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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 47

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2021

Weekly Diary

Monday 8 February	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meet in the Rear Hall
Tuesday 9 February	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Wednesday 10 February	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Thursday 11 February	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Friday 12 February	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup

Churches in the Loughborough Methodist Circuit have agreed that, for the safety of everyone, no public worship will take place in our buildings until the end of this lockdown period.

Sunday worship will continue on the Facebook page of Trinity Methodist Church Centre, Loughborough at 10.45 am every week

But please remember the Church building may be closed, but the Church is still very much here for you - if you require the services of a Minister, please contact our Minister on Telephone: 0116 2304689

John Bateman should have been planned to lead us in worship today if the church had been open. As this is not possible, attached to this newsletter you will find a short service that he has prepared and sent to us, that can be shared at home.

THANK YOU - COLLECTION ENVELOPES:

I have the new envelopes for 2021 and everyone who uses them should now have received their set. I have not sent them to those of you who contribute by bank standing order because you don't usually need them, but if you or anyone else would like a set please give me a ring on 01509 413085 as I have plenty more. Thanks to you all for your regular contributions to the running of the church, the system works well, so please continue. While church services are temporarily suspended, the bills still have to be paid, and thank you for making this possible - Peter Yates

NEWS OF MARGARET AND ALISTAIR

Joyce and Ed have had a message from Margaret and Alistair Riach who are now living in Cranfield, Bedfordshire but they still receive our newsletter every week.

Here is part of the message:

"We are having our vaccines on Monday 1 February. Our family near here had the virus just before Christmas but are over it and seem none the worse for it. Daughter in law brought it home from school we suspect. Now twelve months since I was in a congregation and I do miss the singing. Alistair joined the Parish Church

congregation in the summer but I preferred to attempt to join Trinity, Loughborough on the iPad. It was good to see a few familiar faces - I still miss you all! No news – it is getting so boring, roll on Springtime. Give our love to everyone who remembers us.”

Joyce also tells me that sadly Ed's sister, Audrey, died on Christmas Day age 65 years and as the rest of Ed's siblings live in Wales and Australia, they have been busy keeping in touch with them over the past few weeks. Our love and prayers are with all the family at this time.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BARROW UPON SOAR:

Zoom/Telephone Prayer Meetings

The vicar, Rev Clive Watts is running prayer meetings – we are trying to find out just how this works so look out for more details.

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: Mark 1 verses 29-39

Jesus Heals Many ²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. ³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place ³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

TIME TO REFLECT

Original Materials by Jean Ware

In Luke's gospel Jesus sets out his priorities in what we sometimes call his manifesto (Luke 4 vv 14-21), but Mark chooses to let us know what Jesus' priorities are by giving us a whirlwind tour of what Jesus was *doing* at the beginning of his ministry. Jesus teaches in the synagogue where he heals a man with an unclean spirit. Straight afterwards, he goes to the house of Simon, one of the disciples he's called just recently. There he finds Simon's mother-in-law in the grip of a fever and heals her. Then, as the news spreads through the town, people come to him in droves, and he heals them, freeing them from whatever is holding them captive, whether it's physical illness or what were then seen as demons. The kingdom is proclaimed in actions, whether that's in the freeing of a particular individual from illness or the healing of crowds of people. Mark sees the individual healings as important both for the person concerned and as signs of the kingdom.

After the evening healing people in Capernaum, Jesus gets up early and goes off to a quiet place to spend time with God his Father. When Simon and the others come to find him, expecting him to return to the town, Jesus is sure that it's time to move on; his mission is not just to Capernaum, but to the other local towns, the whole region, and even wider than that.

Over Christmas there was a programme about Princess Diana; we saw just a few minutes of it by chance, but those few minutes showed Diana reaching out to shake hands with people with Aids, breaking down the prejudice which entrapped and isolated them. Like those handshakes Diana gave, the freedom Jesus came to bring from all that holds us captive is not some abstract idea; it's real and tangible. At a time when our inability to touch each other is especially painful, Jesus still reaches out to touch us and lift us up as he did Simon's mother-in-law. The good news of the kingdom is for all; but it's also for each of us individually and personally. However, unloveable or unforgiveable we may feel we are, we matter and God in Jesus reaches out to us.

12 IS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER – Andrew Lomax



Some of you will have noticed that the Sunday service on the Trinity Facebook page is also referred to as the 12th Church. From my first feeble efforts on Mothering Sunday last year, where the signal broke twice in the short 20 minutes service from Trinity, to the MGM production of the Nativity service arranged by John Pipet (which has had over 1000 views!) our online service has developed into an act of worship that is greatly appreciated by many people every week.

