
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

November 2014 Volume 49. No. 9.



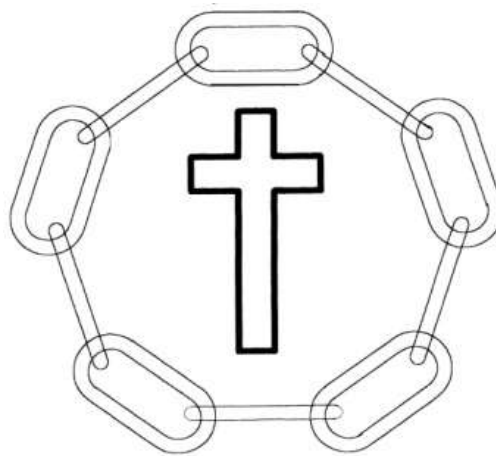
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

“Remember, remember, all of November”. A new twist to an old rhyme for all of November is about remembering.

We start right at the beginning with November 1st, All Saints Day. We remember that we are part of a great and glorious church that has been around for nearly 2,000 years. For the church, unlike any other club, association, fraternity, or group has never lost a member through death. Hallelujah! Those who have gone on ahead of us are as much part of our great church as the person sitting next to us in the pew.

Then there is November 5th. Which, when you have got rid of the guy and the bonfire and the fireworks, is about an attempt at large scale political assassination which, fortunately failed. A reminder that the democratic process is the only sensible way forward, therefore do remember to vote whenever you get the chance.

November 11th, Remembrance Day, has a special significance this year, as we remember the start of the First World War, and all the sacrifice and heartache that brought into the world. A reminder of the need to pray constantly and consistently for peace in our troubled world.

Finally, at the last day of the month is the feast day of St. Andrew. We remember we have a Methodist Church in the Circuit whose patron saint is St. Andrew. We also need to remember our St. Andrew's Church at Bournville, for it seems to me that this church is the way forward in the 21st century. Not only is it a Methodist / Anglican Ecumenical Church but it is a church set right within the beating heart of the community, as all churches should be.

God's richest blessing be with you all,

Stanley

Calendar

OCTOBER

- Tue 28th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs Janice Barrett My years in Teaching
- Fri 31st 10.00 - 12.00 W/H West Huntspill Coffee Morning
- Fri 31st to Nov 2nd WORLD CHURCH CONFERENCE at Ammerdown see page 9

NOVEMBER

- Sat 1st 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Coffee Morning in aid of Action for Children – Dorothy see Page 10
- Sat 1st 9.30 - 12.30 CHURCHES TOGETHER DAY at the Catholic Church see Page 11
- Thur. 6th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Members Afternoon
- Sun 9th 6.00 pm B/H Café Church – T B A
- Tue 11th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Mr and Mrs Butland - Uganda
- Wed 12th 10.30 - 12.00 Coffee Morning Mark Church Hall see page 12
- Wed 12th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch Tickets from Dorothy 784204
- Sat 15th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Educate the Kids (Kenya) Coffee Morning
- Sat 15th 10.30 - 12.00 E/B Christmas Coffee Morning & Sale at East Brent
- Sat 15th 10.00 - 2.00 St. Andrews Church Bournville - Christmas Fair see Page 12
- Thur. 20th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Rev. John O. James
- Tue 25th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Jackie Morris - The Road to Santiago
- Sat 29th 10.00 - 2.00 B/H Burnham Christmas Fair see Page 13
- Sat 29th 7.30pm Cheddar Male Choir joint Concert with Mendip Male Choir at St. Cuthbert's Church, Wells, see page 13



DECEMBER

- Thur. 4th 2.30pm. B/H Thursday Fellowship - Christmas Carols & Readings
- Sat 6th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Choir
- Tue 9th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - Christmas Lunch with entertainment
- Wed 10th 12.30pm. B/H Church Lunch
- Sun 14th 6.00 pm B/H Café Church – John Trebble

**B/H Burnham, BR Brean, B/K Brent Knoll, E/B East Brent,
W/H West Huntspill**



THE INVITATION PROCESS FOR OUR NEW MINISTERS – PART 3

It all steps up a gear this month. The Circuit Stewards have received and reviewed the profiles of ministers who are seeking a new appointment for next September and have sent a list of their preferences to the District Chairman, Rev. Ward Jones.

