
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

May 2009 Volume 44. No. 4.



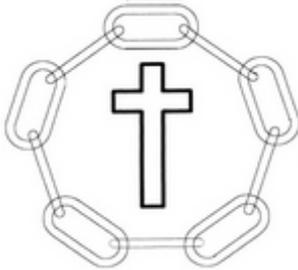
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM ON SEA

Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

Where ever you were on Easter morning I hope and pray the sun was shining. Over the last week I have discovered that in my close group of friends I wasn't the only one to receive a text message at 5.20am Easter morning. It read "He is Risen. Alleluia."

Universally it is a message unlike any other. The Church's proclamation is unique and at every opportunity we able are commissioned to proclaim that God's own Son died and then rose again after being pronounced dead and is now alive for eternity. This is so significant that no other world religion comes close.

Over the next few weeks in our services we begin to see how the early church takes on board the news and how their experience is changed by the presence of the risen Christ and the Holy Spirit.

What a difference those disciples made. It has been estimated that in that first century the church in Jerusalem numbered about 150. In our terms that means two Burnham sized churches. It was not a church made up of young people but with a mixture of ages and different experiences. Some having a stronger faith than others. One thing they had in abundance that we sometimes need to be reminded of and that is a passion for mission.

During the month of May not only do we celebrate Christ's Ascension and Pentecost but as Methodists, May 24th 1738 was the conversion of John Wesley when he felt "his heart strangely warmed." Wesley was instrumental in the English Revival changing thousands of lives. What a vision God gave him. "The world is his Parish". Shouldn't we all consider and pray about the vision God has for us. By the prompting of the Holy Spirit we will find our faith and mission rekindled for Him and Him alone.

Every Blessing

Stephen

I am pleased to officially announce that Betsan and I got engaged at Easter. We've already planned the wedding. This will be at Burnham on August 1st at 11.00am.

Stephen

CALENDAR

APRIL

- Sat. 25th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome
Sun. 26th am Traidcraft table in the Hall
Tue. 28th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning at 4 Monmouth Farm Close Pawlett.
Home of Rev. Robin Hutt & Ethel.
Tue. 28th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - Rev. Paul Larcombe
Tue. 28th Annual Church Meeting and Gift Day.

MAY

- Sat. 2nd 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of the RD Fund - Thursday Fellowship
Wed. 6th 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Trip to the theatre.
Thu. 7th 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - Mr. Harry Kempson.
Sat. 9th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning - Burnham - All Welcome.
Tue. 12th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - New Horizon Singers – Collection for SURE (Somerset Unit Radiotherapy Equipment)
Sat. 16th 10.00 - 12.00. Coffee Morning in aid of RNLI - Burnham Methodist Hall.
Sun. 17th 4.30pm. Circuit Tea Victoria Methodist Church W-s-M.
Sun. 17th 6.00pm. Dedication Service of the Easter offering at Victoria Methodist Church.
Mon. 18th 7.30pm. Circuit Men's Supper Club - AGM at 7.00pm. Followed by Roger Lancaster telling us about "Mercy Ships"
Thur. 21st 2.30pm. Thursday Fellowship - General Meeting - Rev. Stephen Hill.
Sat 23rd 10.00 - 12.00. Spring Coffee Morning - Brent Knoll - All Welcome
Sat 23rd 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham - All Welcome
Sun. 24th LAST Day for items for the June LINK
Tue. 26th 2.30pm. LINK Villages Fellowship - A. G. M. Communion - Rev Stephen Hill.
Sat 30th 10.00 - 12.00. Shoppers Coffee Morning Burnham All Welcome

JUNE

- Wed. 3rd 8.00pm. Wednesday Group - Outing and A.G.M.
Thur. 4th all day. County Council Elections
Fri. 5th
Sat 6th
Sun 7th
**“FLOWER FESTIVAL AND CELEBRATION OF THE
130TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY”
JUNE 5th – 7th.**



Deaths

Clara King Funeral at Burnham on 3rd April

Engagement

Congratulations to Stephen and Betsan as they announce their Engagement

METHODISTS FOR WORLD MISSION
South West Autumn Conference
at the
Ammerdown Centre, Radstock, Nr Bath
30th October to 1st November 2009

Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land"

"Overseas Fellowships in the U,K.

