

LINK PLUS +++

(The Newsletter for the Methodist Church in Burnham-on-Sea and its surrounding area)

September 2025

A message from our minister

Traditionally, September marks the start of a new church year, an opportunity to look back on the year that has past; to celebrate those things that have gone well, to learn from those things which have been a challenge, to mourn the loss of faithful folk who have gone to glory. It also marks the start of my last year with you all, and I ask you to pray that the stationing process will be successful for us. We remember our Anglican friends who are still seeking a vicar for the parish that includes Lympsham, East Brent, Brent Knoll, Berrow and Brean together with the church schools in that area.

As we start the new Methodist year many of our churches will be celebrating all the 'good gifts around us' in their Harvest Services (see below for details). We will give thanks for God's bountiful provision. Of particular poignancy this year for those who worship at Brent Knoll, they will be combining their Harvest thanksgiving with a thanksgiving for the life and witness of their building. The decision to close the church building has not been an easy one for anyone concerned, but it is good to know that Brent Church will continue in the building at East Brent – two congregations now worshipping together. I offer them all my hopes and prayers for their combined future as they witness to the two villages. Please support them by your presence on 14th September or remember them in your prayers.

I believe that whatever this year holds, God's good gifts are sent from heaven above, for you and for me.

Steve

BRENT KNOLL

(www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

Firstly, a huge "Thank you!" to everybody who attended our August coffee mornings. We have been absolutely thrilled with the number of Circuit and Village friends who turned out to support us and, thanks to all who attended, four charities will benefit from your amazing generosity. All We Can, the local branch of the RNLI, MIND and The Multiple Sclerosis Society will benefit from the £726 raised.

Our final service, and therefore our closing service, will be held on Sunday 14th September at 3pm. Although this will naturally be a poignant service for all who have worshipped here over the years, we want to go out in the spirit on which Brent Knoll Methodist Church was founded. In song, in praise and in thanksgiving for the life of a Church which has played such a large part in the life of the Village since 1837.

As part of our thanksgiving, this will also be our Harvest Festival, to which ALL are welcome.

We would love for you all to join us and to stay behind after the service to enjoy refreshments and share any memories you may have of our Church.

From all of us here at Brent Knoll Methodist Church, may God continue to bless you and keep you. As you continue to be held tightly in all of our prayers.

Rosemary Krull (on behalf of all of us at Brent Knoll Methodist Church)

BRENT KNOLL CHAPEL DOWN THE YEARS

About 40 years ago, Margaret Trapp and Mary Frost put together a little booklet entitled 'Brent Knoll Methodist Church 1837 to 1987 – The story of 150 years of work and witness'. Not that anyone would have recognised it by that name in 1837; in those days it was known as Ebenezer Chapel, in South Brent, part of the Weare Circuit of the Bible Christian Connexion. This article is largely a summary of extracts taken from their booklet.

Much as John Wesley worked to keep Methodism within the Anglican Church, the Movement could not be contained as such after Wesley's death, and soon morphed into what became Wesleyanism. But many Societies found Wesleyanism too authoritarian and independent groups sprang up with different ways of 'being Church.' Most notable perhaps was the Primitive Methodist Church ('the Prims') which rose from Mow Cop on the Staffordshire/Cheshire border and spread out from there very quickly in the 1820s and later. In the South West dissension took the form of The Bible Christians.

The Bible Christian Connexion was formed in 1815 in Devon and Cornwall. It found a need among ordinary unsophisticated folk, many of whom were living in a degree of poverty and who suffered from lack of care emanating from the Established church. Societies were formed, preachers appointed and a regional/national organisation was created. Women were appointed as preachers as well as men and held much influence within their Societies. A Circuit was formed locally in the 1820s, based up the road at Weare and eventually a Society grew at South Brent (as the village was still called). It is not known where or when the people met but it was presumably a larger Society than many of the others in surrounding villages

for the demand for a place of worship resulted in the present building which was constructed and opened in 1837

It took an enormous effort to fund the building which cost £280, a lot in those days, and it was a long time before the trustees were able to clear the debt. The Society was so poor that in the 1860s they even had to have a collection across the whole circuit to buy a bed for the preacher's house.

