



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 9 March 2025

HEADLINES

- Welcome to Lent!
- Preparation of NEW Electoral Roll
- New Opportunities to Give, Serve and Meet
- A Prayer for Lent

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 9 March

ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service with Communion
*10.30am	Worship for Everyone service
2pm	Dedication service
*6.30pm	Parish-wide service

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family service
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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...

Welcome to Lent!

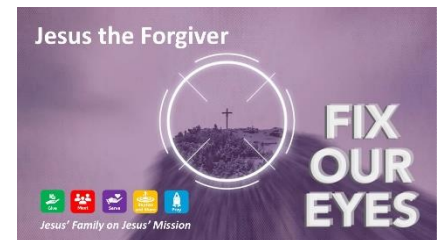
The word Lent comes from old English "lencten" – meaning spring. Spring is a time of renewal, new life, growth and transformation. Lent properly observed can be a 'spring time' in our walk with God. A time of growth, renewal and new life. Many people spring clean their homes, and Lent gives us the opportunity to do some spiritual 'spring cleaning'. It's a season to look afresh at our relationship with God and get rid of the things that hinder that relationship.

To help us make the most of Lent, we've put together some fantastic resources which can all be accessed through our website:

www.stpetersparish.info/lent. There are daily reflections, acts of kindness, devotions and videos for individuals and small groups. Take a look and take the opportunity for a spiritual spring clean!

This Sunday we launch a new morning sermon series for Lent –

it's called **Jesus the Forgiver** as part of our overarching theme of **Fix Our Eyes on Jesus**, as we learn



more about what it means to be part of **Jesus' Family on Jesus' Mission**.

We will ask questions like: How does Jesus forgive? Who does Jesus forgive? Who needs to be forgiven? Why does Jesus forgive? Forgiveness plays a central role in the mission of Jesus.

Mark records Jesus declaring the very reason he came like this, **"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."** In addition to forgiveness being fundamental to why Jesus came, it is what his followers are told by Jesus to proclaim, **"repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem"** (Luke 24:47).

Preparation of 2025's NEW Electoral Roll

Every 6 years a completely new Electoral Roll (ER) must be created, and 2025 is one of these years. This means that everyone who is currently on our Electoral Roll and 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**.

Forms are available at all our churches and in the Parish Centre or **simply complete it online** here at: <https://stpetersparish.info/electoral-roll/> and email directly to office@stpetersparish.info.

Membership enables you to play a part in the government and decision making of church. **You need to be on the ER to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Thurs 1 May** and it's an important way to show your commitment to St Peter's and to its vision. 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



Confirmation Service

Confirmation Service with the Bishop of Bolton, Sun 16 Mar, 6.30pm, St Peter's.

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptised.

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 confirmed or renew your baptism vows, please let Rev Alan know or contact the Parish Office.

Nell Rosbottom's Funeral

2.30pm, Fri 21 Mar, St Andrew's (Hope Centre)
followed by Overdale Crematorium

Nell, a long-standing member of St. Andrew's (Hope Centre,) sadly died on Tue 25 Feb.



Support for Oasis Orphanage

At their annual vision meeting on 23 Feb, Barrow Bridge fellowship launched their support for Oasis orphanage in Kampala, Uganda. The good news is that the money contributed so far has already helped fund school fees and pay off some of the debt on the rental of the orphanage building. Allen Kizoto, one of the

AYF Band members, gave up her teaching career to open the orphanage some years ago. She had been an orphan and had a heart to help children in similar circumstances as there is little statutory support for orphans in Uganda. Allen said: ***"The money sent meant I was able to pay school fees for these little ones, I almost failed to take them back to school this term, but God used you and I bless the Lord for that. I am praying for more doors to open in your family and may your children never lack in life."*** Thank you, Barrow Bridge, for your generosity.



Easter Eggs for CAP Clients

We're giving our CAP clients a Meaningful Chocolate Co Easter egg which is Fairtrade and includes the Easter story. We'll buy in bulk but would appreciate contributions from the church please to Sam or the Parish Office as they're £6.99 per egg. Thank you!



St Peter's Community Allotment

Spring is in the air and the growing season is almost upon us. So why not help serve as part of our allotment team? Ruth Saunders is hosting a planning meeting, with bacon butties, at the Vicarage (1 Sefton Road) on **Sat 22 March at 9am**. Come along, enjoy a tasty breakfast and learn about ways you can get involved at our Harpers Lane allotment community plot.



General Lay Ministry Training Courses

Are you wanting to develop your calling and gifting to Christian ministry and service? Manchester Diocese currently have eight courses available:

- Children and Families
- Community Outreach and Social Justice
- Ecology and Creation
- Mission and Evangelism
- Parish Admin, Finance and Governance
- Pastoral Outreach and Listening
- Prayer and Spirituality
- Worship and Liturgy
- Youth Work

All courses are around 12 sessions long and will run from April to July this year. Delivery will be a mixture of online and in-person teaching at a variety of venues around the diocese. **The closing deadline for applications is Sun 6 Apr.** For info about course content and application forms, go to: [General Lay Courses - Diocese of Manchester](#) or contact the Local Ministry Officer, Jamie Mackenzie - 07553 374130 / jamiemackenzie@manchester.anglican.org

Love Your School Initiative

3.30pm – 4.30pm, Weds 12 Mar, St Peter's



Please pray for a Come and Explore event marking the launch of this initiative (aimed at encouraging and equipping churches to serve their local schools), where families from our local schools – Church Road, St. Peter's and Johnson Fold – have been invited to drop into our parish church. We need lots of cake so if you can bake some, please contact Carolyn Rigby ASAP - secretary@stpetersparish.info. Feel free to pop by – we'd love your support. Thanks.



Bolton Christian Meditation

Thurs 13 Mar, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre

All welcome at this session, just turn up. For info, contact j.wilde.1963@gmail.com.

Home for Good Peer Support Group

Sat 22 Mar, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

For adopters, foster, kinship carers and families. Bring and share lunch. Info: Fiona 07786 844141



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 - please have a look at the trailer here: https://youtu.be/ml1-XY9t_Lw?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 now available from the Parish Office.

The Brixi Singers
Musical Director Richard Lea
present
Passiontide
Stainer's
Crucifixion
and other seasonal music
Saturday March 29th 2025 7.30pm
St Peter's Church
Halliwell BL1 5RR
Tickets £10 Under 16s free
Available on the door or from 07862736766
or 01204 599900



Prayer for the Week

This week we have a prayer for Lent written by Rev Dr Douglas Galbraith and posted on the Church of Scotland's website. *See his prayer on the back page.*

Looking Forward

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 by Rev Dr Douglas Galbraith and posted on the Church of Scotland's website

God, you loved the world so much that you embraced it in all its suffering in your beloved Son Jesus Christ, who sought the way of the cross that he might come to Easter and offer us the way back to you.

We thank you for this space apart, not just on Sunday morning but in the weeks that are to come – space to become more receptive to the incredible promise of new life: life to challenge all that is deathly in our world, life to challenge all that is dull in our hearts.

Help us to use this time, not just in prayer at worship, but in the thoughtfulness in which we go about these coming days, listening for your voice in all we do, as you challenge the habits that restrict us and the assumptions that close our minds. Help us also to be aware of others who at this time are examining themselves, whether from religious duty or because they have reached a turning point, in a career, or in a relationship, or in a crisis.

Give us an ear that listens that we may find the words to sustain and the openness to learn through Jesus Christ, our deliverance and our hope. Amen.

Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 10 Mar			
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 ruthrobinson293@gmail.com www.yhbolton.co.uk / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
Tue 11 Mar			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 12noon-2pm 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers Group CAP Life Skills Ignite Tread Youth Group	Suzi 07834 371509 <i>See link in newsletter info</i> ignite@stpetersparish.info office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Wed 12 Mar			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door	Macmillan Cancer Support. Val 07902 167971	Parish Centre
Thu 13 Mar			
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	j.wilde.1963@gmail.com office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Fri 14 Mar			
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 15 Mar			
9am-12pm	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



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