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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

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10.00 am until 2.00 pm

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BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

Week 49

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2021

Weekly Diary

Monday 22 February	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meet in the Rear Hall
Tuesday 23 February	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Wednesday 24 February	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Thursday 25 February	8.45 am to 4.00 pm 7.30 pm	Barrow Playgroup Church Council meeting via Zoom
Friday 26 February	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Saturday 27 February		
Sunday 28 February	10.45 am	12 th Church – Sunday morning worship on Facebook led by Emma Lowe

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 12TH CHURCH 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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY this week to MIKE MORLEY who celebrates on Sunday 21 February – lots of love to you!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Jonny (Doda) and Chloe who have announced their engagement this week – our love and best wishes to you both.



YARN BOMBING

You may have seen our latest venture into yarn bombing outside chapel this week. See photos below of bollards and the free-standing display in the Foyer telling passers-by of God's love. The new display window has also been changed to mirror this theme. Plans are now being made to do a "Spring" yarn bombing nearer to Easter and we need knitted or crocheted flowers, leaves, butterflies, ladybirds etc to fix to

the sleeve which will go over the bollards. Would you like to help us? As you can imagine we will need quite a lot! If you feel you can help then please email or ring me on the details below or ring either Tilly (413085) or Kate (412982).

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

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 Reading from the Old Testament: Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.' (NRSV)

Today's Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15

The Baptism of Jesus

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

The Temptation of Jesus

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' (NRSV)

TIME TO REFLECT

Original Materials by Fiona Calverey

Here we are at the beginning of a new Church season in Lent 1. There are two readings for today. The Gospel passage should be familiar to folk as portions of it have already featured twice in this year's lectionary and the Genesis passage which I find particularly applicable to our present situation worldwide.

Noah and his family have been restricted to an Ark for 378 days, not just 40 days. Which is so similar to how long this Pandemic has been making our lives difficult. When Noah disembarks and makes sacrifices to God, then God promises to establish a covenant which has the rainbow as a sign.

What will you sacrifice to God to open a way for God to bless you? Our hands are full of many different things that we need to let go of before we can take up new things.

Just as God wiped the earth clean of all wickedness by way of the flood waters so too does the Baptism of repentance wash us clean.

The wilderness, like Lent is also a time for reflection, fasting and spending time in prayer as we prepare for what God is going to do in us and through us.

What are the "struggles" that you have faced in this last year? What path will you take in the Lenten season ahead?



This was how Susannah Wesley defined "sin" to her young son, John Wesley:
 "Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, and takes off the relish of spiritual things – that to you is sin."

A reflection for the beginning of Lent by Adrian

On each of the Sundays in Lent it has become our tradition to add symbols to an empty cross to remind us of the suffering of Jesus. Each week I hope to write a reflection on the object that will be added to the cross which is now in our display window in North Street.



30 PIECES OF SILVER

Bribery, corruption, betrayal – there is nothing new. Thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave in Exodus, to betray one's friend. One can easily be left thinking – what was Judas Iscariot hoping to achieve? What was it that prompted Judas to go to the chief priests and to ask the question, "How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?"

The chief priests counted out money, 30 silver coins, that would have been Temple money rather than Roman money. The coin would have been the *Tyrian shekel* that was required to pay all taxes in the temple – it had a higher silver content than the Roman coins. But even still it was little more than a day's pay - 5 weeks pay to betray someone who was supposed to be one of his friends!

What was his motive? There are several references in the gospels as to Judas' true nature. In John's gospel he is said to be dishonest and was known to steal from the common purse (12:4-6). Whist Luke records that Satan entered Judas and it was agreed that the act of betrayal would happen when there weren't many people around. (22: 3 -6). But if his motive was greed then the amount was small – surely, he could have asked for more? If he was dishonest why did Jesus chose him to be one of the twelve? When we read the account of the last supper in John's gospel, we hear Jesus commenting that things were happening to fulfil prophecy. Whatever Judas hope to achieve – it was all in the plan – God's plan!

