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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 53

### NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2021

#### Weekly Diary

Monday 22 March	8.45 am - 1.00 pm 1.15 – 3.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meet in the Rear Hall Playgroup staff interviews
Tuesday 23 March	8.45 am - 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Wednesday 24 March	8.45 am - 1.00 pm 1.15 – 3.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup Playgroup staff interview
Thursday 25 March	8.45 am - 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Friday 26 March	8.45 am - 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup Playgroup break up for Easter
Saturday 27 March		
Sunday 28 March	10.45 am	12 <sup>th</sup> Church – Sunday morning worship on Facebook

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.

#### NEWS ON RE-OPENING FOR WORSHIP

Hopefully, we will be opening for worship in Church at 10.15 am on

**Easter Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**Preacher: Rev John Pugh**

Sunday worship will continue on the Facebook page of 12<sup>TH</sup> 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

As we pass the one-year anniversary of the Covid pandemic and the first lock down in the UK,



the most vulnerable and isolated in our neighbourhoods. We pray for the medical staff on the frontline of care, we pray that they will be sustained physically, emotionally and spiritually in the coming weeks and months. We pray for our world leaders and for the leaders in our own country that they will seek the wisdom of God as they make decisions. We pray for all those leading the scientific response to COVID-19 across the

world. We pray for those leading and administering the vaccination programme, We pray for all God's people in this time of uncertainty and concern. That our eternal hope would make an earthly difference. We pray for all infected or affected by the pandemic, all who are sick in body, mind or spirit. We pray for others in all parts of our world who daily face the uncertainty of life. We pray for those who have died with coronavirus, and for all who grieve and mourn. Amen.

### **KEEPING CONNECTED BUMPER EDITION**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March marks the anniversary of the first lock down due to Covid-19 and what started off as our usual weekly notices soon evolved into a much bigger weekly newsletter with articles and quizzes – “Keeping Connected” which now goes out to friends, old and new, all over the country. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way.

We all have different experiences of this past year – some were infected with Covid-10, others managed to stay well, others had to shield and stay completely isolated. Thankfully, we now have the vaccine programme to help us stop this dreadful pandemic and hopefully, we will soon be able to start leading a new “normal” life and meet family and friends again and I shall get to cuddle my new great grandson, Oliver and get a haircut!

Personally, I have enjoyed producing Keeping Connected and it has become a labour of love and I do hope that you have enjoyed the articles - it will go on until we meet “properly” in church again so if anyone has anything that they would like to send in or comment on please let me know at [janetmthompson13@gmail.com](mailto:janetmthompson13@gmail.com)

### **THANK YOU FROM FLAXLEY HOUSE**

I have to apologise for not saying this before BUT we had a lovely thank you card from the ladies at Flaxley House, (the new Carpenter's Arms Women's Centre in Loughborough) to say thank you for the gifts that we sent at Christmas. Unfortunately, the card got put into a “to do” pile on one of my lock down clearances and was lost but is now found!! Thank you to everyone who supported the appeal.

### **THANK YOU - COLLECTION ENVELOPES:**

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

### **FUNDRAISING SUCCESS**

Since the beginning of lockdown, we know a lot of people have missed our monthly mini market - Yvonne and Kathryn have had a stall outside on Highfields since last year. On Saturday, they reached the amazing target of £1000 which will be shared between ourselves and the Charwood Christmas Toy Appeal. They will be there for the next few weeks (weather permitting) from 10.30 am until approximately 1.30 pm Homemade Preserves, jigsaws and books and sometimes plants. Well done and many thanks to both of you.



Editor: Yvonne and Kathryn would like to add their thanks to everyone who has supported them every week in helping them raise this fantastic amount. A lot of folk actually give a donation for a jigsaw or book and then return the next week and donate it back again and buy something else!

## CIRCUIT QUIZ VIA ZOOM

The Trinity Methodist Church stewards with the help of our quiz setters, Sue and Adrian Speight, invite you to a circuit wide zoom quiz on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April starting around 7.00 pm but asking all participants to join the zoom link between 6:30 – 6:45 pm so teams can be set up in to their own break out rooms. In order to participate please e-mail Andy Thorpe on [aandrthorpe@ntlworld.com](mailto:aandrthorpe@ntlworld.com) to be provided with the zoom link required to participate. Ideally it would be good if people.....

