



follow us on Twitter @BarrowMethsChurch



www.facebook.com/barrow upon soar methodist church

website: www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk

BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

Website: 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

BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

Week 38

NOTICES FOR ADVENT SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER 2020

Today is the second Sunday in Advent.

We celebrate with our second Advent candle of Peace.

We work for peace – because Jesus is the “Prince of Peace” and He calls His children to work for peace in His name.



Weekly Diary

Monday 7 December	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meet in the Rear Hall
Tuesday 8 December	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Wednesday 9 December	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Thursday 10 December	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Friday 11 December	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Saturday 12 December		
Sunday 13 December	10.15 am	Morning Worship



We pray for all those in hospital or care homes, for family and friends, for all those worried about their jobs and finances and for all who are known to us who need our prayers.

RE-OPENING OUR CHURCH FOR WORSHIP

We look forward to welcoming you back to church again on Sunday morning, 6th December 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. As, unfortunately, we are in the highest tier of control it is even more important to adhere to the direction of the duty stewards and we thank you for your co-operation. Our preacher on Sunday will be Roger Latham of East Leake.

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER

On 20 December we hope to make as near as possible a carol/nativity service. Time will tell whether we can sing out or continue to mumble in our masks. (I suspect the latter, but Adrian says we can sing outside – so maybe we could go at the end of the service to make take our greeting to the village)

If you would like to be involved or have a favourite carol or a reading you would like to share please let us know as soon as possible as we will need plan ahead. Telephone 413524 or email speight4748@gmail.com - Sue and Adrian

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

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As there won't be the usual Christmas Card table in the Church this year and you might find it difficult to deliver your cards, why not send your Christmas wishes through this newsletter for week beginning Sunday 20th December? Email or ring me with your message – Janet 01509 413810 or janetmthompson13@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS TABLEAU

If you haven't yet been able to view our Christmas Tableau which has been set up in our new Foyer and the Advent Display in the new Display window – this is what passers-by see as they walk by in the evening This is letting everyone in the village know that, after the front part of our premises has been closed since April 2019 for building and then, due to Covid, we could only open for a couple of weeks in 2020 finally WE ARE BACK!!!

We have had lots of positive comments, both in person and on Facebook, and thanks to Knightthorpe Methodist Church for sharing it!!

On Saturday morning when we were setting it up. with the front door wide open. we had several families stop to chat and look at it - we were able to give the children a gift of a small book, previously purchased last year for Fun@Church, which tells the Christmas Story. We pray that soon we can open for all our activities and those of the groups who use our premises.



The new Display Window (the old entrance) will display the Advent Banner, adding one candle every week to Christmas HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE with baby Jesus added for Christmas Day.

SCAM EMAILS

Rev Andrew Lomax has asked for vigilance regarding suspicious emails purporting to be from him. It should be obvious from the tone and content that they are not from Andrew – he does not need any contact information from anyone but please be wary of emails that do not look or feel right.

Andrew has asked me to send a message regarding suspicious emails purporting to be from him. It should be obvious from the tone and content that they are not from Andrew, he does not need any contact information from anyone. Please be wary of emails that do not look or feel right.

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 Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 40 verses 1 to 11

Comfort for God's People

40 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. **2** Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. **3** A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. **4** Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. **5** And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." **6** A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. **7** The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. **8** The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." **9** You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" **10** See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. **11** He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Today's Gospel Reading:

Mark 1 verses 1 to 8

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, ^{the} Son of God, ^{is} **2** as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" **3** "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' **4** And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. **6** John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. **8** I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with ^{the} Holy Spirit."

TIME TO REFLECT

Original Materials by Rev Godfrey Nicholson

The usual question from preachers is along the lines of 'Have you prepared?' and recites a litany of pre-Christmas tasks. Predictable; boring; patronising. And below the dignity of the event.

The obsession of preachers – and advertisers and shopkeepers – on 'preparation' means we miss the point. It isn't about the red-carpet or the ticker-tape, since nothing could be worthy of the entrance of the Son of God. Preparing is pointless unless the event takes place.

Rather, like the sentry, we are primed for his arrival. We are watching for his coming. Fans of steam trains spot the tell-tale plume of smoke before the train itself comes into sight; we watch the arrivals board as we wait for family to arrive at the airport; so, worshippers spot the tell-tale of majesty veiled in flesh and laid in a

manger. They come in wonder and worship, and they return transformed by the love that stooped to conquer. The herald of Good Tidings tells them that that they can behold their God. He is here. He will baptize, not with water as a sign, but with the reality of his Holy Spirit. As we welcome him, so we become *his* guests, his flock.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord, we are in awe of our planet and all around us there is beauty and wonder. Yet we also know the daily toll of our 21st-century lifestyles on our towns and cities, mountains and beaches and we know that we must change our ways. Help us to find the wisdom and courage as individuals, as congregations and as nations to take the steps that are needed to save the planet for future generations. Amen.

Lynne Ling, Synod Secretary, Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District

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

Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church will be meeting for worship on Sunday 13th December at 10.15 am Please ring Sue Speight 01509 413524 – email: speight4748@gmail.com to reserve your place before 5.00 pm on the previous Friday

12th Church - 10.45 am 12th Church on Trinity Methodist Church **Facebook** page

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



Be a Secret Santa
for a vulnerable child

Thousands of children and young people face Christmas without a hot meal, a present or a safe place to sleep.

