



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 5 January 2025

HEADLINES

- Launch of our Verse for the Year
- Rev Alan is Uganda Bound!
- Christmas Day Collection
- Lots of Opportunities to Meet
- Prayer of Commitment by Rev Alan

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 5 Jan

NB: No Lighthouse today – it re-starts on Sun 19 Jan

ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family service
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

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

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

Rev Alan writes...

Happy New Year!

Drumroll... it's time to reveal our Verse for the Year 2025... it's Joshua 24:15 **As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.** We can apply the verse to both our own individual family households, and also to our parish family as the 'household of God' (Ephesians 2:19) – **Jesus' Family on Jesus' Mission.**



Verse cards will be available at all fellowships and services and the Parish Office. On the reverse of the card is a prayer of commitment that we will pray together in all of our services this Sunday. There is also a summary of the five areas of commitment.



The verse asks a simple question: Who you are going to serve? It was the question that the ageing Joshua asked the Israelites in his farewell speech in Joshua chapter 24. Joshua had just reminded the Israelites of the history of the nation, from the time God took Abraham from the region beyond the Euphrates River, led him throughout the land of Canaan, to their conquest of the Promised Land. **Continued...**

Israel had swung between trusting the Lord and trusting in their own strength. They conquered the Promised Land through following the Word of the Lord, but at other times they disobeyed His instructions, and failed to defeat their enemies.

The commitment Joshua made was designed to encourage everyone to make the right choice and commit to obeying and trusting the true and living God of Israel. The people were obviously impacted by Joshua's impassioned plea, because they agreed.

Choosing to follow the Lord is the most important decision that everyone must make: **"Take up your cross daily,"** Jesus told us, **"and follow Me."** It requires the abandonment of our self-will, for His plans and His will.

Anyone who is prepared to commit to this choice, will influence their own 'household' in this significant decision, and will be able to say with Joshua: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

My prayer throughout 2025 is that as we grow as **Jesus' Family on Jesus' Mission** in our commitment to serve the Lord, then we will fulfil our vision to **Transform Bolton Together in Jesus' Name**. God bless you throughout 2025 as you follow Jesus.

Jean Mort

We're sorry to inform you that Jean died on Weds 1 Jan, aged 84. Jean was a member of St Peter's for many years during which she served as the Office Manager, on PCC and the Deanery Synod and also as an ALM (Worship and Liturgy). Please keep her niece, Susan, and wider family and friends in your prayers at this difficult time. Funeral details to follow.

Lighthouse Re-Starting



Our Lighthouse sessions will resume across the parish on **Sun 19 Jan** - we look forward to your children joining our sessions then. For more info, contact lighthouse@stpetersparish.info

Uganda Bound

Rev Alan is making preparations for a mission visit to Uganda from 8th to 20th January. During his visit he will



be speaking at a number of events to mark the 40th anniversary of the AYF Choir of Uganda including a celebration service at Kampala Cathedral, with a capacity of 5,000 people. He will also be interviewed for a Ugandan weekly TV show. Alan says: "I

am excited to be taking part in the special events where I will be sharing my testimony of coming to faith through the first-ever AYF mission to UK in 1993." Please keep Alan in your prayers.



Christmas Day Collection Thanks

The 2024 Christmas Day collection at St Peter's is going 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. **Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's collection - a whopping £3,188.03 was raised!**



Passion for Bolton Leader's Breakfast

Weds 15 Jan, 7.30am- 9am, Parish Centre

Join us for a light breakfast (sausage barmes, pastries, fruit, juice, teas and coffees). A great opportunity to meet up and chat with other leaders from across the Bolton borough supporting Passion for Bolton's aim to: 'Share the love of God across Bolton - with the vision of seeing a thriving, prosperous Bolton with a united Church playing its part.' We'd especially love to see leaders from across our parish attend – particularly those involved in work with children, young people and schools/education and members of your prayer teams. **Email Janet Lythgoe ASAP if you want to attend - admin@bolton.gmim.org.uk**

The Coffee Room

This takes place in the Parish Centre every Mon morning (term-time) from 10am-12noon. Drop in for coffee and home-baked cakes and a lovely, warm welcome. **Open to everyone** so if you are free on Monday mornings, we look forward to seeing you there!

