

# BANK



# TOPICS.

## NEWSLETTER FOR MAY UNTIL AUGUST 2026

Dear Friends

As the Disciples hid behind locked doors after the crucifixion, what do you think they talked about? I wonder if they talked about what they thought was the greatest miracle they had seen Jesus perform. Maybe it was the walking on the water? Bit embarrassing for Peter, as he went under, but what the heck? Some days go well and today may be the day I walked on water...

On Heather's list was cleaning the house; re-attaching the clematis to the wall - about 6 ft above her head; fixing the back gate, which has somehow dropped about an inch, so the latch no longer latched and the bolted. I, of course, was under instruction from Linda that the newsletter was now overdue.

But today was the day ...

The delivery van delivered a new fountain for the pond. The old one had somehow lost the one key component, ten different attachments all linked by "part A," none of which would work without "part A" and said "part A" was nowhere to be found. So, I ordered a new fountain yesterday evening and by ten this morning it is on our kitchen worktop. And today was the day ...

I offered to put the fountain to work, I could hear Linda squeal, but I still decided to take the risk of this dangerous DIY adventure. And today was the day ... And it worked... but more than that...

When Heather asked what I'd done with all the other bits - I'd put them away. In a zippy freezer bag, bits and instruction, even labelled!!!

Yes, today was the day I walked on water.

[Note to ChatGPT - Insert here picture of me looking like Jesus, walking on the water, in front of our pond's new fountain]



Or was I having a Trump moment?

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, 10.30am. Communion 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	
Minister	Revd Barnabas Shin: <a href="mailto:barnabas.shin@nwsynod.org.uk">barnabas.shin@nwsynod.org.uk</a> Revd Maria Lee: <a href="mailto:Maria.Lee@nwsynod.org.uk">Maria.Lee@nwsynod.org.uk</a>	07917 973 506 07831 874 879
Church Leader	Mr A Guthrie - <a href="mailto:andyguts@gmail.com">andyguts@gmail.com</a>	01204 591185
Secretary/Treasurer	Mrs V Singleton - <a href="mailto:singletonv@hotmail.com">singletonv@hotmail.com</a>	01204 305401
Church Hall Hire	Mrs V Singleton - <a href="mailto:singletonv@hotmail.com">singletonv@hotmail.com</a>	01204 305401
Pulpit Supply	Mrs J Skidmore	07840 870 341
Organists	Mr Graham Naylor Mrs Alison Spence	07741208957 07957332533
Flower Secretary	Mrs Marian Batty	01204 301047
Newsletter Editor	Ms L Rainford <a href="mailto:rainfordlinda@gmail.com">rainfordlinda@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:lindarainford@btinternet.com">lindarainford@btinternet.com</a>	07808 172 662
Serving Elders	Marian Batty, David Canham, Christine Counsell, 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 <a href="mailto:acalbinson@gmail.com">acalbinson@gmail.com</a>	07701 010 608
House group	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month, contact Mrs Helen Seager	01204 300666
Theatre Works	Wednesday 4-5.00pm contact Lauren Bateman	07999 634 208
Textile Crafts	First Thursday of the month 10.30-12.30 contact Pauline Treuherz: <a href="mailto:paulinetreuherz@yahoo.co.uk">paulinetreuherz@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
Rainbows	Thursday 5.45-6.45pm contact Mrs E Robinson	07510 895 470
Talkin' Tables	Thursday 13.30 14.30 Heather Guthrie	0787 5354340
Eden Singers	Thursday 7.30-9.15pm, Adrian Yapp	07766 140 386
Branches	1 <sup>st</sup> 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

### MAY

1<sup>st</sup> Heather  
8<sup>th</sup> Christine & Pat  
15<sup>th</sup> Joan & Kath  
22<sup>nd</sup> Graham & Linda  
29<sup>th</sup> Carol

### JUNE

5<sup>th</sup> Val & Andrea  
12<sup>th</sup> Heather  
19<sup>th</sup> Christine & Pat  
26<sup>th</sup> Joan & Kath

### JULY

3<sup>rd</sup> Graham & Linda  
10<sup>th</sup> Carol  
17<sup>th</sup> Val & Andrea  
24<sup>th</sup> Heather  
31<sup>st</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.

