

# BANK



# TOPICS

## NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER TO JANUARY 2023

Dear Friends

In these torrid times we need to keep our hopes alive and buoyed by our Christian faith. Yes, the months ahead may incorporate struggles that we could not imagine we would need to face even after lockdowns, but as we're told in Matthew Chapter 28, v20 "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world."

Of course, as one of our congregation said last week - "With Putin around we may not need to wait too long for the end of world."

But there are words of comfort to be gathered and held close "All shall be well: and you shall see, yourself, that all manner of thing shall be well." For those of you rushing for your concordance you will be disappointed.

These words were written by a fourteenth-century mystic called Julian of Norwich. She wrote the first book written in the English language by a woman, *The Revelations of Devine Love*. She lived as a hermit in a cell attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich. And you can still go and see her cell today. It does appear that her life was more "glamping" than hard-core hermitage.

We know very little of her personal life, we don't even know her name, but her teaching on the contemplative life and her meditation on her experience of God's love continues to resonate today. In particular, she lived through two periods of plague, in which she nearly lost her own life and experienced the deaths of those close to her.

As a young woman she asked for three gifts from God (although she called them wounds!) contrition for her sins, compassion and a longing for God – gifts that might indeed serve us well in this time of uncertainty.

As fourteenth-century mystics might do she wanted a deeper love of Christ, so she appealed to God for two things: a stronger understanding of Christ's passion and a sickness "unto death while still young," allowing her to experience all that a body and soul experience in death but without actual death—so that she might learn to live her life more mindful of God.

It seems her unusual prayer was answered. Julian became "deathly" ill. Everyone around her despaired of her life. She also believed she was dying, and the last rites were administered to her. Then a wonderful thing happened: Julian experienced what we might describe as a near-death experience. At the crisis of her sickness, she receives fifteen revelations (she calls them "showings.") She reports that the heavens opened to her, she saw Christ in his glory, and she saw the meaning and power of his sufferings. Her strange prayer was answered.

In her thirteenth showing, Julian receives an answer to a question that has long troubled her: Why does God allow sin? If God stopped sin, the world would be well...But Jesus, said to her: "It was necessary that there should be sin; but all shall be well: and you shall see, yourself, that all manner of thing shall be well." And she noted that these words were said "most tenderly, showing no manner of blame to me nor to any who shall be saved."

May we hold onto her gifts, words and thoughts in the months ahead

Blessings Andy

**BANK TOP UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - CONTACTS**

Church Telephone No		01204 593393
Minister	Rev Jacky Embrey	01204 843783
Church Leader	Mr A Guthrie - andyguts@gmail.com	01204 591185
Secretary/Treasurer	Mrs V Singleton - singletonv@hotmail.com	01204 305401
Church Hall Hire	Mrs V Singleton - singletonv@hotmail.com	01204 305401
Pulpit Supply	Mrs J Skidmore	01204 307130
Flower Secretaries	Mrs M Flitcroft Mrs C Rideout	01204 301328, 1204 596360
Newsletter Editor	Linda Rainford lindarainford@btinternet.com	01204 667095
Serving Elders	David Canham, Christine Counsell, Andy Guthrie, Graham Naylor, Linda Rainford, Carol Rideout, Lynn Ridyard, Val Singleton, Julie Skidmore	
Sunday Worship	10.30am Morning Service and Sunday School. Church Parade 4th Sunday of the month in Jan, Sept, Nov, and Sermons	
Bank Top Artists	Monday, 1-3pm contact Mrs V Singleton	01204 305401
Bank Top/The Oaks Brownies	Monday 5.45-7.00pm, contact Miss E Farrell or Mrs C Greenen	07770 450 229 01204 592594
Guides	Monday 7.30-9.15pm, contact Mrs V Constantine	07806 789757
Toddler Group	Tuesday 9-11.00 am. contact Mrs V Singleton	01204 305401
House Group	Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month, at the home of Val Singleton	01204 305401 07971 272 772
Theatre Works	Wednesday 4-5.00pm contact Lauren Bateman	07999 634 208
Adult Craft Class	Wednesday 7-9.00pm contact Jean Greer	01204 594127
Rainbows	Thursday 6-7.00pm contact Mrs E Robinson	07510 895 470
Eden Singers	Thursday 7.30-9.00pm, contact Adrian Yapp	07766 140 386
Brunches	1st Saturday of the Month, (excluding August) from 12-1.00pm	01204 305401
For Baptisms, 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 scheme, please contact V Singleton		
We also have a Memorial Fund - contact V Singleton		
We have a 50/50 Club which is drawn each month – please see Val Singleton for more information		
Bank Top is a member of the Bolton and Salford Missional Partnership		



