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# THE LINK

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**Methodist Link Churches Magazine**

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**October 2014 Volume 49. No. 8.**

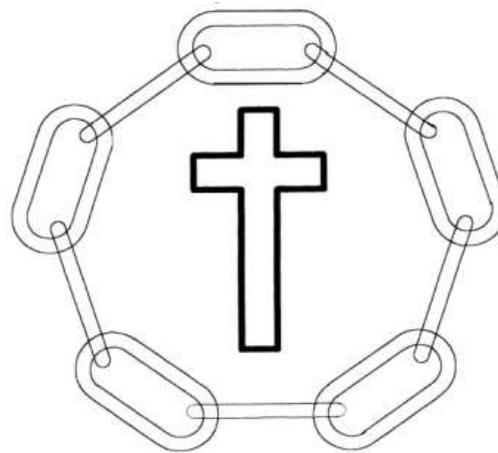
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**BREAN**



**BRENT KNOLL**



**WEST HUNTSPILL**



**EAST BRENT**



**BURNHAM**

# Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

In one of the sessions I attended in my recent retreat on the island of Iona we looked at 32 pictures of Jesus, painted by different artists in different countries and centuries. Among them was a familiar one that's to be found in some church vestries, but there was also a laughing Jesus (the life and soul of the party), another one that looked more like a Hindu deity, and a grotesque gremlin-like figure on a cross. This last one, along with one or two others, were really quite startling – as somebody said, a long way from the 'gentle Jesus, meek and mild', although as somebody else pointed out gentle, meek and mild are qualities of strength rather than weakness.

What this variety of images underlined for me was that in Jesus God meets all sorts and conditions of people, across space and time, and there have been, are and will be people in very different situations from ours for whom God is real in a way that wouldn't feel familiar to us. All very well and good, especially in October which includes One World Week, which reminds us of our common humanity and that God's love is for all – including those who frighten, offend, bore or perplex us. But it's also about the different worlds each of us inhabits – these worlds converge from time to time in our shared fellowship in the church, but we each have our individual lives, with our individual glads and sads, anxieties and excitements, joys and sorrows, pleasures and pains. God in Jesus meets us in all of these, despite our feeling sometimes that nobody can possibly understand what we're going through. In Jesus, God's love embraces all of us – all of us – all the time.

With every good wish

John.

# Calendar

## OCTOBER

Wed	1st	7.00pm	B/H	Burnham Church Council.
Thur.	2nd	2.30pm.	B/H	Thursday Fellowship
Sat	4th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Stewards & Thursday Fellowship
Mon	6th	2.30pm.	B/K	Brent Knoll Bible Study
Wed	8th	12.30pm	B/H	Church Lunch
Sat	11th	3.00pm		MWiB Induction of District President at Churchill see Page 6.
Sun	12th	6.00 pm	B/H	Café Church – (Rev Sharon Eldergill, curate St. Andrews)
Tue	14th	2.30pm.	E/B	"LINK Villages Fellowship - Milton Ladies Tea Revd Simon Bale
Thur.	16th	2.30pm.	B/H	Thursday Fellowship
Sat	18th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Educate the Kids (Kenya) Coffee Morning
Sat	18th	10.00 - 4.00		Hiawatha's Wedding Feast at St Andrews see Page 14
Sat	25th	10.00 - 5.00		Circuit Consultation Day at St Andrew's Bournville see Page 6.
Sat	25th	10.00 – 4.00		Burnham Food Festival
Tue	28th	2.30pm.	E/B	"LINK Villages Fellowship - Mrs Janice Barrett My years in Teaching
Fri	31st	10.00 - 12.00		West Huntspill Coffee Morning
Fri	31st	to Nov 2nd		WORLD CHURCH CONFERENCE at Ammerdown see page 7.

