

# BANK



# TOPICS

## NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2023

Dear Friends,

What I've learned after Heather's accident and her being kept off her feet for a few weeks, well, so far...

Mr Dyson, who liked Brexit but manufactures lots of his stuff outside Britain is an unnatural man. No natural male would make a motor for a vacuum cleaner that when it is turned on, is set at a pitch/tone/frequency that creates such a pain in my head.

Furthermore, there are so many additional bits, tubes, brushes that it is, for this poor soul, impossible to find the on/off button, which does somewhat mitigate that pitch/tone/frequency problem.

We have a washing machine that has a default setting which, for reasons I don't quite understand, we don't use. So, I must push buttons to make the wash last longer and the spin go faster. There are LED lights that tell you the time and the speed. But the buttons under those LEDs are not the buttons you press to change the time and speed. I don't know what they change, but I have to reset and start all over again.

The washing machine has another flaw. If you forget (and I often do) to put a plate in the dishwasher and then spot the dirty plate mid-way through the wash, you just open the dishwasher door and put the plate in. However, the washing machine is different. Fort Knox is replicated to ensure you can't do anything when you discover a trail of "would have been" washing that you've accidentally dropped coming down the stairs.

Then, when you're actually allowed to empty the washing machine there's a whole new world of wonder when it comes to the washing line. We've a bag full of pegs in all different colours. I now know it was a mistake to try and colour match the pegs with the clothes – but that learning process took quite some time and much frustration.

Where do all the spare socks come from?

Quite how crumpled can a tee-shirt be, to still be ok for a work's Team meeting or Zoom call?

We'll skip over the issue that you can only get to the contents of a commode from the back of the commode – so you can't put it back against the wall.

We all know the story about Martha and Mary, I have a horrible feeling that we're currently reliving a parallel version of that story where Jesus tells Mary: "Go, go and look after Martha." Its hard work being this Mary – But can you imagine what it's like for our Martha?

Martha says thanks so much for your prayers, flowers and best wishes!

*Blessings from Mary/Martha*



# 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	
Choir Leader	Mrs A Spence	
Pulpit Supply	Mrs J Skidmore	01204 307130
Flower Secretaries	Mrs Maureen Flitcroft	01204 301328,01204 596360
	Mrs Carol Rideout	
Newsletter Editor	Miss L Rainford, <a href="mailto:indarainford@btinternet.com">indarainford@btinternet.com</a> or <a href="mailto:rainfordlinda@gmail.com">rainfordlinda@gmail.com</a>	01204 667095 or 07808172662
Serving Elders	Marian Batty, David Canham, Christine Counsell, Andy Guthrie, Andrea Myers, Graham Naylor, Linda Rainford, Carol Rideout, Val Singleton, Julie Skid- more	
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	01477 531755
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
Brunches	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

### AUGUST

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

### SEPTEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> Joan & Kath  
8<sup>th</sup> Graham & Linda  
15<sup>th</sup> Carol  
29<sup>th</sup> Val & Andrea

### OCTOBER

6<sup>th</sup> Christine & Pat  
13<sup>th</sup> Joan & Kath  
20<sup>th</sup> Graham & Linda  
27<sup>th</sup> Carol

## FLOWER LIST

### 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

### SEPTEMBER

3<sup>rd</sup> Vicky Constantine  
10<sup>th</sup> David Canham  
17<sup>th</sup> In Memory of Phyllis Walsh  
24<sup>th</sup> Val & Jill

### OCTOBER

1<sup>st</sup> Ann Smith in Memory of Richard  
8<sup>th</sup> Vicky Constantine  
15<sup>th</sup> In Memory of Clarice Bickerstaff  
22<sup>nd</sup> In Memory of Kath Tyldesley  
29<sup>th</sup> Ali Spence

**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 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 2023. THESE FLOWERS ARE TAKEN OUT TO PEOPLE EACH WEEK AND THEY ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED**



## **BIBLE READINGS**

### **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

### **SEPTEMBER**

3<sup>rd</sup> Matthew 16: 21-28  
10<sup>th</sup> Matthew 8: 15-20  
17<sup>th</sup> Matthew 18: 21-35  
24<sup>th</sup> Matthew 20: 1-16

### **OCTOBER**

1<sup>st</sup> Matthew 21: 23-32  
8<sup>th</sup> Matthew 21: 33-46  
15<sup>th</sup> Matthew 22: 1-14  
22<sup>nd</sup> Matthew 22: 15-22  
29<sup>th</sup> Matthew 22 34:46

## **BANK TOP FAMILY NEWS**



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

**SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup> Aiden McDermid**

**OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup> Arthur Kenyon**

**OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup> Isabelle Dean**

**OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup> Poppy Spence**

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

**Xxxx**

## **SPINNING JENNYS**

Sycamore seeds are falling down,  
Like little helicopters flying round  
They land on the soil or in the grass,  
And when the winter months have passed  
They begin to rise from their earthy beds,  
Put down their roots and raise their heads,  
And in a few weeks before your eyes  
A mini forest begins to rise,  
So, unless you want to grow a wood,  
You must destroy these plants for good,  
For spinning jenny's they might be  
But leave them and you will have a tree,  
That will grow to over thirty feet tall,  
Casting deep shade over all  
Producing thousand more of pesky seeds  
So, gardeners all, please take heed,  
Destroy them each and every one,  
Before the gardening years' begun  
Or you will live to rue the day,  
If spinning jenny's come to stay.

Christine Catherall 2023

## **QUIZ                      GUESS THE FLOWER**

1. Industrious Queen
2. Bovine Takes a Tumble
3. They Seek Him Here, They Seek Him There
4. She's Close to her Pupil
5. Court Enclosure for a Prisoner
6. Found at the Forge
7. A Virtue
8. What's the Story
9. To Keep Basil's paws warm
10. Mrs Bucker
11. Used to thicken sauces
12. Lest we forget
13. Lass of the Vale
14. Reflect upon Oneself
15. Receptacle for Dairy Produce
16. Such a Good Boy
17. Popeye's Boy
18. Grandad's Facial Hair
19. A New One Seeps Clean
20. Goes Well with Trifle

Submitted by Marion Batty  
Answers in next edition, or see Marion or Linda.

# I'M NO ALAN TITCHMARSH

## GARDENING TIPS FOR AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, AND OCTOBER



### **August**

August is often still very warm, so you need to keep up a watering regime. (Where possible use water from washing up or your water butts). Get help from family or neighbours with the watering if you are on holiday. Don't forget that anything growing in baskets or pots will need more attention than plants in the ground. Dead head flowers regularly to encourage new growth. Prune summer flowering flowers and shrubs. Now is also a good time to start collecting seeds from those plants that are starting to go over. Store in dry conditions and label clearly. It's so frustrating when you can't remember. You can buy seed envelopes very cheaply. If you cut back your lavender leave to dry out before placing flower heads into muslin bags. The fragrance is great and will aid sleep if placed under your pillow. Take cutting from favourite perennials before lifting. This will provide you with new plants and act as insurance if older plants don't survive. If you are growing veg now is a good time to check on your sweet corn and spuds. Plant some more salads and harvest the last of your peas towards the end of the month. And remember to save some for next year. There are plenty of plants you can buy once and grow forever.

### **September**

You can rely on September to be unreliable. With down pours and baking sun on the same day. Start to plant winter veg plants such as turnips, onions, garlic, salads, radish, and spinach. Primula and cyclamen. Continue with seed saving and mulch areas that are now bare to stop weed growth. If you have a pond clear it, trim the plants around it and net it to catch leaves that will fall throughout autumn, this will help any wildlife that use the pond. This is the time to show your lawn some love. Get a wire rake through it and clear any mossy growth. Aerate the ground by forking it a regular interval and give it a phosphate feed before it goes to sleep.

### **October**

By now there is a chill in the air and the nights are drawing in. you will have had some successes and some failures throughout the season, and you will already be thinking about what you will do differently or even change next year. However, you've not finished this year yet. Greenhouses will need cleaning before winter sets in to give you an early start in spring. Start collecting leaves as the fall, place in bin bags and put out of the way behind sheds or shrubs until spring. (Leaf mould/mulch is great as a feeding booster for the garden) Add old tomato grow bags and used soil from pots to your compost, this will add bulk and be rejuvenated. Lift any tender perennials such as Begonias and geraniums and store indoors over winter. Chilli plants can also be overwintered the same way. Tidy your beds and borders before it gets too cold to be bothered to go out.

TTFN Eric.

## Coronation Afternoon Tea

What a fabulous afternoon we had! We had catered for 60 people, and we expected them to pop along at various times between 1pm and 3pm. How wrong we were . . . at 1 o'clock we had 65 people sitting down (including an extra table hurriedly set up), all eagerly awaiting their afternoon tea.

But we didn't disappoint. Everyone was served and we celebrated in style, which included a cheeky glass of wine, as we toasted to the new King . . . and we even stood to attention as we sang the National Anthem. Definitely a day to remember!



*Preparation in the kitchen*



*All ready and waiting*



*Full to capacity*

## **Bank Top Guides**



Bank Top Guides have been very busy this year. We have spent a lot of time raising funds for our forthcoming trip to Switzerland on 6<sup>th</sup> August. Thanks to Church we were able to keep the £1,000 we raised at the Advent Brunch in December and the money we raised at the Village Fair on the games stall and the bric-a-brac stalls. We are so grateful to church for all their support. We have also done several bag-packing sessions at Tesco; raising over a £1,000 and we sold duck race tickets for Turton Rotary which raised £300, and we were successful in obtaining grants from various sources. Our final amount raised was just over £8,000 and happy to say, £450 over our target! This has enabled us to purchase 6-day rail passes; three tee shirts for each person and will enable us to see lots of exciting places whilst we are in Switzerland – we are all so excited!!

