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website: [www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk)**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 pmEmail: [loughboroughmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:loughboroughmethodist@gmail.com)

# BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

## Week 56

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

### Weekly Diary

Monday 12 April	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meet in the Rear Hall
Tuesday 13 April	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Wednesday 14 April	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Thursday 15 April	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Friday 16 April	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Saturday 17 April		
Sunday 18 April	10.15 am	We meet for worship in church

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

Don't forget to book your attendance at church on Sunday morning by ringing Sue Speight by 5.00 pm on Friday evening

Home: 01509 413524

Mobile: 07787125176

Email: [speight4748@gmail.com](mailto:speight4748@gmail.com)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** this week to JOAN THURSBY who celebrates on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April – love and best wishes from us all!!

### LENTEN CROSS

Some years ago, now, I read an article about the use of the Lenten Cross. I contacted the people concerned receiving from them the details. I was very moved to introduce this to Barrow upon Soar Methodist.

The following year, starting on the first Sunday in Lent we began our Morning Worship placing on the Cross tokens depicting the life and death of Jesus. Culminating in the joy of Easter Day covering the Cross with spring flowers, a sign of New Life.

I remember now the amazingly moving effect this had on many people in the congregation including myself. This has been repeated a number of years in various forms since then. However, for the past two years, it has not been possible to worship in the Church, and I just want to say a big THANK YOU to all the people who have been part of the thought and effort put into bringing the Easter Message outside the Church in various ways for us and passers-by to see and hopefully connect with.

I include also Adrian and Sue for articles in 'Keeping Connected' - Thank you so much - Joan Thursby

**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

The **YARN BOMBERS** have been busy again with their Easter/Spring display now covering the bollards at the front of church. Very positive comments have been posted on social media – our friends in the village love to see the display and we even had comments from Soo's friends in America. Saturday morning brought lots of comments from passers by who also enjoyed the sweet treats that we were offering.

Unfortunately, the Easter Cross was only there for 24 hours as the weather decided to dismantle it but thankfully the one in the Display Window is safe!

Thanks, to Tilly, Kate, Natalie, Janet, Vivian, Joan, Coral and Sue for their hard work in knitting/crocheting the flowers and insects. If you had a chance to look at the display, did you spot the caterpillar?



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)



**KEEPING SAFE AT CHURCH SERVICES**

As restrictions start to be relaxed through the Government's road map, we will be resuming our Sunday morning services at Barrow upon Soar.

Below is just a gentle reminder of what it will be like going back to church after this last three months of being at home

Many of us will have had one, and possibly two vaccinations by this time and so will feel safer and more confident about coming to church. This is good but, for the time being, we need to continue with the safe practices we introduced last year, as part of our risk assessment for Covid-19.

So, for those coming to church to worship during the next 3 months (and possibly longer), We would like to remind you of some of the key points of our risk assessment that are important, not just for your safety, but for the safety of others:

Volunteers acting as door stewards and seating stewards in these services are being given clear instructions to help people maintain social distancing and avoid creating potentially unsafe situations – please follow their instructions.

- Have a face covering ready to put on before you enter the building (Spare face masks are available in the foyer, if you need one)
- If there are others at the entrance waiting to go in, please queue apart from other persons/groups.
- Wait for the door steward to indicate before you enter the foyer, in case others are still hand sanitising
- After the door steward logs you in, please hand sanitise using the dispensers in the foyer, or if requested by the door steward, use the dispenser just inside the church. (please remove outdoor gloves and only put these back on when leaving the church)
- Go to the chair(s) as directed by the seating steward – once seated, please do not move to another chair(s), unless the steward organises this. You should not stop for conversation but, once seated, it is fine to have conversations with those seated near to you.
- At the end of the service, wait for one of the stewards to invite you to leave before getting up. They will control the flow out of the building so that social distancing is maintained.
- If you need to speak with someone at the service, please organise to do this outside the building, away from the doors, after the service.

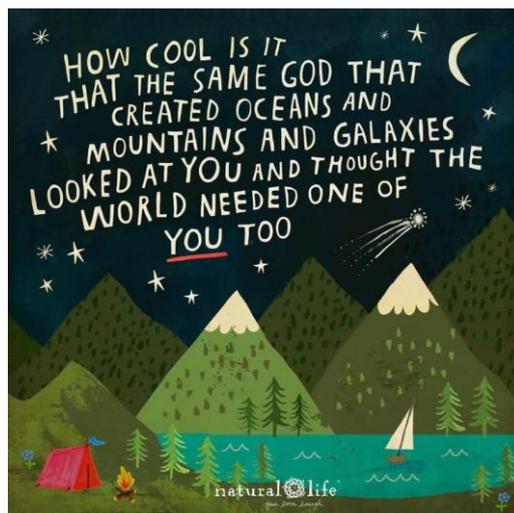
Hopefully we will be able to move back to fewer restrictions and more normality when we meet for worship in the not-too-distant future, so please feel confident that you can come to services at Barrow upon Soar knowing what to do and keeping yourself and others safe.

Thanks

Natalie, Peter and Trevor  
Risk Assessment Stewards

### 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.





## URGENT MESSAGE FROM OUR LOCAL POLICE – SCAM TEXT REGARDING CENSUS 2021

Text below received yesterday. It is a scam.

Text message below states that the recipient made a mistake on their form and liable for a fine and invited to review their information. They are then directed to a bogus Census website. A couple of pages in, the recipient is asked for bank account details to pay a fee. Fortunately, the recipient became suspicious and contacted me.

**We advise you do NOT respond to these text messages, and be mindful these may also appear as emails.**

**At no point will you be asked for your national insurance number, passwords, bank account details, or your credit or debit card numbers, nor any payment**

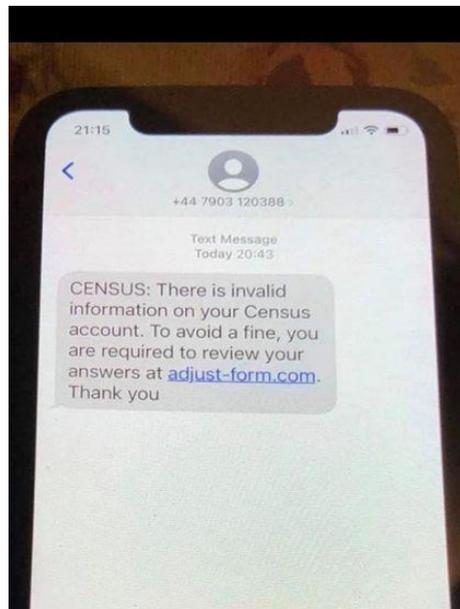
**You will not be called for information about the census, unless you've made an appointment with the Census Contact Centre or made a query or complaint.**

### REMEMBER THE GOLDEN RULE Never click on links in unsolicited texts or emails

Suspicious texts should be forwarded to 7726 and suspicious emails forwarded to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

Please share to make others aware. Please warn others who may not see our social media and email warnings.

Would you pledge to #Tell2 elderly or vulnerable relatives and neighbours to help keep them safe?




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## FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE

### Today's Reading from the Old Testament

Psalms 133

#### The Blessedness of Unity

A Song of Ascents.

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life for evermore.

## Today's Gospel Reading

John 20 19-31

### Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

### Jesus and Thomas

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

### The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## TIME TO REFLECT

Kath Brydon

Poor Thomas, famously known as 'doubting Thomas' from the passage in John's gospel. It somehow seems a flaw in his character. However, when we remember the events leading up to the crucifixion, Peter denied Jesus and all the disciples deserted him, as Jesus had predicted they would.

In the passage, the disciples were gathered behind locked doors, they were still very afraid of repercussions from the Jewish authorities. It's also fair to assume at this moment they didn't know what would happen next, despite the fact that Jesus had told them about his impending death and resurrection.

Another thing we aren't told, (in this gospel, but see Luke 24:11), was whether the disciples believed Mary Magdalene, the first person to see the risen Christ.

Doubt is a very human emotion, we all experience it in our lives, we doubt that we can do things, often feel doubt when we think God is asking us something which takes us out of our comfort zone.

At the time of writing this, we are awaiting an announcement which will describe the road map out of our third lockdown. Our churches are not open, worship is online or in paper form. We have had to do things which take us out of our comfort zones and many times I have had doubt over whether I am able to achieve whatever it is I am asked to do. I have found recording a message on a screen difficult, often having 7 or 8 attempts before being happy with the result.

Doubt need not always be seen as a negative emotion though, because doubt leads to questions, and ultimately to answers to those questions. Thomas doubted that the other disciples had seen Jesus, but when he finally saw Jesus, he didn't need to touch Jesus to know, he called him "My Lord and my God", he recognised who Jesus really was – God.

Jesus told the disciples that those who believe without seeing are blessed. For some of us it might happen in a short time, while for others it might take years of questioning and having those questions answered. When we reach the point of belief we can and will, with assurance recognise and call Jesus "My Lord and my God".

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## **Tackling bullying, changing culture and enabling positive relationships': A series of webinars from the Methodist Church**

Following her virtual travels around the connexion our current Vice President, Carolyn Lawrence, has heard accounts of members who have experienced bullying and poor behaviour in different church contexts. After discussions with Connexional staff about these issues and what resources are available to help the church be

better prepared in this area, work started to address how we can improve our overall awareness, the resources already available, and ability to take action when required.

We are therefore very pleased to present three specific webinars looking at different aspects of anti-bullying action. They are designed for all church leaders with the Methodist Church and any other members and officers who are interested in how we can continue our journey of making churches and church work safer for everyone involved.

The invitation is for you to join any or all of the webinars. When you sign up, there will be an option to send questions in ahead of the webinar which we will do our best to address.

**Webinar 1: Tackling Bullying, Changing Culture, Enabling Positive Relationships** April 20th 11.00-12.30

*Within the church we believe that everyone should be enabled to flourish, to become the people whom God created them to be. Promoting positive working relationships is a key part of enabling individuals and communities to flourish and culture to change. The webinar will offer practical ways in which to tackle bullying, change culture and enable positive relationships.*

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_f6PHOTqcQeOg-yTrOSupgA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_f6PHOTqcQeOg-yTrOSupgA)

**Webinar 2: Reconciling communities: living well with difference** May 13 11.00-12.30

*Change, disagreement and conflict is a part of everyday church life. This interactive webinar invites you to look at disagreements in a new light, seeing them as an opportunity for creativity, community-building and conflict transformation. You will experience an online facilitated conversation and find out more about the exciting new reconciliation and mediation pilot project being run in partnership with Place for Hope.*

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_NZ8IM5OuTG2YfCbvSI0VHg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NZ8IM5OuTG2YfCbvSI0VHg)

**Webinar 3: Addressing Bullying through Justice, Dignity and Solidarity** Jun 17 11:00 – 12.30pm

*In this webinar we explore the relationship between bullying, discrimination and exclusion. Panellists will examine the intersectionality between individual, institutional and structural forms of discrimination and the role each may play in bullying. The importance of creating a supportive environment in which trust and confidence is achieved is critical to ensuring that no one suffers in silence. This webinar will present a range of inter-related approaches to tackling bullying, discrimination and exclusion, through a range of options offered by the Methodist strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity.*

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_feXVK3LvTdiqx1qeVlpO0w](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_feXVK3LvTdiqx1qeVlpO0w)

## I Opened a Book

"I opened a *book* and in I strode.  
 Now nobody can find me.  
 I've left my chair, my house, my road,  
 My town and my world behind me.  
 I'm wearing the cloak, I've slipped on the ring,  
 I've swallowed the magic potion.  
 I've fought with a dragon, dined with a king  
 And dived in a bottomless ocean.  
 I opened a book and made some friends.  
 I shared their tears and laughter  
 And followed their road with its bumps and bends  
 To the happily ever after.  
 I finished my book and out I came.  
 The cloak can no longer hide me.  
 My chair and my house are just the same,  
 But I have a *book* inside me."

– Julia Donaldson

Julia Donaldson CBE is an English writer, playwright and performer, and the 2011–2013 Children's Laureate. She is best known for her popular rhyming stories for children, especially those illustrated by Axel Scheffler, which include *The Gruffalo*, *Room on the Broom* and *Stick Man*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, thank you that in your love, forgiveness and compassion you did not abandon all that you have made but came amongst us in your Son, Jesus Christ, to heal, guide and transform. May your life and love truly inform and shape all our hearts and minds for the challenges and the opportunities that lie before us. For those who struggle, may there be comfort and release; for those who would bring relief, may there be wisdom and strength; and for those who lead, and for us all, may eyes and minds, hearts and hands be open to see, love and respond, as you see, love and respond, for the sake and love of all. Amen.

