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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

Website: www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

10.00 am until 2.00 pm

Email: loughboroughmethodist@gmail.com

BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

Week 26

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2020

Weekly Diary

Monday 14 th September	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup return and meet in the Rear Hall
Tuesday 15 th September	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Playgroup
Wednesday 16 th September	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Playgroup
Thursday 17 th September	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Playgroup
Friday 18 th September	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Playgroup



We pray for all our church members and friends and for all those known to us, family, friends and neighbours, who are in need of our prayers at this time.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The investigations into re-opening are still going on and we await directives from Methodist Church UK with regard to the latest Government rulings on social group meeting numbers and what it might mean to us. Tomorrow should have seen us hosting the Barrow upon Soar Village Show but, of course, we had to cancel it this year so look forward to a bigger and better show in 2021.

SCAMS WARNING

At the end of this newsletter you will find a letter from Charnwood Borough Council "Staying safe from Covid 19 scams". It gives invaluable advice on how to recognise a scam in whatever form it might appear. Please read and take care!

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

NCH COLLECTING BOXES

As I was unable to collect boxes in July, as usual, I would like to empty your NCH Collecting boxes during the next two weeks so that money can be paid into the bank on Tuesday 22nd September. If you are unable to deliver your box to my home, I will arrange for it to be picked up from you.

Any difficulty please ring 01509 412467 and speak to me. Many thanks – Joan Thursby

CHURCH INCOME WHILE SERVICES ARE SUSPENDED

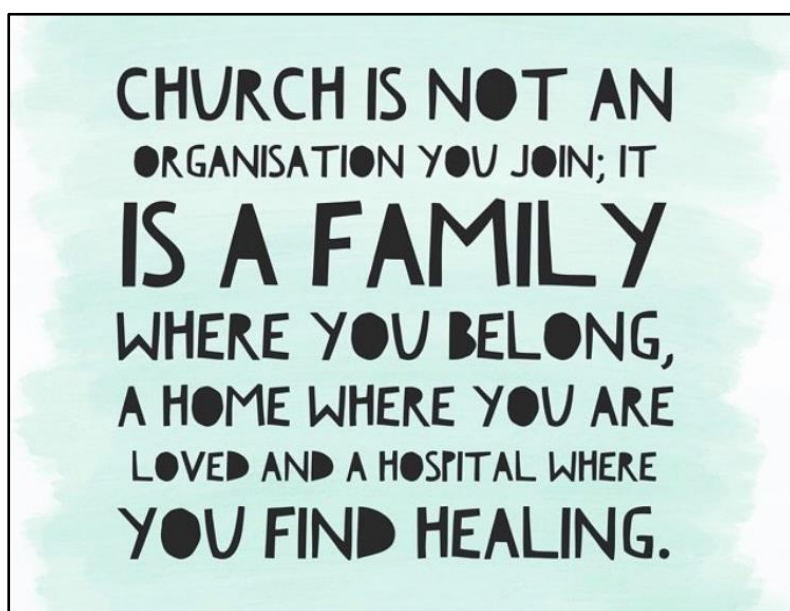
Thank you to everyone who has set up standing orders at their bank, or sent their weekly contributions to my address.

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

Thanks to all the ladies who are helping to “man” the Ride and Stride Registration desk at our entrance doors tomorrow (Saturday). Because of Covid 19 restrictions we can't provide drinks to those taking part and have sanitiser etc and Covid precautions in hand. Peter is going to walk around the churches in Loughborough and the villages so if you haven't already sponsored him, I am sure he would welcome your contribution. 413085 – thanks. All sponsored money raised is shared between our own Church and the Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust who made us a grant towards our refurbishment.

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



FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE

Today's Reading from the Old Testament

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Today's Gospel Reading:

Matt 18:21-35 - The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. [a]

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold^[a] was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Original Materials by Linda Ashworth

TIME TO REFLECT

Think about Unlimited forgiveness, - how easy is it to forgive, - can we move on from the hurt we feel?

In our gospel reading Peter wanted to know what he must do about forgiveness. We may find the word 'sorry', is easily said, often used and sometimes it is not really meant.

Peter thought he was being very generous by saying that a person should forgive 7 times. The number seven was thought to be the perfect number. Jesus answers Peter that this is not enough, and even seventy times seven would not be enough. Seventy times seven at that time was thought to be an infinite number.