Ours are not the only 'stations' he has to fill. Other Circuits in the District will have sent their own lists to him and he has to consider them all and make a judgment as to the order in which he will deal with them. When he attends the Stationing Matching Group meeting with other chairmen on 3rd November he will have the opportunity to show our appointments and our preferences on notice boards which other chairmen can view and on which they too can post lists of their ministers seeking to move. This will give him valuable insight into which ministers have been encouraged by our vision on the future of the Circuit. The chairmen (a difficult title because it includes women too of course) will then spend two or three days discussing each appointment in turn in order to find as many viable matches as possible.

Ward will do his best for us, as he will for the other appointments to be filled in his 'manor', and at the end of it all he will inform our Senior Steward, Norman Lester of the potential matches that have been made for us.

Norman must then arrange for each matched minister to be taken round the Circuit and to meet with such church stewards as are available and as time allows. At the end of the day, the minister will meet with members of the Circuit Invitation committee for a conversation about the circuit, its vision and the minister's own potential contribution. This is a conversation, not a formal interview and although a minister's spouse or partner might be present during the day, we have to remember that he or she is not the one being interviewed. The Chairman of District has commended that not more than a dozen or so people should be in attendance during this conversation, so it is likely that Norman will ask each church from the section concerned to send one member to the meeting rather than two.

The full Circuit Invitation Committee will be called together to then consider the appointment; it has delegated powers to make a formal offer to a selected minister.

With regard to Presbyters, in this first round about two in every three suggested matches have been successful in past years. We can of course say no, it is not appropriate, and sometimes this is a proper response but the Invitation Committee has to bear in mind that if there are 120 ministers seeking appointment, there are likely to be only 40 left for the second round which takes place in early December.

With regard to Deacons we find a very different discipline for it is part of a Deacon's code to be stationed wherever the Connexion deems it appropriate. There is a Diaconal Stationing Committee that makes recommendations to the Warden as to which deacon is stationed where and that list the Warden will take to the Chairman's meeting at the beginning of November. There are normally less than twenty deacons 'on the stations' in any year and it is a presumption that we will take whoever is offered to us. Just as the Deacon is under direction to go wherever he/she is appointed, so we too are expected to take whoever is offered. The deacon will however also visit the Circuit during this period and have a conversation, just as the presbyters will do.

The Circuit's decisions must be relayed to the District Chairman by 20th November, so it will be a concentrated period for us all and Committee members as well as stewards of churches to be visited must be prepared for short notice of their involvement.

Any significant developments will be added to our circuit website. Please keep up with Circuit news at: www.wsbos.org

In the meantime please keep the Invitation process in your prayers. Not only for us but also for the role of our District Chairman, Rev Ward Jones, who has an unprecedented 17 vacancies to fill across the Bristol District on behalf of the Invitations Committee sub-group.

Harvey Allen on behalf of Circuit Invitations sub-group

Prayer letter from Daniel and Grace Pratt-Chapman and their little son Kwame-

Our Circuit Link in Cameroon, teaching in a theological college.

It was cold this morning... Well I felt cold. It was 23 degrees. Mist everywhere - a sign that the rain will be omnipresent till January. I have never been cold in Kumba before. I guess this means I have acclimatised.

I will never forget my first visit. As my suitcase entered the luggage rack it was drenched with condensation. I have never been anywhere so humid. I looked like my shirt had been dipped in water. Now its all quite normal. John struggles with the heat though - the humidity especially- but then Kwame (all of us except Grace) took time to adapt to the weather.

I'm sweating a lot less about many things these days. It hasn't been easy getting to this point, but I can honestly say that life is far less stressful now than it was a year ago. However one thing that still really bugs us (apart from the bugs) is that, although Grace and my own residence permits have come, Kwame still has a temporary permit which keeps having to be renewed. They tell me (in French) that it is because his finger prints keep being rejected (I am amazed that I understood them).

