



follow us on Twitter @BarrowMethsChurch



[www.facebook.com/barrow-upon-soar-methodist-church](http://www.facebook.com/barrow-upon-soar-methodist-church)

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

## BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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

Minister: Rev John Pugh

Telephone: 0116 2304689 or 07964402152

Circuit Office - Telephone: 01509 807441

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
10.00 am until 2.00 pm

Email: [loughboroughmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:loughboroughmethodist@gmail.com)

# BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

## Week 17

### NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020



This week we continue to pray for Soo and Ian and for Soo's nephew, Toby. We remember Heather and her mum and Glenda and the residents and staff at Pingle Nook.

Jean Atter, a member of New Horizons sadly passed away last week and we send our love to her daughter, Jane (a regular visitor to Minimarket) and remember her in our prayers.

#### NEWS FROM THE PEWS – A BIT OF A CATCH UP TO WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING!

Soo's nephew Toby is now out of hospital under the care of his doctor fiancé but still has to visit the Hospital for Tropical Diseases for further investigation.

Pingle Nook care staff are very grateful that we include them in our weekly prayers at this worrying time.

Sue Speight saw Barbara and Don on Thursday and reported that they both looked well although, Barbara can't wait to get her hair cut!

Janet collected two made-up knitted squares blankets from Joan Thursby and delivered them to the contact in Keyworth where they will either go to Queen's Medical or Children in Distress.

Janet and Margaret Thomasson met on North Street last week and caught up with a nice chat. Later on, Janet and Gill put the world to rights over the phone!!

Kate reports that Mike's sister, Kath is doing amazingly well – he had a telephone conversation with her this week and they are very grateful for everyone's prayers at this time.

The hairdressers in Barrow upon Soar have been extremely busy this week – Kate has been and has had a slight change of style rather liking the longer look; Janet couldn't wait to get there and get hers cut short! Natalie was so excited about the visit she even booked a day off work!! Couldn't believe how long Joan's hair had grown (she had to tie it back) but she also got it cut this week and even Mike managed to get to the barbers and is reported to look very smart!

Janet had a lovely telephone chat with Julia Mason on Wednesday – Julia sends her love to all her Ladies Circle friends and hopes to re-join the group when meetings begin again.

If you have news of friends that you can share, then please let me know at [janetmthompson13@gmail.com](mailto:janetmthompson13@gmail.com) or 01509 413810.

#### LOCK DOWN RESTRICTIONS FOR CHURCHES EASED

A Circuit consultation on when we should re-open our churches took place on Thursday evening so there should be some news either way very soon but be assured that the safety of everyone will be paramount in any decisions.

#### 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

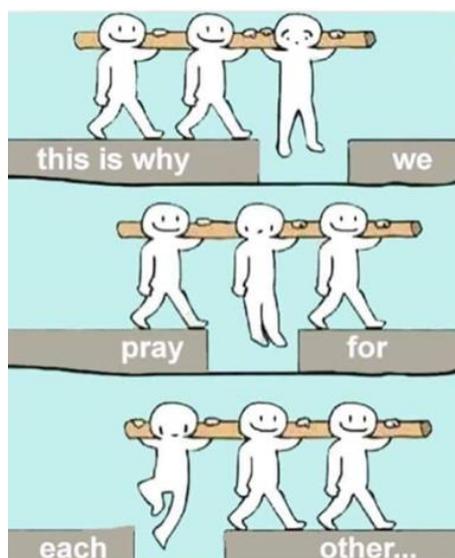
There is also a group of volunteers **BARROW UPON SOAR HELPING HANDS** which consists of folk from the village, the Conservative Club and the Baptist Church – you can contact them on 07395902961 or email [community@barrowbaptist.org.uk](mailto:community@barrowbaptist.org.uk)

### **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!!

**Please be careful I have had two such calls this week!**

**Don't forget you can also view our newsletter at [www. barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk)**



### **FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE:**

**Rev E Adam Wells**

**Former Superintendent Minister of the Loughborough Circuit**

### **Today's Reading from the New Testament**

Romans 8:1-11 Good News Translation (GNT)

