



Bank Topics



Bank Top United Reformed Church Issue 31 December- February 2019



Your guest editor /publisher writes...

Thank goodness for Microsoft Word...

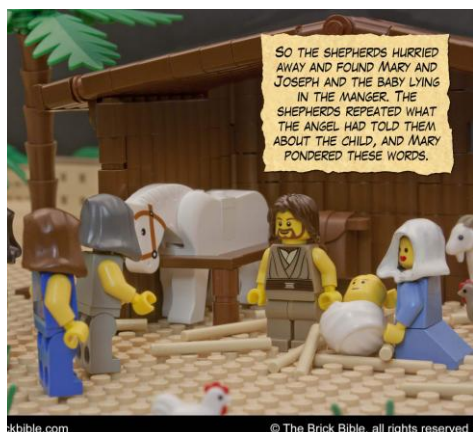
We have Publisher 2007 at home, never once used before, Publisher 2010 as work, used by one person, who's on holiday!! And Alison has state of the art Publisher.

After a few attempts, I've abandoned any attempt to do this in Publisher so prepare your eyes for a wobble here and there, some random fonts, things clipped where not intended and rude words emerging from wherever I'm working! WYSIWYG here we go!

Someone found this card last year and realised that "man-looking" doesn't just happen in our house, or even our millennium!

Happy Christmas!

Andy and Heather



Advent Prayer

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time.

Amen

Bank Top Church Contacts

Church Telephone Number		593393
Minister	Vacant	
Church Leader	Mr Andy Guthrie e:andyguts@gmail.com	591185
Secretary/Treasurer	Mrs Val Singleton e: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 Roorcroft, 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)	07770 450229
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 Lee Hall)	07761 670 560

For Baptisms, (which are held during or after the Morning Service), Weddings, Funerals, Sick Visiting or Home Communion, please contact Andy Guthrie or Val 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

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! And 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 Lee Hall
Wednesday	4.00pm – 5.00pm	Theatre School for children up to 11
Wednesday	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Adult Craft Class
Thursday	9.45am – 12.45pm	Moo Music (3 classes)
Thursday	1.30 – 2.30pm	Ladies & Babies exercise class (from Jan)
Thursday	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Bank Top Rainbows (girls from 5-7)
Thursday	7.30pm – 9.00pm	Eden Singers Choir
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 December – Luke 21:25-36
 9th December – Luke 3:1-6
 16th December – Luke 3:7-18
 23rd December – Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)
 30th December – Luke 2:41-52

6th January – Matthew 2:1-12
 13th January – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
 20th January – John 2:1-11
 27th January – Luke 4:14-21

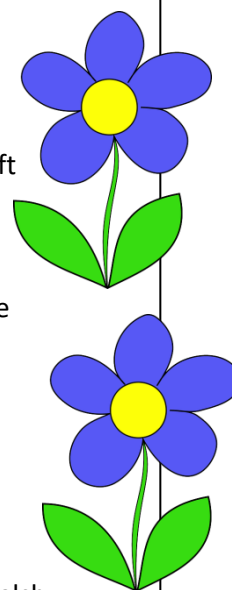
3rd February – Luke 4:21-30
 10th February – Luke 5:1-11
 17th February – Luke 6:17-26
 24th February – Luke 6:27-38

Flower List

December 2018
 2nd Ann, Alex, Carol & Jess
 9th Pauline Birch
 16th Christine Catherall
 23rd Maureen & Syd Roocroft
 30th Kath Blake

January 2019
 6th Andy & Heather Guthrie
 14th Ali Spence
 20th Pat McNulty
 27th Christine Counsell

February 2019
 3rd Jill Partington
 10th The Owens
 17th In Memory of Phyllis Walsh
 24th Val Singleton



Birthday Wishes go to:

Dec 7 13 31	Wayne Nhandara Samuel Kinyanjui Hannah Taylor
Jan 4 10 11 13 21 24	Ava Chester Theodore Marsden Lily Spence James Astley Larissa Collier Emma Johns
Feb 8 17 25	Penny Kemp Oliver Matkin Lucy Chester



Dates

Bank Top Cleaning Rota 2018/19

Dec	7th	P McNulty & C Counsell
	14th	G Naylor & D Canham
	21 st	Heather
	28 th	L Ridyard & G Brown
Jan	4 th	Vicky Constantine
	11 th	C Ridout & A Hardman
	18 th	A Myers & I Larkin
	25 th	V Singleton & M Batty
Feb	1 st	P McNulty & C Counsell
	8 th	G Naylor & D Canham
	15 th	Heather
	22 nd	L Ridyard & G Brown
March	1 st	Vicky Constantine
	8 th	C Ridout & A Hardman
	15 th	A Myers & I Larkin
	22 nd	V Singleton & M Batty
	29 th	P McNulty & C Counsell



If for any reason your name is against a date that you cannot 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 have a word with either Christine Counsell or Val Singleton.

