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**BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH**

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

**Minister: Rev Sandra Marshall**

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Circuit Office - Telephone: 01509 807441

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

10.00 am until 2.00 pm

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**NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

**We celebrate with our third Advent candle of Peace  
We work for peace – because Jesus is the Prince of peace and he  
calls his children to work for peace in his name.**



**Weekly Diary**

Monday 13 December	8.45 am – 1.00 pm 6.30 – 9.00 pm	Playgroup meets in the Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> Barrow upon Soar Guides meet in the Hall
Tuesday 14 December	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm	Playgroup Loughborough Performing Arts meet in the Hall
Wednesday 15 December	8.45 am – 1.00 pm 2.30 pm 7.30 pm	Playgroup Cuppa and Chatta Ladies Circle Christmas Party and Secret Santa
Thursday 16 December	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 7.30 – 9.30 pm	Playgroup Barrow Panto Group meet in the Hall
Friday 17 December	8.45 am – 1.00 pm	Playgroup Playgroup break up for Christmas holiday
Saturday 18 December		

**Our next Cuppa and Chatta**

is on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December  
between 2.30 and 4.30.

Come join us in the Welcome Coffee Lounge at Barrow Methodist Church as we look forward to Christmas.  
Come on your own, or share this invitation and bring a friend.

For more information please contact Sue Speight (01509 413524)

I know you are probably thoroughly fed up with the changes in rules under Plan B of the Government's guidance, but we must think of the safety of others and adhere to the new rules to try and combat this new variant of Covid 19.

The following information has been sent out by Rev Andrew Lomax and is the latest guidance from the Methodist Church as of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

**What are the main considerations for using our buildings following Government Plan B guidance?**

**1. Is it a legal requirement to wear face coverings in a Place of Worship?**

YES - All those using a place of worship or ancillary buildings have to wear a face covering by law from **Friday 10 December 2021**. The Government guidance also outlines situations where individuals may be exempt. This is outlined here - [Face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-exemptions-and-how-to-make-your-own). There are reasonable exemptions from this, while someone is leading worship or giving a reading for example. For specific guidance on singing see below.

**2. Can we still use our church buildings?**

YES - there are currently no restrictions on continuing to use our church buildings. Although the Government is now advising office workers to work from home if they can from **Monday 13 December**. Churches should therefore consider how this advice affects those who work or use the church building and if temporary adjustments can be made during this period. For further information refer to - [Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-how-to-stay-safe-and-help-prevent-the-spread).

**3. Do we need to ask building users for a NHS Covid Pass?**

NO – places of worship and ancillary buildings will not be required to ask for evidence from building users, see [Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-how-to-stay-safe-and-help-prevent-the-spread) under the heading **Required use of the NHS COVID Pass**. This includes activities such as communal worship, and ceremonies to mark life events such as weddings and funerals. Note: activities which take place after these events in the building such as wedding receptions, will only need to request an NHS Covid Pass if there are 500 or more attending indoors.

**4. Can we still sing in church?**

YES – the current Government changes have not advised against singing, and current guidance suggests that a reasonable excuse exemption within the current regulations will allow the removal of a face covering whilst singing if an individual wishes to do so. It is suggested that this should be balanced against the specific setting and risks, such as smaller spaces and limited natural ventilation. Therefore churches councils may wish to take a specific local decision on this matter. **For the time being we will continue to stick to our Risk Assessment and keep masks on.**

**5. Should we continue to ventilate indoors or meet outdoors if possible:**

YES - If this is not possible or practical, Government SAGE data suggests that opening windows regularly for 10 minutes, or a small amount continuously, can help reduce the risk of transmission compared to no ventilation. The use of CO<sub>2</sub> monitors can also help highlight areas of poor natural ventilation in a building. There is also an 'easy read' version of the Government's more detailed ventilation guidance, which can be found here - [Ventilation of indoor spaces to stop the spread of COVID-19 \(easy read\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/guidance/ventilation-of-indoor-spaces-to-stop-the-spread-of-covid-19-easy-read).

**6. Do we need to socially distance?**

NO – there is currently no Government requirement for the reintroduction of social distancing within church settings. A level of distancing to protect those who are vulnerable can be considered though as part of a specific risk assessment for the room or activity. This is a local decision for the managing trustees, based on the local situation.

**7. Should we continue to get tested and self-isolate if needed:**

YES - Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate and take a free PCR test as soon as possible. Anyone who tests positive must self-isolate. Equally, anyone notified they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive should also take a free PCR test as soon as possible and self-isolate if required. Stay at home if you are feeling unwell.

**8. Should we continue to encourage good hygiene practice:**

YES - Provide hand sanitiser in convenient areas throughout the building for everyone to use; keep established practices of cleaning surfaces touched regularly and rooms with high use by different groups such as toilets and kitchens.

## OFFERING REQUEST

Would anyone be prepared to assist in counting the offering after Sunday morning service please? This is not a big job as so many people are now paying by standing order, but it does have to be carried out by two people. If you think you could help or want to know more, please see Heather today.

## POSTAGE STAMPS FOR RNIB

Please cut your postage stamps from your envelopes and place them in the box on the bookcase in the Welcome Coffee Bar. These will be sent to RNIB to support their funds - Thanks Kate

## NATIVITY CHRISTMAS CARDS RECYCLING

Please recycle the FRONT PICTURE ONLY of your Nativity Christmas cards, by placing them in the box in the Welcome Coffee Bar. All in preparation for a Nativity Festival next year! Thanks Kate

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 12 December	10.15 am	Heather Doda
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
Sunday 2 January	10.15 am	Sue and Adrian Speight
Sunday 9 January	10.15 am	Tilly Yates
Sunday 16 January	10.15 am	John Bateman
Sunday 23 January	10.15 am	Local Arrangement
Sunday 30 January	10.15 am	Circuit service at Christchurch, Shepshed

## CHRISTMAS AT THE METHODIST CHURCH



**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 6.00 pm**  
**CAROL SERVICE led by Rev Sandra Marshall**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 pm**  
**CRIB SERVICE led by Rev Sandra Marshall**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10.15 am**  
**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION - led by Rev Sandra Marshall**

**EVERYONE WELCOME - PLEASE COME AND JOIN US**

From the Order of Service for Nora's Thanksgiving Service last week

**KNOW GOD, KNOW PEACE - NO GOD, NO PEACE**

**12<sup>TH</sup> Church is streamed every Sunday morning at 10.45 am on Facebook**

Sunday 12 December	The Pipet Family
Sunday 19 December	Rev Andrew Lomax – Carol Service
Sunday 26 December	No Service
Sunday 2 January	Liz and Rob Newton
Sunday 9 January	Sue and Adrian Speight
Sunday 16 January	Emma Lowe
Sunday 23 January	Eleri Bristow
Sunday 30 January	Liz and Rob Newton



**CRACKER JOKES AT THE NEW HORIZONS CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

**What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party?**

Freeze a jolly good fellow!

**Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars?**

Because their days are numbered!

**Why does Sana have three gardens?**

So he can "ho ho ho"!

**What do vampires sing on New Year's Eve?**

Auld Fang Syne

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Loving God, you love, include and seek to redeem and transform all, whether individuals, communities or creation. Help us to trust that, wherever, however and whoever we are, there is a place for us within your love, and that this is equally true for our neighbours. Help us to see, as you see, that those who are different from us, or strangers amongst us, are still our neighbours. Help us to work out and live out every day what this might mean, by the grace and example of our Lord Jesus Christ; by the love, power and compassion of God; and by the inspiring, connecting presence of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

James Tebbutt, Cumbria District Chair