



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 30 November 2025

HEADLINES

- Make a Commitment this Advent!
- Christmas Services and Events Flyers
- Last Call! 276 Puddings Needed!
- Prayer for the Week from Chris Winstanley on behalf of St Peter's Primary School

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sun 30 Nov

1st Sunday of Advent

ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service
10.30am	*Worship for Everyone with Communion
2pm	Service of Hope and Remembrance
6.30pm	*Parish-wide service

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family service
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BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Café Church
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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...

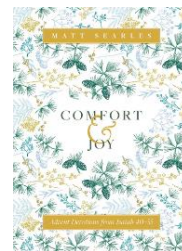
Make a Commitment this Advent!

I love a good old-fashioned Advent calendar, who's with me on this? Not one of those chocolatey ones, or boozy ones, or those expensive ones that offer all sorts of smart gifts (sorry if you've got one!).



But I love opening the little cardboard windows and looking at the picture depicting parts of the bible Christmas story each day. I was thrilled to spot that Heather Cox is selling them on the Isaiah 53 bookshop stall at the back of St Peter's!

This got me thinking that it would be great to encourage us all to devote a few minutes each day of Advent to study God's word and pray. Will you give it a go? Whether you're a seasoned student or you don't ordinarily bother with the bible. A daily devotion is a great antidote to the commercialism and chaos, and you might just arrive at Christmas with a fresh feeling of excitement and anticipation



of the coming of Christ! We'll be giving away copies of **Comfort & Joy** book of devotions at some of our services and events and there are some fantastic bible reading plans available on-line or as apps.

Here are links to 3 good examples from LICC, Lectio 365, and YouVersion:

<https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/small-wonder-a-christmas-devotional-journey/>,

<https://lectio365.com/>,

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans-collection/1769-christmas-plans?page=1>.



We're starting two new sermon series for Advent too. In our morning services we will be looking at **Jesus' Identity** – it's the climax to our overarching theme of **Fix Our Eyes on Jesus** during 2025 and at our 6.30pm parish-wide service at St Peter's, we are looking at **Prophecies Fulfilled** from the book of

Isaiah. I'm delighted to welcome our former Vicar, Rev Paul Hardingham, back to kick-off this series on Sunday. Hope to see you there!

The word "advent" comes from the Latin adventus, meaning "arrival" or "coming". It commemorates the first coming of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem and also looks forward to his second coming. Maranatha, come Lord Jesus! Have a wonderful Advent!

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. Service followed by refreshments.

Christmas Services and Events Flyers

Flyers are available in all our churches. 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 to invite people along. There are flyers bundled up and ready for delivery to our local streets in St Peter's Church. Please take a bundle (or two!) and help spread the word about what's happening across our Parish this Christmas time.

Smithills Farm Nativity

Sun 7 Dec, 10am, Smithills Open Farm, Smithills Dean Rd, Bolton BL1 7NS

All welcome to join Smithills Fellowship at their annual nativity at the farm – with real animals!



Last Call! 276 Puddings Needed!



Thanks for the Christmas puds and donations received so far - we're almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to reaching our target of collecting **1,000 x 400g Christmas Puddings** (they should say serves 4). Please drop them off this week in church or at 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>

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**.



We're Recruiting!

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

Primary School Form Signings 2026 Entry

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

Church supplementary forms will be signed **but you must book a timed slot** - office@stpetersparish.info /01204 599900. Provide child's name, parent's name, contact details and state which church you attend.



PrayerZone

Weds 3 Dec, 7.30pm-8.30pm, Barrow Bridge Mission

Led by Rev Josh Openshaw. Join us as we gather to pray urgently and expectantly for Bolton and the coming Christmas season. This is a key moment to stand together, seek God's heart for our town, and prepare the way for Jesus—your prayers and your presence truly matter.



It's Smithills Christmas Market Time!

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.

Out and About Walk

Sat 6 Dec, 10am, meet on Smithills Dean Road at corner of entrance to Smithills Hall



A 6-mile, moderate local walk, finishing 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.

Home for Good Peer Support Group

Sat 6 Dec, 12.30pm-2pm, Parish Centre

For adopters, foster, kinship carers and families. Bring and share lunch. Join us for this Christmas-themed session. Info from Fiona on 07786 844141.



