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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
10.00 am until 2.00 pm

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BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

Week 39

NOTICES FOR ADVENT SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER 2020
Today is the third Sunday in Advent.

We celebrate with our third Advent candle of Joy.

We share joy – because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence of God.



Weekly Diary

Monday 14 December	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meet in the Rear Hall
Tuesday 15 December	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Wednesday 16 December	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Thursday 17 December	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Friday 18 December	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Saturday 19 December		
Sunday 20 December	10.15 am	Morning Worship led by Adrian and Sue Speight

Please note: There will be a newsletter for next Sunday 20th December and then there will be a break until Sunday 3rd January 2021



We pray for our community, for all in hospital or care homes, for those recently bereaved, for family and friends, for those under threat of redundancy and for all who are finding it difficult in these strange times.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY this week to TILLY YATES who celebrates tomorrow – lots of love and best wishes from us all!



THANK YOU!!

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers sent for my 70th birthday last weekend, they really look amazing and are so bright and cheerful and fragrant. My thanks too for all the individual cards, gifts and greetings which all helped to make the occasion such a happy one for me. Love to you all, Sandra.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Don't forget if you want to pass on your Christmas greetings through this newsletter then let me have your messages by 6.00 pm on Thursday 17th December. There will not be the usual Christmas Card table in the Church this year. Just phone or email me on 01509 413810 or janetmthompson13@gmail.com

RE-OPENING OUR CHURCH FOR WORSHIP

We look forward to welcoming you back to church again on Sunday morning, 20th 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 observe all the rules, both inside and outside the building and we thank you for your co-operation.

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

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:

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the Wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

TIME TO REFLECT

John the witness, whose testimony to the Jewish leaders began with those negatives: I am not the Messiah I am not Elijah am not the Prophet....

It is tempting to think that the Jewish leaders were also being negative, looking to point out John's deficiencies, but what if they were really looking for the Messiah. What if they were sad and disappointed that here they did not have whom they were looking for? They didn't know whom they were looking for – but they had to take some sort of answer back to those who had sent them, so they pressed John for more. His reply still turns to the cryptic – I am not the one whom is to come, he is already amongst you, though you do not know him.

That the Messiah could be anyone was fully in the Jewish tradition. The Messiah could be the person standing next to you.

The people who stand at the airport arrivals with a board with someone's name on do not know who they are to collect. They rely on the right person to come over and introduce themselves, but they are expected. They wait for the right person to reveal themselves so that they can move on.

Is this the way we should be looking for the Messiah? Standing in a prominent place, holding a board with his name on, relying on him to come and find us so that we can move on.

Or should we be looking around at the crowd, in case the Messiah has walked straight past us and is expecting us to follow where he leads. Jesus will leave enough clues in our everyday lives for us to recognize where he has been, where he wants us to go.

We need to make a conscious effort every day to see when Jesus is amongst us and to ask what he is calling us to do.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

○ Lord of majestic mountain and roaring sea,
 ○ Lord of astonishing beauty and outlandish loveliness,
 ○ Lord of the minuscule, the overlooked and the never seen,
 ○ Lord of the extraordinary and the everyday,
 open our eyes to see your presence,
 our ears to hear the whisper of your voice and,
 realising you in every place and every moment of our existence,
 may we live with justice, peace, care and hope. Amen.

Helen Kirk, Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District Chair

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

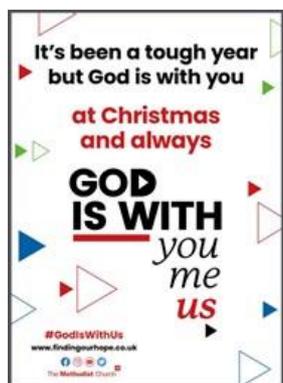
Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church will be meeting for worship on Sunday 20th December at 10.15 am Please ring Sue Speight 01509 413524 – email: speight4748@gmail.com to reserve your place before 5.00 pm on the previous Friday

12th Church - 10.45 am 12th Church on Trinity Methodist Church **Facebook** page
Nativity Service with John Pipet

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

#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.



REV JOHN PUGH WRITES...

It always used to surprise me when people told me they didn't read, in some ways to a lesser extent it still does today. I could never understand why folk weren't enraptured by books. I was the sort of child who would leave the local library once a week with a stack of ten books. You were allowed that many way back in the 60's, sometimes I would go twice a week. I went on adventures with the Famous Five and Secret Seven, discovered Robin Hood, William Tell, Ivanhoe and King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table. Travelled through the wardrobe into Narnia, flew into space, rode with cowboys, fought with the Romans. Too many adventures to remember them all.



