



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 1 December 2024

HEADLINES

- Advent
- Down to Earth Devotional
- AYF Ugandan Choir Mission and Concert
- 350 Christmas puddings needed ASAP
- Prayers by Diane Ball on behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre)

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 1 Dec
It's Lighthouse week!



ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service
*10.30am	Adult service with Twinklers
*6.30pm	Parish-wide service

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Morning service and Lighthouse
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Morning service and Lighthouse
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ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Communion service
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*Livestreamed search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'
We are an accessibility-friendly parish

Rev Alan writes...

Welcome to Advent! In addition to our regular weekly services, we have some fantastic services, events and outreach opportunities coming up during Advent, read on to find out more...

Next **Sat 7 Dec, 12.30-3.30pm** is

Smithills Christmas Market on Redcar Road. It's a festive feast with heaps of Christmas crafts, tasty treats and marvellous music for everyone to enjoy whilst raising funds for Urban Outreach.



Sun 8 Dec, 10am is **Smithills Farm Nativity** – a fun way to join in the Christmas story with real animals and children, what could possibly go wrong! This year is the first year we are calling it a parish-wide event and encouraging anyone to go.

Fri 13 Dec, 6.30pm at **Barrow Bridge Mission** we gather for an evening of carol singing around Barrow Bridge Village, accompanied by a brass ensemble, and followed by seasonal refreshments at the Mission. Everyone is welcome for what is a wonderful atmospheric occasion.

Sun 15 Dec, 10.30am at **St Peter's** is our first-ever **Lighthouse United Nativity** where children from Lighthouse groups across the parish will be uniting to act out the Christmas story in a highly entertaining and creative way! Smithills Fellowship have cancelled their morning service so that everyone can join in.

Also on **Sun 15 Dec, 2pm** at **Smithills Hall Chapel** there is a reflective service for anyone looking for a quieter opportunity to draw close to God in worship.



Wed 18 Dec, 7.30pm at **Heaton Cricket Club** is a **'Barrel of Carols'** a spirit-filled singalong evening of music and good cheer, led by our very own musicians and with a Christmas message from the Vicar!

Continued...

Sun 22 Dec, 6.30pm at St Peter's

is our annual parish-wide candlelit carol service with a full choir and brass ensemble. This has become a popular service which follows the format of 9 lessons (bible readings) and carols that retell the whole Christmas story in words and music.



Christmas Eve, 4pm at St Peter's is a special family Christingle service. It is a short and fun-packed service where we all get to construct our own Christingles and join together singing lively Christmas songs and getting in the mood for Christmas Day.

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm at St Peter's is our annual Midnight Communion service where we recall the birth of our saviour on this most holy of nights.

Then on **Christmas Day** we have a wonderful celebration of Jesus' birth at all our fellowships across the parish, St Andrew's and Barrow Bridge fellowships celebrate together at a special joint service at Barrow Bridge Mission.

We'd love you to invite your friends, neighbours and family to join us for our services and celebrations this Christmas. Invitation flyers will be available for you to take at all our services this Sunday and from the Parish Office.

Down To Earth

Down to Earth is the theme for our morning services during Advent and Christmas. You're invited to join **Down to Earth – A Christmas Devotional Journey**. Simply download the **YouVersion Bible App** and follow this link:

<https://bible.com/p/70214503/b22f824c5b243daecf8cf462d5ca6d78> to accept Diane O'Keeffe's invitation to join the Down to Earth daily devotions. The resources are produced by LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity). Find out more and register for the daily devotions by email here: <https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/down-to-earth-a-christmas-devotional-journey/>



Candlelit Carol Service

Sun 22 Dec, 6.30pm at St Peter's

Instrumentalists needed for the chorus of The Holly and the Ivy. Parts for any instrument can be written using notes you can play. Dig out your guitar, flute, clarinet, violin, ukulele, recorder etc. Together we'll sound amazing! Here's Cara Dillon's version - https://youtu.be/f0iLMfsRVms?si=GcZtaM_rJ17nS6OJ. More info from susanwilding1@hotmail.co.uk.