Open Door Carols for All

Weds 10 Dec, 10am-11.30am, Parish Centre

Everyone is warmly invited to join us today for our carol service. Rev Alan will be doing the talk. Please invite your husbands, family, friends and neighbours too. We'd love to see you.

Smithills Hall Carol Service

Thurs 11 Dec, 7pm, Smithills Chapel

You are all warmly invited to the Friends of Smithills Hall Carol Service, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall. Rev Alan will be doing the talk.

Soul Sisters' Christmas Social Event

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!

Mission Matters



This feature on the last Sunday of each month focusses on stories and updates from our mission partners – this month it's **Dave**

and Chris Bagley from Urban Outreach. "A summary: We're excited about Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2025 when 1000's of people will receive a hamper full of goodies; We've acquired a new office on St Georges Rd that we'll be moving into in the new year; The Amber Centre has had a gift of all new double glazing throughout the building and we're looking to renew the broken heating system; A number of those we work with have come to faith with them experiencing Gods amazing intervention in their lives and, sadly, some have passed away, again knowing the Lord: After 35 years, we made the first ever redundancies on the Food Team due to funding being stopped which has put significant pressure on them as the demand

has only got greater; We've lost the use of a unit that we did CDoJ from which means we have a much-reduced space to do the project from; Dave continues to sit on the Bolton Vision Partnership Board and the Place Board looking at the development of the Borough's Business and Cultural strategies; We remain committed to supporting smaller voluntary groups as Chair of the Voluntary Sector Forum; Prayers valued as we negotiate ongoing challenges with funding and the constant significant increase in demand for our services across every area - the numbers of homeless is going up weekly and young people from 8yrs up waiting for help with their mental wellbeing is through the roof. These are tough times for many in the Borough as they contemplate the challenges of eating or heating - the payments for utility top up ups have gone up significantly to combat the increased pressures (£200 for singles/£400 for families). It's also been quite a tough year for the team – two lost their mums and two lost their dads within a day of each other, Chris lost her only surviving Aunt and Uncle within two weeks of each other and one other's niece lost her baby within hours of birth. **Thanks again for all your love and kindness; knowing your faithful support over so many years is a constant source of encouragement.**



We remain yours always in His service. Dave and Chris and the Team at Urban Outreach".



Prayer for the Week

See Chris Winstanley's prayer on behalf of St Peter's Primary School. **See 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 see trees decorated by various groups from across the parish and enjoy some festive refreshments.

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! Tickets £5 from <http://themarcoplayers.net/bookings>

A Barrel of Carols

Weds 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.

Prayer from Chris Winstanley on behalf of St Peter's Primary School

Dear Lord

At the beginning of Advent, we remember that you came to earth as a child, bringing hope, peace, joy and love. We thank You for our children and young people, for the schools where they can learn and grow, for the teachers and staff who guide them, and for the families who entrust their children to our care.

Bless our schools with Your presence. May they be places where faith is nurtured, wisdom is cultivated, and kindness is practiced daily. As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, help us to prepare the hearts of our children, that they may know the wonder of Your love and the joy of Your salvation. Shine Your light in every classroom, in every lesson, and in every relationship. Protect and strengthen our school communities, that together we may reflect the hope of Advent and the glory of Christ's coming. Come, Lord Jesus, be born anew in our church, in our school, and in our lives.

Amen

Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 1 Dec			
10am-12noon 10am-12noon 1.30pm-3.30pm 6pm-7.30pm	Age UK Strength and Balance Class Coffee Room Art Group ABL Weight Management session	Classes full. Contact office@stpetersparish.info Drop-in for coffee and cake ruthrobinson293@gmail.com www.yhbolton.co.uk / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
Tues 2 Dec			
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	office@stpetersparish.info ignite@stpetersparish.info tread@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Weds 3 Dec			
9am-1pm	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am	Open Door Ladies Group	Mince pies morning. Val 07902 167971	Parish Centre
Thu 4 Dec			
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	office@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Fri 5 Dec			
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 6 Dec			
9am-12pm	INTERACT Performing Arts	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	St Peter's Church
12.30pm-2pm	Home for Good Peer Support Group	Fiona 07786 844141	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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