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## BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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

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# BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

## Week 43

### NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 10th JANUARY 2021

#### Weekly Diary

Monday 11 January 2021	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meet in the Rear Hall
Tuesday 12 January	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Wednesday 13 January	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Thursday 14 January	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Friday 15 January	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup

The Circuit Leadership Team met this week and although there has been no directive from the Government or from Methodist Church UK about ceasing public worship in our buildings, they have recommended that worship in the Circuit churches does not take place physically until the end of this lockdown period.

In October, our Church Council voted to re-open for worship and the decision on whether or not Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church complies with this new Circuit directive rests again with them. Members have been emailed the information together with an added recommendation from our Minister and Church Stewards that they accept this advice. Once everyone has replied and a decision made, we will notify everyone,

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We pray for those recently bereaved, for Mary Thompson, Kate (Bowler) and Jamie and their families following the death of their husband and father Kevon.

**WELL, HERE WE ARE AGAIN!!** Lockdown 3 (is this third time lucky I ask?) I will continue to send out a bulletin every week but if anyone has anything that they can share – article, joke, quiz, poem etc then please let me know at [janetmthompson13@gmail.com](mailto:janetmthompson13@gmail.com)

PS: should have been having my hair cut today – Thanks, Boris!!

#### BARROW PLAYGROUP

In line with government legislation, Barrow Playgroup continues to run every day even though schools and colleges are closed.

## FUNDRAISING

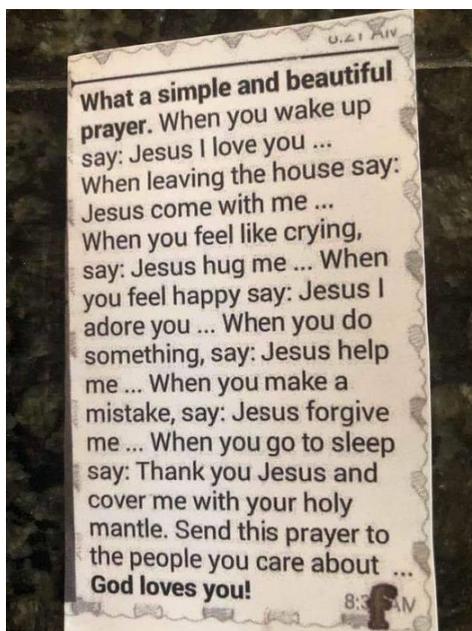
All Fund raising has ceased due to Covid but Yvonne goes every Saturday to Kathryn's on Highfields and helps with the garden and whilst there she has set up a stall outside, with books, jigsaws, pickled onions etc and on some Tuesdays outside Joan T's. Passers-by have found these invaluable in finding that book or jigsaw that will keep them occupied during this time or the pickle that will enhance their sandwich!! This impromptu fundraising has now made over £600 which will be shared between ourselves and the Charnwood Toy Project. Our grateful thanks go to Yvonne for all her efforts on our behalf.

## 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

### Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11 NRSV

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with <sup>[b]</sup> water; but he will baptize you with <sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit."

### The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; <sup>[c]</sup> with you I am well pleased."

## TIME TO REFLECT

Materials by Liz Wood

I'd like to invite you to take a few moments to think about water.

The gentle way it washes dirt from our skin

The powerful force that carves channels through rock.

The refreshing, heaven sent gift that brings life to our world.

A few years ago, I visited Bushmead in Zimbabwe and the school my church has helped to fund there. It was, as you might imagine a life changing experience, I was welcomed into the community and family home as both dear sister and honoured guest. Unlike many homes in Zimbabwe there was running water which meant that while my hosts took turns in the same bath water, I was given the luxury of my own bathroom.

I'd been fundraising for the school for years so I knew what life in Zimbabwe was like or I thought I did. But the shock of turning on the tap to find no water (common place for them) was very real.

I have never been without easy access to clean water, even during essential plumbing works provision has always been made and I have known when water will be restored.

Of course, my hosts were prepared, in my excitement and wonder at all around me and the love I'd been shown I'd failed to notice the most basic, there in the corner was a pack of bottled water, ready for us.

Water is life, life without water cannot exist.

So, what better symbol for baptism could there be, waters ability to cleanse, its power to transform and reshape and our total inability to live without it tells us much about the Spirit of God.

Through Baptism in Christ, we have been washed clean and offered a source of ongoing renewal.

