

LINK PLUS +++

(The Newsletter for the Methodist Church in Burnham-on-Sea and its surrounding area)

JULY & AUGUST 2025

A message from Steve our Minister

What do you expect from a holiday?

The main holiday season has already started and will be running quickly soon. It will be a time when millions of people will take that 'well earned' break, a time of rest and relaxation.

It is very biblical to take time out. Jesus often took time away to gather his thoughts and be in conversation with his Father. Jesus always seemed to be surrounded by people, wanted by those who had one sort of problem or another. He was always the focus of attention, always serving those in need, always showing Gods love. So he went away to quiet places; not to indulge himself but to pray and be with God, using this time to seek inner peace and a recharging of his batteries.

However, the reality of a holiday is not always like this. Aeroplanes will be full, the beaches will be crowded, and the roads will grind to a standstill. No doubt there will be a strike or two that will disrupt travel arrangements. People will eat too much, drink too much, get too much sun. On top of all this the frustration of not being able to 'let it all go' will spoil even the most carefully planned holiday. Rather than having a relaxing and refreshing time many people will return to their daily lives more stressed out having had a break than they would have been without it! That's not really the way it's meant to be...is it?

As many in our churches will be seeking renewal and rest, how can we help them to experience it? I hope we can provide a place of restful welcome, a place to reflect on God's generous and abundant provision, about prayer, and about giving time and space to allow the Holy Spirit to refresh lives.

Steve

A thought from Mechtilde of Magdeburg (1212-1282)

The day of my Spiritual awakening was the day I saw and knew I saw God in all things and all things in God

BREAN

(www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk)

End of the month time again. Time to tell the world what a fantastic life we have led in recent weeks at Brean (and elsewhere). Trouble is that when we look at it all, there's not a lot to say, or so it seems. Perhaps we ought to look more at the detail. Build up the picture that way. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

Steve started off the month with a communion service. The advantage of having a projector and screen is that the preacher is not dependent on service books, and Steve brought a more informal act of worship. Each person has their preference as to the layout of the communion service and many hanker after the older, traditional formats but for me, I prefer a service that cuts a few corners. It helps me to focus on the breadth of God's love, of seeing that love as relationship, and in how Jesus taught and lived his life. For me it is that, rather than some of the dogma the church uses, that encourages me. Whichever way you see it, the service 'earthed' us for the rest of the month.

The second week of June was Pentecost, time for David Easton to widen our perspectives by turning our minds to the turmoil of our present world and how we approach its troubles with hearts and minds filled with grace. Pentecost signifies a new start, a new birth, and by the end of the month we have become increasingly aware of the fragile state of the world in which we live. As David intimated this is not simply a matter for 'them out there', we must each play our part in our own situation.

With a wry smile I add that that includes our own church services for on the third week we were planned as Own Arrangement, that panic moment when you open the Plan and see you haven't got a preacher. Whatever shall we do? Well for us, up popped Stanley. It is now several years since he was forced to stop preaching because of his health situation. But he reckoned he had another sermon within him and so, Joyce by his side to conduct prayers, he gave us proof that he is not finished. Not that we shall see him back on the Plan but he reminded us that 'he ain't done yet.' And nor are we. His was an example to us all and within the worship area there was a palpable feeling of the whole congregation willing him on. Go for it Stanley well done.

And then we had Brian Dallimore. Brian continues to preach in our circuit and elsewhere. He is also chaplain to Brent Knoll British Legion. He used the theme of forgiveness, for without it healing cannot take place and peace cannot ensue. His biblical extracts used readings about David being caught out over adultery, and the section in Luke about Jesus forgiving the immoral woman and then how we judge others, Brian emphasised that we all come into a relationship with God in our different ways. We are none of us perfect and we all have different gifts and understandings to offer. We bring them all together and in doing so enrich the Kingdom of God. In today's world a remarkable truth for us all to hold on to in faith. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts, indeed. Brian also included a time of quiet for us to consider our own perspectives

In his teens and into his 20s, our younger son, Luke played with the MAYC Orchestra. Their principal gig was at the MAYC London weekend but they also played several weekends a year across the country. In time they built up a strong fellowship that still resonates, and at the end of June about 90 of them got together to have an extended 'jam session'. Luke was asked to arrange a piece and then to conduct it. Luke tells me it

was a very spiritual occasion as these people, having met and gone their own ways over the years, came together again and shared the fellowship of their younger days. It was a superb and God filled occasion.

