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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

Week 9

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 17th MAY 2020

HAPPY BIRTHDAY this week to **GLENDA BROWN** who is celebrating on **Wednesday 20th May** – lots of love to you, Glenda from everyone at church.



this week for Kate and Mike Morley – Mike's sister is now out of hospital and in a hospice, for Soo and Ian whose planned flight for 3rd June has been cancelled and they now have to wait until 1st July and are still waiting to hear back from Homeland Security. For Tilly and Peter following the death of Tilly's aunt Sheila who was 100 years old some weeks ago and, apparently, quite a character!! And all others who need our prayers at this time.

CHURCH INCOME DURING COVID RESTRICTIONS

At present without our Sunday services or property lettings, we have a greatly reduced income but significant expenses still continue, the main one being Assessment which pays among other things, for our Ministers and their manses.

We are most grateful to members who give to the Church by weekly/monthly standing order and if you don't already and are able, please will you consider setting this up online with your bank, using the following banking details:

Account: Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church, sort code 40-30-24, account number 91218360.

Please put your surname in the reference box. If you prefer not to do this, another way would be put your contribution as cash or cheque in the weekly collection envelopes and hand them in when services start again - Thank you

REDEVELOPMENT

Paul and Ryan have been in all this week to finish off the "snagging" list from the redevelopment building work and the audio and lighting people have been in touch so with a bit of luck by the time we get back together the refurbishment will be almost or perhaps finished. Something to look forward to.

CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT After talking to John and Adrian we decided that we would put the Annual Report on the website as we have no idea how long it will be before we are back at church and able to be together again. You can read it at www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk. If anyone has any problems let me know and I will see if I can get some photocopied and out to you.

TILLY'S PLANTS

Tilly has now raised £237 for LOROS from donations for her plant table over the last couple of weeks – thank you to everyone who supported it.



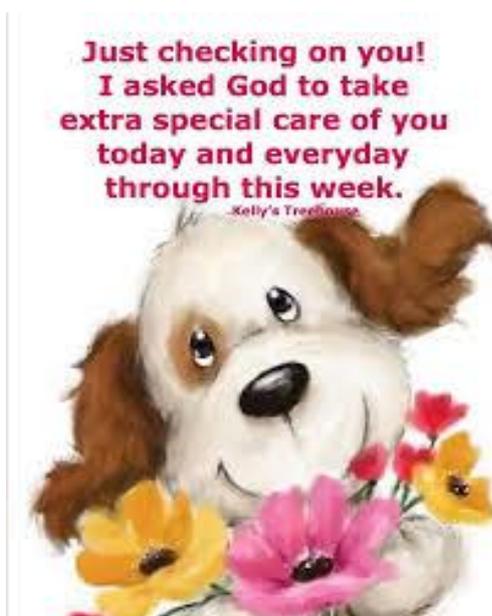
YOUR GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHS ARE STILL WANTED:

As we continue on with the lock down nature is thriving! Please send to Natalie your photographs of hope and your lock down activities to be included in a montage for our social media and website pages and will also send out next week by email. Send to at natalie.thompson@sky.com – many thanks in advance.

IF YOU NEED HELP: John's phone number is at the top of this document should you have need to contact him. Heather and Carolyn have very kindly offered to get shopping for anyone so if you, or anyone you are in contact with, needs anything give Heather a call on 620261
There is also a group of volunteers **BARROW UPON SOAR HELPING HANDS** which consists of folk from the village, the Conservative Club and the Baptist Church – you can contact them on 07395902961 or email community@barrowbaptist.org.uk

ALERT

Criminals are targeting people with NHS scam emails. The NHS will NEVER ask you to send money directly to a bank account. If you would like to donate to the NHS, you should do so via their official channels or your local NHS Trust. Watch out for scams both at the door and online – be vigilant!!

