



Bank Topics

Issue 29

June—August

Dear Friends,

This Pentecost we're doing something different. This Pentecost is not just about drunken disciples babbling in different tongues.

This Pentecost does still celebrate the movement of the Holy Spirit from person to person – but this Pentecost also witnesses something happening behind the scenes.

Like every established church, the URC is in decline. Fewer members, fewer ministers so yet more churches not giving up and struggling to stay open. Something needs to change.

A number of months ago our North West Synod signed up to Missional Discipleship, the idea that everyone has a role to play in church life, an active part not a passive part, that we step back a couple of hundred years and acknowledge that the church is centred around the church congregation, not just a Minister in a church building. It is about everyone finding their own role in the life of the church, in the growing life of the church.

This Pentecost our part of the United Reformed Church (our Synod) called us to take a leap of faith and looked to establish Missional Partnerships (Not the most catchy of titles!) Working with a wider group of 15 churches in Bolton and North Manchester we will look to share re-



sources, ideas and ministry. We had our first meeting early in May where we shared information about what we were doing. Within an hour it was identified that we had two churches, probably not five miles apart, who were both struggling to develop themselves as Dementia Friendly Churches. They had so much to learn from each other but, unintentionally, both were evolving in silos, unknown to each other. They've agreed to meet up and work through all the opportunities - if they remember (their joke, not mine!) Just the first positive outcome from our initial meeting.

The Synod has published some resources on Missional Partnership – the picture they draw is this : *Imagine a party where you have a helium balloon and some ordinary balloons.*

Tie a long piece of string to the helium balloon and keep hold of it. As people tie off their balloons get them to throw them in the air and see how long they can stay up. The helium can of course stay up without trying. However when you let it go it simply floats up. Let it go and see how high it goes (this is why you need a long piece of string.) There's not much a helium balloon can do except look nice – and when you let it go then it disappears unless you have it on a long piece of string. But the balloons filled with the people's breath are pretty earth bound where they

can be played with and enjoyed.

When God breathes his Spirit into us it is not so we can float away into a heavenly place and be no use to anyone – it is to keep us earth bound where we can be used in his mission and be ministers of his kingdom of love and justice.

If the Spirit is wind, then it is helpful to think of the formation of Missional Partnerships as "wind farms." They remind us that the Spirit of God unites us and seeks to move us in the way of being Jesus-shaped communities. (You, and particularly I, need to put aside thoughts of hot air!!!)

So, if the old model is represented by this cartoon, then the wind has changed and we need to do things differently - bit scary eh?



"Basically, we're looking for an innovative pastor with a fresh vision who will inspire our church to remain exactly the same."

Have a wonderful summer and hopefully see you at the summer fair. Blessings, Andy

Prayer for the Summer Solstice

Jesus, thank you for Summer.
Thank you for light and warmth.
Thank you for the sun.

Thank you for the gifts of nature
and for the annual cycles and seasons.

Today, give us that grace again,
to see you as the Creator,
the One who lifts us up to be with you
forever, even now.
Amen.



BANK TOP CHURCH - CONTACTS

Church Telephone Number		593393
Minister	Vacant	
Church Leader	Mr A Guthrie andyguts@gmail.com	591185
Secretary/Treasurer	Mrs V Singleton singletonv@hotmail.com	305401
Organist – contact	Mrs A Smith	693740
Church Hall Hire	Mrs V Singleton	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 C Counsell bert.counsell@gmail.com	591284
Serving Elders	V Constantine, Christine Counsell, Andy Guthrie, David Canham, Graham Naylor, Carol Rideout, Lyn Ridyard, 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 E Farrell)	07770450229
The Oaks Brownies	Tuesday at 6.00pm (contact Caroline Greenen)	592594
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 9.30am – 11.00am (contact Val Singleton)	305401
Lace & Craft Group	Wednesday 7.00 – 9.00pm (contact: Jean Greer)	594127
Adult Yoga	Tuesday from 7:45pm - 9:15pm (Contact Jenny Dowling)	07578 108676
Theatre Works	Wednesday from 4.00 -5.00 (Contact Lauren Bateman)	07999 634208
Moosical Fun for your Little One	Thursday at 9-15am -11-15am (contact Jane) jane@moo-music.co.uk	07808549965
Weight Watchers	Wednesday from 9:30 - 12:00 (contact Janet Lomax)	07919 251507

For Baptisms, (which are held during the Morning Service), Weddings, Funerals, Sick Visiting or Home Communion, please contact A Guthrie or V Singleton.
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?

