

# BANK



# TOPICS

## NEWSLETTER FOR MAY TO JULY 2023

Dear Friends,

I was told off this week.

I was sitting in the car, and I got told off!

Was I being a bad driver?

Was I sitting in a yellow box?

Was I tossing an empty can of lager out of the car window?

Was I preparing to set off like an arthritic snail when the lights changed?

(You may be getting the feel of what may annoy me in the car...)

Was I caught picking my nose?

No, none of those.

Who told me off?

A cantankerous old driver who appeared to neither to see or hear other road users?

A driver in a dark windowed “executive” model, who appeared to have no indicators?

A mad lycra clad cyclist going through the lights on red?

A passing pedestrian unaware of the world, apart from the screen under their nose?

No, none of those either.

(That’s also covered most of my stereotypes who may annoy me)

Astonishingly

It was a man on the radio,

A man on Radio 4, no less.

And he accused me of being lazy.

He accused me of being LAZY because I prayed for the people of Sudan.

I’d said in my swimming pool prayer “I pray for the people of Sudan, and I pray for...”

The Rev Dr Sam Wells said I needed to do a bit of work before I ask God to intercede.

- I need to understand the situation as best I can.
- I need to work out what I can do.
- Then... I can hand it over to God to do the rest.

So, he said, my prayer may be better thought through as:

- *I pray for the hearts of leaders relentlessly determined on violence,*
- *I pray for the strength of all who protect the vulnerable,*
- *I pray that other Governments and NGOs will intervene and diffuse the conflict and its effect.*

For those of you online, you can listen to him <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0fhjh9s>

Your homework is now to work out how you’d re-write “And we pray for all of those in close proximity to Dominic Raab.”

So, I'm sharing Sam's thought for the day because it brings purpose to our prayer and maybe next time, I'll not be lazy. And if I am, you can remind me not to be.

Anyway, it appears that summer is trying to bustle past spring and fill my upper room with warmth.

May you, too, be filled with warmth and know the love of God in your lives, whether in the brightness of the garden, or the gloomiest corner of your house.

Blessings

Andy

# 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.



## **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
Church Organists	Mr G Naylor Mrs A Spence	
Pulpit Supply	Mrs J Skidmore	01204 307130
	Mrs Maureen Flitcroft	01204 301328,01204 596360
Flower Secretaries	Mrs Carol Rideout	
Newsletter Editor	Miss L Rainford, lindarainford@btinternet.com	01204 667095 or 07808172662
Serving Elders	Marian Batty, David Canham, Christine Counsell, Andy Guthrie, Irene Larkin, Andrea Myers, Graham Naylor, Linda Rainford, Carol Rideout, 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 5:45-7:15pm, contact Miss E Farrell and Mrs C Greenen	07770 450 229 01204 592594
Guides	Monday 7:30-9:15pm, contact Mrs V Constantine	01204 593034
Housegroup	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm contact Mrs V Singleton	01204 305401
Mums & Toddlers	Tuesday 9-11:00am, contact Mrs V Singleton	01204 305401
Ladies Fellowship	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 contact Mrs Helen Seager	01204 300666
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 5:45-6:45pm contact Mrs E Robinson	07510 895 470
Eden Singers	Thursday 7.30-9.15pm, Adrian Yapp	07766 140 386
Branches	1st Saturday of the Month, excluding August from 12- 1:00pm Adults £5/Children under 12 £2	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



## CLEANING ROTA

### MAY

5<sup>th</sup> Graham & Linda  
12<sup>th</sup> Carol  
19<sup>th</sup> Heather  
26<sup>th</sup> Val & Andrea

### JUNE

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

### JULY

7<sup>th</sup> Val & Andrea  
14<sup>th</sup> Christine & Pat  
21<sup>st</sup> Joan & Kath  
28<sup>th</sup> Graham & Linda

### AUGUST

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

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

## FLOWER LIST

### MAY

7<sup>th</sup> In Memory of Lilian & Alan Tredrea  
14<sup>th</sup> Maureen & Sid Roocroft  
21<sup>st</sup> Sermons The Guides  
28<sup>th</sup> Maureen Flitcroft

### JUNE

4<sup>th</sup> Christine Counsell  
11<sup>th</sup> Muriel Brown  
18<sup>th</sup> Sara Astley  
25<sup>th</sup> Maureen Flitcroft

### JULY

2<sup>nd</sup> Mr & Mrs Warburton  
9<sup>th</sup> Jill Partington  
16<sup>th</sup> In Memory of Gladys Yates  
23<sup>rd</sup> Kath Dean  
30<sup>th</sup> Dot Hayes