**THE METHODIST CONFERENCE**

The Methodist Conference Business Committee have met and agreed that the Methodist Conference should meet between 25 June – 2 July 2020 in order to conduct its essential business. The committee recognised that the restrictions that are likely still to be in place at the end of June, mean that a virtual meeting is necessary. Listen at.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/the-methodist-conference-will-meet-virtually-this-year/>

THE METHODIST CHURCH PODCAST

We hear from the Methodist churches who have been working hard providing for the spiritual and practical needs of their communities since lockdown. We'll also hear from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, the Secretary of the Conference and from the Youth President on their thoughts of how the Connexion has faced up to the coronavirus crisis. Listen <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/podcasts/the-methodist-podcast-episode-16/>

THY KINGDOM COME

is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

If you would like to find out more visit their website by typing 'Thy Kingdom Come' into your search engine. During the 11 days of "Thy Kingdom Come" that ends on Sunday May 31st, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ

- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness
(There is a host of material for all ages. Ed)

BIBLE READINGS:

Reading: John 14:15-21 - Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be [\[a\]](#) in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

Today's Gospel Reading:

John 14:15-21

REFLECTIONS

From *"The Vine at Home"* is compiled and produced by *twelvebaskets*

Tim Baker offers a short reflection on today's gospel reading:

In my Bible, this short passage in John's gospel is headed 'Jesus promises the Holy Spirit'. In these strange times, I've been thinking about, praying about, and taking time to seek a connection with the Holy Spirit more than ever. As we are not physically able to gather for worship, I've been thinking more about my own personal, private relationship with the living God, and what that looks like. I've been invited further into reflections on the Trinity, and the three-in-one and one-in-three relationship that is our God's very nature. Even as we feel the effects of loneliness, self-isolation, social distancing and physical separation, God is inviting us into relationship.

I felt that sense of relationship very powerfully last weekend, as we joined together online as part of The Big Church Sing. Over 1,000 of us were connected online live, and thousands more have watched the service since. That sense of sharing in worship, even during these isolating times, felt like an (albeit imperfect) glimpse of the perfect relationship we will be a part of heaven, and which the Triune God is inviting us into today.

The Spirit of God is at work today, connecting us, bringing us together, inviting us into relationship, with each other, with our brothers and sisters around the world, and with our God. Can we listen to those promptings, and hold together?

And from the Methodist Church website:

Jesus and his disciples are at supper and Jesus has told them he is going to leave them. The disciples are, quite naturally, anxious and bewildered. Jesus speaks to them words of comfort and encouragement. He will ask the Father, who will give them another Helper, who will stay with them for ever.

The Greek word given as "Helper" in the Good News Bible is very hard to translate. Other versions use "Comforter", "Advocate" or "Counsellor". The meaning behind the original Greek is of someone who is called in to help in time of need.

Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit, whom he calls "another Helper", because the Spirit will work in a different way from himself. Jesus has been physically present with his disciples. They could see him at work, and listen to his teaching. As a human being, Jesus has been subject to the constraints of time and place. The Holy Spirit, on the other hand, will be with Christ's followers all the time, wherever they may be.

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to all who love him and keep his commandments. They will not be left alone. Whether they are aware of it or not, the Spirit will be there to guide them and strengthen them.

Having told them the Father will send another Helper, who will be with them and in them, Jesus says that he himself will come back to his disciples. They will see him and he will be in them. After he was raised from the

dead, he did indeed return for a while in a visible form, but when his appearances ceased, his followers knew they would never be alone, whatever befell them. God who had been present with them, incarnate, in Jesus Christ, would be present with them as Holy Spirit.

Wherever you may be now, be assured of the presence of the Spirit of the Living God. The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us.

SERVICE SHEETS AND STREAMED SERVICES FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH OF GREAT BRITAIN

Those of us who can access the internet may wish to worship at home using material from the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk

10.45 am Service on Trinity Church Centre Facebook page led by Rev Andrew Lomax

Live services are also streamed from:

- Wesley's chapel in London at 11.00 am
- Swan Bank Methodist Church in Burslem – 10.45 am
- Methodist Central Hall Westminster at 11.00 am
- Songs of Praise on BBC 1 at 1.15 pm Aled Jones hears from regular conductor Ken Burton how hymn singing brings hope in troubled times
- Morning Worship on BBC 1 at 10.45 am - The Very Rev Dr Sarah Jones leads a service from St David's Cathedral in Pembrokeshire
- Radio 4 Sunday morning Worship at 8.10 am Discovering the gifts of the Holy Spirit with the Rev Dr Alison Jack of New College Edinburgh

A PSALM OF LAMENT AND PRAISE IN A TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

How shall we praise you, Lord, our God? When we are locked down, how shall we praise you? When the doors to your house are barred, and your people cannot assemble. When those desperately in need of money and work cannot even wait in the market-place.