Thank you.

“Lest We Forget?”

A few Saturdays ago Andy and I went to the Imperial War Museum at Salford Quays to see a special exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War.

First stop was outside the front of the museum to see “The Wave”, a section of the huge installation of



poppies which was displayed at the Tower of London four years ago at the centenary of the start of WW1. The original has been split up and there are photos showing other sections being admired in other cities around the country. It is very impressive and beautiful to see how each ceramic poppy has been hand-crafted and so, is unique.

Inside the museum is a very humbling and moving exhibition with original footage of what life was like for the soldiers. There are also details of the outrage expressed that at the beginning of the war because the bodies of officers were repatriated, but not those of the ordinary soldiers. Most families just received a letter from a commanding officer, examples of which are displayed, detailing the nature and circumstances of their loved ones death and, if they were lucky, a few belongings, a pipe, a comb, a diary. Not much to remember your husband, son, brother or uncle by.

This led to the decision to establish the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey, so anyone could imagine, or hope that he is their loved one. The story and film of the event is very thought provoking.

A section of the display tells how the decision was taken to set up the War Graves Commission and the detail that went into designing the headstones, They should all be rounded to the same shape – regardless of rank and faith symbols should be applied accordingly. A font was developed so that lettering would all conform to the same angle and depth. In death, all would be equal.

There are some impressive, huge pieces of war art to admire and an interesting history of the different poppies people have worn over the years, and even footage of the last scene from Blackadder Goes Forth when all the main characters go “over the top”.

Finally you are asked to vote on whether or not we should still remember those who gave so much for us, whilst admiring the wonderful model of Joey used in the stage version of “Warhorse”.



And it's free!! Except for the parking fee which is a bit steep. But all in all well worth a visit and it's open until February 24th next year.

Heather

Val's Christmas challenge ... (to us all!!)

WELL I'm no scrooge!! But, who else finds sending Christmas cards to everyone in church a slightly ridiculous exercise?

These people, we're sending cards to, we see them EVERY SUNDAY, and sometimes during the week as well. Shouldn't the whole idea of sending cards at Christmas be a way of keeping in touch with people we **don't normally** see?



Don't worry, it's not a spur of the moment thing! I have given the subject much thought. And these are the main reasons that I've come up with an alternative solution:-

- Who do we send them too?
- Do we want to leave anybody out?
- It can be embarrassing when we give cards to two people on the same row and leave the other person out! - how would we feel if we were that other person!
- But we haven't the time to write out a card for every single person That **would** take for ever!
- How many unnecessary trees are chopped down?
- What do we do with all these cards after Christmas?
- And This last reason is soooooo irritating.....
- When people bring in cards and the people they are addressed to are not in church – they leave them in the porch (their job done!) So, who do you think has to act as postman and sort them all out; look for the people in question, and hand them out? Yes, you're right – it's me!

SO hopefully, I've come up with an alternative – a very good alternative:-

- Everyone writes one card to convey their Christmas greetings, they sign it, and then pin it up on the board in church
- They then put the money, which they've saved because they've only bought the one card, into the stocking hanging on the noticeboard
- The money raised will go to a very worthy charity
- Everyone's a winner, YEH!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

PLEASE support me in this because it will only work if everyone does it.

P.S. I have already made my decision – the only cards I'm sending this Christmas are to those people I don't normally see.

Val Singleton

Charity Update

Winter Watch - Harvest Monetary Collection.

Thank you to all who contributed to this collection the total so far is £206.91. If anyone still wants to contribute they can still do so, as our cheque will not be posted immediately.

Bolton Hospice – Harvest Food Collection

We have received a letter of thanks from Bolton Hospice for all the donations of food delivered to them from our Harvest table.