With your help, we could change this.

Donate at:
iamsanta.org.uk/methodist

Registered charity nos. 1097940/SC038092.
Company no. 4764232. © Action for Children 2020. 1534.



We're delighted to invite you to
Action for Children's Starry Night

Tuesday 8 December 2020
6.30pm – 7.30pm

Hosted by Channel 4 News' Jon Snow, our virtual concert brings the magic of Christmas into your home. Featuring live musical performances, classic carols and appearances from some very special guests including Angellica Bell and Call the Midwife's Jenny Agutter.

Vulnerable children all over the UK face a Christmas without food, warmth or love. They need your help.

Tickets: £10 per household
starry-night.co.uk



#GodsWithUs Christmas Campaign 2020

The Methodist Church Christmas campaign for 2020

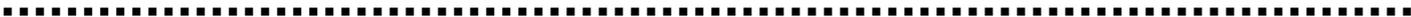
It is fair to say we're all a bit uncertain about what Christmas is going to be like this year – and perhaps we're feeling a bit anxious about this. It's also fair to say that this year as much as ever it is critical, we reach out to people who aren't part of our churches. The Christmas message of Emmanuel – the good news that God is with us – feels perhaps more pertinent than ever before in this extraordinary year.

The Methodist Church Christmas campaign for 2020 **#GodsWithUs** seeks to share this good news through twenty-four stories of individuals and their experiences of this extraordinary year. Each day of Advent we will share a testimony from somebody connected to the Methodist Church reflecting on what hope has looked like for them this year and how they have experienced God with them.

The individuals whose stories the campaign tells include those who have felt the painful effects of isolation this year, who have experienced extreme poverty, who have struggled with poor mental health, who have lost loved ones – like so many millions of others. But ultimately, incredibly, God's loving presence radiates from each of them in beams of powerful hope. Hope that is so necessary for such a time as this.

The campaign name, which ties in with our Presidential theme for the year, of course comes from John Wesley's purported words on his death bed: 'the best of all is, God is with us' which reminds us that even in the times which feel most uncertain, we can be certain of God. Who do you know who needs to hear this message over the coming months?

The campaign offers the following content: Shareable social media posts every day in Advent On Facebook, Instagram and Twitter - these will contain a quote from the story of the day alongside a photo of the person who's story it is. A video released on 1st December on YouTube and shared on social media. This will be narrated by the 24 campaign participants and will simply show clips of each person.



THE ALTERNATIVE “WE THREE KINGS”



We Three Kings are six feet apart,
We'll sanitize before we depart.
We've been tested as suggested
Careful are we and smart.

Chorus: Do our masks go with our gowns?
Do these face shields hide our crown?
We've had plenty twenty-twenty
Still, we head toward David's town.

Melchior is now quarantined!
Stuck in Persia, so it seems.
No more travelled on a camel,
Till there's a good vaccine.

Balthasar has lost his taste,
Eating food is such a waste.
How disquieting, now he's dieting,
Life now is slower paced.

Caspar left the caravan,
He's postponed his stargazing plans.
No more roaming, Caspar's homing,
Scrubbing his reddened hands.

Chorus: Do our masks go with our gowns?
Do these face shields hide our crowns?
We've had plenty twenty-twenty,
Still, we head toward David's town.

Words by R.G Huff A serious hymn writer gone rogue!

Answers to last week's (Sort of) SPORTS QUIZ

1	Golf	11	St Moritz
2	Hockey	12	Wimbledon
3	Curling	13	Croquet
4	Rugby Union	14	Badminton
5	Squash	15	Aintree
6	Tiddly Winks	16	Biathlon
7	The Cox or Coxswain	17	Swimming, Cycling and Running
8	22	18	Football, Brighton & Hove, Notts County and Norwich
9	Cheese	19	Volleyball
10	Bowls	20	Darts

Apology.... Thanks to Kate for pointing out that bully-off for the game of Hockey was changed to *Push Off* about 30 years ago..... I obviously I did not read far enough into the Wikipedia article when I checked it. So, apologies to anyone who is young enough not to remember what it used to be when we were at school

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ – 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Grateful thanks once again to Sue

As there are only 12 question today, I wondered if you would like another challenge.....?

From 1558 to 1829 Roman Catholics were not allowed to openly practice their faith. Sometime during this period someone wrote this carol as a Catechism song with an underlying meaning for young Catholics –

the True Love is not a doting sweetheart, but Jesus Christ *True love* came with him and the partridge is a bird that will risk its own life to lure danger away from its young

Five Gold Rings represented the first five books of the bible.....

Seven Swans a Swimming the seven gifts of the Spirit

Can you work out any more.....?

1	These may have been Greylag, Canadian or Snow ...but all female	
2	When members of the upper House of Government jump to it !	
3	A gamebird out of its usual environment	
4	<i>Strictly</i> would only be half as good with just these	
5	These young ladies have been replaced by modern machinery	
6	Small bands of metal no.79 on the periodic table	
7	Avian creatures making a noise... in some versions related to a sheep dog	
8	This is likely to be heard in a military parade	
9	What we call chickens - some Europeans call <i>poule</i>	
10	Mute, Trumpeter, Bewick, Black, Black necked, Whooper and Coscoroba	
11	Small member of the pigeon family..... migrates to Europe for the summer with his mate	
12	Love it or hated it you would be most likely to come across this in Scotland	

Answers to all next week