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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 3rd APRIL 2022

WEEKLY DIARY

Monday 4 April	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 2.00 pm 4.30 – 5.30 pm 6.30 - 9.00 pm	Playgroup meets in the Rear Hall New Horizons Rear Hall: Private Booking Guides meet in the Hall
Tuesday 5 April	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 4.30 - 7.30 pm	Playgroup Cosmic Theatre School meet in the Hall
Wednesday 6 April	8.45 am – 1.15 pm 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Playgroup Gardening Club meet in the Worship Area Ladies Circle
Thursday 7 April	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 2.00 pm 6.30 – 9.30 pm	Playgroup Circuit Leadership Team meet in the Welcome Coffee Bar Barrow Youth Theatre auditions
Friday 8 April	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 12.30 pm	Playgroup Lent Lunch at Holy Trinity Rooms
Saturday 9 April		
Sunday 10 April	10.15 am	Local Arrangement Coffee: Soo and Sandra W

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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
Sunday 1 May	10.15 am	Rev Sandra Marshall - Sacrament Coffee:
Sunday 8 May	10.15 am	Local Arrangement Coffee:
Sunday 15 May	10.15 am	Colin Lam Coffee:
Sunday 22 May	10.15 am	Local Arrangement Coffee:
Sunday 29 May	10.15 am	Circuit Service at Trinity Methodist Church

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 3 April	The Pipet Family
Sunday 10 April	Emma Lowe
Sunday 17 April	Rev Andrew Lomax
Sunday 24 April	Liz and Rob Newton
Sunday 1 May	Emma Lowe
Sunday 8 May	Karen Wormald
Sunday 15 May	Eleri Bristow
Sunday 22 May	John Pipet
Sunday 29 May	Rev Andrew Lomax

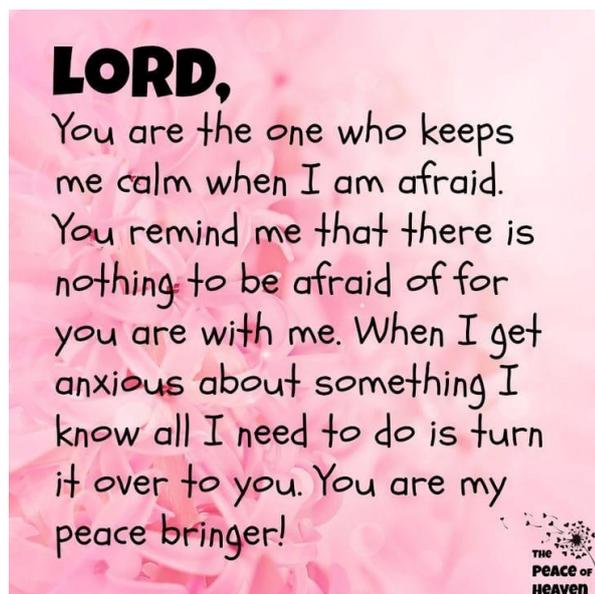
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SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

At the recent Stewards' Meeting it was agreed that the pot for donations for Sunday morning coffee would be reinstated. A charity for the year will be chosen at the Annual General Meeting in May but donations this Sunday will be sent to All We Can Ukraine appeal.

"Toolkit for churches responding to the crisis in Ukraine"

It provides info on the Methodist response to the situation in Ukraine and has some very useful info and ideas. <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/ukraine/>



A reflection from Adrian

The fifth Sunday of Lent sees a Crown of Thorns added to the Cross.

As if the whip was not enough with the hurt and damage that it inflicted, now the Roman soldiers continue their mocking. First, they hung a purple robe round the shoulders of Jesus and mocked him as a leader "King of the Jews" they said. Next a crown was placed on his head. Not a crown made from metal and decorated with fine jewels, but a crown of thorns.



It is not really known what branches were woven to make the crown. It could have been briar, which was common in Palestine. It might have been *Euphorbia milii* which today is called the crown of thorns or Christ Thorn. This plant has densely spiny stems. The straight, slender spines, up to 3 cm (1.2 in) long sharp thorns scratch and cut, and they are known to cause irritation to the skin. It is even suggested in our study Bible

that the crown may have been woven from palm branches, the same kind of palm branches as would have been spread on the road as part of the procession into Jerusalem that we recall on Palm Sunday. Whatever was used, we can be certain the intention was to inflict more pain on Jesus as the crown was pushed on his head. I am sure we all know the pain a thorn can inflict and the way the barbs catch on our flesh. Just try to imagine the same pushed on to your head!

As a final indignity a sceptre or staff, made from reed, was pushed into his right hand as a further mocking symbol of kingship. Their contempt for the son of God continued... until they grew tired and then put his clothes, or what remained of them, back on Jesus, and led him off to Golgotha. Jesus suffers all, endures all, takes on all as a sign of the forgiveness which God offers to all who believe in him. In Luke's gospel the account of the crucifixion which is to follow includes Jesus saying, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

After all they have done to him, the way he has been betrayed, ill-treated, mocked, whipped, hurt, as Jesus hung on the Cross, he was still able to pray "Father, forgive them!"

How do we feel when people treat us badly, when people physically, emotionally or metaphorically, hurt us? Do we have the strength to say that we forgive them? In all the difficult times when have had in the last 12 months, do we believe that there is hope of better things "round the corner"? I pray that for each of us, that is so!

Let us look forward to Easter Day when we can know and believe the words written by Thomas Kelly, an Irish evangelist, in 1820:

*The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now
for as verse 6 reads:
The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.*

Singing the Faith 312

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

Living Lord, stir us up and inspire us through your Spirit to be a people of passion. Make us passionate about sharing your love; make us passionate about welcoming outsiders; make us passionate about helping people in financial need; make us passionate about living out your kingdom values. May we follow Jesus' example in all we do and may we make a difference in our communities and in the world. Amen. John Hay, local preacher, Bangor and Holyhead Circuit