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BARROW UPON SOAR METHODIST CHURCH

Website: www.barrowuponsoarmethodistchurch.co.uk

Email: 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

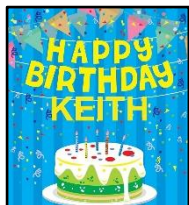
NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023 WEEKLY DIARY

Playgroup meets every day during school term time

Sunday 17 December	4.00 pm	Carol Service and Faith Tea Led by Sue and Adrian Speight
Monday 18 December	8.45 am – 4.00 pm	Playgroup
Tuesday 19 December	8.45 am – 4.00 pm 4.30 – 7.30 pm	Playgroup Cosmic Theatre School
Wednesday 20 December	8.45 am – 1.00 pm	Playgroup
Thursday 21 December	8.45 am – 4.00 pm	Playgroup
Friday 22 December	8.45 am – 4.00 pm	Playgroup break up
Saturday 23 December	6.00 – 7.15 pm	Karate

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December	10.15 am 6.00 pm	Rev Sandra Marshall – Holy Communion 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	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY this week to KEITH PERRY who will be 80 on Sunday 17th December. It doesn't seem that long since you were 40 Keith – do you remember Thursday Nighters coming round and bringing you a parcel of "Grecian 2000" and "Phyllosan for the over forties" – Lots of love and have a great day!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Natasha Doughty, Barrow Playgroup Manager on the safe arrival of her daughter, TALLULAH OLIVE JULIE on Wednesday 13th December – mother and baby doing well!



CAROL SERVICE AND TEA

You are invited to our afternoon Carol Service and Tea at 4.00 pm on Sunday - we hope you can join at this informal service and invite you to contribute to the Bring and Share refreshments.

CHRISTMAS AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER

4.00 pm CAROL SERVICE & TEA



CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER

10.15 am Rev Sandra Marshall

**6.00 pm CAROL SERVICE with
Rev Sandra Marshall**

CHRISTMAS DAY

MONDAY 25th DECEMBER

No service at Barrow upon Soar

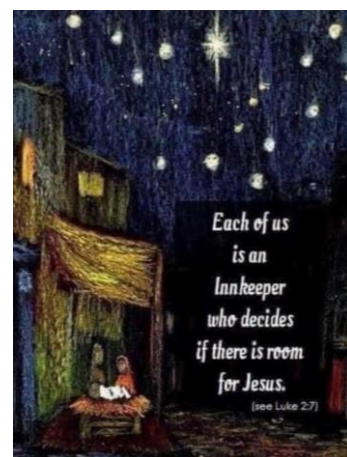
**10.00 am at Trinity Methodist
Church, Loughborough**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, help us to see the hidden treasure in our communities. People who quietly go about doing wonderful things that make a difference, yet not seeking the limelight. Our churches are made up of individuals who tirelessly try to show your love to others, and so bring hope and help to people in need.

Often these 'hidden treasures' are the catalyst behind a new project that encourages others to try something different. We bring them to you in gratitude for their selfless giving of themselves, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Amen.

Aileen Fox, local preacher, Central Norfolk Circuit



CHRISTMAS CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Miriam

I hope you don't mind me writing. You've been such a good friend for so long. I need your advice.

I had a real shock yesterday. You know my daughter, Mary? She came to tell me that she thinks she's pregnant. She says it's two months since she needed her cloths. I know it's possible. But not my Mary, surely? I know she's growing physically, and I know there are boys in the village who are looking at her with admiration. But I just can't believe she's gone that far with any one of them. After all, we had an agreement

with the family of Joseph that when she was ready, she'd marry him. I know he's a good deal older, but he's a good man - kind, caring, and he'd make a good husband for her and father to her children in due course. But I've not told you the worst yet! I fear she may be losing her mind. She speaks of being visited by an angel. Says her baby has nothing to do with any man. It's God's doing, she says. She was just asked if she'd do this job for God - be the mother of his son. Has she lost her mind?

My dear friend, I don't know what to do. If my dear Joachim were still alive he'd advise me. In his absence you are the only one I can turn to.

