

LINK PLUS++++

September 2023

Dear Friends

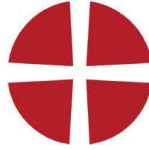
As many of the contributors to this month's newsletter have mentioned, this is the start of another Methodist Church year. We have much to give thanks to God for, but we also carry with us the responsibility of maintaining our churches as places of worship, service, learning and caring, and evangelism. These threads of the Methodist Way of Life are what hold us together. Even though our churches may be different, our primary goal must be to serve God in the present day and age.

As we will continue to try to find what this will look like, I am reminded of the old adage that what does not change does not improve but rather becomes stale and declines. We must rejoice in the things from the past that make us who we are, but we must also seek the new things which will become the 'past' for future generations.

Faith is transformational and 2023/24 could be transformational for us as individuals or as churches if we are willing to listen to God's Spirit. It may not be any easier to journey through, indeed transformation often brings challenge as well as joy, but as we bring ourselves, the people that we are, to this new year, I hope we can ask God to continue to move us forward, in faith and in hope.

May we all grasp the God-given opportunities that lie before us to speak of the transforming God that has been revealed to us in Jesus.

Steve



Brean Methodist Church
<http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk>

Welcome to the New Methodist Year. And welcome to our new circuit minister, Judith Lincoln. We may not see you so often down this end of the Circuit, Judith, but welcome anyway, and we wish you a happy and fulfilled ministry among us.

Welcome too, to anyone moving into the area; we hope you settle into your new home and find new friends very quickly.

Thank you to everyone who shared with us at our Bank Holiday Sunday afternoon Songs of Praise service, which we held on the grass frontage of our church. Nearly 40 people (and two or three dogs!) were there and Steve was bang on form, clearly enjoying the leadership of the service. Not much sun but no rain either and tolerably warm (just) for the event. And the inevitable tea and cakes were appreciated afterwards.



It is very encouraging for a small church like ours when we get such support for what we are doing; and humbling too, that people will be bold enough to venture in. Early in August when a couple of us were away preaching elsewhere and a couple of others were not well, we hardly expected a great number at our service, but as it happened there were nearly 30 present and they all stayed on for coffee and a chat. Some occasion, and we were still talking about it a week later. And now as summer declines, next month we enter the time of year when we join with our friends from East Brent and Brent Knoll for our monthly joint services, times to share in worship and refreshment together.

The summer has gone by very quickly and with it the cricket season too. It was a thrill was to watch Somerset Cricket Club win the T20 championship this year. In addition, Judy and I went down to Taunton with a couple of friends to watch the Ashes International between England Women and Australia which England won (of course). It was also a thrill for son Luke and I to take ten year old grandson, Malachi, to Taunton for his first 'big' cricket match; how fast these youngsters grow up too.

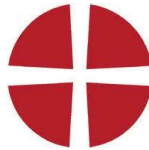
We hope that the summer has been rewarding for you all; that in spite of the weather you have found sufficient dry and warm (not too hot) sunshine in which to relax and allow your batteries to recharge; that you have found friendships renewed and new ones formed.

Over the summer, Judy has had cataracts removed. Not something she was looking forward to but, in the end, it was not a very difficult procedure. She was given a number of centres where the operations could take place and chose to attend a centre at Langford (near Churchill) run by Medicare (part of the Specsavers group) for a survey. From there she had the first eye treated a week later at their surgery at Aztec West and the second one seven weeks later after the first one had healed.. Her long distance sight is now pretty well perfect and she only needs specs for reading. All this on the National Health. Cataracts are quite common as we get older and I have described this in order to

encourage and console anyone who feels nervous at the prospect of having to have an operation done.

We are now into September, time of Harvest Festivals (though ours isn't until next month), and new beginnings in our Church year. And of course, Church meetings. We wish you all well and to be of good cheer. Happy days to you all.

Harvey Allen



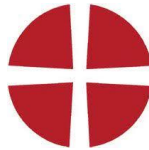
**Brent Methodist Church
Brent Knoll**

A very happy Methodist New Year to all. And a huge "thank you" to everybody who supported our fundraising coffee mornings throughout August. We are simply delighted to announce that we raised around £550 for our chosen charities - the local RNLI, Methodist Charity All We Can, MIND and Macmillan Cancer Support. We all enjoyed these mornings and were so happy to catch up with Circuit and village friends. The schoolroom was full and we had to bring in chairs from the church to accommodate everybody. From all of us here at Brent Knoll, and on behalf of all the charities who will benefit, once again, a sincere "thank you".

