



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 6 July 2025

HEADLINES

- New Life in Jesus
- Roger's 50 Years of Ordained Ministry!
- Form 8L Return to Oasis
- Prayer for the Week from Rev Alan

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sunday 6 July
It's Lighthouse week!



ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service with Communion
10.20am	Lighthouse at the 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	Morning service with Communion
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*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'

We are an accessibility-friendly parish

Rev Alan writes...

New Life in Jesus

I've loved working through our latest sermon series **The Challenge of Jesus** as part of our overarching theme this year of **Fix Our Eyes on Jesus**. Through the series we've considered Jesus' teaching and example, which is a just as much a challenge to us today as it was over 2,000 years ago.



Last Sunday, I spoke at St Peter's on the story of Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee who was inquisitive enough to secretly meet Jesus one night to find out more about him. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus is fascinating. Jesus said: **"You must be born again"** (John 3:7). Nicodemus did not understand. So, Jesus explained that the birth he was referring to was a birth from above by means of God's Holy Spirit: **"I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit"** (John 3:5,6). God offers us new life through his Spirit, and Jesus makes it clear that without such a rebirth, a person **"cannot enter the kingdom of God."**

Being born again is to be created anew – to take us back closer to that original perfect creation in Genesis 2:7. How can we receive this new life? The answer is we simply ask God. Here is a prayer you can use right now or even share it with anyone eager to receive God's new life.

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my life by your Holy Spirit. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. In Your Name. Amen.

Congratulations Rev Roger Oldfield

Last Sunday was a special anniversary for Roger Oldfield as he marked 50 years of ordained ministry. Roger joined St Peter's as a Curate in 1975 and stayed on as Vicar for 23 years from 1980 to 2003, after which he continued as Associate Minister for a further 7 years - a total of 35 years' faithful service to St Peter's.



It is wonderful that even in his retirement Roger, together with his dear wife Ruth, still blesses us with his presence and preaching to this day. We showed our appreciation and prayed for Roger and Ruth at our 6.30pm parish-wide service and Roger preached an excellent sermon on Romans 6:1-23 "Dead to sin and alive in Christ" which can be found on our YouTube channel (just search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'). *Congratulations also go to Sheena Ward as she marked 25 years of ordained ministry this week.*

Reader's Licensing Service

Sun 6 July, 3pm, Manchester Cathedral

Joan Johnson, who has been with us for many years here at St Peter's Halliwell, is being licensed as a Reader at Manchester Cathedral by the Bishop of Bolton, to serve in the Parish of St Peter's Bolton-Le-Moors – Bolton Parish Church. All are welcome to come to the service at the Cathedral to support Joan. Please pray for her and other Readers being licensed at that service.



David Butcher

We are very sorry to inform you that David Butcher died on Tuesday 1 July. Please pray for David's wife, Joan, and children – Judith, Steven and Peter – and the wider family and friends at this difficult time. David's funeral will be held in Barrow Bridge Mission at 10am on Friday 11 July, followed by committal at Overdale Crematorium.

Vicarage Phone Number

Please note, the new landline number to contact Rev Alan at the Vicarage is (01204) 599909.

Quinta Parish Weekend Away

If you have booked onto the Quinta weekend, then you should have received an email with your outstanding balance. If you've NOT received this, please let us know! Email quinta@stpetersparish.info
Further details will follow... only 10 weeks to go!

Form 8L Return to Oasis

The other half of Form 8L from Canon Slade, together with their form teacher, Mr Keate, visited Oasis this Thursday to help out and learn about the ministry of St Peter's. This was part of the school's Love Your Neighbour initiative which has involved every year 8 form working with a local church. *Thank you Form 8L – we've loved having you at Oasis!*



Year 6's Pizza Party

Last Tuesday, we had a pizza party in the Parish Centre for young people currently in Year 6. They chatted, played games and enjoyed pizza together and stayed on to go to Tread for the first time. It was great fun!



Holiday Club Summer Fun

Mon 21 July – Fri 29 Aug, 8am-5.30pm, Parish Centre



The Family Club operate a term-time before school/after school club at the Parish Centre and are excited to announce that they're running a holiday club over the summer holidays

for primary school aged children. Join them for fun-filled days packed with planned events, themed days, exciting activities, and plenty of sports and outdoor play to keep everyone active and entertained. Whether you're looking for a full day of adventures or just a half-day session to fit around your plans, they've got you covered! Please contact Heaton House Nursery on (01204) 494888 to book your place.



Bolton Christian Meditation Group

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

All welcome to join us for this session. More info from j.wilde.1963@gmail.com

Bolton Repair Café

Weds 16 July, 10.30am-12.30pm, St Andrews



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



Volunteers for Bolton Lunches 2025

Mon 21 July - Fri 29 Aug



Every summer, Urban Outreach helps ensure that children across Bolton don't go hungry during the holidays. For many children in our town, these lunches are more than a meal - they're a lifeline. This year,

they'll be making and delivering thousands of packed lunches — and it wouldn't be possible without the amazing people who give their time to make it all happen. They need volunteers to make sandwiches (lots of them!) and pack fruit and snacks. It's a 6.45am start, but the atmosphere is always buzzing, and you'll be amazed at what is achieved together *before 8am*! Whether you're coming once or every week, your help makes a real difference. Volunteer for 1 morning, 1 week, or 1 morning each week or random days - it's up to you. Email admin@urbanoutreach.co.uk to sign up and tell us when you're available.

