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### BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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

Email: [barrowmeths@gmail.com](mailto:barrowmeths@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:loughboroughmethodist@gmail.com)

### NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2024

#### WEEKLY DIARY

Playgroup meets every day during school term time – Playgroup on half term holiday

Sunday 18 February	10.15 am	Katie Brooks-Duncan Steward: Sandra Coffee:
Monday 19 February	7.30 pm	Sharing Scripture Catholic Bible Study in the Welcome Coffee Bar
Tuesday 20 February	4.30 – 8.30 pm 7.30 pm	Cosmic Theatre School Stewards' Meeting
Wednesday 21 February	2.30 pm 7.00 pm	Alarms Test Cuppa and Chatter Ladies Circle Annual Meal at The Hunting Lodge
Thursday 22 February	6.30 – 9.30 pm	BATS
Friday 23 February	12.30 pm	Electrical work being done Lent lunches served at Holy Trinity Rooms Proceeds in aid of BACA
Saturday 24 February	10.00 am - 12.30 pm 6.00 – 7.15 pm	Mofion Dance Karate

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 25 February	10.15 am	Roger Latham Steward: Natalie Coffee:
Sunday 3 March	10.15 am	Rob Newton Steward: Heather Coffee: Adrian and Sue
Mothering Sunday Sunday 10 March	10.15 am	Local Arrangement Steward: Kate Coffee: Mike and Pauline
Sunday 17 March	10.15 am	Circuit Service at Quorn
Palm Sunday Sunday 24 March	10.15 am	Rev Karen Beecham Steward: Sandra Coffee:
Good Friday 29 March	12.00 pm	Churches Together Good Friday Service Steward: Sandra Followed by lunch
Easter Sunday Sunday 31 March	9.00 am 10.15 am	Communion Breakfast with Rev Sandra Marshall Steward: Natalie Local Arrangement Steward: Natalie Coffee:

#### BIBLE READING FOR SUNDAY:

Genesis Chapter 9 verses 8-17

Mark Chapter 1 verses 9-15

## CIRCUIT INFORMATION

  
**The Methodist Church**  
Loughborough Circuit

5<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Church Notice**

Dear Friends

Following a review of the circuit pastoral resources the CLT have agreed to a 'levelling up' of responsibilities, in particular it was considered necessary to provide further assistance to Rev Sandra Marshall, who currently has pastoral responsibility for six churches, which places a heavy demand on Sandra preventing her from being involved as much as she would like in areas such as church and worship development.

The CLT have therefore agreed to implement the following changes within our existing pastoral team by redeploying our current staff as detailed below, all staff members involved have been consulted and have agreed to these changes and new responsibilities.

1. Rob Newton will take on the role of Local Lay Pastor at Sileby with responsibilities as listed in CPD which includes chairing Church Councils, with Sandra as oversight.
2. Eleri Bristow will take on the role of Local Lay Pastor at Wymeswold with responsibilities as listed in CPD which includes chairing Church Councils, with Sandra as oversight.
3. Martin Swan becomes the Minister for Knightthorpe
4. Karen Beecham becomes the Minister for Quorn

**These changes will mean the following:**

Sandra – 3 churches, (Barrow, East Leake & Mountsorrel), plus oversight for 2  
Karen – 3 churches, (Quorn, Trinity & Woodhouse Eaves), plus Superintendency  
Martin – 2 churches, (Christchurch & Knightthorpe)  
Calvin – 1 church, (Chinese)  
Rob – 1 church, (Sileby)  
Eleri – 1 church, (Wymeswold)

These changes will be will take effect from 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

If you have any questions regarding these changes please contact either Rev Karen Beecham 01509 219804 or Trevor Ranson 01509 416928.

Please think and pray about all these people as they take on new responsibilities in the life of the church and Loughborough Circuit.

Blessings

Trevor Ranson  
On behalf of Loughborough CLT

### **REV SANDRA WRITES:**

Some of you might be aware that we are struggling to find new stewards at Barrow upon Soar. Last night at the Church Council meeting we discussed a way forward. We must have stewards or the church is unable to function and the final result of not being able to find stewards is sadly that we will have to close. I'm sure none of you wish that to happen and neither did those at the meeting.

We discussed a possible way forward: to split the stewards into vestry stewards and leadership stewards. A vestry steward need not be a church member and is solely responsible for making sure everything is in place for worship to happen. The tasks include contacting the preacher, contacting the readers with the readings for Sunday, opening up in good time, checking that all is in place – is the Bible open, the candle present is there fresh water in the pulpit, is the prayer book out, are there names in it, are the mics available, is the collection plate out, tidying up afterwards, counting the collection and turning out lights and locking up.

This role is not onerous or difficult – if you are able to be on the coffee rota then you have the skills to go on a vestry stewards rota. If we could get a good number of volunteers then it might mean only being on Sunday duty once a month or even less.

Please pray and ask yourself if God might be calling you to be a vestry steward. Feel free to speak to me or any of the existing stewards about the role. It would be fantastic if we could get at least 8 volunteers. Is God speaking to you?

God bless, Sandra

## THE LENT CHALLENGE - "Knitalong and meditation with others throughout the country - the world."

The Lent Knitalong 2023 completed by church members is now hanging in the Worship Area. There is an explanation about it and some ideas of the Meditations used.

### The Lent Knitalong 2024 is a triangular shawl.

The "cast on day" is Ash Wednesday. The pattern and meditations will be slowly released to the knitters throughout Lent. There will be so many rows of knitting to do each day with corresponding meditations. It is a challenge as you do not know what pattern you are knitting. It slowly emerges illustrating the meditations. The aim is that the shawl will be completed and ready to wear on Easter Sunday.