At Bank Top you'll find something for everyone. So, don't be lonely and stay at home on your own, you are always welcome here! Have a look below; think about learning new skills or ask if you can help - we always need helpers! We are always pleased to see new faces.



Sunday	10.30am - 11.45am	Morning Worship incl. Sunday School
Monday	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Bank Top Artists (term time only)
Monday	5.45pm - 7.15pm	Bank Top Brownies (girls from 7-10)
Monday	7.30pm - 9.15pm	Bank Top Guides (girls from 10-15)
Tuesday (2 nd & 4 th)	8.00pm - 10.00pm	Bible Study Group at Val's House
Tuesday	9.30am - 11.00am	Toddler Group (term time only)
Tuesday	6.00pm - 7.30pm	The Oaks Brownies (girls from 7-10)
Tuesday	7.45pm - 9.15pm	Yoga with Jenny
Wednesday	10.00am - 11.15am	Weight Watchers with Janet
Wednesday	4.00pm - 5.00pm	Theatre School for children up to 11
Wednesday	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Adult Craft Class
Thursday	9.15am - 11.15am	Moo Music (0 to 12 months - 2 classes) 9.30-10.10 - Minis 10.30-11.10 - Babies
Thursday	6.00pm - 7.00pm	Bank Top Rainbows (girls from 5-7)
1 st Sat of each month	Bank Top Lunches	12.00noon - 1.00pm Main Course, Dessert and Drink £4.00/£1.50 (children)
Saturday	Certain dates	Embroiderers' Guild



Family Bible Readings

3rd June – Mark 2:23-3:6
10th June – Mark 3:20-35
17th June – Mark 4:26-34
24th June – Mark 4:35-41

1st July – Mark 5:21-43
8th July – Mark 6:1-13
15th July – Mark 6:14-29
22nd July – Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
29th July – John 6:1-21

5th August – John 6:24-35
12th August – John 6:35, 41-51
19th August – John 6:51-58
26th August – John 6:56-69



Flower List

June 2018

3rd Christine Counsell
10th Muriel Brown
17th Sarah Astley
24th Maureen Flitcroft

July 2018

1st Mr & Mrs Warburton
8th Jill Partington
15th In Memory of Gladys Yates
22nd Kath Dean
29th Vacant

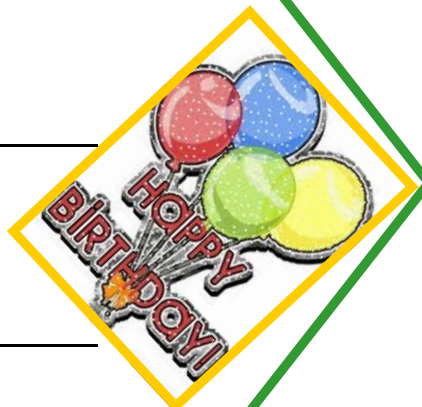
August 2018

5th Andy & Heather Guthrie
12th Ann, Alex, Carol & Jess
19th Phil Seddon
26th Margaret Taylor & Ruth Butcher

Birthday wishes go to:



June 3	Jessica Collier
July 3 18	Freya Dean Sofia Coward
Aug 13 14 23	Katie Johns Jack Coward Megan Collier
Sept 17 22 27	Grace Matkin Sean Nhandara Aiden McDermid



DATES

Bank Top Cleaning Rota

Jun	1 st 8 th 15 th 22 nd 29 th	M Flitcroft & P McNulty & C Counsell G Naylor & D Canham Heather L Ridyard & G Brown
July	6 th 13 th 20 th 27 th	V Constantine (Village Fair) C Ridout & A Hardman A Myers & I Larkin V Singleton & M Batty
Aug	3 rd 10 th 17 th 24 th 31 st	M Flitcroft & P McNulty & C Counsell G Naylor & D Canham Heather L Ridyard & G Brown
Sept	7 th 14 th 21 st 28 th	V Constantine C Ridout & A Hardman A Myers & I Larkin V Singleton & M Batty



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.

IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE CLEANING ROTA AND ARE ABLE TO HELP, PLEASE SEE CHRISTINE COUNSELL. REMEMBER THE MORE VOLUNTEERS WE HAVE, THE LESS TIMES WE ALL HAVE TO CLEAN
THANK YOU

From our church

General data Protection Regulation (GDPR) takes effect from 25th May 2018, and is designed to unify data privacy requirements across the EU.

Below is a light-hearted take on people who could take this legislation to the extreme! !

In the consulting room: a mild case of GDPR **In which we establish an evidential link between data protection legislation, headaches and depression** **in general practice.....**

GP: *What can I do for you today, Mrs Smith?*

Patient: *How did you get my name?*

GP: *The receptionist told me before she buzzed you in*

Patient: *I don't remember giving her permission to share my details with a third party*

GP: *It's her job to tell me who you are*

Patient: *She didn't obtain my explicit consent*

GP: *It was probably an oversight, madam*

Patient: *Madam? Why is my gender relevant?*

GP: *It may or may not be. It depends why you're here*

Patient: *Well, I've not been feeling myself recently*

GP: *I see. I understand you've been having a lot of headaches*

Patient: *And you obtained that information how, exactly?*

GP: *It's all on your health record*

Patient: *Did I consent to this use of my data?*

GP: *We need the information to treat you*

Patient: *Where is that made clear in your privacy policy? The receptionist never mentioned it. She just sent me in*

GP: *She may have presumed that if you made an appointment, came to the surgery and sat in the waiting room for half an hour that you wanted to see a doctor*

Patient: *You can't rely on presumption. I should have been given a clear opt-in*

GP: *Do you want to see me or not?*

Patient: *That's my business. I'm not obliged to disclose a preference either way*

GP: *This is ridiculous. We're getting nowhere here*

Patient: *What are you writing about me? I demand to see it*

GP: *I'm writing a prescription. Take it to the pharmacy and they'll give you something that will help*

Patient: *That's outrageous. The pharmacist may be able to identify me*

GP: *We're going around in circles*

Patient: *What are you going to do about my headaches?*

GP: *They're perfectly normal. You're suffering from a mild case of GDPR. It may seem painful now but you should make a full recovery by early June*

Patient: *So I don't need to do anything?*

GP: *No, just get plenty of rest and try to avoid processing any sensitive data*

Patient: *Thanks for putting my mind at rest, doctor*

GP: *Why are you using my professional title when it isn't relevant to your stated use of my data?*

Patient: *I'm very sorry*

GP: *Don't mention it – you have a right to be forgotten. Would you mind opting yourself out?*

If you have a poem, prayer or blessing you would like to share with us all in the next magazine, please pass it to Christine Counsell or Ali Spence.

From our church

Those of you who have been members or church attenders for many years will remember the lovely Ken Seddon who was our Church Leader prior to Andy. Maureen R has been going back through his church newsletter 'letters' and found this one which is pertinent since our Sermons took place on the 20th May. So here's our own 'Looking Back'.

Procession of witness—June 1988

Everything is, they say, relative.

For instance, there must have been happenings since I last wrote which are worthy of comment, but if there are they pale into insignificance when compared with the past week. Sunday dawned, bright and sunny, every Church's dream for Sermons Sunday weather.

Brian Jolly led our morning worship, and held the children of all ages, from the word go. He even followed Jon's request on his order of service to make it short and sweet, as we had to be back at church to walk by 1.15pm! We are thinking of making him an honorary Northerner—just honorary, you understand—for now.

Back we were for our Procession of Witness. And there also were, as ever, the St Paul's, Adlington, Brigade Band. Napoleon said an army marches on its stomach, but for my own experience put a good band up front and w would go on forever. We had such a band last Sunday. So, with Bob Good leading us, off we went. We were pleased that Barbara joined us also.

A bit breezy for John and Bill on the banner, and once on Hillcot Road it did resemble a four-master in a force ten gale, but all held and the sun shone magnificently.