Today some folk prefer to use a Kindle or Kobo, saying its far easier to carry and yet gives access to so many books. Yet there is still the reading thing – today I still fight my way through the Middle Ages, find myself in a shield wall, sailing with the Vikings, re-fight my way through Europe with the Commandos during WW2. My sphere of interest has grown into post-apocalyptic worlds where magic has returned to help or hinder the heroes and heroines. I have been in homes where books have been wall to wall and felt very much at home, other places where there has been no evidence of any reading matter not even a newspaper or magazine. OK some people will say they read online today but there are still a great number who cannot be bothered to read.

My big question for today though is "How many people have read and understood the Bible?". How many read it every day? Or even just regularly? When they read it but don't understand it how many will ask someone else and how many will just shrug their shoulders, ignore and move on? Not just the easy parts of the Bible but all of it including the convoluted parts of the Old Testament prophets. I would certainly recommend reading the Bible with the aid of a good commentary, it would help you to understand the history and the geography around the time of the writing. Maybe even understand some of the intensionable humour that is often lost in the translation. Or maybe it's a case of I know-it-all and I don't need any book to tell me how to live?



Answers to last week's 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1	6 Geese a laying	7	2 Calling birds or collie birds
2	10 Lords a leaping	8	12 Drummers drumming
3	1 A partridge in a pear tree	9	3 French Hens
4	9 Ladies dancing	10	7 Swans a swimming
5	8 Maids a milking	11	2 Turtle doves
6	5 Gold rings	12	11 Pipers piping



The song, "**The Twelve Days of Christmas**" is an English Christmas carol. From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. To fit the number scheme, when you reach

number 9, representing the Fruits of the Holy Ghost, the originator combined 6 to make 3, taking the 6 fruits that were similar: the fruit in each parenthesis is the that was not named separately. There are actually Twelve Fruits of the Holy Ghost.

The "True Love" one hears in the song is not a smitten boy or girlfriend but Jesus Christ, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary, to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

According to Ann Ball in her book, [HANDBOOK OF CATHOLIC SACRAMENTALS](#):

- The two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments
- The three French hens stood for faith, hope, and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- The five golden rings represented the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe man's fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Saviour.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit----Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit----Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience [Forbearance], Goodness [Kindness], Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Continency [Chastity].
- The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles' Creed.

Original Source: Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP, Nebraska
Printed with permission from [Catholic Tradition](#).

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THIS WEEK'S QUIZ of Christmas Songs and Carols (that we are not allowed to sing together this year)

Thanks once again to Sue Speight

1	In a 1975 single release which group sang " <i>Happy Christmas Everybody?</i> "	
2	What did Santa do when he got stuck up the chimney?	
3	Who according to the carol came from the Orient?	
4	" <i>Bless all the dear children</i> " is the first line of the third verse of which carol?	

5	What is the chorus to the song " <i>Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly?</i> "	
6	We all know the chorus " <i>Jingle bells, jingle bells....</i> " What is the first line of the verse?	
7	A young priest in Austria wrote the words of this well-known carol..... often sung by choirs with the first verse in German.	
8	Which famous hymn writer wrote the carol " <i>Hark the Herald Angels Song</i> "?	
9	Who had a very shiny nose?	
10	<i>Good King Wenceslas</i> in the traditional carol was king of where?	
11	A popular piece of music by Prokofiev is a lively tune called <i>Troika</i> which seasonal mode of transport is this?	
12	Which popular singer sang " <i>Mistletoe and Wine</i> " at Christmas 1988?	
13	<i>Adeste Fideles</i> is the Latin title for which Carol?	
14	A singing duo Nina and Frederik in 1960 sang about which important animal of the nativity story?	
15	In which song is there a snowman called Parson Brown?	
16	In the <i>Christmas Alphabet</i> what do the letters H and S stand for?	
17	Which 19 th century poetess wrote the words of the Carol " <i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i> " and " <i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i> "?	
18	In the original German song, what is <i>Tannenbaum</i> ?	
19	The medieval tradition of Wassailing has today become associated with which activity?	
20	When we come a wassailing- to " <i>Wish You A Merry Christmas-</i> we won't go until we get some..... "?	

Answers next week

Rudolph the Reindeer's mum met his dad as he returned home from work and told him that Rudolph had brought home his School Report home with him. "How did he do?" his dad asked. "Well, he really shone in most subjects!" his mum replied "but he went down in history!"



I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