## NOVEMBER

Sat	1st	9.30 - 12.30		CHURCHES TOGETHER DAY at the Catholic Church see Page 9
Sat	1st	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Coffee Morning in aid of Action for Children – Dorothy
Thur.	6th	2.30pm.	B/H	Thursday Fellowship - Members Afternoon
Sun	9th	6.00 pm	B/H	Café Church – (Rev Karen Murphy)
Tue	11th	2.30pm.	E/B	LINK Villages Fellowship - Mr and Mrs Butland - Uganda
Wed	12th	12.30pm	B/H	Church Lunch
Sat	15th	10.30 - 12.00	E/B	Christmas Coffee Morning & Sale at East Brent
Sat	15th	10.00 - 12.00	B/H	Educate the Kids (Kenya) Coffee Morning

**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 2**

After a month or so of apparent quietness, the Invitations process kicks off again during October. Sometime in the middle of the month, Norman Lester, our Senior Circuit Steward, will receive the list of Ministers who are seeking new appointments in September 2015. This list will incorporate a profile of each Minister, who they are, what their experience has been, where they have served, what their special interests are and where they would like to serve if they had the chance. It all used to be contained in what was called 'The Yellow Book' but now it's sent electronically. The Circuit Stewards will discuss the list and make a record of those whom they would like to invite. They will pass this record to the Chairman of District (Rev Ward Jones).

Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November all the Chairmen meet to try to match ministers and appointments and then on the 6<sup>th</sup> our Chairman will contact Norman to give him details of what matched ministers have been offered to us. It may not have been possible to match on all three appointments (there will be more appointments available than ministers to fill them), but we have then got until 16<sup>th</sup> November to meet with those that have been offered to us and to make a judgement as to whether they will be suitable (as have the ministers about us too).

There will then be a second round of matching in early December to try to fill remaining gaps, and so the process will continue.

Members of the Invitations Committee should therefore try to keep their diaries as clear as possible between 7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November. Not all the Committee will be involved for each appointment, but we shall be called upon at short notice so that the prospective minister can be shown round and meet with selected people.

In parallel with this process of course is the Vision for the Circuit initiative and, as agreed at July's Circuit meeting, we all need to be involved in the re-building of our circuit. Further contact has therefore been made with the Church's Regional Discipleship and The LINK September 2014

Mission Network who will come and talk with the Circuit on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October at St Andrew's, Bournville. It is hoped that the business can be conducted in the morning though there might also be an afternoon extension for such as can stay. The Consultation is intended for all of us, just as the Away Day was at the end of April. We all ought to have something to contribute and the Leadership Group hope that each church will ensure that it is well represented. The themes are Transforming Discipleship, Communities and Ministry and it is hoped that we shall all gain something from it to discuss in our separate churches. Please put this date in your diaries and more details will be distributed later.

To set up a website was agreed as part of the Vision process and the last Circuit Meeting accepted that we should 'spend a bit of money on it'. Accordingly, our new Webmaster, John Trebble, has been busy developing the facility. It should be up and running early in October at this web address:

[www.wsbos.org](http://www.wsbos.org)

Try it. It will be full of goodies. John also asks that each church should supply him with a contact so that he can get in touch if he needs church information to put on the site. His details are on the Plan under Local Preachers.

Harvey Allen on behalf of the Invitations Committee sub-group.  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2014



## **GOLDEN WEDDING**

Gordon and Jill LEGG nee Plimley were married at East Brent Methodist Church on October 10<sup>th</sup> 1964 by the Rev George Daniels. The Church was not registered for weddings, so needed a registrar to attend the service, He forgot!! The car with the bride had to keep driving around until the registrar was finally located on the golf course, and the wedding could go ahead.

Unsurprising the Church was registered before the next wedding took place.

# BRISTOL DISTRICT WOMEN IN BRITAIN



***INDUCTION OF PRESIDENT***

***MRS Di SMART***

**SATURDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

**At 3.00p.m.**

**at *CHURCHILL METHODIST CHURCH***  
**(BS25 5NG)**

***Preacher: Rev'd Ward Jones***



**DISCIPLESHIP AND MINISTRIES LEARNING NETWORK**

THE CIRCUIT MEETING PROPOSE TO HOLD A

CIRCUIT CONSULTATION DAY ON

**SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2014**

**at St ANDREWS Bournville WsM 10.00 - 5.00**

**TWO MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL TEAM GEOFF BOND & LIAM McKENNA**

WILL LEAD THE DAY

THE DAY IS FOR ALL CHURCH LEADERS AND MEMBERS

AIM

**TO INTRODUCE TWO OR THREE SPECIFIC AREAS FOR GROWTH**

TRANSFORMING DISCIPLESHIP (equipping people to be disciples)

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES (challenging & equipping churches to mission)

(possibly TRANSFORMING MINISTRIES - equipping leaders ,preachers etc)

via:- presentations illustrations discussion role-play participation

- . Challenge representatives to take information and ideas back to their church and encourage them to resolve to tackle some or all of the areas of development

**As each church seeks to examine specific areas - they can call upon the regional team to come and advise and direct and enable.**



**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.



# Victoria Methodist Church

On a Wednesday evening Victoria Methodist Church plays a part by being the church that is open. On other evenings, for instance a Tuesday, it is the turn of the Salvation Army whilst on other nights it could be St Paul's, Corpus Christi or the Quakers.

