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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

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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
10.00 am until 2.00 pm

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# BUSMC - KEEPING CONNECTED

## Week 60

### NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 9th MAY 2021

#### Weekly Diary

Christian Aid Week Monday 10 May	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup meet in the rear Hall
Tuesday 11 May	8.45 am to 4.00 pm 6.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup Barrow upon Soar Parish Council meeting
Wednesday 12 May	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Thursday 13 May	8.45 am to 4.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Friday 14 May	8.45 am to 1.00 pm	Barrow Playgroup
Saturday 15 May	10.00 am to 12.00 pm	BUMPER PLANT SALE
Sunday 16 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

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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 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

**As things are getting back to some form of normality** and I have now been doing this newsletter for approximately 14 months or 60 consecutive weeks I feel it is time to scale back a little. Therefore, this will be the last extended newsletter, from next week we will revert to our usual form of notices which will go out by email and be on our website - then from 27<sup>th</sup> June we will begin to start issuing printed notices again. I hope that you have enjoyed reading them as much as I have enjoyed putting them together – thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way.



### 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.

### 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 it as soon as possible – Sue Speight

### 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. Arrangements are, of course, different this year and you should be receiving an envelope through your door with a note saying where it can be returned if you wish to donate. If you have any queries, then please contact Heather Doda.

**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)**

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## FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH WEBSITE

### Today's Bible Readings:

#### Palm 98

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gained him victory. <sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. <sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. <sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. <sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. <sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD. <sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. <sup>8</sup> Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy <sup>9</sup> at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

#### Acts 10:44-48

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup> for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' <sup>48</sup> So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

#### 1 John 5:1-6

<sup>5</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ<sup>[a]</sup> has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Footnote [1 John 5:1](#) Or the Messiah

#### John 15:9-17

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants<sup>[a]</sup> any longer,

because the servant<sup>16</sup> does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

## TIME TO REFLECT

David Miller

Recent weeks have seen quite a debate underway about relative freedoms and responsibilities in the light of actual and possible Government announcements easing Covid restrictions - these will no doubt be continuing by the time you receive and read this. This positive tension is found in our readings for today which remind us that as disciples of The Lord Jesus Christ we face a constant series of decisions about how to live authentically as people of faith.

The first section of chapter 5 in the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of John the elder holds this together in a great declaration about what constitutes being a genuine disciple. The other – and probably better-known readings from John's Gospel and Acts illustrate this well. John's 1<sup>st</sup> letter was written to a church in trouble – a faction had advocated a view of Christ that made faith more a mystical experience that need not affect how believers lived out what they claimed to believe – rather like some contemporary secular commentators insisting faith is a private matter. John refutes this – and in that sense this passage is straight forward, but his writing is also difficult – because it's plain and simple to see how far we have to go and grow! This leads John to assert three things:

**1. New birth is the basis of the Christian life (5:1, 4).** Echoing the encounter of Jesus and Nicodemus, John says, "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God" this seems innocent enough, but it calls us to believe that the flesh and blood carpenter of Nazareth shows us who God is!

**2. Faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, is a vital sign of the new birth (5:1, 4, 5).** When Peter preached at the house of Cornelius a remarkable thing happened – people from a non-religious background came to faith and were filled with God's Holy Spirit – in short, they were saved and changed. John explains to his readers: That Faith is the result of the new birth, not the cause of it (5:1). It's not the greatness of our faith that forgives, heals, and changes us, but the greatness of God's faithfulness that works in us - we respond to receive that gift with as much (or little) trust as we have. Such faith has a clearly defined object (5:1, 5). Just as bungee jumpers have to trust the elastic rope round their ankles, so trusting in the self-sacrificial death and the rising of Jesus is what connects us to God in the household and family of faith as The Holy Spirit works in us. Our faith, then, has a clearly observable result which John calls "overcoming the world" (5:4, 5). The work of God in us changes us to want to do what God wants (Phil.2:12) so we are changed. When Billy Bray the reprobate Cornish tin miner came to faith, after hearing John Wesley preach, everyone saw the difference and he began describing himself as "The son of a King" – a complete transformation.