## CLEANING ROTA

### NOVEMBER

4<sup>th</sup> Heather  
11<sup>th</sup> Val & Andrea  
18<sup>th</sup> Christine & Pat  
25<sup>th</sup> Graham & Linda

### DECEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup> Carol  
9<sup>th</sup> Heather  
16<sup>th</sup> Val & Andrea  
23<sup>rd</sup> Christine & Pat  
30<sup>th</sup> Graham & Linda

### JANUARY

6<sup>th</sup> Carol  
13<sup>th</sup> Heather  
20<sup>th</sup> Val & Andrea  
27<sup>th</sup> Christine & Pat



## FLOWER LIST

### NOVEMBER

6<sup>th</sup> Marion & Harry Batty  
13<sup>th</sup> Muriel Brown  
20<sup>th</sup> Julie Skidmore  
27<sup>th</sup> Irene Larkin

### DECEMBER

4<sup>th</sup> Pauline Birch  
11<sup>th</sup> Christine Catherall  
18<sup>th</sup> Maureen & Sid Roocroft  
25<sup>th</sup> Kath Blake

### JANUARY

1<sup>st</sup> Andy & Heather Guthrie  
8<sup>th</sup> Ali Spence  
15<sup>th</sup> Pat Mc Nulty  
22<sup>nd</sup> Christine Counsell  
29<sup>th</sup> Vacant

**If for any reason you can't manage the cleaning on the selected day, please try to swap with someone else on the rota.**

**If you wish to go on the cleaning rota, please have a word with either Christine Counsell or Val Singleton**

**There are still some vacancies on the Flower List for 2022. Please see Carol or Maureen if you wish to go on the list**

**A HUGE THANK YOU FOR ALL THOSE WHO CLEAN OUR CHURCH EACH WEEK SO THAT WE CAN WORSHIP IN A LOVELY CLEAN BUILDING**

**THANK YOU ALSO TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED FLOWERS FOR OUR ALTAR TABLE IN 2021. THESE FLOWERS ARE TAKEN OUT TO PEOPLE EACH WEEK AND THEY ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED**



## **BIBLE READINGS**

### **NOVEMBER**

6<sup>th</sup> Luke 20: 27 -38  
13<sup>th</sup> Luke 21: 5-19  
20<sup>th</sup> Luke 23: 33-43  
27<sup>th</sup> Matthew 24: 36-44

### **DECEMBER**

4<sup>th</sup> Matthew 3: 1-12  
11<sup>th</sup> Matthew 11: 2-11  
18<sup>th</sup> Matthew 1: 18-25  
25<sup>th</sup> Luke 2: 1-21

### **JANUARY**

1<sup>st</sup> Matthew 2:1-12  
8<sup>th</sup> Matthew 3: 13-17  
15<sup>th</sup> John 1:29-42  
22<sup>nd</sup> Matthew 4:12-23  
29<sup>th</sup> Matthew 5: 1-12

## **BANK TOP FAMILY NEWS**



November Sophie Kinyanjui  
December Samuel Kinyanjui  
January Lily Spence

**We hope you all have a great day  
Xxxx**

# 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	10.30 – 11.45	Morning Worship Incl Sunday School
Monday	13.00 – 15.00	Bank Top Artists Term Time Only
Monday	17.45 – 19.15	Bank Top Brownies (girls 7-10)
Monday	19.30 – 21.15	Bank Top Guides girls (10-15)
Tuesday	0900 – 11.00	Toddler Group Term Time Only
Tuesday	19.30 – 21.00	Ladies Fellowship (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)
Tuesday	20.00 – 22.00	Bible Study at Val's House (2 <sup>nd</sup> &4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday)
Wednesday	16.00 – 17.00	Theatre School for children up to 11
Wednesday	19.00 – 21.00	Adult Craft Class
Thursday	18.00 – 19.00	Bank Top Rainbows (girls from 5-7)
Thursday	19.30 – 21.00	Eden Singers Choir
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of each Month	12.00 – 13.00	Bank Top Lunches, Main Course, Dessert and Drink £5.00/£2.00 (children)

For more information about any of the above please check out contacts on the inside cover of the Newsletter or call:

Val Singleton: Tel: 01204 305401

Mob: 07971 272772

Email: [singletonv@hotmail.com](mailto:singletonv@hotmail.com)

Q: IS IT TRUE...  
AS YOU GET OLDER  
YOUR EYESIGHT  
GOES A BIT?

YES

NO

As I get older, all I need in life is a Specsavers, a Boots and a Greggs...