And finally let us look forward. Let us share together too. Not somewhere from 30 years ago but something we have been sharing these last 8 or 9 years. Our Open Air service this year will be on Sunday August 23rd starting at 3pm. Please come and join us.

Happy summer from all of us.

Harvey Allen

BRENT KNOLL

(www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

A reminder that we will be holding our annual coffee mornings to raise funds for local and national charities on the first four Saturdays in August, between 10.30am-12.00pm. This will be the last time we will be holding our fundraising Summer Coffee mornings, so do come and join us as we continue to give thanks for the life and work of Brent Knoll Methodist Church.

Our final service will be held on Sunday 14th September at 3pm. This will also be our Harvest Festival of thanksgiving as we continue to celebrate God's gifts and the Christian witness which our Church has provided over many, many years. It goes without saying that all our friends across the Circuit are invited, encouraged and warmly welcome to share this time of thanksgiving with us.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, we continue to hold the Circuit, our ministers and congregations in our prayers as we wish you a wonderful Summer, however you are spending it.

God bless you all, on behalf of us all
Rosemary Krull

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EAST BRENT

(www.eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk)

Margaret & Rosemary have been busy preparing for the SONGS & SCONES afternoon on Saturday 28th June at 3pm where the local All Sorts Choir will be performing in our Church all profits are for Christian Aid.

We are looking forward to sharing our worship with the Brent Knoll members in September. Our coffee & chat after the service is a very happy time. Every week one of the men has a joke to share with us.

We wish Ann a speedy recovery after her knee replacement operation we shall miss her especially her singing, for the next six weeks.

Jill

I Didn't Go To Church Today -- By Ogden Nash

I didn't go to church today,
I trust the Lord to understand.
The surf was swirling blue and white,
The children swirling on the sand.
He knows, He knows how brief my stay,

How brief this spell of summer weather,
He knows when I am said and done
We'll have plenty of time together.

BURNHAM

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

Well here we are more than halfway through the year ! I hope everyone is enjoying the glorious weather.

It has been a really busy time at the church but one of the highlights so far has been Messy Church on the 8th June. We had around fourteen children and families, with the subject being Pentecost. This is a difficult concept for young children but they all really enjoyed making hats and streamers with flame coloured paper and the windmills and “Fire Cakes” were also very popular.

After letting off some energy with games in the hall we had a simple act of worship and they loved blowing bubbles as Steve lead the prayer.

As ever we ended with a shared tea including delicious home made cakes . We also had a birthday cake made by Linda James and decorated with flame coloured icing. The children joined in with a rousing “Happy Birthday to you” for the church.

It was a lovely afternoon and we look forward to doing it all over again in September.!

Jackie Clark.

THE LINK FELLOWSHIP

We had a very enjoyable sing for our June meeting! Evelyn Tucker took us through some of her favourite hymns, and the memories they evoked.

We were delighted to welcome back Diane Thomas who has had a hip replacement operation – and of course our welcome extended to her lovely little dog.

Our July meeting will take the form of a board games afternoon which will be followed by a strawberry & cream tea. Christine Thomas has done a very good job of allocating the catering for that event, for which we are very grateful.

We have a break from meeting during August, then return on Tuesday September 9th at 2.30pm when we shall have our AGM/ review of the year which will be followed by communion led by Revd. Steve. Bennett.

This will be at East Brent Church Hall and all are welcome to come and join us.

Joyce Pipet

WEST HUNTSPILL

(www.wsmbos.org./westhuntspill.htm)

Here at West Huntspill we celebrated our 174th Church Anniversary on the 1st of June. We were joined by our friends from Burnham. It was a very happy and enjoyable Service of worship and praise led by Rev. Stuart Innalls, who had a very thought provoking message for us all, the reading Stuart spoke on was John chapter 17 and verses 20 to 26, where Jesus prays for the disciples and us, that we may all be one. This prayer is still awaiting completion as there are still divisions. I have always believed that we are one with Christians as long as Jesus Christ is central to our worship and the fact that he died on the cross and Rose from the dead on the third day. The difference is only the traditions which have grown up round each denomination.

