



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 23 November 2025

HEADLINES

- So Much to Celebrate!
- Christmas Flyers Now Available
- We're recruiting! An Exciting Youth and Children's Ministry Lead Opportunity
- Prayer for the Week from the Church of England

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 23 Nov

ST PETER'S CHURCH

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

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...

So Much to Celebrate!

I'm proud to be Vicar of St Peter's Parish! The reason – because we don't just 'talk the talk' we walk it too, and last weekend gave great examples of just two initiatives, amongst many, that demonstrate just that!

Last Saturday over 50 people gathered at the Parish Centre for a morning of training on how we can make our churches more accessible to people with disabilities.



Helen Stainthorpe and her marvellous team have such a passion to open up our churches to be inclusive of everyone, and I share this aim too. Here's a quick sample of what people who attended the training had to say...

"A great sensory opener to sensory differences.

Need to move into action what we have learnt"

"Made me aware how much I have to learn and I am grateful for having my understanding widened"
"Very informative"

"So many ideas for our TREAD group. I can't wait to share with the team and use some of them"

"Challenge is how to make these small and big changes... It needs to be kept high on the church's agenda. Thank you to everyone involved. 10/10!"

Let's keep this momentum going, if you want to get involved speak to Helen Stainthorpe.

Last Sunday was the 15-year celebration of our CAP Centre at our 6.30pm parish-wide service. I wrote in my article last week that a highlight of the evening would be to hear the testimonies from our CAP clients, people whose lives have been transformed not only by the help and support of our CAP team, but also by the saving power of Jesus Christ. And it didn't disappoint – the testimonies blew us all away. At the service we offered ways that everyone

can be involved supporting the amazing work of our CAP Centre – speak to Sam Wolstencroft if you like to get involved and watch out for the requests that are often posted in this newsletter.



Christmas is coming and we have produced flyers for everyone to use to invite their friend and family to our Christmas service and events – these will be available at all our services from this Sunday. Christmas is a time more than any other when people are most likely to accept an invitation to come to church, so please take some flyers and use the opportunity.



We are advertising again for a Youth and Children's Ministry Lead to join our amazing staff team. Please pray and share! I would love to hear from anyone interested in exploring this exciting job opportunity.



Service of Hope and Remembrance

Sun 30 Nov, 2pm, St Peter's Church

Rev Alan invites you to join him at this annual service that provides an opportunity for you to remember



your loved ones and be reminded of the peace and comfort that comes from God, our Heavenly Father. Service followed by refreshments.



ACTS 435 '...giving to anyone who has need'

Sam mentioned this brilliant online giving charity at CAP Sunday last week. For more info and to donate



towards the specific, practical needs of individuals facing poverty or hardship, go to www.acts43.org.uk

We Still Need 526 Christmas Puddings!

Thanks for the puddings and donations received so far - we're nearly half way to reaching our target of collecting **1,000 x 400g**

Christmas Puddings (they should say serves 4) **by 1 Dec!** Help us reach this huge target by asking your colleagues, friends and family to pick up a pud when they go food shopping. Please drop them in church or the Parish Centre.

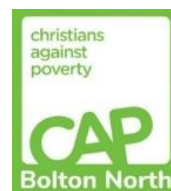


If you'd prefer to donate money so we can buy the puddings on your behalf, please scan this QR code or go to: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/29358>

Nominations for someone to receive a food hamper need to be with a member of your fellowship's Leadership Team by **Weds 26 Nov latest**.

CAP Christmas Requests

Please pass £5 or £10 supermarket vouchers to give to families at Christmas and any nice boxes of 'smellies' for women/men to Sam or the Parish Office by **Sun 7 Dec**. Donations for the Meaningful Chocolate 'Real' Christmas advent calendars (£5.50) we're giving clients' children will also be appreciated. Thank you.



Hurricane Relief Appeal for Jamaica



Thanks for your donations to help the relief effort in Jamaica following Hurricane Melissa. There's still time to drop off non-perishable food items,

tarpaulins, solar or battery-powered lights and personal hygiene products (bars of soap, nappies and menstrual products) at the Parish Centre or St Peters. Info from Lorna - lornanewbiz@yahoo.co.uk /07533 833779.

Smithills Christmas Market

Sat 6 Dec, 12.30pm-3.30pm, Redcar Rd, BL1 6LL

Join us for the 12th year of this wonderful Christmas market, raising funds to support Urban Outreach. Enjoy a wonderful festive atmosphere as you browse the stalls with a lovely selection of presents and handmade gifts to buy plus enjoy carols, good food and drinks. All welcome.



Halliwell Local History Society

(incorporating Smithills)

Tues 25 Nov, 7.30pm, Parish Centre

Norman Nuttall 'Cinemas, Theatres and Music Halls in Bolton'. All welcome.

