

Bank Topics

Issue 34

September—November

Dear friends,

A friend of mine had a Brexit crisis last month. He'd booked a self-catering hol-

iday for the family of four, 2 adults and 2 children in Minorca. In contrast, Heather and I went "all inclusive" (and no children) in Mallorca or *Majorca* - spelt that way as a tribute to John Cooper Clarke's poem of the same name.

It transpired that most days he headed to Lidl to do the daily shop and discovered that his Euro's bought less and less, day by day. It was rather ironic that the week of our return was Spanish Week in Lidl here (other supermarkets are available!) so we could extend our Spanish experience.

We did not face a euro crisis because we travelled with €100 and managed to spend €7.95, all on the last day, but we really needed that brew at the airport.

They went to water parks and we sat by the pool and read books. This was great for us but highlighted a growing concern we have become aware of about reading material. There is nothing better than a good holiday read, and in theory the

answer to being only allowed 22lb of luggage (as it will surely be next year, blame Brexit!!) is the Kindle. Hundreds of books, easy to read in the sunshine or the dark. A brilliant invention. Then you come home and say to your friends, you must read this book or that book... And then you used to lend them that precious, battered, water soaked book and they could enjoy those beautifully written words... But you can't because it's on a Kindle. Even with a family account it's very hit and miss, in theory you can share, but it's not easy. Books are made for sharing and the Kindle thwarts that and probably makes someone an extra £.

Which then highlighted another issue. I have recently enjoyed reading a spy series called "Jackson Lamb" by Mick Herron. The latest in the series is out in paperback and on Amazon was £6.99, or £8.99 on the Kindle. Yes, you can re-read that. Are they working hand in hand with airline companies and their luggage allowances to force you to the Kindle option? Post holiday rush, the Kindle price is now unsurprisingly tumbling down!!!

So what were the holiday reads this year? London Rules*, afore mentioned spy story, was excellent. David Sedaris' Calypso* was beautiful and as the cover says, "Funnier and

more heartbreaking than pretty much anything out there." Stephen Fry's retelling of the Greek myths, Mythos*, was just all you'd hope and very Stephen Fry'ish. Heather still swears by Alexander McCall Smith's 44 Scotland Street* series. And if you have not read last year's hot tip, Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, there is a treat out there waiting for you.

Whilst sitting reading and people watching, it was very notable how many young adults were on holiday with their parents. This is a frightening thought, if not for the young ones, certainly for the older adults!!!!

Anyway, back at base now for the rest of this roller coaster year. A good book is for sharing, which is very true about the Good News too. With so much angst and fear building up we need to look to the bible for guidance. Go and read the 23rd Psalm and know that He will be with you, wherever this journey takes us.

We too need to be kind to those we despair over, whichever side of the fence we stand.

God bless, Andv



A 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	Christine Counsell, V Constantine, Andy Guthrie, David Canham, Graham Naylor, Linda Rainford, Carol Rideout, Lynn Ridyard, Maureen Roocroft, Val Singleton, Julie Skid- more.	
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	
Theatre Works	Wednesday from 4.00 -5.00 (Contact Lauren Bateman) 07999 63420	
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)
Wednesday	10.00am - 11.15am	Weight Watchers with Lee
Wednesday	4.00pm - 5.00pm	Theatre School for children up to 11
Wednesday	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Adult Craft Class
Thursday	9.45am - 11.45pm	Moo Music (2 classes)
Thursday	1.30 - 2.30pm	Sweaty Mama (fun workouts with your child)
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

1st September—Luke 14:1, 7-14 8th September— Luke 14:25-33 15th September— Luke 15:1-10 22nd September— Luke 16:1-13 29th September— Luke 16:19-31

6th October—Luke 17:5-10 13th October—Luke 17:11-19 20th October— Luke 18:1-8 27th October— Luke 18:9-14

3rd November— Luke 19:1-10 10th November— Luke 20:27-38 17th November— Luke 21:5-19 24th November— Luke 23:33-43