Our Moderator, Tony Burnham, was waiting our return to Church for the afternoon service, for more joyous fellowship.

During the 'break for tea', Tony and I shared some thoughts on, and played some, Jazz! Now this preparation for evening service may cause the odd eyebrow to be raised, but Tony confided that he often writes his sermons to the accompaniment of Count Basie. So all of us, who have ever heard Tony Burnham preach, have a lot to thank Count Basie for.

We were pleased to welcome friends from the Bolton North Group to our evening service, and especially pleased that Hartley and Gill Oldham could join us. Hartley, as Provincial Solicitor, did such sterling work for us at Bank Top in sorting out the various Trusts of Church and School with the Charity Commissioners. So, to the end of a perfect day. But hold on. Wasn't there something just a little bit special that I have missed? The children singing at all three services was something else again. Which is fitting, as we were celebrating the Sunday School Anniversary Sermons. I cannot omit mentioning the pleasure I had personally in sitting at the back of the Choir listening to the ladies' rendition of Donna Nobis Pacem. Superb, girls!

My thanks to everyone for a wonderful day, especially to Brian for setting the tone for the day, and to Tony Burnham as he set the tone for the forthcoming Christian Aid Week. Incidentally, wasn't the choice of hymns good? Thanks to Lillian.

Monday and Tuesday I had to attend a course, re-qualifying as a first-aider. A three year requirement. I don't know about you, but I find as the years go by so does the ability to retain learning. I could do with a cork in one ear to stop things going right through. Mind you, there are compensations. It's very helpful when Joan is tuning up on some subject or other, to let it just pass through and then plead senility. After all, I can remember more of forty years ago than I can of last week.

We did go out two evenings on Christian Aid. This is when my faith is at its weakest. Walking up a garden path collecting envelopes. Yet isn't this as much a 'procession of witness' as Sunday was? Without the banners and bands, of course, but Witness nevertheless.

Thursday we joined a Friendship Group outing to visit Edith and Geoff Tolley and family in Darwen. Some of us took a walk through Sunnyhurst Woods, while the less energetic watched a video of Geoff's induction. The walkers had the right idea. They built up the appetite to fully appreciate Edith's baking. Not that the 'stayers in' needed much persuasion to help to empty the plates. I was very, very good and refrained from breaking my diet (for 'very, very good' read 'very, very cautious') as Joan's beady eye was ever present.

The week ended much as it began. Saturday, we assembled behind the Metropole Hotel in Blackpool, together with a few hundred members of North West Province, prior to making our Procession of Witness to the Winter Gardens. This time with two bands. A bugle and drum band from Weaste and a local pipe band. Then to be welcomed at the Winter Gardens by the Freckleton Brass Band. An afternoon of entertainment by the amateur talent from various provincial churches, and an act of worship in the evening, brought a day, and indeed a week, of fellowship to an end. Far outweighing the hectic hassle of earning a crust. Would that every week were so. Perhaps it is up to me to make the days more fruitful spiritually. I'm sure it is.

However friends, when next I share some thoughts with you, Joan and I will have been holidaying in Scotland. And you too, whether at home or away—happy holiday. God Bless.

Notices and news from the congregation

52 SONG CHALLENGE – MATTHEW SKIDMORE

My mum lived with Motor Neurone Disease for three years before she passed away in 2010 – currently there is no cure for the disease and life expectancy is approximately 14 months after diagnosis. My son Matthew has decided to set himself the challenge of writing and recording one song every week for a year – that's 52 songs - to raise money to support the work of the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The aim of the MND Association is to improve the care and support for people with Motor Neurone Disease and their families. The MND Association fund and promote research that one day will hopefully lead to finding a cure for Motor Neurone Disease.

Follow the link below to listen to some of his songs – he started in January and he's currently up to week 18.

<https://mattskidmore.bandcamp.com>



Have a listen and if you wish to make a donation his just giving page can be accessed from the above link.

Julie Skidmore

CHANGE FOR CHARITY

It's so simple--- All you need is an empty jar and any loose change you have, pop it in your jar.. 1p. 2p. 5p. 10p. 20p. Sometimes even 50p & £1 if you've won the 50/50....

