

BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH
North Street, Barrow upon Soar, Leicestershire

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Our new entrance



Our newly refurbished Worship Area



Glass doors separate the Worship Area from the Welcome Coffee Bar



New Display window which was previously our "old, old" entrance



The new Welcome Coffee Bar kitchen

BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

North Street, Barrow upon Soar LE12 8QA
(W3W) What3Words: umbrellas, mixture, bake
Website: www.barrowmethodist.org.uk



A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU AT OUR MEETINGS

SUNDAY	10.15 am 6.00 pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship
MONDAY 1 st in the month	9.15 am 7.00 pm 2.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meets every weekday morning 1 st Barrow upon Soar Guides "New Horizons" – a friendship group for those who are bereaved
TUESDAY Every 3 rd Tuesday	1.25-3.25 pm 5.45-9.30 pm 7.30 pm	Barrow Playgroup FAB Fitness group Men's Supper Group
WEDNESDAY Alternate weeks Every 3 rd Wed Every 4 th Wed	7.30 pm 7.30 pm 3.15 – 4.30 pm	Ladies Circle Gardening Club Fun@Church for children & their parents/carers
THURSDAY Alternate weeks	1.25-3.25 pm 7.30 pm	Barrow Playgroup Bible Study – see notices
SATURDAY – 1 st in the month 4 th in the month	10.00-11.00 am 2.00-4.00 pm	Minimarket & Coffee Morning Crochet & Craft

Please see Circuit Plan, notices or website for details of Holy Communion services & other events



www.facebook.com/barrow-upon-soar-methodist



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OUR MINISTER WRITES:



Another year has passed and the rest is ahead of us, exciting times with amazing prospects. The work on the worship area and the entrance plus has almost reached its climax. Having said that there is still work to be done, further funds to raise and the Work of the Kingdom still lies ever before us.

We look forward to the re-dedication of the premises on May 16th at 2.30 pm (make sure the date and time are in your diaries!). With Clive Marsh (Vice President of Conference), Rev Helen Cameron (Chair of the Northampton District), Andrew Lomax our Circuit Superintendent, and other invited friends and supporters we will praise God for His greatness. The Phoenix Signing Choir should also be joining us on this occasion.

Grateful thanks (as before) to the stalwart work of the Development Group under Mike Morley's leadership as well as hard work from the Stewards and many others too numerous to mention by name. Yet it doesn't end here, there's still work to be done, more fund raising for extra things that still need to be done and as ever still folk to be won for the Kingdom of God. Let's get to it!

Your friend and Minister, John

Editor: *Hopefully you will receive this Annual Report but as I am putting it together, we are at the start of a period of great uncertainty due to Coronavirus (or Covid19) and all our church services and meetings have been suspended for the foreseeable future. Some of our planned events will happen and some will be postponed! Take time to read it. Thank God for what we have been able to accomplish in the past 12 months and pray that once this is over, we can all go forward and do God's work in this place.*

STEWARDS' REPORT

I think I can safely say that this past year has been a bit of a challenge for the stewards. Not just because there are now only three of us, plus one vestry steward, but because while the building work has been going on, we have had to do things very differently. Some things are still the same of course – contacting the preacher during the week for the order of service and passing it on to Joan and Janet, finding readers for the lessons, being here early on Sunday to open up for worship etc. But in addition to this we have had to develop new skills to accommodate worshipping in the coffee lounge. These include:

- furniture removal - fetching lectern, tables, prayer tree etc. from the storage cupboard and extra chairs from the back of the hall (grateful thanks to Peter and others who help with this when possible)
- detective work - where we might find something one Sunday depends entirely on who put it away the previous week!
- jigsaw puzzle solving - trying to fit all the furniture back into the cupboard it came out of!
- and multi-tasking. The problem of course with all being together in such a small room is that as soon as people arrive they want your attention, and as soon as you put down what you were dealing with to attend to the latest problem, someone else picks it up and wants to know what it's doing there!

Fortunately the smaller room also makes for a more informal setting, so even if you do feel sometimes that you are chasing your tail trying to get things done in time, there is usually someone around to tell you what you've forgotten, or even to help you do it.

We are very grateful to all who help to set up for worship, and for the sense of all "mucking in" together to clear away afterwards, it really does make a difference. Our thanks also to Joan for providing the music and for counting the collection with helpers after the services, to the worship leaders for helping with the Local Arrangement services, to those people who are willing to read the lessons, arrange the flowers, provide lifts to church, welcome people at the door or make the coffee, all of which enhance the overall experience of worship.

Your stewards this year have been myself, Heather Doda and Pat Langstone, with Carolyn Thornborow helping out in the newly created role of vestry steward, and I would like to thank them all on your behalf for their hard work and commitment. Please continue to remember us all in your prayers.