- can organise themselves into their own teams of between about 4 to 6 (though we did have the odd 7 last time when family sizes made that more suitable).
- Those not in a team will be formed into teams close to the day or possibly even on the day.
- Team groupings when they have been organised need to be notified to Andy Thorpe along with a team name in advance.
- One person in the team needs to be delegated to receive the questions by e-mail on the day – and be on their honour not to look at them in advance – so that when for each round we split into team break out rooms (don't worry about this the break out rooms are organised for you it's not a technical issue you need to worry about) this person can read out the questions.
- After each round we will come back altogether to hear the answers and score how well each team did.
- There will be 6 rounds of questions and it will probably last around an hour and a half after we get going.

We have done this once before with 12 teams and it worked very well with everyone having a great fun time. So, if you want to meet up this Easter time then just contact Andy and the rest will follow.

## ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST LOCKDOWN METHODIST NEWS:

The Revd Richard Teal and Carolyn Lawrence, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have issued this message ahead of the anniversary of the first lockdown:

"The past year has asked much of us as individuals, families and communities. For many hundreds of thousands of us it has been a time of immense grief for the loss of loved ones. For others the economic uncertainty and restrictions on our day-to-day activities have taken a huge toll on mental wellbeing. Others may be living with the effects of long Covid not knowing how long it will last. We pray that this anniversary will be a time of deep reflection, prayer and a time to process all that has passed. We also mark a solemn time in Lent just ahead of Holy Week. As we begin the journey to the cross, let us take comfort in the knowledge that we are never alone, that Jesus is walking with us and that our hope lies in Him.

"We invite you to join us at 12.45pm on Monday 22nd March [Live on Facebook](#) where we will offer a reflection, prayer and a short time of togetherness to acknowledge what we have all been through and ask for God's guidance as we face a hopeful but uncertain time ahead.

"And please join the national [Day of Reflection](#) on Tuesday 23rd March when there will be a minute's silence at midday and an invitation to join in lighting your doorstep at 8pm that night."

## COVID SERVICE – HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Holy Trinity Church, Barrow upon Soar are organising a service via Zoom on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30 pm to mark the one-year anniversary of the pandemic and the first lock down. If you would like to join this act of worship you can either join via the Barrow upon Soar Churches Together Facebook page or log in with the details below:

Jeremy Bowman is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: COVID Service - March 23rd 2021

Time: Mar 23, 2021 07:15 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86386472723?pwd=YXBpZWg0SIZwNEZKVkRjb250ekNQZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 8647 2723

Passcode: 646167

For those intending to join this Zoom service, the Order of Service is attached with this newsletter. Sorry I couldn't work out how to edit it - it is 12 pages long but there are a lot of blank spaces so don't be put off by that.

## CHRISTIAN AID

For Christian Aid week this year [10-16 May], we are planning a 'delivery only' collection in Barrow – a new method, whereby no envelopes are collected – instead, envelopes are put through doors in the village with information as to where they can be dropped off/returned.

A number of people then agree to have envelopes returned via their post box and their addresses are put on the envelopes. Any returned envelopes at the end of the week are then given to Heather or Frances Acton. Will any of the usual Methodist collectors or other members of the congregation be willing to put envelopes through doors and/or be willing to have their address as a drop off point? Please let Heather know if you are able to help.

There is also information on the Christian Aid website

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/faq/delivery-only-collections/low-effort-collecting#resources>

**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 Reading from the Old Testament:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**Today's Gospel Reading:** John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say, "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

## TIME TO REFLECT

Original Materials by Rev. Bethany Willers

I love reading multiple translations of a passage to help me make sense of what I am reading. One of my favourites is one called "The Message" - which translates scripture into modern-day English. Here is how The Message interprets John 12:24-25:

*"Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal."*

It's hard to believe, but it has been over a year now since the pandemic began and we all had to change how we go about living our lives. We changed how we work, see family and friends, travel, and worship, among many other things. It has been hard, and awful, and at times, devastating. Many of us wanted, instead, to cling to what life had been before - and many of us are still longing to go back, for life to return to "normal" - whatever that was. We liked being the grain of wheat and we want to continue being the grain of wheat if we can.

