

BANK



TOPICS

NEWSLETTER FOR MAY TO JULY 2024

Dear Friends

“Blooming marvellous” as they say in those black and white Ealing masterpieces. And I can show true results with Heather’s Lego Bonsai tree bursting into bloom. I had thought about suggesting that this should happen over a week or two, so we could have a stop motion film to challenge Attenborough/Wallace & Gromit but that may have been a stretch too far. Maybe YOU can suggest it to Heather for the autumn drop-off? As you can see my Midas touch has not worked on the candlestick, it’s still silver – more practice required!



Another thing that has been “Blooming marvellous” was Walt’s Lent study. Funny, challenging, educational but always enjoyable. And it was great to see people from Egerton, St AGs and Rose Hill join us for the event.

Elsewhere the world seems to be going to hell in a basket...

Will it really take the death of seven (more) aid workers to make people step back from the war in the Holy Land and say that something is broken and that killing more innocent people is not the answer. We do know that two wrongs don’t make a right and we surely do not need this war to prove that. Yes, the initial attacks were horrific and totally wrong, but flattening Gaza and her many innocent men, women and children is totally wrong too.

Job, always good for a pithy observation gives us: *I have seen people plough fields of evil and sow wickedness like seed; now they harvest wickedness and evil. (Job 4:8)*

Maybe, it is as ever it was in the Holy Land, but surely a new approach is needed now after so many re-runs of the old trials and tribulations?

Ken Seddon, who used to write these epistles before me had endless stories about (1) surviving in the army in WW2, think Spike Milligan rather than Saving Private Ryan (2) Jazz music and his beloved trombone playing and (3) William Barclay’s Bible study notes. He only had a typewriter [or a wife, Joan.]

I have no real tales about the Combined Cadet Force, but Led Zeppelin rule the musical roost and there’s always the internet to fill out whatever new crazy ideas William Barclay was lucky enough to die before having to hear/read. And I do have a PC and a printer, Heather is at least saved that!!!

But looking back that generation had so many lived experiences that have sort of slipped us by, yet we have access to other people’s experiences through so many forms of media. Yes, what can we trust if they are not our own experiences? Common sense, like attention spans seem at risk. But, like Ken, we still have access to the Bible. Thank goodness for that.



How did your Lenten Deprivations go? Once again, I was 100% successful at giving up fishing. Never having started it, helps a lot – although I’m still traumatised by a trip with a young schoolfriend when I apparently caught a stickleback in a net. I’ll leave it to Mortimer and Whitehouse I think, a great watch. And away....

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
Service Times	Sunday 10.30 am. Communion 2 nd Sundat	
Minister	Vacant	
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
Organists	Graham Naylor and Alison Spence	
Pulpit Supply	Mrs J Skidmore	01204 307130
Flower Secretary	Marian Batty,	01204 301047
Choir Leader	Alison Spence	
Newsletter Editor	Linda Rainford - lindarainford@btinternet.com or rainford-linda@gmail.com	01204 667095 07808172662
Serving Elders	Marian Batty, David Canham, Eric Golding Andy Guthrie Andrea Myers, Graham Naylor, Linda Rainford, Val Singleton, Julie Skidmore	
Bank Top Artists	Monday, 1-3pm contact Mrs V Singleton	01204 305401
Bank Top/The Oaks Brownies	Monday 5.45-7pm, contact Miss E Farrell	07770 450 229
Guides	Monday 7.30-9.15pm, contact Mrs V Constantine	07806 789 757
Mums & Toddlers	Tuesday 9-11 am, contact Mrs V Singleton	01204 305401
Ladies Fellowship	1 st & 2 nd Tuesday, 7.30-9.15, contact Helen Seager	01204 300666
Theatre Works	Wednesday 4-5pm contact Lauren Bateman	07999 634 208
Knit & Natter	Wednesday, 7-9pm contact Michelle Angus	0770 484 9960
Rainbows	Thursday 5.45-6.45m contact Mrs E Robinson	01204 415113
Eden Singers	Thursday, 7.30-9pm 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		



CLEANING ROTA

MAY

3rd Christine & Pat
10th Joan & Kath
17th Graham & Linda
24th Kath

JUNE

7th Val & Andrea
14th Heather
21st Christine & Pat
28th Joan & Kath

JULY

5th Graham & Linda
12th Carol
19th Val & Andrea
26th Heather

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

5th In Memory of Lilian & Alan Tredra
12th Maureen & Sid Roocroft
19th Sermons the Guides
26th Maureen Flitcroft

