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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

Week 21



NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 9th AUGUST 2020

This week we continue to pray for Soo and Ian, for Glenda and the residents and staff of Pingle Nook and for all in Beirut who have been killed, injured or made homeless by the tragic explosion this week.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Soo and Ian are now booked to fly home on Wednesday 18th August.

Have just heard that sadly that Revd Dr Stuart Jordan's wife Ute, has passed away after a battle with cancer. Some of us remember Stuart (the son of Winnie and Edwin Jordan) who was a member of our Sunday School and church many years ago but he has always kept in touch with his home village and our church even though his ministry has taken him to other parts of the country. We send our love and prayers to him and friends and relatives here in Barrow upon Soar. Apparently, his brother Malcolm is also very poorly so we remember him in our prayers.

Sandra has received an email from Rev Jonathan Gichaara: Jonathan Gichaara sends his greetings and kind regards to all at Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church. He says we are all very dear to him and he often thinks of us with gratitude. He is hoping that when we reopen, he will be able to join us if his schedules allow. He and his family are keeping well, the boys are both in London advancing in their careers. One of Jonathan's churches reopened for brief services in August, the other is tentatively hoping to open in September.

Commenting on our wait to be able to use our premises as we would like, he mentioned that last Sunday he preached on "Waiting on the Lord" - if you would like to hear it you will find it at Cantley Methodist Church YouTube channel. The staff have also been putting out daily devotions during lockdown, and these can be found at Doncaster Circuit YouTube channel.

AN IMPORTANT SCAM WARNING FROM REV ANDREW LOMAX

"Many of you will be aware of the scams that come round from time to time, especially through emails.

Two people in our circuit have received emails purporting to be from me, though not with my email address, asking them to buy Amazon vouchers for me to pass on to someone in need. These are not the consequence of my email, or my computer being 'hacked'. They are just malicious emails targeting people whose emails are on the website. Please never respond to such emails. I understand from Rev Adam Wells that a member of his new circuit has responded and sent several hundred pounds worth to an email address with the word 'church' in.

I won't ask you for money, please do NOT send me money.

If you feel you must be extra generous this month, then support the charities you know and trust.

With much love (and a little frustration).

God bless - Andrew.

P.S. my emails always look like this, though this has been sent to you by our circuit administrator.

P.P.S my email address is andrew.lomax@methodist.org.uk

If you have news of friends that you can share, then please let me know at janelmthompson13@gmail.com or 01509 413810.

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

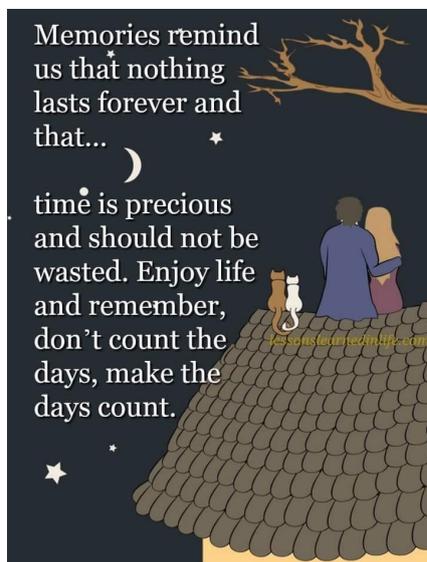
RIDE AND STRIDE

The national date for *Ride+Stride 2020* is finally confirmed as Saturday 12th September and we understand that Heritage Open Days will run from 11th - 20th September, thus coinciding with *Ride+Stride* day as usual. Most of the permissions are already in place for going out and about by bike, foot or vehicle, and it is encouraging that places of worship can open for private prayer from 15th June. *Ride+Stride* complies with most social distancing measures but there may need to be additional arrangements depending on government guidance at the time, so please keep an eye on our website and social media posts nearer the date of the event.

We are hoping to be able to open for this event, subject to Covid safety regulations, and will be asking for volunteers to man the Registration Table. Over the years we have been grateful for the walkers/cyclists who have taken part from our fellowship and for the donations that we have received.

If you are interested in taking part or helping on the day, please see Peter as he will have the relevant sponsor forms available soon.

Don't forget you can also view our newsletter at www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk



FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE

Original Materials by Matthew Ramsden,
Local Preacher from Bolton Methodist Circuit

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the

lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

TIME TO REFLECT

I am sure we can all relate to Peter. Throughout the gospels we get a picture of someone who does not always think before he speaks, if we take Peter's confession in Matthew 16:13-20 and think – did he rush his confession of faith or not? Only a few verses later Jesus rebukes him.

And it is the same in this reading. Peter is singled out while the others stay in the boat.