Please also consider prayerfully whether you might be being called to serve in this way. By the time you read this the redevelopment will hopefully be complete and we should be worshipping back in the main church, which should mean that some sort of 'normal' routine can be developed. In other words, don't be put off by what I've said above – it isn't always as bad as that!

Sandra Webb

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PROPERTY REPORT

Since April 2019 the main church worship area and entrance foyer has been a building site with contractors on site and working to meet the deadlines for completion of the extensive renovation programme. This has almost negated the normal requirements of the property committee other than to ensure the areas not covered by the renovations were maintained and repaired as required.

During this period, we have managed to maintain all activities using the church hall and coffee lounge which have provided continuity for all our user groups, both church and external. The property committee, with particular thanks to Janet Thompson, have maintained contact with the playgroup throughout the renovations.

Peter Yates, accompanied by his trusty toolbox, has carried out an excellent job ensuring all essential repairs and routine maintenance have been looked after, and kept regular contact with the building contractors.

This Committee is still looking for volunteers to help, if anyone is interested in joining the Property Committee please let, Janet, Peter or myself know.

Trevor Ranson

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DEVELOPMENT REPORT

It has happened! We are in our new Worship Area, we are in our new Kitchen, we are in our new Welcome Coffee Lounge, we are using the new Quiet Room, we are using the new Store Rooms, we are using the new Foyer and everyone can now see, from the outside, that it is a Church.



It was wonderful on Sunday, 15th March, having our first Service, led by Rev. John Pugh, in the totally renewed Worship Area - and those Hymns! This was followed in the afternoon when Sue and her group had a circular arrangement of chairs, at the back of the Worship Area, with coffee tables in the centre for drinks and food during the Worship. Fantastic!

At this time last year date of the 29th April, but we were short of £31,000.00. We had grant applications in with National Churches Trust for £20,000.00, the Rank Foundation for £10,000.00 and the Joseph Rank Trust for an undeclared amount. We then heard that the National Churches Trust would not be able to give us a grant. Much to our relief, we heard from the Joseph Rank Trust, on the 25th April, that they were giving us a grant of £31,000.00. We had arrived with four days to spare because the Joseph Rank Trust would not have given us a grant if the building had started.

FUND RAISING:

Church Fund Raising	£111,463.00
Circuit Grant	£30,000.00
District Grant	£20,000.00
Methodist Connexion	£60,000.00
Norwood Newton Trust	£10,000.00
Garfield Weston	£10,000.00
Leicestershire Historical Churches	£10,000.00
All Churches Trust	£3,500.00

Corah Foundation	£750.00
Methodist Insurance	£25,000.00
TARMAC Landfill	£25,000.00
Joseph Rank Trust	£31,000.00
	£336,713.00

It has seemed a long time since the Contractor moved in but we have coped well with our services in the Coffee Bar. We have been able to see the premises and, eventually become thrilled, at the fantastic development which will greatly help our mission and outreach in the years to come. It is wonderful to hear the comments of members and friends when they have explored the development.

We still have work to do to install the lighting, the sound system and the audio system. We still need to have the name of the Church at the front and designs for the glass doors and glass panels. It is our aim to have all of these done before the Rededication Service.

The Rededication Service will be on Saturday 16th May at 2.30pm. The Service will be led by Rev. John Pugh. Our principle guests are Prof. Clive Marsh Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Rev Helen Cameron Chair of the Northampton District and Rev Jill Marsh the Northampton Mission Enabler. We have also invited all of our previous Ministers, all of the Charitable Trusts that have supported us, the Architect, the Quantity Surveyor and the Contractor.

Finally, I would like to thank the Development Group, Peter, Kate, Janet, Natalie, Heather, Trevor, Adrian and Barbara, who have worked for eight years to bring about this transformation. Trevor Allen worked for four years with the Development Group before, sadly, he passed away. In addition, I would like to say an extra, enormous thank you to Peter, Kate and Janet for their efforts. You would not believe the hours they have put in to this project.

THANK YOU – Mike

Editor's note: Thanks to Mike for keeping us focused!



NEW HORIZONS

A friendship group for those bereaved

We are a happy, lively group of 24- 30 ladies who meet in the Coffee Bar on the first Monday of each month.

We enjoy having time to meet with friends who understand how we feel and can empathise with our bereavement. We build a supportive bond with each other and welcome anyone who would like to join us to chat over tea/coffee and delicious cakes and join in with our very varied programme of activities.

We began our year with a stimulating talk on "A History of The Seaside" by Felicity Austin. She brought back memories of the happy times by the sea and amused us by showing her suitcase of bathing costumes and other items for the beach of "yesteryear". Hannah Graham gave an interesting insight into the work of the "Dogs Trust". She told us how they cared for dogs which had been neglected and how they were prepared for new homes and how the new owners were fully prepared. She pulled at our "heart strings" with her sad stories and happy endings. She invited us to visit and to greet the "waggy- tailed" friends. This is an activity we could do in the future.

