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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

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NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 6th MARCH 2022

WEEKLY DIARY

Monday 7 March	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 2.00 pm 6.30 - 9.00 pm	Playgroup meets in the Rear Hall New Horizons Guides meet in the Rear Hall
Tuesday 8 March	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 4.30 - 7.30 pm	Playgroup Cosmic Theatre School meet in the Hall
Wednesday 9 March	8.45 am – 1.15 pm 7.30 pm	Playgroup Ladies Circle
Thursday 10 March	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 2.00 pm 7.30 – 9.30 pm	Playgroup Circuit Leadership Team meet in the Welcome Coffee Bar Barrow Panto Group
Friday 11 March	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 12.30 pm	Playgroup Lent Lunch at Holy Trinity Rooms
Saturday 12 March		
Sunday 13 March	10.15 am	Anne Temple Coffee: Janet

As Covid restrictions are now lifted our Church Council is advising that you continue to wear a mask while moving around in Church - this now is a personal choice, but we urge you to think of the health and safety of others. If you are unwell or have the symptoms of Covid -19, varied though they are, you are asked to stay at home and isolate.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY this week to NATALIE THOMPSON who has a birthday on Sunday 6 March – have a lovely day xx

Following morning worship on Sunday there will be a short Extraordinary Church Council Meeting in the Worship area – any queries please see Janet

ANNUAL REPORT

I am just beginning to compile our Annual Report ready for our AGM in May. If anyone has anything that they would like including, please let me have it asap janetmthompson13@gmail.com or hand me a copy – Many thanks – Janet

PS: Thanks to the two Sandra's who have been first to respond to my email request and submit their Annual reports - Rev Sandra just pipped Sandra W to the post! Sandra W has held the record for several years

LENT LUNCHES

This year's Lent Lunches has begun every Friday at the Holy Trinity Rooms – a meal of homemade soup, bread, cheese and fruit supplied by local volunteers. Donations to the Bishop Christopher's charity which funds a mobile medical unit in Malawi.

CAN ANONE HELP?

Has anyone got any military style, gold-coloured buttons that they could donate for a Jubilee project please? Thanks a lot - Janet

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 6 March	10.15 am	Local Arrangement Coffee: Janet
Sunday 13 March	10.15 am	Anne Temple Coffee: Janet
Sunday 20 March	10.15 am	John/Dorothy Pipet Coffee: Kate and Mike
Sunday 27 March	10.15 am	Tilly Yates Coffee: Bill and Nancy
Sunday 3 April	10.15 am	Rev Sandra Marshall – Sacrament Coffee:
Sunday 10 April	10.15 am	Local Arrangement Coffee: Soo and Sandra W
Good Friday 15 April	12 noon	Good Friday Service lead by Rev Sandra Marshall followed by Frugal Lunch
Easter Sunday Sunday 17 April	10.15 am	Angela Latham Coffee:
Sunday 24 April	10.15 am	Roger Latham Coffee: Heather

As you can see, there are still blanks on the Coffee Rota for next month and beyond – if you feel that you could help in this way then please have a word with Mike.

12TH Church is streamed every Sunday morning at 10.45 am on Facebook

Sunday 6 March	Karen Wormald
Sunday 13 March	Eleri Bristow
Sunday 20 March	Liz and Rob Newton
Sunday 27 March	Rev Andrew Lomax
Sunday 3 April	The Pipet Family
Sunday 10 April	Emma Lowe
Sunday 17 April	Rev Andrew Lomax
Sunday 24 April	Liz and Rob Newton

Barrow upon Soar Scouts are collecting items needed by the Ukrainian Refugees. The items will be taken to the Polish Club in Loughborough and shipped out to be distributed to the refugees. If you can donate anything, please bring it to church and we will arrange to pass it on – many thanks

- BANDAGES, PLASTERS, WOUND DRESSINGS, FIRST AID KITS, DISINFECTANTS
(PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRY DATE, WE CANNOT SHIP ANYTHING OUT OF DATE)
- HYGIENE ITEMS- NAPPIES, ADULT NAPPIES, WOMEN HYGIENE ITEMS,
- TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS, HAIRBRUSHES
- BATTERIES, TORCHES

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of all, with alarm and concern we bring before you the military intervention in Ukraine. In a world you made for peace and flourishing, we lament the use of armed force. We mourn every casualty of this conflict, every precious life extinguished by war. We pray comfort for those who grieve and those who are fearful. Hear our longing that leaders and nations will honour the worth of all people by having the courage to resolve conflict through dialogue. May all our human failings be transformed by your wonderful grace and goodness. We ask this in the name of Christ, the author of peace and sustained of Creation.
Amen.

