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## BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

Website: [www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk)

**Minister: Rev John Pugh**

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10.00 am until 2.00 pm

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# BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

## Week 41/42



## NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2021

### Weekly Diary

Monday 4 January 2021	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meet in the Rear Hall
Tuesday 5 January	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Wednesday 6 January	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Thursday 7 January	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Friday 8 January	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup

Following various comments from members of the congregation, now that we are in Tier 4, expressing reservations about attending worship in light of the new more transmissible variant of the virus, plus the practical issues of entrance and egress caused by the collapse of the new welcome lounge ceiling, the stewards have taken the decision to suspend worship services for, at least, the next two Sundays. The situation will then be reviewed.



We pray for our country and our community, may the logistics of vaccinating against Covid run smoothly, may our hospitals cope with the influx of patients and may it not stop other ill patients receiving treatment – let everyone behave responsibly.

### REV BILL ANDERSON

For those of you who remember Rev Bill Anderson who was our Minister during the 80s we have received a Christmas round robin from him. Following the death of his daughter, Helen in the autumn of 2019, he returned to work in January and is working 50% of the time gradually leading to his retirement in September 2020. He is then intending to move to Hornsea where he has bought a small house with the seafront only 200 yards away!! He plans lots of walks with his dog McKellen. If anyone would like to read the whole of the letter then please ask me.

### 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](mailto:janetmthompson13@gmail.com) or 01509 413810.**

**Don't forget you can also view our newsletter at [www. barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk)**

### FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE

As it is the New Year this is a Covenant Service message taken from the Methodist Church website. Our own Covenant Service here at Barrow upon Soar will be on Sunday morning, 17<sup>th</sup> January at 10.15 am and led by Rev John Pugh.

### Today's Gospel Reading: John 15.1-9

The Vine and the Branches

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup>"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup>"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

### TIME TO REFLECT

The image of the vine is an organic picture. The branches are growing in the vine. They are connected to every other branch through the vine and fruit grows naturally on the branches. The branches have no choice. They are part of the Vine. But Jesus' use of this image to speak of our relationship with him offers choice and invites our participation. We are asked to abide in the vine and so grow and be fruitful.

Today, we choose again to trust God, to walk with Jesus and to live in the ways of the kingdom.

Take the Methodist Way of Life Card. Before you say the covenant prayer, read through the commitments on the card and reflect on which of these you want to grow in during the coming year.

**As far as we are able, with God's help:**

### Worship

We will **pray** daily.

We will **worship** with others regularly.

We will **look and listen for God** in Scripture, and the world.

### Learning and Caring

We will **care for ourselves** and those around us.  
We will **learn more** about our faith.  
We will **practise** hospitality and generosity.

### Service

We will **help people** in our communities and beyond.  
We will **care for creation** and all God's gifts.  
We will **challenge** injustice.

### Evangelism

We will **speak** of the **love of God**.  
We will **live** in a way that **draws others to Jesus**.  
We will **share** our **faith** with others.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Dear God, we are your people meeting together in your Church, in that part called Methodism. We believe we are called to worship you, to care for others and to spread the gospel. Please help us to mould our Methodist structures to meet the challenges of today. Guide us as to how your mission can be fulfilled through your Church at all levels: connexion, district, circuit and church. Show us how the Church should be set up so that our structures, our standing orders, our disciplines, theology and traditions can be enablers of your mission. Help us to see what needs to be done and inspire us to know how best to implement the changes. Amen.

Esther Male, local preacher and circuit steward, Bailiwick of Guernsey Circuit

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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)

**Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church will be meeting for worship on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 10.15 am led by Dorothy Pipet**

Please ring Sue Speight 01509 413524 – email: [speight4748@gmail.com](mailto:speight4748@gmail.com) to reserve your place before 5.00 pm on the previous Friday

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

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 at 10.45am.

Rev Andrew Lomax with

A Service of Worship including the Covenant & Holy Communion.

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## REV JOHN PUGH WRITES:

Happy New Year! It means just one thing – yes indeed New Year Resolutions. My greatest New Year resolution boast is that the one I made in 1981 I still keep and haven't broken it! Over the years as I have spoken to people of both sexes and all ages (yes, I still believe in that) about their resolutions. Many have admitted to breaking them within minutes – usually involving chocolate, biscuits, tobacco or alcohol. Some have boasted of lasting an hour or two, some a day or two, slightly fewer a week or more, a select few a month or so. A favoured few will stoically claim up to a year. Just in case you might be wondering what this 40-year-old resolution might be – I'll let you into my secret (shhh don't tell anyone promise!) in 1981 my New Year's resolution was I would not make any further New Year's resolutions. You can adopt it if you wish, no charge.



The beginning of January also contains a very special Sunday for the Methodist Church, it is known as Covenant Sunday. It's a time when we remember the promises we made when we became members of the Methodist Church and the people we came into membership with. Most of all though we reaffirm our covenant relationship with God, through Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit. The service during which we share together in the breaking of bread and taking of the Communion wine (juice of the grape, non-alcoholic) we share in a particular prayer which speaks to our heart.