James Tebbutt, Cumbria District Chair

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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)

### 12th Church Facebook page every Sunday at 10.45 am

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April service led by Liz and Rob Newton.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April - Karen Wormald

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Dorothy & John Pipet

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## THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

This week we are all enjoying Spring even if we haven't quite left winter behind – so each answer this week will contain the word **Spring**

1	We might have this in our step if we are happy.	
2	A day in March when light and dark are equal.	
3	Some people think a salad is not complete without this.	
4	Beware of this if you are walking on the beach.	
5	Annual time for clearing out all your dust and grime!	
6	Meteorologically, the first of March.	
7	An independent Pentecostal fellowship which meets and works in Loughborough.	
8	Some people say the snowdrop is the first.	
9	It may be the start to your Chinese meal.	
10	It could be the green leaf brassica served with your meat and veg.	
11	Husky voiced singer of 'You don't have to say you love me' a 1960's hit.	

12	Small town situated between Sunderland and Durham.	
13	A park near Spalding in Lincolnshire, once famed for its magnificent displays of tulips and May-time procession.	
14	A device which is this..... may make you jump!	
15	With lots of make-up she thinks she will look younger but she's no.....	
16	30-year-old residential event for Christians to meet for study and relaxation which this year has to be mainly online.	
17	Seasonal BBC TV nature programme.	
18	Meat which is from a 3-5 months old sheep.	
19	A musical work by Benjamin Britten to be performed by Choir and Orchestra.	
20	31 May this year!	

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### Answers to last week's Easter quiz based on John's Gospel

1	The season of Lent leads up to Easter what is the first day of Lent called?	Ash Wednesday
2	What do some Christians do during Lent to help them focus on the trials and death of Jesus?	Give something up
3	During Lent which particular day encourages us to remember a member of our family?	Mothering Sunday
4	On his way to Jerusalem who did Jesus raise from the dead in Bethany?	Lazarus
5	What is the name of the day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem?	Palm Sunday
6	The people shouted Alleluia as they saw Jesus – what does it mean?	Praise the Lord
7	What is the period, starting with this event and ending with Jesus' resurrection called?	Holy Week
8	Where did Jesus hold his last supper?	In an upper room
9	Jesus knew who would betray him.... how did he indicate who this was?	He passed Judas bread dipped in wine
10	After supper Jesus was arrested in the garden..... where was he taken for trial?	The High Priest's house
11	After the Jewish Leaders had found him guilty... Jesus was sent to Pilate who was he?	The Roman Governor
12	After Jesus was condemned, he was sent out carrying his cross to Golgotha, what was significant about this hill?	It was outside the city wall
13	Some traditions say that one of the women who walked with Jesus wiped His face and that the imprint of it remained on her cloth what was her name?	St Veronica
14	Jesus asked one of his disciples to take care of his mother... which disciple who later wrote a gospel?	John
15	Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disciple, and which other Pharisee, who had once visited Jesus by night, requested the body of Jesus and put him in a grave?	Nicodemus
16	Why did no-one visit Jesus tomb the next day?	It was the Sabbath

17	Mary Magdalene was first to get to the tomb.... Who did she run to find?	Peter and another disciple
18	When Mary recognised Jesus in the Garden what did she call him?	Rabboni (Teacher)
19	We can only image what the disciples were saying as they meet again in an upper room later that day.... but who were missing from the group?	Thomas and Judas
20	Jesus appeared to 7 of the disciples again, early one morning.... What had they been doing?	Fishing



**Why are atoms Catholic?**

Because they have mass

**Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?**

Nope — just an apple.

**Why did the unemployed man get excited while reading his Bible?**

He thought he saw a job.

**Why did Noah have to punish and discipline the chickens on the Ark?**

They were using fowl language.

**Why did God create man before woman?**

Because He didn't want any advice on how to do it.