



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

# NEWSLETTER



Sunday 28 September 2025

## HEADLINES

- All Set for Mission!
- Compassion UK – A Big Thank you!
- Transport Help Still Needed!
- Prayer for the Week from Diane Ball on behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre)

*Read on to find out more...*

## SERVICES

**Sunday 28 September**  
**It's Disability Awareness Sunday**

### ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

### SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family service with Communion
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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...

#### All Set for Mission!

I love to say that we are **Jesus' Family on Jesus' Mission** and I love that one of the exciting things about the mission that we are on is that it takes many forms. It is varied and dynamic, but the aim of our mission is always the same - to share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by our words and actions! In many of our services this Sunday, we are looking at what it means to be a welcoming and accessible church for people with disabilities; we will be learning from the story of a group of friends who brought a disabled man to Jesus in Luke chapter 5. And next **Sunday 5 October** is our **Parish-Wide Vision Service** and, of course, mission will be high on the agenda as we look to our vision for the year ahead. Then, hot on the heels of this, starting on Monday 6 October, will be the Canon Slade High School mission week with the Message Trust. This will be an amazing opportunity for every student in the school to hear about the greatest influencer who ever lived: Jesus Christ. The Message band "**Next Chapter**" has a fantastic interactive lesson ready to deliver and the climax of the week will be a celebratory concert after school on the Friday. Please pray for this mission week.



Don't forget that our **Parish-Wide Vision Service** at St Peter's next Sunday 5 October is the only service in the parish that day to encourage everyone from all four fellowships to come. Refreshments will be served in church from 10am and the service starts at 11am. There

will be a special **Lighthouse United** session for primary aged children in the Parish Centre and **Twinklars** pre-school children's session in the church Lounge. Following the service, we will all get together in the Parish Centre to enjoy baked potatoes with various tasty fillings, followed by cake and the opportunity to enjoy a social time together. It's the one occasion each year when we gather as one parish so, please do your best to come.

## Compassion UK – A Big Thank you!

The latest World Focus Sunday was held last Sunday at St Peter's. Bethan Stevens spoke to us about the child sponsorship programme and the work of Compassion UK to alleviate child poverty – see [www.compassionuk.org](http://www.compassionuk.org). **Donations of £679.21 were received and 7 children in need have new sponsors committed to support them.** It was also evident that there were a good number from the parish who are already committed child sponsors. Thanks to everyone who responded on the day and to those who've supported Compassion over the years.



If you already sponsor a child, use this link below or QR code to add that you are a member of St Peter's so that Compassion UK have an accurate record of the impact of the whole parish. Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=eSkckVeDOEGjxWulR1rcvZDcp-eFmdhKrNT2apVDG3tUNFVXVFIEVTNLWDDNRFVDQkLRFZTNE8xQi4u&route=shorturl>

## Transport Help Still Needed!

Do you have, or have access to, a long wheelbase van, or a pickup truck? We're borrowing a gazebo from Harpers Lane Allotments for our **Vision Service NEXT SUNDAY** at St Peter's Church but need help with transporting it as some of the parts are quite big. Also, we'll need a team of at least 6 people to put it up/take it down as it has to be lifted with its roof canvas on. With a good team, it'll take an 1-1.5hrs to put up and take down. If you can help, please contact [ken.d.beasley@btopenworld.com](mailto:ken.d.beasley@btopenworld.com). Thanks.



## St Peter's Community Allotment



We've been offered a superb greenhouse for our allotment, but we need about 36 flags either 2x2 foot or 2x3 foot. If anyone has any going free or cheap, please let Rev Alan know on 07767 643444, thanks!

## Lighthouse



We're so pleased with the wonderful start to our Lighthouse year—it's been full of energy, learning, and joy! Here are our upcoming session dates (**1st & 3rd Sundays**): **Sept: 7 & 21, Oct: 5 & 19, Nov: 2 & 16, Dec: 7 & 21.** From Sept–Nov, we're exploring Fruits of the Spirit and from Dec our focus shifts to our Christmas production.

