

# LINK PLUS++++

September 2024

Dear Friends

**God loves you  
unconditionally,  
no strings attached.  
That's the good news.**

This is the message on the front page of the Methodist Church website.

As the new Methodist year begins, our thoughts turn to the tasks that being part of a church that believes in this Good News will bring. The past year has gone – with all its blessings – and we are encouraged to look to the future trusting in God’s mercy and grace. The one certainty is that whilst God remains the same, we do not.

In our own life our circumstances change each year, sending us in welcome and unwelcome directions alike. Church life is no different in this respect, yet we share this journey in fellowship together. Yes, our discipleship is one of personal faith, yet in the Methodist Church it is also one where we are in communion with each other and with others.

We share burdens and joys as we learn to be more like Jesus in our lives together, and to witness to God's love for all creation.

One of the practical tasks for us this year is to consider the needs of our Circuit as we prepare for Stationing 2026, a process that starts in earnest in May 2025. By that time, we will need to have given prayerful consideration to our requirements – a discussion which will start at September's Circuit Meeting. We are greatly blessed with our strong Circuit Leadership Team, yet the decisions that lie before us are for us all. Please let your Circuit Meeting Representatives know your thoughts and your concerns so that they can be included in the conversation.

We are not alone in these things. Many of you will be aware that the Anglican Church is seeking a new Vicar for the area including Brean, Berrow, Brent Knoll, East Brent and Lympsham. Our prayers are with them as they undertake this discernment. Over the summer a new Vicar has been appointed at Andrew's Burnham ending their time of searching. We ask God to bless that congregation in this appointment.

In all these changing circumstances may God's abundant love shine through.

Steve

....and remember always

**God loves you  
unconditionally,  
no strings attached.  
That's the good news.**



## **Brean Methodist Church**

**<http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk>**

One well behaved dog (George) and 35 nicely voiced human worshippers blessed our front lawns on Bank Holiday Sunday afternoon for our annual Songs of Praise service. We were well pleased with that since it was a cool, cloudy and breezy afternoon. Thank you to all who braved the conditions, it was very much appreciated. Steve led the service in his own inimitable style, and tea and cake (yum) followed in the schoolroom.

As you might guess in this changeable summer, congregations have been a bit up and down this year. We were blessed with 30 on 11th August when a nice lot of visitors and our friends from St Bridget's joined us. That was a happy occasion as Rev Judith Lincoln took the service and joined us for coffee afterwards; it was close to 12.30 before the church was finally empty. Just as it should be of course, coffee and tea round the table is very much part of our Sunday morning.

It was good to see Steve back from his Sabbatical. In good spirits On a couple of Sundays we had no planned preacher so Joyce took one and persuaded half a dozen members to choose a bible passage and say why it means so much to them; and I filled in the other giving and account of my preaching journey over more than 50 years recognising that it must now be getting close to being over.

We have been much blessed by the visitors we welcome, several of them regular attenders and a fair sprinkling of onetime holidaymakers in the village. It is difficult to assess whether it has been a 'good' year for the holiday industry. The village looks to have been busy at times

but with Pontins no longer serving the holiday trade that must be some sort of general effect.

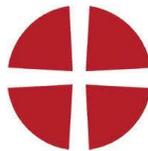
We hope too, that you have all had moments of encouragement over these summer months.

Well, we are now entering another New Year in the Methodist Church. No great change in personnel this year I think, but concern for the wellbeing of the circuit as a whole must be admitted and addressed, so we wish our circuit leadership team well in their endeavours on our behalf; doubtless we shall hear of their conclusions before long.

As for us, repairs and re-decoration of the back part of our building have taken place over the summer which we hope will bear fruit at the next Quinquennial.

And I guess September means church meetings of one sort or another. But we are all still here and well met. Our love and prayers to you all as we say again, Happy New Year to you and to all Methodism

Harvey Allen



**Brent Methodist Church  
Brent Knoll**

Thank you to everyone who attended our August coffee mornings. We raised the following amounts for charity: RNLI - £147; All We Can - £120; MS Society - £100; and church funds - £147. A huge "thank you" to all Village and Circuit friends who were so generous in raising these monies. We all so enjoyed catching up with friends old and new, who all said they enjoyed seeing the "eco quilt" which has been on display in our church for the whole of August. Thank you to all who made these mornings such a success.

