
THE LINK

Methodist Link Churches Magazine

June 2014 Volume 49. No. 5.



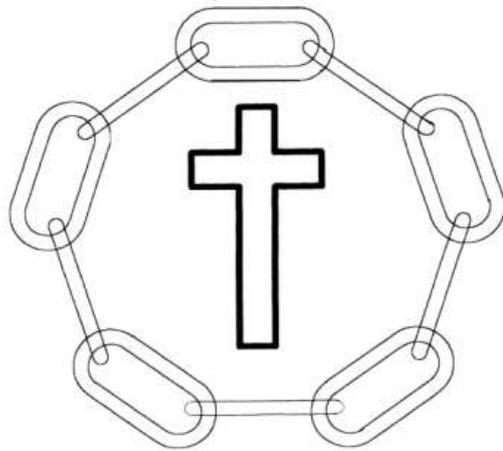
BREAN



BRENT KNOLL



WEST HUNTSPILL



EAST BRENT



BURNHAM

Calendar

MAY

- Tue 27th 2.30pm. E/B LINK Villages Fellowship - AGM and Communion
Next season resumes September 9th 2014
- Fri 30th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H West Huntspill Coffee Morning
- Sat 31st 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

JUNE

- Sun 1st 3.00pm Easter Offering Service at Milton W-s-M followed by Refreshments.
- Mon 2nd 2.30pm. B/K Bible Study at Brent Knoll
- Tue 3rd 9.30 - 1.00 Surprised by Age? Gathering at Cardiff
- Thu 5th 9.30 - 1.00 Surprised by Age? Gathering at Chippenham
- Sat 7th 10.00 - 12.00 Seminar at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist
- Sat 7th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Wednesday Group
- Sun 8th 11.00 & 6.30 W/H West Huntspill Church Anniversary Service
- Sat 14th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning
- Sat 14th 10.00 - 2.00 Summer Fayre at St Andrew's Church Bourneville WsM
- Sat 14th 2.30 - 3.30 E/B Concert & Strawberry Tea at East Brent Methodist Church
- Sun 15th 6.00 pm B/H Café Church – (Rev Margaret Trapp)
- Sat 21st 9.30am. B/H Circuit Prayer meeting at Burnham
- Sat 21st 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Educate the Kids (Kenya) Coffee Morning
- Sun 22nd LAST DAY FOR JULY - AUGUST LINK
- Sun 22nd 10.30am. B/H Burnham Church 135th Anniversary Rev. Andrew Biggs
- Fri 27th 10.00 - 12.00 W/H West Huntspill Coffee Morning
- Sat 28th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Shoppers Coffee Morning

JULY

- Sat 5th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Fund Raising Coffee Morning by the Stewards & Thursday fellowship
- Sun 13th 6.00 pm B/H Café Church – (Rev Andrew Biggs)
- Sat 19th 10.00 - 12.00 B/H Educate the Kids (Kenya) Coffee Morning
- Sun 20th 6.00pm B/H Circuit Service & Farewell to Rev Andrew Biggs conducted by Rev Robert Channon

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



The 40th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Presbyterate in the Methodist Church

On Saturday June 21st at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London, as part of the annual Methodist Conference there will be a service of Celebration. The Rev. Beth Bridges was in the first group of Women Ordinands as Presbyter's in the Methodist Church. She had previously served as a Wesley Deaconess for 25 years. This service took place during the Bristol Conference 1974, at Victoria Church, Weston Super Mare. I understand the service was led by Rev. Rupert Davis and the address given by Rev. Kenneth Waights, both friends of Beth. As a Presbyter Beth's first appointment was in Pocklington, Yorkshire. This was followed by a return to Wales to Tenby in the Pembroke Circuit, and then Ebbw Vale. Beth was one of the first women presbyters to serve as a Superintendent Minister.

It was September 1988 that Beth retired to Burnham. During her retirement she has shared much in the work of the Circuit. Beth always maintained her strong links with Bournville (W-s-M) where she had worked for 4 years as a Wesley Deaconess. She gave pastoral care for a year at St. Andrews (Bournville) and Uphill. In her earlier years of retirement she was preaching regularly in our Circuit and also the Bridgwater Circuit and Mendip Circuit.

