



Bank Topics

Issue 30

September—November

Dear Friends,

Going on holiday can be very expensive, but coming back can be worse!!



After last year's holiday we came home, sat on our old bed and said to each other: "We need to buy a new mattress." And we did. This year we got home, went to bed and at 3:33am I rolled over and straight out of the bed. Firstly that was quite painful and secondly we would need to take out the fitted wardrobes if we were going to recreate our holiday bed space!!

Next year we will book a two berth narrowboat and crush each other on holiday, but enjoy being back on our own bed, supposing we're actually still talking to each other. Anyway this is me searching for Heather on the other side of the bed in Majorca!



It was a great holiday and wine was on tap. Which reminds me that we were driving back from Wales a few weeks ago with Desert Island Discs on the radio and an

[engineeringish? – yes I know it's not a real word!] woman asked for a bath as her luxury item - but it needed 3 taps. One for hot water, one for cold and one for wine. At the time I thought the woman was very wise, but having had time to reflect, she could have chosen even more wisely: 3 taps - one at bath-water temperature, one for red wine and one for chilled white.

Anyway home now after a great rest! And rest is an important thing, seemingly more so these days as we live as part of the interconnected world. Jesus rested, well tried to rest. God rested after the creation. Taking time to reflect on little things and concentrating on that little thing is important. I was taught to "speed read" many years ago, scanning down the centre of the page so could you assimilate enough to have grasped the salient points.

But reading is a gift, words need to be savoured and enjoyed not skimmed over.

And a good place to do that savouring is in the Bible, find a version that you like and read, savour and concentrate on the Word of God. A few weeks ago at Bank Top we sang "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" which ends with "still small voice of calm" and I've often wondered where that expression came from. The Good news Concordance was not of any

help but the interconnected world does have some big plus points and it took less than a minute to find:

1 Kings 19:11-13 New King James Version (NKJV) - God's Revelation to Elijah

Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

I hope that you hear that still small voice one day soon.

Be blessed,

Andy

Harvest Blessing

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



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, Andy Guthrie, David Canham, Graham Naylor, Linda Rainford, Carol Rideout, Lynn Ridyard, Maureen Roocroft, 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

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

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

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



Flower List

September 2018

2nd Vicky Constantine
 9th Jean Short
 16th HARVEST – Elder
 23rd In Memory of Phyllis Walsh
 30th Val & Jill

October 2018

7th Ann & Richard Smith
 14th Vicky Constantine
 21st In Memory of Clarice Bickerstaff
 28th In Memory of Kath Tyldesley

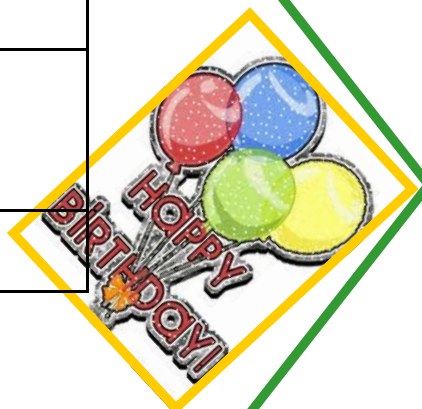
November 2018

4th Marian & Harry Batty
 11th Muriel Brown
 18th Julie Skidmore
 25th Bessie Lancaster

Birthday wishes go to:



Sept 17 22 27	Grace Matkin Sean Nhandara Aiden McDermid
Oct 4 15	Katie Hunter Isabelle Dean
Nov 13	Sophie Kinyanjui



DATES

Bank Top Cleaning Rota

Sept	7 th 14 th 21 st 28 th	Vicky Constantine C Ridout & A Hardman A Myers & I Larkin V Singleton & M Batty
Oct	5 th 12 th 19 th 26 th	M Flitcroft ? P McNulty & C Counsell G Naylor & D Canham Heather.
Nov	2 nd 9 th 16 th 23 rd 30 th	L Ridyard G Brown Vicky Constantine C Ridout & A Hardman A Myers & I Larkin V Singleton & M Batty
Dec	7 th 14 th 21 st 28 th 21 st 28 th	M Flitcroft ? P McNulty & C Counsell F Naylor & D Canham Heather. 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

Families

Some families are big,
Some families are small,
But no matter what size,
It's the same for them all.

