



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 12 January 2025

HEADLINES

- New Morning and Evening Sermon Series'
- Update from Rev Alan in Uganda
- Alpha Course Starts Soon
- Prayer by National and International Ministry Team

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 12 Jan

ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family service
------	----------------

BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Morning service
---------	-----------------

ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

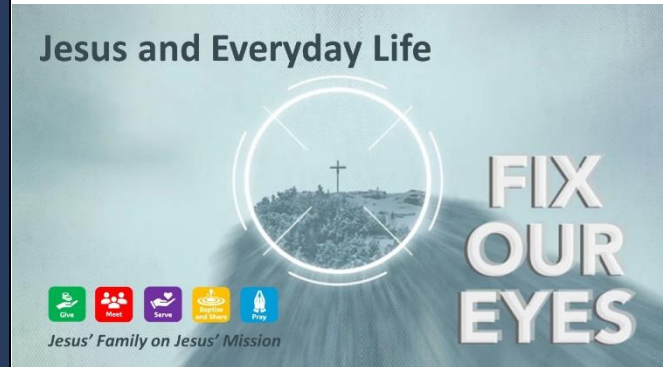
10.30am	Morning service
---------	-----------------

*Livestreamed search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'

We are an accessibility-friendly parish

Rev Alan writes...

Jesus and Everyday Life



Fix Our Eyes on Jesus - Jesus and Everyday Life

Much of last year's teaching in our sermons focussed on what it means to be part of Jesus' Church. This brought us to an understanding that the church belongs to Jesus, that we are his possession, and that we relate to each other as his family, and that we are called to join his mission, which links with our Verse for the Year 2025 from Joshua 24:15 **"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"**. Verse cards are available at all services and the Parish Office, please take one or two to display somewhere prominent at home or work.

We summarised our definition of church as **Jesus' family on Jesus' Mission** and have looked at the five ways we can commit to this through our **giving, meeting, serving, baptism and sharing, and prayer**.

Now, as we move into a New Year, we will start to explore more deeply Jesus' teaching and guidance for our everyday lives and relationships. It is often challenging and causes us to re-evaluate our attitudes, choices and behaviour. It is a call to **fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). We will learn that Jesus taught "as one with authority" (Matthew 7:28-29). We will seek to surrender our own authority and autonomy to live under Jesus' authority.

In this new series, **Jesus and Everyday Life**, we will look at Jesus' teaching on the practical matters of everyday life. What Jesus said about money, poverty, forgiveness, relationships, and how to deal with broken relationships.

(continued overleaf)

The series has 6 talks, over the coming 8 weeks leading until Lent. The talks will be punctuated by a special **Mission Sunday** on 26 January, where evangelists from the Message Trust will speak at all our services in the morning and evening. And we will also hold Annual Meeting Vision services at each fellowship during this time.



In our 6.30pm Parish-wide services at St Peter's each Sunday, we start a new series called **The Great Explorers**.

The Bible is full of great explorers. We read about men and women who heard and accepted God's call to explore throughout the pages of Scripture. Abraham "obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." Esther, knowing the perils of the journey that lay before her, cried out, "if I perish, I perish." The Apostle Paul's expeditions included three shipwrecks! He even spent "a night and a day...adrift at sea." This series will examine the lives of the Bible's great explorers and teach us to long for the great adventure every great explorer experienced when they were obedient and set out on the expedition to which God called them. Rev Vinny Whitworth will kickstart the series looking at Abraham from Genesis 11:27-12:9.

I hope and pray that these new series' help you to grow in your knowledge and understanding of God's call on your life.

From Your Correspondent in Uganda!

I have arrived safely after a long 15-hour flight, I changed planes in Doha. I have just about defrosted from the snow and ice in Bolton and the weather is hot and sticky, about 27c. Uganda is on the equator and is a beautiful country, it is lush and teeming with life. 12 hours day and night and summertime all year round.



Winston Churchill called it the Pearl of Africa. The people are so friendly, and it is exciting to connect with the AYF (Anglican Youth Fellowship) choir and band members who are hosting me. It is early in the visit, but already I have joined a choir

rehearsal and spent time catching up with friends old and new. Over the next week the plan is to join the wider AYF for a family day, take part in the recording of a TV show for the Ugandan Anglican church's TV channel, and visit the Oasis Children's Orphanage. I'll keep you all updated. Thanks so much for your prayers and encouragement!

Rev Roy Machin

We're sorry to inform you that Roy died on Fri 3 Jan, aged 86. Roy was the Curate at Smithills Chapel from the late 1970's and during the 1980's and was a contemporary of both Rev Canon Roger Oldfield and Rev Canon Tony Butterworth. After his retirement, Roy worshipped at St Peters where he also sometimes preached (during Rev Canon Paul Hardingham's incumbency). Please keep Roy's wife, Maureen, and daughters – Dawn, Elizabeth, Mandy, Alison and Helen – and wider family and friends in your prayers at this difficult time. Funeral details to follow.

Jean Mort

Jean's funeral will take place as follows:
Tues 4 Feb, 12noon, St Peter's Church followed by 1.15pm at Overdale Crematorium.

Algiers Beckons



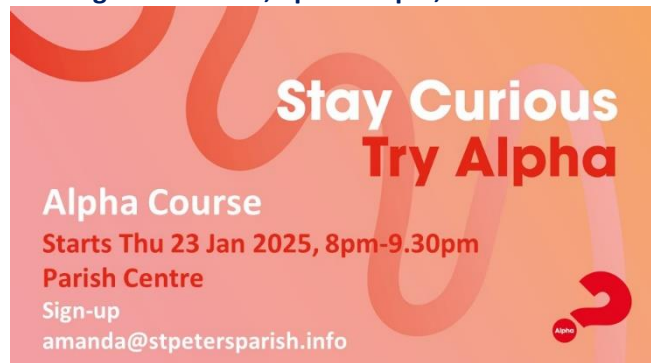
Craig and Elaine Watson are preparing to leave Bolton to go back to Algiers. Please pray for them as they travel, find accommodation and settle in. Ask the Lord

to provide them with friends and to be a blessing to the people who are part of Holy Trinity, Algiers, and in the wider community.