Our March meeting was the most physically active we have been for some time. Diane and Mike Bird lead us in some "Simple Folk Dancing". This was met with trepidation, but with the excellent skills of Diane and Mike we were soon moving slowly, but elegantly to the music. We did have difficulties, at times, to work out which was our left and right and which way to turn, but muddles were quickly sorted. It was good exercise, particularly for our laughing muscles and we certainly enjoyed it! "An Afternoon with Sue Wainwright" always goes down well as she relates her activities, with her dry sense of humour, and provides interesting visual aids

to illustrate her talk. "Memories Are Made of This" was a delightful presentation of photographs by the excellent photographer, Richard Adams. It was with awe and wonder that we admired the photos and were reminded of the beautiful world in which we live. It was a most pleasing afternoon.

Our Superintendent Minister Rev Andrew Lomax made us think about places where we can find peace. His presentation of slides about his ideas of "Sacred Places" from home and around the world. Although he showed slides of beautiful and famous places, he reminded us that a place does not have to be famous to be sacred. A place may be sacred to one person, but not to another. It just needs to be somewhere where we can feel peace and happiness and that can be in our back garden. He left us with the question, "Where is your Sacred Place?"

A beautiful day in July found us Cruising on the River Trent on our summer Outing. We had a delicious roast Dinner whilst enjoying the stunning scenery on the banks of the river and listening to the very informative commentary giving us an insight in to the history of the buildings we passed and drawing our attention to the various birds and wildlife on the banks. It was fascinating to see the City of Nottingham from another angle. Needless to say, there was a lot of talking and laughing taking place. "Knitting for Charity" was led by Janet Thompson who showed examples of the knitted hats she had completed for small and premature babies and the squares ready to be made into blankets. She inspired some of the knitters in the group to begin knitting their own contributions and taking the patterns home to make more. Janet is always willing to receive completed articles to send away to the Charity.

Our Harvest Festival was led by our own Minister Rev. John Pugh. We filled the table with our gifts of the harvest and enjoyed singing our favourite Harvest hymns. Our produce was auctioned off by Mike Morley and the proceeds of this was given to "The Carpenter's Arms" for their use in the rehabilitation section of their work. We were entertained by Peter and Tilly Yates in music, to invoke memories, and humorous and readings. We really enjoyed this and our spirits were lifted encouraging us to reminisce on the music and stories we had also enjoyed in the past.

Our regular "All Saints Day" service took place in the worship area at 1.30pm. It was led by Margaret Williams, giving the opportunity for us to spend a quiet time in reflection and to light a candle for those we have loved and lost. The Beetle Drive followed in its usual form of noisy play, testing maths, when adding up our scores and hilarious mix ups when we had to move from table to table at the end of each game. Christmas lunch was taken at "The Three Crowns". We thoroughly enjoyed pulling the crackers, wearing our party hats and eating the delicious meal. Spending fun time with friends is very important to us.

Full details of our Programme for 2020 are on the Notice Board. Contact details are included. We always warmly welcome new members.

Thank you for all who help us by their contributions in love and care.

Kate, Janet, Pauline and Barbara.



Let us build a house where all are named,

their songs and voices heard

And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter prayers of faith and songs of grace,

Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter

All are welcome, all are welcome, All are welcome in this place.

It is a very exciting time at Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church now that our refurbishment is complete. We have a brand-new multi-purpose Worship area with comfortable chairs giving us opportunities for worship in various ways to suit all people and make it relevant for all age groups.

We meet for worship on Sundays at 10.15 am and 6.00 pm with hymns and songs, prayers and bible readings led by a Minister or Lay Preacher who will normally give a message on the theme for that Sunday.

As an occasional change from this we have already started to meet at 4.00 pm on a Sunday, every two or three months, for a time of "Fellowship and Food". We do invite friends and others in our community to join us for these relaxed afternoons. As well as enjoying tea together, we sing a bit, talk a bit and watch pictures of God's creation and places of interest. We hope, in the future, there will be other ways of diversifying our worship.

We, as Christian people in the Methodist Church, have been called by God to show His love to people in our community and to introduce them to the God who loves us all and wants us to know Jesus Christ, His son, as our Lord and Saviour.

Joan Thursby



WEBSITE

<http://www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk/>

Our online presence goes from strength to strength.

We are active in Facebook, Twitter and, of course, with the website.

Our website is receiving lots of visits and interest and is updated weekly to keep it up to date, current and informative.

Our Facebook page has over 100 followers from across the country with our highest 'like' rate being for the post about our first service back in the our newly refurbished worship area.

We get lots of nice messages from our ex Ministers and friends who have moved away, especially as they've been able to follow our progress and be kept up to date with our activities. We regularly get messages from Rev David Leese, Rev Bill Anderson, Rev Douglas Brewer and Rev Jane Carter, who hopefully we will see at the rededication service in May.