When we have to circle round people in the street, and to queue for shops maintaining safe distance.

When we can only communicate by hearing on the phone, or seeing on the screen; or digitally messaging, or even just waving through a window. When we cannot meet our parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, or other family members and friends.



When we cannot touch them in their flesh and blood, to know they are really alive. How shall we praise you? How, like Thomas, shall we not see yet believe that your son is raised among us? How shall we praise you?

How can I praise you, Lord? Are you plaguing us with this virus to punish us because we have all done wrong, or thought wrongly, or felt wrongly, or just been wrong? If so, why do only some die, and those, apparently, the ones who are the least worst or most caring amongst us?

Or are you trying to teach us a lesson? If so, why is it so hard to learn? And how are we to find the answer when we do not even know the question? Or are you still the same loving God, coming to us in our sufferings and opening up the way to new life in Jesus?

Lord, I will try to praise you. Through gritted teeth, I will try to praise you. I will try to remember that you have created all things, and this virus is part of your creation. I will try not to hate it but seek to mitigate its harm. I will try to keep myself and others safe. I will work to pray for them and seek to help in whatever way I can. Lord, when I cannot pray or worship help me be aware of all your people and your saints and angels hovering around me, lifting me up. When I feel alone, let me feel you near me, even if only for a moment that enables me to go on. Let me hear you say "Peace be with you". Lord, I will praise you. Let all the peoples praise you.

The Revd Kenneth Howcroft – taken from Keyworth Methodist Church newsletter.





Christian Aid Week

10-16 May 2020

WHAT CAN YOU DO THIS YEAR?

Please continue to donate if you are able – visit caweek.org

Telephone and postal donations Do telephone 020 7523 2269 to donate. You can also send a cheque by post to: I.P. Unit
Christin Aid Lower Marsh Waterloo LONDON SE1 7RL There will probably be delay in opening the post and banking cheques
because of the Covid 19 crisis.

Any queries please contact Heather



We have received an email on our church email address from Leicestershire Police to make people aware of potential scams. I thought it would be good to include this for your information.

“Protecting Again Cybercrime and Fraud



“Sadly, there has been a surge in cyber incidents and fraud and as a result putting out even more messaging and advice that we would normally.

“Paying for items such as face masks which don’t exist or are faulty”

Rule No.1

Do **NOT** respond to unsolicited emails or texts offering items for sale. You have no way of verifying if the seller (or goods) are legitimate or not.

If you are wishing to source items, do your research. Where possible, buy from trusted, known and reputable suppliers – either online, or on the high street where stores are open.

Online purchases – there are options such as eBay and Amazon where you do have comeback should there be a problem with the seller. Pay by PayPal (ensuring you select “Pay for Goods and Services” so that you are covered by PayPal Buyer Protection! If you are asked to change to “Friends and Family”, be aware that you are NOT covered by PayPal Buyer Protection.

Being encouraged to click on fake Gov.UK websites

Fraudsters set up FAKE webpages that are almost identical to the real ones – because they copy the coding (programming).

Quite simply, the easiest way to AVOID fake pages, is to make it an absolute rule to NEVER click on a link/shortcut in an email or a text. Look for the page you want by searching a web browser.

“Texts and emails asking people to donate to charities which are fake”

If they are asking for BitCoin or for money to be sent directly to a bank account, you should be very wary!

If you wish to support good causes, do some online research, look for supporting media coverage etc. Googling or searching social media is a good start to see if legitimate as people will “call out” known scams.

If you think you have been scammed, contact your bank immediately and report it to also report to Action Fraud.

Reporting cybercrime and fraud is important – we don't know unless you report it. You can report online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040

If you receive scam text messages on your mobile, you can forward these to 7726 which spells SPAM on your

mobile keypad.

If you receive scam or phishing emails, you can forward these to report@phishing.gov.uk

The more information we share, the more aware and prepared we can all be.
#TogetherStronger

Please don't assume everyone knows – share this information with others!

