



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 8 December 2024

HEADLINES

- A Great Week Ahead!
- Christmas Services Flyer
- Opportunities to Serve
- Prayers by Nigel Clarke on behalf of Smithills Fellowship

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 8 Dec

ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service with Communion
*10.30am	Worship for Everyone service
*6.30pm	Parish-wide service – AYF Grand Concert

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Nativity at Smithills Farm
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Morning service with Communion
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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...

A Great Week Ahead! I'm reminded of the old favourite Christmas song that starts with the line: **Oh, the weather outside is frightful, But the fire is so delightful!** We might have frightful weather, but it sure aint stopping us doing things. Plans for this Saturday's **Smithills Christmas Market** are being scaled back a little as I am writing this article, but the show will still go on. And it kickstarts a great week in the life of the parish.

Early on Friday the **AYF Choir of Uganda** hopped off an overnight coach from their mission to London and got straight to work - starting with visits to Lowton High and Belmont Primary. Throughout the week they will be shining some Ugandan sunshine into many lives through school's visits and events, including an unmissable **Grand Concert** this Sun 6.30pm at St Peter's.



This Sunday at 10am is **Smithills Farm Nativity** – we are calling it a parish-wide event as we want to give everyone the opportunity to join this amazing retelling of the Christmas story with real animals and children. On Thursday at 7pm it is the **Friends of Smithills Hall Carol Service** in Smithills Hall Chapel, and Friday at 6.30pm why not join us to share some joy by **carol singing** around Barrow Bridge. Next Sunday 15 Dec at St Peter's it's the legendary **Lighthouse United Nativity**, and St Andrew's welcome Johnson Fold Primary School choir for their carol service at 10.30am.

It all adds up to an awesome Advent as we let our light shine across the community!

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. **Please pick up an invitation flyer** available at all our services and from the Parish Office.

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.

Christmas Devotional – It's Not Too Late!



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/>

Open Door Carols for All

Wed 11 Dec, 10am-11.30am, Parish Centre

Everyone is warmly invited to join us today for our carol service. Please invite your husbands, family, friends and neighbours too. We'd love to see you.

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!

PARISH OF ST PETER, HALLIWELL
Presenting
A Spirit-filled Christmas Singalong!

A Barrel of Carols

with Live Music!

Wednesday 18th December
7.30pm at the Heaton Cricket Club
Church Road, BL1 5RN

To find out more about what we're up to this Christmas visit us at
www.stpetersparish.info

St. Peter's Halliwell | @StPetersHalliwell | @stpetershalliwell

Candlelit Carol Service

Sun 22 Dec, 6.30pm at St Peter's

Instrumentalists are 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_rJ17nS6Ol. More info from susanwilding1@hotmail.co.uk.

Funerals in St Peter's

Thurs 12 Dec, 1pm Eric WAGSTAFFE

Fri 13 Dec, 11am Oleh SMACZYLO



Algiers Calling: Craig and Elaine Watson

'We have safely arrived in Algiers. Please pray for us as we do services, apply for residency permits and attend two events at the British Embassy. Ask the Lord to grant us wisdom and courage in sharing him with others, and that we can build up good relationships with those we meet.'



Church Working Party

Sat 14 Dec, 9am-12pm, St Peter's

Our Building and Maintenance Committee invite you to join another working party to help tidy up the external grounds at church. Please bring a spade and wheelbarrow if you are able to. Many hands make light work! All welcome, just turn up. Thanks.



Thanks from Good News for Romania

Dave and Kath thank everyone for their love and support during their recent visit to Romania. There were many concerns and needs but they say it was good to be able to share the Lord's love with everyone. Thank you!

Thanks from Ian and Lucy Thomas

'Huge thanks to our St Peter's church family for your ongoing love and support - which has washed over us like a holy tsunami - after Lucy's accident and her stay at Bolton and Salford Hospitals. We've felt so uplifted by your prayers, and it has been both humbling and comforting. We thank our Father God, the great physician, that he continues to bless us in so many ways, not least in being part of such a wonderful church family - thanks and our love to each of you. We pray that you will know God's peace, his presence and his mighty love at this special time of the year.'



Prayer for the Week

Nigel Clarke, on behalf of Smithills Fellowship, says *'WARNING.....WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS. Be on the alert for symptoms of inner Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it.'* See his prayer on the back page.

Looking Forward

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



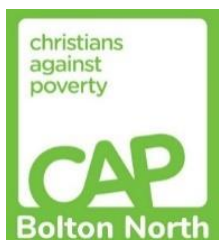
We did it! 1000 Puddings Collected!



Thank you so much to everyone who donated Christmas puddings and/or cash to buy puddings for Urban Outreach's Christmas Dinner on Jesus hampers. Your generosity and support of this fantastic cause is hugely appreciated.

Vouchers for CAP

Please drop off any supermarket vouchers for Sam's clients at the Parish Centre by **Sun 15 Dec**, thanks. 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).



Volunteers for School Sessions and New Children's Club

Lucy and her team at Children Changing Places are delivering three KS1 Christmas sessions in St Peter's Church and at Johnson Fold Primary School, on:

Fri 6 Dec 1:30pm - 3pm – St Andrew's Church
Mon 9 Dec 9am - 10:30am – St Peter's Church
Tues 17 Dec 9am - 12pm St Peter's Church

There's also 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 are interested in helping out at the school sessions on **9 and 17 Dec** or SPARK. Thanks.

PRAYER from Nigel Clarke on behalf of Smithills Fellowship

We ask Lord

For the desert places in which we walk

The streets we roam

The paths we cross

That You will guide our feet

Take us to places

Where you would go

Give us words that you would use

That in this Advent season

Of promise and preparation

We might point the way with John the Baptist

To the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Amen

Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 9 Dec			
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 ruthrobinson293@gmail.com www.yhbolton.co.uk /01204 205090 office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Tue 10 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 11 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	Carols for All. Val 07902 167971 office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Thu 12 Dec			
8.30am-9am	Prayer Meeting	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
2pm-4pm 10.30am-12noon	Bolton Christian Meditation Group Oasis Coffee Morning and Service	Jwilde259@gmail.com Refreshments 10.30am, service 11.30am	St Peter's
Fri 13 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 14 Dec			
9am-12noon	INTERACT Performing Arts Group	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	St Peter's

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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