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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH
 Website: www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk
Minister: Rev Sandra Marshall
Telephone: 0116 2304689
 Circuit Office - Telephone: 01509 807441
 Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
 10.00 am until 2.00 pm
 Email: loughboroughmethodist@gmail.com

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2021

Weekly Diary

Monday 29 November	8.45 am – 1.00 pm 6.30 – 9.00 pm	Playgroup meets in the Hall 1 st Barrow upon Soar Guides meet in the Hall
Tuesday 30 November	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm	Playgroup Loughborough Performing Arts meet in the Hall
Wednesday 1 December	8.45 am – 1.00 pm 7.30 pm	Playgroup Ladies Circle – Advent Thoughts with Rev Sandra Marshall
Thursday 2 December	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 7.30 – 9.30 pm	Playgroup Barrow Panto Group meet in the Hall
Friday 3 December	8.45 am – 3.00 pm 4.00 pm	Playgroup followed by Playgroup Christmas Fair Set up for Minimarket
Saturday 4 December	10.00 – 11.00 pm	Minimarket is back!
Sunday 5 December	10.15 am	Rev Sandra Marshall

As Covid cases continue to rise in the UK, your Church Council has agreed that the Covid Risk Assessment was changed to follow the Circuit rules – we will continue to wear masks as we enter church, they can be removed when sitting down but singing with a mask should be continued for the time being.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 28 November	6.00 pm	Advent Carol Service - No morning service
Sunday 5 December	10.15 am	Rev Sandra Marshall
Sunday 12 December	10.15 am	Local Arrangement
Sunday 19 December	6.00 pm	Carol Service with Rev Sandra Marshall – no morning service
Christmas Eve Friday 24 December	6.00 pm	Crib Service with Rev Sandra Marshall
Christmas Day Saturday 25 December	10.15 am	United Christmas Day Service here with Mountsorrel and Sileby led by Rev Sandra Marshall
Sunday 26 December		No Service

We continue to pray this week for the family and friends of Nora Thompson who passed away on 17th November aged 97 years.

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Nora's life here at Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church on Wednesday 8th December at 1.15 pm. There will be a reception at the Three Crowns following the service and if you intend going to this could you let Sandra Webb know please as this will help the family with catering. Donations in lieu of flowers to The British Heart Foundation and the Salvation Army. A special request - bright colours to be worn at the service!

THANK YOU FROM REV DAVID BOWLER

To say I was overwhelmed by the number of people from the Circuit who attended my farewell service on 31st October and by the wonderfully generous monetary gift of £300 from the Circuit would be an understatement.

I am most grateful for the support and good wishes I have received as I have come to the end of my time in Quorn, and in stipendiary ministry.

As people will know, I have worked in 'LEP's' with Methodists since 1982, when I became Vicar of St Andrews, Leicester Forest East, and have made so many good friends in Methodism over many years. I have always received a warm welcome wherever I have gone in Leicester West and latterly Loughborough Circuits.

Finishing on 31st October and moving 3 days later has been traumatic. I'm still not quite sure where my brain is! however, we are beginning to settle in our home in East Leake along with the many happy memories so many people have given us, along with their friendship.

Thank you, one and all.

With kind regards - David and Tracy Bowler

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

12TH Church is streamed every Sunday morning at 10.45 am

Sunday 28 November	Liz and Rob Newton
Sunday 5 December	Eleri Bristow
Sunday 12 December	The Pipet Family
Sunday 19 December	Rev Andrew Lomax – Carol Service
Sunday 26 December	No Service

CHANGING LANES

At this time of year there are two common ways of travelling. Like separate lanes on a motorway, the traffic can move at different speeds, although some people do swerve between the lanes, trying to get the best of both.

In the fast lane are those zooming towards the secular, commercialised, gift-wrapped Christmas; in the slow lane are the spiritually motivated, taking in the Advent message on the way to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ remembering that Advent is also all about God giving us a second chance.

In both lanes, Bethlehem is the stated destination. But it is not about who gets there first, rather, it is how we prepare and what we see on the way that matters.

The Advent we celebrate in the church has nothing at all to do with the number of shopping days left until Christmas; it is altogether different.

Advent invites us to dream of a better world; to fill the cup of today with a full measure of tomorrow. The way we see Advent and Christmas determines our approach to the celebration. The essential work of Advent is not about hanging decorations or buying presents. It is about opening our lives to the coming of Christ, to reconcile ourselves with him and learning to live in peace with and serve others.

Perhaps our metaphor of two lanes heading to one destination needs modifying however, to that of a two-way road, as the two journeys represented - the pre-Christmas rush and the more reflective Advent often travel in parallel but opposite directions!

The pre-Christmas rush just heads for Christ's birthday - Advent invites us, however, to reflect not just on Christ's birth but also his Second Coming and question our preparedness for this.

Do we need to signal and change lanes now?



Adapted from At Home in Advent, Gordon Giles, 2020 pp15-18