Info from enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk



Horwich Healing Rooms

Weds 26 Nov, 10am-12noon, Hub at the Hope, St Andrew's (Hope Centre)



Horwich Healing Rooms (part of this free and confidential Christian Prayer Ministry available to

Christians and non-Christians alike) will next week be at Hub at the Hope. Their members are trained and experienced prayer ministers from a wide range of mainstream Christian churches. **No appointment necessary just turn up.**

Bolton Christian Meditation Group

Thu 27 Nov, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre

All welcome at this session. No need to book, just turn up. For info, contact j.wilde.1963@gmail.com.

Two Soul Sisters' Christmas Events

Sat 29 Nov, 2pm, Parish Centre

***Just a few places left! All ladies welcome. Cost £25pp (incl. all natural materials) with all money going towards Smithills Christmas

Markets, supporting Urban Outreach. For more info and to book, contact katie.leaver@hotmail.co.uk

Fri 12 Dec, 7.30pm, Parish Centre

All ladies welcome to join us for this informal get together. Enjoy mulled wine, mince pies, a quiz and games. No need to book, just turn up!



Out and About Walk

Sat 6 Dec, 10am, meet on Smithills Dean Road at corner of entrance to Smithills Hall *NB: different time and meeting place to usual



A 6-mile local walk. The walk is moderate and will finish at Smithills Christmas market on

Redcar Road. We won't be having a lunch stop on the walk, but there will be a coffee stop. There will be plenty of food to buy at Smithills Christmas Market. All welcome.

Primary School Form Signings 2026 Entry

Tues 2 Dec, 7pm-8.30pm, Parish Centre

Church supplementary forms will be signed but, in order to attend, you must book a timed slot by contacting office@stpetersparish.info /01204 599900. You will need to provide: child's name, parent's name, contact details and state which church you attend.



Prayer for the Week

This week's prayer is a prayer for New Hope, from the Church of England. *See the prayer on the back page.*

Looking Forward

Barrow Bridge Christmas Tree Festival

Fri 12 Dec, 7.30pm-9pm; Sat 13 Dec, 10am-4pm; Sun 14 Dec, 12noon-3pm

All invited to Barrow Bridge Mission to see beautiful trees decorated by various groups from across the parish and enjoy some festive refreshments. Also, if you can help to welcome on the door and serve refreshments or donate mince pies and biscuit, please contact Janet on 07427 690087.



A Christmas Recital – Marco Players

Tues 16 Dec, 7.30pm, St Peter's Church

'Togetherness'. A mix of soloist and small group performances of spoken word, song, music and poetry from soloists – plus some carols to capture the spirit of the season! Tickets £5 from <http://themarcoplayers.net/bookings>

A Barrel of Carols

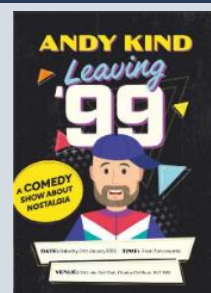
Wed 17 Dec, 7.30pm, Heaton Sports Club

A spirit-filled singalong evening of music and good cheer, led by our very own musicians and with a Christmas message from the Vicar! All welcome.

Quinta 2027 Fundraiser – Save the Date!

Sat 31 Jan 2026, 7pm, Old Links Golf Club

THE social event of the New Year! Comedian Andy Kind is coming. More info to follow but please put the date in your diary for now.



Prayer of the Week

As we prepare for Advent starting next Sunday, in the busyness of our work and home lives, where we may feel overwhelmed by all that we have to do, help us to seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day and make time for you in our lives as we remember:

Heavenly Lord,
You long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

(Prayer from the Church of England)

Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 24 Nov			
10am-12noon 10am-12noon	Age UK Strength and Balance Class Coffee Room	Classes full. Contact office@stpetersparish.info Drop-in for coffee and cake	Parish Centre
Tues 25 Nov			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesday	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm 7.30pm-9pm	Little Wiggles Toddlers Group Ignite KS2 Children's Group Halliwell Local History Society Tread Youth Group	office@stpetersparish.info ignite@stpetersparish.info enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk tread@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Weds 26 Nov			
9am-1pm 10am-12noon	Hope at the Hub Horwich Healing Rooms at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome Free and confidential prayer, just turn up	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door Ladies Group	Christmas Crafts. Val 07902 167971	Parish Centre
Thu 27 Nov			
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 28 Nov			
10.30am-12noon 10am-12noon 7pm-9pm	Friday Life Group Watercolours Class Stressbusters Badminton	denis.collier@gmail.com Lucinda 07977 821119 Geoff 07835 388732	Parish Centre
Sat 29 Nov			
9am-12pm	INTERACT Performing Arts	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

Pioneer Minister: Rev Josh Openshaw **E:** Ejosh@stpetersparish.info / **M:** 07534 309265

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
347 Church Road, Bolton BL1 5RR
www.stpetersparish.info



St Peter's Halliwell



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