We are so pleased that Beth is being well looked after in the Care Home, The Towans. We shall remember and give thanks for all that she has shared in her calling as a "minister". Well done. Beth.

Joyce F. Plumb



Circuit Prayer meetings

Please note the following date for the next Circuit Prayer meetings
Meetings starting at 10.00am for about an hour with coffee from 9.30am
The prayer meeting on June 21st will be at Burnham

Easter Offering Service at Milton Methodist Church W-s-M

This year's Easter Offering service will be held at Milton Methodist Church on June 1st at 3pm, followed by a cup of tea and a biscuit.

The Theme is "Risk the path He trod" and includes stories from the world church.

This is a good opportunity to join together as a circuit to celebrate the work of the world church & to dedicate the gifts given through the Easter Offering envelopes.

Do please support this if you can.

Joyce Pipet.

Cafe Church dates at Burnham

- Sunday 15th June at 6.00 pm – (Rev Margaret Trapp)
- Sunday 13th July at 6.00 pm – (Rev Andrew Biggs)
- Sunday 10th August at 6.00 pm – (Rosemary Krull)
- Sunday 14th September at 6.00 pm – tba
- Sunday 12th October at 6.00 pm – (Rev Sharon Eldergill, curate at St. Andrews)
- Sunday 9th November at 6.00 pm – (Rev Karen Murphy)
- Sunday 14th December at 6.00 pm – tba

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.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

26 October - 2 November 2014

Flying from Heathrow with El Al

Tour cost £1,350 (plus single supplement)

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Gethsemane

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The House of Caiaphas

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BOOKING
NOW!



St. Andrews Church Bournville

Summer Fayre

Saturday 14th June 10.00am - 2.00pm.

Various stalls. Tombola and Bottle Tombola and Grand Raffle. Refreshments served throughout the Fayre.

Free entry.

Please join us.



Prayer letter from Daniel and Grace Pratt-Chapman

and their little son Kwame-

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

"Chapman" he said, "you are a "Chap-man!" Not having a clue what could be meant by this I had to simply nod my head and smile. When I later discovered that, in the Bafut language, a "chap" is a "woman" I was very confused.

The Bafut tribe converted to Christianity over a century ago when some missionaries offered to train the chief's son to be a pastor. Fearing that they would sell the prince into slavery, the chief gave them an ordinary villager -promising the man that he could have eleven wives if he went with the missionaries. By the time the man returned he had become a powerful witness and thus led many people to become Christians (he married one wife).

Bafut lies in what is often described as the "Switzerland" of Africa. At over 1500 metres above sea level the landscape is stunning. Grass like a vast green carpet extends over the hills and valleys as far as the eyes can see. Crater lakes and purple mountains penetrate this beautiful sea of green. Were it not for the most awful roads imaginable this north western part of Cameroon would be a tourist hotspot. Unfortunately, Bafut is nine hours journey from Kumba- it should only take 5 hours but the direct route is impassable.

It was not tourism that brought me to this idyllic setting, but the interview process for candidates applying to study for the Presbyteral ministry. Out of the 86 people who initially applied, 35 were invited to interviews. Of this number only around 20 would be taken. To complicate matters all of the candidates were brilliant people.

One man had applied 8 times. Another was an actual descendant of the very first Bafut pastor (mentioned above). However, when I first asked the latter why he wanted to be a pastor he said: "because my grand uncle was a pastor." While this is truly wonderful, I pointed out that God has no grand children/ nephews. When God calls someone to be a pastor, it isn't because of their uncle, their grand uncle or their monkey's uncle. It's them he is interested in. So I asked him again, "but why do you want to be a pastor?" This time his answer, spoken out of the very depths of his

being, convinced me: "I want to share the love of God."