Through Baptism in Christ, we have received the Holy Spirit, God's presence in our lives, helping us to change and reshape ourselves into the people we are called to be.

Through Baptism in Christ, we have been given life, true life, eternal life.

God is with us, flowing through us and out from us into our world. The source of life for all, a force which can never be completely cut off, a blessing that will never leave us.

There may be times when we don't notice God's presence, when we feel he is distant or has abandoned us and the tap gives nothing.

Don't be fooled, God is always with us, waiting for us to discover him, turn to him, rely on him, waiting to wash through us and make us truly alive.

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### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Father God, we come to you with open hearts and minds to pray for our world,

For all who are working to help others.

For all who are unwell in body, mind or soul.

For all who fear violence, in the streets or their own homes.

For all who struggle to fill their daily needs and fear for their future.

For all who feel alone or isolated.

For Church, family, friends and neighbours.

For ourselves, right here and now, all we are and think and feel.

Father we place our world into your hands, in all things and all places may your will be done

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](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

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 on Trinity Methodist Church **Facebook** page

Sunday 17th January 2021 at 10.45am.

Liz and Rob Newton

## **BE WISE AFTER THE EVENT**

Who were the wise men? Let's imagine. One was a very big business man; one was a political leader with great influence; one was a master of all kinds of science and technology. They were the sort of people who, by what they do and don't do, will shape what happens in our world during 2021 and beyond.

But, unlike many of their kind, these three were wise men. They were wise because they knew their limitations. For all their wisdom, power and influence, they hadn't been able to right the biggest wrongs in the world. (You know what those are.) This worried them. There seemed to be a huge gap between the world they knew and the world they wanted people to live in, between earth and heaven. They knew no one to turn to, to tell them what more they could do. Perhaps the answer was in the stars; at any rate in one particular star, brighter than all the others, leaving the others standing as it headed west through heaven. They decided to follow it. It was a long journey, possibly a waste of time?



No! It wasn't a waste of time; far from it. As they placed gifts for a king beside the cradle these three discovered something. It came as a gift from within the cradle, a gift for all wise men and women, great and small. What was it? A truth, I believe, which I find in the beautiful words of a favourite Christmas carol.

'Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when  
He comes to reign.' *(Christina Rossetti)*

With the birth of Jesus, the boundary melts away, the boundary between earth and heaven, between the world we experience and the world of which we dream. The two are not the same, but they overlap and merge. With faith in Jesus as king it's possible to live both in this world and in the world to come. That's God's gift to us all!

As we imagine those wise men reverently placing their gifts, the challenge to us this New Year is also to place our gifts alongside theirs. And what gifts do we have? Between us, many. 'Yet what I can I give Him; give my heart.' We all have hearts. With our hearts in the right place we can all be God's partners as He works out His loving purpose for us, for all. *Paul Johns*

With thanks to Keyworth Keeping Connected Issue 33 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## THE GOLD WRAPPING PAPER

An Inspirational Short Christmas Story – maybe a little late but .....

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.



### REV JOHN PUGH WRITES:

If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning,  
I'd hammer in the evening, all over this land.  
I'd hammer out danger, I'd hammer out warning,  
I'd hammer out the love between my brother and my sister  
All over this land.



A protest song originally sung by Pete Seeger in 1949, which only really became popular when sung by Peter, Paul and Mary in 1962. The second verse spoke of a bell which would be rung and the third verse of a song which could be sung. It was always the finale of the song which mentions:

"It's the hammer of justice  
It's the bell of freedom  
It's the song about the love between my brother and my sister all over this land"

I never really understood the song until many years later but I certainly remember many of my school friends singing or humming the rather catchy tune around the playground. The 60's seemed very much to be a period of protest as well as the time of hippies and universal love. I remember the news being filled with films of young students protesting about something or other. I also remember older folk saying they didn't understand the 'young uns', but hasn't that always been the case between young and old?

Over the millennia humanity has struggled with the dilemma of succeeding generations trying to understand each other. Sometimes there is greater understanding between the very old and the very young, is this because as we truly age, we develop a more mature wisdom? The cynic would say as we truly get very old, we become childlike again and that is why we get on better. Whatever the reason maybe there is something to look forward to, I know there will always be exceptions to the norm. How many older readers have happy memories of sitting on grandparents' laps, listening to stories or just hearing their heart beat?

