



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 40

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER 2020

Today is the fourth Sunday in Advent.



We celebrate with our fourth Advent candle of Love

We share love – because Jesus gave everything for us to know the forgiveness of God

Weekly Diary

Playgroup on holiday

Christmas Day Friday 25 December	10.00 am 12 th Church	Join Rev Andrew Lomax on Trinity Methodist Church Facebook page
Sunday 27 December	10.45 am 12 th Church	Morning worship on Trinity Methodist Church Facebook page led by Rev Andrew Lomax
Sunday 3 rd January	10.15 am	Morning worship ' in person ' here at Barrow upon Soar led by John/Dorothy Pipet

Please note: There will not be a newsletter next week see you again in time for 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 and especially for those who will spend Christmas Day alone.

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

It has been an absolute delight to see the wonderful way our church building has been decorated for the Advent/Christmas period, and to see the interest taken by passers-by. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say

a huge THANK YOU to all those who have given so generously of their time and talents to make this possible. Sandra

TALKING OF CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS

Congratulations to Jonathan Doda who made the front page of the Coalville Times for his display of Christmas lights spread over his own, and three neighbours' houses, in Whitwick. Jonathan expands the lights every year and has a "Just giving" page raising funds for the Marie Curie charity.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who supported our now annual "Reverse Advent Calendar". This year we sent eleven very full and heavy bags/boxes to Flaxley House; the new women's centre opened by the Carpenter's Arms in Loughborough. The Centre Manager collected them on Monday evening and was very grateful for our gifts and has promised to send us an update on how the new project is progressing in the new year. Many, many thanks to you all.

NEWS FROM 11A

Tilly picked her holly early so that the birds would not eat the berries!! Now all she has is a bag full of holly leaves and mouse droppings!!!



RE-OPENING OUR CHURCH FOR WORSHIP

We are back in church again on Sunday morning, 3rd January when either John or Dorothy Pipet will lead our worship 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.

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

INTERNET AND PHONE SCAMS

The police are warning of various scams both on line and by phone. Do not give out your personal details to anyone cold calling – be extra vigilant in the run up to Christmas as more and more people have shopped on line.

THE YARN BOMBERS CAME TO BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Three Kings and shepherds that now adorn the bollards outside church – we have been encouraged by the many comments on social media once again proving that folk at Barrow upon Soar MC are back on the street and raring to go in our newly refurbished premises once the Covid restrictions are lifted.



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

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

To everyone at Barrow Methodists – very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from **Carolyn and Philip**



Margaret and Alistair send Christmas greetings to all their friends in Barrow. We send our love and best wishes and look forward to meeting you in your renewed church next year.

'Christmas greetings and a Happy New Year to everyone --**Frank T.**'



Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and every blessing in the new year. With love and virtual hugs to all our dear friends from **Sandra and Michael** xx

To all my friends at church:
God bless you this Christmas and give you strength and hope for 2021
Happy Christmas! **Joan Thursby**



*Wishing you hope, peace, joy and love
for Christmas and the New Year*

Sue and Adrian



This newsletter is sent all over the country to friends near and far – all at Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church send our love and best wishes for a very happy and blessed Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2021 to you all!



FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE

Today's Reading from the Old Testament: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

God's Covenant with David

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus, says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus, says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

TIME TO REFLECT

Original Materials by Rev Deborah Cornish

It has been a while since I have read Samuel, and it came to me afresh as I read it through for the purposes of preparing this reflection.

God reminds Samuel that he does not need a house, a temple, a place to be contained. God is a free agent, who does not need a building.

Well, that's a bit of luck because for many of us, our church buildings have been closed, or for the brief period when we were able to enter the building everything was different.

Instead, we have used material such as this to help us worship. Perhaps you have used the Methodist Worship Book, the Prayer Handbook, your hymnbook, television or radio services, or various online platforms.

We can encounter God in a myriad of different ways and in different places, just read through our scriptures and see for yourself.

Mary encountered God's purpose for her through the voice of an angel, a messenger from God. A frightening, awesome, thrilling experience – one that caused her to sing a song that continues to stir the hearts of people today.

Mary became the one who housed the Son of God for a short time in her womb. Her call was to nurture and protect him whilst he was an infant; after that she could no longer contain him, he was free to go where he was needed. Free to challenge, to change, to transform, and to reveal God's love to all he met.