When the results were published half of the successful candidates were women. This, apparently, is a revolutionary development. Quite literally. Many people have thus been questioning me. A lot. A church member from Douala asked me: "Registrar, why have you admitted so many women???? 11 is far too many!" I must say I was quite surprised by this as, in all truth, I hadn't even noticed how many there were. I was too busy trying to find out about their characters. Moreover, 11 men and 11 women seemed quite a good balance to me. The man was not convinced at all and gave me a list of reasons as to why it was better to take more men than women. In response I said this: "women are permitted to apply, therefore, women must be permitted to serve!" The man looked at me, paused, and said: "Chapman, you are a real Chap-man!" "no, no, no" I said "I'm a Pratt Morris-Chapman!"

Pray for our work here. That God will use us, and that we can be agents for good. Pray for Grace who has now finished her maternity leave. Pray for John and Kwame (who turned three on Wednesday) that they continue to be healthy and strong.



HARRY'S PAGE

JOINING THE FAMILY

READ:
Galatians 3:2fr-4:7

You are all sons
of God through
faith in Christ

Jesus --Galatians
3:26

Maurice Griffin was adopted when he was 32 years old. He had lived with Lisa and Charles Godbold 20 years earlier as a foster child. Although Maurice was now a man living on his own. Adoption had been what the family and he had always longed for. Once they were reunited and the adoption was official Maurice commented "This is probably the happiest moment in my life. . . . I'm happy to be home" Those of us who have joined the family of God may refer to that time as the happiest moment in our lives. When we trust Christ for salvation we become God's children, and He becomes our heavenly Father. The Bible assures us. "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26).

As God's adopted children, we acquire spiritual siblings-our brothers and sisters in Christ--and we all share an eternal inheritance (Col. 1:12).

In addition. Jesus' Spirit indwells our hearts and enables us to pray using the name Abba, Father (Gal. 4-6)--like a child calling. "Daddy."

To be a child of God is to experience the closeness and security of a Father who loves us, accepts us and wants, to know us. Our adoption into His family is a wonderful homecoming. -- Jennifer Benson Schuldt

*I once was an outcast stranger on earth,
A sinner by choice, and or alien by birth:
But I've been adopted, my name's written down.
An heir to the mansion, a robe and a crown. --Buell*

**God's arms are always open
To welcome anyone home.**



THEN THEIR EYES WERE OPENED AND THEY KNEW HIM..; Luke 24-31 NKJV

HE WAS a militant non-believer, who summed up his world view with a verse from Lucretius: 'Had God designed the world, it would not be a world so frail and faulty as we see.' So Jack turned his attention to academia, excelling in each field he studied Soon the dons of Oxford took him in as a

respected peer and he began to write and teach. Yet, far beneath the surface, his doubts were taking their toll. He described his mental state with words like 'misery and hopelessness'.

He said. 'I maintained God did not exist. I was also angry with God for not existing' Then two friends,

also Oxford dons, J R R Tolkien and H V D Dyson, both devout followers of Christ, urged him to do something he'd surprisingly never done: read the Bible. So he did. Jack began to wrestle with the claims Christ made. Concluding that He was either deluded, deceptive, or the very One He claimed to be, the Son of God.

On the evening of September 19, 1931, Jack and his two friends took a long walk through the Oxford campus. They Talked late into the night. And Jack, C S "Jack" Lewis, would later recall a

rush of wind that caused the first leaf to fall--a sudden breeze, which possibly came to symbolise for him the Holy Spirit Soon after that night. Lewis became a believer.

The change revolutionised his world and consequently the worlds of millions of readers. Could It be this simple? Could the chasm between doubt and faith be spanned with Scripture and Christian fellowship? Why don't you come to Christ and find out for yourself



Local charity receives boost at concert.



So moving, you lifted the roof, Fantastic! These are a few comments given by people who attended the Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society's Spring concert on Saturday 10th May at St. John's Church, Highbridge.

The evening began on a high with Burnham's Co-operative Funeralcare presenting the society, which is a registered charity, with a donation of £500.

The evening included music from Handel's Four Coronation Anthems and Messiah, also songs from West Side Story and various other composers. The applause for many of the pieces continued for some time.

Guest soloist Mary Morgan sang moving pieces from the composer Grieg. She also accompanied the choir during Messiah, along with a 12 orchestral ensemble.