Jesus says to his disciples 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid' when he walks on the water to the disciples in the boat. Should this have been enough for Peter as it was for the others? No, Peter being Peter, wants to try and walk on the water.

Perhaps, the message today, for us, is one of trust as we journey as disciples through these difficult times? Jesus says to us, as he said to Peter, "Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid".

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

Radio and Television Worship

Radio 4 8.10 am Chine McDonald a writer on race and faith, leads a service exploring the cross as a symbol of black liberation. The Archdeacon of Croyden, a Church of England ordinand and a Baptist minister also take part.

Songs of Praise on BBC 1 at 1.15 pm The Rev Kate Bottley hears how Christian reformers founded the National Trust 125 years ago and the Bristol Mayor Marvin Rees reflects on the city's links to slavery.

THINKING ABOUT PRAYER

Jesus' disciples asked him for guidance on how to pray (Luke 11:2-4). Jesus replied with what we have ever since called **'the Lord's Prayer'** which we know by heart so can use whenever we pray. The Lord's Prayer speaks first of the nature of God. To God belong power and glory; his name should be kept holy. It includes prayer for the world – that God's will may be done there. And it acknowledges our needs – for food, for forgiveness and for protection from evil. So here is one model for prayer: 1) Affirm all that God is, especially that God is worthy of praise. 2) Pray for God's world. 3) Acknowledge our needs.



Here are short examples of each which are easy to commit to memory:
 Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise him all creatures here below!
 Praise him above, ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

May the blessing of God the Father be on the whole of creation;
 May the blessing of God the Son be on all people;
 May the blessing of God the Spirit be on all for whom I pray;
 And may the peace of God Almighty enfold God's world for ever. Amen

God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in mine eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking; God be at mine end, and at my departing.

From Keyworth Methodist Church Keeping Connected 21



When I woke up this morning, I asked myself, "What is life about?"

I found the answer in my room – the fan said, "Be cool."

The ceiling said, "Aim high."

The window said, "See the world!"

The clock said, "Every minute is precious."

The mirror said "Reflect before you act."

The calendar said, "Be up to date."

The door said, "Push hard for your goals."

The floor said, "Kneel down and pray."

Thanks to Gill who shared this on Facebook!

A TALE OF THREE BUILDERS

A traveller in the Middle Ages came across a place in France where there was a great building work going on. Massive boulders from a nearby quarry were being hammered and chiselled into shape by an army of masons.



Approaching one of these men, the traveller asked what the work was that he was engaged on. "Can't you see?" was the answer. "I have to cut all these stones to an exact shape, so that they will fit together. In this heat and with these simple tools, it's all I can do to concentrate on each block. I'm tired and thirsty and my back aches all the time. I just can't wait to get back home."

It wasn't really a satisfactory answer. The traveller went on to another man with the same question. "This is my livelihood," he said. "I am a trained mason and what you see me doing here means that I earn enough money to feed my family and provide for the future. That's enough for me."

But the traveller was still not satisfied. He moved on and asked a third man "What are you doing?" The man looked up from his work with shining eyes. He smiled and pointed up to the sky: "I'm building a cathedral!"

(adapted from an unknown source)

With thanks to Keyworth Methodist Church Keeping Connection 21

*"Yesterday is history,
Tomorrow is a mystery,
Today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present."*

Rev John Pugh writes:

I said last week I enjoy puns so what about this week's picture?

I remember as a child reading the old King James version of the Bible, if you look in the Book of Proverbs chapter 22 verse 6, you'll find "Train up a child ...". That verse had an impact with me especially with my love of steam trains and when I was 7, I wanted to drive a steam train like most boys did in the early 60's.



Maybe it started off my thoughts of what sort of parent I would later become. From a stationary position I wanted to make sure I would keep my children on track as it were, no chance of them going off the rails if I

could help it! I wanted to make sure the way was open, signal the "All clear" and point them in the right direction. Surely their ultimate destination for me as a Christian was, and is, to be Heaven.

When I grew older, I began to realise I started with noble intentions but later saw that my children didn't necessarily want to travel the same route. Each has their own idea of where and how they will travel. My hope is one day (maybe) they will see the advantages of following a well-travelled track and continue their own journey to the ultimate.

The picture I had as a child of my Christian journey was coloured by choruses that for example rejoiced in the title of "The Happy Day Express". The letters on the engine read JESUS, the guard shouts out for Heaven? We gladly answer "Yes". Is Heaven your destination? Do you want it to be? Just ask for travel directions from Christians anywhere. The ticket has been paid for.

