



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

# NEWSLETTER



Sunday 24 November 2024

## HEADLINES

- Our Church Commitment To Pray
- Down to Earth Devotional
- A Brilliant CAP Sunday!
- 650 Christmas puddings needed ASAP
- Prayers by Hilary Peake on behalf of St Peters

*Read on to find out more...*

## SERVICES

Sun 24 Nov

### ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service
*10.30am	Worship for Everyone service
2pm	Baptism service
*6.30pm	Parish-wide Communion service

### SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family Communion service
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### BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	All-age Communion service
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### ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Morning service
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\*Livestreamed search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'

**We are an accessibility-friendly parish**

## Rev Alan writes...

### My Church Commitment – To Pray



Each week since our Vision Service in early October I have written about our commitment to church as "Jesus' Family on Jesus' Mission". In our morning services we have learnt about our five areas of commitment to **Give, Meet, Serve, Baptise and Share,** and **Pray**. This week I am writing about our final area of commitment - **To Pray**.



Jesus' disciples were so amazed by his example that one day they asked him to teach them how to pray. Luke 11:1-13 shows that Jesus taught them the Lord's Prayer as a pattern

for prayer. To pray is the most natural thing we can do as we were all created to live in a relationship with God. Yet so often we neglect this relationship, only going to God when all else has failed and we are desperate for help. Our commitment to prayer should be driven by our desire for God to guide every aspect of our lives. It's when we commit to prayer in this way that our good ideas become God's ideas – we are at the centre of God's will for us, and that's the best place to be!

Prayer is essential if we are to fulfil our vision to **Transform Bolton together in Jesus' name**. We simply have to be guided by God or else we are just running a load of meaningless projects. But with God's guidance we can achieve great things. So, let's all commit to prayer.

To help kickstart our prayers, Elian Winstanley has written a superb Week of Prayer diary with reflections for each day, starting on Monday.

You can download a copy here:

<https://stpetersparish.info/prayer-diary-2024> or pick up a paper copy at your service or

from the Parish Office. Will you commit to join a movement of prayer across our parish? I'll be preaching on Jesus' prayer for us all from John 17 at our parish-wide 6.30pm service this Sunday.



## Down To Earth

**Down to Earth** is the theme for our morning services during Advent and Christmas which start next Sun 1 Dec. When Jesus was born in the small town of Bethlehem, he upended what the world thought it knew about God. Not distant and untouchable, he became truly down-to-earth – God with us, God living like us. His example is one of humility and involvement. Of putting your boots on and getting out there. Of getting your hands dirty, working to make Earth more like heaven. His mission touches every part of life – every place, task, and relationship – and he calls us to play our part in it. And 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. It is a great way to prepare for Christmas and a healthy antidote to the commercialism and chaos. If you've never tried it before, or you are a committed daily bible reader, why not grab the opportunity this Advent to spend a few minutes each day reflecting and learning about God's amazing plan of salvation for the world – with a whole group of us across the parish. 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/>



## Eric Wagstaffe

We are sad to announce that Rev Eric Wagstaffe died peacefully this week. He was 99 years old and had been a regular member of the 11am congregation at St Peter's until his health deteriorated. When Eric was



Vicar of Christ Church Harpurhey in Manchester he baptised Rev Alan as a baby. We pray for Eric's three sons and their families. Funeral details will be announced soon.



## Do Brunch, Do Life at St Peter's TODAY

**Sun 24 Nov, 10.15am, St Peter's**

We'd love you to arrive a little earlier (from 10.15am) and enjoy a sausage butty and brew as part of a special service to share our thoughts from the Vision Sunday sermon series – My Church Commitment.



## AYF Choir Concert

**New dates, they're returning!**  
**5th - 12th Dec**

The AYF team bring an energetic mix of African rhythms, glorious harmonies, and superb communication skills with a vision to build up churches and reach out to the community

**Grand Concert**  
**Sun 8 Dec, 6.30pm**



**FREE ADMISSION**

Offering taken  
St Peter's Church, Church Road BL1 5RL



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

## Baptism

**Sun 24 Nov, 2pm, St Peter's**

**Otis Terry.** We thank God for the gift of this child and for his parents, Godparents, family and friends on this special occasion.