Yep, life is all specs and drugs and sausage rolls!





Ken Taylor, from Cradle of Hope

Advent says Christmas is coming —but it is more than a countdown, and more than a warning that the time is short for all we have to do:  
Advent is for preparing - not only for Christmas but for preparing ourselves,

Advent is for waiting not only for Christmas to come but for waiting ‘on the Lord’ in stillness and in silence,

Advent is for watching not only for the postman but for Christ when he comes,  
Advent believes that Christ is coming and talks of hope at the end of time, at the end of life.  
And so, for generations, in Advent,

### A Christmas Poem from our Resident Bard



### *The Travellers*

The Christmas Star is shining high up in the sky  
As camels and their riders are quickly riding by  
They are weary travellers riding from afar  
As they keep on following the brightly twinkling star  
Resting by the day, waiting for the night  
When the star appears again shining Oh so bright!  
The travellers continue as far as they are able,  
Until at last they arrive at a lowly stable.  
The travellers dismount and enter the lamp lit gloom  
And there as they peer into the cosy room  
They see a young baby asleep in the hay  
His young mother beside him on this special day.  
The travellers kneel before the baby lying there  
They offer him treasures of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.  
For they know that this baby ever so small  
Lying asleep in the poor cattle stall

people looked to the future, for the Second Coming and the end of time.

And I believe that the End is Christ:  
that when I come to the end of my time  
Christ will be there; that when human history comes to the end  
Christ will be there.  
Beyond that, beyond What We can see,  
I dare not hazard a guess and will not limit hope.

But Advent believes that Christ is coming not only at the end of time, but now.

Advent is watching  
to see what he is doing in the world and watching for Christ coming to you, you recognising and receiving him, him bringing you peace and joy and setting you free.

Is the King of Heaven come down to earth  
Angels sang praises to announce his birth  
Shepherds on hillsides heard their glad son  
They left their sheep and hurried along  
To see this baby so lowly, so small  
God’s own dear son born to save us all.  
Two thousand years have rolled away  
Since that very first Christmas Day  
So, let’s not forget amidst all the fun  
To celebrate the gift of God’s precious Son  
To share his message of love to each other  
With friends and family, each sister and brother  
With all who we might meet,  
As we walk down the street,  
Wishing each one a happy life  
Free from trouble, free from strife  
Good will to all from you and from me  
For a happy and healthy 2023.

Christine Catherall, November 2022

# SEASONAL QUIZ (well chocolate and sweets are seasonal)

*Submitted by Marion Batty*

SWEET SENSATIONS (spot the well-known goodies)

1. Wobbly Infants
2. Wise Guys
3. Edible Fasteners
4. Pirates Loot
5. 100% Precious Metals
6. Say it Quietly
7. Royal Herb
8. Teddy Bears Snack
9. Sport for Princes
10. Stars and Planets
11. Ten Cents Choc
12. Belly Dancer, perhaps
13. Almost a Cat Food
14. 9,10,11,12
15. Seen at the Races
16. Homes for "Tipsy" Teeth
17. Eating Flowers
18. Various Girls
19. Big Bus
20. Dark Mysterious Spell

See Linda for Answers

## BANK TOP WALKING GROUP



We walk once a month, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. We usually do around 5 miles in the local area – if we need to travel by car to our start point, then we can offer lifts to anyone without transport. Marian Batty is our leader, and we have really enjoyed our Saturday afternoons. We walk, we chat, we laugh, we create friendships. Why not join us!

BANK TOP URC

# ADVENT BRUNCH



Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

10:00am - 1:00pm

£5:00 adults/£2.00 children; includes:  
Egg/Bacon/Sausage Barm and  
Mince Pie/Chocolate Roll and a drink

Many attractions; including bottle tombola, raffle, cake stall and Father Christmas





## **TOY SERVICE – SUNDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

Once again, we will be collecting toys and books for Bolton Lions which will be handed out to needy children this Christmas

All toys should be new or in excellent conditions

Please give generously to this very worthy charity.

Items can be brought into church on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> November or if you are unable to attend this service, they can be handed in any time before that date.

Thank you

## **WARM COATS AND JACKETS**

Turton Rotary are collecting coats and jackets to give out to people in need this winter. We have a collection box at church which we hope to fill by the 14<sup>th</sup> November

If you have any unwanted coats or jackets, we would love to receive them.

Thank you

## **WARM HUBS THIS WINTER**

**WHERE?** HERE AT BANK TOP CHURCH

**WHEN?** FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, EVERY MONDAY MORNING

**WHAT TIME?** 10.00am – 12.30pm

We are all expecting the winter months to be difficult this winter and for some people particularly, keeping warm with the fuel costs rising, will be very hard.