But perhaps we have been given a chance to do what Jesus calls us to do in this passage - to give up our lives for something new, for something more closely resembling the kingdom of God. This time of struggle has made us get more creative about caring for our neighbour. At times it has opened our eyes to neighbours who were in need right under our noses before. If we take this time of continued upheaval to let go of the life we had before, and be reckless in our love, perhaps something new will flourish that looks more like what God wants for us.

Is God calling you to be more than just a grain of wheat? How has God cared for you and nurtured you in this time of being buried? Where have you seen signs of new life and new growth spring forth? Are there areas of your life you need to tend to? Are there areas of your life you need to let go of and realize that you cannot or should not go back to?

May we ponder all of these things in our hearts with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



### REV JOHN PUGH writes:

"Call on me and I will answer" (Jeremiah 33:3 (KJV) so says God. Recently making phone calls has become a major part of my ministry. Especially during the Covid Pandemic as it makes physical Pastoral visits practically impossible during Lockdown. It now becomes the principle means of keeping contact with Church members and adherents. Many of those so contacted have said they have appreciated the calls, for these at least it has shown them someone cares. Especially so when enquiries have been made about their health and loving concern expressed about their loved ones.



There are countless people around the country who have little or no family, maybe few friends who seem to care, that do not belong to a church or any other social group. Who do they turn to on those occasions when they feel lost or depressed, without hope in their lives? For those of us who are believing Christians the answer is obvious, turn to God through Jesus Christ. Hasn't God said himself, reported through the writings of the prophet Jeremiah "Call on me and I will answer". What more could anyone want other than that? Someone available 24/7 as they say.

I have heard people actually saying when presented with these facts that they don't believe in God, consequently they would feel foolish just talking to the air, so to speak. One individual, many years ago now, whilst we were training as a psychiatric nurse quoted "When we talk to God it is called prayer, when God talks to us it's called Paranoid Schizophrenia". Yet psychiatrists and psychologists will argue the point that it is important to talk things through and out. As a Chaplain I sat and listened to a number of returning TA medics and nurses returning from the Gulf as they spoke of their experiences, things they had seen and heard. Often all I had to do was simply listen, to help them offload as they say, as they talked things fell into perspective for them.

If that was enough for those few – how much more I would argue does God offer for everyone who needs a listening ear, not just those suffering from PTSD. His loving arms and a heart full of love he will give to all without

cost, if he can do that what can we offer in his name? My hope and prayer is we can offer no less for everyone without prejudice

*Some people will make you feel safe in this world*

*Not only because they understand you deeply, but because they love you  
despite everything*



## A reflection from Adrian

### The fifth Sunday of Lent sees a Crown of Thorns added to the Cross.

As if the whip was not enough with the hurt and damage that it inflicted, now the Roman soldiers continue their mocking. First, they hung a purple robe round the shoulders of Jesus and mocked him as a leader "King of the Jews" they said. Next a crown was placed on his head. Not a crown made from metal and decorated with fine jewels, but a crown of thorns.



It is not really known what branches were woven to make the crown. It could have been briar, which was common in Palestine. It might have been *Euphorbia milii* which today is called the crown of thorns or Christ Thorn. This plant has densely spiny stems. The straight, slender spines, up to 3 cm (1.2 in) long sharp thorns scratch and cut, and they are known to cause irritation to the skin. It is even suggested in our study Bible

that the crown may have been woven from palm branches, the same kind of palm branches as would have been spread on the road as part of the procession into Jerusalem that we recall on Palm Sunday. Whatever was used, we can be certain the intention was to inflict more pain on Jesus as the crown was pushed on his head. I am sure we all know the pain a thorn can inflict and the way the barbs catch on our flesh. Just try to imagine the same pushed on to your head!

As a final indignity a sceptre or staff, made from reed, was pushed into his right hand as a further mocking symbol of kingship. Their contempt for the son of God continued... until they grew tired and then put his clothes, or what remained of them, back on Jesus, and led him off to Golgotha. Jesus suffers all, endures all, takes on all as a sign of the forgiveness which God offers to all who believe in him. In Luke's gospel the account of the crucifixion which is to follow includes Jesus saying, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

After all they have done to him, the way he has been betrayed, ill-treated, mocked, whipped, hurt, as Jesus hung on the Cross, he was still able to pray "Father, forgive them!"