My reason for writing to you all is to ask for people to volunteer to take part by:

- Announcing the request in church over the next few Sundays (that way the message gets to different people, unlike if it is only mentioned once);
- Volunteering yourself;
- If you have volunteered before, coming forward again.

We need 4-5 people on each Wednesday with most coming to Victoria for about 6.45pm to help with sandwich preparation and setting up the tables. Doors open at 7.30pm and in practice we start clearing away by about 8.15pm and close up and leave for 9pm. In addition to the jobs mentioned, volunteers can also serve drinks, wash up and take orders (although everything is free to the users).

For many people who take part, the commitment is usually once a fortnight although some do every week and occasionally some will do another pattern.

If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can measure whether the Methodist Church can take part this year – something we have done for over twenty years, first at Church Road and more recently at Victoria.

If anyone wants any more information, please ask them to contact me either by phone (01934 813128) or email.

In closing, I do hope that some people from your church can take part because in serving we are following the example of Christ who washed His disciples feet; we are also living the Greatest Commandment and loving our neighbour like ourselves.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings

Rob

Rob Jenks

E-Mail: [jenksr@tssa.org.uk](mailto:jenksr@tssa.org.uk)

# 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](mailto:eileenmerrett@aol.com) or

[sj\\_bale@idoud.com](mailto: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



## **Churches Together in Burnham Highbridge and District**

1. The AGM of Churches Together was held in St, John's church hall on Thursday 11th Sept There were 16 people in attendance which included five members of the clergy. David Tee took the meeting and the reports were as follows;

**i) Finance** The balance in the business money manager account is £2575.60 and in the current account is £342.92

**ii) Christian Aid.** £7000 has been raised in the area during the last 12 months, £5000 during Christian Aid Week . The AGM will be held at West Huntspill Methodist Church next year - more details later.

**iii) Highbridge and Burnham Youth Project.** A young lady called Sarah has been trained with money from Churches Together to take courses with parents of teenagers . These are to help parents deal with problems such as drugs and alcohol but take-up has been slow and the courses have yet to get off the ground.

**iv) The Food Bank** continues to run with all churches being involved in some way. Harvest Festival contributions would be gratefully received especially tea, coffee and sugar.

**v) Election of Officers.** David Lee, who has not enjoyed the best of health in recently, stepped down after two years as chairman and was thanked for his leadership during this time. The new chairman is Rev. Graham Witts from St. Andrew's church with Rosemary Gilling replacing Eileen Merrett as secretary, Margaret continues as treasurer and Jenny Doolan is vice- chairman.

**vi) AOB Sail Away Holiday at Home** is now under the auspices of Churches Together and Eileen Merrett has volunteered to act as co coordinator.

The meeting closed at 8.30 with prayers from David and the Grace being said to each other

**2. Vision Day** There is an important event taking place on Sat Nov 1<sup>st</sup> at the Catholic Church to which everyone is invited. It is a morning of reflection, prayer and looking for new ideas to enthuse and serve the local community as a group of Christians all working together-' Where there is no vision, the people perish' (Proverbs 29;18)

## Café church dates at Burnham

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 6.00 pm – (Rev Sharon Eldergill, curate at St. Andrews)  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00 pm – (Rev Karen Murphy)  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.



## HARRY'S PAGE

### LISTEN MORE, SAY LESS

'..BE..[A READY LISTENER]...' *James 1:19 AMP*

**TALKING INSTEAD** of listening-will get you into trouble. Two geese were preparing to fly south when a frog asked if he could go along.