The first time we had our fingerprints taken Kwame was so small that I doubt there was any point them bothering. When they were retaken (last November) he was given a temporary permit that keeps expiring. Every month I go to the immigration office at the police station to see if the proper permit has arrived. Its in Buea (an hour away). I've been there so many times that the official responsible knows me by name (we're practically friends). Fortunately, while Grace was away on maternity leave Kwame was with her so it didn't matter that much. However, though this has been a great character forming exercise, it is difficult to settle somewhere when you have to constantly get permission to extend your stay.

I shouldn't complain. Our problems are small. We have it easy compared with what foreigners go through in other countries. I had a friend who had to go to the police station every week. If late they could be deported. They wouldn't even give the person time to go home and pack - they just incarcerate you there and then.

There are families, children, locked up in immigration removal centres all over the world. Though the authorities insist that these places are not prisons, I understand the security you have to go through to enter one is far stricter than anything I experienced in prisons in Cardiff or Bristol (I was just visiting). Its horrendous what nations often do to protect their wealth (much of it I sense was probably stolen from the people they try to keep out).

One wonders whether words like 'Commonwealth' have any real currency? Does a social conscience mean anything beyond national borders? We talk about people's rights and responsibilities "Everyone" should have equal human rights, "Everyone" is entitled to free health care. But what do we mean by "Everyone"? These notions are surely tied to the concept of the nation state. Does not "Everyone" mean every national? Is not equality subject to ones visa status? All people are equal...but some are more equal than others -depending on the passport/visa they have (deny this when entering Heathrow at your peril).

I fear that we are not all "Global citizens." We live in a Global Apartheid. Only the privileged few can travel or trade freely. Its as though people cease to be people when they have no papers. If they don't, it's ok to enter their house in the middle of the night, remove their children from their beds, and incarcerate them. Thank God I don't have to worry about that happening to us in Cameroon! I would loose my hair!

Pray for us, that we get all the papers we need. Pray for foreigners everywhere...that they will be treated well (Phil 3:20).

HARRY'S PAGE

Mysterious Detours

READ
Genesis 12:11-10; 13:1

Our fathers
trusted in You;
they trusted,
and You
delivered them
Psalm 22:4

Before my wife and I embarked on a 400 mile road trip, I set up the Sat Nav with our daughter's home in Missouri, America as the destination. As we travelled through the state of Illinois, the Sat Nav instructed us to get off the motorway, resulting in a detour through the city of Harvey. After the Sat Nav directed us back to the motorway, I was baffled by this mysterious detour. Why were we directed off a perfectly good highway? I'll never know the answer. We continued on our way, and we trusted the Sat Nav to get us there and home again. That got me to thinking about detours in life. We may seem to be travelling on a smooth pathway. Then for some reason, God redirects us into an, unfamiliar area. Perhaps it is an illness, or a crisis at work or school, or an unexpected tragedy occurs. We don't understand what God is doing.

Abraham faced a mysterious detour when God told him, "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house" (Gen. 12: 1). Surely Abraham must have wondered why God was routing him to the Negev desert. But he trusted God and His good purposes.

A Sat Nav may make mistakes, but we can trust our unfailing God (Ps. 22:4). He will guide us through all our mysterious detours and lead us where He wants us to go. -Dave Branon

We seek Your guidance, Lord, but we understand that our path won't always be without challenges. Help us to trust You through the detours-knowing that You have our best interests and Your honour at heart.

We don't need to see the way
when we stay close to the One who does.



