



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

# NEWSLETTER



Sunday 4 May 2025

## HEADLINES

- The Big Announcement!
- APCM Update
- VE Day Celebrations
- Annual Duck Race Fundraiser
- Alpha Course Starts Next Week
- Prayer for the week from Geoff Gunshon, on behalf of National and International Ministry Team

*Read on to find out more...*

## SERVICES

**Sunday 4 May**  
**It's Lighthouse week!**



### ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

### SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Outdoor service
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### BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Morning service with Lighthouse
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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...

#### The Big Announcement!

At Thursday night's APCM I made a big announcement, here it is...

I am delighted to announce that Rev Josh Openshaw will be returning to St Peter's in September of this year to join our staff team. Josh is coming to the end of his curacy at Christ Church Davyhulme.

He comes at a time when we continue to explore options for deepening our mission and ministry in the parish and beyond, and we're really excited that he will be part of the life of the team here.

We'll be working with the PCC, Bishop Matthew and the Diocese of Manchester over these next months to explore more of what this looks like, but in the meantime please pray for Josh, his wife Jessica and their young children, Jude and Arthur, as they prepare for the move.



It's exciting news and it's worth highlighting that this appointment comes in addition to the Associate Minister appointment which will be advertised soon. Bishop Matthew will be coming to consult at our PCC meeting on 24 June and I will keep you posted as plans progress. Please keep all this in prayer, together with our recruitment of a Youth and Children's Ministry Lead.

## APCM Update

People commented on the lovely, relaxed atmosphere and the opportunity to celebrate all that has been achieved and look forward to the future as Rev Alan shared a vision for growth. Special thanks to everyone who served so well to make the evening a great success. We thanked Phil Weaver and his wife Elaine as he stepped down as churchwarden - sadly we have been unable to fill the vacancy so are open to any offers to try the role on an informal basis, speak to Rev Alan. We welcomed new and renewed appointments to PCC from Chris Saunders, Simon Godley, Cath Hargraves, David Park, Dave Starkie, Amanda Blease and Fiona Tatterton. We thanked Steve Johnson, Chris Ward and Joan Johnson as they stepped down.



## VE Outdoor Service at Smithills Today Sun 11 May, from 10am for refreshments, service 10.30am-11.30am, Redcar Road

The service is followed by our VE Street Party which will commence at 12.30pm. All our church family are welcome to join us. Sorry, no Lighthouse today.

*A lovely photo of Barrow Bridge Mission decorated to commemorate VE Day...fantastic!*



## Barrow Bridge's Annual Duck Race Sun 11 May, 1pm, Barrow Bridge Mission

All welcome to come along and join in the fun at this wonderful event. Funds raised will go to Barrow Bridge Mission's Missionary Fund. See you there!



## Baptise and Share

### Alpha Course Starts Next Week

Thurs 8 May, 8pm-9.30pm, Parish Centre



Stay Curious, Try Alpha. A great way to find out more about the Christian faith. This 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>.

For details/sign up at [office@stpetersparish.info](mailto:office@stpetersparish.info)

## Lucy Hargraves

Lucy Hargraves, leader of our Ignite children's group, is a Children's Worker for the Places Project at Manchester Diocese, an initiative dedicated to helping families, children, and young people grow closer to God. In her role, Lucy supports children aged 5-11 in exploring, experiencing, and following Jesus through a range of activities. She leads various groups and works with many volunteers, some of whom go on to become group leaders, and so their ministry grows. An article about her can be found in the latest e-news from the Manchester of Diocese in which she reflects on her own faith journey and how pivotal her upbringing was to shaping her vocation to work with children. Read it here:

<https://www.manchester.anglican.org/news/storiesof-faith/a-faith-nurtured-since-childhood>



## Spark KS1 Group – Help Needed

We still need volunteers lined up to help with our new group for children aged 5-7, before we can start sessions (each Tues 4.30pm-6pm at the Parish Centre) hopefully after the May half-term holiday. If you can help, please contact Lucy Hargraves - [lucyhargraves@manchester.anglican.org](mailto:lucyhargraves@manchester.anglican.org)



## Quinta Progressive Meal Fundraiser

Sat 17 May, 6.30pm start at Parish Centre

**ONLY TWO WEEKS TO GO!** Three courses... three different homes... three hours of fantastic food and fellowship! **Booking will close at 10pm on Sun 11 May.** We have to have a hard cut-off because sorting out who goes where, who gives lifts to whom etc takes some time. So — please do join the 28 others who have already signed up! Scan the QR to the right or go to:

<https://stpetershalliwell.churchsuite.com/events/8swoffl3/>. Any questions, just call Stephen or Rachel on 01204 433810 or 07954 995160





Starring our vicar, Rev Alan...

**BOLTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

# A Night at the Opera

**Saturday 10th May 2025 7.30pm**  
**Victoria Hall Bolton**  
**BSO with BCMCS Choral**

**An evening of popular operatic solos and choruses**

Programme includes:  
Puccini, Mascagni,  
Verdi, Borodin, Wagner  
and more!

Soprano Juliet Montgomery  
Tenor Joshua Baxter  
Conductor Ben Crick  
Leader Anita Naughton

Tickets: £13 (no concessions), Under 19s free  
Tickets available via telephone: 01204 522569  
Tickets available online:  
[www.boltonsymphony.org.uk](http://www.boltonsymphony.org.uk)  
Charity No. 1077033

Logos: making music, bats, BCH, BCMCS

Come along and support this wonderful local orchestra and see our vicar, Alan, on his trumpet!



## Bolton Christian Meditation

Thurs 8 May, 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).

## Home for Good Peer Support Group

Sat 10 May, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

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



## Gold Medal World Champions...Again!



Many congratulations to Team England Special Abilities Unified Pom who have just returned from the USA World Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida and retained their title, winning **GOLD!** Malcolm and Hilary Peake's granddaughter – Isla Latham – is part of this amazing team of young athletes who worked so hard, in spite of all the challenges they face on a daily basis, to achieve this. On behalf of Isla's team, many thanks to everyone

who helped and supported them with fund raising, raffle prizes, encouragement and prayers.

## We're Recruiting! Spread the word...

PARISH OF ST. PETER'S, HALLIWELL  
"Transforming Bolton Together in Jesus' Name"

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

## Youth and Children's Ministry Lead

We are recruiting for a visionary, pioneering Youth and Children's Ministry Lead who has a passion for engaging children and young people from the local area, as well as discipling those within our fellowship congregations.

You will oversee our Youth and Children's work across St Peter's parish, which includes managing our fantastic team of volunteers, providing an overarching vision for how children and young people can encounter Jesus, be formed into his likeness and share the love of God to those in the wider community.

- Salary: £27,000 - £29,500 (depending on experience), plus pension contributions.
- Excellent support package on offer.
- Full-time 37.5 hours, initial 3-year contract.
- This role has an occupational requirement to be a Christian.

To apply, send your CV and a detailed cover letter, explaining why you are a good fit for the role, via email to: [office@stpetersparish.info](mailto:office@stpetersparish.info).

Closing date for applications is Thursday 22 May 2025. Parish visits and interviews will take place over two days - Sunday 8 June and Monday 9 June.

Contact the Vicar, Alan Saunders 07767 643444 if you'd like to discuss this exciting opportunity.  
[www.stpetersparish.info](http://www.stpetersparish.info)

For details, a job description and how to apply, go to: <https://premierjobsearch.co.uk/job/45859/youth-and-children-s-ministry-lead/>. Please share widely and keep the whole recruitment process in your prayers.



## PrayerZone



**Weds 7 May, 7.30pm-8.30pm,**  
**St Andrew's (Hope Centre)**

Gather from across the parish for an hour of dynamic prayer and worship.

## Prayer for the Week

Geoff Gunshon, on behalf of NIM, invites us to be unashamed of the Gospel. **See his prayer on the back page.**

## Prayers by Geoff Gunshon on behalf of National and International Ministry Team

Last Sunday at the 6:30pm parish-wide service, we learned to be UNASHAMED of the Gospel. One of the points we heard was that Paul had an UNASHAMED MINISTRY.

*Father, we thank you for the teaching and example of Paul. We ask that we too will have an unashamed ministry on our front lines. Through the work of your Holy Spirit, give us the boldness and understanding we need to be your servants. Amen*

*Father, we thank you for the example of our mission partners who have stepped out with certainty to unashamedly proclaim your gospel throughout the world. Amen.*

*Father, protect, encourage and guide us and our mission partners as we unashamedly proclaim your Gospel to those we meet on our journey. Amen*

*We ask all these things in the name of Jesus. Amen*

## Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
<b>Mon 5 May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday - No activities today</b>		
<b>Tue 6 May</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 KS2 Children's Group 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>Weds 7 May</b>			
9am-1pm 7.30pm-8.30pm	Hope at the Hub PrayerZone	Drop-in community session Parish-wide prayer meeting	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door Ladies Group	Bible study – Christine Butcher. Sandra 01204 846490	Parish Centre
<b>Thu 8 May</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 9 May</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 10 May</b>			
9am-12pm	INTERACT Performing Arts Group	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	St Peter's Church
12.30pm-2pm 5.30pm-7pm	Home for Good Peer Support Group Newcomers' Dinner	Fiona 07786 844141 <a href="mailto:sam.wolstencroft@gmail.com">sam.wolstencroft@gmail.com</a>	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

**Warden:** 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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