Flower List

September

1st Vicky Constantine

8th Jean Short

15th HARVEST - Elder

22nd In Memory of Phyllis Walsh

29th Val & Jill

October

6th Ann & Richard Smith 13th Vicky Constantine

20th In Memory of Clarice Bickerstaff27th In Memory of Kath Tyldesley

November

3rd Marian & Harry Batty

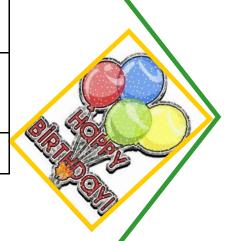
10th Muriel Brown17th Julie Skidmore

24th Ali Spence

Birthday wishes go to:



Grace Matkin
Sean Nhandara
Aiden McDermid
Katie Hunter
Isabelle Dean
Sophie Kinyanjui



DATES	Bank	Top	Cleaning	Rota
		·	Uluming	11010

Sept 6th Val

13th P McNulty & C Counsell 20th G Naylor & D Canham

27th Heather

Oct 4th L Ridyard & G Brown

11th Vicky

18th C Ridout & A Hardman 25th A Myers & M Batty

Nov 1st Val

8th P McNulty & C Counsell

15th G Naylor & D Canham

22nd Heather

29th L Ridyard & G Brown

Dec 6th Vicky

13th C Ridout & A Hardman 20th A Myers & M Batty

27th Val



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

Some members of the congregation use the URC Daily Devotions and have shared pieces they have liked recently:

I would like to share an article with you; from URC Daily Devotions, on Friday, 16th August. The reading is taken from Romans 1:1-7 and it is a letter written by Paul to the Romans:

'From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus and an apostle chosen and called by God to preach his Good News. The Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets, as written in the Holy Scriptures (the Old Testament.) It is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; as to his humanity, he was born a descendant of David; as to his divine holiness, he was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death. Through him God gave me the privilege of being an apostle for the sake of Christ, in order to lead people of all nations to believe and obey. This also includes you, who are in Rome, whom God has called to belong to Jesus Christ. And so, I write to all of you in Rome, whom God loves and has called to be his own prophets: May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace."

Paul was writing to a Christian community of Jewish origin; a community he did not establish and had never previously visited. He calls himself a servant of Christ. It may be that he was trying to show that what he had preached agreed with what the Romans believed, or perhaps he was merely trying to express that even though they had never met, they had one thing in common: a new identity in Christ.

There are many things that shape our identity. Our life stories; our relationships with family, partners and friends; our work and our interests; our goals in life. To what extent have your life experiences been shaped and challenged by the encounter with Christ? If you were asked to introduce yourself, what story would you tell?

PRAYER

God of love, called by you, may we know who we are:

You call us beloved,

You call us to belonging,

You call us to follow

You call us to be holy,

You call us to be saints.

In all that we are,

In all that we say and do,

May we share your grace and peace

And by our love may the world know that we are yours. Amen

Val Singleton

From 2nd August

Heavenly Father,

forgive us for the times when busyness crowds you out of our day and we are forced to carry on in our own strength. Help us to find those precious moments to spend time with you each and every day, to listen for your voice, your guidance and your wisdom, to rejoice with you for the good times and to feel your comforting presence when things are not going well.

Amen

From 15th August

Living God,

you are the source of all wisdom.

Make me wise to see all things against the background of eternity, and make me brave to face all the changes in my life which such a vision may entail,

through the grace of Jesus Christ my saviour,

Amen.

Christine Counsell

Toy service—time for a change?

What do you think?



Our toy service is held annually each November. Over the past 25 years or so, we have supported the SAMARITANS PURSE by filling shoe boxes with gifts for children. About three years ago, they put the cost of postage up to £5 per box. Needless to say, lots of us thought this was too much to add to the cost of items in each box, especially as many people also filled several boxes.