How do we feel when people treat us badly, when people physically, emotionally or metaphorically, hurt us? Do we have the strength to say that we forgive them? In all the difficult times when have had in the last 12 months, do we believe that there is hope of better things "round the corner"? I pray that for each of us, that is so!

Let us look forward to Easter Day when we can know and believe the words written by Thomas Kelly, an Irish evangelist, in 1820:

*The head that once was crowned with thorns  
is crowned with glory now*

for as verse 6 reads:

*The cross he bore is life and health,  
though shame and death to him;  
his people's hope, his people's wealth,  
their everlasting theme.*

## LENT ON LINE

This will be led by Rev Andrew Lomax, Wednesdays at 7.15pm, via Zoom please contact [Andrew](mailto:andrew.lomax@methodist.org.uk) Email: [andrew.lomax@methodist.org.uk](mailto: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 March	Passion: anointing and betrayal
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### And then:

Palm Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	4.00 pm	United service on Zoom led by friends at Loughborough Baptist Church
Holy Week	7.00 pm	Reflections posted each evening at 7.00 pm led by a variety of people
Maundy Thursday 1 April	7.30 pm	United Holy Communion Service hosted and led by friends from Loughborough United Reformed Church
Good Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	10.30 am	Trinity Methodist Church hosts a service on Zoom

Details of how to access these services are available from Nigel Cox  
Email: [n.cox1808@btinternet.com](mailto:n.cox1808@btinternet.com)

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator God, in our island home you have given us an abundance of beauty. The sea that surrounds us, the hills and the glens, all of this is your gift to us. Help us to be good stewards of all that you have provided. May we be a gift to the communities in which you have placed us as we witness to the truth that every place and every time is yours. In an age of change, help us to see what we can do to make a difference in your world. In a world where people are fearful, help us to spread your message of hope and never forget that the earth is yours. Amen.

Richard Hall, Isle of Man District Chair



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

**Every Sunday at 10.45 am on 12th Church Facebook page**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

**Karen Wormald**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**Rev Andrew Lomax**





*“No other God have I but thee  
Born in a manger, died on a tree”*

Martin Luther



Some of you will already have seen this but for those of you who haven't you might like to know that .....

Eye have a spelling checker  
It came with my pea sea  
It plainly marques four my revue  
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.  
Eye strike a key and type a word  
And weight 4 it 2 say  
Weather eye am wrong oar write  
It shows me strait a weigh.  
As soon as a mist ache is maid  
It nose bee fore two long  
And eye can put the error rite  
Its rare lea ever wrong.  
Eye have run this poem threw it  
I am shore your pleased two no  
Its letter perfect awl the weigh  
My chequer tolled me sew!

## THIS WEEK'S QUIZ IS ALL ABOUT BIRDS

Thanks to Sue



1	Which large bird of prey regularly returns to Rutland water each spring to breed, but spends the winter in Africa?	
2	What colour is a female or young Blackbird?	
3	Which member of the finch family has a distinctive red mask but gets its name from the bright colour of its wing bars?	
4	Which duck is seen on most lakes and waterway -the drake has a dark green head and curly tail while the female bears a pattern of brown feathers?	

5	Which summer visiting bird is noted for and named after its characteristic call?	
6	Small, lively and said be live anywhere that there is human habitation this bird is sometimes called a spuggy?	
7	Which family of mainly summer visiting birds includes Common, Roseate, Sandwich and Arctic?	
8	Which woodland bird, a small member of the crow family, is sometimes spotted as a flash of colour out in the open?	
9	Only the size of a starling; what the smallest member of the Owl family called?	
10	One of our smallest birds with a loud piping song- sometimes called Jenny!	
11	In a song ..... one of these birds sang in Berkley Square	
12	A large grey bird which may be seen standing still and watching for prey, which it then grabs with its dagger like bill.	
13	What noise does a Mute Swan make?	
14	A large duck that comes to land mainly in the north of the UK to nest in the spring..... feathers from its nest were used to make a warm bed covering	
15	This Gull takes part of its name from a fish... it has recently become known as a scavenger and a thief of fish and chips!	
16	Which word completes the names of each of these birds.... Rock, Stock, Turtle and Collared?	
17	Which sea bird has a brightly coloured beak and nests in a burrow?	
18	This small black and white diving bird, lives beside fast flowing water, dives and walks under the water to feed and bobs up and down as it sits on a rock	
19	Although both make mud nests on buildings and have forked tails what distinguishes a Swallow from a House Martin?	
20	A small bird of prey often seen hovering over the grass verge on the motor way	