It is always rewarding to see our building being used and we are delighted that two local groups are now permanently using the church, with others showing interest.

Shopping for birthday cards this week, I noticed that displays have already been moved to make way for Christmas cards (and chocolate

reindeer are already on supermarket shelves), so with that in mind, here's a date for your diaries. Our Christmas coffee morning will be held on Saturday 25th November at 10.30am in the schoolroom. We're hoping to have some stalls and a raffle and all, of course, are welcome. As our new year begins, all of us here at Brent Knoll continue to hold our Circuit in our prayers, thinking of especially, at this time, Rev Judith Lincoln and her husband Roger and our six new Circuit Stewards. God bless
Rosemary Krull



**Brent Methodist Church
East Brent**

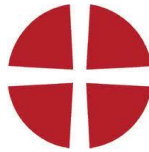
Well we are at an end of the Methodist Church year and September brings the new Methodist year full of hope and promise with 6 new Circuit Officers and a new Circuit Minister at the Weston end we wish them all well and look forward to what they can bring to this circuit. The past weeks have seen the weeds and grass grow and with agreeing to not mow so as the insects and wild flowers prosper the rear of the Church became very unsightly and wild.

Whether insects and plants flourished is another matter, but it was extremely hard work to re-instate the grounds so as normal mowing could be achieved, not something I would agree to again.

We have had many thought provoking addresses over the past few weeks from both Supernumeraries and Local Preachers, what a privilege it is that this circuit has so many with such knowledge.

Also at East Brent several of our congregation have had minor operations as it appears the NHS has been speeding up it's waiting list in this area we wish them all well in their recovery.

It will shortly be the season of Harvests in our Churches and at East Brent we will be celebrating Harvest on the 24th September with the Reverend Jim McKnight and as usual all produce not purchased after the service will be donated to a food charity.



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church
Burnham**
<http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk/>

As I am writing this column September is only a few days away. The weather is cloudy with some rain showers. Whatever happened to the Summer ? Hopefully we will have a lovely Autumn to make up for the dull and wet days.

We seem to have been very busy at Burnham Methodists over the last few weeks. We cleared out the vestry one Saturday so a new carpet could be laid on the Monday. The Stewards emptied cupboards before it was fitted and then returned to sort through everything to see what we needed to keep and what was no longer of any use. We put the small Bust of Charles Westley in the church to keep it safe. Several people commented on how nice it was to see it there. Amongst the items we found were some very old newspaper cutting of the Sunday School and the Youth Club. These included photos of both Marian Kingsbury's and my children . They were lovely to see but where did those twenty five years go?

The Knit and Natter group has continued to meet during the holidays on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 2pm to 4 pm. Some of the items we have made have been donated to charities. Hats and small blankets have been sent to The Premature Baby Unit at Musgrove Hospital. Some of us are knitting hats, gloves, scarves as well as and glove puppets to go in Christmas Shoeboxes for a charity called

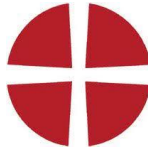
Link to Hope. This charity sends the filled shoeboxes to Moldova, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania. This charity sends boxes for Elderly People as well as Family boxes. They have even managed to get them to the Ukraine every year during the recent invasion. They also run lunch clubs for the elderly and after school clubs. Some of us have supported this charity for quite a long time. At the moment we are very short of empty shoeboxes, so if anyone has spare ones can you donate them to the Knit and Natter group. If you would like to join the group please come, you don't have to be a knitter. Some people knit, some like to crochet, some sew and some ladies just come for a chat and a cup of tea or coffee.

The Waffle Hub is being kept busy. If you haven't been I recommend both the coffee and the waffles.

We held a Quiz Night a week ago and a good time was had by all. We hope to have a Beetle Drive on September 25th. You are all welcome to join us.

On August 20th our 5.00 pm service was a Cafe Style Contemporary Worship, organised By Steve and Liz Bennett. It was a very enjoyable event, starting with a discussion on trees. We talked about the importance of roots in a tree's life and our own lives. Then we made our own small tree out of special clay. I think we all learnt a lot and also had a very interesting time. We also had some snacks to keep us going.

