



Bank Topics

Issue 10



Sept - Nov

Friends;

Stevie Wonder's 1980 Album *Hotter than July* would have perfectly summed up the heat in Bolton and indeed the rest of the country on the 6th of July. 24°C and climbing by the time the summer fair got into full swing. I couldn't help [tongue in cheek] checking the temperature in Nairobi and it was a miserable 22°C! How about that...Bank Top hotter than Nairobi...wonders never cease....Fast rewind that picture same day last year and you'll understand the cause of my excitement. Even though Andy had told me repeatedly that it does warm up sometimes in Bolton, I had never taken his words seriously. Me and my little faith! Toiling and sweating under those humid conditions, the extra heat generated by the gas burners as Andy and James turned the sausages and burgers only exacerbated the situation; never the less they cheerfully churned the meats which were in very high demand judging by the long queue at the food stand. There

was a good carnivore atmosphere and smiles were galore wherever you turned. Pints were consumed and the sound of laughter everywhere filled the air. A perfect communion in the community on a day the *gods* of weather chose not to be capricious. As I watched Syd pull pints, I suddenly remembered Jesus turning water into wine in sunny Galilee in a not very dissimilar setting. The laughter of the children in the fair made me reflect on the happy noises that would have been coming from the tents on that day in Cana and my heart was glad to be a part of it all. The abundance of food every where one turned reminded me that our God is a generous and cheerful giver who calls us similarly to share the abundant gifts with those less blessed than us and to do it in a cheerful manner. Not only those who are our immediate and next door neighbours as Syd pointed out in the Church meeting, but all God's children wherever they may be

found wanting. It was good to see people from the sister churches among the multitudes and I was glad to note my call to support each other's events and efforts was well taken up.



Well done everyone! Those who worked so hard under very hot conditions and those who came and spent a pound or two or three...*every little bit helps like Tesco's like to remind us...*

God bless you all as you continue to enjoy the good weather and happy Holidays everyone!!

Rev G.

So many shades of gold
Autumn
Another miracle we take for granted
Another expression of the artist's vision
The blending of the autumn hues
with the setting sun
Warm
Comforting
Perfect
Thank you for autumn, Lord



BANK TOP CHURCH - CONTACTS

Church Telephone Number		593393
Minister	Rev George Mwaura	302540
Church Leader	Mr A Guthrie	591185
Secretary/Treasurer	Mrs V Singleton	305401
Organist – contact	Mrs A Smith	693740
Church Hall Hire	Mrs H Guthrie Mrs V Singleton	591185 305401
Pulpit Supply	Mrs J Skidmore	307130
Flower Secretaries	Mrs M Flitcroft Mrs C Rideout	301328 596360
Choir Leader	Mrs A Smith	693740
Newsletter Editor	Mrs J Partington	416007
Serving Elders	Mark Bates, Christine Counsell, Andy Guthrie, Jame Keen, Jill Partington, Maureen Roocroft, Joan Seddon, Sue Seddon, Val Singleton, Julie Skidmore, Alison Spence, Maureen Flitcroft	
Sunday Worship	10.30am Morning Service and Sunday School Church Parade fourth Sunday of month in Jan, Sept, Nov and the Sermons. Communion during the morning service on the second Sunday each month	
Guides	Monday at 7.30pm (contact Mrs V Constantine)	593034
Bank Top Brownies	Monday at 5.45pm (contact Miss K Grainger)	593692
The Oaks Brownies	Tuesday at 6.00pm (contact Mrs G Brown)	306867
Rainbows	Thursday at 6.00pm (contact E Robinson)	415113
Bank Top Art Group	Monday at 1.00pm (contact Mrs V Singleton)	305401
Mother & Toddlers	Tuesday from 9.30 – 11.00am (contact Barbara Jepson)	384514
Lace & Craft Group	Wednesday 7.00 – 9.00pm (contact: Jean Greer)	594127

For Baptisms, (which are held during the Morning Service), Weddings, Funerals, Sick Visiting or Home Communion, please contact the Rev George Mwaura.

