

BANK



TOPICS

NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2024 TO JANUARY 2025

Dear Friends

We're back from a week in Llandudno and have had a very good time. Unbelievably, the weather was wonderful as we walked about the town and our only disappointment was that the streets were not filled with goats. That took a Covid lockdown.

But there were lots to see and then we encountered the "The Longest Yarn." We had heard of it before but if you've not heard it is described as: "An 80 metre, 3 D knitted/crocheted work depicting The Longest Day, 6th June 1944, D-Day, created in time for the 80th Anniversary." They are presented as a series of 80, yes 80, tableaux.



Think of a 3-D Bayeaux Tapestry. Here is the Allied Commanders planning the great event. Spot Monty and Ike – it's just stunning.

Luckily for us it is on-tour and was in the last week of the Llandudno leg.

It was only a week ago we said good-bye to Jean Greer and our thoughts were drawn to her as we walked around the room. You may see more as we approach Armistice Sunday. You can see more on-line here: [The Longest Yarn](#)

Llandudno was also awash with poppies and there are photos elsewhere in the newsletter.

We've recently had the story of the young rich man wanting to get into heaven and I read a really eye-opening (well, for me) piece about it... by [Ian Paul](#).

"And you might have heard of the story of the small gate in Jerusalem called the eye of the needle, which camels needed to kneel and shed their load to enter. The lesson there is that it *is* possible for the 'camel' to go through the 'eye of the needle', though quite difficult. **But no such gate exists; Jesus says it is impossible** (verse 27).

The reason for this is not simply that wealth creates an issue—though it does. It is because of the nature of the kingdom. The very premise of the man's question ('What must *I do* to inherit...') is flawed. We cannot do anything to merit this; it comes as pure gift."

A pure gift – we would do well to remember this.

Blessings

Andy

A dress and train made of five thousand knitted poppies Llandudno October 2024



And a life size knitted, yes knitted, tank and soldier.
Llandudno October 2024.



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, 10.30am. Communion 2 nd Sunday	
Ministers	Revd Barnabas Shin: barnabas.shin@nwsynod.org.uk Revd Maria Lee: Maria.Lee@nwsynod.org.uk	07917 973 506 07831 874 879
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 j.skidmore2@ntlworld.com	07840 848 341
Organists	Graham Naylor and Alison Spence	
Flower Secretary	Mrs Marian Batty	01204 301047
Newsletter Editor	Linda Rainford – rainfordlinda@gmail.com	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 5.45-7.15pm, contact Miss E Farrell and Mrs C Greenen	07770 450 229 01204 592594
Guides	Monday 7.30-9.15pm, contact Mrs A Albinson acalbinson@gmail.com	
House group	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday of the month, contact Mrs V Singleton	01204 305401
Mums & Toddlers	Tuesday 9-11.00am contact Mrs V Singleton	01204 305401
Ladies Fellowship	1 st and 3 rd Tuesday of the Month, contact Mrs Helen Seager	01204 300666
Theatre Works	Wednesday 4-5.00pm contact Lauren Bateman	07999 634 208
Knit & Natter	Wednesday 7-9.00pm contact Michelle Angus	07704 849 960
Patchwork & Quilting	First Thursday of the month 10.30-12.30 contact Pauline Treuherz: paulinetreuherz@yahoo.co.uk	
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, 12-1.00 excluding August	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

NOVEMBER

1st Christine & Pat
8th Joan & Kath
15th Graham & Linda
22nd Carol
29th Val & Andrea

DECEMBER

6th Heather
13th Christine & Pat
20th Joan & Pat
27th Graham & Linda

JANUARY

3rd Carol
10th Val & Adrea
17th Heather
24th Christine & Pat
28th 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, take a form from the porch and return it to a church elder.

Remember the more volunteers we have, the less times we have to clean. Many thanks, Church Elders

FLOWER LIST

NOVEMBER

3rd Marian Batty
10th Muriel Brown
17th Julie Skidmore
24th Irene Larkin

DECEMBER

1st Pauline Birch
8th Christine Catherall
15th Maureen & Syd Roocroft
22nd Kath Blake
29th Eileen Ratcliffe

JANUARY

5th Andy & Heather Guthrie
12th Ali Spence
19th Pat McNulty
26th Christine Catherall

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

NOVEMBER

3rd Mark 12: 28-34
10th Mark 12: 38-44
17th Mark 13: 1-8
24th John 18: 33-37

JANUARY

5th John 1: (1-9), 10-18
12th Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
19th John 2:1-11
26th Luke 4: 14-21

DECEMBER

1st Luke 21:25-36
8th Luke 3: 1-6
15th Luke 3: 7-18
22nd Luke 1:29-46, (46-55)
25th Luke 2:1-14. (15-20)
29th Luke 2:41-52

BANK TOP FAMILY NEWS



We hope you have a great day
Xxxx
13th November Sophie Kinyanjui

BANANA BREAD

8oz Self Raising Flour
4oz Butter/Marg
3oz Raisins
3 Tblsp of Semi Skinned Milk
½ Tsp Vanilla essence

pinch of salt.
6oz Dark Brown Sugar
1 Egg
2 Ripe Bananas – mashed.
To glaze 1 Tblsp Honey warmed