The Conference will be led by:-

Michael King:
Methodist Church Leader in World Church Relationships,

Revd. George Mawire:
Methodist Church Zimbabwe, now in circuit in London

Revd. Graham Shaw:
Recently Mission Partner in Zimbabwe

Revds. Audrey and Ed. Standhaft
Circuit ministers in Bristol

The Conference commences at 6.00pm. on Friday and concludes with an
act of worship after lunch on Sunday.

**Further details and Booking Forms from the treasurer
Geoff Barraclough**

7 Pine Tree Close. Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1BP Tel:- 01202 841240
e-mail: geoff_barraclough@tiscali.co.uk

EASTER OFFERING DEDICATION SERVICE

This year's Dedication Service of the Easter offering is at Victoria Methodist Church on **Sunday, 17th May at 6p.m.** Tea will be served from 4.30p.m. giving us a time for fellowship and catching up with friends from around the Circuit. The speaker this year is Rev. Thurairajah Samuel, Superintendent of the West Mendip Circuit and who comes from Sri Lanka.

I'm fairly sure you know that the Easter Offering raises much needed money for the 'Fund for World Mission'. The service was prepared by the Past-President of Women's Network, Pam Turner and Mission Education. The theme of this year's service is "The Way".

This act of worship enables the whole church in Britain and Ireland to give to the work of the 61 Methodist Partner Churches overseas, so it seems only right that this year we are having a Circuit Sunday service (as is the custom in many other circuits) so that **EVERYONE** can join in, instead of being on a weekday which excludes so many people.

Let us all come together, on this special day, to worship God with joy and thanksgiving.

With blessings,

Di Smart

Women's Network Circuit Secretary



Rev. Robin & Mrs. Ethel Hutt

Invite you to celebrate Robin's 70th birthday

by coming for Coffee & Cake on

Tuesday April 28th 10.00 – 12.00

to raise money for **THE EVE APPEAL**

research into ovarian cancer

Remembering Mary Hutt and Ann Martin.

So, no presents, just come to

4 Monmouth Farm Close, Pawlett

off Old Main Road, opposite the British Legion.

FUCHSIAS 2009.

The Rev Stanley Pipet is now taking orders for Fuchsias for this summer. They will be available shortly, at £2.00 a fuchsia. All proceeds are for Christian Aid. Please see Stanley or telephone him at 01278-795764. Thank you?

130th Anniversary
Burnham-on-Sea Methodist Church

Flower Festival

June 5th, 6th and 7th

Refreshments
Organ Music
Cards
Plants
Concert Friday 6.30pm

Friday 2pm - 6pm
Saturday 10am - 6pm
Sunday 12md - 6pm

Services at 10.30 and 6.30 led by Reverend Ward Jones



LINK VILLAGES' FELLOWSHIP

Members were very interested to hear the story of the development of Yeo Valley Dairies. The farmers, Mr and Mrs Mead decided to branch out into the yoghurt making business several years ago. Everything is organic - the cattle are fed organically, as are the sheep and chickens. The wool is used for making jumpers; the meat is used in the canteen; the chickens' eggs and meat are also used in the canteen.

There are now several farms supplying milk for yoghurt production and four centres where different processes take place including the production and distribution. A new building is soon to be opened at Highbridge. At the close of a very interesting Video Presentation, there was a supply of free yoghurts and mousse for everyone.

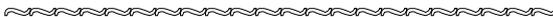
On Tuesday, April 14th, we held our annual Members' Afternoon which was led by Evelyn Tucker. Members gave a selection of readings - some connected with Easter. It was an enjoyable afternoon. The Bring and Buy stall was well supported - the proceeds from which are to go to the Network District Project.

Rev. Paul Larcombe is to be our Speaker on April 28th

The New Horizon Singers are to give us an afternoon of music on Tuesday, May 12th, when there will be a collection for S.U.R.E. "Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment".

May 26th is to be our A.G.M. which will be followed by Communion

Eileen Goundry



Weston Light Orchestra

Conducted by Roy Tripp Leader Christine Gladwin

Present

A Programme of Popular Music from 1930's
in the style of "Grand Hotel" at

Victoria Methodist Church

Weston-super-Mare

Saturday May 16th 2009

at 7.30pm

In aid of the

Motor Neurone Disease Charity

Ticket £5.00 to include refreshments
are available from Les Rowe 01934 624091
or Worle Parish Office 01934 515922

The new programme will include Richard Baker (Piano and Organ)
and Michael Hase & Zoe Maitland (Singers)



BRENT KNOLL

As we remember the crosses on the Knoll, the sadness of Good Friday, and the thrill of a glorious Easter Sunday, we feel invigorated in our Christian journey.