JUNE

2nd Christine Counsell
9th Muriel Brown
16th Sara Astley
23rd Maureen Flitcroft
30th Dot Hayes

JULY

7th Mr & Mrs Warburton in Memory of Mrs Warburton
14th Jill Partington
21st In Memory of Gladys Yates
28th Kath Dean

As 2024 Is a leap year some of you have been moved, please check the New Flower Rota which will be on the Notice Board in Church by the end of November 2023. Thanks Marian & Maureen

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

MAY

5th John 15: 9-17
12th John 17: 16-19
19th John 15: 26-27 16:4b-15
26th John 3:1-17

JUNE

2nd Mark 2:23-3:6
9th Mark 3:20-35
16th Mark 4:26-34
23rd Mark 4:35-41
30th June Mark 5:21-43

JULY

7th Mark 6:1-13
14th Mark 6:14-29
21st Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
28th John 6: 1-21

BANK TOP FAMILY NEWS



MAY 4th Leila Mathieson

MAY 21st Riley Peers

MAY 23rd Theo Milne

JULY 3rd Freya Dean

JULY 29th Freddie Spencer

We hope you all have a great day

Xxxx



SAUSAGE CASSEROLE WITH A TWIST

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 Tbsp Vegetable Oil | 8 Sausages (good quality) |
| 1 onion chopped | 2 carrots chopped. |
| 2 sticks celery chopped | 4oz (100gms) smoked bacon chopped. |
| 1 Tbsp plain flour | 2 Tbsp Worcester Sauce |
| 2 Tbsp tomato puree | 1 pint of beef or chicken stock |
| 1 400g tin of beans (any will work) | 4oz (100gms) chorizo sliced. |

Preheat the oven 190C/Gas5.

Heat oil in large pan and brown the sausages – 5 mins. Transfer to casserole dish
 Add onion, carrot, celery and chorizo – cook for 5 mins.
 Stir in flour, add Worcester sauce, tomato puree, stock and beans of your choice.
 Mix together and bring to the boil – stirring.
 Pour over sausages. Cover and cook in the oven for 30 mins.
 Remove the lid and return to the oven for 15 mins.
 Serve with mashed potatoes. (Twist is adding the chorizo)

(Submitted by Marian Batty

Back by Popular demand

I’m No Alan Titchmarsh

Well, all I can say is thank the Lord for my Wellies. I have never known the ground to be so saturated. Every time I stick a spade or trowel in the soil it fills with water before I’ve had chance to turn it over.

There are a couple of ways to combat this and still be able to grow what you want. Raised beds or container growing means you can achieve the drainage you need but also have the luxury of moving things around until you get things just where you want them.



Old washing up bowls, buckets or large pots with a few well-placed drainage holes are ideal for bedding plants, which can be clumped together to make a great display. Threes and fives are always best. Step them by using bricks or another upturned bowl, bucket, or pot.

Old pallets make a great place for growing herbs, Strawberries, and flowers. Use the slats from one pallet to place across another to make 6 to 8 sections. Use weed membrane or bin liners to line the sections, ensuring they have drainage holes fill with soil or compost and plant what you like. You can always jazz things up a bit by painting the pallets before planting in them. Place them against a sunny wall or make two into an A frame and before you know it you will have either a colourful display, a Strawberry cascade, or all the herbs you can use to add fantastic flavours to your cooking.

Once the bags of compost are empty don’t throw them away, use them to grow potatoes in. when you are ready to harvest just split the bag to get at all those delicious spuds.

If you have the room, you can always future proof your growing area by building raised beds. Old Decking, Pallets, or even paving flags are great materials to use for raised beds. When building raised bed, it is always a good idea to use you own arm as a measure. If the bed is against a wall you need to be able to reach the other side, if however, you can build a raised bed that you can walk around you need to be able to reach the

middle. Raised beds on legs are a superb way of growing without having to get on your knees or bend your back.

So, you see anyone can grow things anywhere, its, just a matter of adapting things to suit the area that you are going to use. If you can use a computer? YOUTUBE is a great place for inspiration but remember to adapt your search for the UK.