#### Life in the Spirit

**8** There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit, which brings us life in union with Christ Jesus, has set me free from the law of sin and death. **3** What the Law could not do, because human nature was weak, God did. He condemned sin in human nature by sending his own Son, who came with a nature like our sinful nature, to do away with sin. **4** God did this so that the righteous demands of the Law might be fully satisfied in us who live according to the Spirit, and not according to human nature. **5** Those who live as their human nature tells them to, have their minds controlled by what human nature wants. Those who live as the Spirit tells them to, have their minds controlled by what the Spirit wants. **6** To be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace. **7** And so

people become enemies of God when they are controlled by their human nature; for they do not obey God's law, and in fact they cannot obey it. <sup>8</sup> Those who obey their human nature cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> But you do not live as your human nature tells you to; instead, you live as the Spirit tells you to—if, in fact, God's Spirit lives in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ lives in you, the Spirit is life for you <sup>11</sup> because you have been put right with God, even though your bodies are going to die because of sin. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from death, lives in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of his Spirit in you.

**Today's Gospel Reading:**  
**Matthew 13.1-9 & 18-23**

The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus left the house and went to the lakeside, where he sat down to teach. <sup>2</sup> The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it, while the crowd stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> He used parables to tell them many things.

"Once there was a man who went out to sow grain. <sup>4</sup> As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some of it fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil wasn't deep. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, it burned the young plants; and because the roots had not grown deep enough, the plants soon dried up. <sup>7</sup> Some of the seed fell among thorn bushes, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> But some seeds fell in good soil, and the plants bore grain: some had one hundred grains, others sixty, and others thirty."

<sup>9</sup> And Jesus concluded, "Listen, then, if you have ears!"

**18-23**

Jesus Explains the Parable of the Sower

<sup>18</sup> "Listen, then, and learn what the parable of the sower means. <sup>19</sup> Those who hear the message about the Kingdom but do not understand it are like the seeds that fell along the path. The Evil One comes and snatches away what was sown in them. <sup>20</sup> The seeds that fell on rocky ground stand for those who receive the message gladly as soon as they hear it. <sup>21</sup> But it does not sink deep into them, and they don't last long. So when trouble or persecution comes because of the message, they give up at once. <sup>22</sup> The seeds that fell among thorn bushes stand for those who hear the message; but the worries about this life and the love for riches choke the message, and they don't bear fruit. <sup>23</sup> And the seeds sown in the good soil stand for those who hear the message and understand it: they bear fruit, some as much as one hundred, others sixty, and others thirty."

**TIME TO REFLECT**

Over the last few months, we have begun to look at the world in a new way. Certainties are no longer as certain as they once were. This time last year no one imagined being in lockdown, although the possibility of a serious virus pandemic was not unimagined.

When I read the parable afresh the first thing I noticed was that for his own safety, and perhaps in order to be better seen, Jesus gets into a boat and puts some distance between himself and the crowd. The Bible does not tell us if it was more than 2 metres! Jesus sits down to teach indicating his authority to teach. Jesus takes practical steps to be heard and communicates in ways the crowd were used to and addressed them in ways they would understand. The image of a sower was common in first century Palestine.

And when the seed is scattered not all of it bears fruit, some falls on the path or on stony ground. Some is in shallow earth and fails to mature. Amid much bearing of fruit there is also the failure of hearing and not understanding. Jesus recognized that even with the best news in the world there would still be setbacks.

The disciples have the parable explained to them. They have the benefit of the expertise of Jesus who told this parable and was by definition best placed to explain its meaning.

As we move forward together and plan the activities of our local churches in a world that has been changed we should be encouraged by this parable.

Encouraged to work in ways that we discern are appropriate in our current situation. Perhaps an extra line on the plan for the Circuit's online worship and resources for those not online and unable to attend a building. Encouraged to keep trying even if the seed we cast does not always bear fruit straight away or in ways we may expect.

