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## BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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

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# BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

## Week 28

### NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

#### Weekly Diary

Monday 28 September	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meet in the Rear Hall
Tuesday 29 September	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Playgroup
Wednesday 30 September	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Playgroup
Thursday 1 October	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Playgroup
Friday 2 October	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Playgroup



We pray for friends and family, for those in hospital and care homes and for all known to us who need our prayers.

#### **RESULT! RESULT! Box Collection.**

A grand amount of 577.34 was sent, this week, to Action for Children (NCH). A big **THANK YOU** on behalf of all involved in Action for Children to all collectors. I am sure the children and young people will benefit from your gifts - Joan Thursby

#### **RIDE AND STRIDE**

Thank you to everyone who helped with sponsoring and opening the church on 12th September. It was a lovely day and I visited 17 churches in the area in my 1933 Morris, covering 43 miles and raising £150 from very generous sponsors - Peter

**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

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




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## FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE

### Today's Reading from the Old Testament

Exodus 17: 1 – 7

#### Water from the Rock

**17** The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** So they quarrelled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" **3** But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" **4** Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." **5** The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. **6** I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7** And he called the place Massah<sup>[a]</sup> and Meribah<sup>[b]</sup> because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

### Today's Gospel Reading

Matthew 21: 23 – 32

#### The Authority of Jesus Questioned

**23** Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?" **24** Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. **25** John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?'" **26** But if we say, 'Of human origin!'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet." **27** So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. **28** "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' **29** "I will not," he answered, but later he changed his mind

and went. <sup>30</sup> “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you; the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

## TIME TO REFLECT

Original Materials by Rev Anne Smith

‘Is the Lord among us or not?’ This is the question behind both the Old Testament and the first part of the New Testament readings.

Is the Lord among us when we are thirsty in the Wilderness and have no water?

Is the Lord among us in the ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth?

No doubt in the last months the question ‘Is the Lord among us or not?’ has been asked as we contend with the global pandemic with all its implications not least the different ways of worship.

“Is the Lord among us or not?”

The answer of faith is **yes**. We have God's promise resounding down the generations in the words “I will be with you” and “I am with you”

Is the Lord among us when we are thirsty in the Wilderness and have no water?

Yes, the Lord provides water from the rock.

Is the Lord among us in the ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth?

Yes, the Lord is the source and strength of all they do.

God's presence does not depend upon us and how we feel. God's presence is a gift to us, born out of love for us. God's presence is promised in fire and flood (Isaiah 43:2) because we are precious in God's eyes and loved.

And ours is the call to respond as God asks us, as the father asked the sons, to work in the vineyard. That is our situation. Whether we have been aware of that challenge for many years or have newly come to faith we are called to tell of the saving love of God in word and deed.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of breeze and sunshine, bless us;  
 God of wind and rain, refresh us;  
 God of gale and hail, invigorate us;  
 God of cyclone and snow, renew us;  
 God of creation, grant new birth to all your earth,  
 in Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Weekly Online Prayer Meeting - Tuesdays at 12.45pm*

The Methodist Conference has declared 2020/2021 a year of prayer so that our Church-wide commitments to evangelism, church growth, church at the margins, and pioneering and church planting will flow from a deep, contemplative orientation to God's grace and love.

Be part of this movement of prayer as we ask the Holy Spirit to help us be a growing, evangelistic, inclusive, justice-seeking Church of gospel people.

For More information

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/year-of-prayer/>

You can now register for every week.

Videos of this event are available each week on

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/MethodistChurchinBritain/videos/>

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> Church on Trinity Methodist Church **Facebook** page  
Harvest Service led by Rev Andrew Lomax

Liz Newton leads the Harvest Festival worship at Trinity Methodist Church, Loughborough at 10.45 am

Please book you place for attendance before **5pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September. (Note this change)**  
Please contact Andy or Rachel Thorpe on 01509 239087 Or email [aandrthorpe@ntlworld.com](mailto:aandrthorpe@ntlworld.com)

BBC Radio Leicester 8.00 am – You can listen to a church service that is broadcast across all local radio stations.



## TESTING FOR GOSSIP

In ancient Greece, Socrates was reputed to hold knowledge in high esteem. One day an acquaintance met the great philosopher and said, "Do you know what I just heard about your friend?"

"Hold on a minute", Socrates replied. "Before telling me anything I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test."

"Triple filter?"

"That's right", Socrates continued. "Before you talk to me about my friend, it might be a good idea to take a moment and filter what you're going to say. That's why I call it the triple filter test. The first filter is **Truth**. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No", the man said, "Actually I just heard about it and ..."

"All right", said Socrates. "So, you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of **Goodness**. Is what you are about to tell me about my friend something good?"

"No, on the contrary."

"So", Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him, but you're not certain it's true. You may still pass the test though, because there's one filter left: the filter of **Usefulness**. Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really."

"Well", concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?"

Knowledge and wisdom:

There is a difference between knowledge and wisdom.

Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit not a vegetable,

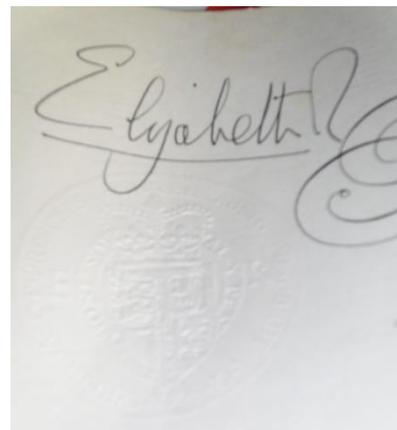
Wisdom is knowing not to include it in a fruit salad.



