



Bank Topics

Issue 6



Sept - Nov

Hello Friends!

I know that for many of you my role as Church Leader is incidental and that you really principally look to me as your style guide and fashionista. It is in this capacity that I am now able to explain the decline and fall of Marks and Spencers.

Some background information may help. I hate shopping so I buy clothes in batches and some four years ago I obviously bought a batch of T-shirts which have now "had their day" (well, according to Heather and the children anyway!) So imagine my delight on receiving an e-mail from M&S with a web sale offering. 6 t-shirts soon on their way – all is well. Particularly well in the fact that: no fitting rooms required because I know that M&S XXL is the size for me: shorts, T-shirts, jumpers – probably even cardigans but we won't ever go there. No need to try them on – so, launch them at the suit case ready for the holiday.

Which is when the world fell off its axis – the last two t-shirts were XXL – Slim Fit. I'll retype that: XXL – Slim Fit, put in bold: **XXL –**

Slim Fit. If I wanted to look shrink wrapped I'd have bought an XL. The range was called "Limited" – whether that was for demand or material I'm not sure. And I don't know if they do women's Size 24 skinny fit jeans – maybe they do, I suspect that could also be part of the "Limited" range. It may just be that they've designed a t-shirt for Olympian rowers and I happened to order two by mistake. It certainly explained the heavy discount as I imagine they've many of them left.

Anyway, holiday over and a fab one at that!

What a fantastic celebration we had to welcome George and his family to Trinity Pastorate. The URC has a great tradition in making these occasions formal and stuffy – this Induction could not have been further from that – joy spilled through Egerton church and there can be no doubt that we have been blessed with this calling. I just hope George feels the same way in twelve months' time.

Now with George officially

chained to the manse we must thank Geoff for his great guidance and leadership through the process. Without his wisdom and (possible) sleight of hand I'm sure we'd still be at step 2 of the 58 step process and the Pastorate Contact Group would be convening in a suitably well padded cell. From all at Bank Top - a very big thanks!

I feel the need to eat humble pie! I was certain the Olympics were going to be a disaster and that there would be misery all around. Setting aside the disinterring of Paul McCartney it was a great spectacle, with fabulous performances from stars and "will be" stars. Humble pie – with custard! I hope God watched over you on your holidays – even if it were though hail and that you feel up to the rest of the year.

And then there's the new school year! So, in particular, our thoughts and prayers are with all those children starting new schools.

God Bless,

Andy

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 and Mrs C Rideout	
Choir Leader	Mrs A Smith	693740
Newsletter Editor	Mrs J Partington	416007
Serving Elders	Mark Bates, Christine Catherall, Andy Guthrie, Jame Keen, Jill Partington, Maureen Roocroft, Joan Seddon, Sue Seddon, Val Singleton, Julie Skidmore,	
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.

**God loves you because of who God is, not because
of anything you did or didn't do**



Dear Friends;

The old adage about time flying is true. Quality of time aside; time has really flown; the ordination has come and gone and so too has the Olympics. As I write this note summer is making feeble attempts to show up after rains of almost biblical proportions. This Monday is the last Bank holiday before Christmas and it is still raining! My sympathies lie with the parents and carers who had to spend time cooped up indoors with the kids going ...**I am bored!** Still, we have a lot to thank the Lord for especially that Northern spirit which will not be put out by a few bucket loads of water! It was good to see the church get on with its summer life whatever the number and weather. I am settling in well and a huge thank you to those of you who have taken the time to show my family and I some places around Bolton and those who have been

praying for us as we make this transition. Lancia, Jordan and I have taken the opportunity to familiarize ourselves with Bolton and we have visited many interesting places including The Reebok Stadium. I have also found out to my delight that I can get a lot of African foods from the shops in Bolton and the Bolton market is a treasure trove for food lovers! If you have not been there you have no idea

what you are missing. From a fresh Scottish Salmon to African yams! Did you know, the charter giving the inhabitants of Bolton town to hold a market dates back to 1251? There's yet a lot to see and learn and I am keen also to study the history of churches in Bolton in particular the history of the dissenting churches.

I am conscious church life has not completely returned to normal as there are many families who are still on vacation and I am really looking forward to meeting them all when the new term begins. My sincere hope is that you have all taken time to wind down and rest. Resting is a major theme found right at the beginning of our Christian bible.

After the creation account in Genesis 1, we read the following in chapter 2: 2-3: **"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested**

from all the work of creating that he had done. We are of course aware that God does not get physically tired and so the idea here was that God took time out to inspect and admire the work of his hands which was certified as Good. This is what I am prescribing - taking time out to reflect on your individual journey so far this year - the highs and lows and thanking God for it all.

So, if you have not taken a break up to now, try and do so before the new school term begins and things become hectic again. A short break, whether alone with family or friends will energise you for the busy time ahead. For those who can't travel anywhere or are house bound, you can equally do this within the confinement of your house or compound weather permitting. After all, God is in Tunisia as much as much as He is in Blackpool and in St Peters Cathedral as much as in your sitting room!

In all you do may the Blessings of our Creating Lord be with you all.

See you all soon.

Rev George Mwaure.



WHAT IS MISSING FROM

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UR**

**Back to Church Sunday,
30th September 2012
Why not join us!**

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son: 'You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car.'

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, 'Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut.

The boy said, 'You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.'

You're going to love the Dad's reply:

'Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?'



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



Harvest 23rd 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,



September

2nd Vicky Constantine
9th Vacant
16th In memory of Phyllis Walsh
23rd Harvest
30th Jill & Val

October

7th Kath Tyldesley
14th Ann & Richard Smith
21st Joyce Jones
28th Norman Richardson

November

4th Marian & Harry Batty
11th In memory of Annie Boardman
18th Bessie & Ken Lancaster
25th Ann, Alex, Carol & Jessica

When you pray for others please don't forget yourself and to thank the Lord for His goodness to you.
Remember the Lord is always with you even when life is hard.



Family Bible Readings

September

2nd	Mark	7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
9th	Mark	7:24-37
16th	Mark	8:27-38
23rd	Mark	9:30-37
30th	Mark	9:38-50

October

7th	Mark	10:2-16
14th	Mark	10:17-31
21st	Mark	10:35-45
28th	Mark	10:46-52

November

4th	Mark	12:28-34
11th	Mark	12:38-44
18th	Mark	13:1-8
25th	John	18:33-37

Churches Together In Astley Bridge Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 13th October

Bread and soup lunch for Christian Aid,
Baptist Church, Eden St,
12:00-1:30pm

Sunday 2nd December

Advent Service,
St Peters, Belmont,
3:00pm

FINANCE REPORT

OFFERTORY

May

Cash Collection	224.47
Envelope Collection	522.30
Standing Orders	728.50
TOTAL	<u>1475.27</u>

June

Cash Collection	221.47
Envelope Collection	317.00
Standing Orders	735.50
TOTAL	<u>1273.97</u>

July

Cash Collection	203.07
Envelope Collection	397.70
Standing Orders	735.50
TOTAL	<u>1336.27</u>

BRUNCHES

June - The Choir	<u>228.00</u>
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VILLAGE FAIR	<u>1703.88</u>
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JARS OF GRACE

May	20.94
July	27.27

50/50 CLUB

June

A Johns	50.00	50
B Johns	30.00	40
H Atkinson	20.00	16

July

M Flitcroft	50.00	27
J Rigby	30.00	79
D Canham	20.00	5

August

M Flitcroft	50.00	27
S McCollin	30.00	52
I Larkin	20.00	25

**Thank you to all those people who continue to
support any or all of the above**

Urban Outreach Bolton—Winter Watch Cafe

Volunteers are needed for the Winter Watch cafe which runs from the beginning of January to the end of March 2013. If you are interested then you will have to attend one training session on one of the following dates:-

Saturday 6th October 10:00am — 12:30pm

Wednesday 10th October 7:00pm — 9:30pm

Saturday 3rd November 10:00am — 12:30pm

Volunteers are also needed to help sort Harvest foods which come in from schools and churches. Also people are needed to cook food at home or to help with food preparation on Friday mornings ready for the cafe over the weekends.

