



The Link ++

The newsletter for the Methodist Church in
Burnham-on-Sea and the surrounding area



July and August 2026



A Message from our Minister

Dear Friends

As I come to the end of my ministry with you, I want to say that it has been a real delight to travel life's road with you all. Please come along to the leaving service on the 18th July at 2.30pm in Burnham; it would be wonderful to see you.

One regret is that we have not been able to provide a new minister for September. You will know from your Circuit Meeting Representative that we are looking for willing volunteers to help out with some of the tasks that need to be covered. Please speak to me or a Circuit Steward if you want more information.

There have been far too many experiences that have resulted from my calling to ordained ministry to mention. I have had wonderful times with Christians in India where I have maintained links for the last 18 years, I have served church, circuit and district bringing me into contact with people from many different contexts. I would like to thank you for your friendship over my 11 years here in the circuit.

One claim to fame, if you can call it that, came in my first appointment. Picture if you can, our first manse, a lovely home set in the grounds of Rock House (previously the home of Richard Arkwright) overlooking the famous Cromford Mill in Derbyshire. The house is on a steep slope with a road going in a complete circle around it. One evening Liz and I were sitting in the front room watching the TV, when there was a violent noise and it felt like the whole place had been shaken by an earthquake. On turning around we saw our daughter's car halfway in through the bay window. It had only missed hitting us because we had a large dining table next to the window itself. A few seconds later, our daughter walked through the front door (at the side of the manse), completely oblivious to the fact that her car, which she had parked in the road above, had entered the manse before her! The neighbours came running around, took pictures, and the poor Circuit Steward had to explain to Methodist Insurance why the whole front of the manse needed to be repaired! I heard later the event is the subject of a case study with Methodist Insurance.

And an early lesson learnt; to look under the cloth before presiding at communion. At one church (not in this Circuit) I was breaking the bread when I realised that the Communion Steward had buttered it! It is really difficult to give out bread that has been buttered, it sticks to your fingers. The elderly Communion Steward explained afterwards that this was her first time and she 'always buttered her bread at home!'.

But seriously, I have been blessed to serve many faithful people, and I have tried to serve those on the margins of our church and society too. I have shared in the best times in

people's lives and in the most difficult times, and whilst I know being a supernumerary means that my call will continue, it will be in a very different way.

God bless you.

Steve

Rev John McNeil – a message from our senior Circuit Steward

You will all be aware by now that Rev John McNeill will no longer be joining our Circuit as Superintendent Minister after Rev Steve sits down at the end of July. Connexion ratified John's request to remain in Gloucester on compassionate grounds due to family circumstances. It goes without saying that our prayers go out to John and his family.

If Circuit Meeting agrees, we will go back into stationing this coming September. But in the meantime, our Chair of District, Rev Marcus Torchon, will be our acting Superintendent and both he and the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT), will ensure that Rev Judith Lincoln is supported to ensure that her already heavy workload doesn't get overloaded.

On behalf of the CLT and the Circuit Invitation Committee (CIC), I would like to thank all our churches who have spent so much time and effort in making John feel so welcome on his visits. And to Burnham and Brean churches who generously offered the use of their vestries as office space, if needed.

When Marcus called to inform us that John would be no longer joining us, he made it absolutely clear that our Circuit conducted itself impeccably throughout this entire process. And the fact that John will not be joining us is not due to any fault on our part. So again, thank you all.

And again, on behalf of the CLT/CIC, a huge "Thank you" to Steve who has been such a support to us all during this process, both practically (in helping with drafting of documents, etc) and in supporting and encouraging us throughout. We wish Steve and Liz every happiness as they begin a new journey in their lives. Steve, "Thank you" for your service to us all.

I firmly believe that the coming Connexional year offers us an opportunity to work closer together as a Circuit. So, keep positive and keep praying!

With blessings to all

Rosemary Krull (on behalf of the CLT/CIC)

Brean

www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk

'So, see what you can do' they said: 'Talk about it among yourselves.' No problem there. Sunday morning at our church never stops with the hour of worship. Coffee (etc) and chat rarely finish before midday, and Rose was soon prepared to call us to order to discuss the matter in hand. We all knew that our prospective new minister could no longer come to us in September and that there was no alternative in prospect but to fill as much of the 'hole' that Steve would be leaving as we could. How could we relieve the burden on Judith who had enough on her plate coping with the Weston churches for example.

Like any small village church, we feel very vulnerable at the prospect of losing services and having to close our church on those days. But we recognised the problems and noted that on two Sundays in each month, during the winter anyway, we share worship, first with East Brent and then with St Bridget's our ecumenical partners, and in the summer, when we welcome holidaying friends and occasional visitors we want to make sure, as much as we can, that we have a viable presence for their fellowship.

