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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

Week 18

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 19th JULY 2020



This week we continue to pray for Soo and Ian, for Soo's nephew Toby and for the residents and staff of Pingle Nook. We remember all who need our prayers at this challenging time.

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

RE-OPENING OF CHURCHES

Although the Government has now said that churches can re-open for worship the way forward is long and complicated – a Circuit consultation took place via Zoom to discuss this. There are numerous documents and risk assessments to be filled in and then they have to be sent round to all Church Council members for approval but the overall safety and health of our fellowship is paramount to any decisions.

LADIES CIRCLE

Ladies Circle recently sent a cheque for £900 to Macmillan Cancer Support and have received a lovely letter of thanks back. As most people know Ladies Circle choose a charity every year that they support by fundraising and since it's beginning in 1964 have raised thousands of pounds for various local and national charities. This year we chose Macmillan mainly because Abby, the daughter of one of members, was diagnosed and began treatment - thankfully, she is now doing well although, of course, is still shielding.

Part of the letter is re-produced below:

"We can't say thank you enough: Thank you to everyone at Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church Ladies Circle for your wonderful donation of £900 to Macmillan Cancer Support. Your generosity and support will allow us to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can, providing physical, financial and emotional support."

How you're helping: At Macmillan, we understand that cancer can impact a person's whole life – health, money, family, work, everything. We can help people with managing symptoms and offer advice and benefits for things like keeping the cost of heating down during treatment. We can also provide training for employers to support people back to work. With your support, people get the energy and inspiration to feel more like themselves. Thank you once again for being a part of Team Macmillan."

Abby, Diane and the family thank everyone for prayers and good wishes and for the tremendous support at the various fund-raising events.

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

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!

SPECIAL ZOOM CELEBRATION MEETING

You are invited to the "Young People Celebration Service" via Zoom on Sunday 9th August at 4.00 pm to celebrate the work of the Young Leaders' Scheme and Youth Work in the Northampton District – please see the attached PDF for full details.

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



FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE

Original Materials by Rev Philip Wagstaff

Today's Reading from the New Testament

Romans 8:12-25 New International Version (NIV)

¹²Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation - but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba Father." ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. ¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation

has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 13 v 24 – 30, 36 – 43

Matthew 13:24-30 New International Version (NIV)

The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' ²⁸ "'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'" ²⁹ "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time, I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Matthew 13:36-43 New International Version (NIV)

The Parable of the Weeds Explained

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰ "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

TIME TO REFLECT

Jesus often used the natural world as a means of helping his disciples explore the Kingdom of God. In today's Gospel reading Jesus gives us one of the parables of the Kingdom which tells us about the way that plants grow. Here both the good crop and the weeds which are planted later begin to grow; as they grow, they merge together.

Jesus knew about the impact of good and evil which was to find its full force as he walked the way of the cross. He knew about human nature. He knew that goodness, truth and justice are in the world but oppression, injustice and conflict are there also. Just like the plant and the weeds which grow together in this parable, so the complexity of human experience both good and bad exist alongside one another.

The crop and the weeds grow together as do good and evil and so does opportunity and oppression, hope and despair, light and darkness. It is only when the harvest is brought in that the weeds and the crop can be separated. Here is a parable of the end times, but it was also a parable of the hope of the Kingdom which means that forgiveness is always offered and when accepted has a transformational impact on the way that life can be lived and hope is shared.

What though might this mean for us today? We live in an imperfect world, where human beings do the best of things and the worst of things. Jesus knew that, finding the best when he took the smallest offering of 5 loaves and 2 fish which fed the crowd of well over 5000 people and yet finding the worst in a crowd crying, 'Crucify'.

Paul, in our reading from his letter to the Romans, tells us that the whole creation eagerly awaits redemption. Here is the deeper hope, a moment when all may find redemption offered through the cross and the renewal that it brings. After all, as Jesus shows us, there is hope for all in what God has done and in what God is doing. May that hope be seen in our response to the world as we discover and share God's love which continues to bring light into the darkness of our mixed up, imperfect world.

The parable tells us that the weeds and the good crop grow together;

Can good and evil ever be untangled in this world?