As we prepare for a Christmas that may be unlike any that we have experienced, remember God does not need a building from which to be discovered and worshipped. We can celebrate the birth of Christ in our own homes. Rejoice that God revealed in Christ continues to be made known and calls people to follow and to serve.

Take a moment to think about the times you have encountered God beyond bricks and mortar. Or remember the words of a messenger, who changed your life and helped you see God. Give thanks for those moments and, perhaps like Mary, rejoice from deep within that the love of the one who entered our world as flesh and blood, continues to be experienced.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Teach us to love, O Lord, may we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one who, you have sent, your son, our Saviour. 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

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

CHRISTMAS CANCELLED!

Not this year, praise the Lord though it was a close call.

Yet for 16 years between 1644 and 1660 Christmas was officially banned by Act of Parliament and people risked imprisonment or even death to protect their right to celebrate! The puritans (strict Protestants) disapproved of the insobriety, gluttony, gambling, singing, dancing and general merry making pursuits. The 25th of December was to be a day of fasting and humiliation for English people to account for their sins. The Puritan, led between 1653 and 1658 by the Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell considered Christmas to be a Catholic invention and theatres, bear baiting, *maypole dancing and other "fun" activities were likewise banned.



Pro Christmas rioting took place in many towns, notably Canterbury, with buildings decorated with traditional holly, rosemary and ivy. With the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 when Charles II became king Christmas was reinstated and festive merriment returned, eventually to reach the heights established by the Victorians and still maintained to this day.

*The north Nottinghamshire village of Wellow has the tallest permanent Maypole in the UK at 55 feet!

Thanks to Ruddington and Keyworth MC for this article



**T'was the week before Christmas, and all through the town people work masks,
that covered their frowns.**

Frowns had begun way back in the Spring, When the global pandemic
changed everything.

They call it corona but unlike the beer, It didn't bring good times; it didn't bring
cheer.

Contagious and deadly, this virus spread fast, like wildfires that start when fuelled by gas.

Airplanes were grounded, travel was banned, borders were closed across, air, sea and land.

As the World entered lockdown to flatten the curve, the economy halted and folks lost their verve.

From March to July, we rode the first wave, people stayed home, they tried to behave.

When summer emerged the lockdown was lifted, but away from caution, many folks drifted.

Now it's December and cases are spiking, wave 2 have arrived, much to our disliking.

Frontline workers, doctors and nurses, try to save people, from riding in hearses.

It's true that this year has had sadness a plenty, we'll never forget the year 2020.

And now upon us is the holiday season, why should we be merry? Is there even one reason?

To decorate the house and put up the tree, when no one will see it, no one but me.

But outside my window the rain gently falls, and I think to myself, "Let's deck the halls!"

So, I gather the ribbons, the garlands and bows, as I play those old carols, my happiness grows.

Christmas isn't cancelled and neither is **HOPE** If we lean on each other I know we can cope!

Adapted from Shawna Hickling, Calgary, Alberta

REV JOHN PUGH WRITES...

Be truthful now – who amongst you are shakers, feelers or sniffers? How often have you been tempted to pick up a Christmas present from under the tree, give it a shake whilst holding it up near your ear? I had a wicked sense of humour during my teens and early twenties when sometimes, just sometimes, would add inside the wrapping a small box which might have held from past memories perhaps a small bell or 2-3 marbles or even on one occasion some fine loose sand in a matchbox. One of my old nursing colleagues many years ago wrapped up some broken pieces of pottery in an old shoebox for his younger brother (known to be a shaker of presents). It was beautifully wrapped because he showed it to me and it rattled wonderfully! As usual his brother did his traditional sneaky shake and cap in hand, so to speak, confessed his guilt as to breaking the present before he opened it. My friend after a minute of tears (laughter fuelled) explained what he'd done and handed over the true present Christmas morning (something not breakable!).