## REV JOHN PUGH WRITES:

One thing that amazes many children of Primary schools is when I say I have the Queen's autograph. As probably many of you know the only things the Queen signs tends to be Acts of Parliament and other Official documents. Technically I suppose I and countless others have is a Commission Parchment duly signed by her majesty. It is one of my precious things, the sort of thing I would grab in case of a fire. It is irreplaceable for copies are not given; it was a one-off.

If you look carefully at the photograph you might be able to vaguely make out an embossed Royal Seal. This is the confirmation that the whole thing is a legally binding document. It also goes to remind me of another seal that I and other Christians too hold. It is the seal of the Holy Spirit, telling us we are God's people with the guidance and leadership of God's anointing. That seal is not immediately visible, only through what we say and what we do can others see we are His people.



When you wear the uniform of any of the Emergency Services or Armed Forces you are instantly recognised in whatever role you are fulfilling. If you speak in any way that betrays your service there is no hiding your part in it. People judge you and have high expectations of you when they know what you represent. If you are in uniform but off duty people still expect you to fulfil that role. Whether you are fire-fighter, a police officer, Ambulance staff, soldier, sailor or Air personnel or whatever, you represent all your colleagues.

One of the first lines on an Armed Forces Commission Parchment says "To my trusty and well beloved (name) ..." It's nice to know how much you are thought of, but be aware that is how God thinks of every one of us.

We are His, trusted and loved. When someone feels that way about us, we want to give of our best for as long as we can. Let us do what we can for God and others as long as ever we can.

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## A SERMON WALKING

Reporters and city officials gathered at a Chicago railroad station one afternoon in 1953. The person they were meeting was the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize winner. A few minutes after the train came to a stop, a giant of a man – six feet four inches – with bushy hair and a large moustache stepped from the train. Cameras flashed. City officials approached him with hands outstretched. Various people began telling him how honoured they were to meet him.

The man politely thanked them and then, looking over their heads, asked if he could be excused for a moment. He quickly walked through the crowd until he reached the side of an elderly black woman who was struggling with two large suitcases. He picked up the bags and with a smile, escorted the woman to a bus. After helping her aboard, he wished her a safe journey. As he returned to the greeting party he apologized, "Sorry to have kept you waiting."

The man was Dr Albert Schweitzer, the famous missionary doctor who had spent his life helping the poor in Africa. In response to Schweitzer's action, one member of the reception committee said with great admiration to the reporter standing next to him, "That's the first time I ever saw a sermon walking."



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

1	Delilah – Tom Jones	11	Titan
2	Mardi Gras	12	2001 A Space Odyssey and 2010 The Year we made contact
3	6 Apollos	13	Ukraine Girls
4	Ralph Fiennes	14	Bona Fide
5	Helios	15	Pan Am and KLM
6	Switzerland (Monique Bone, nee Delacroix)	16	The four-minute mile
7	Pain	17	Dr Strangelove
8	Bahrain	18	Two answers, The Beatles '1' and Adele '21'.
9	The Six Day war	19	The ear – it is the small piece of protruding cartilage at the front side of the ear.
10	Cloud formations	20	Rudolf Hesse

## THIS WEEK'S QUIZ – WHERE WOULD YOU FIND??

A miscellany of things, places and a bit of science .....

Thanks to Sue and Adrian

1	The Crown Jewels	
2	The hammer, the anvil and the stirrup	
3	A sepal	
4	Knotty Ash	
5	A Sim card	
6	Hogwarts Express	
7	Jamaica Inn	
8	Pandas in the wild	
9	Andy Pandy and Teddy	
10	NaCl	
11	Two Atrial and 2 Ventricle Chambers	
12	Strangers Gallery	
13	Shakespeare's Birthplace	
14	All species of Lemur	
15	Old John	
16	The most southerly point in England	
17	Seaside town described as 'so bracing'	
18	Barney McGrew	
19	A carburettor	
20	A rhizome	

A young teacher from an industrial city in the north of England had accepted a temporary job teaching a class of four-year-olds out in one of the most isolated, rural parts of north Wales. One of her first lessons involved teaching the letter S so she held up a big colour photograph of a sheep and said: "Now, who can tell me what this is?"



No answer. Twenty blank and wordless faces looked back at her. "Come on, who can tell me what this is?" she exclaimed, tapping the photograph determinedly, unable to believe that the children were quite so ignorant. The 20 faces became apprehensive and even fearful as she continued to question them with mounting frustration.

Eventually, one brave soul put up a tiny, reluctant hand. "Yes!" she cried, waving the snap aloft. "Tell me what you think this is!" "Please, Miss," said the boy warily. "Is it a three-year-old Border Leicester?"

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Who was the first tennis player in the bible?  
Joseph because he served in Pharaoh's court

What do we have that Adam never had?  
Ancestors.

How does Moses make his coffee?  
Hebrews it, obviously.

Why did God create man before woman?  
Because He didn't want any advice on how to do it.

Why do they say 'Amen' at the end of a prayer instead of 'Awomen'?  
Same reason we sing Hymns instead of Hers!

