
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

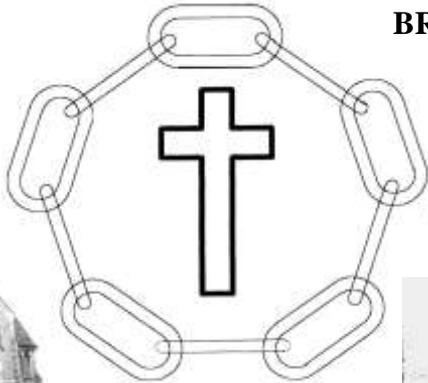
June 2007 Volume 42. No. 5.



BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



BURNHAM ON SEA



EAST BRENT



WEST HUNTSPILL

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

On the last weekend in May we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost and together with our Local Council of Churches will hold an United Service at Hope Baptist, Highbridge.

Some will refer to the last weekend of May as being Whitsun or White Sunday. In the Christian Church it is traditionally the first opportunity since Easter for the Christian community to profess their faith with an act of public witness. On Easter Day new converts to the faith would have been confirmed and as an outward sign of their faith (being dressed in white) form an integral part of the main procession.

I can remember travelling through Chesterfield on our way to Cliff College Anniversary being held up by the Church parades and the brass bands on their way to the main Methodist Church at Saltergate for their annual united service.

Pentecost is a celebration of music, song and Christian tradition coming together.

While away on my sabbatical I celebrated a significant birthday even though I still feel twenty something. Pentecost celebrates not only the birth of the Church but its optimism, mission, vigour and life within its fellowship and continued growth. So perhaps like those brass bands we should be blowing our trumpets and raise our voices more often.

Every Blessing

Stephen

Church Membership????

Interested?

Open to everyone.

Meeting on Wednesday June 6th, 20th and 4th July at the Manse at 7.30pm. Come along to explore, share together and discuss. This is an open invitation to all within the Link.



CALENDER

MAY

- Fri. 25th 6.00pm. Festival of Arts Crafts & Flowers at Hope Baptist Church Highbridge. see April LINK for details.
- Sat. 26th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.

JUNE

- Sat. 2nd 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - by Thursday Fellowship.
- Sun. 3rd am. **Traidcraft Stall in the Hall**
- Fri. 8th 7.00pm **An Evening of Light Entertainment at West Huntspill** (Church Anniversary W/E)
- Sat 9th 10.00 -12.00 **SCF** Coffee Morning and Stalls
- Mon. 11th 8.00pm. **Monday Group** - AGM & Meal at Towans Cottage.
- Sat. 16th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.
- Sun. 17th **LAST Day for items for the July - August LINK**
- Wed. 20th 11.00 – 4.00. "Open Day" at Daphne Hill's 11 Steart Ave. Burnham.
- Sat. 23rd 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.
- Sat. 30th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of General Church Funds.

JULY

- Sun. 1st am. **Traidcraft Stall in the Hall**
- Fri. 6th Concert by the Choir in aid of General Church Funds
- Sat. 7th 10.00 - 12.00 Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - by Monday Group.
- Thurs. 12th 3.00pm on Afternoon Tea at Dorothy & Cedric's
- Sat 14th 10.00 -12.00 **SCF** Coffee Morning and Stalls
- Sun. 22nd 6.30pm. **Circuit "Wesley Celebration" at Victoria.**



Baptism

Ben Matthew son of Mark & Louise Whitrow at Burnham on May 6th

Funeral

Phyllis Hackett of Elizabeth Court at Weston Crematorium on May 25th

Charles Wesley

Who was Charles Wesley? Most people, even Methodists know very little about him, except as the writer of a great collection of hymns: far more than appear in any hymnbook. But there was much more to Charles Wesley than that. He was John Wesley's partner in founding the Methodist Societies, which in time were to become the Methodist Church - an outcome, by the way, which Charles was quite doubtful about. He was more attached to the Anglican Church than John, and sometimes shocked by John's actions, such as appointing bishops for America. However, they were always close, with great affection for each other and had been brought up in a large loving family. Charles characteristically was the first to have his heart changed (converted): significantly on Whit Sunday (Pentecost) 1738, a day or so before John. In many other ways too, it was in fact, Charles who led, and took the first steps, but his nature was much less confrontational than John's and he was content not to be out in front. Whilst John Wesley could be very austere, in contrast Charles had a warm outgoing personality, though he was held back by frequent bouts of ill health. A family man he had a happy marriage. He loved music, sometimes holding chamber concerts in his home. His children too were musically very talented. From all accounts Charles was as effective a preacher as John, though we know much less in detail about his preaching. He faced many of the same difficulties and dangers with the mob as John. Charles Wesley often acted as a peacemaker, when John became arrogant (and, let it be said, sometimes lost his temper). He was ready, when necessary to work behind the scenes for example mentoring the local preachers.