### AUGUST

6<sup>th</sup> Andy & Heather Guthrie  
13<sup>th</sup> Ann, Alex, Carol & Jess  
20<sup>th</sup> Phil Seddon  
27<sup>th</sup> Margaret Taylor & Ruth Butcher

There are still some vacancies on the Flower List for 2023. 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**

### **MAY**

7<sup>th</sup> John 14: 1-14  
14<sup>th</sup> John 14: 15-21  
21<sup>st</sup> John 17: 1-11  
28<sup>th</sup> John 20: 19-23  
Or John 7:37-39

### **JULY**

9<sup>th</sup> Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30  
16<sup>th</sup> Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23  
23<sup>rd</sup> Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43  
30<sup>th</sup> Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### **JUNE**

4<sup>th</sup> Matthew 28: 16-20  
11<sup>th</sup> Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26  
18<sup>th</sup> Matthew 9:35 10:8, (9-23)  
25<sup>th</sup> Matthew 10:24-39

### **AUGUST**

6<sup>th</sup> Matthew 14: 13-21  
13<sup>th</sup> Matthew 14: 22-33  
20<sup>th</sup> Matthew 15: 21-28  
27<sup>th</sup> Matthew 16:13-20

## **BANK TOP FAMILY NEWS**



**MAY 4<sup>th</sup> Leila Mathieson**  
**MAY 21<sup>st</sup> Riley Peters**  
**MAY 23<sup>rd</sup> Theo Milne**

**JULY 3<sup>rd</sup> Freya Dean**  
**JULY 29<sup>th</sup> Freddie Spencer**

**AUGUST 6<sup>th</sup> Eric Spencer**

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

**Xxxx**

**BANK TOP UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

# **ANNUAL SERMONS**

**SUNDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 10:30am**

Our Family Service will be led by our Worship Group



FOLLOWED BY:

# **BBQ**

## **ON THE COMMUNITY GARDEN**

(weather permitting)



*all welcome!*

Bank Top  
United Reformed Church

# Village Fair

On the Community Garden, Ashworth Lane



**Saturday 1st July 2023**

**11.30am - 3.00pm**

**BBQ/Sandwiches/Cream Teas/Beer Tent/Stalls/Games  
Entertainment**

**Come and join in the fun**

## Coronation Day 1953

The Mall is looking splendid  
on this important day,  
There's bunting on the  
lampposts and flags in bright array,  
Thousands of people have gathered, some slept  
overnight,  
Waiting in expectation to observe the splendid  
sight,  
Of marching bands and soldiers with Busby's on  
their heads,  
Their uniforms look splendid with coats of  
brightest red,  
There's lifeguards and horse guards riding horses  
brown and black,  
Each horse is trotting proudly with a soldier on its  
back.  
Platoons of marching soldiers, sailors, and air  
force too,  
Each rank steps in perfection as they go passing  
through.  
There's military units from all around the world,  
Each carrying their regimental colours all  
unfurled,  
Australia, New Zealand, Canadian Mounties  
riding high,  
With Indian Sikhs and Ghurkhas marching  
quickly by.  
Followed by the dignitaries from all around each  
nation,  
Kings, Queens, Dukes, and Duchesses have joined  
the celebration,  
The crowds are cheering wildly as they all go  
passing by.  
"Here comes the Royal Family" someone gives a  
cry.  
The Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, Prince  
Charles, Princess Anne too,  
Everyone is craning to get a better view.



At last, the Golden Coach appears pulled by six  
horses grey,  
The crowds erupt ecstatically on this extra special  
day.  
To see inside the carriage our beautiful young  
Queen,  
She waves to all quite regally, while smiling quite  
serene.

The Gold Coach arrives at the Abbey, whose  
doors are open wide,  
All the congregation wait breathlessly inside.  
The young Queen steps from her carriage, adjusts  
her velvet train.  
"Are you ready girls", the Queen asks with a  
twinkle in her eyes,  
"Oh yes, Your Majesty" the young ladies all reply.  
And so the great procession walks slowly down  
the aisle,  
The organ plays triumphantly the choirboys sing  
with style.

The royal procession continues till it arrives at the  
wooden throne.  
Where the young Queen Elizabeth ascends and  
sits along,  
The Bishops and Archbishops proceed with  
solemn care,  
Then Elizabeth makes promises as she is seated  
there,  
To dedicate her life of service unto all,  
Wherever she may go or whatever may befall.  
She would rule our nation and Commonwealth  
with justice and peace,  
All her life be it long or short until her reign shall  
cease.  
The Archbishop then did raise the crown with  
jewels white, blue, green and red  
"I crown you our Queen and Sovereign" and  
placed the crown upon her head.  
The thousands in the Abby cried out as in one  
voice.  
"Long live our Queen Elizabeth let all the world  
rejoice",  
And so our Queen began her reign on that  
auspicious day,  
For seventy years she was our Queen until she  
passed away.

