



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 15 December 2024

HEADLINES

- What a Week!
- Fun at the Farm Nativity and Smithills Christmas Market
- Christmas Services still to come
- Prayers by Carolyn Rigby on behalf of Barrow Bridge Mission

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 15 Dec

It's the Lighthouse Nativity today!



ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service
*10.30am	Lighthouse United Nativity
*6.30pm	Parish-wide service

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

NB	No service in school today – we're going to St Peter's for the nativity
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Carol service
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ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

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

Rev Alan writes...

What a Week!

It's been an amazing week of mission and one that I'll remember for years to come. It is incredible to be part of a church that is having such a positive impact on so many people's lives in our community. I want to encourage us all as we use the opportunity of Advent and Christmas to reach out with God's love as **Jesus' Family on Jesus' Mission**.



The **AYF Choir of Uganda** brought joy everywhere they went. Their commitment to mission is so strong that it drives them to make the most of every opportunity. I'm fortunate to have witnessed the impact of their ministry in schools and groups throughout their week with us. As I write, the team are flying home and we wish them well as their celebrations of 40-years of ministry continue in Uganda. I'm hoping to join them in January. Huge THANKS to everyone who played a part in making the visit so successful, especially to Carolyn Rigby who did a brilliant job with the organisation. Thanks too for the contributions made at the AYF concert where £261.91 was raised in support of the choir.

Last Saturday's **Smithills Christmas Market** and Sunday's **Smithills Farm Nativity** were hugely successful with hundreds of people flocking to both events in spite of the stormy weather. Hats off to John Platt and his wonderful team for the market organisation, especially squeezing the whole of

Redcar Road into St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School! There is a message of gratitude from John in this newsletter.

Sam and her dedicated team of CAP volunteers delivered a joy-filled Christmas party for 33 clients and guests on Thursday. Thanks, and well done!

Looking forward, to the next week, the third week of Advent, we eagerly anticipate the parish-wide **Lighthouse United Nativity** at St Peter's, 10.30am on Sunday. Some of our talented musicians are bringing a **Barrel of Carols** to Heaton Cricket Club on Wednesday at 7.30pm. And next Sunday 22 Dec, 6.30pm it's our parish-wide **Candlelit Carol Service** with a full choir and brass ensemble. Hope to see you at any of these events or the many other events taking place. Read on to find out more!

Christmas Services

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.

On **Christmas Day** we have these wonderful celebrations of Jesus' birth at all our fellowships:

St Peter's at 8.30am (Communion) and 10.30am **Smithills Fellowship** at 10am

St Andrew's and Barrow Bridge fellowships celebrate together at a special joint service at 10.30am 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. **If you've not done so already, please pick up an invitation flyer** available at all our services and from the Parish Office.

Christmas Day Collection



BETHLEHEM
BIBLE COLLEGE
كلية بيت لحم للكتاب المقدس

The 2024 Christmas Day collection at St Peter's will be used to support the work

of the Shepherd Society, the charitable arm of Bethlehem Bible College, and specifically their work in Gaza. Established in Bethlehem in June 1996, the Shepherd Society has been assisting struggling Palestinians in the West Bank with meeting basic needs such as food, employment, and medical care. The work was extended in 2007 to include the people of Gaza. For more information on the work of the Shepherd Society please use this link <https://shepherd-society.org/>. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection. If you prefer to donate online, please use this link <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/27521>

A Barrel of Carols Wed 18 Dec, 7.30pm, Heaton Cricket Club

A spirit-filled singalong evening of music and good cheer, led by our very own musicians and with a Christmas message from the Vicar!



Nativity at Smithills Farm



A wonderful time was had by all who joined us for the parish-wide nativity last Sunday held at Smithills Farm. Thanks so much to everyone who made this fantastic event possible.

Smithills Christmas Market



John Platt says 'A massive thank you to everyone who turned out to 'sing in the middle of the storm' and to support this year's gale force Christmas Market last Saturday. It was busy!! It was loud!! It was crafty!! It was inside - thank you all at St Peter's Primary School who allowed the event to move indoors. Although too early to give a precise amount raised - we will get a firm idea over the next week - all profit will be given to Urban Outreach to support Christmas Dinner on Jesus and help to purchase the fresh products. **We really did raise a hallelujah, in the middle of the storm. The King is alive!**



Bolton Repair Cafe

Weds 18 Dec, 10.30am-12.30pm, St Andrews



Bring your items in need of repair and stay for delicious coffee and cake.