Encouraged to gather as much wisdom as we can from others and glad to listen to those who are called to teach and explain, even when this might move us out of our comfort zones and takes us in unexpected ways. Amen.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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

**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:

Radio and Television Worship

Radio 4 8.10 am Rev Dr Craig Gardiner and Rev Dr Rosa Hunt lead a service reflecting on the Parable of "The Sower" from South Wales.

Songs of Praise on BBC 1 at 1.15 pm – Aled Jones is at Leicester's De Montfort Hall to countdown the UK@s favourite hymns.

---

*The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time*

*Abraham Lincoln*

---

### A BOOK BY IT'S COVER

I was driving home the other day on a sunny afternoon. I had a smile on my face as I sang along to the songs on the radio. It was a beautiful day. I felt full of happiness and oneness with God. My good mood ended, however, when the radio station took a news break between songs. Suddenly I found myself listening to yet another story of a rich, beautiful celebrity involved in scandal, hypocrisy, and lawlessness. I shook my head in disbelief as I came to a stoplight.

As I pulled to a stop, I noticed four, leather jacketed bikers. They were standing in the middle of the road with two on either side of the light. They looked rough and dangerous, but as I got closer, I noticed each one was holding their helmet in their hands. I rolled down my window as one approached my car. "We are the Brothers of the Wheel", he said. "We are collecting for a Christmas toy drive for needy children this year." As I pulled a dollar out of my wallet I looked past his beard and tattoos and into his eyes. They shined with a goodness and kindness that came right from his soul. I dropped the money in his helmet and waved to the other bikers as I drove off. My good mood had returned. My faith in mankind had been bolstered. And I had to laugh along with God as I remembered once again never to judge a book by its cover.



Our society often judges books by their covers but God reads what is written in our hearts and souls. Perhaps one day we will all learn to see the world through Heaven eyes. Perhaps one day we will realize that looks matter little and actions matter much. Perhaps one day we will see that the wealth and success of Earth are not the wealth and success of Heaven.

Over two thousand years ago a poor, homeless outcast walked the Earth. His clothes were tattered and His companions were rough fishermen. He was scorned by the elite of the day. Yet, He showed every one of us how to live and how to love. May we all follow the truth He shared.

Joseph J. Mazzella

\*\*\*\*\*

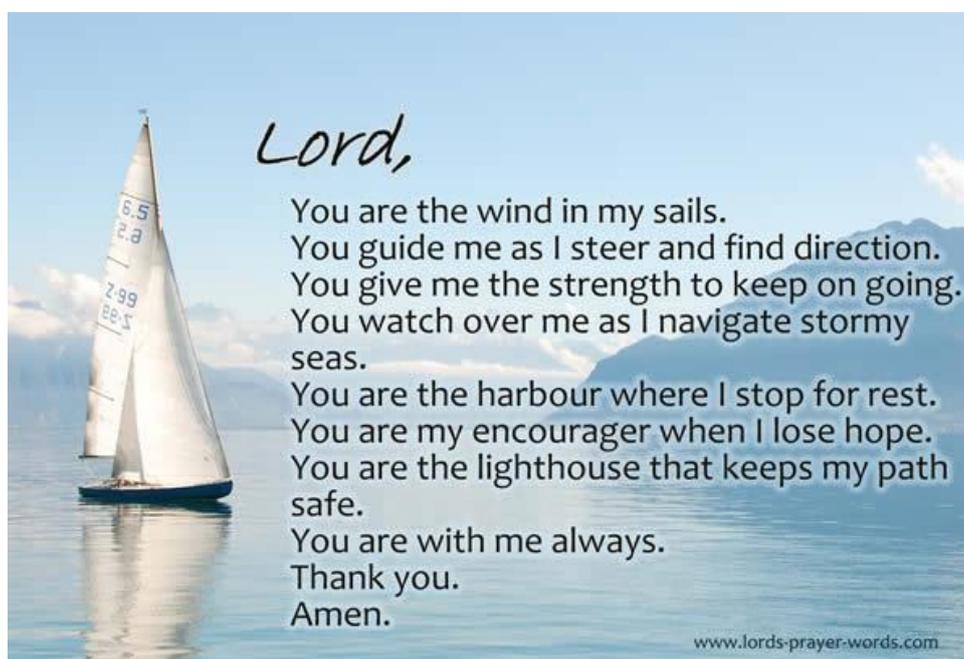
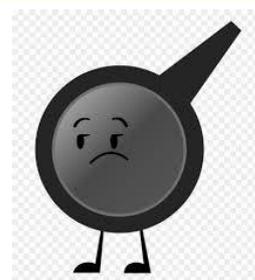
### A BIGGER FRYING PAN