Inside, it was very impressive going by the standards of the day. Margaret's research describes it as a large, well proportioned room with no gallery but taking up all the ground space of the present worship area, plus the porch and vestry. Preaching was considered the dominant purpose of worship so the pulpit was positioned centrally with a simple communion table in front of it. There was also a specific bench placed for penitents and further benches for worshippers across the room with aisles down the left and right sides.

It was a popular place. Within a few months, congregations were so large that by the next year a gallery had to be constructed. The cost was a further stretch on the limited resources of the society and the circuit.

However, spiritual life was strong and worship could often be noisy and emotional. There was a period of 'on trial' before an attender was accepted into full membership, and a strict discipline was expected as to prayer and community life. Membership could be terminated if members 'fell by the wayside' or even failed to attend Class Meetings regularly. As is often the way though, bursts of evangelistic energy are cyclical and by 1853 membership was down to 34. By the turn of the century it was only 21 and the general drift across the country led to the move for unity in 1909 when Methodist Free Connection and United Methodist Free Churches joined the Bible Christians to form the United Methodist Church (UMC).

The First World War made an enormous effect on church presence and influence (how could God possibly allow such carnage and terror was a constant theme, for example) and eventually, with reducing numbers, in 1932 the UMC joined with the Prims and Wesleyans to form The Methodist Church as we know it today in 1932. We don't know how enthusiastically individual Ebenezer Church members joined in with these amalgamations but there is no record of significant objection. Margaret adds in the 150th anniversary booklet 'The Bible Christians have left us a building to be proud of but they themselves would have been far more concerned to pass on their faith.'

The 1932 Deed of Union brought the South Brent church (now called Brent Knoll Methodist Church following name changes when the Railway sought to recognise there was another South Brent down in Devon) into the Weston-super-Mare Circuit and alongside all the other Methodist Churches in the neighbourhood

Back in the days of John Wesley, horseback was the standard form of travel and John Wesley's Journal records several visits he made to the village of South Brent and its Methodist friends. He travelled the country extensively and he used Bristol as his base for venturing into the West Country. South Brent, on the main road and half way between Bristol and Taunton, was a convenient stopping place and an opportunity for Methodists in the local area to come together and listen to him. He even climbed the Knoll and as he gazed around him from its summit, he declared, 'I know not that I ever before saw such a prospect. Westward, one may see to the mouth of the Bristol Channel, and the three other ways, as far as the eye can reach. And most of the land that you can see is well cultivated, well wooded and well watered; so that the globe of the earth, in its present condition,, can hardly afford a more pleasing scene.'

That was in 1769. Go and see for yourself and determine whether this can still be said today. He preached in the village various times in the years following, though in common with Wesley's followers elsewhere, Methodists continued to worship at the Anglican church also. It was while visiting Brent on one occasion that he is thought to have gone to the Hicks farmhouse in Brean, though not to preach there. A look at the map and you can see that the ride is very much shorter along the paths of the time than it is around the road that exists today. There is also a story of an occasion when he fell off his horse into a local rhyne.

It is sad that circumstances have brought about the closures associated with Brent Knoll Chapel but its people can feel great pride for their association with John Wesley in his prime and the influence this has since had among other Methodist Societies in the area.

Harvey

MARGARET'S MEMORIES

I moved to Brent Knoll in 1971 and transferred my membership at that time. The main reason for my move from the Kingswood and South Gloucestershire Circuit where I had been a Local Preacher since about 1952, was that Weston Girls Grammar School, where I was in charge of Religious Education, was joining with the Boys Grammar School and Uphill Secondary Modern School to become Broadoak Comprehensive School and I had been appointed to teach in the Sixth Form and organise R E throughout the school. This meant so much more work that I realised I would not be able to return home every weekend so I started looking for a house in Weston and it was quite by chance that I was attracted to an advertisement for a cottage and was also given details of other properties in the area. The cottage turned out to be beside the line of preparations for the M5 so I decided to have a drive round and for the first time turned off the A38 into Brent Knoll. Within a week I had made up my mind to stay.

