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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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10.00 am until 2.00 pm

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BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

Week 14

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 21st JUNE 2020



We continue to keep Soo and Ian in our prayers, our friends still feeling isolated and we pray for the unrest and violence in our world today.

CHURCH INCOME WHILE SERVICES ARE SUSPENDED

Thank you to everyone who has set up standing orders at their bank, or sent their weekly contributions to my address.

The system is working well but if you cannot do either of the above, I am happy to collect it from your house if you wish, please ring me on 01509 413085 if you would like me to pop round. Alternatively, save the collections envelopes, and hand them in when services start again.

The collections received are recorded in the collection log book as usual before being banked. Many thanks – Peter

“**THANK YOU** to all at Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church for the lovely flowers sent for my 90th birthday. Best wishes – Joan Bull”

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

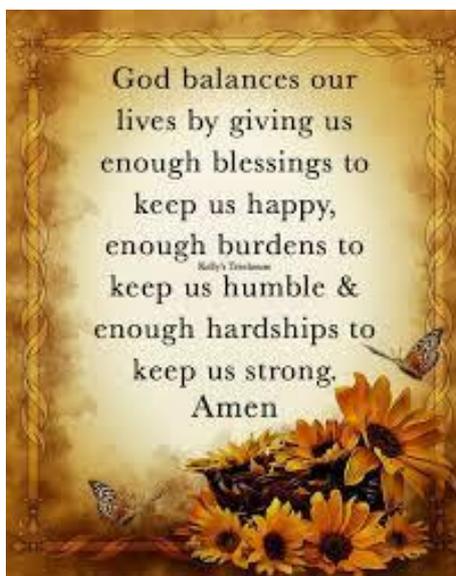
ALERT

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/>



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FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE:

Today's Reading from the Old Testament: Psalm 86

Hear me, LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. ²Guard my life, for I am faithful to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; ³have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long. ⁴Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you. ⁵You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you. ⁶Hear my prayer, LORD; listen to my cry for mercy. ⁷When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. ⁸Among the gods there is none like you, Lord; no deeds can compare with yours. ⁹All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name. ¹⁰For you are great and do marvellous deeds; you alone are God. ¹¹Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. ¹²I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. ¹³For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead. ¹⁴Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God; ruthless people are trying to kill me - they have no regard for you. ¹⁵But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. ¹⁶Turn to me and have mercy on me; show your strength in behalf of your servant; save me, because I serve you just as my mother did. ¹⁷Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 22: 39 – 46 - Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

³⁹ Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. ⁴⁵ When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶ "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

Time to Reflect

Recently a friend told me that he was grateful for the 'gift of desperation' because it was what made him reach out for help.

This echoes for me in the Psalms, where there is nothing the Psalmist won't bring to God – fear, panic, anger, despair, jealousy, injustices, pain. From the lowest depths, the Psalmist cries out to God – for what else are the depths for, but to give us the 'gift of desperation' which makes us reach out to God?

Jesus too gives us this example with his heart-wrenching prayer in Gethsemane. Jesus brings it all – the pain, the anguish, the loneliness – to God, just as it is.

However, this time is for us, the examples of the Psalmist and of Jesus, encourage us to bring it all to God – just as we are. If there is fear, panic and anguish, bring it to God, let it push you to reach out to God and to good people for help.

If there is desperation, loneliness, despair, let those be the things that have us pouring our hearts out to God, reaching out to the One who is our Creator, Sustainer, Upholder.

If there is joy, gratitude, praise – bring that too! The Psalmist brings it all, Jesus brings it all – so can we – confident, without fear, knowing we are beloved.

Things to consider:

- When are you likely to pray the most?
- Do you find it hard to bring difficult emotions to God? How might today's bible passages inspire you?
- Consider writing your own Psalm to God – sharing how you are – the wonderful things, the joys, the difficulties and the struggles.

FROM The Vine at Home compiled and produced by Twelve Baskets Reflection written by James Morley

READINGS: Genesis 21: 8-21 - Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

8 The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. **9** But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac.^[a] **10** So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." **11** The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. **12** But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. **13** As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." **14** So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-Sheba. **15** When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. **16** Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. **17** And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. **18** Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." **19** Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. **20** God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. **21** He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Romans 6: 1b-11 - Dying and Rising with Christ

6 What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For whoever has died is freed from sin. **8** But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10** The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. **11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10: 24-39

24 "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; **25** it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! **26** "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. **27** What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. **28** Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.^[a] **29** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. **30** And even the hairs of your head are all counted. **31** So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. **32** "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; **33** but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS

There may have been times when you have felt badly treated – by family, friends, colleagues, teachers and, let us be honest, people in church. Perhaps these experiences feel even worse when you have tried to do what you thought was the right thing, or when the situation was unjust because of the power dynamics at play. Also, some experiences may have been downright abusive.