At Bank Top we are opening our doors to local people each Monday, from 10.00am to 12.30pm, starting from Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November.

If you find the winter months difficult then come along and have a chat in a warm building and make new friends.

We will be serving tea, coffee, and biscuits/cake throughout the morning, plus a snack at lunchtime. Why not come along and join us – everyone welcome.

## FINANCE REPORT from your Treasurer, Val

MONTH	CASH COLLECTION	ENVELOPES	STANDING ORDERS
July	230.01	344.00	860.00
August	195.29	263.00	860.00
September	308.47	258.10	880.00
Totals	<b>733.77</b>	<b>865.10</b>	<b>2600.00</b>

Brunches		Charities
September	171.15	A Rocha 50.00
October	158.60	Urban Outreach 158.00

**Our chosen charity for this year is Fortalice raised so far £283.81**

### 50/50 Winners

Month	Winner	Number	Amount
July	C. Catherall	68	50
	J. Poole	54	30
	A Smith	62	20
August	A Dean	72	50
	M Flitcroft	27	30
	M Flitcroft	21	20
September	D Myers	2	50
	D Canham	91	30
	J Greer	66	10
October	J Partington	45	50
	M Flitcroft	26	30
	R Marsden	76	20

#### MEETING DATES 2022

November 2nd	Elders
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	Church Meeting

#### OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Armistice Day
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Toy Service
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols on Community Garden
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Day Family Service

A big thank you to all those who have continued to offer their support throughout the year by giving of money, time and talents.

Obviously, as your treasurer, it is my job to keep our church finances in good order and to inform you via Church Meetings etc of how things are. In 2022 our offerings have been fairly consistent and our balance at the bank remains quite healthy. We have lost some members since Covid, but we have been lucky to have gained new people and families over the year. We hope all our newcomers have found fellowship and friendship within our church family, and we look forward to getting to know you all even better in the future.

As we near the end of the year, I would just like to ask people about their giving for 2023. If you pay by cash each week, have you thought about using our weekly envelopes or better still, setting up a Standing Order with your bank. If you would like to do either of these from 2023, please have a word with me; I have envelopes for next year and I also have some Standing Order forms. If you use either the envelopes or Standing Orders for your offerings, and you pay Income Tax, then we are able to claim the tax back on your contributions. This year we were able to claim back through Gift Aid the sum of £4,044, so well worth doing.

For those who don't know, we run a 50/50 club, which is drawn each month at Brunch. It's only £24 for one number for the year, and you get an opportunity to win a cash prize of £50, £30 or £20 each month. And more importantly, it provides church with an income of £1,200 per year. See me if you would like a number for next year.

Thank you once again for your generous support in everything. – Val Singleton

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### FUTURE EVENTS: NOVEMBER 2022 – JANUARY 2023

<b>November 2022</b>			
Wed	2 <sup>nd</sup>	19.30	Elders Meeting
Sat	5 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 – 13.00	Saturday Brunch
Sun	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Morning Service, Leo Roberts followed by Tea&Toast
Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Remembrance Day/Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Sun	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Toy Service/Church Parade, The Worship Group
Tues	22 <sup>nd</sup>	19.30	Advent Study week 1 in church led by Jacky Embrey
Sun	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Morning Service, Mark Bates
Tues	29 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	Advent Study, week 2, in church led by Jacky Embrey
<b>December 2022</b>			
Sat	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 – 13.00	Advent Brunch
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Christmas Songs of Praise led by David Canham
Tues	6 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	Advent Study, week 3 in Church led by Rev Jacky Embrey
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Communion Service, Jacky Embrey, welcome to New Church Members
Sun	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Nativity
Sun	18 <sup>th</sup>	17.45	Carols on the Community Garden
Sun	18 <sup>th</sup>	18.30	Christingle Service
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Christmas Day Family Service
<b>January 2023</b>			
Sun	1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30	Morning Service, Andy Guthrie
Sat	7 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 – 13.00	Saturday Brunch
Sun	8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie, Church Meeting, Tea & Toast
Tues	10 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	House Group at Val's. The 12 Disciples, Study 4: James, please read Luke 9:51-56 and Acts 12:1-2
Sun	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Morning Service, Ray Houghton
Sun	22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30	Morning Service, The Worship Group
Tues	24 <sup>th</sup>	19.30	House Group at Val's The 12 Disciples Study 5 please read John 6:1-13
Sun	29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Morning Service, Garry Hammond

**This Newsletter has been e-mailed to all those currently on Val's email list. A limited number of copies will still be available in church for those people who are not**