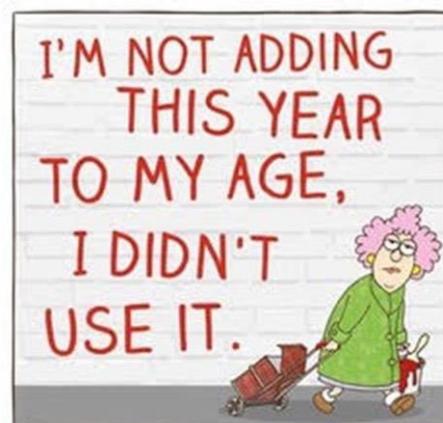


Maybe you're a feeler, all sorts of things have been added to presents to make them feel a different shape. My late mother though never learned that lesson, the year she bought my late father a gardening fork every tine was carefully wrapped individually. As to sniffers amongst you is it to ascertain whether it's something you "really, really want" (Spice Girls) or not. No good if the contained gift has no fragrance of its own the excitement of wondering, getting excited about what you might be getting from family and friends gets more and more explosive as the days pass. There may be that one relative who always gives the same gift every year, a pair of socks, handkerchiefs or, in the case of one of my wife's great aunts, a pair of gloves. Hand knitted, different colours, different patterns, she knew what was coming but each year welcomed, loved and used.

The greatest gift of all is that of Jesus, there was no wondering about what that gift would be (the angel blabbed), no fancy wrapping. There is a fragrance, theologically speaking as the worship song proclaims "May the fragrance of Jesus fill my life" In other words the things Jesus said and the things he did, colour and influence the lives of all Christians. The Arabs used to have a saying which said "Lie down with dogs, rise with fleas". Which is better? Personally, I'd rather be identified with the words and actions of Jesus in my life. May you appreciate the wondrous gift from God in your life, Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Answers to last week's CHRISTMAS SONGS AND CAROLS QUIZ

	Slade	11	A 3 horse sleigh
2	Shout	12	Cliff Richard
3	The Three Kings	13	O Come all ye faithful
4	Away in a Manger	14	Little Donkey
5	Fa la-la-la-la-la-la, la-la	15	Winter Wonderland
6	Dashing through the snow	16	H – Happiness S - Santa
7	Silent Night	17	Christina Rosetti
8	Charles Wesley	18	Christmas tree
9	Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer	19	Carol singing
10	Bohemia in the 10 th century	20	Figgy pudding



THIS WEEKS QUIZ: THE CHRISTMAS STORY QUIZ

Thanks yet again to Sue and Adrian



1	Who in the old testament prophesied the coming of Jesus? <i>For a child is born to us. A son is given to us.... He will be called wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace</i>	
2	What was the name of the angel who gave Mary the news that she would give birth to God's Son?	
3	Mary visited Elizabeth who was also pregnant..... who was her son?	
4	Who declared that everyone should go to his own city to be registered?	
5	Why did Mary and Joseph have to travel to Bethlehem?	
6	Which Gospel writer tells story so far?	
7	In which Gospel do we read of the angel appearing to tell Joseph that its God's will that he still should marry Mary?	
8	Why was Jesus born in the stable?	
9	How (according to Christina Rossetti) did Mary worship her baby son?	
10	Who first spoke to the Shepherds?	
11	What happened next.....?	
12	After visiting the stable what did the shepherds do?	
13	The Wise Men went first to Jerusalem and were looking for the baby.... This made the King very angry.... What was his name?	
14	The wise men brought gifts - what were they?	

Christians celebrate Christmas in many ways (some of them adaptations from older beliefs and customs). We hold special services and give presents to our families and friends and donations to help those on need In doing this we acknowledge and rejoice in the

Wonderful gift of God's Son to the World.



15	Nicholas (later Saint Nicholas) who lived in 4 th century Turkey was generous in giving money and gifts to those in need. Who did he become in modern times?	
16	While most Europeans share gifts on Christmas day, some traditional folks in Spain wait until the last day of Christmas to share theirs - what day is this?	
17	When was the now traditional Christmas tree introduced in to England?	
18	Which animals, are believed to have been in the stable where Jesus was born and some traditions say they still bow their knees on Christmas Eve at Midnight?	
19	Branches of which evergreen plants are often part of our decorations at Christmas?	
20	What does Tiny Tim cry out at the end of Charles Dicken's "Christmas Carol"?	



Why don't you ever see Santa in hospital?

Because he has private elf care!

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy!

Why does Santa have three gardens?

So that he can "ho ho ho"

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?

He was picking his nose!