Two men went fishing. One man was an experienced fisherman, the other wasn't. Every time the experienced fisherman caught a big fish, he put it in his ice chest to keep it fresh. Whenever the inexperienced fisherman caught a big fish, he threw it back. The experienced fisherman watched this go on all day and finally got tired of seeing this man waste good fish. "Why do you keep throwing back all the big fish you catch?" he asked.

The inexperienced fisherman replied, "I only have a small frying pan."

Sometimes, like that fisherman, we throw back the big plans, big dreams, big jobs, big opportunities that God gives us. Our faith is too small. We laugh at that fisherman who didn't figure out that all he needed was a bigger frying pan; yet how ready are we to increase the size of our faith?

Whether it's a problem or a possibility, God will never give you anything bigger than you can handle. That means we can confidently walk into anything God brings our way



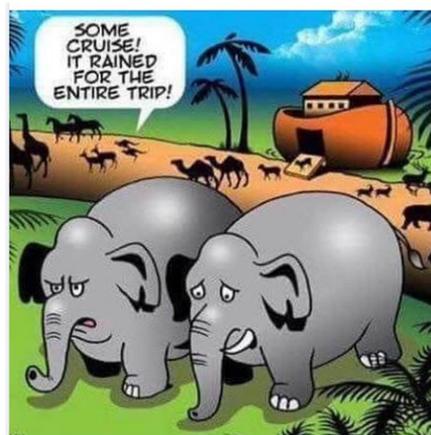
Answers to last week's General Knowledge quiz

#### BONUS QUESTION - THE FIRST LETTER OF EACH ANSWER SPELLS OUT - WIMBLEDON TENNIS FINAL

1	Virginia Wade	11	Enid Blyton
2	Israel	12	Numbers
3	Memphis	13	Newcastle Falcons
4	Billie Holliday	14	Italy
5	Liver	15	Sumner (Gordon)
6	Ecstasy	16	Forrest Gump
7	Dambusters	17	Isle of Man
8	Owen	18	New Moon
9	New York	19	Alaska
10	Trans-am	20	Llandudno

### THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

1	What is the maximum width of a cricket bat?	
2	Which dancer played Doctor Who's assistant Melanie?	
3	In which field has Oleg Popov achieved fame?	
4	Who is the patron saint of tax collectors?	
5	In which year was the 50 pence piece introduced?	
6	What was the name of the donkey in "Winnie the Pooh" stories?	
7	Who won an Oscar for his music for the film "Jaws"?	
8	On a film set, the chief electrician is familiarly known as what?	
9	In 1987 for which county did David Gower play cricket?	
10	Which jockey rode Aldanti to victory in the Grand National?	
11	Which instrument did Russ Conway play?	
12	Which American state shares its name with a Russian republic?	
13	The Leveret is the young of which animal?	
14	Whose feast day is celebrated on Boxing Day?	
15	What type of creature is a grass snake?	
16	What does a cartophilist collect?	
17	The Transylvanian Alps are in which country?	
18	Who sponsored the first five London Marathons?	
19	Which famous ship evacuated refugees from Aden in January 1986?	
20	In "Moby Dick" what is the name of Captain Ahab's ship?	



**For Derek read Andrew!!**

Nine-year-old Joey, was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved!



"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no, Mum, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row!

I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning!!

I went to the doctors, and said "I get Irish voices coming out of my tummy." He said "You've got a stomach Ulster."

What kind of man was Boaz before he got married?  
Ruth less!