Our harvest festival will be held on Sunday 15th September and led by Rev Peter Davis. All perishable produce will be available for a donation, and non-perishables will be donated to the Food Bank.

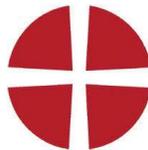
Please note that there will be no service here at Brent Knoll on Sunday 29th September as we will be joining our friends at East Brent Methodist Church.

As Summer draws to a close, we are especially holding our young people in our thoughts and prayers as they prepare for new schools, further education or new careers.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll, we wish you every blessing of the new season.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



**Brent Methodist Church  
East Brent**

Well we are back from summer recess and to the start of a New Methodist Year. We have managed to retain enough money from our spending on decoration and electricity bills to pay the re-adjusted circuit assessment which was a struggle.

The hall has been thoroughly cleaned and the windows and frames all round are now sparkling, we very much thank all persons responsible for this as it sometimes gets unnoticed how dirty things gradually become.

The hall is also being used at times by clubs from the village hall whilst that is being decorated.

We are now back on Solar Power and require the sun to continue shining especially on East Brent.

We now have nearly all of our invalids back in circulation but continue with our thoughts and prayers for our friends who are still recovering.

The new plan does not state when East Brent are celebrating Harvest and so we unanimously decided on Sunday 29th September 10.30am at East Brent, the plan states we are at Brent Knoll but it was pointed out that it is East Brent's turn to host the 5th Sunday, all being well the minister concerned will be notified by then.

Gordon Legg



**Burnham, Highbridge, and Huntspills Methodist Church  
Burnham**

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

Summer is an opportunity for doing different things. For many, it's the time when visitors come to stay – both family and friends. It's a time to relax and alter the pace of life.

Our church family has been at leisure too.

One Sunday afternoon, Jo and Nigel May hosted a garden party. Postponed for 24 hours due to torrential rain, we eventually sat in glorious sunshine chatting and admiring their spacious garden.

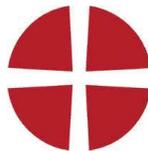
A second Sunday afternoon found some church members gathered on the beach. Games and cake were the order of the day.

September is now not far away. Steve has returned from his Sabbatical. In his absence, Jim and John sensitively shared pastoral charge of the congregation, for which we thank them.

There are plans underway for an Alpha course in September and a visit to the New Room in Bristol.

Underlying it all, is the ongoing worship of our loving God.

Linda Patient [ on behalf of the stewards.]



### **West Huntspill**

Our Harvest Services will be on Sunday the 15th September, if you are able to come to the evening service at 6.00pm it will be lovely to see you, it will be led by Rev. Steve Bennett.

Prayer Group. If you know of anyone in need of Prayer, Please let Mrs. Christine Thomas know.

Coffee and Chat will be on Friday the 27th 10.30am to 12 noon. This is the special coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Care. We have been raising funds for them every September for a number of years now. Please come and help to make this a great year.

Babes, Tots and Carers, Wednesdays at 1.30pm till 3.00 pm. Contact Carol Hester 01278 780730 for full details.

With best wishes to all for the coming year from Janet J & Kay

# PLUS +++ POEMS, PRAYERS, and OTHER MESSAGES

## A poem from West Huntspill

### Something Happens When You Smile

from "The Patience Strong Omnibus"

When you come to think of it a smile's a funny thing.  
Give it and you get it back, and often it will  
bring happiness to somebody you never even knew;  
neighbours, fellow travellers or strangers in the queue.

Lift the corners of your lips and in the glass you'll see –  
A transformation and a change of personality.  
Eyes can smile as well as lips. They catch your mood and glow –  
Even though your heart be breaking and your spirits low.

Practise at the mirror when a moment you can spare.  
Try, you'll be surprised to see the face reflected there –  
Somehow you seem brighter and you feel that life's worthwhile.  
Isn't that amazing? Something happens when you smile.