As far as Church membership was concerned it was a big change to move from a large and diverse congregation to a small village one, where almost everyone seemed to be related. It was even more confusing because the first service I remember was Harvest and it was still the custom for everyone in the area to go to each other's harvests. An additional complication at Brent Knoll was that one of the members, who I soon got to know as Mr Gilbert Dibble, had an almost identical twin brother, who lived in another village. The Frost family and their connections made up another part of the congregation and also often provided organists, Ronald, when he was able to leave milking and for many years, his aunt, Mrs Hearle, who had returned to Berrow after the death of her husband a Methodist Minister. Another stalwart was Mr. Roland Chivers, who commuted from his work in South Wales to stay in his family home with his brother every weekend and they were later joined by their widowed sister, Mrs Gwen Keevill. Not native to the village but part of the community which had arrived with the advent of the Radio Station in Highbridge, were Margaret Sheldon and her family. Margaret helped Mary Frost with the Sunday School so they and their children joined in the first part of the morning service and then gathered in the schoolroom. This was before we introduced the innovative practice of having coffee after the

service! This would not in any case have been practical In earlier days. In the 1970s the schoolroom was just that there was no kitchen, just a toilet for emergencies only. Main drainage had only just been extended to Brent Knoll and individual properties had to pay to be connected. The only means of boiling a kettle was a gas ring on the floor in a corner of the school room yet still cups of tea were produced at the very crowded Harvest Supper. Health and Safety had not yet been invented.

As I look back over the years and the lists of membership there are so many pictures and so many people who have been part of this place. I hope we are not letting them down but it is time to move on and I hope that we will still be able to contribute something to our community and to our Methodist heritage.

Best wishes, Margaret

EAST BRENT

(www.eastbrentmethodistchurch.org.uk)

Our Strawberry tea combined with the All Sorts Choir who entertained us in the Church a few weeks ago went very well and £163 was raised for Christian Aid. All of us at East Brent wish to thank Joyce Pipet and Tim Widdess for standing in for two separate Sundays when the designated preachers were unable to fill their appointments.

We are pleased to see Ann back after her knee operation we did miss her singing and sorry to hear that Margaret took a fall on the Park Run and wish her a quick recovery.

It is a shame that another circuit Church Brent Knoll is to close especially seeing as many new houses are being built all around our area, one would have thought that our Churches would at least gain some new persons in their congregation, obviously a lack of outreach!!!

Back when Berrow Methodist, Lympsham, Hill Road, Heath House and Mark closed there was a lack of new build, but cannot be said of Church Road, Victoria or Brent Knoll and we at East Brent are only a third of the congregation of 35 years ago.

A couple of weeks ago someone managed to demolish our Church's front wall and railings with their car a Toyota Aygo, how they missed the traffic light in front is a mystery, anyway it will be a long time before repairs can be implemented as like all these unfortunate accidents they do not get resolved overnight.

We are now looking into having another musical event combined with our Christmas Sale on 6th December, it might seem a long time off but remember it will be here before you know it!!

All at East Brent look forward to any Brent Knoll members who may end up joining in fellowship with us and wish everyone a successful New Methodist Year.

Gordon Legg, East Brent Methodist Church

At a wedding ceremony, the minister asked if there was anyone who have any reason why the marriage shouldn't go on; it was time to stand up and speak or forever let them hold their peace. The moment of utter silence was interrupted by a young beautiful woman carrying a child. She started slowly walking towards the pastor, everything quickly turned to chaos, the bride slapped the groom, the groom's mother fainted, the bridal trail scooted towards the door. The groom's men huddled together like a bereaved flock, wondering how best to help save the situation.

The minister then asked the woman; " can you tell us why you came forward, what do you have to say"? The woman replied, " I can't hear from the back, that's why I moved forward to change my seat".