This is collected in during the church service on the first Sunday in the month. Last year we collected £504.90 for WATER AID. An amazing amount which was gratefully received.

This year our chosen charity is a 'home' based one THE FISHERMAN'S MISSION.

The most dangerous peacetime occupation is Deep sea fishing. on average one trawler is lost at sea each month. The Mission supports any survivors but usually it's the families of those lost in such circumstances.

They work through officers who, in many cases are dedicated ordained Christian Ministers and volunteers from the local fishing community.

This organisation relies entirely on donations to carry out their work.

Each quarter they issue a Newsletter NETWORK detailing their activities, this can be found on our Church Noticeboard.

Maureen R.



North Western Synod

Franklin Street, Eccles,
Manchester M30 0QZ

10 May 2018

To all ministers in pastoral charge and
church secretaries in North Western Synod

cc: members of Synod and Area Pastoral Committees

Dear colleagues

Transitioning from Pastorates to Missional Partnerships

This note is to clarify the position of existing Pastorates once Missional Partnerships are recognised on Sunday 20th May 2018. It appears that there is some confusion or misunderstanding in some places in the synod over this matter.

In brief:

Missional Partnerships will be *recognised* on Sunday 20th May 2018. Each Missional Partnership will be *commissioned* once everything has been put in place to ensure its smooth operation. We envisage that the period of transition from the recognition of a Missional Partnership to its commissioning will take between 6 and 18 months, possibly longer, depending on local circumstances. During this period of transition existing pastorates will continue to operate.

In a little more detail:

The Synod Meeting at Bamford in March 2017:

adopted a strategy paper on Missional Discipleship as the framework within which all future synod policy will be developed;
welcomed a policy paper *Missional Partnerships: a new way for local churches, using all their gifts and ministries, to work together in God's mission*;
approved the formation of Missional Partnerships to maximise our effectiveness as agents of God's mission
and adopted a paper, *Deployment: A policy concerning the deployment of stipendiary Ministers of Word and Sacraments*, as the basis for the deployment of stipendiary ministers.

There followed wide consultation with the churches of the synod over the composition of Missional Partnerships, including Roadshows in each Area, after which Areas Pastoral Committees made recommendations to the Synod Pastoral Committee which were agreed.

Details about the composition of Missional Partnerships were then shared with the churches of the synod.

Missional Partnerships will be *recognised* in churches across the Synod at Pentecost 2018 [Sunday 20th May], and a selection of worship material for this occasion has been made available to all churches and worship leaders.

There will be a period of transition between the *recognition* of Missional Partnerships on 20th May 2018 and the point at which each Missional Partnership is *commissioned* and take over from existing pastorates. This period of transition will vary from one Missional Partnership to another - we envisage the transition will take between 6 and 18 months, possibly longer, depending upon local circumstances.

The synod is preparing material to assist in the coming together of local churches to form Missional Partnerships, which will be made available as soon as it is ready.

Each Missional Partnership will have a Steering Group which will include a representative from each church in the Partnership. The synod will provide an independent Convenor for each Steering Group, who will call the group together for a first meeting at an appropriate time.

The synod Pastoral Committee is working to ensure that up to 8 new opportunities for ministry in the North Western Synod will soon appear on the Stipendiary Ministry Vacancy List.

We hope these notes are helpful and, where there is any uncertainty about process, make the situation clearer. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if need be.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Mills
Synod Moderator

