



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 6 April 2025

HEADLINES

- Update re: Staff Recruitment plus Churchwarden Opportunity
- Our Easter Services Across the Parish
- Electoral Roll Deadline TODAY!
- Prayer from Nigel Clarke, Smithills Fellowship

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 6 April
It's Lighthouse week!



ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service
10.20am	Lighthouse at Parish Centre
*10.30am	Adult service with Twinklers
*6.30pm	Parish-wide service

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Morning service with Lighthouse
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Morning service with Lighthouse
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ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Communion service
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*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'

We are an accessibility-friendly parish

Rev Alan writes...

I am full of hope and expectation that this year will be a breakthrough year of building for the parish as we strengthen and expand our staff team. This week I want to update you on a few developments.

Firstly, I am excited to announce that very soon we will be advertising for a **Youth and Children's Ministry Lead**. It's a full-time role for someone to oversee and develop our youth and children's ministry across the parish.

We will also be advertising for a full-time **Associate Minister**. This will be an ordained member of the clergy who will serve alongside me to help lead our parish. I am pleased that the diocese has agreed to purchase a new home for this person. Please let me know if you are aware of any houses with room for an office up for sale.

Phil Weaver, one of our Churchwardens, will be stepping down at our APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) on 1 May. Phil has done an outstanding job as warden and I'm sorry to see him step down, but I do recognise it is right for him, and I know he will continue to use his gifts to serve in other ways. This means we are on the lookout for a new warden. I'd like to use this as an opportunity to reassess and simplify the role, reducing the workload and expanding the opportunity for more people to serve in this way. Anyone from any fellowship is eligible, it doesn't need to be someone at St Peter's church fellowship. So, if you'd like to explore the idea, please contact me and I'd love to talk it through.

As we continue through Lent please pray, asking God to raise up the right people for these important roles.

In our morning sermon series, we continue to learn about Jesus the Forgiver. At our parish-wide 6.30pm services in the lead-up to Easter, we will be looking in John's gospel at the stories of Jesus' anointing at Bethany and his entry into Jerusalem as king on Palm Sunday.

Easter Services Across the Parish

MAUNDY THURSDAY 17 April

7.30pm Parish-Wide Communion, St Peter's

GOOD FRIDAY 18 April

10.30am Parish-Wide Service, St Peter's

2.00pm Parish-Wide Service, An Hour by the Cross, Smithills Hall Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY 20 April

8.30am Easter Day Service, St Peter's

10.00am Family Communion, Smithills

10.30am Worship for Everyone Communion, St Peter's

10.30am Family Communion, Barrow Bridge

10.30am Easter Day Service, St Andrew's

6.30pm Parish-Wide Easter Baptism Service with Communion, St Peter's

EASTER SERVICES



Baptism

Sun 6 Apr, 2pm, St Peter's

We welcome **Rosie INMAN** and thank God for the gift of this child and for her parents, Godparents, family and friends on this special occasion.

Easter 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 ASAP.

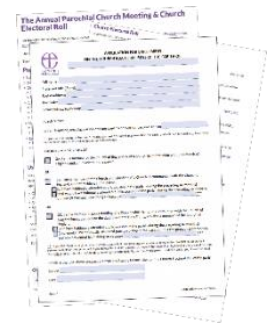
Electoral Roll Deadline TODAY!

If you haven't yet completed an Electoral Roll (ER) form, please do it today.

After today, a completely new ER is being prepared and even if you have been on it in previous years, if you don't complete a new form, you will no longer be on it. The new ER will take effect from next Sun, 13 Apr.

Every 6 years a completely new 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. 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.



Good Friday Picnic in the Park

Fri 18 Apr, after 10.30am St Peter's service, Moss Bank Park



All welcome to join us...if the sun is shining! Meet near the playground with your lunch, rug and any games / balls etc. We'd love to see you there!

Experience Easter



A huge thank you to Lucy Hargraves and her team from Places Project plus all the wonderful volunteers who made Easter Experience in St Peter's Church this week such a success! Classes from local schools came to learn about the Easter story in an interactive and relevant way through

various different stations set up in church, including: Future Hopes - The Story of Palm Sunday; Servant King - Jesus washes the Disciples' Feet; Remember Me - The Last Supper; Alone - The Garden of Gethsemane and The Cross - Symbol of Hope and Resurrection - New Life. Praise God for this opportunity to share the good news and hope of Easter with these children.