What Jesus is guiding Peter and us to understand is about forgiveness that it is not a worldly thing, but something that is at the heart of His teaching. Jesus told Peter the parable of the King and his unmerciful servants to illustrate that his followers should be willing to forgive and the consequences if they do not. In parts of the world they find it is difficult for people to forgive because their honour is at stake. When someone is hurt, they want to hurt back. They want revenge for what has happened, but that is an endless route.

Revenge or retaliation is the way of the world and Jesus shows us that forgiveness starts from God. By accepting His forgiveness, we are transformed in His likeness so that we too should offer forgiveness to others in the same way.

To forgive someone when you have been hurt, or had your life affected is not easy. During this time of lock down, people will have been hurt, disappointed, and maybe angered by neighbours or people taking more food than they need. We need to let go of those feelings and embrace God's love. It is said that when a victim forgives, it stops the bitterness hardening their heart and ruining their life, that by forgiving, a person is changed from being the victim into a survivor. The generosity of what the victim has done may touch the life of the offender, to the extent that in some cases; the act of forgiveness, has changed their ways and in some cases made them friends. Some people have been surprised by their neighbour's help during the lock down, neighbours they have never spoken to.

In the reading from Genesis we heard how Joseph's brothers were afraid. They were afraid of what Joseph would do to them. When they saw Joseph, they fell on their knees and said they were his slaves. Joseph is disturbed by their sadness and says the most amazing thing; "God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives". By this statement Joseph showed that he had not allowed his hurt to corrupt him, he had taken his suffering and seen that through it God had led him to help others. Had he stayed with his brothers, Joseph would not have become such an important person, and would not have been able to help thousands of people from starving. God asks us to let go, and to lay all our burdens at His feet, this includes the hurt and suffering that we have received. By forgiving we are showing others God's love.

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WALKING THROUGH LIFE

An unusual thing happened to me a few years ago. I spoke casually with a woman who served tables at a restaurant I frequented. We knew each other by first name only, but usually chatted for a few minutes each time I dined there.

One day, she asked me, "Do you have a son about eight years old?" "What has he done?" I thought. I nodded yes. She pressed on. "Does he play soccer?"

When I said that he did, she asked if he played in a game the previous week at a particular field. Again, I answered, "Yes." "I thought so," she smiled. "I saw him and thought he must be your son."

Since there were tens of thousands of young boys in the city, I was amazed and exclaimed, "I didn't know he looked that much like me!" "Oh, I didn't see his face," she said smiling as if she were keeping a secret.

"Then how did you know he was my son?" Now I was puzzled. "I was just sitting in the car, and I saw a little boy in a baseball cap walking across the field to join his team. He walks like you."

Walks like me? Now I was curious. How do I walk? Since I'm doing the walking, I don't notice how I look to others. Maybe I could watch him amble around to get an idea.

That said, how we walk down a street and how we walk through life are very different things. Perhaps I can't help how I walk down a street, but I want to be intentional about how I walk through life.

Through life, I want to walk gently. I want to treat all of life – the earth and its people – with reverence. I want to remove my shoes in the presence of holy ground. As much as possible, I want to walk in peace.

I want to walk lightly, even joyfully, through whatever days I am given. I want to laugh easily. I want to step carefully in and out of people's lives and relationships. I don't want to tread any heavier than necessary.

And throughout life, I think I would like to walk with more humility and less anger, more love and less fear. I want to walk confidently, but without arrogance. I want to walk in deep appreciation. I want to be genuinely thankful for life's extravagant, yet simple, gifts – a star-splattered night sky or a hot drink on an ice-cold day.

If life is a journey, then how I make that journey is important. How I walk through life.

But still I wonder how I look when I walk down a street.

Steve Goodier

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 from Trinity Methodist Church Facebook page led by Rev Andrew Lomax
Preacher: Rev Helen Cameron, Chairman of the Northampton Methodist District

Colin Lamb leads worship at Trinity Methodist Church, Loughborough at 10.45 am

REV JOHN PUGH WRITES:

It's quite amazing what you can find and where.

The attached photos are found in a community park in the village where I live at present, Mountsorrel in Leicestershire. Over several thousand years men have strived to leave a memory of their existence for the generations that followed. I suppose the thought that they'd be forgotten was anathema to many. From early days of community many people took pride in their ancestors, some cultures being so proud they could sound out the previous



generations through their paternal line. Time and again I have read "son of ... who was the son of...etc" echoes here of the opening chapter of Matthew's Gospel.

I reckon the interest folk have in genealogy has its roots in this memory of the deep past. As I get older, I find myself wondering about my forebears, where were they from, what did they do? After some general history enquiries, I worked out my family came to the West Midlands as part of the "Taffia" during the Industrial Revolution. Many of the wider family have Welsh names, one of my favourite Great-Uncles known as Jeff was really named Emiah Jones.



Many of want to be remembered in some way after we leave this life. Remembered for something amazing or courageous or even something that changed people's lives for the good. I remember some of my teachers, as some of you doubtlessly remember yours. Their mannerisms, their smile, the phrases they used, I look back at my old school Facebook sites and share with other ex-pupils the same sort of memories.

What do we want to be remembered for? As a Christian I want to be remembered for what I shared about my faith that hopefully changed people's lives. Part of me wants to be remembered for my attempts at leading school assemblies helped (or hindered) by my puppet friends. Will you be remembered with love? Will you remember what Christ has done for you?

Answers to last week's quiz - Who said this?

1	Juliet to Romeo	11	Basil Brush
2	Margaret Thatcher	12	Oliver Twist
3	Zebedee	13	Martin Luther King
4	King Henry V	14	Sir Winston Churchill
5	Barbara Woodhouse	15	Michael Fish
6	Queen Elizabeth II	16	Ronnie Barker (The Two Ronnies)
7	Noel Edmunds	17	Bradley Walsh
8	Jane Eyre	18	Sir David Attenborough
9	King Richard III	19	Forrest Gump (quoting Mrs Gump)
10	Tommy Trinder	20	Queen Elizabeth I

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ – CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Thanks again to Sue and Adrian

1	How is the easiest way to distinguish an Asian Elephant from an African?	
2	Which is the largest rodent in the world?	
3	Lions, jaguars, tigers, cheetahs and leopards are often referred to as Big?	
4	What is the largest bird of prey you might see in Britain?	
5	Orca is the alternative name of which sea creature?	
6	Which species of 3(above) inhabits high areas of northern Asia.? The colour of its coat gives a clue to one its names.	

7	In which island group would you find giant tortoise and marine iguana- and other species which are endangered? (not least by tourism)	
8	Which pachyderm's name means Horn-nose?	
9	Squids and Octopus are classified as Cephalopods..... what does this mean?	
10	Macaroni, King, and Rock-hopper are species of which flightless bird?	
11	Which bird can spend the summer off our coastthen circumnavigate the world, before returning for the next breeding season?	
12	Why are you advised to sing or chatter when walking in the woods in many forested parts of (eg) North America?	
13	Where do the Rutland Water Ospreys migrate to?	
14	What do baleen Whales such as Blue, Humpback and Minke, eat	
15	A winter display of sometimes thousands of which common bird is called a Murmuration?	
16	The name of which ape means 'Old Man of the forest'?	
17	What animal was 'Ratty' in The Wind in the Willows?	
18	With an average height of around 5 metres; which is the tallest land animal in the world?	
19	Which animal appears on the flag of Sri Lanka and many other countries?	
20	Some joker once quipped that this bird's beak can hold more than its belly can! They can be white or Grey.	

You ARE going to love this!!



A frog goes into a bank and approaches the cashier. He can see from her nameplate that her name is Patty Whack.

"Miss Whack, I'd like to get a £30,000 loan to take a holiday."

Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it's OK, he knows the bank manager.

Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral.

The frog says, "Sure, I have this," and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed.

Very confused, Patty explains that she will have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into a back office.

She finds the manager and says, "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow £30,000, and he wants to use this as collateral." She holds up the tiny pink elephant.

"I mean, what in the world is this?"



The bank manager looks back at her and says, "It's a knickknack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."

How many sang that last bit??

AND MORE CORNY JOKES!

Why did the baby strawberry cry?
His parents were in a jam.

What did one toilet say to another?
You look flushed.

Why wouldn't the shrimp share his treasure?
He's a little shellfish.

What lights up a soccer stadium?
A soccer match.

Did you hear about the kidnapping at school?
It's fine now, she woke up.

Which school subject was the witch's favourite?
Spelling!

How do vampires start letters?
Tomb it may concern...

What has ears but can't hear?
A cornfield!

Why did the teddy bear say no to dessert?
Because she was stuffed?

STAYING SAFE FROM COVID 19 SCAMS



As people worry about their health, families and finances during the Covid-19 pandemic, unscrupulous criminals are taking full advantage of these fears and are preying on members of the public.