We recognise that we have a reserve of preachers, and a projector and screen as worship aids; we could also reduce the frequency of Holy Communion a little and investigate whether we can pick up Milton's Zoomed services occasionally. The possibility of Cafe Church, and even Agape were also mentioned

Within reason therefore, we felt that we could be a bit more flexible on worship and might even enjoy a bit of variety. We shall see how it works out.

Steve and Liz have been much loved in their time amongst us, and we shall be sad to see them go. Yet paradoxically there will be a sense of joy also, as there always is when you can sense that a job has been done to the very best of one's ability. It was Steve that the Circuit employed of course but Liz has been constantly at his side and both can look back on their eleven years here with quiet satisfaction. It has been a job well done. We wish you both well for wherever you are led next.

So now we are into summer and before we know it, we shall comment on shorter days, though, by the sound of it not yet of cooler ones also. The second half of June was a trial for us all. I hope we have all managed to come through it with health preserved. Very sad though to know of Andrew Gilling's passing. He had been ill for several months, so it was not unexpected, but it was a shock all the same. He and his family were willing supporters of our churches and attended many of our events.

Our thoughts are with Rosemary and family; and also, with the folks at East Brent, for a small church to lose three prominent members in the space of six months, as they have,

can prove a difficult time. When Judy and I and our family came to live in Brean 50 years ago, there were five churches, Brean, East Brent, Brent Knoll, Mark and Heath House who all maintained a connection with one another, perhaps because there was a strong family connection between some members in each of the churches. Now there are only two, East Brent and Brean.

Have a good summer and remember to keep cool on the hottest days.

And please don't forget our yearly Songs of Praise service, on August 30th at 3pm outside the front of our church. To be taken by Rev Jim McKnight. It will be nice to reflect on this day; it was Steve himself, who inaugurated this service in the first year of his ministry here. We shall be pleased to see all who can come. Tea and cake afterwards, remember!

Harvey Allen

Brent

www.eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk

I'm sure that most of you have heard of the passing of Andrew Gilling. The Gilling family have worshipped at East Brent for generations and Andrew came with his Mum & Dad and sat in the back pew with his sister Nicola. In those days every one sat in the same pew every week I with my Mum & Dad had to sit in the front pew as my Mum was deaf and it was easier to lip read. Gordon and I moved to the other side when we had children. I have known Andrew all my life as we grew up in the same village. This is the third member of our Church who has died in the last six months. We shall miss Andrew terribly he was always at the door to welcome everyone except when he was litter picking!!

On a brighter note we welcomed five members to East Brent when Brent Knoll closed, they have settled in very well and are happy to be part of our Church family.

We wish Steve a happy retirement and will be able to cope with all the jobs that Liz has on her list!!

Jill Legg

Burnham

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

It is a lively time at Burnham Methodist Church.

Alongside our regular worship, the last few months have seen a focus on the refurbishment of the church hall. This has required a grand clear-out of redundant furniture, toys and more general unwanted items.

Much that is retained needs a new home while the work on the hall takes place. It has not been easy, but as of today all is ready. Work should finally begin on 29th June. We wait to see!

The church has been fund raising to help cover the refurbishment cost. It has taken various forms. We held a gift day, explicitly to raise money for the hall. People gave generously.

Our events team has proved invaluable. With their support, we enjoyed themed meals followed by interesting talks, each given by church members. We have had the opportunity to learn about Ethiopia; cathedrals of Britain; India and in June, the Philippines. In each case, food linked to the country involved has been offered – but always with a traditional British dish too.

Last Saturday we held our Summer Fayre, again in aid of the refurbishment of the hall. As on other occasions, we joined with the Friends of Burnham hospital. Both groups were well supported.

All our activities have raised a substantial sum – but renovation is expensive! Fund raising will continue. To this end we have plans for the following:

4th July A musical cream tea at Burnham church. 2-4pm. This is a ticketed event. Tickets are £10 and can be obtained from Liz Bennett, Barbara Williams or through the Waffle Hub

17th July Open Garden at the home of Jo and Nigel May.'Jesama', Hurn Lane, Berrow TA8 2QT' Morning 10.00 – 12.30; Afternoon 2-5pm

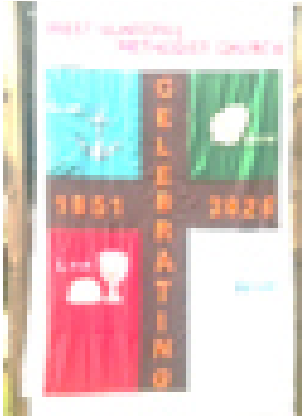
Before the end of July we will join the circuit farewell to Steve and Liz.