The Marco Players – Help Welcomed

Thurs 10 July, 7.30pm, St Peter's



Bolton-based, award-winning drama society The Marco Players will be bringing

their next production of 'All in Good Time' to St Peter's Church from Tue 23 – Fri 26 Sept. Ahead of this, The Marco Players are holding a production team meeting on Thursday 10 July at 7.30pm in St Peter's. This would be a great opportunity for members from our 4 churches to come along and get involved and get a little insight into what's involved in a production like this and also be part of the front line of the church during the week of the show. Roles could include front of house, refreshments, or even getting involved backstage with props, sound, lighting, costumes and more! Please come along and find out what Marco Players are all about and how you can be involved. More details from Ben Latham on 07516 121788 / benlatham27@gmail.com

Friends of Barrow Bridge

Last week, we reported that Ian Hart, a regular at Barrow Bridge for many years, had started a new initiative called **Friends of Barrow Bridge**. Ian said: *"I'm not looking for a church activity, rather a small core of Christians to engage with passers-by and grow that way. Plenty of chats and interest, the start/finish is Mission and core message to those interested is care for environment/creation. The idea of the Friends of BB is outreach and in a small way to bring transformation."*



Update: Last Sunday afternoon, the Friends of Barrow Bridge held an open afternoon Café at Barrow Bridge Mission and welcomed 20+ new faces and recruited a couple into the practical task group. The plan is to host one task activity and one open café each month on separate Sunday afternoons. Details will follow in due course.



Prayer for the Week

Our vicar, Rev Alan, has a prayer for us to invite the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. **See his prayer on the back page.**

Looking Forward

The Marco Players 'All in Good Time'

Tues 23 – Fri 26 Sept, 7.30pm-10pm, St Peter's
Written by classic Bolton playwright, Bill Naughton, this domestic comedy centres around Arthur and Violet Fitton who are a newly married couple as they navigate the drama of marriage in the 1960's... what could possibly go wrong!? This warm-hearted family comedy drama is sure to leave you in good spirits. *Appropriate for anyone 11+.* Tickets available from themarcoplayers.net

Good News for Romania Coffee Morning

Sat 18 Oct, 10am-12noon, Parish Centre
Save the date! All invited to come along for the next GNfR coffee morning and bring and buy fundraiser.



25th Anniversary Celebrations at Parish Centre

Sun 26 Oct, 10.30am, Parish Centre
Save the date! All invited to join our celebration service commemorating the re-opening of the Parish Centre on 15 Oct 2000 following its redevelopment and extension. Let's reminisce on the past and all the amazing things that have gone on in the centre and look forward to the future with hope and excitement! More dets to follow.
NB: No 10.30am service in St Peter's on this date

Prayer from Rev Alan

Heavenly Father, as I come to you, I open my heart to your presence. In moments of uncertainty and doubt, I seek solace and guidance in your love. Holy Spirit, I invite you to dwell within me, filling me with your light and wisdom. Pour out your love upon me, soothing my troubled mind and comforting my weary soul. Help me to trust in your divine plan, knowing that you are always with me, guiding me along the path of righteousness. Give me the courage to surrender to your will, allowing your transformative power to work in my life. May I find strength in my weaknesses and hope in the midst of despair. Lead me to the truth that sets me free and fill me with the peace that surpasses all understanding.

I pray for healing and restoration, both in my heart and in the world around me. May your love reign supreme, dispelling darkness and bringing forth new life and hope. Empower me to be a beacon of your light, shining brightly in a world that often feels overwhelmed by darkness.

Thank you, Lord, for your unfailing love and grace. May I always remain open to your presence, and may your Holy Spirit continue to guide me on my journey of faith.

Amen

Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 7 July			
10am-12noon 10am-12noon 5.30pm-7.30pm	AGE UK's Strength & Balance Coffee Room ABL Weight Management	Classes full, contact Parish Office Drop-in for coffee and cakes www.yhbolton.co.uk / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
Tues 8 July			
10am-11.30am 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers Group Ignite KS2 Children's Group Tread Youth Group	Suzi 07834 371509 ignite@stpetersparish.info tread@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Weds 9 July			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door Ladies Group	<i>NB: Summer meal out today</i>	
Thu 10 July			
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	Bolton Christian Meditation Group	j.wilde.1963@gmail.com	Parish Centre
Fri 11 July			
10.30am-12noon 8pm-10pm	Friday Life Group Stressbusters Badminton	denis.collier@gmail.com Geoff 07835 388732	Parish Centre
Sat 12 July			
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 599909

Warden: Simon Scott

E: wardens@stpetersparish.info

CAP Debt Centre Manager: Sam Wolstencroft

E: samwolstencroft@capuk.org / **M:** 07934 716509 // **P:** 01204 599903

Caretaker: David Park

E: david@stpetersparish.info

St Peter's Parish Centre
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www.stpetersparish.info



St Peter's Halliwell



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