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## BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

Website: [www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk)

**Minister: Rev John Pugh**

Telephone: 0116 2304689 or 07964402152

Circuit Office - Telephone: 01509 807441

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

10.00 am until 2.00 pm

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# BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

## Week 59

### NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2021

#### Weekly Diary

|                 |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Monday 3 May    |   | Early Spring Bank Holiday   |
| Tuesday 4 May   | 8.45 am to 4.00 pm                            | Barrow Playgroup  |
| Wednesday 5 May | 8.45 am to 1.00 pm                            | Barrow Playgroup  |
| Thursday 6 May  | 6.00 am to 10.15 pm<br><br>8.45 am to 4.00 pm | Election for Police Commissioner and Leicestershire County Council in the Welcome Coffee Bar and Worship Area<br>Barrow Playgroup meet in the Rear Hall |
| Friday 7 May    | 8.45 am to 1.00 pm                            | Barrow Playgroup  |
| Saturday 8 May  |   |   |
| Sunday 9 May    | 10.15 am                                      | We meet for worship in church   |

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)

|                             |          |   |
|-----------------------------|----------|---|
| Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May  | 10.15 am | Anne Temple   |
| Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> May  | 10.15 am | Christian Aid Service – Heather Doda & Adrian Speight |
| Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> May | 10.15 am | Adrian Speight  |
| Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May | 10.15 am | Joan Thursby and Gill Flinders                        |
| Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> May | 10.15 am | Liz Newton  |

#### BARROW UPON SOAR VILLAGE SHOW BEAN DAY

The Village Show may be cancelled again this year but Tilly will outside church on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May handing out beans that can be taken home, planted and grown on – so if you know anyone, especially children please tell them to walk up to the Methodist Church between 10.00 and 11.00 am tomorrow morning.

## EASTER OFFERING

As I mentioned last Sunday, Easter Offering is traditionally organised by Methodist Women in Britain and the money received is used to support projects throughout the world administered by the Methodist World Mission Fund. This year again there have been no envelopes in the pews but the work still needs to go on, so if you would like to make a donation, please put this into an envelope with Easter Offering on the front and let either me or Peter Yates have them as soon as possible – Sue Speight

## ADVANCE NOTICE - BOOK THE DATE - BUMPER SALE OF PLANTS

We are holding our Annual Bumper Sale of Plants on **SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY from 10.00 am until 12 noon** outside chapel across the entrance to the car park and foyer with social distancing regulations of that date in place. Please book the date and come along to buy those extra plants you need to enhance your garden.

## THANK YOU - COLLECTION ENVELOPES

Thanks to you all for your regular contributions to the running of the church during lockdown. Church services have now resumed but if you are unable to attend, please continue to send your contributions towards the running of the church as you have been doing over the last 12 months. Thank you - Peter

## BARROW UPON SOAR CHURCHES TOGETHER

**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:

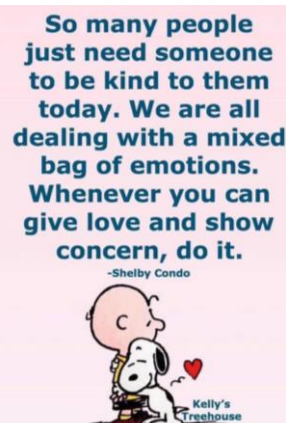
- as we are still being urged to be cautious about our contacts with people there will be no need to knock on doors to collect envelopes
- quite a lot of people from experience do not like knocking on doors to ask if people wish to donate. We are certain that many more people will be happy to help out 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

**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 Gospel Reading:** John 15 v 1-8

### **Jesus the True Vine**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

### TIME TO REFLECT

John Hay

Let me start by saying that I am no gardener. I enjoy doing things in the garden, but I am mostly clueless. This is particularly evident when it comes to pruning and cutting back. I tend to pussy foot around and snip round the edges of my plants. Take my hedge. It is always untidy with a sort of Dennis the Menace messy haircut look to it, in stark contrast to my next-door neighbour whose own hedge is a thing of beauty, shaped and manicured tightly.

I remember the first winter in my last house, when I was horrified by what the council workers did to the beautiful oak trees lining the Crescent where I lived. It looked devastated, like a nuclear bomb had gone off nearby. I nearly wrote in to complain. I needn't have worried, of course – they did know what they were doing and by the end of that summer the trees were back, only better, with more strength and shape from the new growth.

Pruning and cutting back is essential to the process of growth. Particularly to fruit bearing plants like the vine. Jesus knew it, hence the wonderful image of John 15 v1-8, which has much to say to us this Vocations Sunday.