If you would like to join our Direct Offering scheme, through the Envelope system, please contact Mrs Val Singleton, who is also available to give advice to those who want to take advantage of Gift Aid.

We also have a Church Memorial Fund – contributions to the treasurer, Val Singleton

We are a pastorate together with Egerton URC and Red Lane URC

We are a member of Churches Together in Astley Bridge.

When in doubt, just take the next small step

Kathleen Tyldesley

I first met Kath on the bus coming home from our respective schools. We discovered we were both Special Needs Teachers, Kath in Atherton and I in Bolton. We would chat about our day and the children in our care. I got to know Kath much better when I started attending Bank Top Church in 1990 after my own Church at Blackburn Road closed. Kath loved Bank Top Church and was a serving Elder for many years, she enjoyed singing in the choir, organised a lace and craft group and helped with the young peoples group. She represented the youth at Synod and worked with them to produce a play which she wrote about the history of Bank Top for the 80th birthday celebrations. Kath was always ready to welcome newcomers to the Church, from her position in the choir she would notice new faces and made a point of going to speak to them at the end of the service.

Kath enjoyed holidays abroad with Norman going to Italy and later she travelled alone cruising up the Moselle and the Rhine. I shared holidays in Scotland and Devon with Kath and she loved the Windermere Centre and was a regular visitor attending many of the variety of courses on offer. She particularly enjoyed the Music and Singing courses which she went to each year. Kath joined the Eden Singers, a local ecumenical singing group, which perform concerts for charity singing mainly popular light music which Kath enjoyed.

I admired Kath so much for all she achieved in the twenty five years I was privileged to know her. She taught herself computer skills and used it to great advantage to study for a B.A. Degree. She continued to study for Honours and used the computer to discover as much as she could about dementia when her beloved husband, Norman developed the disease. Kath worked tirelessly for the Bolton Dementia Support Group serving as the secretary, editor of their magazine "The Candle" and latterly as their Chairman. Kath attended numerous conferences and gave talks to professional groups about dementia. Kath won local and national awards for the work she did and even when she was unable to attend the group she was still on the telephone helping to sort out problems.

Kath was a true and loyal friend to many and lived her life to the full and she will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Kath told me how she and Norman loved the lakes and would go walking up the hills but Norman was always ahead and would stop at the top waiting for her to catch him up. Well now Kath has caught Norman up and they are together for eternity.

Christine Catherall.



Village Fair 2013

This year's Village Fair proved once again to be a huge success. Of course it did help when we knew the week before that there was a high coming. Sure enough the weather on the day was fantastic resulting in over 700 people flooding onto the Community Garden.

The beer ran out before two o'clock, followed closely by burgers and sausage and how great to see so many people coming together, local and other; young and old; laughing; chatting and enjoying the day.

A very big thank you to all those who toiled from 9:00 in the morning until 4:30 in the afternoon — all of us weary by the end but thrilled with the success of the day.

We raised an amazing £2074.79, which will go towards our new church kitchen.



New Kitchen

By the time you read this article we should have a brand new kitchen! As I write it is already looking good. We can now boast two ovens, a super 5 ring induction hob, water boiler, fridge and freezer, central island, new glossy cupboards and new flooring. We have a new toilet off the kitchen and a refurbished storeroom.

It should be a pleasure cooking and serving the September Brunch!

As most of you already know, our Church building is used most evenings and three times a week through the day and the new kitchen will be a great facility for all of these lettings.

We owe a great deal of thanks to the National Lottery for their contribution of £8,400 towards the cost of the refurbishment.

Let's make sure that we all take care of and look after this great new working area.