Pre heat oven 180 Gas 4. You will need a 2lb loaf tin greased
Rub the flour, salt and butter until it resembles breadcrumbs. Add the sugar and raisins, mix well.
Mix together milk, bananas, egg and* vanilla essence, until a dropping mixture. Add to the flour mixture and mix together. Spoon into the greased tin. Bake for 1 ½ hours – until golden colour. Leave to cool and then pour over cake

*Add 1tsp mixed spice and leave out the vanilla essence

RECIPE CORNER



CHICKEN AND CHORIZO BEAN STEW (SERVES 4)

25ml oil	8 Chicken Thighs
Salt & Pepper	200gms Chorizo sliced
1 Large Onion diced	4 Cloves Garlic crushed
1 Tin Tomatoes	1 Small bunch of fresh Basil
1 Can Cannelini Beans	










In a large frying pan, fry the chicken on both sides until golden.
Add all the other ingredients.
Bring to the boil and simmer gently for 20 minutes.

Both Submitted by Marian Batty

**Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner, and someone saw me grin,
When he smiled, I realised, I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile, then realised it's worth,
A single smile just like mine, could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected,
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected.**

Spike Milligan 

The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

- The sermon this morning, 'Jesus walks on the water'. The sermon tonight, 'Searching for Jesus.' 
- Ladies don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands! 
- Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help! 
- Miss Christine Mason will sing 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation! 
- For this who have children, and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs! 
- The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break forth into joy' 
- The Church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment, and gracious hostility 
- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon 
- This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin 

- The Low Self-Esteem group will meet on Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door 😊
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge' – 'Up Yours' 😊
- This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar 😊



On Sunday 1st. December, David Canham will lead us in Christmas Songs of Praise

TOY SERVICE - 17TH NOVEMBER - 10:30AM

ONCE AGAIN, WE WILL BE COLLECTING TOYS, BOOKS AND GAMES FOR BOLTON LIONS. THESE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE LIONS TO CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS, WHO WOULD NOT OTHERWISE RECEIVE MANY PRESENTS -WHY NOT START COLLECTING THEM NOW AND BRING THEM IN TO CHURCH ON THE 17TH. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE SERVICE, THEY CAN BE BROUGHT INTO CHURCH ANY TIME BEFORE THAT DATE AND PLACED IN THE VESTRY. THANK YOU.

WINTER COATS

We have a box at the back of church for donations of any adults or children's coats (in good, clean condition)

If you are thinking of having a sort out at home, please think about those less well-off and bring them along to church. We are collecting them on behalf of Turton Rotary.



We will be running a First Aid Course at Bank Top, led by a lady from St John's, on Tuesday, 28th January. It's a three-hour course starting at 6.45pm. Elders are requested to attend, and possibly leaders of any weekly activities. But if anyone else is interested in joining us please me know. We have a maximum of 30 persons. There is no charge.

