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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 pm

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# BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

## Week 57

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

### Weekly Diary

Monday 19 April	8.45 am to 1.00 pm 1.15 to 3.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meet in the Rear Hall Barrow Playgroup staff meeting in Coffee Lounge
Tuesday 20 April	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Wednesday 21 April	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Thursday 22 April	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Friday 23 April	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Saturday 24 April		
Sunday 25 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)**NEWS FROM CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BARROW UPON SOAR**

Liz Shuttlewood thanks everyone for their donations to **World Day of Prayer** - £80 has been sent. Next year's service is on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm in Holy Trinity Church.

**Christian Aid Week** is from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May. In the past we have organised a house-to-house collection (co-ordinated by Frances Acton of Holy Trinity) with which volunteers from the Barrow churches have traditionally helped. Last year, due to the pandemic, this collection could not take place, but we still advertised Christian Aid Week and encouraged people.

In the past we have organised a house-to-house collection (co-ordinated by Frances Acton of Holy Trinity) with which volunteers from the Barrow churches have traditionally helped out. Last year, due to the pandemic, this collection could not take place, but we still advertised Christian Aid Week and encouraged people to make online donations. Nationally this raised around £2 million, about a quarter of the total raised in a 'normal' year.

This year 3000 delivery only envelopes have been ordered. To these a label will be attached with addresses of people connected to our churches who are prepared to offer their letterbox as a place where those who wish to donate can deliver their envelope. We are looking for volunteers from our churches to deliver these envelopes. There are definite advantages of our using delivery only envelopes:

- as we are still being urged to be cautious about our contacts with people there will be no need to knock on doors to collect envelopes
- quite a lot of people from experience do not like knocking on doors to ask if people wish to donate. We are certain that many more people will be happy to help out with delivery only.
- in the past we have only been able to cover about half of houses in the village due to a shortage of collectors. We are very much hoping this year to deliver envelopes to every house.

Heather Doda is contacting people from Barrow upon Soar Methodist who have previously helped with collections to ask for their help again and to ask if they are prepared to provide their address for people to deliver their donations.

We hope we can count on your support for this effort. In the areas of the village where we have collected regularly for Christian Aid Week many people almost expect us to contact them at this time of year and seem to view Christian Aid as a very worthwhile charity; in fact I recently received one phone call asking when this year's collection will be as they have the money ready!

Any help you can provide to publicise Christian Aid Week and encourage your congregations to volunteer will be very much appreciated. Many thanks, Richard Hudson, Holy Trinity Church

#### **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

**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)

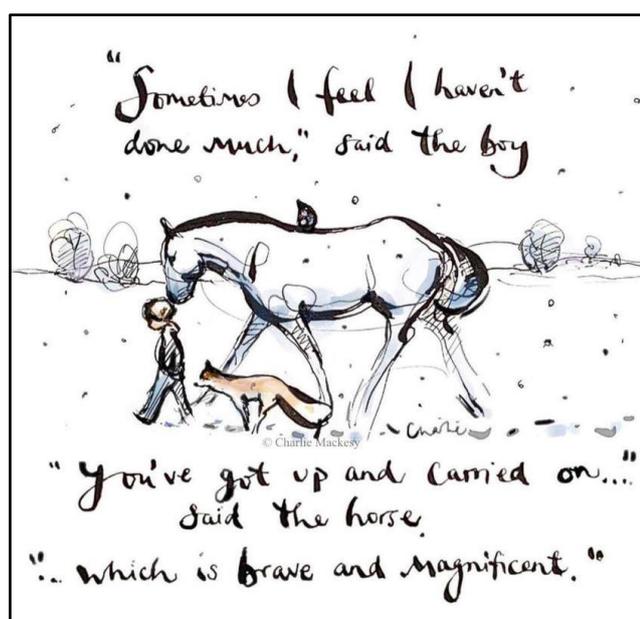
- Go to the chair(s) as directed by the seating steward – once seated, please do not move to another chair(s), unless the steward organises this. You should not stop for conversation but, once seated, it is fine to have conversations with those seated near to you.
- At the end of the service, wait for 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




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## FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE

### Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

## TIME TO REFLECT

*Rev. Maree Farrimond*

I am sure we all remember "I don't believe it!" the catchphrase of Victor Meldrew, in the 1990's sitcom "One Foot in the Grave." It's a phrase we can almost hear going round Jesus' followers in our Gospel reading today. They were frightened and incredulous, which are normal reactions when the boundaries of our experience and knowledge are challenged. We don't always accept and believe what we see and are told. (I think there are still those who believe the moon landing in 1969 was a hoax!!)

