



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

# NEWSLETTER



Sunday 23 March 2025

## HEADLINES

- Last Sunday's Confirmation Service – A Wonderful Celebration of Faith
- Craig Watson's Update from Algeria
- Volunteer Request for SPARK
- Prayer from Sam, our CAP Debt Centre Manager

*Read on to find out more...*

## SERVICES

Sun 23 March

### ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

### SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family service with Communion
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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
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\*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'  
**We are an accessibility-friendly parish**

### Rev Alan writes...

Last Sunday was a wonderful celebration of faith as we saw 15 candidates getting confirmed in their faith by Bishop Matthew Porter. A number of the candidates shared their testimony, and it was a huge encouragement to everyone present to hear of



the ways God has been working in their lives. Bishop Matthew prayed for each candidate individually and there was a real sense of the Holy Spirit moving in each of their lives. Bishop Matthew preached from

Philippians 1:1-26 and focussed the subject of prayer, speaking of the impact that prayer had in the ministry and life of the apostle Paul, quoting verse 4 **"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy"**. He highlighted how this verse is a call for each of us to **always** pray with joy in **all** our prayers for **all** people and I think this links beautifully with our call as **Jesus' Family on Jesus' Mission** to pray with joy for each other!



After the service many people expressed the profound impact that Bishop Matthew's ministry and message had on them during the evening. We are very fortunate to have such a prayer-fuelled and spirit-filled Bishop, and I am delighted to announce that he has agreed to join us as the speaker for our parish weekend away at Quinta from Fri 12 – Sun 14 Sept. I am sure we will all be inspired by his teaching and want to encourage you and your family to book a place on the weekend if you haven't done so already. You can find out more by visiting:

[www.stpetersparish.info/quinta-2025-booking](http://www.stpetersparish.info/quinta-2025-booking).

Congratulations to all our confirmation candidates, I am confident to say that we are all very proud of you. If anyone wants to be confirmed in the future or to be baptised at our Easter Sunday parish-wide 6.30pm service, please don't hesitate to speak to me or contact the Parish Office.

## Lighthouse Takeover Today!

Sun 23 Mar, 10.30am, St Peter's

Children from St Peter's Lighthouse group will lead today's service. Expect high energy and fun!



## Update from Algeria - Rev Craig Watson

We give thanks for Craig and extend many congratulations to him and Elaine on the wonderful occasion of being licensed and



installed as the Rector of Holy Trinity, Algiers by Bishop Anthony Ball, the Bishop of North Africa on 14 March. Pictured here with members of the choir and congregation. Craig will be with us today leading our 8.30am service and is preaching at our 6.30pm parish-wide service on Sun 30 March. We also praise God too for answered prayer as Craig and Elaine have just been granted their residency.



## Baptisms

Easter Sunday, Sun 20 Apr, 6.30pm, St Peter's

**Baptism or renewal of baptism vows by immersion**

If you'd like to be baptised or renew your baptism vows, please let Rev Alan know or contact the Parish Office.



## Volunteers Needed for SPARK



There's an exciting new opportunity to volunteer at SPARK, a new Midweek Children's club for KS1 children at St Peter's Parish Centre! If you would like to invest in the future of our children please

get in touch with Lucy Hargraves on [lucyhargraves@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:lucyhargraves@manchester.anglican.org) if you would be interested in helping out!



## Halliwell Local History Society

(incorporating Smithills)

Tues 25 Mar, 7.30pm, Parish Centre

Brian Groom 'A City that Changed the World'. All welcome. More info from [enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk)



## Bolton Christian Meditation Group

Thurs 27 Mar, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre

All welcome to join us for this session. More info from [j.wilde.1963@gmail.com](mailto:j.wilde.1963@gmail.com)

## Soul Sisters Ladies' Ministry Film Night

Fri 28 Mar, 7pm for 7.30pm start, Barrow Bridge

### Mission

We'll be watching a powerful film called War Room (see trailer:

<https://youtu.be/ml-XY9tLw?feature=shared>

Treats, tea and coffee on offer - feel free to bring along anything you'd like to share! No charge, **FREE**. Just come along and join us, we'd love to see you there!



## Seasonal Concert in St Peter's

Sat 29 Mar, 7.30pm, St Peter's Church

All welcome to come and see this highly regarded Bolton-based choir perform a concert for the Lenten /Passiontide season.

Not to be missed! Tickets (£10, under 16's FREE) now available from the Parish Office or on the door on the night.



## NIM Livestream of Holyland Lecture - Is there Hope for the Holyland?

Mon 31 Mar, 7pm, Parish Centre

Based in Jerusalem, of Christian Palestinian heritage, Daniel Munayer serves as the Executive Director of Musalaha, an organisation dedicated to teaching, facilitating and training reconciliation, primarily between Israelis and and Palestinians of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds. Daniel's work



emphasises freedom for the oppressed and redemption for the oppressors, grounded in the humanization of all. All welcome so please do join us for this fascinating evening.

## Out and About Walk

Sat 5 Apr, 9.30am. meet opposite St Peter's Church



Nicky Nook Fell: a 7-mile moderate walk. Nicky Nook is a small, picturesque fell

overlooking the beautiful village of Scorton near Garstang. All welcome. For further details contact

Jane Heath on 07472 926650 or see Janet Ainsworth at Barrow Bridge.