Families are fathers, that frown and say
"We didn't do thigs like that in my day!
That shirt's rather bright, that skirt's far too tight
Now tell me again where you're going tonight."

Families are mothers, who flap and fuss
"Hurry up now or you'll miss the school bus!
Straighten your tie, tidy your hair.
Are you sure those big earrings are what you can wear?"

Families are brothers, that joke and tease
And when you're not looking they give you a squeeze.
They think they're much bigger and better than you,
And far more important in all that they do.

Families are sisters who share all your things,
Your bedroom, your records, your bracelets and rings.
They use all your perfume and ladder your tights.
They keep your awake playing music at night.

But God's family's a unit where we all belong.
He supports us in trouble when things have gone wrong.
He shares in our gladness, our sadness and fears.
He loves us and cares for us through all of the years.
Sarah Diplock

When you thought I wasn't looking ...

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you hang my first painting on the fridge, and immediately wanted to paint another.
When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat, and I thought it was good to be kind to animals.
When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you bake my favourite cake for me, and I knew that little things are special things.
When you thought I wasn't looking, I hear you say a prayer, and I believed there was a God to talk to.
When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt you kiss me goodnight, and I felt loved.
When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes and I learned that sometimes things hurt, and it's alright to cry.
When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.
When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked . . . and I wanted to say, "Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking."
Writer unknown

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.

Notices and news from the congregation

Three opportunities for fun at the Unitarian Chapel:



Incredible Edible 'at the Unitarian'	Nature CAFE - At the Unitarian Chapel	Crafty Corner at the Unitarian'
Got green fingers? Want to help in the garden? Then we would love you to join us. Or you can just sit and enjoy it.	Come along to our friendly welcoming café and enjoy great home cooked, great value food. Café runs every Friday 11.00am – 1.30pm.	Fancy learning—or re-learning how to knit / crochet / sew?
Fridays 10.30—1.30	We are near Ciao Baby on A666. No 1 bus stops outside. For more info contact Lynne: 01204 307556 or Sharon: 07941 093638.	Come and join our friendly Friday group 11—1.00 Then stay for lunch!

Heather

A plea for volunteers!



Pottery volunteer needed

Book volunteer needed

We get a large variety of pottery, crockery and books of all genres and so we need you and your expert knowledge to help us sort and price items..... Please contact us on 01204 303219, or pop into the shop on Blackburn Rd.

Ali, on behalf of a friend



AND

'BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY'

SUNDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER

10:30AM

SERVICE WILL BE LED BY THE WORSHIP GROUP

Come along and join us at this very informal service

**Food and monetary donations, for Bolton Hospice and Winterwatch,
will be collected during the service.**





SONGS OF PRAISE

SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

HYMNS FROM "REJOICE AND SING"
CHILDREN'S HYMNS/CHORUSES

PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR CHOICE BY:
SUNDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER

FILL IN THE SHEET ON THE NOTICEBOARD

THANK YOU



ARMISTICE DAY 2018



"AND DEATH SHALL HAVE NO DOMINION"

Bank Top has been very fortunate to receive an award from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust of 7 silhouettes; one for every man from Bank Top who lost their lives in the First World War, and whose names appear on our war memorial plaque in church. Thanks go to Andy for his successful application.

We aim to make this year's Armistice Day special, with the silhouettes being displayed in church. We are hoping to encourage lots of people from the local area to come and worship with us on this special day, whilst remembering all the lives that were lost.

We will be advertising the service and very much hope that you will also play your part in encouraging people to come to church and join us.



Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

SUNDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER: 10.30am

Service will be led by the Youth Group

Start collecting your boxes today

USE THESE LABELS

Cut out the appropriate label and tape it on top of your shoe box gift. If you need additional labels, make photocopies or download from samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Mark the correct age category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	2-4 Years Old
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-9 Years Old
<input type="checkbox"/>	10-14 Years Old

 **Boy** 

Mark the correct age category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	2-4 Years Old
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-9 Years Old
<input type="checkbox"/>	10-14 Years Old

 **Girl** 

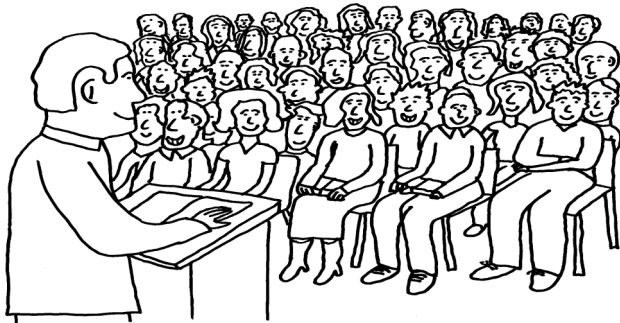
for more information about what to put in your box; please take a leaflet from church

Make a difference to a child's life this Christmas!



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

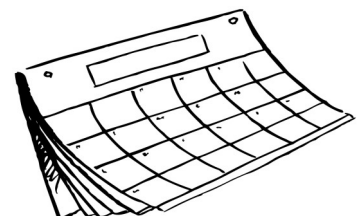
Saturday Brunch Dates

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)



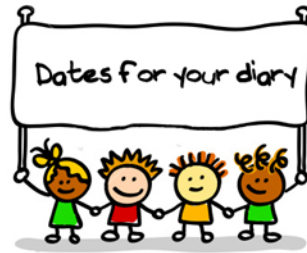
Other dates for your diary

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>May</u>				(Fisherman's Mission)	
Cash Collection	191.54			January	23.93
Envelope Collection	487.81			February	31.56
Standing Orders	<u>632.50</u>			March	26.07
	<u>1311.85</u>			April	22.98
<u>June</u>				May	22.50
Cash Collection	200.62			June	38.88
Envelope Collection	371.60			July	22.18
Standing Orders	<u>662.50</u>			August	28.85
	<u>1234.72</u>			TOTAL	216.95
<u>July</u>					
Cash Collection	165.67				
Envelope Collection	573.50				
Standing Orders	<u>642.50</u>				
	<u>1381.67</u>				
<u>BRUNCHES</u>					
June	160.00				
<u>VILLAGE FAIR</u>	1779.47				
<u>June</u>	<u>Cash Prize</u>	<u>Lottery No</u>			
A Johns	50.00	92			
G Singleton	30.00	15			
B Counsell	20.00	97			
<u>July</u>					
J Partington	50.00	102			
K Shaw	30.00	79			
K Dean	20.00	9			
<u>August</u>					
A Myers	50.00	29			
A&R Smith	30.00	63			
J Watson	20.00	101			
<i>A big thank you to all those who support Bank Top</i>					

FUTURE EVENTS: SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER



<u>September</u>			
Sat	1 st	12.00-1.00pm	Brunch
Sun	2 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship – Patrick Murphy, followed by Tea & Toast
Wed	5 th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun	9 th	10.30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Sun	16 th	10.30am	HARVEST SERVICE/ BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY. Family Service/Church Parade. Please invite someone to come along with you
Sun	23 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship, John Platt
Sun	30 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, David & Christine
<u>October</u>			
Sat	6 th	12.00-1.00pm	Brunch
Sun	7 th	10.30am 11.30am	Morning Worship, Alan Morris followed by Tea & Toast Church Meeting
Tue	9 th	8.00pm	Study Group at Val's: 'Facing Opposition' read Acts 21:1-22:21
Sun	14 th	10.30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Sun	21 st	10.30am	Morning Worship, David Canham
Tue	23 rd	8.00pm	Study Group at Val's: 'God at Work' please read Acts 22:22-23:35
Sun	28 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Mark Curtis
<u>November</u>			
Sat	3 rd	12.00-1.00pm	Brunch
Sun	4 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Susan Holme followed by Tea & Toast
Wed	6 th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun	11 th	10.30am	Remembrance Service/Communion, Andy Guthrie
Tue	13 th	8.00pm	Study Group at Val's: 'Falsely Accused' read Acts 24:1-25:12
Sun	18 th	10.30am	Family Service/Church Parade/Shoe Boxes, led by the Youth Group
Sun	25 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Frank Iddon
Tue	27 th	8.00pm	Study Group at Val's: 'Testimony before Agrippa' read Acts 25:13-26:32