As scams that have been around for a while are 'updated' to exploit this situation, Leicestershire Trading Standards are warning residents to remain vigilant. The following are just a few of the various scams currently circulating to be aware of.

Telephone scams

Beware of cold calls pretending to be from a trusted organisation – such as banks, the police, a utility provider or a computer company. Trying to obtain personal or financial information, they encourage victims to hand over card details, or trick them into revealing PIN numbers or transferring money into accounts they control.

To make their call appear genuine, fraudsters often use a tactic called 'number spoofing'. This enables them to alter the phone number they are calling from so that it matches a number victims recognise and trust. Then they ask the victim to check their handset display in an attempt to convince them it's a real call.

Some scammers also stay on the phone while the person they've contacted tries to dial out to trick them into thinking they're through to the real company. If a call wasn't expected, it's always best to hang up and find the real phone number from an actual bill or similar documentation.

Phishing emails and text message scams

'Phishing' is when criminals try to convince those they contact to click on links within a scam email or text message. These scams tend to include a link to a fake but very convincing website designed to trick victims into submitting personal information such as bank details, a password or a credit card number. Covid-19 related examples include fake texts claiming to be from official Government sources such as HMRC or 'Public Health'.

These may not be genuine and neither of these organisations would ever ask for any personal or financial details in this way, so don't be tempted to click any links. Criminals are also using the 'number spoofing' technique in this scam, which can make a message appear in a chain of texts alongside previous genuine messages from that organisation, such as the NHS Track & Trace service.

Voucher Scams

Scammers have been using supermarket branding to trick people into thinking they are being offered money off purchases during the pandemic. E-mails are sent with a link that invites the recipient to claim or apply for a voucher, but the scammers are really aiming to steal personal or financial details.

Romance Scams

Although this type of scam, also known as 'Catfishing' has been around for a long time, scammers have been taking further advantage of people's vulnerabilities and isolation during the lockdown period. Not only via dating sites and apps but also through popular social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram. As more people turn to spending their time online, fraudsters create fake profiles and take advantage of those who may be looking for love and companionship, by slowly building a relationship and gaining their victim's trust. It's not long until requests for money begin, often with a sob story.

Door-to-door scams

Is it often the elderly and most vulnerable in our communities who are targeted by criminals with cold calls on the doorstep. Scammers take their unsuspecting victims' money and may also attempt to obtain personal information that may then be passed to other fraudsters.

Recent scams include individuals turning up out of the blue with bogus offers to clean front doorsteps or driveways claiming this will kill off bacteria and help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Traders have been in local areas offering discounts to work carried out, particularly for home improvements and gardening work, stating that the discount is to help them build up their business again after being in lockdown and unable to work. These people may seem genuine, but the work is often unnecessary and substandard.

Reports have also been received of persons approaching residents stating they are from 'Money Saving Expert' and there to help them save money – they even have 'Money Saving Expert' identification badges. Money Saving Expert have confirmed that they do not cold-call and neither do they condone it.

How to stay safe and protect yourself from scams

Have you been contacted out of the blue? Unsolicited phone calls and e-mails could be a scam, but can be difficult to spot – here are some dos and don'ts to help you protect your personal and financial information:

- Don't respond to messages asking for personal or financial details

- Don't click on links or attachments in suspicious e-mails or text messages
- Do use stronger passwords and set up two-factor authentication
- Do be suspicious of cold callers asking for information or offering technical support and don't install any software, or grant remote access to your computer, as the result of a cold call
- Do challenge - genuine companies would never ask for financial information, passwords or log in details when contacting you
- Do say no to unwanted, or uninvited callers at the door
- Do be wise to rogue traders - Too good to be true offers, probably are and if something doesn't feel right, then don't agree to anything
- Do make sure your back door is closed so no one can gain entry whilst you are distracted if someone knocks on your front door
- Do put the chain on if you decide to open the door
- Do check any identification – if they are genuine, they will happily wait whilst you close the door and verify the person. Use a number from a bill or telephone directory, do not use the number on the ID card
- Do not open the door if you are not sure

If you would like to report a scam, you can get in touch with the following organisations:

Action Fraud – www.actionfraud.police.uk

Citizen's Advice Consumer Helpline - 0808 223 1133

To keep up to date with the latest scams' information and advice, you can follow the Leicestershire Trading Standards Service Facebook page: www.facebook.com/leicstradingstandards.