The society would like to thank the audience for their continued support throughout the year and the generous donation which helps us to provide quality performances with the addition of soloists and orchestras.

You can keep up with the Society by visiting their Facebook page – Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society. This is a community page and accessible to all.

Dates for your diaries:

Our next concert is on Thursday 11th December, 2014 at St. John's Church, Highbridge.

Come and Sing day on 18th October, 2014 at the Methodist Church hall, College St. Burnham on Sea.

We also have 4 weeks of singing for pleasure starting on Thursday 29th May at The Methodist Church hall, College St. Burnham. This

is a good opportunity to meet some of the choir members whilst enjoying a jolly good sing. For more info contact our secretary Jane Lee. 01278 783511 or via email jane.lee36@btinternet.com

**The Summer Concert
And
Strawberry Tea**

Saturday 14th June 2014
East Brent Methodist Church
2.30pm -3.30pm

Come and be entertained by
'THE SOMERNOTES'

And then join us in the Hall afterwards for tea and
scones with strawberries, cream and jam.



All welcome.

..... So bring your friends



Summer Fete

The Towans

Berrow Road

Saturday 21st June

2.30 – 4.30

Dancing Dog Display Country Dancers

Cream Teas

Entertainments and Stalls

All money raised will go to local charities

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**Starts Thursday 5th June 7pm - 9pm**

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**Phone: Sarah Taylor 07866458169**

# EAST BRENT

I am told that there was a congregation of 18 on Easter Sunday, what a way to celebrate the Risen Lord. I missed it due to being on the other side of the world, visiting and getting to know our first grandchild. At the same time Joan was celebrating the safe arrival of twin great-grandsons. You can imagine the photographs which have been passed around.

I was present to enjoy another Sunday with 16 in the congregation just a fortnight ago.

I now have to get back into the routine here at home but thank goodness for Skype – we shall at least be able to watch our granddaughter grow and change on the screen although cuddles will have to wait until the next visit.

Technology is wonderful isn't it? Only as good as the person operating it though. I must apologise for the late advertising for our summer concert. This is due, not to technology, but to human error, namely my memory. In the midst of all the excitement of our trip I completely forgot to send Cedric the details of the concert for the 'May' Link. So many people enjoyed our Summer Songs of Praise and strawberry tea last June that we are repeating it, with a twist, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Glyn and Bernie, our soloists from last year, are being joined by the rest of their group 'The Somernotes'; the concert will include music for every taste from 'Amazing Grace' to 'There ain't nothing like a dame' and will be followed by tea. Please see advertisement elsewhere in the Link.

Good Luck to all those taking exams at this time of year.

Safe journeys and happy times to those taking holidays.

I end on a more sober note as our thoughts are with Bob on the death of his wife.

Margaret Scott



We at East Brent look forward to having another ‘Songs of Praise’ on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 3pm complete with tea and cakes. You are all invited to this FREE event but come early if you want seats it is a very entertaining programme so we look forward to seeing you.

Congratulations to Michael Green, son of Margaret who received the MOTO’s “You’re a Star” award, which is for giving excellent customer service whilst clearing and cleaning tables at a busy Bridgwater Service Station.

Well we are now into the last quarter of the Methodist Year, when Ministers take holidays and many look to packing ready for moving on to new locations and challenges, in this circuit we are facing challenges with no full time Minister in the Burnham area and we at East Brent losing Carol due to Sabbatical for July, August and September. The invitation committee will be busy attempting to produce suitable Circuit profiles in an attempt to attract persons to what will be three vacant positions, they need to decide what this Circuit requires, that is 3 ministers, 2 ministers + 1 deacon or perhaps some other combination, whatever the outcome this Circuit will have a completely new ministerial staff team (how exciting and what prospects for us all).

I would like to add as Circuit Financial Steward that this Circuit has no problem financially in continuing to employ three members of staff at present, no matter what anyone else may have suggested, but this all hinges on there being suitable persons available and willing to come to **THIS CIRCUIT!!!**

SEE YOU AT OUR SONGS OF PRAISE

**Gordon Legg**



# BURNHAM

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

## Burnham Stewards

The sun has shown for a little while today. The rain yesterday has certainly made everything in the garden looking fresh. It is so rewarding to see all the lovely new growth and all the colourful flowers. Nature is wonderful.

We all say to ourselves how quickly the weeks and months go by. June is almost with us and yet it seems no time since we were celebrating Christmas and the New Year and then Easter.

So in June we celebrate our 135<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary service on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rev. Andrew Biggs will be taking this service which will include Holy Communion. Andrew's final Service will be on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 6.00pm. This will be a Circuit Service taken by Rev. Robert Channon, our superintendent and will include tea.

On June 13<sup>th</sup> until 23<sup>rd</sup> we are to have two of the teachers here from the school we support in Kenya. Grace, who is the Head Mistress of the Kindergarten has visited Burnham in 2008 when the Choir were here for a month. For Obediah it will be his first visit. He teaches at the Primary School. They are to have an opportunity to speak to us for a few minutes during the service on 15<sup>th</sup> when Rev. Robert Channon is taking the service. If you wish to learn more about the schools, Grace and Obediah will be at the Coffee Morning on the 21<sup>st</sup> June.

Our thanks to Hilary for all she did during her year as team Leader. Hilary remains a steward along with Carol, Joan, both Marian's and myself.

For all who are going away, we wish you a safe journey and a time of relaxation.

For all who are sick or unable to worship with us, you are remembered in our prayers.

Dorothy.

# Educate the Kids

I have just returned from my 2 weeks in Kenya. I accompanied Sue, leaving Burnham on Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup>. When we arrived in Mombasa it was glorious sunshine. This good weather was still with us on Monday but then the rain came. We were soon finding it difficult to walk to the schools. The children were not back at school until our 2<sup>nd</sup> week but the headmaster at the Primary School was working there all week.

Sue has much work to do sorting out the necessary school fees for the children at the various secondary schools for their 2<sup>nd</sup> term. One of Sue's tasks was to find a new school for three boys. We went to visit one school where we met the Principal. He was very pleasant and agreed to take these 3 boys at the start of term. This meant buying new uniforms as the previous school wore a different colour. There was a good uniform shop within the school building. We hope the 3 will work well there.

All the pupils have to be in their class by 6.30am and remain there until 6.00pm. They will do their homework before leaving at 6.00pm. A long day!! What would children in the U.K. think of these hours?

The children at the schools were thrilled to see us when they returned after their Easter break. We were able to give out lots of vests as it was cold weather for them. Although it was so wet it was warm to us.

On Wednesday morning 2 of Sue's Kenyan friends went to a nearby market to buy food – maize, flour, sugar, beans, tea etc. We gave out around 60 food parcels to parents of children sponsored by friends in and around Burnham. The parcels cost around £6-7. Those who were receiving these were very appreciative. Everything we do we feel is so rewarding. We bring many letters of thanks home from the children.

On two days we walked for almost 4 hours visiting homes. There are no streets, the homes are nothing like ours - just dotted here and there. We do not go on our own. Inside there is no real furniture, just a mattress where perhaps 4 or more sleep, no electricity or ovens for cooking yet everyone is happy. The washing

is done in bowls outside and then dried on the roof of the home or the ground or perhaps there may be a wire as a line. Everything looks so clean and bright. It is very difficult to explain the poverty there.

We are to have two of the teachers staying in Burnham from June 13<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. They are coming for almost 5 weeks visiting Scotland Yorkshire, Bristol and Wales. Grace the Head has been here before in June /July 2008 with the choir. Obediah is a teacher at the Primary School and it will be his first visit. On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> they will be at the Coffee Morning so if you would like to meet them do come along that morning. They will be able to tell you about the children and how they enjoy our visits and all about the school.



## **BREAN**

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

Our first impression was to arrive at the church and find at least three open air car parks as well as a two storey enclosed park. Gosh, we thought. We joined the happy throng and entered the church. There were about 700 of us at worship that day. It was a traditional service with choir and children present. There was also a baptism and a reception of new members (nearly 30 of them) but we were assured that this was still the usual number of worshippers. Further along the corridor and out of earshot a contemporary service was also taking place. We went and had a look at the numbers gathering. It was a new arena with seating in a quarter circle and with all the audio-visual equipment you would expect. There will be the same number worshipping here as in the traditional service, we were told. And we could well believe it. We wanted to stay and be part of it too, and would have done so if we had been there a second week.

Many adults from both congregations had already been to an hour's 'Sunday school' which is quite usual in US churches. So yes, let's admit we weren't in a British church at all but visiting friends in

the southern USA early in May. With them we had visited places in Jackson and Alabama. This Methodist church was in Birmingham (accent on the 'ham' if you will) in Alabama where one of our friends' daughters now lives with her growing family.

The next week we were back in Brean and there were 16 of us including several visitors. Just as relevant and meaningful of course and it was good to catch up on news. But it is important to see ourselves as part of a worldwide community of Christian people, all very different but all united in our love of God. We can so easily get ourselves caught within our own limited vision and it does us good sometimes to raise our head above the horizon and see a different (I dare to also say, a larger) vision of God's kingdom on earth.

Meanwhile visitors have been welcomed, many of them returning holidaymakers. It is good to see them back. They both support us and help us to that wider vision and we look forward to more joining us as the summer advances.

By the time this edition reaches the pews we shall have held a Tea and Cakes event for Weston Hospice. We are using Bank holiday Sunday to draw as many holidaymakers to this worthwhile cause as we can. We hope it has been a fine day and that crowds have come.

As the summer and the longer days are upon us, we wish all our friends in the Link a happy time and if you are due for holiday yourself, we hope it will be a time of refreshment and new energies.

Harvey Allen



## **WEST HUNTSPILL**

One hot sunny April day – like we sometimes get – I drove to Winscombe. I stopped to picnic and put the car window down. Then the weather changed – as it does – and the window switch would not work! I drove to a Christian friend and as I was about to leave asked if we could pray about the car window. We did, I left to drop a card

off in the next village, the wind blowing in my car – the window switch did not work

However I saw a **RAC** van parked on the opposite side of the road. I dropped the card off – prayed they would still be there, they were! I explained my plight. The switch was broken! They managed to close the window. I explained the prayer and the **RAC** man, said that was why they were there! I told my friend, we agreed it was a God incidence not a coincidence, or was it angels in disguise She said publish it.

Thank you to everyone for an excellent Circuit Vision day

Now can we please have a bring your own lunch (to save work) Circuit away “Prayer/Quite” day.

Janet M. Thompson.

P.S. Please share any God incidences in the Link

## Coffee Mornings

We are reverting back to the last Friday of every month so the next ones will be

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May and  
Friday 27th June 10am-12md**  
Opportunity to meet and chat with others



The Methodist Church invites you to share  
in their Anniversary services on

**Sunday June 8th**

**11am service led by Mrs Heather Gale**

**6.30pm service led by Revd Sharon Crossman**

Refreshments will be served after evening service



# **BRENT KNOLL**

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

**Minister Rev. Andrew Biggs**

A big thank you to everyone who organised and/or attended our Spring bring and buy coffee morning on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. As always, it was a great pleasure to meet up with our Link Church friends and we are grateful for your support. It was a sunny day and we were able to have our plant stalls outside of the church. Monies raised are going towards Church funds as we are in the process of updating our sound system. Part of this process will involve extending the loop system into the school room. We have always seen our church as not only a place of Worship on a Sunday but as part of our village community. We hope that these improvements will be used and enjoyed by the various groups who use our building.

A reminder that "May's" bible study will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 2.30pm due to the Bank Holiday. We are looking at the book of Acts during this time and all are welcome. These study sessions will then revert back to their normal time of the last Monday in the month.

Information about the dates of our bible study and Emmaus groups, together with other upcoming events and weekly notices can be found on our church website,

God bless

Rosemary Krull



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**Circuit Web site**

<http://westonburnham.wix.com/w-s-mb-o-smethodists>

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**The Deadline for the  
July - August 2014  
“LINK” is  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 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.

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