In the Old Testament the vine is a symbol of Israel, but it is usually mentioned in the context of having been allowed to run wild, for example in Isaiah 5. Vines in the Middle East were (and still are) fast growing and if left unchecked would grow in all directions, with lots of branches, meaning that the fruit bearing branches produced lots of small, poor quality fruit. Quite simply, to produce a good crop, there needed to be regular ruthless pruning, particularly in its early years. Jesus says that he is the true vine, the true Israel if you like and he exhorts his disciples to abide in him, to allow God who is the gardener to prune back those useless and tangled branches, so that good fruit will be produced.

Many of us in the Church (and I include myself too) could learn from this. We take on too many jobs, have too many roles and hats to wear and consider ourselves indispensable. Who else would do it, if not me? The place would fall apart without me, we say. Well maybe we should just try it. Step back. If you do have 3 roles, give up 2 and give your all to the one remaining role. I am not necessarily the best person to invoke garden wisdom, but even I have noticed that you create a space in the garden something else will soon grow there. Perhaps by hanging on to those 2 extra roles we not only reduce the quality of the fruit we produce, but we are preventing others exercising their calling and ministry.

On this Vocations Sunday, when we are asked to reflect on the part we play in the ministry of God's Church, we should consider what needs pruning in our lives, so that the Vine produces abundant, sweet fruit. Sometimes less is more. And if you find this message hard, no sour grapes, please!

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### THE WISE MAN

People have been coming to the wise man, complaining about the same problems every time. One day he told them a joke, and everyone roared in laughter.

After a couple of minutes, he told them the same joke and only a few of them smiled.

When he told the same joke for the third time no one laughed anymore.

The wise man smiled and said: "You can't laugh at the same joke over and over. So why are you always crying about the same problem?"

**Moral of this story:** Worrying won't solve your problems, it'll just waste your time and energy.

You never really know the true impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be kind first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.

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### REV JOHN PUGH WRITES:

The Veterans Badge marks men and women who have served Queen and country in the Armed Forces. It makes no difference – Army, Navy or Air Force – all have served whether as a Regular or Reservist. I must admit my eyes are drawn immediately if I see someone wearing this mark of service. My first question usually involves asking who they served with – sometimes it's just a number which signifies something either as a Unit, Squadron or Ship. The numbers may not mean much unless you know e.g. Medics might know 223, 212, 201, etc. Some people buy copies of the badge from the internet because they wish they'd been involved with the Forces. These “wannabies” are usually referred to as “Walts” by ex-Forces personnel, they stand out in some way or other, caught out as it were, because of a lack of knowledge.



My other thought is – how many of us wear some sort of mark that proclaims us as Christian? A cross, a crucifix, some form of the Christian fish symbol, a WWJD band or maybe a sweatshirt that proclaims something about Jesus? Do we stand out because of that which we wear? I am blessed because as a Christian Minister I wear a clerical collar (otherwise known as a 'dog collar') sometimes. Helpful indicator whenever I visit someone in hospital or a Home, reassuring folk who may be housebound that I am 'legit'. However not everyone wears such a noticeable symbol of their faith.

How we wear our Christian faith is more important than any symbol we choose to wear or carry. Scripture tells us we are sealed by God's Holy Spirit, Our faith should shine out for all to see. Not that this is to give us glory but so that God may be glorified because of his presence in Sun lives. This being the case we should recognise other Christians the moment we walk into a room full of strangers. At once we should know them and they should know us as the worship song states “They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Christians by our love”

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### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, your steadfast love is as high as the heavens are above the earth and your everlasting arms are underneath us. In Jesus you made your home among us, and you long for us to find our home in you – safe and free from fear. Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, the one holding all things together, give us liberating confidence to renew our trust in you, seek your will, and choose your paths. Amen.

Leslie Newton, Yorkshire North and East District Chair

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 2<sup>ND</sup> May – Rev Andrew Lomax

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May Liz and Rob Newton

**This week's Quiz starts here.....**

**Richard of York gave battle in vain..... is mnemonic for what?**

**Answer..... the order of colours in the rainbow**

All the rest of the questions refer to this answer.

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 2  | Like a receptacle for letters  |  |
| 3  | A fruit that is often <i>glace</i> and used to decorate cakes  |  |
| 4  | Common name of <i>Anagallis Arvensis</i> one of our smallest wildflowers                               |  |
| 5  | Ginger cats are usually this colour  |  |
| 6  | He became King in 1689   |  |
| 7  | Language of China  |  |
| 8  | A coward   |  |
| 9  | Tie this on the old oak  |  |
| 10 | Don't park here  |  |
| 11 | The grass Tom Jones sang about   |  |
| 12 | Popeye's girlfriend  |  |
| 13 | Affected by a rough sea maybe  |  |
| 14 | Down in the dumps  |  |
| 15 | Not expected to happen   |  |
| 16 | Corundum polished and used in jewellery  |  |
| 17 | A dark blue/black dye used to colour denim for the origin Levi Strauss Jeans in 1873                   |  |
| 18 | She found one of Willy Wonka golden tickets  |  |
| 19 | A little sweetie to freshen our breath   |  |
| 20 | Ref answer 1.... what is the scientific word for this phenomenon whether in the sky or one your floor? |  |