Our Grub Tub

Just a reminder that we are still collecting food all the year round in our GRUB TUB .

This is emptied regularly and delivered to Urban Outreach offices where it is sorted and packed into bags ready to be distributed to those who need it on production of a voucher.

There is a list at the back of church of suggested items that are most needed.

Thank you to all our friends at Bank Top and beyond who regularly support our charities.

God Bless

Maureen

Shoebox Appeal for Samaritan's Purse

Thanks to everyone who helped send 64 wonderful boxes full of love and care to those who so need to be shown that we do love and care for them. Please know they will make someone's Christmas.

Ruth



Editor's choice for a Poetry Corner Haiku

To freeze the moment
In seventeen syllables
Is very diffic.

The People's Poet Laureate
John Cooper Clarke

BANK TOP URC

ADVENT

BRUNCH



PS *Where's the Black Pudding?* - Ed

Saturday 1st December

10:00am – 1:00pm

£4:00 adults/£1:50 children includes:

Egg/Bacon/Sausage Barm and

Mince Pie/Chocolate Log and a drink

**Many attractions; including bottle tombola, raffle
and Father Christmas**



BANK TOP URC
INVITE YOU TO JOIN US
ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON,
9TH DECEMBER 2.00pm-4.00pm
FOR AN AFTERNOON OF CHRISTMAS CHEER



2pm - 3pm Cake, mulled wine, hot vimto, tea and coffee, Christmas Quiz

3pm - 4.00pm Medley of Christmas Songs through the decades, led by our choir



Admission Free

CHRISTMAS AT BANK TOP

Sunday, 16TH December

nativity – 10.30am



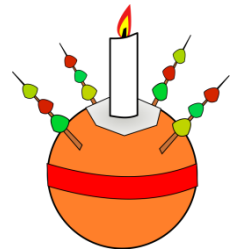
carols on the garden – 5.45pm



mulled wine & mince pies – 6.15pm



carol & christingle service – 6.30pm



Sunday 24th December

Candle-light family service including communion - 4pm



Christmas Day SHORT Family Service – 10.30am

*Merry
Christmas*

Please come and join us!!!!



Dates for your diary for 2019.....

- Church Meetings:-** Sunday, 13th January
Sunday, 7th April (A.G.M.)
Sunday, Sunday, 14th July
Sunday, 13th October
- Elders Meetings:-** Wednesday, 6th February
Wednesday, 6th March
Wednesday, 1st May
Wednesday, 5th June
Wednesday, 4th September
Wednesday, 6th November
- Branches:-** Saturday, 5th January
Saturday, 2nd February
Saturday, 2nd March
Saturday, 6th April (Easter Egg Tombola)
Saturday, 4th May
Saturday 1st June (Buffet)
Saturday, 6th July (Village Fair)
Saturday, 7th September
Saturday, 5th October
Saturday, 2nd November
Saturday, 7th December (Advent Brunch)
- Other Dates:-** Friday, 19th April (Good Friday Service)
Sunday, 21st April (Easter Sunday Service)
Sunday, 19th May (Sermons)
Sunday, 10th November (Remembrance Service)
Sunday, 17th November (Shoe Box Service)
Sunday, 15th December (Nativity & Christingle)
Sunday, 24th December (Christmas Eve Communion)
Wed, 25th December (Christmas Day Service)



Taken For Granted

Walk into any Chip Shop and all we are generally looking forward to is a meal. Then ask yourself this, the next time you are waiting at the counter: "Who delivered the fish?"

Now think about the last time you were strolling along a harbour wall looking down at low tide onto the deck of a commercial fishing boat. Gosh, look at all that equipment.

You see winches, nets, ladders, pumps, davits, rope, steel hawsers and more. Now imagine this is your workshop floor! Health and Safety would have a "Field Day" and that's only in a still harbour. Now out to sea.

The "Shop Floor" is awash as waves crash over the bow, the angle of the floor is constantly changing, its cold and slippery, there's rain, sleet or even snow to restrict visibility yet nets are hauled in and the catch has to be sorted.

Being a fisherman is the most dangerous job in peacetime. Over the past ten years over 100 lives have been lost, not to mention those who did not die, but suffered serious injuries.

So say a prayer as you put change in your charity jar as this year we are sending it all to "The Fishermen's Mission", a Christian Charity, supported only by donations!

