewYear  
Steve



**Brean Methodist Church**

**<http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk>**

We are still feeling lifted by the wedding in November of Kathy and Roger. We opened up the partition windows between church and

schoolroom and about 110 people attended the event. The church had been superbly decorated. We welcomed family and friends of the couple from near and far. Steve took an excellent service laced with humour and the requisite amount of formality. It was so moving to appreciate the depth of meaning even when the participants of such a ceremony are 'not as young as they once were'.

Well done to both of you, Roger and Kathy. May you enjoy the rest of your lives together. And to those of our own church who helped to make it such a happy occasion, Thank You

Our coffee mornings during the month have been surprisingly buoyant and we have welcomed the cakes that members bring to us each week. (Mondays 10.30 am, all welcome). We always find something to talk about even after the half hour and more spent round the coffee table after Sunday services. Amongst other things it has also been a good opportunity to start talking about how to decorate the church this Christmas; the creation of Christmas images to illustrate carols seem to be the highly featured topic.

Our carol service, an informal and generally light hearted affair will again be held on Christmas Eve at 4pm, a time when, hopefully all preparations have been concluded and we are ready to relax before the rituals of the next day. John has taken on the task of co-ordinating our plans for the service this year and we give him our best wishes in his endeavour.

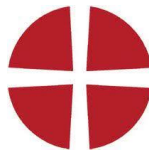
We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join with us and then chat together over tea and cake afterwards. Please try to come.

And remember too please that on Saturday morning, 21st December we have our coffee and carols session from 10am. Always a time of informality as Rose and Anne lead us through carols that we choose at the time.

We don't have a Christmas morning service, which leaves members

free to worship elsewhere. So this is a moment to wish you all well in your own Christmas services and other events. At the time of writing, East Brent have already held their Christmas Fayre and that of Brent Knoll is imminent. There were a couple of dozen present at East Brent which seemed to go well, so let us hope that others are as successful. And then we have January. For us, and for East Brent and Brent Knoll, the year starts with a joint Covenant service to be held at East Brent. A time to rededicate ourselves for the days that lie ahead. The stories of Christmas remind us that we are on a journey so may we make use of Covenant to refresh ourselves for the journey into 2025.

May this Christmas be a blessed time for you, your families and friends, a time of renewal and of hope. From us here at Brean, Happy Christmas, and may the New Year bring peace to us all.  
Harvey Allen



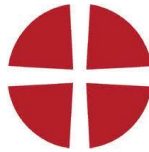
**Brent Methodist Church  
Brent Knoll**

Our annual Carol Service will be held on Monday 16th December at 6.30pm. For the past two years we have been delighted to have been joined by our local Handbells Group, and we are hoping this relatively new tradition will continue this year! All are welcome.

On the first Sunday of the New Year, we will be joining with our friends from East Brent and Brean (at East Brent) to share the Covenant Service, which will be led by Rev Steve. It's a perfect start to the New Year when we remember and renew the promises we have made to God together.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, we continue to hold our Circuit, its ministers and congregations in our prayers and

send you every hope for all the joy and the peace this Season brings.  
And for a Happy New Year to you all.  
God bless.  
Rosemary Krull



**Brent Methodist Church  
East Brent**

Where has November gone? It does seem to have been a busy month.

The service at the War Memorial was well attended and we were pleased to welcome friends, old and new, back to our hall for coffee and plenty of chat afterwards.

As we reach the end of November we inevitably start thinking about Christmas. Some, it seems, start back in the summer. On the other hand, I have a brother-in-law with a birthday on 27th November and in his house, traditionally, Christmas preparations don't start until after his birthday.

At East Brent we are looking forward to having the tree in our Church decorated by children from East Brent First School. This is becoming a bit of a tradition and each year is different, so thank you, in advance, to the children and staff.

Thank you to all who supported our annual Christmas coffee morning, it was lovely to see you and, again, plenty of chat over coffee and biscuits and support for the various stalls. Upwards of £260 was raised. Details of which charities we are supporting with our Christmas collections this year will be in the next LINK.

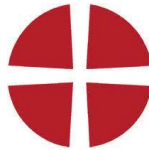
I have been asked to print the following anecdote. Unfortunately, I missed that week's service due to a family celebration so I am

reporting this second hand. I'm not sure what to call it – 'Whatever next?', 'What is the world coming to?' or perhaps 'Best foot forward' – I'll leave you to decide! Anyway, at some point that morning the subject of Strictly (come dancing) came up and the minister, who shall remain anonymous but was warned that this was likely to appear in The Link, admitted that he didn't watch Strictly, on principal, because he and his wife once joined a ballroom dancing class but were eventually banned for causing too much mayhem!

Our Christmas dates are all on a separate page, but you are all welcome, any time, to join us.

Best wishes for a Blessed and peaceful Christmas and A Happy New Year to you all from all at East Brent.

Margaret



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church  
Burnham**

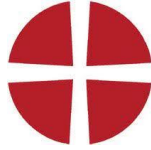
**<http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk>**

I have to say how time flies and here we are with Christmas almost upon us. I find the whole advent time so exciting it gives the opportunity to meet up with friends and relations that we haven't seen in a long time. It also gives us the opportunity to celebrate the birth of our Saviour with our many friends around the circuit.

Details of events and service at Burnham are included elsewhere.

I would like on behalf of all the stewards and Burnhams members to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year

Geoff Stait on behalf of the stewards



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church  
West Huntspill**

Hello to all our friends in the Link Churches, we would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and blessed Christmas, Celebrating our Lord's birth. Our Carol service is on Tuesday the 17th of December at 7.00pm. We know that you all have Services on Christmas Day, but if by any chance you are able to join us for breakfast on Christmas Day at 8.45am followed by a service led by Mr. John Trebble at 9.30am. it would be lovely to see you.

