



Bank Topics

Issue 14

September- November

Friends:



When it comes to football, I think I am an idealist perhaps even a wee bit naive. I had dared to dream that the English team would progress further than they did; quarter finals perhaps! Good thing I am not a betting man. But I have to say, at the risk of offending die hard England supporters that the National team is too mediocre; seems to me that as soon as a player is able to do a *Keepie uppie* he's made it to the league table and the national team. The result of course is that we have too many overpaid mediocre players who have no incentive to put effort in because they still get paid mega sums no matter what. There is no great desire to excel beyond the mediocrity. It would be worthwhile to remember every now and then that England invented this beautiful game more than 150 years ago and gave it to the world as a gift: now we are uncompetitive and our national team will be coming home early in disgrace. Compare our overpaid actors/ players with the young lads from countries like Argentina, Uruguay or Brazil and the difference becomes obvious. Those kids are hun-

gry...hungry for success. They have an acute need to excel beyond mediocrity...they want it so bad, you can sense it just by watching them play. England's dismal performance in Brazil however, reminds me of our modern Christian life. We too have become so complacent in the secular world and have abandoned the agenda for *Heaven* which is our final destination. Like England footballers, we happily embrace mediocrity and we are satisfied to let the secular world win as long as we continue receiving our exaggerated weekly pay cheques. It seems there is no huge desire among many Christians to lead an exemplary life that stands apart from the rest of the society.

As spring gave way to the summer months and ushered the season of Pentecost, we have yet another reminder of the hand of God in our lives, as the green leaves of the trees, flowers, shrubs and hedges cover our hitherto naked landscape. This new life should also be present in our faith as the result of the activity of the Holy Spirit which has guided Christians throughout church history. Without Pentecost, the Christ event would have remained imprisoned in history. ***Pentecost is the season of empowering.*** The disciples were called to live in Christ's Spirit and do His works. We too are

called to do so today and not settle for mediocrity but strive to excel everyday as if our lives depended on it. The experience of Pentecost is one of unity and joy that transcends denomination, economic, racial and linguistic differences and is an expression of God's universal love.

When the Spirit descended upon the scared disciples in the upper room, their fear was replaced by boldness and their cynicism by confidence. Equally we must ask the Spirit for that same boldness and confidence as we do mission and ministry in and around the communities where we live and as we reach out in the joy of the risen Christ not only to those already practicing their faith, but also to those who are away from the Church or have never met Christ. We must be prepared to play extra time even in the heat of our own *Manaus* to win the trophy for Christ; we dare not lose. *My prayers that together with the England team we can embrace this Pentecost Spirit and harness its force for good and goals.....Enjoy your summer whatever the weather:*



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 Val Singleton)	305401
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 £40		



Family Bible Readings

September

7th	Matthew	18:15-20
14th	Matthew	18:21-35
21st	Matthew	20:1-16
28th	Matthew	21:23-32

October

5th	Matthew	21:33-46
12th	Matthew	22:1-14
19th	Matthew	22:15-22
26th	Matthew	22:34-46

November

2nd	Matthew	23:1-12
9th	Matthew	25:1-13
16th	Matthew	25:14-30
23rd	Matthew	25:31-46
30th	Mark	13:24-37



September

7th	Vicky Constantine
14th	In memory of Phylis Walsh
21st	Harvest
28th	Jill & Val

October

5th	Ann & Richard Smith
12th	Joyce Jones
19th	Vicky Constantine
26th	Norman Richardson

November

2nd	Marian & Harry Batty
9th	In memory of Annie Boardman
16th	Julie Skidmore
23rd	Bessie & Ken Lancaster
30th	Ann, Alex, Carol & Jessica



Birthday wishes go to:

September

6th Dominic Ozard
17th Grace Matkin
27th Aiden McDermid



October

4th Katie Hunter
6th Hannah Keen
21st Lucy Johns

CLEANING ROTA

September

5th Ann & Richard Smith
12th The Guthries
19th L Ridyard & G Brown
26th J Marsden & V Constantine

October

3rd P McNulty & J Seddon
10th C Rideout & A Hardman
17th A Myers & I Larkin
24th J Keen &
31st V Singleton & M Batty

November

7th C Catherall & M Flitcroft
14th C Counsell & A Spence
21st Ann & Richard Smith
28th The Guthries



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.

Fundraising for Sunday School in Kenya

Every year Bank Top Guides choose a charity for their fundraising activities. This year we have chosen the Sunday School in George's home village in Kenya. George has been to visit guides and told us about the Sunday School and shown us photos. We have raised a total of £500 by selling Duck Race tickets, proceeds of our stall at the Village Fair and bag packing. We presented George with a cheque at our last meeting before the summer holidays, as George is making a trip to Kenya in August. Church has also donated a total of £500, therefore making a total of £1,000. We would like to thank all our guides and their families for their support in fundraising, and we look forward to George returning to guides and keeping us informed of developments.