Birthday wishes go to:



September

6th **Dominic Ozard**
17th **Grace Matkin**
27th **Aiden McDermid**
30th **Holly Rigby**

October

4th **Katie Hunter**
6th **Hannah Keen**
8th **Lucy Davies**
21st **Lucy Johns**

CLEANING ROTA

September

6th **J Marsden & V Constantine**
13th **P McNulty & J Seddon**
20th **C Rideout & A Hardman**
27th **A Myers & I Larkin**

October

4th **M Bates & J Keen**
11th **M Batty & V Singleton**
18th **C Catherall & M Flitcroft**
25th **C Counsell & A Spence**

November

1st **Ann & Richard Smith**
8th **The Guthries**
15th **L Ridyard & G Brown**
22nd **J Marsden & V Constantine**
29th **P McNulty & J Seddon**



Please can everyone check the dates for October as some dates have had to be altered due to the fact that we have lost a couple of volunteers.



Dear Friends

Bit of a summertime smorgasbord in this issue so I'll start with the thing that I've found most off-putting these last few months.

So, firstly, A month or so ago they announced this burger that they've grown from the cells of a dead cow, with added gristle that they've also grown, then coloured the whole lot with some beetroot juice. There are a number of issues here (including a recurring picture of John Gummer force feeding it to his daughter) but the one that disconcerts me most is the phrase "grown from the cells of a dead cow." A *dead* cow. Now, I'm not a biologist and I didn't imagine they would just lop a leg off a live cow to give them a starting point, but, and this may be from all my watching of CSI, I thought your body started to decompose the minute you died. So why would you start with a dead cow? Now it's only a matter of chance that the story broke as Celebrity Masterchef hit our TV screens again. So added to the trauma of John Selwyn Gummer I also have this picture of Janet Street Porter lifting the lid off her plate of ingredients and asking what she's expected to do with "one wotting animal and a bottle of beetwoot." Thank goodness the summer fair BBQ is out of the way!



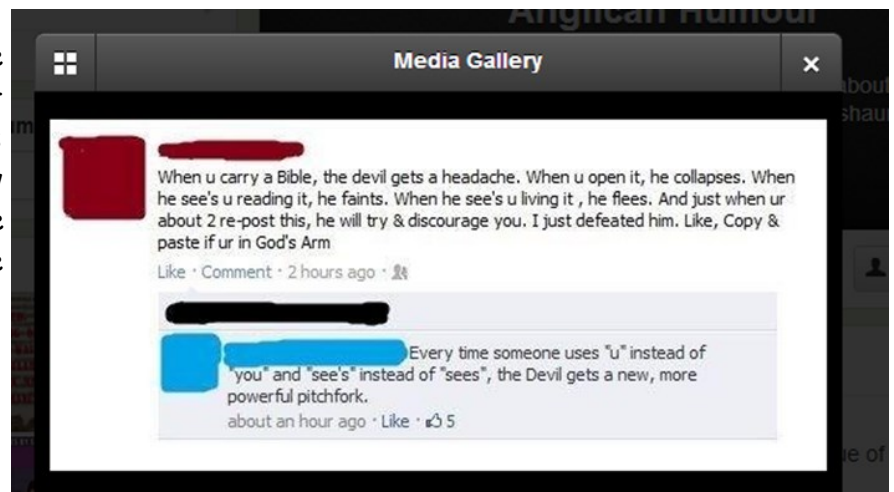
Second thing is "Thanks!" to everyone for all their best wishes around Hannah and Rob's wedding. We all had a lovely day and it was wonderful that we could use Church and the Garden - and thanks especially to the choir for their singing too. (If you are wondering who Rob is - he's the big lad formerly (and probably shortly again) known as "Mousey.")

A rather grand picture of Anne's back and the choir in action!

Next, a great big welcome to the new kitchen which, as I type, is being "spring cleaned." It has taken a lot of people a lot of hard graft to get the finance and builders organised but I am sure it is all worth it now that we can see what a great addition it will be to church. And to all of you who've put in the hard graft - thanks on all our behalf.

Finally, Facebook meets Religion and the, quite rightly zealous, Punctuation Police....

If you need a translation then anyone under 10 should be able to oblige. Just to prove the world is close to the end: Mid Devon District Council says no new signs can contain apostrophes - because they're too confusing! Or should that be because theyre too confusing?



