



Bank Topics

Issue 13



June - August

Greetings fellow pilgrims!

Finally our long Journey through the wilderness of Lent came to an end last week. We have journeyed as a pastorate through five weeks of studies and personal prayers and on the 6th of April we



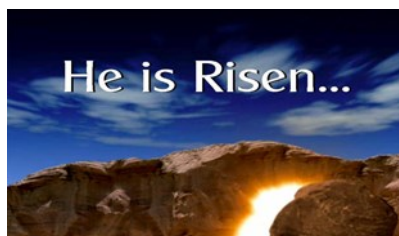
met at Red Lane for a time of fellowship together.

And on Good Friday we heard

Jesus utter those poignant words: **It is finished!** [John 19:30]. This three-word sentence may be the most important sentence ever uttered. What did Jesus mean? What had been finished? Two possible answers: First, what's been completed is the great revelation of the love of God to the world. **For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son** [John 3:16]. It's important to know that Jesus went willingly the way of the cross because of his great love for the world and that includes you and me. God's love for fallen humanity put his only son on the cross and kept him there until he breathed his final breath. Also completed by Jesus was our redemption and reconciliation with God. Jesus not only carried and paid for all our sin, once and for all, but it means now we are free and forgiven and are co-heirs with Christ to the father's inheritance. Can I get an Amen, anyone?

The death and misery of winter is

gone and almost forgotten. It has been replaced by spring and the promise of new life. But without



winter there can be no spring, no new life. Similarly, without Easter, there would be no hope of heaven. Without the hope of heaven, there would be no repentance, no personal transformation, and no attempt to follow biblical principles. Without Easter, the world would be in chaos and darkness. But Jesus' death and resurrection means we can be reborn, to live better, to do better and to shine light into the dark corners of the communities where we live. Good Friday was the bleakest moment in the Gospel narratives. For us though, reading the story of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion, we had the benefit of knowing that it all leads up to the triumph of Easter. But to the followers of Jesus at the scene, it must have seemed like a horribly bad dream come true. One of the challenges of reading the Passion narrative more than two thousand years after the event took place, is that it's difficult for us to empathize with its primary protagonists. From where we

stand, the Easter crowds are seriously capricious: One minute they cry Hosanna to the King and in the next moment they shout: Crucify him! Jesus' own disciples behaved cowardly. Not only do they desert him, one of them denies him while a third takes off naked leaving his sindon behind in fear! [Mark 14:51-52]. The members of the Sanhedrin were conniving and evil and Pilate could not be trusted. These are solid facts, and the only person who gets out of this sad drama untainted is Jesus. But it's these very fickle, cowardly, evil, and corrupt people that Jesus died for. And the truth is; we have so much in common with them. What I find difficult to fathom is that Jesus loved **them, and us** enough to submit to the folly, injustice and death cooked up by human beings. The miracle of course is that three days later, he rose from the dead to purchase our salvation. And we can face the future with confidence knowing we are no longer slaves...but redeemed children of God. The times ahead will be challenging, but hey, we can scale any mountain with the risen Christ on our side.

Halleluiah- Praise the risen Lord!

Rev G.

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	V Constantine, Christine Counsell, M Flitcroft, Andy Guthrie, James Keen, Graham Naylor, Jill Partington, Carol Rideout, Val Singleton, Julie Skidmore, Alison Spence,	
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
Fitness Classes Ladies only	Tuesday 2:00 - 3:00 (Contact Andrew Horvath)	07968 052730
Adult Yoga	Tuesday from 7:45pm - 9:15pm (Contact Jenny Dowling)	07578 108676
Theatre Works	Wednesday from 3:45 - 6:15 (Contact Lauren Bateman)	07999 634208

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 on 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.

WHAT'S ON AT BANK TOP?

Mondays	9.30 - 11.30am 1.00 - 3.00pm 5.45 - 7.15pm 7.30 - 9.15pm	Bank Top Child-minders Bank Top Artists Bank Top Brownies Bank Top Guides
Tuesdays	9.30 - 11.00am 1.45 - 2.45pm 6.00 - 7.30pm 7.45 - 9.15pm	Bank Top Toddler Group Ladies only Exercise Classes The Oaks Brownies Yoga with Jenny
Wednesdays	3.45 - 6.15pm 7.00 - 9.00pm	Theatre School Bank Top Craft Classes
Thursdays	6.00 - 7.00pm 7.30 - 9.30pm	Bank Top Rainbows Karate Classes
Saturdays (first Sat of the month) (third Sat of the month)	12.00 - 1.00pm 10.00 - 3.00pm	Saturday Lunches £3 Adult/£1 Child Bolton Progressive Threads
Parties: You can hire our room for your party for just £30		



Family Bible Readings

June		
1st	John	17:1-11
8th	John	20:19-23
15th	Matthew	28:16-20
22nd	Matthew	10:24-29 or 40-42
29th	Matthew	10:40-42
July		
6th	Matthew	11:16-19, 25-30
13th	Matthew	13:1-9, 18-23
20th	Isaiah	44:6-8
27th	Matthew	13:31-33, 44-52
August		
3rd	Matthew	14:13-21
10th	Matthew	14:22-33
17th	Matthew	15:10-20, 21-28
24th	Matthew	16:13-20
31st	Matthew	16:21-28



June

1st	Sarah Astley
8th	Christine Counsell
15th	Barbara Harper
22nd	Christine Catherall (in memory of Kath Tyldesley)
29th	Maureen Flitcroft

July

6th	Mr & Mrs Warburton
13th	Jill Partington
20th	Joyce Jones
27th	Arnold Thornton

August

3rd	The Guthries
10th	Ann, Alex, Carol and Jessica
17th	Joan Seddon
24th	Christine Catherall
31st	Margaret Taylor & Ruth Butcher



Birthday wishes go to:

June

3rd **Lewis Sutcliffe**
Jessica Collier
13th **Matthew Taylor**
18th **George Worthington-Grime**
22nd **Alfie Owens**



July

8th **Elizabeth Newton**
9th **Alexander Leeming**
18th **Sofia Coward**

August

1st **Liam Sutcliffe**
5th **Faye McCollin**
13th **Ella Newton**
Katie Johns
14th **Jack Coward**
21st **Jack Owens**
23rd **Megan Collier**



CLEANING ROTA

June

6th **C Catherall & M Flitcroft**
13th **C Counsell & A Spence**
20th **Ann & Richard Smith**
27th **The Guthries**

July

4th **L Ridyard & G Brown**
11th **J Marsden & V Constantine**
18th **P McNulty & J Seddon**
25th **C Rideout & A Hardman**

August

1st **A Myers & I Larkin**
8th **M Bates & J Keen**
15th **V Singleton & M Batty**
22nd **C Catherall & M Flitcroft**
29th **C Counsell & A Spence**



If for any reason your name is against a date that you can not make, please try to swap with someone else on the rota.



Our Grub Tub

Many thanks to all who have so far Contributed to our Grub Tub each week. In the short time we have had it in Church it has been filled four times then delivered to be sorted and distributed to make a difference to so many peoples lives. Obviously when out shopping you have had it on your mind to get one or two extra things for our Grub Tub! Many thanks on behalf of Storehouse, part of Urban Outreach.

Maureen R.

Born to be free!

Some years ago we moved to the States and spent a few years living in Virginia. One evening soon after our arrival, I was on my way home from work driving in the dark and the rain and the heavy traffic. I needed to get some milk, so decided to head into the nearest grocery store. Jumping out of the car, I dashed to the chilled section—and stood and stared and burst into tears. All I wanted was two pints of ordinary milk. I was faced with the largest selection of every kind of milk in every flavour, every size, every fat percentage you could possibly imagine. It was too much and making a decision was exhausting and debilitating.

Our lives today are full of enormous choices, of pressures from everything available to us in every area of our lives. We are surrounded by choice in important and not-so-important areas, in urgent things and not-so-urgent things. How can we know where to turn, what to choose?

Choose me, says Jesus (Matthew 28 ch11 v28). Come to me and choose me first, and I will set you free. Then other things will fall more easily into place.

(Taken from 'Daily Bread')

How many of us read our Bibles every day? How many bother to read our Bibles at all! If you don't know where to start then why not get a copy of Daily Bread. It's a Bible guide for every day and offers you a reading for every day of the week with an explanation. The next booklet runs from July-August and can be purchased from the Christian Bookshop on Deansgate, Bolton.

And why not come to our Housegroup? We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at the home of Val and Graham: 150 Thornham Drive. See the back of the church magazine for more information.