Charles' poetry and hymns were and are the real vehicle of Methodist emphases, and spirituality. Who, except for preachers reads John's sermons today? Charles' hymns went a long way towards defining Methodism ethos and doctrines. They not only incorporate, but give life and body to the Methodist 'Four Alls'. All have sinned, all can be saved, all can know they are saved and all can be saved to the uttermost They underline the universal tone of Methodist Arminianism which was in contrast to the Calvinistic doctrines of predestination. Charles Wesley's hymns have introduced some of these emphases to Christians of other traditions, and we find some of them sung in almost every denomination

A special characteristic of these hymns is that they are not doctrinal theses but real expression of Charles' deep love of Christ and his compassion and concern for those in need: for the marginalised and

sinners. There is a very personal and heartfelt current running right through them. It is for this reason that, though some of the hymns are difficult for our age, with an 'outdated' vocabulary, very many others are very approachable and still speak powerfully today.

'O for a thousand tongues' - for long the Methodist anthem coming first in previous Hymn Books, incorporates the deeply felt calling of Methodism to evangelism proclaiming the Gospel to all mankind.. "Where shall my wandering soul begin?" speaks of Charles Wesley's wonder at his own conversion at Whitsun 1738.

Many of the hymns are loaded with evangelical theology. For example (H&P 520) "Father, whose everlasting love/Thy only Son for sinners gave...." In five verses embodies the very heart of the Christian gospel, whilst other hymns Like (H&P 381)

"Forth in thy name O Lord I go" are simple and straightforward devotional songs to be sung in the course of daily life -setting out for work in the morning and dedicating the day to God. (H&P 434); "Come, O thou traveller unknown..." is widely acknowledged to be a masterpiece of poetry - v.p30, I recall how one of the hymns "And can it be... (H&P 216) used to be sung with gusto in all sorts of inappropriate occasions at the top of our voices especially by young people, on every possible occasion. Sadly that meant that much of its meaning; easily passed by, but on giving close attention to its words it is seen as-a- shows a profoundly scriptural and deeply felt hymn, like so many of Charles' expressing the emotion which spoke of his deep felt feelings. Many of these hymns are now used by virtually all churches, notably hymns for the great festivals of the church - at Easter "Christ the Lord is risen today... " (H&P 193), and at Christmas "Hark! The herald angels sing..." (H&P 106) and in the event carrying some Methodist emphasises with them.

Most of Charles Wesley's hymns are wonderfully constructed from a string of scripture references, which in our less knowledgeable days may easily get missed. It makes them a truly reliable guide to a scriptural religion.

We often take great pleasure in some of the hymn tunes we sing, they have become old favourites, but we should give as much, if not more, attention to the words which have so many profound and true messages to lift our hearts and deepen our faith and devotion.

"Charles Wesley Tercentenary Celebrations"

During this year many Churches, Circuits and District are holding special events. It was a privilege for us in Burnham to be able to share the Charles Wesley Hymns Evening led by our Choir. We owe a great deal in the Methodist Church along with all denominations to Charles Wesley for the many hymns which he wrote and still are chosen in the top ten lists in Churches, Radio and TV.

On the evening of 22nd July there will be a Circuit Celebration giving us the opportunity to share with the Circuit.



OPEN DAY

At Daphne Hill's, 11 Steart Avenue

On Wednesday June 20th 11.00am to 4.00pm

Whether you just pop in for a cuppa, or come for coffee, stay for lunch and finish with tea you will be very welcome. raffle, bric-a-brac stall and quiz.

All proceeds to the redevelopment fund.