We said last year that we intend to make the online service permanent and to this end have chosen to simply call it the 12th Church, since the Chinese Church became the 11th church in the circuit over three years ago. It will appear on the plan with all the other churches. Though it was hosted on Trinity's Facebook page, it quickly became apparent that it was a circuit service, as it was the only service in the circuit and people were joining from other churches. It has proved to be, not only a precious means of worshipping together in these strange times, but also a place to unite the circuit together.

We have now set up a new Facebook page for the 12th Church and we shall be using it to broadcast the service. The purpose of the 12th Church is not only to provide worship on a Sunday for those unable to attend our buildings, but to be a circuit resource for all the churches and to signpost people to a church near them. We intend to develop opportunities for meeting online for prayer, bible study, faith development, discipleship as well as forums in which to ask questions for those who are searching for meaning.

One great advantage to church online is the ease with which it can be shared and accessed by others, we hope that when you have seen, or have taken part in something that has been helpful to you, you might share it with others who would also appreciate it.

Though we have called it the 12th Church, it is to be a place for everyone, those who are already part of an established church, meeting in a building and those who perhaps might find meeting in person difficult. We hope to develop ways to help people get to know each other and we will pursue this with regard to all safeguarding measures. We will have an appointed team of identifiable leaders drawn from around the circuit, so if you would like to get involved please speak to me ([Rev Andrew Lomax](#)).

This is just the beginning of what we hope will become a significant development in the life of our circuit. If Covid-19 had not happened we would never have started or become so ambitious. I ask for your prayers for wisdom and guidance as we discern how God is going to use this opportunity over the coming years.



TIME TO MOVE ON – A reflection by Adrian

Have you noticed how the days are getting longer? I noticed this week that sunset is getting at least 15 minutes later each week at the moment – and on a “good” day it is still light at 5 o'clock.

Last Tuesday, 2nd February, was the festival of Candlemas. The day that the season of Epiphany ends, and definitely the last day to take down any Christmas decorations that remain. It is also the day that is mid-way between the Winter Solstice (21st December '20) and the Spring Equinox (20th March '21).

Within the Christmas Church the festival recalls Mary and Joseph bringing baby Jesus and presenting him to God in the temple 40 days after his birth, for the ritual ceremony of purification. In Luke's gospel we can read that, after the ceremony, Mary and Joseph met Anna and Simeon. Simeon, who had looked for the coming of the Messiah for a long time, held the baby Jesus and called him a “Light to the World.” On seeing the baby Simeon was moved to voice the words which are now known as The Nunc Dimittis. *“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”* (Luke 2:29-32)

As part of the recognition of Jesus as a Light for the World, in many churches, the candles to be used in worship during the coming year are blessed. As with many Christian festivals there are also links to pagan practices. The time was a festival of light with people lighting candles to scare away evil spirits on the dark winter nights.

People also believed that the weather on Candlemas also predicted the pattern for the rest of the winter. One winter proverb reads:

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another fight.
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain
Winter won't come again.*

Traditional

What Candlemas brings for you, only you know. I pray, however, that you know Jesus as the Light for the World as we continue to live in hope through uncertain times.

LENT ON LINE

WOVEN: A LENT COURSE

As people of faith, we know that our story and God's story are woven together, not because we wish it to be so but because God is interested in the smallest detail of our lives. The God who knit us together in our mothers' wombs is the same God who knows the number of hairs on our heads and who loved us and the whole world enough to send Jesus to show us the way of love.

Lent is a season during which we reflect on our personal relationship with God and on every Christian's responsibility to engage with the world as it is. We notice again God's prompting to move on from personal reflection, through shared study, towards lives of love in action. We remember that Jesus travelled a journey from his baptism, through the wilderness and beyond, to a ministry of teaching and healing, of challenging injustice and of holding the powerful to account. We will remember the cost that Jesus paid for standing up for those who were most vulnerable and we will look towards the eternal hope that lies beyond the sacrifice.



This will be led by Rev Andrew Lomax. From Ash Wednesday for six weeks at 7:15pm, via Zoom, the link will go out with Trinity Matters, or contact [Andrew](mailto:Andrew@trinitymatters.org). All are welcome to join.

17 February	Into the wilderness
24 February	On the mountain top
3 March	Turning the tables
10 March	No condemnation
17 March	A grain of wheat
24 March	Passion: anointing and betrayal

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Each day and each night, each shade and each light, we bend our knee in the eye of the Father who has created us, in the eye of the Son who has redeemed us, in the eye of the Spirit who has cleansed us; in love and affection, in wisdom and grace, in faith and in fear, for ever and ever. Amen.

Based on traditional Gaelic prayers to the Trinity

The Methodist Church has compiled a list of resources to help nourish your spiritual life on a daily and weekly basis.