At an Elders meeting, I mentioned that I would look into an alternative charity that supports children, 'Bolton Lions' being one. They are part of 'Lions International. They collect toys, both new and 'good as new', and these are stored in a warehouse ready to be sorted in time for Christmas. Lists of children who will receive them are provided by Social Service, schools, churches etc. Each child receives 5 or 6 gifts.

So all we have to do now, if at Bank Top we agree with this change, is to start collecting. We have until mid November's toy service when someone will come from the Lions to collect our gifts.

Your thought on this would be appreciated.

God Bless and thank-you for your support of ALL our charities.

Maureen Roocroft

BANK TOP GUIDES IN SWITZERLAND

Well! After all that fundraising (nearly £9,000); we finally made it to the big day. We met at Bank Top on Sunday, 4^{th} August at 4.00am - tooooo early!!!! But the girls were mega excited and we very soon got into the swing of it. Manchester airport was very, very busy (no surprise there), and although we arrived in good time we didn't have any time to spare and once through bag drop off and security, it was straight onto the plane.

We had three trains to take from the airport: Geneva-Bern, Bern-Interlaken Ost and Interlaken-Grindelwald; then a bus from Grindelwald to our Youth Hostel, which was out of town (at the top of a steep hill!!) We finally arrived at our destination at 6.30pm - very hot and sweaty and certainly ready for a sit down and tea.

For the next five days our days were action packed - early mornings and late nights; but we needed to make the most of the beautiful scenery by seeing as many places as we could fit in. The girls were brilliant; well behaved, well dressed and a credit to us and the Girl Guide movement. Each day we decided which colour polo shirts to wear (red, blue and purple) so that we all looked the same - easy to spot - we got many compliments! The girls were also very happy and friendships were forged.

Day One:

We visited Adelboden, which involved 3 trains and a bus to get there, but it was well worth it. We had some free time there before we went to the top of the mountains in a cable car; the views from the top were amazing and to top it all there was a bit of a park with a big covered in slide, and a huge swing that seemed to swing out over the edge!! The girls loved it. Once back down in Adelboden we had tea in a café before the long walk up to the Guiding World Centre - 'Our Chalet'; we had been invited to join in an International Evening. But first we needed a well-earned rest; we then went into the gift shop and then we enrolled two of our girls as Young Leaders (Livvie Fox-Roberts and Lucy Johns.) What fabulous memories those two girls have of being enrolled around the flag pole of a world centre, at the top of a mountain with breathtaking views. The International Evening required each group to provide a seven minute presentation, and we were first off!! We introduced ourselves and then we sang three songs (with actions) which we asked everyone to join in with. I have to say that we were very good and definitely set a high standard! As it was late when the event finished, we had a coach booked for the return journey which proved quite eventful. The driver provided us with sweets and bottles of water, which was very kind of him, before asking the girls if they liked music. However, we didn't anticipate the kind of music he would play! It was very loud, with lots of yodelling! And the louder it got, the faster he drove!!

Day Two:

We did make it back the previous evening and today, which was Tuesday, we were off to the top of the Schynige Platte on a little wooden train. The views at the top were spectacular. We ate our lunch up there and also had free time to spend going around the alpine garden, listening to the cow bells below and visiting the café. The weather was fantastic, the views were amazing, and what were some of our girls doing? Playing Uno!! Well maybe they won't remember the views but they may remember playing cards high up high on the mountain!!

In the afternoon we made our way to Interlaken, where we got on a boat to cruise Lake Brienz. It was still very hot and we encouraged the girls to reapply sun screen and bought them all ice lollies to cool down. Little did we know what was to come as we sat there relaxing!! Suddenly the boat was surrounded by black clouds, the water became rough, and lighting lit up the sky, followed by thunder and heavy rain. The girls thought it was the most exciting part of the holiday!! By the time we got off the boat, the rain had almost stopped and we didn't even get wet - very lucky!

