



PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER



Sunday 14 December 2025

HEADLINES

- This Week Advent Exploded!
- Our Christmas Services
- Ugandan Choir Coming Soon!
- Alpha: New Year Course Coming Up!
- Prayer for the Week from Hilary Peake on behalf of St Peter's Church

Read on to find out more...

SERVICES

Sunday 14 December
3rd Sunday of Advent

ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service with Communion
10.30am*	Lighthouse United Nativity
6.30pm*	Parish-wide service

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family Service
2pm	Reflective Advent service in Smithills Chapel

BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Christmas Tree Festival Carol Service
---------	---------------------------------------

ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Carol Service with Johnson Fold School Choir
---------	--

*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'
We are an accessibility-friendly parish

Rev Alan writes...

This week Advent exploded! Into a frenzy of fun-filled activities across the parish. Saturday was the 12th annual Smithills Christmas Market and hundreds of us flocked to Redcar Road to enjoy the festivities and support the fabulous fundraising for Urban Outreach.



A huge thank you to everyone who came and especially to John Platt and his amazing team for overcoming the weather and many challenges to make this another memorable year!



Sunday saw over 140 of us gathered at Smithills Farm for the nativity, and it was 'All About Jesus!' – the children were absolutely brilliant and the

atmosphere with real animals really brought the wondrous story to life for everyone.

It's been a week of parties and services with many of our Connect Groups and festivities with the schools, our regular groups and community groups. The Key Stage 1 nativity at St Peter's Smithills Dean Primary was excellent and the Key Stage 2 carol service at St Peter's Church was amazing with the children sharing ways that Christmas is celebrated



around the world; they sang beautifully a selection of songs which reflected the culture of those countries.

Looking ahead, we have the **Christmas Tree Festival** at Barrow Bridge this weekend, it's nativity time at St Peter's Church, and St Andrew's welcome children and families from Johnson Fold Primary School choir to their carol service. Next Sunday 21 Dec, 6.30pm is our parish-wide candlelit carol service at St Peter's and preparations with the choir and musicians are going really well for what promises to be another incredible evening where we retell the Christmas story through nine lessons and carols.

Christmas Services

Sun 21 Dec, 6.30pm at St Peter's is our annual parish-wide candlelit carol service with a full choir and brass ensemble. This has become a popular service which



follows the format of nine lessons (bible readings) and carols that retell the whole Christmas story in words and music. **If you'd like to, you can also bring your own candle or light – battery operated only please, no flames permitted – as the more lights, the better!**

Christmas Eve, 4pm at St Peter's is a special family Christingle service. It is a short and fun-packed service where we all get to construct our own Christingles and join together singing lively Christmas songs and getting in the mood for Christmas Day.

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm at St Peter's is our annual Midnight Communion service where we recall the birth of our saviour on this most holy of nights.

On **Christmas Day** we have these wonderful celebrations of Jesus' birth at all our fellowships:

St Peter's at 8.30am (Communion) and 10.30am
Smithills Fellowship at 10am

St Andrew's and Barrow Bridge fellowships celebrate together at a special joint service at 10.30am at St. Andrew's (Hope Centre).

We'd love you to invite your friends, neighbours and family to join us for our services and celebrations this Christmas. **Please pick up an invitation flyer** available at all our services and from the Parish Office.

Ugandan Choir Coming Soon!

Thurs 22-Fri 30 Jan 2026



We're delighted that the AYF choir from Uganda, long-term friends of St Peter's, will be back in Bolton in January. We're expecting about 15 in the choir - 12 young people aged between 17 and 22, plus 3 adults - so are looking for hosts for their stay and support with transport needs. This is a great opportunity to make connections with local schools, youth groups and Bolton University, which Rev Josh is working on. It would be great if, as a parish, we could get behind this visit and support the impact it could have on our Churches and local community so, if you can help in any way, please contact Carolyn Rigby on 07790 287862 or secretary@stpetersparish.info. Thanks so much!

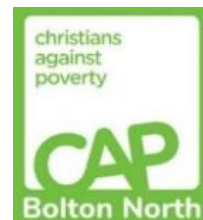
Alpha: New Year Course Coming Up!

Mon 12 Jan 2026, 8pm-9.30pm, 3 Riversleigh Close, Barrow Bridge

Join us for this series of group conversations that freely explores 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>. Email dan@stpetersparish.info to register.



CAP Present Wrapping



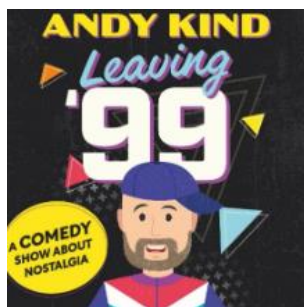
Tues 16 Dec, 7.45pm, Parish Centre

Can you help wrap presents for Sam's CAP clients? Please just turn up with scissors and a sellotape dispenser, if you have one. Thank you.

Andy Kind – Quinta 2027 Fundraiser!