As I have been writing this reflection, I have also been looking at the readings for the Lent Study which Andrew Lomax is leading. One of the readings are these verses from Psalm 25 (4-5)

*Show me the right path, O LORD;
 point out the road for me to follow
 Lead me by your truth and teach me,*

*for you are the God who saves me.
All day long I put my hope in you.*

Judas thought he was following the right road – but many thought it was clearly the wrong way. He thought he knew the plan but clearly missed the truth of all that Jesus taught. When he saw what happened Judas regretted it. He gave the money back – put the chief priests did not want it and, it is said, they used it to buy a field. Judas could not live with himself and ended his life.

As we continue to live in hope of more freedom and opportunity to meet with family and friends, let us pray that none of our words and actions lead us to betray our Lord and Saviour, not just as we travel through Lent 2021 but at all times. May our Lord bless us all.

Adrian

THE LIVING BIBLE

His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He is brilliant. Kind of profound and very, very bright. He became a Christian while attending college.

Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt, and wild hair. The service has already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat. The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now, people are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. Bill gets closer and closer and closer to the pulpit, and when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet. By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the minister realizes that from way at the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill.

Now the deacon is in his eighties, has silver-grey hair, and a three-piece suit. A godly man, very elegant, very dignified, very courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor? It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The minister can't even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do.

And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone. Everyone chokes up with emotion.

When the minister gains control, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget." "Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read".



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 please contact Andrew Email: andrew.lomax@methodist.org.uk All are welcome to join. Downloadable copies of the course are available on <https://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/lentcourse2021>

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

Light of the World, you shine for me always, whether I am strutting my stuff in the footlights, or caught like a rabbit in the headlights; when lightning strikes twice in the same place, or all the lights go out. Draw me in to your firelight, search my heart with your candlelight, may I live in your sunlight, until every dark place in my soul is illumined by you. Amen.

Jenny Dyer, superintendent, Stoke-on-Trent North Circuit



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 12th Church Facebook page
Sunday 21st February 2021 at 10.45 am
Emma Lowe

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) SWANWICK 2021.

Following the huge disappointment of having to cancel the weekend at Swanwick in 2020, we have been determined to offer something in 2021, but sadly, we have made the decision not to meet face to face at Swanwick because of the ongoing uncertainties of life with Covid 19, and the need to keep everyone as safe as possible. However, we are delighted to be able to invite you to 'Together, with Hope on the Way', an online conference taking place on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th April 2021. You can find more information on their website.

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid write: We are hosting an exciting online Conference on the 22-26th Feb that will help engage, equip and inspire supporters and we'd love you to be part of it. It's called "**Changemakers: Real People, Real Change.**"

There'll be a wide range of sessions on zoom with great speakers covering all sorts of subjects that you can opt into. This is for people new to Christian Aid as well as those who've been supporters for a long time. Come and hear what we're doing in some of the poorest communities round the world and how you can play your part in bringing God's love, hope and justice.

All the water in the world however hard it tries,
Can never sink the smallest ship unless it gets inside.
And all the evil in the world - the blackest kind of sin,
Can never hurt you in the least unless you let it in.

Anon.

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ – CATS AND DOGS

Thanks again to Sue - Answers next week.