Marion Tugwood
Convenor, Synod Pastoral Committee

Brian Jolly
Synod Clerk

Bank Top
United Reformed Church
Village Fair

On the Community Garden, Ashworth Lane



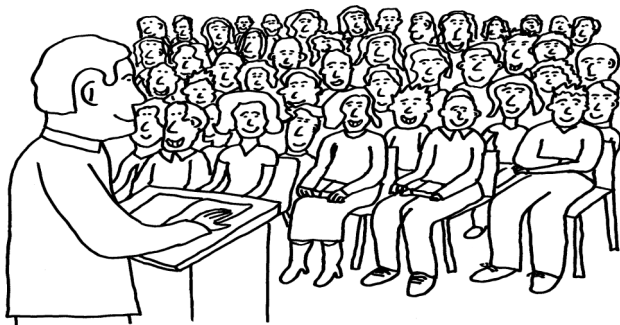
Saturday 7th July 2018
11.30am – 3.00pm

BBQ/Sandwiches/CreamTeas/Beer Tent/Stalls
Maypole Dancing/Bouncy Castle/Games

Come along and enjoy the fun of the fair

Elders & Church Meeting Dates for 2018

Sunday	14 th January	Church Meeting
Wednesday	7 th February	Elders Meeting
Wednesday	7 th March	Elders Meeting
Sunday	15 th April	AGM
Wednesday	2 nd May	Elders Meeting
Wednesday	6 th June	Elders Meeting
Sunday	15 th July	Church Meeting
Wednesday	5 th September	Elders
Sunday	7 th October	Church Meeting
Wednesday	7 th November	Elders Meeting



CHURCH MEETINGS ARE BRILLIANT

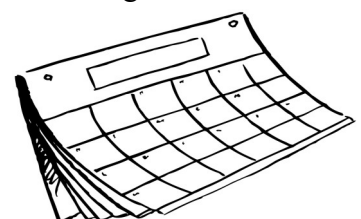
Saturday Brunch Dates

6th January
 3rd February
 3rd March
 7th April
 5th May
 2nd June
 7th July (VILLAGE FAIR)
 1st September
 6th October
 3rd November
 1st December (ADVENT BRUNCH)



Other dates for your diary

Good Friday 30th March
 Easter Sunday 1st April
 Sermons 20th May
 Shoe Boxes 18th November
 Christingle 16th December



FINANCE REPORT				
<u>OFFERTORY</u>			CHANGE FOR CHARITY	2018
<u>February</u>			(Fisherman's Mission)	
Cash Collection	177.23		January	23.93
Envelope Collection	433.40		February	31.56
Standing Orders	<u>662.50</u>		March	26.07
	<u>1273.13</u>		April	22.98
<u>March</u>			May	22.50
Cash Collection	161.20		TOTAL	127.04
Envelope Collection	500.55			
Standing Orders	<u>632.50</u>			
	<u>1294.25</u>			
<u>April</u>				
Cash Collection	230.34			
Envelope Collection	505.35			
Standing Orders	<u>652.50</u>			
	<u>1388.19</u>			
<u>BRUNCHES</u>				
Easter Egg Tombola	60.00			
April	138.40			
May	166.10			
<u>March</u>	<u>Cash Prize</u>	<u>Lottery No</u>		
A Dean	50.00	72		
C Rideout	30.00	14		
M Fogg	20.00	28		
<u>April</u>				
J Partington	50.00	77		
E Farrell	30.00	80		
C Else	20.00	51		
<u>May</u>				
The Owens	50.00	106		
J Marsden	30.00	38		
A Dean	20.00	72		

A big thank you to all those who support Bank Top

FUTURE EVENTS: JUNE – AUGUST



<u>June</u>			
Sat	2 nd	12.00-1.00pm	Brunch
Sun	3 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship – Adrian Yapp, following by Tea & Toast
Wed	6 th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun	10 th	10.30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Tue	12 th	8.00pm	Housegroup at Val's: 'Companions in Ministry', read Acts Ch18
Sun	17 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Betty Bamford 'National Weekend of Invitation' why not bring a friend to church with you?
Sun	24 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Ray Houghton
Tue	26 th	8.00pm	Housegroup at Val's: 'In the Name of Jesus', read Acts 19:1 – 20:12
<u>July</u>			
Sun	1 st	10.30am	Morning Worship, David Canham
Sat	7 th	11.30am – 3.00pm	VILLAGE FAIR
Sun	8 th	10.30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie, followed by Tea and Toast
Tue	10 th	8.00pm	Study Group at Val's: 'Saying Goodbye', read Acts 20:13-38
Sun	15 th	10.30am 11.30am	Morning Worship, Alan Morris Church Meeting
Sun	22 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship, Alan Nuttall
Sun	29 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Susan Holme
<u>August</u>			
Sun	5 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Brian Evitts, followed by Tea & Toast
Sun	12 th	10.30am	Communion Service, Family Service, The Worship Group
Sun	19 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Leo Roberts
Sun	26 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Barry Bradshaw