MORAL LESSON: Reserve judgement until you've heard all the facts.

BREAN

(www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk)

We had a lovely afternoon for our Open Air Praise Service on Bank Holiday Sunday, perhaps the best weather we have had since they became a feature of our summer services. Lots of people in our congregation, fifty at least, if you include the dogs. And then there was tea and cakes afterwards and what a convivial assembly that was too. An event much enjoyed by all those attending, especially it seemed by Steve who entertained us with his dancing magic at the top of the steps. So the downside is that he won't be here to take it next year. And it was his idea in the first place 10 years ago to have an Open Air service! Our thanks to all those who helped make it such a great occasion and thanks too to those who were good enough to add comments on Facebook

It has been a good year for summer visitors too. Our regulars from Cheltenham, Bristol and elsewhere have brightened our doors and there has been a sprinkling of casual visitors also. A congregation of about 15 and more (even up to nearly 30 on a couple of occasions) has been a terrific encouragement. And several have been with us for our Monday coffee mornings. Some interesting chats.

It has been good for several of our visiting number (and a hamster) to be present at coffee mornings which have been well attended this year.

Thanks to all those who have helped make things go well. And a special thanks to Roger who has done a sterling job cutting grass and borders all around the outside of the church. How much better the church looks with the attention it has been given.

We celebrate with Joyce and Stanley in that their daughter-in-law, Dot, starts her first year as a probationer minister this month. I have no doubt that one of the first things they did when they heard about her posting was to fetch out the maps and work out their best route to her location. Well Salisbury is not that bad is it?

Congratulations to Joyce also for her success at the Burnham Summer show. She won two trophies – most points in section and best exhibit in section plus a cup in the Confectionery section; 4 first out of five classes for cookery, Cup for most points and cup for best exhibit in that section. She was second in her the group for five herbs and for a crocheted item, and 3rd for a cactus. Well done young lady. Now just wait until she grows up As you can imagine we all enjoyed super swiss roll and marble cake with our coffee after church the next day.

With sadness we come to the closing of Brent Knoll Chapel. The history of Methodism reflects on the joy and contributions we experience when we support one another and those of us who have long associations can reflect on our continuing fellowship with the church of Brent Knoll. The last few years have been very difficult for them and their recent decisions have probably brought them some relief also. So we wish them well and hope that they and East Brent can work together in a form that will be good and will strengthen the role of the church together. We will hope to be present at the Final service on 14th September as we hope others from the Link will be also

As we enter the Autumn season we at Brean wish you all good health and every blessing,

Harvey Allen

BURNHAM

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

When Jackie wrote the last Link for Burnham, she talked about Messy Church and how we look forward to the next one in September. Well, September is here, not sure how, but it is.

At the end of June we had our Spring Fair, together with Friends of Burnham Hospital, which was lots of fun. We will be holding our Christmas Fair, again with Friends of Burnham Hospital on Saturday 22nd November.

Apart from our weekly Saturday coffee mornings, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance have recently held a Fair at the church and will be holding another one on the 29th November. The church is being used for various activities and events, please come and support us, and the other charities and organisations who use the building. Events are advertised on our notices which can be found on our website, or in hard copy in the foyer of the church.

We have recently had an evening Own Arrangement Service, with the theme being humour and laughter. There was only a few of us, but we did exactly what was written on the box, we had fun praising God, talking together and sharing in Worship. My section focused on poems and prayers written by children. This is one I would like to share with you:-

A child's prayer from Sweden called 'Contentment'

"Dear God, I just feel good knowing that you are everywhere. That's all"

I feel this simple prayer, with so few words, has so much meaning.

During our Sunday morning Services, we now have a Good News item, where anyone can come and share their good news. I love this, just when we look around at all the sad things that are happening, these good news stories make us realise that there are so many reasons to be thankful.

Our Methodist Way of Life groups are continuing, building on the development work we have already started. A new Methodist Year is upon us, a time to reflect on our faith and commitment as we continue to ask God to guide us in our daily lives.