Arthritis Research

Our Annual sponsored knit in will be held on Thursday July the 5th at 2.30pm. and Rev. Stephen Hill has kindly invited us hold it at the manse 28a Caernarvon Way and he will also arrange transport, when necessary.

We have a happy hour of knit and chat and generally raise about £300 for which the Arthritis Research Council are most appreciative. Will knitters please bring some double knitting wool and number 9 (3^{3/4}) needles. I have plenty of sponsor forms.

Muriel Hyde.

LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

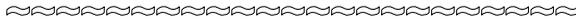
On Tuesday, April 24th., we were transported back in time to the Victorian era when Mrs. Pat Hase gave a most interesting presentation of a family from the Birmingham area travelled down to Weston-super-Mare by post carriage for their annual holiday. She had traced this family from the early days until she found the child who was in ill health had married and had children while her well sister had never married.

On Tuesday, May 8th, eight of us attended the Easter Offering service at Milton. Mrs. Joyce Pipet was the Speaker - she gave her talk on a hymn from the order of Service "A Touching Place". The Total collected from Easter Offerings and that afternoon's collection amounted to £1070.

Mrs. Di Smart stepped in as our Speaker on the last afternoon on our ordinary session on May 15th.

The A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday, May 22nd.

Eileen Goundry



NCH The Children's Charity

The result of the House to House collection made in Burnham during the month of April was £800.00. On behalf of NCH I would like to thank everyone who helped. I think we were helped this year as the weather was so fine for the whole month.

On Saturday 19th May, Cedric and I went to an NCH Supporters Day held in Exeter. I had been nominated to receive the Stephenson Award for my out standing commitment to the work of NCH and recognition of the considerable contribution made in a voluntary capacity to the lives of some of the UK most voluble children, young people, and their families. The award was presented by Mrs. Pamela Chesters, Chair Designate of Trustees with a citation being read by Rev. Bill Lynn. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me over the many years either by collecting or by the generous giving. I felt very privileged to receive this award.

Dorothy May.

S^t. CONGAR AND THE PINK PANTHER

St.Congar dates back to the 5/600's and Badgworth Church just off the A38 is the only church dedicated to him in England. Badgworth village only has 63 houses and is faced with a huge bill for roof repairs.

On Friday July 27th at 7-30 p.m. The Pink Panther will be one of the modern pieces played by a London based recorder ensemble, 'MEAN TIME' as part of their national tour, along with works from 1300 onwards.

Tickets at £6 and £4 (restricted viewing) includes wine and are available by ringing Louise Say 01934 732971. The various recorders lend themselves to the acoustics of a church.

Badgworth is just off the A 38 about half a mile from Weare.



WHO WAS S^t. CONGAR?

This is the question I was recently asked and I could not remember other than that Badgworth Church is the only Church in England that has St Congar as its Patron Saint.

I went to an 1869 Church magazine for the answer and this is how the story goes. St. Congar is thought to have lived in the 5/600's and was an excellent character who spent his life doing good. It is thought likely that there was an oratory or wooden structure for the worship of God on the present site of Badgworth Church.

St. Congar does have some historical reference. Camden in his Britannia Vol. 1 page 83 noted that St. Congar was said to have been the son of an Emperor of Constantinople. He is said to have been known as 'Doccuin' because he taught both the English and the Welsh the way of salvation. It is said that at Congresbury, the name derived from Congar, that St. Congar built an oratory and to have placed in it 12 canons before moving on, always being given land by various kings for oratories.

Detail in the period 500 to 700 is sketchy so the exact historical facts are difficult. That St. Congar existed is beyond doubt.

It is possible that he was a hermit who came to this country from Brittany, with which there were strong ecclesiastical ties, to preach among the people.

Whether St. Congar built the oratory who knows, but with a sizeable Saxon settlement here in Badgworth, it is probable that worship on the Badgworth Church site has been going for well over 1000 years.

The Saint's Day for St. Congar is in October

BURNHAM.