Vicky Constantine

Harvest 21st 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

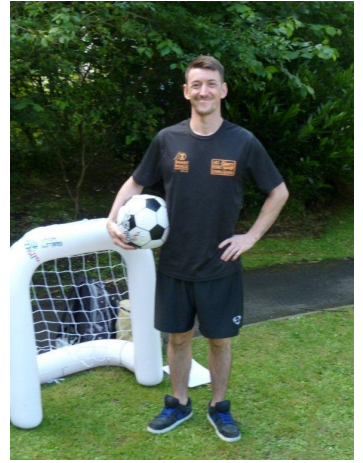
Cakes, biscuits (homemade are not allowed due to Health and Safety Laws)

Please ensure all produce are well within sell by date.

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

VILLAGE FAIR 2014





11th Bolton Bank Top Guides – Pettypool Camp June 2014

We were able to return to our annual weekend camp this year, as due to fundraising we bought 8 lovely new tents at the end of last year! So, on the weekend of 20 – 22nd June, 26 of us spent 2 nights in our new tents at Pettypool Guide campsite in Cheshire.



All but 3 of the girls, Lucy, Emma and Katie Johns, had never been on guide camp before, so we spent much of the camp learning and taking part in camp duties whilst having fun at the same time.



The girls were involved in collecting wood from the forest, making fires, preparing food and cooking on open fires, lots of washing up and best job of all – cleaning toilets!



The theme of the camp was 'I'm on Guide Camp – Get me out of here!', and the girls collected beads for duties undertaken and activities they participated in.



It was beautiful weather so thankfully we were able to spend all of our time outside, we spent time on the adventure playground, the 'zip wire', we made friendship bracelets with 'loon' bands and made table decorations with natural materials. We also had a real camp fire and sing song on the Saturday night, and invited a group of Brownies, who were staying in the nearby Brownie House. We all had a great camp fire, and some of our new guides made their Promise – a special moment to remember!

We packed up our new tents and headed home on Sunday afternoon, after we had crowned one of our guides, Katie Legg, as our Queen of the Jungle!

Thank you to all guiders, Val, Elizabeth and Emily for all their hard work and roll on next year!!!

Vicky Constantine
Guider



Dear Friends

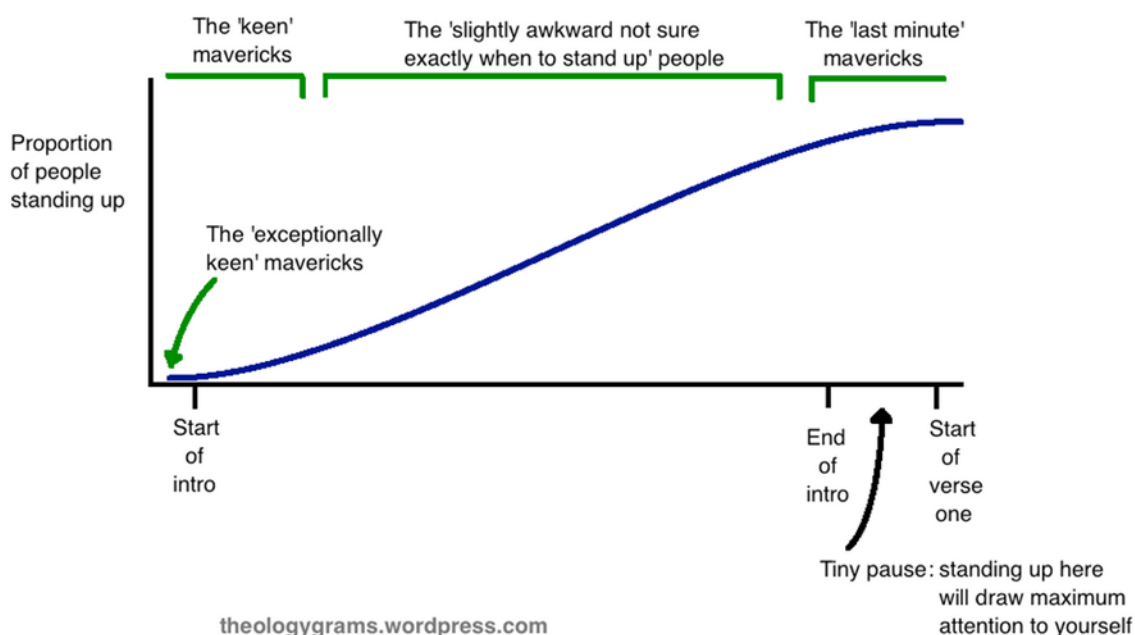
Where has this year gone? It is quite ridiculous that you'll be reading this in September – the ninth month of the year and the year only seemed to have started a short while ago. But very worryingly I've already had one morning when I had dipped headlights for my Preston commute and now the trees are going that strangely attractive colour that suggests the end will soon be nigh! Doomed, we're all doomed!

But the summer has actually been quite good and the Bank Top Summer Fair particularly so, it was great to have so many helpers at the start and at the end - not forgetting those in the middle too, so a very big thanks to all involved. What was quite funny was the "audience" sitting patiently waiting for the "next" band, there was obviously a group who thought we were putting on a music festival so that can be the challenge for next year – Welcome to the Glastonbury Experience at Bank Top Festival!