The varied stories in the Bible can sometimes be helpful to us because they reflect the full spectrum of our human experience. Hagar is a foreign slave and was unable to have children. Then Sarah does have a child, and Hagar and her son Ishmael are kicked out of community and into the wilderness – effectively to die.

On the face of it, this is a story that raises questions about power and jealousy. About how we treat foreigners, women (it had to be Sarah and not Abraham who could not have children) and people of different social status. It is a story of apparent exclusion. Over recent weeks people have experienced social exclusion and isolation because of Covid-19. It is sadly those already socially and economically disadvantaged who have perhaps suffered the most.

Yet, in recent weeks we have also perhaps re-evaluated how we think about, and act towards, people doing relatively low paid jobs. We have a newfound appreciation for refuse collectors, shop workers, delivery drivers, carers and, of course, nurses. God was able to act and offer hope and salvation even through the negative human emotions and behaviour that led to Hagar and Ishmael being banished. Maybe too, we can see God at work even through the suffering and grief of Coronavirus as we learn in a deeper way what it is to value and care for others.

Saint Paul too, in his letter to the Christian community in Rome, reminds us that we are people of hope and transformation, even amid suffering and death, because of the resurrection of Jesus. Yes, this speaks ultimately of eternal life but also of transformation and hope here and now; of how we can “walk in newness of life”. We have had to find new ways of living through lockdown and so may we continue to offer transformation and hope to others through our actions and words as we seek to live as disciples of the risen Jesus.

In the gospel reading, Jesus gives us challenging words. The story of Hagar and the reading from Romans speak of God’s faithfulness and, therefore, of hope. Yet here is Jesus talking about conflict.

Could it be Jesus is underlining the choice each of us have if we are serious about being his disciples? Are willing to speak and act for transformation and hope, for peace and justice even if it brings us into conflict with others, even with our nearest and dearest? Are we willing to risk putting ourselves into a situation of being rejected in order to be faithful to what we understand to be the good news of Jesus? If we are then, perhaps, we might find ourselves needing to come full circle back to the cry of Hagar that our hope is in God alone. And the good news is, these stories show us that we are not alone. God is with us now and eternally.

Like the words of Jesus, maybe this pandemic underlines the choice we have as disciples to continue to speak and act for transformation and hope, and a world that values and cares for others – especially the most disadvantaged – even when this risks putting our values into conflict with ones which can’t wait for a return to the status quo.

So, what do we choose?

A short spoken-word piece to finish:

Cast down,
 Locked down
 My cry against violence
 Screaming into silence
 Yet on the wind, an echo's return
 A still small voice that yearns to be heard
 Love's faithfulness for those we thought worthless
 Solidarity against injustice
 An invitation to something new
 A choice given to me and you
 It's in what we say and what we do
 For the transformation
 Of the desolation
 Is the resurrection
 So, what do we choose?
 Who will we include – Here and now as well as above?

Choose love – it is the best of us
Choose love – because it first chose us

Let us pray together

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage. We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours' safety. We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity. We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs for as long as it takes, wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

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

Sunday Live services: amongst so many others are streamed:

Wesley's chapel at 11.00 am

Swan Bank Methodist Church – 10.45 am

Methodist Central Hall Westminster at 11.00 am

Radio and Television Worship Radio 4 - 8.10 am - A service exploring fatherhood with Ben Lindsay, Guvna B and Lord Hastings

Morning Worship: on BBC 1 at 11.45 am - A service for Father's Day from Holy Trinity Platt Church in Manchester led by Rector Rev Dr Paul Mathole.

Songs of Praise on BBC 1 at 1.15 pm - For Father Day; Sean Fletcher looks back on stories of inspiring Dads putting Christian love into action.

KNITTED SQUARES FOR BLANKETS

Following a request in the Keyworth Methodist Church newsletter for knitted squares, I delivered several carrier bags of squares from myself and Tilly which the ladies of Keyworth sewed together and donated to the Queen's Medical Centre. The hospital no longer has need of blankets but the ladies are still knitting and donating to a Romanian charity. If anyone has any squares that they would like to donate let me know and I will arrange to collect and pass them on.

Below is a thank you the ladies received from QMC

A THANK YOU FROM WARD F22 OF THE QMC

Gwenda Copson has received the following note of thanks.

