



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

# NEWSLETTER



Sunday 9 February 2025

## HEADLINES

- Baptism and Confirmation Opportunities
- FREE CAP Money Course Starting Soon!
- Parish Social – Fish, Chips and Magic Tricks!
- Prayers by Nigel Clarke on behalf of Smithills Fellowship

*Read on to find out more...*

## SERVICES

Sun 9 Feb

### ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

### SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Vision Service with Café
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### BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Morning 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...

#### Smithills Vision Sunday

This Sunday, I am delighted to be taking part in the annual Vision Sunday for Smithills Fellowship. It's another opportunity to look back and thank God for the marvellous achievements of the last year and look forward to all that is ahead this year.



Coming up, we have Vision Sundays at Barrow Bridge on Sun 23 Feb, and for the first time St Peter's is on Sun 2 March. If you are regularly committed to any of these fellowships, please consider joining your leadership team - you can speak to myself or any of your leaders to explore the idea.

#### Baptism and Confirmation Opportunities

We are offering two opportunities at our Parish-wide 6.30pm services at St Peter's.

On **Sunday 16 March at 6.30pm** we are offering the opportunity for anyone to

be confirmed. Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptised. If you were baptised at a christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ. At a Confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as your Christian family at St Peter's will be there to promise to support and pray for you. The Bishop of Bolton, Matthew Porter, will lay his hands on your head and ask God's Holy Spirit to give you the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of your life.



**Continued...**

On **Easter Sunday 20 April, 6.30pm**, we are offering the opportunity to be baptised, or to renew your baptism vows by full immersion. Baptism by full immersion is a special experience and all the more so on Easter Sunday when we remember the new life given by the resurrected Jesus.

If you'd like to be baptised or confirmed, or renew your baptism vows, please let me know or contact the Parish Office. And remember, joining our Alpha Course could be a great step towards baptism or confirmation.

## Funeral for Colin Bowers

**Fri 21 Feb, 3pm, Overdale Crematorium (West Chapel)**

We're sorry to inform you that Colin died on Fri 17 Jan, aged 66. Colin's wife, Caroline, is a long-standing member of Barrow Bridge Mission. Please keep Caroline and their son, Matthew, and all the wider family and friends in your prayers at this difficult time. Following the funeral, Colin's family invite you to join them for refreshments at The Retreat, Chorley New Road.

## Café on the Green

Thanks to those of you who came along and supported the café last weekend – a whopping **£1200** was raised for work in the Diocese of Machakos, Kenya to provide free surgical treatment for children born with cleft lip/palate and other facial deformities. *Next one is Sat 5 Apr – save the date!*



## CAP Money Course Starting Soon!

**Wed 26 Feb and Wed 5 Mar, 10.30am, St Andrew's (Hope Centre)**



**CAP Money Coaching is a FREE revolutionary money management course that teaches people budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system that really works.** This course (devised by the award-winning debt counselling charity, Christians Against

Poverty) will help anyone to get more in control of their finances so they can save, give and prevent debt. The CAP Money Coaching sessions are being held at The Hub at the Hope Centre over two days: **Weds 26 Feb and 5 March**. Each session will start at 10.30am and last around two hours. The topics covered will include drawing up and balancing a personal budget and managing expenditure using the CAP Money

system. A light lunch is included. For more info, please contact Peter Caffrey on 07767 651103 or Sam on 07934 716509.

## Bolton Christian Meditation

**Thurs 13 Feb, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre**

All welcome at this session, just turn up. For info, contact [j.wilde.1963@gmail.com](mailto:j.wilde.1963@gmail.com).

## Open Staff Prayers

**Weds 19 Feb, 9.30am-10am, Parish Centre**

All welcome to join the church staff team at their morning prayers. No need to book, just turn up.

## Bolton Repair Café

**Weds 19 Feb, 10.30am-12.30pm, St Andrews**

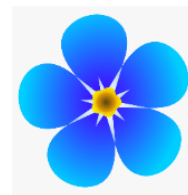


Bring your items in need of repair and stay for delicious coffee and cake.

## Dementia Friendship Support Group

**Thurs 20 Feb, 2pm-4pm, Parish Centre**

For those with dementia *and* their carers. Singalong, games, quiz and fun. Tea/coffee and cake and a very warm welcome. For info, contact [joan@stpetersparish.info](mailto:joan@stpetersparish.info) /01204 840180



## Fish, Chips and Magic Tricks!

**Sat 8 Mar, 5.45pm-8pm, Parish Centre**



A parish social event, an evening for EVERYONE! We are excited to have professional illusionist and author of 'The Real Deal', Rod Williams, with us for our next church social. All ages welcome! Rod will be performing his stage show

as well as entertaining you with his close-up tricks at tables. He will also share his inspiring story of how he was rescued from a life of crime, addiction and prison... children will be entertained upstairs at this point! You don't want to miss this! Tickets available soon.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award at St Peter's

St Peter's has a long history of delivering the Duke of Edinburgh Award, pioneered in



Smithills Fellowship, now offered across the whole Parish. **We are currently looking for the young people who'd like to take part in the coming year.** Please contact Mark Rigby - 07964329916/ [markmttl@gmail.com](mailto:markmttl@gmail.com) by 16 Feb for more info.