Spring with its birth of new life, starts our renewed enthusiasm to show by our example what Christ can do in our lives.

We remember people who have been hit by the recession; we tend to take our comfortable lifestyles for granted.

Our Church attendance remains fairly static, although we welcome visitors at "special" services.

We have our Spring Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday May 23rd, to which all are welcome.

We remember Stephen who will be starting a "New Life" in August, and wish him every happiness.

Shirley Pycroft.

EAST BRENT

Well we had a very thought provoking service with Brian Dalimore leading our worship on Palm Sunday

Then on Maundy Thursday Rev. Margaret Trapp stepped in at the very last minute, when it was discovered that Rev. Stephen Hill was stuck in traffic at Minehead and would not be able to make it. How fortunate and grateful we are for the supernumeraries in this circuit. The cross was bare and the attendance disappointing but Margaret did an excellent job.

We now look forward to a busy Easter weekend, our eldest granddaughter Kate (Tony our eldest son's daughter) was married Easter Saturday morning in Lowestoft, then it was back home for Easter Sunday. This service was taken by Trevor Hunt, who also did very well, it was certainly a service with a difference, the Church was very well attended with many visitors, and at the end the cross now covered with posies attached by the congregation was placed outside for all passers by to view for a few days.

We congratulate Robin Hutt on celebrating his 70th birthday and wish him and Ethel well.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ann Julyan and family also Evelyn on the death of Ann's mother Mrs Webber of Frith House, who in years gone by attended East Brent on many occasions. Also David and Eileen Craig in Scotland, rather a long way for a visit without circuit expenses, but always remembered.

We think of Chrissy and her dog from Calne, whom we always look forward to seeing when she is able to travel down. We hope that all in the Link and Circuit had an enjoyable Easter.

Gordon Legg.

BURNHAM.

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

STEWARDS COLUMN

Doesn't time fly!

I'm having a hard time recalling the church as it was before the redevelopment, but we are becoming accustomed to our new space and comfortable chairs (no-one has fallen asleep –yet!) There is a simplicity and tranquillity within which can be felt whenever you step into the building. It is also a great community space and visitors to our shopper's coffee mornings are very interested in seeing what has been done within the building. As the intention has always been to use the church for all kinds of functions we have started with a Fashion Show (organised by Dorothy May) – the church chairs were reconfigured to allow for the models to walk up and down the centre isle as on a cat-walk. The evening was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all those present.

Barry and I have very much enjoyed taking part in the Lent Course on Faith, Hope and Love. We were not able to attend all the meetings unfortunately, but those we did attend were extremely thought-provoking but also uplifting and joyful. It was a delight to be part of the group that met at the home of Christine Judson, the curate of St. John's church in Highbridge.

And so – Easter has come and gone. On Palm Sunday the choir sang the Easter Cantata “No Greater Love” by John Peterson – not without some trepidation as our lead (in fact only) tenor had, in the week prior to Palm Sunday been in hospital and all sorts of contingency plans had to be put in place. However we needn't have worried – Paul turned up on the day and gave a sterling performance. Thanks Paul - you saved our bacon!!

During the following week Stephen opened the church for 20 minutes each lunchtime for a time of personal prayer - such a peaceful hiatus in the hustle and bustle of the day.

Then Good Friday and lots of visitors to our church (as there was on Easter Day). Stephen's message that redemption started for us all at the foot of the cross was inspiring. The empty cross

standing by the communion table gave us food for thought – and then on Sunday the cross became ablaze with flowers after being decorated by the children. The message of Easter is alive in Burnham on Sea.