Alpha Course Starts Soon

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



Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone's welcome. **No**

matter your background or beliefs, you're invited.

Find out more at <https://alpha.org.uk/try-alpha>.

Book your place through the Parish Office.



Bolton Repair Cafe

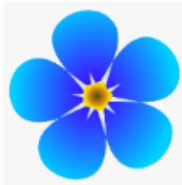
Weds 15 Jan, 10.30am-12.30pm, St Andrews



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

Friendship Group: Support for those with Dementia and their Carers

Thurs 16 Jan, 2pm-4pm, Parish Centre



Singalong, quiz and fellowship and friends and fun. Drinks and cake and a very warm welcome. £1 per person. Info: joan@stpetersparish.info /07434 574157

Out and About Social

Sat 18 Jan, 7pm, 831 Chorley Old Rd, Bolton BL1 5SL



A bring and share buffet supper at Diane Ball's house for all members of Out and About – past,

present, and those thinking about joining in the future. Info: Jane Heath 07472 926650

'Love Your School' Initiative

Tues 28 Jan, 7pm-9pm, Harwood Methodist Church

A training and prayer event is being held for this initiative from the Children Changing Places project, which is aimed at encouraging and equipping churches to serve their local schools. We'd love you to support this – everyone welcome. To book on, see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1089855219299?aff=oddtcreator>

Halliwell Local History Society (incorporating Smithills)

Tues 28 Jan, 7.30pm, Parish Centre

Open Evening. A chance to look into the Society's archives. More info from enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk

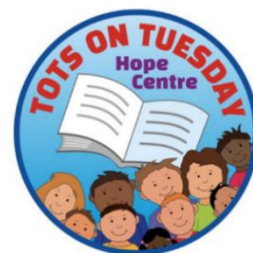


Oasis Mid-week Service

This takes place every Thurs morning in St Peter's Church, starting with refreshments in the lounge from 10.30am followed by a short service from 11.30am-12noon. At this service we usually have a few hymns and a short talk from different speakers each week and sometimes we take Communion together. You

are most welcome to join us for coffee and also stay for the service, if you choose to do so. We'd love to see you so please just turn up!

Tots on Tuesdays



This parent and toddler group meets every Tues during term-time from 9.45am-11.30am in St Andrew's (Hope Centre) on Tattersall Avenue. Join us for play, songs, stories and snacks. Contact Julie for more info on 07835 014470.

Hub at the Hope

A warm and welcoming place for cake, coffee, chat and friendship – for everyone! Takes place every Weds 9am-1pm in St Andrew's (Hope Centre) on Tattersall Avenue. Contact Diane for more info on 07950 244749.

7th Manchester International Gospel Festival

Sat 15 and Sun 16 Feb, Chethams School of Music, Manchester

A choir festival open to individual singers and choirs of all standards. A fantastic weekend of singing and socialising with a warm welcome from the host choir, Manchester Inspirational Voices. *You don't need to have sung gospel before.* Info from John Wroe 07951 683143/ john@manchesterinspirationalvoices.co.uk



Prayer for the Week

Phil and Elaine Weaver, on behalf of the NIM Team, invite us to pray for the Shepherd Society in Bethlehem. **See their prayer on the back page.**

Looking Forward

Café on the Green 2025

Sat 1 Feb, 9.30am-2pm, St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School, Limefield Road, BL1 6LA

Delicious food and excellent service. Raising funds for work in the Diocese of Machakos Kenya to provide free surgical treatment for children born with cleft lip/palate and other facial deformities. *All welcome.*



The rest of this year's Café on the Green dates: 5 Apr, 4 Oct and 1 Nov.

Prayer from Phil and Elaine Weaver on behalf of N.I.M (National and International Ministry Team)

Heavenly Father

We thank you for the funds raised from the Christmas Day offering that are now with the Shepherd Society in Bethlehem. We bring before you our friends who are staff there, we ask that you continue to give them eyes to see the needy and hurting people around them and equip them to know how best they can minister to them.

Lord, guard their hearts and minds as they seek to honour you in their extremely difficult work and be your light in the darkness. We pray for the refugees and the marginalised people they serve in their neighbourhood; may they experience your love, peace and dignity.

Lord, we know this assistance demonstrates Christ's love to the mostly Muslim population, but it also helps to make it possible for the Christian minority to remain in the West Bank and Gaza, pour out your blessing upon them Lord, may they be light and salt in that region to your glory and honour.

Amen

Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 13 Jan			
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 Group	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 14 Jan			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 6pm-7.15pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers Ignite	Suzi 07834 371509 ignite@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Wed 15 Jan			
9am-1pm 10.30am-12.30pm	Hope at the Hub Bolton Repair Cafe	Drop-in community session Bring your items for repair, stay for refreshments	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 7pm-9pm	Open Door Farnworth Performing Arts Group	Linda Foster – Bible study. Val 07902 167971 office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Thu 16 Jan			
8.30am-9am	Prayer Meeting	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
2pm-4pm	Dementia Friendship Group	joan@stpetersparish.info /07434 574157	Parish Centre
10.30am-12noon	Oasis Coffee Morning and Service	Refreshments 10.30am, service 11.30am	St Peter's
Fri 17 Jan			
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 18 Jan			
9am-12noon	INTERACT Performing Arts Group	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	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



@StPetersHalliwell



@stpetershalliwell