Eric Golding April 2024

SERMONS WITNESS AT BANK TOP

Bank Top Annual Sermons are on the third Sunday in May.
We celebrate the year that passed, a very happy day.
In the past there were two services one in the morn and one in the afternoon.
We marched in a procession while the band played a merry tune,
the men carried the banner proclaiming who we are.
We invited preachers who came from near and far.
Behind the banner the little singers all arrayed in white,
Their happy smiling faces and giggles of delight.
Next came the Guides and Brownies with uniforms of brown and blue.
Then the Sunday School children with their teachers too.
Following the children came the ladies of the choir,
All dressed very smartly in their best attire.
Behind the ladies came the men and the remaining congregation.
The neighbours came to watch us pass and give us a donation.
We processed up Ashworth Lane right to the very top,
Then crossing Hesketh Avenue down Hillcot Road back to Bank Top
Sometimes we'd go the other way along Thornham Drive,
At Langham Close we'd stop and sing to tell them we've arrived.
Finally, we return to Church for the Service to begin,
Sometimes it was a squash to fit everybody in.
The Minister gave his message, the choir sang and the children too.
We all agreed our Sermons Day had been a right good do.
Over the years the times have changed to one service not two,
Just one service in the morning followed by a Bar B Cue.
But still its good to celebrate our Churches special day,
So come along and join us on the third Sunday in May.
Our door is always open, and we wait to welcome you.

Christine Catherall April/May 2024

ANNUAL SERMONS
SUNDAY, 19th MAY 10:30am
Our Family Service will be led by our Worship Group
Followed by:
BBQ ON THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

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Sermons photographs from the past - can you recognise anyone?



BANK TOP URC BRUNCH 12:00am – 1:00pm



1st SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

12.00noon to 1.00pm

**ADULTS, £5/CHILDREN UNDER 12, £2
(Includes: Main Meal, Dessert and a Drink)**

Raffle and Home-bake Cake Stall

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

Bank Top
United Reformed Church

Village Fair

On the Community Garden, Ashworth Lane



Saturday 6th July 2024

11.30am - 3.00pm

BBQ/Sandwiches/CreamTeas/Beer Tent/Stalls/Games

Entertainment: Midweek Sax and Phoenix Knights

Come and join in the fun

Please keep the date free



SUMMER MAGIC

BY LESLIE PINCKNEY HILL

So many cares to vex the day,
 So many fears to haunt the night,
 My heart was all but weaned away
 From every lure of old delight.
 Then summer came, announced by June,
 With beauty, miracle and mirth.
 She hung aloft the rounding moon,
 She poured her sunshine on the earth,
 She drove the sap and broke the bud,
 She set the crimson rose afire.
 She stirred again my sullen blood,
 And waked in me a new desire.
 Before my cottage door she spread
 The softest carpet nature weaves,
 And deftly arched above my head
 A canopy of shady leaves.
 Her nights were dreams of jeweled skies,
 Her days were bowers rife with song,
 And many a scheme did she devise
 To heal the hurt and soothe the wrong.
 For on the hill or in the dell,
 Or where the brook went leaping by
 Or where the fields would surge and swell
 With golden wheat or bearded rye,
 I felt her heart against my own,
 I breathed the sweetness of her breath,
 Till all the cark of time had flown,
 And I was lord of life and death.

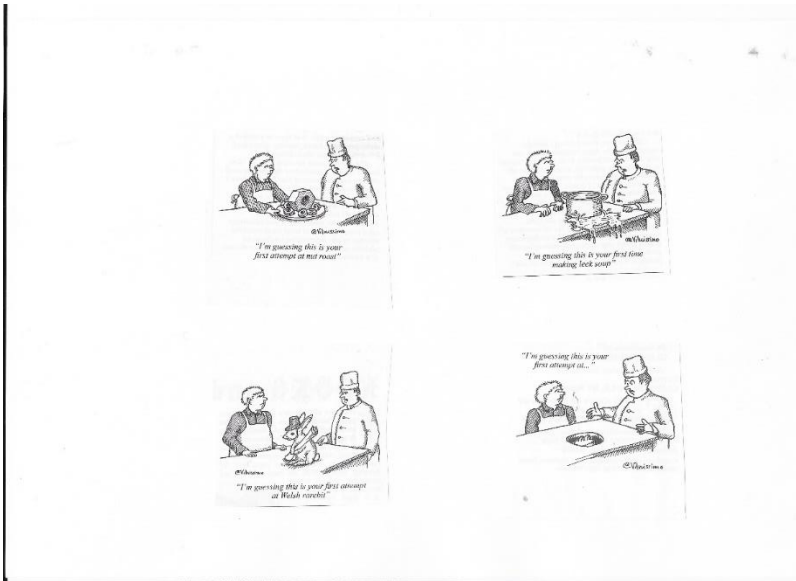


WE ARE TEACHERS



Andy Guthrie

Roll on Summer and hopefully an end to all this Rain



Andy Guthrie

FINANCE REPORT

MONTH	CASH COLLECTION	ENVELOPES	STANDING ORDERS
January	150.88	342.50	740.00
February	201.00	327.00	840.00
March	272.64	443.20	
Totals	624.52	1112.70	158.00

Offertory *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	225.10
February	255.30
March	365.35
April	236.50

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

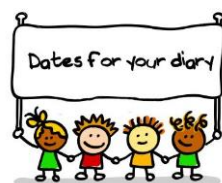
Our chosen charity for 2024 is Bolton Hospice

January	21.34
February	14.48
March	34.04

50/50 Winners

Month	Winner	Number	Amount
January	L Ridyard	48	50
	M Taylor	74	30
	J. Partington	45	20
February	M Flitcroft	21	50
	Lucy Johns	92	30
	R Butcher	24	20
March	M Flitcroft	27	50
	M Roocroft	65	30
	I Larkin	25	20

Thank you once again all for your very loyal support, Val Singleton



FUTURE EVENTS: MAY TO JULY 2024

<u>May</u>			
Wed	1st	7.30 pm	Elders Meeting
Sat	4 th	12 noon – 1pm	Saturday Brunch
Sun	5 th	10:30 am	Morning Worship, Karen Openshaw, followed by tea and toast
Tues	7 th	7:30 pm	Ladies Fellowship, Jane Close “Suzanne Wesley, mother of John Wesley
Sun	12 th	10:30 am	Morning Worship & Communion, Andy
Tue	14 th	7:30 pm	Housegroup at Val’s Study 8 Abraham’s call; following God into the unknown. Genesis 12-13
Fri	17 th	6 – 9 pm	Intermediate Safeguarding Training
Sun	19 th	10:30	Sermons – Family Service, Church Parade, Worship Group
Sun	19 th	11:30	BBQ Community Garden
Tues	21 st	7:30 pm	Ladies Fellowship, Yvonne Pinder - “Pinny’s and Pot’s
Sun	26 th	10:30 am	Morning Worship, Adrian Yapp
Tue	28 th	7:30 pm	Housegroup at Val’s - Study 9: Conflict & Covenant, Genesis 14-15
<u>June</u>			
Sat	1 st	12 – 1pm	Saturday Brunch
Sun	2 nd	10:30 am	Morning Worship, Elizabeth Bomber, followed by tea & toast
Tues	4 th	7.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship – Trip to Fleetwood
Wed	5 th	7:30 pm	Elders Meeting
Sun	9 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship & Communion - Andy
Tues	11 th	7.30 pm	Housegroup at Val’s – Study 10: “Ishmael & Isaac, Faith falters and is renewed”: Genesis 16-17
Sun	16 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, Adrian Yapp
Tues	18 th	7,30 pm	Ladies Fellowship, John Stirling – “The old persons guide to nostalgia, Peter Watson
Sun	23 rd	10.30 am	Morning Worship, Songs of Praise, David Canham
Tues	25 th	7.30 pm	Housegroup at Val’s – Study 11 “Sodom & Gomorrah: God’s judgement on society” Genesis 18-19 Last Housegroup for the summer
Sun	30 th	10.30 am	Morning Workshop – Lawrence Moore
<u>July</u>			
Tue	2 nd	7.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship, Afghanistan Heroin and Silk Road, Paul Cook
Sat	6 th	11.30 – 3.00pm	VILLAGE FAIR
Sun	7 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, Mark Cowling, Church Meeting, Tea & Toast
Sun	14 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship & Communion Andy
Tues	16 th	7.30 pm	Ladies Fellowship, Changing Times 1960’s, On The Go Theatre Company
Sun	21 st	10.30 am	Morning Worship, Barry Bradshaw
Sun	28 th	10.30 am	Morning Worship, Adrian Yapp

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.