What challenge does this present to our living as God's faithful people in the world today?

We turn to you Lord God, all embracing and all caring, with our thoughts and prayers for ourselves and our world. You created the world and everything in it - we believe that you care for it today as much as in the beginning. Care for all people – all situations

We confess that often we turned our backs on those in need, shrugging our shoulders and leaving everything to some-one else. We pray, especially in this time, with so much confusion and distress that we may be led to a deeper sense of caring and sharing for our neighbours; for those far away; for refugees who have no place to be safe; for the hungry and for the bereaved.

We pray that your love shown to us in Jesus will fill our lives and give us the energy to do what we can in sharing and in prayer to bring comfort to others. 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

10.45 am Service on Trinity Church Centre Facebook page led by Rev Andrew Lomax

Sunday 26th July – Liz and Rob Newton tbc

Sunday 2nd August – Rev Andrew Lomax

Radio and Television Worship: Radio 4 - 8.10 am - Father Michael Hall leads the service from the Catholic Diocese of Leeds. 'A Word for All Seasons', to reflect on the way that 'the God who speaks to us meets us in all the challenging circumstances of our lives.'

Songs of Praise on BBC 1 at 1.15 pm - The Rev Kate Bottley finds out about the vicars of Eyam, Derbyshire, who initiated the lockdown 355 years ago to protect the rest of northern England from the bubonic plague.

CAN YOU WORK THIS OUT?

One day a father went to his three sons and told them that he would die soon and he needed to decide which one of them to give his property to. He decided to give them all a test. He said "Go to the market my sons and purchase something that is large enough to fill my bedroom, but small enough to fit in your pocket. From this I will decide who of you is the wisest and worthy enough to inherit my land"



So, they all went to the market and bought something that they thought would fill the room, yet was still small enough that they could fit into their pockets. Each son came back with a different item. The father told his sons to come into his bedroom one at a time and try to fill up his bedroom with whatever they had purchased.

The first son came in and put some pieces of cloth that he had bought and laid them end to end across the room, but it barely covered any of the floor. Then the second son came in and laid some hay, that he had purchased, on the floor but there was only enough to cover half of the floor. The third son came in and showed his father what he had purchase and how it could fill the entire room yet still fit into his pocket. The father replied "You are truly the wisest of all and you shall receive my property."

What was it that the son had showed to his father?

Answer on Page 7

Adrian was asked to write a reflection for Loughborough Trinity Bulletin and a shortened version appeared in that - below is the full version.



In the early 70's a new folk hymn by the English writer Sydney Carter first appeared in collections. "One more step along the world" journeyed our Christian faith as we seek to travel "with you" The words remind us that that as we travel though the bad and good, we are kept on the right way; that when the world is rough, we will be given courage; and that there are many things to learn as we turn the corners of the world. The lack of any reference by name to Jesus or God brought many critics but the hymn became a firm favourite in primary schools and with many Christians.

The last 4 months has been a tremendous journey for all of us. We think back to what was normal then, the old, and continue to wonder what will be normal, the new, in the weeks, months and possibly years ahead.

At Barrow upon Soar Methodist in March we were looking forward to using our new worship area. We were fortunate that we were able to hold our first morning service, and in the afternoon our first Fellowship and Food, before everything was locked down. We were left without our rededication celebration in May and are left wondering when we will be able to fully use our new worship area. We are waiting to travel from the old to the new. In the meantime, we are grateful for the opportunity to share in worship each Sunday morning from Logos House and others via Facebook.

Throughout all these months I am sure we must all have passages of scripture which bring us hope and comfort. One passage which I often recall is from Paul's letter to the Romans. At the end of chapter 8 he writes of God's love for us and concludes "nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." (v39). That is a wonderful assurance from a man who endured so much for his faith in Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.

As we travel from the old to the new, I pray that we may all know that love which God has for each of us and live in the assurance that nothing can separate us from that love.

Adrian Speight

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

I remember as a child being taken to a place the family called Bluebell Wood (somewhere in Staffordshire). It only happened when my parents hired a car for a long weekend or maybe a week's holiday.