IF YE KNOW THESE THINGS, HAPPY ARE YE IF YOU DO THEM John 13:17 KJV

HOLINESS BRINGS happiness, but sin never can. Sometimes we find this hard to believe. The story's told of a mother saying to her son, 'Be good, and, have fun.' He replies, 'Please make up your mind! 'How revealing'. Today the word 'holiness' has got a bad reputation. Some see it as a list of all the things the church says you can't do. Others recall those who claimed to practise holiness, but came across as

rigid, joyless, narrow and judgmental. So let's define it 'Holiness is the whole of Christ in the whole of life' Further more, holiness vanishes when you talk about it, it only becomes attractive when you live it 'The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow' (Proverbs 10:22 KJV). The only thing that adds no sorrow is the blessing of the Lord. James writes, 'When lust hath conceived, It bringeth forth sin and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death' (James 1:15 KJV). When we're immature we think we can sin and get away with it, but as we grow wiser and more and more mature we know better You'll never meet a smoker who recommends his or her habit. And you'll meet very few who shipwrecked a marriage, recommending an affair. The law of the harvest is; Whatsoever a man soweth that he shall also reap' (Galatians 6:7 KJV) Sin destroys your capacity for happiness. A loving parent doesn't want to see their children get hurt-and God Is a loving parent. David, who tasted the bitter fruits of sin first-hand, wrote, 'Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness (Psalms 29:2 KJV). Holiness is a beautiful thing when you fully understand and practise it.



WORLD CHURCH CONFERENCE
at the Ammerdown Centre,
Radstock nr. Bath
31st October - 2nd November 2014
Friday evening to Sunday afternoon
“Biblical perspectives on world mission”
Speaker - Revd. Dr. Neil Richardson

Organised by
Methodists for World Mission
(South West)

Why not consider asking your church, district or deanery to sponsor a representative to attend the conference?

MWM is a grassroots charity that educates and promotes a partnership approach to world church relationships. It encourages those with a heart for God's mission to develop mature understanding with people

of diverse nationalities and faiths through conferences, its magazine and website, engaging in prayer and allocating grants.

Please send you booking form & cheque to:
Mrs Genny Cowling 27 Topaz Drive Andover SP10 3ED
TEL. 01264 512644

Programmes and directions will be sent to all those attending.



COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 1st November

10.00 – 12.00

In aid of Action for Children

Stalls, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac,

*Action for Children Christmas Cards and
Raffle*

CHURCHES TOGETHER VISION DAY

Saturday 1st November

9.30am to 12.30pm

Our *Lady* and the English Martyrs,
Highbridge Road Burnham on Sea TA8 1LL



A morning of reflection prayer and enthusiasm, sharing our ideas for future work as churches together in Burnham, Highbridge and District

We need to refresh our vision from time to time. Please come to this important and valuable few hours where we can share who we are as churches together, to better serve our local communities.

We will be assisted in our gathering by Gabrielle Grace, from Somerset Churches Together.

Churches Together is open to everyone.

Refreshments provided.

further info from eileenmerrett@aol.com or

sj_bale@idoud.com, 07970 936325 or

[facebook.com/ctogburnhamandhighbridge](https://www.facebook.com/ctogburnhamandhighbridge)

Where there is no vision, the people perish. Prov 29:18

Café church dates at Burnham

Sunday 9th November at 6.00 pm – TBA

Sunday 14th December at 6.00 pm – John Trebble



From January we will revert to the third Sunday evening in the month

We start with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or three from 5.30 pm and help ourselves to refills during the evening.

We sing a few hymns or songs, have a short talk followed by a discussion, then a few more songs, ending with the Grace at about 7.00 pm.

All are welcome to come and join us.

**Coffee Morning &
Christmas Card Sale**

Wednesday 12th November 2014
10:30AM - 12:00PM
Mark Church Hall, Vicarage Lane, Mark
Entry £1.00





Tea Coffee Cakes
Raffle Christmas Cards

www.somerset-hospice.org.uk
 Registered Charity No. 278478

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ST. ANDREWS CHURCH BOURNVILLE
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SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