## Answers to last week's Quiz on Relationships

|    |   |                         |
|----|---|-------------------------|
| 1  | Of four Acting Brothers....Mark has played John Lennon, Joe has been in Hollyoaks, Paul played Dr Who and Steven is currently helping the midwives. What is their surname?        | McGann                  |
| 2  | The Bronte sisters had one brother... what was his name?  | Branwell                |
| 3  | Joy Teddy and Babs were the singing stars of 1950 and 60ies ... what was their stage name?  | The Beverly Sisters     |
| 4  | Albert (known as Edward), Arthur, Leopold, Beatrice, Louise, Victoria, Helena, Alice and Alfred were all children of which British Monarch?                                       | Queen Victoria          |
| 5  | Miriam and Aaron, were sibling of which Old Testament leader?   | Moses                   |
| 6  | Of the famous pair of tennis champion sisters who is the Mum to Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jnr.?  | Serena Williams         |
| 7  | John and Charles Wesley were bought up in a family of 7 children... what were the Christian names of their parents?   | Samuel and Susanna      |
| 8  | What are the names of the two brothers, who both played for the Leicester Tigers in the 1990'ies?   | Rory and Tony Underwood |
| 9  | Which twin brothers, according to legend, were suckled by a she-wolf and became the founders of the city of Rome?   | Romulus and Remus       |
| 10 | Famous for both writing and singing songs such as Top of the World and Goodbye to love....this Brother/Sister partnership sadly ended with the early death of the sister in 1983. | The Carpenters          |
| 11 | In Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, what are the names of the twins separated by a shipwreck and reunited at the end of the play?   | Viola and Sebastian     |
| 12 | What was the relationship between Prince Charles and Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon?   | Grandson                |
| 13 | Who were the sons of Zebedee called by Jesus on the lakeside?   | James and John          |
| 14 | Who was the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth?  | Noah                    |
| 15 | Irish twin brothers, Jedward, combine their names into their stage name ..... what are their full names?  | John and Edward         |
| 16 | Which TV cook's father was a prominent member of parliament in the 1980s?   | Nigella Lawson          |
| 17 | Henry VIII fathered three children who all became monarchs after him... what were their names?  | Edward, Mary Elizabeth  |
| 18 | Barry, Robin and Maurice made up which singing group in the sixties and seventies?  | Bee Gees                |
| 19 | Who was the son of Viking leader Eric the Red who explored the N Atlantic around 1000AD and is said to be the first European to set foot on the American continent?               | Leif Ericson            |
| 20 | Cousins Amelia (Silent Witness) and Laurence (Lewis) are members of which acting dynasty?   | Fox                     |

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An Amish boy and his father were visiting a mall. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny, silver walls that could move apart and back together again. The boy asked his father, "What is this, Father?" The father responded, "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life, I don't know what it is."

While the boy and his father were watching wide-eyed an old lady in a wheel chair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched small circles of lights w/numbers above the walls light up. They continued to watch the circles light up in the reverse direction. The walls opened up again and a beautiful 24 year old woman stepped out.



The father said to his son, "Go get your Mother."

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A newly discovered chapter in the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to "Where do pets come from?" Adam said, "Lord when I was in the garden, you walked with me every day. Now I do not see you anymore. I am lonesome here and it is difficult for me to remember how much you love me."

And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourself."

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and he wagged his tail. And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal."

And God said, "No problem! Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG."

And Dog lived with Adam and was a companion to him and loved him. And Adam was comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that Adam's guardian angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam has become filled with pride. He struts and preens like a peacock and he believes he is worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught him that he is loved, but perhaps too well."

And the Lord said, "No problem! I will create for him a companion who will be with him forever and who will see him as he is. The companion will remind him of his limitations, so he will know that he is not always worthy of adoration."

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam. And Cat would not obey Adam. And when Adam gazed into Cat's eyes, he was reminded that he was not the supreme being. And Adam learned humility.

And God was pleased.

And Adam was greatly improved.

And Dog was happy.

And the Cat didn't give a hoot one way or the other.

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A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a motorcycle when he spotted a well known heart surgeon in his shop. The surgeon was waiting for the service manager to look at his bike.

The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey Doc, can I ask you a question?"

The surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic who was working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands and said, "So doc, look at this engine, I open its heart, take valves out, fix them, put 'em back and when I finish, it works just like new. So how come I get such a small salary and you get the really big bucks, when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over and whispered to the mechanic, "Try doing it with the engine running."

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