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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

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10.00 am until 2.00 pm

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NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 2023 WEEKLY DIARY

Playgroup meets every day during school term time

Sunday 3 December	10.45 am	Angela Latham Steward: Sandra Coffee: Adrian and Sue
Monday 4 December	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 12.30 pm 6.30 – 9.00 pm	Playgroup New Horizons Christmas Lunch at Pillings Lock 1 st Barrow upon Soar Guides
Tuesday 5 December	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 4.30 – 8.30 pm	Playgroup Cosmic Theatre School
Wednesday 6 December	8.45 am – 1.00 pm 2.00 pm	Playgroup Gardening Club
Thursday 7 December	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 6.30 – 9.30 pm 7.30 pm	Playgroup Playgroup singalong rehearsal in Worship area Barrow Arts Theatre Society Bible Study
Friday 8 December	8.45 am – 4.00 pm	Playgroup
Saturday 9 December	1.00 – 5.00 pm 6.00 – 7.15 pm	Child's Birthday Party Karate

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday 10 December	10.15 am 3.00 pm	Granville Mercy Steward: Kate Coffee: Sandra Barrow upon Soar Churches Together Walking Nativity
Sunday 17 December	4.00 pm	Carols and Cake Steward: Natalie Coffee: Bill and Nancy
Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December	10.15 am 6.00 pm	Rev Sandra Marshall Steward: Sandra Coffee: Bill and Nancy Carol Service Steward: Heather
Christmas Day 25 December		No service at Barrow upon Soar See Circuit plan for local services
New Years Eve Sunday 31 December	10.45 am	Circuit Service at Trinity Methodist Church, Loughborough
Sunday 7 January	10.15 am	Rev Sandra Marshall – Covenant Service
Sunday 14 January	10.15 am	Rob Newton
Sunday 21 January	10.15 am	Victor Poon and Colin Lamb
Sunday 28 January	10.15 am	Local Arrangement



BIBLE READING FOR SUNDAY

Genesis Chapter 2 verses 15-17 and Chapter 3 verses 1-13

Mark Chapter 13 verses 24-37

New International Version

You will notice that Advent is nearly here and we have our Nativity Tableau set up in the Foyer and Christmas trees decorated. Soon our yarn bombing Nativity characters will be joining them. Also this year we have a display of Nativity sets around the Church for you to enjoy. Many thanks to those who spent time doing this. Don't forget to come along to the Carols and Cake afternoon on 17th December at 4.00 pm and our annual Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 6.00 pm

SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER WALKING NATIVITY

Next Sunday afternoon Barrow upon Soar Churches Together are holding a Walking Nativity around part of the village. The walk will begin at 3.00 pm at Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church, then process to Holy Trinity Church and the Baptist Church, on to Jerusalem Island and end at the Three Crowns by 4.00 pm and we have a real donkey! Note this event in your diary and come along and join in the Carols.



A REMINDER ABOUT THE FOOD HUB

We continue to take regular gifts of both items and money for the Soar Valley Food Hub in Mountsorrel. Thank you to all who continue to contribute from week to week.

The volunteers at the Food Hub provide a valuable service to those in need, offering both food parcels and somewhere that people can drop-in for some warmth, a drink and, if needed, advice about accessing other support and benefits.

As we approach Christmas could we make a good effort with food and other seasonal items so that we can take a good collection after the second Sunday in December? Thank you, Adrian and Sue

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, Wisdom and Word of God, dwell in our hearts, we pray, by your most Holy Spirit, that out of the abundance of our hearts, our mouths may speak your praise. Amen.

Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

Out of the Ordinary

Methodist Church Christmas film 2023 launched

Christmas brings joy to many and stress for some. When Christmas makes us feel anxious or inadequate, scratch beneath the surface and you can discover the extraordinary moments waiting to be found.

The Methodist Church has launched its 2023 Christmas film, *Out of the Ordinary*, on 23rd November. The film features the emotional, relatable story of a young mother facing financial struggles at Christmas, who, during a visit to Methodist church, is transported to an animated, angelic world where she discovers that she is worthy to both love and to be loved.

Watch the film

To accompany the film, there are “scratch-off” Christmas cards as resources, both real and digital, showing how we can all discover the “extraordinary” within our daily lives. Methodist Churches will be distributing these scratch-off Christmas cards at services and events, as well as using them for invitations in their local community. There is also the opportunity to sign up for daily digital advent reflections and a new arrangement of the Christmas carol, *O little town of Bethlehem*, is used as the soundtrack to the film and will be released as a single.

Ben Lawrence, Digital Content Producer for the Methodist Church, directed the film and wrote the new arrangement for the carol. Describing the story presented in the film, Ben explained,

“Out of the Ordinary is a story of hope, with a mum-to-be struggling with the cost of living crisis stumbling upon a glowing manger in a Methodist Church. Here, she discovers a pair of virtual reality goggles that transports her to an animated world where she encounters an angel-like being. After being freed from a symbolic cage, she can see the world from a new perspective. The mum-to-be leaves the animated world as the virtual reality goggles run out of battery, but she realises that there has been a change that has carried back through with her. The film shows us that everyone is out of the ordinary because of God’s love for them.

“The opportunity to write a new arrangement of a much-loved carol to accompany the film was exciting. As a musician myself, crafting a bespoke soundtrack to a film gives us the opportunity to truly tell the story in the way that we want to. We’re really excited to release the full track as the Methodist Church’s first ever single.”

Ben Holleb, Director of Digital for the Methodist Church, commented, “The last few years haven’t been easy for many, so we wanted to show that despite the struggles we face, God’s love waits patiently for a moment to change everything.”

“The Out of the Ordinary campaign will also be sharing daily advent reflections via email, celebrating the global heritage of the Methodist Church and its hidden treasures. There are also physical and digital cards to share, where “scratching” beneath the surface shows us some of those gifts that are just out of sight.

“Our Christmas campaign does two things. It reassures those who watch that everyone is worthy of the Christmas message of love and hope; and it offers our local churches a way to connect with those in their community seeking a church where they can celebrate and worship this Christmas.”

More details, the film and an opportunity to sign up for emails to discover the *Out of the Ordinary* campaign can be found on our website: methodist.org.uk/OutOfTheOrdinary along with an invitation to local Methodist church services.

Notes

- Church resources for Advent & Christmas are available on our website: methodist.org.uk/ChristmasResources
- *Out of the Ordinary* was filmed at [Chapel Field Road Methodist Church](#) in Norwich
- Last year’s Christmas campaign from the Methodist Church, *There is Room*, reached more than half a million people on social media, with content from Methodist churches and communities increasing that number to around 1.4 million people.
- The Methodist Church is an inclusive, evangelistic and justice-seeking church.