As I write, I am looking out of the window at a beautiful blue sky, (obviously very windy, as it is Burnham!), and just starting to notice the leaves changing colour, and a few have fallen onto the ground. Let's treasure our next few weeks in the autumn season.

From all here in Burnham and until the next time, look after yourself and each other

Marian Kingsbury

KNIT 'n' NATTER

These are some of the blankets knitted by the knit and natter group at Burnham. They were taken to Burnham Hospital and were very gratefully received. We are a very friendly group and would welcome you.

Wednesday afternoons 2 to 4pm.

You don't have to knit we're very good at nattering too! *Janet Widdess.*



WEST HUNTSPILL

(www.wsmbos.org/westhuntspill.htm)

Our Harvest Services will be on Sunday the 21st September at the usual time in the morning then we will be having an evening Service at 6.00pm. after which you can have a cup of tea/coffee and an opportunity to have some of the produce giving a donation which will be for “All We Can”. It would be so good if you join us.

Coffee and Chat will be on Friday the 26th September, which is our Annual one for “**Macmillan Cancer Care**” Do come along and join us in a friendly atmosphere meeting up with friends. We have a sales table with many different items. All donations gratefully received for **Macmillan Cancer Care**.

The following piece was taken from Lectio 365 on Wednesday the 13th August. You might have heard it before, but I often find that some things are worth repeating.

It was on the 13th of August 1727 that an outpouring of the Holy Spirit came to a community of Moravian refugees near Herrnhut, in modern-day Germany, igniting a non-stop prayer meeting which would continue for 100 years. This was a landmark moment in the history of the Church and especially in the story of the 24-7 Prayer movement.

The great Moravian Pentecost of August the 13th 1727, inspired a 24-7 prayer meeting which would continue non-stop, night and day, for more than a century, propelling missionaries, aflame with the gospel, to the ends of the earth, and launching the modern mission movement. It is certainly a moment worth remembering with joy!

It all began five years earlier when a bedraggled band of refugees arrived on the country estate of Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf at Berthelsdorf in Saxony, fleeing for their lives from fierce religious persecution in their homelands of Bohemia and Moravia across the Austian Alps. Zinzendorf offered them extraordinary hospitality, provoked no doubt by his vow as a member of the order of the Mustard Seed, to “be kind to all people.” He therefore permitted these Moravians to settle on his Land and even to build a village there which they called Herrnhut, “the Watch of the Lord.”

But the new community was far from idyllic. For five years they bickered and agued until this day in 1727 when Zinzendorf summoned them to the church to repent before the Lord. He recorded what happened next, “The Saviour permitted to come upon us a Spirit of whom we had hitherto not had any experience or knowledge. Hitherto we had been the leaders and helpers. Now the Holy Spirit Himself took full control of everything and everybody.”

Some fell to the floor under the power of the Holy Spirit, and some who were working 20 miles away experienced the same thing at the same time where they were!

It’s significant that it was a moment of repentance for the division that ushered in the Moravian Pentecost

“It was at a Moravian Meeting where John Wesley “Felt his heart strangely warmed” and everyone knows what happened then. Could it happen today?

Janet J.

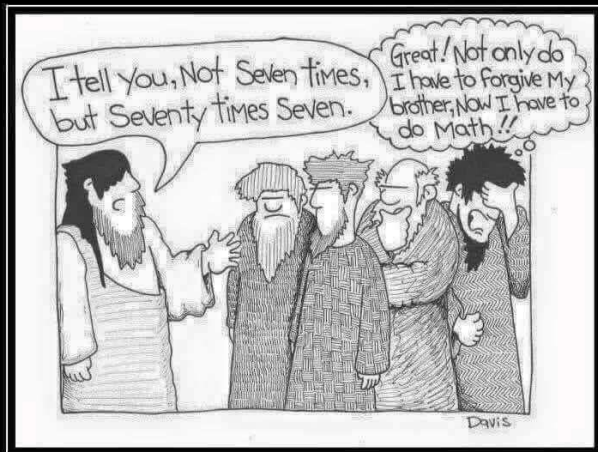
THE LINK FELLOWSHIP

The Link Fellowship

The Link fellowship concluded their 2024/25 sessions in July with a fun afternoon of board games followed by a strawberry tea which had been organised by Christine Thomas and much enjoyed by those who were able to be there.

