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## BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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# BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

## Week 15

### NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### LOCK DOWN RESTRICTIONS FOR CHURCHES EASED

Well, good news this week as our "lock down" is eased and we can now meet and share with other family members and friends and try to return to some form of normality.

**BUT** even though the government has said that churches can re-open on 4<sup>th</sup> July, you are asked not to presume that our Circuit churches will be opening on that date. Other than opening for playgroup we have been asked by Connexion to wait until we have further guidance after Conference and our Superintendent, Rev Andrew Lomax does not envisage any of our church buildings being used for worship before August and even then, it will probably won't be all of them.

**AND** there will be significant restrictions – no singing, no refreshments, no hand shaking, hugging or kissing but lots of hand washing, keeping your distance, cleaning down and record keeping and anyone in the vulnerable category will need to stay safe.

#### ON A LIGHTER NOTE:

On a lighter note, I am excited because I have a hairdressing appointment booked!! Sounds sad, I know and call me shallow if you like and it won't be the same relaxing head massaging process that I have been used to but, at least, I won't look like Boris anymore!!



#### 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

**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)

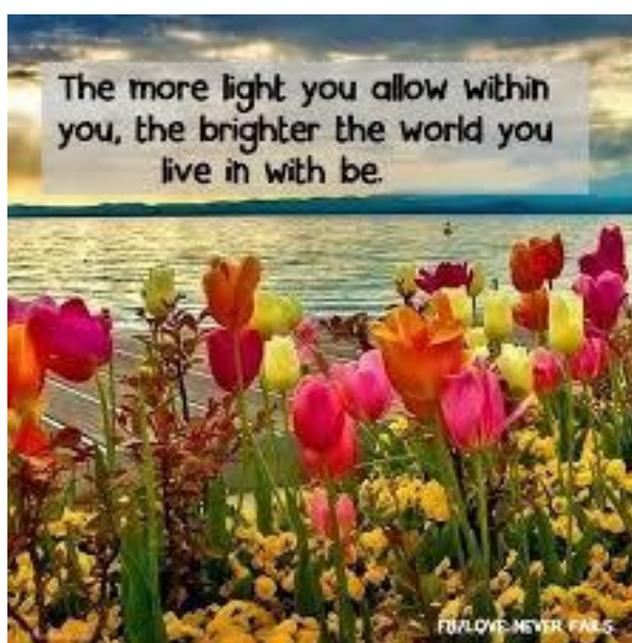
### **ALERT**

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!!

### **THE METHODIST CONFERENCE IS NOW TAKING PLACE**

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 Gospel Reading:** Matthew 10.40-42

<sup>40</sup> "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. <sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

### **Time to Reflect**

Have you ever been sent out to knock on a stranger's door with a message or a request? If so, did you wonder what sort of a welcome you might, or might not, receive? The disciples were about to take the good news of Jesus' love into the wider world. In these verses Jesus reminded the disciples that as his followers, they were representing him and the one who sent him, his Father, God. For those who received and accepted them, it would be as if they were welcoming Jesus himself into their homes.

The concept of welcome and hospitality in the Middle East is of high importance. Visitors are treated as honoured guests and food and drink is generously shared. That generosity can be a humbling experience. On a fact finding visit to Jordan in 2015, I was welcomed into a damp and shabby basement by Nahla, a young Syrian refugee mother of six. There was very little in the way of furniture or equipment and nothing of comfort in this makeshift home. The older children were out in the streets scavenging for whatever scraps they

might make use of or sell. Yet Nahla insisted I have some tea with her. Not wanting to take from her meagre supplies, I refused politely, but Nahla was offended by this. It was deeply embedded in her culture and tradition to offer hospitality to guests. Poor though she was, she wanted to share what little she had with her guest.

Generosity and welcome may come from the most unexpected sources, often from the poorest who understand what it is to have nothing.

I did not find knocking on doors for a house collection for Action for Children easy. It was even more challenging to find that those who lived in larger houses gave far less, or even nothing, than those who lived in more crowded or less affluent conditions.

Jesus gave an example of how people should show unselfish generosity to others through the giving of a cup of cold water to "little ones", arguably not just children but the adult poor or marginalised too. (see Matthew 18.6).

Not everyone welcomes Jesus' offer of love and salvation. Some may reject us and our gospel message. For those who choose to welcome Jesus into their lives, there is an amazing reward in heaven, eternal life and peace with Jesus Christ.

Like the disciples, our lives should reflect God's generous love to others. How will you receive the one who knocks on your door?

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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**

Next Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July Service led by Rev Andrew Lomax – Preacher: Rev John Pugh

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July Service led by Rev Andrew Lomax – Preacher: Rev Martin Swan

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Rev Andrew Lomax

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July – Liz and Rob Newton tbc

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – 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 – With John Bell of the Iona Community, looks with hope towards the future Sunday morning stories.

Morning Worship: on BBC 1 at 11.45 am – Rev Kate Bottley meets artists of different faiths who are finding common ground. (There is no BBC1 morning worship scheduled this week! Ed)

Songs of Praise on BBC 1 at 1.15 pm Claire McCullum presents the show from the North coast of Northern Island looking back at Faith stories across the region

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*Faith doesn't always take you out of the problem,  
Faith takes you through the problem.  
Faith doesn't always take away the pain,  
Faith gives you the ability to handle the pain.  
Faith doesn't take you out of the storm,  
Faith calms you in the midst of the storm.*

## LOOKING FOR DAYBREAK (A Sign for our Times?)

A rabbi once asked his students how they could tell when night had ended and day was on its way.

