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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

Week 35

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2020

Weekly Diary

Monday 16 November	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meet in the Rear Hall
Tuesday 17 November	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Wednesday 18 November	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Thursday 19 November	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Friday 20 November	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup



We pray for the present situation of another national "lock down", for friends and family, for those in hospital and care homes, for those under threat of redundancy, for both large and small businesses and for all known to us who need our prayers.

RE-OPENING OUR CHURCH FOR WORSHIP

We will hopefully welcome you all back to church on Sunday 6th December at 10.15 am but as explained before you have to ring and book your place by ringing Sue Speight on 01509 413524 by 5.00 pm on the Friday before.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

An invitation to once again take part in the REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR project. This year, for the new women's refuge at Flaxley House, Loughborough which is run under the umbrella of The Carpenter's Arms. If we begin on Friday 16th November and put one item of non-perishable packet or tin of food into a Christmas bag/box beginning on Monday 16th November and ending on Wednesday 9th December, I think I have counted right, that's 24 days the same as on an ordinary Advent Calendar. Your gift can then be brought to church on Sunday 13 December when we will collect them all together and arrange for them to be collected ready for distribution before Christmas. Apart from food items we could also include small gift items ie chocolate, sweets, gloves, shower gel, sanitary products, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, hand cream, deodorant etc etc. Thank you to all that have replied to my initial email regarding this. If you would like to join in can you let me know so that we know if we have your support. And any queries, as usual, just ask

YARN BOMBING – part street art, part graffiti it highlights smaller, innocuous objects and draws attention, making a statement and changes the way we look at things. Sometimes it is used to tell a story.

We are hoping to yarn bomb the new bollards at the front of church for the Christmas period crafting them into Nativity figures by knitting, crochet, sewing etc. and wonder if anyone would like to join in and help?

Castle Donington did it and disguised some bollards as the Three Kings – I can't find a photo of these but here are some examples from Pinterest of what can be done.



Who's up for a bit of fun in this mad, mad world?? Let me or Tilly know if you interested and we will get plans out so that we can all get cracking

SPONSORED CHARITY CHALLENGE

The Santa Fun Run is not allowed to go ahead this year so Pauline Ranson is taking part in the Alternative 2020 Charity Challenge in December walking from Barrow upon Soar to Loughborough dressed as Mrs Christmas and raising funds for the Wellbeing Café Project in Loughborough. If you would like to donate to Pauline's just giving page the link is <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PaulineRanson>

CHURCH INCOME

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

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



FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 14-30

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' ²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' ²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' ²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned, I would have received it back with interest. ²⁸ "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Today's Epistle Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 NIV - **The Day of the Lord**

⁵ Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

You may like to also read Acts 17: 1-9 which details Pauls' visit to Thessalonica.

¹⁷ When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ² As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said. ⁴ Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women. ⁵ But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, ⁷ and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." ⁸ When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. ⁹ Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

TIME TO REFLECT

Original material by Rachel Atkinson

I used to work for a company where every month we were visited by a mystery shopper. There used to be quite a lot of anxiety amongst certain staff around the time this visit may occur. When exactly would they come? How would we be rated? Our boss had us doing lots of extra tasks to prepare. However, I was never that worried, thinking if we were behaving as we should be, we would have nothing to be concerned about.

One of the questions concerning the people in Thessalonica, who Paul is writing to, is 'when will the day of the Lord come?'

Paul replies, 'about times and dates we do not need to write to you', that day 'will come like a thief in the night' (1 Thess 5: 1-2).

However, for those who are living in the way God has guided them, 'this light will not come like a searchlight to reveal the sins done under the cover of darkness', but like the light of a new day (Howard Marshall, 2011, p1283).

The Thessalonians focus should not be on trying to predict this day, but living as children of light. In my job the mystery shopper came to assess how we were treating all customers. It wouldn't have done the company any good if we had only treated the mystery shopper well. It was the many other customers every day that would be speaking to their family and friends and at risk of not returning.

How we treat all people, how we live our lives on a daily basis, amidst the challenges and competing values of the world, matters.

The church in Thessalonica was relatively new. Paul had to leave after only three preaching sessions due to mob violence from those who opposed his teachings.

The new believers were living during a time of persecution. There is the military image of being awake and on watch, but here, 'peace and security', a slogan sometimes associated with imperial Roman rule, is not brought about through military might and threat of violence, which only brings fragile peace. Rather the Thessalonian's are to put on the defensive breastplate and helmet of faith, hope and love (Roots Nov – Dec 2020). They are to live as a contrast society. They are to live the Jesus way.

Our Gospel reading is also set at a time where the values of God's' kingdom are clashing with the values of the world.

This parable is told two days before the Passover festival in what we now call Holy Week, where the story reaches its climax and Jesus himself brings about peace, not through violence but through the way of the cross.

Jesus, firstly is offering a challenge to his own day, a time where he is forcing a final confrontation between God's kingdom and the system that had resisted it.

The third slave could be seen as representing the Pharisees, who had been given the Law of Moses, the Temple, and the command to share God's blessing and yet had kept the light to themselves. The other slaves can be seen as those who take the good news of God's kingdom they have been entrusted with, share it and act to help it grow (Wright, 2004).

To ponder

What do we do with the news of God's' kingdom that has been entrusted to us?

How do we live each day in light of this news?

As Paul writes to the Thessalonians, how can we encourage one another and build ourselves up in our faith?