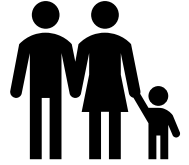
A new King now ascends the throne upon the  
sixth of May.  
The child that saw his mother crowned will have  
his Coronation Day.  
God save King Charles the crowd will gladly  
cheer,  
Long life, good health and may you reign for  
many a happy year.

Christine Catherall April 2023



## Sermons Day

When I was a child over 70 years ago my family all attended Blackburn Road Congregational Church or the Iron Church as it was known locally. We always celebrated the Sunday School Sermons on the last Sunday in April. We had three services with special preachers (usually past ministers) invited to speak at each service.



The choir sang anthems at each service and of course we had the “little singers” who were the Sunday School children all dressed in white, they also sang at each service. The day began in the morning about 9.45 when we all assembled to process from the church around the streets, behind Hibbert Street, East Bank Street up to the Lake District streets coming back onto Blackburn Road via Ullswater Street and arrived back at Church in time for the 10.30 am service.

In the afternoon we all assembled again on the Sunday School side to process up Blackburn Road to the Tramways along Astley Street and up to Halliwell Road, the down back to Draycott Street before going into the church again for the afternoon service. Then it was home for tea before returning to church for the service at 6.30 pm. The procession was always led by the Sunday school secretary, the treasurer and the minister followed by the little singers, brownies, guides, cubs, scouts, youth club, ladies fellowship and men’s group. We would always stop halfway round the route to sing a hymn. All the neighbours would come out to watch us pass by while some male members of the congregation would walk along with collecting boxes for donations to the church. It was quite an occasion and at the end of the day everyone was exhausted. The following week there would be a party for the children as a thank you for their attendance at all the services.

When Blackburn Road Church closed in 1990, I began attending Bank Top. The first service I was invited to attend by Joyce Jones, was the annual sermons on the third Sunday in May. Again, a similar format took place, but there was no evening service and only an afternoon procession around the Whitegate, Parkgate side of Ashworth Lane, then up Hill Cot Road and back to Church, or along Thornham Drive, Langham Close, back onto Thornham and back to Church.

When I first attended Bank Top, Geoff Tolley was the Minister. He was also the Minister of the URC in Adlington and arranged for the Boys Brigade band to accompany the procession. It was quite unusual to be marching round to the tune of “We all live in a Yellow Submarine” and “Nellie the Elephant”. As usual the band was followed by the Minister, Church Secretary and Treasurer, the Brownies and Guide, the little singers and the choir and the rest of the congregation. The men of the church carried the banner and others walked along with collecting bags for the donations from the residents of Bank Top Village

As the years passed and Geoff Tolley was no longer the Minister, the Boys Brigade band stopped coming and were replaced by Smithills Band led by Chris Wormold. We continued to process up Ashworth Lane, until the council decided it was too dangerous and we would have to pay a substantial sum of money to close the road. The procession of witness was discontinued and replaced with an open-air service on the community garden with the band playing for half an hour before the service began. In later years the cost of hiring the band became too much and the procession was abandoned to be replaced by one service in the morning followed by a barbecue on the Community Garden which still occurs to the present day.

When I found a souvenir tea towel which Bank Top had printed with portraits drawn by every member of the congregation to celebrate the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the URC, there were two hundred and forty-five faces on the tea towel. Many families who have moved on and older members who are no longer with us. This makes me feel so proud and happy to have shared the Christian faith and fellowship with so many people over my 50 years and pray that all who have experienced the teaching of Jesus at Bank Top have gone on to share it with others wherever they may be. So, thank you Bank Top, long may the Church continue to be an influence for good and a witness throughout the surrounding neighbourhood and beyond.

Christine Catherall March 2023

## WHERE IN THE UK? ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Oceans Beginning                       | Lands' End     |
| 2. Sleepy Crossing                        | Bedford        |
| 3. What a Guide Dog Does                  | Leeds          |
| 4. A Prickly Case with a Dynasty on Bacon | Birmingham     |
| 5. A Bird on the Ocean                    | Swansea        |
| 6. For Loaded Lorries                     | Weybridge      |
| 7. Source of Water                        | Wells          |
| 8. Thirteen Witches Endeavour             | Coventry       |
| 9. An Organ and a Pond                    | Liverpool      |
| 10. Creepy                                | Crawley        |
| 11. Not an Ancient Royal Residence        | Newcastle      |
| 12. The Door is Safe and Secure           | Bolton         |
| 13. It Improves the Mind                  | Reading        |
| 14. A Greyish Brown Letter                | Dundee         |
| 15. Part of a Ship                        | Hull           |
| 16. Vehicle and Thread                    | Carlisle       |
| 17. Only Male Sheep Enter Here            | Ramsgate       |
| 18. Laddie of the 4D Pieces               | John O' Groats |
| 19. A Tasty Bite                          | Sandwich       |
| 20. Split Professors Head Open            | Clevedon       |