After Jesus had given them physical proof that he was indeed alive, he went on to link their knowledge of scripture with their current experiences, explaining this was part of God's greater plan and they were part of it. His teaching expanded their thinking, preparing them for the start of their journey from the familiar into a new future, which involved risk, anxiety and uncertainty.

Generations of Christians have wrestled with the question of the best way to live following the teaching of Jesus in their own time and situations. Over the last year our daily life has not been normal, and many have been trying to hold on to what they know and find what God may be saying to us in our time. As we are emerging from the coronavirus restrictions, we are aware that much has changed within people's hearts and minds, and we are trying to process how to move forward as the people of God. There are parallels here with this event in Luke's gospel; both situations are extraordinary and isolating, with an uncertain future on many fronts, and in both instances, Christ's followers are called to witness to what he reveals of God's love.

So, now in these uncertain and unsettling times as we claim, "I do believe it!" we face the question of how we share the gospel in our new and different circumstances.

May God send us His vision and wisdom.

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### REV JOHN PUGH WRITES:

Most people are aware of the old saying that says if you ring for a doctor late at night for help/advice/assistance its "Take two aspirin/paracetamol and call me in the morning if there's no change". The variant I heard some years ago as a young Christian was that Moses approached God in prayer to say the Children of Israel had gone astray and "what could God do about it?" The instructions he received was that he should start by climbing Mount Sinai where he was given two tablets, told to take them regularly, encourage the rest to do the same and see if they helped. Obviously the two tablets had the ten commandments inscribed on them, they wouldn't change things overnight but long term who knows?



It feels to me that as we get older doctors find more and more wrong with us, ask any older men (I speak from experience here) how often they compare with others what medication they are on. Medicines for high blood pressure and/or high cholesterol, greater numbers than ever it appears suffering from Diabetes. Many years ago, before this medication was discovered how many of us would have passed on, fated never to reach middle let alone old age? The advance of modern medicine has increased life expectancy greatly over the centuries and I am certain many of us are very grateful for that.

Health and healing play a big role in the Christian faith, especially mental health particularly during this Covid pandemic. Yet what doesn't get such a high profile is spiritual health and how do we make sure we are in the best of spiritual health? There is no expectation that spiritually we need to run a marathon or feed only on food mentioned in the Bible (I have heard some Christians put this forward as a healthy diet!) Somehow or other I don't fancy the John the Baptist diet of locusts and wild honey. No there is nothing too difficult, the following not necessarily being in any order of importance.

- Read your bible – find a version that you find easy to read and use a good commentary to help you understand what you've read.
- Spend some time each day in prayer, making sure you listen as well as speak.
- Seek and find a Christian fellowship that not only do you feel comfortable as part of but also offers help and support. Later on, as the situation gets better the same fellowship should be the one you enjoy worshipping with.
- Find a way to serve the Lord in the wider community.

## 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

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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.

**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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## THE PARABLE OF THE THREE TREES

Apologies if you have seen this before but for those who haven't.....

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty."

Then the second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull."

Finally, the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me."

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, "This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter" and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.



At the second tree a woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree, I should be able to sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from my tree, so I'll take this one", and he cut it down."

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for.

The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end. The third tree was cut into large pieces and left alone in the dark. The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams.

Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree.

The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose, and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and he stood and said "Peace" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it.

When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined.

We don't always know God's plans are for us. We just know that His ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.



### This Week's Quiz features the Smallest, the Tallest, the Shortest and the Longest

1	Which is the longest running event in the Olympic Games?	
2	What is the smallest coin in circulation in Britain?	
3	What is the tallest jumping event in athletics?	
4	What is the tallest building in London?	
5	What is the tallest mountain in the world, which can be climbed?	
6	What is the smallest mammal in Britain?	
7	Which is the tallest animal in the world?	
8	Which is the longest river in England	
9	In Jesus' parable what is the smallest seed?	
10	Which is England's longest motorway	
11	Which is the smallest bird you are likely to see in your garden?	
12	Which is the longest book in the Bible?	