WE begin our next session on Tuesday 9th September with our AGM review of the past year, followed by communion conducted by Revd. Steve Bennett. As always we extend a very warm invitation to anyone who would like to join us.

Joyce Pipet



FORGIVE

Because it's easier than math. Math is hard.

If you want to know who God is, look at Jesus. If you want to know what it means to be human, look at Jesus. If you want to know what love is, look at Jesus. If you want to know what grief is, look at Jesus. And go on looking until you're not just a spectator, but you're actually part of the drama which has him as the central character.

- NT Wright

HAPPY NEW YEAR?

Thoughts on the Stationing cycle

All across the Connexion, August has seen removal vans criss crossing Britain with the Furniture and other accoutrements of Methodist ministers and their families as they move to new appointments. Some will have come from previous appointments, for others it will be their first appointment after training, they will be probationers. And some will have come from other denominations or from Methodist churches overseas.

We shall not be getting a new minister this year. Our minister Steve, has another year before he reaches the time when he can seek the approval of Methodist Conference to 'sit down' and retire from active ministry. This time next year it will be we who will hope to be welcoming a new minister into our midst. It is not guaranteed. Forty years ago there were about the same number of ministers as there were 'stations' to be filled. We were helped by the introduction of women into our ministerial ranks in the early 1970s, but since then there has been a steady decline in ministers available such that there have been up a shortage of to 70 ministers in some years. Covid didn't help as its presence disrupted the training process but a longer term trend has been for men and women to come into ministry in mid age rather than straight from core education. (And perhaps also the call to ministry is not being heard as strongly as it once was.) I can remember seeing at Conference as many as 80 probationers lining up for ordination whereas this year I think there was barely a quarter of that number.

In our prayers this month, perhaps we can hold the ministry of our Church in our thoughts. Not only is there the excitement as well as tension of men and women entering new placements and circuits having to adjust to new leadership and care, but, as the church looks forward to a new year of matching ministers and stations we might pray for consideration and sensitivity to vacancies to be filled and for ministers and their families who face a period of disruption as well as choice as they seek a way forward. For many, health issues, concerns for elderly relatives, school and careers of partners are just some of the issues to be faced.

There are two appointments this year that will hold interest for members across this circuit. First, many will remember Ildi who came over from Hungary about ten years ago. She took up lay preaching and some of us heard her as she took services in our churches. She candidated for the ministry and was accepted. She has now finished her training and been assigned as a probationer minister in Wolverhampton.

And Stanley and Joyce Pipet's daughter in law, Dot, has also come through training for the ministry and has been appointed as probationer minister in Salisbury much to Joyce and Stanley's delight as it is relatively close. We all rejoice for them and pray for a successful and fulfilling ministry for them

And now, come September, our Circuit Stewards are preparing our case for a new minister. It is not the easiest of jobs. You might think it is a matter of 'selling' the appointment but there can be tensions if a minister arrives and finds it is not as he/she expected. And believe it or not there are ministers who look forward to a challenge, it is after all God's work they are doing. So it is a matter of finding the right balance.

And they need our prayers. The stewards' suggestions come to the Circuit meeting in September and are then sent forward to the District Chair. The District also elects a Lay Stationing Representative who works alongside the Chair and they are both involved in the listening process and in advising both the ministers and circuit stewards on the way forward.

September is a time when we can wish all parties well and support them in our care and prayer.

Harvey

KATHY ON THE BEACH

I leave the ordinary world of pavements, tarmacked and regimental, unresponsive to continual steps of a progression of nameless travellers, intent on fulfilling the monotony of daily routine.

