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## 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 31

### NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020

#### Weekly Diary

Monday 12 October	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	No Barrow Playgroup this week due to half term holiday
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We pray for friends and family, for those in hospital and care homes, for those under threat of redundancy and for all known to us who need our prayers.

#### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

At our Church Council meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October it was agreed that we re-open our Church for morning worship on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 10.15 am.

BUT IT WILL BE VERY DIFFERENT and you will soon be receiving a leaflet detailing what changes you can expect. This will be learning curve for us all but if we pull together, we can open up our Church and witness once again to our village friends.

#### SCAM EMAILS

Email received from the District regarding the fraudulent emails mentioned last week:

*Dear Colleagues,*

*There have been a number of recent instances where scammers are pretending to be Ministers and contacting people saying they are in need, and to get in touch. This has happened widely across the District and unfortunately can lead to people purchasing Amazon gift cards and sending them to the scammers.*

*The most important (and reassuring) feature though is that this is not a hack (ie someone else has control of my/our e-mail accounts), but an impersonation. If you receive an email like this please:*

1. Don't respond
2. Block the sender
3. Delete the email - which is more for your convenience.

*Signs that an email is fraudulent include:*

1. The e-mail address is not from the minister's usual email address.
2. The title and way of signing the email is not quite right
4. Poor spelling or punctuation.
5. It is very unlikely that a minister would contact you and ask for help in this way by e-mail.

*I hope this is helpful, please do share this email with people as you feel appropriate so that we can hopefully prevent anyone from falling victim to the scam.*

**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 33:12-23**

##### **Moses and the Glory of the LORD**

<sup>12</sup> Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favour with me.' <sup>13</sup> If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favour with you. Remember that this nation is your people." <sup>14</sup> The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." <sup>15</sup> Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. <sup>16</sup> How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" <sup>17</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

<sup>18</sup> Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." <sup>19</sup> And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. <sup>20</sup> But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." <sup>21</sup> Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. <sup>22</sup> When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup> Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

### Today's Epistle Reading - I Thessalonians 1 vv. 1-10

1 Paul, Silas<sup>[a]</sup> and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith <sup>2</sup>We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup>We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters<sup>[a]</sup> loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. <sup>7</sup>And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. <sup>8</sup>The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore, we do not need to say anything about it, <sup>9</sup>for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

### Today's Gospel Reading - Matthew 22 vv. 15-22

#### Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. <sup>16</sup>They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. <sup>17</sup>Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax<sup>[a]</sup> to Caesar or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup>and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" <sup>21</sup>"Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

## TIME TO REFLECT

Miriam Stevenson, Bishop Street Methodist Church, Leicester

There have been times in the past months, in those moments between sleeping and waking, where I have 'come to' and then remembered 'yes, we are still here, in the middle of the pandemic'. Like everyone who thought they had 'a settled life', I find myself continually adjusting to new levels of uncertainty, and expectations which have changed so much. Often all we can know is that another day starts and we are still 'here, in the middle' and we do not know how or when this 'new normal' will end.

This is a strangely interim life, fluid and marked by waiting, stuck in what is sometimes described as the 'messy middle'. It may have been like too for the early Christians Paul wrote to at Thessalonica. His letter offers testimony to the extraordinary dynamism of early Christianity. Probably written within twenty years of the Crucifixion it presents a recognisable picture of established church life. But these Christians are keenly conscious that they are living 'in the middle' between God's great act of rescue and their eternal hope. In the midst of persecution and bereavement they may well have felt stretched and disorientated. The Gospel passage gives us the feeling of 'coming in in the middle', as if we had walked into a room in the middle of a conversation or turned on a television or radio in the middle of a drama. Whether it was right to pay taxes to the Romans was a long-running debate on which many took entrenched positions. It is a clever and dangerous 'trick question' because a direct answer lays Jesus open to charges of collaboration or revolution. Matthew shows us Jesus taking and holding the coin, perhaps turning it over in His hand, studying the image of the Emperor, reading the imperial titles with their grandiose claims. In the hands of Jesus, a new perspective emerges and tense political and ethical question is seen in a new light. The principle is the priority of God, the need to render God what is due. The question of 'what is owed' to Caesar is addressed to the questioners. What new perspectives on entrenched issues and problems might Jesus open for us when we turn them over and put them in His hands?

To those Thessalonians picking their way through the 'messy middle', Paul's words were surely hugely encouraging. He shares how he thanks God for them in his prayers. He observes how their genuine faith and change of priorities was apparent to him and all the churches. When we think about how we support each other as Christians, we often focus on giving kindly advice or practical help. Paul shows us that one of the most affirming and valuable things we can do is to point out signs of God's presence in their lives. Paul is like a field officer, actively searching for and affirming signs that the Spirit is at work in these new churches. Moses told God that he didn't want to go on another step, didn't want to budge, unless assured of continuing God's presence (Exodus 33 vv. 15-16). With joy Paul discovers such signs of God's Presence bringing renewal and

change in the lives of his fellow Christians and it brings him to his knees in thankful joy. May God open our eyes and hearts so we like Paul can start our own scavenger hunt for signs of God's presence and offer words of encouragement and affirmation, and prayers of thanks.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Give to us, O God, a heart transformed by grace and a life inspired by humility. Grant us fullness of faith, firmness of hope and fervency of love. Let our one desire be conformity to your perfect will; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thomas More (1478-1535)

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*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 Trinity Methodist Church, Loughborough

Led by Rev John Pugh

10.45 am 12<sup>th</sup> Church on Trinity Methodist Church **Facebook** page

Worship led by Liz Newton

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

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**These churches in the Circuit are now open for Sunday worship but if you wish to attend please ring the friends detailed below to reserve a place.**

