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## BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

Website: [www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk)

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# BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

## Week10

### NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 24th MAY 2020

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** this week to Rev John Pugh who celebrated on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Hope you had a lovely day!!



this week 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. And all others who need our prayers at this time.

**THANKS:** Kate and Mike would like to thank you all for your prayers over the weeks for Mike's sister Kath, (86 years). She went into hospital seven weeks ago with heart, kidney and sepsis problems. In hospital she contracted Covid 19. She was put on "end of life pathway". Mandy, her daughter, is a nurse in the hospital and was allowed to see her Mum for one hour. Her consultant said that Kath wasn't expected to survive the weekend. That was six weeks ago. She is now in a Nursing Home. Mandy sends the following message;

*"Mum continues to make an amazing recovery. She is eating more and interacting with the staff. Always chatty when I speak to her. The 14-day quarantine ends on Friday 22nd May, when they said they will hoist her into a chair and take her to the communal area. Can you pass this message around and thank you everyone for your prayers."*

It is very sad that Kath's consultant has since died of Covid 19. Let us continue to pray for the NHS and the tremendous work they are doing in caring for others they are putting their own lives at risk.

### 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

**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](http://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.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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!!

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### **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

If you haven't received a poster for display in your window and would like one please let me know.

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## From the Methodist website: READINGS AND RELECTIONS

Acts 1: 6 -14 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. <sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup> "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." <sup>12</sup> Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

**Today's Gospel Reading:** John 17: 1-11

<sup>7</sup> After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. <sup>6</sup> "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.



## TIME TO REFLECT

*"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?"*

They hadn't really had a chance to think about it. Surely, it's the most human thing in the world to keep watching the space where someone was, to need to see to be able to believe and start to understand, to need some time to adjust to a huge change in the features of your everyday life?

There has started to be talk in the media about a "new normal". Many of us had already started to experience the creeping realisation that things will not quickly or immediately go back to exactly how they were. Our lives are going to look different for a significant period of time, or for some of us forever if we too have lost people who made up the fabric of our lives.

Jesus' disciples have a promise, of the Holy Spirit to help them, but they don't know when. Like us they must adjust as best they can to the new circumstances of their lives.

I wonder what they understood of the ascension they had witnessed and the prayers they may have heard Jesus utter like the one we read in today's Gospel.

In this Jesus asks that he be glorified, not for himself but for his followers. As Jesus ascends, he brings all his human experience with him so that it is known within God. Remember that however you are feeling today God is with you.

Jesus asks that God will protect his followers so that they might be united, one as Jesus and the Father are one.

What might we learn about unity and fellowship from our experience of isolation? -How might we draw closer to God and to other people as we emerge into a new normal?

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#### PRAYER SPACE DAY 4 – Taken from Thy Kingdom Come

Day 4 Romans 5: 6-8 *'For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.'*

What's beautiful about the Christian story is that God loved us before we came to the realisation that we're not perfect or righteous in our own strength, and before we turned to accept His love. The love of God we see shown in countless Bible stories comes from a broken heart. It is a love for someone which feels like an ache in the pit of the stomach. The kind of love which would do anything, however irrational it may seem to others, to find what is lost. It is the love which risks everything for the sake of one who is lost.

Prayer: Loving God, I am sorry for the times when I have not loved others as You love. Thank You that, before I thought of confessing, you had forgiven me. I confess all that is not right in my life today and ask for the forgiveness You so lovingly give. May this love transform my friends' lives also. Amen.

Action: During this week, how can I lay aside something important to me, so as to better serve one of my friends? To find type '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 on the website)



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#### 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](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

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

Live services are also streamed each Sunday morning 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

Radio 4 Sunday morning Worship at 8.10 am The Bishop of Sheffield Pete Wilcox and Catherine Fox reflect on 'Living Well' in this time of waiting and 'Staying Positive' in a time of uncertainty.

Morning Worship on BBC 1 at 10.45 am The Very Rev. Cathy Jones leads the worship from Bangor Cathedral. The preacher is the Rt. Rev. Andy John, Bishop of Bangor

Songs of Praise on BBC 1 at 1.15 pm Katherine Jenkins looks back on stories of faith from islands around the coast of the UK.