Marian Foster of behalf of the Burnham on sea Stewards.



Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church West Huntspill

Our Services take place every Sunday at 11.00am. We are having our Harvest Services on Sunday the 17th of September and our evening Service will be at 6.00pm. To which you are all welcome. We now have an Informal service on the 2nd Sunday of the month, our next one will be in October.



The Prayer Group meets on Tuesday afternoons at 2.00pm. on the 5th & 19th. September. If you know of anyone in need of Prayer, please let Mrs. Christine Thomas know at the above number.

Coffee and Chat for September is Friday the 29th. Do come and join us in a warm and friendly atmosphere. It is so good to meet up with our friends from the Link Churches. Any donations this month will be for Macmillan which is our Annual Coffee Morning in September.

Every blessing to all as we commence a New Church Year.

Janet J. & Kay

PLUS +++ POEMS, PRAYERS and OTHER MESSAGES

My Violin

Geoff Tullett

(Restless Seas [And Other Rhyme])

I saw a lovely violin, its strings all straight and taut,
With a bow beside it in its case just waiting to be bought.
I paid the price and took it home for all my friends to see.
And hoped that with this violin they all would envy me.
I tucked it underneath my chin and though I'm sad to say it,
When people ask me for a tune – I don't know how to play it!

(chosen by Janet J. & Kay)

The Trussell Trust

You may already know that the Trussell Trust is a charity that helps to organise and fund food banks. This September there is a challenge for people to walk for half an hour each day of that month and find sponsors to aid the funds of this charity.

I was inspired earlier this month by a visit from the daughter of a friend of ours who on August 24th completed a walk from John O'Groats to Lands End raising money for 3 charities on the way. This motivated me to take up this challenge which in comparison to hers is tiny compared with how far I shall go!

However, if anyone would like to sponsor me, I would be delighted. This can be done through my Facebook page or I have a sponsorship form.

I am saddened that there is a need for this charity, but feel it is one whose aims I support.

Joyce Pipet

It is not growing like a tree.

by Ben Jonson (1573-1637)

It is not growing like a tree
In bulk, doth make men better be:
Or standing long and oak, three hundred year,
To fall a log at last, dry, bald, and sere:
A lily of the day
Is fairer far in May
Although it fall and die that night;
It was the plant and flower of light.
In small proportions we just beauties see,
And in short measure life may perfect be.

(chosen by Judy Allen)

The Link Fellowship

Our meetings for this session closed with a very enjoyable afternoon playing board games. This was followed by an afternoon tea that included strawberries and cream.

It had been decided to have a break in August, then recommence in September. Our next meeting will be on September 13th and will take the form of an AGM followed by communion, led by Revd. Steve Bennett. We shall then continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.30p.m. in the church hall at East Brent, and would welcome all who wish to come and join us.

In November there is to be an outing to Wells to see the exhibition Threads through Creation. This is an exhibition of 12 large embroidery panels on Biblical themes. We already have quite a number of people

interested, but if this appeals to you and you have not already given your name to Christine Thomas, then she would be delighted to hear from you. Her telephone number is 01278 256 771.

If you are not able to come with us, the exhibition runs from October 18th until November 27th.

Joyce Pipet

**Please note the deadline for
the October Link Plus
is 27th September.**

DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
Weekly		
Wed 10am	Zoom*	Link Bible Study
Thurs 11.am	Zoom*	Link Coffee Morning
Tue/Wed & Thurs 9.00am – 5.00pm	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Café and associated activities.
		*Contact Rev Steve for zoom links
September		
2 nd 2.00pm	Milton	Welcome Service for Rev Judith Lincoln
9 th	Kingswood	Representative Synod
10 th 10.30	Brent Knoll	Harvest
12 th 2.30pm	East Brent	Link Fellowship AGM
14 th 7.30pm	West Huntspill	Circuit Meeting
17 th 11am & 6pm	West Huntspill	Harvest
19 th 7.30pm	Uphill	Local Preacher's Meeting
21 st 7.00pm	Rudge House	Sabbatical Group
24 th 10.30	East Brent	Harvest
24 th 10.30	Burnham	Harvest
26 th 2.00pm	Brean	Link Committee
October		
10 th 7.00pm	East Brent	Circuit Safeguarding Meeting