In January when Christmas is over, family and friends have returned home, Things might feel a bit flat, we would like to invite you to our December Coffee Morning, which we are holding on Friday the 3rd of January at the usual time of 10.30am – 12 noon. There will be no sales tables this time just tea, coffee, cakes, biscuits and chat. Any donations will be for "Action for Children" We will be holding our usual end of the month Coffee Morning on Friday 31st January.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy 2025 from us all at West Huntspill.

I have often wondered what made Stradivarius Violins so special, I read the following in my daily Notes from UCB Word for Today and realized how amazing our God is, giving men/women the wisdom and talents to create such beautiful things from something that most people would put on the fire.

**15**FRIDAY  
15 Nov 2024

## FROM RUBBISH INTO TREASURE

**'He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him.'** Hebrews 7:25 NKJV

A Christian leader writes: 'The Italian violin maker Antonio Stradivari was a poor man. And yet his violins are now the most prized violins ever made because of the rich and resonant sound they produce. The unique sound of a Stradivarius cannot be duplicated. What may surprise you is that these precious instruments were not made from treasured pieces of wood; they were carved from discarded lumber. Because Stradivari couldn't afford fine materials, he got most of his wood from the dirty harbours where he lived. He would take those waterlogged pieces of wood to his shop, clean them up, and dry them out. Then, from those trashed pieces of lumber, he would create instruments of rare beauty. It has since been discovered that while the wood floated in those

dirty harbours, microbes infiltrated the wood and ate out the centres of those cells. This left just a fibrous infrastructure of wood that created resonating chambers for the music. From wood that nobody wanted, Stradivari produced violins that now everybody wants.' You say, 'How does any of this relate to me?' Just as this violin maker transformed rubbish into treasure, God can transform you into what you were actually meant to be. You might say, 'But you don't know how low I have fallen or the things I've done. I doubt that Jesus could save and transform someone like me!' Give Him a try. Put Him to the test. You won't be disappointed. The Bible says, 'He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him.'

Janet J. & Kay

**The deadline  
for the  
February Link Plus  
is 26<sup>th</sup> January.**



# PLUS +++ POEMS, PRAYERS, and OTHER MESSAGES

## Uphill Retreat Centre

For the past few months, I have been attending Uphill Methodist Church's Quiet mornings. I have found these to be a real oasis of faith in what are busy and uncertain times. Facilitated by Presbyters and Local Preachers, the emphasis of these mornings is simply on spending time with God. Spending time speaking to Him, listening for His voice in the silence or simply sitting in His presence in a time of Quiet. I find God's still small voice of calm can be heard so much more clearly when I have taken time out from the busyness of life.

Rev Steve Marr will be sending next year's programme out soon and I really would recommend these monthly sessions to all.

Rosemary Krull



**Christian Retreat Centre**  
Uphill Methodist Church

**ADVENT QUIET DAY THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Led by Rev Judith Lincoln**

10.00 – 3.00 (Lunch Provided) COST £10  
Contact :- Stephen Marr

### **The Link Fellowship**

For our November meeting the Link Fellowship gave a warm welcome to Janet Widdess who presented a fascinating account of the time when she did her training to be a nurse. She had entitled it "In My Day" and it was not hard to imagine the contrast from the way she trained to what happens now.

It was a special occasion to, as we met the Tuesday before Kathy Davis married Roger on the following Saturday and a presentation was made of a card which members had signed, and a bunch of flowers, assuring her of our best wishes and every happiness in her coming marriage. Kathy had brought some delicious wedding style cake for us to share with our usual cup of tea.

Ideas of food were also present when Christine Thomas circulated the list of food she hoped people would bring for our next meeting. This is on Tuesday December 10th – meeting at noon for 12.30. Our shared buffet meal will be followed by carols, readings and poems to finish by about 2.30p.m. so that no one will need to travel home in the dark.

The following meeting in the New year will be on Tuesday 14th January when we shall have some puzzles and/or quizzes as well as a bring and buy stall.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year

Joyce Pipet



## **Christmas in the Link Churches**

### **Brean Christmas Dates**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Coffee and Carols from 10am

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4pm - Service of carols and sketches

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am - Morning worship

### **Brent Knoll Christmas Dates**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm - Carol Service

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am - Morning worship

### **East Brent Christmas & New Year Dates**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 7pm - Carols by Candlelight followed by mince pies and coffee

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10am Short Christmas Day Family Service

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am - Morning worship at Brent Knoll

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Link Covenant service at East Brent

### **Burnham Christmas Dates**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 10am – 2pm - Christmas Fair

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 3.30pm - Christmas Messy Church

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 6pm - Carol Service

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.15pm - Christmas Eve Communion Service

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 11am - Christmas Day Family Service

### **West Huntspill Christmas Dates**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 7pm - Carol Service

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 8.45am - Christmas Breakfast followed by  
Christmas Day Service at 9.30am



## DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
<b>Weekly</b>		
Wed 10am	Zoom*	Link Bible Study
Thurs 11am	Zoom*	Link Coffee Morning
Mon 10-2 Tues 10-2 Wed 10-4	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Café and associated activities.
Mon 12 noon	Burnham	Weekday Holy Communion
* Contact Rev Steve for zoom links or information		
<b>December</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup> 7.00pm	Burnham	Light up a life (Weston Hospice)
11 <sup>th</sup> 7.30	Brean	Circuit Meeting
18 <sup>th</sup> 6.00pm	Mead Fields	Carol Singing
<b>January</b>		
23 <sup>rd</sup> 7.00pm	Zoom	Circuit Property meeting
25 <sup>th</sup> 6.00pm	Burnham	Burns Night meal
<p><b>Please note that Beth Missen is prepared to place events on the Circuit website if she is given the information.</b></p>		