If anyone is available or interested in any of the above please contact Andy Guthrie or Maureen Roocroft for more details.

Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal 2012



At Bank Top Church we have several new families who might be unaware that for the last thirteen years we have been filling shoeboxes with goodies for children in places like Belarus. For these children it is probably the only gift they will receive at Christmas.

Last year, along with Egerton URC and Astley Bridge Baptist we filled 172 shoeboxes.

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.

Please pick up a leaflet from church with all this information.

Shoeboxes will be collected in on Sunday 25th November 2012.



Village Fair

It seems ages since that gorgeous sunny day in July when we celebrated this year's Village Fair. But.... in the week leading up to it, we were not so optimistic! The weather was appalling and was not forecast to get any better by the weekend. Friday arrived and the downpours were torrential! A group of us met on the garden to squelch our way round and make a decision - should we or should we not go ahead with the Fair? After just a moment's hesitation, we all agreed that too much time and effort had already been spent, and that even though the forecast (on Jill's super mobile phone!) said it was going to rain on Saturday at 8, 10, 12, 2 and 4, we decided to carry on regardless.

And wasn't that the best decision ever! Saturday saw us waking up blue skies, sunshine and an eager band of people waiting at church at 9am to set up. The day saw crowds of locals (mums, dads, grandma's, granddad's and lots of children) descending on the garden to experience fun and laughter. Jill - get a new phone! And... and very big thank you to God for the dramatic change in the weather - even if it was only for that day!



Back to Church Sunday 30th September 2012

A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE NOW GOING
BACK TO CHURCH ONCE AGAIN



THIS IS USUALLY BECAUSE THEY
HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING LIKE
THEIR KEYS OR JACKET OR GLASSES

FUTURE EVENTS: JUNE-AUGUST

September			
Sat	1st	12:00-1:00pm	Brunch—Catering Committee
Sun	2nd	10:30	Morning Service, Mark Bates
Tues	4th	7:30	Elders meeting at Andy's
Sun	9th	10:30	Morning Service, Communion, Andy Guthrie
Tue	11th	7:45	Housegroup at Val's
Sun	16th	10:30	Morning Service, Geoff Sutcliffe
Sun	23rd	10:30	Family Service, Church Parade, Harvest Festival, George Mwaura
Tue	25th	7:45	Housegroup at Val's
Sun	30th	2:00	Morning Service, Geoff Tolley (Back to Church Sunday)
October			
Sst	6th	12:00-1:0pm	Brunch—The Elders
Sun	7th	10:30	Morning Service, The Worship Group
Sun	7th	11:30	Church meeting—after morning service
Tue	9th	7:45	Housegroup at Val's
Sun	14th	10:30	Morning Service, Communion, Rev George Mwaura
Sun	21st	10:30	Morning Service, Barry Bradshaw
Sun	28th	10:30	Family Service, Communion, Adrian Yapp
Tues	30th	7:45	Housegroup at Val's
November			
Sat	3rd	12:00-1:00pm	Brunch—Catering Committee
Sun	4th	10:30	Morning Service, Danny Wilson
Tues	6th	7:30	Elders meeting at Andy's
Sun	11th	10:30	Remembrance Sunday, Communion, Rev George Mwaura
Tues	13th	7:45	Housegroup at Val's
Sun	18th	10:30	Morning Service, Phil Evans
Sun	25th	10:30	Family Service, Rev George Mwaura
Tues	27th	7:45	Housegroup at Val's

CLEANING ROTA

September

7th **C Counsell & A Spence**
14th **Ann & Richard Smith**
21st **The Guthries**
28th **L Ridyard & G Brown**

October

5th **J Dunne & V Constantine**
12th **P McNulty & J Seddon**
19th **C Rideout & A Hardman**
26th **A Myers & I Larkin**

November

2nd **M Bates & J Keen**
9th **V Singleton & A Duxbury**
16th **J Kelly & M Batty**
23rd **C Catherall & M Flitcroft**
30th **C Counsell & A Spence**