Day Three:

We awoke to rain and it was very dark - not really the day to go up in a cable car from Grindelwald to toboggan! We made the decision to go up hoping that the rain would clear; however, it didn't, the toboggan run was closed and so we all went into the café at the top and we bought the girls hot chocolate and chips (it was only 11am in the morning!). Once back down the mountain we decided to skip the open air pool and instead chose to go into Interlaken on the train, where there was an indoor swimming pool. We spent a lovely afternoon there, in a fantastic pool and the girls really enjoyed themselves. When we got back outside the rain had stopped and we were able to give them some free time in Interlaken before our train back to the Hostel.

BANK TOP GUIDES IN SWITZERLAND

Day Four:

The weather had greatly improved - blue skies and very warm as we set off to Wengen on the train. The views of the Jungfrau from the train were fabulous. Once in Wengen we had some free time and then we got the cable car up to the top of the Mannlichen. At the top we ate our packed lunches surrounded by fabulous views of the Eiger, Monch and the Jungfrau. There was even a park at the top which the girls enjoyed before beginning our long walk down and around the mountain into Kleine Scheidegg. Once in Kleine Scheidegg we had some free time before our train back to Grindelwald

Day Five:

Our last day had arrived and we were off back to Adelboden to visit the Wood Carver (3 trains and a bus!) The walk from the bus to the Wood Carver took us along a valley with panoramic views of the gentle mountainside, dotted with chalets - breathtaking! The day was very hot and we had to make sure the girls kept hydrated. We ate our packed lunches on a bridge which was the only bit of shade we could find. Once we arrived we bought them all drinks and ice creams to cool down. We had preordered wooden guide badges and woggles with their names on which we handed out and the girls had time to browse around the shop to buy gifts for their friends and families. We arrived back at the bus stop early and in time for an earlier bus - so we thought!! The driver wouldn't let us all on as we hadn't got a reservation - our reservation was for a later bus!! Rather than wait two hours at the bus stop we made the decision to walk up into Adelboden. I think this was the right decision, but not sure some of the leaders would agree! The walk took nearly an hour and a half and it was a very, very steep walk - in the heat of the sun!! Anyway, we all eventually made it after several stops (not for the girls!) and we managed to make it for our reserved bus.

Home!

We were all sad to be going home so soon. It had been a great holiday for us all and one I hope will make lasting memories for all our girls - I could get quite upset at this point, thinking that as leaders we are creating something special for our girls.

Val, Vicky, Elizabeth, Andrea, Andrea, Sharon, Eileen, Emily



BANK TOP GUIDES IN SWITZERLAND



Outside 'Our Chalet'



Walking from the top of the Mannlichen to Kleine Scheidegg

BANK TOP URC BRUNCH 12:00am – 1:00pm





SATURDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER

ADULTS £4/CHILDREN £1.50 (Includes: Main Meal, Dessert and a Drink)

Come and join us for good company and friendship in a warm atmosphere!



SERVICE: SUNDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER 10:30am

THE SERVICE WILL BE LED BY OUR WORSHIP GROUP Do come along and join us at this very informal service

At the service there will be the opportunity to either:

Donate gifts of money to Winterwatch, or

Items for Bolton Hospice: Fresh fruit and Veg; dried foods such as rice, pasta, sugar, packet cake & biscuits (not home-made) tea, coffee; tinned fruit & veg and Sqash etc

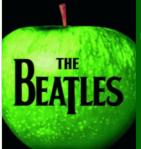


HARVEST SUPPER CONCERT

Tribute To The Beatles &

A Little Bit Of Country

Friday 1st Nov 7:30pm Bank Top United Reformed Church 230 Ashworth Lane, Bolton BL1 8RX



Performed by the

The Eden Singers



The concert is in aid of raising funds for



<u>Ticket Price £6:</u> includes pasty/peas/drink For Tickets Contact: 07971-272-772