10.00AM - 2.00PM

FREE ENTRY

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**VARIOUS CHRISTMAS STALLS, RAFFLE, TOMBOLA AND
HOME-MADE CAKES**

REFRESHMENTS IN CAFE - DRINKS AND LIGHT LUNCHES

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

On Saturday 29th November

10.00 -2.00

at Burnham Methodist Church

Stalls to include Cakes Bric-a-Brac, Teddy
Tombola, and a Raffle

Coffee & Teas

Also a Lunch will be served

In aid of Church Funds



Cheddar Male Choir

joint Concert with Mendip Male Choir

**at St. Cuthbert's Church, Wells, BA5 2AW,
on Saturday 29 November 2014 at 7:30pm.**

Doors open 7:00pm

'Two for the price of One' or 'Buy One Get One Free' is not a term you often see when it comes to a musical concert. Cheddar Male Choir and Mendip Male Choir have joined forces for a concert in St Cuthbert's Church, Wells on Saturday 29th November 2014. The doors open at 7pm for a start at 7:30pm to what will be a fantastic performance of male voice singing with many popular songs ranging from traditional to modern with a sprinkling of songs from the musical shows thrown in.

Tickets can be obtained in advance from any choir member or at the door on the night for only £8. A night not to be missed.

BRENT KNOLL

Minister Revd. Margaret Trapp

We held a service of thanksgiving for the life of Joan Latham on 17th October. This was a particularly poignant date as this would have been her husband Ted's birthday. Joan had been an organist in the Link for over twenty years was our own organist here at Brent Knoll for over fifteen. She was an absolute gift to our church. An exceedingly accomplished musician, Joan not only played the organ with aplomb but led and guided us in each and every hymn she accompanied - and always with a sharp witted sense of humour. When she retired from playing two years ago, we felt quite lost without her. And if truth be told, we still do. Margaret Trapp said that Joan had three families. Her natural family, her adopted family in Gill, Chris and Heather, and her church family. She will be sorely missed by all three.

Our Emmaus course will continue on Thursday 6 November and our monthly bible study will be held on Monday 24 November. Both of these will begin at 2.30pm and be followed by refreshments. As always, all are welcome.

Another date for your diaries - our Christmas coffee morning will be held on Saturday 29th November at 10.30am. As well as an opportunity to share time with our Link friends over a coffee, there will, of course be a plentiful supply of mince pies as befits the season.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



EAST BRENT

Glancing back at last month's "LINK" I noted a number of comments about summer holidays and then harvest. I think we've bucked the trend at East Brent because not only have Gordon and Jill been on holiday, as mentioned last month, but other members of our congregation have also been on holiday this month. Holidays and family illness combined to mean that our numbers were down for the LINK service. The few left 'holding the fort' were very pleased to welcome so many of you from our link churches and I gather that the Rev. Rod Ingrouille was given a warm welcome. We have been told that we missed an excellent service so we look forward to the next opportunity to meet Rev Rod.

By the time you read this we will have had our Church Council meeting and, hopefully, Gordon and Jill will have been back in time to join us. I hear they have already been delayed by 2 days due to typhoons. We are looking forward to seeing them because they do so much for our Church, and the circuit, that we all felt that a Golden Wedding was something special and a good opportunity to not only congratulate them but to remind them that we do appreciate them. We are hoping, therefore, to round off their celebrations with a small presentation on the 19th at our Church Council meeting.

Gwen Oldham remains in our thoughts and prayers; she is always glad to see visitors when we have time.

We continue to think of and pray for Carol.

The weather is certainly changing and the shops are already displaying Christmas goods. We look forward to seeing you all at our Christmas Coffee Morning and Sale on Saturday 15th November.

Margaret Scott



Another month has flown by. Our numbers have been rather depleted with several of us away on holiday. Jill and Gordon have been away

celebrating their Golden Wedding Many Congratulation to them both.

Our Link service was very much enjoyed; it's good to worship together. We had our Church Council meeting and lunch on the 19th which was much enjoyed and led by Norman Lester in the absence of Carol. A big thank you to Margaret Scott for organising lunch.

Christmas will soon be upon us. Our Coffee Morning and Card Sale is on Saturday November 15th at 10.30am. We look forward to seeing you there.

Ann Bown



LINK ORDER FORM

If you do not have the 'LINK' regularly and would like to do so, please fill in the slip and hand to a Steward. or send to the Editor.