Enjoy your fish and chips.

Syd



The Fishermen's Mission is a lifeline for many and plays a vital role in fighting poverty and despair in our fishing communities.

They do this by providing emergency and welfare support to fishermen and their families 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Here are just some of the ways we can help:

- *Providing immediate assistance to the families of fishermen who have been killed or injured*
- *Looking after survivors of fishing boat accidents by finding medical help, a bed for the night or providing a hot meal and dry clothes*
- *Supporting fishermen's families during illness, distress or financial problems*
- *Alleviating loneliness by visiting retired fishermen and their families at home or in hospital*
- *Offering welfare and support to all fishermen working in the UK fishing industry*
- *Providing Christian pastoral and practical help with problems such as debt, sickness and bereavement as well as helping to pay bills, buy food and keep house and home together.*



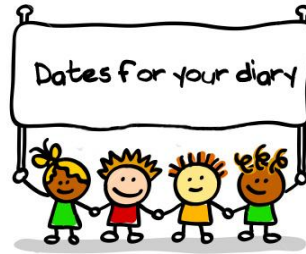
FINANCE REPORT – October 2018

OFFERTORY		CHANGE FOR CHARITY		2018
August		(Fisherman's Mission)		
Cash Collection	181.25	January		23.93
Envelope Collection	353.20	February		31.56
Standing Orders	<u>672.50</u>	March		26.07
	<u>1206.95</u>	April		22.98
September		May		22.50
Cash Collection	203.45	June		38.88
Envelope Collection	498.50	July		22.18
Standing Orders	<u>652.50</u>	August		28.85
	<u>1354.45</u>	September		21.22
October		October		20.61
Cash Collection	180.22	November		32.98
Envelope Collection	358.00	TOTAL		291.76
Standing Orders	<u>652.50</u>			
	<u>1190.72</u>			
BRUNCHES		Harvest donation to		
September	150.80	Winterwatch		206.91
October	185.60			
November	162.20			
September	Cash Prize	Lottery No		
A & R Smith	50.00	94		
A Hardman	30.00	87		
E Farrell	20.00	80		
October				
V Singleton	50.00	44		
A Dean	30.00	72		
C Catherall	20.00	18		
November				
P McNulty	50.00	19		
V Singleton for Adam	30.00	44		
C Catherall	20.00	18		
<i>A big thank you to all those who support Bank Top</i>				

What you can do to help...

- REMEMBER that the first Sunday of every month is Change for Charity (Yes, that blue bucket with fish stickers on it!)
- Pay by standing order
- Use the envelope scheme...
- If you're a taxpayer use Gift Aid
- Join the BANK TOP lottery, your family could become millionaires, but only in your great grandchildren's life time!! (Actually, that's a bit of an exaggeration, if you win every month for 55 generations, you'll be there or about!)

Any questions speak to you know who – Val!



FUTURE EVENTS: DECEMBER 2018 – FEBRUARY 2019

<u>December</u>			
Sat	1 st	10.00-1.00pm	Advent Brunch
Sun	2 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship, Betty Bamford, followed by Tea & Toast
Sun	9 th	10.30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Tue	11 th	8.00pm	Housegroup at Val's: 'Paul in Europe' please read Acts 27 - 28
Sun	16 th	10.30am 5.45pm 6.15pm 6.30pm	Nativity Service led by Sunday School 'Carols' on the Community Garden Mulled Wine and Mince Pies in Church Christingle Service
Sun	23 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship, The Worship Group
Mon	24 th	4.00pm	Christmas Eve, Candlelight, Family Service with Communion, Andy Guthrie
Tue	25 th	10.30am	Christmas Day, Family Service, Andy Guthrie
Sun	30 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Leo Roberts
<u>January</u>			
Sat	5 th	12.00-1.00pm	Brunch
Sun	6 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, David Canham followed by Tea & Toast
Tue	8 th	8.00pm	Housegroup at Val's
Sun	13 th	10.30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Tue	15 th	8.00pm	Housegroup at Val's
Sun	20 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Ray Houghton
Sun	27 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Worship Group
<u>February</u>			
Sat	2 nd	12.00-1.00pm	Brunch
Sun	3 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship, Susan Holme followed 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:
Sun	17 th	10.30am	Songs of Praise, David & Christine
Sun	24 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Darren Holland