Elders & Church Meeting Dates for 2019

Sunday	13 th January	Church Meeting
Wednesday	6 th February	Elders Meeting
Wednesday	6 th March	Elders Meeting
Sunday	7 th April	AGM
Wednesday	1 st May	Elders Meeting
Wednesday	5 th June	Elders Meeting
Sunday	7 th July	Church Meeting
Wednesday	4 th September	Elders
Sunday	6 th October	Church Meeting
Wednesday	6 th November	Elders Meeting



ARE BRILLIANT CHURCH MEETINGS

Saturday Brunch Dates

5th January 2nd February

2nd March 6th April (Easter Egg Tombola) 4th May

1st June (Buffet)

6th July (Village Fair) 7th September 5th October

2nd November

7th December (Advent Brunch)





Other dates for your diary

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)
Tuesday, 24th December (Christmas Eve Communion)
Wed, 25th December (Christmas Day Service)

		FINANC	E REPORT	
<u>OFFERTORY</u>			CHARITIES	
<u>May</u>			Jars of Change for Charity	
Cash Collection	175.84			orever Angels
Envelope Collection	340.00		Feb	29.37
Standing Orders	<u>702.50</u>		March	11.89
	<u>1218.34</u>		April	46.73
<u>June</u>			May	11.37
Cash Collection	201.85		June	26.04
Envelope Collection	507.60		July	29.10
Standing Orders	<u>682.50</u>		August	7.68
	<u>1391.95</u>		Current Total	162.18
<u>July</u>				
Cash Collection	123.37			
Envelope Collection	374.90		_	
Standing Orders	<u>742.50</u>			
	<u>1240.77</u>			
<u>BRUNCHES</u>				
May	236.80			
June	71.00			
VILLAGE FAIR	2653.00			
50/50				
June	Cash Prize	Lottery No		
I Larkin	50.00	25		
J Poole	30.00	54		
M Roocroft	20.00			
<u>July</u>				
K Dean	50.00	83		
A&R Smith	30.00	84		
L Rainford	20.00	56		
August				
A Dean	50.00	72		
J Marsden	30.00			
A Guthrie				
A Guuiile	20.00	22		

FUTURE EVENTS: SEPTEMBER — NOVEMBER



<u>September</u>			
Sun	1 st	10.30am	Morning Worship, Betty Bamford
Wed	4 th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sat	7^{th}	12.00:1.00pm 12.00:4.00pm	Brunch Ashworth Lane Allotments sale of produce
Sun	8 th	10.30am	Communion Service, Andy, followed by tea and toast
Sunday	15 th	10.30am	Harvest: Family Service/Church Parade led by The Worship Group
Sun	22 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship, Alan Nuttall
Sun	29 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Adrian Yapp
October			
Sat	5 th	12.00:1.00pm	Brunch
Sun	6 th	10.30am 11.30am	Morning Worship, George Grime Church Meeting with Tea & Toast
Sun	13 th	10.30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Sun	20 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Mark Curtis
Tue	22 nd	8.00pm	Housegroup at Val's. Jacob – 'Faith for the Future' Please read Hebrews 11:20-22 and Genesis 48:1-22
Sun	27 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Ray Houghton
November			
Fri	1st	7.30pm	The Eden Singers: Country and Beatles, followed by Pastie and Peas
Sat	2 nd	12.00:1.00pm	Brunch
Sun	3 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship, Dave Bagley, followed by Tea & Toast
Wed	6 th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting
Sun	10 th	10.30am	Remembrance/Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Tue	12 th	8.00pm	Housegroup at Val's. Moses - 'Resting on a Trustworthy God' Please read Hebrews 11:23-29 and Exodus 12:21-36
Sun	17 th	10.30am	Family Service/Church Parade/Toy Service led by The Worship Group
Sun	24 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Frank Iddon
Tue	26 th	8.00pm	Housegroup at Val's. Rahab – 'Facing our Fears' Please read Hebrews 11:30-31 and Joshua 2:1-21