They questioned how he could do it 'Easy,' he said. 'You guys hold a stick between your beaks and I'll hang on with my mouth.' Off they went as people looked up, admiring their teamwork. The trio was making great progress until somebody below shouted, 'Great idea! Whose was it?' That's when the frog opened his mouth and yelled, 'Mliiiiiine!' Every time you open your mouth there are consequences! So learn to listen. Plutarch said, 'The talkative listen to no one, for they are ever speaking. And the first evil that attends those who know not how to be silent is that they hear nothing.' Listening without having to air your knowledge or interject your opinion is a quality of character that proves you're

mature. Larry King once said, 'I remind myself every morning: nothing I say this day will teach me anything. So if I'm going to learn, I must do it by listening.' Jesus was a great listener, and as a result He attracted people like a magnet. Doubtless there were times He was tired and didn't feel like it but He listened anyway. When the disciples fussed among themselves, and the Pharisees grumbled and caused trouble, Jesus focussed on the important things. He listened, He spoke and people followed. Listening is often more effective than talking. In fact, there's a point in every conversation where you need to say and listen more. In those moments you not only hear what others are saying, but what God is saying to you!



## **Love To Tell**

### **His Story**

Read:

1 Chronicles 16:7-13

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Oh, give thanks to the Lord!  
Call upon His name; make  
known His deeds among  
the peoples! --1 Chronicles  
16:8

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The Bible In One Year:

Proverbs 30-31

2 Corinthians 11:1-15

When noted author Studs Terkel was looking for a topic for his next book, one of his friends suggested death. While he was resistant at first, the idea gradually began to take shape, but its voice became all too real when Mr. Terkel's wife of 60 years passed away. Now the book was also a personal search: a yearning to know what lies beyond, where his loved one had just gone. Its pages are a poignant reminder of our own search for Jesus and the questions and concerns we have about eternity while we walk our journey of faith.

I'm thankful for the assurance we can have that we will be with Jesus after we die if we have trusted in Him to forgive our sin. There is no greater hope. It is now our privilege to share that hope with as many as we can. We are encouraged

in 1 Peter 3:15 to always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." We have the opportunity from God, as David said, to "call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples"

(1 Chron. 16:8).

The stories of so many people we love are not yet ended, and the privilege to tell them about the love of Jesus is a gift most precious. --Randy Kilgore

*I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems*

*Than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams*

*I love to tell the story, it did so much for me;*

*And that is just the reason I tell it now to thee. --Hankey*

Let our days be filled with a longing--

and the opportunities--to tell our story of Jesus.



**The Burnham &  
Highbridge Choral  
Society's  
COME AND SING DAY**



Choruses from  
**Hiawatha's Wedding Feast**

with Conductor Nicholas Bromilow

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

**St. Andrew's CHURCH**

Victoria Street, Burnham on Sea.  
TA8 2AQ.

**10am-4pm**

**£12 to include music hire and  
tea/coffee**

**(To be paid in advance)**

Please provide your own lunch.

**Contact Jane Lee: Tel 01278 783511**

**or email [jane.lee36@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.lee36@btinternet.com)**

# **BRENT KNOLL**

**Minister Revd. Margaret Trapp**

A big thank you to Stephen Marr for leading our harvest festival service. And an equally big thank you to everybody who brought produce (which either raised monies for charity or was donated to our local foodbank), decorated the church and provided food for our "bring and share" lunch afterwards. It was a wonderful time of fellowship.

At the time of writing, we're preparing for Brent Knoll's "Scarecrow Festival". The theme this year is song so absolutely no prizes for guessing who our Methodist scarecrow is going to be!

As promised in last month's issue, those who benefitted from our August coffee mornings were: Christian Aid; the mental health charity MIND; the MS Centre (a local charity which assists sufferers of multiple sclerosis); and The Lifeboat Fund. Thank you to everyone who supported these mornings.

Our monthly bible study group will meet on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm in the church. Refreshments will follow and I hope it goes without saying that all are welcome.

Sadly, some of our church family have been unwell and have been unable to attend Sunday worship. From all of us you're in our prayers and our thoughts and are very sorely missed.

God bless

Rosemary Krull



# EAST BRENT

Welcome back to all the people in the “LINK” from your holidays.

We have had quite good congregations over the summer period many visitors that have called in some on previous occasions

We are now back to a New Year which began with thanks for Harvest.

At East Brent we welcomed Mr John Trebble to our harvest service. It was a pleasure to meet him and we hope we shall see him again before too long. We welcome his presence in the Link end of the circuit.

We look forward to as many of you as can joining us for our October Link service. A change of preacher as Rev Robert Channon is unwell and so another change of face – the Rev. Rod Ingrouille has stepped in the breach.