Spiritual sustenance when isolated:

Daily: Pray our daily prayer from the Methodist Prayer Handbook

Join online Morning Prayer from Wesley's Chapel 10.00 – 10.15 am

Pray for others on our Prayer Wall and post your own intercessory prayer

Take part in our daily Bible Study

Weekly

Any day of the week – Free phone lines for prayers, reflections and news from the Methodist Church

Dial a Prayer – free telephone lines where you can listen to prayer or Methodist News.

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to a pastoral message from the President and Vice President: 0808 281 2695

Listen to our Podcast: 0808 281 2478

Every Tuesday: Take part in the 15-minute year of prayer service at 12.45 pm either register to join on Zoom or watch live on the Methodist Church Facebook page

Every Sunday: Take part in a live online Sunday service from Methodist Central Hall Westminster at 10.00 am

Read aloud the specially prepared Epiphany O Antiphons for 2021

All this can be found on the Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.uk

**12th Church - 10.45 am on Trinity Methodist Church Facebook page
Sunday 7th FEBRUARY 2021 at 10.45am.**

Rev Andrew Lomax

Message from Rev Andrew Lomax

As many of you will be aware ordinations did not take place last year as Conference was held online. They were deferred to April of this year, in the hope that we will be able to meet once again in person. There is still some uncertainty as to whether they will go ahead, but if they do then the Rev Calvin Cheung will be ordained at Westminster Central Hall on Sunday 18th April, at a service starting at 6pm. The letter below, from the Conference office, has a link to the Eventbrite booking site if anyone would like to have a ticket to attend. We do not yet know if it will go ahead, or how many will be able to attend, if we cannot be there in person, hopefully we will be able to watch the service online as it happens. We can only wait and see. If I can I hope to be there and will be travelling by train if anyone would like to join me, it will be a late night.

God bless - Andrew.

DISTRICT ORDINANDS TESTIMONY SERVICE

You may be interested in joining:

Celebrate with us the testimonies of Paul Carter, Calvin Cheung, Judith Lincoln, and Daniel Yovan
14th February via Zoom



THIS WEEK'S QUIZ IS NEARER TO HOME

All answers are Midland towns, villages or associates

Thanks to Sue - Answers next week

1	What is the nickname of Belgrave Road in Leicester?	
2	Which Leicestershire park is associated with Jane Grey- the so-called 9 days Queen?	
3	In which county is Sherwood Forest?	
4	Which Duke owns Belvoir Castle?	
5	What is Rutland's claim to fame?	
6	What historically links Ashby, Tattershall and Tamworth?	

7	Which Midland town has a pig named after it?	
8	The rivers Dove, Derwent, Leen and Soar are tributaries of which river- the third largest in the UK?	
9	A writer famous for his book entitled <i>The Perfect Angler</i> who was born in Stafford and reputedly fished in the River Dove.	
10	Which Scientist and discoverer of gravity, was born at Woolsthorpe Manor, south of Grantham?	
11	Which County has an area called Holland and is renowned for its tulip fields and festival at Spalding?	
12	The Sheriff of which city was the archenemy of Robin Hood?	
13	Trent Bridge, Grace Road and The County Ground are the venues for which sport in local cities.?	
14	In which Minster town which claims to be the home of the Bramley apple can you visit a reconstructed Workhouse?	
15	Stoke on Trent, Hanley, Burslem, Tunstall, Longton and Fenton are collectively known as what?	
16	What is mined at the Caverns near Mam Tor in the Peak District- the only place it is found in the UK?	
17	Stanford Hall near Loughborough was once a grand family home- a place of entertainment- a college- what is it now?	
18	Where (if you're brave enough) can you ride <i>The Runaway Mine Train</i> , <i>Nemesis</i> and <i>Oblivion</i> ?	
19	Spreading across Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire and linking with Charnwood and Needwood - what is the name of area of tree planting which started in 1995 and still continues?	
20	Which city has a twentieth century Cathedral dedicated to St Michael, who may be seen defeating the devil on the wall of the building?	

After further conversation it seems that most folks would like to receive answers the following week. So, none today..... but you know how to contact if you can't wait

You measure my life in hours and I serve you by expiring. I'm quick when I'm thin and slow when I'm fat. The wind is my enemy.

Answer: A candle.



I weigh nothing, but you can still see me. If you put me in a bucket, I make the bucket lighter. What am I?

Answer: A hole

What's the best thing about Switzerland?

I don't know, but the flag is a big plus.

What does Charles Dickens keep in his spice rack?

The best of thymes, the worst of thymes

What did the bald man say when he was given a comb for a present?

Thank you, I'll never part with it

What did one hat say to another?

You wait here and I'll go on ahead.