The Link ++

November 2026

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



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



Unforgotten

The hands of time may turn, the pages of history may flip,
But the saga of their courage remains unforgotten.
In the echo of gunfire, in the whisper of winds,
Their tales of valour continue to inspire.
Do you feel it in the depth of your being?
The resonance of resilience, the echoes of endurance,
Their footprints etched on the sands of time,
Remain unforgotten, forever imprinted on our minds.

Brean

www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk

Well that was a turn up! Our District Chair to be at Brean twice in a fortnight. Rev Dr Marcus Torchon volunteered to take our Church Council meeting in the absence of Tim who had to be elsewhere. He was half an hour after the appointed time (traffic and such) but that didn't matter. And as a double blessing he was quite complimentary at the situation he found, much to the delight of our Church Council meeting secretary, but then that was no surprise to the rest of us. And then, a fortnight later he came to Brean for one of the services he had assigned to our circuit. Again a very happy event for us and more so because our friends from East Brent joined us, it being one of our joint winter services. A bring and share lunch followed to give Marcus time to meet some of our members and I think he found us good enough company. The service came a week after the Harvest Festival so Judy was still able to use some of the splendid flowers that had adorned the church and which were still fresh enough to make the place resplendent for the visit. Thanks go to all those who contributed to the occasions.

But then to coincide with the first storms of the winter and the first time we needed a bit of heating, our boiler pump broke down and couldn't be repaired in time for service on the last Sunday of October. Pre-warned we all wrapped up for the occasion. And then of course we arrived as the sun broke through and we were all warm enough anyway

Our congratulations go to Burnham for the efforts they have made to restore and redecorate their church hall. It looks a treat and we hope it serves church and community in the years to come.

In a parish matter, we shall have some concern over the winter as Bristol Water have found it necessary to replace water pipes under several hundred yards of road surface in Brean and North Berrow. There have been 15 bursts in the ailing pipes in recent months and it was deemed better to replace them than to repair them once more. And because the old pipes had been laid down the middle of the road, cars from Berrow and Burnham will have to be diverted along Red Road or via Lympsham. So if you are coming this way be warned and look for the alternative

routes. Bristol Water are making special provision to reopen the road in some way over Christmas.

In November our main event is, of course Remembrance Sunday. We always go over to St Bridgets for this service which starts outside in front of the Memorial stone at about 10.45am.

A quotation to think about, from The Collage of God, by Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark Cathedral:

"All of us who journey the Christian way are unable to prove any of our beliefs except, perhaps, by the way we translate them into the lives we live"

Harvey Allen

East Brent

www.eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk

At East Brent we have had some very thought-provoking services over the past few weeks and although we are not a large congregation, we do enjoy singing and tackling any unfamiliar hymns.

Our recent Church Council went well almost as well as the lunch we enjoyed after!! On Sunday 18th we joined with Brean for a Link Service taken by the District Chairman, and we thank Brean for their hospitality.

As the next Link from this one will be out very near the date of our Sale, I am entering the details, as much as I know, which are as follows: -

On Saturday 5th December at East Brent at 10.30am there will be coffee and various stalls of the usual items including cakes and Tombola for purchasing along with The Allsorts Choir giving a performance in the church at 11.30am – this will be followed by a soup and roll lunch provided, for which generous donations would be appreciated, which will go to a charity to be decided.

Gordon Legg



Christmas Concert and Fayre

Methodist Church, East Brent

Saturday 5th December

Back by popular demand

All Sorts Choir

Coffee will be available in the hall from 10.30 a.m. Concert starts at 11.30 am so enjoy listening, and joining in, to what promises to be a really festive occasion followed by soup and rolls, coffee and mince pies in the hall.

Then browse the stalls:-

Books Jigsaw puzzles

Bric a brac Tombola

Cakes (of course!)

TRAIDCRAFT cards Woodcraft by local woodworker

No tickets, just come and enjoy!

Burnham

hp://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk/

After many weeks, the work of refurbishing the hall was completed in October. The project began out of the necessity to replace the wooden floor which had begun to breakdown. Along the way, the aging stage was removed; external doors replaced; the ceiling lowered, new eco lighting fitted, storage units installed and the whole hall decorated. New window blinds will soon be in place to complete the refurbishment. The result is a larger, brighter space that looks far more appealing than before. The project was led by Liz Bennett to whom we give our thanks. We also thank individuals and organisations that gifted money to supplement the funds raised by the church.

On 10th October, the Mayor carried out the formality of cutting a ribbon. The hall was full of people milling around the stalls of the Makers' Market and enjoying refreshments including celebratory cake.

While the work was underway, all groups (both church based and hirers) using the building had to meet in the Worship Area and cope with a severe lack of storage space. That was not easy and we are grateful for the forbearance and extra effort required of all concerned.

One week after it became available, the hall was put to particularly good use for Messy Church when a record number of children and accompanying adults joined in the fun and worship.