#### **Christchurch Methodist Church, Shepshed**

Mr. Alf Thompson 01509 821009 - [alfred.thompson1@ntlworld.com](mailto:alfred.thompson1@ntlworld.com)

#### **East Leake Methodist Church**

Mrs. Pauline Hargraves 01509 559266 - [paulinehargraves@gmail.com](mailto:paulinehargraves@gmail.com)

#### **Trinity Methodist Church, Loughborough**

Andy & Rachel Thorpe 01509 239087 - [anandrthorpe@ntlworld.com](mailto:anandrthorpe@ntlworld.com)

#### **Woodhouse Eaves Methodist Church**

Mrs. Gill Thompson 01509 890886 - [Thompsonsat97@btinternet.com](mailto:Thompsonsat97@btinternet.com)

**Mountsorrel Methodist Church** will be meeting on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30 am for a simplified "Harvest Festival" and again on Gift Day Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November for a more formal service. Rev John Pugh will lead worship on both days.

Geoff Wainwright 0116 2376979 - [mountsorrel2310@btinternet.com](mailto:mountsorrel2310@btinternet.com)

**Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church** will be meeting for worship on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 10.15 am  
Sue Speight 01509 413524

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## A Breath of Prayer

A breath of prayer in the morning  
 Means a day of blessing sure.  
 A breath of prayer in the evening  
 Means a night of rest secure.  
 A breath of prayer in our weakness  
 Means a clasp of a mighty hand  
 A breath of prayer when we're lonely  
 Means someone to understand.  
 A breath of prayer in our doubting  
 Assures us the Lord knows best.  
 A breath of prayer in our sorrows  
 Means comfort and peace and rest.  
 A breath of prayer in rejoicing  
 Gives joy and added delight;  
 For they that remember God's goodness  
 Go singing far into the night.  
 There's never a year nor a season  
 That prayer may not bless every hour  
 And never a soul need be helpless  
 When linked with God's infinite power.

*Frances McKinnon Morton*

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### REV JOHN PUGH WRITES:

I suppose many people have heard the expression "The pen is mightier than the sword". When I first came across that saying I was 7 years old, just new into Junior school. I couldn't understand it, at the time I was heavily into Robin Hood and Ivanhoe. There the sword played a huge role in defeating evil, inevitably the good guy won because he was a better swordsman. What good was a pen? In our school we weren't allowed any sort of pen until we had proved we could write reasonably neatly. Then we were allowed a ball point pen!



As to a sword! Every playtime it seems the boys fought with imaginary swords, crusaders, outlaws or even pirates! That is apart from those who re-fought the Second World War or played football with an old tennis ball. How many though spent time with pen and paper though? I don't recall anyone ever spending time with those any play time. So, how could the pen be mightier than the sword to a 7-year-old in 1962?

It was only much later in my early teens did I begin to understand what the maxim really meant. Despite many wars being won at the point of a sword, the argument behind the motivation didn't always persuade others to a different point of view. However, with the advent of printing ideas began to grow and get disseminated further and faster than ever before.

A skilled writer did and still can lead others to change their minds sometimes to radical new ways of thinking. When God's Word was printed, especially from Greek, Hebrew and Latin into the native language of the reader the result became huge. People's lives have been changed just by reading about Jesus. If anything proves the point that "The pen is mightier than the sword" lies here. In some ways it is quite funny to understand that the Word of God is sometimes referred to as the Sword of the Spirit. So, read and get battling!

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## Answers to last week's quiz – Another Pot Luck?

1	Andean Condor	11	1952
2	Holborn and St Pancras	12	32
3	Hertfordshire	13	Meercat
4	Three toed sloth	14	Blue Whale
5	35	15	Wilfred Lawrie Nicholas Johnson
6	Prince Edward	16	Coronation Street
7	Bern	17	Rice
8	Sunderland	18	Greece
9	1992	19	Mandarin
10	Hummingbird	20	A Tower

## THIS WEEK'S QUIZ – ALPHABET QUIZ

Thanks to Sue and Adrian

A	An aardvark is what kind of creature	
B	What was Bengo a character in children TV in the 1950's	
C	What during WW2 were reputed to help our pilots to see in the dark	
D	What is a book containing words with their meaning called	
E	What were Great for Pip in a Dickens novel	
F	What fish lies camouflaged on the seabed	
G	What if a green plum called	
H	What is the surname of the actor who played in Raymond in 'Rainman'	
I	Who sought the Crystal Skull	
J	Who played Dixon of Dock Green	
K	Shakespeare's Shrew	
L	Small Principality situated between Austria and Switzerland	
M	Who accompanied 3 Men in a Boat	
N	Which E Midlands football team are the (original) Magpies	
O	Artist J E Millais- painted this tragic heroine from Hamlet	
P	A small bat - often seen over water	
Q	What was a Quinquereme in John Masefield's poem	
R	What are the main characters in Watership Down	
S	What is an arachnid with a sting in its tale	
T	This Womble shares his name with a town on a Scottish Island	

U	Dickensian Sarah Gamp carried this-now often called by her name	
V	The Palace and gardens near Paris created by Louis XIV	
W	Sheffield ?????????? indicating the day they usually played football here	
X	Instrument played by deaf musician Evelyn Glennie	
Y	Small toy- with two flat hemispheres and a length of string	
Z	A striped horse!	



### REALLY, REALLY CORNY JOKES

What did the left eye say to the right eye?  
Between us, something smells!

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

What did one plate say to the other plate?  
Dinner is on me!

What did the Dalmatian say after lunch?  
That hit the spot!

How do you stop an astronaut's baby from crying?  
You rocket!

What is a witch's favourite subject in school?  
Spelling!