Dementia Friendship Support Group



Thurs 19 Dec, 1.30pm-4pm, Parish Centre

For those with dementia *and* their carers. Christmas party. Info:

joan@stpetersparish.info /01204 840180



Thanks from Christians Against Poverty



Here's a photo of the CAP Christmas party held in the

Parish Centre on Thursday. Thank you for all the donations for presents for clients – we are looking forward to delivering them on 23 Dec with the Christmas Dinner on Jesus hampers. Also, CAP Wrapping night will take place at 7.45pm in Parish Centre on **Tues 17 Dec** - can you help? Please contact samwolstencroft@capuk.org / 07934 716509.

Wedding Blessing



Many congratulations to Ian and Lucy Thomas on their wedding blessing in St Peter's last Sunday. Ian and Lucy say 'We would like to say a huge thank you to all of

you who supported us - whether you were there or not - on our very special day. Thank you for your love and prayers, and for the generous gifts. **It was lovely that £345 was raised for Good News for Romania.** It is such a blessing to be part of such a wonderful church family.'



Open Staff Prayers

Wed 18 Dec, 9.30am, Parish Centre

Every 3rd Weds of the month you are invited to join Rev Alan and the church staff team in a time of prayer. All welcome, just turn up.

Prayer for the Week

Carolyn Rigby, on behalf of Barrow Bridge Mission reflects on how influential Jesus' mother, Mary, was. **See Carolyn's prayer on the back page.**

Looking Forward

Out and About Treasure Hunt

Sat 4 Jan, 9.30am, outside St Peter's Church

3 miles, family and dog friendly walk around Summerseat. Info from Jane Heath 07472 926650

Soul Sisters Ladies' Ministry Event

Sat 11 Jan, 10am-12.30pm, Barrow Bridge Mission

Paint and Praise event. Ticketed event. Booking and details: katie.leaver@hotmail.co.uk

New Alpha Course Starting

Thurs 23 Jan, 8pm-9.30pm, Parish Centre



Stay Curious, Try Alpha. A great way to find out more about the Christian faith. For more details and to sign up contact office@stpetersparish.info

PRAYER from Carolyn Rigby on behalf of Barrow Bridge Mission

This Advent I am reading daily reflections from a book called "Mary's Voice". My youngest daughter suggested that we both read it with her elder sister, so some days we post a comment on what thoughts and ideas have come to us as we have completed that day's reflection in our family chat. This book has really made me take a closer look at Mary; in most nativities Mary is a silent and passive figure but if we consider just how influential she was in the Christian faith, that is really a WOW moment. It must have been such a shock for a young, poor unmarried woman to have been visited by an Angel and be told she was going to have a baby, yet not once did she complain. Instead, she accepted what she was being told, she said "Yes!". Mary's yes changed the world forever and allowed God to come into the world.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for choosing Mary to be your "yes" person and through her, for sending your son to be with us in the world. During this Advent season, inspire us by Mary's example, that by our daily answers of "Yes" we may build a community of loving kindness and make you known throughout the world. We ask this in your mighty name. Amen

Follow this link to 'Mary Did You Know' - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE>

Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 16 Dec			
9.30am-12noon 10am-12noon 6pm-7.30pm	AGE UK's Strength and Balance classes Coffee Room Weight Management Programme	Classes full, contact Parish Office Drop-in for coffee and cakes www.yhbolton.co.uk /01204 205090	Parish Centre
Tue 17 Dec			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm 7.45pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers IGNITE Children's Club Tread Youth Group CAP Present Wrapping	Suzi 07834 371509 ignite@stpetersparish.info Ben 07512 753201 samwolstencroft@capuk.org / 07934 716509.	Parish Centre
Wed 18 Dec			
9am-1pm 10.30am-12.30pm	Hope at the Hub Bolton Repair Café	Drop-in community session Bring your items for repair, stay for refreshments	St Andrew's
9.30am-10am	Open Staff Prayers	All welcome. office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Thu 19 Dec			
8.30am-9am	Prayer Meeting	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
1.30pm-4pm	Dementia Friendship Support Group	joan@stpetersparish.info / 01204 840180	Parish Centre
10.30am-12noon	Oasis Coffee Morning and Service	Refreshments 10.30am, service 11.30am	St Peter's
Fri 20 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

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
347 Church Road, Bolton BL1 5RR
www.stpetersparish.info



St Peter's Halliwell



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