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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

Week 11

NOTICES FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY 31st MAY 2020



HAPPY BIRTHDAY this week to Soo Shippen who celebrated on Tuesday 26th May – Hope you had a lovely day!!



this week we continue to pray for Soo and Ian and for 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 Don't forget to read the Annual Report on our website. If anyone want a paper copy then let me know and I will try and get some photocopied. Just go to the home page on our website www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk and scroll down to the bottom of the page and you will see the Annual Report listed underneath the newsletter.

YOUR GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHS ARE STILL WANTED:

Garden photos are still required please send to 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!!

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

Those of you who remember our dear friend and former Minister, Rev Douglas Brewer may like to view a conversation he has on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LF0azFSCu0&feature=youtu.be> where he talks about his journey of faith throughout his Christian life. Douglas was our Minister back in the 1970/80s and has returned to visit us, with his wife Hazel, on numerous occasions since.



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/>

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

Acts 2:1-21 - The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

John 20:19-23 - Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

REFLECTIONS

Not long ago, I flicked on the television as *Pointless* was coming to an end. The final opportunity to win a prize in this daily quiz came when the contestants were asked to name a film in which Robert Redford had been nominated for an Oscar. One of the films - that no-one had named, making it a 'pointless answer' - was *Ordinary People*. A powerful family drama that I remember from my youth! The film tells of how a family is overwhelmed when one of them dies in a boating accident and the other three try and fail to rebuild their lives. They are not particularly special, creative, high-flying or super-intelligent people - they are ordinary people trying to cope in an extraordinary situation.

And isn't that us today? Ordinary people trying to cope in an extraordinary situation? Particularly as we continue to live with the uncertainty of Coronavirus and the ongoing effects of the lockdown on our daily living. We are living through extraordinary times and we need God's help as we face an uncertain future. The first Pentecost was also about ordinary people. The one very special person had ascended into heaven and the ordinary people were left. Yet, what happened that day was extraordinary.

When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, they were far from ordinary. They became very special, for they were filled with gifts from God. They were used to fulfil God's purposes and to help people hear the Gospel message. The Church was born at their hands and we are the Church today because of them and because of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives - and in the lives of ordinary people since that first day of Pentecost. They were ordinary people made special by the Spirit of God within them. And so are we! Each one of us! Ordinary people made special by the Spirit of God.

Is anyone more special than anyone else or anyone more deserving than all others? We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We have all acknowledged our need of the saving grace of Jesus. We are ordinary children, women and men and we are equal in the eyes of God. Therefore, God will pour out the Spirit on us! We are the disciples of today, anointed in the Spirit.

So much of what the Church and our faith is about has nothing to do with age or rank or qualification and yet we seem to want to put tags on people and declare who is worthy and who's fit and who is unworthy and who is unfit. We also seem to be saying that to be fit or worthy you have to have done certain things, behave in a particular way and be a certain age - but that's not how it is and that's not how it should be. For, God's love and the saving grace of the Gospel are freely available to all.

Instead, the only limits to God's activity are the ones that we put in place. God pours out God's Spirit into us, into open vessels. So, when did you last open yourself to God? Are you willing to give yourself to God afresh so that you might be broken, melted, moulded and filled? 'Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me' - for I am an ordinary person in need of your Spirit's power.

All of which brings us nicely back to the beginning - with the disciples waiting in an upper room in Jerusalem, keeping themselves to themselves. They were in lockdown. Nearly two thousand years later, we have our own special places - and we are in lockdown too. Are we keeping ourselves to ourselves - despite the fact that the Spirit is ready to fill us, in the same way that the first disciples were filled by God?

What we need - what we should pray for - is a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit into our lives that drives us - as it drove the first disciples - that drives us out into the world to tell others about Jesus and to live lives that change the world. And I believe that God is ready to do that for us when we make ourselves available. For, we are those who are called to remain faithful to the Gospel - even in the midst of a pandemic - and we are those who are called to be open to God because God has extraordinary things in store for us, ordinary though we are.

*Adapted from a reflection written by Graham Thompson
The Vine at Home is compiled and produced by twelvebaskets*

Extract from Keyworth Methodist Church "Keeping Connected 11"

REV MIKE LEES writes:

THE MIRACLE OF PENTECOST

Please Read Luke 24: 46 – 49 and Acts 2

Seven weeks after Passover, Jewish people will celebrate Shavuot (Pentecost/Feast of Weeks) which falls on 29th May. While in the Bible it's a harvest festival, it also commemorates the giving of the Law at Sinai. To celebrate this, homes and synagogues are decorated with flowers and greenery and the eating of milky foods, especially cheesecake. A teacher once asked the class of children what God had given them at Shavuot, and expecting to hear "the Torah", one lad said "On Shavuot God gave us cheesecake".



