



follow us on Twitter @BarrowMethsChurch



Find us on  
Facebook

[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 20



### NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST 2020

This week we continue to pray for Soo and Ian, for Soo's nephew Toby and for Glenda and the residents and staff of Pingle Nook and all those coming out of shielding this weekend.

#### NEWS FROM THE PEWS!



Love and best wishes to Pauline Ranson who celebrated her birthday on Thursday.

Soo's nephew, Toby is now doing well and going ahead with wedding plans for September after which he and his new bride will return to the Mission field.

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.

#### 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 12<sup>th</sup> September and we understand that Heritage Open Days will run from 11<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk)**




---

## FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE

Rev Dalwyn R Attwell

**Today's Reading from the Old Testament:** Genesis 32:22-31

### Jacob wrestles with God

<sup>22</sup> That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. <sup>24</sup> So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. <sup>26</sup> Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup> The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. <sup>28</sup> Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel,<sup>[a]</sup> because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." <sup>29</sup> Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel,<sup>[a]</sup> saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." <sup>31</sup> The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel,<sup>[a]</sup> and he was limping because of his hip.

### TIME TO REFLECT

An enduring cliché from the world of movies is the portrayal of the happy ending in spaghetti-western movies, with the hero walking off into the sunset satisfied that order has been restored and everyone can now live in peace and harmony.

This was brilliantly parodied by John Sullivan in the *Only Fools and Horses* Christmas Special (1996) when the Trotters finally become millionaires: the episode ends with Del-Boy, Rodney and Uncle Albert walking off into the horizon as the sun sets. At the time, it was thought that this would be the final episode of the long-running and popular comedy, but as it turned out, the show not only returned, but so did the characters' troubles. Their moment in the sun had turned out to be temporary and Sullivan captured the experience of many of us, that there are rarely easy answers to life's struggles.

Today's Old Testament reading ends, not with Jacob walking towards the sunset but towards the rising sun. It is not the story of a hard day's work successfully completed, but of a night-time of wrestling that resolves some questions but leaves others still open. His opponent refuses to offer him easy answers so whilst there is blessing for Jacob, things are not neatly tied up.

Jacob, plans to spend the night alone preparing for his uncomfortable reunion with his brother, Esau. Given their history, we might expect that he was always going to have a disturbed night. Choices from long ago are still having an impact on his life and his family's. After years of ducking and diving, Jacob seems to have come close to the end of his own resourcefulness but there is still something that wants to turn events to his advantage.

Into this scene walks the unexpected stranger. Later Jacob understands that he had been joined by God as he struggled with his past. What follows shows us that Jacob is not entirely ready to give up the fight and his mysterious opponent, seeing that Jacob is willing to fight to the end, delivers a decisive blow. It is at this point

of vulnerability that Jacob opens up to a moment of unvarnished self-awareness and unexpected God-awareness.

Jacob demands a neat and tidy resolution which his companion refuses to give to him. Instead, from the struggle, Jacob is offered the opportunity of a new beginning. A new name, a new blessing (a blessing of his own and not one stolen from Esau) and a new insight to God's presence and God's nature of love. So, for Jacob, there, with the rising sun, comes hope to follow a night of uncertain and painful struggle. But there is challenge too: he has to reconcile himself to the fact that some of the scars and wounds of a lifetime of wrestling will travel with him into the new day.

God has confronted him with his past and offered him a better future but his history will not be rewritten. He is offered a future shaped by God's faithful provision (rather than his own manipulative gains) and reconciliation (rather than the uncertainty of unresolved conflict). He will limp towards the future less certain of his own strength and more aware of God's presence.

The fantasy of walking off into the sunset is appealing because we would all like neat endings. Sometimes though, God challenges us to embrace new beginnings whilst carrying the memory of our tangled past. Facing up to our past in order to be ready for God's future may involve some painful wrestling with uncomfortable truths, but in the struggle, we can find God's presence and God's blessing. Our story, God's story has not ended yet. May you see God's face and live.

---

## 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

#### Radio and Television Worship

Radio 4 8.10 am - Rev Dr Isabelle Hamley, Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury charts her walk with God and with Covid 19.