From the District Administrators

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Hi friends in the Northampton Methodist District

Just a quick note to say that All We Can are hosting a conversation with Helen on Friday lunchtime (at 1-17, our regular live-broadcast that draws its inspiration from Colossians 1:17 - 'In Christ all things hold together') about her contribution to our Lent resources and her involvement with mission around the Connexion.

It would be great if you could share that with folks in the District - and especially if people can join live on Friday as that way, they can be a part of the conversation. The YouTube link (which will go live at 1:17pm on Friday) is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMzKqqrGQOU>

Or you can find the broadcast live on All We Can's Facebook - www.facebook.com/allwecanuk

Cheers and God bless - Tim

WORKING REGIONALLY



An introduction

Four Districts in the East Midlands stationing region are currently working together in collaborative ways. These Districts are East Anglia, Lincolnshire, Northampton and Nottingham and Derby. The Beds, Essex and Herts District

(BEH) has agreed to send an observer to future meetings because the 5 Districts already work together on Learning and Development and Safeguarding. Senior District leaders have a good working relationship and are experienced in working regionally in a number of areas, particularly stationing. We are seeking to increase the collaboration in a number of other areas. Some of these developments will happen gradually and incrementally, other changes may be necessary as the Church takes action regarding the number of Districts and how senior leadership should be exercised. We are writing to you now to update you about this piece of work and seek your prayerful support for it.

The Regional Working Group

A working group comprising District Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Synod Secretaries, District Mission Enablers with others from the Circuits have been meeting regularly for some time. The group includes lay and ordained leaders. There are at least 3 or 4 people from each District. The group has already identified a number of areas where we are stronger in drawing our resources together. A number of work streams have been created, and a number of other meetings called which have encouraged officers across Districts to get to know each other and at least to work consultatively. The Group has met on Zoom and that has allowed regular well attended meetings.

Chair of the Regional Working Group

My name is Steve Acklam and I am based in the Cambridge Circuit. I am a life-long Methodist from the days when Harvest Festivals were characterised by tiered rows of freshly scrubbed Sunday School children and literally heaps of fresh produce. So, I feel very privileged and somewhat humbled to have been appointed as Lay Chair of the Regional Working Group. Just as God did when I prevaricated about helping to lead a Disciple course; and when I hesitated to step up to become Senior Circuit Steward; I am clear that God guided me to this new challenge. I will now be doing my best to add value to the discussions that have already begun in the Eastern Region, and to help steer our combined efforts to beneficial conclusions. In my working life I have been subject to change and instigated change and am under no illusions as to how carefully the intent to work more closely together and to maximise inter-District cooperation needs to be managed. A genuine cooperative effort will be needed.

What we are already doing

Our first efforts were focussed on how senior leadership is expressed across the region. When the Revd. Lorraine Mellor approached the end of her appointment as Chair of the Nottingham & Derby District it was decided that her successor would be a Deputy Chair at 80%, and another Chair within the region would oversee their ministry and service. It was decided that the Chair of the Northampton District would serve as Chair of both Districts for 2022-24.

As the number of probationer ministers fell across the region it was decided to create a Shared Districts Probationer's Committee and this is now in place overseeing 4 probationers who are in 3 separate Districts. There is now a Shared probationer Learning Group.

Work is currently underway reflecting on a more regional approach to Safeguarding and how to best resource the areas of finance, property, and employment matters.

Future hopes and needs

Working together in partnership across distinct areas of mission and ministry has real value when we can streamline the number of people involved in some tasks and avoid unnecessary repetition. The shortage of volunteers across every part of the Church reflects the older profile and smaller nature of our Church, so it makes sense to work together in areas where it is helpful to do so. We must also be as prepared as possible for any changes asked of us by Conference. If the Eastern Region, for example became a District with four distinct Mission Areas (East Anglia, Lincolnshire, Northampton, and Nottingham & Derby) all with senior leadership in place, we would hope to be well placed to move forward confidently and without disruption. The period 2022-24 is a period of transition and change and we hope that our work so far in co-operation and partnership will enable us to respond well to any other changes required of us.

We ask for your prayers

- For all involved in this work – for vision and hope
- For those who are anxious and fearful of change
- That we will all be open to the prompting of the Spirit and find ways of working which bring about the flourishing of God's people and a faithful response to the call of the Kingdom of God.

HDC/SA, February 2022