**3. Love for God and His children is a vital sign of the new birth (5:1, 2, 3).** As the love of Jesus takes root in our lives, God's Spirit forms the character of Jesus in us – all well and good. But, here's the rub, both John's letter and Jesus in John's Gospel say that love, self-giving love which expects no reward, love like Jesus shows is shown NOT in feelings or good (or daring) deeds, but an obedience which loves fellow believers as part of our witness (John 15:10,14,17).

We are called to become positively different from worldly standards; often when we are different we are seen as negative and judgemental, but when we are positive we are compromised and not very different.

Take time to sit quietly and ask, this week, for whom could the way you live, and act show that your faith in Jesus who truly lived, died and rose reflect the reality of the life changing nature of your faith?

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## THE POTATO, THE EGG AND THE COFFEE BEANS

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire.

Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter, moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After twenty minutes he turned off the burners.

He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup.

Turning to her, he asked. "Daughter, what do you see?"

"Potatoes, eggs and coffee," she hastily replied.

"Look closer" he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft.

He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"Father, what does this mean?" she asked.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity-the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

"Which one are you?" he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

**Moral of the story:**

In life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is how you choose to react to it and what you make out of it. Life is all about leaning, adopting, and converting all the struggles that we experience into something positive.



## REV JOHN PUGH WRITES:

Size matters? How often have you heard that? I know it's not often used to compare such things as speakers you might attach to mobile phones, etc. Yes, there are HI-Fi fanatics who will boast of the size of their woofers and tweeters, stating certain makes and designs are much better than others. I am certain many of you have heard the expression used in various other different situations. Humanity, it seems, are taken up with comparisons, it seems to be more true with some more than others. My American friends tell me this is especially true of Texans where the boast goes everything is bigger in Texas.



I think for many it starts when children begin in school and proud parents compare their children to the class members alongside their child. Height, weight and apparent intelligence are weighed up. Some, it seems, appear to be taller and stronger than others, cleaner and brighter extend maybe to others. Judged possibly by the books they are reading – my child is only on book number 4 in the scheme where your child is on book number 7, why isn't my child on book 7? Teachers will tell you children develop at different rates, physically, socially and intellectually. Then as unpopular as it may be, genders mature at different ages ask anyone who has studied child development.

From time to time this concept raises its head in Christian circles. Competitiveness rages between some Christians over who is higher in a hierarchy than others. The idea of being a big fish in a small pond is important to some people, in their own eyes. Being a small fish in a larger pond carries no kudos in the same eyes. Being "Mr Big" or "Ms Big" can often make individuals swell with pride, feel self-important and make them less aware of what being a Christian is all about. It's about being a servant amongst other servants – some years ago, prior to the Methodist Church assuming its current form an incident occurred. A young Primitive Methodist Minister was ordered about by his Chapel stewards. They told him he was just a servant of the Church i.e. in their eyes themselves. His response? "Yest I am the servant of the servants, but you are not my masters".

So, does size matter? In some ways yes – but it's about the size of our hearts, the love we hold for others, how big a role Jesus plays in our lives. Ultimately, it's not about "size matters" but it's about what we do with what God has given us. It's about how we use the skills and talents that are God given.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

You don't call us to be theologians or scholars, Lord, you simply call us to put our trust in you, and yet how difficult that can sometimes be. There are so many things in the world that compete with our faith, that seem to demand our time, our attention, so many conflicting interests, and yet we know from experience that when trouble strikes, when things go wrong in our lives, there is only one place we can turn, only one person who can help us, and that is you, Jesus. For you love us with an all-embracing love, and even when we lose sight of you, you never forget or abandon us. So, we turn to you now, Lord, thanking you for your faithfulness, and committing ourselves to trust you more.

Liz Stuart

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

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May Karen Wormald

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May The Pipet Family

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May Eleri Bristow

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### THIS WEEK'S QUIZ TAKES US AROUND GREAT BRITAIN AND ASKS....."WHERE AM I?"