SPIDER'S WEB

A young soldier found himself in a terrible and hopeless battle. The enemy was soundly defeating this young man's army. He and his comrades found themselves hastily retreating from the battle field in defeat, running away in fear for their very lives. The enemy gave chase. This young man ran hard and fast, full of fear and desperation, but soon found himself cut off from his comrades in arms.

He eventually came upon a rocky ledge containing a cave. Knowing the enemy was close behind, and that he was exhausted from the chase, he chose to hide there. After he crawled into the cave, he fell to his face in the darkness, desperately crying to God to save him and protect him from his enemies. He also made a bargain with God, one which I (and perhaps you too?) have made before. He promised that if God saved him, he would serve Him for the remainder of his days.

When he looked up from his despairing plea for help, he saw a spider beginning to weave its web at the entrance of the cave. As he watched the delicate threads being slowly drawn across the mouth of the cave, the young soldier pondered its irony. He thought, "I asked God for protection and deliverance, and he sent me a spider instead. How can a spider save me?"

His heart was hardened, knowing the enemy would soon discover his hiding place and kill him. And soon he did hear the sound of his enemies, who were now scouring the area looking for those in hiding. One soldier with a gun slowly walked up to the cave's entrance. As the young man crouched in the darkness, hoping to surprise the enemy in a last-minute desperate attempt to save his own life, he felt his heart pounding wildly out of control.

As the enemy cautiously moved forward to enter the cave, he came upon the spider's web, which by now was completely strung across the opening. He backed away and called out to a comrade, "There can't be anyone in here. They would have had to break this spider's web to enter the cave. Let's move on."

Years later, this young man, who made good his promise by becoming a preacher and evangelist, wrote about that ordeal. What he observed has stood by me in times of trouble, especially during those times when everything seemed impossible.

He wrote: "Where God is, a spider's web is as a stone wall. Where God is not, a stone wall is as a spider's web."

Author unknown



*Smile and let everyone know that today
You're a lot stronger than you were yesterday.*

Answers to last week's Who's who in the Bible?

1	Eve	11	Ezekiel
2	Shem, Ham and Japheth	12	Luke
3	Abram (Abraham)	13	Mark
4	Esau and Jacob	14	James and John
5	Miriam	15	Lazarus
6	Joshua	16	Cleopas
7	Job	17	Saul became Paul
8	Ruth	18	Peter
9	Saul	19	Onesimus
10	Jezebel	20	Lydia

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ – HOW MANY?

Each answer is a number

Thanks to Sue and Adrian

1.	Dalmatians	
2.	Macbeth's witches	
3.	Chalky sisters by the English Channel	
4.	The chancellor's number	
5.	Pennies in a florin	
6.	Years to a Sapphire Anniversary	
7.	Number of the <i>Love Bug</i>	
8.	Member Countries of the EU	
9.	The towns of the Potteries	
10.	Sisters in the novel <i>Little Women</i>	
11.	Yards in a mile	
12.	Zeros in a trillion	
13.	Height above sea level of Beacon hill (local) in metres	
14.	Degrees in a right angle	
15.	Books in the Old Testament	
16.	Famous route- also known as the Main Street of USA	
17.	The length of Queen Victoria's reign in years	
18.	Playing cards in a pack with no jokers	
19.	The highest number in the National Lottery	
20.	Letters in the New Testament	



An exercise for people who are out of shape: Begin with a five-pound potato bag in each hand. Extend your arms straight out from your sides, hold them there for a full minute, and then relax. After a few weeks, move up to ten-pound potato bags. Then try 50-pound potato bags, and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-pound potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. Once you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

Our 6-year-old son celebrated his birthday on crutches, so he couldn't carry the cupcakes into school without help. I asked our 10-year-old, Noah, to help his brother carry them in. "I could," he said, "but I'd prefer not to." Spotting a teaching moment, my husband asked Noah, "What would Jesus do?" Noah answered, "Jesus would heal him so he could carry his own cupcakes."

A priest buys a lawn mower at a yard sale. Back home, he pulls on the starter rope a few times with no results. He storms back to the yard sale and tells the previous owner, "I can't get the mower to start!" "That's because you have to curse to get it started," says the man. "I'm a man of the cloth. I don't even remember how to curse." "You keep pulling on that rope, and it'll come back to you."

A Christian guy named Bill saw an ad online for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out. The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. Just say 'Praise the Lord!' to make him go and 'Amen!' to make him stop." Bill got on the horse and said, "Praise the Lord!" Sure enough, the horse started to walk. "Praise the Lord!" he said again, and the horse began to trot. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop. Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn't notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over. Bill shouted "AMEN!" at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff. Relieved, Bill said, "Phew! Praise the Lord!"