'Is it when you can see an animal in the distance, and can tell whether it is a sheep or a dog?'

'No,' answered the rabbi.

'Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance, and tell whether it is a fig tree or a peach tree?'

'No.'

'Well then,' demanded the students, 'when is it?'

'It is when you look on the face of another human being and see that he or she is your brother or sister. Because if you cannot do that, then no matter what time it is, it is still night.' (unknown source)



## GRAVITY AND GLORY

### Two real life sayings on Heaven and ..... the other place

If I ever reach heaven, I expect to find three wonders there: First, to meet some I had not thought to see there. Second, to miss some I had expected to see there. And third, the greatest wonder of all – to find myself there! *John Newton*

While training young ministers to preach, Charles Spurgeon gave them this advice: "When you speak of heaven," he said, "let your face light up with a heavenly gleam; let your eyes shine with reflected glory. And when you speak of hell... well, then your everyday face with do."

## THE STORY OF A SON

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art. When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you and your love for art." The young man held out the package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this."

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home; he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected. The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?" There was silence. Then, a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one."

But the auctioneer persisted. "Will somebody bid for this painting. Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?" Another voice said angrily, "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real art!" But still the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the long-time gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10. Who will bid \$20?" "Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters." "\$10 is the bid. Won't someone bid \$20?"

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!" A man sitting on the second row shouted, "Now let's get on with the collection!"

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry; the auction is over." "What about the paintings?"

"I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings.

The man who took the son gets everything!"

God gave His son 2,000 years ago to die on the cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: "The son, the son, who'll take the son?" Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything. *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* (John 3:16)

## Answers to last week's quiz ....Did you name the High Street Shops?



1	Footballer's footwear	BOOTS
2	Ex US President's greeting	CLINTONS
3	The stream has lots of pebbles	WATERSTONES
4	On a stem of a rose and add tons	THORNTONS
5	No euros in this country	POUNDLAND
6	A potent medicine	SUPERDRUG
7	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> letter of the alphabet	B & Q
8	Should this be called Jenkins after Richard's real name	BURTON
9	When stepping on a train you need to mind this	GAP
10	Here's Johnny	WILKINSON
11	Cricket Chappell and golfer Norman	GREGGS
12	A south sea island is the place for a wager	CORALS
13	Prince Charles sons and a common surname	W H SMITH
14	A fresh view	NEW LOOK
15	Where you can buy eyes, ears, legs and arms perhaps	THE BODY SHOP

## REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of the world-famous detective Sherlock Holmes, was not above telling self-deprecating tales.

In one situation, he was waiting at a taxi stand outside the railway station in Paris. When a taxi pulled up, he placed his suitcase in the car and took a seat next to it. "Where can I take you, Mr. Doyle?" asked the taxi driver. Doyle was flabbergasted. He asked the driver whether he knew him by sight.

"No, sir, I have never seen you before." The puzzled Doyle asked him how he knew who he was.

"This morning's paper had a story about you being on vacation in Marseilles. This is the taxi-stand where people who return from Marseilles always come to. Your skin colour tells me you have been on vacation. The ink-spot on your right index finger suggests to me that you're a writer. Your clothing is very English, and not French. And so, I deduced that you are Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."



Doyle remarked, "This is truly amazing. You are a real-life counterpart to my fictional creation, Sherlock Holmes."

"There is one other thing," the driver said. "What is that?" "Your name is on the front of your suitcase."

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## THIS WEEK'S QUIZ IS SONG TITLES

Work out the song titles from the clues - The decades that they were written is in the last column  
By the way I would love to hear if anyone does these quizzes – email me at  
janetmthompson13@gmail.com



1	Reverse Paraesthesia	Needles and Pins	60s
2	Leaping Mr Frost exposes himself		60s
3	England's capital is on the phone		70s
4	Nothing to hear		60s
5	Up the apples and pears to a celestial place		70s
6	The whiff of an underage drinker?		90s
7	The day before		60s
8	Female orange preserve		70s
9	I gunned down the lawman		70s
10	12 o'clock railway to a southern state		70s
11	January 1 <sup>st</sup>		80s
12	A shade from the rain or the sun		00s
13	Very small person on Strictly		70s
14	A piece of paper to allow you on the bus		60s
15	One more rectangular unit of clay in the vertical structure		70s
16	A tune released from shackles		60s
17	A ghost in the vicinity of a cloud		60s
18	Have no anxiety about the ghost of Christmas future		70s
19	Lots of waterways to traverse		60s
20	Have a small amount of assistance from my pals		60s
21	Existing on a plea to God		80s
22	The woman is not present		60s
23	Not able to get any affection in the shops		60s
24	Delivered by the midwife in Trumpland		80s
25	Aerial firework male		70s
26	The male child of a priest		60s
27	Just those with no friends		60s
28	Question whether to remain or exit		70s
29	Perambulate on the untamed outer surface		70s
30	Fail to socially distance simultaneously		60s
31	Sugary offspring, I have		80s
32	Using my knuckles on the entrance to meet God		70s



Why couldn't they play cards on the Ark  
Because Noah was always standing on the deck!

Why do seagulls fly over the sea?  
Because if they flew over the bay, they'd be bagels!

Why did the ants dance on the jam jar?  
The lid said, "Twist to open."

What can only be used after it is broken?  
An egg.