I believe that things would begin to happen if we all go t together to pray like the first disciples waiting in the upper room. We have a circuit Prayer meeting once a month on the first Saturday in the month for 40 minutes on Zoom. Which Rev. Judith initiated, I am personally not very good at praying, but at least I can add my Amen. It would be so good to see the screen filled with a lot of boxes.

Our coffee morning for July is on Friday the 25th and for August it is the 29th. It would be lovely to see you here.

PICNIC

It's fun to have a picnic on a lovely summer's day
in some green meadow where a little river winds its way;
a fragrant bank where willows trail their branches gracefully.
It's nice to have a party beneath a kind old tree....
To spread the cloth upon the grass, and set the plates around;
to drink your tea and eat your cakes while seated on the ground---
fat doughnuts, jam and creamy buns, and things that normally
you really wouldn't dream of eating with your cup of tea!
Your fingers may be sticky, but that's half the fun of it,
the wasps may settle in the jam, but you won't care a bit!

But when you've had your picnic, don't forget to make the place
exactly as you found it, leaving not a single trace....
For if, for instance, you were asked to tea with friends next door---
you wouldn't leave a lot of litter lying on the floor, now would you?
And it's just the same in Nature's lovely bowers.
She's so hospitable and kind – she gives us fields and flowers,
and shady nooks by babbling brooks, where we can take our ease,
and have a picnic underneath the shelter of the trees.

(From Through The Year with Patience Strong)

We do hope that you all have a great Summer with family or friends,

whether you are going away or staying close to home. God bless you all.

Janet J & Kay

JOURNEYS OF A LIFETIME – Part 2

Back in the Spring Kathy Hurrell began to tell us something of her recent adventures across Australia and New Zealand. Much of her journey was spent in and around Adelaide, in South Australia. Adelaide was unique in that it was settled by Freeman, rather than as a Penal Colony. It was considered more English than some of the other cities and was named after the wife of King William IV (the monarch before Queen Victoria). Here are her impressions:

My first glimpse of the impressive tower blocks and wide grassy spaces of this bustling multi-cultural city was from the narrow window of a Singapore Airlines cabin in 1993 as it circled the airfield waiting to land. It was the culmination of much planning and dreaming for my aunt and I to be with my first cousin and her husband for their silver wedding celebration. Our jet lag took a back seat as we met our family and were driven through the wide tree lined streets to their comfortable home in North Adelaide, conveniently close to restaurants of many nationalities, coffee bars and flower shops with their displays of exotic brightly coloured blooms, in unfamiliar shapes and structures, presenting South Australia's flora at its very best. Our first trip was to the fruit and vegetable market where cascades of fruit in oranges and scarlets flowed down the large wooden containers, their pungent aromas tantalising the nostrils.

Adelaide's tantalising casino is situated in the elegant heritage railway station, spotlessly gleaming. Rundle Mall is only a short walk away, with its iconic department store Myers, sporting a miniature cable line along which toys of all shapes and sizes ride in brightly coloured and unlikely vehicles. The Adelaide Festival Theatre nestles gracefully near the river Torrens, welcoming its international visitors to share its unique culture. Fountains dance in the sunlight along the park lined streets, hosting groups of Australia's indigenous people, sharing their dreamtime, their mythological and spiritual beliefs at the unhurried pace of their ancestors. The Botanic Gardens are only a short walk away, hosting a tall white structure containing blooms of every colour, growing in various unlikely mediums, some seemingly surviving on little more than fresh air, their perfume drifting through the temperature controlled environment in waves of fragrance.

A little farther on a wooden tram stands waiting, its oaken carriages gleaming in the sunlight, ready to transport visitors to the wonderful beach at Glenelg, with its warm, calm waters and pier stretching out across them, an unexpected treat only a short ride from the city. Return to the centre and explore the Adelaide Hills as you climb its tree lined highways to reach Clelands National Park and Mount Lofty with its panoramic views over the city. Here is the perfect opportunity to meet some of Australia's unique fauna, tame and unafraid in their protected environment. It is an unforgettable experience to hold a warm furry koala in your arms, sleepy and trusting itself to your care, its soft fur touching your skin. Or to walk among a group of kangaroos, some russet brown with an occasional albino cousin, some with babies popping their tiny inquisitive heads out of their mothers safe and capacious pouches while a chattering group of pink galahs perch like a garland in a nearby grey green eucalyptus before rising in a pink cloud of excitement. A sturdy wombat diligently creates a burrow while protecting its young in a specially designed pouch, facing backwards so the digging doesn't fill it with soil. There is nowhere else quite like this city to create and preserve indelible memories for many years to come.