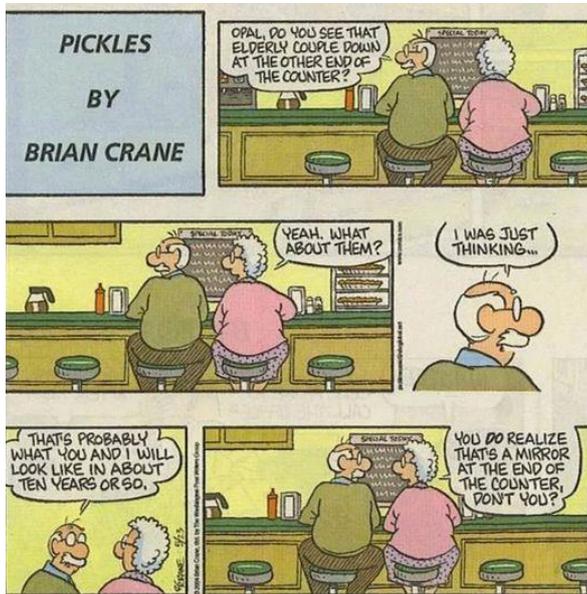
1	Which form of precipitation may be compared to Cats and Dogs?	
2	Which dog is a member of Enid Blyton's famous five?	
3	Who was the first dog to appear in Blue Peter?	
4	In the <i>Just So Stories</i> what did the cat do?	
5	In the 1969 children's' TV series <i>Mary Mungo and Midge...</i> who was the Dog?	
6	In the animated series <i>Roobarb and Custard</i> , who was the dog and who was the cat and what colours were they?	
7	<i>Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats</i> was the basis of which musical?	
8	Who created the Cat in the Hat?	
9	Meg and her cat Mog used which form of transport?	
10	Snoopy the beagle lies in top of his kennel in which cartoon series?	
11	Which of James Bond enemies was frequently seen stroking a large white cat?	
12	In 7 who is the railway cat?	
13	What is Dennis the Menace's dog called?	
14	Created by Jim Davis... who is a large and lazy cat who loves lasagne?	
15	Which novel and film tell the story of two dogs and a cat travelling through wild Canada in search of their lost owners?	
16	<i>Marley and Me</i> is an autobiographic novel telling the story of a man and his dog..... what was the dog's breed?	
17	Created by Beatrix Potter, Tabatha Twitchit has three unruly kittens what are their names?	
18	In Herge's adventures of Tintin what is his dog called?	
19	Who did Crookshanks the cat, belong to in the Harry Potter books?	
20	Nana the dog was family nursemaid to the Darling children in which story by J M Barrie?	

“If anyone has any queries or needs any clarification regarding any of the quizzes would you please contact Sue direct on sue.speight4748@gmail.com” Thanks a lot.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ – HOMONYMS

1	My teddy bear is so old he is almost bare
2	The person who delivers your mail is often male
3	Macbeth could not remember which, witch said what

4	When a pail of water was poured over him he turned quite pale
5	If you have a herb garden you can pick thyme at any time of the year
6	Fred took his umbrella whether the weather was wet or sunny
7	Dad had to pander to the kids and take them to the zoo f to see the baby panda
8	In the abbey one friar worked in the kitchen as a fryer
9	The dashing beau often wore a colourful bow tie
10	She couldn't remember where she had put the jumper she wanted to wear ...
11	The wooden canoe was crude but it was safely crewed by 4 people
12	Woods and mountains could be seen in the scene he had painted
13	Don't repeat what you hear while you are here !
14	He joined the stationary queue outside the stationery shop to buy envelopes
15	His seat in the grassy lea was idea as it was in the lee of the hedge
16	Like a long-legged rabbit, the hare moves so fast that you cannot see his hair
17	Some Mothers think that the sun shines out of their son
18	On the day of her coronation Queen Elizabeth started her reign in the rain
19	The source of a great meal might be a tasty sauce
20	Mum gave to children a piece of cake so she could have a bit of peace and quiet



The medical student was shocked when he received a fail in radiology. Approaching the professor he demanded to know the reason for the grade. "You know the self x ray you took?" asked the professor. "I do," said the student. "A fine picture," the professor said, "of your lungs, stomach and liver." "If it's a fine picture, then why did you give me an F?" asked the student. "I had no choice," said the professor. "You didn't put your heart into it."

A young girl was told she needed an x ray. She went into the room and seemed especially nervous. When she came out of the x ray room, she told her mother, "They took a picture of my bones." "Yes, dear," replied her mother. "Did everything go all right?" "Sure," said the girl. "It was great. I didn't even have to take my skin off!"

Andrew came home from school one day, cut, bruised and blood stained. His father asked him what on earth had happened. "Well, dad, it's like this," Andrew began. "Stephen challenged me to a duel and you know how that goes – we have a choice of weapons." "Yes," said his father, "That seems fair." "I know," said Andrew "but I never thought he would choose his sister!"