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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH
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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
 Email: loughboroughmethodist@gmail.com

NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 20th MARCH 2022

WEEKLY DIARY

Monday 21 March	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 4.30 – 5.30 pm 6.30 - 9.00 pm	Playgroup meets in the Rear Hall Rear Hall: Private Booking Guides meet in the Hall
Tuesday 22 March	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 4.30 - 7.30 pm	Playgroup Cosmic Theatre School meet in the Hall
Wednesday 23 March	8.45 am – 1.15 pm 3.15 pm 7.30 pm	Playgroup Fun@church Ladies Circle
Thursday 24 March	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 7.30 – 9.30 pm	Playgroup No Barrow Panto Group this week
Friday 25 March	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 12.30 pm	Playgroup Lent Lunch at Holy Trinity Rooms
Saturday 26 March		
Mothering Sunday Sunday 27 March	10.15 am	Tilly Yates Coffee: Kate and Mike

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.

YOUR PRAYERS are asked this week for the family and friends of Ken Pepper who has passed away on Saturday 12th March aged 96 years.

Ken was a very well-known and popular figure in our village and served for many years on the Parish Council, supported village events and went everywhere on his bike – he must have cycled thousands of miles over the years. A keen supporter of the countryside and a stickler for doing things right!

Ken's funeral service will be held on Thursday 24th March at 11.00 am at Loughborough Crematorium.

LADIES CIRCLE

Several Ladies Circle members responded to the notice last week regarding items for the Ukraine. On Monday Natalie took the bags containing toiletries, baby food and sanitary products along to one of the collection centres in Loughborough and they were gratefully received – thanks to everyone concerned.

.....On the Friday before Natalie took 1000 cardboard boxes that one of her company's suppliers had donated and then realised that they hadn't any brown tape so she asked her company to donate tape and dispensers which they did! A couple of vans full of donations went that weekend. Apparently, some items are left by the roadside for the refugees as they cross the border.

ANNUAL REPORT

Many thanks to those who have already submitted their Annual Reports – there are one or two left to come in – if you can get these to me in the next few days it would be much appreciated. Adrian can then take them over to Teamprint and get them printed. Thanks a lot
 Meanwhile, if anyone else has anything that they would like included please let me have them asap.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

Barrow Upon Soar Twinning Association

An invitation from our Circuit Steward Karen Ette - You are invited to pop along to the Twinning Association's Open Evening on Friday, 25 March between 7pm and 9pm in the Bishop Beveridge Club, South Street. You don't have to speak French! Drinks and nibbles will be served. Barrow's twin town is Marans, in the Charente Maritime of southwest France.

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 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

A reflection from Adrian for the 3rd Sunday of Lent



On the third Sunday of Lent we place a cup at the foot of the cross.

The scene shifts from the upper room where, last week Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, before they shared his final Passover meal together, to the Garden of Gethsemane. In the garden Jesus told the disciples to sit and wait, whilst he goes to pray with Peter, James and John. Knowing the fate that he was facing, he urges the three disciples to *keep watch with me*. Going on further Jesus fell to the ground and prayed that *if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by*. "Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." (Mark 14:36)

But the disciples succumb to human weakness – they fall asleep. Jesus returns to the group and berates Peter "Simon, are you asleep? Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak." (Mark 14:37)

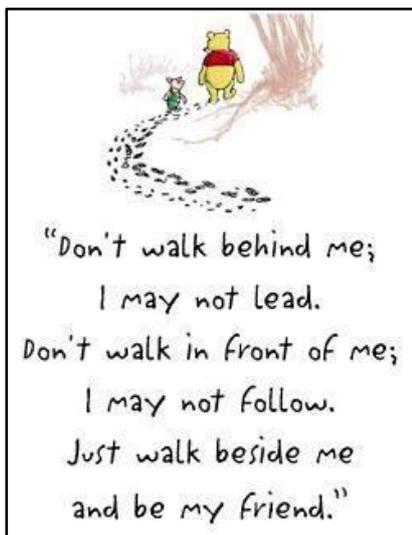
The cup that is placed by the cross this week is not there as a reminder of the cup used at the Last Supper but of the Cup of Suffering which Jesus prays about in the Garden of Gethsemane. Whilst wanting the cup of

suffering to be taken away, Jesus acknowledges that the key thing is for his Father's will to be done. However uncomfortable it may seem to us, this was all part of the plan – God's plan – that starts with Mary and Jesus' birth and continues right through his life to the Cross. *Your will --- not mine!* says Jesus.

Perhaps this brings to mind the great affirmation in the Covenant Service that we usually observe at the beginning of every year. It starts "*I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will!*" – we offer all we are and all we have to God's service. I am sure that, like the disciples, there are times when we can easily succumb to sleep – physical or metaphorical – which causes us to miss the will of God. Some might say that this is giving in to temptation. How often, when we have seen or heard things which we know we ought to do or say something about – do we feel we can't? *Our spirit is willing, but the body is weak!*

Let us each pray that, as we look forward to Easter and the joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, we continue to look for the will of God in our lives and to endeavour to live up to the promises we have made to serve God.

Adrian



PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Lord we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring. Lord may your Kingdom come, and Your will be done. Lord God, we ask for you to be with all – especially children who are suffering as the crisis in Ukraine deteriorates. Lord for those who are anxious and fearful. For those who are bereaved, injured or who have lost their lives. And for those who have lost loved ones. Lord hear our prayers.

METHODIST CHURCH PRAYER FOR TODAY

Loving God, in our churches we seek to make all welcome but that can be a hard thing to do. We struggle to extend our welcome to people we consider to be smelly and unwashed, to those we think are too loud, to those who live with mental health conditions, and to those who are just different from 'us'. Be with us as we try to do better. Amen.

Hilary Evans, Vice-President, Methodist Women in Britain