Bank Top
United Reformed Church
Village Fair

On the Community Garden, Ashworth Lane



Saturday 5th July
11.30am ~ 3.00pm

BBQ/Sandwiches/Cream Teas/Beer Tent/Stalls
Bouncy Castle/Children's Games
Come along and enjoy the fun



Blessings before the Summer Holidays

Take time to claim your strength; this is a gift from God.

Take time to have fun; it is God's way of teaching you your strengths.

Take time to grow yourself; only you can grow you.

Take time to trust yourself; God trusts you.

Take time to be self-reliant; it is better than being dependent.

Take time to share with others; they will bless you and you will bless them.

Take time to have hope; you are a child of God.

St Clement's Church

Alison and I attended the 8am Easter Communion service at St Clement's Church in Hope Cove, Devon on Easter Sunday.

The following verse was on the front page of the service sheet and we thought people may be interested to read it.

BLESSED ARE THOSE....

Blessed are those to whom Easter is not a hunt... but a find;

Not a greeting... but a proclamation;

Not an outward fashion... but an inward grace;

Not a day... but an eternity.

The Minister told us about the three babies she had Baptised on the beach at South Sands at 6am that morning, how wonderful that must have been.

Fortunately before it started to rain!!

Christine Counsell

While you plan and look forward to your holidays think of all who cannot have a holiday. Please pray for all who are worried about the health of a loved one.



Dear Friends

I am now well and truly BBQ'd! A 100 burgers and 100 sausages served up for Sermon's Sunday on a glorious day that brought out the crowds. The tragedy that we can't afford to walk still rankles but I don't think it will be top of the burning agenda for the local elections -

not unless we can spot a UKIP angle on it! And then we'd probably have Mr Farage out front, pint and fag in hand, leading us up another blind alleyway! But this year it was a great occasion with great singing from the children and the choir and then stunning weather... who could ask for more - well we could - so start praying for the Bank Top Village Fair ASAP!

Being in the Garden reminds me of the nay sayers at the outset who complained that it would attract "youths" which was obviously a BAD THING! Instead what has evolved is a wonderful piece of community land which has added greatly to the village that Bank Top still is. It is therefore worth offering up a huge thanks to all those volunteers who keep it in such good repair. And if you have time to help you'd be very welcome to join them!

The park sits at the centre of our community and our luck in having it close by us allows us to do our outreach, showing that there is still a church presence that is alive and thriving, just as the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows do. The brunch is well supported by those who live nearby and the building is widely used by a great mixture of people who don't all come to church. There is lots of talk in the URC about churches needing to be "welcoming" but there is a different slant on that too, churches need to be "inviting." Back to Church Sunday is having a bit of a revamp towards the end of the year, but the message is one that we need to be actually inviting people into church. Having offered up the invite, whether the recipient chooses to take up the invitation is between that person and God. Our bit is to offer the invitation and that is something that everyone can do - and historically the strongest hot spot for those invitations was the school gates. So a measure of that on-going strength is the number of new faces who appear with children in tow. So another big thanks go to those invitees and a warm welcome to all who have accepted the invitation.

At Maureen's recent ordination as an elder George took us for a ramble through the catchily titled "Statement of the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church" (which can be found at our website [here](http://banktop.unc.org.uk/about-us/about-the-unc/) ... <http://banktop.unc.org.uk/about-us/about-the-unc/>), What I did notice was the number of times it mentioned "catholic" so just to remove any confusion that we hadn't jumped ship and swapped our Moderator for the Pope this is what small "c" catholic means... *"The word "catholic" means "universal" according to most Western interpretations, pronouncing the universality of Christ's church. It refers to the wholeness and totality of all true believers in Jesus as the Christ. The Church as the Body of Christ is not limited to a time, place, race or culture."* (Thanks to Wiki!)

So summer now calls us out to play and set off across the map to be refreshed and re-vitalised, even if there is a world cup that has once again bypassed Scotland!

God bless you on your travels or in your home in the months ahead,

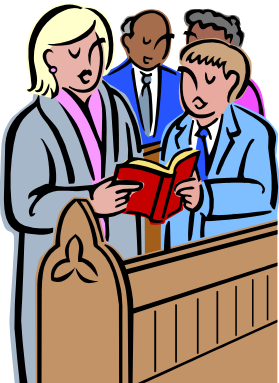
Andy



Bank top ramblers' a.k.a the three musketeers...on the way to the *goit*...lol! It was a beautiful day for a walk...

Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch

Songs Praise Service Sunday August 24th



If you have a favourite hymn you would like included in the service please give the title, number and which hymn book it is found in to:

Christine Catherall or David Canham by July 31st.



Gittite: [1]-Member of a tribe mentioned in 2 Samuel and 1 chronicles. [2] Phonetic expression of what Prince Charles says when angrily dismissing a servant who has fallen from grace.



Celebrating 25 years as Brownie Guiders with a Girlguiding County THANK YOU BADGE AWARD.....

Karen and I met whilst we were Guides at Bank Top, 30+ years ago!!! We still have very fond memories of our time as Guides with our Leaders Margaret Johnson and Val Singleton, who we learned so much from.

After Guides, we both became Young Leaders, Karen at Brownies and me at Guides. By this time Karen was with Norah Kilcoyne at Brownies, they needed some more help, so I decided to go too as Brownies and Guides are on a Monday night. We both progressed from Young Leaders to Adult Leaders and completed our warrants.

Norah retired from Brownies and we both stayed and carried on from where Norah left off. We would like to thank Claire Critchley for recommending us for this award and Norah Kilcoyne for helping us with our journey as Brownie Guiders, we just hope we do you justice!!! And a very special mention to Margaret Johnson and Val Singleton because if it wasn't for you both, we wouldn't be involved with Bank Top Brownies and Guides at all.

Here's to the next 25 years on this incredible Journey.....
Elizabeth Farrell and Karen Grainger



Churches Together In Astley Bridge

Our next event is a:

**Quiz Night at Astley Bridge Cricket Club on Friday 27th June at 8:00pm
Ticket £3.00 from Christine Catherall**

Please try and get teams of four and come along for a fun evening

**Pasty and Pea Supper is included
and a bar is available**



FINANCE REPORT

OFFERTORY

March

Cash Collection	233.45
Envelope Collection	554.54
Standing Orders	669.50
TOTL	1457.49

April

Cash Collection	266.47
Envelope Collection	504.52
Standing Orders	659.50
TOTAL	1430.49

BRUNCHES

March	222.70
April	304.50
May	204.29

JARS OF GRACE

Throughout Lent collection for Water Aid	To be announced
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50/50 CLUB

March

J Else	50.00	1
H Atkinson	30.00	16
L Scholes	20.00	80

April

M Batty	50.00	3
D Canham	30.00	91
M Bates	20.00	58

May

V Constantine	50.00	69
A Duxbury	30.00	73
M Bates	20.00	88

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

FUTURE EVENTS: JUNE - AUGUST

June			
Sun	1st	10:30	Morning Service, David Canham
Wed	4th	7:30	All about Heaven study, The Pastorate at Egerton URC
Sat	7th	12:00 - 1:00	Brunch
Sun	8th	10:30	Morning Service, Communion, Andy Guthrie
Tues	10th	8:00	Housegroup, "Love that Unites" at Val's
Wed	11th	7:30	Elders Meeting at Andy's
Sun	15th	10:30	Morning Service, Andy Guthrie
Sun	22nd	10:30	Morning Service, Norman Hindley
Tues	24th	8:00	Housegroup, New Topic TBA at Val's
Sun	29th	10:30	Morning Service, Brian Evitts
Sun	29th	10:30	All Holiday Club forms to be in
July			
Wed	2nd	1:30	Craft prep for Holiday Club at St Pauls
Sat	5th	11:30 - 3:00	Village Fair
Sun	6th	10:30	Morning Service, Andy Guthrie
Sun	13th	10:30	Morning Service, Communion, Rev George Mwaura
Sun	13th	11:30	Church Meeting after morning service
Sun	20th	10:30	Morning Service, Worship Group
Mon	21st	10:00 - 12:30	Mon - Fri Holiday Club at St Pauls
Sun	27th	10:30	Morning Service, Phill Evans
Sun	27th	3:00	Pastorate Service at Egerton
August			
Sun	3rd	10:30	Morning Service, Mark Bates
Sun	10th	10:30	Morning Service, Communion, Rev George Mwaura
Sun	17th	10:30	Morning Service, Andy Guthrie
Sun	24th	10:30	Songs of Praise Service, Christine Catherall & David Canham
Sun	31st	10:30	Morning Service, Pat Rea



You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree