



# Bank Topics

Issue 17

June - August

Greetings friends;

We are now in the season of Pentecost; Easter is behind us. The deed is done: Christ was betrayed arrested, tried and killed. But he disappointed his enemies, critics, the naysayers and arose on the third day. Now he rules and reigns in heaven as the King of kings and Lord of lords. He kept his promise though; he sent us the promised *paráklētos*, advocate, wise counselor, enabler, or simply put Holy Spirit: and the work of this enabler? To assist, guide and lead us into ways of everlasting righteousness.



The season of Pentecost is the longest season in the church calendar and it's a time for church growth fuelled by the power of the Holy Spirit. The evidence of the positive influence of the Holy Spirit upon the life of the toddler church was evident from the word go. On the first day when the spirit was poured upon the cowering disciples in that upper room, the disciples came outside and Peter preached to a multi-cultural gathering and 3000 accepted the risen Lord. How about that!

Most of us will be lucky to gather more than 10 souls for the Lord in our entire ministry. But the work of the Spirit is not restricted to the conversion of the souls; far from it.

The Spirit is busy engineering growth in every aspect of church life. The Spirit moves the church to engage with its context. When the church makes a conscious decision to participate in a community project looking out for the welfare of those who are vulnerable and marginalised in the society- it's the Spirit working behind the scenes. When the church holds a regular community cafe or branch thereby opening its doors to the community and in the process fundraising for worthy causes- it's the Spirit which is moving her. When the church reacts instantaneously to the plight of a new member within its fellowship or to victims of natural and man-made disasters like Nepal and Syria: it's the Spirit plodding her. But you might say: well the secular world does that too doesn't it? To be fair it does; but the difference between the secular world and aid agencies and the churches is that for them it's a moral obligation but for the church it's an action borne out of sincere love stoked by the mysterious working of the Holy Spirit and in obedience to the commandments of our Lord that: *whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me* [Mathew 25:40]

Our churches are uniquely placed to tap into the positive energy of the Holy Spirit and to engage in those areas of the society which have been neglected. Increasingly, the government austerity measures will continue to hurt and our churches have a Christian obligation to step in and help those who slip through the safety net and or are severely affected by such economic cuts whether its in terms of food or care. But to do so we must remain in touch with the community we serve. We must never have goals or ideals that are so lofty that they blind us to the needs of those around us whom we've been called and privileged to serve. As you live out your witness during this Pentecost season and enjoy summer breaks both local and foreign, perhaps you might want to ponder which areas of your church life the spirit is moving and what she is challenging and inviting you personally and collaboratively to be involved with...*and may the Spirit be with you.*

Shalom!  
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	07725988949
Serving Elders	V Constantine, Christine Counsell, M Flitcroft, Andy Guthrie, David Canham, Graham Naylor, Barry Owens, 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) Thursday from 7:30pm - 9:00pm	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	1.00 - 3.00pm 5.45 - 7.15pm 7.30 - 9.15pm	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 - 9.00pm	Bank Top Rainbows Yoga with Jenny
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		

### What's in a name?

A pregnant woman falls into a coma after a car crash. After a year she wakes up to find that she has given birth to twins; a boy and a girl. "Where are they?" she asks. "It's all right", says the doctor, "your brother came and took them. He's had them baptised and everything". "Oh God, not my brother," says the woman. "He's such an idiot! What did he call them?" "Well, he named your daughter Denise ....." said the doctor. "Oh, that's nice" said the woman. "And he called your son, Denephew".



### Family Bible Readings

#### June

7th	Mark	3:20-25
14th	Mark	4:26-34
21st	Mark	4:35-41
28th	Mark	5:21-43

#### July

5th	Mark	6:1-13
12th	Mark	6:14-29
19th	Mark	6:53-56
26th	John	6:1-21

#### Aug

2nd	John	6:24-35
9th	John	6:35, 41-51
16th	John	6:51-58
23rd	John	6:56-59
30th	Mark	7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



### Flower List

#### June

7th	Christine Counsell
14th	Barbara Harper
21st	In Memory of Kathleen Tyldesley
28th	Maureen Flitcroft