So..... Having said the summer was quite good, globally it has been a total nightmare with every news bringing more tales of horror from across the globe. It is at times like this that we have to take stock and offer our prayers for people who we don't know but are in desperate need. Obviously donating money helps, but prayer does too and for those of you active on social media there are many other ways that you can make your voice heard. There is something lurking out there about the west reaping what we've sown.

On a much lighter note I found this lurking on the web – which camp are you in?

Standing up for a hymn



Finally, welcome back all of you who've been away and I shall leave you all with great hopes for the rest of the year and many blessings to shine or shower on you as is your predilection!

God Bless

Andy

CHURCH HOUSEGROUP

Just to let you all know that our Housegroup starts up again on Tuesday, 21st September. We will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at our house (150 Thornham Drive) at 8pm.

The studies this session are based on Old Testament Characters and below you can see a list of dates with details of the study with the relevant Bible reading.

In July we said farewell to Margaret Krawec, who decided it was time she stepped down as leader of the group after quite a number of years at the helm. We were sad to see her go as we learned so much from her over the years and we came to care very deeply for her as a valued friend. However things do change and we wish Margaret well in the future as she helps to lead a Housegroup at Longsight Methodist, near to where she lives.

We are very fortunate in that our minister will be leading all but one of the sessions and so we look forward to the next few sessions which will take us up to the end of November.

23 Sept	Jonah: 'Running from God'	Jonah ch 1:1 - ch 3:3
14 Oct	Hannah: 'Praying in Pain'	1 Samuel ch 1
28 Oct	Samuel: 'Hearing God's Voice'	1 Samuel ch 3
11 Nov	Abraham: 'Following God's Call'	Genesis ch 12
25 Nov	Caleb & Joshua: 'Overcoming the Impossible'	Numbers ch 13:26 - ch 14: 10

PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN US!

Please pray for all those who risk their lives for others, for the blind, the deaf, the physically afflicted, those suffering from mental illness and especially the victims of incurable disease.

Lord give them patience and perseverance and surround them with good friends to know that your love for them will hold them fast.

Prayer For Autumn

We bless you,
God of Seed and Harvest
And we bless each other
That the beauty of this world
And the love that created it
Might be expressed though our lives
And be a blessing to others
Now and always
Amen





FINANCE REPORT

OFFERTORY

May

Cash Collection	295.70
Envelope Collection	442.62
Standing Orders	639.50
TOTAL	1377.82

June

Cash Collection	235.88
Envelope Collection	497.92
Standing Orders	619.50
TOTAL	1353.30

July

Cash Collection	163.28
Envelope Collection	430.60
Standing Orders	619.50
TOTAL	1213.38

BRUNCHES

June	182.35
July - Village Fair	1912.69

JARS OF GRACE

Throughout Lent collection for Water Aid	220.00
June	21.04
July	13.56

50/50 CLUB

June		
A&R Smith	50.00	63
M Batty	30.00	3
D Canham	20.00	91
July		
I Larkin	50.00	25
J Partington	30.00	77
D Canham	20.00	5
<u>August</u>		
B Owens	50.00	7
V Singleton	30.00	44
C Catherall	20.00	68

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

FUTURE EVENTS: SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

September			
Wed	3rd	7:30pm	Elders Meeting at Andy's
Sat	6th	12:00pm—1:00pm	Brunch
Sun	7th	10:30am	Morning Service, Frank Iddon
Sun	14th	10:30am	Morning Service, Communion, George Mwaura
Sun	21st	10:30am	Family Service/Harvest/Church Parade, Worship Group
Tues	23rd	8:00pm	Housegroup starts at Val's—Read Jonah Ch1—Ch 3v3
Sun	28th	10:30am	Morning Service, Phil Evans
October			
Sat	4th	12:00pm—1:00pm	Brunch
Sun	5th	10:30am	Morning Service, George Mwaura
Sun	12th	10:30am	Morning Service, Communion, Andy Guthrie
Sun	12th	11:30am	Church Meeting after morning service
Tues	14th	8:00pm	Housegroup at Val's—Read 1 Samuel Ch 1
Sun	19th	10:30am	Morning Service, Leo Roberts
Sun	26th	10:30am	Morning Service, George Mwaura
Tues	28th	8:00pm	Housegroup at Val's—Read 1 Samuel Ch 3
November			
Sat	1st	12:00pm—1:00pm	Brunch
Sun	2nd	10:30am	Morning Service, Betty Bamford
Wed	5th	7:30pm	Elders Meeting at Andy's
Sun	9th	10:30am	Remembrance Service, Communion, George Mwaura
Tues	11th	8:00pm	Housegroup at Val's—Read Genesis Ch 12
Sun	16th	10:30am	Shoe Box Service, Church Parade, Worship Group
Sun	23rd	10:30am	Morning Service, Andy Guthrie
Sun	23rd	3:00pm	Pastorate Service, Bank Top
Tues	25th	8:00pm	Housegroup at Val's—Read Numbers Ch 13 V26—Ch 14 v 10
Sun	30th	10:30am	Advent Sunday, George Mwaura



Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple