



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 24th March 2024

HEADLINES

- **Easter Services** – details for each fellowship and our combined parish-wide services
- **SIAMS Success** – Well done St Peter's School
- **Oasis** – celebrating 6 wonderful months!
- **Barrow Bridge** – 25 years of new building
- **Prayer for the Week** – Phil and Elaine Weaver from our National and International Ministry team invite us to pray for our Mission Partners

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sunday 24 March - Palm Sunday

8.30am	Morning Service
10.30am	Worship for Everyone - Lighthouse Takeover Livestream: youtube.com/live/f12Sx-kRkqU
2pm	Baptism Service
6.30pm	Parish-wide Service Livestream: youtube.com/live/z33Y7JXEf2o

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10.00am	All-Age Communion Service
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Morning Service
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ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Morning Service
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Rev Alan writes...

It's Holy Week!

Starting with Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem when the crowds waved palm leaves and shouted '**Hosanna**', which means '**He saves**'. But it wasn't long until the shouting changed to '**crucify him**' and the triumph turned to tragedy as Jesus is arrested, flogged and killed on a Roman cross. But three days later, Jesus is resurrected from the dead. It's a massive turning point as Jesus wins a mighty victory over death and sin. And we join with a new shout of '**Halleluiah, He is risen!**' on Easter Sunday, the greatest day in history.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30pm Parish-Wide Communion, St Peter's

GOOD FRIDAY

10.30am Parish-Wide Service, St Peter's

2.00pm Parish-Wide Service, An Hour by the Cross, Smithills Hall Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY

8.30am Easter Communion, St Peter's

10.00am Family Service, Smithills Fellowship

10.30am Worship for Everyone Communion, St Peter's

10.30am All-Age Service, Barrow Bridge

10.30am Easter Day Service, St Andrew's

6.30pm Parish-Wide Easter Celebration Service with Communion, St Peter's

EASTER SERVICES



I'd love for us all to pause this week and reflect on all Jesus has done and prioritise, in our busy lives, time to gather as St Peter's parish-wide family to worship the God who saves. You can see on our list above both services in our fellowships and parish-wide. Let's use Easter to build relationships across the parish.

What's Gone On

People just keep on giving!



Thanks to even more givers this week, the total has increased to £13,672.15 which is 911 tiles. The appeal is now officially over, but there is still time for anyone who hasn't yet managed to give, or if you want to give now that you've seen the fabulous results. And just a final reminder please for any taxpayers to please email

finance@stpetersparish.info so we can claim Gift Aid.

Barrow Bridge 25 Years of New Building

Last Sunday as part of their vision service, members of the fellowship thanked God and shared testimonies of 25 years since the extension to the Mission building. It was fascinating listening to stories of the original building scheme – especially the faith to go for an ambitious new-build and the recognition of how this



has helped provide a future-proof home for the fellowship. It was an opportunity to look back with gratitude and look forward with faith to

the next era in the life of Barrow Bridge Mission.

Oasis Celebrates Six Months



Liz Nicholls says 'We are thrilled that our Oasis family has been coming together every Thursday morning since August to experience some green pastures and still waters in the midst of our lives.

We meet in St

Peter's Church lounge for refreshments from 10.30am onwards, and enjoy chatting and catching up with friends. At 11.30am we move into the main church for a short informal half hour service. One of the great joys of Oasis is hearing many different voices from our Oasis family contributing to our worship, through reading the Bible, leading prayers, speaking and sharing testimonies. We have all felt truly blessed to hear each other's faith stories.

We are looking forward to continuing to build our Oasis family and making Thursday mornings a place of encouragement, compassion and blessing for all who come. So, do come and join us and even bring a friend – pop in for coffee, or just for the service, or for both. We would love to welcome you to our Oasis family!

Here is Oasis' prayer:

*Thank you, Heavenly Father, for Your love and care for each of us,
Thank you for the green pastures and the still waters that You give us,
May we be refreshed and encouraged at Oasis through Your people and Your word
And go out from here to share Your love, Your light and Your truth with others. Amen.*

Sound Improvements

Ashley McEwan, pictured, getting to grips with St Peter's new digital sound desk at last week's 6.30pm parish-wide service. The desk was installed by Elian Winstanley,



and purchase made possible thanks to a generous donation to enable renewal and upgrading of our sound system. This is a key step to help bring an improvement in sound quality and new opportunities to develop the sound of our worship bands.

Dementia Support Group



A very special celebration took place on Thu as the group marked the 60th wedding anniversary of one of its couples! Meeting on the 3rd Wed of each month, this welcoming friendship group is for those with dementia and their carers. Enjoy refreshments, cake, songs and games together. We'd love you to join us. More info from Joan on 01204 840180

CAP Thank You

Sam says 'Thank you to those of you who contributed to the Easter gifts. 30 clients are receiving eggs, Christian literature and a card with scripture on. Please pray as the team delivers them next week that the clients and their children will read the contents!'



SIAMS Success!



St Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School recently underwent a very successful SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) as all Church of England schools have to do. The final report came out this week and can be found on the school's website: [SIAMS report](#). It is a wonderful read and contains such delights as:

- *The deeply embedded Christian vision, and associated values, result in a loving and supportive school culture. Staff model, and pupils are taught, how to treat others exceptionally well.*
- *Leaders offer pupils an exceptional range of experiences and opportunities.*
- *The highly relevant Christian values...contribute significantly to the character development of pupils at St Peter's.*
- *Collective worship is a special time of day, allowing pupils and adults time to reflect, give thanks and grow spiritually.*

This report is a wonderful reflection of all the hard work and support that has gone into the school by the staff team, governors, parents, the Forward as One Trust and especially the amazing children that attend the school and make it the phenomenal school that it is. Congratulations and well done!

Coming Up

Baptisms

Sun 24 Mar, 2pm at St Peter's we welcome **Freddie and James Bell, Axl Williamson and Hugo Sewart** and thank God for the gift of these children and for their parents, Godparents, family and friends on this special occasion.

Progressive Meal



Sat 6 Apr, 6.30pm, start at Parish Centre

If you haven't yet signed up to join us for this fun evening, it's not too late! We'll have each course at different homes with

a different group of people. Optional donation £15 per person, proceeds towards Quinta Parish Weekend. You can come alone or with someone and transport can be provided if needed. Contact Rachel or Stephen Brierley 01204 433810

/thebrierleys@proton.me. Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/Dx6PMcm85L62T8SHA>

Powerful Praise 3

Sat 20 Apr, from 10am to 5pm, St Peter's

If you haven't already signed up for the next Powerful Praise session, there's still time to do it –

robandsue@stpetersparish.info / 07812 335251 And, if singing up-front isn't for you, the day ends with a wonderful **Praise Time at 4.15pm** and everyone is invited to come along and join in and see what the amazing choir have been doing during the day.



Girls Discipleship Group

Mon 25 Mar, 7.30pm-9pm, Parish Centre. All Year 9+ girls welcome.



Looking Forward

Ignite Children's Club

Ignite: Lucy Hargraves is recruiting volunteers for Ignite – a new parish-wide weekly children's club aimed at KS2 children (primary school junior ages), contact: lucyhargraves@manchester.anglican.org

Bronze DofE Award Sign-Up

Tue 26 Mar, 7.30pm, Parish Centre. For new starters and parents/carers. Info from: Mark Rigby 07964 329916 / markmttl@gmail.com

Out and About Walk

Sat 6 Apr, 9.30am. Meet opposite St Peter's. It starts at Greenfield in Peak District, around Dovestone, Yeoman Hey and Greenfield reservoirs, 8 miles, reasonably flat. Bring packed lunch. Info from Rick/Jane Heath 07472 926650.

St Andrew's 90th Anniversary

Events postponed. New dates to be advised very soon. The celebrations will not take place over the weekend of 27-28 Apr as originally advertised.

Prayer for the week

This week's prayer comes from Phil and Elaine Weaver on behalf of our National and International Ministry team. Please continue to pray using their Mission Partners booklet – copies available in church or from the Parish Office.

See NIM's prayer on the back page...

PRAYER by Phil & Elaine Weaver on behalf of National and International Ministry Team

Heavenly Father, your word reminds us to act with justice, integrity and humility. We pray for those who are hungry, displaced, homeless, suffering injustice, poverty, oppression and violence. May we truly become their servants, coming to their aid led by the love and compassion of you, our God. We pray for all our Mission Partners, here in Bolton and across the world, especially those living and working in difficult and dangerous situations. We ask that they all be aware of your presence in a very special way and be strengthened and encouraged in their various ministries. We pray too for world leaders and diplomats, that all nations may work together for justice and build a world of peace and hope for future generations. Lord, we pray for those who risk their lives for the process of peace and justice. Heavenly Father, may we always be ready to proclaim our faith with joy and thanksgiving. We praise and glorify your name for the precious gift of being your people.

Amen

Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 25 Mar			
10am-12noon 9.30am-12noon 7.30pm-9pm	Coffee Room Age UK Strength & Balance Classes Girls Discipleship Group	Drop-in for coffee and cakes Classes are full - contact office for info All girls in year 9 and up welcome.	Parish Centre
Tue 26 Mar			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots Toddlers	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers Tread Youth Group	Suzi 07834 371509 Ben 07512 753201	Parish Centre
Wed 27 Mar			
10am-11.30am	Open Door Ladies Group	Easter songs with talk by our vicar, Alan	Parish Centre
9am	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session	St Andrew's
Thu 28 Mar (Maundy Thursday)			
10.30am-12noon 7.30pm	Oasis Coffee Morning and Service Parish-wide Communion	Refreshments from 10.30am, service 11.30am	St Peter's
Fri 29 Mar (Good Friday)			
10.30am	Parish-wide service		St Peter's
2pm	Parish-wide <i>Hour by the Cross</i>		Smithills Chapel
Sat 30 Mar (Easter Saturday)			
9am-12pm	INTERACT Performing Arts Group	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	Parish Centre

Keep Connected

General Enquiries E: office@stpetersparish.info / P: 01204 599900

Parish Business Manager: Amanda Blease E: amanda@stpetersparish.info

Vicar: Rev Alan Saunders E: alan@stpetersparish.info / M: 07767 643444 / P: 01204 848624

Wardens: Elian Winstanley and Phil Weaver E: wardens@stpetersparish.info

CAP Debt Centre Manager: Sam Wolstencroft E: samwolstencroft@capuk.org / M: 07934 716509

Caretaker: David Park E: david@stpetersparish.info

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