Harvest 22nd September



As in previous years we will once again be supporting two charities.

- Gifts from our Harvest table for Bolton Hospice (please see below for the list of things which the Hospice need)
- Monetary gifts for Bolton Winter Watch for which envelopes are available on Sunday mornings.

Hospice List

Any tinned meats, fruits or soups

Any fruit juices (bottles or cartons)

Tea, coffee, sugar

Hot chocolate, Ovaltine, Horlicks etc

Men's and Ladies toiletries

Cakes, biscuits (homemade are not allowed due to Health and Safety Laws)

Please ensure all produce are well within sell by date.

Many thanks in anticipation of a bumper Harvest for both of these charities.

Deepest sympathy to the family of Kathleen Tyldesley:
loving wife of the late Norman, much loved mum of Christopher and Caroline,
mother in law to Alison and Mark, nana to Paul, Claire, Ruth and Joe and member of Bank Top Church.

WHO WANTS TO BE A VOLUNTEER?

Winter Watch Café 2014.

The café is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening from January to the end of March. For the guests hot food is served, showers, change of clothing if needed, services of a Chiropodist and hairdresser on certain nights.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer please talk to Andy or Maureen Roocroft.

As a volunteer you are only expected to do one session in the café every two weeks.

You also have to do one training session of ninety minutes.
Think about it! It can be very rewarding!



Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal 2013

Last year we sent off 12 filled shoe boxes to Swaziland.

It's quite simple, all you need is an empty shoebox, preferably one with an attached lid, cover it with bright paper, decide if it's for a boy or girl, pick an age group: 2-4 years, 5-9 years or 10-14 years and then fill it with small gifts.

Gift Ideas

Toothbrush and toothpaste, brush, comb, soap, flannel.

Sweets (NO chocolate).

Gloves, scarves, hats.

Felt tips, pencils and sharpeners, notebooks, pencil case, stickers.

Soft toys, yo-yo, small musical instruments.

Dolls, teddies, cars, tennis balls etc, etc, etc,

Any items you know your own children would like to receive. But please no glass containers, mirrors, liquids or sharp objects.

Next please include a cheque for £2.50 towards transportation costs and put this inside the box.

On the outside of the box on the top of the lid put your sticker stating boy or girl.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR

A very sick man went to visit his doctor in a small village. As he was leaving, he suddenly blurted out, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. You go to church on Sundays, tell me what lies on the other side."

The doctor thought for a moment, then he simply said, "I don't know."

"You don't know?" protested the man. "You a Christian and can't say more than that!"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door that led back out to the waiting room. On the other side there was a sound of eager scratching and whining. He opened the door and the patient's spaniel sprang into the room, leaping towards his owner with eager happiness.

Stroking the dog and turning to his patient, the doctor said, "Here's your dog. He's knew nothing except that his master was here and so when the door opened he sprang in without fear. It is the same for me. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing: I know my Master is there and that is enough. And when the door opens for me one day, I shall pass through with no fear, but with gladness.

Lancia's Graduation



The McGhee Wedding



Churches Together In Astley Bridge

Dates For Your Diary

Please find a list of events being held by our Churches Together in Astley Bridge, but also remember that St Peter's, Belmont are part of our group. Please do come along and support the events. We would love to see you!

November 30th	St Peter's, Belmont Christmas Tree Festival/Market Craft Stall Home produce and much, much more Admission free
December 1st	Churches Together Advent Service Astley Bridge Baptist Church 3:00p.m.

TO PONDER....

WALK THE WALK

Saint Francis of Assisi once invited a young monk to join him on a trip to town to preach. Honoured to have received the invitation, the young monk readily accepted.

All day long he and St Francis walked through the streets, byways and alleys. They rubbed shoulders with hundreds of people and politely greeted them. At the day's end, the two headed back home. Not once had St Francis addressed a crowd, nor had he talked to anyone about the gospel.

Greatly disappointed, his young companion said, "I thought we were going to preach to people." St Francis responded, "My son, we have preached. We were preaching when we were walking and talking. We were seen by many and our behaviour was closely watched.