While Jewish folk celebrate the giving of the law, for Christians Pentecost is a water-shed in salvation history with a New Covenant. So, for Luke, Pentecost may be the climax of all that had gone before, but also a new enterprise in God's programme with the inauguration of a new age. The redemptive work of Calvary was to be transmitted to the world, but could be done only through those who knew and had faith in him. A special enduing of God's power to those followers was necessary, so in God's timing it happened as the Spirit came upon that group of ordinary people.

Signs were given, not for their sakes, but to draw the attention of the populace. The signs were never again repeated because they were no longer necessary, for the inward appearance of Holy Spirit life in those believers took the outward expression of His coming.

Today the Church tends to sit and wait for people to come through the doors or encourage them in with some secular attraction. On the day of Pentecost however, people were drawn to the place that had been shaken by the Holy Spirit. What a difference!!

Rev Mike Lees

TOUCHING THE WIND: HOW WE DESCRIBE THE HOLY SPIRIT



Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, gentle as is the dove...

Margaret Old begins her hymn to the Spirit of God (Singing the Faith 394) with two contrasting images: one, an acknowledgement that we cannot know what the Spirit looks like; the other, a reference to a familiar image of the Spirit-as-dove. These are both ideas that thread their way through many of the hymns within the Singing the Faith section titled "The Gift and Work of the Holy Spirit". In our singing, we invoke the Spirit, we plead for the Spirit's presence ("Come down, O Love divine seek thou this soul of mine", (StF 372) and we welcome it ("Holy Spirit, we welcome you/Holy Spirit we welcome you!" StF 385)

But perhaps we should be careful what we wish for. Elizabeth Ann Head offers a vision of the Spirit's power "sweeping through us" tsunami-like. In her quest for a Church that is cleansed and prepared to acknowledge its need of God, she invites the "wind of God" to "come, bend us, break us" (StF 391). It's a vision of God's Spirit that is at one with the transforming Spirit at work at the outset of creation, described in Genesis 1:2. Sylvia Dunstan's baptismal hymn, "Crashing waters at creation" (StF 376), picks up on this aspect, as does "Into a world of dark, /wasted and disordered space" by Ann Phillips (StF 387). These hymns sit in contrast with gentler invocations, such as Johnny Martin's "Holy breath of God" (StF 380). There's almost a lullaby quality to his words: "Fall, sweet mercy, fall on me, healing by your grace. Tender hand of God, hold me in your care. All my fears and broken dreams, every burden bear." Other writers draw these contrasts into a single text. Carl Daw follows the first line of his fine hymn, "Like the murmur of the dove's song" (StF 389), with two phrases that see the dove take flight and the energy of the Holy Spirit take wing: "Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight, like the vigour of the wind's rush"..... and then he points us towards the fire imagery of the first Pentecost event as re-told in Acts 2: 1 – 21: "like the new flame's eager might: come, Holy Spirit, come." The bird/dove image is also central to John Bell and Graham Maule's "She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters" (StF 393) and is the starting point for Shirley Erena Murray's "Spirit who broods, / Spirit who sings" (StF 396), in which she explores the idea that the Holy Spirit lives within the Christian community (it's not an external presence), and needs to be drawn out of us in order to "renew the face of the earth".



Water, fire, a dove in flight: each hard to hold, each causing or embodying transformation and movement. These images thread through the books of the Bible, from Genesis to Acts, and continue to inform the way contemporary hymn writers express the character of the Holy Spirit and how we sing the story of Pentecost.

Singing the Faith Plus <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/posts/touching-the-wind-how-we-describe-the-holy-spirit/>

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 each Sunday morning from:

Wesley's chapel at 11.00 am

Swan Bank Methodist Church – 10.45 am

Methodist Central Hall Westminster at 11.00 am

Radio 4 Pentecost Sunday morning Worship at 8.10 am from the City Church Cardiff led by Stephen Gibson and Dominic and Catherine de Souza who look at the hope offered by the Holy Spirit

Morning Worship on BBC 1 at 11.00 am The Rt Rev Richard Jackson, Bishop of Hereford leads Pentecost Sunday worship from Hereford Cathedral

Songs of Praise on BBC 1 at 1.15 pm - The Rev Kate Bottley celebrates Pentecost – 'The Birthday' of the church.