Oasis Mid-week Service

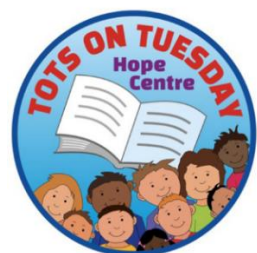
This takes place every Thurs morning in St Peter's Church, starting with refreshments in the lounge from 10.30am followed by a short service from 11.30am-12noon. At this service we usually have a few hymns and a short talk from different speakers each week and sometimes we take Communion together. You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

Little Wiggles

This group for parents/carers with their pre-school children meets every Tues during term-time from 10am-11.30am in the Parish Centre. We play, sing, chat and enjoy refreshments. All welcome to come so just turn up. Contact Suzi for more details on 07834 371509



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.

Ignite KS2 Children's Group



Our KS2 children's group, Ignite meets in the Parish Centre on Tues evenings (term-time) from 6pm-7.15pm and re-starts on

Tues 14 Jan. We'd love your children to come along and join us! Email ignite@stpetersparish.info for more details.

Christian Meditation Group

Thurs 9 Jan, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre

All welcome to join us for this session. More info from j.wilde.1963@gmail.com

Soul Sisters Ladies' Ministry Event

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



Join us for some painting and praise! *Please note that this is a ticketed event because we need to source supplies.* We'll spend time together in contemplation, creating, listening and simply

'being', beginning with prayer and an introduction from Tracy (who is leading us) who will share how art has impacted her life. We'll paint for around an hour then discuss our pieces, give thanks to God, close in prayer, have a drink and the artist can take their piece home with them. There will be ladies on hand to pray

for people at the end of the morning. Tickets £12.50 per person to cover materials, a donation to Tracy and a breakfast pastry. To book, speak to Rachel Cowling or Katie Leaver or contact the Parish Office **by Mon 6 Jan** so we know numbers. Thanks.

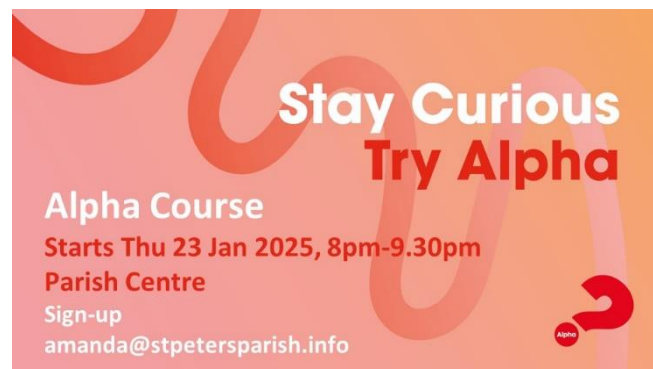
7th Manchester International Gospel Festival

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



All welcome to join the next Alpha course taking place in the Parish Centre on Thurs evenings from 23 Jan. 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.



Prayer for the Week

Our vicar, Alan, shares with us a prayer of commitment for the New Year. **See Alan's prayer on the back page.**

Looking Forward

Halliwell Local History Society

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



Prayer of Commitment for 2025 from Rev Alan

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for the gift of the church as Jesus' family on Jesus' mission.

During 2025, help us to grow in our commitment to one another as your family here in St Peter's Parish.

Help us to grow in our commitment to your mission.

Give us strength, faith and wisdom throughout the year, to follow you and play our part in building your church and seeing your kingdom come on earth as in heaven.

Amen



Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 6 Jan			
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 Group	Classes full, contact Parish Office Drop-in for coffee and cakes www.yhbolton.co.uk / 01204 205090 office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Tue 7 Jan			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Little Wiggles Toddlers	Suzi 07834 371509	Parish Centre
Wed 8 Jan			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 7pm-9pm	Open Door Farnworth Performing Arts Group	Finding Out. Val 01204 407191/07902 167971 office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Thu 9 Jan			
8.30am-9am	Prayer Meeting	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
2pm-3pm	Christian Meditation Group	j.wilde.1963@gmail.com	Parish Centre
10.30am-12noon	Oasis Coffee Morning and Service	Refreshments 10.30am, service 11.30am	St Peter's
Fri 10 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 11 Jan			
9am-12noon	INTERACT Performing Arts Group	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	Parish Centre
10am-12.30pm	Soul Sisters Ladies' Ministry Event	office@stpetersparish.info	Barrow Bridge

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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