We hope you find our messages useful, and hope that you will consider encouraging others to sign up to the free Neighbourhood Link messaging system via www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk"

Message Sent by Sam Hancock (Police, Cyber Protect Officer, Leicestershire)

SLEEPING THROUGH THE STORM

Years ago, a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged across the Atlantic, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops.

As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received a steady stream of refusals. Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer. "Are you a good farmhand?" the farmer asked him. "Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the little man. Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him. The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man's work.

Then one night the wind howled loudly in from offshore. Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand's sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, "Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!" The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, "No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows."

Enraged by the old man's response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm. To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred. The shutters were tightly secured. Everything was tied down. Nothing could blow away. The farmer then understood what his hired hand meant, and he returned to bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

When you're prepared, you have nothing to fear. Can you sleep when the wind blows through your life? The hired hand in the story was able to sleep because he had secured the farm against the storm. We secure ourselves against the storms of life by grounding ourselves firmly in the Word of God.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ Villages, Towns and Cities

1	Garlic Bread	11	Strudel
2	Veal	12	Toad in the Hole
3	Tapioca	13	Australia
4	Brazil	14	KFC
5	Lancashire Hotpot	15	Cloves
6	Cornwall	16	Jewish
7	Scotland	17	Chorizo
8	Bread	18	Wensleydale Cheese
9	Potato	19	Chocolate Cake
10	In pastry	20	Skittles

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ IS AN ALPHABET QUIZ The first answer begins with A and the last with Z

Answers next week

1	A foreigner or someone who comes from another planet	
2	A place where you deposit money	
3	A family pet who might catch mice and birds	
4	A large animal that lives in a cave and breathes fire	
5	A large animal that has a very big nose	

6	The last day of the working week	
7	The opposite of rough	
8	You need this to pump blood round your body	
9	A European city – capital city Rome	
10	Trousers usually made of denim	
11	You use this in the kitchen to boil water	
12	This is what you get when you borrow money from the bank	
13	Pork, chicken, beef, ham – are all types of this	
14	Preposition – the opposite of far	
15	The first number	
16	Something that you open on your birthday	
17	You stand in this when you wait in line at the supermarket	
18	A colour that symbolises the Labour party	
19	The name of woolly animals who like to eat grass	
20	Mr, Mrs, Miss, Doctor, Reverend are all examples of this	
21	Opposite of happy	
22	A city in Italy famous for its canals	
23	A season	
24	A musical instrument made of metal or wooden bars	
25	Something you say to agree with people	
26	A striped animal	

FUNNY SIGNS

In a Podiatrist's office: Time wounds all heels.

On a Septic Tank Truck: Yesterday's Meals on Wheels

On a Church's Billboard: 7 days without God makes one weak.

At a Towing company: We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows.

On a Maternity Room door: Push. Push. Push.

At an Optician's Office: If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.

At a Car Dealership: The best way to get back on your feet? Miss a car payment.

In a Veterinarian's waiting room: Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!

At the Electric Company: We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be.

In the front yard of a undertakers: Drive carefully. We'll wait.



Little Josh was brought to Dr Gill because he hadn't eaten anything for days. Dr Gill offered him all the goodies he could think of. No luck. He tried a little scolding. It didn't work. A little pleading, to no avail. Finally he sat down, faced the boy, looked him in the eye. He said, "Look young man, if you can be stubborn, so can I. You're not going anywhere till you eat something. You can have whatever you want, but only after you have eaten will you leave."

Josh just sat and glared for some time, then said, "Ok. I'll eat but I have some conditions. First, I'll have exactly what I want and exactly how I want it and second you'll share it with me."

Dr Gill was ok with this. He asked the boy what he'd like. "Worms!" said Josh.

Dr Gill was horrified but didn't want to back out and seem like a loser, so he ordered a plate of worms to be brought in. "Not that many, just one," yelled Josh as he saw the plate. Everything other than one worm was removed. Josh then demanded that the single worm be cut into two and then Dr Gill eat half. Dr Gill went through the worst ordeal of his life, and after finishing, barely managing to keep his cool said, "Ok, now eat!" Josh refused as he sobbed, "No way! You ate my half!"