13	Perhaps the shortest Tax Collector in Jericho..... he had to climb a tree in order to see Jesus	
14	What was the final score of the longest Men's Single match played at Wimbledon in 2010?	
15	Which is the longest ('hooded') venomous snake?	
16	Only found on a few Indonesian islands which is the longest and the tallest lizard?	
17	Associated with a Leicestershire venue who was the shortest reigning Queen?	
18	Recently reintroduced to the Isle of Wight, which is the largest bird found in Britain?	
19	London is the largest city in England which is the second largest (by population)?	
20	Prince Phillip was the longest serving consort to a monarch.... The next longest was the wife of George III, what was her name?	

**Answers to last week's SPRING quiz - each answer contained the word Spring.**

1	We might have this in our step if we are happy.	Spring
2	A day in March when light and dark are equal.	Spring equinox
3	Some people think a salad is not complete without this.	Spring Onion
4	Beware of this if you are walking on the beach.	Spring tide
5	Annual time for clearing out all your dust and grime!	Spring cleaning
6	Meteorologically, the first of March.	First day of Spring
7	An independent Pentecostal fellowship which meets and works in Loughborough.	New Springs City Church
8	Some people say the snowdrop is the first.	Sign of spring
9	It may be the start to your Chinese meal.	Spring roll
10	It could be the green leaf brassica served with your meat and veg.	Spring cabbage
11	Husky voiced singer of 'You don't have to say you love me' a 1960's hit.	Dusty Springfield
12	Small town situated between Sunderland and Durham.	Houghton le Spring
13	A park near Spalding in Lincolnshire, once famed for its magnificent displays of tulips and May-time procession.	Springfield Festival Gardens
14	A device which is this..... may make you jump!	Spring loaded
15	With lots of make-up she thinks she will look younger but she's no.....	Spring chicken
16	30-year-old residential event for Christians to meet for study and relaxation which this year has to be mainly online.	Spring Harvest
17	Seasonal BBC TV nature programme.	Springwatch
18	Meat which is from a 3-5 months old sheep.	Spring lamb
19	A musical work by Benjamin Britten to be performed by Choir and Orchestra.	Spring symphony
20	31 May this year!	Spring Bank Holiday

Once upon a time, there lived a king who was only 12 inches tall.  
He was a terrible king, but he made a great ruler!

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A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl: "because white is the colour of happiness and it's the happiest day of her life today." After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"



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A Priest and a Rabbi are in a car crash and it's a bad one. Both of their cars are demolished but amazingly neither one of them is hurt.

After they crawl out of their cars, the rabbi says, "So, you're a priest. That's interesting; I'm, a rabbi. Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but we're unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace."

The priest replies, "Oh, yes, I agree. It is a miracle that we survived and are here together."

"And here's another miracle," says the rabbi. "My car is destroyed but this bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink the wine and celebrate our good fortune," he says handing the bottle to the priest. The priest nods in agreement opens the wine drinks half of it, and hands it back to the rabbi.

The rabbi takes it and puts the cap back on.

"Aren't you going to have any? Asks the priest.

"Not right now," says the rabbi. "I think I'll wait until after the police make their report!"

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Jesus and Satan were having an ongoing argument about who was better at using the computer. They had been going at it for days, and God was tired of hearing all the bickering.

Finally, God said, "Cool it. I am going to set up a test which will take two hours and it will judge who does the better job."

So, Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away.

They moused.	They did spreadsheets.	They wrote reports.	They sent faxes.
They sent e-mails	They sent out e-mail with attachments	They downloaded.	
They did some genealogy reports.	They made cards.	They did every known job.	

But, ten minutes before the time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, the rain poured, and of course, the electricity went off. Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld.

Jesus just sighed.

The electricity finally flickered back on, and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically screaming, "It's gone! It's all gone! I lost everything when the power went out!"

Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all his files from the past two hours.

Satan observed this and became even more irate. "Wait! He cheated! How did he do it?"

God shrugged and said, "Jesus Saves."

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