I wend my way eagerly up the sandy lane, furrowed and channelled by previous rivulets of water, leaving mini river beds weaving their way randomly in ribbons of pressed sand. Evergreens line the lane, obscuring the dwellings from prying eyes and as I climb, the restless waves assail my senses before I reach the apex. The constant swish fills my ears as the water laps the beach, thrusting, receding, splashing and sucking as it ebbs and flows. The inimitable aroma of brine fills my nostrils, invigorating, cleansing, renewing as it reaches my lungs and permeates every secret crevice.

I cover the last few yards relishing the freedom of the vast open space before me, almost empty as far as the eye can see. Brean Down rises through the mist, guarding its ancient secrets of fortifications long obsolete, but what stories those walls could tell, what terrors endured by those imprisoned at the foot of those steep moss covered steps, with only the rush of the sea to accompany the long hours of confinement. The little islands of Steepholm and Flatholm are shrouded in mist, the solitary lighthouse barely visible and the Welsh coast on the horizon, can only be imagined today.

The dog by my side quivers with anticipation of investigating each heap of tangled seaweed deposited by the tide in untidy heaps. Tree branches have been flung onto the beach, sometimes even whole trunks, with their roots lying helplessly unanchored, torn from their once secure beds and tossed by the force of the waves. Even planks of woods, unidentifiable, perhaps snatched unexpectedly from someone's latest DIY venture, leaving the creator frustrated and impotent.

The soft sand, curled into kaleidoscopic patterns by the relentless wind sweeping its surface, provides an artist's palette, washed twice daily by the tidal flow, ready for the next work of art, unconsciously provided by its visitors and inhabitants. Delicate tracery of tiny birds, their three toed feet barely leaving imprints as their feather weight body lands. They gather at the water's edge, suddenly rising as one, in a curtain of shimmering silver and white, rising and falling on the thermals in a magnificent display of synchronised flight. Lots of canine footprints, large and small, neat and hurried, small heaps of sand dug up in search of some fascinating imaginary object underneath. Larger horseshoes of sand, ragged at the edges as their trot proceeds to a canter, owners' manes and tails flying, luxuriating in the expanse of shore, uninhibited by restrictions of traffic and inherent danger. Human footprints, often from ridged rubber soles, and the vast heavy tracks of tractor tyres carving geometric patterns deep into the surface.

Farther down the beach all is washed and pooled with water, with irregular swirls of damp sand decorating the wide expanse like myriad dimples of icing on a giant's cake. Hollows left from carefully constructed castles and moats lie smooth and even, ready for another onslaught from brightly coloured spades. Flotsam and jetsam are scattered randomly, a tiny yellow sandal, perhaps kicked off in protest at having to leave this temporary paradise, an adults pink flip flop, one wonders how far the owner got before realising its absence. Odd bottle tops, even an inhaler, strange plastic cylinders, much prized by the dog as a new and innovative toy. All too soon it's time to return to the other world at the end of the lane but I shall surely return as long as I am able, to absorb again the magic of this unique place into my very soul.

Kathy Davies

BOOK REVIEWS

It is good to see a new entry for our Book Review Column. Please keep them coming. Between us there must have been a goodly number of entertaining book read over the summer holidays.

Bear Grylls – The Greatest Story Ever Told.

There is more evidence that this story is true, than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived: Dr Billy Graham.

Written by Bear Grylls, this book is one of the most amazing I have ever read. (And I've read thousands!!)

A story that has been handed down for generations.

Ordinary men and women, eye witnesses to what happened, testified it was true for the rest of their lives.

They were beaten, tortured, put in prison, even killed. But they never denied its truth and never faltered their quest to ensure that it survived to our day.

This book recounts the events in thrilling detail.

At times beautiful and harrowing, this is the tale of an impoverished child, born into the first century Roman empire. He grew up to become a renegade teacher who changed the world forever.

Don't take my word for it, get hold of a copy and read it for yourself. You won't be disappointed.

Janet Widdess.