Price £3.00 per annum. Inland **Post £6.00** per annum.

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LARGE PRINT COPIES (A4 format) of the "LINK" are available. Please contact the Editor if you would like one.

BURNHAM

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

Burnham Stewards

Come and be a part of our Team – we need you!

How did it all begin for me? Several years ago when the Sunday Club Teacher left, I was asked if I would help out which I did for a short time. However, due to a shortage of teachers and realising the importance of keeping the group going, I soon found myself planning, preparing and taking lessons.

Linked with Sunday Club was the Junior Mission for All (JMA), which I took on helping the children to understand what a difference collecting small amounts of money makes to people's lives who have far less than they do.

How many times did I say 'not at the moment' to becoming a Steward and it wasn't until I realised how vulnerable the Church is without support, that I took on this role for one year, and then the next year, and most probably will continue again for another year.

So, what else do I help with, coffee rota, coffee mornings, Christmas Fair, and other activities.

Was all this in the plan? No, not really as I never felt I could dedicate the time and commitment required to achieve what I thought was expected. Now I realise that it is in the plan and helping to support the community, gives me a sense of achievement.

So, please come and be part of our Team, however much time you can give, bring your ideas, talk to people, support events and just by being there you are making that difference – remember, 'Every little helps'.

Marian Kingsbury on behalf of the Burnham Stewards



BREAN

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

So that's it. The caravans have all been swept up, cleaned out and put away. Their owners are back in their little boxes, and around here it's all gone quiet – ish.

But it's not been a bad summer. Visitor numbers have kept up to previous years though we would have liked to see more of course, and we celebrated the end of harvest with our Festival and Lunch, an occasion that we shared with our Anglican friends from St Bridget's. Stanley (Pipet) was on good form with the service he conducted and we all had a jolly time together.

We also started our joint services with East Brent and Brent Knoll churches (East Brent October followed by Brean in November and then Brent Knoll in the New Year). And then it's also the season for Councils. We have our own Church Council on the day this Link is published, but earlier in the month we met with our Anglican friends which Stanley chaired for the first time. We looked at our various Christmas services and set up both an Advent study series and a fortnightly prayer group to look at the way forward for the two churches bearing in mind that for the first part of 2015 both churches will be without a resident minister.

In November we join with the Anglicans for Remembrance Day.

Congratulations to Becky Baker on her new job which involves working on publicity for the oil industry. A new venture is always an exciting time.

Talking of excitement, November is the month of Guy Fawkes, Fireworks and Carnival. Enjoy them all but especially, keep safe.

Harvey Allen

WEST HUNTSPILL

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Macmillan Cancer
Support On
September 26th.
A wonderful total

Thank you so much



Our next regular Coffee and Chat Morning

Is on Friday 31st October 2014

Come and enjoy a warm welcome

Free Coffee and Cakes

Ecumenical Prayer Circle



This meeting is changing it's format and instead of meeting in someone's house will now meet in the Methodist Church at 5pm on alternate Tuesday evening.



Everyone is welcome to come along. There will be a short time of worship followed by prayers for individuals in our community. Members of the meeting will be reminded each time that the names of the people prayed for must remain confidential. Requests for Prayers may be made through the Churches or by phone to Sylvia. Remember we can pray and thank God for joyful occasions as well asking for his love and care when someone is ill.

Ministers:- Acting until Sept 2015

Burnham on Sea Methodist Church

Rev. John O. James, Wisteria Cottage, Watchfield, Highbridge TA9 4RB

Tel. (01278) 787378

Brean and West Huntspill Methodist Churches

Rev. Stanley Pipet B.D. 12 St Michael's Road Burnham on Sea. TA82BQ

Tel (01278) 795764

Brent Knoll Methodist Church

Rev. Margaret Trapp B.A. 7 Coombe Side Brent Knoll Highbridge TA9 4ED

Tel (01278) 760573

East Brent Methodist Church

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Web Sites

New Circuit Web site www.wsembos.org

www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk

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

www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com

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