In June we had a weekend camping in Cheshire, which the girls thoroughly enjoyed – sleeping under canvas, cooking on an open fire, being kept awake by planes going in and out of Manchester Airport and woken up by the birds at 4am 😊. Maybe, just maybe, I'm getting a little too old for sleeping on the grass!! However, we did have a brilliant time and well worth the sore hips 😊

## ***Val Singleton***



*Preparing our buffet lunch*



*Cooking breakfast*



*Tree hugging*



*Our annual 'chippy walk*

## **Village Fair**

This year we had several people who were absent on the day because they had dared to go away on holiday! And one person (namely Heather), even broke her ankle to get out of it!! Only joking Heather, I know you were gutted, and we all wish you a speedy recovery.

However, we still had lots of help beforehand and on the day itself and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at Bank Top, for their generosity and their time. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful congregation.

Despite the absence of the heatwave, we had been experiencing in the previous weeks, and the rain every day the week preceding the fair; the weather on the day wasn't that bad – just a short shower mid-day. And for the sixteenth year – the sun came out and we were able to pack all the gazebo's away dry.

Once again, we had a great turn out of local people, and beyond; all enjoying the company, the Phoenix Night's singing, and the ambient atmosphere created by the sounds of the Midweek Sax. Well done all.

## ***Val Singleton***







## **Toddler Group**

End of year party enjoyed by 28 babies and toddlers and 26 mums, dads, grandmas, and granddads. We seem to attract more people every week! We said goodbye to four of our youngsters who are starting 'big' school in September. Fortunately, we have quite a few babies who will still be with us for the next two or three years. It's a lovely group! Thank you to Alison, Margaret and Ruth for all your help and hard work.

*Val Singleton*





## **FINANCE REPORT** from your Treasurer, Val Singleton

### **Offertory**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>CASH COLLECTION</b>	<b>ENVELOPES</b>	<b>STANDING ORDERS</b>
April	189.26	425.00	840.00
May	149.96	280.00	860.00
June	167.00	290.00	780.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>507.13</b>	<b>995.50</b>	<b>2480.00</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**

APRIL	296.83
MAY	291.00
JUNE	207.95

*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*

**Total Raised so Far this year £328.40.**

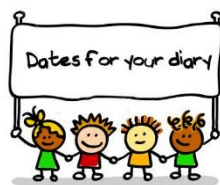
*Please continue to save your loose change – we collect it in on the first Sunday of the month. Thank you.*

### **50/50 Winners**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>May</b>	D Canham	42	50
	C Rideout	14	30
	C Rideout	49	20
<b>June</b>	D Canham	91	50
	E Golding	58	30
	H Guthrie	4	20
<b>July</b>	P McNulty	19	50
	J Partington	77	30
	D Canham	104	20

*Thank you all for your very loyal support.*

*Val Singleton*



**FUTURE EVENTS:  
MAY-JULY 2023**

AUGUST			
Tue	1st	7.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship, Curiosity Corner
Sat	5th	NO BRUNCH	
Sun	6th	10.30 am	Morning Service Alan Nuttall
Tues	15th	7.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship, This History of Prosthetics
Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Communion Service Andy Guthrie
Sun	20th	10.30 am	Morning Service, Adrian Yapp
Sun	27th	10.30 am	Climate Sunday Val Singleton
SEPTEMBER			
Sat	2nd	12.noon 1.00pm	Saturday Brunch
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Service Alison Spence followed by Tea & Toast
Tues	5 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship, Tales of a Customs Officer
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Communion Service Andy Guthrie
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	House Group at Val's
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Family Service/Church Parade Harvest Worship Group
Tues	19 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship, Mozart – His life and work
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Service, Songs of Praise, David Canham
Tue	26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	House Group at Val's
OCTOBER			
Sun	1st	10.30 am	Morning Service Susan Holme
Tues	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship, The lighter side of teaching
Sat	7th	12 Noon 1.00pm	Saturday Brunch
Sun	8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Communion Service Jacky Embry
		11.30 am	Church Meeting with Tea & Toas
Tues	10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	House Group at Val's
Sun	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Service Adrian Yapp
Tues	17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship, The talking newspaper for the blind
Sun	22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30 am	Morning Service Karen Openshaw
Sun	29 <sup>th</sup>	10.20 am	Morning Service Gary Hammond
Tues	31 <sup>st</sup>	7.30 pm	House Group at Val's

Enjoy the rest of the summer, those going away on holiday, and those staying at home.



**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**