It's rather interesting to meet two new comers in the space of a month. Several of our congregation will be absent on holiday so we shall be grateful for your assistance on that day.

We have just celebrated our harvest as you will have gathered (yesterday). It yielded £40.00 from the sale for our property fund and the produce leftover has gone to “Somewhere to Go” in Weston super Mare in order to help some of those less fortunate than ourselves.

For the next three weeks we shall be without Jill and Gordon who are going to Japan on holiday – not just any holiday but a celebration of their Golden Wedding in early October.

We send them our very best wishes for their Anniversary and hope they enjoy many more years together.

An advance notice that our Christmas Coffee Morning and sale will be on Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30 -.12.00.

Evelyn M. J. Tucker

# BURNHAM

[www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonsea.org.uk)

## Burnham Stewards

During the summer my husband Jim and I were lucky enough to visit some parts of the U.S.A. we had not visited before. We had set out thinking we were going to learn about music and culture, we didn't realise that the main lesson would be about the bravery of people, standing up for what they believed. The most moving of our visits was to the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. The museum is now housed in the Lorraine Motel where Martin Luther King was assassinated. The museum was full of black people's stories explaining how they had struggled to get jobs, go to school and do the ordinary things that other Americans did. We had always been interested in the history of all Americans so knew a little of the lives of such people as Rosa Parks and Rev. James Lawson but knew very little of the real struggle that happened in our lifetime. As a teacher I found the words of the children who had walked to school through screaming crowds very moving, just walking to school each day was putting their lives at risk. Rosa Parks was put into jail for daring to sit on a seat in a bus rather than give it up to a white person, she said "When I had to make the decision I refused, I was tired of giving in, someone had to make a stand" We learnt that Martin Luther King knew there

had been many threats against his life yet he kept on pushing for equal rights for all. He told his friends he would carry on whatever happened and they must carry on after him. The night before he died made an unprepared speech in which he said “God has taken me to the mountain top and shown me the promised land, I may not get there with you. Tonight I have no fear of any man because mine eyes have seen the coming of the Lord “The next day he was shot on the balcony of his motel room while speaking to the crowd below.

Last Sunday as we sang the lovely hymn “I the Lord of sea and sky” The words “I will go Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my hand” reminded us that people still suffer for their beliefs. In the past few weeks we have heard of the suffering of Christians in many parts of the world, many being killed just because they are Christians. We need to remember and pray for those who carry on with their work despite threats against them, knowing that every day they put their lives in danger.

We have some members of the church who have been unable to attend services recently. We would like them to know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Marian Foster.



# BREAN

[www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org](http://www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org)

Well they've all gone – well nearly all gone anyway. Just a few holidaymakers remain and just a few faces to be welcomed to our midst on a Sunday morning. Our visitor numbers have kept up pretty well this year, though we keep saying that very few people on holiday seem to want to come to church. St Bridget's would make the same comment I think.

October brings Harvest Festival and Church Council. Harvest Festival is on 5<sup>th</sup> October. It is a joint venture with St Bridget's and we then enjoy lunch afterwards. Our Church Council is on 26<sup>th</sup>. There will have been a Circuit Consultation on the previous day so I guess its suggestions and conclusions ought to be on our agenda.

On 12<sup>th</sup> we start our winter services with East Brent and Brent Knoll and for this, the first one, we meet at East Brent. It will be good to share fellowship again with our friends from those churches. Our Superintendent has arranged for there to be a circuit service on the morning of February 8<sup>th</sup> next year on the occasion of the last visit to the circuit of Rev Ward Jones, our District Chairman. The joint service at Brean will therefore have to be cancelled – perhaps we can arrange a replacement later.

This month is an important one for our Circuit Stewards for it contains an important step in the appointment of a new minister for next September. Our thoughts and prayers go with them in this important task.

Harvey Allen



## Minister

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## Web Sites

[www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk](http://www.methodistchurchburnhamonseas.org.uk)

[www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org](http://www.brean-methodist-church.home.dhs.org)

[www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com](http://www.brentknollmethodistchurch.com)

New Circuit Web site [www.wsmbos.org](http://www.wsmbos.org)

Old Circuit Web site <http://westonburnham.wix.com/w-s-mb-o-smethodists>

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

**The Deadline for the  
November 2014 “LINK” is  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

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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