## ANNUAL REPORT

It will soon be time for the Annual Report – could Group Leaders please start thinking about this and have their report submitted by Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March please. If anyone else has an article that they would like included please let me know. Many thanks to those who have already submitted their reports! Janet

## TABLE TOP SALE

Are you having a Spring clear out? We are having a Table Top Sale on Saturday 23 March from 10.00 am until 2.00 pm – table must be pre-booked (£10 each) and if anyone would like a table then please see Natalie or Janet.

## INVITATION

To join with our Catholic friends for an Open Scripture Sharing Hour (Seven Steps method) which will commence on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm here in the Welcome Coffee Lounge and continue weekly. If you are interested and want to know please contact Father Anthony Pateman on 07884011261 or email: [a.j.pateman@outlook.com](mailto:a.j.pateman@outlook.com).

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Join Revd Kim Shorley in a reflection this Ash Wednesday.

"I was nearly six years old when in May 1980 Mount St. Helens erupted and I can still remember the warnings that were given as the ash cloud began its journey around the globe. As a child I couldn't understand how something that simply contained 'dust' could be so dangerous.

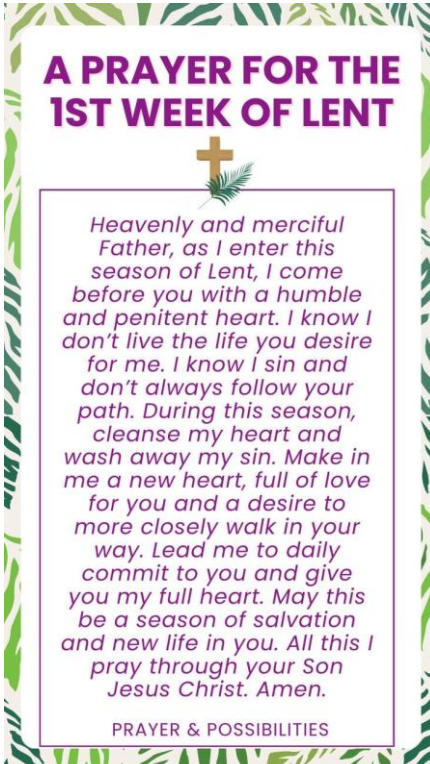
Then in 2010 when the Eyjafjallajokull ice caps in Iceland erupted the world watched as plumes of ash spread across the United Kingdom and mainland Europe. The news went on to report how, over the six days, twenty countries closed their airspace to commercial jet traffic, affecting approximately ten million passengers.

These tiny, microscopic dust particles were able to sandblast airplane windscreens and because they had come from a glacier eruption, they were rich in glass. This meant that if the ash was sucked into the aircraft engines, they would melt; fusing themselves onto the turbine blades, damaging engines and making them shut down.

Psalm 51 is a plea to God, a prayer for forgiveness and leads us into a reflective journey towards Holy Week. Ash Wednesday makes us stop, both as individuals and as communities, and directs us to take a look at our own dust: those times (big and small) where we have done wrong in the sight of God. We look inwards to see what damage this has done to our hearts, our minds, our souls and we look outwards to see the damage that we have caused to others, and to our planet.

During the imposition of ashes we are reminded that we too are dust, and to dust we shall return, and it is at this point that we recognise that, despite all our efforts we remain totally dependent on God. It is God alone who can cleanse us and renew us."

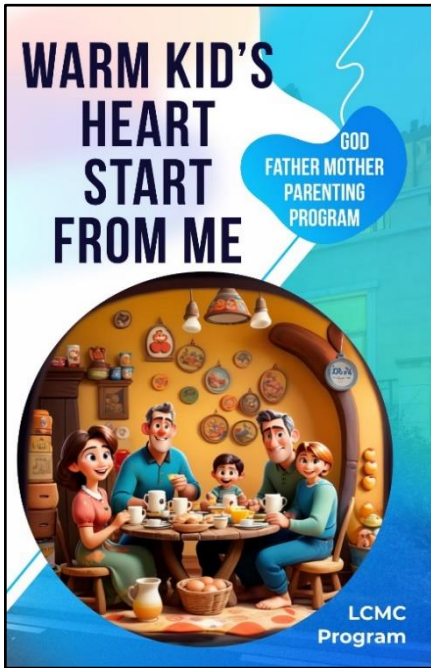
- Revd Kim Shorley




**A PRAYER FOR THE  
1ST WEEK OF LENT**

*Heavenly and merciful  
Father, as I enter this  
season of Lent, I come  
before you with a humble  
and penitent heart. I know I  
don't live the life you desire  
for me. I know I sin and  
don't always follow your  
path. During this season,  
cleanse my heart and  
wash away my sin. Make in  
me a new heart, full of love  
for you and a desire to  
more closely walk in your  
way. Lead me to daily  
commit to you and give  
you my full heart. May this  
be a season of salvation  
and new life in you. All this I  
pray through your Son  
Jesus Christ. Amen.*

PRAYER & POSSIBILITIES



From the Chinese Church






Wanna have friend to play and have fun together with the freedom of using own mother tongue?

Wanna to someone to talk to and to support you? By walking into each other's lives to stay for each other!

**Y-fire**

**PEERS | COHESION | GROW**

Christchurch Methodist Church

**BEETLE DRIVE & SUPPER**

*(Pizza & chips and Apple pie for dessert)*

**Saturday 23rd March**  
**6pm Onwards**  
**At Christchurch**

In aid of MHA  
(Methodist Homes)

Tickets: £8 (Children under 14 £4)  
Available from Lorraine Cutts



[lorraine.cutts73@gmail.com](mailto:lorraine.cutts73@gmail.com)