We're aware that some children struggle to settle in Lighthouse, but we want to remind you that only adults with a DBS check, obtained through the church, can stay in the room. If your child becomes upset or needs a bit of extra reassurance, please let us know so that we can visit the church or give you a quick call, allowing you to come and collect them. If you'd like to become a leader and start the DBS process, please let us know – [lighthouse@stpetersparish.info](mailto:lighthouse@stpetersparish.info). Thanks.

## St Peter's Primary School Open Day

For Reception Class starters in September 2026

St. Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School

**OPEN DAY 2025**

For Reception class starters in September 2026

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

School tours with the headteacher at 9.30am, 1.30pm and 4.00pm.

To book on a tour, please contact school:

❖ Phone: 01204 333500

❖ Email: [office@spsd.fa1.uk](mailto:office@spsd.fa1.uk)



## Songs and Stories 2

Sat 4 Oct, 7pm, Café Create Bolton



After the success of last year's Songs and Stories, Songs and Stories 2 is coming up soon. Paul and Dave will be playing some of their original songs on guitar, hammer dulcimer and banjo and sharing the stories behind them and generally having a good time! Suggested donation is £10 but you can also pay what you can afford. Please message Paul through Instagram/Facebook or speak to him at church to reserve your ticket. Only 50 tickets available!

## Alpha Course – It's Not Too Late to Join!

Every Thu, 8pm-9.30pm, Parish Centre



This course, led by Rev Josh, is a series of group conversations that freely explores the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone's welcome. Info at <https://alpha.org.uk/try-alpha>. Email [josh@stpetersparish.info](mailto:josh@stpetersparish.info) to register.

Can you provide a cake and/or help serve refreshments for just 10 mins or so at the start of each Alpha session? If you can help, please email [josh@stpetersparish.info](mailto:josh@stpetersparish.info). Thanks so much! *Rev Josh and the Alpha team.*



## Halliwell Local History Society (incorporating Smithills)



**Tues 30 Sept, 7.30pm, Parish Centre**  
Steve Irwin 'Early Aviation in Lancashire'. All welcome. More info from [enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk)

## Prayer Zone



**Wed 1 Oct, 7.30pm-8.30pm,**  
**St Peter's Primary School (BL1 6LA)**  
Gather from across the parish for an hour of dynamic prayer and worship.

## Tea, Tasty Treats and Testimonies 2

**Fri 3 Oct, 7.30pm, Parish Centre**

All ladies welcome to join us at our next event. No need to book, just turn up.



## Out and About Walk

**Sat 4 Oct, meet 9.30am, opposite St Peter's Church**

Bridgewater Canal and Pennington Flash. All welcome.

7 miles, low level walk. Info from

[janeheath@heathnet.plus.com](mailto:janeheath@heathnet.plus.com)



## Café on the Green

**Sat 4 Oct, 9.30am-2pm, St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary School, Limefield Road, BL1 6LA**



Delicious food and excellent service. All welcome. All proceeds going to Operation Smile UK for children with cleft palates. *The last Café on the Green of the year will be on 1 Nov.*

## Calling All Men! Trail and Ales Event

**Sat 11 Oct, meet 1pm, Parish Centre**



It's time for some fun together, so we've organised a 7-mile country from the Parish Centre, arriving at Rivington Brewery Tap at about 4pm where we can enjoy a few beers, or soft drinks, and food from the outlets - <https://www.rivingtonbrewing.co.uk/>. We can organise transport back between us, and it's OK to just meet us at the brewery. Option to go into Horwich for a curry in the evening too! To sign-up message Rev Alan on 07767 643444.

## Do Lunch, Do Life

**Sun 12 Oct, St Peter's Church**



Join us for bacon butties straight after the 10.30am service and a cake sale to raise funds for **Good News for Romania**. NB: Next GNFR Coffee Morning/ Bring and Buy is **Sat 18 Oct, 10am-12noon, Parish Centre.**

## Christmas Tree Festival: Join The Team

**Sat 13 Dec and Sun 14 Dec, Barrow Bridge Mission**



The planning team at Barrow Bridge are starting preparations for this year's festival and would love people from other churches in the parish to join the team. Interested? Please contact [janetlainsworth@gmail.com](mailto:janetlainsworth@gmail.com) **ASAP.**

## Mission Matters



This month we hear from Craig and Elaine Watson in their own words:

*"We're seeing God grow Holy Trinity, Algiers, here in Algeria. When we arrived, the church was averaging 40 adults and 10 kids and now it is averaging 70 adults and 15 kids. An international church is continually changing so change management and building a sense of community as the body of Christ is critical. Plans to establish an English language school at the suggestion of the Algerian authorities, the BUILD course, and a Christian Muslim dialogue centre are all developing. We need to do work on our 1907 building that has had no attention since being built and has been through numerous wars and conflicts, not to mention earthquakes. We need to maintain good relationships with our Algerian hosts and to put into practice Christ's teaching on being as innocent as doves and please pray that we get our permanent residency and that it will be for 5 or 10 years. This will avoid lots of time being used up in bureaucracy. Algeria is a wonderful country and we'd welcome visitors from St Peters if you ever want to come out and see us."*



## Prayer for the Week

On Disability Awareness Sunday, Diane Ball on behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre) says 'Jesus wanted people to be able to come to him, the children, the weary, the poor, those in need. As we consider the barriers that some people face coming to our churches to worship and to be introduced to Jesus, let's pray. **See her prayer on the back page.**

## Looking Forward

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations at Parish Centre**

**Sun 26 Oct, 10.30am, Parish Centre**

All invited to celebrate the re-opening of the Parish Centre on 15 Oct 2000. NB: No 10.30am service in St Peter's on this date.

## Prayer from Diane Ball on behalf of St Andrew's (Hope Centre)

*Lord Jesus*

*You left the glory of heaven to come to earth in human form so that you could show the love of the Father to all people, and to restore relationship with Him through your death. We pray today for all those who don't come to Church because they may feel excluded from society and therefore church for whatever reason. We pray for those who have been members of churches in the past, but for reasons of age or lessening ability to walk, hear or see no longer feel able to attend. Challenge each of us, Lord, to see the world and our churches, not just through the lens of our own needs and likes, but from the perspective of other who are differently able than us, whatever those differences are. You said "Come to me...". Would you help us to help others come and meet you in the family of your church, especially here in our fellowships. AMEN.*

## Coming up this week

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
<b>Mon 29 Sept</b>			
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 cake <a href="http://www.yhbolton.co.uk">www.yhbolton.co.uk</a> / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
<b>Tues 30 Sept</b>			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm 7.30pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers Group Ignite KS2 Children's Group Tread Youth Group Halliwell Local History Society	Suzi 07834 371509 <a href="mailto:ignite@stpetersparish.info">ignite@stpetersparish.info</a> <a href="mailto:tread@stpetersparish.info">tread@stpetersparish.info</a> <a href="mailto:enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk">enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Weds 1 Oct</b>			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door Ladies Group	Leprosy Society. Val 07902 167971	Parish Centre
7.30pm-8.30pm	Prayer Zone	Prayer and worship. No booking, just turn up	St Peter's School
<b>Thu 2 Oct</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
8pm-9.30pm	Alpha Course and Life Group	<a href="mailto:josh@stpetersparish.info">josh@stpetersparish.info</a>	Parish Centre
<b>Fri 3 Oct</b>			
10.30am-12noon 10am-12noon 7.30pm 8pm-10pm	Friday Life Group Watercolours Class Tea, Tasty Treats & Testimonies 2 Stressbusters Badminton	<a href="mailto:denis.collier@gmail.com">denis.collier@gmail.com</a> Lucinda 07977 821119 All ladies welcome. No booking, just turn up Geoff 07835 388732	Parish Centre
<b>Sat 4 Oct</b>			
9am-12pm	INTERACT Performing Arts Group	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	Parish Centre
9.30am-2pm	Café on the Green	Delicious food, good company. All welcome.	St Peter's School

## 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 599909

**Pioneer Minister:** Rev Josh Openshaw

**E:** [josh@stpetersparish.info](mailto:josh@stpetersparish.info) / **M:** 07534 309265

**CAP Debt Centre Manager:** Sam Wolstencroft

**E:** [samwolstencroft@capuk.org](mailto:samwolstencroft@capuk.org) / **M:** 07934 716509 / **P:** 01204 599903

**Caretaker:** David Park

**E:** [david@stpetersparish.info](mailto:david@stpetersparish.info)

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St Peter's Halliwell



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