Songs of Praise on BBC 1 at 1.15 pm - Aled Jones visits London's Olympic Stadium to explore the links between Christianity and sport.



## EVERYTHING CHANGES

Over the last few weeks, the opening lines of a hymn have been going through my mind – *"Everything changes, but God changes not!"*

After a little research I realised that this must have been one of those hymns imprinted on my mind from primary school days, as the words were in *Songs of Praise*, that blue hymn book so familiar in schools in the 50's and 60's.

We all know that things in our day to day lives have changed as a result of Covid-19, which is going to be with us for a long time. We know that we are now required to wear masks to go into shops and other places where we cannot keep a distance from others. We are told that, when we can join together again for worship, we cannot shake hands and hug one another, we are not allowed to sing, there will be no refreshments, and no hanging around! Things are and will be very different for some time to come in all aspects of our lives.

However, the truth of those words remains. Everything is changing, everyday lives, travel, worship, etc. In the letter to the Hebrews the writer (not Paul this time) reminds the readers that *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."* (Hebrews 13:8) The letter was written to a group of Christians who, faced with increasing opposition and difficulties in their lives, were in danger of losing their faith. The whole letter encourages faith by reminding that Jesus Christ is the true and final revelation of God. The letter concludes by urging endurance through all the things the people were facing. Surely these are words of encouragement to us today!

Hebrews 13 starts: *Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters.* (v1) and continues... *For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."* (v5).

With that thought planted in the mind the writer adds that we can say with confidence *"The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"* (v6)

As we continue to live through the effects of the pandemic, with all the uncertainties about the future, with the hope of vaccines and better times ahead, I pray that we may keep faith and encourage one another, remembering that

Everything changes,  
But God changes not;  
The power never changes  
That lies in His thought:

Splendours three, from God proceeding,  
May we ever love them true,  
Goodness, Truth, and Beauty heeding  
Every day, in all we do.

(I believe the author is Percy Dearmer who was one of the editors of Songs of Praise hymn book in 1931.)

Adrian Speight

## HOLIDAY IN SPAIN? Read Genesis 8: 6-12

The flood still covered the earth. Noah believed the waters would subside. The ark would land. He and his family and all the animals could resume normal life again. He sent out a dove. The dove's return told him no land yet; no getting back to normal just yet.



Like the flood, Covid 19 has covered the earth. But we hope it will subside. Many people have recently booked holidays in Spain because the government told them the virus had subsided there. But last weekend we were told that Covid 19 cases had risen again on mainland Spain. Now, if you go for a Spanish holiday, you'll have to spend 14 days in quarantine here on return.

Just when we think the Covid flood is subsiding so that we can land in something like normal again, the rain of infection starts again. Governments are mostly doing the right things to diminish the disease – instructing us to wear masks in shops and so on. But the virus keeps bouncing back. Will we ever be able to stand on firm ground again? The ultimate answer is, of course a vaccine.

So, this is the time to thank God for all the people who are working hard and skilfully, in this and other countries, to produce a vaccine that works for all. Noah and company accepted the restrictions of life locked down on board the ark. He trusted that one day he would find dry land, that the life he had known, or something like it, would begin again. Is significant, do you think that the bird he sent out to search for land was a dove – now a universal symbol of peace? Perhaps Noah was praying that, with the falling of the flood and the reappearance of land washed clean, peace would be the first to find a home and settle in God's renewed creation.



Noah would, I imagine, have been very interested if someone had told him that the ultimate bringer of peace on earth would be a person of faith like him, but faith bigger than his, a faith big enough to carry us all through the flood, Jesus says: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" John: 14:27)

Paul Johns - With thanks to Keyworth Methodist Church Keeping Connection 20

\*\*\*\*\*

*Not all of us can do great things  
But we can do small things with great love*

*Mother Teresa*



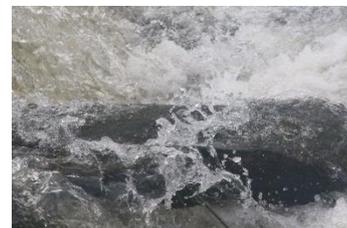
Rev John Pugh writes:

I must admit I have a love of puns, for example what hymn is brought to mind by the photo? The first that pops into my mind is "What a (water) friend we have in Jesus". I am certain that you could well think of others! Of course, sometimes you just have to imagine a different accent or even a slurring of words to fit the situation.