## CAP Sunday Last Week at St Peter's

We had a wonderful evening celebrating 14 years of what God has been doing, and continues to do, through our Debt Centre. Church was bustling with clients and befrienders, plus church members who prepared and served food, and there was a lovely atmosphere as everyone settled in for the service.

Our Debt Centre manager, Sam, shared some statistics - some sobering (50% of clients have thought about or attempted suicide before they came to CAP) and some uplifting (since 2010, 199 families / individuals have become 'debt free') and we watched 2 videos which revealed the state of many people's budgets in Britain today - 50% of our budgets are 'deficit' budgets where their income does not cover essential costs (rent, food etc).



It was a joy to see Leah play her harmonica to celebrate publicly her debt free status and to hear Emma and Neil movingly express their thanks for the support they've received - they all shared their appreciation for everyone in the church who support the centre in practical or financial ways. Thank you to everyone involved. **Our CAP Centre is a Parish-wide supported ministry and we give thanks to God for his continued provision and blessing upon it!**

*P.S We'd really appreciate £5 or £10 vouchers for any supermarket to give to families at Christmas and any nice boxes of 'smellies' for women / men. Please pass to Sam by **Sun 1 Dec**. Many thanks.*



**Give**



### 650 Christmas 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 350!** Drop puddings off 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>. **To nominate someone to receive a food hamper this year, please contact a member of the Leadership Team in your fellowship by Fri 29 Nov at the latest.**



**Meet**

### Halliwell Local History Society (incorporating Smithills)

**Tues 26 Nov, 7.30pm, Parish Centre**

Steve Irwin will be speaking about 'The Spanish Flu Epidemic of 1918'. Books by the society will be on sale. Pasties will be served. Info from [enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk)



### Christian Meditation Group

**Thurs 28 Nov, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre**

All welcome to join us for this session. Info from [j.wilde.1963@gmail.com](mailto:j.wilde.1963@gmail.com)

### Soul Sisters Trash or Treasure Event

**Fri 29 Nov, 7.30pm-9.30pm, Parish Centre**



A **FREE** event where you exchange up to 5 items which are 'trash' to you but could be 'treasure' to someone else. Info from [katie.leaver@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katie.leaver@hotmail.co.uk).

### Service of Hope and Remembrance

**Sun 1 Dec, 2pm, St Peter's**

An opportunity for you to remember your loved ones and be reminded of the peace and comfort that comes from God, our Heavenly Father.



Service followed by refreshments. All welcome so please invite your family and friends to join us.

### 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

### Smithills Christmas Market



**Sat 7 Dec, 12.30pm-3.30pm, Redcar Rd,**

**BL1 6LL** Join us for the 11<sup>th</sup> year of this wonderful Christmas market, raising funds to support Urban Outreach.

### Primary School Form Signings 2025 Entry

**Tues 3 Dec, 7pm-9pm, Parish Centre**

Church supplementary forms will be signed but you must book a timed slot by contacting [office@stpetersparish.info](mailto:office@stpetersparish.info) / 599900 **ASAP**.



**Pray**

### Prayer for the Week

Hilary Peake focusses on the current morning service's sermon series – My Church Commitment, saying 'As I write this, I want to encourage you. This series has shown me how I've grown as someone belonging to St Peter's Parish since I was 15, drifting and coming back when married. **GIVING**. Beginning tithing which was the start of other financial giving. **MEETING**. Joining a group opened up bible knowledge and how to care for one another, increasing a sense of belonging. **SERVING**. Pram group, Sunday school and onto many other things. **BAPTISM**. Committing ourselves to God and his church. **PRAYER**. The most important of all and the most difficult.' **See her prayer on the back page.**

### Looking Forward

**Rehearsal Dates for Christmas Choir 2024**



**Sun 22 Dec, 6.30pm, St Peter's,**

**Carols by Candlelight Sun 1 Dec**

12.30pm-2pm (at Parish Centre),

**Thurs 5 Dec 7.30pm-9pm, Sun 15**

**Dec 1pm-3pm, Wed 18 Dec 7.30pm-**

9pm. All rehearsals except 1 Dec are in St Peter's.