Thank you, Val

BANK TOP URC

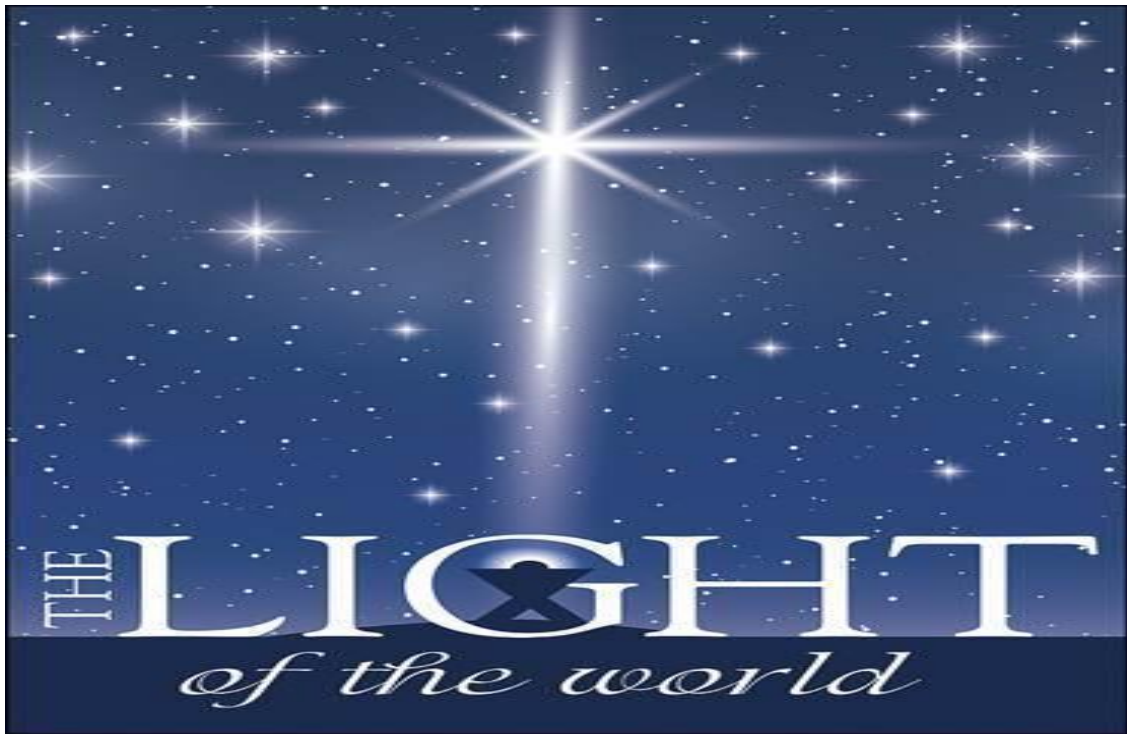


ADVENT BRUNCH

**Saturday 7th December
10:00am - 1:00pm**

**£6:00 adults/£2.00 children; includes:
Egg/Bacon/Sausage Barm
Mince Pie/Chocolate Roll
Tea, Coffee, Juice**

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



A new, wonderful, modern musical
adaptation of the Christmas story.

Performed by

The Eden Singers

*The cantata contains beautiful choral songs,
solos, duets, and timeless biblical readings*

Bank Top United Reformed Church

Ashworth Lane Bolton BL1 3RX

Sunday 15th December 3pm Start

Tickets £7.00 Contact for Tickets 07971-272-772

Tickets inclusive of Refreshments

CHRISTMAS AT BANK TOP

Sunday, 22nd December



Nativity – 10.30am



Carols on the garden – 5.45pm



Mulled wine & mince pies – 6.00pm

Carol & Christingle Service – 6.30pm



Tuesday, 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 4.00pm



Wednesday, 25th

Christmas Day Family Service – 10.30am



Please come and join us!!!!

FINANCE REPORT

Offertory

MONTH	CASH COLLECTION	ENVELOPES	STANDING ORDERS
July	111.45	367.00	740.00
Aug	138.61	364.00	760.00
September	175.94	485.10	740.00
TOTALS	1216.10	1216.10	2240.00

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

September	308.57
October	244.27

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 2024

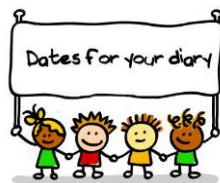
Our chosen charity for 2024 is Bolton Hospice

July	24.00
Aug	32.24
Sep	25.80
October	20.60

50/50 Winners

Month	Winner	Num-ber	Amount
Aug	C Catherall	82	50
	J Else	1	30
	J Partington	33	20
Sep	A Hardman	87	50
	L Rainford	56	30
	J Skidmore	7	20
Oct	D Myers	2	50
	J Partington	77	30
	A Guthrie	22	20

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



**FUTURE EVENTS:
NOVEMBER 2024 – JANUARY 2025**

<u>November</u>			
Sat	2 nd	12:00-1:00	Saturday Brunch
Sun	3 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship: Alison Spence, followed by tea and toast
Tue	5 th	7:30pm	Ladies Fellowship: 'My life behind the bars', Graham Nuttall
Wed	6 th	7:00pm	Elders Meeting
Sun	10 th	10:30am	Remembrance Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Tue	12 th	7:30pm	Housegroup at Val's – 'Jacob & Esau: A Family Feud' Genesis 25:12-27:40
Sun	17 th	10:30am	Toy Service – Family Service, The Worship Group
Tue	19 th	7:30pm	Ladies Fellowship: 'Bolton Carers Support,' Zoe Hill
Sun	24 th	10:30am	Morning Worship, Mark Curtis
Tue	26 th	7:30pm	Advent Course led by Rev Walt Johnson in church
<u>Decem-ber</u>			
Sun	1 st	10:30am	Songs of Praise service, David Canham
Tue	3 rd	7.30pm	Ladies Fellowship Meal
Wed	4 th	7:00pm	Elders Meeting
Sat	7 th	10:00 – 1:00pm	Advent Brunch
Sun	8 th	10.30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie, followed by tea and toast
Tue	10 th	7:30pm	Advent Course led by Revd Walt Johnson in church
Wed	11 th	7:30pm	Ladies Meal at San Marino
Sun	15 th	10:30am 3:00pm	Morning Worship: Mark Bates Eden Singers, 'Light of the World'
Sun	22 nd	10:30am 5:45pm 6:00pm 6:30pm	Nativity Service Carols on the Community Garden Mince Pies and Mulled Wine in Church Christingle Service
Tues	24 th	4:00pm	Christmas Eve Service, Barnabas and Andy
Wed	25 th	10:30pm	Christmas Day Service, Andy Guthrie
Sun	29 th	10:30am	Morning Worship, Alan Nuttall
<u>January</u>			
Sat	4 th	12:00-1:00	Saturday Brunch
Sun	5 th	10:30am	Morning Worship, Leo Roberts Church Meeting, tea & toast
Sun	12 th	10:30am	Morning Service, Communion, Andy Guthrie
Sun	19 th	10:30am	The Worship Group
Tue	21 st	7:30pm	Ladies Fellowship: A.G.M.
Sun	26 th	10:30am	Morning Worship, Mark Cowling
Tue	28 th	6:45-9:45pm	St John's First Aid Course

This Newsletter will be 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.