## FLOWER LIST

### MAY

3<sup>rd</sup> In Memory of Lilian Tredrea  
10<sup>th</sup> Sid & Maureen Roocroft  
17<sup>th</sup> Sermons - Guides  
24<sup>th</sup> Maureen Flitcroft  
31<sup>st</sup> Christine Counsel

### JUNE

7<sup>th</sup> Muriel Brown  
14<sup>th</sup> Sarah Astley  
21<sup>st</sup> Maureen Flitcroft  
28<sup>th</sup> Dot Hayes

### JULY

5<sup>th</sup> David Warburton  
12<sup>th</sup> Jill Partington  
19<sup>th</sup> In Memory of Gladys Yates  
26<sup>th</sup> Kath Dean

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

**JUST A REMINDER THAT THE VAX VACUUM CLEANER IS ONLY FOR THE CARPET. HOWEVER, THERE IS AN ATTACHMENT IN THE BOTTOM OF THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD. IT IS LABELLED "VAX ATTACHMENT". IT CAN BE USED FOR THE HALL AND KITCHEN AND MAKES LIFE EASIER THAN SWEEPING. ONE MORE REQUEST PLEASE! CAN WHOEVER IS THE VACUUM PERSON, CHECK THE IF THE DRUM NEEDS EMPTYING AS THIS HELPS WITH THE SUCTION. IF YOU NOTICE THE FILTERS ARE DIRTY OR WORN, LET ME KNOW. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK. WE ARE THE CLEANEST CHURCH! 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**

3<sup>rd</sup> John 14: 1-14  
10<sup>th</sup> John 14: 15-21  
17<sup>th</sup> John 17: 1-11  
24<sup>th</sup> John 20: 19-23  
31<sup>st</sup> Matthew 28:16-20

### **JUNE**

7<sup>th</sup> Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26  
14<sup>th</sup> Matthew 9:35 -10:8  
21<sup>st</sup> Matthew 10:24-39  
28<sup>th</sup> Matthew 10:40-42

### **JULY**

5<sup>th</sup> Matthew 11:16-19  
12<sup>th</sup> Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23  
19<sup>th</sup> Matthew 13: 24-30  
26<sup>th</sup> Matthew 13: 31-33,44-52

## **BANK TOP FAMILY NEWS**



### **MAY**

**Imisioluwa (Missy)  
Theo Milne**

### **July**

**Freya Dean  
Freddie Spencer**

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

# QUIZ

## NAME THE CHOCOLATE/SWEETS

Submitted by Sue Seddon

For the solutions, please see either Sue Seddon or Linda Rainford

WOBBLY INFANTS	
WHERE REFINED PEOPLE LIVE	
100 % PRECIOUS	
9,10,11 ETC	
FALLEN FRUITS	
CARRIER FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS	
MOTHER'S LOCAL	
ALL SORTS OF GIRLS	
ROYAL HERB	
BELLY DANCERS PERHAPS?	
SPORT OF THE PRINCES	
HOME FOR ALCOHOLIC TEETH	
SPEAK QUIETLY	
EDIBLE FASTNERS	
AROMATIC SPHERES	
INHABITANTS OF A MEDITERRRANIAN ISLAND	
FELINE GEAR	
OCCULT PERHAPS	
CORKS FOR MOUTHS	
A GALAXY	
PUNISHMENT FOR NUTS	
AMERICAN HALF TIME	
LONDON HAS BIG RED ONES	
LITTLE RICHARDS FAVOURTIE	
10 PIN BOWLING	
FOUND IN AN ELECTRIC PLUG	
PIRATES LOOT	
TARTAN GRANITE	
CLEVER CHOCOLATES	
PETALS AND PRICKLES	



**CHICKEN STROGANOFF**

Ingredients

2 tbsp Oil	2 Chicken Breasts cut into chunks
1 Onion (finely chopped)	2 Garlic Cloves (crushed)
½ tsp Sweet Paprika	200ml Chicken Stock
2 tsp Dijon Mustard	1 tbs Worcester Sauce
100 gms Soured Cream or Crème Fresh	
Handful of chopped parsley	Salt and Pepper

Method

Heat ½ the oil in a frying pan and fry chicken chunks over a medium heat stirring frequently until golden, then transfer to a plate.

Heat the remaining oil and lower the heat. Fry the onion for 6-8 mins until softened but not golden, then stir in the garlic and paprika, salt and pepper. Fry for 1 minute until fragrant then pour in the stock and add the Dijon mustard and Worcester sauce. Tip the chicken in with the rested juices and simmer for 5 minutes until the chicken is cooked. Over a low heat add the cream and scatter the parsley.

**Submitted by Marian Batty**

**SONGS OF PRAISE**

**DAVID CANHAM WILL BE HOLDING HIS LAST SONGS OF  
PRAISE ON SUNDAY 7th JUNE 2026**

**MESSAGE FROM DOTTY**

I am posting this with my “Woodland Trust” hat on. I am part of the Woodland Trust’s Smithills Estate History and Research Group. Following on from our successful book about the “Lives and Times” of the people who lived and worked on then Estate in times gone by, we have now received further funding for an Oral History project. We will be recording memories from people who were born or have lived in this part of Bolton, and these will be collated eventually into another publication. We have already begun visiting some of the care homes in the area and talking to residents there. We will be going into schools and Local History Groups and other places where people gather who may contribute. To this end, we will also be hosting some coffee mornings up at the Hall in a few months and I will keep Linda updated as to dates and times so she can mention them in the newsletter, or I can put up a poster, so that if anyone is interested, they could go along. In the meantime, if any of our congregation have any interesting memories of the Smithills, Halliwell, Sharples, Belmont, Chorley Old Road area, then I would be happy to hear them

Many Thanks Dotty

A SEASONAL POEM FROM OUR RESIDENT BARD

## **HERE COMES SUMMER**

Winter is over the dark days are done.