Kathy

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

I first got into computers in February 1964. There weren't many around in those days and they needed their own large, air-conditioned rooms to process the work that was input. I spent five years at the National Savings Bank (then called Post Office Saving Bank), and then five years at the BBC. By 1974 I felt I had done enough. I had managed to stay on the promotion ladder but was not confident of the stress of keeping up with it. So when mum and dad talked about their retirement, Judy and I, by now blessed with a couple of young boys felt that this was the time to move down here and join my brother in the business.

How things have changed. My jobs in London were described as Systems analysis and design. I was never a programmer. I never got the hang of it at that stage. I am not a technical person at all. Because of my background we got into computers as early as 1982 in our business and ten years later were even using till scanning but this was as users not as designers.

I was reminded of all this when I took on this newsletter early this year. A lot has changed in the last 50 years and even putting together this newsletter presents challenges that need effort, and patience. Getting older and into a more digital world also means challenges to memory and brain function. How AI will affect us remains to be worked through.

Nevertheless, having given up preaching, it has been a good feeling to be doing something that might be seen as useful and I look forward to starting a new Methodist year and trying to develop better ways of presenting the contributions that come in. So bear with me as we continue the journey, I hope together. So thank you to everyone who has written pieces either for their own church or simply as the spirit has encouraged them. The pages of the newsletter are open to all and your contributions and ideas are welcome. Tell us what you know and what you think. Don't be shy about what you think, you would be surprised at what people have in mind but don't dare say. Ideas for articles are welcome too; someone has suggested a series from preachers about how they were led into that journey and grew in it, and of course we started a book review column earlier in the year. Any more suggestions?

The closing date for items in the next edition of Link Plus is 26th August

Have a great summer.

Harvey

WHOOPS

Mrs Gladys Dunn was a pillar of her church. She visited the sick, she greeted newcomers, she served on every committee, and substituted for the organist when necessary.

After service one day, she noticed a stranger leaving the church. She went up to introduce herself. extending her hand, she said, “i’m Gladys Dunn.” The stranger replied,
“Me too! That was the longest sermon I’ve ever heard.”

DIARY DATES

<u>Regular days</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday	10.30am	Brean	Coffee morning
Thursday	11.00am	Zoom	Coffee chat (Details from Steve)
Monday to Thursday	9.00am to 2.00pm Wednesday to 4pm	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Cafe and associated activities
Wednesday	2.00pm	Burnham	Knit ‘n’ natter
Friday	Morning	Burnham	Mothers and toddlers
<u>Other Dates</u>			
Thursday 3 rd July	10.00am to 12 noon	Uphill	Quiet Morning
Saturday 5 th July	9.00am to 10.00am	Zoom	Circuit Prayer group
Tuesday 8 th July	2.30pm	East Brent	Link Fellowship
Friday 25 th July	10.30am to 12 noon	West Huntspill	Coffee and chat
Saturdays in August	10.30am to 12noon	Brent Knoll	Coffee mornings
August 1 st			Return of Rev Judith Lincoln from Sabbatical
August 3 rd	(a) 10.00am (b) 5.00pm	(a) St Andrews Bournville (b) Bleadon	Leaving services for Rev Tim Erridge
Sunday 24 th August	3.00pm	Brean	Open air Praise Service
TUESDAY 26TH AUGUST			LAST DATE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEXT LINK PLUS
Tuesday 9 th September	7.30pm	Uphill	Circuit Meeting
Wednesday 10 th September	7.30pm	Brent Knoll	Local Preachers Meeting
Saturday 13 th September	10.00am		District Representative Synod
Sunday 14 th September	3.00pm	Brent Knoll	Harvest Festival and Farewell Service
Saturday 27 th September	3.00pm	Burnham	Music and Cream Tea

Until Wednesday 2 nd July		Telford Shropshire; and on-line via Utube	METHODIST CONFERENCE