#### July

5th	Mr & Mrs Warburton
12th	Jill Partington
19th	Joyce Jones
26th	Arnold Thornton

#### Aug

2nd	The Guthries
9th	Ann, Alex, Carol & Jess
16th	Joan Seddon
23rd	Christine Catherall
30th	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**  
**28th**     **Sofia Coward**

### **August**

**1st**      **Liam Sutcliffw**  
**5th**      **Faye McCollin**  
**15th**     **Ella Newton**  
**Katie Johns**  
**14th**     **Jack Coward**  
**21st**     **Jack Owens**  
**23rd**     **Megan Collier**



## **CLEANING ROTA**

### **June**

**5th**      **C Rideout & A Hardman**  
**12th**     **A Myers & I Larkin**  
**19th**     **J Keen**  
**26th**     **V Singleton & M Batty**

### **July**

**3rd**      **C Catherall & M Flitcroft**  
**10th**     **C Counsell & A Spence**  
**17th**     **Ann & Richard Smith**  
**24th**     **Heather**  
**31st**     **L Ridyard & G Brown**

### **August**

**7th**      **J Marsden & V Constantine**  
**14th**     **P McNulty & J Seddon**  
**21st**     **C Rideout & A Hardman**  
**28th**     **A Myers & I Larkin**



**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 Centenary Book of Memories**

I'm very pleased to say our centenary book of memories has been found.

If anyone else would like to contribute their memories of Bank Top over the years we would be very pleased to receive them. You do not need to make the item too long just things special that stick in your mind.

So come on everyone get your thinking caps on, make the book better than ever.

Sunday school children, Rainbows, Brownies Guides, Anyone who comes to our Church.

Many thanks

Maureen Roocroft.

### 11<sup>th</sup> Bolton Bank Top Guides

#### Nicole Kugler's - Baden Powell Presentation Evening

We held a presentation evening for Nicole on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, to present her with her Baden Powell Badge and Certificate. The BP Award is the highest award you can achieve as a guide and Nicole has worked very hard to achieve this. Nicole has been a guide with us since she was 10 years old, and we are delighted that she has decided to stay with us as a Young Leader and complete her Young Leader Qualification. To complete the BP Challenge Nicole had to complete 10 clauses within the domains of: healthy lifestyles; global awareness; discovery; skills and relationships and celebrating diversity. Usually we have a group of guides who complete their BP award together, and therefore support each other. Nicole is the first guide for a long time who has completed the award independently and therefore this adds to her very well deserved achievement. Congratulations!!

Vicky, Val, Elizabeth, Jill, Andrea, Irene, Andrea and Charlotte





# Kid's Zone



## BEACH WORD SEARCH

DRNEAMESMLSBTB  
RRTAHBAELSUIIUN  
SSACCIUERERKUEE  
NEXULIHCLZFISBG  
LBSBGSLSSTBNNGSH  
BAOSAESAIOINCI  
MACEAAFNPJAZIKY  
TJSICLDIWGRCHLG  
LNWDPAAGVLQDZTAV  
XLNTLOWNPVPRAWN  
GAUSXIRWUHVXBDT  
SKLGFMLTXSHEVRM  
NOITACAVWAVESAN  
PCDNSEBTPYXWSOJ  
QBD CGRSZWL BDRBL

Bathing Suit  
Bikini  
Boardwalk  
Lifeguard

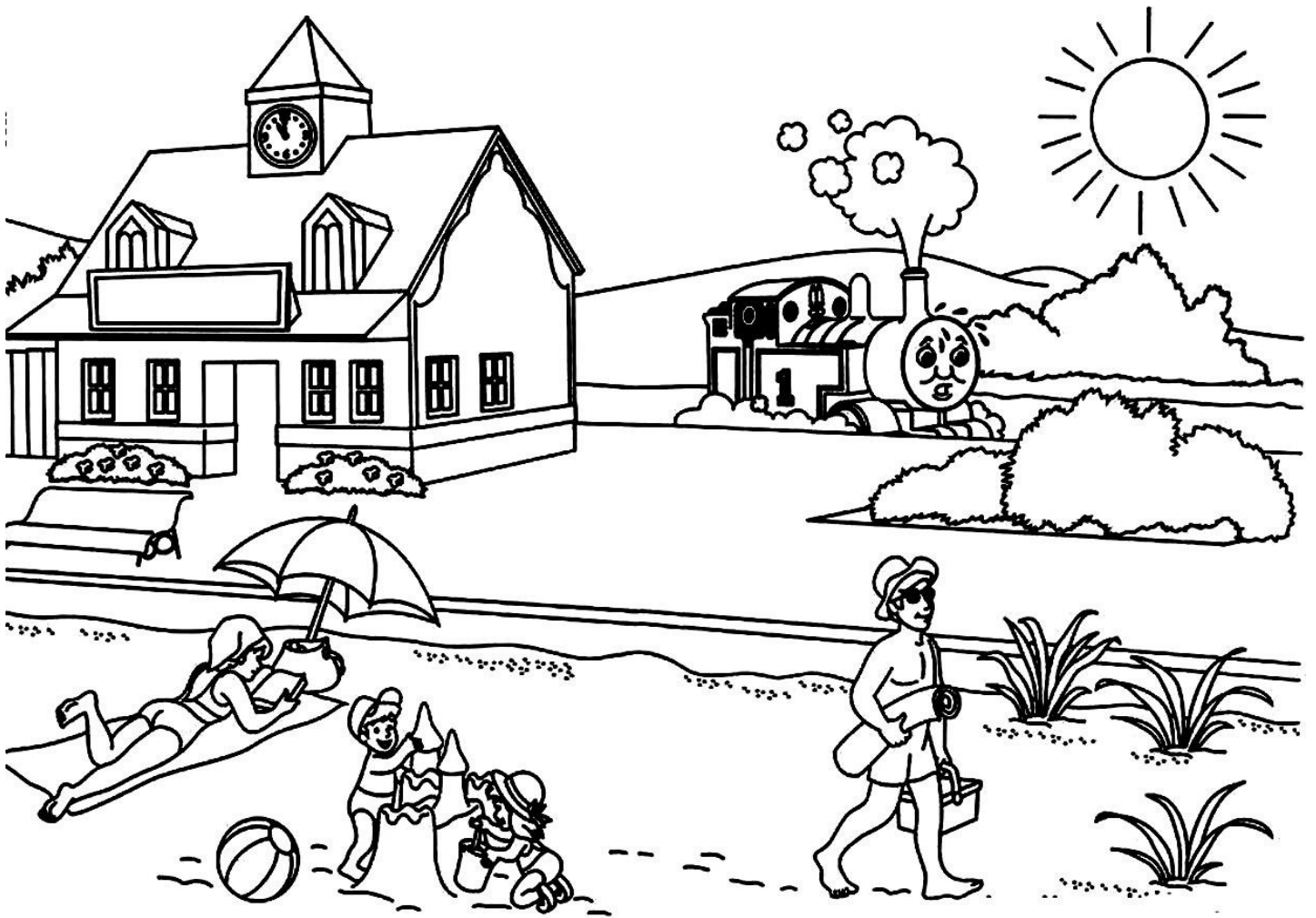
Pelican  
Sailboat  
Sandals  
Sand Castle

Scuba  
Seagull  
Seashell  
Sunglasses

Surfboard  
Tropical  
Vacation  
Waves



# SUMMER FUN!



*Mike Walsh is a Minister in the URC and he put this out on Facebook*

Dear Prime Minister,

I don't know if you will ever read this, but I have some things I wish to say to you.

You have won the General Election and command a majority in the House of Commons, and as such will feel you have a legitimate mandate to govern. However, you must also know that you don't command a majority of the British people.

Although our political views are very much at odds on many issues, I'm willing to believe that you are a good man, as sure of your ideals as I am of mine, and believe your plan is what's best for us all. You said today that you will govern for the whole country and bring back together that which has clearly fractured. I hope you will.

But Prime Minister, though you can obviously see your party did not win the confidence of Scotland and huge swathes of the north of England, I'm not sure your party quite understands why. It's not because we're all 'loony-left' or extremists and nationalists, it's because so many of us are scared. Scared of what your policies will do to our communities and families. Scared of what will happen to our health service and our schools. Scared of losing our family homes for the sake of a few quid saving from the bedroom tax, or not being able to heat our home and have enough left to buy food.

I don't disagree with you that the best way out of poverty is to work, nor do I think that people should get something for nothing and expect the tax-payer to support people indefinitely if they are able to work. Who would think that that was ok and fair?

But your party's policies on these issues, couched in terms of reducing the deficit and balancing the books, don't seem to take into account the social and human cost of such actions. The country isn't a business, it's its people. All its people. And you are everyone's Prime Minister whether we voted for you or not.

You said today you will govern for everyone and unite the country. I hope you do. But to be able to do so you need to make it a priority in your first 100 days, to spend time in Scotland visiting people on zero hours contracts. Come to Manchester and talk with those who have been sanctioned for having a spare room, but have nowhere else to go. Go to Liverpool and meet people with disabled dependents who can't afford even one nanny, or to Newcastle and talk to people still living in poverty due to the demise of the coal industry. Spend a week or two living on the minimum wage, or volunteer in a food bank for a whole day.

Then Prime Minister you might begin to understand the cost of your policies from the other side, to see people as more than their net contribution to the economy, or as deliberate drains on the system. If you do that, then maybe you can heal some of the fractures in our society. Without this I just don't believe you can see just how crucial these issues are.

So please Prime Minister, leave Westminster for a few hours a week and truly strive to govern for all of us.

Rev'd Mike Walsh

The United Reformed Church

You can find the letter and the subsequent activity at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dearpm/>

### VILLAGE FAIR 2015

We hope to make this year's fair even more successful than last year's, BUT..... to do this we need MORE VOLUNTEERS!

We need everyone to pull together and help in what every way you can.

**Before the day we need you to bring in things for the following stalls:**

Tombola: Bottles for the bottle tombola (last year we made a staggering £400 on this stall) It can be any kind of bottle ranging from shampoo, pop, wine, spirits etc)

Costume jewellery: which you no longer use, but which is still in good condition

Mystery bags: fill a bag (get yours from Val) with mystery items (for adults only)

You can start to bring items in any time (its only 5 weeks away..... Arghhhhhh!)

### **On the day**

We also need volunteers to help run the stalls on the day. If we have more volunteers than we need!..... then we can fix up a rota so that you can have free time to have a look around and enjoy the fair.

If you can help then please either see me or just simply write your name on the Volunteers List on the Noticeboard.

Thank you all for your support.

Val Singleton





## Dear Friends

Sermons and we have a new BBQ!!!!!!!!!!!!

After great singing in church by the children and the choir we spilled out into the Community Garden. Thanks and well done to the singers both

young and not so young!

We were once again blessed with only a howling wind and the spitting holding off until we were tidying up. Truly blessed! And it was good to see old friends and new, nothing like doing the Sermons walk with a band but those days are long gone. But the intention is to show that Bank Top really is part of the village community that is so well epitomised by that wonderful Community Garden. So we once again thank them for allowing us to use their wonderful space.



On the family front we have had the great news that Hannah and Mousey (or Rob, for those who prefer the more formal approach) have had a little girl, now named Catrin Isla, giving both a Welsh and Scots aspect to the name. We are truly blessed and all are well.

*(Competition time: What was our James' key role*

*in the delivery that required him to run one and half miles across Birmingham at three in the morning?)*

I'm not sure that Catrin and the mouse-trap are

deliberately artistically posed in this photo but it is quite funny!

Many of you will never have ventured out the back of church but we can report that Val and the property group have organised the rendering of the wall, improvements to the steps, a new window and new back door! The next big challenge is the church chairs, which we probably need to replace.

There was a suggestion that we could challenge the congregation to "Buy your own" which took on a new light when one of the Sunday school children said it would look a bit strange with a 100 different chairs, and "how would they fit in the car when we want to go home?" But I quite fancy a comfy arm-chair at the back of church, somewhere to rest my cup of tea and ..... not drift off! So suggestions to the property group if you've any bright ideas!

For those of you stunned by the number of hooks we now have at the back of church pointing in the right direction, many thanks to "Our Graham" of choir and organ fame, who's recently joined the property group!

I've not mentioned the election but the only positive I can find is that if the SNP can lose the devolution debate and bounce back so strongly, the task for those on the left of centre can't be totally impossible. We just need to clone Nicola Sturgeon! Then we too can be true to the old cry "let them eat caviar!"

Andy

## NEPAL EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the appeal after this very great tragedy.

The total raised was £194.25. and I am really pleased that we managed to raise so much.

Maureen Roocroft

Please pray for

Clarice Bickerstaffe, Joan Bond, Maureen Flitcroft, Bessy and Ken Lancaster, Mona Young, and those who find growing older hard.

When you plan your holidays think of all who cannot get away from home.

# Bank Top United Reformed Church



**On the Community Garden, Ashworth Lane**  
**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015**  
**11.30am ~ 3.00pm**

BBQ/Sandwiches/Cream Teas/Beer Tent/Stalls/Live Entertainment  
Steam Train Rides/Bouncy Castle/Children's Games  
Come along and enjoy the fun!

# FINANCE REPORT



## OFFERTORY

### Feb

Cash Collection	349.81
Envelope Collection	435.05
Standing Orders	657.50
TOTAL	1442.36

### Mar

Cash Collection	375.10
Envelope Collection	743.00
Standing Orders	652.50
TOTAL	1770.60

### Apr

Cash Collection	280.38
Envelope Collection	454.02
Standing Orders	527.50
TOTAL	1261.90

## BRUNCHES

March	222.00
April	309.20
May	240.50

## JARS OF GRACE

During Lent - to Water Aid (see below)

## 50/50 CLUB

### Mar

C Rideout	50.00	49
H Guthrie	30.00	8
R Butcher	20.00	24

### April

A Johns	50.00	92
R Butcher	30.00	24
J Partington	20.00	33

### May

C Counsell	50.00	89
I Larkin	30.00	25
A Johns	20.00	40

Water Aid (Jars of Grace during Lent)	205.33
Nepal Disaster Appeal	194.25

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

## FUTURE EVENTS: JUNE - AUGUST

June			
Sat	6th	12:00pm - 1:00pm	Brunch - 'Buffet Style'
Sun	7th	10:30am	Morning Service - Rev'd George Mwaura
Sun	14th	10:30am	Morning Service, Communion - Andy Guthrie
Sun	21st	10:30am	Morning Service - David Canham
Tues	23rd	8:00pm	Housegroup at Val's - 'Moses—Seeking Justice' Exodus Ch2
Sun	28th	10:30am	Morning Service - Betty Bamford
Fri	3rd	2:00pm	Village Fair preparation
July			
Sat	4th	9:00am	Village Fair set-up
Sat	4th	11:30am - 3:00pm	Village Fair
Sun	5th	10:30am	Morning Service - Rev'd Georgw Mwaura
Sat	11th	TBA	Astley Bridge Festival—different venues
Sun	12th	TBA	Astley Bridge Festival - different venues
Sun	12th	10:30am	Morning Service, Communion - Andy Guthrie
Sun	12th	11:30qm	Church Meeting after the service
Sun	19th	10:30am	Morning Service - Alan Morris
Sun	19th	3:00pm	Trinity Pastorate Service at Egerton URC
Sun	26th	10:30am	Morning Service - Rev'd George Mwaura
Mon-Fri	27th - 31st	10:00 - 12:30pm	Childrens Holiday Club (ages 5 - 11) At St Paul's Primary School - see Val for forms and more info
August			
Sun	2nd	10:30am	Morning Service - Adrian Yapp
Sun	9th	10:30am	Morning Service, Communion - Rev'd George Mwaura
Sun	16th	10:30am	Morning Service
Sun	23rd	10:30am	Morning Service - Norman Hindley

### Church Board Signs:

Trespassers will be Baptised

Free Tip to Heaven ..... Details inside

Work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long, and the pay is low. However, the Retirement Benefits are out of this world.

Sign outside a Scottish Cinema:

***Free entry for old aged pensioners (if accompanied by both parents)***