All group leaders, please keep me updated so we can continue with our website and keep it current.

Natalie Thompson



follow us on Twitter @BarrowMeth



www.facebook.com/barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch



FUN@CHURCH

4th Wednesday of each month

3.15 - 4.30 pm

A church full of lively children is a joy to see!

Fun@Church has been quite challenging this year as we coped with the building development which condensed our space, but not to be deterred we made the best of the space available and the children were very cooperative. At the time of writing we are looking forward to our next meeting when, after "WOW TIME" as we gather, we will be able to use the refurbished Worship Area for our "Story, Prayer and Singing Time", before exploding into the other areas for food, craft and games.

Each month we concentrate on a different theme. We hope you remember the large colourful frieze of children's footprints going right around the walls of the old Quiet Room, when our theme was "Walking with Jesus". What fun the children had running through paint in "WOW TIME". We talked about the joy of walking with Jesus. We hope you also remember the wonderful Lego models the children made of The Last Supper and the Crucifixion as we talked about the price Jesus paid for our sins.

In May we celebrated PRAYER and the various ways we can pray. We used the prayer tree, we wrote on the leaves and wrapped them around (wrapped) sweets and hid them in the sand for others to find. Our Marble Run made us think about continuous prayer and the kind of things which help us to keep praying. We balanced water and sand in different bottles and talked about how God helped us to make good judgements about things in our everyday lives. The session with Lego building helped us think about persistence in praying and never to give up. We enjoyed singing the old chorus, "Knock, knock, knock, ask, ask, ask, seek and you will find..."

The "Dazzling Disciples" theme was when we **made bread**. We talked about how we can remember Jesus every time we eat or break bread. "Do this in remembrance of me." We made origami stars to remind us to be sparkly disciples. We sang, "He made the stars to shine..." We made rockets which helped us to think about what messages Jesus would want us to send to people today. Concertina paper "people" reminded us how we grow in faith. The disciples drawn on tissue paper, then cut out, had their feet taped to the table and were helped to "dance" using the static from a balloon. It helped us to think about how we could be "dazzling disciples".

Our September theme was "God loves a cheerful giver". We talked about how we spend our time and giving of our best and how God wants to be in our lives, in all we do and are. By letting God be at the centre of our lives, we can give our best to Him. We remembered the harvest and were thankful for the wonderful gift of food. As our snack we prepared jacket potatoes by first carving a happy face on them. When they came out of the oven the faces were smiling at us. We really enjoyed eating them with butter or/and beans! We also made a grass caterpillar as we stuffed part of the leg of tights with compost and grass seeds, put on antennae, googly eyes and watered it. We took them home to watch them grow. You may remember seeing one growing on the top of the piano. The hairy caterpillar reminds us that God will watch over our "crops" and all we give to God.

Our Hallowe'en Alternative was "The Light Party". We carved and lit up a pumpkin, made crispy cake pumpkins and lanterns. You may remember our Pumpkin Prayer, placed by the pumpkin we left on the piano. It reminded us of God's love/light which cannot be extinguished and will shine in the darkness. We talked about how we must allow God's light to shine through us. We looked at Psalm 23:4 and did actions to it: "Even though I go through... (walking on the spot) ...deepest darkness (hands out in front as if you cannot see the way to go) ...not to be afraid (big X with arms) ...you are with me (find a partner). We talked about letting God be the light at the centre of our lives. He will always be with us.

Our numbers at F@C include children from babies to 11 years. In the theme "Small is Mighty" we looked at how God asks ordinary people to do great things. Our craft activities illustrated how the Nativity story is full of ordinary people who had to trust God and how he used each of them to be part of the most amazing story. We thought about how God could use us. New Year began with the discussion on the differences between "Sheep and Goats". We decided that sheep are faithful followers and goats are more independent and

mischievous. We talked about what Jesus said about them and if we truly belong to Jesus, we will show love for others as Jesus shows love for us. We marked the beginning of Lent by having a feast of pancakes while we talked about "Loving and Serving". We were very pleased that the display boards were available for us to put up our craft work; the linking of hearts, the bird feeder, the heart thumb prints inside the outline of a church, "a Church full of love", showing God's love is inside us and He wants us to share it with others.

We invite you all to come to F@C and join our extended church family, which can be up to 23 children plus parents and carers.

Kate, Heather, Janet, Gill, Joan, Mike and Katie.

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THIS SONG has always meant a lot to me since I first came across it in my teens at Covenanter camp, though over the years I gradually forgot some of the words. Having come across it recently written on an old sheet of paper in the bureau, I thought I would share it with you.

GOD HATH NOT PROMISED

God hath not promised skies always blue
Flower strewn pathways all our lives through
God hath not promised sun without rain
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God hath promised;
Strength for the day
Rest for the labour
Light for the way
Grace for the trials
Help from above
Unfailing kindness, undying love.

God hath not promised we shall not know
Trials and temptations, trouble and woe
He hath not told us we shall not bear
Many a burden, many a care.

But God hath promised ...

God hath not promised smooth roads and wide
Swift easy travel needing no guide
Never a mountain rocky and steep
Never a river turbid and deep.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day
Rest for the labour
Light for the way
Grace for the trials
Help from above
Unfailing kindness, undying love.

Sandra Webb



CROCHET AND CRAFT

We have moved the day and time and now meet on the fourth Saturday of every month in the Coffee Lounge. The regulars are still coming and we have two new recruits for crochet who are making very good progress.

I am going on a course to learn how to teach crochet and improve my techniques. It could make an improvement in the standard of work that is produced because at the moment it is a case of "the blind leading the blind."

We also do knitting, embroidery and patchwork to give our hands a break from too much repetitive work. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. Why not come and join us in 2020.

Tilly Yates

AN IRISH BLESSING:

May God give you...
 For every storm, a rainbow,
 For every tear, a smile,
 For every care, a promise,
 And a blessing in each trial.
 For every problem life sends,
 A faithful friend to share,
 For every sigh, a sweet song,
 And an answer for each prayer.



The summary of the accounts for 2018-19 shows the position up to August 31st. Please ask if you would like more details. The accounts show a General Fund opening balance of £10599 which was increased by a surplus of £4456 to £15055, which is approximately the recommended reserve.

OFFERINGS

Last year the total weekly collections were £945 less than **2018** which is £18 per week but it looks as if collections this year will be a little higher, so thank you to everyone who has increased their giving and please keep it up. We should all regularly review our giving remembering that our weekly congregation is not large, and the running expenses such as heating, lighting, coffee, and maintenance usually increase. My sincere thanks do go to everyone who has given so generously at a time when there are so many other demands on our income.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT FUND

The income from monthly minimarkets (£3118) and Yvonne's car boot sales & auctions (£280) goes to this fund and is used for maintenance of the premises. We are very fortunate to have friends who help on the stalls and attend the minimarket and we really value their support for the church. The recent development project to improve the premises will be described elsewhere but since the last report it has become necessary to replace the lead on the church roof to prevent leaking, and this work will be done shortly at a cost of around £3300, this is not part of the development project and will be paid from the Property Development Fund and if necessary, the general fund reserves.

OTHER CHARITIES

This year we collected £1479 for charities which is always gratefully received, and the recipients send their thanks for your generous support.

FORECAST

The money raised for the development project will pay for most of the work carried out by the main contractor, but there have been items such as the asbestos survey and removal, some decorating and kitchen equipment that were not part of the contract that have been paid for from our property development and reserve funds, which are now very low.

In addition, the initial project costing made insufficient allowance to pay for suitable lighting, sound system (including a new induction loop) and screens to display images and words at the front of church.

It was felt that these items should be installed now rather than later and in February the Church Council agreed that the church should ask the Circuit Meeting in March for a loan to cover the cost of this equipment. So, there will be a time when our financial resources will be 'challenged' during the repayment of the loan, but this should become easier as the new, flexible, facilities become fully utilised.

In conclusion, I would like to thank John Beaumont who carried out the independent check of the accounts and to thank you all for your efforts both in fund raising and giving, and for again trusting me to look after the finances.

Peter Yates – Treasurer

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God has given me a place on earth to be here for a while
 I hope that as I'm passing through, I can make somebody smile
 I want to make life easier for all the ones I meet.
 I ask God for His blessing to the strangers on the street
 I hope I'll never fail a friend if I can help somehow
 I want to be as generous as my resources will allow
 And when my life on earth is done
 It will be my final plea
 Let someone, somewhere think or say
 "You made a difference to me!"

Helen Bush



The Men's Supper Group is now in its seventh year and has a membership of 17. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month and still hold firm to our starting idea that *"a meal is essential to our meeting whether we are meeting in Church or it is a visit elsewhere"*. We continue to have meetings in Church, 4 or 5, and the others can be daytime or evenings as none of us are working now.

Our programme runs from September to July and in the second part of the last programme we had three speakers:

Canine Partners told us about the amazing dogs that they trained to help disabled people, The dogs opened cupboard doors, fetched coats and shoes, the TV control and many other things to make the life of their Partner easier.

Pauline Ransom gave us an amusing account of her year as Mayor of Charnwood and the role of her Consort.

We had a talk from a member of MAF-Flying for Life. This is an organisation started by a small group of pilots, who had been involved in World War II, who wanted to use their flying skills to help others. The organisation now operates around the world to fly resources, doctors, aid workers to remote places where help is needed and to fly people to hospitals. An example of this was the construction of a grass airstrip in a remote place in Africa so people could be flown to the hospital in 15 minutes rather than walking over rough landscapes for 3 days. A remarkable organisation.

This year's programme again started in September with "Learn a new Skill". The men were very surprised when they had to make jewellery. I have never known the men show such concentration and the results were great. We had our usual Skittles Evening at the Conservative Club and our Christmas Meal at the Three Crowns.

In January, Andy and Wayne told us of their experience of cycling from London to Paris, on the hottest days of the year, to raise funds for LOROS. We had a very interesting meeting "Our Childhood" in February when Michael, Adrian, Peter, Mike and Philip talked about their childhood in very different environments.

In the next months we look forward to a visit to the National Space Centre, a talk by the Rev. Clive Watts, a walk to Pilling's Lock for a meal and a visit to the Workhouse at Southwell.

We are very keen to increase our membership so if you know anyone you think might be interested and we could approach, then please speak to any of the men.

Mike Morley



Everyone who pays Income Tax can 'Gift Aid' their donations to the church which allows the church to reclaim income tax on the amount given, adding 25% to your contribution.

This is one way that the government supports charities and I urge any tax payers not yet using the scheme to consider doing so.

The envelope scheme or a bank standing order is the best way to make regular gift aid contributions as it can help with budgeting, please see me if you would like to use either of these.

We can only claim Gift Aid on contributions made by people who have completed a gift aid declaration form, and in 2018-19 the amount we expect to receive is approximately £6030 which includes £617 for the New Development Fund, and I expect the amount will be similar this year.

If you would like to join the envelope scheme or set up a standing order please see me, the form only takes a couple minutes to complete and everything happens automatically after that.

The 'Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme' started April 2013 and allows us to claim gift aid for cash (not cheques) donations up to £20 on the collection plate whether from a tax payer or not.

Peter Yates



LADIES CIRCLE

Ladies Circle meet on alternate Wednesday evening in the Coffee Lounge at 7.30 pm and we it seems impossible to believe that we are now in our 56th year as the group began in 1964.

We started off the year with a Bring and Share supper when we presented a cheque for £680 to a representative of the Baldwin Trust who were our chosen charity for 2018/19. Our chosen charity for 2019/20 is MacMillan Nurses and we had a very interesting talk by one of their councillors.

Once again, we have had some interesting talks – thanks to our Speakers' Secretaries. Judith Spence on the work of the Carpenter's Arms who are now at Six Hills and doing incredible work there. We hosted a Flower Demonstration by Lee Berrill and Jane Tindle spoke about the work of MS Society. Jenny Cheung led lovely Christmas Devotions for us and we had a Christmas party with Secret Santa and mince pies. David Dipple told us all about the work of the Kindu Trust in Ethiopia. We had lots of laughs with "Phyllis and Mabel" (alias Ginny Willcocks and Kerry Fairbrother) sharing both current and village news in an entertaining way! We had a Games Evening and in February twenty of us sat down to a lovely meal at the Three Crowns. In March we had a very successful Fashion Show in aid of this year's charity, Macmillan Nurses and The Kindu Trust, and each organisation received a donation of £176

Hopefully we will be able to fulfil our future programme when we have booked a DIY evening making hanging baskets, a sing along with Lindsey Ord and, of course, our Annual Barbeque at Soo and Ian Shippen's and a Skittle match at the Soar Bridge but we will have to wait and see what both the Government and the Methodist Church say about group meetings in view of the present crisis.

So why not come and join us? We are a very happy and friendly group – we always start with opening thoughts taken by different members - we look forward to seeing you

Yours always in God's service - Jill Flinders



FELLOWSHIP AND FOOD

Our first Fellowship and Food was held in the Autumn of 2018 with a celebration of Harvest and since then there have been six of these informal Sunday afternoons gathering.

Each has had a theme: Spring with pancakes; Pentecost with birthday cake; A Picnic by the Lake with ruffle blue sheets on the floor and a message about sharing whatever we have; Autumn Days aka Getting Older! Also Carols and Cake in early January and the end of December 2019.

Fellowship and Food takes the place of a formal evening service, starting at 4 o'clock and lasting for about an hour and a half. Our aim is to create a relaxed atmosphere with afternoon tea and time to chat, between sharing some appropriate hymns and readings based on our theme.

Our latest meeting on 15 March was centred on Growing seeds – not just those that produce plants and flowers, but the seeds sown a few years ago as we decided to redevelop our church premises. It was a joy to share the celebration in our 'Bright and Beautiful' new worship area.

We look forward to planning the coming year with our next meeting on 10 May.

All are welcome to join in and we see this as an outreach to anyone (church member or not) who prefers informal worship or who might just be a bit lonely on Sunday afternoon. Flyers are available about 2 weeks before – as invitations which can be taken and passed on to friends and neighbours.

If anyone would like to know more or could help with planning or baking, please contact me.

Sue Speight - 01509 413524

HOPEFULLY!!



BARROW UPON SOAR SHOW

AN OPEN SHOW FOR ALL AGES:

Vegetables- Fruit – Flowers – Baking - Knitting – Crochet – Embroidery - Patchwork - Photography

SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2020

What will **YOU** enter?

PUBLIC VIEWING: 2.30 – 4.00 pm

Refreshments available

Schedule of classes available from Barrow upon Soar Library, Taylor's Florist, or ask Tilly or Janet



Now included in the "Barrow upon Soar in Bloom" competition

Prayer Chain



Thank you to all who continue to make use of the prayer chain, it is always a privilege to be able to pray for you, and encouraging when you give us feedback regarding answered prayers or ongoing situations

The idea of a "prayer chain" is that any request can quickly be passed from one member to another over the telephone until we are all aware and able to pray into the situation. This does still happen in case of emergencies, but a lot of requests tend to be for more long-term situations, in which case I will usually email the request to all the members.

People tend to use the prayer chain for requests that are considered too personal, or sometimes even too trivial, to be included on the Sunday prayer list. Sometimes of course the request is just too urgent to wait until the Sunday, but any requests coming to the prayer chain are treated as confidential unless we are told otherwise, and would not be included on the Sunday list without your permission.

If you would like us to pray for you then please have a word with one of the people listed below and tell them that you have a prayer chain request. Feel free to include as much or as little information as you are comfortable with, we don't need to know all the details to be able to hold you in prayer.

The current members of the prayer chain are Sandra Webb, Joan Thursby, Barbara Mitchell, Heather Doda and Nora Thompson. If you feel that you might like to become a part of this important ministry, then please do have a word with me to see what is involved.

Sandra Webb

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future
To a known God

Corrie ten Boom

THE MOUSETRAP

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" the mouse wondered. He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it." The mouse turned to the pig and told him "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The pig sympathized, but said "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose." So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house - like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever.

Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbours came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember: when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another. Each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry.

MUSIC GROUP

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to Him on the ten-stringed lyre.

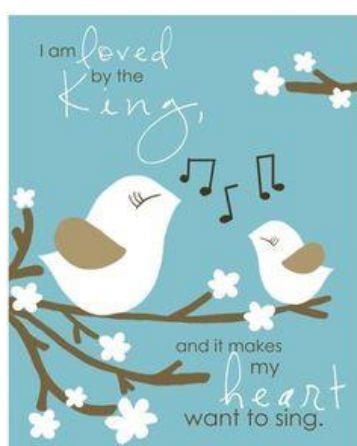
Sing to Him a new song: Play skilfully and shout for joy.

Psalm 22 verses 1-5 NIV

As you are all aware the Music Group has been very quiet whilst awaiting completion of the work in the Church. It now looks like we will be taking up our positions in the Church shortly – which we look forward to.

In the meantime, we have enjoyed playing in the Jazz Vespers services at Trinity Methodist Church. This is a very different service but a beautiful way to worship. We would encourage you to come along to the next one in April.

Joan, Pete and Edd



The Minimarket

On the first Saturday of every month our Minimarket and Coffee Morning is held from 10.00 to 11.00 am and we have to thank our loyal shoppers for their support during the recent building work. By the time you read this we will be entering and leaving the church premises by the front door!

Our plant sales of both flowers and vegetables during 2019 were particularly successful and we were able to set up our stall outside in order to attract even more people! Again, our thanks go to Yvonne who brings most of our plants from Lincolnshire.

This year, in addition to our usual stalls of Preserves, Cakes, White Elephant, Jumble, Books, CDs, DVDs, Toys, Greeting Cards and Plants we have been trying to organise extra attractions. In February we held a "Valentine Raffle" which was well received and in March, a "Mother's Day Tombola" so look out for other things during the year.

If you are interested, or know of anyone who might be interested, we are now able to offer recognised local charities a free table for their own fundraising. To enquire or book please contact barrowmeths@gmail.com.

To those who set up tables, display the items, man the stalls, pack away and clear up – once more our very grateful thanks – we really couldn't do it without you!



This year we have only had one extra sale due, in part, to the building work. This was another of our Giant Jigsaw and Board Game sales which was well supported – special thanks to Yvonne for obtaining and storing all the boxes for us and to Joan who comes over specially from Loughborough to help us both at Minimarket and the extra sales.

Watch the Village News section in the Loughborough Echo and our Facebook and website pages for dates and details of these extra sales.

CHURCH FLOWERS

A very big thank you to everyone who donates flowers to decorate the Church on Sundays. But did you know that, after Evening Worship, those same flowers are taken out by the Communion Stewards into the local community and given to someone who is sick, bereaved or in need of a hug? These gifts are very well received and appreciated. Could you donate one Sunday to mark a special birthday, anniversary or "just because"?



Have a look at the Flower Rota on the notice board or see Tilly – don't worry about arranging them someone will always be happy to do it for you.

If anyone feels that they could help and could volunteer to be a Communion Steward please see Tilly.