Hymn singing is something that Free Church folk have a reputation for, especially those of us who are Methodist by tradition or persuasion. I know that many are bemoaning the fact that even when we might get back together for worship hymn singing is being discouraged for the moment. I suppose we carry the words of John Wesley close to our hearts "Sing lustily".

At the moment we sing God's praises in our homes, personally I sing a full verse of "And can it be" (to Sagina) each time I wash my hands! It certainly occupies the suggested time of 20 seconds+ for hand washing. Maybe one day we'll be able to sing together again in worship.

I look back to conversations I had during teenager years and later, particularly during Ministerial training at Queen's College, Birmingham where conversations were littered with puns and other plays on words. The scriptures certainly contain plays on words within each part of the Bible, however some of these are only noticeable in the Greek, Hebrew or Latin. Until we can sing together again - sing to the glory of God in your own homes, during your walks in the countryside, or maybe seek some other puns on a theme. Any suggestions?



**FAITH**  
is like Wi-Fi,  
it's invisible but  
it has the power  
to connect you to  
what you need.

### Answers to last week's General Knowledge quiz

1	Bone cutting or amputations	11	Turkey
2	Magnumi	12	Central Line
3	Australia African	13	Joanna Lumley
4	Yo, ho, ho and a bottle of rum	14	Gone with the Wind
5	Red, Red Wine	15	Lily
6	Tia Maria	16	Grouse
7	Only Fools and Horses	17	Shakespeare
8	Eddie	18	Black Russian
9	Edinburgh	19	Tomato
10	Yawning	20	Belfast

### THIS WEEK'S QUIZ - WHO'S WHO IN THE BIBLE

Thanks to Sue and Adrian

1	Who gave the forbidden fruit to Adam?	
2	Can you name the three sons of Noah?	
3	He left his home in Haran and was guided by God to the land promised to his descendants.	
4	Twin sons of Isaac and Rebecca.	
5	Sister to Moses who hid him in the bull rushes.	
6	Successor to Moses who fought the battle of Jericho.	
7	Who was (perhaps) the unluckiest man in the Old Testament but still believed in God?	
8	She travelled with Naomi her mother in law to Bethlehem.	
9	He was the first King of Israel.	
10	The wife of King Ahab, a wicked and shameless woman	
11	Which prophet had a vision of dry bones?	
12	Gospel writer who addressed it and the Acts of the Apostles to Theophilus	
13	His gospel is thought to have been the first to be written and is the shortest.	
14	More twin brothers – fishermen called by Jesus to be Fishers of Men.	
15	The brother of Mary and Martha who lived at Bethany	
16	Who, with his friend, met Jesus on the road to Emmaus?	
17	Who was on the road to Damascus when he heard Jesus speaking to him?	
18	On the day of Pentecost who stood up and addressed the people?	
19	In a short letter to Philemon, Paul asks that this person should be treated well.	
20	An influential woman of the church at Philippi, a seller of purple	

After a Presbyterian preached a sermon on spiritual gifts, he was greeted at the door by a lady who said, Reverend, I believe I have the gift of criticism." He looked at her and asked, "Remember the person in Jesus' parable who had the one talent? Do you recall what he did with it?" "Yes" replied the lady, "he went out and buried it." With a smile, the Presbyterian suggested, "Go thou, and do likewise!"



So, I was on this boat and all these bits of lamb came floating past. I thought, ooh, it's getting choppy.

Whenever I get into bed, I always think of France, because my bedsprings go "Dordogne"

Just a quick word of warning: do NOT let supermarket staff take your temperature by scanning your forehead, it actually erases your memory. I went into Tesco for lettuce, tomatoes and cucumber and ended up buying beer and wine instead!