## Café on the Green

Sat 5 Apr, 9.30am-2pm, St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School, Limefield Road, BL1 6LA



Delicious food and excellent service. **New for this time, we have an all-day breakfast!** All welcome. The other Café on the Green dates this year are 4 Oct and 1 Nov.

## Diamond Wedding Congratulations



Many congratulations to **Denis and Margaret Collier** who celebrated 60 years of marriage on March 13. We thank God for their marriage and ask for his blessing over the years still to come.

## Preparation of 2025's NEW Electoral Roll



Every 6 years a completely new Electoral Roll (ER) is created, and 2025 is one of these years. This is the nearest thing to membership we have in the church and means that you have voting rights to play your part in electing our PCC leadership team and officers. It also

has a bearing on our status as a parish when allocating clergy and diocese resources.

Everyone on our current ER that wishes to remain so must apply again, the same as new members would do during a revision year. If you are over 16, baptised and consider yourself a regular member of one of our 4 churches, please complete a form **before Sun 6 Apr**. You can grab a form at the back of church or fill it in on-line by visiting:

<https://stpetersparish.info/electoral-roll/> and email directly to [office@stpetersparish.info](mailto:office@stpetersparish.info).

NB: If you have completed an ER form in previous years but *do not* complete one this time around, you will no longer be on the ER. Queries to Amanda Blease, Electoral Roll Officer – [office@stpetersparish.info](mailto:office@stpetersparish.info)

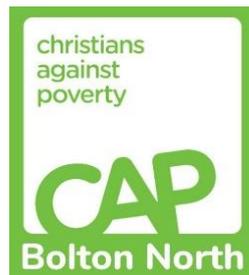
## Archbishop of Canterbury - Consultation

Follow this link to complete a consultation re. the appointment of the 106<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury: [https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=00bilbA6tEeawVh8d-6E8l-cshNfnf1Mth63H\\_VoGXJUOEdVUlg1MFhHME1YRVhQSENQNBNT0I3Mi4u&route=shorturl](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=00bilbA6tEeawVh8d-6E8l-cshNfnf1Mth63H_VoGXJUOEdVUlg1MFhHME1YRVhQSENQNBNT0I3Mi4u&route=shorturl)



Pray

## Prayer for the Week



Sam Wolstencroft, our CAP Debt Centre Manager says: *“Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another, calling each by its name. Because of his great power and incomparable strength, not a single one is missing.”* Isaiah 40: 26.

These verses speak out the truth of just how BIG God is and yet we know he cares about our prayers and petitions, and the minutiae of our lives – and the lives of our CAP clients.” *See her prayer on the back page.*

## Ink Cartridge Re-cycling

If you have any used ink cartridges from your personal computers, please drop them in the collection boxes at the Parish Centre or at the back of St Peter's. We're part of a scheme that helps save them from going in landfill whilst also raising a little bit of extra funds for church. Thank you to everyone who supports this initiative.



## Looking Forward

### Quinta Fundraiser: Progressive Meal 2025

Sat 17 May, 6.30pm, various homes

It's back! It's big! It's better than ever...! If you've not been before, everyone who takes part will get a three-course meal with each course in a different person's house (and with different guests around the table). It's a great way of getting to know people, raising money for our weekend away at Quinta, and not having to do the washing-up!!

**BOOKING WILL OPEN SOON**

### 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 form



available in all churches. More details at <https://stpetersparish.info/quinta-2025-booking/>

## Prayers by Sam Wolstencroft, CAP Debt Centre Manager

Father God, thank you that we can come to you with all our worries and concerns – both for ourselves and for others. Thank you for the ministry of Christians Against Poverty in this community of Bolton and we pray for each other as we support the work of CAP in different ways. We thank you for the current CAP Life Skills course and the 12 delegates attending. As the Cost of Living crisis deepens, we thank you for this resource which helps people to manage their money well. Bless the delegates and we ask that you would reveal Jesus to them.

We pray for CAP's frontline workers and volunteer befrienders as they build friendships with those working with CAP. May they provide a source of valuable support and demonstrate the heart of God in everything they do.

Father God, we thank you for your faithfulness. Everything we do is ultimately for you. We want to see the name of Jesus lifted high and every knee bowed before you. We ask you to guide us in this mission, so that we may approach it with grace and sensitivity as well as passion and commitment. Amen.

### Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
<b>Mon 24 Mar</b>			
9.30am-12noon 10am-12noon 1.30pm-3.30pm 5.30pm-7.30pm	AGE UK's Strength and Balance classes Coffee Room Art Group ABL 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 25 Mar</b>			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 12noon-2pm 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers Group CAP Life Skills Ignite Halliwell Local History Society Tread Youth Group	Suzi 07834 371509 <a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@stpetersparish.info</a> <a href="mailto:ignite@stpetersparish.info">ignite@stpetersparish.info</a> <a href="mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk">enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:office@stpetersparish.info">office@stpetersparish.info</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Wed 26 Mar</b>			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door	Bible Study – Sheena Ward. Val 07902 167971	Parish Centre
<b>Thu 27 Mar</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 28 Mar</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 29 Mar</b>			
9am-12pm	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)

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[www.stpetersparish.info](http://www.stpetersparish.info)



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