The Old Testament says in one version "regard the hoary head" in other words honour the older generation. In some cultures, the elder generations were recognised as being 'wise', they were the ones who could advise when things began to go "pear shaped". Just stop and think about yourself for a moment, how different are you from 10/20/30/40/50/60 years+ ago? How differently would you handle things now? See that's wisdom for you!

**NOTE:** The answer to question 20 "What does Tiny Tim cry out at the end of Charles Dicken's "Christmas Carol?" of the Christmas Story quiz in Week 40 should have been "God bless **us**, everyone" – my typo mistake!

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**ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ** - The *What have YOU been watching?* Quiz of programmes and films over the festive season.

A special request that questions as well as answers be given

1	The beginning of "Paddington 2" tells us how the Bear came to be in London but where did he come from?	Darkest Peru
2	What is special about Christmas University Challenge?	Team is made up of former students- Alumni
3	In "The Sound of Music" how many children did the Captain von Trapp have	7
4	What did <i>the Grinch</i> steal?	Christmas
5	What are the names of <i>Peter Rabbit's</i> siblings?	Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail
6	Callum Woodhouse plays the role of Tristan Farnon in the new series of "All Creatures Great and Small." Who played him in the original series?	Peter Davison
7	The man who sang "Walking in the Air" from "The Snowman" (as a boy soprano) read the story on the radio. Who is he?	Aled Jones
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?	Worzel Gummidge
9	Which children's author created Zog, Stickman and the Gruffalo?	Julia Donaldson
10	Which film with an all-star cast tells of people making a new life at a 'retirement home' in Jaipur, India?	The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
11	Who won <i>Strictly Come Dancing</i> ?	Bill Bailey & Oti Mabose
12	Jane Torville and Christopher Dean visited Alaska where they re-performed their Olympic Gold winning ice dance...to which music?	Bolero (by Ravel)
13	What is Peter Parker's super-hero alias?	Spiderman
14	Who was voted <i>Sports Personality of the Year</i> ?	Lewis Hamilton
15	Where is there a group of skilful people willing to transform worn out but precious treasures into beautiful objects again?	<i>The Repair Shop</i>
16	Which animated pair shared "A Grand Day Out" and "A Close Shave?"	<i>Wallace and Grommet</i>
17	Which series of real live dramas in the 1960's in the East End of London was initially based on the memoirs of Jennifer Worth?	Call the Midwife
18	Which BBC Quiz Games formerly hosted by Terry Wogan and then Les Dawson was revived with a new host usually seen on ITV?	Blankety Blank

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?	Monty Pythons Flying Circus
20	A new drama depicted "The Man who Invented Christmas." Which 19 <sup>th</sup> century author was the programme about?	Charles Dickens



## THIS WEEK'S QUIZ – FRUIT AND VEGETABLE QUIZ

Thanks again to Sue and Adrian

01	Which salad fruit is also known as a love apple	
02	Which winter root vegetable sounds as if it comes from Scandinavia	
03	Which Green leaves gave Popeye his strength	
04	Which small fruit which shares its name with a bird was originally called a Chinese Gooseberry	
05	What is the main ingredient of a coleslaw salad	
06	Which fruit is normally used to make the desserts <i>Amber</i> and <i>Charlotte</i>	
07	Mange tout, little marvel and sugar snap are varieties of which vegetable	
08	What is the difference between a Peach and a Nectarine	
09	Which vitamin in carrots helps to improve one's night vision	
10	The fruit of a bush we danced round as children	
11	A main ingredient of Moussaka this fruit is called Egg Plant in America	
12	Grown in a vineyard this fruit is delicious raw but some people prefer it from a bottle	
13	What is the difference between a Globe Artichoke and a Jerusalem Artichoke	
14	Garlic, onions, leeks and chives are all member of which plant family-	
15	Where would you find the Rhubarb Triangle	
16	Baked, mashed, roasted or chipped are ways of preparing which root vegetable	
17	An unwanted companion around a couple who would rather be alone is sometimes called this	
18	Which salad vegetable is best when it has been <i>blanched</i> by raising the soil level around it to cut out the light	
19	Along with the usual deep purple colour, which root vegetable can also be grown in shades of red and yellow	
20	Bamboo shoots, water chestnuts and beansprouts are typical ingredients of which take-away cuisine	
21	How many portions of Fruit and Veg are recommended for a healthy lifestyle	

Answers next week

You can tell when a Methodist is watching a "Star Wars" film whenever a main character says the line "May the Force be with you" - your Methodist will instinctively respond with "And also with you...!"