Funerals in St Peter's

Thurs 12 Dec, 1pm Eric WAGSTAFFE

Fri 13 Dec, 11am Oleh SMACZYLO



AYF Ugandan Choir Mission and Concert

Following the delays with Visas and cancellation of the visit earlier in November, we are delighted that the team arrive for a mission visit starting 5 Dec. The mission will include visits to Lowton High, Canon Slade, Johnson Fold Primary, Belmont Primary and St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary Schools; a performance at Smithills Christmas Market; involvement in our Sunday services on 8 Dec, and visits to a variety of groups. Climax of their visit, which celebrates 40 years of ministry in Uganda, will be a Grand Concert on Sun 8 Dec, 6,30pm at St Peter's. It will be a great event to bring friends to enjoy their wonderful music and inspirational testimonies.



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL
"Transforming Bolton Together in Jesus' Name"

Join Us This Christmas...

In addition to our weekly services at each fellowship, we have these special parish-wide services

Sunday 8th December
10:00am Nativity at the Farm at Smithills Farm

Sunday 15th December
10.30am Lighthouse United Nativity at St Peter's Church
2:00pm Reflective Advent Service at Smithills Hall Chapel

Sunday 22nd December
6.30pm Candlelit Carol Service,
with choir and brass ensemble at St. Peter's Church

Tuesday 24th December
4.00pm Family Christingle at St. Peter's Church
11:30pm Midnight Communion at St. Peter's Church

Sunday 29th December
10.30am Family Christmas Communion at St. Peter's Church

Details of all other Advent and Christmas services for each fellowship can be found in our weekly newsletter, available on our website and Facebook page.



Give

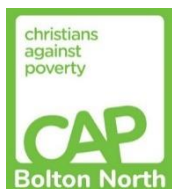
Last Chance!!!! 350 Puddings Needed!

We need 1,000 x 400g Christmas Puddings (they should say *serves 4*) by Sun 1 Dec for Christmas Dinner on Jesus. **At last count, we had 650!** Drop puddings off ASAP in all fellowships/at the Parish Centre or if you'd prefer us to buy them for you, go to <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/27138>.



Vouchers for CAP

Thanks for all the wonderful 'smellies gifts'; we still need some supermarket vouchers (by **Sun 15 Dec** please). Please drop them off at the Parish Centre or pass to Sam.



Thanks for those of you who have given in Response sheets on how to keep in the CAP loop - it is not too late to fill one in or chat to Sam! Also, **CAP Wrapping night** will take place at 7.45pm in Parish Centre on Tues 17 Dec - can you help? Please let Sam know (samwolstencroft@capuk.org / 07934 716509).



Serve

Volunteers for New Children's Club

There's an exciting new opportunity to volunteer at SPARK, a new Midweek Children's club for KS1 children at St Peter's Parish Centre! The Children Changing Places team from Manchester Diocese are going to support us with this new group. Please contact lucyhargraves@manchester.anglican.org if you would be interested in helping out.

Smithills Christmas Market

Sat 7 Dec, 12.30pm-3.30pm, Redcar Rd, BL1 6LL
We **urgently need help** on the Saturday morning to set up gazebos and marquees. If you can help, please just turn up for approx 90 mins from 9am on Redcar Rd. Help also greatly appreciated if anyone could volunteer for approx 60 mins after the event closes (3.45pm) to pack up. Thank you for your support.



Meet

Home for Good Peer Support Group

Sat 7 Dec, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre For adopters, foster, kinship carers and families. Bring and share lunch. Join us for this Christmas-themed session. Info: Fiona 07786 844141



Out and About Local Walk

Sat 7 Dec, 10am (NB: LATER TIME), meet on Smithills Dean Road at the turning to Smithills Hall A local walk of 5 miles finishing at Smithills in time for the  Smithills Christmas Market. All welcome. Info from Jane Heath on 07472926650

Mastersingers 'All is Bright'

Sat 7 Dec, 6.30pm, St Andrew's and St George's
For those who enjoyed the Mastersingers concert at St Peter's in June, they will be supporting Keys Piano School at this festive collaboration, featuring some wonderful Christmas songs. It would be lovely to see you there. Tickets £10, under 16's free.