NIM Livestream of Lecture – Is There Hope for the Holyland?



Daniel Munayer's thought-provoking talk was very well received with 20 people attending to watch it on Mon night in the Parish Centre. The talk is still available to watch, just click on this link:

<https://smartins.digital/is-there-hope-for-the-holy-land/>

Also, on 2 Apr on Radio 4's Thought for the Day there was a reflection on Daniel's lecture. Listen to it on BBC Sounds at 1h 49 minutes.



Quinta Parish Weekend Away Bookings

Fri 12 – Sun 14 Sept, Quinta, Shropshire



Don't miss this fantastic weekend away for the whole church family! All are invited so book your place now. **Bargain price – same as 2019 and 2023**, due to fundraising eg. £300 for a family of 4... includes all meals, free children's activities (free childcare!), worship and teaching with Bishop Matthew, lots of fun and chance to meet new people/ spend quality time with those you know a bit.



Here are some quotes when we asked what people's favourite part of the weekend was in 2023:

'Worship Unplugged – a little piece of heaven!' *'The morning/evening prayers were very peaceful.'* *'Time spent getting to know people.'* *'Chatting to people from all 4 churches and worshipping as one Parish'.* Booking forms available now in all churches or go to: <https://stpetersparish.info/quinta-2025-booking/>

Bolton Christian Meditation

Thurs 10 Apr, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre

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

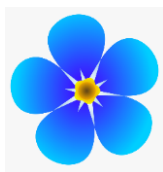
Bolton Repair Café

Weds 16 Apr, 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 17 Apr, 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, please contact

joan@stpetersparish.info /01204 840180

Family Faith Film 'The King of Kings'

This new, animated film, *The King of Kings*, will be showing at all Bolton cinemas with preview screenings from **Mon 7 Apr**. Just click here to watch the trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrEydoBwa6U>

Starring Kenneth Branagh, Pierce Brosnan and Uma Thurman (to name a few!) this film is a breathtaking retelling of the greatest story ever told - the story of Jesus. Witness His miracles, sacrifice, and boundless love through the eyes of a child and rediscover the power of this world-shaping figure in a new way. Based on the book by Charles Dickens, *The King of Kings* is a captivating film suitable for all the family – you don't want to miss this must-see Easter film of the year! More info and booking links at: <https://thekingofkingsfilm.com/>



Working Party in St Peter's Churchyard

Sat 12 Apr, 9am-12noon, St Peter's

Our Building and Maintenance Committee invite you to join another working party to help tidy up the external grounds at St. Peter's. Many hands make light work! All welcome, so feel free to just turn up. Thanks for your support.



Prayer for the Week

Nigel Clarke, on behalf of Smithills Fellowship, brings us a Lent prayer. *See his prayer on the back page.*

Looking Forward

Quinta Fundraiser: Progressive Meal 2025

Sat 17 May, 6.30pm, various homes

Enjoy 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

Prayers by Nigel Clarke on behalf of Smithills Fellowship

Heavenly Father

As we continue our journey through the season of Lent, preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter, we thank You for gathering us as a church family.

Guide us in all that we do, that our words and actions may reflect Your love and grace.

Inspire us to walk in the footsteps of Christ, deepening our faith through prayer, service and acts of kindness.

May all our preparations, whether in worship, outreach, or reflection, bring glory to Your name.

Keep our hearts fixed on the hope of the resurrection, that we may proclaim with joy the good news of Jesus Christ.

In His name, we pray.

Amen

Coming up this week

It is now the Easter break so most activities are pausing for a short while...

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 7 Apr			
1.30pm-3.30pm 5.30pm-7.30pm	Art Group ABL Weight Management Programme	ruthrobinson293@gmail.com www.yhbolton.co.uk / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
Tues 8 Apr			
12.30pm	CAP Life Skills	office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Thu 10 Apr			
2pm-3pm	Bolton 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 11 Apr			
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

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



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