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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 5 FEBRUARY 2023

WEEKLY DIARY

Playgroup meets every day during school term

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Sunday 5 February | 10.00 am | John Bateman Steward: Natalie Coffee: Sue & Adrian |
| Monday 6 February | 8.45 am – 4.00 pm 2.00 pm 6.30 – 9.00 pm | Playgroup New Horizons meet in the Worship Area 1 st Barrow upon Soar Guides |
| Tuesday 7 February | 8.45 am – 4.00 pm 4.30 – 7.30 pm 7.00 pm | Playgroup Cosmic Theatre School Church Council in the Worship Area |
| Wednesday 8 February | 8.45 am – 1.00 pm 7.00 pm | Playgroup Ladies Circle Annual Meal at The Moorings |
| Thursday 9 February | 8.45 am – 4.00 pm 7.00 – 9.30 pm | Playgroup Barrow Youth Theatre meet in the Hall |
| Friday 10 February | 8.45 am – 4.00 pm | Playgroup |
| Saturday 11 February | 6.00 - 7.15 pm | Karate in the rear Hall |

SUNDAY WORSHIP

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|--|
| Sunday 12 February | 10.15 am | Chris Watkins Steward: Kate Coffee: Mike |
| Sunday 19 February | 10.15 am | Nigel Wrighton Steward: Sandra Coffee: |
| Sunday 26 February | 10.15 am | Local Arrangement Steward: Natalie Coffee: |
| Sunday 5 March | 10.15 am | Rev Sandra Marshall - Baptism Steward: Coffee: Sue & Adrian |
| Sunday 12 March | 10.15 am | Andy Benbow Steward: Coffee: Janet |
| Sunday 19 March | 10.15 am | Local Arrangement Steward: Coffee: Pauline & Trevor |
| Sunday 26 March | 10.15 am | Colin Lamb Steward: Coffee: |

STAMPS FOR RNIB

Thank you everyone for collecting the stamps for RNIB. I have emptied the box and sent it off. It will make about £15 for them. Let's carry on and collect another full box. Please cut the stamps off the envelopes leaving about 1cm of paper around them. Thanks Kate

FUN@CHURCH

In March we will be making "bug houses". Please can you collect any small plastic bottles, jars, containers of any shape. We will fill them with bamboo sticks to encourage the creatures, probably bees, to make them their home.

We had 25 children at Fun@Church in January. It would be super to have that number in March, but it means we need a lot of small bottles etc. Please can you help. Kate, Janet, Heather or Mike would love to receive them or place them in the corner of the Welcome Coffee Bar for us to collect. Thanks Kate

CROCHET AND CRAFT - MYSTERY KNITALONG

Victoria Road Methodist Church in Bristol are hosting another mystery knitalong this Lent!

Everyone will cast on together on Wednesday 22nd February and knitters will have a scarf finished in time for Easter Day on Sunday 9th April.

Some members of the Crochet and Craft group are going to take part in this and we invite all knitters reading these notices to join us!

I will receive daily knitting instructions by email each week which will be accompanied by daily reflections/meditations which have kindly been written by seven different Ministers and Worship Leaders in the Bristol circuit and beyond. I am expecting general information as what yarn and needles are needed next week and then the weekly emails go out from the beginning of Lent.

The pattern has been designed to be accessible to knitters of all abilities – if you can cast on and off and work the basic knit and purl stitches you will be able to join in. There are some different stitches introduced which might be new to some, but they will be fully explained as it goes along and there will be videos for those who prefer extra support.

If you would like to join the mailing list independently you can take part by emailing Helen at learning@vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk or just let me know and I will pass the details onto you - Janet

BOOK THE DATES

SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2023

10.00 am – 12 noon

**10p BOOK SALE
with CDs and DVDS**



Caroline Sharpe
Honorary Choir Director



SATURDAY 18th MARCH 2023

CAROLINE SHARPE SINGERS IN CONCERT

More information and tickets available soon from Mike Morley



SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 2023

11.00 am to 3.00 pm

Local crafters with a great range of items for every taste!
Cake stall plus jams and pickles – Refreshments – Raffle

ADMISSION FREE

Queries for stalls to Natalie please

A husband and wife who work for the circus go to an adoption agency.

The Social workers raise doubts about the living conditions in a circus, but the couple produce photos of their 50-foot luxury motor home, which is clean and well-maintained and equipped with a beautiful nursery.

The Social workers also raise concerns about the education a child would receive while in the couple's care.

"We've arranged for a full-time tutor who will teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills".

Then the social workers express concern about a child being raised in a circus environment.

"Our nanny is a certified expert in Paediatric care, Welfare and Diet".

The social workers are finally satisfied and ask "What age child are you hoping to adopt?" "It doesn't really matter as long as they can fit in the cannon".



CANDLEMAS

On February 2 we celebrated Candlemas. But what is Candlemas? Candlemas celebrates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. You can read about this in Luke 2:22-40, where Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to Jerusalem for the purification rites. The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ and the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary are other names of this holiday.



The Church has celebrated Candlemas since the 4th century AD in Jerusalem. However, it wasn't officially celebrated until 541 AD when Pope Gelasius I celebrated Candlemas. When is Candlemas?

Candlemas is celebrated on the 2nd of February, forty days after Christmas. Besides its significance to Christianity, Candlemas marks the midpoint of winter. Pre-Christianity, Candlemas was known as the 'Feast of Lights' celebrating the increased strength of the sun as winter gives way to spring.

At Candlemas candles are traditionally blessed as we recall Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

Originally Candlemas was called Hypapante which refers to the time Jesus met Simeon and Anna at the Temple. When the Western churches adopted Candlemas, it was dedicated to the Virgin Mary rather than Christ. In 1974, Pope Paul VI declared that Candlemas be considered a joint commemoration of both the Son and the Mother.

Jesus' presentation at the Temple served as confirmation of the miracle of the virgin birth. Before this, a lot were doubtful of Mary's pregnancy.

So I encourage you to light a candle and remember Jesus Christ, the 'light of the world', and remind yourself of Jesus' sacrifice as you welcome Christ's guidance and leading in your life.

Rev Sandra Marshall

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Thank you, God, for inviting me to share in your work: to love God, and to love my neighbour, as I am loved myself. Sometimes, the hardest part is to love myself. Your grace is beyond my capacity to imagine. I diminish your love by my own false limits. I treat myself too harshly when your love treats me gently. Jesus, you invite me to love God, and to love my neighbour as I am loved myself. Such love will transform the world. Set my heart on fire with love! Help me to respond to the greatest commandment! I dedicate myself to love God, and love my neighbours, and love myself, even as I am fully loved by you. Amen.

David Hinchliffe, Southeast District Chair