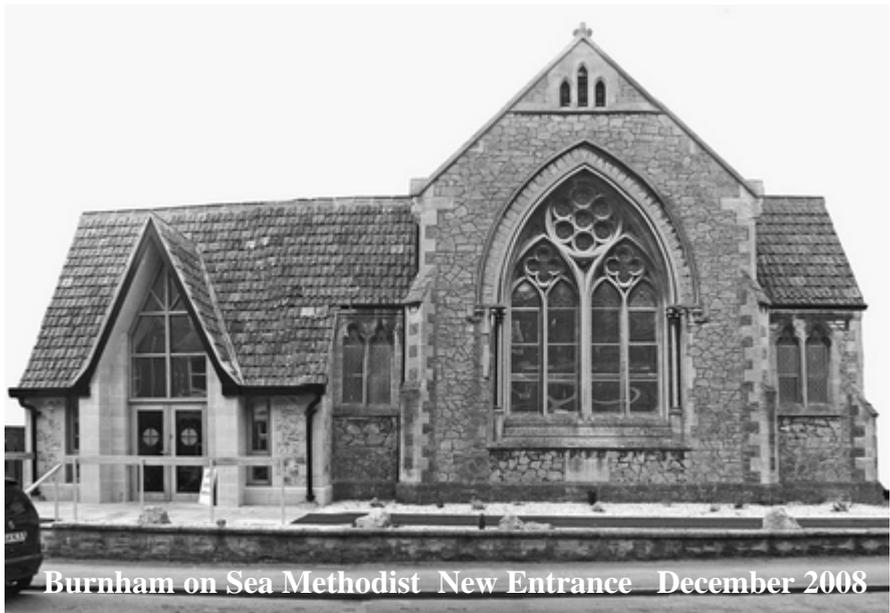
On behalf of the stewards I would like to offer Stephen our warmest congratulations on his recent engagement and wish him and his wife-to-be much joy in their future life together in Crosby. We look forward to the wedding in August.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those in our congregation who are unwell at this time and are unable to come to church.

Barry and I feel very blessed to have been brought to this place – may we wish God’s blessings on everyone in the link.

Ann Hall

on behalf of the Stewards.



BURNHAM REDEVELOPMENT

The money raised now stands at £215,976.56

We express our thanks to those who recently have had money raising events.

We had a good fine weather morning at the home of Hilary Wotton and say "Thank you"

The Fashion Show organised by Dorothy May was a great success and we found the Church very adaptable and the chairs certainly very comfortable. The result made the effort well worth while. Thank you Dorothy.

The major event being planned is the

“FLOWER FESTIVAL AND CELEBRATION OF THE 130TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY”

JUNE 5th – 7th.

- Friday 5th** Opening at 2.00pm with a Concert in the evening.
- Saturday 6th** Church open for viewing of arrangements from 10.00am - 6.00pm
- Sunday 7th** Special Services led by the Chairman of the District, Rev. A. Ward Jones. The evening service will be a special "Favourite Hymns".

There will be “*Birthday Tea*” at 5.00pm and cutting of the cake.

The Church will be open for viewing of arrangements from 12.00noon – 6.00pm.

Further details later but we ask for your help and support. If you would like to help in anyway, or wish to know more, please contact me.

Joyce F. Plumb



BREAN

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

'Look at the colour in these daffs this year,' Judy said. So I looked, and she was right. It has been a brilliant year for these Spring flowers. It reminded me of a poem of which Judy is fond of quoting. By D H Lawrence, it's called 'Red Geranium and Godly Mignonette' and is a musing of God playing with creation and imagining what smell to give the mignonette, and what colour to give the geranium especially when that colour and that smell are not yet in existence:

*now there shall be tum-tiddly-um, and tum-tiddly-um,
hey presto, scarlet geranium.*

I write this contribution to the Link in contemplation of my imminent 70th birthday. It's a joint family reunion as a very good friend of many years' standing also celebrates the same anniversary on the same day. So it's a weekend shared by the two families reliving memories that go back 40 years and more.

Easter was another time of memories, memories given to us in scripture and memories relived through our own experience. Palm Sunday service this year coincided with our joint service with St Bridget's and which Rev. Stephen conducted. Then in the afternoon we climbed Brent Knoll for the ceremony of the Crosses – and slid back down again on the supposedly safer clinker pathway that has been laid. Several of us were able to attend services in Link churches during Easter week. There was also worship in St Bridget's our LEP partner to which some of us went (we are sorry if we can't be represented at all the Link services). Our Lent study group finished off its series in style. And then, on Easter morning visitors to our service doubled our congregation – what a blessing but what a shame for them that they had to put up with me leading the worship!

So Easter Day is past and we look forward in the Easter Season to the the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. May we do so in hope and expectation, for the best is yet to come.

And on a note of optimism, we were pleased to see Walter and Marjorie Godwin back in church after Walter's improvement in health following his fall.

We also wish Jill Price well again this year as another outdoor bowling season gets under way. As some of you know, Jill is a bowler of international standard and her sport takes her to competitions across the country, some of which she also organises. Congratulations Jill on what you have achieved in past years and good luck to the future.

Harvey Allen.

Minister

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www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk
www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org
www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

**The Deadline for the
June 2009 ‘LINK’ is
Sunday 24th May 2009**

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