It is of no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach everywhere we walk.



Family Bible Readings

September		
1st	Luke	14:1, 7-14
8th	Luke	14:25-33
15th	Luke	15:1-10
22nd	Luke	16:1-13
29th	Mark	4:1-9
October		
6th	Luke	17:5-10
13th	Luke	17:11-19
20th	Luke	18:1-8
27th	Luke	18:9-14
November		
3rd	Luke	19:1-10
10th	Luke	20:27-38
17th	Luke	21:5-19
24th	Luke	23:33-43



Sept

1st	Vicky Constantine
8th	Vacant
15th	In memory of Phyllis Walsh
22nd	Harvest
29th	Jill and Val

Oct

6th	In memory of Kath Tyldesley
13th	Ann & Richard Smith
20th	Joyce Jones
27th	Norman Richardson

November

3rd	Marian & Harry Batty
10th	In memory of Annie Boardman
17th	Vacant
24th	Bessie & Ken Lancaster



FINANCE REPORT

OFFERTORY

April

Standing Orders	735.50	
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May

Cash Collection	238.87	
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Envelope Collection	280.48	
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Standing Orders	715.50	
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TOTAL	1234.85	
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June

Cash Collection	236.72	
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Envelope Collection	497.39	
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Standing Orders	655.20	
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TOTAL	1389.61	
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July

Cash Collection	188.63	
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Envelope Collection	396.05	
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TOTAL	584.68	
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BRUNCHES

June	235.24	
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VILLAGE FAIR	2074.79	
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JARS OF GRACE

May	8.33	
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June	18.54	
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July	17.65	
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50/50 CLUB

June

M Batty	50.00	3
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G Yates	30.00	83
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P Sutcliffe	20.00	31
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July

S Thompson	50.00	43
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G Brown	30.00	82
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J Skidmore	20.00	47
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August

M Flitcroft	50.00	20
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D Taylor	30.00	104
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J Marsden	20.00	36
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**Thank you to all those people who continue to
support any or all of the above**

FUTURE EVENTS: JUNE—AUGUST

September			
Sun	1st	10:30	Morning Service, Alison Spence
Sat	7th	12:00 - 1:00	Brunch
Sun	8th	10:30	Morning service, Communion, Rev Mark Bates
Tues	10th	7:45	Housegroup at Val's
Wed	11th	7:30	Elders Meeting at Andy's
Sat	14th		Food Hygiene Course
Sun	15th	10:30	Morning Service, Promotion and Prize giving, Andy Guthrie
Sun	22nd	10:30	Harvest Festival, Family Service, Church Parade, Worship Group
Sun	22nd	3:00	Trinity Pastorate Service at Egerton
Tues	24th	7:45	Housegroup at Val's
Sun	29th	10:30	Morning Service, Geoff Tolley
October			
Sat	5th	12:00 - 1:00	Brunch
Sun	6th	10:30	Morning Service, Andy Guthrie
Tues	8th	7:45	Housegroup at Val's
Sun	13th	10:30	Morning Service, Communion, Rev George Mwaura
Sun	13th	11:30	Church Meeting
Sun	20th	10:30	Morning Service, Brian Evitts
Tues	22nd	7:45	Housegroup at Val's
Sun	27th	10:30	Morning Service, Neil Carter
November			
Sat	2nd	12:00 - 1:00	Brunch
Sun	3rd	10:30	Morning Service, Andy Guthrie
Wed	6th	7:30	Elders Meeting at Andy's
Sun	10th	10:30	Remembrance Sunday, Communion, Rev George Mwaura
Tues	12th	7:45	Housegroup at Val's
Sun	17th	10:30	Family Service, Church Parade, Worship Group
Sun	24th	10:30	Morning Service, Barry Bradshaw

Lucy, aged 8, attended communion service. She watched as the bread and wine were prepared with great interest. When the congregation were invited forward to receive communion, she whispered: "Do you think it would be alright if I joined in with the commotion?"