POETRY CORNER

Autumn by John Clare (1793-1864)

I love the fitful gust that shakes the casement all the day,

And from the glossy elm tree takes the faded leaves away,

Twirling them by the window pane with thousand others down the lane.

I love to see the shaking twig dance till the shut of eve,

The sparrow on the cottage rig whose chirp would make believe

That Spring was just now flirting by in summer's lap with flowers to lie.

I love to see the cottage smoke curl upwards through the trees.

The pigeons nestled round the 'cote on November days like these;

The cock upon the dung hill crowing, the mill sails on the heath a-going.

The feather from the raven's breast falls on the stubble lea,

The acorns near the old crow's nest drop pattering down the tree;

The grunting pigs, that wait for all, scramble and hurry where they fall.

FOOTNOTE(s)

The Link

Link Plus+++ is issued on or around 1st of each month except for January and August. Members of our congregations are encouraged to receive a copy each month. Register your interest by sending your email to our minister, Steve, on: steve.bennett@methodist.org

Zoom

Coffee Zoom and Study Zoom both began during Covid and have been doing very well. Both have had a summer rest but both return in September.

Coffee Zoom starts on Thursday 4th at 11am. Let Steve our minister have your email address if you would like to receive the details. You would be very welcome if you would like to join us for a chat.

Study Zoom is a Wednesday event from 10am. Again it lasts about 40 minutes each week and again you would be very welcome. Again, send Email to Steve please

Thanks and more contributions please

Thank you to all of you who have contributed to this issue of Link+++. **It is much appreciated and I hope that you and others will continue to supply articles for future editions.** We need a plentiful and good variety of contributions so if you have an inspiration, or even half an inspiration, please don't hesitate from putting it on paper so that we can all be refreshed by it.

The closing date for the next issue will be Thursday 25th September. Please send your contribution to me at: harveyjallen@hotmail.com.

Church diary

And I need to make sure the church diary is kept up to date so will church stewards please make sure that your diary details are correct

Facebook

Weston Super Mare and Burnham on Sea has now got it's own Facebook page. It's for all circuit news. Whatever happens in your Church, Sunday Services, events, specials, there is a place for it on that page. If you already have a Church Facebook page, then all you need to do is press share at the bottom of the page and select groups. It's as easy as that. Join the group and have a go!

Janet Widdess.

DIARY DATES

<u>Regular days</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday (except Bank Holidays)	10.30am	Brean	Coffee morning
Thursday	11.00am	Zoom	Coffee chat (Details from Steve)
Monday to Thursday	9.00am to 2.00pm Wednesday to 4pm	Burnham	Waffle Hub Community Cafe and associated activities
Wednesday	2.00pm	Burnham	Knit 'n' natter
Friday	Morning	Burnham	Mothers and toddlers
<u>Other Dates</u>			
Monday 1 st September	10.45am	Burnham	Waffle Hub 3 rd birthday
Tuesday 9 th September	7.30pm	Uphill	Circuit Meeting
Wednesday 10 th September	7.30pm	Brent Knoll	Local Preachers Meeting
Saturday 13 th September	10.00am		District Representative Synod
Sunday 14 th September	3.00pm	Brent Knoll	Harvest Festival and Closing Service
Sunday 21 st September	10.30am	Brent	Harvest Festival
Sunday 21 st September	11.00am and 6.00pm	West Huntspill	Harvest Festival Services
Saturday 27 th September	3.00pm	Burnham	Music and Cream Tea
Sunday 28 th September	3.30pm	Burnham	Messy Churc
Wednesday 1 st October	7pm	Brent	Circuit Safeguarding Meeting
Sunday 5 th October	10,30am	Burnham	Harvest Festival
Sunday 12 th October	10.30am	Brean	Harvest Fetival
Saturday 6 th December	Afternoon	Brent	Christmas Sale and music event



BRENT KNOLL METHODIST (BIBLE CHRISTIAN) CHURCH

With God's Blessing, Job Well Done. Thank you

1837-2025