**PRAYER from Hilary Peake on behalf of St Peter's Church**

**GIVE** - Lord, help me to see where and how I can give. To take a step that will lead me forward.  
**MEET** - Lord, I'm not part of a small group and want to grow in my faith. I ask your help to do this.  
**SERVE** - Lord, where and how can I serve you? Show me where to start.  
**BAPTISE** - Lord, I'm thinking about baptism to renew my faith, to confirm my faith. It seems like a big step. Will you give me courage?  
**PRAY** - Prayer is as vital as breathing. As soon as we try, distractions seem to rush at us. Sometimes we don't even know how to start. There are bible notes, daily devotionals and podcasts. The Psalms and New Testament books – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are helpful. Start small, 5 minutes, and see where it leads.  
 As we journey with God this week may we grow closer to him and to one another, AMEN

**Coming up this week**

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
<b>Mon 25 Nov</b>			
9.30am-12noon 10am-12noon 1.30pm-3.30pm 6pm-7.30pm 7pm-9pm	AGE UK's Strength and Balance classes Coffee Room Art Group Weight Management Programme Farnworth Performing Arts Co	Classes full, contact Parish Office Drop-in for coffee and cakes <a href="mailto:ruthrobinson293@gmail.com">ruthrobinson293@gmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.yhbolton.co.uk">www.yhbolton.co.uk</a> /01204 205090 <a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@stpetersparish.info</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Tues 26 Nov</b>			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm 7.30pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers IGNITE Children's Club Tread Youth Group Halliwell Local History Society	Suzi 07834 371509 <a href="mailto:ignite@stpetersparish.info">ignite@stpetersparish.info</a> Ben 07512 753201 <a href="mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk">enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Weds 27 Nov</b>			
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	Christmas Past/Mince Pies. Val 07902 167971 <a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@stpetersparish.info</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Thurs 28 Nov</b>			
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
2pm-3pm	Christian Meditation Group	<a href="mailto:j.wilde.1963@gmail.com">j.wilde.1963@gmail.com</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Fri 29 Nov</b>			
10am-12noon 10.30am-12noon 7.30pm-9.30pm 8pm-10pm	Watercolours Class Friday Life Group Soul Sisters 'Trash and Treasure' Stressbusters Badminton	Lucinda 07977 821119 <a href="mailto:denis.collier@gmail.com">denis.collier@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:katie.leaver@hotmail.co.uk">katie.leaver@hotmail.co.uk</a> Geoff 07835 388732	Parish Centre
<b>Sat 30 Nov</b>			
9am-12noon	INTERACT Performing Arts Group	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	Parish Centre

**Keep Connected**

**Parish Business Manager:** Amanda Blease E: [amanda@stpetersparish.info](mailto:amanda@stpetersparish.info) / P: 01204 599900  
**Finance Officer:** Elaine Vincent E: [finance@stpetersparish.info](mailto:finance@stpetersparish.info) / P: 01204 599901  
**Vicar:** Rev Alan Saunders E: [alan@stpetersparish.info](mailto:alan@stpetersparish.info) / M: 07767 643444 / P: 01204 848624  
**Wardens:** Phil Weaver and Simon Scott E: [wardens@stpetersparish.info](mailto:wardens@stpetersparish.info)  
**CAP Debt Centre Manager:** Sam Wolstencroft E: [samwolstencroft@capuk.org](mailto:samwolstencroft@capuk.org) / M: 07934 716509  
**Caretaker:** David Park E: [david@stpetersparish.info](mailto:david@stpetersparish.info)

St Peter's Parish Centre  
 347 Church Road, Bolton BL1 5RR  
[www.stpetersparish.info](http://www.stpetersparish.info)

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