FUND FOR WORLD MISSION

The donations made each Sunday morning for refreshments are sent to the Toilet Twinning charity to provide hygienic toilets in the third world. Last year we raised £104.50 in this way.

Peter Yates



A small group of us continue to meet on alternate Thursday evenings for Bible Study. Mostly we use the study notes prepared for the Loughborough Home Church groups, which are based on the lectionary readings for that week. This works out quite well as it gives a wide range of topics over the year, and often we can draw on what the Sunday preacher has had to say on the subject! It also means that anyone can join us at any time without feeling that they have missed anything, as each week is a stand-alone session.

There are times when we depart from this if we feel we would like to study a particular topic. Last autumn, along with many other churches in the circuit, we chose to follow the book "Talking of God Together". This is a course of six studies considering different aspects of the nature of God, and encouraging us to be more open in talking about our faith with each other and ultimately with people from outside of the church. I think we all found it helpful and were disappointed that more people from the church weren't able to join us. If any of you would have been interested but find Thursday evenings inconvenient, please have a word with me. If enough people are interested it might be possible to run the course again at a different time.

During Lent we always suspend our meetings to join with other churches in the village to follow an ecumenical Lent course. This is usually held in people's homes at different times during the week to allow for more people to attend. These meetings not only give us the opportunity to consider things perhaps from a different perspective, but also lead to a real sense of journeying together towards Easter.

Our bible studies are friendly and informal, and we enjoy the opportunity to encourage each other in our faith through the discussion that takes place. We would love to have more of you join us, so please watch the notices for details of date and venue and feel free just to turn up, or have a word with me if you would like to know more about it.

Sandra Webb



IN BARROW UPON SOAR

Holy Trinity Church, Church Street

The Methodist Church, North Street

The Baptist Church, Beveridge Street

The Catholic Church, Sileby or Bishop Beveridge Club

Churches Together in Barrow upon Soar (CTIB) represents the unity between the four churches in Barrow upon Soar. Holy Trinity Anglican Church, the Baptist, Methodist and Catholic communities join together for worship and other activities during the year.

In November 2019 a very well attended Remembrance Service took place in Holy Trinity followed by a large gathering at the War Memorial. At the beginning of December, a service for the start of the Advent season, was celebrated in the Methodist Church led by Rev Andrew Lomax and was very well received by all the churches.

During the Week of Prayer for Christian unity the churches were brought together for prayer and study on the theme of "Unusable Kindness". The season of Lent leading up to Easter began on Ash Wednesday, 26th February. During this season there were Bible study groups in two venues every week and lent lunches every Friday in Holy Trinity rooms. These consist of delicious soups, bread, cheese and fruit. On Good Friday there was a service at the Methodist Church followed by a lunch which included Hot Cross buns.

The Churches Together charity chosen for 2020 is the Falcon Centre in Loughborough and donations are received at the Lent lunches and the joint services throughout the year.

For last year's charity approximately £1,200 was sent to HALE (Health Action Leicester for Ethiopia)



We are delighted to have two children on our Cradle Roll. They both celebrate their birthdays in April.

Charlotte Nicole Flinders will be 4 years old and Abel David Colin Cooledge will be 3 years old. We send our love and "Happy Birthday" wishes to them both.

We recognise that it is not always possible for them to join us at church, but the families are visited and special occasions such as Birthdays and Christmas are always celebrated with cards and presents from our church family.

We remember these precious children in our prayers and renew the promise we all made at their Baptisms: "to maintain the Church's life of worship and service so that they may both grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

God bless you both, Lottie and Abel.

Kate - Cradle Roll 2020



Christian Aid Week
10-16 May 2020

WITH EVERY GIFT, WE HELP ROSE STOP THIS CLIMATE CRISIS ...



In Kenya, the rains haven't come. Again! For villagers who farm the land, that means life is getting even harder. Rivers are bone dry, and crops wither in the fields. The drought is starving people of food, water and the chance to earn a living.

At 67 years of age, Rose walks for six hours to fetch water for her grandchildren. She tries hard to give them the kind of life she remembers from when she was a girl: when the rivers flowed with water and the crops bore fruit.

Grandmother Rose shouldn't have to go hungry. A simple earth dam, built with the help of Christian Aid's partners and your donations, could completely change her life. This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of

the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray to stop the climate crisis driving people like Rose to hunger.

From house-to-house collections to Big Brekkies, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community against global poverty and injustice.

This Christian Aid Week (10-16 May), please:

- **Give** generously to help Rose and her community build a water dam, providing fresh water to help families survive the drought.
- **Act** to call for a [New Deal for Climate Justice](#) to help restore creation and build a world where everyone can thrive.
- **Pray** for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that, as a global community, we will care for people living in poverty.

Together we **stop** this climate crisis.

Join us at caweek.org

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This report was, of course, prepared and typed up just before “lock down” so most events advertised did not and will not be happening and we missed our Annual Church Meeting which should have been on Sunday 26th April.