## **Future News Items**

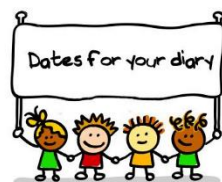
Thinking of setting up a "Pets Corner", if anyone has a picture and or a story about their pet, please contact me and we can look at putting it in the next issue.

Also, Eric has mentioned he would be willing to do a "Jobs for your Garden article, so watch out for that

As always I would be grateful for any other contributions..



Linda



**FUTURE EVENTS:  
MAY-JULY 2023**

<b>May</b>			
Tues	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:00pm 7:30pm	Church Meeting at St Andrew & St George to vote for new minister. Ladies Fellowship 'An adventure on wheels'
Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:00pm	Elders Meeting
Sat	6 <sup>th</sup>	12noon-1pm	<b>NO BRUNCH</b>
Sun	7 <sup>TH</sup>	10:30am	Morning Service, Susan Holme
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 – 3:00pm	<b>Coronation Afternoon Tea</b>
Tue	9 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	House group at Val's. Study 8 Disciple Nathanael. Read John 1:43-51
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Tue	16 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Ladies Fellowship. Naughty Postcards
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	10:30am 11:45am	Sermons, Family Service, Church Parade, The Worship Group BBQ on the Community Garden
Tue	23 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30pm	House group, at Val's. Study 9 Disciple Judas Iscariot. Read Matthew 26: 14-30, 47-50; 27:1-10
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Morning Service, Ray Houghton
<b>June</b>			
Sat	3 <sup>rd</sup>	12 noon – 1pm	Saturday Brunch – Buffet style
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Morning Worship, Alison Spence Followed by tea and toast
Tue	6 <sup>th</sup>	ALL DAY	Ladies Fellowship, TRIP
Wed	7 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Elders Meeting
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Tue	13 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	House Group at Val's. Study 10 The Other 3 Disciple. Read Luke 18:18-30
Sun	18 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Songs of Praise, David Canham
Tue	20 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Ladies Fellowship. Happy ever after, in the life of Betsy the scullery maid
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Morning Worship Dave Bagley
Tue	27 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	House Group at Val's. New Study t.b.a.
<b>July</b>			
Sat	1 <sup>st</sup>	11:30am- 3:00pm	VILLAGE FAIR
Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30am 11:30am	Morning Worship, Adrian Yapp Church Meeting with tea & toast.
Tue	4 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Ladies Fellowship. The past, present and future of Rivington Gardens
Sun	9 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Tue	11 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Val's House Group Social occasion – last one till September!
Sun	16 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Morning Service, Leo Roberts
Tue	18 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Ladies Fellowship, The story of Aspirin
Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30am	Morning Service, Barry Bradshaw
Sun	30 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 0am	Morning Worship, Walt Johnson



## FINANCE REPORT from your Treasurer, Val Singleton

### Offertory

MONTH	CASH COLLECTION	ENVELOPES	STANDING ORDERS
January	227.12	334.60	860.00
February	157.95	275.50	940.00
March	137.94	307.50	880.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>523.01</b>	<b>917.60</b>	<b>2680.00</b>

*If anyone would like to change the way they contribute; either using the Church Weekly envelope scheme, or paying by Monthly Standing Order through the Bank please see me.  
And if you pay Income Tax and wish church to claim Gift Aid, again see me for a form.*

### Brunches

January	228.10	February	317.65
March	193.50	April	296.83

*We provide a raffle each month at the Brunch and would be very grateful for any donations of bottles wine, boxes of chocolates or anything else.*

### Change for Charity 2023

*Our chosen charity for 2023 is MSF – Doctors without Borders  
Jan, £24.63, Feb, £28.91, Mar £19.27*

*Please continue to save your loose change – we collect it in on the first Sunday of the month. Thank you.*

### 50/50 Winners

Month	Winner	Number	Amount
January	A Hardman	87	50
	B Counsell	97	30
	E Golding	58	20
February	H Atkinson	516	50
	A Myers	64	30
	K Johns	50	20
March	D Canham	43	50
	P McNulty	19	30
	A Hardman	59	10
April	E Robinson	90	50
	A Hardman	59	30
	J Greer	66	20

*Thank you all for your very loyal support  
Val Singleton*

**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**