Welcome to Summer with the warmth of the sun.

Gardens are blooming with colourful flowers.

Birds busy nesting in blossoming bowers

High in the sky the swallows are winging.

With blackbirds and thrushes happily singing

Long summer evenings to spend out of doors.

Enjoying the garden or a walk o'er the moors

The smell of the mown grass turning to hay.

The laughter of children busy at play

Long lazy days spent by the sea.

Family and friends share cups of tea.

Storing up memories of days filled with fun.

So farewell to Winter for Summers begun.



Christine Catherall April 2026

# **BANK TOP CHURCH ANNUAL SERMONS SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**Family service 10:30am led by our Worship Group**



**Followed by a BBQ on the Community Garden**



# **BANK TOP CHURCH VILLAGE FAIR**

## **SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

*On the Community Garden, Ashworth Lane*

**BOLTON BL18RX**



# FINANCE REPORT

## Offertory

MONTH	CASH COLLECTION	ENVELOPES	STANDING ORDERS
January	181.23	366.00	770.00
February	191.20	405.00	635.00
March	263.17	453.00	915.00
TOTALS	635.60	1224.00	2320.00

## BRUNCHES

January	182.70
February	271.00
March	421.60
April	313.22
TOTALS	1188.52

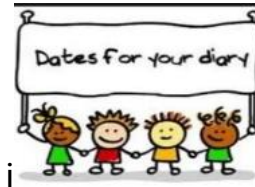
## CHANGE FOR CHARITY - BOLTON HOSPICE

January	69.11
February	32.60
March	398.29
April	127.09
TOTALS	627.09

## 50/50 WINNERS

Month	Winner	Number	Amount
January	C Catherall	6	50.00
	C Rideout	14	30.00
	R Butcher	93	20.00
February	C Catherall	68	50.00
	E Johns	99	30.00
	R Butcher	24	20.00
March	R Butcher	24	50.00
	J Dodd	79	30.00
	A Johns	44	20.00
April	M Brown	52	50.00
	E Robinson	90	30.00
	L Howarth	78	20.00

*Thank you, Val Singleton, Church Treasurer*



## MAY – JULY 2026

<b>MAY</b>			
Sat	2 <sup>nd</sup>	12:00-1:00pm	Saturday Brunch
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30am	Morning Worship, Leo Roberts
Tue	5 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Ladies Fellowship, RHS Bridgewater, Nick Hardman
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Elders Meeting
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Tue	12 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Housegroup at Val's – James 3:13 – 4:10 'Makers & Breakers of Peace'
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Sermons Sunday, The Worship Group, followed by BBQ on the Garden
Tue	19 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Ladies Fellowship, Life as a Reporter (BBC) Kevin Fitzpatrick
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Morning Worship, Rev Walt Johnson
Tue	26 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Housegroup at Val's, James 4:11-17, 'Getting Perspective'
Sun	31 <sup>st</sup>	10:30am 4:00pm	Morning Worship, Rev Maria Lee, Partnership Service at Bank Top
<b>JUNE</b>			
Tue	2 <sup>nd</sup>	All Day	Ladies Fellowship Trip
Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:00pm	Elders Meeting
Sat	6 <sup>th</sup>	12:00-1:00pm	Brunch – Buffet & Cream Tea in aid of Malawi Appeal
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	David Canham, Songs of Praise, followed by Tea & Toast
Tue	9 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Housegroup at Val's, James 5:1-11 'What Awaits'
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Tue	16 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Ladies Fellowship, Flower Demonstrations, Paula Martin
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	10:30am	Morning Worship, Tom Miller
Tue	23 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30pm	Housegroup at Val's, James 5:12-20, 'Becoming Whole'
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Morning Worship, Karen Openshaw
<b>JULY</b>			
Sat	4 <sup>th</sup>	11:30-3:00	VILLAGE FAIR
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Morning Worship Rev Maria Lee, followed by Church Meeting, Tea & Toast
Tue	7 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Ladies Fellowship, Victoria Unbuttoned, Fiona Smithson
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Communion Service, Andy Guthrie
Tue	14 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Val's Housegroup, Discussion on New Topic from September
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Morning Service, Adrian Yapp
Tue	21 <sup>st</sup>	7:30pm	Ladies Fellowship, The Golden Age of Comedy, Brian Halliwell
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Morning Worship, Rev Mark Cowling

**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.**