The whole building was buzzing when, on 24th October, we hosted a performance by the Southwest Fellowship Band and by the One Voice choir. There were some 50 performers, most of whom are members of the Salvation Army. They treated the capacity audience to music in various styles. A Salvation Army officer gave a brief talk. The evening was a great combination of worship and performance.

The Burnham church Christmas Fayre will take place on 28th November, from 10:00 until 2:00. We should be pleased to welcome all from the Circuit to come and join us.

David Patient on behalf of the Burnham Stewards

West Huntspill

www.wsmbos.org/westhuntspill.htm

Coffee and Chat

is on the Last Friday of the month the, 27th November, 10.30am till 12 noon. All donations will go to The Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance We have many articles for sale, Puzzles books various items of Bric a Brac. Sometimes plants or items of food.



Babes, Tots and Carers

On Wednesdays 9.30 – till 11.30am. Cost £2.00 per family. More details from Carol Hester 01278 780730

TIME

My Grandmother had a Grandfather Clock, which stood just inside the front door and acted like a Sentry. It recorded the passage of time with a steady Tick, Tock and struck the appointed hour. The clock was old and the face was obvious that it had given many years of reliable service. The clock was given its weekly wind and time check every Saturday tea time with the Radio pips for 6.00pm News.

As the clock grew older it developed into a thermometer as well as a time piece and had a curious habit, the colder it got the more it struck; and I remember laying in bed one cold and frosty Christmas Eve the clock began to strike and I began to count, it struck 33 chimes!!!

My mother's clock sat on the mantlepiece, it was a small square clock and had to be wound up and the time checked every day. Mum used to oil it every so often, she used a feather dipped in oil to get into the small holes on the back of the clock.

Dad's clock was placed in pride of place on the piano in the front room, it had a Westminster Chime and was wound up every Sunday. The

history of this clock was legendary. A man wanted to give it to my Dad, when he was working in London before the Second World War, but Dad was not allowed to accept gifts from clients, so paid this chap half a crown (twelve and a half pence) for it. (Draw your own conclusions)

All this thinking about clocks and the passage of time has reminded me of a Prayer Pilgrimage I went on at Wells Cathedral years ago, the prayer at the World famous clock in the Cathedral went something like this.

Creator of the World.
Give us seconds for stillness,
Minutes for mindfulness;
Hours for hopefulness,
Days for discipleship
Weeks for worship
Years for yearning
Decades for duty
Generations for giving.

Christine Thomas



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Link Fellowship

For our October Meeting we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Brian Foakes on his trip to Ethiopia. We were delighted to be able to welcome a number of people who knew Brian through singing in his choir and to whom we had been able to extend an invitation to this presentation.

I was surprised when Brian said that this was a fairly exclusive trip – totalling seven people – that had been organised by Saga.

In this presentation there were two areas on which he focused. One was the contrast between the accommodation in which they stayed at several locations and the third world type of housing that was visible elsewhere. The other focus was on the Orthodox Christianity which is taken very seriously. Services are about six hours long; men and women sit separately; and for a church to be recognised as a church it must contain a copy of the Ark of the Covenant within the Holy of Holies. Of course the legend still exists that the original Ark was stolen by the Queen of Sheba and is still in Ethiopia.

We gained quite an insight into that country for which we thank Brian.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday November 10th at 2.30 when we shall have a members' afternoon. Please bring any poems or readings on the themes of Autumn / Winter / or Remembrance.

All are welcome to join us in the East Brent Church Hall for that occasion.

Joyce Pipet

Poetry Corner

The World And I

Poet: Nelly M. Hutchinson

Whether my heart be glad or no,
The summers come, the summers go,
The lanes grow dark with dying leaves,
Icicles hang beneath the eaves,
The asters wither to the snow;
Thus doth the summer end and go,
Whether my life be glad or no.



Whether my life be sad or no,
The winters come, the winters go,
The sunshine plays with baby leaves,
Swallows build about the eaves,
The lovely wildflowers bend and blow;
Thus doth the winter end and go,
Whether my life be sad or no.



Yet Mother Nature gives to me
A fond and patient sympathy;
In my own heart I find the charm
To make her tender, near, and warm;
Through summer sunshine, winter snow,
She clasps me, sad or glad or no.

CALENDAR

	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Regular Days			
Mondays	10.30am	Brean	Coffee & Chat
Wednesday	2.00pm	Burnham	Knit & Natter
Wednesday	9.30-1130am	West Huntspill	Babes, Tots & Carers
Friday	Morning	Burnham	Mothers and Toddlers
Other Dates			
10 November	2.30pm	East Brent	Link Fellowship
27 November	10.30	West Huntspill	Coffee & Chat
28 November	10.00am – 2.00pm	Burnham	Christmas Fayre
5 December	10.30am – 12.00pm	East Brent	Christmas Fayre & Concert

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this November issue
of the Link Plus ++ magazine.
Could you please send me your contributions
for the December 26 / January 27 issue
by **Monday 23 November 26**
Linda
lindahelen47@aol.com