As a church we have been blessed through Steve's ministry here and that of Liz too. As they begin the next stage of their life-journey, we wish them a joyful retirement.

Linda, on behalf of the stewards

West Huntspill

www.wsbos.org/westhuntspill.htm



YES we celebrated our 175th Anniversary, Our Chapel was completed and opened for worship in 1851 as carved in the stone above the front door.

We were pleased to welcome folk from across the Circuit, we are grateful that you felt able to celebrate with us. We opened the Chapel on Friday afternoon for tea and coffee and a chance to see the display John had prepared including some of the very old timbers that were supporting or had supported the wooden floorboards for something like 145 years. John was on hand to share some of his vast accumulated knowledge of Huntspill's history.

On Sunday all the Church members and others were present for morning worship led by Rev. Stuart Innalls of Bridgwater. Stuart's connection here goes back 50 years as he was a local preacher and youth leader in the Bridgwater Circuit before entering the ministry.

The afternoon saw us gather on the Chapel Lawns where we enjoyed a really good sing with Steve and Judith leading the Circuit Service Celebration.



The Celebration concluded with a Cream Tea and Birthday Cake in the Chapel. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

We continue to "Praise God for all that is past and trust Him for all that is to come.

Christine Thomas



Our Coffee mornings are Friday 31st July and Friday 28th August 10.30am – 12 Noon. Donations for the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance. Do come along and bring your friends and family. We would love to see you again. We do have a sales table with various items.

NOTES ON QUIET DAY 30.5.26

CREATION/FALL/RESTORATION

QUIET/STILLNESS/PEACE

As I sat in the peace garden two swans flew overhead, in perfect symmetry, the rhythmic beat of their wings the only sound. In the final silence of death, does that continue to nourish the soul? As the soul never dies but goes on to be with God, is the nourish feeding the soul even more now that the noises of earth have ceased? Does continual noise stop the soul being nourished? Should we seek silence with an appetite similar to hunger for a meal? There is a real need to be away from the noise. Drop Thy still dews of quietness till all our strivings cease, take from our souls the strain and stress and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of Thy peace

Can we preserve a place of peace even in the midst of war, conflict, disagreement? Is silence peace? Silence isn't always peaceful if our thoughts are troubled. Similarly, peace can be experienced even without silence, the peace of God which passes all understanding keeps our heart and minds. Does the lack of peace and silence in the modern world account for the increase in mental illness, where noise is everywhere, seemingly no escape. Minds and souls need a place of peace. Do we fill the silence with noise to avoid thinking? There seems to be need for constant sound in the world, waiting on the phone, swimming, which should be peaceful, interrupted by loud piped music, fracturing the thoughts. In A A Milne's book Winnie the Pooh complained that someone else was using up the silence which was mine as much as his. Are we damaging others by not allowing them the nourishment of peace?

Children very seldom enjoy silence unless ill, their endless chatter and frequent fallouts fill our ears constantly, but the precious moments at bedtime sharing a book, preparing for sleep are vital to their wellbeing. Noise is imposed upon us from every direction, Alexa talks to us when we haven't addressed her, reels play on the phone, even when silent mode is selected, it seems to override this. This is a scary invasion of our privacy disrupting chains of thought. A popular song states that silence is golden. Natural sounds of nature are not always silent but can still be peaceful, the sound of the waves lapping the shore, a waterfall cascading down the rocks in a crystal curtain. Snow brings silence, when it has fallen everywhere is silent and pure, all the imperfections covered with a veil of white.

Make me a channel of your peace for we are told that blessed are the peacemakers, our spiritual gifts are not to keep and bury in the ground but to share and therefore let them grow. JOY = Jesus first, others second, yourself last

Kathy Hurrell

(What a lovely, thoughtful contribution. Thank you Kathy. Ed)

NEWS FROM UPHILL

Late Notices

Because of the recent heatwave, this edition of Link Magazine has been delayed and the following items have missed the publishing date. They are included here so that anyone interested will be aware of future meetings.

Woodspring Wordsmiths,

is a group that meets monthly.

For Christians who write, in any genre, who

hope to be published, who are already

published, or who write just for fun!

It aims to be a safe place to encourage each other,

discuss any problems, and share our experiences.