### Events @ St. Peter & All Hallows, West Huntspill

Heritage Open Days (With The Classic Car Show) 14th September 2024

Each September thousands of volunteers across the country invite you to experience local history, architecture and culture. All for free.

This year, St. Peter & All Hallows are pleased to announce that they are offering an opportunity to explore the local heritage on your doorstep. Come and explore the interactive screen, see the restored painting that

survived the fire of 1878 and the historical fragments they found during the restoration of the Church. For more information please visit <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/submission-event/huntspill-hub-heritage-centre-and-classic-car-show.html>

### Book Signing – Laughter At Withy Hill

Also on Saturday 14th September, they will welcome Emmeline Bennett, the local author of ‘Laughter at Withy Hill’, her debut novel that features St. Peter & All Hallows, and local villages. Emmeline will be signing copies of her book in the Church between 2pm and 3pm

### Uphill Quiet Day

I was invited to lead the Uphill Quiet Day in July. This is always a privilege as, while whoever is leading prepares input for thought during that time, it is amazing what may come of it. Sometimes, this remains unknown to the leader, or is something that is shared verbally, but on this occasion, two people shared pieces of writing that they had been inspired to create. My theme came from the hymn “Lord, you have come to the seashore” (StF 558)

Janet Widdess wrote a poem on the day and another poem was given to me on the Sunday following by Ruth Maylan when I was preaching at St. Andrew’s Bourneville; and with their permission, I am sharing them here.

Joyce Pipet

**Do not let your hearts be troubled,**  
Neither let them be afraid.  
I, the Lord will never leave you,  
I am with you every day.  
Come to me, all you who labour,  
And who bear a heavy load.  
Here is rest, and deep refreshment.  
Always with you on the road.

Hear the waves upon the seashore,  
Feel the breeze upon your hair,  
Smell the tang of salt and seaweed;  
Revel in just being there.

Jesus meets us on the seashore,  
Bringing life and peace and love.  
Here is rest and deep refreshment,  
Light and peace come from above.

Ruth Maylan

**Lord, you have come to the seashore.**

Come to meet with us there.  
Amid the waves, the sand and the seaweed.  
Your love and your grace to share.

Lord, you have come to the seashore.  
The crowds flocked to follow you there.  
So many, to learn and to listen.  
So many to believe and to care.

Lord, you have come to the seashore.  
And we come to meet there with you.  
We wait, and we rest in your presence.  
To seek what you want us to do.

Lord, you have come to the seashore.  
May we know your power and your peace.  
Your call is for us to tell others.  
Through us, may your kingdom increase.

Janet Widdess.

### **The Link Fellowship**

The Link Fellowship took a break from meeting in August, but before that in July we had a very enjoyable afternoon of a variety of table games, followed by a delicious strawberry tea organised by Christine Thomas.

We start back on Tuesday September 10th when we shall have a review of the previous year's programme, followed by communion with Revd. Steve Bennett.

All are welcome to join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Church Hall at East Brent Methodist Church .

Joyce Pipet

**Please note the deadline for the  
October Link Plus is 26<sup>th</sup>  
September.**

## DIARY

Date & Time	Location	Event
<b>Weekly</b>		
Wed 10am	Zoom*	Link Bible Study (from 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept)
Thurs 11am	Zoom*	Link Coffee Morning
Mon 10-2 Tues 10-2 Wed 10-4	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Café and associated activities.
Mon 12 noon	Burnham	Weekday Holy Communion

\* Contact Rev Steve for zoom links or information

<b>September</b>		
7 <sup>th</sup> 9am-10	Zoom*	Circuit Prayer
10 <sup>th</sup> 2.30	East Brent	Link Fellowship
10 <sup>th</sup> 7.30	Brent Knoll	Local Preacher's Meeting
14 <sup>th</sup>	Kingswood	District Synod
17 <sup>th</sup> 7.30	Uphill	Circuit Meeting
<b>October</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup> 7.00	East Brent	Circuit Safeguarding Meeting
5 <sup>th</sup> 9am-10	Zoom*	Circuit Prayer

**Please note that Beth Missen is prepared to place events on the Circuit website if she is given the information.**