The wood was usually filled with Bluebells and back in the late 50's/early 60's you could gather armfuls of the beautiful flowers, take them home and fill large vases full. The room/s would be filled with the fragrance of the newly gathered flowers. It is a wonderful memory I have of a family activity, sunny days and the innocence of early childhood.



Nowadays we realise wild flowers should be left in their environment for others to enjoy. Nature has a way of showing her beauty in the most spectacular ways.

Fields and woods full of colour from Spring all the way through Autumn. In Winter the trees and hedgerows often sparkle with ice and snow, draped with spider webs glistening in the weakened sunlight.

Underneath it all we see the hand of God at work, the colour, design and symmetry there for all to admire and appreciate. Take the time this season to really see what God has created and put into the world, stop and really look and admire. Don't forget though to leave it for others to enjoy too.

Rev John Pugh



Answers to last week's General Knowledge quiz

1	4 inches	11	Piano
2	Bonnie Langford	12	Georgia

3	He was a clown	13	Hare
4	St Matthew	14	St Stephen
5	1969	15	Lizard
6	Eeyore	16	Cigarette Cards
7	John Williams	17	Romania
8	The Gaffer	18	Mars
9	Leicestershire	19	Britannia
10	Bob Champion	20	The Pequod

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

WHO'S WHO??

All answers are names of people in the Bible

Thanks to Sue Speight

1	Cockneys use the names of this couple to express disbelief.	
2	He built a Zoo boat	
3	In Genesis, a woman who laughed when strangers told her husband she would bear him a son.	
4	Brother of Miriam and Aaron who led the Israelites to the Promised Land.	
5	She helped the spies, sent by Joshua, to escape from Jericho.	
6	He was a shepherd boy and a musician....and killed a giant with a stone.	
7	She was the mother of Samuel and dedicated him to the Temple.	
8	A book in the Old Testament which tells her story of becoming the wife of King Xerxes.	
9	The Prophet who wrote the Prince of Peace and the Suffering Servant passages.	
10	He was thrown overboard and swallowed by a cetacean.	
11	Mother of John the Baptist and relative of Mary	
12	Writer of the Gospel that starts with the ancestry of Jesus	
13	He tells the story of Jesus coming to the Upper Room after his resurrection.	
14	Who were the two pensioners who met Mary and Joseph in the Temple with baby Jesus?	
15	Who were the sisters that Jesus visited in Bethany?	
16	Who came to Jesus by night and was told he "must be born again"?	
17	Which tax collector climbed a tree to see Jesus?	
18	Which disciple could not believe until he could see and touch Jesus?	
19	The blind man by the roadside who called out to Jesus and his sight was immediately renewed.	
20	One-time companion of Paul, who refers to him in a letter as "my dear son".	

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer:

"Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail."



Removing an appendix is called an appendectomy, and removing tonsils is called a tonsillectomy. What is it called when they remove a growth from your head?

A haircut!

What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

Your mother ate us out of house and home.

There are two guys who have been lost in the desert for weeks, and they're at death's door. As they stumble on, hoping for salvation in the form of an oasis or something similar, they suddenly spy, through the heat haze, a small tree off in the distance. As they get closer, they can see that the tree is draped with rasher upon rasher of bacon. There's smoked bacon, crispy bacon, life-giving juicy nearly-raw bacon, all sorts. And the smell... oh, the glorious smell!" "Look Pepe," says the first man. "It's a bacon tree!"

"You're right!" says Pepe, "We're saved!" Pepe doesn't wait another second. He runs up to the tree salivating at the prospect of food. But just as he gets to within five feet of the tree, there's the sound of machine gun fire, and he is shot down in a hail of bullets. His friend quickly drops down on the sand, and calls across to the dying Pepe, "Pepe!! Pepe!! What on earth happened?"

And with his dying breath Pepe calls back, "Ugh, run, run!! It's not a Bacon Tree after all..."

"...it's a ham bush!"

Who is the greatest baby-sitter mentioned in the Bible?

David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

ANSWER TO FATHER'S TEST FOR HIS SONS

The son had shown his father a match.

Whenever he lit the match, it filled the entire room with light, yet it was still small enough to fit into his pocket.