A POT OF JAM

(The Important Things in Life)

There once was a professor of philosophy, who in front of his Class, took a large empty pot of jam and without saying a word, began to fill it with golf balls. Then he asked his students if the jar was full. The Students replied:

YES.

The professor then took a box full of marbles and poured the marbles into the pot of jam. The marbles filled the gaps in between the Golf balls. The Professor asked the students again if the jar was full. Again, they replied: YES.

At that point, the professor took a bag of sand and poured it into the pot of jam. Of course, the sand filled all the remaining gaps and the professor asked again if the jar was full. The Students unanimously answered: YES.

The professor then added two cups of coffee to the contents of the jar thus filling the small gaps between the grains of sand. The students started laughing. After they stopped, the professor said: "I want you to realize that the pot of jam represents Life.

The golf balls are the very important things in Life such as family, children, health, everything you are passionate about. Our lives would still be full even if we'd lost everything else and these were the only things that remained.

The marbles are the other things that count in our lives such as work, house, car, etc ...

The sand represents everything else, all the small things in life. If we had first poured sand into the pot of jam, there wouldn't have been any room left for anything else such as the marbles or the golf balls.

It's the same thing in Life. If we put all our energy and all our time into the small things, we will never have any time/space left for the things that really matter. Pay attention to the things that are really important to your happiness. Play with your children, take time to go to the doctor, have dinner with your spouse/partner, exercise or take time to enjoy your favourite pass-times. There will always be time to do the cleaning and fix the taps on the kitchen sink ... Take care of the golf balls first, of the things that really matter. Choose your priorities, the rest is just sand."

One of the students then raised a hand and asked what the coffee meant. The professor smiled and said: "It's good that you ask. I only added coffee to show that although your lives may seem full and busy, there is always room for a cup of coffee with a friend!"

When it seems that there are "too" many things in your life and when 24 hours in a day never seems to be enough, remember the "Pot of Jam" and coffee story:

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S FOOTBALL TEAMS QUIZ

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

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

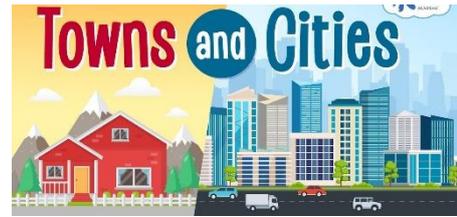
The cabin boy was a pleasant lad. One of his duties was to **STOKE** the boiler. He won our **HEARTS** by practising his **READING** all alone, as if he had been sent to **COVENTRY**

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

At last we docked just outside the **PORTSMOUTH** and without further delay we **PRESTON** for the CRYSTAL **PALACE** which was the residence of the Hawaiian monarch. The **QUEEN OF THE SOUTH** greeted us with a friendly **ALLOA** as is the custom and immediately took us to visit a **NEWCASTLE** which was looked after by **RANGERS** dressed in **LINCOLN** green.

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

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



THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

1	Tub full of water	
2	Has a letter to spare	
3	Half a score is alongside	
4	Cranium stuck in rabbit hole	
5	Professor of rollers	
6	Nearly the colonel's twelve inches	
7	A complete bacon	
8	Ships men	
9	Tying meat	
10	Latest fortified wine	
11	Religious skull	
12	Tend fire	
13	Is this Piggott's town	
14	There are no ends to a hairdryer	
15	Pushed down heavy weight	
16	Where the steer (of the bovine family) crossed the river	
17	Almost speechless in front of the French chips	
18	Witches attempt to meet	
19	Sounds like a vehicle is followed by a Scottish golfer	
20	A male part of the torso with some hesitation	

Answers, as usual, next week



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

During a discussion on public speaking, one wife admitted that the finest after dinner speech she had ever heard consist of just four words: "I'll wash up dear."

How did Noah manage in the dark? He used flood lights!

Three teddy bears sitting in the airing cupboard – how can you tell which one belongs to the army chaplain?
It's the one sitting on the tank!

Where did Noah keep his bees? In the archives!

Up in heaven God had just made all the animals, and they held a raffle to see who would get what. So the lion got a mane and the leopard got spots and the cat got a miaow and things like that. Then at the end God came down to say goodbye. All the animals lined up to shake his hand and to say thank you. And God said, "Where's the camel? And St Peter said, "The camels not coming. "he's got the hump!"