## THE GROCERY LIST

A poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery store. She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work, they had seven children and they needed food. The grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store. Visualizing the family needs, she said: "Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can." John told her he could not give her credit, as she did not have a charge account at his store.

Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocer that he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family. The grocer said in a very reluctant voice, "Do you have a grocery list?" She replied, "Yes sir" "O.K." he said, "put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in

groceries." She hesitated a moment with a bowed head, then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She laid the piece of paper on the scale carefully with her head still bowed.

The eyes of the grocer and the customer showed amazement when the scales went down and stayed down. The grocer, staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, "I can't believe it." The customer smiled and the grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales. The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more. The grocer stood there in utter disgust. Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement.

It was not a grocery list, it was a prayer which said: "Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands". The grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and stood in stunned silence. She thanked him and left the store. The customer handed a fifty-dollar bill to the grocer and said, "It was worth every penny of it."

Only God Knows how much a prayer weighs - so many of us do not take advantage of the power God has given us. A prayer!

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### **ALPHABET PRIASE**

**A**lthough things are not perfect

**B**ecause of trial or pain

**C**ontinue in thanksgiving

**D**o not begin to blame

**E**ven when the times are hard

**F**ierce winds are bound to blow

**G**od is forever able

**H**old on to what you know

**I**magine life without His love

**J**oy would cease to be

**K**eep thanking Him for all the things

**L**ove imparts to thee

**M**ove out of "Camp Complaining"

**N**o weapon that is known

**O**n earth can yield the power

**P**raise can do alone

**Q**uit looking at the future

**R**edeem the time at hand

**S**tart every day with worship

**T**o "thank" is a command

**U**ntil we see Him coming

**V**ictorious in the sky

**W**e'll run the race with gratitude

**X**alting God most high

Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...

**Z**ion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!

## ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S ALPHABET QUIZ

1	Alien	14	Near
2	Bank	15	One
3	Cat	16	Present
4	Dragon	17	Queue
5	Elephant	18	Red
6	Friday	19	Sheep
7	Gentle	20	Title
8	Heart	21	Unhappy
9	Italy	22	Venice
10	Jeans	23	Winter
11	Kettle	24	Xylophone
12	Loan	25	Yes
13	Meat	26	Zebra

### BIT DIFFERENT QUIZ THIS WEEK BUT ENJOY!

#### COMPLETE THIS STORY BY FILLING IN BLANK SPACES WITH TEAMS FROM ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

Each dash represents a letter

The sun shone ----- the day we set sail for Hong Kong and the ----- aboard an ancient ship which had a ----- riddled with holes. The ----- was made up of Scots, Welshmen and others of the ----- race.

The cabin boy was a pleasant lad. One of his duties was to ----- the boiler. He won our ----- by practising his ----- all alone, as if he had been sent to -----

On the whole the --- was good for the family and the rest did my ----- as she had not had a holiday ----- too long.

At last we docked just outside the ----- and without further delay we ----- for the ----- which was the residence of the Hawaiian monarch. The ----- greeted us with a friendly ----- as is the custom and immediately took us to visit a ----- which was looked after by ----- dressed in ----- green.

Their job was to keep the fierce ----- under control and they were paid in ----- for doing so, which they used to ----- for safe keeping. All was not affluence in this land, as we did notice an old factory through a ----- the -----

Later we returned to the ship to have some tea, ----- cake, ----- buns and some ----- which had been put into cold storage before we set sail.

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*From "A Feast of Laughter" a book of jokes produced by the Lichfield Diocese*

Recently I visited a primary school in my full episcopal attire with my mitre, robes and bishop's crook or cozier. A little lad's mother asked him what he thought of the Bishop's visit to his school. The little lad replied, "Now I know what a real crook looks like!"

A man read his obituary in a newspaper. In great indignations he rang a friend; "Have you seen my obituary in today's paper?" "Yes" replied his friend, "where are you ringing from?"

A Cheshire vicar has two cats. Their names are Ancient and Modern because they are both him!

Where do you go to learn to make ice cream? To Sundae School!