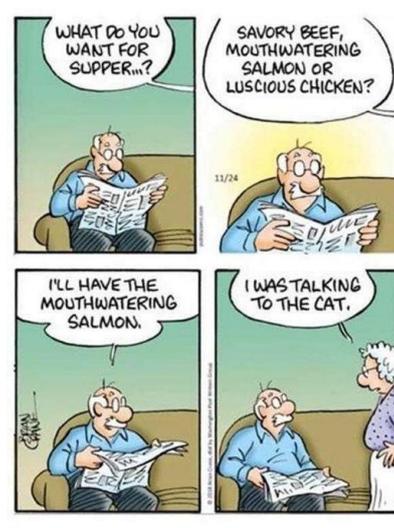
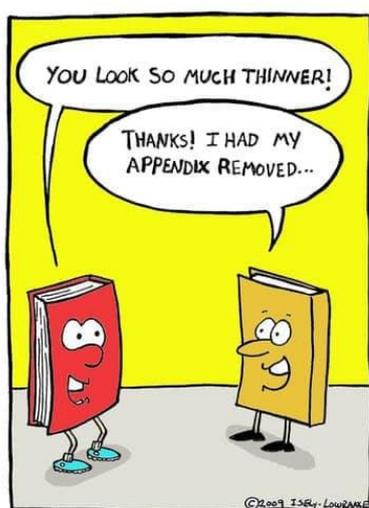
**Answers next week**

### **ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: RHYMING WORDS**

Each answer has two rhyming words ie Intelligent men (4.4) = Wise guys

1	Extra Seat (5.5)	Spare Chair
2	Avoid labour (5.4)	Shirk work
3	Lovesick cat (7.6)	Smitten kitten
4	Seven dismal days (5.4)	Bleak week
5	Luke warm (3.3)	Not hot
6	Pull mat (3.3)	Tug rug
7	American vehicles (5.5)	Yanks' tanks
8	Prison letters (4.4)	Jail mail
9	Frighten teddy (5.4)	Scare bear
10	Launch launch (5.4)	Float boat
11	Huge hog (3.3)	Big pig
12	Active flower (4.6)	Busy Lizzie
13	Refreshing pond (4.4)	Cool pool
14	Intoxicated Romany (5.5)	Tipsy gipsy

15	Umbrella foolishness (6.5)	Brolly folly
16	Eighty (4.5)	Four score
17	Fresh evidence (3.4)	New view
18	Plump husband (5.5)	Tubby hubby
19	Cold goat (6.5)	Chilly billy
20	Bonsai plant (3.4)	Wee tree
21	Single bee (4.5)	Lone drone
22	Penned memo (5.4)	Wrote note
23	Old story (5.4)	Stale tale
24	Autumn gala (4.4)	Fall ball
25	Mad fluster (5.5)	Manic panic



A chicken walks into a library and up to the desk. "Buk", says the chicken.  
 So, the librarian gives him a book.  
 The chicken leaves with the book and returns five minutes later. "Buk," he says. So, the  
 librarian gives him another book.  
 This goes on about eight more times, until finally the librarian leaves the library and goes  
 on a break outside where there is a pond.  
 The chicken is standing on the edge of the pond tossing the books to a frog on a Lilypad.  
 The chicken says "Buk, Buk," and the frog says "reddit, reddit."

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Guy walks into a restaurant and there is raw meat hanging on the ceiling. "When he asks why, the waiter  
 says " Well, if you can jump up and grab the meat, we will give you a £100 gift card but if you can't grab it  
 you must pay us £100. "

The man says " Oh, never mind - the stakes are too high. "

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