Anne

My Dear Anne

Thank you for trusting me with this news. I can understand your shock.

As I see it, there are four possibilities. Either Mary is wrong about her condition, (that time will tell) or she's made a big mistake with one of the village lads. But would that stop you loving her? Make sure she knows that you'll stand by her if that is the case. Or could Joseph be the father? That would break with all our holy traditions, but Mary is a beautiful young woman, and Joseph wouldn't be the first man to be impatient. As you say - he's a good man, and, if he is the father, you will, I know, find it in your heart to welcome him into your family. The other option, of course, is that Mary is telling you the truth. Is she usually truthful? There's just one thing I feel sure about. God can bring good out of even the darkest moments. Be patient. Wait to see what happens. In the meantime, give Mary all your love. It's a frightening time for her. She needs you now more than ever before.

Your loving friend Miriam

SOME CHRISTMAS CRACKER JOKES FOR YOU

1	How do sheep greet each other at Christmas
2	What happened when the snow girl fell in love with the snow boy?
3	What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas tree
4	What is a dog's favourite Christmas Carol?
5	Who is Father Christmas married to?
6	What do you call a couple of spiders who just got married?
7	What do you call a snowman in the summer?
8	Why do you never see Father Christmas in hospital?
9	Why can't a bike stand up itself?
10	What is the most popular Christmas wine?

DID YOU KNOW?

On the 22nd of December - the shortest day of the year - we'll have seven hours and 49 minutes of daylight. Only 9 more days to go before the days start getting longer.

**O sad and troubled Bethlehem
(tune O' Little Town')**
 we hear your longing cry
 for peace and justice to be born
 and cruel oppression die.
 How deep your need for that great gift
 of love in human form
 Let Christ in you be seen again
 and hearts by hope made warm

While morning stars and evening stars
 shine out in your dark sky
 Despair now stalks your troubled streets
 where innocents still die
 and Jesus child of Mary
 whose love will never cease
 feels even now your pain and fear
 longs with you for your peace


Amazingly and lovingly
 Jesus the child has come
 and brought to birth through human pain
 makes broken hearts his home.
 He comes to comfort all who weep
 to challenge every wrong
 and living with the weak and poor
 becomes their hope, their song.

From Keyworth Methodist Church "Keynotes"

ANSWERS TO CHRISTMAS CRACKER JOKES

1	Merry Christmas to ewe
2	She gave him the cold shoulder
3	A Pineapple
4	Bark the Herald Angels sing
5	Mary Christmas
6	Newly webs
7	A puddle
8	Because he has private elf care
9	Because it is two-tyred
10	"I don't like Brussel Sprouts!"

NEWS FROM DISTRICT



The Methodist Church

Methodist Chaplain to Oxford Brookes University (Lay appointment)

The Methodist Church seeks to appoint a chaplain, part-time, to join the Multifaith Chaplaincy team at Oxford Brookes University. This lay post will offer a ministry of collaborative support in the life and work of students and staff of all faiths and none.

We seek a committed Christian of any denomination who is in sympathy with the Methodist church, and has:

- Experience in ministry involving pastoral care.
- An ability to work in an ecumenical and multifaith team.
 - A passion for living out and sharing the Christian faith in a Higher Education context.
- A commitment to best practice in equality, diversity and inclusion.

Hours: 17.5 per week
Salary: £17,000 pa (£34,000 pro rata)
Deadline for applications: 5th January 2024
Interview Date: 22nd January 2024

The post will be employed by the Oxford Methodist Circuit and based at Oxford Brookes University supported by the University Chaplain and Pastoral Care Lead. Oxford Brookes is one of the UK's leading modern universities, with 17,000 students and over 2,800 staff. The University's five guiding principles are inclusivity, confidence, enterprising creativity, connectedness, and generosity of spirit.

For further details and an application form, contact hr@oxfordmethodists.org.uk. For an informal conversation about the role, contact Rev Miriam Moul (hr@oxfordmethodists.org.uk) or Rev. Kate Harford, chaplain@brookes.ac.uk.