Hello Link readers, especially those who haven't been able to get to church lately - our thoughts are with you. Welcome back Stephen from your sabbatical. We hope you have found the rest beneficial and spiritually rewarding, and that you are ready to continue in God's work. This being the tercentenary of a certain person's tireless work for God, our choir put on a supper and Charles Wesley Hymns Evening on 11th May, which was much enjoyed. Proceeds went towards redevelopment, and in that connection it is nice to see that at last the first steps are being taken, i.e. clearing out the rooms. Fund raising continues, but for the week commencing 13th May Christian Aid was the focus. Rev. John LeSueur led a special service where we learnt more about the situation in El Salvador and the bravery of their Archbishop Oscar Romero. As the week of collecting ended, we had the Rainbow Spring Fair. This was blessed with good weather and excellent attendance.

The Saturday fair trade shopper's coffee morning is well established now and provides a good witness in the community and a fellowship opportunity.

Wishing you all a pleasant June.

Chris - for the stewards.



Thanks

Thank you to everyone for their cards, messages and prayers for me and the family on the death of my mum. It does help knowing there are people there for you.

And a big thank you to everyone in the church who sponsored Moira when she did the abseil down Avon Gorge for NCH. She enjoyed doing it. I just wish I had been here when she did it, but Dorothy and Cedric went to give their support so a big thank you to them as well. Sorry it's a bit late but I missed the last link.

Thanks again everyone.

Rosaleen

BURNHAM ON SEA REDEVELOPMENT FUND

MONEY RAISED IN APRIL 2007 £414.70

TOTAL RAISED BY MEMBERS AS AT END MARCH £84, 266.49

**TOTAL RAISED (INCLUDING BEQUESTS, GRANTS, LOANS,
INTEREST AND LOANS PROMISED ETC. £113,387.55**

FUND RAISING FUTURE EVENTS

June 20th. Open Day at Daphne Hill's 11.00am to 4.00pm

July 12th. Afternoon Tea 3.00pm at Cedric and Dorothy May's

August 2nd Coffee Morning at Joy and Tony Bishop's

More Summer Outside events would be welcomed – contact Joyce.



THANKS

What a great time we had at the “Charles Wesley Celebration”! We began the evening with a delightful and well prepared meal enjoying company and conversation. We moved into the Church where we sang favourite Charles Wesley hymns well led by the Choir. The choir also sang, “Christ whose Glory fills the Sky”, “Rejoice the Lord is King” and concluded the evening by singing “Author of Life Divine” all accompanied by Tim, and all were written by Charles Wesley. The hymns were linked together by Barry Hall with words about Charles' life, family and conversion. Thank you Choir and especially Tim and Bridgett.



“RAINBOW FAIR”

We were fortunate with a fine day and spread outside where the plant stall was an immediate attraction – selling out! The stalls were all attractively decorated with the colours of the rainbow and gifts for sale accordingly. We had a steady stream of people in and a full room most of the time keeping the Coffee/Tea servers busy. A happy occasion with a great result of £653 raised to date. Thank you to all the helpers and the buyers.

Joyce Plumb

BRENT KNOLL

At Brent Knoll, May has been a full and varied month, with times of sadness and joy. On May 1st we met in St. Michael's Church for a service led by the Revd. Norman Wallwork in thanksgiving for the life of the Revd. Iain Craig

It was a privilege to share in this celebration of a wonderful life and to hear more of Iain's achievements. We shall all miss him very much and understand a little of the loss Jenny and Rosie are experiencing We continue to hold them in our prayers .

It was good to welcome friends from the Link and the village to our Spring Coffee Morning on May 5th. Although we were not quite as busy as in previous years it was a very happy time and over £300 was raised . The Revd. John Stedman led the service on May 6th. and I was able to share with him . It was a very special occasion as Ricky Harris was baptized and he and Heather Poulter were then confirmed and welcomed into full membership of the Methodist Church. After the service Gill and Chris Poulter invited us to their home for a buffet lunch and we were able to enjoy the sunshine in the garden. We had been looking forward to welcoming our Superintendent Minister to lead our Church Anniversary on May 13th and were very sorry to hear that Terry is ill. We do hope he will feel stronger soon and send our love and prayers to him and Catherine. This was our 170th Anniversary and it was good to give thanks together for the past, for all the people and for the faith, which has been nurtured in this place. We were especially aware of missing faces but know that they are still part of our fellowship and although they can never be replaced we are so pleased to see new people in the congregation. It was particularly appropriate that the lessons for the day were read by our two newest members, Ricky and Heather. On May 27th we celebrate Pentecost and also another family occasion as Mike and Paula Knott hope to bring Rebecca for baptism. We shall be very sorry to lose them when they move nearer to Plymouth but we know they will keep their ties with the Church and we wish them well in all the future holds.