'The Staff of F22 would like say thank you to yourself and all the wonderful ladies of Keyworth for all the wonderful teddies, twiddle muffs and blankets. Ward F22 QMC'

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported this appeal it has been so worthwhile in the knowledge that it was giving love and comfort to so many at this difficult time. Over 100 blankets and a large number of knitted teddies and twiddle muffs had been sent to the hospital to this ward nursing Covid 19 patients. The ward has now been closed so the items, for the moment, are no longer needed. Please continue knitting as items will be given to Trish Whitcomb for the Children in Distress Charity. *Gwenda*



THE CROSS

A young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer. "Lord, I can't go on," he said, "I have too heavy of a cross to bear." The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that other door and pick out any cross you wish."

The man was filled with relief and said, "Thank you, Lord," and he did as he was told. Upon entering the other door, he saw many crosses, some so large the tops were not visible. Then, he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered.

And the Lord replied, "My son, that is the cross you just brought in." When life's problems seem overwhelming, it helps to look around and see what other people are coping with. You may consider yourself far more fortunate than you imagined.



Answers to last week's

Thanks to Natalie for this one!



1	What always runs, never walks, often murmurs, never talks, has a bed, never sleeps, has a mouth, but never eats?	River
2	What becomes wetter the more it dries?	Towel
3	The more you take away, the larger it becomes – what is it?	Hole
4	Some months have 30 days and some have 31 days. How many months have 28 days?	12
5	Why can't a man living in the UK be buried in America?	Because he's living
6	If there are 10 apples and you take 3, how many apples do you have?	3
7	What belongs to you, but is used mostly by others?	Your name
8	A cowboy rode into town on Friday, stayed 3 days and rode out again on Friday – How?	His horse's name was Friday
9	What kind of coat can only be put on if it's wet?	A coat of paint
10	What goes up but never comes down?	Your age
11	What can be measured but not seen?	Time
12	What can go around the world, yet stays in a corner?	A postage stamp
13	What type of building has the most stories?	A library
14	What two things can always see what the other sees, but can never see each other?	Eyes
15	The more there is, the less you see. What is it?	Darkness
16	What is at the end of a rainbow?	W
17	What is so fragile, even saying its name can break it?	Silence
18	I am not alive, yet I grow; I have no lungs, yet I need air; I have no mouth, yet I can drown. What am I?	Fire
19	If you have me, you want to share me. If you share me, I no longer exist. What am I?	A secret
20	They come out at night without being called and are lost in the day without being stolen. What are they?	Stars
21	What has teeth but cannot bit?	Comb
22	What phrase is this representing? ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	Missing You
23	Penny has 5 children, 1 st is January, 2 nd child is February, 3 rd is called March, 4 th is called April. What is the name of the 5 th child	What
24	What can you serve, but not eat or drink?	A tennis ball or Badminton shuttlecock
25	How many birthdays does the average person have?	One

26	What has one eye, yet cannot see?	A needle
27	What has a head and a tail, but no body?	A coin
28	Everyone has it and no one can lose it. What is it?	Shadow
29	What has hands but cannot clap?	Clock or Watch
30	I have keys but no locks, I have space but no room, you can enter but can't go outside – what am I?	Keyboard

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ – Can you name the High Street Shops?

Thanks to Mike for this one



1	Footballer's footwear	
2	Ex US President's greetings	
3	The stream has lots of pebbles	
4	On a stem of a rose and add tons	
5	No Euros used in this country	
6	A potent medicine	
7	2 nd and 17 th letter of the alphabet	
8	Should this be called Jenkins after Richard's real name	
9	When stepping on a train you need to mind this	
10	Here's Johnny	
11	Cricket Chappell and golfer Norman	
12	A South sea island is the place for a wager	
13	Prince Charles sons and a common surname	
14	A fresh view	
15	Where you can buy eyes, ears, legs and arms perhaps	



A story is told of a man who loved old books. He met an acquaintance who had just thrown away a bible that had been stored in the attic of his ancestral home for generations. "I couldn't read it," the friend explained. "Somebody named Guten-something had printed it." Not Gutenberg!" the book-lover exclaimed in horror. "That Bible was one of the first books ever printed. Why, a copy just sold for over two million dollars!" His friend was unimpressed. "Mine wouldn't have brought a dollar. Some fellow named Martin Luther had scribbled all over it in German."

After she woke up, a woman told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklance for Valentine's Day. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight," he said.

That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it – to find a book entitled "The meaning of Dreams."

When the grandmother returned from the supermarket, her small grandson pulled out the box of animal shaped biscuits all over the kitchen counter. "What are you doing?" his grandmother asked. "The box says you can't eat them if the seal is broken," the boy explained, "I'm looking for the seal."

SEEN ON CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS

Tough week? We are open on Sundays.

Our world revolves around the Son

If God is your co-pilot – swap seats!

The Ten Commandments were NOT called the Ten Suggestions

Even through the storm, the Son still shines

Prayer gives you a calm-plex

Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up.
If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.
T.G.I.F = Thank God I'm forgiven