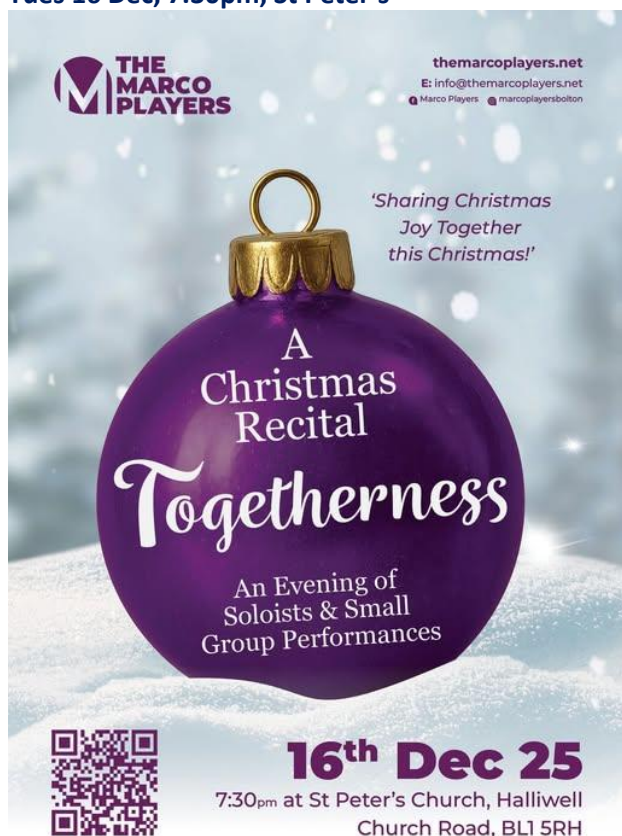
Sat 31 Jan 2026, doors 7pm, Old Links Golf Club (Chorley Old Rd, BL1 5SU)

Cheer up the New Year with a fun night out with comedian Andy Kind - food included. Our first fundraiser for Quinta 2027! Tickets available from the Parish Office - only £15 each...would make a great Christmas present! Pasties and peas served at 7.30pm.



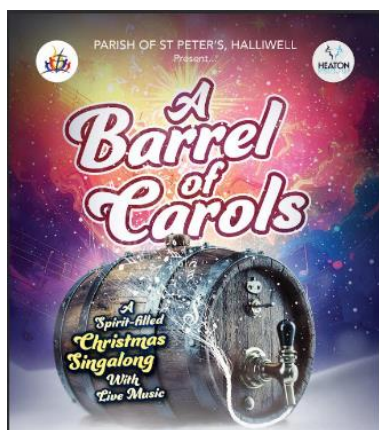
A Christmas Recital

Tues 16 Dec, 7.30pm, St Peter's



Tickets £5 on the door or available directly from <http://themarcoplayers.net/bookings>

A Barrel of Carols



Weds 17 Dec, 7.30pm, Heaton Sports Club, Church Rd, BL1 5RH

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.

Bolton Repair Café

Weds 17 Dec, 10.30am-12.30pm, St Andrews

Bring your items in need of repair and stay for delicious coffee and cake. **Please note, we are unable to offer sewing services this month but hope to resume normal services in January.**



Dementia Friendship Support Group

Thurs 18 Dec, 1.15pm-4pm *NB time change, Parish Centre

For those with dementia and their carers. Christmas meal, carols, quiz, fun and a very warm welcome. Contact joan@stpetersparish.info /01204 840180



6.30 Reading Rota

If you would like to be on the 2026 reading rota for the parish-wide 6.30pm service in St Peter's Church, please contact Sam at samwolstencroft@cap.uk.

We're Recruiting! Spread the Word

We're 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.



Prayer for the Week

Hilary Peake, on behalf of St Peter's Church, asks us to try and *imagine* being present at the birth of Jesus and invites us to be *wonder-filled* this Christmas. **See her prayer on the back page.**

Looking Forward

Out and About New Year Treasure Hunt

Sat 3 Jan 2026, 9.30am, meet outside St Peter's

All welcome. A short, 2-mile walk based on the cultural centre of Bury. Try your luck with all the clues. It's great fun for families and you can bring your dog as well. After the walk, why not enjoy lunch at Bury Market and do some New Year shopping. To avoid parking issues, we'll go initially to Radcliffe Metro station and then by tram to central Bury. Info: Dave Moffoot 07767 055967



Prayer from Hilary Peake on behalf of St Peter's Church

IMAGINE

Imagine being present as the universe was made. *Imagine* being with the wise men on their journey following the star. *Imagine* being with the shepherds as angels arrived and God's glory shining around. *Imagine* running with them to Bethlehem to find out what was happening. *Imagine* being with them as they arrived to find Mary, Joseph and the baby Christ child, then rushing off to tell everyone. Times of wonder and wonderful things. Yes, just *Imagine* being there. These events were told through the scriptures many years before happening.

IMAGINE

God with us today. God in our ordinary everyday lives. God listening to us, our prayers, concerns, hopes, and dreams. God wiping away our tears. God in everything. God, Help us to pray for your world, for restoration and healing. For the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in this Advent and Christmas Season.

He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Greek) Emmanuel (Hebrew) Immanuel 'God with us' Isaiah 9: 1-6. *Be wonder-filled this Christmas.*

Coming up

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 15 Dec			
10am-12noon 1.30pm-3.30pm 6pm-7.30pm	Coffee Room Art Group ABL Weight Management session	Drop-in for coffee and cake ruthrobinson293@gmail.com www.yhbolton.co.uk / 01204 205090	Parish Centre
Tues 16 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 17 Dec			
9am-1pm 10.30am-12.30pm	Hope at the Hub Repair Cafe	Drop-in community session, all welcome Bring your items for repair, stay for refreshments	St Andrew's
Thu 18 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
1.15pm-4pm	Dementia Friendship Support Group	joan@stpetersparish.info	Parish Centre
Fri 19 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 20 Dec			
9am-12pm	INTERACT Performing Arts	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	St Peter's Church

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

Pioneer Minister: Rev Josh Openshaw

E: josh@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



@StPetersHalliwell



@stpetershalliwell