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Give to us, O Lord God, a heart that is teachable, that we may know what is pleasing in your sight; a life attuned to your Spirit that we may be guided in your ways and a mind ever watchful that we may rejoice in the coming of your kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Elizabeth I (1533-1603)

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

Sunday 15th November - 10.45 am 12th Church on Trinity Methodist Church **Facebook** page
The Pipet Family

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

Pooh woke up that morning, and, for reasons that he didn't entirely understand, couldn't stop the tears from coming. He sat there in bed, his little body shaking, and he cried, and cried, and cried. Amidst his sobs, the phone rang. It was Piglet.



"Oh Piglet," said Pooh, between sobs, in response to his friend's gentle enquiry as to how he was doing. "I just feel so Sad. So, so, Sad, almost like I might not ever be happy again. And I know that I shouldn't be feeling like this. I know there are so many people who have it worse off than me, and so I really have no right to be crying, with my lovely house, and my lovely garden, and the lovely woods all around me. But oh, Piglet: I am just SO Sad."

Piglet was silent for a while, as Pooh's ragged sobbing filled the space between them. Then, as the sobs turned to gasps, he said, kindly: "You know, it isn't a competition."

"What isn't a competition?" asked a confused sounding Pooh. "Sadness. Fear. Grief," said Piglet. "It's a mistake we often make, all of us. To think that, because there are people who are worse off than us, that that somehow invalidates how we are feeling. But that simply isn't true. You have as much right to feel unhappy as the next person; and, Pooh - and this is the really important bit - you also have just as much right to get the help that you need."

"Help? What help?" asked Pooh. "I don't need help, Piglet. "Do I?"

Pooh and Piglet talked for a long time, and Piglet suggested to Pooh some people that he might be able to call to talk to, because when you are feeling Sad, one of the most important things is not to let all of the Sad become trapped inside you, but instead to make sure that you have someone who can help you, who can talk through with you how the Sad is making you feeling, and some of the things that might be able to be done to support you with that. What's more, Piglet reminded Pooh that this support is there for absolutely everyone, that there isn't a minimum level of Sad that you have to be feeling before you qualify to speak to someone.

Finally, Piglet asked Pooh to open his window and look up at the sky, and Pooh did so.

"You see that sky?" Piglet asked his friend. "Do you see the blues and the golds and that big fluffy cloud that looks like a sheep eating a carrot?" Pooh looked, and he could indeed see the blues and the golds and the big fluffy cloud that looked like a sheep eating a carrot.

"You and I," continued Piglet, "we are both under that same sky. And so, whenever the Sad comes, I want you to look up at that sky, and know that, however far apart we might be physically...we are also, at the same time, together. Perhaps, more together than we have ever been before."

"Do you think this will ever end?" asked Pooh in a small voice. "This too shall pass," confirmed Piglet. "And I promise you, one day, you and I shall once again sit together, close enough to touch, sharing a little smackereel of something...under that blue gold sky."

We all need a piglet in our lives.



SCARS OF LIFE

Some years ago, on a hot summer day in South Florida, a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His father, working in the yard, saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, he ran toward the water, yelling to his son as loudly as he could.

Hearing his voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his father. It was too late. Just as he reached his father, the alligator reached him.

From the dock, the father grabbed his little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. That began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the father, but the father was much too passionate to let go.

A farmer happened to drive by, heard his screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator.

Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. And, on his arms, were deep scratches where his father's fingernails dug into his flesh in his effort to hang on to the son he loved.

The newspaper reporter who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But lo o k at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Dad wouldn't let go."

You and I can identify with that little boy. We have scars, too. No not from an alligator, but the scars of a painful past. Some of those scars are unsightly and have caused us deep regret. But, some wounds, my friend, are because God has refused to let go. In the midst of your struggle, He's been there holding on to you.

The Scripture teaches that God loves you. You are a child of God. He wants to protect you and provide for you in every way. Unfortunately, sometimes we foolishly wade into dangerous situations, not knowing what lies ahead. The swimming hole of life is filled with peril - and we forget that the enemy is waiting to attack. That's when the tug-of-war begins - and if you have the scars of His love on your arms, be very, very grateful. He did not and will not ever let you go.

Author Unknown

Answers to last week's LAST quiz?

1	The best of all is, God is with us	11	Colonel Munro (Alice)
2	The return of the King	12	David Lloyd George
3	Nora Batty	13	Omega
4	2003	14	Amen
5	1960s	15	1797
6	Revelation	16	1271
7	Crusade	17	Agatha Christie
8	Queen Victoria	18	Bernard Cornwall
9	Edinburgh	19	2000
10	Clarksville	20	1966

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ – FLOWERS

Thanks to Frances via Sue and Adrian

1	The colour in your eye	
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2	Not sour Prince	
3	A charming green vegetable	
4	Unhappy ringers	
5	What he did when he proposed	
6	Bovine underwear	
7	A dapper animal	
8	At the dance without a partner	
9	Industrial monarch	
10	A lover's plea	
11	Needed for a kiss	
12	Watched by Shepherds	
13	Capital vanity	
14	The best policy	
15	Girl on a tandem	
16	Stood up	
17	A country on the road	
18	Mrs Bucket	
19	Miss Langtry in the vale	
20	Blooms for desire or rage	



A Sunday school teacher was asking her students some questions after a series of lessons on God's omnipotence. She asked, "Is there anything God can't do?"

All was silent. Finally, one boy held up his hand.

The teacher, on seeing this, was disappointed that they had missed the point of the lesson. She sighed and asked, "Well, what is it you think God can't do?"

The boy replied, "He can't please everybody."

A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He answered, 'Call for backup.'