Smithills Hall Carol Service

Thurs 12 Dec, 7pm, Smithills Chapel
You are warmly invited to the Friends of Smithills Hall Carol Service, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall. All welcome.

Christmas Bookstall

St Peter's, now until 15 Dec
Please support our wonderful local Christian bookshop – Isaiah 53 – and take a look at the cards, books, calendars and lots of great gift ideas on offer.


Leadership Team Minutes

The minutes of the November meeting are now on display at the back of church. Please take a look.



Pray

PrayerZone

Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm-8.30pm, St Peter's
 We will meet in church and have a short Christmas meditation, a taste of Lectio Divina and then open prayer for the Christmas season / services. All welcome.

David Moffoot's Thanks

'I've recently returned from India after a month working in 6 different schools, training members of staff and where possible sharing the Gospel. The team of 5 had a wonderful time with many memories including seeing boys and girls with a strong Christian faith coming out from the streets of Kolkata (Calcutta). Awesome! Many more moments to share some time. Thanks for standing with us in prayer.'

Prayer for the Week

Diane Ball, St Andrew's (Hope Centre) says 'This is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent: the arrival (coming) of a notable thing or person. So today at the start of advent as we light the HOPE candle, we pray asking Jesus to bring hope and light again, to us and through us.' **See her prayer on the back page.**

PRAYER from Diane Ball on behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre)

'The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; For those who live in a land of deep darkness a light will shine.' Isaiah 9 v 2.

Jesus, our risen Saviour and our coming King

There is much darkness and despair in our world, our nation, our town and sometimes in

our own lives. Thank you that you came to bring light to darkness and hope where hope is hard to find.

You fully understand and share our heart cry for the hurting and hopeless. We bring to you ourselves, our neighbours and all we know struggling with difficult situations. Shine your light in us again today so that we might reflect you in the world. And we pray for the work of the Coffee Room, the Toddler and Tots groups, Hub at the Hope, young people's groups, Urban Outreach, Café Create, our CAP Centre and all the other ministries we support as they bring hope, light and compassion in your name this week. For your glory, Amen.

Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 2 Dec			
9.30am-12noon 10am-12noon 6pm-7.30pm 7pm-9pm	AGE UK's Strength and Balance classes Coffee Room Weight Management Programme Farnworth Performing Arts Co	Classes full, contact Parish Office Drop-in for coffee and cakes www.yhbolton.co.uk /01204 205090 office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Tue 3 Dec			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers IGNITE Children's Club Tread Youth Group	Suzi 07834 371509 ignite@stpetersparish.info Ben 07512 753201	Parish Centre
Wed 4 Dec			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 7pm-9pm	Open Door Ladies' Group Farnworth Performing Arts Co	Joan Johnson, Flowers for Christmas. Val 07902 167971 office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Thu 5 Dec			
8.30am-9am	Prayer Meeting	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10.30am-12noon	Oasis Coffee Morning and Service	Refreshments 10.30am, service 11.30am	St Peter's
Fri 6 Dec			
10am-12noon 10.30am-12noon 8pm-10pm	Watercolours Class Friday Life Group Stressbusters Badminton	Lucinda 07977 821119 denis.collier@gmail.com Geoff 07835 388732	Parish Centre
Sat 7 Dec			
9am-12noon	INTERACT Performing Arts Group	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	St Peter's
12.30pm-2pm	Home for Good	Fiona 07786 844141	Parish Centre

Keep Connected

Parish Business Manager: Amanda Blease

E: amanda@stpetersparish.info / P: 01204 599900

Finance Officer: Elaine Vincent

E: finance@stpetersparish.info / P: 01204 599901

Vicar: Rev Alan Saunders

E: alan@stpetersparish.info / M: 07767 643444 / P: 01204 848624

Wardens: Phil Weaver and Simon Scott

E: wardens@stpetersparish.info

CAP Debt Centre Manager: Sam Wolstencroft

E: samwolstencroft@capuk.org / M: 07934 716509

Caretaker: David Park

E: david@stpetersparish.info

St Peter's Parish Centre
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www.stpetersparish.info



St Peter's Halliwell



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