I am no longer my own but yours,  
Put me to what you will,  
rank me with whom you will;  
put me to doing, put me to suffering;  
Let me be employed for you  
or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you  
or brought low for you;  
let me be full, let me be empty,  
let me have all things,  
let me have nothing;  
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours,  
So be it.  
And the covenant now made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen

The other thing I remember as being important in my life at an earlier time was my investment as a scout, the promise I still remember and also the salute to remember it by "I will honour God and the Queen and obey the Scout Law". Would and could we all be so enthusiastic about our Christian faith

## ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ; THE CHRISTMAS STORY

A special request that questions as well as answers be given

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>	Isaiah
2	What was the name of the angel who gave Mary the news that she would give birth to God's Son?	Gabriel
3	Mary visited Elizabeth who was also pregnant..... who was her son?	John the Baptist
4	Who declared that everyone should go to his own city to be registered?	Caesar Augustus
5	Why did Mary and Joseph have to travel to Bethlehem?	It was David's city and Joseph was a descendant

6	Which Gospel writer tells story so far?	Luke
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?	Matthew
8	Why was Jesus born in the stable?	There was no room in the Inn
9	How (according to Christina Rossetti) did Mary worship her baby son?	With a kiss
10	Who first spoke to the Shepherds?	An angel of the Lord
11	What happened next.....?	A whole host of angels
12	After visiting the stable what did the shepherds do?	They told everyone about what they had seen and heard
13	The Wise Men went first to Jerusalem and were looking for the baby.... This made the King very angry.... What was his name?	Herod
14	The wise men brought gifts - what were they?	Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
15	Nicholas (later Saint Nicholas) who lived in 4 <sup>th</sup> century Turkey was generous in giving money and gifts to those in need. Who did he become in modern times?	Santa Claus
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?	Epiphany which celebrates the visit and gifts of the three Wise Men
17	When was the now traditional Christmas tree introduced in to England?	During the 19 <sup>th</sup> century
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?	The ox and the ass
19	Branches of which evergreen plants are often part of our decorations at Christmas?	Holly, mistletoe and ivy
20	What does Tiny Tim cry out at the end of Charles Dicken's "Christmas Carol"?	"God bless everyone"



**THIS WEEK'S QUIZ** – thanks once again to Sue and Adrian

**The *What have YOU been watching?* Quiz**  
*Programs and films over the festive season*

1	The beginning of <i>Paddington 2</i> tells us how the Bear came to be in London ..... where did he come from?	
2	What is special about Christmas University Challenge?	

3	In the <i>Sound of Music</i> how many children did the Captain von Trapp have?	
4	What did <i>the Grinch</i> steal?	
5	What are the names of <i>Peter Rabbit's</i> siblings?	
6	Callum Woodhouse plays the role of Tristan Farnon in the new series of " <i>All Creatures Great and Small</i> "- who played him in the original series?	
7	The man who sang "Walking in the Air" from " <i>The Snowman</i> " (as a boy soprano) read the story on the radio. Who is he?	
8	Played by Jon Pertwee in 1970's and now by Mackenzie Crook, what is the name of the walking, talking scarecrow of Scatterbrook Farm?	
9	Which children's author created Zog, Stickman and the Gruffalo?	
10	Which film with an all-star cast tells of people making a new life at a 'retirement home' on Jaipur, India?	
11	Who won " <i>Strictly Come Dancing</i> "?	
12	Jane Torville and Christopher Dean visited Alaska where they repeated their Olympic Gold winning ice dance...to which music?	
13	What is Peter Parker's super-hero alias?	
14	Who was voted <i>Sports Personality of the Year</i> ?	
15	Where is there a group of skilful people willing to transform worn out but precious treasures into beautiful objects again?	
16	Which animated pair shared "A Grand Day Out" and "A Close Shave"?	
17	Which series of real live dramas in the 1960's in the East End of London was initially based on the memories of Jennifer Worth?	
18	Which BBC Quiz Game formerly hosted by Terry Wogan and then Les Dawson was revived with a new host usually seen on ITV?	
19	Michael Palin had been reviewing his epic journeys, "Around the World" and "Pole to Pole" ..... but in which series of programmes did he first become famous?	
20	A new drama depicted " <i>The Man who Invented Christmas</i> ". Which 19 <sup>th</sup> century author was the program about?	

Answers next week

## AND AN EXTRA QUIZ JUST FOR THE NEW YEAR FROM ME!!

Scroll down for the answers to this one!

Happy New Year

1	What is the first country to celebrate New Year?	
2	On New Year's Eve in London which clock is supposed to strike at midnight?	
3	According to superstition and tradition in Spain how many grapes should you eat at midnight on New Year's Eve to bring good luck for the coming year?	

4	What do people in Romania often toss into rivers at New Year?	
5	Rosh Hashanah is the New Year in which religion?	
6	At Chinese New Year what do children receive from their parents as a gift?	
7	In which nation would banging walls and doors with bread dispel bad luck from your house?	
8	In the Netherlands people believe that eating which food can bring good fortune on New Year's Day?	
9	People in which South American country carry a suitcase around their house on New Year's Eve to fulfil their travelling dreams?	
10	According to the ancient Roman calendar a new year began on which date?	

I'm not buying a 2021 calendar until I see the trailer.

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Some astronauts wanted to have a New Year's Party on the moon, but they didn't planet in time.

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Why do you need a jeweller on December 31?

To ring in the New Year.

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I thought I got lost on New Year's Eve, but then I found the Auld Lang sign.

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I'm going to stay up late this New Year's Eve—not to ring in the New Year, but to make sure this one leaves.

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Not to brag, but I already have a date for New Year's Eve—it's December 31.

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### Answers to New Year Quiz

1: Tonga, 2: Big Ben, 3:12, 4: Coins, 5: Jewish, 6: Money, 7: Ireland, 8: Do-nuts, 9: Venezuela, 10: 1<sup>st</sup> March