## Changes to Canon Slade Admissions Policy from September 2026



Canon Slade's Admission Policy has been changed. Following the required statutory consultation, it has been agreed that for entry from **September 2026 onwards**:

- The number of years of required church attendance will reduce to 3 years
- The number of church attendances counted will reduce to 26
- Deanery points will reduce from currently 20 points to 5

One point will be awarded for each week of attendance at worship (up to a maximum points' allocation of 26 per year) for each of the parent and child over a three-year period from the child being in Year 3. Points will therefore be allocated as follows: Child awarded from 0 to 78 points; Parent awarded from 0 to 78 points. Maximum 156 points for church attendance. Five further points will be given for residence in Bolton Deanery (or any equivalent area if the Bolton Deanery is replaced in any future church re-organisation). The maximum points will be 161. Stamps for attendance in our parish will therefore, from now on, be needed for children in Years 3, 4 and 5 only, with 26 being the maximum number of stamps counted in one year.

These changes recognise the decline in church attendance over many years. Additionally, family life has changed significantly with more children now committed to Sunday morning activities and families finding it too challenging to achieve 45 weeks' attendance. In fact, the Church of England now defines "regular" attendance as once a month. The school has been acutely aware for some years that many Christian families who would wish to send their children to Canon Slade do not apply, fearful that if they do not put Canon Slade first on the form they will not get a place, and that it is too risky for them to put Canon Slade first on the form if they have fewer points. At present, the school no longer has enough church families to fill the 300 places available. Hopefully these changes will give more church-going families confidence to apply to Canon Slade. Even allowing for these changes, Canon Slade still has the highest expectation of church attendance of any church school in the region.

The new Admissions Policy can be found on the school's website:

<https://www.canon-slade.bolton.sch.uk/>

*Info from Liz Nicholls, Chair of Governors*

## Legacy Update



The PCC (Parochial Church Council) has agreed an amendment to our legacy policy to reassure you that any future gifts remain anonymous unless expressly informed of any specific requirements. You can view the policy and further details on leaving a legacy on our parish website: <https://stpetersparish.info/legacy/>

## St Peter's Leadership Team

The minutes of the SPLT meeting held in January are now displayed at the back of St Peter's – please do take a look!



## Prayer for the Week

Nigel Clarke, on behalf of Smithills Fellowship, says 'Let us allow God to use us and work through us, as we seek to bring God's transforming change to our town and the people who live in it.' **See his prayer on the back page.**

## Looking Forward

### Good News for Romania Fundraisers



**Sat 8 Mar, 10am-12pm, Parish Centre.**  
**Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale**  
Pick up a bargain and enjoy refreshments and good company too.

**Fri 14 Mar, 7.30pm, Victory Reform Club, Bolton.**  
**Quiz Night** Tickets £9 each incl. supper. Please contact Dave or Kath to book - they are limited to 95 so book yours ASAP. Tel: 07903 546008.

### The Brixi Singers Concert

**Sat 29 Mar, 7.30pm, St Peter's Church**  
Come and see this highly regarded Bolton-based choir perform a concert for the Lenten/Passiontide season. Tickets £10 (under 16's free) available from the Parish Office or on the door.

### Quinta 2025 Parish Weekend Away

**Fri 12–Sun 14 Sept**  
Don't miss this fantastic weekend away for the whole church family! You're all invited. Booking and more details at



<https://stpetersparish.info/quinta-2025-booking/>

## Prayer from Nigel Clarke on behalf of Smithills Fellowship

Living God

Present in all things and all places, help us to know that wherever we may go this week, You will always be with us.

May Your Spirit rest within each of us, making us more like You so that wherever we are present, people may sense that You are present.

Though You are everywhere, be in the world through each of us.

May our actions be demonstrations of Your love; our words the vehicle of Your counsel; our attitudes expressions of Your nature; our concerns reflections of Your heart.

And Lord, even in the darkest of places, let Your light shine through us.

Amen

## Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
<b>Mon 10 Feb</b>			
9.30am-12noon 10am-12noon 1.30pm-3.30pm 1.30pm-3.30pm	AGE UK's Strength and Balance classes Coffee Room Art Group Weight Management Programme	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	Parish Centre
<b>Tue 11 Feb</b>			
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 Group Ignite Tread Youth Group	Suzi 07834 371509 <a href="mailto:ignite@stpetersparish.info">ignite@stpetersparish.info</a> <a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@stpetersparish.info</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Wed 12 Feb</b>			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door	Diane Ball, History of St Andrew's (Hope Centre). Val 07902 167971	Parish Centre
<b>Thu 13 Feb</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 8pm-9.30pm	Bolton Christian Meditation Group Alpha Course and Life Group	<a href="mailto:j.wilde.1963@gmail.com">j.wilde.1963@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@stpetersparish.info</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Fri 14 Feb</b>			
10am-12noon 10.30am-12noon 8pm-10pm	Watercolours Class Friday Life Group Stressbusters Badminton	Lucinda 07977 821119 <a href="mailto:denis.collier@gmail.com">denis.collier@gmail.com</a> Geoff 07835 388732	Parish Centre
<b>Sat 15 Feb</b>			
9am-4pm	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)



St Peter's Halliwell



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