June should be a less eventful month. We look forward to welcoming Stephen back to take our service on the 3rd and hope that his Sabbatical has been fulfilling. We send our greetings to all our friends.

Love from,

Margaret

WEST HUNTSPILL

West Huntspill Anniversary Weekend



**Please come and join us as we
Celebrate Our Anniversary**



**Friday 8th June at 7pm
An Evening of Light Entertainment**



**Sunday 10th June
Morning Service 11am
Led by Revd Malcolm Adams
Evening Service 6.30pm
Led by Mrs Di Smart**



Thank you to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning for the Babe Appeal. As a result of your generosity we were thrilled to be able to sent a donation of £235.00

BREAN

Another month has gone – have you ever known time go so quickly? if I don't hurry up and get this report done it will be time to do next month's

We joined with our friends at St Bridget's for our United Service last Sunday and the Rev. Sally spoke about Peace. How we long for peace everywhere, don't we, but it must start with and in us.

It was lovely to see Joyce Plumb taking our Sunday morning service again it seems ages since she came to us and we shall remember her in our prayers as she faces another operation.

We hope to see our Minister Stephen back in harness again soon. We hope he has benefited from his sabbatical and pray for him as he faces the future.

We were all saddened at the news of the death of Rev. Iain Craig. What a wonderful servant he was to us all and we shall miss him but will remember his loved ones in prayer.

Well it's holiday time and soon crowds of folk will be appearing and we do hope that some will be moved to come into church. For those of our friends who have gone or are going away soon we wish them a very happy holiday and will come home refreshed.

We send our best wishes to all Link friends - still thinking of those who are poorly and lonely and anxious.

God's blessing to you all,

Lilian Stone.

EAST BRENT

Last Saturday we had a delightful morning at Brean, when Gordon and Jill were kind enough to open their house and garden. The morning had been showery but when we arrived the sun was out and we had plenty of time to look round Jill's garden, It was looking a picture and a great reward for all the hard work she does to keep it up to perfection. We were delighted to see so many friends from not only from Brean itself but also from Weston and Brent We were very sorry indeed to learn of the death of Rev. Iain Craig. In the Link, we knew that Iain was well read, an outstanding preacher, who delivered his sermons without notes and when we left, we always had something to take home with us. Speaking to some friends in Invergowrie, where he was parish minister for many years before he retired to Brent Knoll, it was his pastoral care that meant so much to members of his Congregation. We first came into contact with Iain in 1983 when he was doing his hospital round in Ninewells Hospital Dundee. We had much in common, both being brought up in the West of Scotland. It was good that Norman Wallwork was able to lead the thanksgiving service in Brent Knoll. Iain will be sadly missed and our prayers and sympathy go to Jenny and Rosie.

On the last Sunday in April, we were delighted to welcome Michael and Anne Pullan. We had an outstanding service from Michael and many of our Congregation commented, "That was a real old fashioned Methodist Service". We learnt that just as all sheep are different, so are all people and we must use the talents which we all have to the best of our ability.. Michael is possibly best remembered for all the teddy bears he sold on behalf of Bristol Children's Hospital and he still does much fund raising for local causes both here and in South Yorkshire. We had a table of Tradecraft goods which were available, with the profits going to

Methodist Overseas Missions. He did admit though he had a few teddy bears in the boot of his car, if anyone was really interested. If only

It is four years since Robert Channon last preached at East Brent so it was a joy when he was able to take our May Communion. In his sermon, he stressed that we must love one another and how we might move forward as a Circuit. In a small church, we all know one another but this is not quite so easy in a large Congregation but we must continue to reach out. We suggested how the Circuit might move forward in the informal gathering after the service. It was good to have him with us and we hope it will not be so long before he returns. We understand that Stephen has now returned after his sabbatical and we look forward to meeting up again.

David Craig.

Minister

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

**The Deadline for the
July/August 2007 “LINK” is
Sunday 17th June 2007**

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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.

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