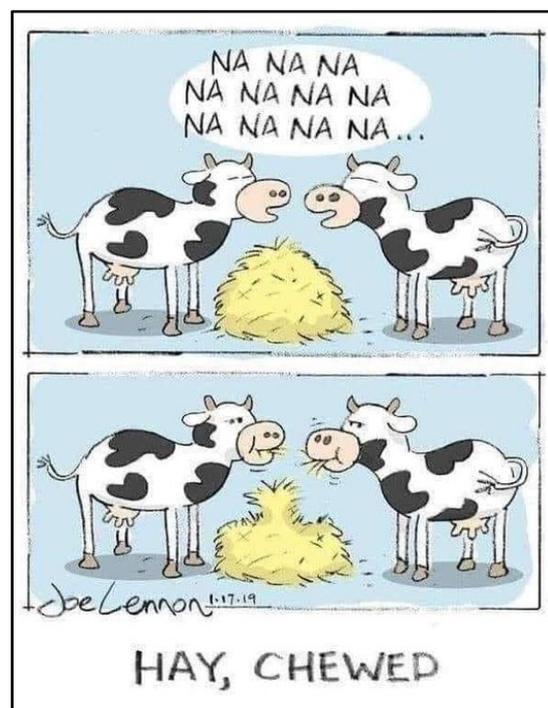
1	A Midlands town famed for its clock tower, <i>Foxes</i> football team and a University and Entertainment Centre named after a 13 <sup>th</sup> century Earl	
2	A stately home on the river Derwent, seat of the Dukes of Devonshire..... famous for its high, gravity propelled, ornamental fountain.	
3	Managed by the National Trust, this area is rich in nature and is the most southerly point in England.	
4	Situated on the Mersey Estuary this city was once one of the busiest English ports ... it has two cathedrals, both built in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century and two football teams one of which is Everton!	
5	The capital of Scotland located in the Firth of Forth..... sites to visit are Arthur's Seat and the Golden Mile and the Festival usually held in August	
6	Stretching over 200 square miles across part of the Midlands, this extensive area of tree planting links the old woodlands of Charnwood and Needwood. It has a visitors' centre at <i>Conkers</i> in Leicestershire	
7	A kilometre walk from Trafalgar Square, along the side of St James Park and past the gargantuan statue of Queen Victoria..... which famous building is ahead?	
8	Home to the fictional Wombles this expansive green area in S London shares its name and postcode, SW19 with a famous sports venue	
9	A Lincolnshire town famous for Gingerbread and being the home town of our first female Prime Minister	
10	An upland area of South West England, which gives its name to..... a prison originally built for prisoners of war and a species of semi-wild ponies.	
11	Seaside resort in the East Coast of England advertised by the <i>Jolly Fisherman</i> and known by some as <i>Nottingham by the Sea</i>	
12	This Island across the Menai Strait in N Wales may be accessed via a road bridge but travellers by rail will disembark at the village with the longest name in the UK.....	
13	Because of the clement weather and fine beaches, how do the holiday resorts of Torquay, Paignton and Brixton in Devon promote themselves?	
14	At the top of the Great Glen near to Inverness this Scottish loch has a mysterious monster and is the deepest in Britain	
15	Between Brighton and Eastbourne beneath the chalk cliffs of the English Channel this lighthouse takes its name from the area above it .....	
16	While walking on ancient volcanic rock and enjoying fantastic views over the Soar valley.... long horn cattle may be encountered	
17	Best known as Downton Abbey what is the real name of this stately home in Hampshire?	
18	Famous for its high level bridge across the Avon Gorge..... and historically for its ship building and voyages of exploration and trade	
19	One of the Queen's private residences in Eastern England where she celebrates significant occasions and the Christmas period with her family	
20	The County Town of the area which is famous for its pudding.... and is known as God's Own Country	

Absolute disaster, frustration and shame that the 'world' should see my **ramblings** as I work on a quiz..... That was what went into last week's Quiz..... it was not the final version and after several more hours work I thought I had saved it and then forwarded it to Janet..... I don't know why she didn't get the updated version but can only sincerely apologise and ask Janet to print the correct one along with its answers, as she usually does. Sue Speight

**ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ:**

**Richard of York gave battle in vain..... is mnemonic for what?  
Answer..... the order of colours in the rainbow**

2	Like a receptacle for letters	Post office (Red)
3	A fruit that is often <i>glace</i> and used to decorate cakes	Cherry Red
4	Common name of Anagallis Arvensis one of our smallest wild flowers	Scarlet Pimpernel
5	Ginger cats are usually this colour	Orange
6	He became King in 1689	William of Orange
7	Language of China	Mandarin (orange)
8	A coward	Yellow belly
9	Tie this on the old oak	Yellow Ribbon
10	Don't park here	Double yellow lines
11	The grass Tom Jones sang about	Green, green grass
12	Popeye's girlfriend	Olive (green)
13	Affected by a rough sea maybe	Green at the gills
14	Down in the dumps	Blue
15	Not expected to happen	Never in a blue moon
16	Corundum polished and used in jewellery	Sapphire (blue)
17	A dark blue/black dye used to colour denim for the origin Levi Strauss Jeans in 1873	Indigo
18	She found one of Willy Wonka's golden tickets	Violet Beauregard
19	A little sweetie to freshen our breath	Palma Violet
20	Ref answer 1.... what is the scientific word for this phenomenon whether in the sky or one your floor?	Spectrum



**MRS GREEN** goes to the butcher shop to buy a chicken for the Sunday meal. The butcher has only one scrawny chicken left. He puts it on the scale.

"That's too scrawny; don't you have something bigger?" Mrs. Green asks.

He pretends to rummage around, and then puts the same chicken back on the scale, while pressing with his thumb. "Three and a half pounds," he says.

That looks better," says Mrs. Green. "I'll take them both."

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**A TRAVELLER** became lost in an unnamed desert. Realizing his only chance for survival was to find civilization, he began walking. Time passed, and he became thirsty. More time passed, and he began feeling faint.

Reduced to crawling, he was on the verge of passing out when he spied a small shack about 500 meters in front of him. Barely conscious, he reached the shack and called out, "Water! Please, I need water!" An old man appeared in the door of the shack and replied sympathetically, "I am sorry, sir, but I have no water. However, would you like to buy a tie?" With this, he brandished a collection of exquisite silken neckwear

You fool," gasped the man. "I'm dying! I need water!" "Well, sir," replied the old man, "If you really need water, there is another shack about 2 kilometres south of here where you can get some."

Without knowing how, the man summoned sufficient strength to drag his parched body the distance to the second tent. With his last ounce of strength, he tugged at the door of the second shack and collapsed. Another man, looking enough like the old man to be his brother, appeared at the door dressed in a costly tuxedo. Looking down at the crumpled mass at his door, he inquired, "May I help you sir?"

Water..." came the feeble reply.

"Oh, sir," replied the man, "I am sorry, but you can't come in here without a tie!"

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**MARY POPPINS** was traveling home, but due to worsening weather, she decided to stop at a hotel for the night. She approached the receptionist and asked for a room for the night. "Certainly, madam," he replied courteously.

"Is the restaurant open still?" inquired Mary. "Sorry, no," came the reply, "but room service is available all night. Would you care to select something from this menu?"

Mary smiled and took the menu and perused it. "I would cauliflower cheese please," said Mary. "Certainly, madam," he replied. "And can I have breakfast in bed?" asked Mary politely. The receptionist nodded and smiled. "In that case, I would love a couple of poached eggs, please," Mary mused.

After confirming the order, Mary signed in and went up to her room for the night. The night passed uneventfully and the next morning Mary came down early to check out. The same guy was still on the desk. "Morning, madam. Sleep well?" "Yes, thank you," Mary replied. "Food to your liking?"

"Well, I have to say the cauliflower cheese was exceptional, I don't think I have had better. Shame about the eggs, though.... they really weren't that nice at all," replied Mary truthfully. "I am sorry but perhaps you could contribute these thoughts to our Guest Comments Book. We are always looking to improve our service and would value your opinion," said the receptionist.

"I will, thank you!" replied Mary who checked out, then scribbled a comment into the book. Waving, she left to continue her journey. Curious, the receptionist picked up the book to see the comment Mary had written. "Supercauliflowercheesebuteggswarequiteatrocious!"

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### Answers to this week's quiz: "Where am I?"

1. Leicester
2. Chatsworth House
3. Lizard Point, Cornwall
4. Liverpool
5. Edinburgh
6. The National Forest
7. Buckingham Palace
8. Wimbledon Common
9. Grantham
10. Dartmoor
11. Skegness
12. Anglesey
13. The English Riviera
14. Loch Ness
15. Beachy Head
6. Beacon Hill
17. Highclere Castle
18. Bristol
19. Sandringham House
20. York