The Group meets monthly and the last meeting was held on

Wednesday 1st July 2026

Time: 7.30pm - 9pm

at Uphill Methodist Church, Uphill Rd S, WsM BS23 4SD

The Church also runs a well attended monthly Quiet Morning at its

Uphill Retreat Centre

(located in the church)

Its last Session was held on Thursday 2nd July from 10am to 12noon.

A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring a large sunflower in the top left, a small sailboat in the top right, and various smaller flowers and greenery along the sides and bottom. The background is a light cream color with small yellow dots scattered throughout.

BREAN METHODIST CHURCH

Open Air Service

Our Open Air service
this year will be on

Sunday, August 30th

• **starting at 3pm** •

followed by refreshments.

Please come and join us.

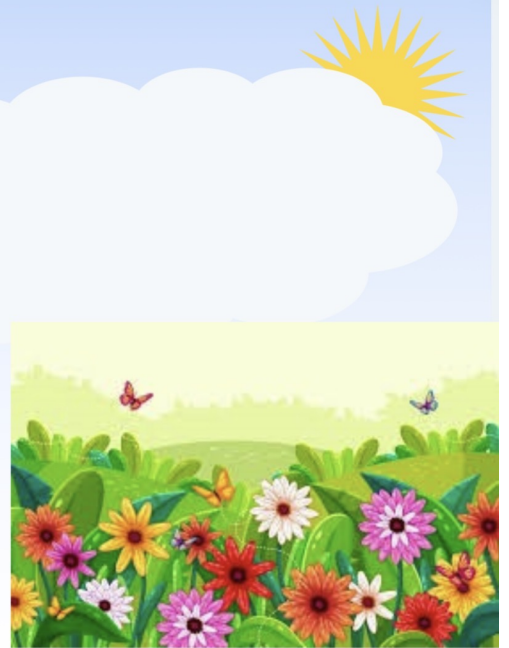


Open Garden

Friday 17th July 10.00am-
12.30pm & 2.00pm-5.00pm

At the home of Nigel & Jo May

Jesama, Hurn Lane, Berrow, TA8 2QT



In aid of the Church Hall Refurbishment Fund.

Tea / Coffee Cakes & Biscuits

Come and sit and chat in the garden.

Large drive for parking, or nearby car park at Berrow Nature Reserve (just past John Fowler on the Coast Road).

Number 20 bus stops at the end of Hurn Lane.



Calendar

	Time	Location	Event
Regular Days			
Mondays (except Bank Holidays and July 13th)	10.30 am	Brean	Coffee 'n' Chat
Wednesday (except 1st Wed of month)	10.00 am	Zoom	Weekly Bible Study
Wednesday	2.00 pm	Burnham	Knit 'n' Natter
Thursday	11.00 am	Zoom	Coffee 'n' Chat
Friday	Morning	Burnham	Mothers and Toddlers
Friday (Last Friday of Month)	10.30 am - 12 noon	West Huntspill	Coffee Morning
Other Dates			
Saturday 4th July	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Burnham	Musical cream tea. Tickets £10 from Liz Bennett, Barbara Williams and through Waffle Hub
Friday 17th July	10.00 am - 12.30 pm and 2.00pm - 5.00pm	Jesama, Hurn Lane, Berrow	Garden Party to raise funds for Burnham Church Hall Refurbishment
Saturday 18th July	2.30 pm	Burnham	Leaving Service for Rev Steve and Liz Bennett
Sunday 30th August	3.00 pm	Brean	Open Air Service

LINK MAGAZINE

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue. It is much appreciated and I hope that you and others will continue to supply articles for future editions.

Thanks to the efforts of Nigel and Jo May, each edition is held on the Burnham-on-Sea website <http://burnhamonseamethodistchurch.org.uk/>

Contributions are welcome and encouraged. Will stewards please remember that the newsletter not only provides information for our congregations but also keeps us in touch with people who are not our members. Maybe, just maybe, something that you have contributed, will encourage a visitor or even a potential resident to sample the warm welcome our churches offer.

The Link is published on or around the 1st of each month except for January and August. Closing date for the receipt of your item is the 25th of the month before publication and to be included on the circulation list send your email address to our minister on:

As in other years, there will be no separate issue for August. And as from September John Trebble will be taking over the editorship of The Link. Please send your contributions to him at:

[_johnft16@aol.com](mailto:johnft16@aol.com)

Thank you to all of you who have taken delivery of the magazine. It has been my pleasure to have prepared the Link for you over these months. And a special thanks to contributors who have done their best to inform us all.

In particular my thanks to Anne Hicks who has made the magazine sparkle by her layout and innovations. Much appreciated by us all.

The closing date for items in the next edition of Link Plus is 24th August. Remember, contributions to John Trebble at: johnft16@aol.com

